

Aric's Guide to CPANEL 6.4.2

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Introduction: Welcome to CPANEL 6

When you log into your CPANEL using:

<http://yourdomain.com:2082/>

or

<http://IPaddress:2082/>

(if your domain name hasn't propagated yet)

You will be asked for your username and password (which was provided to you in your welcoming E-mail or letter from your web host – *NEVER* throw this away!)

Let me cut to the chase: CPANEL is my favorite of the two web administration control panels that I have used. Hands down.

That being said, when you log into your account's CPANEL you will note that there is no help function built-in to CPANEL 6. In fact, if you go to:

<http://www.cpanel.net/>

You can view documentation for CPANEL V4/5 only (and it isn't even final documentation). Even the website itself only mentions CPANEL 5. Yet they charge \$1400 for a lifetime license with support. Let's hope the support is more up-to-date than their website. This can make it a bit tough for those of you who are new to CPANEL.

Your hosting provider can use any one of a number of different themes (skins) for CPANEL, so the one you see below (Xskin theme v2.0) may look different than the one you are provided. Unlike most "skinable" programs, the features you get in your CPANEL can vary by theme. In addition, where these features are located and how you access them may differ.

Thankfully, CPANEL's interface is cleanly designed and informative without being distracting. At the top of the screen you will find information about your web hosting account. On the right, you are welcomed to your domain and under that there is the name of the server you were last recorded as logging on from (this may help you figure out if your account has been compromised, if so, change the password immediately and check the rest of your site for damage). Under that is your domain's contact address. You can change this as needed by clicking on the words "up to date" near where the e-mail address is listed. Here's a screenshot of what the main screen looks like:

HOMELOGOUT

CPANEL X SKIN v2.0

Welcome is-family.com! Last login from: 111.111.111.111.
Your contact email address on file is [test@domain.com]. Please keep it up to date.

Account Resources & Information:

Hosting Package	Bronze
Subdomains	3 / unlimited
Parked Domains	0 / 0
Addon Domains	0 / 0
Databases	6 / unlimited
Disk Usage	122.74 Megabytes
MySQL Disk Usage	10.82 Megabytes
Space Available	877.26 Megabytes
Bandwidth Usage	28.23 Megabytes
Email Accounts	3 / unlimited
Forwarders	37
Auto-Responders	0
Mailing Lists	0 / unlimited
Email Filters	2
FTP Accounts	0 / unlimited

Mail Manager

Read Web Mail

Change Password

Parked Domains

Addon Domains

FTP Manager

File Manager

Disk Usage Viewer

Backup

Password Protection

Custom Error Pages

Subdomains

MySQL Database

SSH Access

Manage Redirects

FrontPage Extensions

Web / FTP Stats

Raw Access Log

Raw Log Manager

Error Log

Search Engine Submit

Chat Rooms

Forum / BBS

CGI Center

Addon Scripts

Shopping Carts

Cron Jobs

Network Tools

Mime Types

Apache Handlers

PGP Keys

HotLink Protection

Index Manager

IP Deny Manager

Fantastico

Server Information:

Operating System	Linux
Server Status	Click to View
Kernel Version	2.4.20
Last Reboot	1day, 23:28min
Apache Version	1.3.27 (Unix)
Perl Version	5.006001
Perl Path	/usr/bin/perl
Sendmail Path	/usr/sbin/sendmail
Perl Modules	Click to View
PHP Version	4.3.2
MySQL Version	4.0.13
cPanel Version	6.4.2-RELEASE
cPanel Build	47
cPanel Theme	cPanel X v2.0

XSKIN COPYRIGHT BERT HAMMERER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ICONS BY PAUL BOYER.

Figure 1 - The Main CPANEL Screen: Note that Fantastico is not part of a standard CPANEL install.

Chapter 1: The Main CPANEL Screen - Sidebars

To the left side of your screen is a column with a lot of information about the features of your account and the server your account is located on. From top to bottom:

- **Hosting Package:** This is the package that you are currently set up with at your host.
- **Subdomains:** Subdomains are “subdomain.yourdomainname.com” This will list the number of subdomains you currently have and the maximum your account is allowed.
- **Parked Domains:** Parked domains are other top-level domains you own “your2nddomainname.com” that are currently “parked” at your account. Parked domains point to your main domain name’s content. For example, if you park “MySecondDomain.com” at your account where “MyDomain.com” is your “main” domain name, then any time you go to “myseconddomain.com” it will take you to “mydomain.com.” Generally, most bargain web hosts don’t offer this for free. This is a nice feature if you own a domain name but don’t want to have a separate web site for it.
- **Add-on Domains:** Similar to parked domains, except that an add-on domain creates a special set of directories in your main web account so that your add-on domain gets treated like it was separate from your main domain. “myseconddomain.com” would not be the same as “mydomain.com.” This is great if you own more than one domain name and you want to have totally separate content for each site. Add-on domains are not really separate; they still count towards your main account’s disk space and bandwidth limitations. Again, most bargain web hosts don’t offer this for free to their customers.
- **Databases:** This shows the current and maximum number of MySQL (or other) databases in your account. Many PHP and CGI scripts require the use of at least one MySQL database to work properly.
- **Disk Usage:** How much disk space on the server that your account is using for ALL features and options. Keep an eye on this to make sure you don’t go over your maximum allowed disk space.
- **MySQL Disk Usage:** This shows how much disk space your MySQL databases are currently using. This number is included in the total disc usage number above.
- **Space Available:** How much of your allowed disk space you currently have left for your hosting package.
- **Bandwidth Usage:** Watch this number to make sure you don’t get too close to your account bandwidth limits in any given month. Keep in mind that most hosts reset bandwidth counters at the beginning of every month, regardless of when your billing date is. Also, accounts suspended due to bandwidth overage may only be restored (even if you contact your host and upgrade your package or buy more bandwidth) once per 24-hour

period, so it is a very good idea to buy more bandwidth before you need it, not after. Check with your host about their policies regarding bandwidth.

- **E-mail Accounts:** How many real, POP3 E-mail accounts you have created vs. how many you are allowed to have. Keep in mind that the first e-mail address in your account will be “youraccountname@yourdomainname.com” and this doesn’t typically “count” against your maximum number of e-mail accounts allowed. Keep in mind that every e-mail account you create uses disk space on your server and contributes to the amount of disk space you are using for your account.
- **Forwarders:** Forwarders are what I think of as “e-mail aliases” They are e-mail addresses you create “aliasname@yourdomainname.com” that aren’t “full-fledged” POP3 e-mail accounts. Forwarders do just that; forward any mail you send to the forwarding address to a different e-mail address. It is important to note that you can forward mail to ANY e-mail address, even if you don’t own the domain. This item will show you how many you currently have set up vs. how many you are allowed to have.
- **Auto-Responders:** These are special rules you set up that basically say whenever someone sends an e-mail to “X” e-mail address (for your domain only), then respond with this bit of canned text. This feature can be used to set up “on vacation” or “out-of-the-office” auto responses. You can also use auto responders to send directions or other common information to someone via e-mail whenever they send mail to a particular address.
- **Mailing Lists:** If you want to send out regular updates, newsletters or special offers to a large group of people via e-mail, then a mailing list is what you want. I’ll discuss this more later. This item lists the current number of active mailing lists vs. the total number you are allowed to have.
- **E-mail Filters:** E-mail filters help to block SPAM or unwanted messages from getting delivered to any mailbox. You set up the rules and any e-mail that matches those rules will not get delivered to any e-mail account at your domain. This shows you how many you currently have set up vs. the number you are permitted.
- **FTP Accounts:** The number of File Transfer Protocol accounts you currently have set up vs. the maximum you can have. More on this feature later.

This is followed by information about the server your account is on:

- **Operating System:** This should be obvious.

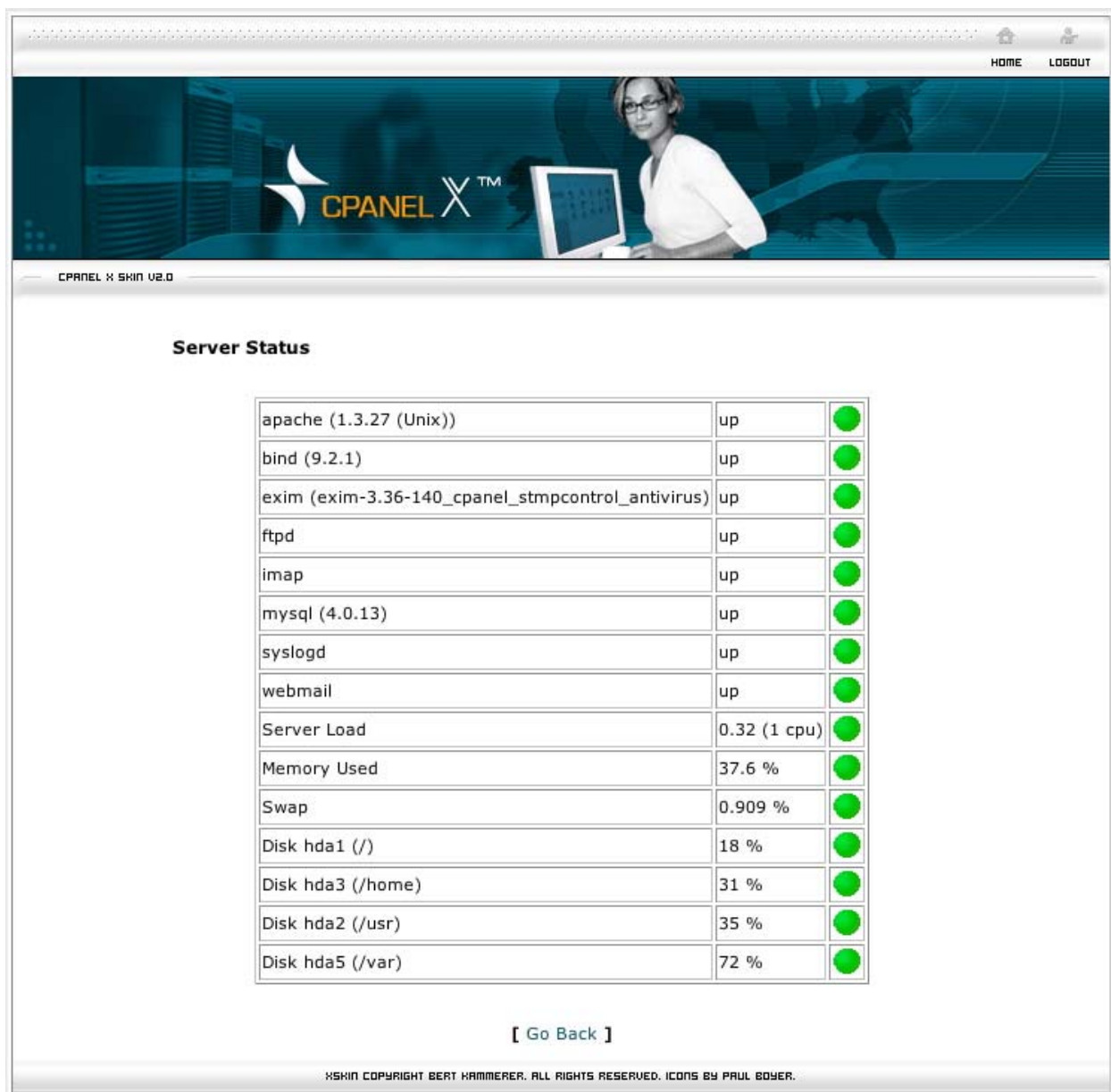


Figure 2 - Server Status: Please don't panic if a service goes "red" for a short time.

- **Server Status:** This will tell you if all of the server's various services are up and running OK. Green is good, red means that service is either very busy or down right now.
- **Kernel Version:** This is the version of the core of the operating system. This way you can monitor the server to make sure it has all the latest security patches, etc.
- **Last Reboot:** This is the last time the server had to reboot. Obviously, your web site isn't on-line when the server is off-line.

- **Apache Version:** This is the version of the web serving software that the server is running.
- **Perl Version:** This is the version of Perl language that is currently installed on the server.
- **Sendmail Path:** This is where mail that is ready to be sent is saved on the server.

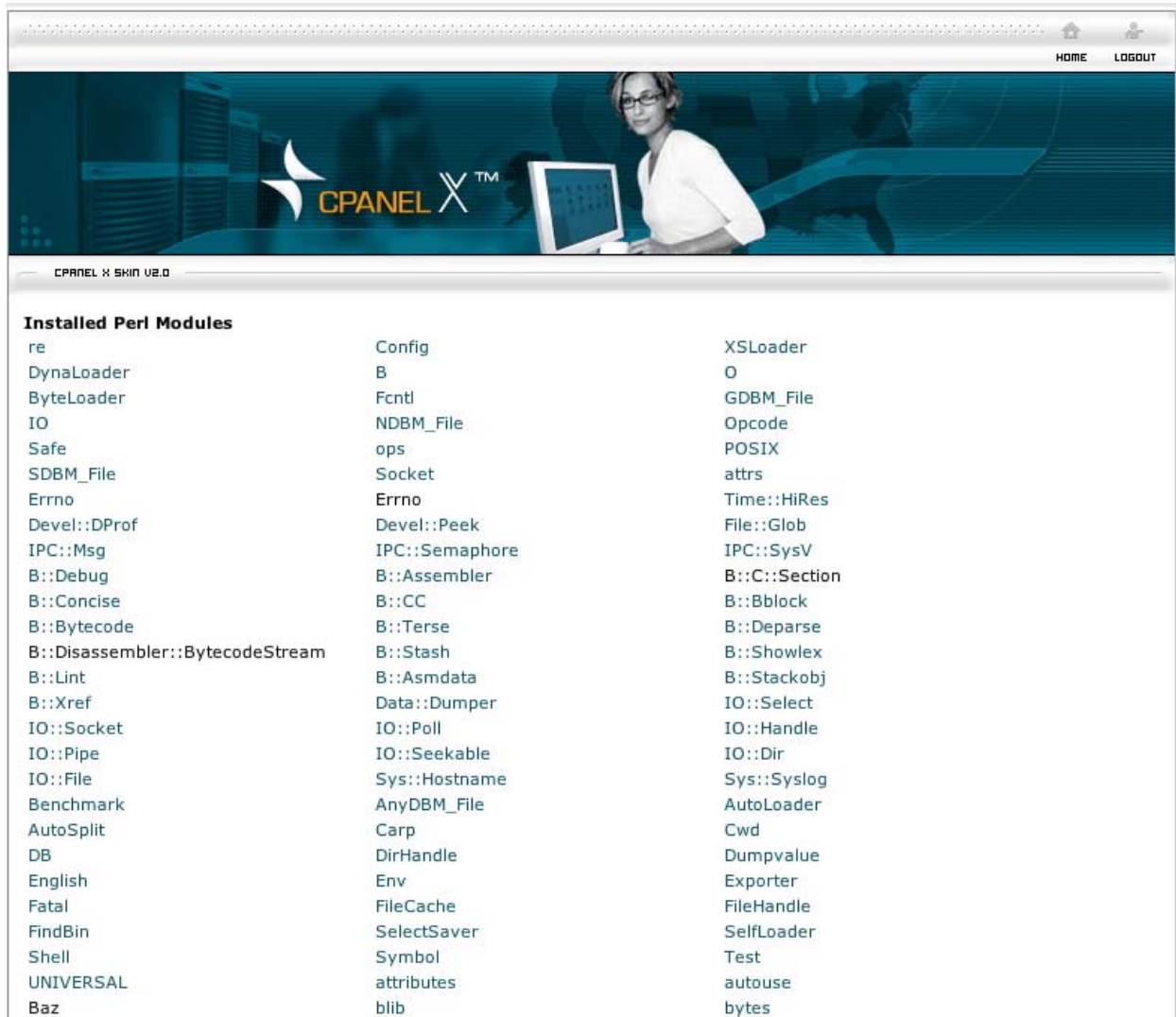


Figure 3 - Installed Perl Modules - Note that this is not a full screen shot.

- **Perl Modules:** Perl's functionality can be enhanced by various modules. If you click here you can see exactly what modules are currently installed.
- **PHP Version:** This is the version of the PHP language that is currently installed on the server.

- **MySQL Version:** The version of this open source database that is currently installed.
- **CPANEL Version:** This is the version of CPANEL that the server is running.
- **CPANEL Build:** Each version can have several builds of a single version. Every time the developers modify the code a new build is created of the program. Higher numbers are generally better.
- **CPANEL Theme:** This is how the CPANEL interface will look. Your web host can pick from several and this will change not only the look, but in some cases the featureset of CPANEL. The screenshots in this guide show Xskin v2.0.

Chapter 2: CPANEL Mail Manager Options

Next to that column of information is row-upon-row of icons. These icons allow you to access or change any features that your web host provides to you. Keep in mind that depending on your web host, you may have more or less options available than this.

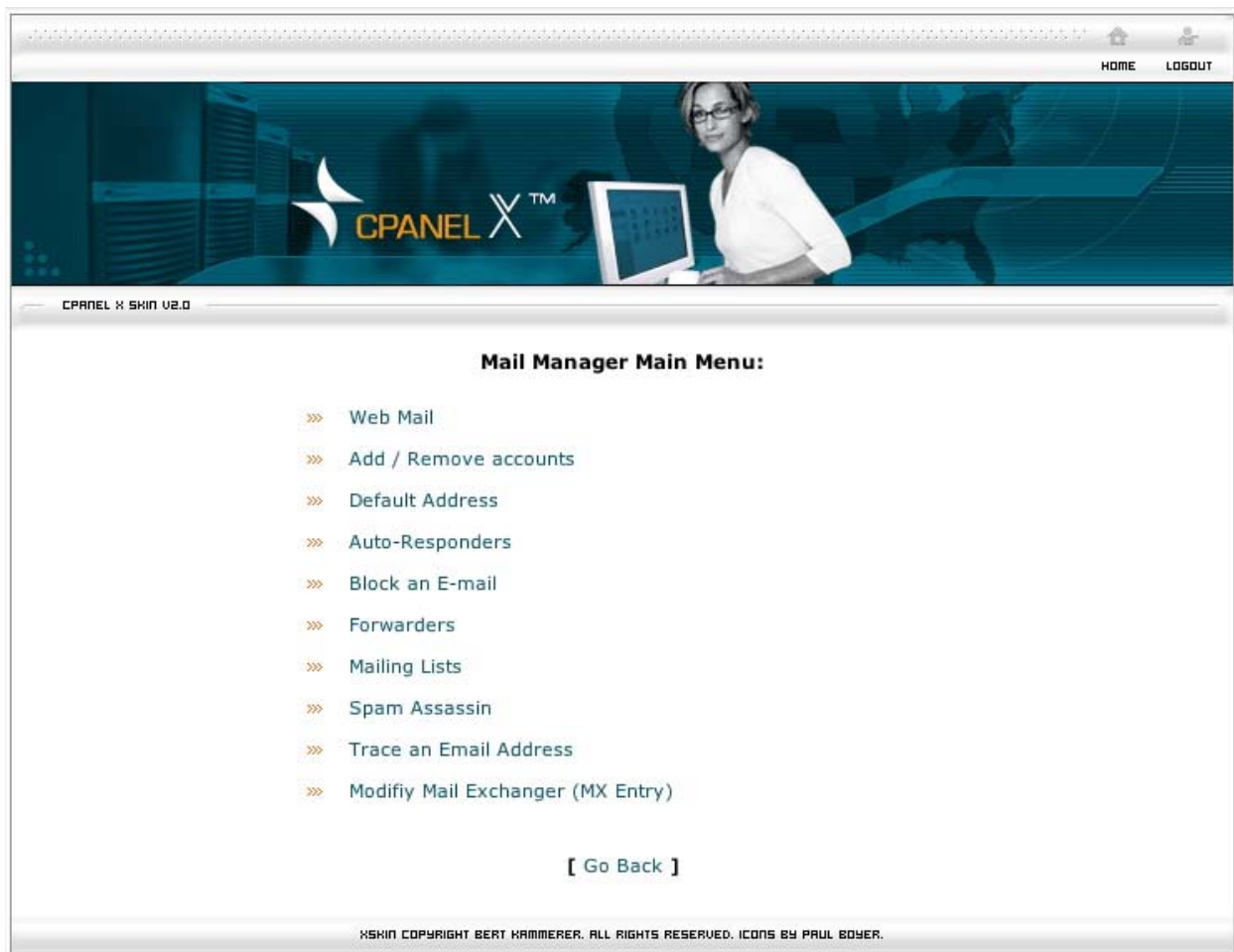


Figure 4 - Mail Manager Main Menu

- **Mail Manager:** This is where you go when you want to edit mail-related functions. It contains the following sub-options:



Figure 5 – Webmail: You have two choices by default.

- **Webmail:** You can go here to access one of two different webmail programs, Neomail or Horde. Discussing all the features of both mail programs is a bit beyond the scope of this guide. I find that I prefer Horde. It offers more features (including a calendar, memo area, to-do list, etc.). Neomail is OK, but it offers fewer features and isn't as well laid out in my opinion. You always have a choice to use either one. Going to:

<http://www.yourdomain.com/webmail/>

will take you to the screen where you can select one or the other of the webmail programs. I personally set up a subdomain at webmail.mydomainname.com that takes me directly to Horde to log in.

To check your mail using the account you set up initially with your web host, you just enter your username and account password. For all other e-mail accounts that you set up for your domain, you should enter the full e-mail address (including the “@”) and the e-mail password.

