

BookStack

Simple for non-technical and technical people documentation portal.

- [BookStack @OL9 \(Oracle Linux 9\)](#)

BookStack @OL9 (Oracle Linux 9)

Let's deploy BookStack web application to the isolated environment, but with repository server available:

- Solution: BookStack ([www](#), [github](#))
- Resources: VM in the laptop lab.
- Stack:
 - It58dox1: OL9 + nginx + MariaDB

Create VM. Install Oracle Linux 9, perform recommended post-install.

Preparations:

We need to enable package module to ensure fresh PHP will be installed

```
dnf module list php
```

Last metadata expiration check: 0:54:24 ago on Fri 18 Jul 2025 02:09:59 PM EEST.

Oracle Linux 9 Application Stream Packages

Name	Stream	Profiles	Summary
php language	8.1	common [d], devel, minimal	PHP scripting
php language	8.2	common [d], devel, minimal	PHP scripting
php language	8.3	common [d], devel, minimal	PHP scripting

Hint: [d]efault, [e]nabled, [x]disabled, [i]nstalled

Configure to use v8.3 by defining the version of the module

```
dnf module enable php:8.3
```

```
sudo su
dnf install \
  tmux \
  git \
  php \
  php-gd \
  php-zip \
  php-mysqlnd \
```

Install MariaDB and perform recommended post-install

```
dnf install mariadb-server
systemctl enable --now mariadb
systemctl status mariadb
```

Secure the fresh setup

```
mariadb-secure-installation
```

Set up root password and write it down to your password manager.

```
Enter current password for root (enter for none):
Switch to unix_socket authentication [Y/n]: Y
Change the root password? [Y/n] Y
  New password:
  Re-enter new password:
Password updated successfully!
```

```
Remove anonymous users? [Y/n] Y
Disallow root login remotely? [Y/n] Y
Remove test database and access to it? [Y/n] Y
Reload privilege tables now? [Y/n] Y
```

Create database and application user

```
export db_pass="Very-Strong-Password123"

mariadb -u root --execute="CREATE DATABASE bookstack;"
mariadb -u root --execute="CREATE USER 'bookstack'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY '${db_pass}';"
mariadb -u root --execute="GRANT ALL ON bookstack.* TO 'bookstack'@'localhost'; FLUSH PRIVILEGES;"
```

Setup nginx, enable SSL (we have isolated environment and will use self-signed certificate)

```
dnf install nginx
systemctl enable --now nginx
systemctl status nginx
ss -ntap | grep nginx
```

```
LISTEN 0      511      0.0.0.0:80      0.0.0.0:*
users:(("nginx",pid=14387,fd=6),("nginx",pid=14386,fd=6))
LISTEN 0      511      [::]:80        [::]:*  users:(("nginx",pid=14387,fd=7),("nginx",pid=14386,fd=7))
```

Create of self-signed certificates and Enable SSL

```
sudo su
mkdir -p /etc/pki/nginx/private/

# default cert
openssl req -x509 -nodes -days 365 -newkey rsa:2048 \
  -subj "/C=FI/ST=State/L=City/O=Home/OU=IT/CN=$(hostname)" \
  -out /etc/pki/nginx/server.crt \
  -keyout /etc/pki/nginx/private/server.key

# application-specific cert
export app="dox.$(hostname)"
openssl req -x509 -nodes -days 365 -newkey rsa:2048 \
  -subj "/C=FI/ST=State/L=City/O=Home/OU=IT/CN=${app}" \
  -out /etc/pki/nginx/${app}.crt \
  -keyout /etc/pki/nginx/private/${app}.key
```

Modify Nginx webserver's config

Open Nginx's default config file

```
vi /etc/nginx/nginx.conf
```

It is highly recommended to stop using and promote usage of unencrypted HTTP. Do not disable it, but use forwarders instead.

