# OpenCart

WebExpresions Web Design

OpenCart 2 Mail and SMTP settings

How to configure the OpenCart 2 Mail and SMTP settings

By default OpenCart 2 uses the standard mail PHP function to send emails. To improve your emails delivery you might consider setting up your store to use SMTP for all outgoing mail settings. This can greatly improve the mail delivery and reduce the bounce rate of your transactional emails.

Additionally, the SMTP option allows you to use not only your own mail SMTP server but an external mail service such as Mandrill. For large stores which generate a large volume of emails we highly recommend to setup your store with SMTP to improve the delivery rate and avoid having your emails filtered as spam.

To configure OpenCart 2 SMTP settings, please login your admin Dashboard and refer to the settings section from the main navigation menu.
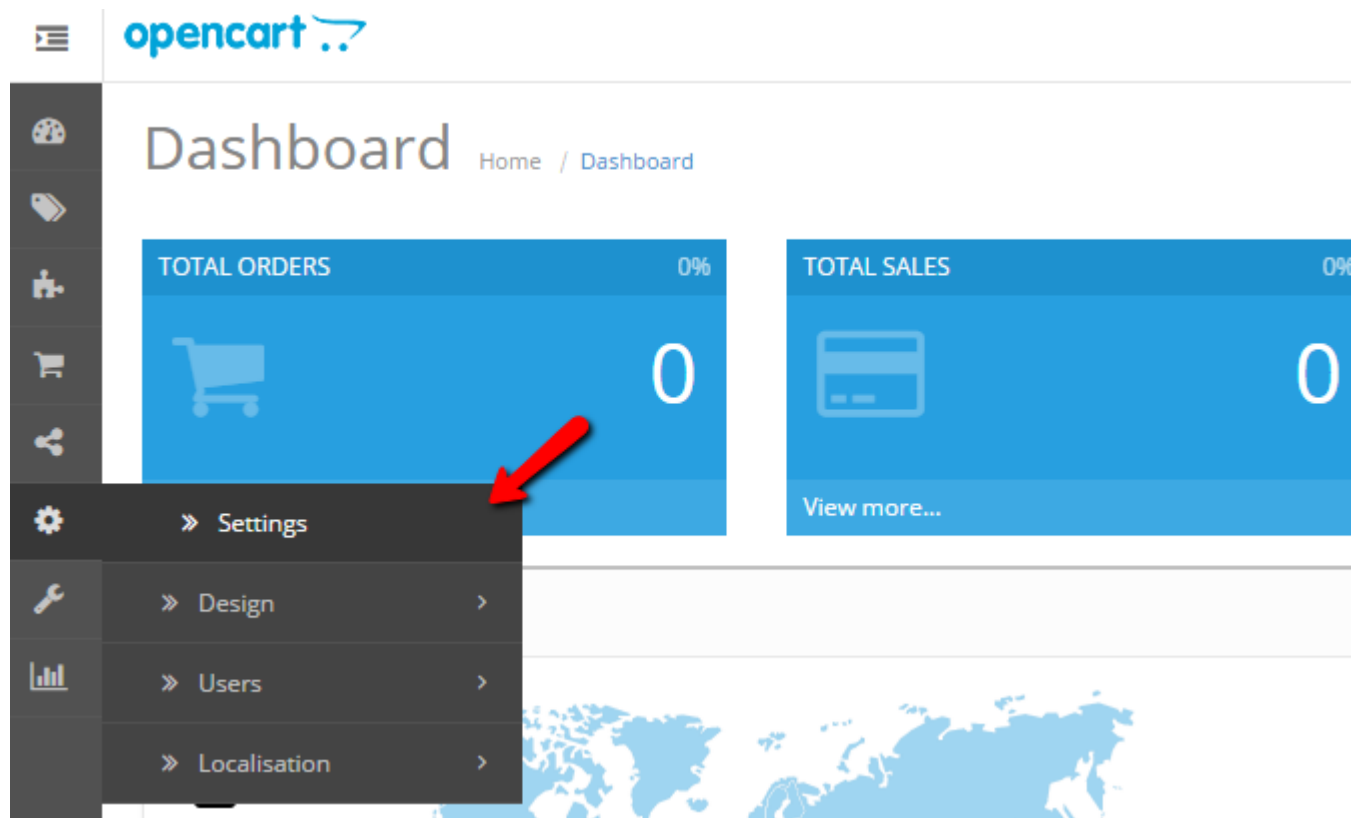
From the Stores List click the **edit** button and refer to the Mail tab.

In case you would like to use the standard PHP mail function you do not need to configure the SMTP settings on this page. In case you would like to set an additional email that will receive all notifications from your store you can set it in the **Additional Alert E-Mail** field. If you need to have several emails configured, please separate the email addresses with commas.
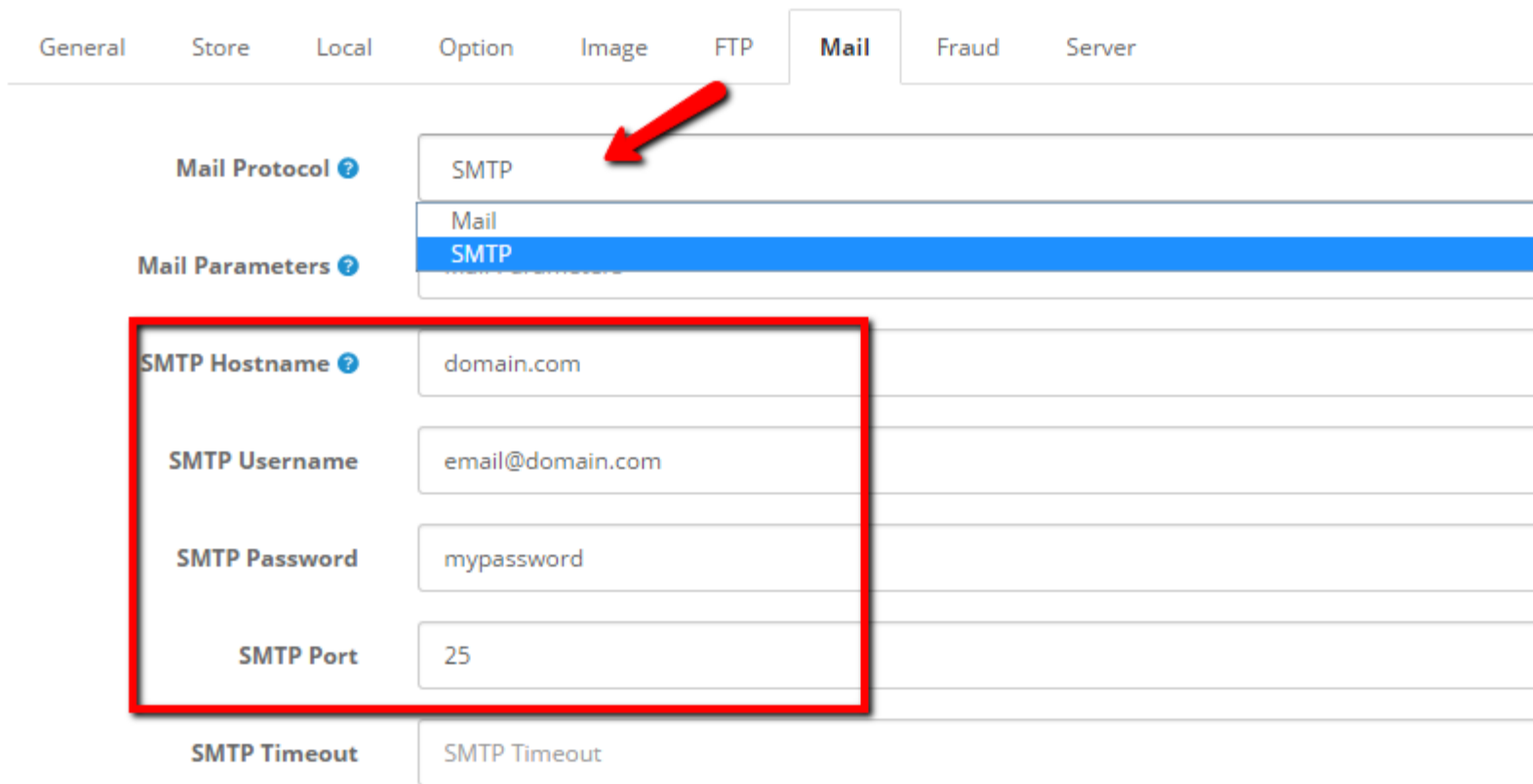
In order to configure your OpenCart 2 to send all emails via SMTP please select the SMTP option via the drop down menu and set your SMTP settings below.