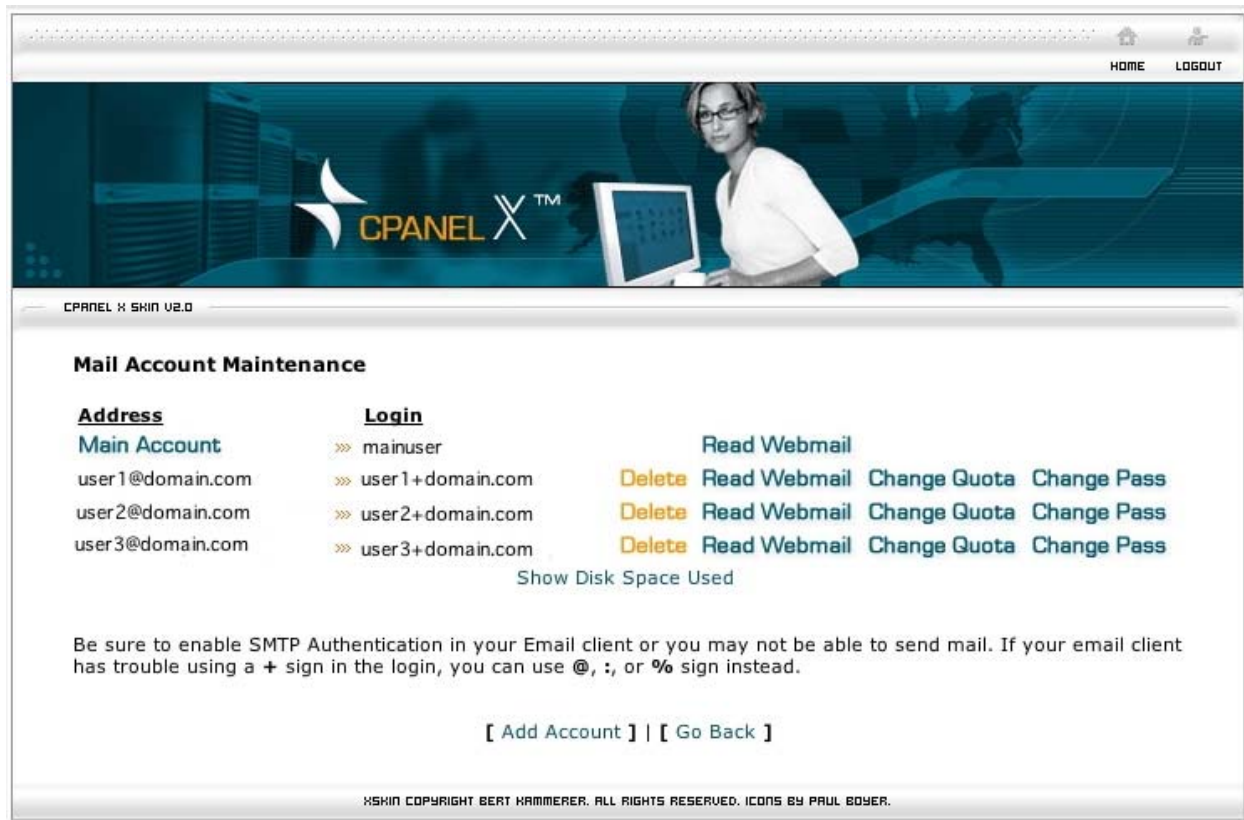


Figure 6 - Add/Remove E-mail Account: Click *Show Disk Space Used* to see how much mail each account has in it.

- **Add/Remove E-mail:** This is where you go if you want to set up a real POP3 e-mail account, replete with storage space for mail in your hosting account (any mail storage will affect the amount of disk space your account uses). You will see that there is an account already set up for you. This is an e-mail account for you as the administrator. You can't change, delete or otherwise modify this e-mail account. If you want to change your e-mail password you need to use the "change password" option from the main screen of your CPANEL. This will affect your password for all services that you log into as administrator including CPANEL, e-mail and your FTP account.

To create another e-mail account, just click the *Add Account* button at the bottom of the screen. This will take you to the new e-mail account setup screen. Here you set the username for the e-mail address (username@yourdomain.com), the password and choose the quota (more commonly referred to as mailbox size) for the account. If you leave the quota blank, then the mailbox can grow until your web hosting account runs out of disk space. If you do set a mailbox size, then that e-mail account will stop accepting mail once it hits the quota until the mailbox is cleaned out to make room for more messages.

Once you create the account, it is immediately active. You can view the amount of disk space any e-mail account is using, change the password, change the quota, delete the account or read the mail in that account via webmail.

Of course, if you go through the trouble of setting up a real e-mail account for someone, then you will probably want to send/receive mail from that account in your favorite e-mail program (Outlook (Express), Eudora, etc.). The exact settings may change slightly from web host to web host, so make sure you check with your hosting provider. For any given domain name:

Account/Username: username@mydomainname.com OR

username+mydomainname.com

Password: the password you set up for that account in your CPANEL.

Mail Server: mail.yourdomain.com

SMTP Server: mail.yourdomain.com

SMTP Authentication: **YES** (this option makes sure to send your e-mail username and password when sending e-mail)

Return Address: username@yourdomain.com

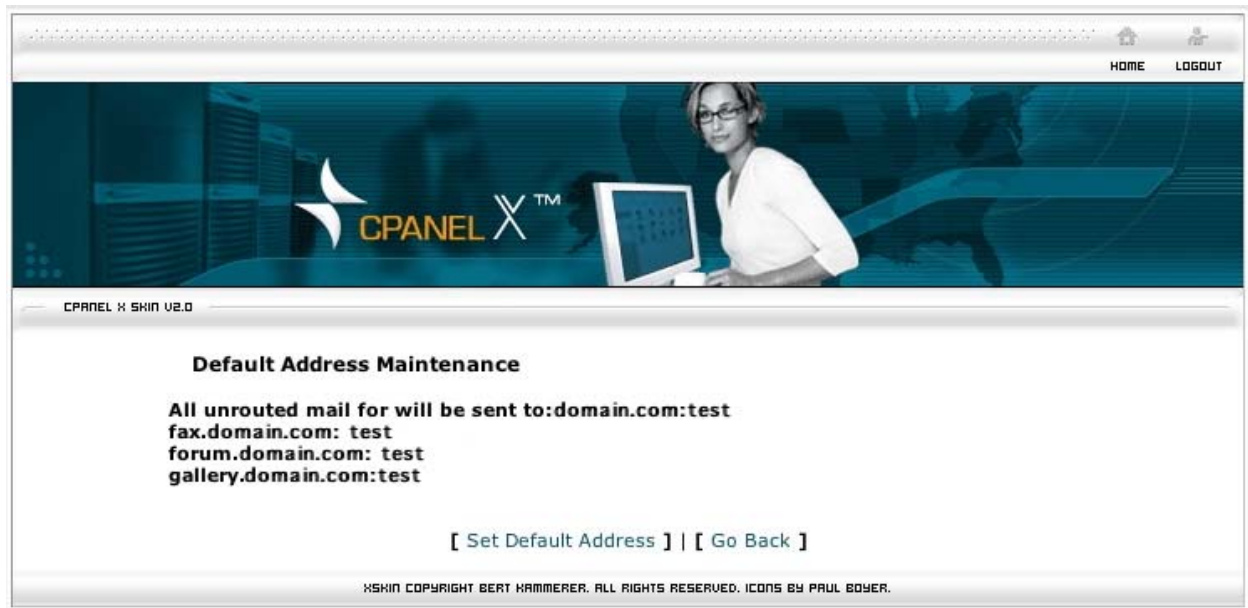
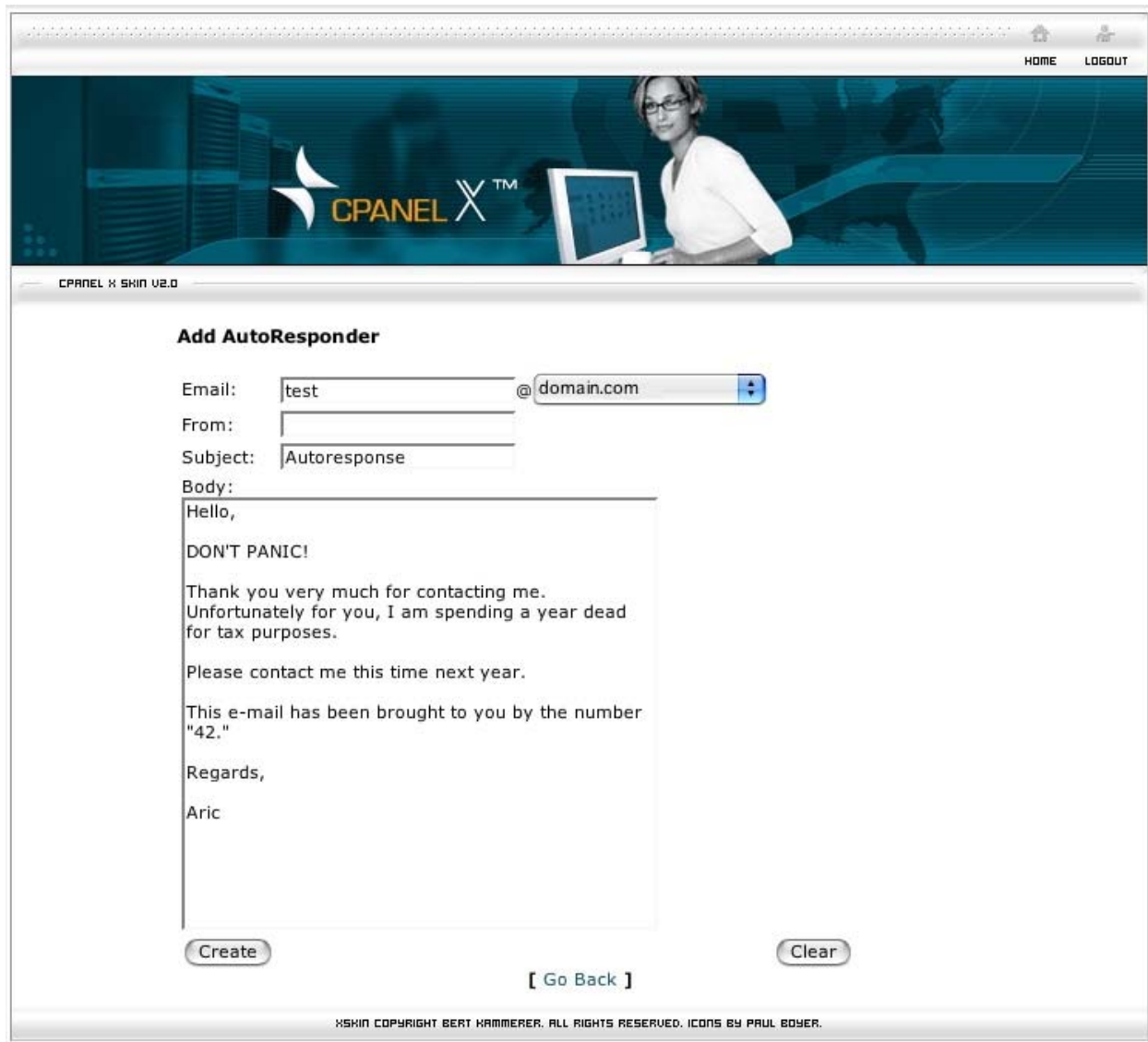


Figure 7 - Default E-mail Addresses: In this case all unrouted mail is going to test@domain.com.

- **Default Address:** This allows you to set what action will happen when mail is sent to a user at your domain for whom you have NOT set up an e-mail account or e-mail forwarding. By default, any mail sent to an address that doesn't exist goes to your administrator e-mail account. You can set it to go to any e-mail address you prefer (even an external address). Alternately, you can set mail to non-assigned addresses to just be instantly discarded with no warning (set the action to

“:blackhole:”) or have the e-mail bounced back to the sender with a message noting that the e-mail was undeliverable (set the action to “:fail:”).



The screenshot shows the CPANEL X SKIN V2.0 interface. At the top, there is a banner with the CPANEL X logo and a woman working on a laptop. Below the banner, the 'Add AutoResponder' form is displayed. The form has the following fields:

- Email:** test @ domain.com
- From:** (empty)
- Subject:** Autoresponse
- Body:**

Hello,
DON'T PANIC!
Thank you very much for contacting me.
Unfortunately for you, I am spending a year dead for tax purposes.
Please contact me this time next year.
This e-mail has been brought to you by the number "42."
Regards,
Aric

At the bottom of the form, there are three buttons: 'Create', 'Clear', and '[Go Back]'. Below the buttons, a small copyright notice reads: 'XSKIN COPYRIGHT BEAT HAMMERER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ICONS BY PAUL BOYER.'

Figure 8 - Create AutoResponder: Improper use of this feature could upset people on any mailing list(s) you are on.

- **Auto-Responders:** This feature automatically sends an e-mail to anyone who sends mail to a particular e-mail address. This can be used for several different things. Perhaps the most common use is setting up an “on vacation” or “out of the office” message that automatically gets sent back to anyone who sends you e-mail. Be careful with this because if you subscribe to a mailing list, the mailing list will receive notification that you are away! Another use can be to provide an e-mailable FAQ covering commonly asked questions about a service you are running, or about your company. So for example, you can create an autoresponder that automatically sends e-mail to a person who sends mail to

techsupport@mydomainname.com” giving them answers to common problems and asking them to send mail to a different e-mail address if they still need help. If you specify a “From” address, then that autoresponse message will ONLY be sent to e-mail with that particular “From” address rather than to all messages received at that account.

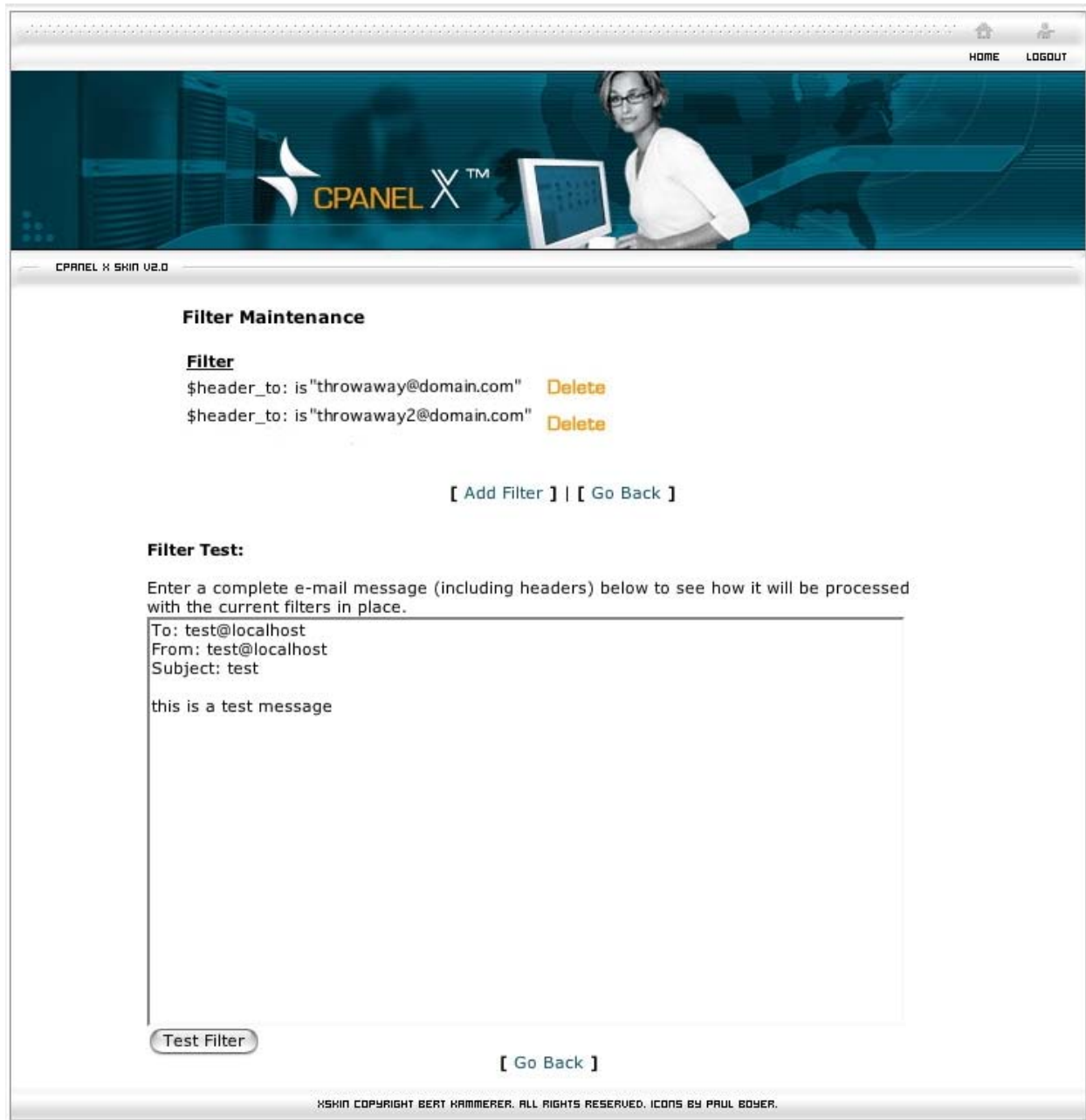


Figure 9 - E-mail Block Filters: Goodbye SPAM! Create “throwaway” addresses to use when filling out forms. Use a new one for every form you fill out. Block it as soon as you start getting SPAM. There are companies that make big money offering this exact service and you get it for free as part of your CPANEL from your webhost! ☺

- **Block E-mail:** Getting SPAM and want to block someone from sending you e-mail? Or perhaps an unscrupulous company is using the WHOIS records for your domain to send you SPAM. What can you do? Set up a filter to block e-mail based on your criteria. You can block based on the TO: header, or the FROM: header, the subject line, a word or words in the body of the e-mail, or any other header line. Just select the criteria you want to block (one criterion per filter) and then click *Activate*. CPANEL will even offer you the ability to test your new filters by running a test e-mail you create through your newly created filters to see what happens.

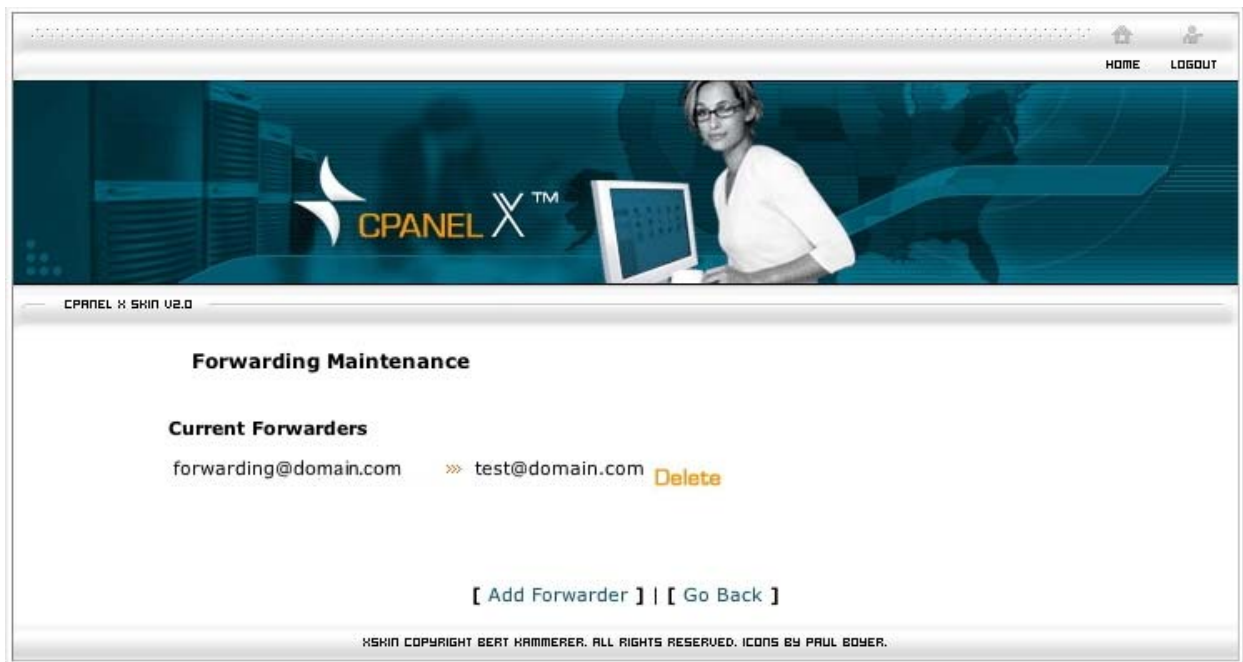


Figure 10 - E-mail Forwarding: In this example, e-mail sent to forwarding@domain.com will be redirected to test@domain.com. You can forward mail to any e-mail address or even multiple addresses!

- **Forwarders:** As I mentioned, I personally think of forwarders as “e-mail aliases.” Forwarders are not full e-mail accounts. E-mail sent to a forwarding e-mail gets redirected to another e-mail address anywhere on the Internet that you can set. Forwarders are VERY useful, particularly if you want to have a number of different e-mail addresses without the hassle of having to check several different accounts. Just create the forwarding e-mail address and point it to your “real” e-mail account of choice. In fact, you can even have e-mail sent to a forwarding address that gets redirected to MANY other recipients. Just set up the same forwarding e-mail address with multiple recipients (you’ll have to do each entry separately). You can use this feature to create simple group e-mail addresses. For example, I have set a forwarding e-mail address that automatically forwards any mail sent to that address to my entire family. This is great for personal announcements or a small mailing list without the hassle of setting up a full-

fledged mailing list. You can send mail so that it looks like it came from an e-mail forwarding account by setting up a new “personality” or account in your e-mail program of choice and marking the name and return e-mail address as your e-mail forwarding address and then using the standard mail/SMTP (send mail) addresses for your preferred “real” e-mail account.

Test Administration (General Options)

Back Forward Reload Stop Home Search Google http://testdomain.com/mailman/admin/test_testdomain.com Location

Test mailing list administration General Options Section

Configuration Categories

- [General Options](#)
- [Membership Management](#)
- [Privacy Options](#)
- [Regular-member \(non-digest\) Options](#)
- [Digest-member Options](#)
- [Bounce Options](#)
- [Archival Options](#)
- [Mail-News and News-Mail gateways](#)
- [Auto-responder](#)

Other Administrative Activities

- [Tend to pending administrative requests](#)
- [Go to the general list information page](#)
- [Edit the HTML for the public list pages](#)
- [Go to list archives](#)
- [Logout](#)

Make your changes below, and then submit them using the button at the bottom. (You can change your password there, too.)

General Options

Fundamental list characteristics, including descriptive info and basic behaviors.

