

Getting Started Guide

# Simple Control Panel

for your Linux Server



Getting Started Guide: Simple Control Panel, Linux Server

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# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>5</b>
SECURITY INFORMATION	5
REPROVISIONING YOUR SERVER	6
GETTING HELP	7
OTHER RESOURCES	9
<b>Setting Up Your Dedicated Server</b>	<b>10</b>
CHOOSING A HOST NAME, USER ID, AND PASSWORD	10
LOGGING IN TO YOUR MANAGER FOR THE FIRST TIME	13
<b>Connecting to Your Dedicated Server</b>	<b>14</b>
CONNECTING TO YOUR SERVER USING SIMPLE CONTROL PANEL	15
CONNECTING TO YOUR SERVER USING SSH	19
GAINING ROOT ACCESS ON YOUR SERVER	21

<b>Adding a Domain to Your Server</b>	<b>23</b>
LOGGING IN TO SIMPLE CONTROL PANEL	24
STEP 1 - CREATING A NEW DOMAIN IN SIMPLE CONTROL PANEL	24
STEP 2 - CONFIGURING HOSTING FOR YOUR DOMAIN	26
<b>Setting Up DNS for Your Domains</b>	<b>28</b>
STEP 1 - CREATING A ZONE FILE FOR YOUR DOMAIN	28
STEP 2 - CREATING AND REGISTERING YOUR DOMAIN HOSTS	29
STEP 3 - ASSIGNING THE NAME SERVERS TO YOUR DOMAIN	30
ACCESSING YOUR DOMAIN USING FTP (UPLOADING FILES)	32
<b>Setting Up Email on Your Server</b>	<b>33</b>
USING SIMPLE CONTROL PANEL TO SET UP AN EMAIL ACCOUNT	33
ACCESSING YOUR ACCOUNT WITH AN EMAIL CLIENT	36
USING WEBMAIL TO ACCESS YOUR EMAIL	37

# Introduction

Unlike normal hosting plans, which put many customers' accounts on a single server, a server is reserved exclusively for the account and use of a single customer. This means that you have exclusive rights to the server's bandwidth, memory, and storage space.

When you purchase a server, you actually lease a server box that remains at our data centers, which you can configure and set up according to your preferences.

## SECURITY INFORMATION

Compared with shared hosting, a server offers more power and more versatility. You can run and install virtually anything on your server. However, with this added control comes added responsibility.

**You are responsible for the security, backup, and maintenance of your server.**

.....  
**CAUTION!** Remember to keep your administrative password secure. Anyone who has administrative access to your server can manipulate the software and content that runs on your server.  
.....

Unless you have Managed Backup Services, we do not automatically back up your server. We do, however, offer an FTP backup service with our servers. For more information about our FTP backup service, please visit our website.

You can also purchase a hardware firewall for your server from us. You can use a hardware firewall to control the traffic to and from your server. For more information about our firewall service, please visit our website.

## REPROVISIONING YOUR SERVER

If, at any time, you want to revert to a clean setup on your server, you can reprovise it. Reprovisioning erases all of the content on your server's hard drive. Your server resets to its state at the time you first purchased it.

You can reprovise your server by using the Hosting Control Center.

### To Reprovise Your Server

1. Log in to your account.  
.....
2. Under the **My Products** section, select **Servers**.  
.....
3. Click **Launch Manager** next to the server you want to reprovise. The Hosting Control Center displays.  
.....
4. Under the **Support** section, click **Reprovision Server**. The Reprovision Server page displays.  
.....

5. If you want to, enter a new **host name** and **user name**. These values default to the current host name and user name for the account.

---

6. Enter and confirm a new password, and then click **Continue**.

---

You receive a confirmation notice once your server is reprovisioned and ready to go. Typically, this takes less than five hours.

## GETTING HELP

After you set up your server, you can easily get help by submitting a trouble ticket or initiating a chat session in the Hosting Control Center. Alternatively, you may contact Customer Support directly.

