



eFED MANAGEMENT SUITE USER GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The eFed Management Suite (eMS) is a SQL driven PHP web script created to manage almost every aspect of a Fantasy Wrestling promotion. It is inspired by the Backstage 3 Platform, written by Ross Fynmore, but is developed from the ground up.

The Backstage 3 Platform is Copyright © 2009-2026 by Ross Fynmore.

The eFed Management Suite is Copyright © 2026 by Ben Hall Productions.

Use of this software requires the acceptance of license terms and conditions found in License.txt inside of the software installation package as well as on the eFed Management Suite website.

This guide serves as a basic user guide. It may not include all functionality. We will add more from time to time. Additional guides and specific how tos can be found at <https://efedmanagementsuite.com/user-guides.php>.

MINIMUM SERVER REQUIREMENTS

Operating System

- **Linux** (Recommended: Ubuntu 20.04+ or CentOS/RHEL 8+)
- Windows servers are technically possible but not recommended for LAMP-stack PHP projects

Web Server

- **Apache 2.4+** (with mod_rewrite enabled)
- **CRON Enabled** (For automation)

PHP Version

- **PHP 8.1 or higher**
 - Required for modern syntax, type handling, and performance
 - Must support:
 - mysqli extension (for DB interaction)
 - fileinfo, mbstring, json, session, ctype, openssl, curl, and gd

Database

- **MySQL 5.7+ or MariaDB 10.3+**
 - UTF8MB4 support is expected for proper character handling

- Must support foreign keys, indexes, and prepared statements

Filesystem Access

- Writable permissions
- PHP must be able to read/write .php files

PHP Configuration Recommendations

- memory_limit = 256M or higher
- upload_max_filesize = 20M or higher
- post_max_size = 20M or higher
- max_execution_time = 60
- error_reporting = E_ALL (during development)
- display_errors = Off (in production)

KNOWN ISSUES FOR THIS RELEASE

No known issues at this time.

FEATURES

- Manage your eFed from one central location- Full Application Management system (create, submit, review, approve, reject)
- Power Rankings Manager with weekly auto-calculation and manual overrides
- Results Compilation tool with drag-and-drop match/segment control
- Full Character Types & Role segmentation (e.g. Managers, Referees)
- Multi-character handler support
- Admin Templates & Page Editor (PHP content pages and layout templates)
- Full Audit Log system
- Custom Function & Template override system
- AI-assisted match writing (via optional OpenAI integration)
- Integrated Venue Management & Event Booking
- Private Messaging System with inbox, sent, and rich editor support
- Chronology View (timeline of character activity)
- User Permissions per category (news, templates, etc.)
- Theme Music uploader per character
- Create, manage, accept, and even deny applications with a click of a button

- Book shows on the fly and assign match writing
- Users can reserve and submit segments themselves on booked shows
- Preview your show before it goes public
- Handlers can update their bio at any time
- Handlers can post promos/roleplays for specific shows or just for character development
- Easily turn profiles on and off
- Use a built-in template or add your own HTML template for seamless integration
- Integrated private message system
- Audit Log
- Much, MUCH, MORE!

INSTALLATION

Starting with version 2.7.1.1, installation is handled by a lightweight installer package which will automatically download the eMS package to your webserver and install it. In order to install eMS, you must obtain a license key.

1. Obtain license key from <https://efedmanagementsuite.com/license.php>
 - a. Create an account, or log in
 - b. Generate a new license key. Only one key per domain is allowed
 - c. Keep key handy for install
2. Create a new, blank database on your webserver
3. Download the installer from <https://efedmanagementsuite.com/installs/ems-full-installer.zip>
4. Unzip the package on your local machine
5. Upload the contents of the package to your empty webserver
6. Go to <https://YOURDOMAIN.com/install>
7. Follow the eight one screen prompts.
 - a. You will need your database information
 - b. You will need your license key
 - c. You will create an initial webmaster account that will give you full permissions
 - i. Please note that by default, the developer has a super user account. We recommend leaving this user account for potential future support issues
8. Begin setting up your site using the eFed Managemenet Suite!

UPGRADING FROM A PREVIOUS VERSION

Starting with eMS v2.5.5 you can utilize the Update Center directly in your eMS admin dashboard to automatically update your version of eMS. Follow the on-screen instructions to use the Update Center. You can watch a video on how to use the Update Center at <https://youtu.be/ghnICsMKGBM?si=OglpZeCxKfhGDFb4>

For versions below 2.5.5 you must obtain manual legacy updates at <https://efedmanagementsuite.com/download.php>, following the instructions provided within each update while updating in order. Please note that legacy updates will soon be phased out and users not on 2.5.5 or above will not be able to manually update their existing versions. It is important to get to the latest version as soon as you can.

