Installing cPanel and WHM on a New Server: Requirements, the Install Command and First-Run WHM Setup

WHM/cPanel · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/install-cpanel-whm/

Requirements and the command On a fresh server with a supported OS (such as AlmaLinux, Rocky Linux, CloudLinux or Ubuntu in versions cPanel supports), set the hostname, then run the official installer as root. When it finishes, open `https://your-hostname:2087` and complete the first-run wizard.

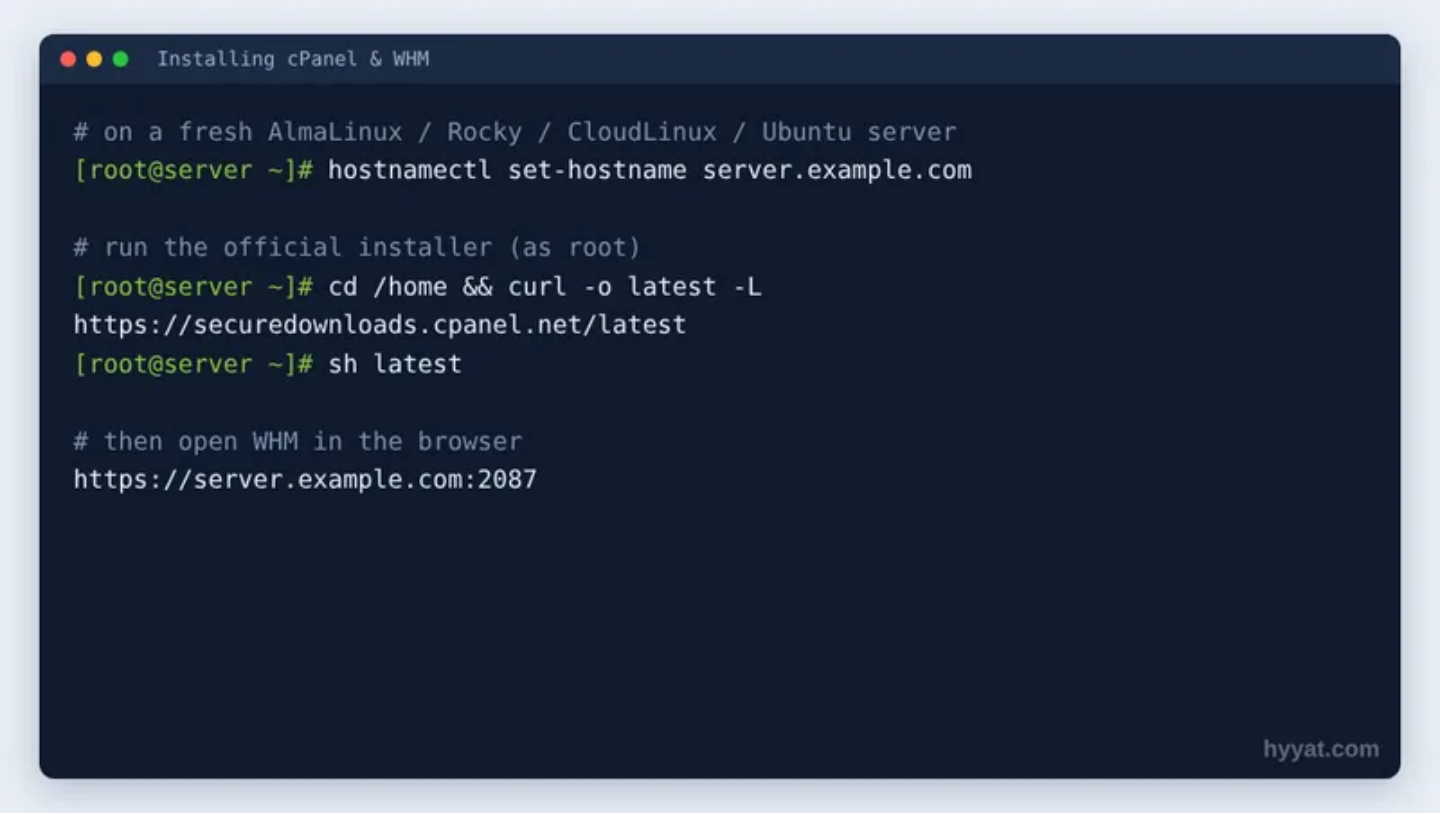
Embedded media: https://www.hyyat.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/hyyat-srv-install-en.mp4?_=1