Before I used to disable (=comment or remove) "Server { Listen 80; }" definition (upper block) and enable (=uncomment) "Server { Listen 443 ssl http2; }" definition lower block.

```

server {
    listen      80;
    listen     [::]:80;
    server_name _;
    root       /usr/share/nginx/html;

    # Load configuration files for the default server block.
    include /etc/nginx/default.d/*.conf;

    error_page 404 /404.html;
    location = /404.html {
    }

    error_page 500 502 503 504 /50x.html;
    location = /50x.html {
    }
}

```

```

# Settings for a TLS enabled server.
#
# server {
#     listen      443 ssl http2;
#     listen     [::]:443 ssl http2;
#     server_name _;
#     root       /usr/share/nginx/html;
#
#     ssl_certificate "/etc/pki/nginx/server.crt";
#     ssl_certificate_key "/etc/pki/nginx/private/server.key";
#     ssl_session_cache shared:SSL:1m;
#     ssl_session_timeout 10m;
#     ssl_ciphers PROFILE=SYSTEM;
#     ssl_prefer_server_ciphers on;
#
#     # Load configuration files for the default server block.
#     include /etc/nginx/default.d/*.conf;
#
#     error_page 404 /404.html;
#     location = /40x.html {
#     }
#
#     error_page 500 502 503 504 /50x.html;
#     location = /50x.html {
#     }
# }

```

Shortly, config should look like this

```

server {
    listen      443 ssl http2;
    listen     [::]:443 ssl http2;
    server_name _;
    root       /usr/share/nginx/html;
}

```

```

ssl_certificate    "/etc/pki/nginx/server.crt";
ssl_certificate_key "/etc/pki/nginx/private/server.key";

ssl_session_cache shared:SSL:1m;
ssl_session_timeout 10m;
ssl_ciphers PROFILE=SYSTEM;
ssl_prefer_server_ciphers on;

# Load configuration files for the default server block.
include /etc/nginx/default.d/*.conf;
}

```

But later felt in the trap, that some browsers does initiate first connections unencrypted, I have replaced comments with forwarders. Depending on the environment and use-cases.

for BookStack like this (using `$request_uri` variable)

```

server {
    listen 80;
    listen [::]:80;

    server_name dox.installanduse.com;
    access_log /var/log/nginx/dox.installanduse.com.access.log;
    error_log /var/log/nginx/dox.installanduse.com.error.log;

    return 301 https://$host$request_uri;
}

```

and to forward user to another domain:

```

server {
    listen 80;
    listen [::]:80;

    server_name og2k.com;
    access_log /var/log/nginx/og2k.com.access.log;
    error_log /var/log/nginx/og2k.com.error.log;

    return 301 https://dox.2dz.fi/;
}

```

Test config and reload it:

```
nginx -t
nginx -s reload
ss -ntap | grep nginx
```

```
LISTEN 0      511      0.0.0.0:443      0.0.0.0:*
users:(("nginx",pid=14513,fd=11),("nginx",pid=14386,fd=11))
LISTEN 0      511      [::]:443        [::]:*   users:(("nginx",pid=14513,fd=12),("nginx",pid=14386,fd=12))
```

Test it, requesting to show headers only, '-k' - will skip cert checks, as they will fail for not matching the CN (common name). Using local address to avoid DNS lookup.

```
curl -I https://127.0.0.1 -k
```

```
HTTP/2 200
server: nginx/1.20.1
date: Fri, 18 Jul 2025 10:07:36 GMT
content-type: text/html
content-length: 4395
last-modified: Tue, 13 May 2025 20:26:12 GMT
etag: "6823aae4-112b"
accept-ranges: bytes
```

Open firewall (create security policies to pass the traffic in)

```
# It is highly recommended to stop using and promote usage of unencrypted HTTP
```

```
firewall-cmd --remove-service=http --permanent
firewall-cmd --add-service=https --permanent
firewall-cmd --reload
firewall-cmd --list-all
```

Foundation is done. We can proceed with application setup.

Install PHP-FPM

```
dnf install php-fpm
systemctl enable --now php-fpm
systemctl status php-fpm
fgrep -irn sock /etc/php-fpm.d/ | grep run
```

We need to know, where PHP-FPM is listening, to point requests correctly from webserver below:

```
/etc/php-fpm.d/www.conf:38:listen = /run/php-fpm/www.sock
```

Due to historical leftovers, we have to change a configuration to let php-fpm access the files properly. If you investigate which username is used during operation:

```
fgrep -irn user /etc/php-fpm.d/ | grep -v \;
```

```
/etc/php-fpm.d/www.conf:24:user = apache
/etc/php-fpm.d/www.conf:55:listen.acl_users = apache,nginx
```

