interweb

Generated on 15/11/2026 00:16

KNOWLEDGE BASE · PUBLIC DOCUMENT

CPU, RAM and disk I/O in plain words: what each one limits on your site

Resources & Limits

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-1540	v2026.10.18	Angola · English

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

https://www.meu.interweb.ao/knowledgebase/1540

CPU, RAM and disk I/O in plain words: what each one limits on your site

Resources & Limits Created on **October 10, 2026** Updated on **October 18, 2026** 3 min read



On shared hosting your account lives in a compartment with **ceilings of its own for processor (CPU), memory (RAM) and disk reads and writes (I/O)**. They exist so a noisy neighbour cannot take the machine from you, and the other way round. Knowing what each does when it runs out saves a lot of time, because each fails in a different way.

The three, side by side

Resource	What it is	What happens at the ceiling
CPU	The processing time your account may use. It runs PHP, builds pages, compresses images.	**It slows down.** The site answers, but slowly. That is why it looks like sluggishness and not an error, and nobody suspects it.
RAM	The memory your account works with at once: code, each request's data, imports.	**It fails.** A blank page, a critical error, an import that stops halfway.
Disk I/O	The speed at which the account reads and writes files, and how many operations it does per second.	**It slows down.** Backups, unzipping, big imports and badly managed caches are the usual culprits.

Besides these three there is the **number of processes** and **simultaneous requests**, which do not measure how heavy one thing is, they measure how many things there are at the same time. See **entry processes** and **the limits nobody advertises**.

Reading it in the panel, step by step

1. In cPanel, open **Resource Usage**, in the **Metrics** section. Depending on the limits enabled on the server, you see some or all of these graphs: CPU, memory, I/O, disk operations, processes.

2. Pick the period when the problem happened. Each graph shows usage over time against the limit, and marks the moments it hit the ceiling (the *faults*).

3. Compare with what was going on at that hour: an import, a backup, a campaign, a robot crawling the site. The cause almost always coincides with the peak.

4. Only then decide: fix the cause (a plugin, an image, a scheduled task) or move up a plan. See **how to monitor your site performance in cPanel**.

The account's RAM is not PHP's `memory_limit`.
PHP's is the most one single request may use; the account's is the total shared by everything running at once. Raising PHP's gives you no new resources. See **PHP limits**.

Where the consumption comes from is usually the site, not the plan.
See **what eats CPU on a website, and how to bring it down**. The fast disk of a bigger plan does not fix a badly written query. On the type of disk, see **SSD or NVMe storage: does the difference matter for a website**.

NEED A HAND?

Looked at the graphs and cannot tell what they say? Send us a screenshot of Resource Usage and we will tell you what is hitting the ceiling.

Open a support ticket →

Where to see it in your account

The limits of CPU, memory, I/O and processes that apply to your account are shown by the **Resource Usage** screen itself, in the Metrics section of cPanel, so you read the real figures instead of a table. Which graphs appear depends on the limits enabled on the server. Three things to read on each graph:

- **The limit line**: the ceiling of your account for that resource.
- **The usage curve**: how close you get to the line, and at what hours.
- **The faults**: the marks where the ceiling was actually reached. These are the moments to compare with an import, a backup or a campaign.

If the faults repeat on ordinary days, the plan has become small and you can move up without losing the site. Otherwise, fix the cause first.

SEE ALSO

- The limits nobody advertises: inodes, processes and memory
- What eats CPU on a website, and how to bring it down
- How to monitor your site performance in cPanel
- Hosting plans

interweb

Interweb Angola

RLX Angola, Lda. · Group RLX Holdings

TAX ID (NIF)	500 260 5724
COMMERCIAL REGISTRATION NO.	26464-25/250724
REGISTERED OFFICE	Rua Direita do Patriota, Bairro Dangereux Belas, Luanda, Angola
CONTACT	info@interweb.ao · +244 942 011 191 · www.interweb.ao
OPENING HOURS	Monday to Friday - 08 AM to 04 PM Saturday & Sunday - Closed

Online version of this document

RLX-AO-KB-1540 · v2026.10.18 · Generated on 15/11/2026 00:16