

# v21.08.3 to v21.12

Version v21.12 brought some more serious security updates and a couple of nice features. Let's update :)

Before proceeding, make sure you have a proper backup of your BookStack instance. If you don't, follow the guide [here](#).

Always check the official [Updates](#) page before proceeding. Once in a while, there are some specific instructions for updating from/to certain versions.

## Prerequisites

Web services usually store files in the `/var/www` directory, in this case BookStack is in `/var/www/BookStack`. Depending on your permissions configuration, the following steps might differ.

- If the owner of all files in the directory is `www-data`, you should run the update commands as `www-data`.
- In case you have a separate user that owns the directory, execute the commands as this user.

Become `www-data` (or another user) with `sudo su`.

```
$ sudo su www-data
```

You will most likely run into this error:

```
This account is currently not available.
```

Service accounts that web apps use to run (like `www-data`) do not usually have access to the shell. **It should be that way.** Unfortunately this means, you won't be able to run any commands under them with `sudo su`, because they can't use shell. There are two way to get around this:

- Temporarily editing `/etc/passwd` and adding shell to `www-data`
- Temporarily adding `/bin/bash` to `www-data` in the current shell

I will do the latter option because it's quicker. Use `sudo` with `-s` option to add `/bin/bash` to `www-data`

```
$ sudo su www-data -s /bin/bash
```

This will open shell under `www-data` so you can perform the management actions you want without messing up file ownerships.

```
www-data@hostname:~/
```

## Download using git

Make sure you are in the correct directory (root of BookStack) `/var/www/BookStack` with `pwd`:

```
(www-data)$ pwd  
/var/www/BookStack
```

Updates of BookStack are done using `git`. Pull the latest version with this command:

```
(www-data)$ git pull origin release
```

Output should look something like this:

```
hint: Pulling without specifying how to reconcile divergent branches is  
hint: discouraged. You can squelch this message by running one of the following  
hint: commands sometime before your next pull:  
hint:  
hint:  git config pull.rebase false  # merge (the default strategy)  
hint:  git config pull.rebase true   # rebase  
hint:  git config pull.ff only       # fast-forward only  
hint:  
hint: You can replace "git config" with "git config --global" to set a default  
hint: preference for all repositories. You can also pass --rebase, --no-rebase,  
hint: or --ff-only on the command line to override the configured default per  
hint: invocation.  
remote: Enumerating objects: 4106, done.  
remote: Counting objects: 100% (2414/2414), done.  
remote: Compressing objects: 100% (134/134), done.  
remote: Total 4106 (delta 2280), reused 2405 (delta 2278), pack-reused 1692  
Receiving objects: 100% (4106/4106), 1.82 MiB | 10.86 MiB/s, done.  
Resolving deltas: 100% (3333/3333), completed with 554 local objects.  
From https://github.com/BookStackApp/BookStack  
* branch                release -> FETCH_HEAD  
fa855383..09436836 release -> origin/release
```

Updating fa855383..09436836

Fast-forward

.env.example	2 +-	
.env.example.complete	32 +-	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/api_request.md	17 -	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/api_request.yml	26 +	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/bug_report.md	29 -	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/bug_report.yml	62 +	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/feature_request.md	14 -	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/feature_request.yml	26 +	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/language_request.md	13 -	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/language_request.yml	32 +	
.github/ISSUE_TEMPLATE/support_request.yml	63 +	
.github/SECURITY.md	32 +	
.github/translators.txt	24 +-	
.github/workflows/phpstan.yml	41 +	
.github/workflows/phpunit.yml	8 +-	
.github/workflows/test-migrations.yml	6 +-	
.gitignore	3 +-	
LICENSE	2 +-	
app/Actions/Activity.php	2 +-	
app/Actions/ActivityLogger.php	115 +	
app/Actions/ActivityQueries.php	112 +	
app/Actions/ActivityService.php	197 --	
app/Actions/ActivityType.php	12 +	
app/Actions/Comment.php	11 +-	
app/Actions/CommentRepo.php	11 +-	
app/Actions/DispatchWebhookJob.php	112 +	
app/Actions/Tag.php	9 +	
app/Actions/TagRepo.php	55 +-	
app/Actions/Webhook.php	75 +	
app/Actions/WebhookTrackedEvent.php	18 +	
app/Api/ApiDocsGenerator.php	21 +-	
app/Api/ApiToken.php	2 +-	
app/Api/ApiTokenGuard.php	4 +-	
app/Auth/Access/ExternalBaseUserProvider.php	19 +-	
app/Auth/Access/{ExternalAuthService.php => GroupSyncService.php}	6 +-	
.../Guards/{Saml2SessionGuard.php => AsyncExternalBaseSessionGuard.php}	2 +-	
app/Auth/Access/Guards/LdapSessionGuard.php	2 +-	
app/Auth/Access/Ldap.php	19 +-	

