

I have found an alternative for Zen Cart shopping Cart - it is [PrestaShop](#). PrestaShop is a new and easily maintained shopping cart. It doesn't have all the features, I need, but I've been promised, that these features are coming soon. I have also written a review about PrestaShop - You can find it on my other site - [FreeSoftNews](#)., where there is also a list of [open source shopping carts](#).

After spending a few days playing with [PrestaShop](#), one problem I found was a lack of documentation. So I've tried to fix this by writing some tutorials with pictures, howto use PrestaShop. This is the first tutorial of these series.

Thanks

Spott

To the tutorial

Requirements:

- Apache webserver with PHP 5 or newer
- MySQL 5.0 or newer database server
- GD Library functionality

Most of today's hosting services are fine for PrestaShop. This is good to know, because [Magento](#) requirements are quite specific which makes it hard to find right hosting provider.

I am using my own Virtual Private Server, with [DirectAdmin](#) control panel. So it's like a common hosting server.

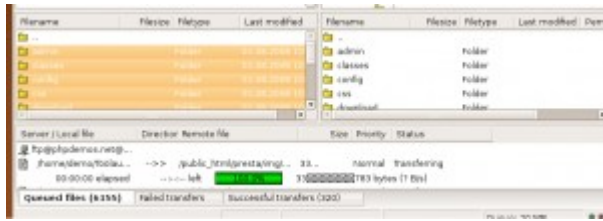
All pictures are made under Ubuntu Linux 8.04. I don't like Windows. For FTP Client - I am using [FileZilla](#) 3.0 - so it looks similar to all operating systems. All pictures are made with [GIMP](#). The browser I am using is [Firefox](#).

I am installing a new PrestaShop Cart to <http://demo.phpdemos.net/prestashop> domain. I have a database **demophp_presta** which has the same user name. Password for that database is ***** :D. Database is hosted on the same server, so the host is **localhost**.

So let's get started

Download the latest PrestaShop

First we need to download the latest PrestaShop version. Right now, the latest version is 1.0 FINAL (1.0.0.8). See [PrestaShop Downloads](#) page.



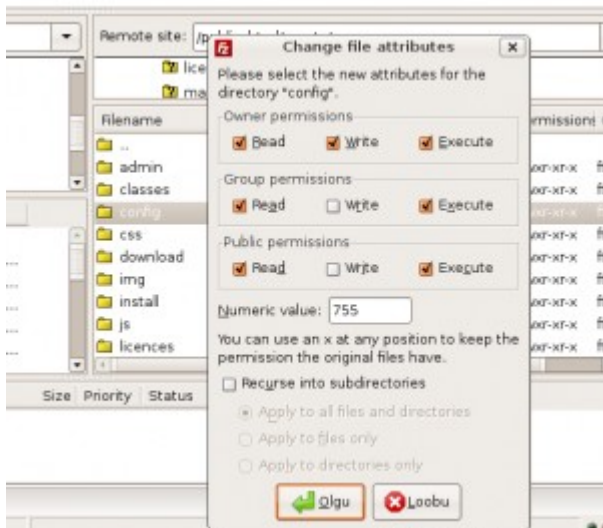
Permissions

After all the files have been uploaded, we need to change the permissions for some folders.

We need to change the permissions for the following folders to 777 (read, write and execute permissions to everyone):

- /config
- /tools/smarty/compile
- /img - and all subfolders
- /mails - and all subfolders
- /themes/prestashop/lang - and all subfolders
- /translations - and all subfolders

Folder permission change is easy with FileZilla. Activate the folder with a right click and from the menu chose File Attributes ...



Mark all fields, so that Numeric value is 777:



For /img, /mails, /themes/prestashop/lang and /translations folders - check Recurse into subdirectories and Apply to directories only



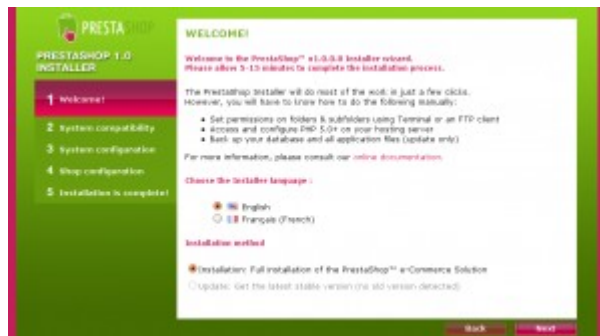
Then FileZilla will also change all the required subdirectories permissions.

