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Engines & Performance

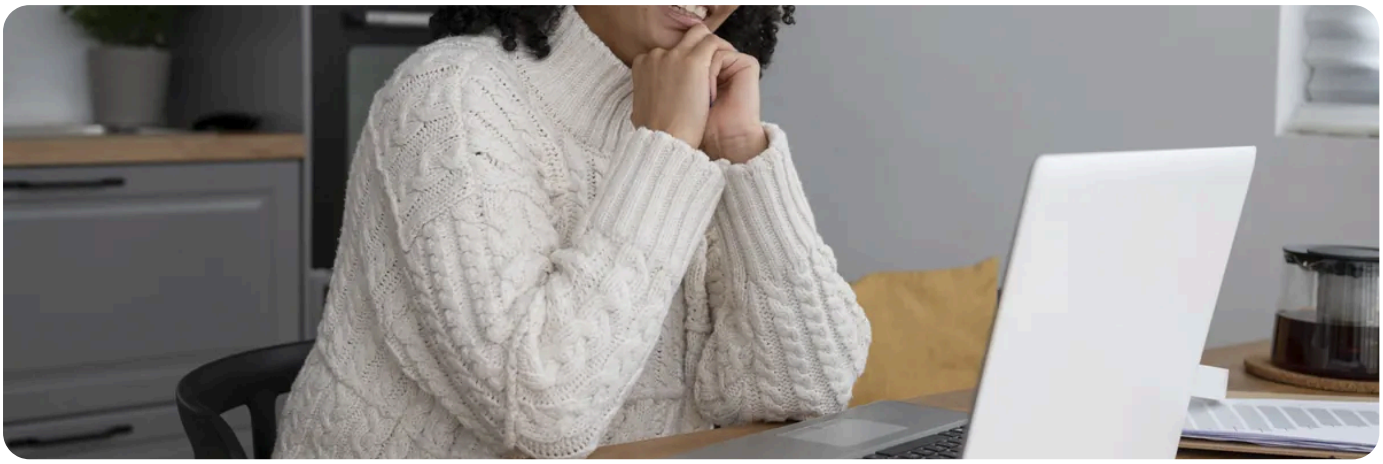
CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
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Installing PostgreSQL on a VPS

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On a VPS running **Ubuntu 22.04 LTS**, as root, you install PostgreSQL with `apt install postgresql postgresql-contrib`. The service starts by itself and, by default, **listens only on the server itself**, which is what you want. This article is for people with a VPS or a dedicated server. On shared hosting PostgreSQL is already installed; see **PostgreSQL in cPanel**.

On an unmanaged VPS, installation and maintenance are yours. That covers updates, backups and the security of PostgreSQL. See **managed or unmanaged VPS** and the **Support Policy**.

Step by step

1. Log in over SSH as root. If it is your first time, see **first steps with your VPS**.

2. Refresh the package list and install:

```
apt update
apt install postgresql postgresql-contrib
```

3. Check that the service is active: `systemctl status postgresql`. To have it start with the server, `systemctl enable postgresql`.

4. Check the installed version: `psql --version`. It is the version Ubuntu 22.04 ships by default.

5. Enter PostgreSQL as the system user `postgres`: `sudo -u postgres psql`. The `postgres=#` prompt appears. Leave with `\q`.

6. Go on to the next step: creating a user and a database. See **creating a user and a database**.

What gets installed, and where

What	Where
Main configuration	`/etc/postgresql/<version>/main/postgresql.conf`
Who may connect, and how	`/etc/postgresql/<version>/main/pg_hba.conf`
The service	`systemctl status postgresql`, `systemctl restart postgresql`
The port	5432, on 127.0.0.1 only by default

Do not open port 5432 to the internet
just because the install went well. An exposed database is found by bots within hours. To connect from outside, use an SSH tunnel or follow **remote connections, safely**.

The first adjustments after installing

Check it only listens locally: `ss -ltn | grep 5432` should show `127.0.0.1:5432`. The data lives in `/var/lib/postgresql`, so watch the disk space there. Keep the system up to date with `apt update` and `apt upgrade`: PostgreSQL security fixes arrive that way. Moving to a **major version** of PostgreSQL is a different operation, not something that happens by accident in an `apt upgrade`, and it needs a backup and a migration. Finally, make sure the VPS firewall lets through only what you use (SSH and, if you host a site, the web). See **keeping your VPS secure**. And note down somewhere of your own the version installed and the date: a year from now, when you need to update, you will be glad not to have to guess.

Set up your backup routine now,
before there is data you would hate to lose. See **backing up with pg_dump** and **backing up a VPS**.

RECOMMENDED

Need to pick the plan or the operating system before installing? Have a look at the VPS servers and tell us what you will run.

See the VPS servers →

SEE ALSO

- First steps with your VPS →
- Which operating system to choose for your VPS or server →

VPS servers

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