interweb

Generated on 29/10/2026 13:26

KNOWLEDGE BASE · PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Reinstalling or changing your VPS operating system

VPS & Servers

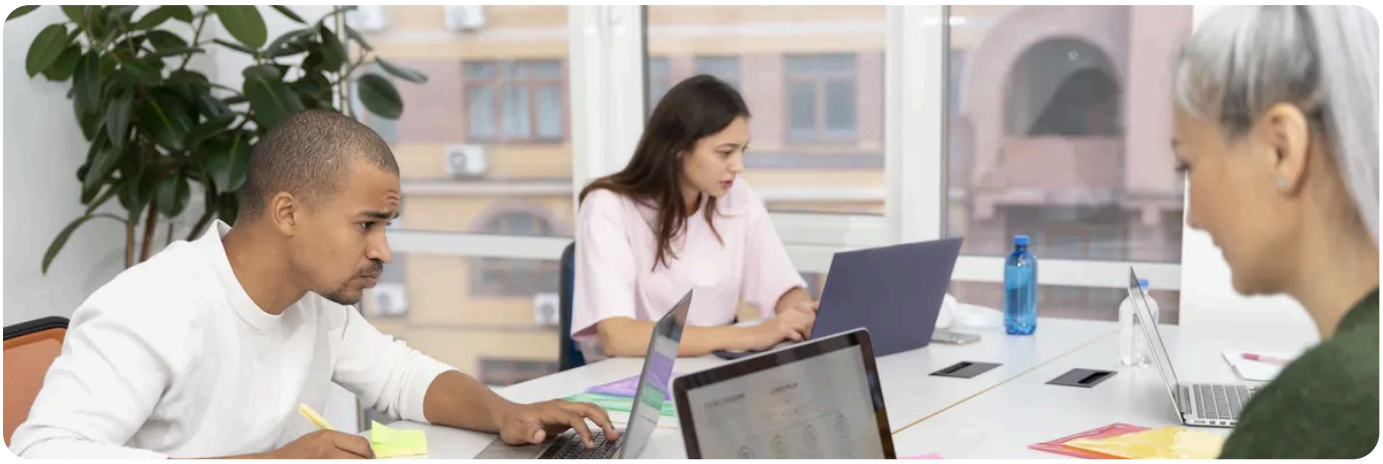
CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-MZ-KB-260	v2026.10.29	Mozambique · English

Interweb Mozambique
RLX Holdings, S.A. · Group RLX Holdings
Tax ID (NUIT) 401 191 607 · Legal entity no. (NUEL) 105 045 974 · Economic activity code (CAE) 62022

https://www.meu.interweb.co.mz/knowledgebase/260

Reinstalling or changing your VPS operating system

VPS & Servers Created on **September 10, 2026** Updated on **October 29, 2026** 4 min read



On shared hosting the operating system is not your choice - and just as well, because it is not your problem either. On a VPS it is the opposite: the machine is yours, and the first decision you make is what system runs inside it.

What you can choose

The options appear when you order, on the server configuration screen. Depending on the product, you will find:

Family	What is usually available
Ubuntu	Several LTS and interim releases, with and without UEFI. The most common choice, and the one with the most documentation online
Debian	Stable and light. A good choice if you want few surprises between updates
Rocky Linux / CentOS	The Red Hat compatible family. A natural choice if you come from that world, or for panels that require it
Fedora	Newer and faster moving. Useful for testing, less suited to production
Windows Server	When the application requires Windows. See **connecting to a Windows VPS over Remote Desktop**
FreeBSD	Available on some products, for those who know exactly why they want it

When in doubt, Ubuntu LTS.
LTS means long-term support: it gets security fixes for years without forcing you onto a new release. It is the one that will cost you the least work.

The control panel is a separate choice

Alongside the system there is a **control panel** option. They are different things: the system is the base, the panel is the interface that saves you doing everything on the command line.

Choose no panel and you get a bare server, administered over SSH. That is perfectly valid - and it is where the managed / unmanaged difference bites: see **managed or unmanaged VPS**.

Changing system later - the part that hurts

Reinstalling erases everything.
There is no way to swap the operating system and keep what is on it. The disk is formatted: sites, databases, configuration, e-mail, all of it. Treat this as receiving a brand new server, because that is what you will get.

1. **Back everything up, and verify the backup.** Having the file is not enough - open it and confirm it is complete.
2. **Write down what you have installed** - versions, services, ports, scheduled jobs. It is always more than you remember.
3. **Open a support request** saying which system you want and on which server. We confirm with you **before** formatting.
4. **We reinstall** and send you the new credentials by e-mail.
5. **Restore** and test before pointing the domain back.

The site does not have to be down during the reinstall.
If you have somewhere to put it meanwhile, point the domain there and bring it back at the end - see **how to migrate a site without taking it offline**.

Reinstalling from My Interweb: the new password and when it starts working

If your VPS page in My Interweb has a **System** tab, you can reinstall it yourself: choose the system, confirm by typing the server's IP address, and the reinstall starts.

1. **The new root password appears right below the reinstall form**, only once. Save it now: for security, we will not show it again.

2 **A countdown appears next to the password.** The new password only works once the reinstall has finished. Until then, it is refused: while the reinstall has not started, the server still has the old system and the old password.

3 **When the countdown ends**, you see "You can now log in with the new password". Then log in over SSH, as root, with that password.

Using "New root password" also restarts the server.
On the **Access** tab, generating a new password restarts the server to apply it. The new password works after about 1 to 2 minutes, once the server has finished restarting. Until then, the old password still works.

If you only want to upgrade the version

Moving from one Ubuntu release to the next, for example, does not need a format - it is done from within the system, with your data in place. It is faster, but it carries risk, and on an unmanaged server that risk is yours. If you like, we take a backup first so there is somewhere to go back to.

Trouble after working on the server - SSH refusing, memory, full disk - is covered in **common VPS and Cloud errors**.

NEED A HAND?

Want to reinstall, or not sure which system to choose?

Talk to us →

The systems in the list today

On the VPS and Cloud order form, the list currently includes these versions, most of them also in a UEFI variant:

- Red Hat compatible: AlmaLinux 9 and 8, Rocky Linux 9 and 8, CloudLinux 8 and CentOS 7.
- Debian 12, 11 and 10; Ubuntu 23.04, 22.04, 21.04 and 20.04; Fedora 38 and 37.
- In the international store, FreeBSD and Windows Server as well.

Some of these versions have already reached the end of support from their makers, for example CentOS 7, Debian 10, Ubuntu 21.04 and 23.04, and Fedora 37 and 38: they no longer get security fixes. They stay in the list for applications that require them. For a new server, pick the newest of each family, such as AlmaLinux 9, Rocky Linux 9, Debian 12 or Ubuntu 22.04.

interweb

Interweb Mozambique

RLX Holdings, S.A. · Group RLX Holdings

TAX ID (NUIT)	401 191 607
LEGAL ENTITY NO. (NUEL)	105 045 974
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY CODE (CAE)	62022
REGISTERED OFFICE	Bairro 7 de Setembro Vilankulo 1304 · CEP 0411-02, Inhambane, Mozambique
CONTACT	info@interweb.co.mz · +258 84 635 1111 · +258 86 635 1111 · www.interweb.co.mz
OPENING HOURS	Monday to Friday - 08 AM to 04 PM Saturday & Sunday - Closed

Online version of this document

RLX-MZ-KB-260 · v2026.10.29 · Generated on 29/10/2026 13:26