SMTP Hostname - This is the domain name or the IP address of your SMTP server. If you use the local SMTP server of your hosting account you can input **localhost**.

SMTP Username - In most cases this should be your email address name. In case your SMTP server uses a different SMTP username than your email address, please contact your system administrator for the correct credentials.

SMTP Password - In most cases this should be your email account password. In case your SMTP server requires separate login credentials, please contact your system administrator for the correct credentials.

SMTP Port - The default SMTP port is **25**, please consult with your SMTP server system administrator or documentation in case your SMTP server uses a different port.

If you do not have an existing email account yet you can always create your first email account via your cPanel following our tutorial on How to Create and Manage emails in cPanel.

How to Manage Product Attributes

How to add and manage product attributes and attributes groups in OpenCart 2

Product attributes allows you to add specifications to your products that are common among product groups or represent different variations of your product . For example, if you have your product available in different size and colors you might consider adding Attribute group for these specifications and setup the available options as attributes.

For the purpose of this tutorial we will create an attribute group called '**Color**' and add an attribute '**Red**'. This attribute can be added to your OpenCart 2 products later to inform your customers about the available variations of your product.

To create an attribute category, please login in your OpenCart 2 admin dashboard and navigate to the Attributes Group section via the main navigation menu on the left.
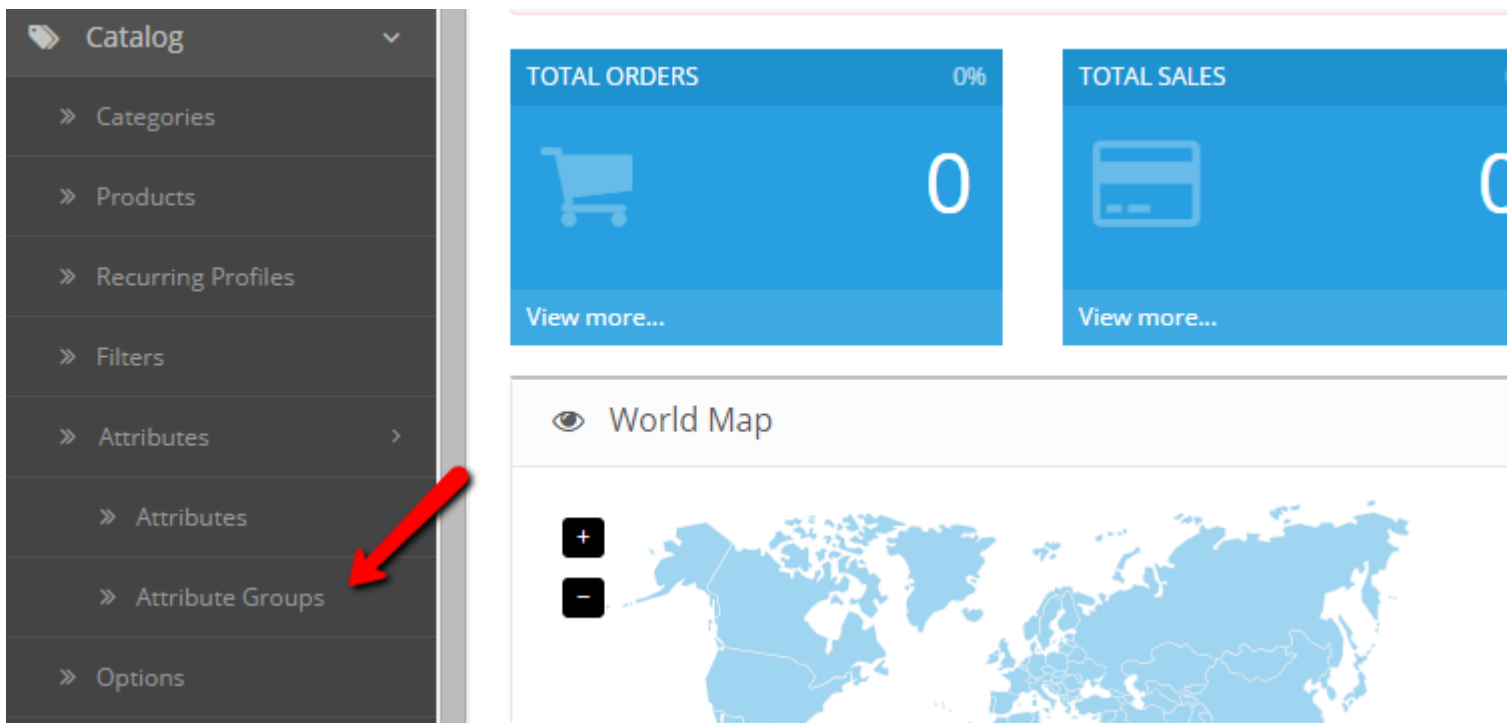
From the **Attribute Group List** page click on the **add** button to add a new attribute group. Input the Attribute Group Name and sort order. The sort order is used to set the position of your attributes on the product page. In case you have several attributes applied on a single product, the one with the lowest number will be displayed first.

When you are ready with your settings click on the **save** icon.

Now lets add an attribute to the attribute category. Click on the **Attributes** link from the menu to proceed to the Attributes List page.

To add a new attribute click on the **add** icon from the top. On the new page input your attribute name and select the category under which the new attribute will be added. Additionally, you will need to set the attribute number. The attribute sort order number will represent the position of the attribute in compare to other attributes under the same category.