### To Open a Trouble Ticket

1. Log in to your account.

---

2. Under the **My Products** section, select **Servers**.

---

3. Click **Launch Manager** next to the server account that you want help with.

---

4. In the Hosting Control Center, under **Support**, click **Trouble Tickets**.

---

5. Enter your **contact information**, including an email address and phone number.

---

6. Under **Trouble Ticket Description**, enter a summary and a detailed description of your issue.

---

7. Click **Continue**.

---

8. Review your trouble ticket information and click **Submit**.

---

### To Open a Chat Session

1. Log in to your account.

---

2. Under the **My Products** section, select **Servers**.

---

3. Click **Launch Manager** next to the server account that you want help with.

---

4. In the Hosting Control Center, (in the top-right corner of the window) click **Chat Now!**

---

## OTHER RESOURCES

Use these resources to learn more about managing your server:

Redhat and Fedora Core Documentation	<a href="http://fedora.redhat.com/docs/">http://fedora.redhat.com/docs/</a> or <a href="http://www.redhat.com/docs">http://www.redhat.com/docs</a>  Redhat's extensive documentation can help you get acquainted with the Linux and the shell commands that you use with SSH.
CentOS Documentation	<a href="http://www.centos.org">http://www.centos.org</a>  You can find User Manuals on CentOS' website.

# Setting Up Your Dedicated Server

Once you have purchased your server and we've worked on the initial configuration, you need to log in to your Hosting Control Center to finish setting things up.

The Hosting Control Center is an easy place for you to set up your server's host name, user ID, and password. You can also use it to schedule server maintenance, reprovision your server, view bandwidth stats, request additional IPs, and submit trouble tickets.

## CHOOSING A HOST NAME, USER ID, AND PASSWORD

When setting up your server, you create a host name, user ID, and password for your server. This is the user ID and password that you will use to connect to your server in the future. It's a good idea to have this material ready when you log in for the first time.

### Choosing a Host Name

The server's host name (also known as your account name) is a unique name for your server. If you have multiple servers, the host names help you differentiate among them.

A host name can be anything, as long as it:

- Contains 3–15 characters
- Starts with a letter
- Only includes letters, numbers, periods, or a hyphen

- **Does not** start or end with a period or hyphen
- **Does not** include any spaces or any other special characters

### Choosing a User ID

A user ID is the primary ID that you use to access your server. This is also the user ID you use to access your server from an SSH® or SCP program.

**CAUTION!** Due to security reasons, you cannot log in directly to your server as root. However, you do have root access. To gain root access to your server, log in with your usual user ID and then use the `su -` command.

To learn more about root access, see [Gaining Root Access on Your Servers](#).

Your user ID can be between 4 and 32 lowercase alphanumeric characters. Your user ID **cannot**:

- Begin with a number
- Contain spaces, symbols, or capital letters

You **cannot** use the following reserved terms as a user ID:

adm	binftp	halt	nobody	rpc	system
admin	body	iusrlp	nscdntp	rpcuserrpm	uucp
administrator	games	mailnull	operator	smmsp	vcsa
anonymous	gopher	news	pcap	sshd	
backup	guest	nfsno	root	sync	

### Choosing a Password for Your Server

You use your server's password, along with your user ID, to connect to your server. It is also the password you use when you want to gain root access to your server.

To ensure your server is kept secure, your password must:

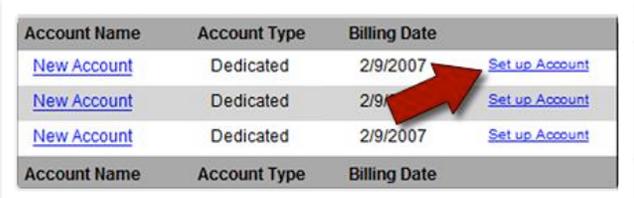
- Contains 7–14 characters
- Includes lowercase letters, uppercase letters, and numbers
- **Not** begin with a number or symbol
- **Not** contain backslashes, colons, single quotes, double quotes, spaces, ampersands (&), or the caret symbol (^)
- **Not** contain your user name

## LOGGING IN TO YOUR MANAGER FOR THE FIRST TIME

Once you've selected a host name, user ID, and password for your server, you can log in to your Hosting Control Center and finish setting it up.

### To Finish Setting Up Your Dedicated Server Account

1. Log in to your account.
2. Under the **My Products** section, select **Servers**.
3. Next to the server account you want to set up, click **Set up Account**.
4. On the Account Setup page, enter the **host name** for your server account.
5. Enter your **user name** and **password** for your account.
6. Click **Continue**.
7. Confirm your settings and click **Submit**.



