

# Cloud VPS Servers

## What is Plesk Watch Dog & How to Use it?

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The Watchdog module is a solution that monitors vital Plesk services and notifies in case of service issues via e-mail. It can start, stop, and restart the service daemons it monitors, and it can be configured to take actions depending on the stability of a service over some time period.

The following Plesk services can be monitored:

1. Web server providing the control panel interface
2. Web server providing WWW service to users' sites
3. SMTP Server (QMail)
4. IMAP/POP3 Server (Courier-IMAP)
5. DNS Server (BIND)
6. Tomcat
7. ColdFusion
8. MySQL
9. PostgreSQL
10. SpamAssassin
11. Dr.Web antivirus

### Steps to install watchdog:

1. Login to Plesk panel as admin user.
2. Go to server >> Updater >> select current plesk version >> search for watchdog, select the corresponding check box and click install.
3. Now go to modules on control panel >> click on Watchdog
4. To start monitoring, click the Enable icon in the Tools group. Here you can enable/disable watchdog for particular service.

### Adjusting Monitoring Preferences for Specific Services

To adjust preferences for specific services:

- 1 Click Modules > Watchdog. A list of Plesk services will be displayed.
- 2 Click on a service name. A page will open allowing you to specify the following settings:
  - i. Monitoring: Toggle this to enable/disable service monitoring.
  - ii. The commands to start and stop the service: It is recommended that you leave the pre-filled values unchanged.
  - iii. Minimum polling interval: It is recommended that you set it to something like 5-10 minutes so as not to increase server load.
  - iv. Monitoring: Toggle this to enable/disable service monitoring.
  - v. The commands to start and stop the service: It is recommended that you leave

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the pre-filled values unchanged.

- vi. Minimum polling interval: It is recommended that you set it to something like 5-10 minutes so as not to increase server load.
- vii. Restart service on stop: Select this to have the service automatically restarted when it stops or does not respond.
- viii. Send an alert on stop: Select this if you wish to be informed of the service stop by email
- ix. Send an alert when failed to restart the service: Select this and the module will inform you of failures to restart a non-responsive service.
- x. Stop monitoring this service if it fails: Select this check box and specify the failure ratio. The module will stop monitoring a service that fails a specific number of times.
- xi. Alert on release of service from monitoring: Select this and the module will inform you by e-mail in case of permanent service failures.
- xii. Alert message templates.:You may wish to specify a recipient's address, sender's address, and message subject for each of the following service events: service failure, service start/stop failure, and release of service from monitoring due to its permanent failure.

3 Once done configuring, click OK to submit the settings.

## Viewing Service Statuses

To view the state of Plesk services:

Click Server > Service Management. A list of Plesk services will open. From that screen you can manage services and view their statuses.

OR

Click Modules > Watchdog. A list of Plesk services will open. From that screen you can view service statuses and manage monitoring preferences.

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Author: Sherin George

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