cPanel only installs on a clean server: no other control panel and no web or mail server already installed. Hyyat Host VPS plans come without a control panel, so this guide is for anyone installing cPanel on their own server with a cPanel licence. If you are comparing panels first, see cPanel and WHM on a VPS.

Before installing

Requirement	Detail
A supported OS	The list changes with versions, so check cPanel’s official requirements page before choosing
A clean server	Straight after the OS install, with no Apache, MySQL or other panel
A fully qualified hostname	Such as `server.example.com`, not the main domain itself, with an A record pointing to the server IP
A cPanel licence	Activated on the server IP. Without it the install runs as a trial
Root access	Over SSH, as in connecting with SSH

Installing



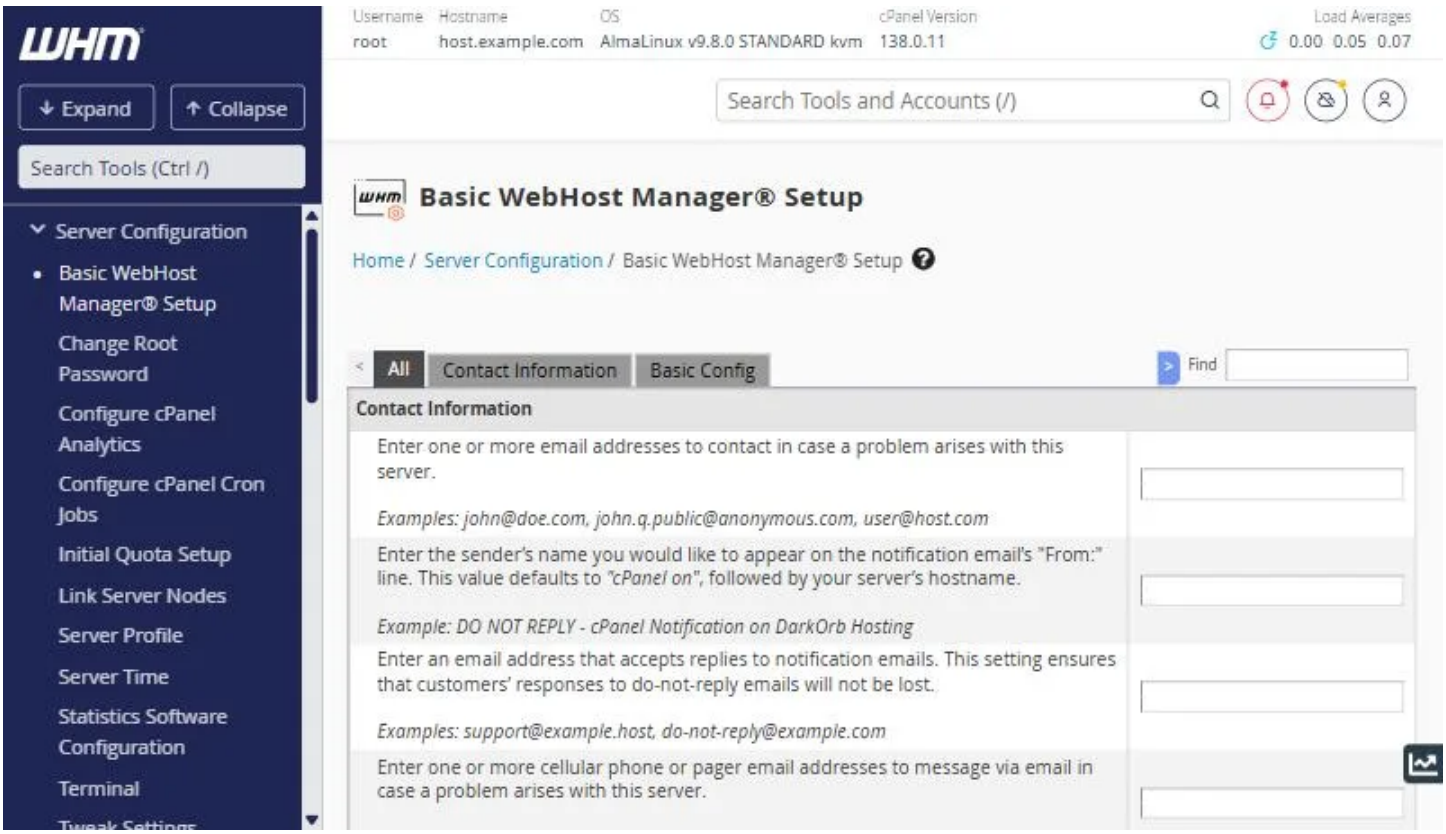
1. **Set the hostname** `hostnamectl set-hostname server.example.com`.
2. **Run inside screen** the install is long, and `screen` protects it from a dropped connection.
3. **Run the install command** as shown. The script downloads cPanel and installs every service.
4. **Wait for it to finish** it can take a long time depending on the server and connection. At the end it shows the WHM link.

