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Installing Magento for an online shop

Platforms & Getting Started

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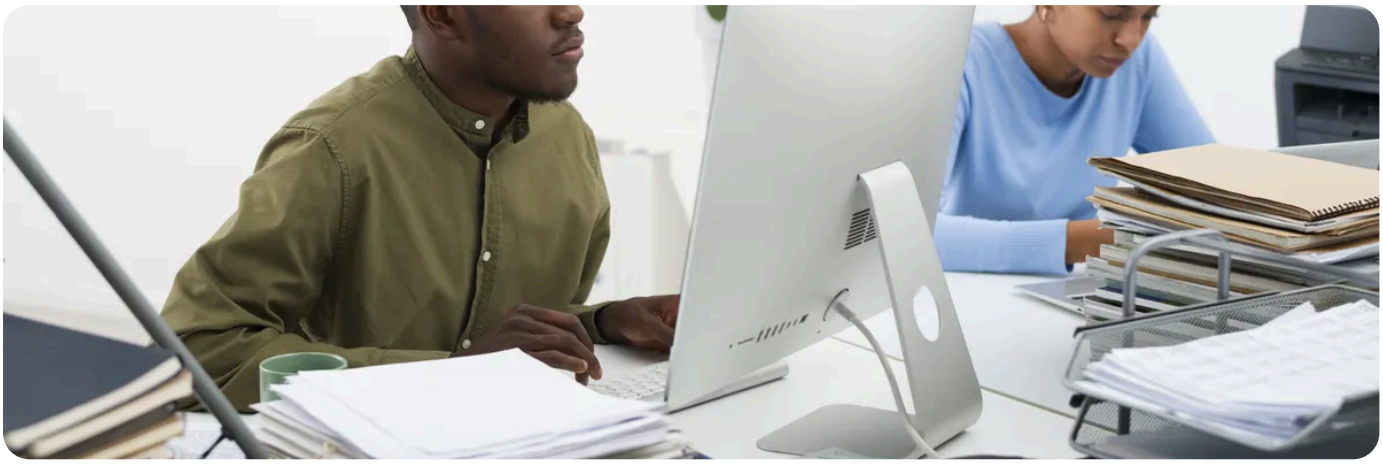

Magento is the heaviest shop platform in the cPanel installer. It installs in minutes like the others, but it does not behave like the others: it uses far more memory, far more processor time and many more files than an OpenCart or a PrestaShop doing the same number of sales.

Read this before you settle on Magento.

On a small shared plan it installs and opens, but the administration panel turns sluggish and the background jobs start falling behind. If the catalogue runs to thousands of products, or several people work in the panel at once, a shared plan is not the right home: see **VPS, Cloud or Dedicated**. If the shop is small, **OpenCart** or **PrestaShop** give you the same result at a fraction of the weight.

What has to be ready first

Requirement	What to do
PHP version	The 2.4 series wants **PHP 8.2** or newer; the previous release settles for 8.1. Change it in **Select PHP Version**: see **changing your PHP version without breaking the site**.
PHP extensions	Magento is the most demanding of the lot. On a new account you have to **switch on four** that arrive off: **intl**, **soap**, **sodium** and **fileinfo**. They live in the same **Select PHP Version** screen, on the extensions tab.
Database version	This is where the newest Magento trips: it asks for a database engine newer than the one our shared servers run. The installer says so and stops. Pick the previous 2.4 release, which passes.
Space and files	A Magento installation brings tens of thousands of files. Check what you have left before you start: see **the limits of your account**.

Switch the four extensions on before you open the installer.

If you enable them after it complains, you have to go back and reload the page for it to notice.

Installing, step by step

1. Sign in to **My Interweb** and open the cPanel for the plan.
2. First, open **Select PHP Version** and switch on **intl**, **soap**, **sodium** and **fileinfo**.
3. Open the **Softaculous Apps Installer**, search for *Magento* and pick the newest release that is **not** blocked.
4. **Choose the address.** Protocol **https**, the shop domain, and an empty directory field to install at the root.
5. **Fill in the administrator account:** first name, surname, username, password, e-mail. Use the **password generator**: Magento insists on long passwords and rejects weak ones.
6. **Look carefully at the admin directory field.** The installer proposes a name; **change it** to something only you know, and **write it down**. That name is what you type in the address to reach the panel, and Magento has no fallback entrance at */admin*.
7. Decide about the **sample data**. It fills the shop with fake products so you can see how it looks, and then takes effort to clear out. For a production shop, leave it off.
8. Under **Advanced Options**, switch on **automatic backups**, then click **Install**.

! **Keep the admin directory wherever you keep the password.**
Losing that directory name means losing the way in. You can still read it out of the shop configuration file, but it is a detour worth avoiding. See **recovering the Magento administrator password**.

Straight after the installation

1. **Create the scheduled task.** Magento depends on it to reindex, send e-mail, work out campaign prices and build reports. Without it the shop looks fine while the unfinished work piles up. See **cron jobs**.
2. **Check https and the padlock**, then force https: **redirecting HTTP to HTTPS**.
3. **Deal with performance before you open to the public.** See **making Magento run fast**.

4 **Understand where your responsibility ends and the bank begins.** Before taking payments, read **selling online, PCI and card data**.

5 **Take the first backup** before the first theme or module.

For what every installation has in common, see **installing a ready-made platform**.

NEED A HAND?

Not sure your shop really needs Magento? Tell us how many products you have and how many orders a day you expect.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **VPS Server** →
- **Hosting plans and what each one includes** →
- **Support Policy** →

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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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