Attributes Home / Attributes

✎ Add Attribute

* **Attribute Name**	⊞ Red
Attribute Group	Color
Sort Order	1

When you are ready with your setup click on the **Save** icon to add the attribute.
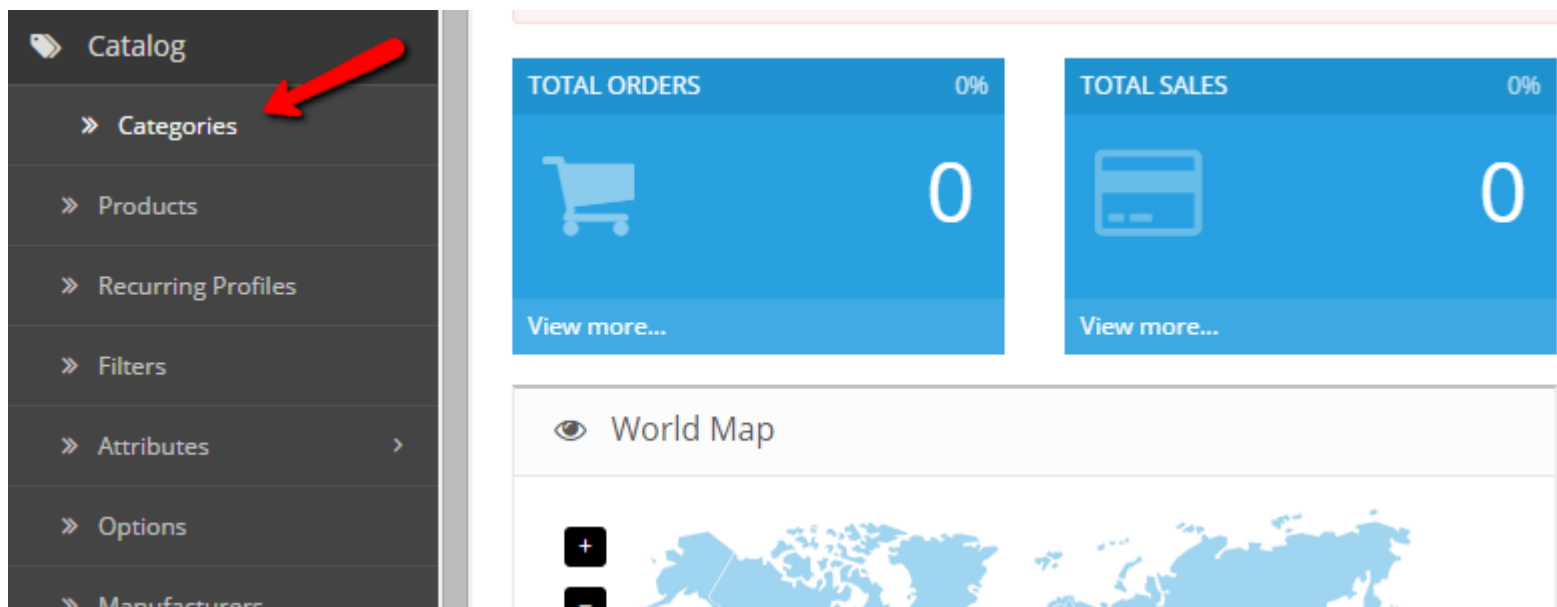
How to Add Product Categories

How to manage and add new product categories to your OpenCart 2 store

Product categories group products with similar characteristics to help your customers browse and find the product they need more easily.

To add a new product category in your OpenCart 2 store, please login your admin dashboard and refer to the **Catalog>Categories** section from the main navigation menu.

From the category list page you can edit or remove your existing categories. To add a new one click on the **add** button from the top. There are several settings that you should configure for your product category.

First, you should set your Category name and Category Description. For SEO purposes, you may also add custom Meta information which will help search engines such as Google and Yahoo to index your product category better and associate it with your products.

Next, click on the **Data** tab to proceed with the additional Category Settings. Here you can setup the following options:

- **Parent -** If you are creating a subcategory of an existing category, please select the parent category name.

- **Filters -** If you have any filters created you may set them via this field.

- **Stores -** If you have multiply stores configured on your OpenCart 2, please select the exact stores for which this category will be visible.

Additionally, you may add keywords to your category for better SEO and set a category image. Last, choose if the category should be displayed in your top navigation menu and the sort order of the category. The sort order will be used to position the category in compare to other categories displayed in the main menu. Make sure that your Category Status is **Enabled** before you proceed to the third tab to complete the setup.

Under the design tab for your Category you may select the desired Layout. If you have custom theme which requires a specific layout to be select, please choose it from the drop down menu. Otherwise you may leave the default layout. To apply your configuration changes, please click on the **save** icon from the top.

Now your category has been created and you may add products under it.
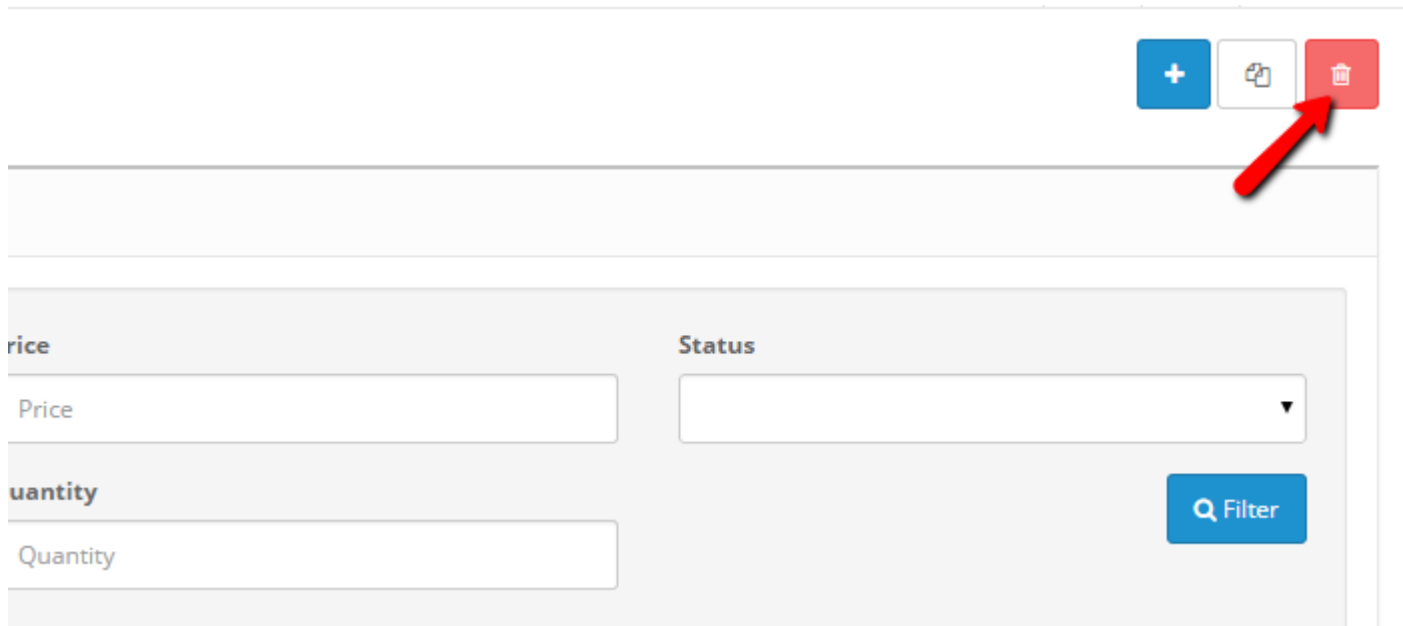
How to manage Product Catalog

How to manage your OpenCart 2 product catalog to add and edit products.

To manage your OpenCart 2 product catalog you will need to login into your store admin dashboard and refer to the Catalog section from the main navigation menu. From the Catalog menu you should refer to the Products page.

From the Product List page you can add new products and edit or remove existing products. To edit an existing product, click on the **edit** icon next to your product name.

Model	Price	Quantity	Status	Action
Product 15	~~100.0000~~ 90.0000	990	Enabled	✏️
Product 3	~~100.0000~~ 80.0000	7	Enabled	✏️
Product 21	100.0000	1000	Enabled	✏️
Product 1	100.0000	939	Enabled	✏️

Via the Edit Product page you can edit all aspects of your product. When you are ready with your changes you can save the new product details via the **Save** icon at the top right corner of your screen.

