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Installing Moodle for online training

Joomla, Drupal & Other CMS

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Installing Moodle for online training

Joomla, Drupal & Other CMS Created on **September 27, 2026** 4 min read



Moodle is the most widely used distance learning platform in the world: courses, cohorts, materials, quizzes, grades and course forums. It installs from the **Softaculous Apps Installer** in cPanel, and the installer lists many series, from current back to some more than ten years old.

> **Moodle is heavy, and its weight does not come from the catalogue: it comes from people.**
> Twenty students sitting a quiz at the same moment cost the account far more than two hundred pages of content. On a shared plan, a Moodle with one small cohort and light materials runs fine. An institution with overlapping classes, video and timed quizzes needs guaranteed resources: see **VPS, Cloud or Dedicated**. Do not promise exam dates before you know which server you are on.

What to prepare first

Requirement	What to do
PHP extensions	Moodle is demanding. On a new account you must enable **intl**, **soap**, **sodium** and **fileinfo**, which arrive off. Turn them on in **Select PHP Version**, on the extensions tab, before opening the installer.
PHP version	Series 5 wants **PHP 8.2** or newer; series 4.5 settles for 8.1. See **changing your PHP version without breaking the site**.
Which series	For a new project, the newest one the installer lets through. The old series only matter if you are rescuing courses from an ageing installation.
Space and files	Moodle arrives with many thousands of files, then grows with teacher materials and student submissions. See **the limits of your account** and plan for the growth, not just the launch.

Installing, step by step

1. In cPanel, open **Select PHP Version** and enable **intl**, **soap**, **sodium** and **fileinfo**.
2. Open the **Softaculous Apps Installer**, search for *Moodle* and pick your series.
3. **Address:** protocol **https**. Moodle sits well on a dedicated subdomain, which keeps the training platform separate from the corporate site. See **adding a subdomain**.
4. **Site name and description.** This is what students see at the top.
5. **Administrator account:** a username that is not *admin*, a long password from the **password generator**, and an institutional e-mail address somebody actually reads.
6. Under **Advanced Options**, switch on **automatic backups**, then click **Install**.

! **Moodle stores course files in a data directory that belongs outside the public web directory.** The installer handles that. If you ever move the installation by hand, check that the directory is still out of reach of the browser: student work lives in there.

The scheduled task is not optional

Moodle depends on a scheduled task for nearly everything that does not happen in front of the student: sending forum posts, closing quizzes, calculating grades, processing enrolments, building reports and making course backups. **Without it Moodle opens and looks normal**, and then nobody receives notifications and grades never appear. Create it following **cron jobs**, and check in the Moodle administration panel that the last run is recent.

Before you let students in

1. **Check https and the padlock.** A platform with student accounts does not open over http. See **the causes, in order** and **forcing https**.
2. **Test outgoing e-mail.** Moodle sends a lot of it: sign-ups, password resets, forum notifications. Register a test account and confirm the message arrives. On bulk sending, see **bulk e-mail without burning your domain**.
3. **Decide how students enrol** before you publish the address. Open self-registration without confirmation fills up with fake accounts within days.

4 **Think about data protection.** You are storing names, e-mail addresses, submitted work and grades. See **personal data protection**.

5 **Take the first backup** and prove you can restore it: **making and testing your own backup**.

Run a rehearsal with the whole cohort before the first real quiz.
Twenty people logging in at the same minute give you, in one afternoon, the answer no plan comparison table can.

Keeping it

In the Softaculous installations list, Moodle offers **upgrade**, **backup** and **change admin password**. Always upgrade with a fresh backup and outside teaching hours. For what every installation has in common, see **installing a ready-made platform**.

NEED A HAND?

Tell us how many students you expect and whether there are timed exams. With that we can tell you whether the plan is enough.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

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

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