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# Installing Moodle for online training

Joomla, Drupal & Other CMS

| CODE | VERSION | COUNTRY · LANGUAGE |
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# Installing Moodle for online training

Joomla, Drupal & Other CMS Created on **September 27, 2026** 4 min read



**Moodle** is the most widely used distance learning platform in the world: courses, cohorts, materials, quizzes, grades and course forums. It installs from the **Softaculous Apps Installer** in cPanel, and the installer lists many series, from current back to some more than ten years old.

> **Moodle is heavy, and its weight does not come from the catalogue: it comes from people.**
> Twenty students sitting a quiz at the same moment cost the account far more than two hundred pages of content. On a shared plan, a Moodle with one small cohort and light materials runs fine. An institution with overlapping classes, video and timed quizzes needs guaranteed resources: see **VPS, Cloud or Dedicated**. Do not promise exam dates before you know which server you are on.

## What to prepare first

| Requirement | What to do |
|---|---|
| **PHP extensions** | Moodle is demanding. On a new account you must enable **intl**, **soap**, **sodium** and **fileinfo**, which arrive off. Turn them on in **Select PHP Version**, on the extensions tab, before opening the installer. |
| **PHP version** | Series 5 wants **PHP 8.2** or newer; series 4.5 settles for 8.1. See **changing your PHP version without breaking the site**. |
| **Which series** | For a new project, the newest one the installer lets through. The old series only matter if you are rescuing courses from an ageing installation. |
| **Space and files** | Moodle arrives with many thousands of files, then grows with teacher materials and student submissions. See **the limits of your account** and plan for the growth, not just the launch. |

## Installing, step by step

1. In cPanel, open **Select PHP Version** and enable **intl**, **soap**, **sodium** and **fileinfo**.
2. Open the **Softaculous Apps Installer**, search for *Moodle* and pick your series.
3. **Address:** protocol **https**. Moodle sits well on a dedicated subdomain, which keeps the training platform separate from the corporate site. See **adding a subdomain**.
4. **Site name and description.** This is what students see at the top.
5. **Administrator account:** a username that is not *admin*, a long password from the **password generator**, and an institutional e-mail address somebody actually reads.
6. Under **Advanced Options**, switch on **automatic backups**, then click **Install**.

! **Moodle stores course files in a data directory that belongs outside the public web directory.** The installer handles that. If you ever move the installation by hand, check that the directory is still out of reach of the browser: student work lives in there.

## The scheduled task is not optional

Moodle depends on a scheduled task for nearly everything that does not happen in front of the student: sending forum posts, closing quizzes, calculating grades, processing enrolments, building reports and making course backups. **Without it Moodle opens and looks normal**, and then nobody receives notifications and grades never appear. Create it following **cron jobs**, and check in the Moodle administration panel that the last run is recent.

## Before you let students in

1. **Check https and the padlock.** A platform with student accounts does not open over http. See **the causes, in order** and **forcing https**.
2. **Test outgoing e-mail.** Moodle sends a lot of it: sign-ups, password resets, forum notifications. Register a test account and confirm the message arrives. On bulk sending, see **bulk e-mail without burning your domain**.
3. **Decide how students enrol** before you publish the address. Open self-registration without confirmation fills up with fake accounts within days.

4 **Think about data protection.** You are storing names, e-mail addresses, submitted work and grades. See **personal data protection**.

5 **Take the first backup** and prove you can restore it: **making and testing your own backup**.

**Run a rehearsal with the whole cohort before the first real quiz.**
Twenty people logging in at the same minute give you, in one afternoon, the answer no plan comparison table can.

## Keeping it

In the Softaculous installations list, Moodle offers **upgrade**, **backup** and **change admin password**. Always upgrade with a fresh backup and outside teaching hours. For what every installation has in common, see **installing a ready-made platform**.

NEED A HAND?

Tell us how many students you expect and whether there are timed exams. With that we can tell you whether the plan is enough.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- VPS Server →
- Hosting plans and what each one includes →
- Support Policy →

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| TAX ID (NUIT) | 401 191 607 |
| LEGAL ENTITY NO. (NUEL) | 105 045 974 |
| ECONOMIC ACTIVITY CODE (CAE) | 62022 |
| REGISTERED OFFICE | Bairro 7 de Setembro<br>Vilankulo 1304 · CEP 0411-02, Inhambane, Mozambique |
| CONTACT | info@interweb.co.mz · +258 84 635 1111 · +258 86 635 1111 · www.interweb.co.mz |
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