

SERVER Start-up Guidelines

Section 1 -Getting Started

Login to your SERVER Control Panel using the credentials located in your welcome e-mail:

Your SERVER should be pre-installed with the SERVER cPanel template. There is a section entitled "Information" that lists the currently installed template. It should look like this:

Information	.
mac	aa:00:3a:d0:b3
Location	lvm:vds
ostemplate	centos-5.1-64bit-cpanel-final
console	cpanelxenvm @ a2xvps1.a2hosting.com
IP	69.39.67.123,74.1
Last Login	98.243.170.168

Next to 'ostemplate' it should read

Open VZ – "centos-5.2-cpanel-openvz"

If it does not you can click on "Rebuild" under the Console section and rebuild with the proper template.

In the same "Information" box there is an IP field, please check to see that there are two IP's listed. You will usually see the first one and only part of the second one. To see the second one click the "Main Ipaddresses" icon in the Console. Click the down arrow on the drop-down menu and 2 IP addresses should be listed. WRITE THESE DOWN. The first is the primary and will be referred to as such from now on.

Next we need to set the hostname on your SERVER. Click the "Network" icon under the 'Console' section. Change the hostname to something like the following: server.mydomain.com

In order for cpanel to work correctly it must be in this format: subdomain.domain.tld

Gateway, Netmask, and Resolv Entries should be filled already. Do not change these values or your SERVER will not function properly.

You will have to switch the "Network Bridge" setting to 'automatic' or it will cause an error when you click the Update button.

Once this is complete, click the 'VM Home' tab at the top of the page and click the button to reboot the server.

Once you are sure the proper template is installed, you have written down both of your IP addresses and set your hostname you can move on to setting up your cPanel SERVER.

Section 2 - Initial WHM Setup and Configuration

WHM is "Web Host Manager". You will be doing most of the server configuration in WHM.

WHM is used to manage the server as a whole as well as all accounts on the server. cPanel is the customer control panel that is used to setup and configure individual sites, e-mail addresses and various other day-to-day aspects of a running website.

Make sure you to have the two (2) IP addresses written down that you gathered in the previous step. To access WHM for the first time you will need to locate the IP address of your SERVER listed in your welcome e-mail (same as the primary you just wrote down from above), then open a web browser and type the following:

`https://yourIPaddress:2087`

Example: `https://192.168.1.25:2087`

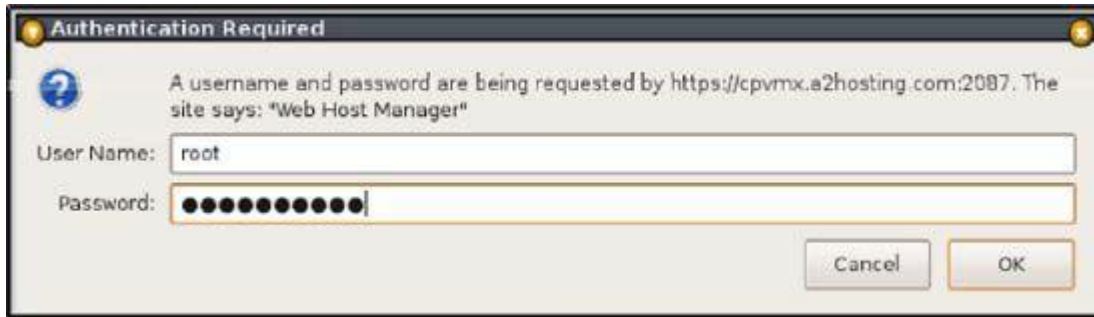
Depending on your browser you will most likely get an "Invalid Security Certificate" message of some type. You can trust the certificate, it is just self-signed. In Firefox you have to add an exception, in Internet Explorer and Opera you just have to accept the certificate. Newer versions of Safari should work as well. If you would like to avoid this message in the future you will need to purchase a private SSL certificate. You can purchase one here:

