

USER MANUAL · VERSION 1.0

SITE GUARD

Watches your website's files and restores anything changed without your approval.

Falcon Gaming Studios, LLC
falcongamingstudios.com
Linux hosting · PHP 8.0+ · Cron

CONTENTS

01 What it does 3

02 What you need 3

03 Install 4

04 Fill in config.php 5

05 Create the cron job 6

06 Updating your site 6

07 Alert emails 7

08 Commands 7

09 Limits 8

10 Troubleshooting 8

11 License 9

ABOUT THIS MANUAL

Settings appear like `this`, exactly as they are written in `config.php`. `USERNAME` stands for your hosting account name, and `<key>` for the short site name you choose in `config.php`.

01 WHAT IT DOES

Site Guard keeps an approved copy of your website's files. Every time it runs, it compares the live files with that copy.

- **Changed or deleted file:** puts the approved copy back and emails you.
- **New unknown file** (a typical sign of a hack): moves it out of the site into quarantine and emails you.
- **Homepage check:** emails you if the homepage stops answering or no longer shows the text you expect.
- **Your own updates:** a pause/approve routine lets you change the site without Site Guard undoing it.

It needs no SSH or terminal: everything is controlled by creating and renaming files in your host's file manager.

02 WHAT YOU NEED

ITEM	DETAILS
Linux web hosting	Shared hosting, VPS or dedicated: cPanel, Plesk, DirectAdmin and similar all work.
PHP 8.0 or newer	Command-line PHP, which almost every host has. Your host can tell you its path.
Cron jobs	A scheduled-task option in your hosting panel.
A file manager or FTP	To upload the folder and create the control files.
An email address	Preferably not hosted on the same server, so alerts still arrive if it is compromised.
Disk space	About the size of your site, for the approved copy.

03 INSTALL

1. Unzip `Site-Guard-v1.0.zip`. It contains `guard.php`, `config.example.php`, `.htaccess` and `README.txt`.
2. Upload the folder to your hosting account **outside the web root**, and name it `site-guard`.
3. In that folder, copy `config.example.php` to `config.php` (step 04 fills it in).

```
/home/USERNAME/
  site-guard/          ← Site Guard goes here
    guard.php
    config.php
    .htaccess
  public_html/          ← your website (the web root)
    index.html
    ...
```

> **NEVER INSIDE THE WEB ROOT**
>
> If Site Guard sits inside the folder it watches, it would treat its own files as changes. It checks for this and refuses to run, with a message telling you to move it.

The `.htaccess` file blocks web access to the folder on Apache and LiteSpeed servers, as a second safeguard. Site Guard also refuses to run from a browser.

04 FILL IN CONFIG.PHP

Open `config.php` and change every value marked **CHANGE**.

SETTING	WHAT TO ENTER
`alert_to`	Your email address for alerts.
`alert_from`	Optional sender address. An address on your own domain helps alerts avoid spam folders. `''` uses siteguard@ your server's name.
`timezone`	For times in emails and logs, e.g. `America/New_York`. Default `UTC`.
`full_hash_hours`	How often every file is fully re-checked. Default `24`; between those, a quick size-and-date check runs.
`sites` → **key**	A short name per site, e.g. `mysite`. Letters, numbers, `-` and `_`. Used in the pause/approve file names.
`name`	The site's name in alert emails.
`docroot`	Full path of the folder your site is served from, e.g. `/home/USERNAME/public_html`.
`url`	Your homepage address. `''` skips the homepage check.
`must_contain`	Text only your real homepage shows, e.g. your company name. `''` skips the text check.
`restore`	`true` puts changed and deleted files back. `false` only alerts.
`quarantine_new`	`true` moves unknown new files out of the site. `false` only alerts.
`ignore`	Files never watched: ones your server or site changes on its own, e.g. `uploads/*`, `cache/*`.
`no_copy`	Files watched but not backed up (very large videos, e.g. `*.mp4`). Changes alert only.

