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Installing OpenCart

Platforms & Getting Started

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Installing OpenCart

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OpenCart is the lightest of the three shop platforms in the installer. It goes up in a minute, **needs no extra PHP extension at all**, and holds up well on a shared plan. For a shop with dozens or a few hundred products, it is the sensible choice.

The installer carries several series. Series **4** is current and wants **PHP 8.1** or newer; the older ones are there only for existing shops.

Installing, step by step

1. Sign in to **My Interweb** and open the cPanel for the plan.
2. Check your PHP version in **Select PHP Version**. If it is below 8.1, change it: **changing your PHP version without breaking the site**.
3. Under **Software**, open the **Softaculous Apps Installer**, search for *OpenCart* and pick series 4.
4. **Address:** protocol **https**, the shop domain, empty directory for the root.
5. **Shop name, administrator username and password**, and an e-mail address you read. Use the **password generator**.
6. Under **Advanced Options**, switch on **automatic backups**, then click **Install**.
7. Keep both addresses at the end: the shop, and the panel, which in OpenCart sits at */admin*.

If the panel warns that the *install* directory still exists

, delete it in cPanel File Manager. It is the setup wizard, and left behind it is an open door.

What to configure before the first sale

What	Why
Currency and locale	Set the currency you will sell in and the shop country. Changing the base currency after orders exist is painful.
Tax	Create the tax class that applies to your sales and decide whether the prices you type already include it.
Shipping	OpenCart ships with several delivery methods switched off. Enable and configure at least one before you open, or the basket never completes.
Payments	Enable bank transfer, which comes built in, and add the modules of whatever services you sign up for. See **an online shop with local payment methods**.
Shop e-mail	Place an order with yourself and confirm the confirmation e-mail goes out. If it does not, see **why your e-mail is not sending**.

Before taking cards, read selling online, PCI and card data.

Card details should never pass through your shop at any point.

Protecting the panel

The OpenCart panel sits at a predictable address, which makes it a target for automated login attempts. Two things close most of that: a **long password**, and renaming the panel directory (which means adjusting one line in the panel configuration). If you would rather not touch files, **open a support ticket** and we will do it with you.

Also make sure the shop answers only over https: **redirecting HTTP to HTTPS**. A shop that accepts http shows warnings in customers' browsers and loses sales to them.

Keeping it

In the Softaculous installations list, OpenCart offers **clone**, **backup** and **change admin password**. To compare it with the others, see **PrestaShop** and **Magento**, and for what every installation has in common, **installing a ready-made platform**.

NEED A HAND?

Shop installed but the basket will not complete? It is nearly always the shipping method. Tell us and we will look.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- Hosting plans and what each one includes →
- SSL certificates →
- 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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