`http://www.instantssl.com`

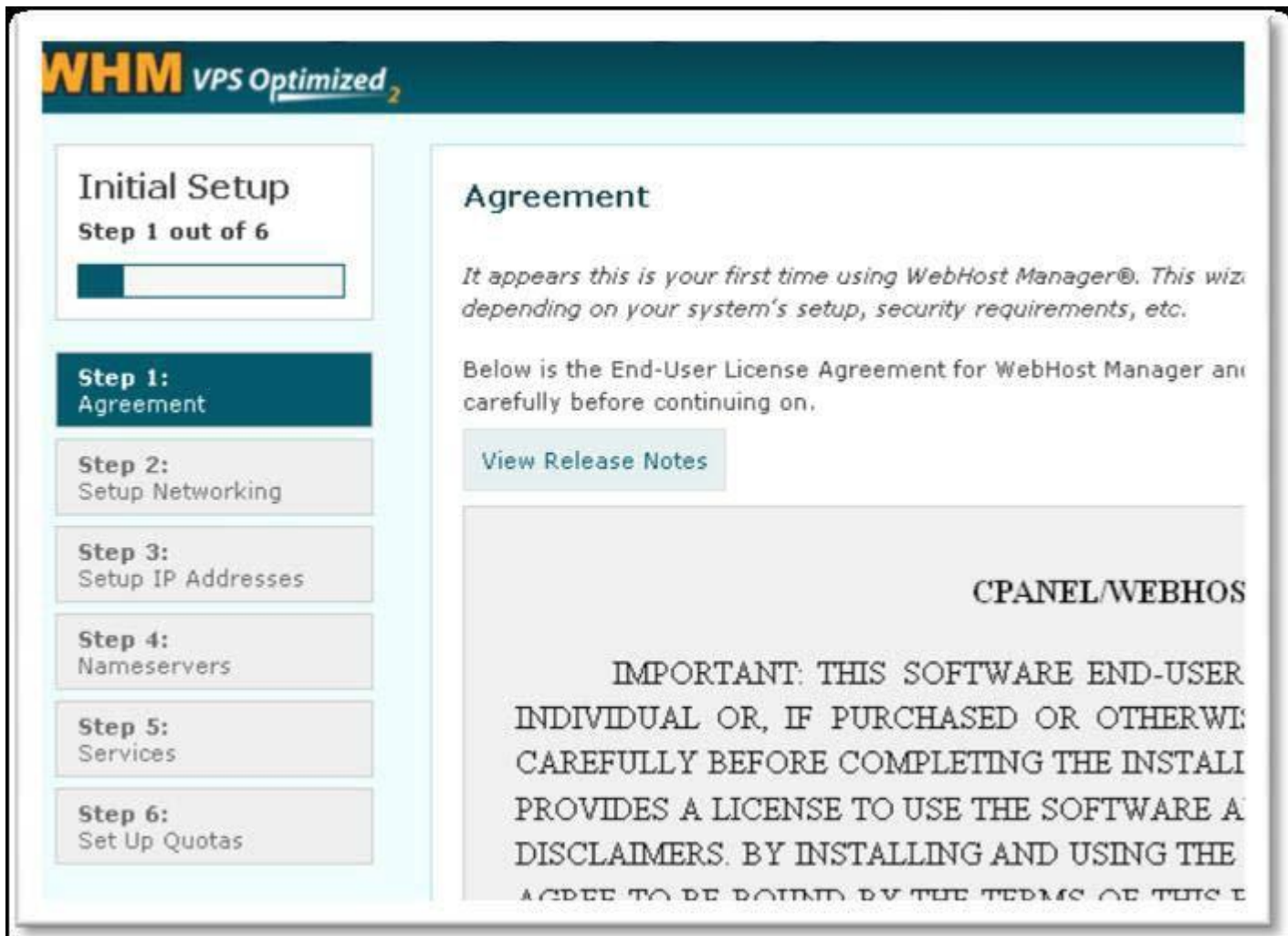
IMPORTANT: If you receive a message about the license not being active or "Invalid License File" please see Appendix A at the end of this document. Otherwise, continue.

You will be presented with a login box asking for a username and password.

Enter "root" (without quotes) as the user-name and the password that is provided in your welcome e-mail. Initially this is set to the same password you used to login to the SERVER control panel in the first step.



