The Files and Databases Sections in cPanel: File Manager, FTP and Creating a Database

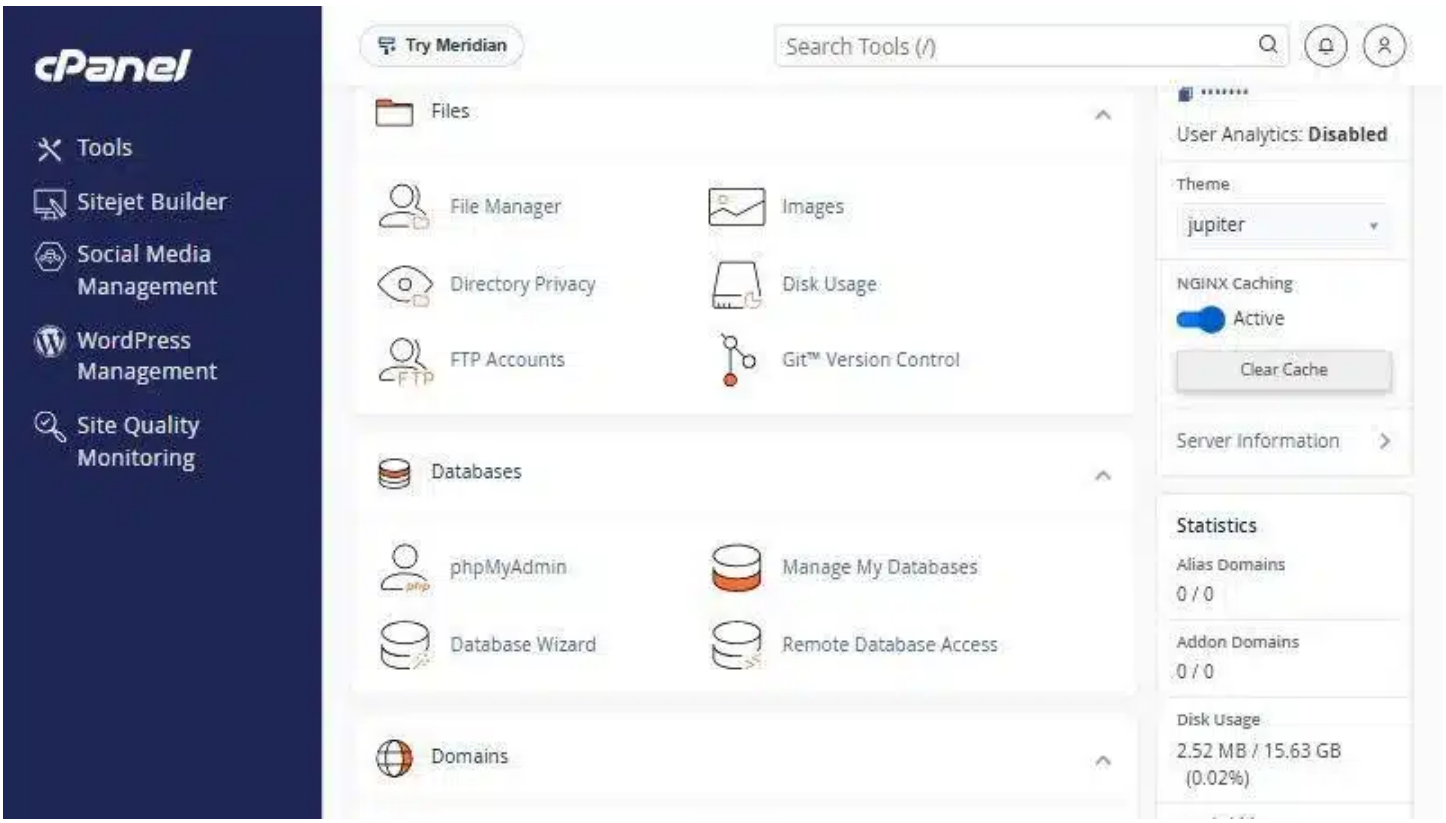
cPanel Guides · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/cpanel-files-databases-section/

In short The **Files** section has **File Manager** to upload, edit and compress your site files, **Disk Usage** to see what fills your space, **FTP Accounts**, and **Directory Privacy** to password protect a folder. The **Databases** section has **Manage My Databases** and **Database Wizard** to create a database and user, and **phpMyAdmin** to manage its content.

