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Uptime Kuma on a VPS: watch your sites from a server of your own

VPS & Servers

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Uptime Kuma on a VPS: watch your sites from a server of your own

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The short answer: Uptime Kuma is a free program that **checks every minute whether your sites are up** and warns you (by Telegram, e-mail and others) when they are not. It runs in a Docker container, on a VPS. The most important point: **put it on a different server from the one it watches**, or it falls together with the site and warns nobody.

What the site needs

What	What to do
What it watches	Web pages (response code and a word in the text), ports, pings, certificates about to expire, scheduled tasks that must “give a signal”.
How it warns	Telegram, e-mail, WhatsApp through other tools, and many other channels: **Alerts by Telegram**.
Where it runs	On a VPS, in Docker. It needs a port (3001, by default) and HTTPS behind a proxy.
Away from the watched server	If you watch sites on the same VPS it runs on, a VPS failure wipes out the watcher. Use another server, or a small VPS just for this.
Data	It lives in a folder on the server: that is what you back up.

Getting started

1. **Install Docker** on the VPS: **Installing Docker**.

2 **Create a folder** and in it the compose.yaml file:

```
services:
  uptime-kuma:
    image: louislam/uptime-kuma:1
    restart: unless-stopped
    ports:
      - "127.0.0.1:3001:3001"
    volumes:
      - ./data:/app/data
```

3 **Start it:** `docker compose up -d`. The port stays on the server itself (127.0.0.1); outside access goes through the proxy.

4 **Put the proxy and HTTPS in front** (Uptime Kuma uses real-time connections, so the proxy must let them through): **Nginx in front of a container** and **HTTPS for a container**.

5 **Open the address,** create the administrator account, add each site to watch and connect a notice. Test by switching off a trial site.

! **Create the administrator account on the very first visit.**
Until then, anyone who reaches the address can create it. Use a long password and the program's own two-step verification. Back up the data folder: **Volumes and data folders**.

For a simple check without a server of your own, see **An alert when the site goes down**. To update Uptime Kuma without losing data: **Updating a Docker application**.

NEED A HAND?

Want help setting up your watcher? Open a ticket with the VPS plan.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Getting an alert when your site goes down: a simple uptime check** →
- **Sending alerts to Telegram from your website or a script** →

- **Installing Docker and Docker Compose on a VPS**
- **Nginx as a reverse proxy in front of a container**
- **HTTPS for a container: a certificate and a domain**
- **Updating a Docker application without losing data**

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