Account Name	Account Type	Billing Date	
<a href="#">New Account</a>	Dedicated	2/9/2007	<a href="#">Set up Account</a>
<a href="#">New Account</a>	Dedicated	2/9/2007	<a href="#">Set up Account</a>
<a href="#">New Account</a>	Dedicated	2/9/2007	<a href="#">Set up Account</a>
Account Name	Account Type	Billing Date	

# Connecting to Your Dedicated Server

In general, there are two different ways you can connect to your server. You can use a Web-based interface such as Simple Control Panel, or you can connect directly to your server using the Secure Shell protocol (SSH).

Either way, you connect to your server using your server's IP address, the user ID, and the password you specified when you set up your account.

To find the IP addresses for your server, log in to your Hosting Control Center. The Hosting Control Center lists the IP address for your server on the first page you see after you log in.

.....

Depending on how you configured your server, you might have multiple IP addresses. You can use any of them to connect to your server.

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## CONNECTING TO YOUR SERVER USING SIMPLE CONTROL PANEL

Simple Control Panel is a simple and intuitive Web-based control panel for managing your server. More specifically, you can use Simple Control Panel to set up your domain, DNS, and email on your server.

Make sure that you have your IP address ready before you try to log in. You can find the IP address to your server in your Hosting Control Center.

This procedure explains how to log in to Simple Control Panel for the first time and includes some initial setup steps. You only need to perform these steps once.

### To Access Your Virtual Dedicated Server Using Simple Control Panel

1. Open a Web browser and go to:

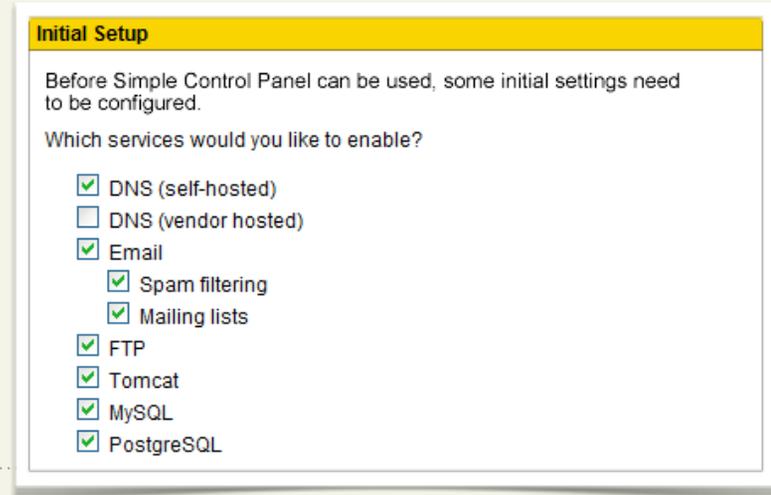
**`https://ipaddress:9999/`** (*ipaddress* is your server's IP address).

---

2. When the Simple Control Panel login screen displays, enter the user name and password you defined when you set up your server. In this example, we set up our account with the user name `cooexample`.
- 

3. Click **Login**.
-

4. When you log in to Simple Control Panel for the first time, the **Initial Setup** screen displays. There are a number of services you can enable for your server. For now, make sure that you select **DNS (self-hosted)** and **Email**. If you want to enable FTP, Java, or databases, select the appropriate options.



.....

In this guide, we'll set up a website on your server using your server as your nameserver. If you want to use another service for your nameservers, you can select **DNS (vendor hosted)**.

.....

5. In the **Email address** field, enter the email address that you want your server to use when sending system messages.



Where would you like administrative emails from this server to be sent?

Email address:

In order for mail to be recieved properly, the mail server must have a fully qualified domain name. What domain name would you like to use?