app/Auth/Access/LdapService.php	17 +-
app/Auth/Access/LoginService.php	2 +-
...	

This time, I got a git hint at the beginning, which I will ignore for now and may come back to it in a separate article later.

## Install with Composer

```
(www-data)$ composer install --no-dev
```

This will install or update required PHP dependencies in production mode (without dev dependencies) and produce similar output:

```
> @php -r "!file_exists('bootstrap/cache/services.php') || @unlink('bootstrap/cache/services.php');"
Installing dependencies from lock file
Verifying lock file contents can be installed on current platform.
Package operations: 20 installs, 42 updates, 10 removals
- Downloading composer/package-versions-deprecated (1.11.99.4)
- Downloading aws/aws-crt-php (v1.0.2)
- Downloading voku/portable-ascii (1.5.6)
- Downloading phpoption/phpooption (1.8.1)
- Downloading graham-campbell/result-type (v1.0.4)
- Downloading vlucas/phpdotenv (v5.4.1)
- Downloading symfony/css-selector (v5.4.0)
- Downloading tijsverkoyen/css-to-inline-styles (2.2.4)
- Downloading symfony/var-dumper (v5.4.1)
- Downloading symfony/deprecation-contracts (v2.5.0)
- Downloading symfony/routing (v5.4.0)
- Downloading symfony/process (v5.4.0)
- Downloading symfony/mime (v5.4.0)
- Downloading symfony/http-foundati
```

## Update database with php artisan

Run `php artisan` to update the database and make any required changes.

```
(www-data)$ php artisan migrate
```

Output (type in yes):

```
*****
```

```
*   Application In Production!   *
```

```
*****
```

Do you really wish to run this command? (yes/no) [no]:

> yes

Migrating: 2021\_06\_30\_173111\_create\_mfa\_values\_table

Migrated: 2021\_06\_30\_173111\_create\_mfa\_values\_table (0.03 seconds)

Migrating: 2021\_07\_03\_085038\_add\_mfa\_enforced\_to\_roles\_table

Migrated: 2021\_07\_03\_085038\_add\_mfa\_enforced\_to\_roles\_table (0 seconds)

Migrating: 2021\_08\_28\_161743\_add\_export\_role\_permission

Migrated: 2021\_08\_28\_161743\_add\_export\_role\_permission (0.01 seconds)

You could also just run the previous commands in one line with this `git pull origin release && composer install --no-dev && php artisan migrate`

## Search Index Update

According to the official [Updates](#) page, there have been some changes regarding search indexing and it is recommended to run

```
(www-data)$ php artisan bookstack:regenerate-search
```

to take advantage of these new changes.

🔧 Search Index Changes - Changes to search indexing and scoring were made in this release. It's recommended to run `php artisan bookstack:regenerate-search` to ensure a consistent search experience and take advantage of these changes.

## Clear cache

It is also recommended to clean the cache:

```
(www-data)$ php artisan cache:clear
```

```
(www-data)$ php artisan config:clear
```

```
(www-data)$ php artisan view:clear
```

## Exit the www-data shell

After you are done, exit the shell

```
(www-data)$ exit  
user$
```

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