Upon successful login you will be see the following:



The main window will show to the EULA (End User License Agreement) for cPanel. Please browse the EULA, and then click on "I Agree/Go to Step 2" at the bottom of the page.

Step 2 – Setup Networking

The main window will then change to the "Setup Networking" screen. Step 2 "Setup Networking" will be highlighted in the upper-left corner of your browser. You can reference this sidebar to see what step you are currently working on.

The most important one for you to fill in is the very first one labeled "Server Contact E-mail address". In this blank put the e-mail address you wish to be notified when events occur on your server. The other contact fields are optional (AIM, ICQ). If you wish to use them click the checkbox, then enter the requested information.

WARNING: The "Server Contact E-mail Address" will get quite a bit of e-mail so you may want to set up a separate address for these notifications. You can create this address at a later time in your cPanel account if you wish -- it does not have to exist yet.

The next box is entitled "Hostname". This should match the hostname we set in the first section of this document. If it does not match please update it to match the one you set previously. The entry below is just an example, please do not use.



The screenshot shows a configuration box for the "Hostname". At the top, the word "Hostname" is written in a blue font. Below it, there is a label "This Server's Hostname *" followed by a text input field containing the value "server.yourdomain.tld". Underneath the input field, there is explanatory text: "The current hostname of the server. **This must be set to a valid FQDN (Fully Qualified Domain Name to work(two '.'s))**". Below this, two lines of examples are provided: "Good examples: server45.myhosting.com, zeus.somedomain.com" and "Bad examples: server2, somedomain.com".

In the box entitled "Resolvers" verify they are correctly set to the following:

Primary Resolver: 83.168.225.225

Secondary Resolver: 83.168.226.226

Third Resolver should be left blank.

Resolvers

Warning: It is **very important** to choose reliable resolvers. Using unreliable resolvers will severely degrade your server's performance.

Primary Resolver *

The primary nameserver used to resolve domain names.

Secondary Resolver *

A backup nameserver used to resolve domain names if the primary is unreachable.

Third Resolver

A backup nameserver used to resolve domain names if the primary and secondary are unreachable.

Changing these values to anything else will cause your server to not function properly. **DO NOT CHANGE THESE VALUES!!!!**

In the final box on the screen "Main Ethernet/Network Device" it should be set to "eth0" by default, which is the correct setting.

Once you have verified this information click "Save & Go to Step 3"

Step 3 – Setup IP address

On the Step 3 page, verify that 2 IP addresses are listed under the "Current IP Addresses" box.

Current IP Addresses

Ip	Interface	Active	Actions
69.88.67.23 [Main Address]	eth0		
74.826.18.249	eth0:0		

Note: You cannot remove IP addresses that are in use. You must first remove the accounts they are associated with or switch the domains to a new IP address.

They should match the two you wrote down in the first section of this document – NOT the ones listed above. If you do not see two IP addresses listed, please submit a ticket to technical support at support@seohost.co.uk so we can repair this issue. Please do not attempt to add the missing IP address on your own.

You can then click, "Skip this Step and use Default Settings" at the top of the Step 3 screen.

Setup IP Addresses

Skip This Step and Use Default Settings

Step 4 – Nameservers

Step 4 Involves setting up your nameservers. Please pay special attention to this section. Your domain name will not resolve properly if this section is not completed properly.

The first section is to select the nameserver software you want to use, We highly recommend selecting BIND on your SERVER. The advantages/disadvantages are listed next to each selection.

Initial Setup

Step 4 out of 6

Step 1:
Agreement

Step 2:
Setup Networking

Step 3:
Setup IP Addresses

Step 4:
Nameservers

Step 5:
Services

Step 6:
Set Up Quotas

Nameservers

Required fields are marked by the red asterisk *.

Nameserver Configuration

A nameserver is a program that maintains a list of your domain names and their networking setups of most servers. However, servers using a remote nameserver...

Here you can select the nameserver you wish to use, if any.

Note: You are not required to switch to NSD. Both BIND and NSD are supported.