Description	Value
The public name of this list (make case-changes only). (Details)	Test
The list admin's email address - having multiple admins/addresses (on separate lines) is ok. (Details)	test@testdomain.com
A terse phrase identifying this list. (Details)	This is a Test
An introductory description - a few paragraphs - about the list. It will be included, as html, at the top of the listinfo page. Carriage returns will end a paragraph - see the details for more info. (Details)	Hi. This is a Test Mailing List.
Prefix for subject line of list postings. (Details)	[Test]
List-specific text prepended to new-subscriber welcome message (Details)	
Text sent to people leaving the list. If empty, no special text will be added to the unsubscribe message. (Details)	
Where are replies to list messages directed? <i>Poster</i> is strongly recommended for most mailing lists. (Details)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Poster <input type="radio"/> This list <input type="radio"/> Explicit address
Explicit Reply-To: header. (Details)	
(Administrivia filter) Check postings and intercept ones that seem to be administrative requests? (Details)	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Send password reminders to, eg, "-owner" address instead of directly to user. (Details)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Suffix for use when this list is an umbrella for other lists, according to setting of previous "umbrella_list" setting. (Details)	-owner
Send monthly password reminders or no? Overrides the previous option. (Details)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Send welcome message when people subscribe? (Details)	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Should administrator get immediate notice of new requests, as well as daily notices about collected ones? (Details)	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Should administrator get notices of subscribes/unsubscribes? (Details)	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Send mail to poster when their posting is held for approval? (Details)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Maximum length in Kb of a message body. Use 0 for no limit. (Details)	40
Host name this list prefers. (Details)	testdomain.com
Base URL for Mailman web interface. The URL must end in a single "/". See also the details for an important warning when changing this value. (Details)	http://testdomain.com/mailman/

http://is-family.com/mailman/admin/test_is-family.com/?VARHELP=general/umbrella_member_suffix

Figure 11 - Mailman Mailing List Administration: Set up your own mailing list.

- **Mailing Lists:** Sometimes the basic one-to-many simplicity of forwarding e-mails isn't full-featured enough, especially since it requires a lot of manual entry of e-mail addresses. However, if you are going to send a newsletter or other regular e-mail to many people, you'll probably want to set up a mailing list. You create one by clicking the *Add List* button and then filling in the name of the list, the domain name it should come from and the mailing list administrative password. Then click *Create*. You will be shown that several files and entries were created to handle this new mailing list. Click *Go Back* and then click on the *Edit List* button to finish setting up the mailing list. Once you enter your mailing list administrative password, you have access to all the features of the Mailmail mailing list software. Mailman is very full-featured, but it has so many features that it is beyond the scope of this guide. Mailman does have built-in help so it should be enough to answer most of your questions.



Figure 12 - Spam Assassin: On or off – That's it!

- **Spam Assassin:** The Block E-mail option is good if you want to block all e-mail sent to a particular address or if you want to block mail sent from a particular address, but it would be a pain to set up comprehensive SPAM filters using that option. Spam Assassin fills in the gaps in your anti-spam corpus. It blocks known spammers and rewrites the headers of other e-mail messages so you can filter them out from your e-mail program if you wish. However, all is not well in paradise. In CPANEL, Spam Assassin is either ON or OFF. There are no options to set, no exceptions. It is all or nothing. The problem with Spam Assassin is it will block sometimes legitimate E-mail as possible SPAM and there is no way to alter this behavior or recover any mail that has been assassinated. Spam Assassin also applies to ALL e-mail addresses (and forwarding addresses) for your domain, you can't pick the accounts individually. Therefore, unless you have a HUGE problem with SPAM, I recommend that you leave this feature turned OFF.

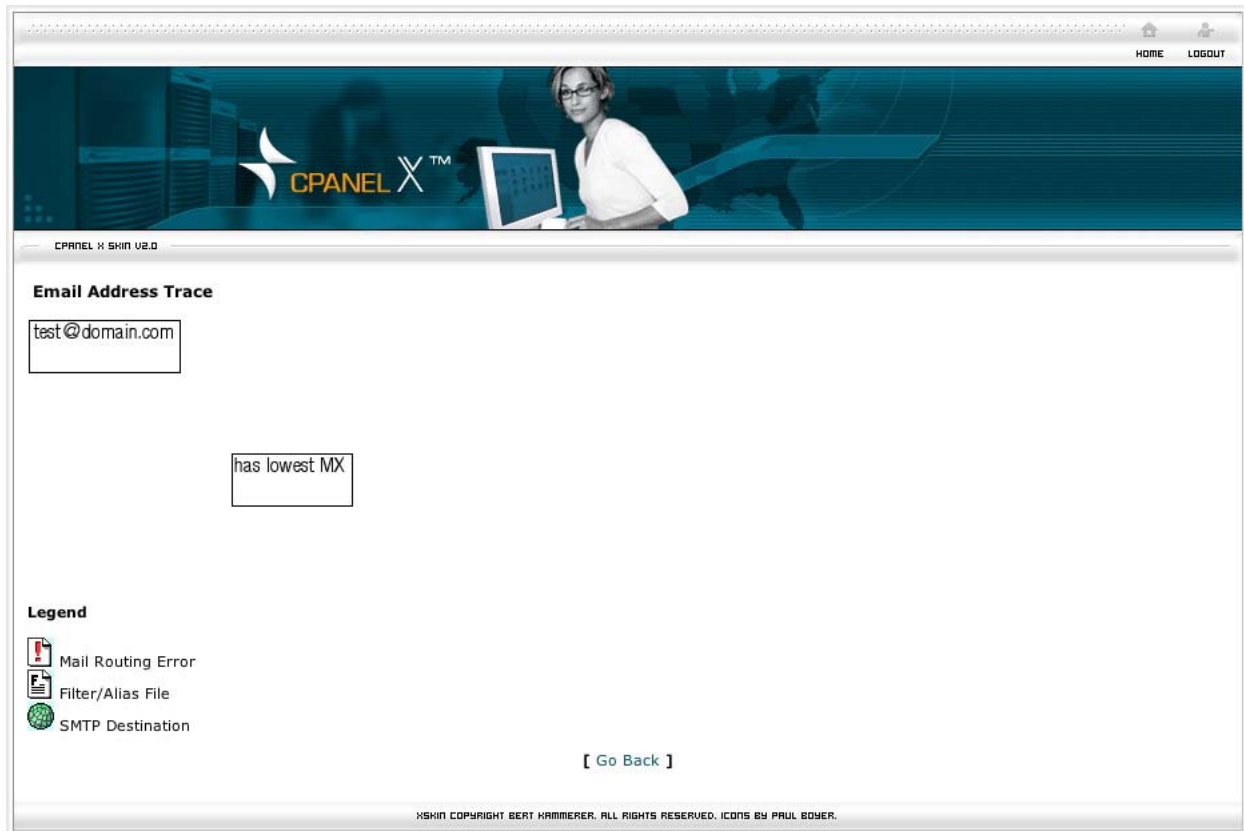


Figure 13 - E-mail Address Trace: Helps you figure out if there is a problem sending mail to the address.

- **E-mail Address Trace:** This allows you to graphically see a map of where e-mail gets sent. It will also help diagnose problems sending mail to that address. It will map out any connections the address has and can provide information that may help your host's tech support diagnose e-mail problems.



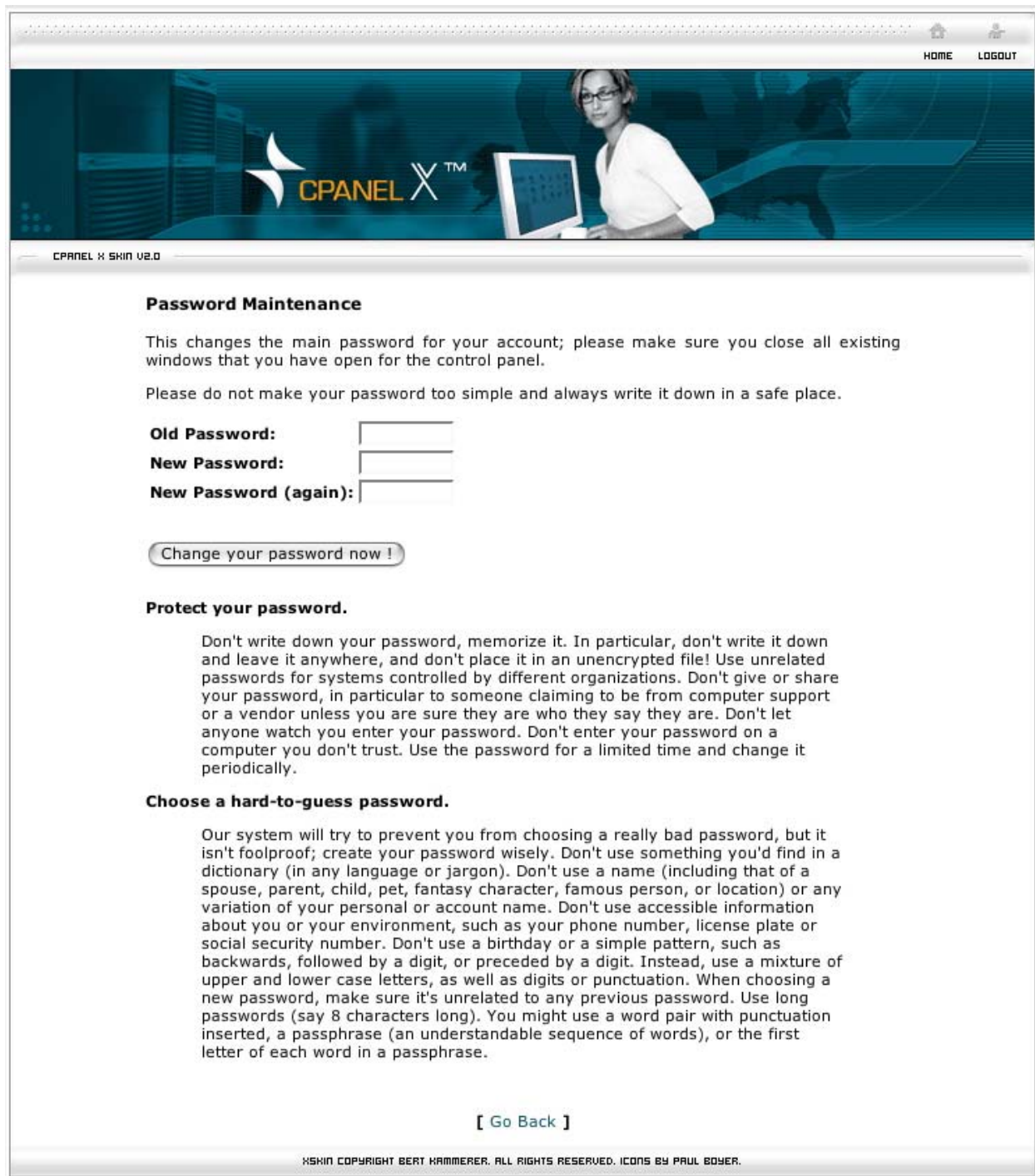
Figure 14 - MX Entries – Don’t change these settings unless you know what you are doing!

- ***Edit Mail Exchanger (MX Records):*** Don’t touch this unless you know what you are doing. This allows you to change the server that handles all incoming mail for this domain.

Whew. One CPANEL icon down, 34 more to go. Thankfully, many of them are not as complex.

- **Read Webmail:** This takes you to Neomail or Horde as I described earlier.

Chapter 3: Change your Main Account Password



CPANEL X SKIN V2.0

Password Maintenance

This changes the main password for your account; please make sure you close all existing windows that you have open for the control panel.

Please do not make your password too simple and always write it down in a safe place.

Old Password:

New Password:

New Password (again):

[Change your password now !](#)

Protect your password.

Don't write down your password, memorize it. In particular, don't write it down and leave it anywhere, and don't place it in an unencrypted file! Use unrelated passwords for systems controlled by different organizations. Don't give or share your password, in particular to someone claiming to be from computer support or a vendor unless you are sure they are who they say they are. Don't let anyone watch you enter your password. Don't enter your password on a computer you don't trust. Use the password for a limited time and change it periodically.

Choose a hard-to-guess password.

Our system will try to prevent you from choosing a really bad password, but it isn't foolproof; create your password wisely. Don't use something you'd find in a dictionary (in any language or jargon). Don't use a name (including that of a spouse, parent, child, pet, fantasy character, famous person, or location) or any variation of your personal or account name. Don't use accessible information about you or your environment, such as your phone number, license plate or social security number. Don't use a birthday or a simple pattern, such as backwards, followed by a digit, or preceded by a digit. Instead, use a mixture of upper and lower case letters, as well as digits or punctuation. When choosing a new password, make sure it's unrelated to any previous password. Use long passwords (say 8 characters long). You might use a word pair with punctuation inserted, a passphrase (an understandable sequence of words), or the first letter of each word in a passphrase.

[\[Go Back \]](#)

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Figure 15 - Change Password: Good luck finding one that is accepted by CPANEL that you can remember. ☺

- **Change Password:** This changes your administrator password, which applies to trying to log in to your CPANEL, mail account, FTP and SSH accounts. Keep in mind that if you

change your password, you will need to follow CPANEL's rules for a "safe" password: 7+ characters, NO words found in a dictionary, at least one number, no non-alphanumeric characters. Good luck! ☺

Chapter 4: Parked and Add-on Domains

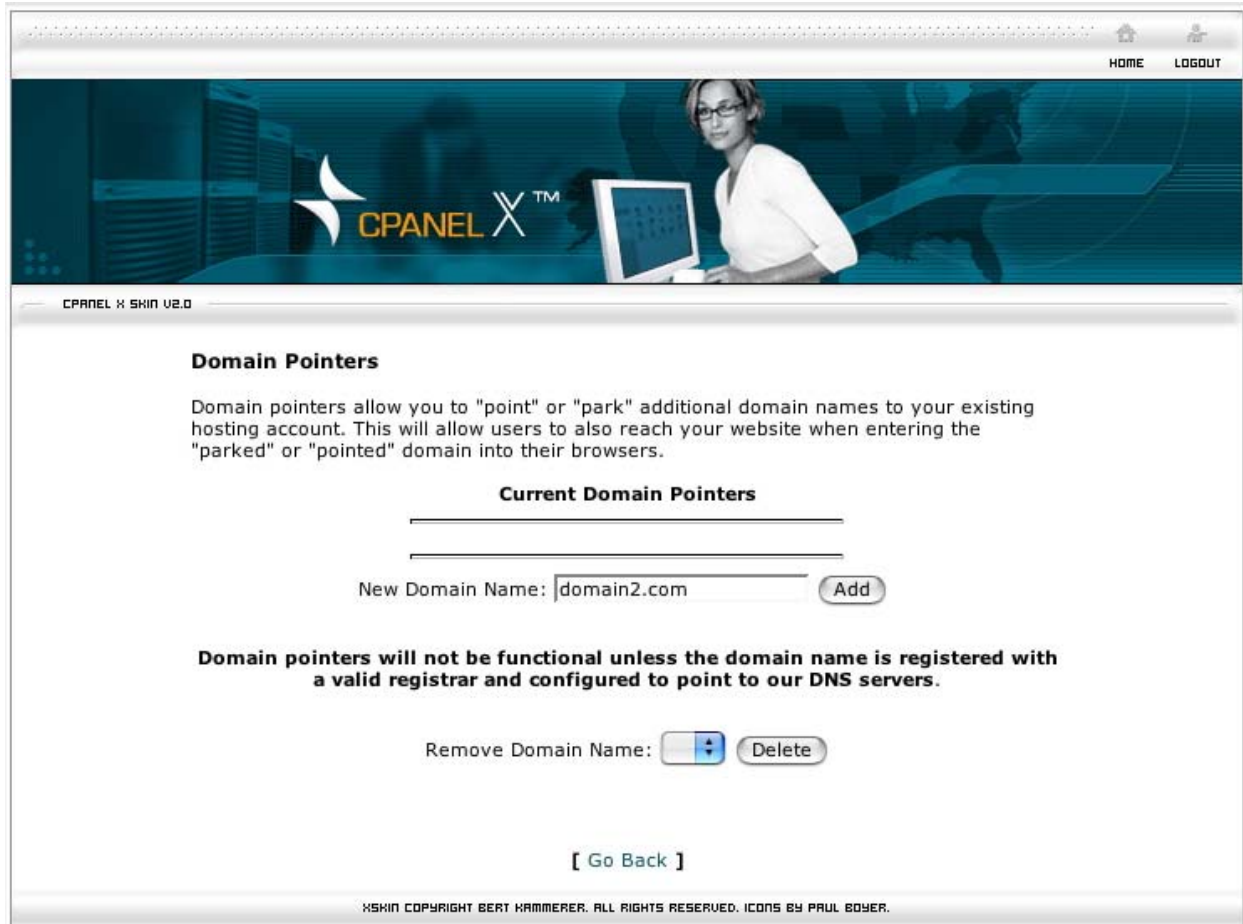


Figure 16 - Parked Domains: Point domain2.com to the same content as domain.com.

- **Parked Domains:** As I mentioned earlier, parked domains are top-level domains that you want to point to the same services as you have available at your main domain. For example, perhaps you have mydomain.com and mydomain.net and you want someone who goes to either one to see the same pages or services. For every top-level domain that you park, 3 slots are typically taken up, one for the top level domain, one for the subdomain mail.myseconddomain.com and another for ftp.myseconddomain.com. Any domain you want to park has to be pointed by your registrar to the same nameservers that your main domain uses, otherwise the parking cannot take place. Keep in mind that your host may not permit you to have any parked domains, so this feature won't work.

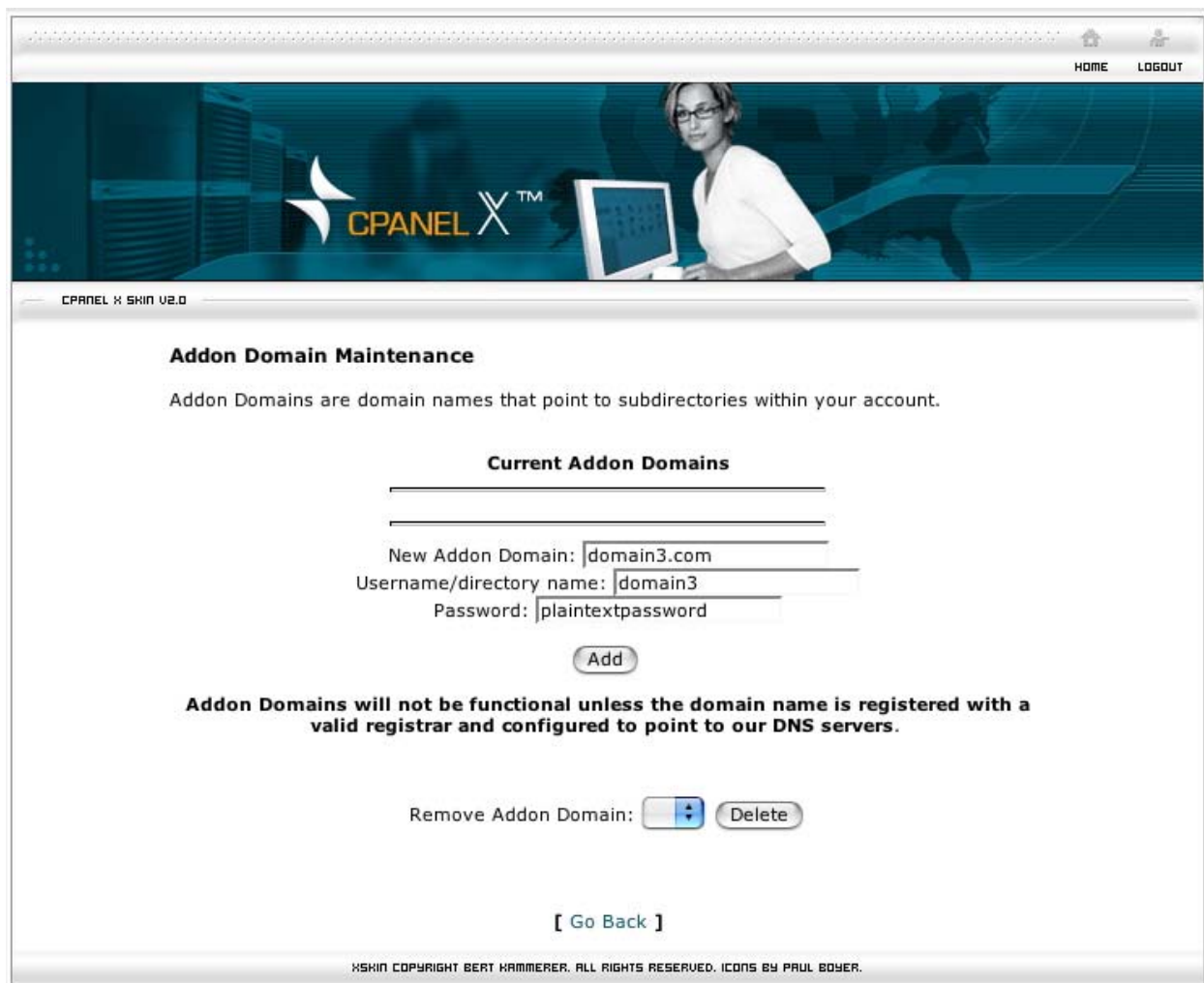


Figure 17 – Add-on Domains: domain3.com displays totally different content than domain.com. There will be a “domain3” directory in your account’s public_html directory.

- **Add-on Domains:** Add-on domains are top-level domains that you point to a subdirectory in your current web hosting account. To people going visiting that domain in their web browser, it looks as if it is a totally different web site. Of course, this add-on domain shares the disk space and bandwidth with your main domain, but if you have a family member who wants to have their own website without all the hassle, then an add-on domain may do the trick. As with a parked domain, you need to make sure that the add-on domain points to your web host’s nameservers before you can add it to your account. Just add the domain name, create a main username (that will be created as a directory inside your web hosting disk space) and a password for that user. The user will be able to FTP to their web space by going to ftp.theirdomainname.com. They *won’t* be able to access your space or log in to CPANEL at their domain. Not all hosts permit add-on domains. If not, this feature will not work. Contact your web host to see if it is something you can add, perhaps for an extra fee.

