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Getting into a client's cPanel without the password: the one-time login link from the API

What You Can Automate

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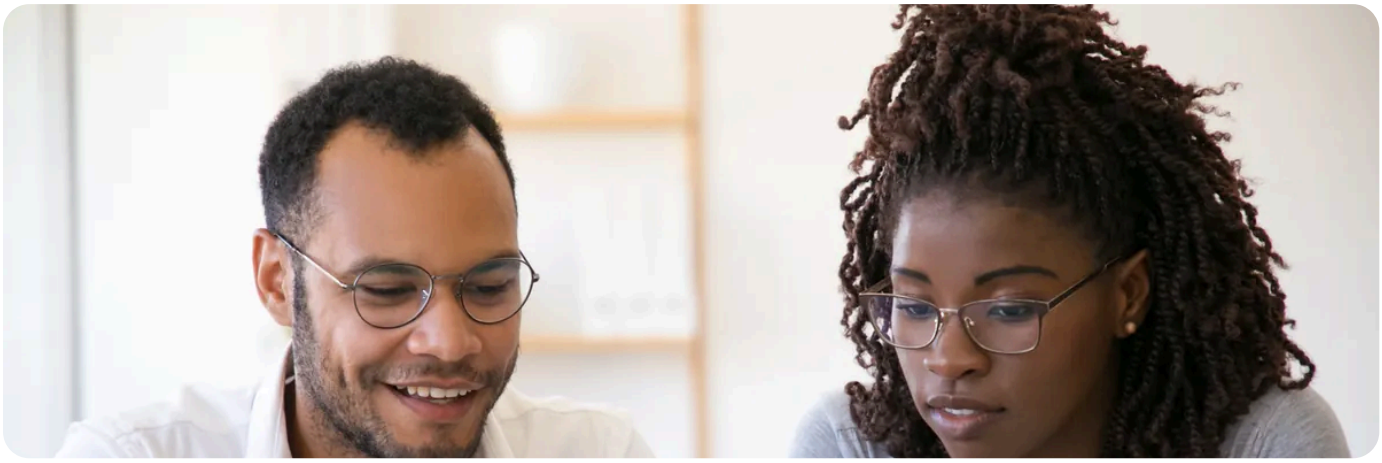
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Getting into a client's cPanel without the password: the one-time login link from the API

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The short answer: your system asks the API for a **cPanel login link** for a hosting account in your account, with `POST /v1/services/{id}/cpanel-login`. The link opens cPanel without asking for a password, works only once and gives full access to the panel. **It is for cPanel only:** on a Plesk hosting account the API does not create it. There is more about hosting in the program on the **hosting for resellers** page.

What you need

A key with `hosting:login`. It is a sensitive permission, kept apart from the others and off by default, because whoever has the link can do everything the account owner can. Turn it on only for the key you will really use for this. See **the permissions that come switched off**.

How it works

1. **Have the service number.** It is the hosting account's `id` in `GET /v1/services`.
2. **Ask for the link** with `POST /v1/services/{id}/cpanel-login`. The answer is `201`, with `url` and `single_use` set to `true`.
3. **Open it straight away.** The link works only once. Do not keep it in logs or send it by email.
4. **To log in again, ask for another.** Each request creates a new link.

```
curl https://api.interweb.co.mz/v1/services/1470/cpanel-login -X POST \
-H "Authorization: Bearer $INTERWEB_API_KEY"
```

`1470` is the hosting account's `id`. The answer:

```
{"data": {"url": "https://...", "single_use": true, "simulated": false}, "meta": {}}
```

Rule	What it means
Once only	After it has been used, the link will not open the panel again.
`Idempotency-Key` **has no effect**	The API does not keep the link, so repeating the request creates another one.
5 per minute	That is the panel login limit, per hosting account, on top of the general limit.
Sandbox	With a `sandbox_` key the API only checks the request and creates no link.

When the API does not create the link

Answer	When
`403 insufficient_scope`	The key does not have `hosting:login`.
`404`	The service is not in your account.
`409` **with** `server_not_supported`	The server cannot manage hosting through the API yet. This is the case for a Plesk hosting account.
`409` **with** `service_not_active`, `service_not_ready` **or** `not_hosting`	The service is not active, is not ready yet or is not a hosting account.

On Plesk, there is no link through the API.
The documentation says the link is for cPanel, and hosting operations only run on supported servers, which today are the cPanel ones. On a Plesk account, the access details are in Meu Interweb, on the service. To change the Plesk password, see **how to change your Plesk password**.

What about the accounts inside Reseller Hosting?

The accounts you create inside a reseller plan are not services of your account, so they have no number for this request. You get into them through the reseller plan's WHM or Plesk. See **first steps as a reseller**.

To give someone else access,
this link is not the best route, because it gives full access. For a developer or designer, see **giving a developer access without your password**. For a program that only needs part of cPanel, see **cPanel API tokens**.

RECOMMENDED

Want to open your clients' cPanel from your own system? See on the page what the API does on each account.

See hosting for resellers →

SEE ALSO

- **The API key permissions that come switched off, and why: cPanel login, cron and FTP, purchases** →
- **Sensitive API permissions and the spending limit: paying, buying, reinstalling, cPanel access** →
- **Hosting through the API: subdomains, databases, cron jobs, SSL, PHP options and FTP** →
- **Giving a developer access to your site without handing over your password** →
- **Account area, cPanel or webmail: which login do you need?** →
- **Hosting in the Reseller Program** →

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