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Controlling a VPS through the API: start, stop, restart, root password, reinstall and backups

VPS & Servers

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https://www.meu.interweb.co.mz/knowledgebase/2776

Controlling a VPS through the API: start, stop, restart, root password, reinstall and backups

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The short answer: through the API you see the state of your VPS servers and **start, stop and restart** them, make backups, change reverse DNS and the time zone, generate a new root password, **reinstall** and **restore**. You read with `vps:read` and act with `vps:write`; password, reinstall and restore have their own permissions, off by default.

Which servers show up

Only the account's active or suspended servers managed from Meu Interweb. A server not yet created, terminated or cancelled answers `404`. A server's `id` is the same as its service in `GET /v1/services`. With the service suspended, data can be read, but actions answer `409` with `service_not_active`.

Operation	What it shows
`GET /v1/servers`, `GET /v1/servers/{id}`	IP, system, resources and `power_state`.
`GET .../traffic`	This month's traffic.
`GET .../backups`	The backups.
`GET .../reverse-dns`, `GET .../timezone`	Reverse DNS and the time zone.
`GET .../operating-systems`	The systems available for a reinstall.

The state comes from a recent copy: `state_checked_at` says when it was read. The detail uses a copy up to 60 seconds old; the list only refreshes 2 servers at a time. If it cannot be read right now, `state_stale` comes back `true` with the last known state.

Start, stop and restart

```
curl https://api.interweb.co.mz/v1/servers/123/restart -X POST -H "Authorization: Bearer $RLX_API_KEY"
```

`POST .../start`, `.../stop` and `.../restart` are queued and answer `202` with an `action_id`. Starting usually takes about 2 minutes and stopping about 6. Follow it with `GET /v1/actions/{id}`, as explained in **long-running operations**.

One at a time, and the limits

Rule	Value
Simultaneous actions on one server	One. With another running: `409 action_in_progress`.
Between actions on the same server	15 seconds
Actions across the account	10 per minute
New passwords	5 per hour, across the account
Reinstalls or restores	3 per hour, across the account

Going over answers `429` with `Retry-After`. `sandbox_` keys have these limits separately.

Root password, reinstall and restore

Operation	Permission	Take care
`POST .../password`	`vps:password`	Needs the server name in `confirm`. The server restarts to apply the password, which works after 1 to 2 minutes. The password appears only in that answer.
`POST .../reinstall`	`vps:reinstall`	Wipes everything and installs the system in `operating_system`. With `backup_first` set to `true`, the reinstall starts by itself once the backup appears, which can take up to an hour. The new root password appears only in that answer.
`POST .../restore`	`vps:restore`	Returns to the state of the backup given in `backup`. Everything changed after it is lost.

Reinstall and restore also need the `Idempotency-Key` header and the server name in `confirm`.

Save the root password the moment you get it.
Repeating the request with the same `Idempotency-Key` does not generate another and returns `password` as `null`. In Sandbox, the password is not real. Better still, sign in with an SSH key, as explained in **how to create an SSH key**.

Backups, reverse DNS and time zone

`POST .../backups` makes a backup, which can take up to 50 minutes to appear. Each server has at most 4 backups, automatic ones included; with 4, the answer is `409` with `backup_limit_reached`. Downloading and deleting backups is done in Meu Interweb. `PUT .../reverse-dns` changes the name of each server IP and `PUT .../timezone` changes the time zone, picked from the list.

What stays in Meu Interweb:
Buying an extra IP or disk, the console and the virtual CD. The plans are on the **VPS servers** page.

RECOMMENDED

Want to control your VPS from scripts? See the API page and test with a Sandbox key, which never touches the server.

See the API page →

SEE ALSO

- **Long-running API operations: the 202 answer, the action_id and following the result**
- **Sensitive API permissions and the spending limit: paying, buying, reinstalling, cPanel access**
- **Idempotency-Key in our API: repeating a purchase, payment or ticket without doing it twice**
- **API request limits: per key, per account and per task, the headers and what to do after a 429**
- **API Sandbox or Production: what each key really does, and moving your program to production**
- **How to create an SSH key and log in to your VPS without a password**

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