Chapter 5: FTP Manager Options

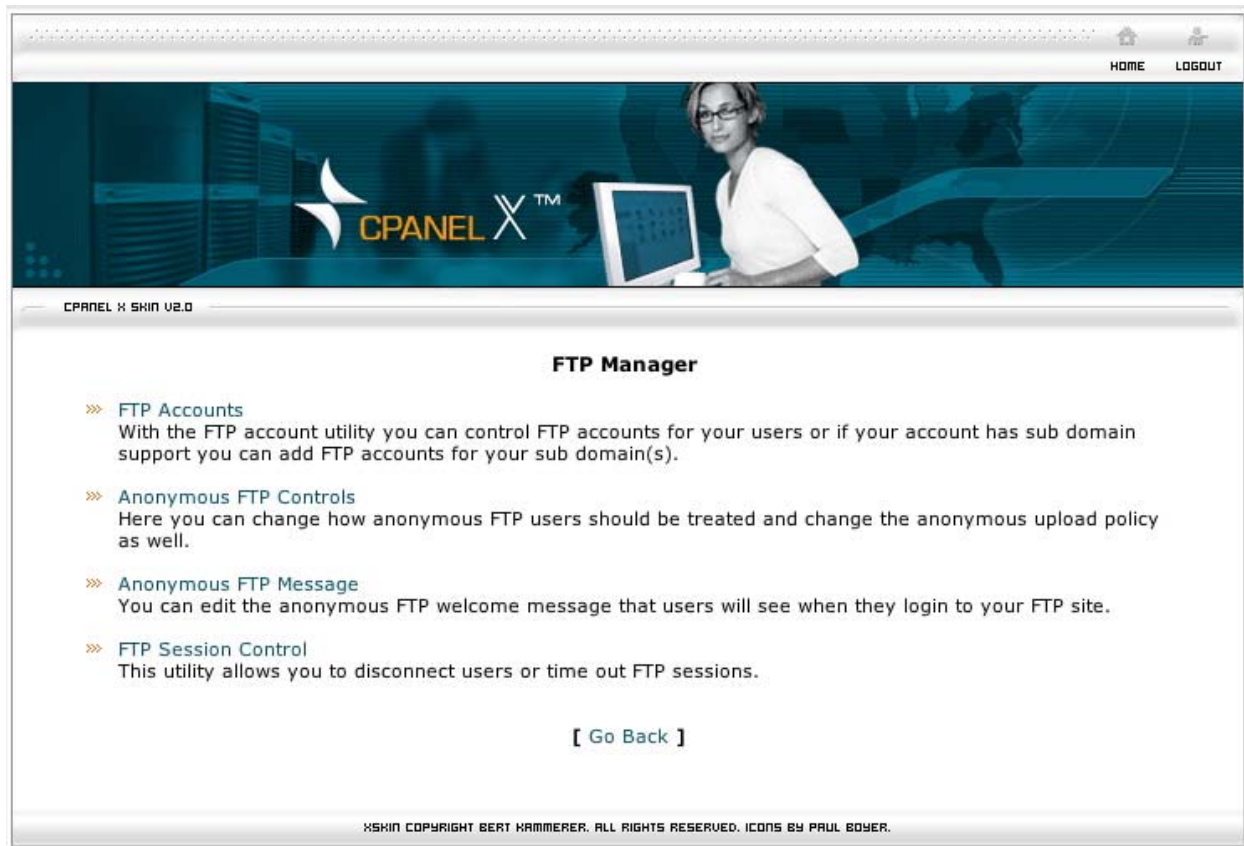


Figure 18 - FTP Manager Main Menu: Set various FTP-related options.

- **FTP Manager:** This is where you go when you want to set up or control FTP access and accounts. There are several options:

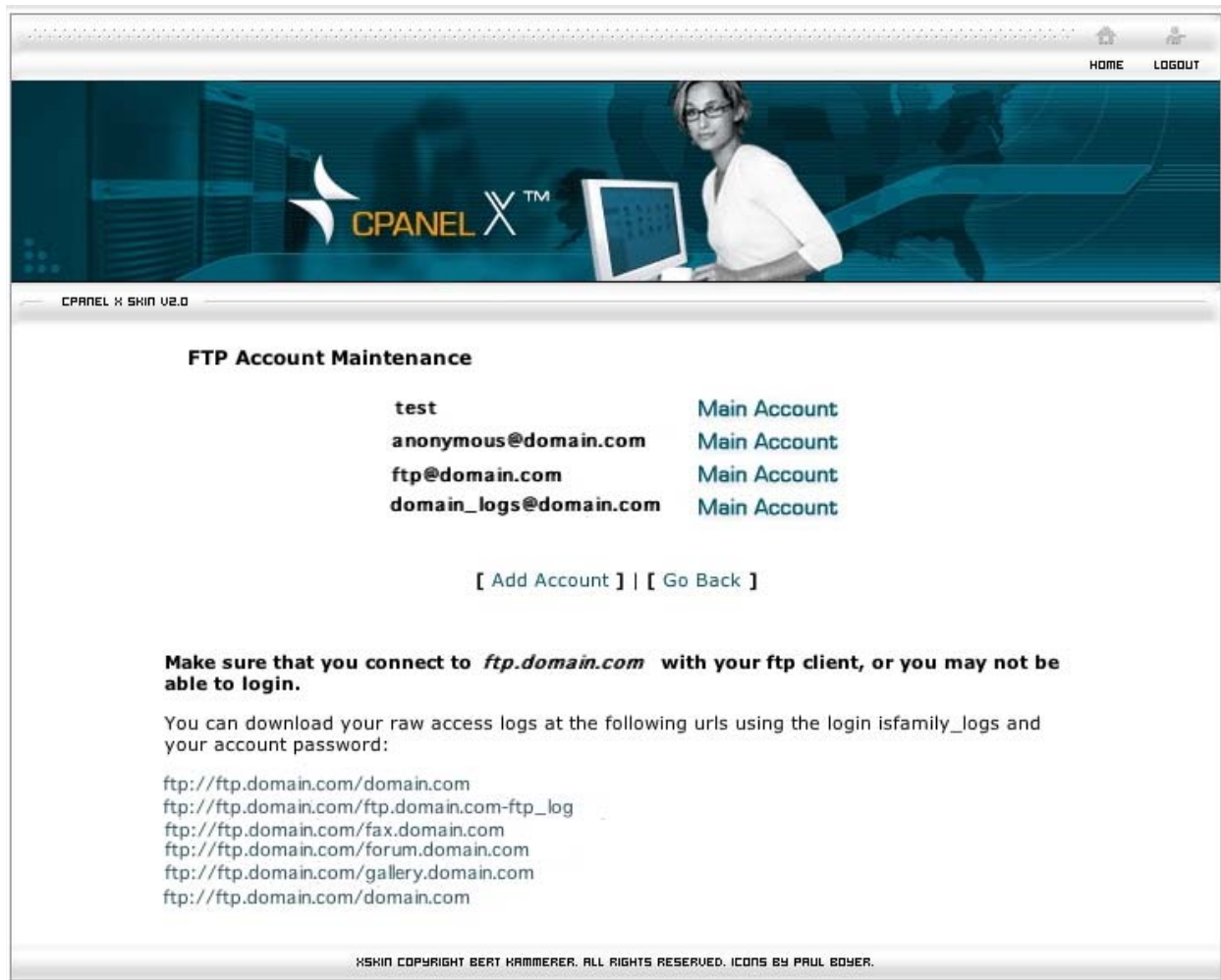


Figure 19 - FTP Account Maintenance: Note that the first and last FTP logs URL is exactly the same. Why? Ask CPANEL.NET. ☺

- **FTP Account Maintenance:** This is the place to go if you want to set up more FTP accounts or delete them. Once you create a FTP account/user, you can't edit it, only delete it, so type carefully. There will probably already be two or more FTP accounts listed here as "main account" you can't delete them or do anything to them. They were created by your system administrator or by CPANEL automatically and need to remain as they are. Click *Add Account* to add an FTP account. Choose a name for the new user and put it in the login area. The directory path will automatically update to match your user's name. If you want to create a subaccount with its own web space, this is exactly what you want. The FTP user you create will **ONLY** have access to their own directory inside your public_html directory and nothing else. If you change the directory to "/" then the FTP user will have complete access to your public_html directory, and thus have the ability to work on your web site just as you do (but they won't have access to your home directory). The directions printed at the bottom of the screen make this all pretty clear. **PLEASE NOTE:** For FTP accounts that you create, the username

to log into the FTP server is username@domain.com or “username+domain.com.” Back at the main FTP Account Manager screen you will also note that you have quick access here to a link for each add-on and sub-domain’s raw web logs. Click a link and your browser will download the logs to your computer.



Figure 20 - Anonymous FTP Controls - NOTE "tr>" TYPO IN URLS.

- **Anonymous FTP Controls:** Here you can set two options. In the version of CPANEL that I am using (6.4.2) there is a typo (actually, it looks like a code error) in BOTH options. The first is a checkbox to allow you to allow anonymous (public) FTP access to your ftp.yourdomainname.com (only the public_ftp directory). Note that the version I am using says ftp.testdomain.com/tr> which is a typo. The next checkbox option is to allow anonymous (public) FTP UPLOAD access to your ftp.yourdomainname.com/public_ftp/incoming/ directory (again, there is a typo and they add “tr>” at the end of the URL). You should only turn these features on if you really do want people to have such access, because it is a potential security risk.

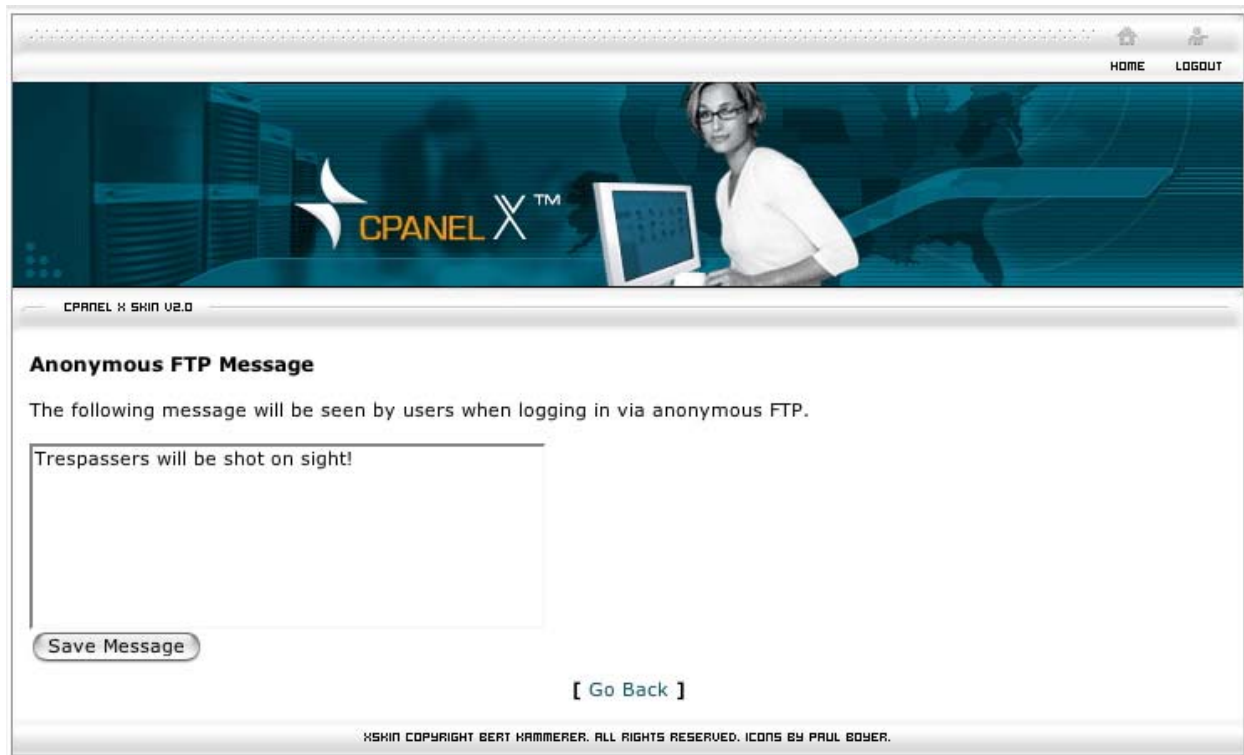


Figure 21 - Anonymous FTP Message Editor

- ***Anonymous FTP Message:*** If you want people logging in via anonymous FTP to see a custom message from you when they log into your server, then write it here. This will only get displayed if the FTP client the person is using displays messages from the server. Most browsers will see the message, but many people turn off viewing such messages if they are using a dedicated FTP program.



Figure 22 – FTP Session Control: You can see anyone connected to your FTP server here and click the small icon (or the lack of one, as above 😊) next to the session information to kill (end) that process.

- **FTP Session Control:** Here you can see anyone who is currently logged into your FTP site and choose to kick them off the server. Note, you can't kick the administrator's account, so be sure you keep the password safe (for a whole host of obvious reasons).

Chapter 6: The File Manager

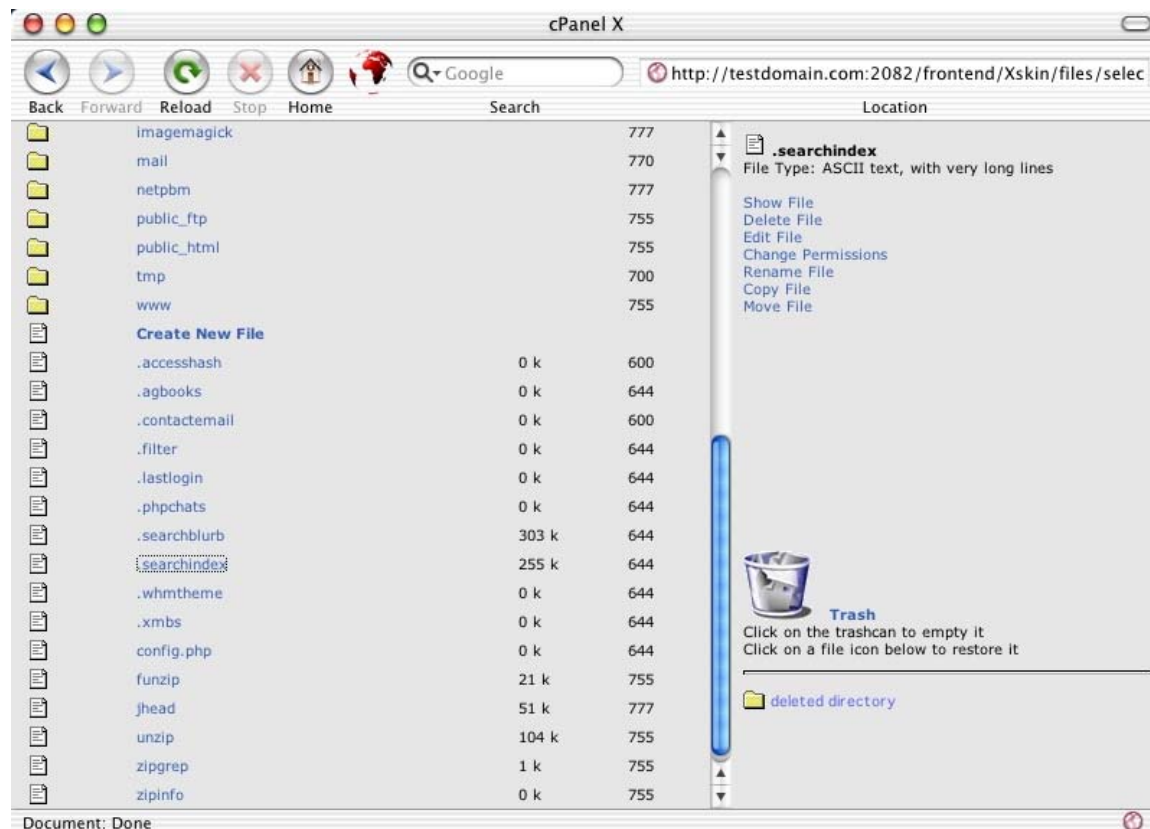


Figure 23 - File Manager

- **File Manager:** CPANEL gives you access to a halfway decent file manager to upload, download, trash or modify files on your site. Clicking on this icon will open a new window that will basically take over your screen. On the left is your site and all files and directories. Clicking on the name of a file or directory will allow you to work with or rename that item. Clicking the small icon next to a directory will open that directory and show you the contents, where you can upload, download or work with files there. On the right side of the screen is a “sidebar” where you can perform basic actions on files or directories you select (like view, edit, changer permissions, throw them in the site trash, etc.). If you make a mistake and put something in the trash that you want to get back, just click the name of the directory or file under the trashcan icon of the item you want to recover. Clicking the trash icon itself will delete any directories or files that you have permission to delete which are currently listed as being in the site trash. This action is not undoable. Make sure you actually DELETE files in the trash or they will still count against your disk space limits for your account (because the file is not actually deleted yet). Close this window when you are done and you will be back at your CPANEL.

Chapter 7: Backup – Do It Often!

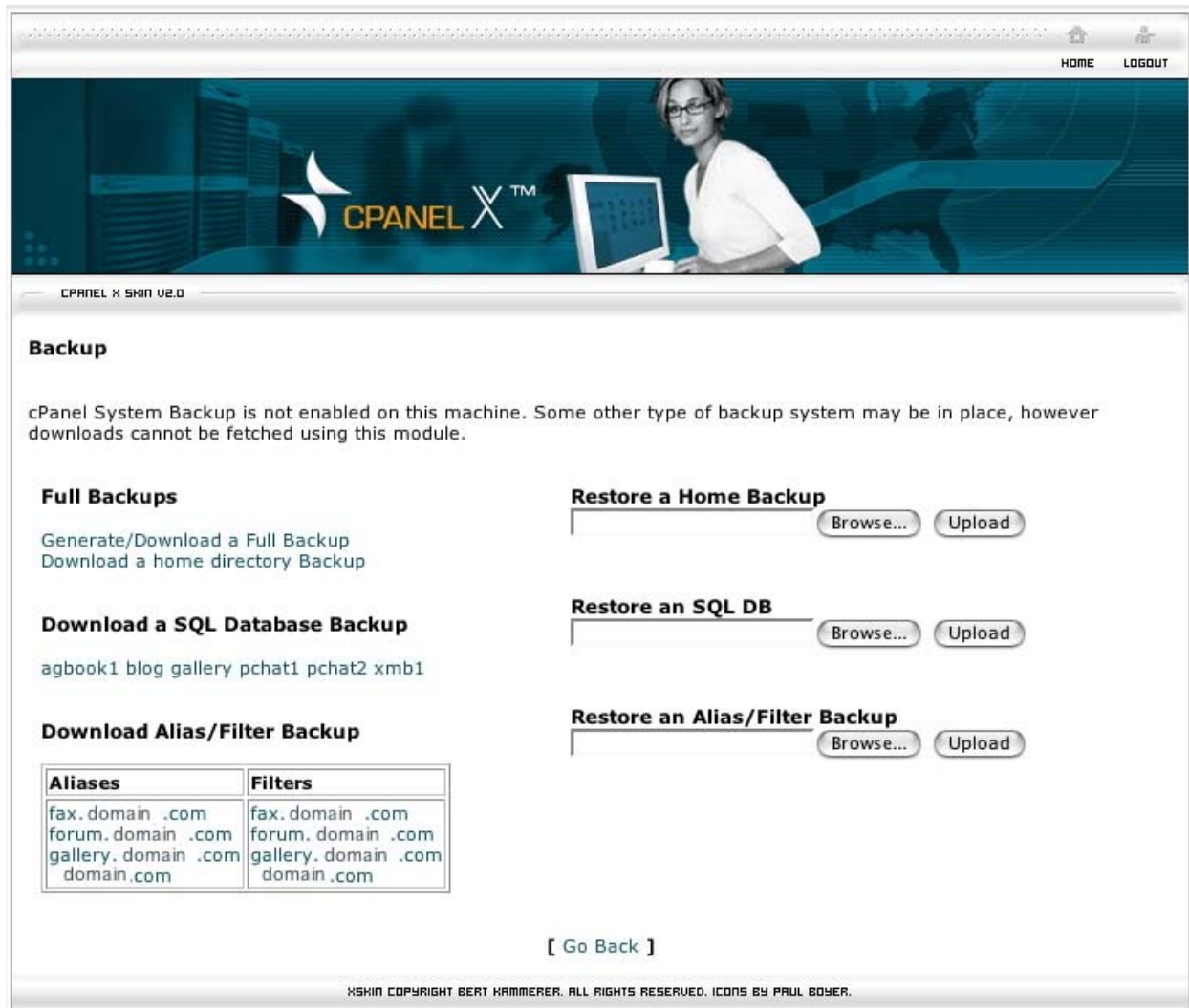


Figure 24 - Backup and Restore: You probably don't have to worry about that warning about the CPANEL System Backup not being installed. It should work just fine. If not, contact your web host.

