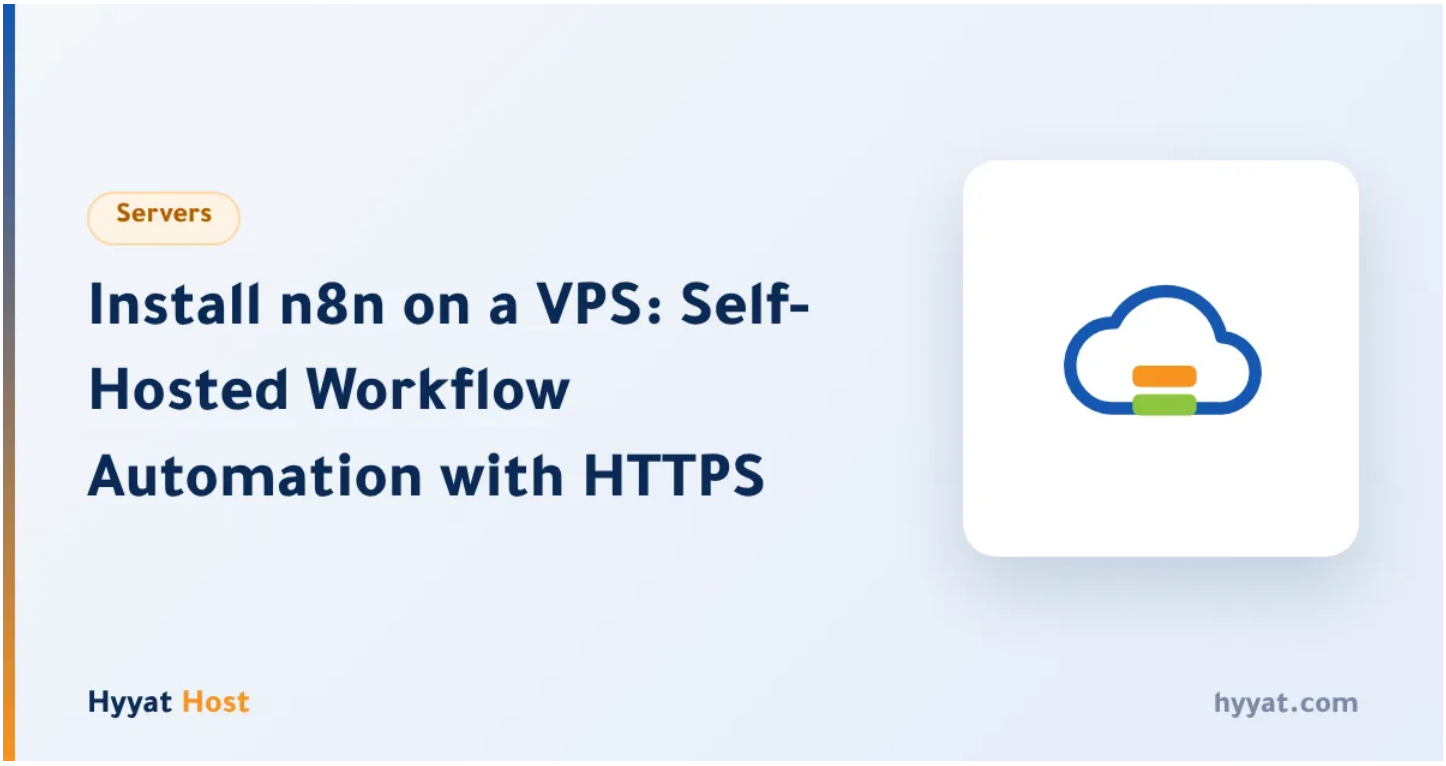
Install n8n on a VPS: Self-Hosted Workflow Automation with HTTPS

Servers Without a Control Panel · https://www.hyyat.com/en/knowledgebase/install-n8n-on-vps/

In shortn8n is an open-source automation tool that connects your apps. On a VPS you own, you run unlimited workflows with no per-execution fees. You need **Docker**, a **subdomain** and a **docker-compose** file with n8n and Caddy for automatic HTTPS. A **4GB** plan is comfortable for most businesses.



n8n connects apps such as Google Sheets, WhatsApp Business, email and your online store, and runs repetitive tasks for you: a new store customer is added to a sheet, you get a message, and a welcome email goes out. The cloud version is billed per execution; on your own server the only limit is the server's resources, and your data stays with you.

Choosing resources

Use	Suitable plan	Why
Testing and a few workflows	VPS 2GB	n8n alone needs 1 to 2 GB of memory
A business with dozens of workflows	VPS 4GB	Room for parallel executions and PostgreSQL
Large files or AI steps	VPS 8GB	Big files and requests use memory

Before you start

- A VPS with Ubuntu 24.04 or Debian 12 and root SSH access.
- Point a subdomain (for example `n8n.example.com`) to the server IP with an A record and wait for it to resolve.
- In the firewall, open only ports 22, 80 and 443 and keep the rest closed.

1. Install Docker

```
curl -fsSL https://get.docker.com | sh
systemctl enable --now docker
docker compose version
```

2. Create the project files

```
mkdir -p /opt/n8n && cd /opt/n8n
```

Create `docker-compose.yml` with this content, changing the domain and time zone:

```
services:
  n8n:
    image: docker.n8n.io/n8nio/n8n
    restart: unless-stopped
    environment:
      - N8N_HOST=n8n.example.com
      - N8N_PROTOCOL=https
      - WEBHOOK_URL=https://n8n.example.com/
      - GENERIC_TIMEZONE=Asia/Riyadh
```

```
      - TZ=Asia/Riyadh
    volumes:
      - n8n_data:/home/node/.n8n
  caddy:
    image: caddy:2
    restart: unless-stopped
    ports:
      - "80:80"
      - "443:443"
    volumes:
      - ./Caddyfile:/etc/caddy/Caddyfile
      - caddy_data:/data
volumes:
  n8n_data:
  caddy_data:
```

Then a `Caddyfile` in the same folder:

```
n8n.example.com {
    reverse_proxy n8n:5678
}
```

3. Start n8n

```
docker compose up -d
docker compose logs -f n8n
```

Open `https://n8n.example.com` and create the owner account straight away, because whoever opens the page first becomes the owner. Caddy obtains the SSL certificate automatically, with no extra setup.

Updates and backups

```
cd /opt/n8n
docker compose pull && docker compose up -d
```

n8n data (workflows and encrypted credentials) lives in the `n8n_data` volume. Take a **snapshot** from the VPS control panel before every update, and export important workflows from n8n from time to

time.

A mistake to avoid: Exposing n8n on port 5678 to the internet without HTTPS. Credentials for your connected accounts pass through it, so always keep it behind Caddy or another proxy with SSL.
At Hyyat Host: NVMe VPS servers with full root access, ready for n8n in minutes: VPS plans, with our own control panel for power, console and snapshots, and Arabic and English support.

Frequently asked questions

Is n8n free on my own server?
The community edition is open source and free to self-host under its licence terms; you only pay for the server.

How many workflows can I run?
n8n itself sets no limit; the limit is the server's memory and CPU. Start with a 4GB plan and upgrade when needed.

Do I need PostgreSQL?
n8n runs on its built-in SQLite database, which is fine for light use. With many executions, move to PostgreSQL for better stability.

Related guides

- New VPS Setup Commands, Step by Step
- Docker Compose Generator for WordPress and Apps
- Firewall: Control the Open Ports on Your VPS
- When Should You Move from Shared Hosting to a VPS? 7 Clear Signs

All guides for servers without a panel →

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