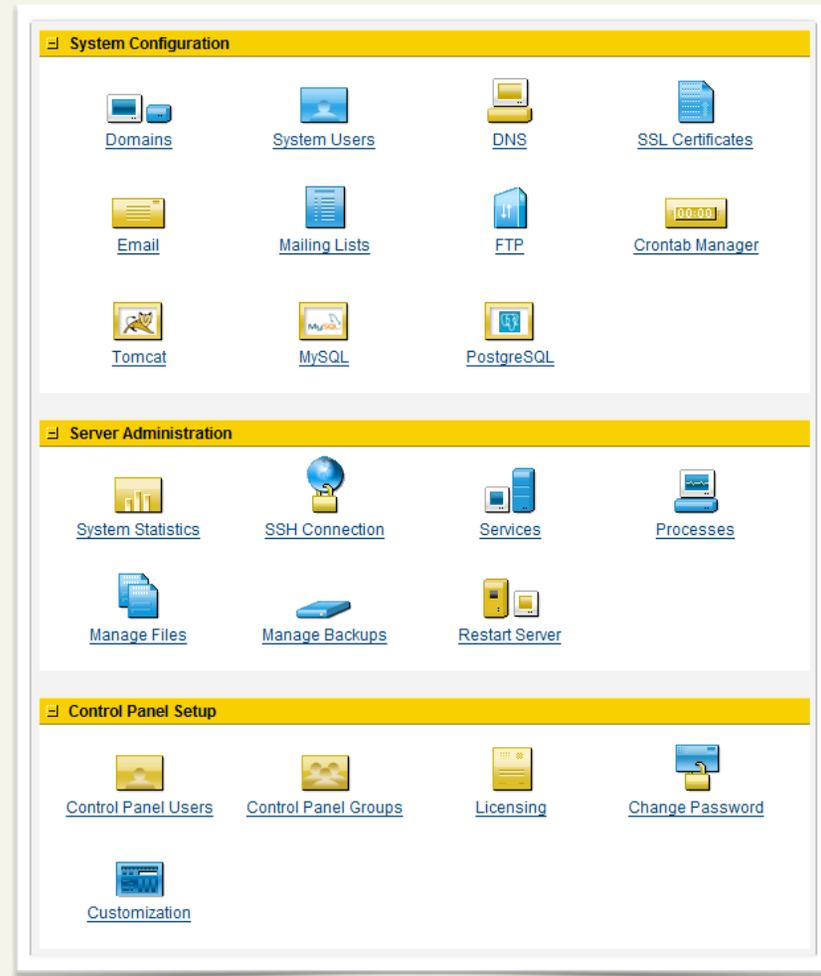
Mail server name:

6. In the **Mail server name** field, enter **mail.coolexample.com** (*coolexample.com* is the primary domain name for your server).
7. Read the End User License Agreement and click **Yes**.
8. Click **Save**.

The administrator interface looks like this when you log in to Simple Control Panel for the first time.

The home page in Simple Control Panel is the main area that you use to manage and monitor your server. From here, you can create new domains and email accounts, manage IP addresses, and start and stop services on your server.

For information about how to set up a domain and email using Simple Control Panel, see [Adding a Domain to Your Server Using Simple Control Panel](#) and [Setting Up Email on Your Dedicated Server](#).



## CONNECTING TO YOUR SERVER USING SSH

Typically, only advanced users who are familiar with Linux and shell commands connect to their servers using SSH. You should be able to take care of most of your server management tasks using Simple Control Panel.

If you are a more experienced user and are comfortable using a command-line interface, you can use the Secure Shell, or SSH, protocol to connect to your server.

First, download and install an SSH client on your computer. We recommend PuTTY (<http://www.putty.nl>) for Windows, Mac SSH (<http://www.macssh.com>) for Mac, and OpenSSH for Linux or UNIX.

Once you have installed an SSH client, log in to your server using your IP address, user name, and password. In this example, we use PuTTY.

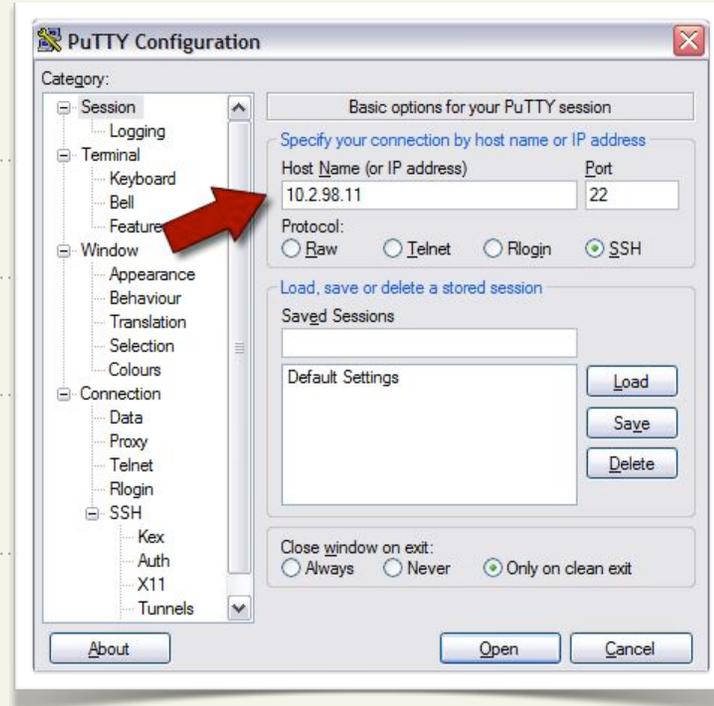
.....