- **Backup:** This area really should be called Backup and Restore (and in some skins it is), because you do both things here. You can download a complete backup of all the files on your website instantly right from your browser (compressed so that it takes up less space and bandwidth). You can also backup all of your MySQL databases and subdomain files. In addition, you can take these downloaded backups and re-upload them directly from your CPANEL to restore everything back to the way it was when the backup was made. To download a backup of everything in your home directory (this doesn't include MySQL databases or aliases or filters) just click the link on the top-left side of this page "Download a home directory backup" and you download should start up within seconds. Be sure to keep this file in a safe place because it could save your butt if anything goes wrong on your server. To upload this backup back to your site and restore everything the

way it was when the backup was made, just use the “Restore a Home Backup” field (click *Browse*, select the compressed file from your hard drive and then click the *Upload* button). Unfortunately the user interface for this process isn’t very good. After the file uploads to your server (which can take a while depending on the size of the backup file) the browser window will clear and start displaying as plain text what files it is restoring. This part can take an even longer amount of time. Plus, there is no indication that the process is finished (other than your browser’s built in features to let you know it is done loading a page, which may mean that the browser displays DONE in the status bar at the bottom of the current window if you are lucky). The only other way to tell if the process is done is to scroll down to the bottom of the browser window and see if more text is being added or not. If it has stopped and remains that way for a while, the process is probably done. If so, click *Back* in your browser and then click the *Home* button at the top of the Backup CPANEL screen. If all went well, you should have everything restored now. To download a MySQL database, click a link under the “Backup MySQL Database” on the backup screen. Each link is a different database, and you must download each one separately. Restoring the database is similar to the process for restoring your Home directory. You can also choose to back up any subdomains or add-on domains that you might have created and restore them individually. Again the process is similar to those described above. You also have a new option to send a COMPLETE backup, including all MySQL and filter and alias data to a remote FTP server or to save a copy in your home directory:

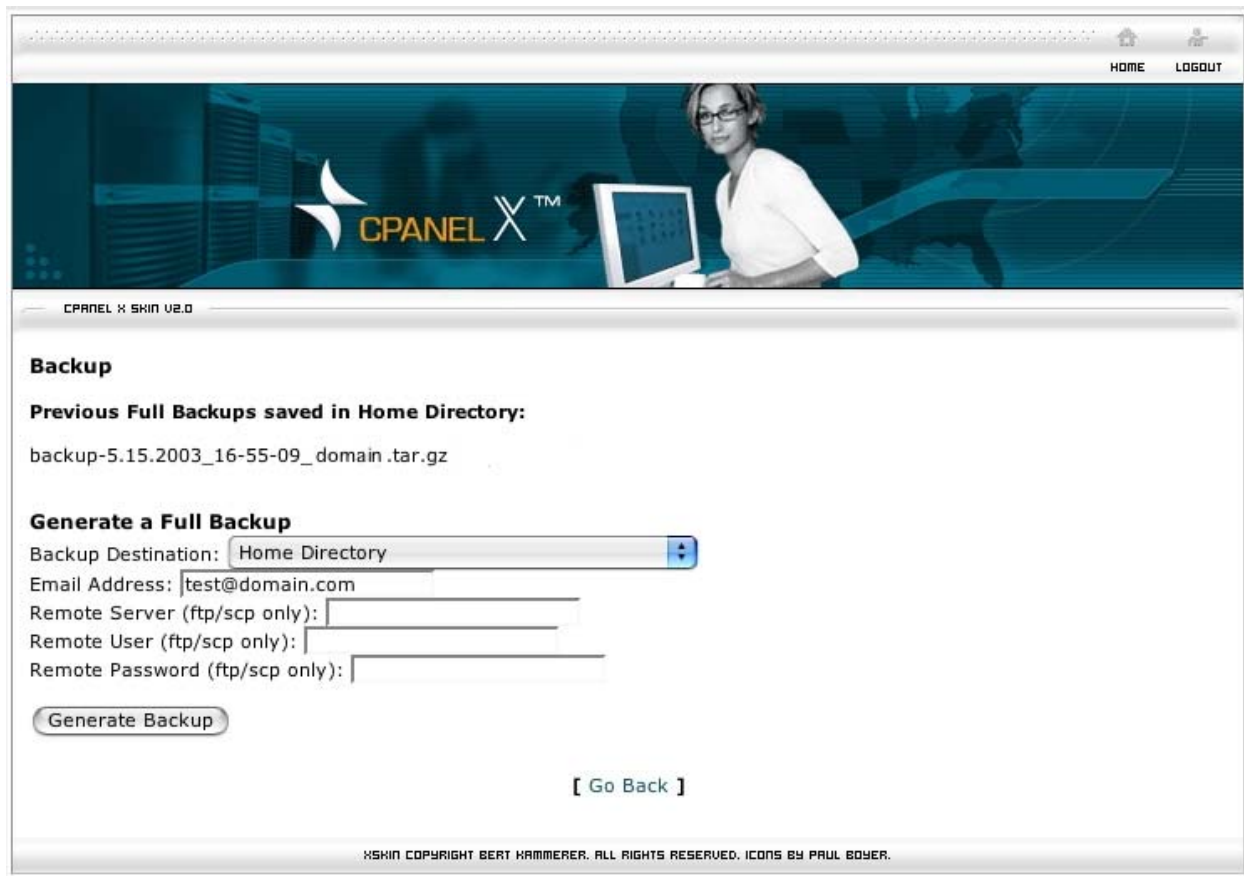


Figure 25 - Full Backup: You can use this to backup EVERYTHING in one file which you can FTP to a remote server or save a backup in your home directory.

To backup to your own server, and just place a compressed backup file in your home directory, select “Home Directory” as the backup destination and fill in your e-mail address. The server will immediately begin backing up your entire account into a single file and will show (in progress) next to the file name under “Previous Full Backups saved in Home Directory:” When it is done, you will be able to click on the name to download the backup. Please note that downloading the backup this way is not “free” in terms of bandwidth as the other backups are. It is also important to note that hovering over the backup link show the link with your main FTP account’s username and password visible in plain text. This means if you leave this screen up, someone could steal your account! So PLEASE MAKE SURE if you walk away from your computer that you CLOSE the browser window so no one can gain access to this information. Hopefully a future version of CPANEL/Xskin will fix this.

To FTP your backup to an off-site server directly from your account, choose the FTP option (use the passive option if you have problems with the transfer). Enter the remote FTP server name, and your username and password for that system. Then click *Generate Backup*. The file will be created and transferred to the remote system and you will be notified of problems with the transfer.

Chapter 8: Password Protection

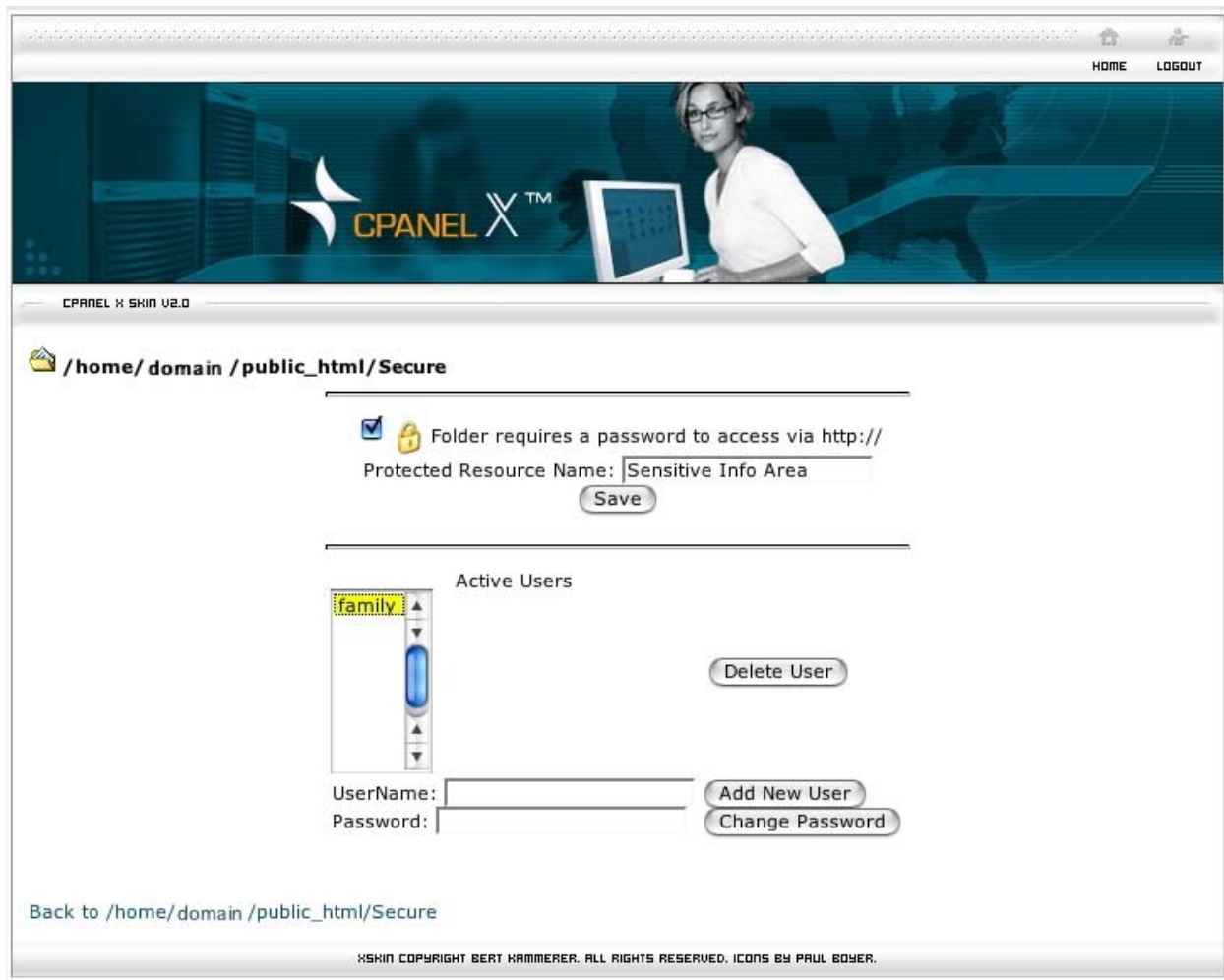


Figure 26 - Password Protection: This is where you can protect sensitive directories from prying eyes.

- **Password Protection:** Do you have content in your website that you would like to restrict access to? CPANEL makes the process fairly painless. The first thing you have to do is to create a directory inside your public_html directory that will contain your protected content. You can name it whatever you like. You can use your FTP client to create this directory or you can use CPANEL's handy File Manager described earlier. Now come back to the Password Protection area. You will see a list of EVERY directory inside your public_html directory and also a link for the "current folder" (which is your public_html directory). If you click the small icon of a folder next to the directory's name, you will be able to see any directories nested inside that one. This way you can chose a nested directory for protection if you wish. If you click on the actual name of the directory you will be taken to the security and account creation screen.

There are actually two separate things to do on this screen. The top half of this screen turns security on and off for this directory. If you want security to be ON, then click the check box next to the “Folder [sic] requires a password to access via http://” item. Below that is where you can enter a short name or phrase that will appear in the dialog box that pops up asking you for your username and password. This item is purely optional, but it is a nice touch so that your users know what area they are trying to log into, in case there is more than one secured area. If you are done you can click *Save* and security will be set for that folder/directory. But wait! Before you click that *Save* button, what about the bottom half of this screen? You need to create at least one user or no one will be able to access the files in this directory unless they log in as the administrator via FTP. To create a username and password, just type them into the appropriate boxes and then click the button next to the Username field *Add New User*. This user will now appear in the Active Users list, which means they now have access to this directory. Create as many users as you need. If you need to change the password of a user that has already been created then just type the user’s exact username and then type in a new password and then click the button next to the Password field *Change Password*. You will then be notified that the password for that user has been changed. When you are all done, then you can click *Save* to commit all the changes you made. If the directory has been successfully secured, you will see a small lock icon next to the folder icon for that directory.

Please note that you can NOT use this feature if you are using the Frontpage Extensions. Frontpage handles page security through those server extensions rather than use the standard directory protection feature. If you have password protection set in CPANEL and you install the Frontpage extensions, then all of your settings for password protection will be DELETED and you will need to use Frontpage to manage security until you remove the Frontpage extensions, at which time you will have to RE-ENTER all Password protection information into CPANEL.

Chapter 9: Custom Error Pages

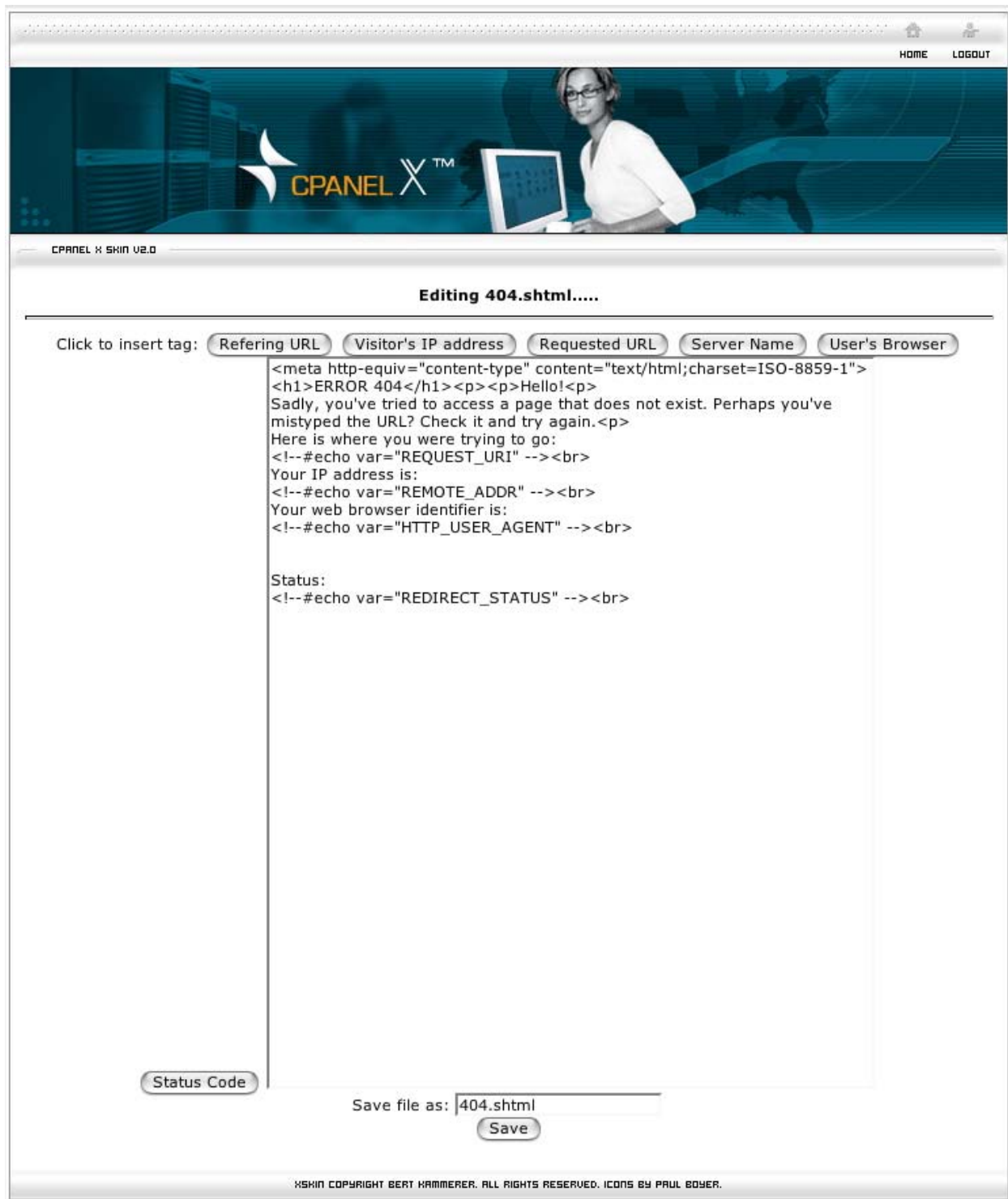


Figure 27 - Custom Error Pages: You can use this to create error messages that hopefully none of your users will ever see. Use HTML code.

- **Custom Error Pages:** Let's face it, errors happen. It could be that a typo or missing page sends your users to a page that doesn't exist, or perhaps your server is having "issues." In any case, you have the option of creating custom pages that your server will display when that error happens. Each custom page you can edit is referred to by the error number. What are these error numbers and what do they mean? Take a look here:

<http://www.htmlcenter.com/tutorials/tutorials.cfm/66/General/>

The most common error is type 404, which just means that the user has tried to access a page that doesn't exist on the server. If you've been using the Internet for more than a few days, you've probably seen this error before.

With CPANEL, you can create custom pages to perhaps give them a more friendly error message or to make that message match the style of your website. Just click on the number of the error that you want to create a custom error page for from the list in CPANEL, then paste in standard HTML code into the text entry area and click *Save*. You don't have to worry about editing the saved file name. If you want to add special tags to your error message to display the user's web browser, the page they were trying to access, etc. you can just click the appropriate tag button at the top of the text entry area. Clicking one of these buttons will insert a special line of code AT THE END of your current document. You can cut and paste this wherever you would like that tag to appear in your error page.

Of course, error editing in CPANEL is provided as a quick-and-dirty way of getting the custom page you need created with a minimum of fuss. It doesn't display or render HTML code, and if you are like me, you may not be good at analyzing or editing raw HTML code. In this case, feel free to create your own custom error page in your favorite HTML editor (I use Adobe GoLive). Just save the custom error page with the number of the error and append ".shtml" (for example "404.shtml") then save that file loose in your public_html directory on your server. One thing to keep in mind is that by default the Windows version of Internet Explorer displays its OWN custom error pages, unless the custom page on your server is larger than 10 K in size, so your users may never see your finely crafted masterwork.

Chapter 10: Subdomains

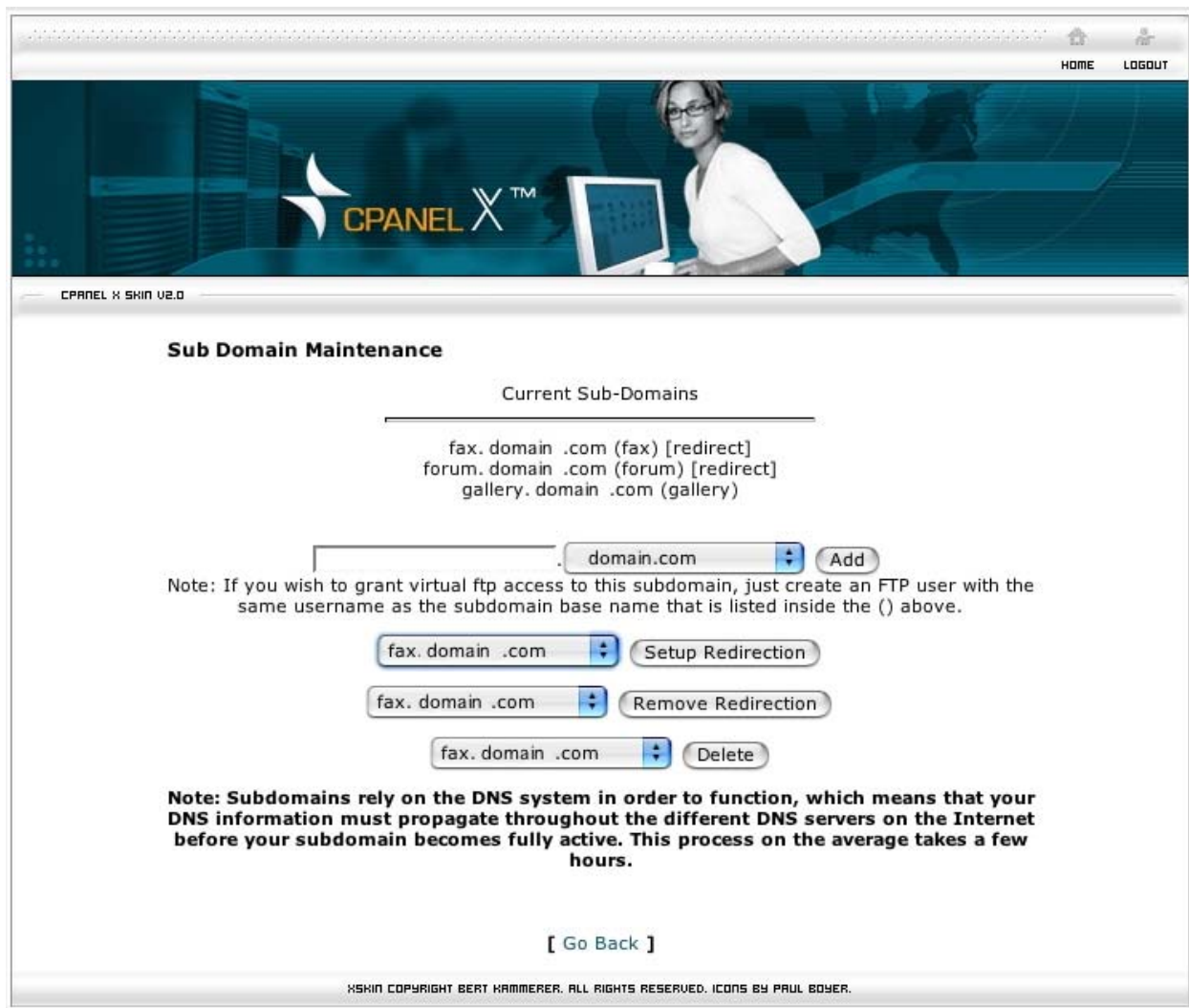


Figure 28 - Subdomain Maintenance: Here is where you can create subdomains, but be sure *not* to redirect the subdomain to the same directory it already points to by default (the same named directory inside your `public_html` directory) or your subdomain won't load. If you have a Mac, you will see a "redirection error" in your browser of choice. If you use IE on Windows, you'll just see a blank white window and no warning at all.

- **Subdomain Maintenance:** Subdomains are addresses like: "subdomain.mydomain.com." Your primary domain is "mydomain.com" (or "www.mydomain.com"). The subdomain can either act as if it were an entirely different site, not part of your primary domain or it can serve as a "shortcut" to redirect you to another place either in your site or to anywhere on the Internet. In any case, the first thing you need to do is the same: You need to create the subdomain. To do this, just type the subdomain you want into the field next to your domain name, then select the domain name you want the subdomain to be a part of and click *Add*. It is interesting to note that

you can select subdomains that you have already created from this list. Therefore it is possible that if I created a subdomain “is” at “mydomain.com” (assuming I owned that domain), I could subsequently create a subdomain “this” at “is.mydomain.com” ending up with “<http://this.is.mydomain.com>”

All subdomains default to loading the index page in a similarly named directory. For example, if you create the following subdomain:

gallery.mydomain.com

it will attempt to load pages found inside the directory “gallery” found inside your “public_html” directory. If this is what you want, just make sure you've created the “gallery” directory via FTP or the File Manager in CPANEL and upload at least a single “index.html” page into that directory. Don't try to add a redirect to the same directory that the subdomain points to by default or you will get a “maximum redirection” error (or just a blank white page depending on your browser) when you try to visit the subdomain since it now points to the same directory infinitely.

