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What is an SSL certificate and why does it matter?

Security

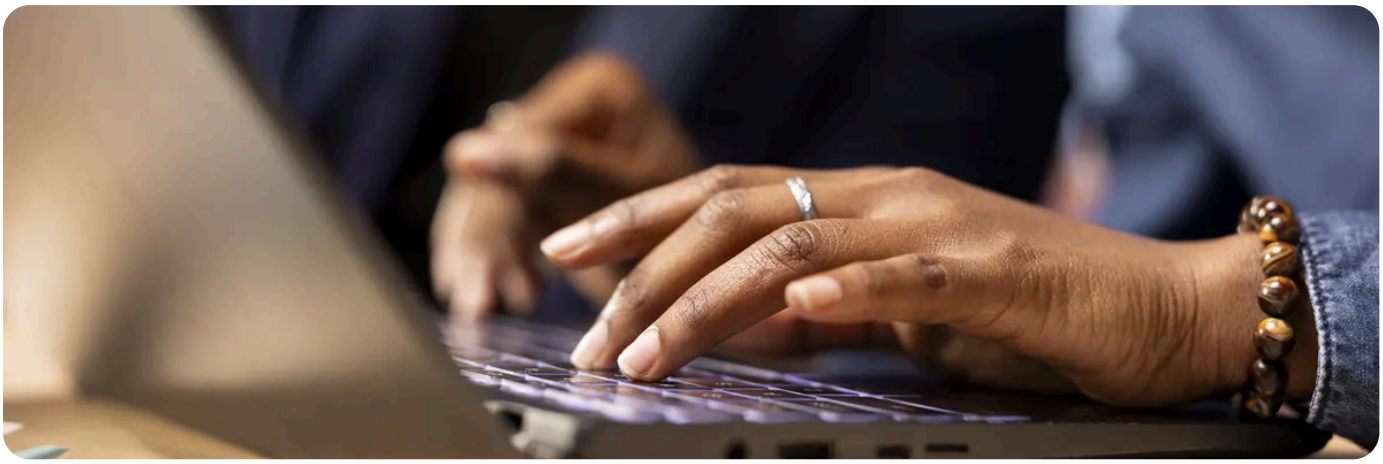
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What is an SSL certificate and why does it matter?

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An SSL certificate encrypts the connection between a visitor's browser and your site, so passwords, card numbers and any other data typed on your pages can't be read by anyone intercepting the connection.

Why it matters

1. **Privacy** - without SSL, anything submitted through a form travels in plain text and can be read by anyone on the same network.
2. **Trust** - browsers show a padlock next to secure sites, and mark unencrypted sites as "Not secure" in the address bar.
3. **Search visibility** - Google treats HTTPS as a ranking signal, so an unencrypted site is at a small disadvantage.

On this hosting, it's already handled

Every domain here gets a free SSL certificate automatically through **AutoSSL** (Let's Encrypt) - there's nothing to buy or configure, and it renews itself before it expires. You'll only need to think about SSL if you specifically want a paid certificate (extended validation, a specific brand, or a wildcard covering all sub-domains) - see **why some certificates last less than 365 days**.

How to check.
In cPanel, open **SSL/TLS Status** to see the certificate currently active on each of your domains and when it renews.

NEED A HAND?

Not sure if your domain has SSL active? We can check for you.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

Surprised by the short validity?
Why does my SSL certificate show fewer than 365 days?

If you need a paid certificate:
How to activate and install a paid SSL certificate

SSL CERTIFICATES

The padlock your customers look for.

A paid certificate adds warranty and company validation - useful for online shops and any site taking payments or customer data.

See SSL certificates →

Hosting already includes free SSL for everyday use

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