✏️ Edit Product

General	Data	Links	Attribute	Option	Recurring	Discount	Special	Image	R

🏴 English

* Product Name   Apple Cinema 30"

Description   ✏️▾ **B** *I* U̲ x² x₂ S̶ 🧽 Helvetica Neue ▾ **A** ▾ ☰ ☰ ☰▾

The 30-inch Apple Cinema HD Display delivers an amazing 2560 x 1600 pixel resolution
this display provides more space for easier access to all the tools and palettes needed t
display with a Mac Pro, MacBook Pro, or PowerMac G5 and there's no limit to what you

The Cinema HD features an active-matrix liquid crystal display that produces flicker-free
sharpness and twice the contrast ratio of a typical CRT display. Unlike other flat panels,
distortion-free images that never need adjusting. With over 4 million digital pixels, the dis

To completely remove a product from your product catalog, select the product by clicking on the tick box and use the **Delete** icon.

To add a new product to your catalog, click on the **Add** icon from the Product List page. This will direct you to the Add Product page. Via this page there are several tabs with different configuration settings for your new product. You should start with the **General information** tab.

Make sure that you have set your product name and product description for your new product. This information will be visible to your visitors and it is important to present your product in the best possible way. Additionally, you should consider the Meta information and tags. This information is for the Search Engines that will associate your product with the filled information. Make sure you have a short and relevant meta description of your product so people can find your products in Google and other search engines.

When you are ready with your product basic settings, please proceed with the **Data** tab. Here you can configure your product catalog and physical settings. This tab provides a large number of configuration options depending on the type of product you are about to add. For example, if you are adding books to your store, you can input the book ISBN. On the other hand, if you sell furniture or other type of product that comes in different dimensions, you can input the product dimensions and weight. Configure your settings depending of your product type and change your product image.

To configure your product Manufacturer and product category, please refer to the **Links** tab. Additionally, you can configure related products and your product store in case you have multiply stores on your OpenCart 2 installation.

If you have custom attributes for your product, you may apply them via the **attribute** tab. To learn more on how to add attributes in OpenCart 2, please read our tutorial on the subject.

When all other settings for your product are set, you should upload your product images. This can be done via the **Image** tab.

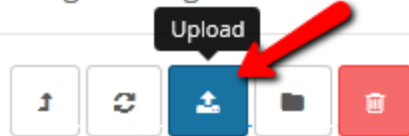| General	Data	Links	Attribute	Option	Recurring	Discount	Special	**Image**	Reward Points
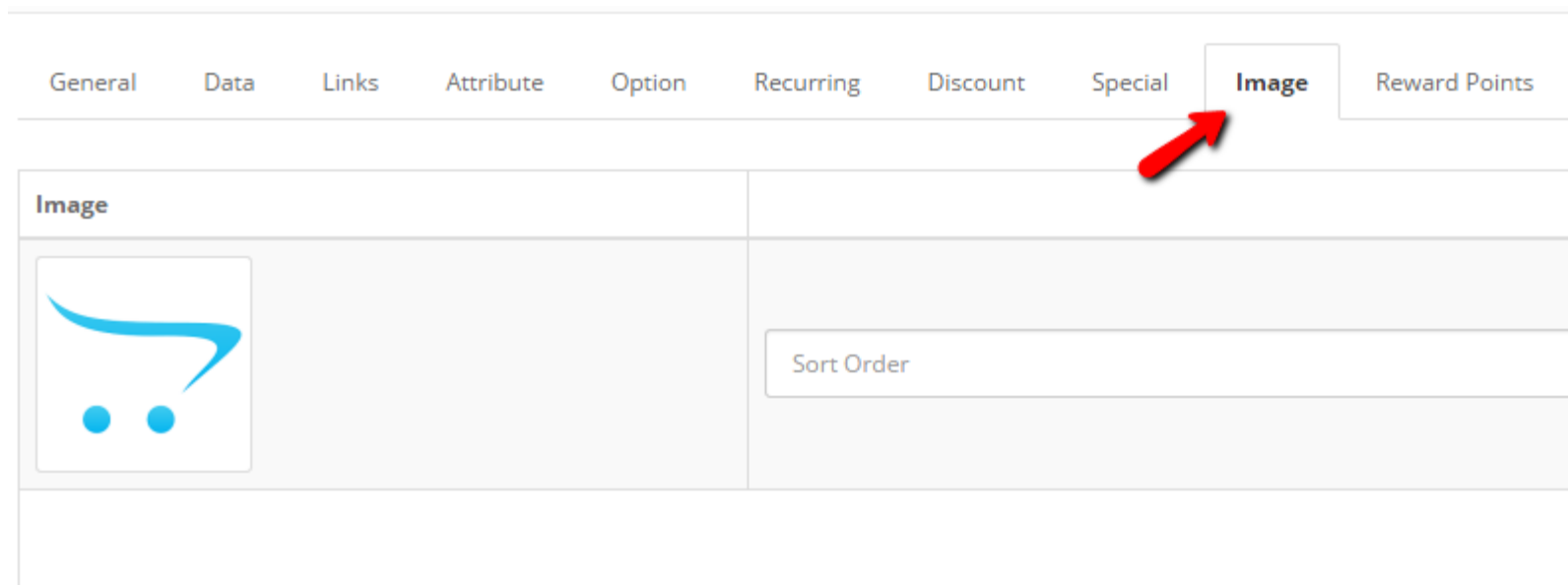
Image	
	Sort Order

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Version 2.0.1.1

To add a new image, click on the **Add** icon and click on the thumbnail to change the image.

Image	
	Sort Order
	Sort Order
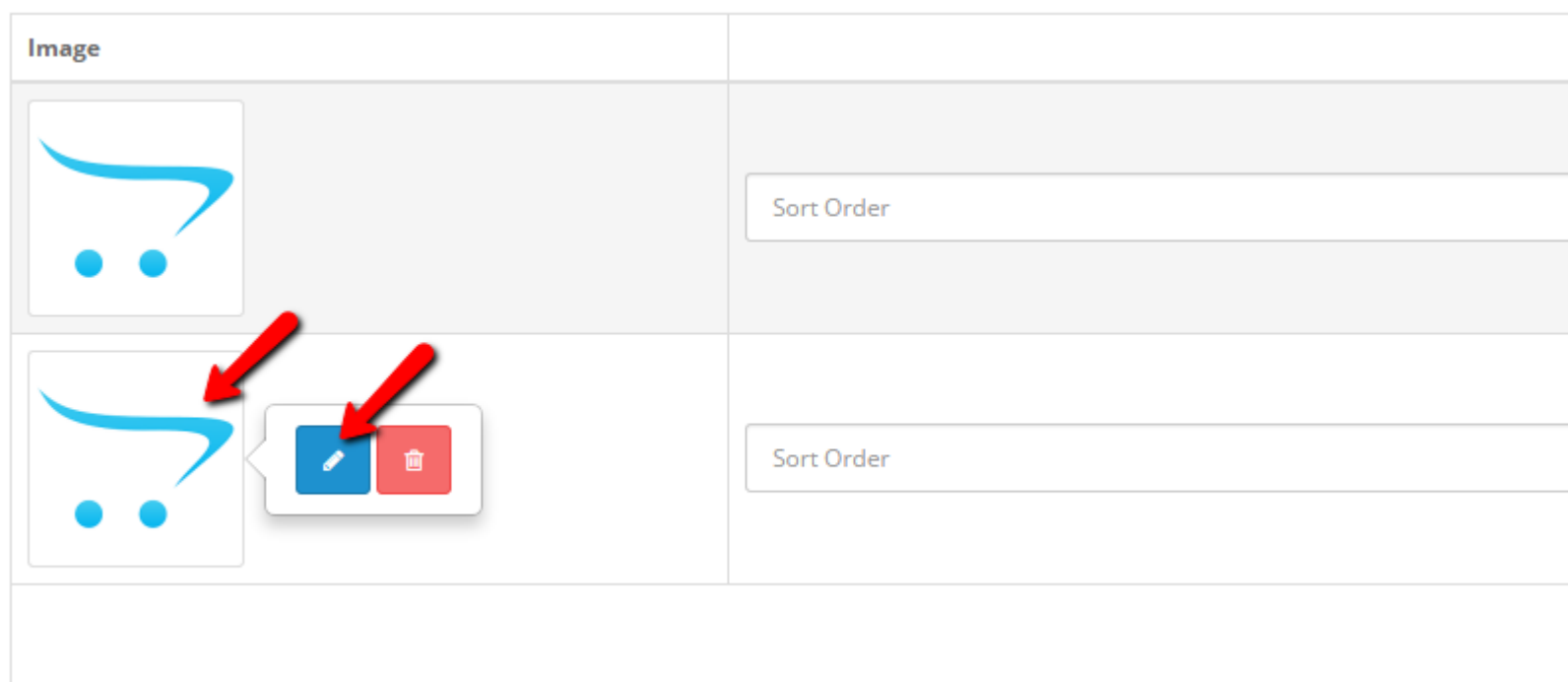
From the pop up click on the **upload** button to add new images from your local computer.

