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A security.txt file: telling researchers how to report a problem

Security

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Interweb Mozambique
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https://www.meu.interweb.co.mz/knowledgebase/1732

A security.txt file: telling researchers how to report a problem

Security Created on **October 15, 2026** 2 min read



The short answer: security.txt is a small text file, in an agreed place on your site, that tells whoever discovers a security flaw **who to report it to**. It is described in a public standard (RFC 9116). For a small site it is not mandatory, but it takes ten minutes and keeps a useful warning from having nowhere to go.

How to create it

1. **Create an e-mail address just for this,** such as `security@your-domain.com`. See **How to create an e-mail account in cPanel**. That way reports do not get lost in the inbox of someone who leaves the company.

2. **In cPanel's File Manager,** in the `public_html` folder, create a folder called `.well-known` (with the dot in front), if it does not exist yet. **Do not delete or touch what is already there;** other services use this folder.

3. **Inside it, create the file** `security.txt` with this content, changing what is needed:

```
Contact: mailto:security@your-domain.com
Expires: 2027-10-15T00:00:00.000Z
Preferred-Languages: en, pt
Canonical: https://your-domain.com/.well-known/security.txt
```

4. **Open the address** `https://your-domain.com/.well-known/security.txt` in a browser and confirm the text shows.

Field	What it is for
`Contact`	**Required.** An e-mail (`mailto:`) or a web address where the flaw is reported.

Field	What it is for
`Expires`	**Required.** The date after which the information can no longer be trusted. The standard recommends less than a year: pick a date and set a calendar reminder.
`Preferred-Languages`	The languages you prefer to receive the report in.
`Canonical`	The right address of the file itself.
`Policy`	A link to your disclosure policy, if you have one.

What to expect

You will get a few useful reports and many **automatic ones of little value**: tools that point out things of no importance, and requests for payment for "findings". Read them without hurry, do not answer threats and do not pay. If a report seems serious, open a support ticket with the message so we can look at it together.

Do not promise what you cannot deliver.
Do not write that you pay rewards if you do not. And put someone in charge of the mailbox who actually reads it. For the rest of the site's security, see **Keeping your VPS secure** and **Security headers explained**.

Want to report abuse coming from another site (spam, phishing)? That is something else: see **Reporting abuse**.

NEED A HAND?

Need help creating the folder or the file? Open a ticket with the domain.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Reporting abuse: how to do it and what happens next** →
- **Security headers explained: what they do and how to add them in .htaccess** →
- **How to create an e-mail account in cPanel?** →

Personal data protection: what applies to your website

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