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Hosting words for beginners: the terms on your invoice and in your panel

Website Basics

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Hosting words for beginners: the terms on your invoice and in your panel

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The first invoice and the first panel come full of abbreviations nobody explained. **You do not need to memorise them**: you need to know enough to understand what you are buying, what we are asking you for and where to look. Here are the commonest ones, in plain language, grouped by what they do.

The address of the site

Term	What it means
Domain	The name of your site, like `asuaempresa.ao`. You buy and renew it separately from the hosting. See **domain vs web hosting: what is the difference**.
Nameservers	They tell the internet which server your site is on. Changing them changes where the domain points. See **what they are and which ones to use with us**.
DNS	The internet's phone book: it links the name to the server. It is where the domain's records live. See **DNS records explained**.
Propagation and TTL	The time a DNS change takes to reach everyone. It cannot be rushed. See **how long DNS changes take to propagate**.
Subdomain	A part of the name before the domain, like `shop.asuaempresa.ao`. It can point somewhere else.
SSL (the padlock)	Encrypts the connection between the visitor and the site, and is what shows the padlock. See **what is an SSL certificate**.

What comes in the plan

Term	What it means
Hosting	The space on a server where your site lives. Without it, the domain points at nothing.
cPanel	The hosting control panel: files, e-mail, databases, backups. See **what you can do in cPanel**.
My Interweb	Your account with us: invoices, services, domains and tickets. It is not cPanel. See **which login you need**.
Disk space and inodes	The space used, and the number of files and folders. Both count. See **the limits nobody advertises**.
Bandwidth	The amount of data the site sends to visitors.
Backup	A copy of the site so you can restore it if something goes wrong. See **making and keeping your own backup**.

Mail and the rest

Term	What it means
Webmail	Reading your mail in the browser, with nothing to install. See **how to access your webmail**.
IMAP and POP	Two ways for a program to fetch mail. IMAP leaves it on the server, POP brings it down to the computer. See **POP or IMAP: which to choose**.
SMTP	The way mail goes out.
FTP and SFTP	Two ways to send files to the site; SFTP is encrypted. See **SFTP instead of FTP**.
SSH	A remote command line, encrypted. See **the cPanel Terminal**.
Database	Where a site keeps what changes: posts, customers, orders.
PHP	The language WordPress and many other sites run on. See **which PHP version to use**.
WordPress	The most used program for building sites. See **WordPress explained**.
VPS	A virtual server of your own, with administrator access, that you run yourself. See **managed or unmanaged VPS**.

If a word still escapes you,

ask us. Saying “I do not understand this term” in a support ticket is a perfectly good question, and the answer stays in your history.

NEED A HAND?

Is there a word on your invoice or in your panel that you did not find here? Tell us which.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Domain vs web hosting: what is the difference?**
- **Your first thirty minutes in cPanel**
- **I have paid. Now what? Five steps until the site opens**
- **Account area, cPanel or webmail: which login do you need**

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Interweb Angola

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