While we will do everything we can to ensure the process is seamless and no data is lost, we always recommend making a full database update prior to upgrading to a newer version. The Update Center gives you to do this automatically.


Please note that you also cannot upgrade from Backstage 3 or the eFed Management Suite v1 to eMS v2 at this time.

DATABASE BACK UP

1. Log into your hosting control panel or use a tool like phpMyAdmin.
2. Select your eMS database.
3. Click "Export" and choose "Quick" and "SQL" format.
4. Download and save the backup file securely.

You can also automate backups with cron jobs or external tools such as MySQL Workbench or command-line scripts. The Update Center also provides the ability to back up your Database and core files from your admin panel.

DATABASE STRUCTURE (Core Tables Overview)

 These are **representative tables**. Depending on installed modules and add-ons, more tables may exist.

Authentication & Users

- users — Stores login credentials, user group, email

- user_sessions — Tracks login sessions
- user_permissions — (Optional) Individual feature overrides
- user_settings — Stores per-user config like preferred character

Characters & Roster

- characters — Primary character bios
- character_user_map — Links characters to users (multi-handler support)
- character_bio_data — Bio field content
- character_ring_data — In-ring specific data
- character_teams — Stores stables, trios, and tag team compositions

Configuration

- bio_configs — Defines types like Singles, Tag Team, etc.
- bio_config_fields — Links configs to fields
- bio_fields — Available bio fields (label, type, etc.)

News & Content

- news — News posts and promos
- news_categories — Organizes posts, allows chronology flag
- content_pages — Custom content HTML/PHP pages
- templates — Saved layout templates

Titles & Rankings

- titles — Championship titles
- title_history — Historic changes
- power_rankings — Current points and movements

Events & Booking

- events — Master list of events
- event_bookings — Specific booking entries
- event_matches — Matches per card
- reserved_segments — Promos and segments submitted
- event_match_writers — Assigned match writers

Applications

- application_templates — Builder structure
- application_template_fields — Field assignments
- application_submissions — Actual submitted apps
- saved_applications — Admin-saved partials

 **Messaging**

- messages — Private message contents
- message_recipients — Links users to messages

 **Venues**

- countries — List of countries
- venues — Cities, arenas, capacities


 **Misc**

- site_settings — Global options (e.g. API keys, promotion name)
- audit_logs — All tracked changes (who, what, when)
- image_uploads — Gallery file tracking
- theme_songs — Music file info and character IDs

FOLDER STRUCTURE AND CHMOD PERMISSIONS

These assume a standard Apache setup. Adjust if using NGINX, etc.

Path	Purpose	Suggested CHMOD
/config/db.php	Database credentials	640 (owner read/write, group read)
/install/ (after setup)	Installer files	000 or delete
/functions/custom_functions.php	Custom site logic	644
/user_content/	User-created bios, pages	755 or 775
/themesongs/	Uploaded MP3s	755 or 775
/show_logos/	Uploaded event logos	755 or 775
/images/	Global static media (unchanging)	755
/js/, /css/	Scripts and styles	755
/admin/, /public_html/	Accessible web files	755

 **IMPORTANT:** For /themesongs/, /user_content/, and /show_logos/, ensure the **web server user** (e.g. www-data) has write access.

USING EFED MANAGEMENT SUITE FOR THE FIRST TIME

Out of the Box, the eFed Management Suite will be able to begin managing your eFed with just a few configurations and images uploaded, depending on your needs.

At a basic level, the eFed Management Suite can be used just for Roster Management, Roleplaying, Show Posting, or Website Displaying. When used to its full potential, the eFed Management Suite can do all of the above things and more with just a few clicks.

To help, we have included a “QUICK START” guide in the guides area of <https://efedmanagementsuite.com>. This will give you the steps needed to replace sample data with your eFed’s data and begin using the product.

USER GROUPS

There are four different user groups available for the eFed management Suite users.

FAN USER

A user in the FAN user group has no actions currently. This is a good user group to move people to whom are no longer active handlers in your eFed.

HANDLER USER

A user in the HANDLER user group only has actions in relation to characters assigned to their username. Some of these actions are items like Update Bio, Post Roleplay, etc.

If a HANDLER does not have a character assigned to them, they will have no character options.

ADMIN USER

ADMIN users have all of the same permissions as HANDLERS, but also fed related privileges such as booking and editing shows, updating records, creating, accepting characters and more.

The ADMIN user has the ability to do anything a typical fed head would do to book, promote, and post their shows.

Only trusted users should have this user group.

WEBMASTER USER

The WEBMASTER user has all of the same permissions as the accounts above, but also can work with physical website items such as templates, creating new sections and more. This is the ultimate user group.

Only the most trusted users should have this user group.

CHARACTER TYPES

In this section, we will give an overview of the different type of character types.