Repeat the steps to add all of your product images and use the **Sort Order** field to set the desired order of your images. Be advised that the image with the lowest number will be displayed first on your store product catalog frontend.

When you are ready with your settings, click on the **Save** button to add the product to your OpenCart 2 product catalog.

OpenCart 2 Error Reporting

How to enable the OpenCart 2 Error Reporting to debug common problems and code issues

If you experience any technical difficulties with your OpenCart 2 store it might be a good idea to enable the OpenCart 2 error reporting. These options will help you debug the issue by providing you with additional information on what exactly went wrong with your script.

OpenCart 2 supports two different options for error reporting. On the one hand, you may enable the general error reporting which will display the errors directly into your browser or you can activate the error logging which will write all errors into a file located in your OpenCart installation directory.

The inconvenience of the first method is that all of your visitors will be able to see the errors displayed on your website but see the errors directly via your browser may help you narrow down the problem.

To activate the error reporting, please login your OpenCart 2 Admin dashboard and navigate to the **Settings** menu.
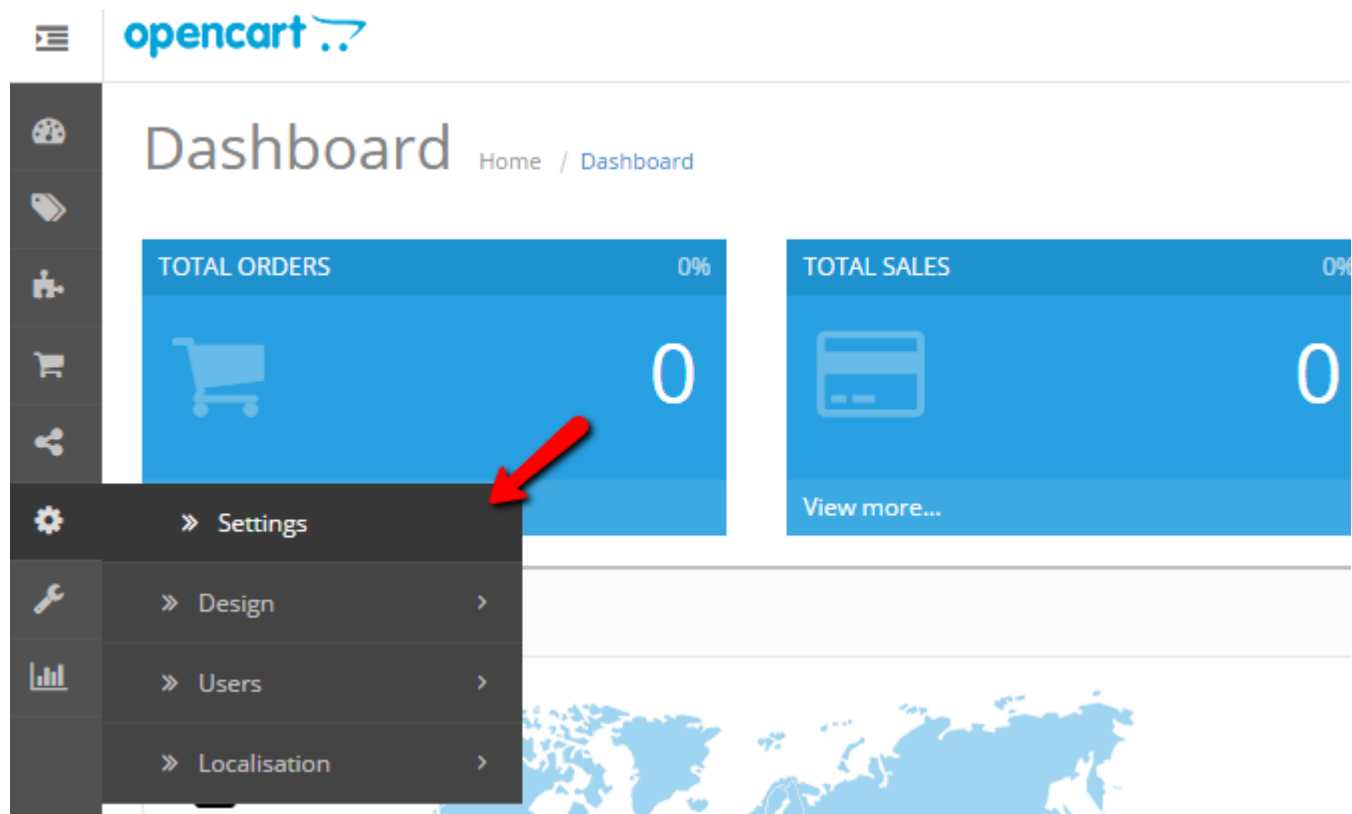
From the Store list click on the **edit** icon next to your store name and proceed to the **Server** settings tab.

Scroll to the bottom of the page and locate the **Error reporting** options.


If you enable the **Display Error** option, your site errors will be directly visible on your website. In case you would like to have all errors logged, enable the **Log Errors** option and make sure you have a valid error log name.

