

# XML-RPC in WordPress: what it is

**XML-RPC** is a WordPress feature (available at <https://your-site.com/xmlrpc.php>) that lets **external apps/services** communicate with your site using a remote procedure call protocol (XML over HTTP).

## Common legitimate uses

- **Jetpack** (some features rely on XML-RPC depending on configuration)
  - **Mobile/desktop apps** that publish posts remotely
  - Some **automation/integration** tools
  - Historically: **pingbacks/trackbacks** (these are largely outdated and often abused)
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## Why people disable it

XML-RPC is not “insecure by default,” but it’s a **frequent target** because:

1. **Brute-force login attempts**
    - Attackers can try many passwords efficiently via `system.multicall`.
  2. **DDoS amplification / abuse**
    - Especially via **pingback** mechanisms on sites that allow it.
  3. **It’s often unnecessary**
    - Many modern setups use the **REST API** instead.
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## Should you disable it in SpinupWP?



Recommended default

If you **don't explicitly need XML-RPC**, then **yes—disable it**. This is a common hardening step and usually reduces attack noise meaningfully.

## Keep it enabled if you rely on it

Don't disable (or disable *partially*) if you use:

- **Jetpack features that require XML-RPC**
- A **mobile publishing app** or legacy integration that depends on `xmlrpc.php`
- Certain third-party services that still use XML-RPC to post/update content

If you're unsure, check your logs for requests to `/xmlrpc.php` and confirm whether any are coming from known services you use.

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## What “disabling” should mean (best practice)

Ideally, you want one of these outcomes:

1. **Block XML-RPC entirely**  
Best if you never use it.
2. **Disable only pingbacks** (but keep other methods)  
Useful if you need XML-RPC for publishing/Jetpack but want to stop common abuse.

SpinupWP typically offers server-level controls (e.g., Nginx rules) or guidance to block `xmlrpc.php`. If you tell me how you're planning to disable it (SpinupWP toggle, custom Nginx snippet, plugin), I can advise the safest approach.

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## Quick decision checklist

- You **use Jetpack** and depend on its remote features → **Don't disable blindly** (consider disabling pingbacks only).
  - You **never publish remotely**, don't use Jetpack, and don't need legacy integrations → **Disable it**.
  - You're getting lots of suspicious hits to `/xmlrpc.php` → **Disable or restrict it** (and consider adding rate-limiting/WAF).
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If you share whether you use **Jetpack**, any **mobile publishing**, or specific integrations, I'll recommend the most appropriate SpinupWP configuration.

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