Installer

Step one

Now open your web browser (Firefox) and your shop address in the URL bar. My example - <http://demo.phpdemos.net/prestashop>

You will get the following picture in your browser:



You can now choose now install language. Version 1.0 supports English (default) and French. We'll leave this set to English. As this is a new install, we have selected the following option:

“Installation: Full installation of the PrestaShop™ e-Commerce Solution”

Now press **Next** at the bottom.

Step two

You are now at the System and permissions page, where the installer checks that all required permissions and software are correct.

First the installer checks that all the required PHP modules and options are enabled:

PHP settings:


- PHP 5.0 or later is installed
- Allowed to upload files
- Allowed to create new files and folders
- GD Library is installed
- MySQL support is on


Write permissions on folders (do not apply recursively/to subfolders):

- /config
- /tools/smarty/compile

Write permissions on folders and subfolders/recursively:

- /img
- /mails
- /modules
- /themes/prestashop/lang
- /translations

To proceed all the items need to be marked with green tick - 

When something is marked with -  you will need to fix the problem to move forward,

Next is the optional set-up. Here some items can be marked red.

- PHP settings (modify via your PHP admin software):
- Allowed to open external URLs
- PHP register global option is off (recommended)
- GZIP compression is on (recommended)

The following picture is a typical view at this stage.:



It means, that at the PHP stage everything is OK, but something is wrong with the directory structure. So go back to the folder permissions area.

When all is fine, you see:



Now press the **Next** button again.

Step three

Database configuration



You need to fill-in your database settings. As I mentioned earlier, my database host is **localhost**, the database name is **demophp_presta**, and the username is also **demophp_presta**. The password is *********.

Database server name :	<input type="text" value="localhost"/>
Database name :	<input type="text" value="demophp_presta"/>
Login :	<input type="text" value="demophp_presta"/>
Password :	<input type="password" value="*****"/>
<input type="button" value="Verify now!"/>	

Now press the **Verify now!** button - this will test, that all the given settings are correct and the Installer can connect to the database.

Database server name :	<input type="text" value="localhost"/>
Database name :	<input type="text" value="demophp_presta"/>
Login :	<input type="text" value="demophp_presta"/>
Password :	<input type="password" value="*****"/>
<input type="button" value="Verify now!"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database is connected.	

When everything is fine, it shows, that the Database is connected.

Now you can chose your database tables prefix or leave it as it is (I am leaving it as ps_). The table prefix is good, when multiple software uses the same database.

PrestaShop database tables prefix :

Full mode: Install all basic modules and add sample products
 Simple mode : Don't install any module

E-MAIL DELIVERY SET-UP

Configure SMTP manually (advanced users only)
By default, the PHP 'mail()' function is used. For more functionality, manual SMTP configuration is recommended.

You can now chose, to install PrestaShop *Full mode: Install all basic modules and add sample products* or *Simple mode : Don't install any module*. I am leaving at Full mode. This mean, that sample products are installed and the most popular modules are activated. As it is very easy to configure your shop and delete added products, I recommend this option for all new users. If you've used PrestaShop before, you can choose the Simple install option and activate any required modules later.

You also have the option to configure e-mail delivery. I am leaving everything as it is. But when you need to use an external SMTP server, you will need to configure SMTP manually.

Configure SMTP manually (advanced users only)
By default, the PHP 'mail()' function is used. For more functionality, manual SMTP configuration is recommended.

SMTP server :

Encryption :

Port :

Login :

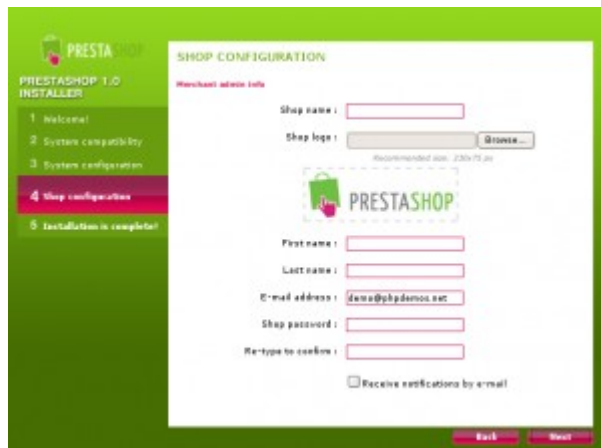
Password :

You will need to fill-in your SMTP server address field, chose Encryption, Port, Login and password fields. After that you can send a test e-mail, to check that your settings are correct.

If you have everything set up as you require, press again **Next**.

Step four

Now you are at the Shop Configuration step.



Here you can give your shop name - my shop name will be - “PHP Demos Presta Shop”, You can upload a new shop logo (or initially leave the default one like I have, as it’s easy to change later). You will also need to fill-in your admin user details.

