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Generated on 15/11/2026 00:11

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Raising the WordPress upload limit

Errors & Troubleshooting

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-820	v2026.10.10	Angola · English

Interweb Angola
RLX Angola, Lda. · Group RLX Holdings
Tax ID (NIF) 500 260 5724 · Commercial registration no. 26464-25/250724

https://www.meu.interweb.ao/knowledgebase/820

Raising the WordPress upload limit

Errors & Troubleshooting Created on **October 10, 2026** 2 min read



You try to upload a theme, a backup or a video to WordPress and it answers that the file **exceeds the maximum upload size**. The limit is not WordPress's: it belongs to **PHP**, running underneath. You change it in two values, in the right place, and you confirm it on the upload screen itself.

See today's limit

In the WordPress dashboard, under **Media**, Add New, you will find the maximum file size the server accepts. Write it down. It is the figure you want to see change.

Change it in four steps

1. **Understand there are two values.** `upload_max_filesize` is the largest single file. `post_max_size` is the largest whole request, and it has to be **equal to or bigger than** the first. Change only one and the visible limit may not move.

2. **Choose the value.** A little above the biggest file you will really upload. The bigger the value, the more memory and time an upload may need, so do not set the maximum for the sake of it.

3. **Change it in the right place.** If your account shows the PHP options in "Select PHP Version", that is the simplest way. Otherwise, or if you want the value for one folder only, use a `.user.ini` file in that folder. What applies where is in **php.ini and .user.ini**.

4. **Wait a little, then go back to the upload screen.** PHP reads `.user.ini` every so often, so the change can take a while to show. When the limit on screen goes up, you are done.

Other values that travel with it

Value	What it is for
`upload_max_filesize`	The largest single file PHP accepts.
`post_max_size`	The largest request in one go. Equal to or bigger than the one above.
`memory_limit`	The memory PHP may use. Images and large files need more.
`max_execution_time`	The time PHP has to finish. A slow upload needs more.

Uploading large files in PHP explains each one, and **PHP limits** shows the one that fails without a word.

WordPress run as a network (MultiSite) has a second limit.
The network settings carry a value of their own for the maximum upload size, and it outranks PHP's. And if the site goes through Cloudflare, Cloudflare itself caps the size of each request: in that case, send the file by FTP.

For very large files, avoid the browser.
A heavy video or a backup file goes up better by FTP or File Manager, and it takes no PHP memory. For video, embed it from a video service instead of storing it in WordPress. See **uploading files with FileZilla**.

NEED A HAND?

Changed the values and the limit will not move? Tell us the site address and where you changed them, and we will tell you what the server is applying.

Open a support ticket →

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