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Your files and databases are the heart of your website. This guide introduces the tools in both sections and when to use each one.

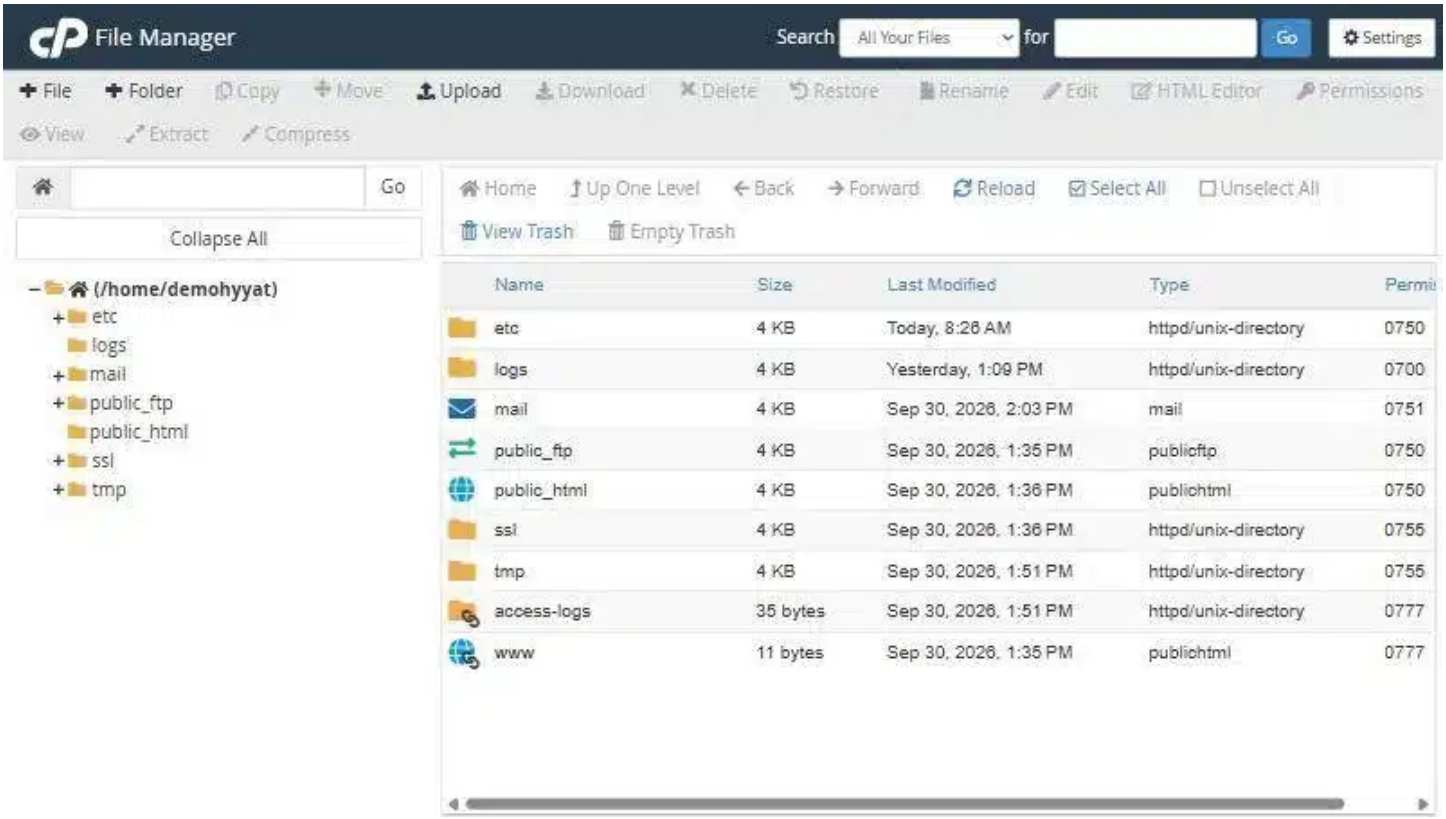
The Files section



Tool	What it does	Guide
File Manager	Upload, download, edit, compress, extract and change permissions	using File Manager
Images	Resize images and convert their format	
Directory Privacy	Password protect a folder	password protect a folder
Disk Usage	See which folders take up space	
FTP Accounts	An account for uploading with a program such as FileZilla	create an FTP account
Git™ Version Control	Connect a Git repository to your site	

File Manager

It opens on its own page: the folder tree on the left, files in the middle with size, last modified date and permissions, and buttons along the top: File, Folder, Copy, Move, Upload, Download, Delete, Rename, Edit, Permissions, Extract and Compress.