Name Server	Advantages	Disadvantages
<input checked="" type="radio"/> BIND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Configuration file can be manually edited.• Extremely configurable.• Provides a caching nameserver.• Very tolerant of syntax errors in zone files.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Much Larger
<input type="radio"/> NSD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very low memory footprint.• Extremely lightweight.• No additional configuration needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Configur...• Does not only serv...• nameser...• Must rest...• Limited to...
<input type="radio"/> Disabled		

The next box in Step 4 is where you chose your nameserver URL's. Please use the primary domain you intend to use with your account.

For example if your main domain is www.testingsite.com you would use:

ns1.testingsite.com

ns2.testingsite.com

In the final box in Step 4 we need to enter the IP addresses you wrote down in the first section of this document.

Check the boxes for both "Add 'A Entries' for all Nameservers" and "Add 'A Entries" for hostname. The primary IP goes in the text field next to "Nameserver 1" and the secondary goes in the text field next to "Nameserver 2". In the last box put the primary IP address.

Add A Entries for Nameservers & Hostname

Add "A Entries" for all Nameservers
Please enter an IP address for each of your nameservers.

ns1.yourdomain.tld

ns2.yourdomain.tld

Add "A Entries" for Hostname

IP for Entry:

Save & Go to Step 5

DO NOT use the IP address listed above. They will not work and are only provided as examples.

Click "Save & Go to Step 5"

A screen will appear that says "Setting Up Nameserver Settings". This will take 30 seconds to a few minutes depending on your SERVER type.

Step 5 – Services

The services section allows you to select the FTP and Mail program you would like to use on your server.

On a SERVER we recommend using:

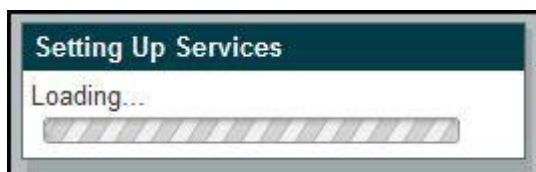
FTP – Pure-FTPd

Mail – Dovecot

cPHulk – Enabled

You are free to select the programs you are more comfortable with but the above selections will use the least amount of memory and ensure better performance on your SERVER.

Once you have selected your choices click "Save & Go to Step 6". The screen will change and you should see a box that says, "Setting Up Services" This will remain on the screen for 30 seconds or more depending on the options chosen.



Step 6 – Quotas

We recommend enabling quotas. Quotas enable you to easy set specific users disk space limits. It's much easier to enable them on a fresh system than try to set them up later. Once you have made your selection click the "Finish Setup Wizard" button.



The screen will go white while quotas are enabled then you will be taken to the main WHM screen. That's it for Initial Setup in WHM. We have a few minor details to work out with your nameservers which we will cover in the Section 3. After that you can begin setting up for first site in Section 4.

Section 3 – Registering Your Nameservers

Registering your nameservers

NOTE: The following directions only apply if your domains were purchased through SEOHost.co.uk. If you purchased your domains from an outside provider you will have to contact them for instructions on registering your name servers. It can usually be completed easily through the registrars' domain control panel. Regardless of where your domains were purchased your name servers have to be registered for your SERVER to work properly. Please contact your registrar for more information regarding this process if necessary.

Log into your billing account at <http://www.seohost.co.uk/clients/>

Click the "My Sites" link at the top of the page then click the "My Domains" link on the following page. A list of your domains purchased through SEOHost.co.uk will appear. Click on the appropriate domain. Under the "Domain Utilities" heading click the 'Register Name Server' option. A box like the one below will appear to the right.

» Register New NameServer

NameServer: ns1.myhostingsite.com
(example.. NS1.realhostingreviews.org)

IP Address: 12.34.56.78

Go Back Submit Changes

Note: NameServer submission for Current Domain Only.

Enter the name server information and associated IP addresses you setup in the previous steps. You will have to do this step twice, once for each nameserver.

ns1 should be the primary IP address and ns2 should be the secondary IP address you wrote down earlier.

