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The API key permissions that come switched off, and why: cPanel login, cron and FTP, purchases

Keys & Permissions

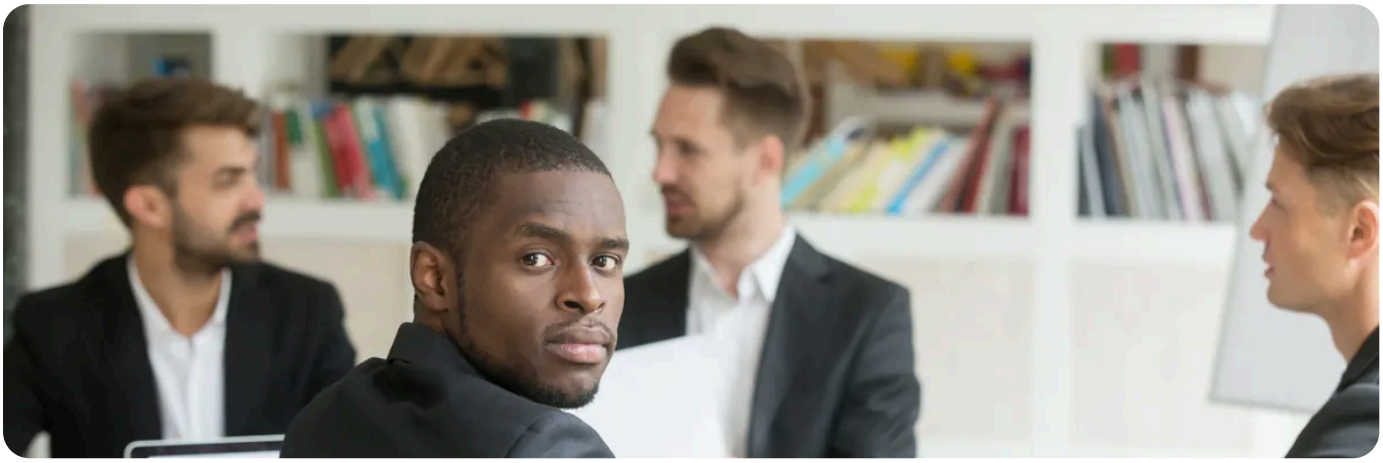
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The API key permissions that come switched off, and why: cPanel login, cron and FTP, purchases

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The short answer: an API key can touch your clients' websites and spend your credit. That is why the most powerful permissions come **switched off** on every new key, kept apart from the rest, and you turn them on by hand only on the key that needs them. For hosting there are three: `hosting:login`, `hosting:code` and `billing:purchase`. The **hosting for resellers** page shows them on a new key.

The three hosting ones, and what they do

Permission	What it allows	Why it comes switched off
`hosting:login`	Creating a login link to an account's cPanel.	The link gives full access to the panel. Whoever has it can do everything the account owner can.
`hosting:code`	Creating cron jobs, creating FTP accounts and changing their passwords. It also shows the command of each cron job.	A cron job or an FTP account can run code on the account, and a job's command may contain passwords.
`billing:purchase`	Buying from credit: plans, domains, plan changes, credits and add-ons.	It spends money. A leaked key with this permission spends your credit.

Without them, the key still does the everyday work: with `hosting:read` and `hosting:write` it reads usage, creates databases and subdomains, requests SSL and changes PHP options. Cron jobs are still listed, but without `hosting:code` the `command` comes back as `null` and `command_hidden` as `true`.

The others that also come switched off

Outside hosting, the same rule applies: `billing:pay` (paying invoices from credit), `services:cancel` (requesting a service cancellation), `domains:transfer_code` (requesting the transfer code), and the server ones, `vps:reinstall`, `vps:restore` and `vps:password`. The details are in **sensitive API permissions and the spending limit**.

If the key lacks the permission

The API answers `403` with the code `insufficient_scope` and does nothing. You do not need to delete the key: create another one with the permission you need.

How to use them safely

1. **One key per job.** One for everyday account work, with no sensitive permissions. Another just for purchases, with `billing:purchase`. And, only if you really need it, a third one for cPanel logins. If one leaks, the others keep working.

2. **A spending limit** on the purchases key: the most it can spend in 30 days, in your account currency. With the limit at 0, it cannot spend. `GET /v1/limits` shows the limit and what has been spent.

3. **An IP list.** The key only works from your server's addresses.

4. **An expiry date.** 30, 90 or 365 days. The default is 90.

5. **Sandbox first.** With a `sandbox_` key, changes are simulated and nothing is charged. See **Sandbox or Production**.

What no key can do,

whatever its permissions: create another key, change the account password or email, or see card details. And the API never returns hosting account passwords. Keys are created on the **API page in Meu Interweb**; see **creating an API key**.

If a key with these permissions leaks,

revoke it straight away on the API page and create a new one. The right order is in **a key has leaked**.

RECOMMENDED

Automating your clients' accounts? See on the page what each key can do.

See hosting for resellers →

SEE ALSO

Sensitive API permissions and the spending limit: paying, buying, reinstalling, cPanel access →

API permissions by area: read or write, and which permission each task needs

Creating an API key: name, mode, permissions, validity, IP list and spending limit

Getting into a client's cPanel without the password: the one-time login link from the API

An API key or token has leaked: what to do, in the right order

Hosting in the Reseller Program

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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

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