Turn On Two-Factor Authentication in cPanel: Protection Even If Your Password Is Stolen

cPanel Guides · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/cpanel-two-factor-authentication/

The idea Open **Two-Factor Authentication** in the Security section, click **Set Up Two-Factor Authentication**, scan the QR code with an authenticator app on your phone, and enter the 6-digit code to confirm. From then on cPanel asks for the code at every login.

Embedded media: https://www.hyyat.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/hyyat-cpanel-twofactor-en.mp4?_=1

A question we often get: "Is a strong password not enough? Why do I need an extra step every time?"

A strong password stops guessing, but not leaks: a phishing page, an infected computer or a former employee. Two-factor authentication adds something an attacker does not have: a code that changes every 30 seconds on your own phone.

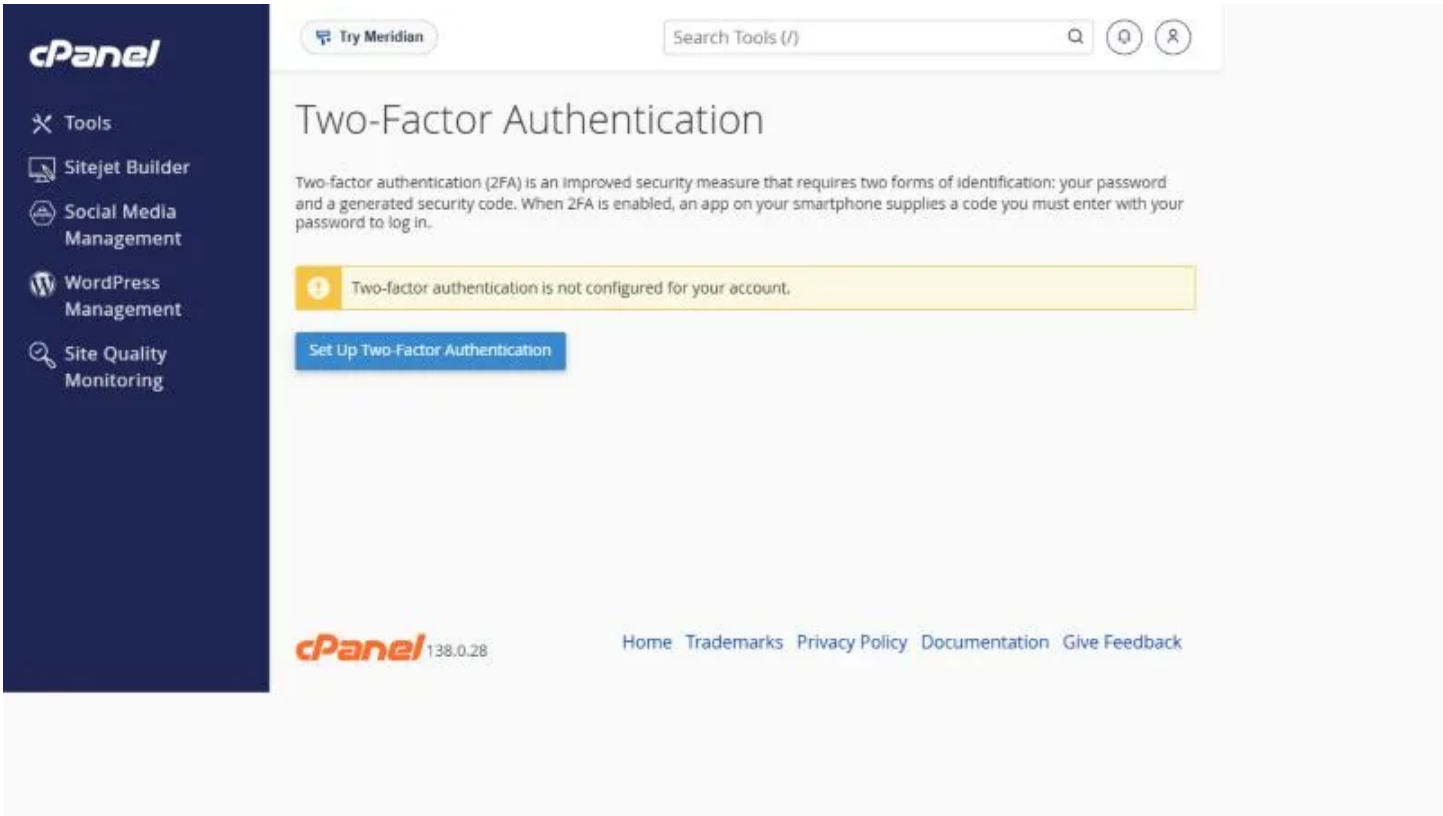
What you need first

- A phone with an authenticator app: Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator or any app that supports TOTP codes.
- The phone clock set to automatic, because the codes are time-based.
- Two minutes.

Turning it on step by step

1. **Open Two-Factor Authentication** in the Security section of cPanel. It says 2FA is not configured for your account.
2. **Click Set Up Two-Factor Authentication** a QR code appears with a text key below it.
3. **Scan the code with the app** using the app's add button. If you cannot scan, type the text key.
4. **Enter the code shown in the app** six digits, then click the configure button.

5. **Test it** log out and back in; the code is requested after the password.



Save the text key in a password manager or somewhere safe off the phone. It is the only way to add the account to a new phone without contacting support.

Changing or losing your phone

Situation	What to do
A new phone, and you still have the old one	Use the app's transfer feature, or remove 2FA and set it up again on the new phone
You saved the text key	Add the account by hand in the new phone's app
You lost the phone and the key	Log in from the client area if you can, or open a support ticket and we will disable 2FA after verifying your identity

The code is always rejected?

The usual cause is clock drift: the phone is a minute or more behind or ahead. Turn on automatic time in the phone settings and try a fresh code. If the app holds several accounts, make sure you read the right one.

What 2FA protects and what it does not

It protects the cPanel login itself. Email, FTP and the WordPress dashboard each need their own protection: separate strong passwords, and a dedicated 2FA plugin in WordPress. Our side of the protection is described in the cPanel Security section.

From our support desk

- **A customer changed phones** and moved his apps except the authenticator, and could no longer log in. Had he saved the text key, he could have re-added it in a minute.
- **A company with several people managing the panel.** Each can add the account to their own app with the same key during setup, or log in through their client area account.
- **A customer's codes were always rejected** because her phone clock was set by hand two minutes off. Automatic time fixed it.

Frequently asked questions

Is two-factor authentication required?
No, but it is the strongest protection after the password.

Does the phone need internet to generate codes?
No, authenticator apps work offline.

Does it affect logging in from the client area?
Client area access goes through your client area account, so protect that with a strong password too.

Can one app hold several accounts?
Yes, each account gets its own code.

Do I lose access for good if I lose my phone?
No, 2FA can be disabled after we verify your identity, or you can log in from the client area.

Should I turn on 2FA in the client area too?

Yes, we recommend it; protecting the client area protects cPanel access through it.

Related guides

- Change Your cPanel Password from Inside the Panel: Steps and What Changes with It
- Logging in to cPanel: Three Ways In, and Where to Find Your Username and Password
- Cannot Log in to cPanel with the Right Details? 6 Causes and Their Fixes
- How to Create a Strong Password and Store It Safely: A Password Manager Guide
- The Security Section in cPanel: IP Blocker, SSL Certificates, Two-Factor Authentication and Hotlink Protection

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