Changing your Nameservers

Now that your name servers are registered you will need to associate your domain with those name servers. While still logged into your billing account, click "Change DNS" under the 'Domain Utility' heading. The following should appear:

» Configure DNS Servers

Use Standard Name-Services
 Use the Following Name-Servers

1) ns1.myhostingsite.com
2) ns2.myhostingsite.com
3)
4)
5)
6)
7)
8)
9)
10)

Note: Domain names may be sorted Alphabetically

In the fields labeled 1) and 2) enter the name servers you just registered in the previous step and then click the "Submit Changes" button below the box.

This step concludes setting up your name servers. These changes can take up to 24 hours to propagate, although they are usually updated within 30 minutes. When a ping of your name servers returns the IP addresses you wrote down, things are working correctly and propagated.

NOTE: As previously mentioned, if your domains are registered with another provider you will need to register your name servers and update your DNS settings in the same manner at your respective registrar.

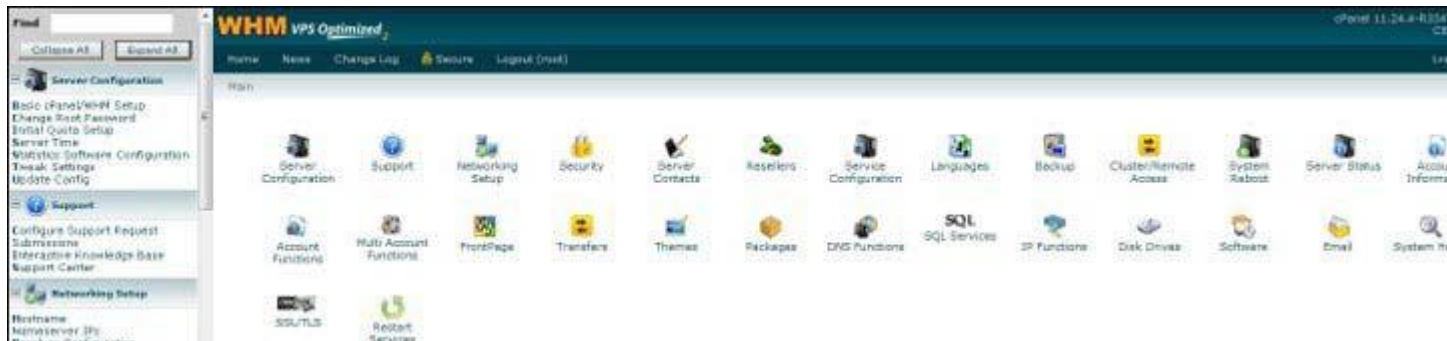
Part 4 – Setting Up Your First Site

In this final section you will be setting up the server so you can actually use it to start hosting and building your websites.

- Compiling Apache and PHP
- Creating a package
- Creating an account for daily use
- Logging into cPanel for the first time

Start by logging into WHM again as the root user. (If you had logged out after Initial Setup)

You should see a screen similar to this:



Scroll around; take a look at the options. Most of the things we will be doing in the next few steps will involve the extremely long menu on the left side of the screen. You may want to click "Collapse All" at the top of this menu and then expand only what you need at the time.

Compiling Apache and PHP

Your server has Apache and PHP installed by default but the versions are what were available in the CentOS repositories. If you would like newer version or need a custom setup, WHM makes it easy to compile Apache and PHP so they work well together.

Start by clicking "Easy Apache" link under the 'Software' heading. You may receive a message that recommends upgrading to the newest version of cPanel software. If you receive this message you can click the "Upgrade to Latest Version" link under the 'cPanel' heading. Once you have updated the software you can come back to the "Apache Update"

NOTE: We recommend using the "Stable" versions of cPanel. We cannot support issues that arise by using the "Edge" or "Current" versions of cPanel as they may contain bugs or unreleased features. WHM provides some default configurations you can use and then customize each to meet your needs. You can save your custom configuration at the end of the process for later use. Click the Radio Button of the profile you would like to use then click "Start Customizing based on Profile".