Do not interrupt the install or reboot during it. If it breaks off for any reason, the safest path is reinstalling the OS and starting again.

WHM’s first-run wizard

The first time you log in to WHM as root, a short wizard runs:

1. **Agreement and licence** you accept cPanel’s terms and the licence is checked.
2. **Contact details** an address for server alerts. Use one on a domain hosted elsewhere.
3. **Networking** the hostname and the DNS resolvers the server uses.
4. **Nameservers** such as ns1 and ns2 on your domain, if the server will host DNS for sites.



All of this can be changed later in **Server Configuration, then Basic WebHost Manager Setup**.

Right after installing

Task	Guide
A firewall	Installing CSF
Free SSL certificates	AutoSSL
Automatic backups	Backup Configuration
Automatic updates	Update Preferences
A first package and account	create a package, then create an account
Basic hardening	securing a cPanel server

Common install errors

Problem	Cause and fix

The script will not start	The OS is unsupported or not clean. Reinstall a supported OS from the provider panel
Hostname rejected	It must be fully qualified with at least two dots, such as server.example.com
Stops while downloading packages	A network or DNS problem on the server. Check `ping` to an outside site
WHM will not open afterwards	Port 2087 is closed at the provider’s firewall, or the service has not started. Try `/scripts/restartsrv_cpsrvd`
Invalid licence message	The licence is not active on the server IP, or the IP differs from the one registered. Check with `/usr/local/cpanel/cpkeyclt`

Installation questions

Can I install cPanel on a server that already hosts sites?
No. The server must be clean. Move the sites in after installing.

Does cPanel run without a licence?
Only for a trial period; then it needs a licence activated on the server IP.

Can cPanel be uninstalled?
There is no official uninstall. The way back is reinstalling the OS.

What is the minimum memory?
Check the minimum on cPanel’s official requirements page, and remember sites and mail need memory on top of that.

Related guides

- cPanel and WHM on a VPS — The Complete 2026 Guide: What They Are, Licensing, and When to Choose Them
- The CSF Firewall on a cPanel Server: What It Does, Installing It from Manage Plugins, and the First Settings
- Creating a New cPanel Account in WHM: Every Field in Create a New Account Explained
- How to Connect to a Server via SSH from Windows, Mac and Linux
- 5 Tips to Secure Your cPanel Server

All WHM guides →

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