GENDER TYPES

The primary gender types that can be assigned to a character are:

- Male
- Female
- Non-Binary
- Other

BIOGRAPHY CONFIG STYLES

There are six different types of Biography Types in The eFed Management Suite. While most users will only utilize the basic Singles, Tag Team, and Manager types all seven are available to use.

SINGLES

The base character type for all in-ring characters.

TAG TEAM

The Tag Team character group allows you to add two Singles biography types to a team. You will also be able to add tag team specific biography information.

TRIOS

The Trios character group allows you to add three Singles biography types to a team. You will also be able to add trios team specific biography information.

STABLES

The Stable type will allow you to add up to six Singles, Managers, Staff, or Referee types to a group.

MANAGER

The Manager type allows you to create a biography with manager specific attributes. This type can be assigned to other types.

STAFF

The Staff type allows you to create a biography with staff specific attributes. This is the type you would choose if you have on-air staff.

REFEREE

The Referee type allows you to create a biography with referee specific attributes. This group's biographies can be assigned to matches to track whom was the referee of a certain match.

EVENT TYPES

There are six types of Events you can book in the eFed Management Suite.

Live Events

Live Events events can be used for events that aren't presented as available to audiences not in attendance.

Televised Shows

Televised events are your core re-occurring events. These are the events that happen on a scheduled basis such as weekly, bi-weekly, etc.

Streaming

Same as televised events, just named streaming to be more realistic, and are your core re-occurring events. These are the events that happen on a scheduled basis such as weekly, bi-weekly, etc.

PPV/PLE

PPV/PLE events are events presented as a premier event.

Special Events

Special Events are anything that doesn't fit within the other event types. These would be one off shows.

Other

These are everything else.

CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE TYPES

There are four Championship Title types included in the eFed Management Suite. These types can be held by any gender.

- SINGLES
- TAG TEAM
- TRIOS
- STABLE

MATCH TYPES

The following match types are included as a part of the core eFed Management Suite software. Additional types can be added as needed in the eFed Management Suite administration panel.

- Singles
- Tag Team
- Trios
- Fatal Four Way
- 6 Man Tag
- 8 Man Tag
- Handicap
- No Holds Barred
- Street Fight
- No DQ
- Iron Man
- Gauntlet
- Cluster Match

- Casket Match

CUSTOM FUNCTIONS

Custom functions are used by the eFed Management Suite that can be customized to give your eFed a more personal look and feel. You will use the Custom Functions Editor under Site Admin in your admin dashboard (*as a webmaster user*) to add new functions.

By default, the Efed management Suite does not ship with custom functions in place. You can go to <https://efedmanagementsuite.com/custom-functions.php> to see what functions are available to add.

TEMPLATES

Templates allow for custom control over your website's look and feel. You should have basic HTML knowledge to add or edit a template.

- Templates support PHP logic and custom function calls.
- Editable via the admin dashboard: Website > Templates.
- Include header, footer, and full-page layout files.
- User-created content pages are also assigned a specific template.
- The default template is used when none is specified.
- Custom functions can be used for frontend logic.
- All edits are logged in the Audit Log.

HOW DO I?

Frequently Asked Questions on basic usage of the eFed Management Suite can be found in this section. Each portion will also include what User Groups have access to perform the tasks described within.

LOG IN AND OUT

- TO LOG IN

- Go to <http://your.site.com/admin/dashboard.php>
- Insert your credentials
- Click **Log In**
- TO LOG OUT
 - When logged in, scroll to the bottom of the left navigation menu
 - Select **Log Out**

ADD A USER ACCOUNT

To manually add a new User Account:

1. Log into the dashboard as an **Admin** or above
2. In the left navigation menu, under User Admin, click Create User
3. Observe Create User form

Create User

Handler Name:

Username:

Email:

Password:

Group:

[← Back to User Manager](#)

4. Place the user's real name into Handler Name
 - a. We suggest using real, first and last name in this box for search functionality
5. Give the user a unique Username
 - a. This is what they will use to log in with
6. Add the user's Email
 - a. This should be a real email, used for password reset, contacts, and other functionality

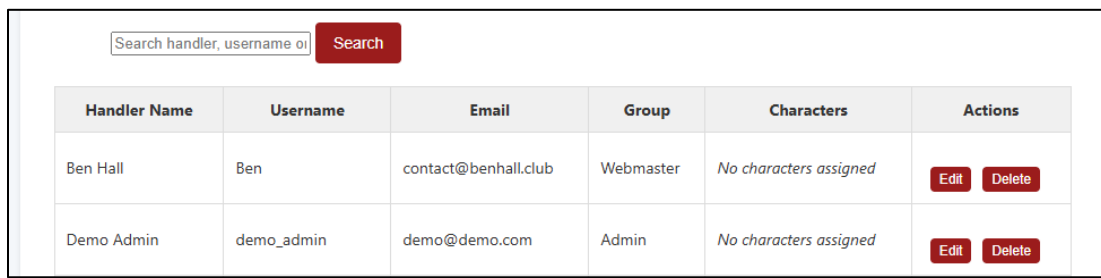
7. Select the User Group the user will be placed in
8. Click Create User

The user has now been added to the database.

