illumia

CS GOLD — SERVER MAINTENANCE

Updating PHP and Apache on your CS Gold web server

Follow these steps in order. The process takes about 15–20 minutes and requires a short window where the web server is unavailable.

PHP	Apache	Versions
Latest stable, x64, Thread Safe	Latest stable, x64 (Win64)	Set by your info-sec requirements

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A NOTE ON TIMING AND RISK

We understand that there are times when published vulnerabilities may need to be patched in your environment more quickly than new versions can be tested by Illumia. In this case, **you proceed at your own risk**.

Backups of the replaced versions should be taken so that the update can be backed out if necessary — see step 3 below.

Before you begin

Apache will be offline for a few minutes during this update, so plan for a brief interruption to the web server. Have administrator access to the server, and confirm you can log in directly (not just remotely through the web application) in case you need to troubleshoot.

Downloads

These are the vendors' release pages, not fixed file links — versions on them change over time. Pick

the current stable release, using the build details below.

PHP for Windows

www.php.net/downloads.php?os=windows

At the top of the page, select **Windows**, **Zip**, and the PHP version for your CS Gold release — **8.2** for Gold 8, **8.4** for Gold 9. Then choose the **Thread Safe** build for your architecture below.

CS GOLD 8

PHP **8.2** — **VS16 x64 Thread Safe**

Example: VS16 x64 Thread Safe — use for CS Gold 8.

CS GOLD 9

PHP **8.4** — **VS17 x64 Thread Safe**

Example: VS17 x64 Thread Safe — use for CS Gold 9.

Apache Lounge (Windows builds)

apachelounge.com/download

Choose the **x64** (Win64) build. Apache is now built with Visual Studio 2026 (VS18) — see the prerequisite step below about installing the matching Visual C++ Redistributable before starting the new build. This is only needed the first time you move to a VS18 build.

Example: Apache 2.4 binaries, Win64 — this is the download to use.

Steps

1

Unblock both zip files

Windows flags downloaded files from the internet as blocked. Right-click each zip, choose **Properties**, and if there's an **Unblock** checkbox near the bottom, check it and click OK. Do

Properties, and if there's an **Unblock** checkbox near the bottom, check it and click OK. Do this for both the PHP and Apache zips before extracting them.

2

Extract both zip files

Unzip each archive to a temporary location, such as your desktop or downloads folder. You'll copy specific contents out of these folders in a later step.

3

Back up the current PHP and Apache folders

Make a copy of each folder so you can restore it quickly if anything goes wrong.

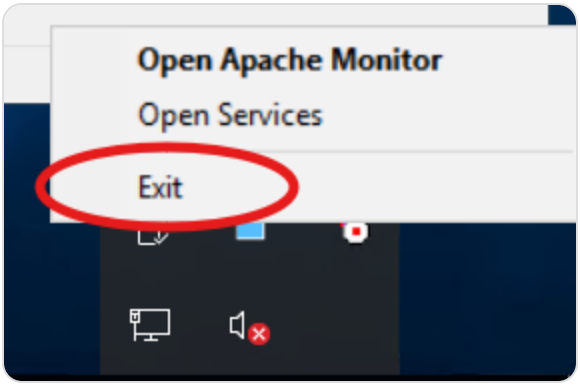
```
D:\Program Files\PHP
D:\Program Files\Apache Software Foundation\Apache2.4
```

Copy each one to a safe location and label it with today's date, for example `PHP_backup_2026-09-22` .

4

Stop Apache

Stop the Apache service, then also shut down the Apache Monitor — click its icon in the system tray (near the clock) and choose **Exit**. Leaving it running can hold a lock on the files you're about to replace.



Right-click the Apache Monitor tray icon and choose Exit.

Then open Task Manager and confirm that neither `httpd.exe` nor `php.exe` is still running. If either process is still listed, end it before continuing — copying files over a running process can leave the install in a broken state.

5

Copy in the new PHP files

From the extracted PHP folder, copy all contents into:

```
D:\Program Files\PHP
```

When prompted, choose to replace the existing files.

6

Copy in the new Apache files

From the extracted Apache folder, go into the `Apache24` subfolder — the extracted folder name will include the version and toolset you downloaded (for example `httpd-<version>-win64-VS<##>\Apache24`) — and copy its contents into:

```
D:\Program Files\Apache Software Foundation\Apache2.4
```

When prompted, choose to replace the existing files.

7

Restore your Apache configuration files

The files you just copied in include a generic, default `conf` folder, overwriting your site's existing configuration. Copy the whole `conf` folder back from the backup you made in step 3, not just `httpd.conf` — it also holds files like `ssl.conf`, which is critical for secure web traffic and certificate renewals, along with anything else your site depends on under `conf\extra`.

```
D:\Program Files\Apache Software Foundation\Apache2.4\conf
```

Copy the entire `conf` folder from your backed-up Apache2.4 folder over the one above, replacing the default files that came with the new version.