If you enable the **Log Errors** option you will be able to read your error log either by directly downloading it from your OpenCart 2 root directory or via the Admin Dashboard. To access the Error log via the admin area of your OpenCart, please refer to the **Error Logs** section via the main navigation menu.
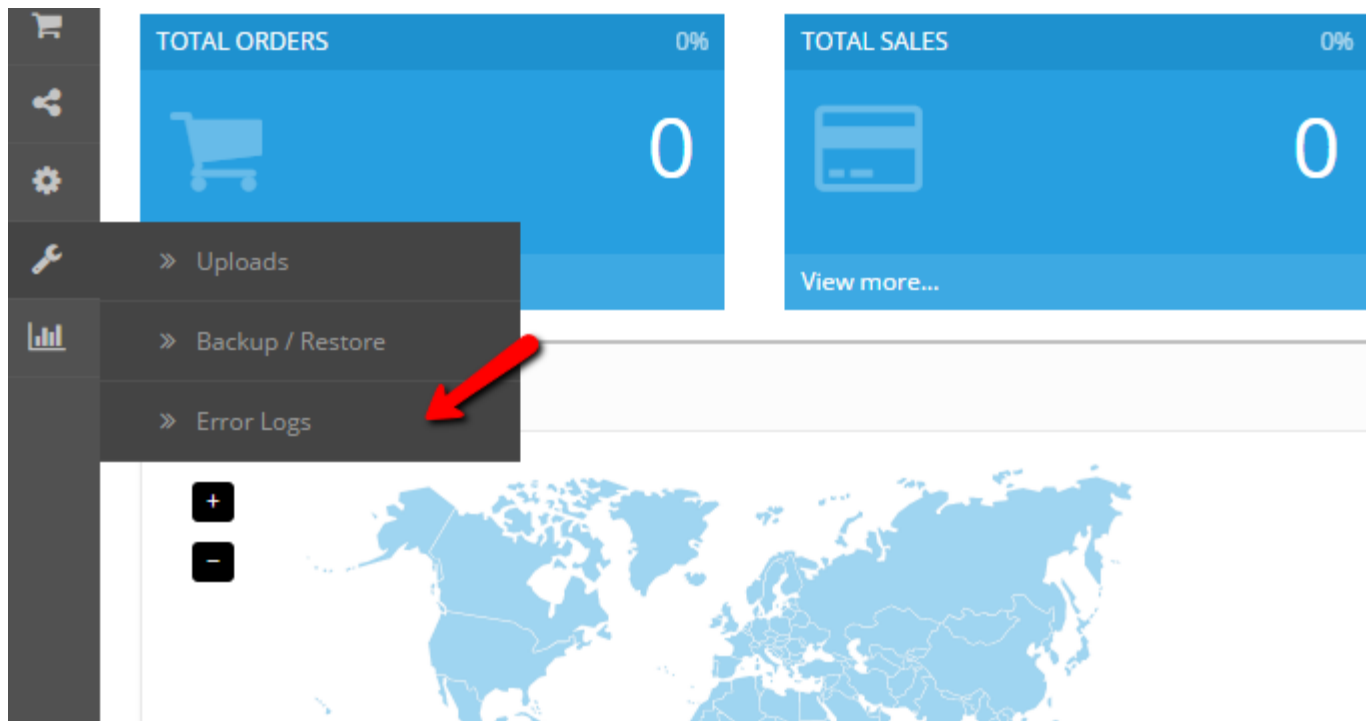
Be advised that your OpenCart error log might get quite large in case your OpenCart 2 generates a lot of warnings or errors. In case you have the Log Errors option enable you should regularly check the error log and clear it via the **Clear Log** option.
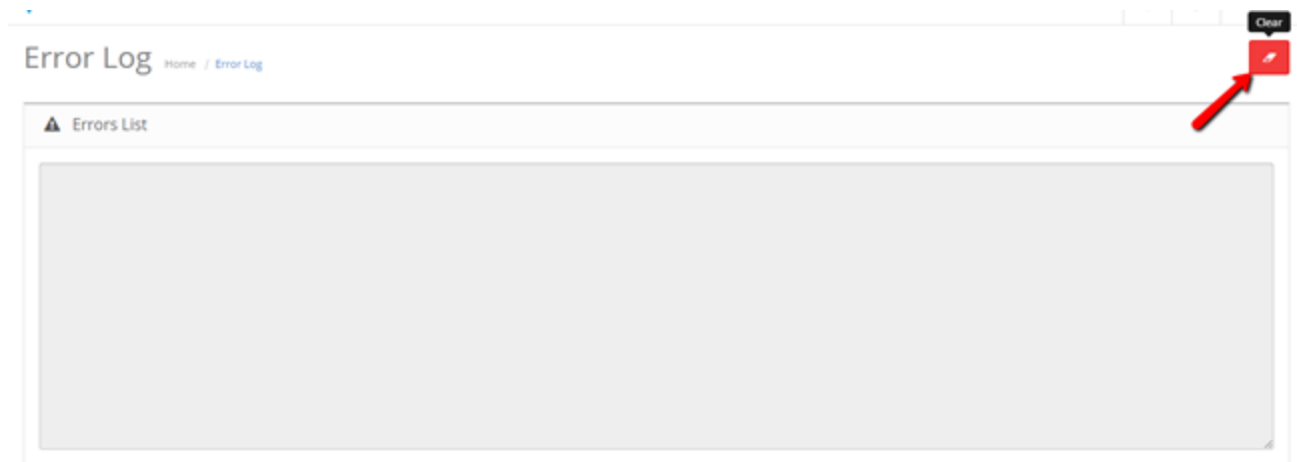
Backup OpenCart 2 Database

How to export your OpenCart 2 store database via the Admin Dashboard

OpenCart 2 provides an easy to use interface to backup and export tables or your entire OpenCart 2 database. If you would like to create a backup of your OpenCart 2 database, please login your OpenCart 2 admin dashboard and navigate to the **Backup/Restore** section via the main navigation menu.
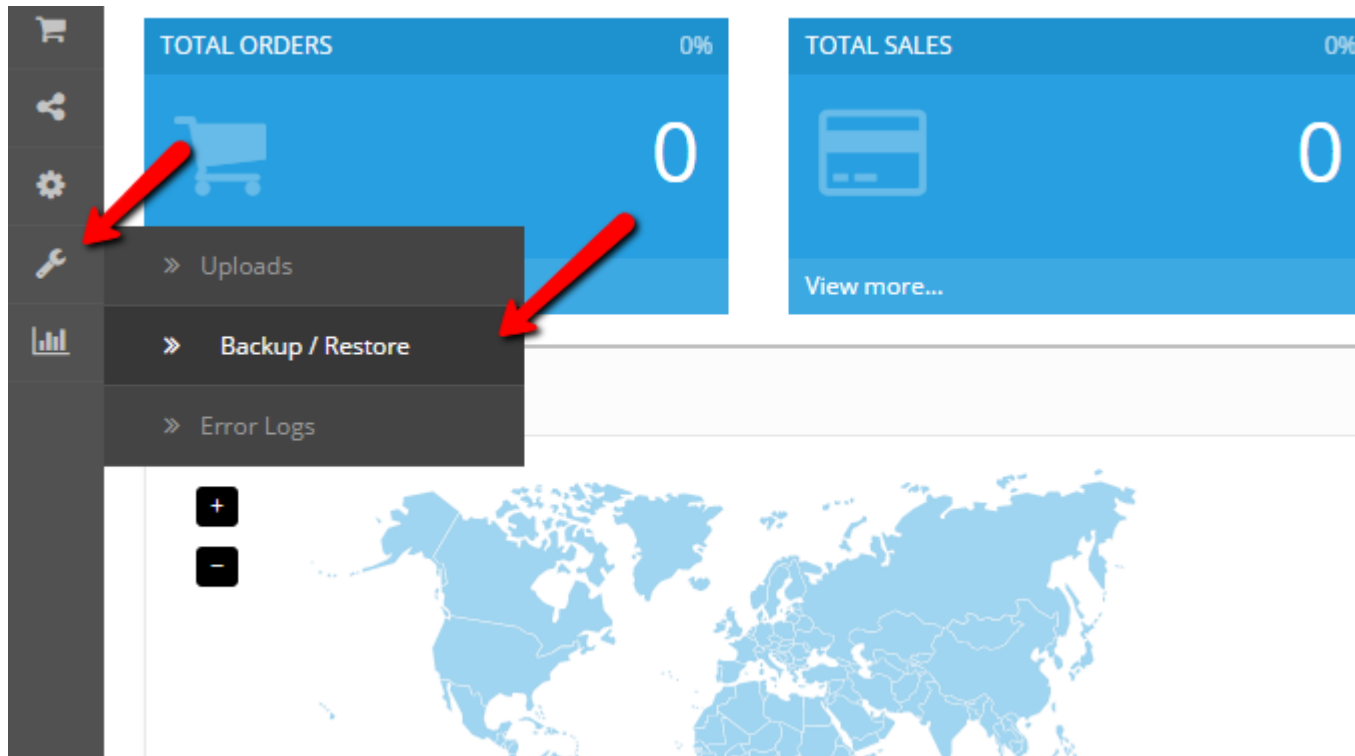
From the 'Backup & Restore' click on the **Select All** option to mark all of your OpenCart 2 tables and use the export button at the top right corner of your screen.