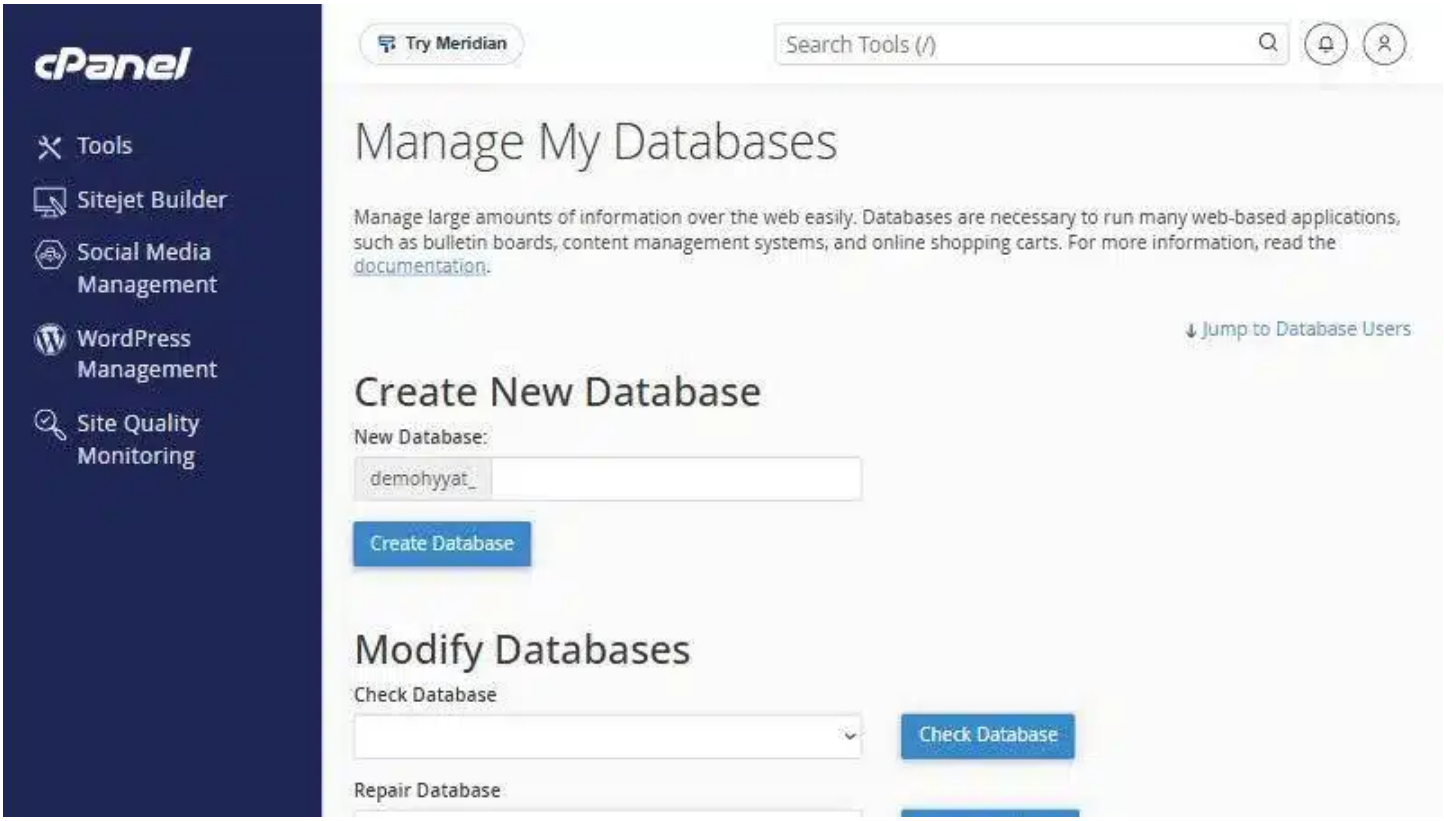


Your website files live in the **public_html** folder. Learn about the other folders in the folders in your account.

Deleting is safe: files you delete in File Manager go to the Trash, and you can restore them with View Trash until you empty it.

The Databases section

Tool	What it does	Guide
Manage My Databases	Create a database and user, link them, check and repair	creating a database
Database Wizard	The same steps one at a time, for beginners	
phpMyAdmin	Import, export and edit tables	import and export
Remote Database Access	Let an outside computer connect to the database	



1. **Open Manage My Databases** in the Databases section.
2. **Type the database name** under New Database. It starts with your account name automatically.

3. **Click Create Database.**
4. **Create a user and add it to the database** further down the page, with all privileges.

The main jobs in File Manager

You want to...	Button
Upload a file from your computer	Upload
Download a file to your computer	Download
Upload a whole site quickly	Zip it on your computer, upload it, then Extract
Edit a file such as wp-config.php	Edit
Change file or folder permissions	Permissions
See hidden files such as .htaccess	Settings → Show Hidden Files

The right permissions

Permissions control who can read or change a file. The usual values for most sites:

- **Folders:** 755
- **Files:** 644
- **wp-config.php:** can be 600 or 640 for extra protection

Never use 777. It lets any process change the file, which is a security risk.

Common problems and fixes

- **I uploaded my site and it does not show:** make sure the files are directly inside public_html, not in a subfolder.