EDIT A USER ACCOUNT

To edit a user account, you will use the built in User Management tool.

1. Log into the dashboard as an **Admin** or above
2. In the left navigation menu, under User Admin, click User Manager
3. Observe the User Management tool



The screenshot shows a search bar at the top with the placeholder text "Search handler, username or" and a "Search" button. Below the search bar is a table with the following columns: Handler Name, Username, Email, Group, Characters, and Actions. The table contains two rows of user data.

Handler Name	Username	Email	Group	Characters	Actions
Ben Hall	Ben	contact@benhall.club	Webmaster	No characters assigned	Edit Delete
Demo Admin	demo_admin	demo@demo.com	Admin	No characters assigned	Edit Delete

4. Find the User you wish to edit in the list provided, or by searching for them by name, username, or email in the search bar
5. Click Edit under Actions
6. Update any of the information fields, or the password field
7. Click Update User

The User Account is now updated.

ADD A CHARACTER

To manually add a character:

1. Log into the admin dashboard as Admin or Webmaster.
2. Under Character Admin, click "Character Management"
3. Click "Add New Character"
4. Fill in required details including Name, Gender, and Bio Config
5. Optionally assign this character to a handler at creation
6. Click "Create Character"

EDIT A CHARACTER

To edit a character:

1. Go to Character Admin > Character Management
2. Locate the character using the filters or search bar
3. Click "Edit"
4. Modify name, bio data, config, gender, or other fields
5. Save changes

ASSIGN A CHARACTER TO A USER ACCOUNT

1. Go to Character Admin > Character Manager
2. Beside the character, in the handlers table, find the handler(s) in the drop down menu and click on their name

Name	Handler(s)	Actions
Athena Storm <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Update"/>	demo_fan x <input type="text" value="Ben"/> <input type="button" value="Add"/>	<input type="button" value="Art"/> <input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Set Alumni"/>
B.R Ellis <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Update"/>	<input type="text" value="Ben"/> <input type="button" value="Add"/> demo_admin demo_handler demo_webmaster	<input type="button" value="Art"/> <input type="button" value="Edit"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/> <input type="button" value="Set Alumni"/>

3. Click "Add"

SET UP NEWS CATEGORIES

To add a new News category:

1. Log in as a Webmaster account
2. Go to Site Admin > News Categories
3. Use "Add New" to create a category
4. Toggle whether the category appears in the public Chronology
5. You may edit or delete categories from the list view

SET UP USER PERMISSIONS

To set permissions, go to User Admin > User Permissions.

- Permissions can be tied to user group (default) or per-user (in some modules)
- For per-user permissions (like news categories), use the "Permissions" link under User Admin
- Select the user, choose the resource, and apply permissions accordingly

CONFIGURE BIO CONFIGS

1. Go to Fed Admin > Bio Configs
2. Click "Add New Bio Config"
3. Set Name, Shortname, and select a Bio Config Style (Singles, Tag Team, etc.)
4. Assign template files for bio and list views
5. Default bio fields will auto-populate but can be extended

CREATE APPLICATIONS

1. Go to Fed Admin > Application Manager
2. Click "Add New Template"
3. Set your Template Name, Bio Config Style, and Gender
4. Click Create Template
5. Select which fields to include, grouped by Handler, Character, and Custom
6. Drag and drop to set form order
7. Save your application template

ACCEPT APPLICATIONS

1. Go to Fed Admin > Application Manager
2. Click "View" next to any pending application
3. Review submitted content
4. Click "Approve" to convert to a new character or update an existing one
 - a. The user account will automatically go from Fan access to Handler access
 - b. The character will automatically be created

REJECT APPLICATIONS

1. From the same View Applications screen, click “Reject”
2. Optionally enter a rejection note or reason
3. This logs the action and removes the submission from the queue and places it in the Saved Applications page

ADD A CONTENT PAGE

1. Log in as a Webmaster
2. Go to Site Admin > Content Pages
3. Click “Add New HTML Page” or “Add New WYSIWYG Page”
4. Provide a title and filename slug
5. Use HTML or WYSIWYG editor to add content
6. Assign a template or use the default
7. Click “Create Page”

EDIT A CONTENT PAGE

1. From the Pages list, click “Edit”.
2. Make any changes to content or template assignment.
3. Save the updated page.