How to Install HestiaCP on a VPS — The Complete Step-by-Step Guide 2026

VPS control panels · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/install-hestiacp-vps/

In short HestiaCP is a free, open-source, lightweight control panel for managing websites, domains, email, databases, SSL certificates and backups from one interface. It runs on Ubuntu and Debian, installs with a single command on a clean VPS, and opens on port 8083 with the admin user.

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

If you own a **VPS** and want a free, lightweight control panel that brings website, email and domain management into one place, **HestiaCP** is one of the strongest choices. It is an open-source panel evolved from VestaCP that combines the **nginx** and **Apache** web servers for both speed and broad compatibility, and lets you manage websites, WordPress, SSL certificates, email, databases and backups from a single graphical interface. In this guide from the Hyyat Host team we walk through installing HestiaCP step by step, with the requirements, first login, key settings, and fixes for the most common issues.

This guide applies to a VPS. If you don't have one yet, Hyyat Host virtual servers are ready for you: fast NVMe storage, full root control, and Arabic technical support that walks with you step by step from order to first login.

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What is HestiaCP and why choose it?

HestiaCP is not just an interface but a complete, fully free hosting stack with no limit on the number of sites. It uses **nginx** as a fast front-end server for static files and caching, with **Apache** or **php-fpm** in the back for full compatibility with `.htaccess` and WordPress. Its key strengths:

- **Free and open-source:** no fees and no limit on domains or accounts.
- **Light and fast:** runs efficiently on a modest server, with Arabic interface support.
- **Full mail server:** Exim and Dovecot with anti-spam, so you run email on your own domain.
- **Free SSL certificates** issued automatically via Let's Encrypt in one click.
- **DNS server and databases** — MySQL/MariaDB and PostgreSQL built in.
- **Built-in firewall** with fail2ban to block intrusion attempts.

Requirements before installing

Before you start, make sure your server meets the minimum requirements so the install completes without issues:

Requirement	Minimum	Recommended
Operating system	Ubuntu 20.04/22.04/24.04 or Debian 11/12	Ubuntu 22.04
RAM	1 GB	2 GB or more
Storage	10 GB free	20 GB or more
CPU	Single core	Two cores or more
Access	root user	—

Very important: install HestiaCP only on a clean, fresh system with no other control panel or pre-installed web server, since conflicts can break the install. Every Hyyat Host VPS plan lets you reinstall the OS in one click before you begin.

Steps to install HestiaCP on a VPS

Step 1 — Connect to the server via SSH

Use the username and password or SSH key we provided (replace the server address with yours):

```
ssh root@your-server-ip
```

Step 2 — Update the system

```
apt update && apt upgrade -y
```

Updating reduces package errors during install; reboot if prompted after a kernel update.

Step 3 — Download the official install script

```
wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/hestiacp/hestiacp/release/install/hst-install.sh
```

Step 4 — Run the installer

```
bash hst-install.sh
```

The script lists the services it will install (web, mail, DNS, database, firewall), asks you to confirm, then prompts for an **admin email** and a **hostname**. You can keep the defaults if unsure.

Step 5 — Wait and save your credentials

The install usually takes **10 to 15 minutes** and may reboot the server at the end. It then shows the **panel link, the admin username and the password** — copy them and store them safely.

Logging into HestiaCP for the first time

Open the following address in your browser (use your server address or hostname):

```
https://your-server-ip:8083
```

A certificate warning may appear on first login because the certificate is temporarily self-signed — continue safely, and you can later issue a Let's Encrypt certificate for the panel itself. Then sign in with the username `admin` and the password you saved, or the one Hyyat Host gave you if you asked us to install it.

The four most important settings right after install

1. **Change the admin password immediately** From the user settings in the panel — a basic security step.
2. **Add your first website** From `Web → Add Web Domain` by entering the domain and choosing a PHP version.
3. **Issue a free SSL certificate** Enable the SSL and Let's Encrypt options in the domain settings to secure your site with https.
4. **Enable backups** From the `Backup` section, schedule periodic local or remote backups.

Common issues and how to fix them

- **Panel won't open on port 8083:** make sure the server firewall allows port 8083 and the install actually finished. At Hyyat Host the VPS firewall allows the essential ports by default.
- **Install stops midway:** usually an unsupported or unclean system or not enough memory — use a clean, supported OS with 2 GB of RAM.
- **Let's Encrypt issuance fails:** make sure the domain points to your server address in DNS before issuing the certificate.
- **Forgot the admin password:** run `v-change-user-password admin your-new-password` on the server, or open a ticket and we'll help.

HestiaCP's main features in detail

HestiaCP's strength is combining the **speed of nginx** with the **compatibility of Apache** in one stack, alongside full mail and domain management. This mix makes it suitable for personal sites, businesses and hosting agencies alike.

- **Multiple site management:** host an unlimited number of sites and domains, each with its own settings.
- **Multiple PHP versions:** pick the right PHP-FPM version per site from the panel.
- **Full mail server:** create mailboxes on your domain with Webmail and anti-spam.
- **Built-in DNS server:** manage your domain records from the same place, with clustering support.
- **Firewall and fail2ban:** built-in protection that blocks suspicious login attempts.
- **Flexible backups:** local backups or remote storage over FTP/SFTP.

Securing HestiaCP after install

The panel manages your whole server, so its security is a priority. Right after install, do the following:

1. **Issue an SSL certificate for the panel** So that access on port 8083 is encrypted with a trusted, not self-signed, certificate.
2. **Enable two-factor authentication** HestiaCP supports 2FA for the admin account — enable it for extra protection.
3. **Restrict access to port 8083** Allow it only from your own IP address in the firewall where possible.
4. **Update the panel and system regularly** To patch vulnerabilities as they appear.

What do you manage daily from the panel?

After install, every task is handled from one graphical interface without commands:

- Creating and managing websites and subdomains.
- Issuing free SSL certificates and renewing them automatically.
- Creating email accounts, mailboxes and Webmail.
- Managing MySQL/MariaDB and PostgreSQL databases and users.
- Managing DNS records, FTP accounts and Cron jobs.
- Backups and restores, and monitoring server resources.

When should you choose HestiaCP?

HestiaCP is an excellent choice if you want a complete free panel that brings web, mail and DNS into one lightweight interface on Ubuntu or Debian, suited to anyone managing several sites or clients. If your top priority is maximum WordPress speed with LiteSpeed technology, you may prefer **CyberPanel**. Being free, try it on a test server before relying on it in production.

Next step

- Change the admin password and add your first site.
- Issue a free SSL certificate to secure your site.
- Enable recurring backups from the start.

And if you'd like us to handle installation, management and security for you, open a support ticket — we reply within 24 hours at most.

Frequently asked questions

Is HestiaCP really free?
Yes, it is completely free and open-source with no limit on sites or domains. (The file manager is an optional paid add-on.)

What is HestiaCP's default port?
Port 8083 over https, i.e. https://your-server-ip:8083 with the username admin.

Does HestiaCP support WordPress?
Yes, it runs WordPress efficiently on its nginx-with-Apache or php-fpm stack; install it manually or via the app installer.

Which operating systems does it run on?
It supports Ubuntu and Debian; a clean, fresh supported release is recommended.

Does it include mail and DNS?
Yes, a full mail server (Exim and Dovecot) and a built-in DNS server, in addition to web and databases.

Can Hyyat Host install it for me?

Yes, through Hyyat Host VPS management plans, or open a ticket and we handle the installation and setup.

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

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