Be advised that exporting your OpenCart 2 database might take some time depending on the size of your database. In case you need to have only a specific table exported, click on the **Unselect All** option and mark only the desired table(s) you would like to download.

As soon as your database is exported your browser will automatically begin the download process. You can store the database backup on your computer and use it to restore your database or tables any time via the import feature.

Restore OpenCart 2 Database

How to restore your OpenCart 2 store database via the Admin Dashboard

OpenCart 2 provides a user-friendly interface to restore your store database backup by uploading it via the Admin Dashboard. Depending on your backup, you can restore a single table or the entire OpenCart database via the '**Backup/Restore** section.

To access the'**Backup/Restore** section, please login your OpenCart 2 Admin Dashboard and click on the link via the main navigation menu.
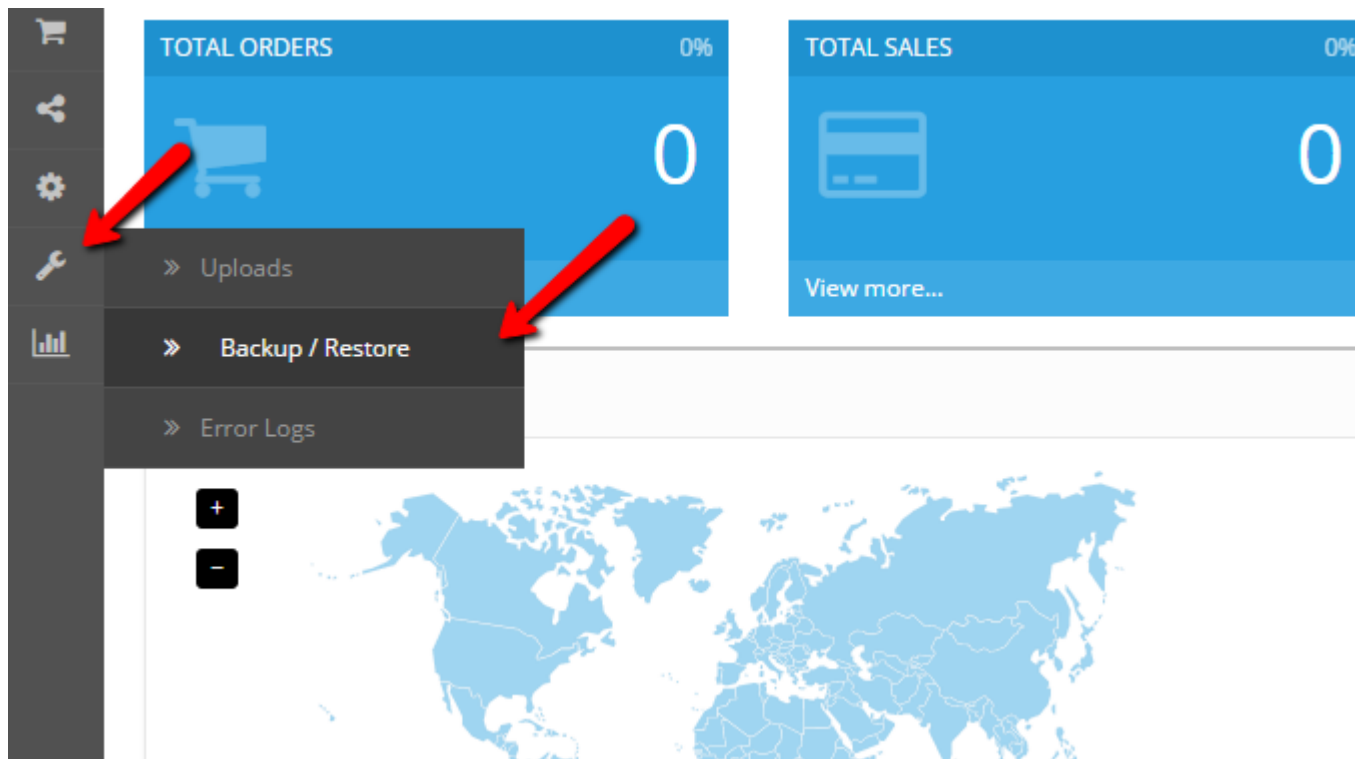
To import your database backup, click on the **Browse** button and select the database dump from your local computer. When you are sure that the correct SQL file is selected, click on the **Import** button at the top right corner of your screen.

Be advised that importing and restoring your OpenCart 2 database might take some time depending on the size of your database. When the process is complete you will see the Success notice

OpenCart 2 Maintenance
How to enable OpenCart 2 Maintenance Mode

OpenCart provides you with the ability to set your store under maintenance. While having this mode activated, visitors will not be able to browser your product catalog or submit new orders. Only you as logged administrator will be able to access the full version of your website. This is a perfect solution if you plan to perform updates, perform changes on your website or update your catalog.

To activate the OpenCart 2 Maintenance mode, please login your OpenCat admin panel and refer to the **System>Settings** section via the menu on the left.
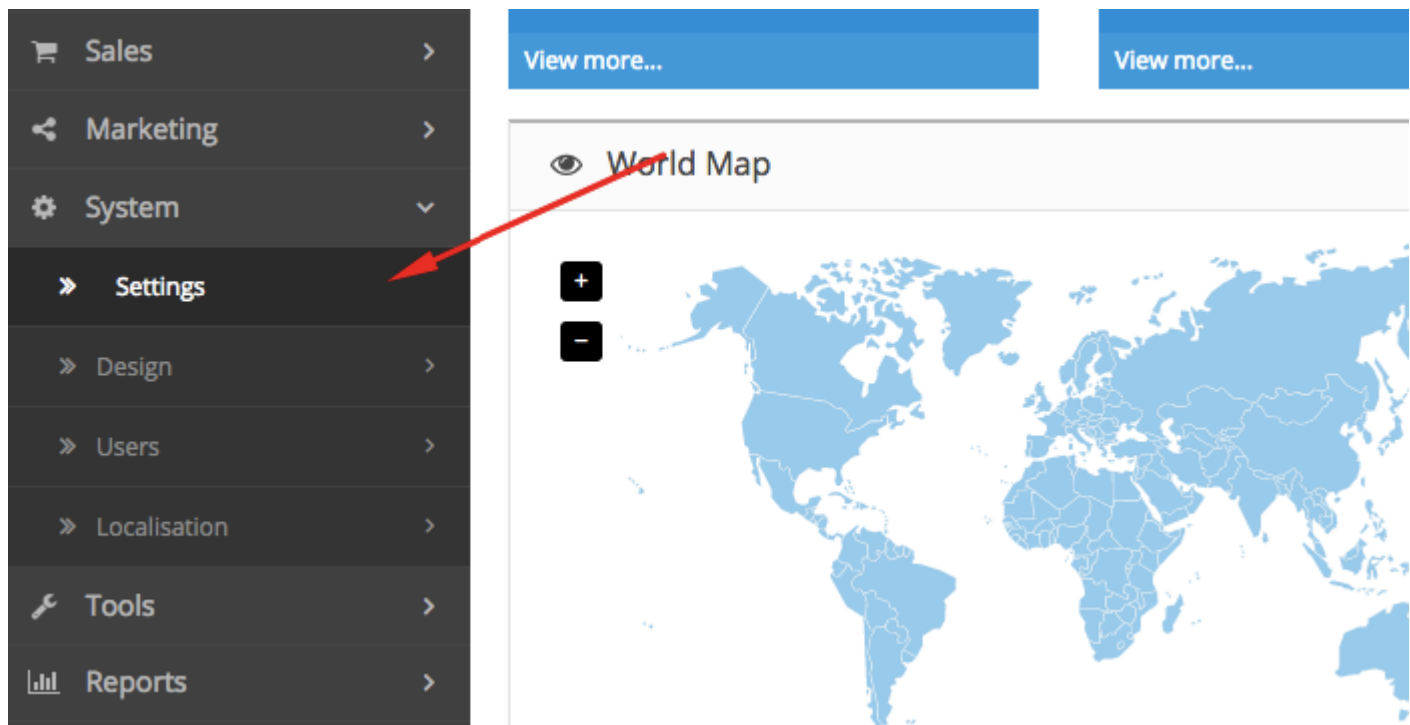
From the store list page click on the **edit** icon for your store and proceed to the **Server** tab from the tab navigation.