-"Aha!". Let's change it to `nginx`

```
; Unix user/group of processes
; Note: The user is mandatory. If the group is not set, the default user's group
; will be used.
; RPM: apache user chosen to provide access to the same directories as httpd
user = apache
; RPM: Keep a group allowed to write in log dir.
group = apache
```

```
/etc/php-fpm.d/www.conf
```

Should be like this, using `nginx` user:

```
; RPM: apache user chosen to provide access to the same directories as httpd
user = nginx
; RPM: Keep a group allowed to write in log dir.
group = nginx
```

Remember to restart the service

```
systemctl restart php-fpm
```

Install Composer and make available globally.

```
# as a normal user, not root
mkdir -p ~/utils/composer
cd ~/utils/composer/
php -r "copy('https://getcomposer.org/installer', 'composer-setup.php');"
php -r "if (hash_file('sha384', 'composer-setup.php') ===
'dac665fdc30fdd8ec78b38b9800061b4150413ff2e3b6f88543c636f7cd84f6db9189d43a81e5503cda447da73c7e
5b6') { echo 'Installer verified'; } else { echo 'Installer corrupt'; unlink('composer-setup.php'); } echo PHP_EOL;"
php composer-setup.php
php -r "unlink('composer-setup.php');"
php composer.phar
sudo mv composer.phar /usr/local/bin/composer
```

Prepare home for application

Naming convention: application.host, in my case it is. Always bear in mind, that one host may have more than one application. If there are direct FQDN, then use it to make management easier.

```
whoami
sudo su

# privileged user (you)
export pu="anton"

export host="$(hostname)"
export app="dox.${host}"
export dir="/var/www/${app}"
mkdir -p ${dir}

# permit privileged user to own app directory
```

```
chown -R ${pu}:${pu} ${dir}
exit

# as privileged user, not as root
export host="$(hostname)"
export app="dox.${host}"
export dir="/var/www/${app}"
cd ${dir}
```

Create application-specific configuration file in the webserver

```
cat << _EOF_ > /etc/nginx/conf.d/${app}.conf
server {
    listen 443 ssl;

    server_name ${app};

    access_log /var/log/nginx/${app}_access.log;
    error_log /var/log/nginx/${app}_error.log;

    ssl_certificate "/etc/pki/nginx/${app}.crt";
    ssl_certificate_key "/etc/pki/nginx/private/${app}.key";

    ssl_protocols TLSv1.2;
    ssl_prefer_server_ciphers on;
    ssl_session_cache shared:SSL:1m;
    ssl_session_timeout 10m;
    ssl_ciphers PROFILE=SYSTEM;

    root ${dir}/BookStack/public;
    index index.php;

    client_max_body_size 1G;
    fastcgi_buffers 64 4K;

    location / {
        try_files $uri $uri/ /index.php?$query_string;
    }

    location ~ \.php(?:$|/) {
```

```
fastcgi_split_path_info ^(.+\.(php|/.+)$);
include fastcgi_params;
fastcgi_param SCRIPT_FILENAME $document_root$fastcgi_script_name;
fastcgi_param PATH_INFO $fastcgi_path_info;
fastcgi_pass unix:/run/php-fpm/www.sock;
}

location ~* \.(?:jpg|jpeg|gif|bmp|ico|png|css|js|swf)$ {
    expires 30d;
    access_log off;
}

location ~ ^/(?:\.htaccess|data|config|db_structure\.xml|README) {
    deny all;
}
}
_EOF_
```

Prepare hostnames to match certificates CNs (for local usage)

```
vi /etc/hosts
```

```
127.0.0.1 localhost lt58dox1 dox.lt58dox1
```

Test and reload the webserver:

```
nginx -t
nginx -s reload
curl https://dox.lt58dox1 -k
curl https://lt58dox1 -k
```

Installation of BookStack application

Change directory before cloning the repo

```
# as a normal user, not root
export host="$(hostname)"
export app="dox.${host}"
export dir="/var/www/${app}/"

cd ${dir}
pwd
```

```
/var/www/dox.lt58dox1
```