Remember, before you log in to your server, make sure you have your IP address ready. You'll need to use your IP address to access your server. You can find the IP address to your server in the Hosting Control Center.

.....

### To Connect To Your Server Using SSH (PuTTY)

1. Open your SSH client (PuTTY).
2. In the **Host Name (or IP Address)** field, type the IP address for your server.
3. Click **Open**. This is the basic SSH command-line interface.
4. Log in to your server with the **user ID** and **password** you created when you set up your account.
5. Once you log in, you can execute shell (Bash) commands to navigate and manage your server.



## GAINING ROOT ACCESS ON YOUR SERVER

On our dedicated Linux servers, root is the administrative user to access and edit all of the files on your server (this includes system-critical files). You can also use root to install and uninstall programs on your server.

.....

**CAUTION!** Using root on your server can be dangerous. When you work on your server as root, you could potentially destroy important files and delete programs by accident. Typically, you should only use root to make one or two changes to your system and then switch back to your normal user account.

.....

You cannot log in to your server remotely using root. If you need root access on your server, use the “su - root” command once you have logged in with your user ID.

The “su” (short for substitute user) command makes it possible to become the root user, temporarily, while you are logged in with your normal user ID.

To use su to log in as root, type:

```
su -
```

By default, your root password is the same as the password you use with your normal user ID.

.....

**CAUTION!** When you are finished performing tasks as the root user, type **exit** to return to your normal user ID. To keep you data and server settings secure, only use root when necessary. Complete the task at hand, and then return to your normal user ID.

.....

# Adding a Domain to Your Server

As you might already know, a domain name works a lot like an address forwarding service.

All of your website content is on a computer with a unique address, your IP address. This is the same IP address that you use to connect to your server using Simple Control Panel. Your domain name directs visitors to your site using this IP address.

Before you set up a domain to host on your server, make sure you have already registered that domain through an accredited domain registrar.

To make the connection between domain name and IP address work, you need to first set up a domain and hosting on your server using Simple Control Panel. This section of the guide walks you through the necessary steps:

- Step 1 – Creating an Account in Simple Control Panel
- Step 2 – Configuring Hosting for Your Domain

## LOGGING IN TO SIMPLE CONTROL PANEL

There are two ways to access Simple Control Panel your server. You can log in to the Hosting Control Center and click the Launch Simple Control Panel icon, or you can go to:

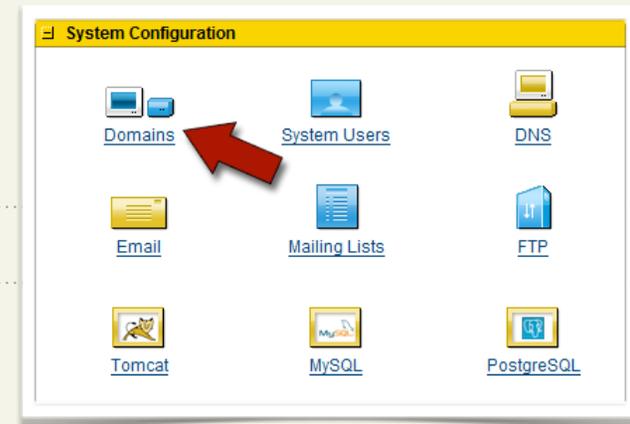
**https://ipaddress:9999/** (*ipaddress* is your server's IP address).

## STEP 1 - CREATING A NEW DOMAIN IN SIMPLE CONTROL PANEL

To host a website on your server, you need to create a domain in Simple Control Panel, which uses a wizard, or step-by-step process, to create a domain on your server.

### To Create a Domain in Simple Control Panel

1. Log in to Simple Control Panel with the user name and password you created when you set up your server.
2. Under **System Configuration**, click **Domains**.



.....