To watch several sites from one install, add another entry under `sites`. `config.example.php` shows one, commented out.

05 CREATE THE CRON JOB

In your hosting panel, open **Cron Jobs** and add one that runs every 10 minutes:

```
*/10 * * * * /usr/local/bin/php -q /home/USERNAME/site-guard/guard.php check --quiet >> /home/USERNAME/site-guard/data/cron.log 2>&1
```

Replace `USERNAME` with your account name. If `/usr/local/bin/php` doesn't exist on your host, ask your host for the PHP command-line path (often `/usr/bin/php`).

Within 10 minutes you get a **Now protecting** email: the current files are saved as the approved copy, and a `data` folder appears inside `site-guard`.

06 UPDATING YOUR SITE

Do this every time you change the site, or Site Guard puts the old files back.

1. In the `site-guard` folder, create an empty file named `pause-<key>`, e.g. `pause-mysite`.
2. Upload your changes.
3. Rename the file to `approve-<key>`.

On its next run Site Guard saves the live files as the new approved copy, deletes the control file and emails you a confirmation. Forget step 3 and you get a reminder after 12 hours; until then the site is not protected.

07 ALERT EMAILS

SUBJECT	MEANING
Now protecting	First run finished; the approved copy is saved.
RESTORED	Unapproved changes were found and fully undone. The email lists every file and what was done.
ACTION NEEDED	Something could not be fixed automatically: the homepage is down or changed, a file has no backup copy, or a restore failed.
Approved	Your `approve-` file was processed; the new approved copy is saved.
REMINDER	A site has been paused for more than 12 hours.
SETUP PROBLEM	`docroot` points to an empty or wrong folder.

The same unresolved problem is emailed once, not on every run. Quarantined files are kept in `data/<key>/quarantine/` so you can inspect them.

> **CHANGES YOU DIDN'T MAKE?**
>
> Change your hosting and FTP passwords, review your hosting security settings, and check the files the email lists.

08 COMMANDS

Cron runs everything for you. With SSH access you can also run:

```
php guard.php check [key] [--full]   compare files with the approved copy
php guard.php baseline <key|all>     save the live files as the approved copy
php guard.php status                 show each site's approved copy
php guard.php test-email             send a test alert
```

09 LIMITS

- Built for sites that don't change their own files. For WordPress and similar, list upload, cache and plugin-update folders in `ignore`.
- The approved copy takes about as much disk space as your site, minus `no_copy` files.
- Site Guard detects and repairs file changes. It does not replace backups, a firewall, or keeping passwords and software up to date.
- Email is sent with PHP's built-in mail. Some hosts block it or route it to spam.

10 TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM	FIX
No email at all	Open `data/guard.log`. "EMAIL FAILED" means the host blocked mail: set `alert_from` to an address on your own domain, or ask your host.
No `data` folder appears	The cron job isn't running. Check the PHP path and folder path in the cron command.
"config.php problems" in the log	The log lists each setting to fix.
"inside its own docroot"	Move the `site-guard` folder outside the web root (step 03).
My upload was undone	It was uploaded without `pause—<key>`. Upload again using step 06.
Alerts about files my site writes itself	Add those files or folders to `ignore`.
"needs PHP 8.0 or newer"	Use a newer PHP path in the cron command, or switch PHP version in your hosting panel.

11 LICENSE

Site Guard's source files are free and open source under this notice:


```
Copyright © 2026 - Falcon Gaming Studios, LLC - All Rights Reserved.
This file is free and open source.
It may be used, copied, and redistributed in any form (modified or unmodified), in any project or
future works, personal or commercial.
Unmodified copies must keep this copyright notice and permission notice intact.
Modified copies require that the copyright notice above, including this permission notice, be
removed or replaced.
THIS FILE IS PROVIDED "AS IS", WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE
AUTHOR BE LIABLE FOR ANY CLAIM, DAMAGES, OR OTHER LIABILITY ARISING FROM ITS USE.
```


Questions or bug reports: info@falcongamingstudios.com