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php -v in SSH shows another version than your site: running the PHP you chose

PHP Versions & Settings

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
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php -v in SSH shows another version than your site: running the PHP you chose

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The `php` command you type in the Terminal or over SSH **is not required to be the version you chose for the site**. The site uses what you set in `Select PHP Version` for that folder; the command line uses the first `php` it finds on the system path. So the site can be on 8.2 while `php -v` says something else. The fix is to call PHP by its **full path**, or make a shortcut.

Finding out which is which

1. **Open the cPanel Terminal or an SSH session.** Every shared hosting plan has both. **The cPanel Terminal**.

2. **See the default PHP:**

```
php -v
which php
```

The first shows the version, the second where it comes from.

3. **See the installed versions:**

```
ls -d /opt/alt/php*
```

Each folder is a version: `php82` is PHP 8.2, `php74` is 7.4. If a folder does not show, that version is not available to you.

4. **Call the version you want by its full path:**

```
/opt/alt/php82/usr/bin/php -v
```

Swap 82 for your site's version, without the dot.

5 **Use that path in whatever you run:**

```
/opt/alt/php82/usr/bin/php artisan migrate
/opt/alt/php82/usr/bin/php ~/composer.phar install
```

That way the command and the site speak the same language.

A shortcut so you do not type the path every time

If you work a lot on the command line, add a line to the account's `~/.bashrc` file:

```
alias php='/opt/alt/php82/usr/bin/php'
```

Close and reopen the session, and `php -v` now shows the version you picked. The shortcut only works for whoever types in the Terminal: **it does not work in cron**, where you always write the full path (**running a PHP script from a cron job**).

Useful things on the command line

Command	What for
php -m	Lists the extensions loaded in that version. Confirms that the one you switched on in Select PHP Version is really there.
php --ini	Shows which configuration files PHP read. Useful when a value does not apply.
php -l file.php	Checks a file's syntax without running it.
php -d memory_limit=512M script.php	Runs a script with one value changed for that run only. The account's limits still apply.
php -r 'echo PHP_VERSION;'	Prints the version that is running, so you are sure what the script uses.

The command-line configuration may not be the site's.
A value set only in the site folder's `.user.ini` applies to web requests and may not apply here. If the script fails on the command line and not in the browser (or the other way round), check the value with `php -i` on that same version. See **viewing and adjusting your PHP configuration**.

A version error from Composer or artisan is nearly always this.
When a tool complains that PHP is too old and the site is already on a newer one, the command ran with the wrong PHP. Repeat it with the full path.

NEED A HAND?

The command-line version still does not match? Tell us the account, the folder and what php -v shows.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Viewing and adjusting your PHP configuration**
- **Running a PHP script from a cron job**
- **Composer on shared hosting**
- **The cPanel Terminal**

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