Settings

✏️ **Edit Setting**

| General | Store | Local | Option | Image | FTP | Mail | Fraud | Server |

* Store Name

Your Store

* Store Owner

Your Name

* Address

Address 1

On the server tab page scroll down and locate the **Maintenance Mode** radio button.

image/jpeg
image/gif
image/bmp

Maintenance Mode ❓ ⦿ Yes ⚪ No

Allow Forgotten Password ❓ ⦿ Yes ⚪ No

Encryption Key ❓ bd98dd9e1358a5b186cc862dde74b960

Output Compression Level ❓ 0

Display Errors ⦿ Yes ⚪ No

Set the **Maintenance Mode** to **On** and save your settings to enable it. Your store should be under maintenance now.

Please note that if you are logged as admin in your OpenCart 2 store you will be able to access the store frontend. To see the maintenance message, please logout and refresh your store home page

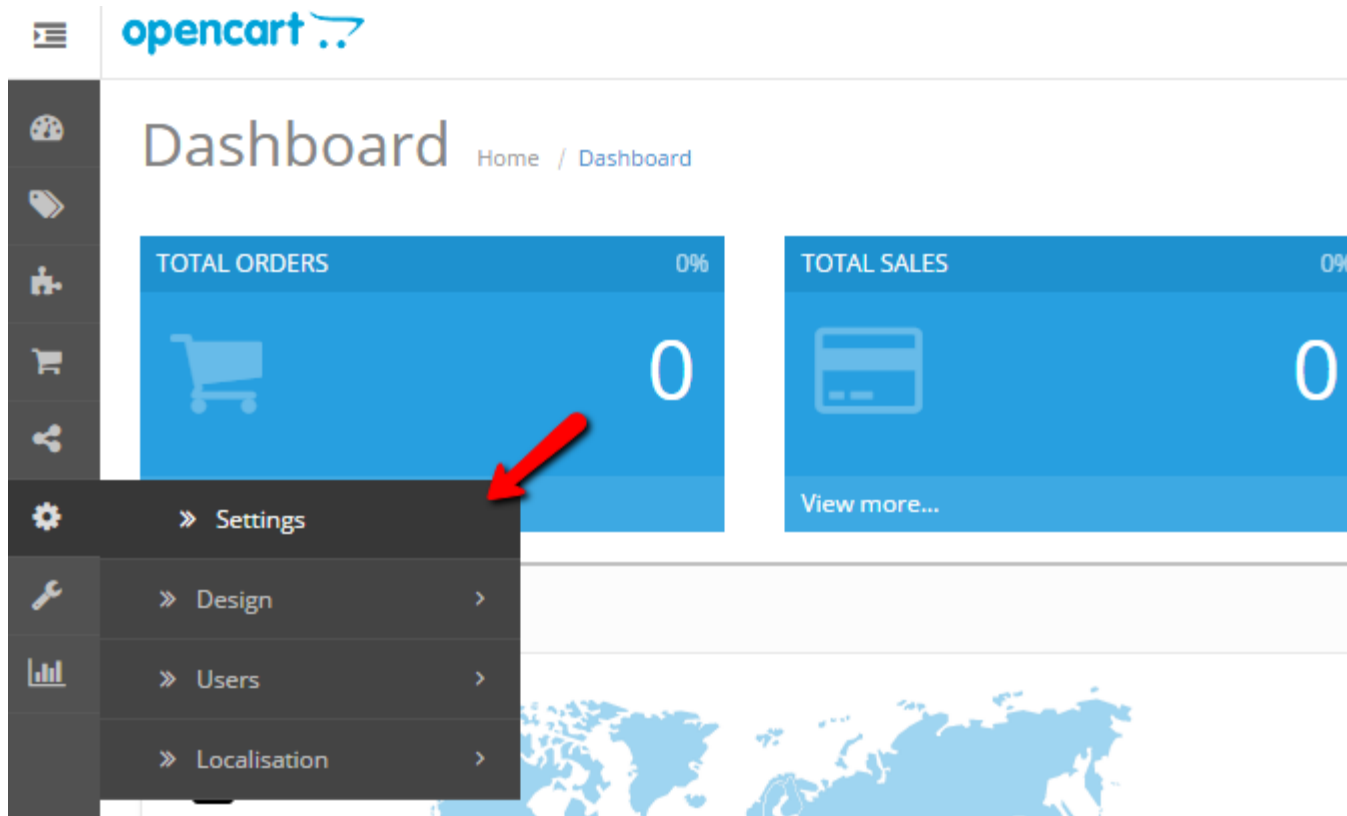# Integrate Google Analytics Tracking

How to obtain and configure Google Analytics tracking code with OpenCart 2

Google Analytics is a service offered by Google that generates in-depth statistics about your website's traffic and traffic sources including site referrals, traffic sources and measure conversions of your campaigns.

The Google Analytics works via a Google Analytics Tracking code which can be obtained via your Google Analytics Dashboard following the instructions in the official knowledgebase article. To start collecting stats via the Google Analytics the tracking code needs to be implemented on every page of your OpenCart 2 website.

Following this tutorial we will show you how to setup the Google Analytics code with OpenCart 2. To begin, first obtain your Google Analytics tracking code via your Google Analytics Dashboard following the instructions in this article. If you do not have a Google Analytics account yet, you can sign up for free via the Official Google Analytics site.

When you have an active Google Analytics account and you have obtained your Tracking code login your OpenCart 2 admin dashboard and navigate to the **Settings** section via the main navigation menu.

Click on the edit icon next to your store name and refer to the **Server** settings tab.

Scroll to the bottom of the **Server** tab page and locate the **Google Analytics Code** field.

Paste the Google Analytics Tracking code into that field and save your settings via the Save icon at the top right corner of your screen.

Now your Google Analytics tracking code is fully integrated with your OpenCart 2 website and you will need to allow up to a few minutes before your stats get updated in the Google Analytics Dashboard.