Begin by selecting a profile to load:

Previously Saved Config (** DEFAULT **) [[Hide Info](#)]
↑ *This option loads the last saved configuration. If the configuration is missing, then default values will be provided.*

[[Click here to view details](#)] [[Raw](#)] [[Download profile](#)] [[About Profiles](#)]

Basic (If your previous build has failed, please use this option) [[More Info](#)]

No PHP [[More Info](#)]

PHP Encryption / E-commerce [[More Info](#)]

PHP Encryption and Image Manipulation [[More Info](#)]

PHP Image Manipulation [[More Info](#)]

PHP Security [[More Info](#)]

or

From this point you can select the Apache and PHP major/minor versions as well as features you prefer to have compiled in. Various warnings will pop up as you select and deselect options. WHM will resolve dependencies for you, so you do not need to worry about manually installing anything with the package manager. Because Apache and PHP are compiled from source, this step will take some time to complete, usually between 30-40 minutes depending on the options selected.

Creating a Package

Packages allow you to set limits such as disk space, e-mail accounts, add-on domains, shell type and more which you can assign to one account or multiple accounts. You can create as many packages as you would like, but for now we are going to create what we will call the "master" package which you will use for setting up your "Daily Use" account.

WHM has a handy search box in the top left corner that makes it much easier to wade through the long menu. Using the Find feature in the top left of the screen type "Add Packages" (no quotes) and the long list should shrink down to one option which will read "Add Packages". The search box is NOT case-sensitive.

NOTE: Don't forget to erase your text from the search box once you are done or things will seem to have disappeared!

Because this is the "master" package we do not want it to have any limits.

- Enter a package name, "master_package", for example.
- Under resources fill all text fields with "unlimited".
- Leave the Settings box untouched (with possible exception of "Language")
- Click the "Add" button

Creating an Account for Daily Use

It is not good practice to login as root for daily activities. Most things done as root cannot be undone – at least not easily.

This daily use account is to be the main account/website. Start by clicking "Create a New Account" under the Account Functions heading on the left side of the screen.



Enter the applicable information into the fields.

- Domain is to be the main domain of your site, enter it into this field without the "www". In most cases this will be the same domain you used when signing up for your account.
- Select a username and password and enter an e-mail address for the account.
- Under "Package" select the name of the package you created in the previous step.
- Leave the Settings box untouched. (with possible exception of "Language")
- In the Reseller Settings box, click the "Make the account a Reseller" checkbox.
- When you make the account a Reseller, another option will appear "Owns their account (They can modify their own account)". Check this box as well.

- In the "DNS Settings" box, leave the boxes unchecked but make sure the name servers listed are the ones you setup in Part 2.

Click "Create" and the account creation screen will appear. If any errors occur you will be asked to go back and fix them. If it is successful you will see a screen with lots of big green checkmarks down the side.

Now that we have created this account, we need to adjust the privileges and start using it!

Under the "Resellers" heading on the left side menu, click "Reseller Center". You should see the account you just created listed under the "Reseller Modifications" box next to 'Select a Reseller'. Click the Lock icon titled "Edit Privileges/Nameservers"



Because this is to be your main account for daily use, we do not want to provide many limitations for this user. You can select what you would like but SEOHost.co.uk recommends you click the "Add All" box above each set of Privileges EXCEPT the last one entitled "Root Access" Leave the name servers fields blank and click the "Save all Settings" button at the bottom.

You now have setup your Daily Use account which has WHM access to most functions you need on a daily basis and also setup a cPanel account for your domain.

By default, the URL's to login to cPanel and WHM are as follows:

cPanel – <http://<IP or domain>/cpanel> OR <https://<IP or domain>:2083>

WHM – <http://<IP or domain>/whm> OR <https://<IP or domain>:2087>

Other Areas of Interest

Before you log out as the root user you should take the time to configure a few other things in WHM. All of the following are optional but recommended.

- In "Tweak Settings" option under "Server Configuration" you can enable/disable many useful options, mostly notably under "Redirection" option.

** Always redirect users to the ssl/tls ports when visiting /cpanel, /webmail, etc.

Turning that option on will force SSL encryption when you try to enter WHM, cPanel, or Webmail. Remember, for security purposes and to prevent accidental mistakes, only use the root account for things you cannot do with your daily use account and always use https:// when logging into WHM or cPanel.

