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Installing Flarum for a forum

Joomla, Drupal & Other CMS

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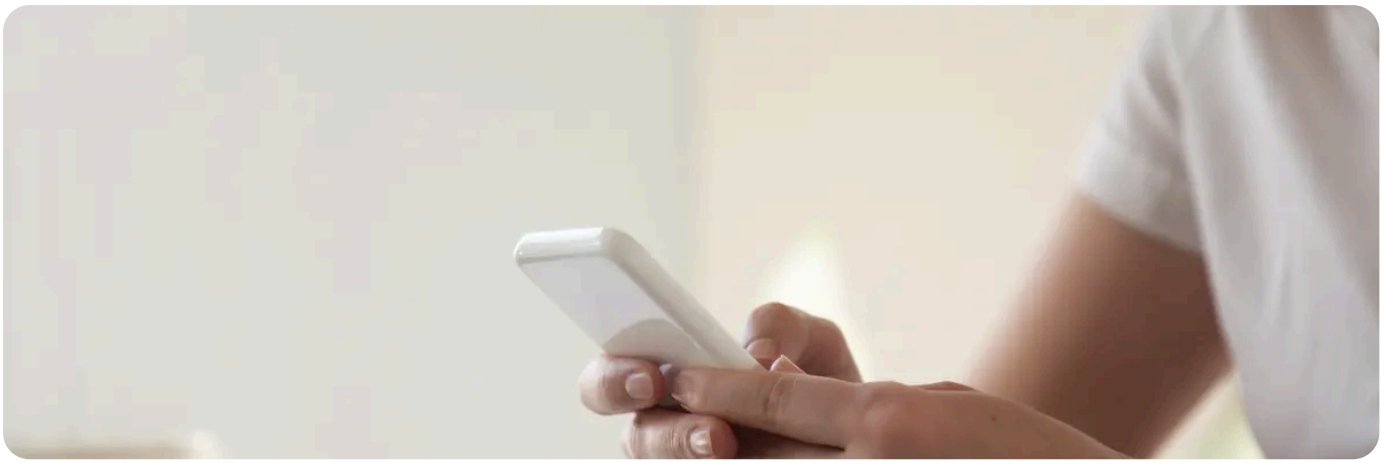

Flarum is a modern forum: a single page, fast, no reload on every click, and good on a phone without any effort. It is light, which makes it a sound choice for a shared plan.

It suits a community around a product, a space where users help each other, or an internal forum inside an organisation. If what you want is to publish content rather than hold conversations, what you are after is a CMS: see **what a CMS is**.

What Flarum asks for

Not much, and that is the best part. It wants **PHP 8.2** or newer and **no extra extensions at all**: everything it needs is already on for a new account. If your account is on an older PHP, change it in **Select PHP Version**: **changing your PHP version without breaking the site**.

Installing, step by step

1. Sign in to **My Interweb** and open the cPanel for the plan.
2. Check the PHP version and change it if you need to.
3. Under **Software**, open the **Softaculous Apps Installer** and search for *Flarum*.
4. **Address:** protocol **https**. A forum lives happily on a subdomain of its own, separate from the main site: **adding a subdomain**.
5. **Forum title**, and the administrator account with a long password from the **password generator**.
6. Under **Advanced Options**, switch on **automatic backups**, then click **Install**.

Flarum serves the site from a subdirectory of the installation
, and the installer points the address at the right place for you. Use the address it gives you at the end rather than one you guessed.

An open forum fills with spam. Be ready.

This is the part that surprises everyone. A new forum, once Google finds it, starts collecting automated sign-ups within days, and the first posts are advertising. Before you publish the address:

1. **Require e-mail confirmation on sign-up.** It is the single measure that removes most of it, and it is in the settings out of the box.
2. **Test outgoing e-mail before you open.** If the forum cannot send the confirmation message, nobody registers and you will conclude nobody wanted to. See **why your e-mail is not sending**.
3. **Hold first posts for approval** while the community is small. It costs you a month of work and saves you a year.
4. **Write the house rules in a pinned post.** Without them, moderation looks arbitrary and the argument turns on you.

A forum publishes what other people write, and that has consequences.
You are responsible for what is hosted in your account, and an abandoned community quickly becomes a dumping ground for links to fraudulent sites, which drags your domain reputation down with it. If a complaint arrives, deal with it: **reporting abuse**.

Extending and maintaining

Flarum extensions install from the command line using the PHP dependency tool, which needs **SSH access**. Some accounts have a shell and some do not: if yours does not, **open a support ticket** and we will see what can be done.

In the Softaculous installations list, Flarum offers **clone**, **backup** and **change admin password**. For what every installation has in common, see **installing a ready-made platform**.

NEED A HAND?

Want a forum attached to the site you already have? Tell us how you picture it and we will help you set it up.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- Hosting plans and what each one includes
- Report abuse
- Support Policy

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