If this is the first time you have logged in to Simple Control Panel, you'll need to complete the initial setup process and accept the End User License Agreement. See [Connecting to Your Virtual Dedicated Server](#) for more information.

.....

3. Click **Add New Domain**. The Add Domain Wizard displays.

4. On the **Register Domain Name** page, select **Yes**, and then click **Next**.

5. On the **Enter Domain Information** page, enter the domain name you want to set up on your server, and then click **Next**.

6. On the **Create System User** page, enter a user name and password to create a user account for this domain.

7. In the **Disk quota (MB)** field, enter the amount of hosting space you want to set up for this domain.

8. Select **SSH access** and **FTP access**, and then click **Next**.

.....

Domain Configuration - Add Domain Wizard - Create System User (3 of 6)

A system user must now be created for this domain.

Domain name: COOLEXAMPLE.COM

Username:  \*

Password:  \*

Password (again):  \*

Disk quota (MB):  \* (0 = unlimited)

SSH access:

FTP access:

\*required fields

9. On the **Assign Permissions** page, select **Only administrators will manage this domain**, and then click **Next**.

---

10. On the **Set Up Email** page, select **Do not setup email**, and then click **Next**.

---

11. Review your domain configuration. If everything looks correct, click **Save**.

---

When Simple Control Panel creates your domain, it automatically sets up a DNS zone file and hosting account for that domain. You can now specify additional hosting options for this domain. You will set up email later in this configuration process. For instructions, see [Setting Up Email on Your Virtual Dedicated Server](#).

## STEP 2 - CONFIGURING HOSTING FOR YOUR DOMAIN

Using the hosting configuration section of Simple Control Panel, you can determine which features you want to enable on the hosting account for your domain. For example: SSL, FrontPage® extensions, SSI, CGI, and Web statistics (Webalizer). In the following example, we configure a basic hosting account for the domain we created in [Creating a New Domain in Simple Control Panel](#).

### To Configure Hosting for Your Domain in Simple Control Panel

1. If you're not already, log in to Simple Control Panel with the user name and password you created when you set up your server.

---

2. Under **System Configuration**, click **Domains**.

---

- From your list of domains, click the pencil icon next to the domain you want to configure. In this example, we configure hosting for coolexample.com.
- On the **Domain Configuration** page, there are a number of hosting options for your domain. Select the features from the list that you want to enable for this domain.
- When you've finished selecting the features for your domain, click **Save**.

You can now access the directory for your domain and upload files using the FTP feature in Simple Control Panel. However, for people to see your website online, you need to configure the DNS for your site.

The next section of this guide, *Setting Up DNS for Domains on Your Server*, walks you through the DNS setup. Once you configure the DNS for your site, you can FTP into your website hosting directory in the same way that you would with a traditional hosting account.

Domain Configuration - Edit Domain - COOLEXAMPLE.COM

IP address: 10.2.98.10

System user: janesmith

Document root: /home/janesmith/public\_html

SSL certificate: (none)

Webalizer:

SSI:

CGI:

ModPerl:

ModPython:

FrontPage:

FrontPage password:

FrontPage password (again):

\*required fields

SAVE CANCEL

# Setting Up DNS for Your Domains

Nameservers are the Internet's equivalent to a phone book. A nameserver maintains a directory of domain names that match certain IP addresses.

This makes it possible for people across the Internet to access your website using a familiar domain name, instead of having to remember a series of numbers.

This section of the guide walks you through setting up your server as the nameserver for your domain and covers the procedure for assigning this nameserver to your domain.

After you set up your DNS, it can take up to 48 hours before your domain resolves to your IP address. This period is referred to as the propagation period.

.....  
*We do not directly control the propagation period for your domain. While it should take no more than 48 hours, we cannot guarantee this time frame.*  
.....

## **STEP 1 - CREATING A ZONE FILE FOR YOUR DOMAIN**

To use your server as a nameserver, all of the domains on your server must have a zone file. A zone file is the file that maps your IP address to your domain name. This is easy because Simple Control Panel automatically creates a zone file for any domain you set up.

If you have not set up your domain in Simple Control Panel, see [Adding a Domain to Your Server](#).

## STEP 2 - CREATING AND REGISTERING YOUR DOMAIN HOSTS

Once you set up a domain and create a zone file in Simple Control Panel, you need to create and register two domain hosts for your domain. If your domain is registered with us, you can log in to your account manager to complete this step.

