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Managed or unmanaged VPS: which to choose and who does what

VPS & Servers

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Managed or unmanaged VPS: which to choose and who does what

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Two VPS with the same processor, the same memory and the same disk can be priced very differently. The difference is rarely the hardware: it is **who administers the system**.

The line, in one sentence

On an **unmanaged** VPS we hand over the machine powered on and with full access - from there, the system is yours. On a **managed** VPS someone looks after the system for you: updates, security, backups and monitoring.

Who handles what	Unmanaged / Managed
Hardware, network and power	**Provider** in both cases. The physical machine and the connection are always ours.
Operating system and updates	Unmanaged: **yours**. Managed: **the provider's**.
Firewall and hardening	Unmanaged: **yours**. Managed: **the provider's**.
Backups	Unmanaged: **yours** - and this is where most people get burned. Managed: usually included.
Control panel (cPanel, Plesk...)	Chosen when ordering, as an option with its own cost (cPanel, Plesk, Webuzo or none), in both cases. **Not included in our plans**, bought if you want it.
Installing and tuning applications	**Yours** in both cases. Not even a managed plan looks after your site code.
When something stops at 3am	Unmanaged: **it is on you**. Managed: someone answers.

Which one suits you

1. **Unmanaged** if you have (or hire) someone who knows Linux or Windows Server, want full freedom and would rather not pay for administration you will not use.

2. **Managed** if administering servers is not your business. What looks dearer per month usually works out cheaper than one night of downtime.

3. **Neither** if what you have is an ordinary website. **Shared hosting** already comes administered by us and covers the overwhelming majority of cases, with no server to look after.

Questions to ask before buying (from us or anyone)

1. Are **backups** included? How often, kept where, and who performs the restore?

2. Who applies the system's **security updates**?

3. Is the **control panel** included, or a separate licence?

4. What exactly does **support** answer for - only the machine and network, or what runs inside it too?

5. If you lose access, is there a **console** to get in without going through the network?

Unmanaged does not mean abandoned.
We keep the machine up, the network running and the console available, and we help you work out what is going on. What we do not do, in that model, is administer the system for you - see **how far our support goes** .

How our plans work

So there are no surprises: our VPS and Cloud plans are **unmanaged** by default.

1. We hand over the machine with the **operating system installed** and full access. That is what the price covers.

2. No control panel comes in the base price: you choose one (cPanel, Plesk, Webuzo) or none when ordering. It is an option on the order page.

3 **Backups are not included.** This is the point to settle *before* you put real data on the machine, not after.

4 Want a panel, backups or hands-on help? Ask **at order time or later by ticket**. It carries its own cost, shown on the order page before you pay.

Adding what you need costs less than you would think.
An unmanaged VPS with a panel and backups bought separately still comes to less than most managed plans - and you only pay for what you use. Tell us what you need to run and we will work out the numbers.

NEED A HAND?

Torn between managing and being managed? Tell us what you need to run.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Common VPS and Cloud errors: SSH, memory, disk and reboots** →
- **Connecting to a Windows VPS with Remote Desktop** →
- **First steps with your VPS** →
- **Need more resources? See VPS and Cloud servers.** →

VPS AND CLOUD SERVERS

For when shared hosting is no longer enough.

Dedicated resources, root access and freedom to install whatever you need. With the same support team behind it.

See servers →

Linux or Windows · scale when you need to

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