

The cPanel Cheat Sheet

The cPanel Cheat Sheet · WebsiteSetup.org · a scannable quick reference for the Jupiter theme

A fast reference to cPanel's tools and the tasks you do most: email, domains, HTTPS, backups, databases. Built for site owners who already have cPanel hosting and want the right icon without hunting. This is a quick reference, not a walkthrough.

cPanel vs hPanel: read this first

cPanel is the classic control panel many hosts ship. Jupiter is its current default theme; the old Paper Lantern theme is retired. If you see rows of small icons in sections like Files, Databases, and Domains, you are on cPanel. Hosts like Bluehost give you real cPanel, so the paths below apply. Hostinger is different: it runs its own hPanel, so these exact icons and paths do not apply there. If your dashboard does not match this sheet, you are probably on hPanel or a host-customized panel. Look for the equivalent tool, not the exact icon.

Section map at a glance

Files

Tool	What it does
File Manager	Edit and upload files in the browser
Directory Privacy	Password-protect folders
Disk Usage	See what is using storage
Web Disk	Mount your account as a network drive
FTP Accounts	Create FTP upload logins
FTP Connections	See active FTP sessions
Backup	Download or restore archives
Backup Wizard	Guided backup and restore
Images	Resize and convert images
Git Version Control	Host and deploy Git repos

Databases

Tool	What it does
MySQL Databases	Create databases and users manually
MySQL Database Wizard	Guided database + user setup
phpMyAdmin	Browse, import, and export tables
Remote MySQL	Let outside hosts connect to your DB

Domains

Tool	What it does
Domains	Manage addon, parked, and alias domains in one place
Subdomains	Create subdomains like blog.yoursite.com
Aliases	Point extra domain names at your site
Redirects	Send one URL to another
Zone Editor	Edit DNS records
Dynamic DNS	Auto-update a record on IP change

Email

Tool	What it does
Email Accounts	Create and manage mailboxes
Forwarders	Copy mail to another address
Email Routing	Control how mail is delivered
Autoresponders	Send automatic replies
Default Address	Catch mail to unknown names
Mailing Lists	Run group mailing lists
Track Delivery	Trace what happened to a message
Email Filters	Sort or block mail by rule
Authentication	Set SPF and DKIM records
Spam Filters	Apache SpamAssassin controls
Encryption	Manage GnuPG keys
BoxTrapper	Challenge unknown senders
Calendars and Contacts	Sync CalDAV and CardDAV

Metrics

Tool	What it does
Visitors	See recent visitor hits
Errors	Read server error log entries
Bandwidth	Track data transfer
Raw Access	Download raw log files
Awstats	Graphical traffic reports
Resource Usage	CPU and memory limit view

Security

Tool	What it does
SSH Access	Open terminal access
IP Blocker	Ban an address or range
SSL/TLS	Manage certificates and keys
SSL/TLS Status	Run AutoSSL for free certs
Hotlink Protection	Block other sites embedding your files
Leech Protection	Limit shared password abuse
ModSecurity	Web application firewall
SSH Keys	Manage SSH key pairs
Manage API Tokens	Issue API access tokens
Two-Factor Authentication	Add a login code step

Software

Tool	What it does
Setup Python/Node/Ruby App	Deploy those app runtimes
MultiPHP Manager / Select PHP Version	Pick your PHP version
PHP PEAR Packages	Install PHP libraries
Perl Modules	Install Perl libraries
Softaculous Apps Installer	One-click install WordPress and more
Optimize Website	Tune output compression

Advanced

Tool	What it does
Cron Jobs	Schedule commands to run
Track DNS	Run DNS lookups and traces
Indexes	Control directory listing
Error Pages	Customize 404 and error pages
Apache Handlers	Map file types to handlers
MIME Types	Set how files are served
Virus Scanner	Scan your account for malware

Preferences

Tool	What it does
Change Password	Reset your account login
Contact Information	Set alert email address
User Manager	Add and manage sub-accounts
Change Language	Switch interface language

Common tasks, done fast

Task	Where to click
Create an email account	Email > Email Accounts > Create
Set up a forwarder	Email > Forwarders
Add a subdomain	Domains > Create A New Domain (or Subdomains)
Add an extra/addon domain	Domains > Create A New Domain, set document root, uncheck "share document root"
Force HTTPS / SSL	Security > SSL/TLS Status > run AutoSSL
Back up your site	Files > Backup Wizard (Full for migration, Home Directory for restorable files)
Create a MySQL DB + user	Databases > MySQL Database Wizard > grant All Privileges
Import a database	Databases > phpMyAdmin > Import
Set a cron job	Advanced > Cron Jobs
Block an IP	Security > IP Blocker
Change PHP version	Software > MultiPHP Manager or Select PHP Version
Install WordPress	Software > Softaculous Apps Installer > WordPress
Edit DNS	Domains > Zone Editor > Manage
Enable SSH	Security > SSH Access (may be plan-gated)

Commonly gotten wrong

- hPanel is not cPanel. Hostinger runs its own panel, so cPanel tutorials will not match its screens.
- Jupiter is the current theme; Paper Lantern is retired. Old screenshots look wrong even on cPanel.
- "Addon Domains" stopped being its own tool in cPanel version 106 and folded into Domains. Old tutorials still say Addon Domains.
- The free cert feature is called AutoSSL. It issues from Let's Encrypt or Sectigo depending on the host, so do not hunt for a "Let's Encrypt" button.
- Hosts hide, rename, or plan-gate tools like SSH, Remote MySQL, Git, and PHP version. If you do not see a tool, your host disabled it.
- Backup Wizard Full backup is for migration and cannot be restored via the cPanel UI. Use Home Directory for restorable file backups.

FAQ

Is hPanel the same as cPanel? No. hPanel is Hostinger's own panel. Same jobs, different names and layout.

Where is Addon Domains? Folded into the single Domains tool since cPanel version 106. Use Create A New Domain.

How do I get a free SSL in cPanel? Open SSL/TLS Status and run AutoSSL. It issues a free cert automatically.

Why don't I see SSH or a certain tool? Your host disabled or plan-gated it. Common on shared and entry-level plans.