If your domain name is registered with another company, you need to contact them for instructions regarding domain host registration.

### To Register Your Domain Hosts

1. Log in to your account.  
.....
2. Under the **My Products** section, select **Domain Manager**.  
.....
3. Click the domain name you're going to host on your server. In this example, we'll use cooexample.com.  
.....
4. On the bottom-left of the page under **Host Summary**, click **Add**.  
.....

5. Enter a **Host name** for each domain host. This prefix can be anything that is easy for you to remember, like NS1 and NS2 (**NameServer1** and **NameServer2**). You will need to create two host records.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Set Host and IP Addresses". It contains a "Host name:" field with "NS1" entered and a domain dropdown menu set to ".COOLEXAMPLE.COM". To the right of the domain is a checked "IPv6" checkbox. Below these are 13 input fields for "Host IP 1" through "Host IP 13". "Host IP 1" contains "10.0.0.1". At the bottom right are "OK" and "Cancel" buttons.

6. Enter the **Host IP** – your server’s IP address. You can find the IP address for your server in the Hosting Control Center.
7. Click **OK** and repeat these steps to create another host for NS2.

These domain hosts can be used for other domains hosted on your server. You do not need to create new domain hosts for each of your domains.

### STEP 3 - ASSIGNING THE NAME SERVERS TO YOUR DOMAIN

Now that you created and registered two domain hosts, you need to change the information for your domain to use these new servers. If your domain is registered with us, you can log in to your account manager to complete this step.

If your domain name is registered with another company or you manage the DNS for your domains with a third-party tool, you'll need to contact them for information about assigning nameservers to your domain.

### To Assign the Name Servers to Your Domain

1. Log in to your account.
2. Under the **My Products** section, select **Domain Manager**.
3. Click the domain name you want to host on your server.
4. Under **Name Servers** click **Manage**.
5. Choose **I host my domains with another provider**. For Nameserver 1 and Nameserver 2, enter the names of the domain hosts you created previously. In this example, we're using ns1.coolexample.com and ns2.coolexample.com.
6. Click **OK**.

**Set Nameservers** \* Required

If you are hosting your Web site with us (you have a hosting account with us associated with this domain) or you want to Park or Forward your domain, we will automatically set your nameservers for you.

I want to **park** my domains.  
 I want to **forward** my domains.  
 I have a **hosting account** with these domains.

If you are hosting your Web site with some other company (you have a hosting account at another provider that is associated with this domain), then enter your provider's nameservers (you must enter at least two nameservers).

I host my domains with **another provider**.

Nameserver 1: \*  Nameserver 2: \*  Nameserver 3:  Nameserver 4:

[Add more](#)

**Did You Know?**

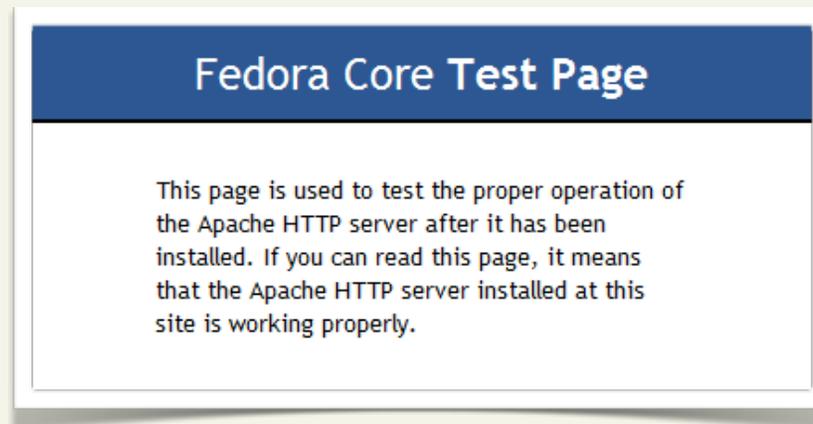
Domains using our nameservers benefit from our worldwide DNS presence through Anycast DNS.

[Learn More](#)

## ACCESSING YOUR DOMAIN USING FTP (UPLOADING FILES)

After you set up your DNS, it can take up to 48 hours before your domain resolves to your IP address. This period is referred to as the propagation period.

