

Steps to install the online calcs database scripts

Please remember the following before getting started - and I thank you for your efforts in trying to help people:

My basic philosophy is this:

Do not charge people for something they can get for free elsewhere - that would not be fair to them.

Try to use whatever I have so that the most people can benefit from it.

Don't sell any of my free interpretations or reports because people can get them for free at my website.

Make people aware of my website so they may take advantage of all the tools I have there.

Common sense, practicality, and kindness should prevail.

We should never try to take advantage of others, only try to help them.

If people want to make donations to you or anyone else, then they should be free to do so ("Give as the heart dictates and the means permit").

1. Unzip the .zip file you downloaded from my website into a convenient directory on your computer.
2. Open the file named "mysqli_connect_online_calcs_db_MYSQLI.php" in the root folder of the unzipped .zip package you downloaded. This file contains the necessary database connection information. After setting up your database, change the "DB_USER", "DB_PASSWORD", and "DB_NAME" definitions for your particular setup.
3. In association with the above, open the file named "onlinedbcalcsdb_generic.sql" found in the "/sql" folder and change the name "onlinedbcalcsdb_generic", found in three places, to match the name of the database you are going to use. This name would be the same name you assigned to "DB_NAME" above.
4. Open the file named "constants.php" in the "/public_html/online_calcs" folder and change the data for the following definitions: "YOUR_URL" and "EMAIL_ADDRESS". You can also change "BACKGROUND_COLOR" and "COPYRIGHT_DATE", if you are so inclined. The other definitions should remain as they are.
5. (Note: this feature may have been deleted) - If you want to receive e-mail notifications when people use any of the scripts, then open the file named "constants_eng.php" in the "/public_html/online_calcs/scripts" folder and change the settings on lines 21 and 22. Set "EMAIL_enabled" to "True" and change "EMAIL" to the e-mail address where you want to receive the notifications. Be aware that the "reports" table in the database updates the counts whenever a script is run. So you can check how many times scripts are run by checking the data in this table.
6. Open the three "index.html" files found in the "/public_html", "/public_html/online_calcs", and "/public_html/online_calcs/scripts" folders and edit the line that reads "Your name here". You may substitute your own name or the name of your website.
7. Upload the files named "my_functions_MYSQLI.php" and "mysqli_connect_online_calcs_db_MYSQLI.php" to the root folder of your server. This should be the top-level folder above the "/public_html" folder.
8. Upload the "index.html" file in "/public_html" to your "/public_html" folder. You can use your own home page if you like rather than the supplied "index.html" file, but be aware that you should have a link on your home page that directs the user to the "/online_calcs/signup_login.php" page so he can sign up or log in to the database.
9. Upload the "online_calcs" folder and all its sub-folders to "/public_html" so that this folder is a child folder of "/public_html". It would be best to upload this in BINARY mode as that way you do not have to do anything further in the uploading process.

10. Once uploading is completed, navigate to the "\public_html\online_calcs\scripts\sweph" folder and CHMOD the file named "swetest" to 755. If you see planet positions calculated as all zeroes, then you know that "swetest" was not CHMOD'ed properly.

Note: I don't have any explanation as to why this happened for me, but when I got everything set up and was testing the database to see if the reports were being incremented in the "reports" table, I first had to make all the fields 1, then save the record, then go back and make them 0 again, then save the record. I must admit that this made no sense to me, but after doing this, the reports started updating properly. One of life's mysteries, I guess. Perhaps the pump needed to be primed. You can check this out yourself and see what happens for you. It's an easy fix, if it needs to be applied in your situation.

If you uncover any incorrect instructions above or you believe that something has been left out, please contact me at arf33@astrowin.org and I will be sure to correct any oversight. Thank you.

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Addendum:

1) In order to properly calculate a natal chart an astrologer needs to accurately know the time zone in effect at the moment of birth. This information is provided by an astrological atlas. My PHP scripts use a free astrological widget produced by www.astrotheme.com (http://www.astrotheme.com/astrological_services_for_webmasters.php?i=7). Data entry using this widget is not as easy or elegant as using the ACS Atlas, a licensed product which is the standard today, produced by Astrolabe (www.astrolabe.com). But the license for the ACS Atlas is around \$495 a year. Obviously I cannot include the ACS Atlas in my free scripts. If you need more than the Astrotheme atlas widget can deliver, then please contact Astrolabe at www.alabe.com to get all the details on their ACS Atlas.

2) Be aware that if you install the scripts to a Wordpress site, you may experience "Page Not Found" errors when you try to call any script in the "/online_calcs/scripts" folder. If this is the case, look for the "php.ini" file in that folder and rename it, and see if that solves any problems.

3) I installed this set of scripts on a server hosted by namecheap.com. Even though all these scripts work fine on my Bluehost server, which web host I recommend (<http://www.bluehost.com/track/astrowin/CODE36>), various scripts had problems on this namecheap.com server. Many wheels, some aspect grids, and the various "degree lines" either showed all planets at 0 degrees, or the graphics were unintelligible in other ways. The reason for this, apparently, is that some servers can't handle "long" strings of data passed in GET statements. The solution is to convert the problem scripts so that they use session variables to store and pass data rather than using GET commands. It seems a bit odd to me that more people haven't written me about this problem.

Good luck in your efforts.

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