8

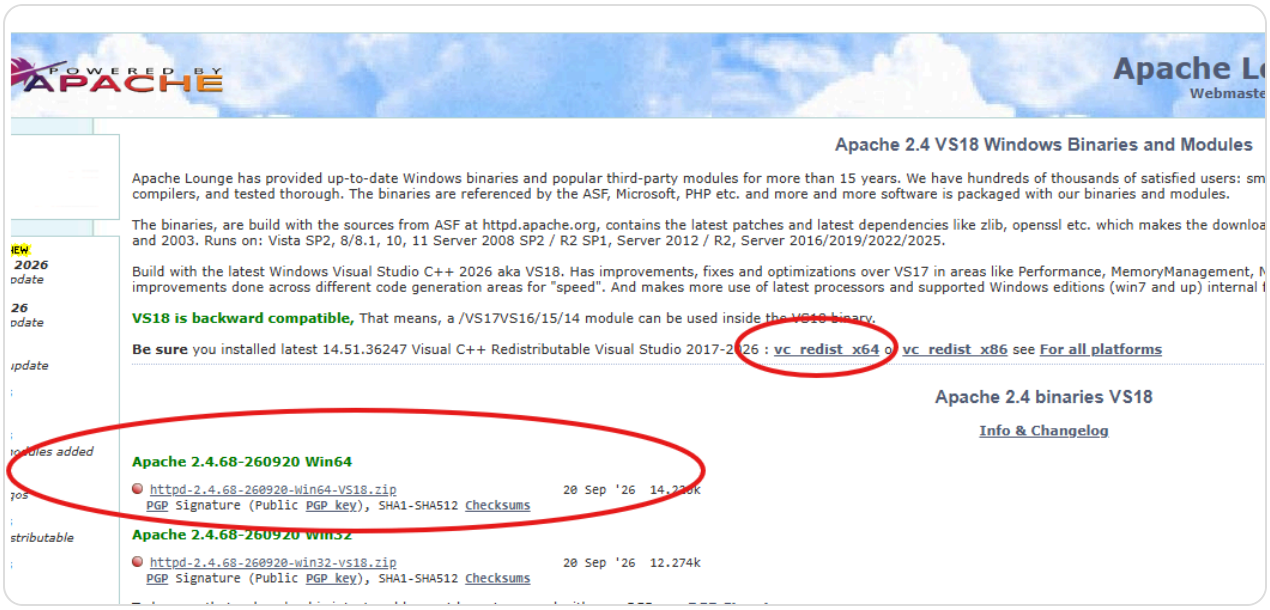
Install the Visual C++ Redistributable (x64)

This is a one-time step. It's only needed the first time you upgrade to an Apache build made with Visual Studio 2026 (VS18) — once it's installed on the server, later VS18 updates don't require it again.

Apache's Windows binaries are now built with VS18, which requires a matching Visual C++ Redistributable to be installed on the server. The new Apache build will not start without it.

On the Apache Lounge download page, this is linked near the top of the page as **vc_redist_x64** — download and run it before starting Apache, if it isn't already installed. You can also get it directly from Microsoft: aka.ms/vc14/vc_redist.x64.exe.

The installer will ask for a **system restart** — allow it to reboot the server. Apache runs as a Windows service, so if everything else was done correctly it should come back up on its own after the restart; you can continue with the next step to confirm.



Both the redistributable link and the Windows binaries are on the same Apache Lounge download page.

9

Start Apache

Start the Apache service again and confirm the CS Gold web application loads normally in a browser.

10

Verify the installed versions

From a command prompt, confirm both new versions are actually in place:

```
php -v
"D:\Program Files\Apache Software Foundation\Apache2.4\bin\httpd.exe" -v
```

Each command prints its version and build date, so you can confirm the update took effect.

```
C:\Windows\system32>php -v
PHP 8.2.34 (cli) (built: Sep 22 2026 09:01:25) (ZTS Visual C++ 2019 x64)
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Zend Engine v4.2.34, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies

C:\Windows\system32>"D:\Program Files\Apache Software Foundation\Apache2.4\bin\httpd.exe" -v
Server version: Apache/2.4.69 (Win64)
Apache Lounge VS18 Server built:   Oct  1 2026 09:34:06
```

Example output after a successful update.

If something goes wrong

Stop Apache, restore your backed-up PHP and Apache folders from step 3 over the current ones, and

start Apache again. This returns the server to its previous working state.

Quick checklist

- [ ] Both zip files unblocked and extracted
- [ ] PHP and Apache folders backed up
- [ ] Apache stopped, Apache Monitor exited, no httpd.exe or php.exe running
- [ ] PHP files copied to D:\Program Files\PHP
- [ ] Apache24 files copied to D:\Program Files\Apache Software Foundation\Apache2.4
- [ ] Entire conf folder (including ssl.conf) restored from backup
- [ ] Visual C++ Redistributable (x64) installed and server restarted (one-time, first VS18 upgrade only)
- [ ] Apache started and site verified in browser
- [ ] php -v and httpd -v confirm the new versions

Reference this guide during the maintenance window. Keep the backups from step 3 until you've confirmed the site is stable on the new versions.