Keep in mind that adding a subdomain may take several hours before everyone on the Internet can access it since the DNS records need to get updated. In practice, however, most people should be able to access it almost immediately, but if not, don't panic.

If you want the subdomain to redirect, all you have to do is to select it from the Setup Redirection drop down list in the Subdomain Maintenance area and then click the button next to the list. This will take you to another screen where you can type in the exact address (including the http:// or ftp://) that you want the subdomain to point to and click *Save*. If you later want to remove this subdomain redirection, select the subdomain out of the drop-down list next to the Remove Redirection button and then click that button. To delete the subdomain altogether, just select it from the delete drop-down list and click the *Delete* button.

What if you want to have the subdomain to have its own web directory (perhaps you have a family member or user who wants their own webspace)? You need to create the subdomain then go to the FTP Manager in your CPANEL and create a new FTP account that has exactly the same name as the subdomain you created (but don't include the primary domain name). For example, if you create a subdomain “webmasters.mydomain.com” then the FTP account you create should be called “webmasters”. This will create a directory in your public_html directory called “webmasters”. If you put an “index.html” file in this directory, then that page will automatically get displayed when someone types in “<http://webmasters.mydomain.com/>”. In addition, that person's website could also be accessed by going to “<http://mydomain.com/~webmasters/>”.

Chapter 11: MySQL Databases

CPANEL X SKIN V2.0

HOME LOGOUT

MySQL Account Maintenance

Databases:

test_xmb1 [Delete](#)

Users in test_xmb1

test_xmb1 [Delete](#)

Connection Strings

Perl
\$dbh =
DBI->connect("DBI:mysql: test_xmb1:localhost", " test_xmb1", "<PASSWORD HERE>");

PHP
\$dbh=mysql_connect ("localhost", " test_xmb1", "<PASSWORD HERE>") or
die ('I cannot connect to the database because: ' . mysql_error());
mysql_select_db (" test_xmb1");

User: test_xmb1 Db: test_xmb1 [Add User to Db](#)

Db: [Add Db](#)

Users:

test_xmb1 [Delete](#)

UserName:

Password:

[Add User](#)

Access Hosts:

localhost

Host (% wildcard is allowed):

[Add Host](#)

phpMyAdmin

You can use phpMyAdmin to administrate your MySQL databases in a web based environment.

[\[Go Back \]](#)

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Figure 29 – MySQL: It's confusing because there are several steps needed to create a database and they are ALL listed on this screen.

- **MySQL Database:** This is the place to go if you want to create, edit or delete a MySQL database, you can also access phpMyAdmin that will allow you to view, edit, create or add data to any database you create. Creating databases and users is easy. Type the name of the database into the “Db:” field then click the *Add Db* button. A database will be created and its name will be displayed at the top of the page. Note that depending on your web host, the ACTUAL name of the database may be slightly different than the one you choose. Most likely, the database will be created with your username and an underscore character prior to the name you chose when you created the database. Example: “jeff_mydatabase”

Creating a database just creates a blank shell. Before you can use the database, you need to put at least one user into the database. To do this, you need to type a username and password into the appropriate fields and then click *Add User*. This will create a user with the password you define. Don’t forget this password.

You aren’t done yet. You now have to put this user into the database you created. Just above the “Add Db” field is a set of drop-down lists. The first of these allows you select a user that you have already created and the second allows you to select the database that you want to put that user into. Click *Add User to Db* and you are done. You can add a single user to multiple databases if you want to.

Once you add a user to the database you created, you will notice that the listing for that database gets more detailed. It will show you the database name (which you can delete by pressing the *Delete* button next to the name) and then it will show you every user in that database, along with sample code that shows you how to connect to the database in a PHP or Perl script. Next to the username is a button marked *Delete*, but this is deceiving because deleting a user from a database only removes the user from that database (and any records the user had in that database), it doesn’t affect the actual user you created, which can still be in several other databases.

At the very bottom of this screen is a link to phpMyAdmin that will open a new window with the phpMyAdmin interface. phpMyAdmin allows you to actually add, change or remove data from the databases you’ve created. phpMyAdmin is somewhat complex, and there is a link to the on-line documentation directly from the first page of the phpMyAdmin interface. I am not going to go into a lot of detail here about this very advanced tool.

You can select a database you’ve already created from the sidebar on the left side of the phpMyAdmin screen. Once you select a database, all of the main database categories will be listed. Clicking on a category shows you all of the data entries (rows) in that category on the main part of the screen. You can then add, delete, edit or view any data in any row that you want.

You can also choose to export, delete (drop) or clear a database by clicking on the appropriate tab along the top of the screen.

Close this window to go back to your CPANEL.

It is always advisable to make sure you have a current backup of any database you edit in case anything goes wrong.

Chapter 12: SSH/Telnet

- **SSH/Telnet:** Your web host may not offer this service, so please check with them if you think you are going to want this. You may not even have this icon in your CPANEL. If you don't, then you definitely don't have this feature enabled. Even if you DO have this icon, that doesn't mean that you have access to your account via SSH. Clicking on this entry in your CPANEL will open a java-based terminal program that you can use to connect to any telnet or SSH server, including your own website if your web host allows it. Honestly, it is slow and not a good idea if you are going to be doing serious work. Get yourself a real SSH/Telnet client. If you want or need this feature, you probably know what it is already, and this review would get very long indeed trying to explain Telnet or SSH protocols.

Chapter 13: Standard Redirects

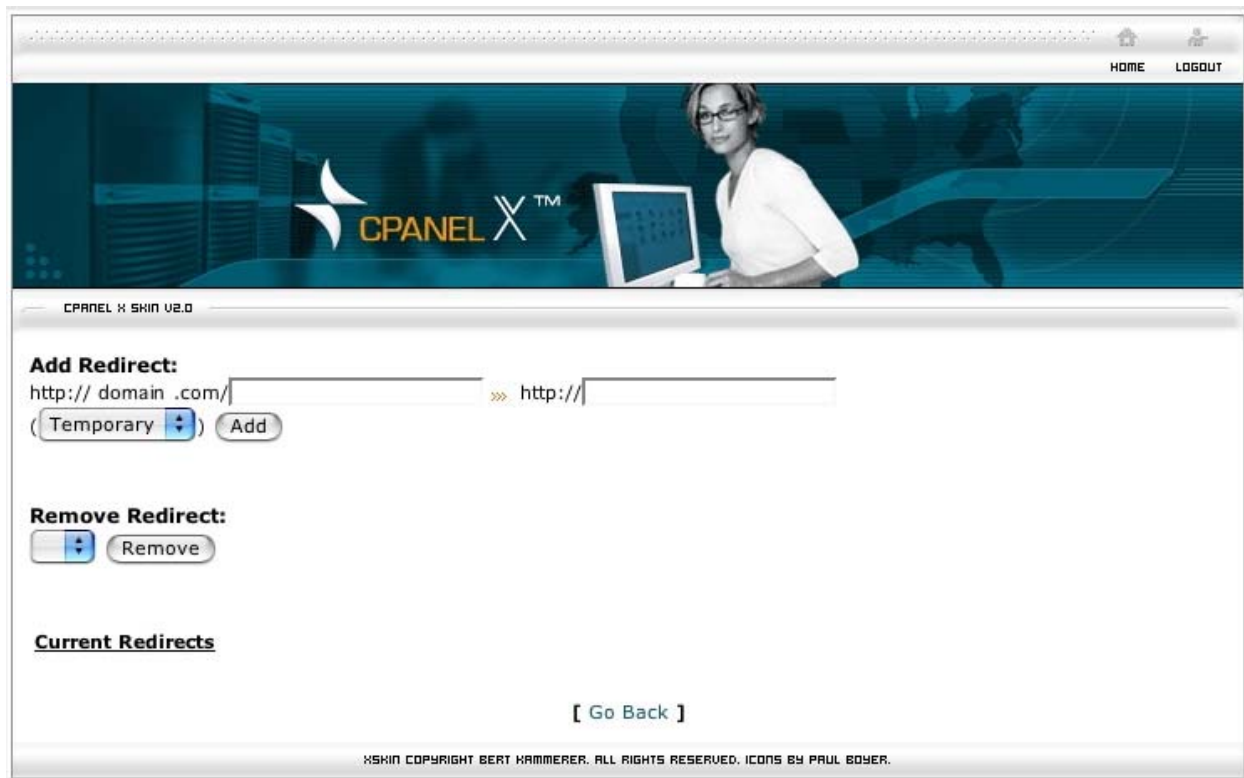


Figure 30 - Manage Redirects: Save typing and use subdomains instead unless your host doesn't permit that.

- **Manage Redirects:** Here you can specify a redirect in the following form:

<http://yourdomain.com/redirectname>

that will instantly take you to any web address you specify. The idea is that such a redirect is likely to be easier to remember and generally shorter than the normal URL for the address you want to go to. If you have unlimited subdomains, you may prefer to use the redirect features of the subdomain creation area, since that URL is likely to be even shorter and easier to remember than the kind of redirects you create in this area. You can make the redirect temporary or permanent. If you think you will want to change or delete the redirect, it is a better idea to choose to create a temporary redirect, which is the default. You can delete temporary redirects from this screen as well, just by clicking the delete button next to the redirect you wish to cancel.

Chapter 14: Frontpage Extensions

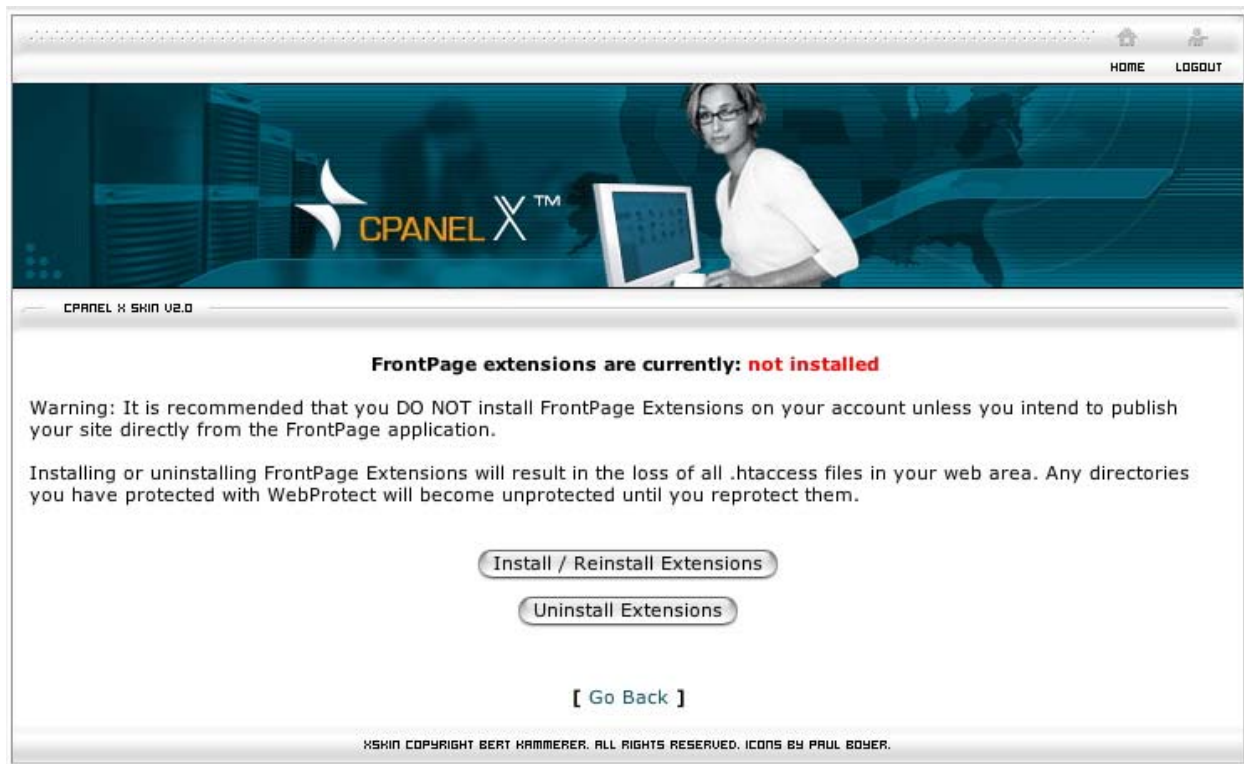


Figure 31 - FrontPage Extensions: The BANE of support personnel the world over!

- **Frontpage Extensions:** If you use Microsoft Frontpage (Why?!) then you will want to go here to install the Frontpage extensions into your account. If you are NOT going to use Frontpage then it is recommended that you not install the extensions (in fact, you should MAKE SURE they AREN'T installed by default). If you DO install the Frontpage extensions and you have directories protected with the Password Protection feature of CPANEL, you will LOOSE all of the protection and user accounts you set up. You will

need to go back to the Password Protection area and redefine your secure areas and users. Therefore it is a good idea to install the Frontpage extensions before you do any other work on your website if you think that you are going to use Frontpage. If you come to your senses and realize you don't want to use Frontpage with your site, then you can delete the extensions from this area as well and then run out and buy Adobe GoLive or Macromedia Dreamweaver. (My apologies to those of you who love using Frontpage, but I think any HTML creation program that requires server-side extensions to work properly should be avoided like the plague.)

Chapter 15: Web Statistics

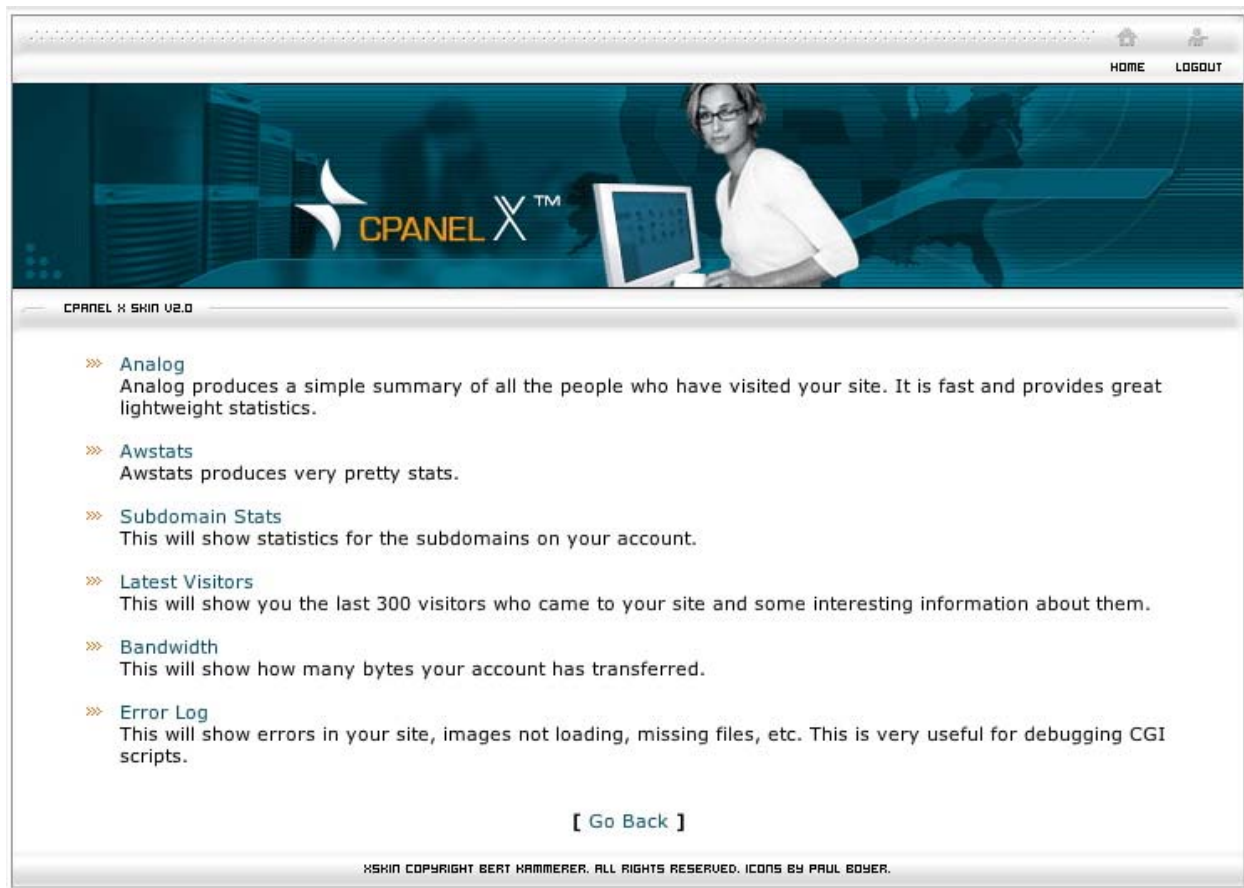


Figure 32 - Stats Main Menu: Get all the info you need on the usage of your account here.

- **Web/FTP/Subdomain Stats:** These are actually two different icons in CPANEL, but they offer the same kinds of information. The first, Web/FTP Stats offers statistics on your main domain, while Subdomain Stats offers the same kind of info on your subdomains (if you have any). All the data you will find in these two sections are culled from the raw access logs and then analyzed to help you look for patterns and meaningful information. Keep in mind the information you see here may only get updated every few days (your web host has to run a special script that can use a lot of server processor time,

so they may only run it every few days). You can always install a stat analysis program on your local computer and download the raw access logs. In this menu, you may have the following options:

- **Analog:** Choose a month you are interested and Analog will quickly generate a report with graphics showing you a lot of information about the activity on your website for that month. Analog is quick, but doesn't offer quite the amount of information as the next option.
 - **Awstats:** Another graphical stat program. Offers good detail and is fairly quick.
 - **Webalizer:** Clicking on this will bring up a quick graph of activity at your site for up to 12 months in a single chart. If you want more detail about a particular month, click the name of the month in the data table below the 12-month chart. This will cause Webalizer to generate a lengthy report about the activity and visits to your site including lots of charts and graphics.
 - **Subdomain Stats:** This takes you to the subdomain analysis pages for Analog and Webalizer (sometimes CPANEL is both repetitive and redundant in its efforts to be helpful.)
 - **Latest Visitors:** Shows you information about the last 5 or so of the most recent visitors to your website and what they tried to access.
 - **Bandwidth:** This will show you how much bandwidth your domain(s) have been using in terms of web, FTP and E-mail traffic.
 - **Error Log:** This will show the last 300 errors that someone encountered while accessing your website, so you can track down the problems and fix them.
- **Raw Access Logs:** If you have an external program that takes the raw data from your hit logs and analyzes it, then you'll want to click on this icon from your CPANEL to instantly start downloading a compressed copy of the access logs to use with that program.

Chapter 16: Raw Log File Manager and Error Log

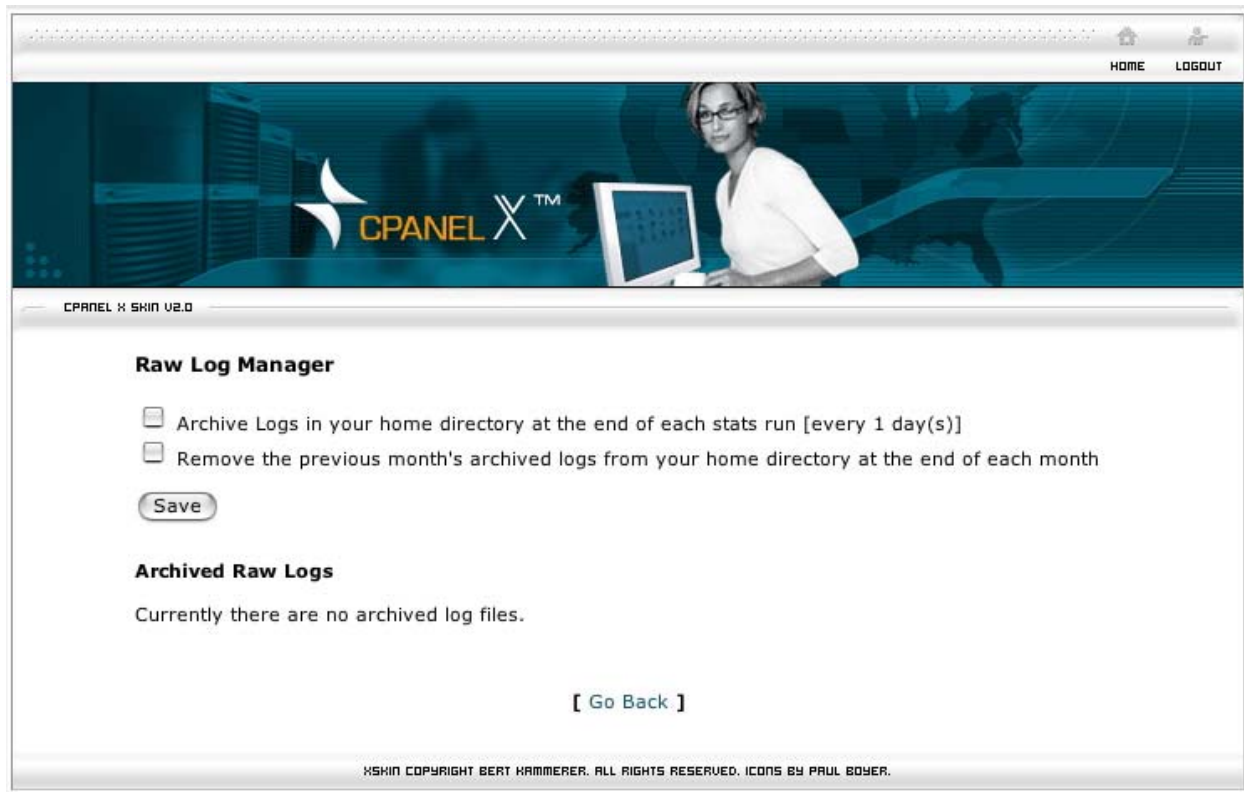


Figure 33 - Raw Log Manager: If you'd like to keep archives of raw logs, you can set those options here.