- **The file is too big to upload:** zip it, or upload it with an FTP account.
- **Error establishing a database connection:** check that the database name, user and password in your config file match, and that the user is added to the database with all privileges.
- **The database name is not what I typed:** cPanel adds your account name and an underscore in front automatically, so use the full name.

Back up before you edit

Before editing an important file or database, keep a copy. In File Manager copy the file under another name, and in phpMyAdmin export the database. For a full site backup see creating a full backup.

Summary

- File Manager handles everything about your site files.
- Disk Usage shows what fills your space.
- Manage My Databases and phpMyAdmin handle databases.

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Frequently asked questions

Where do I upload my website files in cPanel?
In File Manager, inside the public_html folder.

Can I restore a file I deleted?
Yes, until you empty the Trash. Click View Trash in File Manager.

How do I create a database?
In Manage My Databases type a name and click Create Database, then create a user and add it.

What permissions should my website files have?
Usually 755 for folders and 644 for files. Never use 777.

How do I upload a site with many files?
Zip it on your computer, upload the zip in File Manager, then click Extract.

Related guides

- A Tour of the cPanel Control Panel: The Tools Page, Sections, Search and Account Info
- How to use File Manager in cPanel
- How to Create a MySQL Database and User in cPanel
- How to Import or Export a MySQL Database with phpMyAdmin
- How to Create an FTP Account in cPanel

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