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WooCommerce, PrestaShop, OpenCart or Magento: what each one asks of the server

Platforms & Getting Started

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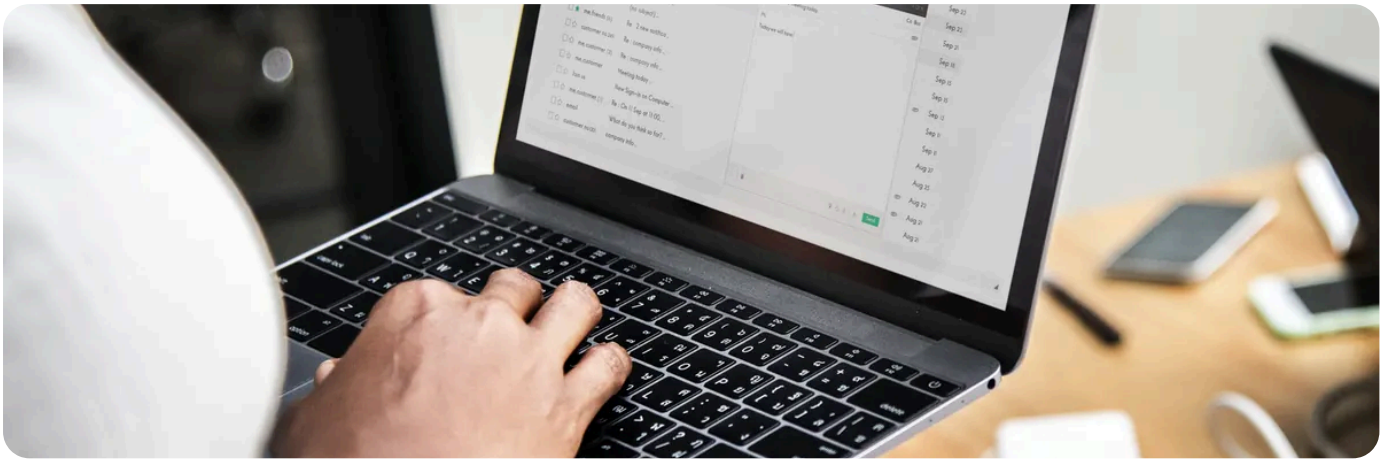

Four shop platforms, four different appetites. The question “which is best” has no answer; the question “which fits my hosting” does. Here is what each one asks of the server, lightest to heaviest, from what you see when installing in cPanel. For the exact size of your plan, always check the plans page.

Side by side

Platform	Weight	What it asks for	Who it suits
OpenCart	The lightest of the four	A current PHP version and no extra extensions. See **installing OpenCart**.	Small shops, from dozens to a few hundred products.
WooCommerce	Light to medium, depending on plugins	WordPress plus a plugin. Asks for current PHP, a page cache and attention to PHP limits. See **what it is and what you need**.	Those already on WordPress, or who want the widest choice of plugins and themes.
PrestaShop	Medium	PHP extensions that arrive switched off (such as intl and fileinfo), turned on in Select PHP Version. See **installing PrestaShop**.	Mid-sized shops that want shop features built in.
Magento	The heaviest	Recent PHP, several extensions to switch on, a mandatory scheduled task and a lot of memory and files. See **installing Magento**.	Large catalogues and technical teams; on a small plan it is heavy.

Two notes on what the table does not say. The real weight depends on the number of products, the extensions installed and the traffic, not only on the platform. And all four need the same basics: https on every page, tested backups, a current PHP version and whatever scheduled tasks each one asks for.

Deciding

1. **Count the products and visits** you expect in year one, not year ten. Choose the platform for that size.

2. **Ask who will maintain it.** WooCommerce shares the dashboard with the rest of the site and there is a lot of help around. Magento needs someone who knows it. A platform nobody knows how to update is a shop growing old.

3. **Check the payment methods** you need: they depend on there being a plugin or module for the platform. See **connecting a payment method**.

4. **Confirm against your plan.** The same platform runs on a small shared plan or calls for a VPS depending on the catalogue. See **shared hosting vs VPS**.

5. **Try before you decide.** Install two and see which one makes sense to you. See **what the installer does for you**.

Changing platform later costs a lot.
Products, customers, addresses and Google positions all have to be carried over, and never all of them arrive. See **changing platform**. Choose with time.

According to its own documentation, Magento 2.4 asks for a search service of its own (OpenSearch or Elasticsearch). On a large shop that is one more reason for a VPS where you control it. Before choosing it, read its own article and the **VPS page**. On a VPS the commands and the installation are yours: see **how far our support goes**.

NEED A HAND?

Not sure which fits your plan? Tell us how many products you have and how many visits you expect, and we will tell you whether it is enough or whether a VPS makes sense.

Open a support ticket →

In our plans

We do not fix one plan per platform, because the real weight depends on products, extensions and traffic. What we can give you is what each plan offers and where to check the rest:

- **Size.** Pro has 1 site and 10 GB SSD NVMe, Plus 6 sites and 20 GB, Ultra unlimited sites and 30 GB, Business 50 to 200 GB. A shop is one site, so space and resources matter more than the site count.
- **PHP.** Open Select PHP Version (or MultiPHP Manager) in cPanel to see the versions your account offers and the extensions you can switch on.
- **Files and load.** The Statistics sidebar shows files (inodes) and databases; Resource Usage shows CPU, memory and entry processes, and when the account hit its limit.
- **When the shop outgrows it.** A VPS (KVM, full SSH access, VPS1 with 1 vCPU and 2 GB RAM up to VPS6 with 32 vCPU and 64 GB) lets you size the server to the platform.

SEE ALSO

- Installing Magento for an online shop →
- Making Magento run fast →
- VPS servers →

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