- Under "Service Configuration" there is a 'Manage Service SSL Certificates' option. Here you can reset all the SSL certificates to match the hostname of your server. You will have to do one at a time. Just a precaution, resetting them will force you to log back in once or twice using the new SSL certificate.
- Also under "Service Configuration" there is a 'PHP Configuration Editor' option. You can modify the php.ini file from this location. Please edit with caution and make a backup of your php.ini file before editing in case of mistakes.

After you are done familiarizing yourself with the options the root user has, you can logout as the root user and log back in as your "Daily" user. Most things will look the same, just a few potentially dangerous options removed that usually do not need to be accessed anyway.

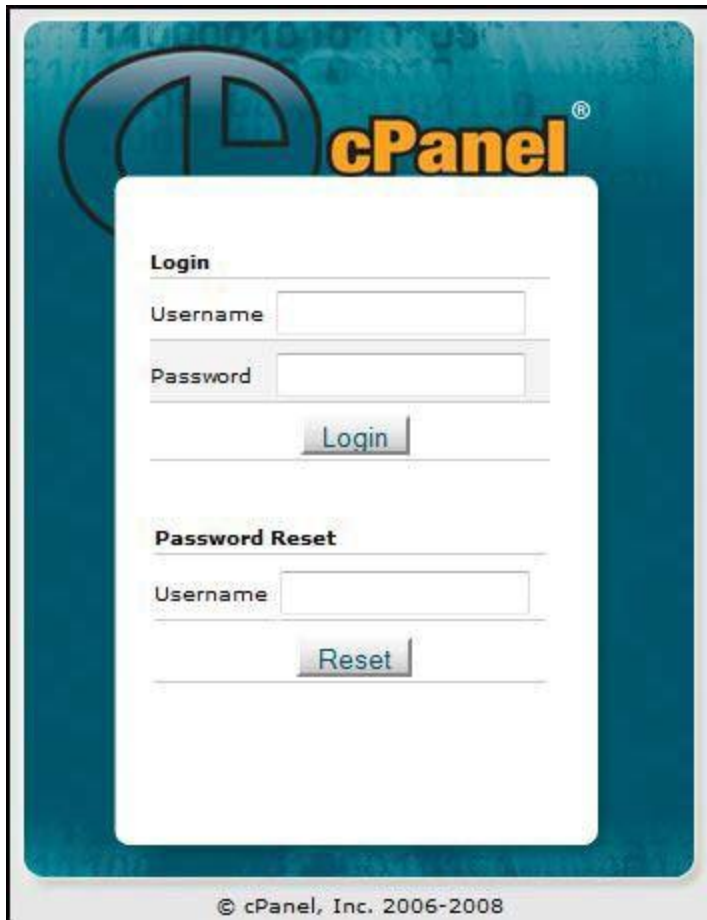
In the daily user account you can create other cPanel accounts, create/edit packages, add accounts, edit DNS zone files and most other functions you need to manage the server.

Logging into cPanel for the first time

As you have seen WHM allows you to control your entire server and create accounts. cPanel allows you to control all the aspects of one site including the web site files, e-mail accounts, MySQL databases. cPanel includes video tutorials that can guide you through all of the different features.

By now, your DNS changes should have propagated and you can use the domain name from the daily use account you just setup.

Type, <http://yourdomain.tld/cpanel> (where yourdomain.tld is replaced by your domain name) and enter the same username and password you created for your daily use account. You should see a login window like the following:



If that doesn't resolve properly (yet) you can use your IP address to connect:

Type <http://primaryIPaddress/cpanel>

Once in logged into cPanel you can begin exploring all of the options.

That's it! Hopefully you now have a WHM/cPanel server setup and ready to start hosing your site.

This document is only intended to get you up and running with WHM/cPanel on your SERVER. It is by no means an exhaustive resource for all that you can do.

For full documentation please visit the following URL:

WHM – <http://www.cpanel.net/support/docs/11/whm/>

cPanel – <http://www.cpanel.net/support/docs/11/cpanel/>