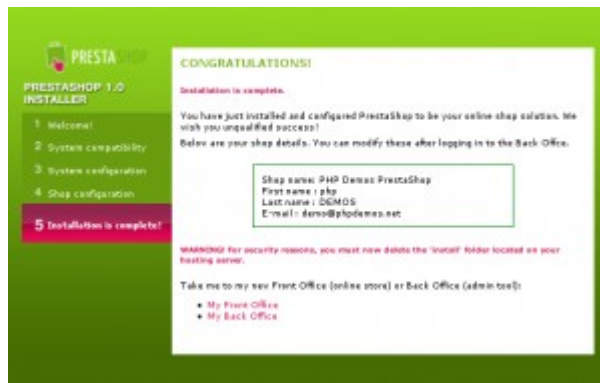
My first name will be - **Php**. Last name - **DEMOS**. My e-mail address is **demo@phpdemos.net** and My shop (admin user) password will be *********. I’ve filled-in the Receive notifications to email as it sends information (such as new orders etc) quickly to your e-mail.



Now press again **Next**.

Step five

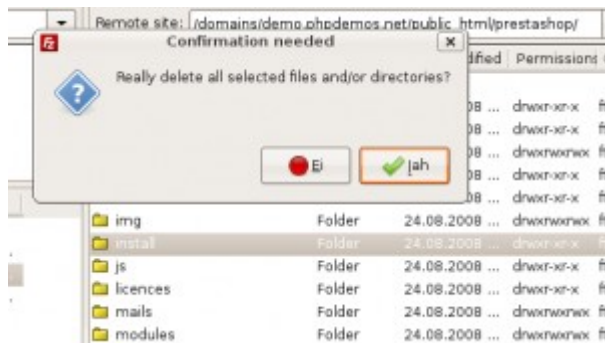
PrestaShop is now installed on your server.



Now there are only two small steps to go.

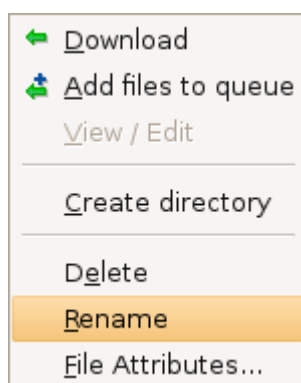
Final settings

First - go back to Your FTP Client and delete the install folder from the webserver.



Second - we need to rename your admin folder. I changed mine to backoffice.

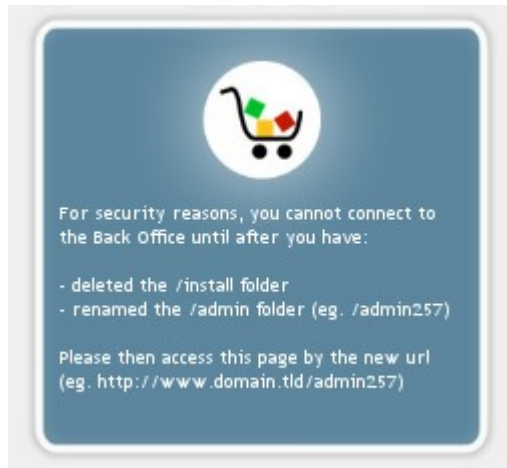
To do this – click on the admin folder in FileZilla and right click. You will see the following menu:



Now you need to rename the admin folder to backoffice:

Filename	Filesize	Filetype
..		
backoffice		Folder
classes		Folder
config		Folder
css		Folder

If you skip this part you will not be able to login to your admin area. You will get the following error:



Now you are ready.

Shop is ready

Your FrontOffice of PrestaShop will look like this:

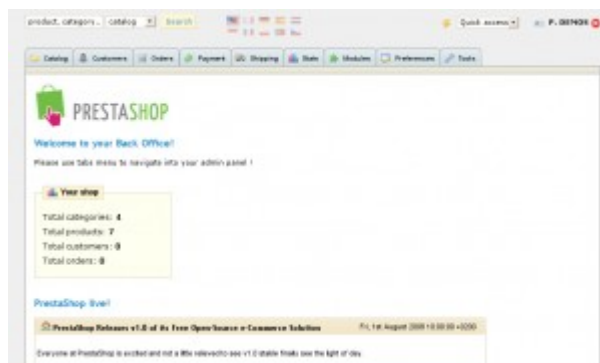


When you enter the admin address (my example was - <http://demo.phpdemos.net/backoffice>)

You will see the following picture:



Use the e-mail and password you gave during the install.



That's it! - For other tasks – I plan new tutorials covering how to set up products, how to configure your shop etc.

Spott