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Generated on 15/11/2026 00:11

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LiteSpeed Cache for WordPress: the first settings

Caching

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-848	v2026.10.10	Angola · English

Interweb Angola
RLX Angola, Lda. · Group RLX Holdings
Tax ID (NIF) 500 260 5724 · Commercial registration no. 26464-25/250724

https://www.meu.interweb.ao/knowledgebase/848

LiteSpeed Cache for WordPress: the first settings

Caching Created on **October 10, 2026** 4 min read



The server your site runs on uses **LiteSpeed Enterprise**, and the **LiteSpeed Cache** plugin is the piece of WordPress that talks to it. With page caching on, a visitor asking for a page that was already requested gets a ready-made copy, instead of PHP and the database building it all over again. This article covers only the **first settings**: the few worth switching on now, and the ones you leave alone until a measurement says otherwise.

Before you install

1. **One page cache at a time.** If another caching plugin (from a different author) is already installed, deactivate it first. Two of them doing the same job give you stale pages and errors that are hard to explain.

2. **Take a backup.** Files and database, as in **making and keeping your own backup**. If the site matters, rehearse on a **test site** first.

The first settings, in order

1. **Install and activate.** In WordPress: Plugins, Add New, search for “LiteSpeed Cache” (author: LiteSpeed Technologies), Install, Activate. A **LiteSpeed Cache** menu appears in the sidebar.

2. **Switch on page caching.** Under LiteSpeed Cache, the **Cache** tab, set “Enable Cache” to **On** and save. Leave the logged-in-user and commenter options as they come, so that anyone inside the dashboard always sees the live version.

3. **Switch on browser caching.** On the same Cache tab there is a “Browser” section: set “Browser Cache” to On. It tells the visitor’s browser to keep images, CSS and JavaScript. The details are in **browser caching with .htaccess**.

4 **Leave object caching off.** That cache needs a Redis or Memcached server behind it, and there is **none** on shared hosting. The PHP extensions show up in the list, but without a server they do nothing. **Page** caching is a different thing, and that one exists.

5 **Purge everything and check.** In the WordPress top bar, LiteSpeed Cache menu, “Purge All”. Then open the site in a private window, twice in a row, and look at the response headers (in the browser: F12, Network tab, click the first request). You should see a `x-litespeed-cache` header, and on the second visit its value should be `hit`.

What each group of options does

Group	What it does	What to do now
Cache (pages)	Keeps a ready copy of each page for visitors.	Switch on.
TTL	How long a copy is good for before it is rebuilt.	Keep the value it ships with. Change it only if your content moves a lot during the day.
Purge	When copies are thrown away. The plugin clears a page when you edit or publish it.	Leave it.
Browser	Tells the browser to keep static files.	Switch on.
Object	Object cache (Redis/Memcached).	Leave off: there is no server.
Page Optimization	Touches CSS, JavaScript and images (minify, combine, defer).	Leave for later, one option at a time.
Image Optimization	Asks an outside LiteSpeed service (QUIC.cloud) to optimise your images.	Optional. See **image optimisation and WebP**.
CDN	Connects the plugin to a content delivery network.	Only if you already have one of your own, such as Cloudflare.

! **The “Page Optimization” options are the ones that break sites.**
Minifying and combining CSS and JavaScript, deferring scripts and generating critical CSS all rewrite files that belong to your theme and to other plugins. Switch on **one** at a time, run “Purge All”, and walk through the whole site: logged in and logged out, on a phone, and with the contact form actually sending. If something breaks, switch that option off and move to the next. On a shop, place a test order to confirm the cart and checkout are not cached: the plugin normally excludes them, but the order is the proof.

Measure before and after, with the same tool.

A change you did not measure is an opinion. See **how to measure your site speed**, and for the finer rules **cache rules that do not hide the dashboard**.

NEED A HAND?

Switched caching on and nothing changed, or an old page will not go away? Tell us the address and we will look at what the server returns.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Browser caching with .htaccess**
- **Clearing the cache: the browser's, the computer's, and the site's**
- **Measuring your site speed**
- **WordPress hosting**

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RLX-AO-KB-848 · v2026.10.10 · Generated on 15/11/2026 00:11