Once your domain resolves, you will see a default index listing for your site when you type your domain name into a browser. This is an example of a default index listing page:



When this page displays, you can connect to the hosting account for your domain using FTP or Simple Control Panel to upload files to your Web site.

.....

To make your Web pages viewable, upload them to the “www” or “public\_html” directory. This directory is the root directory for your Web site.

.....

# Setting Up Email on Your Server

Once you have set up your domain and hosting, setting up email accounts in Simple Control Panel only takes a few steps.

.....

If you followed the procedure in the previous section of this guide to set up the DNS for your domain, you do not need to modify your MX records to set up email accounts in Simple Control Panel.

.....

## USING SIMPLE CONTROL PANEL TO SET UP AN EMAIL ACCOUNT

The easiest way to set up an email account for a domain on your server is using the Simple Control Panel interface.

### To Set Up Email for Your Domain in Simple Control Panel

1. If you're not already logged in to Simple Control Panel, log in using the administrative login and password you created when you set up your server.
  2. Under **System Configuration**, click **Email**.
- .....

3. This is the basic Email Configuration page for your server. Under **Email Configuration Domains**, click **Add New Domain**.
4. In the **Domain name** field, enter the domain name for the email accounts you want to create.
5. Select **Create a new email account** to handle default aliases.
6. Click **Next**.
7. Before you create a typical email account, you need to create an email account that will handle most of the administrative communication (or default aliases) for your domain.

In the **Email account** field, enter a name for the email account that will handle the administrative communication for this domain.

8. In the **Password** fields, enter and confirm a password for this administrative email address, and then click **Save**.
9. Under the **Email Configuration-Domains** section, click the Pencil icon next to the domain you just configured.

**Email Configuration - Add Domain Wizard - Account Details (2 of 2)**

Enter a new email account which will receive administrative email for

Email account:  @ COOLEXAMPLE.COM \*

Password:  \*

Password (again):  \*

Quota (MB):  (0 = unlimited)

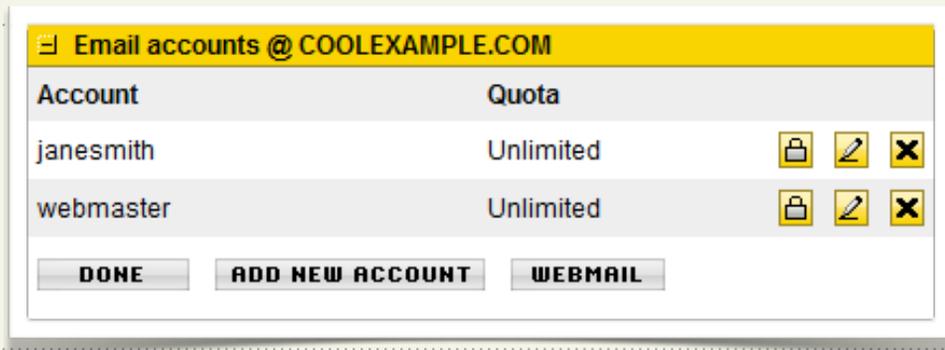
\*required fields

10. Under the **Email accounts** section, click **Add New Account**.

11. In the **Email account** field, enter a name for the email account you want to create. In this example, we create an email account for **janesmith@coolexample.com**.

12. In the **Password** fields, enter and confirm a password for this email account, and then click **Save**.

13. Your new email account displays in the **Email accounts** list. Follow this same procedure to create additional email accounts for your domain.



## ACCESSING YOUR ACCOUNT WITH AN EMAIL CLIENT

To access your email account using an email client, such as Outlook®, Thunderbird™, or Entourage®, you need the following information:

User Name	The name of the email account you created in Simple Control Panel, for example: <code>janesmith@coolexample.com</code> .
Password	The password you specified in Simple Control Panel when you set up your email account.
POP3	<b>mail.coolexample.com</b> ( <i>coolexample.com</i> is your domain name).
SMTP Setting	<b>mail.coolexample.com</b> ( <i>coolexample.com</i> is your domain name). The outgoing (SMTP) server requires authentication and uses the same user name and password as the incoming (POP3) server.

## USING WEBMAIL TO ACCESS YOUR EMAIL

Instead of accessing your email using a traditional email client, you can access your email on the Web using a standard Web browser.

You can access Webmail for your server at:

**<https://cooexample.com/webmail/>** (*cooexample.com* is your domain name).

Sign in using the full email address and password you created for the email account.