cPanel and WHM on a VPS — The Complete 2026 Guide: What They Are, Licensing, and When to Choose Them

cPanel · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/cpanel-whm-on-vps/

In shortcPanel is the world's most popular hosting control panel, and it works with WHM: cPanel manages a user's site, while WHM manages the whole server and creates accounts. It is a commercial panel with a monthly license on the customer, known for stability, abundant documentation and wide plugin compatibility, and suits anyone who wants a proven professional panel or resells hosting.



When it comes to hosting control panels, **cPanel** remains the most famous and widely used in the world for over twenty years. If you own a **VPS** and are considering cPanel, it's important to understand its relationship with **WHM**, how its licensing works, and when it's the best fit compared to free panels. In this guide from the Hyyat Host team we explain it simply.

Hyyat Host virtual servers with fast NVMe storage, full root control and Arabic support are a solid base for any control panel — free or paid like cPanel.

Explore Hyyat Host VPS plans ←

What is cPanel?

cPanel is a graphical control panel for managing a single website or hosting account: files, email, databases, subdomains, SSL certificates and backups — all from an easy, end-user-oriented interface. It's the panel a hosting customer sees when managing their site.

What's the difference between cPanel and WHM?

Many confuse the two names, but they are two sides of one system:

Aspect	cPanel	WHM
For whom?	The user / site owner	The server admin / reseller
Function	Manage one site or account	Manage the server, create accounts and packages
Examples	Files, email, databases, SSL	Create cPanel accounts, resources, security, updates
Default port	2083	2087

In short: on a VPS you first log in to **WHM** as the administrator to set up the server and create accounts, and each account gets its own **cPanel**. This two-tier model is what makes cPanel/WHM ideal for reselling hosting.

cPanel licensing and cost

Unlike free panels such as CyberPanel and HestiaCP, **cPanel is commercial with a paid monthly license**. The license price depends on the number of accounts and is usually billed monthly.

Therefore:

- **The license is on the customer:** we provide the server, and you choose the cPanel license plan for your account count.
- **Usually installed on a clean OS:** AlmaLinux or another supported system.
- **Cost versus value:** you pay for stability, official support and wide compatibility with hosting tools.

Note: we don't quote cPanel license prices here because they change and are set by the official vendor by account count. Open a ticket and we'll help you choose the right plan.

Key advantages of cPanel

- **The most popular and stable:** proven for two decades, rarely fails.
- **Abundant guides and support:** almost any issue has a documented solution.
- **Wide compatibility:** most scripts, migration tools and plugins support cPanel by default.
- **Softaculous** to install WordPress and hundreds of apps in one click (ships with most setups).
- **Full email**, DNS management and automatic SSL (AutoSSL).
- **Ideal for reselling:** via WHM you create accounts and packages for your clients.

cPanel vs free panels — when to choose each

Free panels have matured a lot and are now a strong alternative, but each option has its place:

- **Choose cPanel** if you want a proven professional panel with official support, you resell hosting, or you migrate sites from another cPanel host easily.
- **Choose a free panel** (such as CyberPanel, HestiaCP, CloudPanel or aaPanel) if you want to save the license cost, manage only your own sites, or want high WordPress performance (CyberPanel with LiteSpeed).
- **Choose another paid panel** such as Plesk (strong on Linux and Windows) or DirectAdmin (light with an affordable license) if its model suits you better.

For a full comparison of all options with pros and cons, see our guide: Best VPS control panels — a full comparison.

How to get started with cPanel on a VPS?

- Order a VPS with suitable resources (2 GB of RAM or more is recommended for cPanel).
- Get a cPanel license for the number of accounts you need.
- Install cPanel/WHM on a clean supported OS (AlmaLinux, for example).
- Log in to WHM as admin, create the first account, then manage the site from cPanel.

Next step

- Decide: a cPanel license or a free panel that saves cost?
- See the VPS control panel comparison before you decide.
- Prepare a suitable VPS for your choice.

And if you'd like us to prepare the server and install cPanel or any panel for you, open a support ticket — we reply within 24 hours at most.

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between cPanel and WHM?
cPanel manages a single user site/account, while WHM manages the whole server and creates accounts for the admin. The two come together.

Is cPanel free?
No, cPanel is a commercial panel with a monthly license on the customer based on account count, unlike free panels such as CyberPanel and HestiaCP.

Do I need WHM to use cPanel on a VPS?
Yes, on a VPS you manage the server and create accounts from WHM, and each account gets its own cPanel.

What is the free alternative to cPanel?
CyberPanel, HestiaCP, CloudPanel and aaPanel are strong free panels. See our full comparison to pick the best fit.

Can Hyyat Host install cPanel for me?

Yes, we provide the server and help with licensing and installation. The license is on the customer. Open a ticket and we reply within 24 hours.

Need this service from Hyyat Host?Our team handles it for you, with support replying to tickets within 24 hours at most.

Server Managementdedicated server