Clone repo

```
git clone https://github.com/BookStackApp/BookStack.git --branch release --single-branch
ls -la
```

```
total 8
drwxr-xr-x. 3 root root 41 Jul 18 14:02 .
drwxr-xr-x. 5 root root 53 Jul 18 13:32 ..
drwxr-xr-x. 15 root root 4096 Jul 18 14:02 BookStack
-rw-r--r--. 1 root root 14 Jul 18 13:24 index.html
```

Build an application

```
cd Bookstack
which composer
composer install --no-dev
```

Should be built successfully:

```
[...]
> @php artisan cache:clear
INFO Application cache cleared successfully.
> @php artisan view:clear
INFO Compiled views cleared successfully.
```

Creating missing directories

issue

```
#3 /var/www/dox.lt58dox1/BookStack/vendor/la...; PHP message: PHP Fatal error: Uncaught  
UnexpectedValueException: The stream or file "/var/www/dox.lt58dox1/BookStack/storage/logs/laravel.log"  
could not be opened in append mode: Failed to open stream: Permission denied
```

```
sudo su
```

```
export host="$(hostname)"  
export app="dox.${host}"  
export dir="/var/www/${app}/"
```

```
# Create an empty log and directory for views  
touch ${dir}/BookStack/storage/logs/laravel.log
```

Set least necessary permissions for application

```
export host="$(hostname)"  
export app="dox.${host}"  
export dir="/var/www/${app}"
```

```
vi fixperm.sh
```

```
#!/bin/bash
```

```
export host="$(hostname)"  
export app="dox.${host}"  
export dir="/var/www/${app}/BookStack/"
```

```
# privileged user  
export pu="anton"
```

```
# webserver's user  
export wsu="nginx"
```

```
chown -R ${wsu}:${pu} ${dir}
subdirs=((" " /storage/" "/bootstrap/cache/" "/public/uploads/"))
for subdir in "${subdirs[@]}" ; do
    echo "--[ subdir: ${subdir} ]--"
    chown -R ${wsu}:${pu} ${dir}/${subdir}
done
for subdir in "${subdirs[@]}" ; do
    echo "--[ subdir: ${subdir} ]--"
    find ${dir}/${subdir} -type d -exec chmod 0770 {} \+
    find ${dir}/${subdir} -type f -exec chmod 0660 {} \+
done
```

```
chmod +x ./fixperm.sh
./fixperm.sh
```

Configure application

Copy template, generate salt and configure .env

```
sudo su

export host="$(hostname)"
export app="dox.${host}"
export dir="/var/www/${app}"
cd ${dir}/BookStack/
pwd

cp .env.example .env
php artisan key:generate
```

Are you sure you want to run this command? Yes [Enter]

```
vi .env
```

Should be simple as

```
APP_KEY=base64:goKejWQsFFboBGOSF5+eti2Yv1auP4rXvxVbQ4Iupgc=
APP_URL=https://dox.lt58dox1
```