- **Raw Log Manager:** If you would like to be able to save old daily logs, then you'll want to take a look at the options here. Check the first item to save the logs, check the second to delete the archives every month. You can also access those archived logs here.
- **Error Log:** Another of CPANEL's repetitive redundancies. This is exactly the same as the Error Log list in the Stats area mentioned above.

Chapter 17: Search Engine Submission

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Search Engine Submit' form in the CPANEL X SKIN 02.0 interface. The header features the CPANEL X logo and a woman working on a laptop. The form is titled 'Search Engine Submit' and includes a list of search engines with checkboxes: alltheweb, directhit, google, hotbot, lycos, and mixcat. Below this, there are input fields for URL, Email, Comments, and Keywords. There are also dropdown menus for Language (set to English), Country (set to United States), and Category (set to Autos). A 'Submit' button is located at the bottom of the form, along with a '[Go Back]' link. The footer contains a copyright notice: 'XSKIN COPYRIGHT BERT HAMMERER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ICONS BY PAUL BOYER.'

Figure 34 - Search Engine Submit: Not the best search engine submitter, but it is free and easy to use. You can search the web for other search engine submission services (some free, some not).

- **Search Engine Submit:** This will submit basic information about your website to the major search engines all from one simple screen. Just click the box next to each search engine you want to submit to and then answer the basic questions about your site and click *Submit*. You're now on your way to more traffic.

Chapter 18: Chat Rooms and BBS/Forums

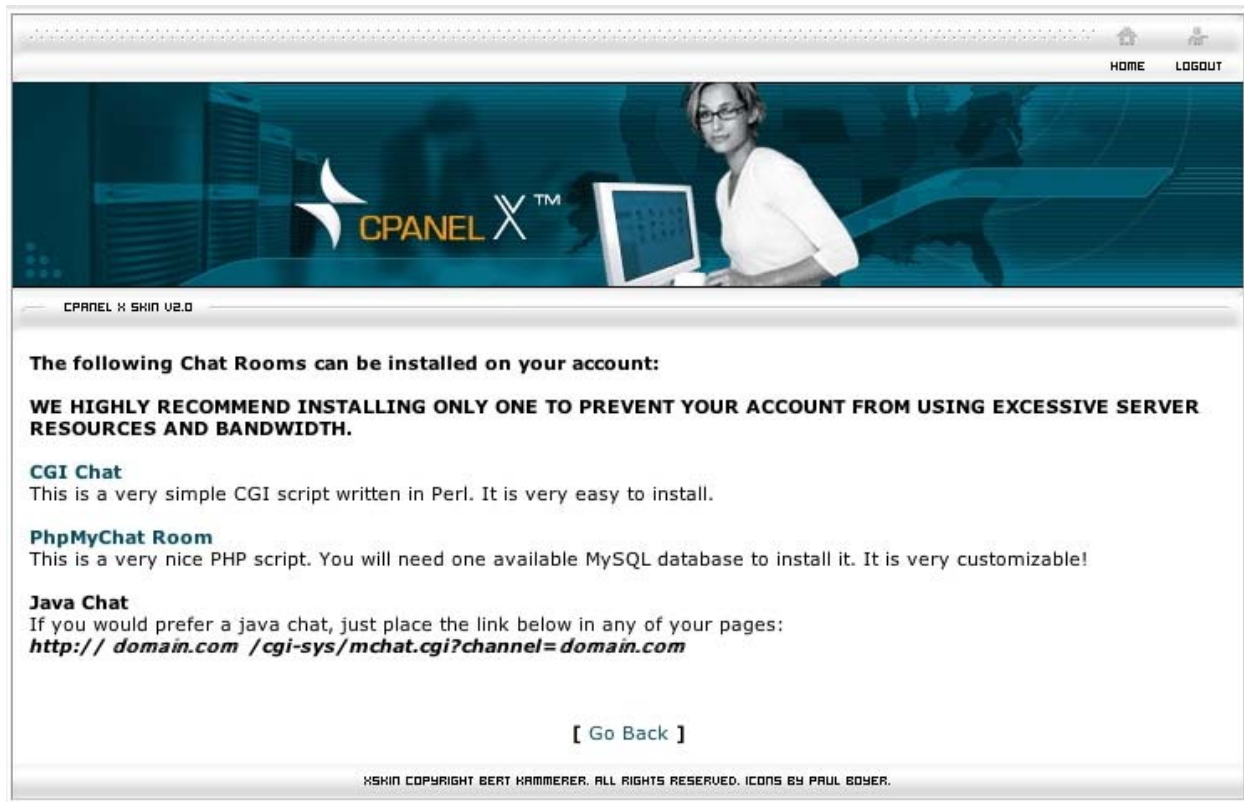


Figure 35 - Chat Rooms: PhpMyChat is probably your best bet.

- **Chat Rooms:** This area offers 3 different types of chat room software that you can use on your site with only a few clicks. Generally, you should only pick one type. CGI Chat is a simple chatroom that doesn't require PHP to function. Click it, answer a couple of questions and then you will be provided with the information on how to connect to your new chat room. phpMyChatRoom is more customizable and full-featured, but if your web host doesn't allow PHP scripts, then you can't use this chat room. Again, a few clicks and a couple of answers and then it will be installed and you will be given the information about how to connect. JavaChat: This is a Java 1-based chat room that you can embed into any page on your web site and it doesn't require CGI or PHP or any configuration. Just copy the link provided into your web page where you want the chat room to appear and assuming your user has Java turned on, they will see the chat room. My personal preference is phpMyChatRoom because it is multilingual and has some really nice features.

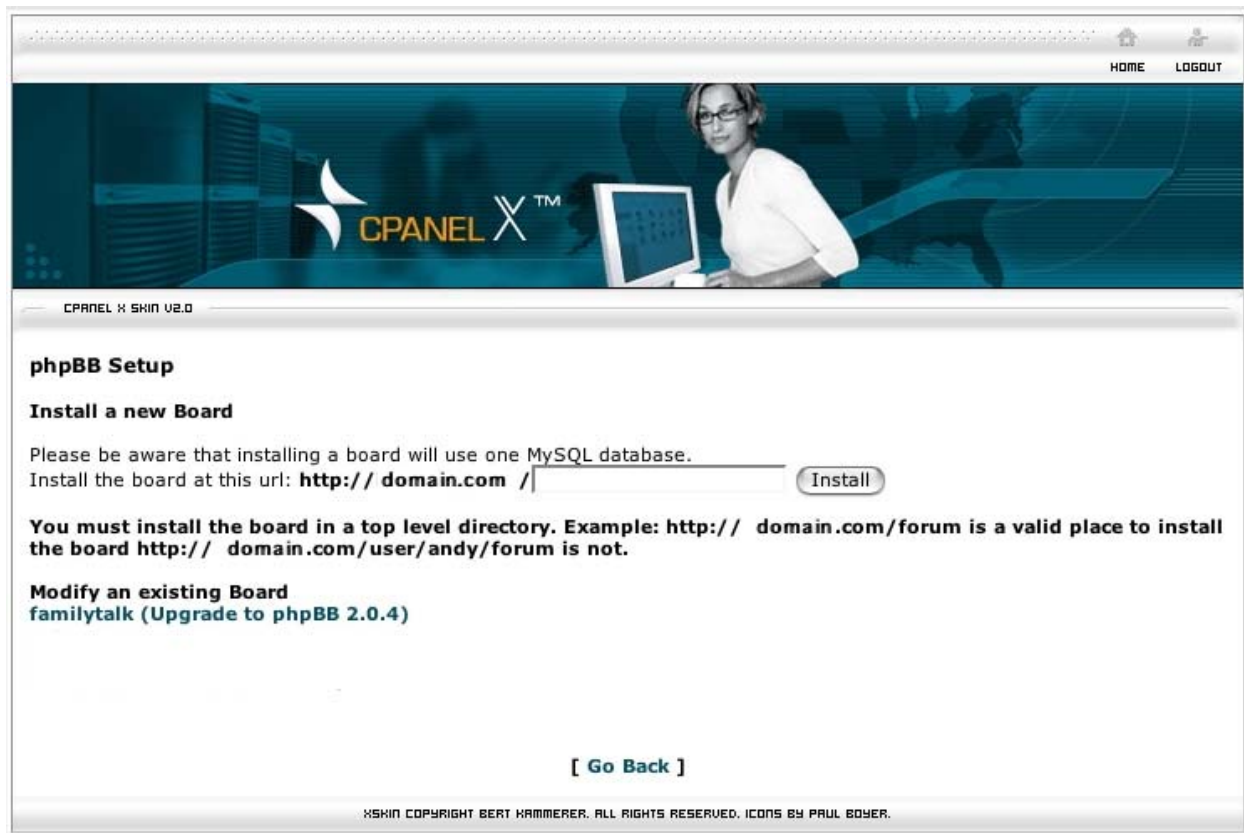


Figure 36 - Install phpBB (BBS): This installs version 2.0.4.

- **Forum/BBS:** You can install phpBB 2.0.4 quickly and easily from here. What is phpBB? It is an open-source bulletin board (forum) written in PHP. You’ve almost certainly seen a phpBB derived forum if you’ve surfed the Internet for a while. phpBB allows you to create discussion forums quickly and easily. If you want to see what phpBB looks like, try here:

<http://www.phpbb.com/phpBB/>

Installation and customization of phpBB can be as easy or as hard as you feel comfortable making it. To handle the initial installation (especially if you don’t have any experience with installing PHP scripts) I suggest you take advantage of CPANEL’s autoinstaller. If you have access to Fantastico (which is an add-on to CPANEL that I will discuss more a bit later), you can choose to install phpBB or Inversion Board (another BBS/Forum program). To install phpBB from CPANEL, all you have to do is to tell CPANEL what directory you want to install phpBB in. As noted on the phpBB installation screen, you should only install phpBB into a “top level” directory. This means that your forums will be installed inside the public_html directory in a directory that you specify. Don’t try to install it inside another directory. You will then be able to access your new BBS at:

<http://www.yourdomain.com/yourforumdirectoryname/>. CPANEL will automatically create a MySQL database called “username_xmb” and a new user “username_xmb”

with the same password that you use to log into CPANEL. In addition, a single administrator account will be created in phpBB. That user will have exactly the same username and password as you use to log in to CPANEL, therefore, be sure to change it ASAP for security reasons. Once the BBS is installed, go to your new BBS and log in with your administrator account and then click the link to your control panel at the bottom of the forum index screen. From here you can edit all the options of your board and set it up the way you want. If you would like help manually updating your phpBB installation, or if you'd like to learn how to add modifications, you can read about it at this thread I posted:

<http://www.hostingclienthelp.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=117>

If you need more help, please go here:

<http://www.phpbb.com/>

Chapter 19: CGI Center

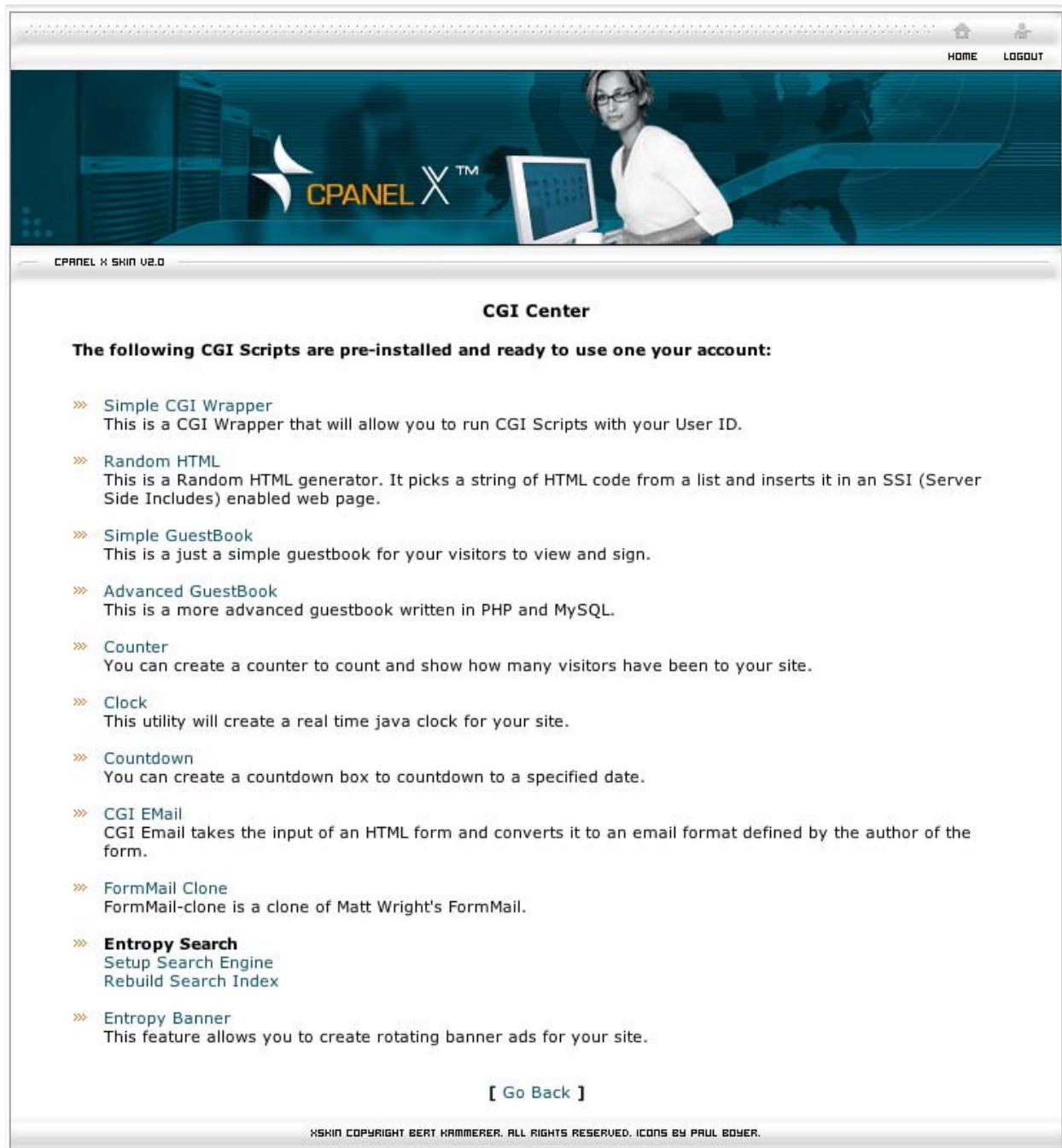


Figure 37 - CGI Scripts: More advanced add-ons for your site.

- **CGI Center:** Your account comes with several CGI scripts installed by default. You may not need to use all/any of them, but you should explore this area to see what is available to you to see if any of it will be useful.
 - **CGIWrapper:** This will allow you to run CGI scripts with your username. If you have no idea what this means or why you'd need it, then you don't need it and

shouldn't worry about it. Selecting this item will create a new directory in your account inside your public_html directory: scgibin. Place CGI scripts in here if you need to run them as a user, if not just put your CGI scripts into your normal CGI directory.

- **Random HTML:** This CGI script inserts random HTML code from a list into a web page that is Server Side Includes (SSI) enabled. Again, if you don't know what this means or why you'd need to use it then don't worry about it.
 - **Simple Guestbook:** If you don't want a lot of whiz-bang features or you can't run PHP scripts or don't have any MySQL databases available then this is the guestbook for you. This allows visitors to sign comments about themselves or your website.
 - **Advanced Guestbook:** This is a pretty neat guestbook, but it requires access to PHP and MySQL and safe mode must be OFF on your server. (If you are wondering what PHP safe mode is, please read the first article in this series.)
 - **Counter:** Do you want to have a custom-designed counter to keep track of the thousands of people who will visit your site each day? This is a good choice. Just click on this item and a new window will open that will allow you to set the look and feel of the counter. When you are done, the HTML code that you need to paste into your web page at the location where you'd like the counter to appear will be displayed. The problem is the current version included with CPANEL doesn't work as-is. You need to make some modifications to the code to make it work. I would use a different counter for now if I were you.
 - **Clock:** Clicking this item will take you to a screen where you can set up a Java-based clock that can be displayed on any page on your website. Choose your options, click *Make HTML* to see a sample and to view the HTML code you need to paste into your website where you would like the clock to appear.
 - **Countdown:** This item creates a counter that counts down to a specified date and time. Setup and use is the same as the Clock and Counter items above.
 - **CGI E-mail:** This takes input from a form on your website and e-mails it to you in an easier to read format. Those of you who have struggled with the cryptic results you get when you have forms e-mailed to you via the web will appreciate this.
 - **FormMail Clone:** This provides the same basic service as CGI E-mail, but goes about the task slightly differently. Use whichever one you find to be more convenient. FormMail Clone has on-line documentation, but it may not be the easiest to use.
 - **Entropy Search:** This sets up an index of your website so that users can search the contents. You can also update the index for an already installed copy of Entropy Search if you wish.
 - **Entropy Banner:** If you want to set up an advertising banner exchange program on your website, you'll want to give this a try.
- **Addon Scripts:** Additional CGI and PHP scripts that you can install on your website. You probably won't have anything listed in this section unless your web host has set up extra features (like Fantastico).

Chapter 20: Shopping Cart(s)



Figure 38 - Shopping Cart - DON'T USE INTERCHANGE IF IT APPEARS HERE!

- **Shopping Carts:** If you are going to open an on-line store, you may be interested in this area. DO NOT install a shopping cart unless you plan to use it because installing it includes some files that only your web host will be able to remove if you decide to stop using your cart. There used to be two shopping carts available for auto installation here: Interchange and Agora. Recently, Interchange has discovered an issue that might cause the Interchange shopping cart to fail to work properly. Further, Interchange refuses to provide support for CPANEL installations of Interchange, so you may wish to take a look at Agora. Thankfully, Xskin v2.0 removes the Interchange option. If your host offers Fantastico, then you have another (perhaps better) option: OSCommerce.

Chapter 21: CRON Jobs

HOME LOGOUT

CPANEL X SKIN V2.0

Standard Cron Manager

This is a web interface to the crontab program. It allows you to run commands at any time you specify. Enter the command you would like to run as well as running times.

Please enter an email address where the cron output will be sent:

Entry 1

Command to run:

Minute(s):

- Every Minute
- Every Other Minute
- Every Five Minutes
- Every Ten Minutes
- Every Fifteen Minutes
- 0**
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Delete

Hour(s):

- Every Four Hours
- Every Six Hours
- 0 = 12 AM/Midnight
- 1 = 1 AM
- 2 = 2 AM
- 3 = 3 AM**

Day(s):

- Every Day**
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Months(s):

- Every Month**
- January
- February
- March
- April

Weekday(s):

- Every Weekday**
- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday

[\[Go Back \]](#)

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Figure 39 - Standard CRON Manager Window: Use this if you aren't familiar with Unix commands.

- **Cron Jobs:** This is a very advanced feature that your web host may not allow. It is beyond the scope of this article to fully explain how to use CRON jobs. If you know how to use this feature it is recommended that you try to schedule the job to run late at night (3-4 AM) when demands on the server are likely to be light. Your web host will be upset with you if you run so many jobs that you bring the server to its knees. There are 2 different interfaces, a standard UNIX style advanced CRON manager, which is great if

you know how to use CRON from a standard UNIX/Linux command line. Otherwise, you may wish to use the “Standard” CRON manager, which makes it easier to run CRON jobs.

Chapter 22: Network Tools



Figure 40 - Network Tools: Quick & dirty tools to look up domains and trace the route from your machine to a particular server on the Internet.

- **Network Tools:** For slightly more advanced users, this section provides a quick interface to a couple of common network tools (domain lookup and trace route). Domain lookup will return the IP address for whatever domain you type in to this location as well as basic information about the domain. This feature doesn't always work well. Traceroute lists the route your data would take between your computer and the domain that you type in. Each stop on the trip will list the response (ping) time from each server in milliseconds (MS). Lower numbers are better. Honestly, you can get better and more complete results from:

<http://www.network-tools.com/>

Chapter 23: MIME Types and Apache Handlers

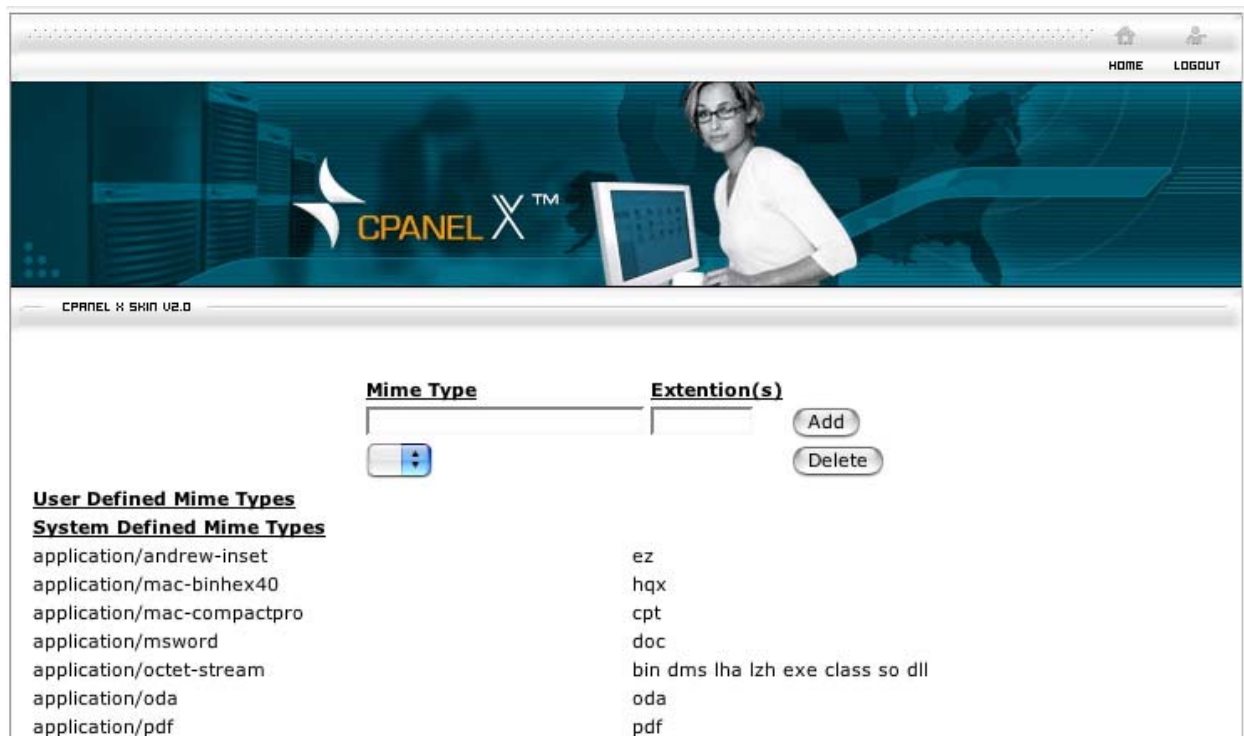


Figure 41 - MIME Types - Note that there are many more types configured than shown here.

