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Generated on 15/11/2026 00:16

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Which plan for a web application or an API: shared hosting, VPS or Cloud

Plans by Type of Website

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-1532	v2026.10.10	Angola · English

Interweb Angola
RLX Angola, Lda. · Group RLX Holdings
Tax ID (NIF) 500 260 5724 · Commercial registration no. 26464-25/250724

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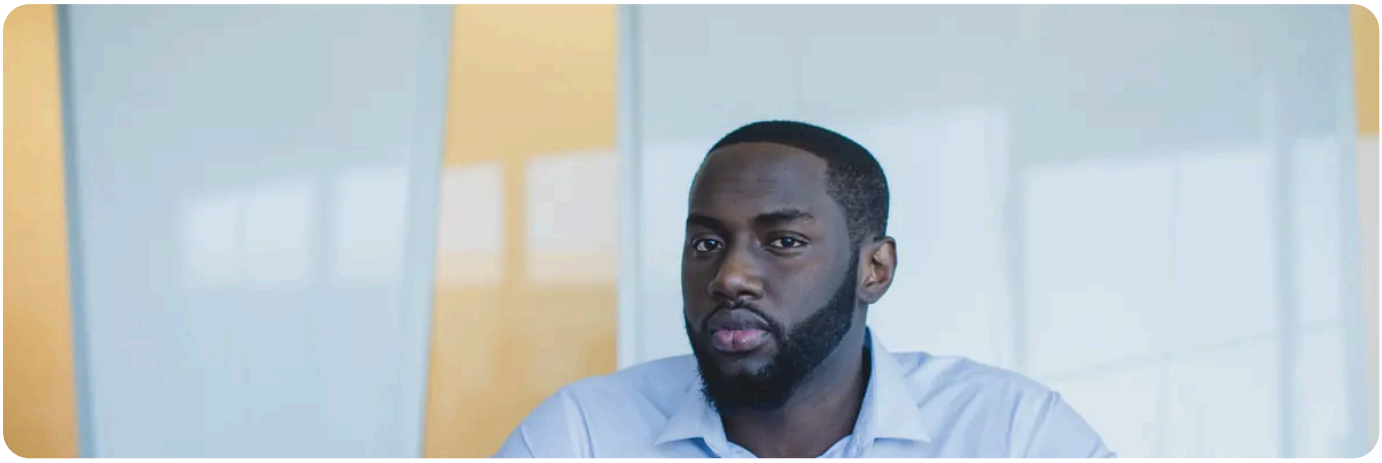
Which plan for a web application or an API: shared hosting, VPS or Cloud

Plans by Type of Website Created on **October 10, 2026** 3 min read



Start with the simplest and move up **only when the application asks for it**. An application in Node.js, Python, Ruby or PHP runs on shared hosting, with the version picked in cPanel. A VPS becomes necessary when the application needs **always-on services, ports of its own, programs the shared plan does not install, or root access**. Cloud is for when the application already splits across several machines.

Where each thing runs

Your application	Where it fits
A PHP site or API (Laravel, CodeIgniter)	Shared hosting, with the PHP version picked per folder.
A Node.js, Python or Ruby application	Shared hosting, through the cPanel tools “Setup Node.js App”, “Setup Python App” or “Setup Ruby App”. See **Node.js in cPanel**.
A background task that never stops (queue, bot, WebSocket)	A VPS. A permanent process is not the shared hosting model.
Docker, databases the plan does not bring, software of your own	A VPS or a dedicated server, with root access.
Several machines talking (application, database, queue)	Cloud, with the private network between machines. See **VPS vs Cloud**.

How to decide, step by step

1. **List what the application needs to run.** Language version, database, background services, ports, memory. The list is in the application’s documentation.

2 **Compare it with what shared hosting offers.** The languages and the limits are in **which technologies run here**.

3 **If it fits, start there.** Getting the application running is the first step; see **getting a Node.js application running**.

4 **If it does not fit, move to a VPS and choose the system.** See **which operating system to choose for your VPS** and **first steps with your VPS**.

The question that settles more cases than you would think

Does the application need to be doing things all the time, or does it only answer when someone asks? Those that only answer when asked (a website, an API that receives calls) fit shared hosting. Those that must act on their own, listen, or work through a queue without stopping need a permanent process, and that means a VPS. For tasks at set times, a scheduled job does it on shared hosting: see **cron jobs: what they are for and how to create one**.

On a VPS the administration is yours.
Updates, firewall, backups and installing the application's software are on your side, and our support does not install or repair them. See **how far our support goes** and **managed or unmanaged VPS**.

Measure before you move up.
A slow application may be a badly written query and not a lack of machine. The same slowness comes with you to a bigger server. See **what to measure before you change plan**.

NEED A HAND?

Describe the application (language, database, services) and we will tell you whether it fits shared hosting or needs a VPS.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Shared hosting vs VPS: which one does your project need?** →
- **VPS, Cloud or Dedicated: how to choose** →
- **Which technologies run here: PHP, Node, Python, Perl, games and the limits** →

VPS servers →

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