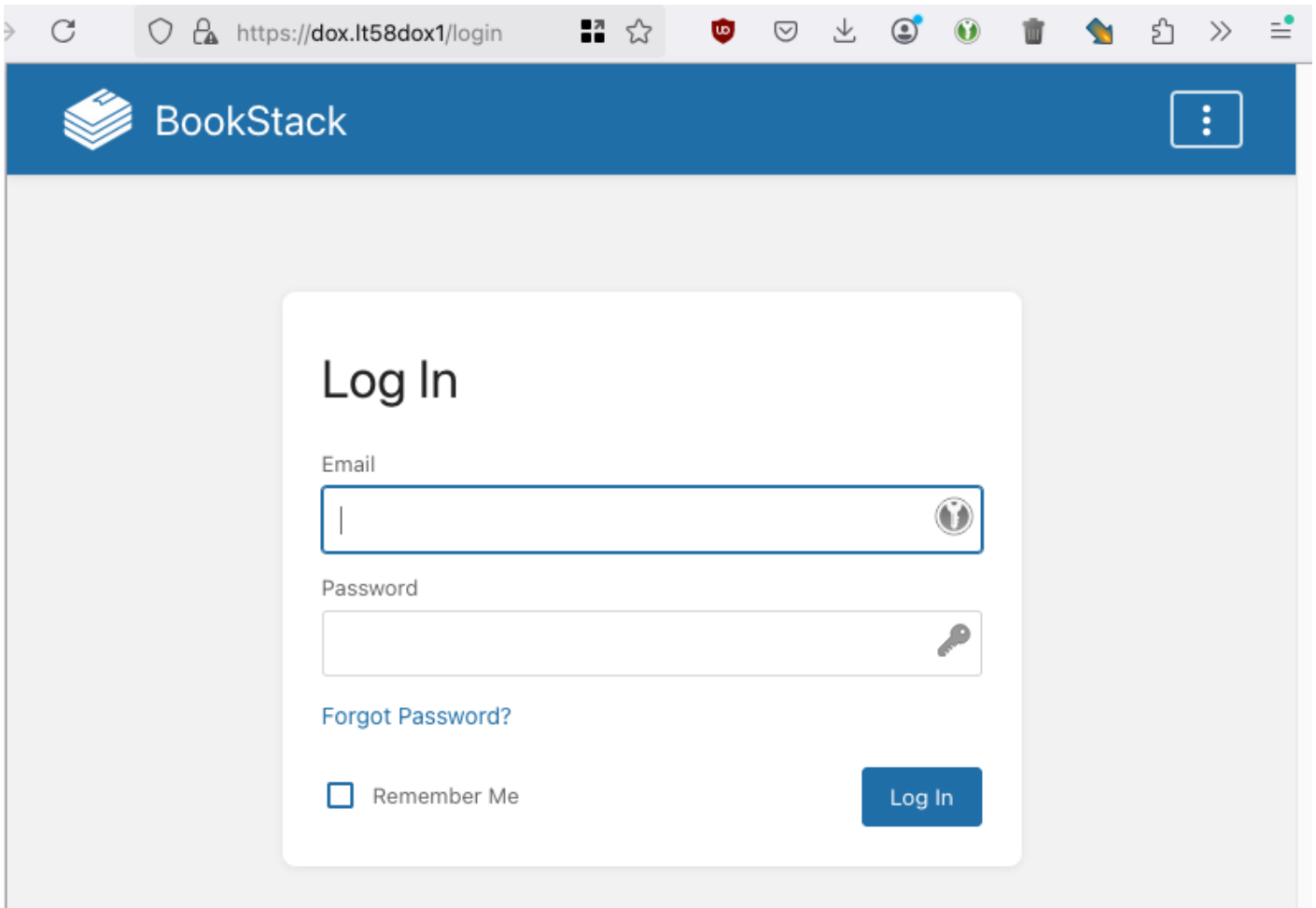
```
DB_HOST=localhost
DB_DATABASE=bookstack
DB_USERNAME=bookstack
DB_PASSWORD=Very-Strong-Password123

# not in use
MAIL_DRIVER=smtp
MAIL_FROM_NAME="BookStack"
MAIL_FROM=bookstack@example.com
MAIL_HOST=localhost
MAIL_PORT=587
MAIL_USERNAME=null
MAIL_PASSWORD=null
MAIL_ENCRYPTION=null
```

Create database schema

```
php artisan migrate
```

Application is ready



Used space:

Minimal OL9 + webserver + PHP-FPM + MariaDB

```
[anton@lt58dox1 BookStack]$ date
Fri Jul 18 06:28:52 PM EEST 2025
[anton@lt58dox1 BookStack]$ df -h
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on
devtmpfs        4.0M   0    4.0M   0% /dev
tmpfs           477M   0    477M   0% /dev/shm
tmpfs           191M  4.5M   187M   3% /run
/dev/mapper/ol_vbox-root 17G   3.9G   14G   23% /
/dev/sda1       960M  572M  389M   60% /boot
tmpfs           96M   0     96M   0% /run/user/1000
```

```
[anton@lt58dox1 BookStack]$ date
Fri Jul 18 06:33:49 PM EEST 2025
[anton@lt58dox1 BookStack]$ export dir="/var/www/${app}"
[anton@lt58dox1 BookStack]$ du -h ${dir} --max-depth=1
0    /var/www/cgi-bin
0    /var/www/html
```

```
176M /var/www/dox.lt58dox1
```

```
176M /var/www/
```

```
[anton@lt58dox1 BookStack]$ df -h ${dir}
```

```
Filesystem      Size  Used Avail Use% Mounted on  
/dev/mapper/ol_vbox-root 17G  3.9G  14G  23% /
```