- **MIME Types:** MIME types let a server know what a given file is so that it knows how to accept or send that kind of file from your account. Most MIME types are already installed on the server and can't be changed, but if you have a new type of file and people are having trouble accessing them (for example, instead of downloading the file, your web browser tries to display the file as a text document). If that happens, you may have to add a MIME type. You'll need to know what the MIME type should be and also what "extensions" the file name typically has (jpg, jpeg are both common extensions that appear on the end of JPEG picture files). Separate all extensions with a space and do not include a period.



Figure 42 - Apache Handlers: You can define special file types and tell Apache how to handle them here.

- **Apache Handlers:** This is another advanced feature that most mere mortals probably won't need to access. You can define types of files (by extension) that you would like Apache (which is the open-source software that serves most of the web pages on the Internet, including yours) to handle. There are a few already installed. If this doesn't make any sense to you then you don't need to worry about it.

Chapter 24: GnuPGP Key Generation and Storage

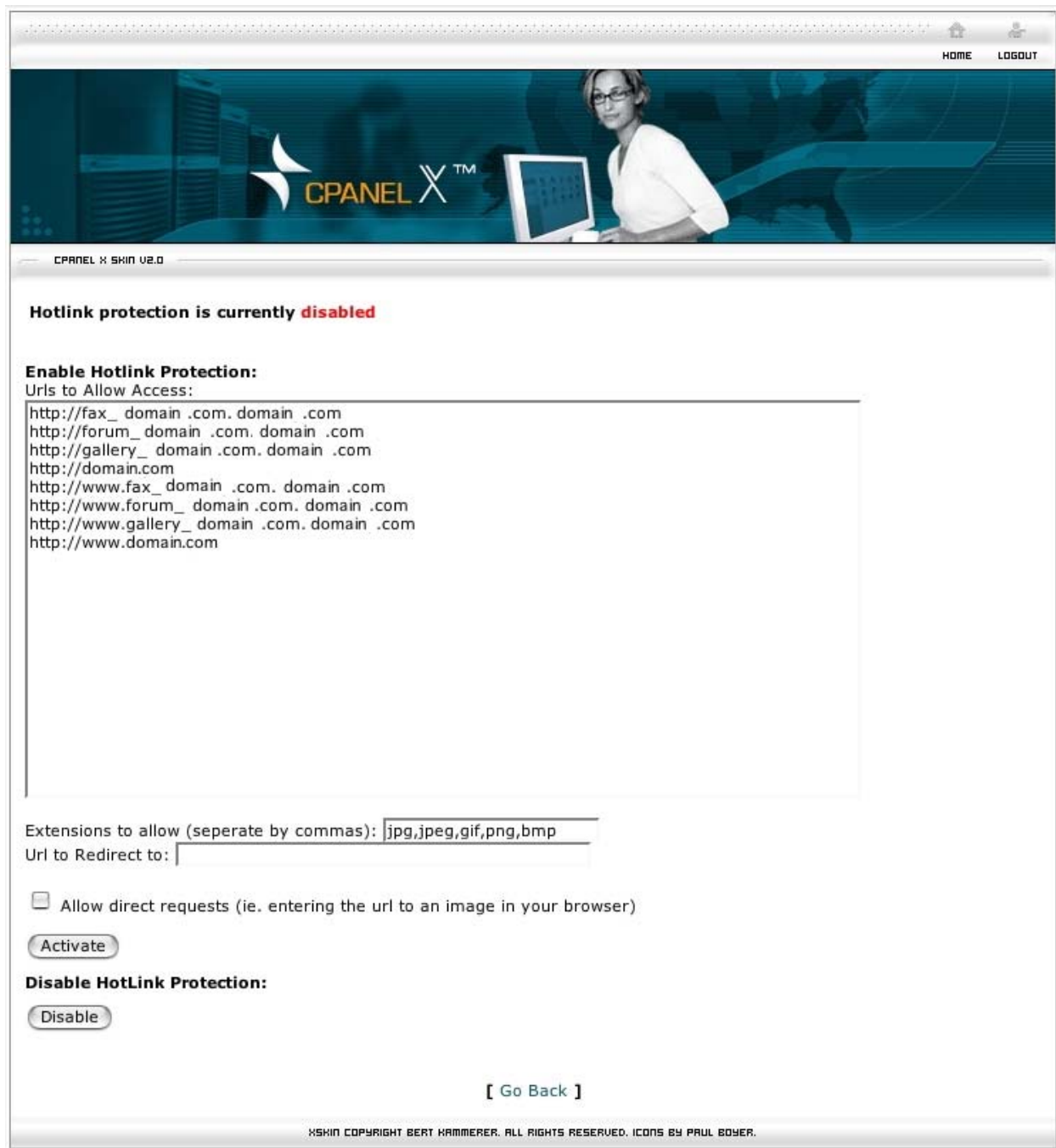
The screenshot shows the 'GnuPG Key Generator' interface within a cPanel skin. At the top, there's a banner with the cPanel logo and a woman at a computer. Below the banner, the text 'CPANEL X SKIN V2.0' is visible. The main section is titled 'GnuPG Key Generator'. It contains several input fields: 'Your Name:', 'Your Email:', 'Comment/NickName:', and 'Key Password (blank for none):'. There's also an 'Expire Date:' field with a dropdown menu showing '1y' and a note '(ex: 1y [1 year] or 3w [3 weeks] or 5d [5 days])'. A 'Key Size:' field shows '4096' with a dropdown arrow. A 'Generate Key' button is at the bottom left, and a '[Go Back]' link is at the bottom center. At the very bottom, a small copyright notice reads: 'XSKIN COPYRIGHT BERT HAMMERER. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. ICONS BY PAUL BOYER.'

Figure 43 - GnuPGP Key Generator Screen: Create a key that you can use to encrypt files here.

- **PGP Keys:** PGP stands for Pretty Good Privacy and is a highly secure encryption system with public and private “keys.” You can upload your keys here if you already use PGP on your computer so that you can use those same keys to encrypt and decrypt files on your server. There is an interface to create PGP keys, but I’ve never gotten it to work properly in any CPANEL installation I’ve used. However, if you’ve already created keys, you can upload them OK. To learn more about PGP, go here:

<http://www.pgp.com/>

Chapter 25: Hotlink Protection



CPANEL X SKIN V2.0

HOME LOGOUT

Hotlink protection is currently disabled

Enable Hotlink Protection:

Urls to Allow Access:

```
http://fax_ domain .com. domain .com
http://forum_ domain .com. domain .com
http://gallery_ domain .com. domain .com
http://domain.com
http://www.fax_ domain .com. domain .com
http://www.forum_ domain .com. domain .com
http://www.gallery_ domain .com. domain .com
http://www.domain.com
```

Extensions to allow (seperate by commas):

Url to Redirect to:

☐ Allow direct requests (ie. entering the url to an image in your browser)

Disable HotLink Protection:

[\[Go Back \]](#)

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Figure 44 - Hotlink Protection: Stop people from linking directly to your files.

- **Hotlink Protection:** If you run a website where digital content (pictures, files, etc.) is your livelihood, then you may want to turn on this feature. Hotlink protection will stop other people on other websites linking directly to your files unless they have approval from you. To turn this on you need to define 4 things: the list of domains that are permitted to link to your files and a list of file extensions (JPG, MP3, etc.) that you want

to protect. CPANEL will automatically add any of your own domains to the list of approved domains and a list of common file extensions, but feel free to edit them as needed. Next you will have to list a URL to redirect people to if they try to hotlink to your files (typically a page on your site that says “Sorry, you can’t access this file unless you are a member of my site.”). Lastly, you need to decide if you want to allow people who manually type an address pointing to one of the files on your website to access the file or if you want them redirected to the same URL you entered above. Click *Activate* to turn on hotlink protection. Click *Deactivate* to stop using hotlink protection.

Chapter 26: Index Management

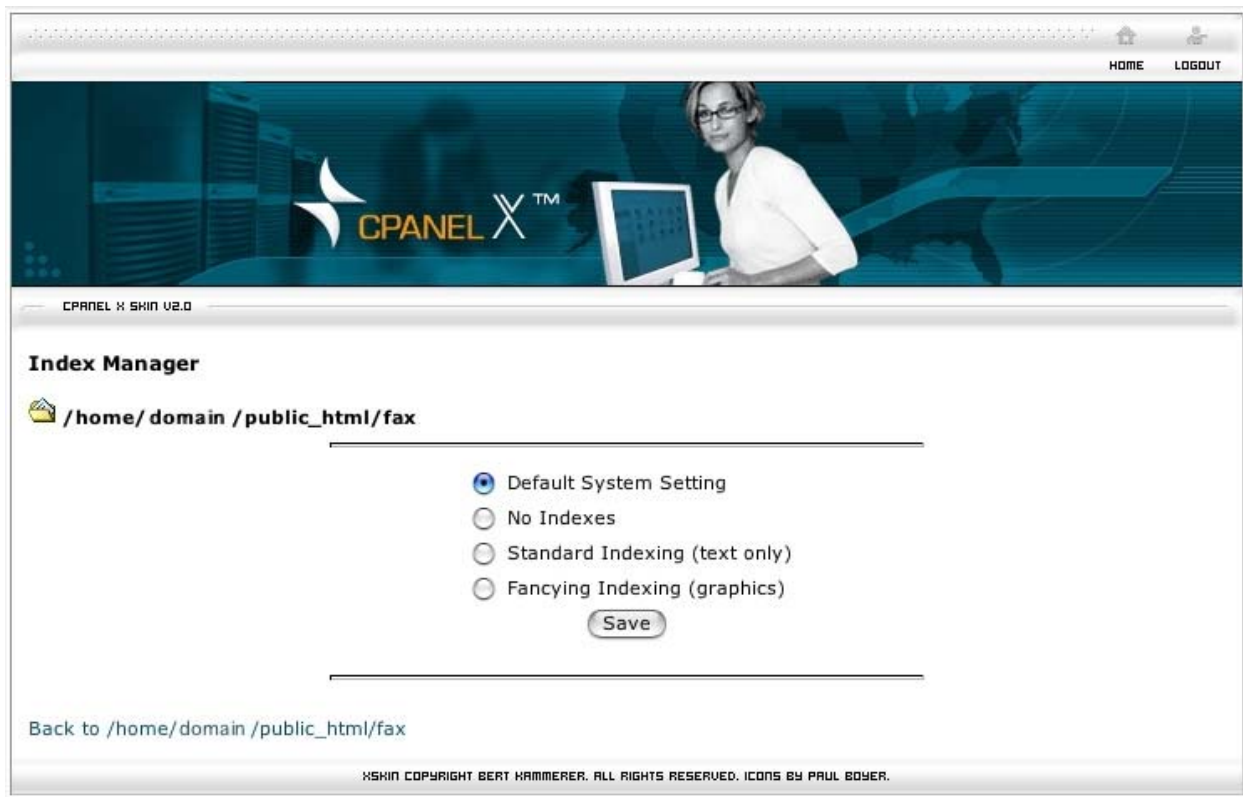


Figure 45 - Index Manager: Stop people from seeing the files in a directory if you don’t have an *index.html* file in that directory.

- **Index Manager:** Typically, if you try to access a directory (rather than a file) that exists on your server, your web browser will display a list of all the files in that directory, you can then click on any of the files to view or download them. If you don’t want to allow people to do this (a good idea if you have sensitive files stored in a directory inside your public_html directory), then you can use the Index Manager to turn off directory listing on a per-directory basis. Just click on the directory you want to turn on/off directory listing in and then choose the level of protection you desire: leave the directory set to the default system setting, do not allow any directory indexing, provide only a listing of text (including HTML) documents, or provide a list of text and graphics (binary) files.

Chapter 27: IP Deny Manager – Stop People from Accessing Your Site!

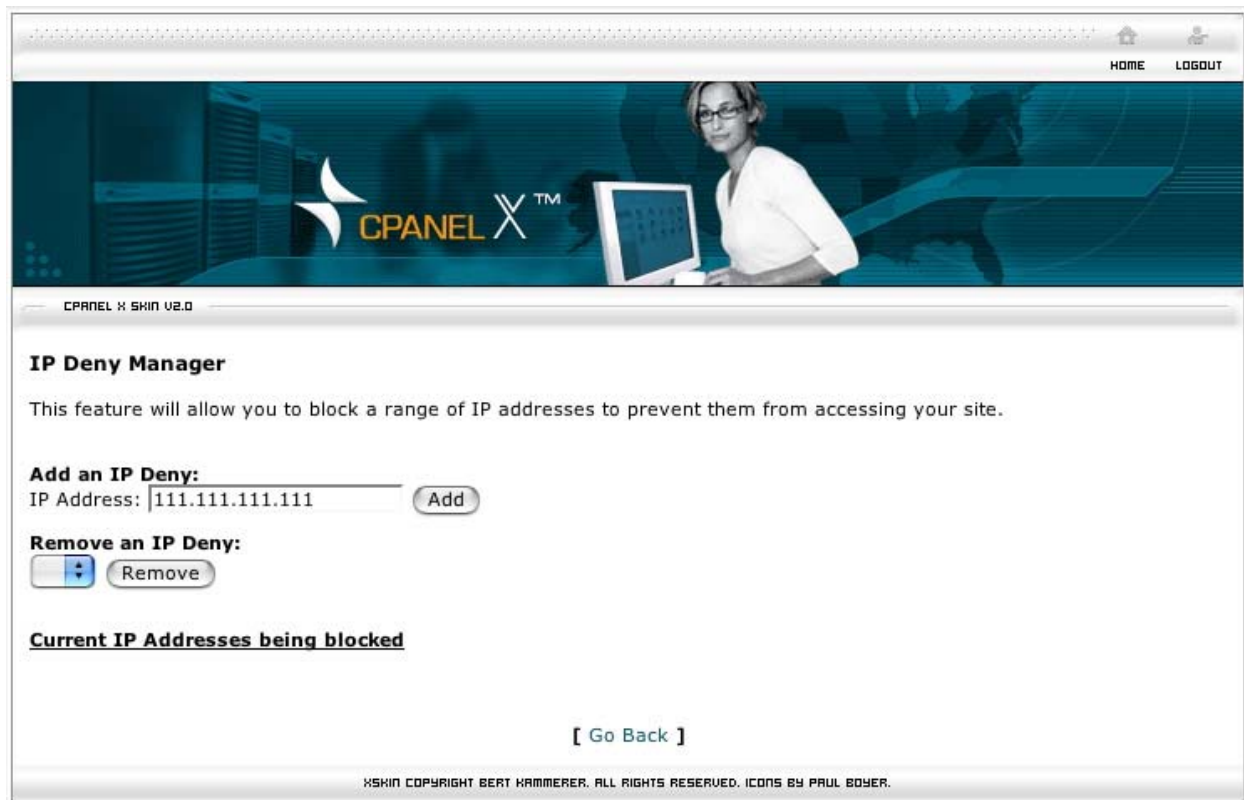


Figure 46 - IP Deny Manager: Stop a person or whole groups from accessing your website.

- **IP Deny Manager:** If you find that people from a particular location are abusing your website, you can choose to block their IP address. You can block a particular address from accessing your site, or you can block an entire range of IP addresses from being able to access your site. This area will also list any IP addresses that you are currently blocking. For example: 111.111.111.111 will block only that IP address, whereas entering 111.111.111 will block ALL addresses from 111.111.111.0 to 111.111.111.255 inclusive.

Chapter 28: Fantastico – Not all Hosting Companies Offer This

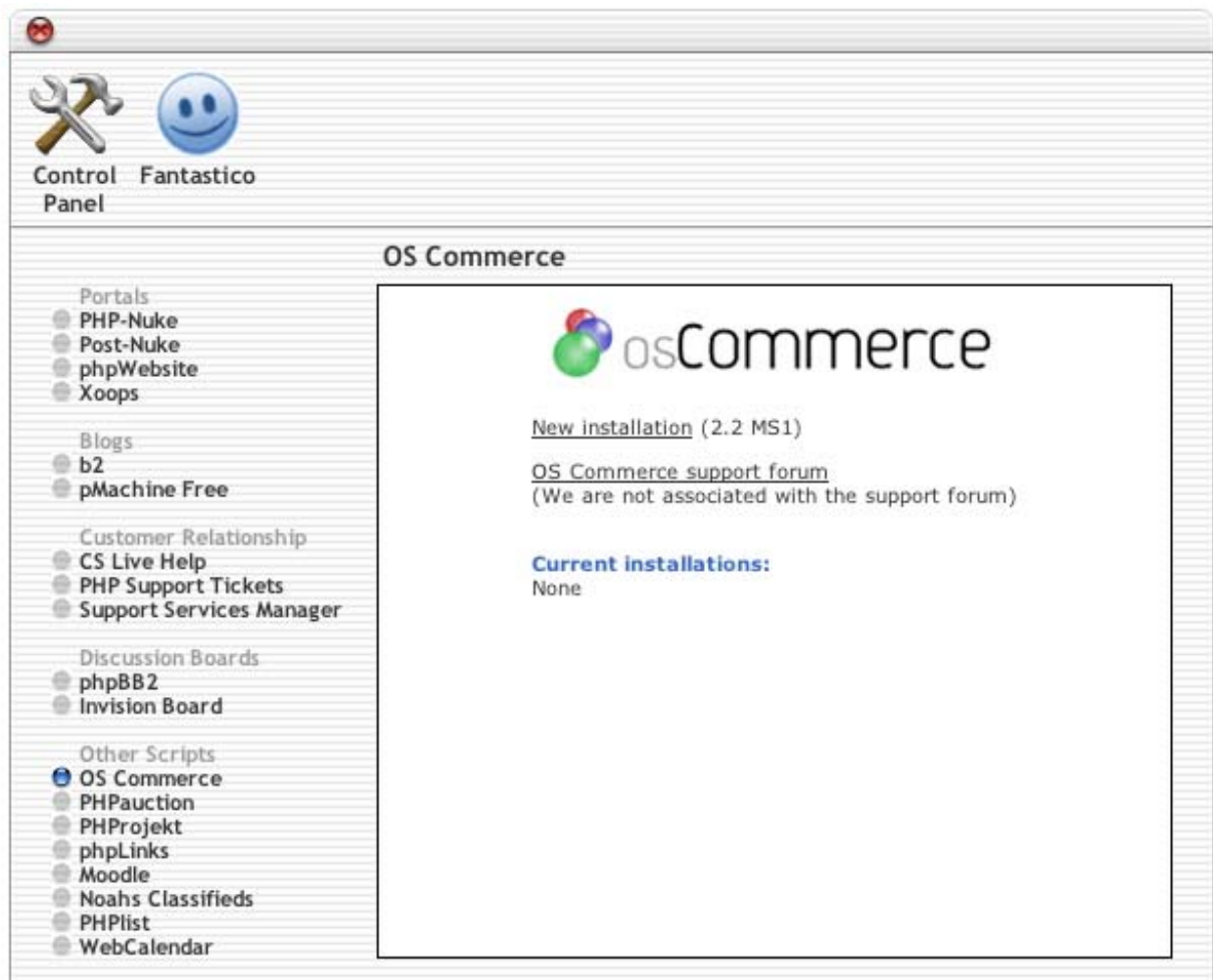


Figure 47 - Fantastico - Not a standard part of CPANEL but many web hosts offer this add on.

- **Fantastico:** Fantastico v2.0 is not part of a typical install of CPANEL, but several web hosts do offer it, so I will mention it here. Fantastico is an autoinstaller/uninstaller for some commonly used PHP/CGI scripts. Installing a PHP or CGI script by yourself can be a bit daunting if you don't know what you are doing. Fantastico takes all the hard work out of installing several different scripts such as: Inversion Board (a BBS like phpBB, phpNuke or PostNuke (content management systems), b2 (a blogger script), CS Live Help (customer service manager and help desk) etc. Just select an item you want to install, answer a few simple questions and then follow the instructions you are given to access your new script(s). Not only can you install any of these things, but Fantastico can also deinstall any script that Fantastico installs. If you'd like to learn more about Fantastico, please go here:

<http://www.cpanelthemes.com/fantastico.php>

The current version of Fantastico says that it installs phpBB 2.0.4, but it does *not* do so. It installs phpBB 2.0.2. You can install the more recent phpBB right from CPANEL's Forum/BBS area. Hopefully this will be fixed in a future version of Fantastico v2.

Postscript: Who Wrote This Thing and How Can I Contact Him?

That covers all the features of CPANEL. Hopefully this discussion of the feature set will make it easier for new users to get up and running. Feel free to contact me at aric1@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Note: If you would like to post this guide on your website, please contact me at the e-mail address above BEFORE doing so.

You can always find the most recent version of this guide here:

<http://homepage.mac.com/aric/AricsCPANELDocs.zip>

If you like this guide and want to donate towards my getting a copy of Adobe Acrobat 6, you can do so via PayPal using the e-mail address aric@hotmail.com. This is not required by any means, but several people have said they would like to see a table of contents and bookmarks. I can't do those sorts of things natively in OS X 10.2.6, so I will need to get a copy of Acrobat 6. Any money I receive (if anything) will be used towards getting a copy of this program.

Thank you.

FINIS!