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PostgreSQL in cPanel: creating a database and connecting from PHP

Engines & Performance

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PostgreSQL in cPanel: creating a database and connecting from PHP

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On shared hosting **PostgreSQL 13.23** is active and has tools in cPanel. Create the database and user under **PostgreSQL Databases**, link one to the other and, to talk to it from PHP, **switch on the `pgsql` module** in "Select PHP Version". The module exists but comes switched off by default, and that is why the error *Call to undefined function pg_connect()* appears.

Step by step

1. In cPanel open **PostgreSQL Databases**. Under create new database, type a name. cPanel adds the **account prefix**, as with MySQL databases.

2. In the users section, create a user with a strong password (the **password generator** will do).

3. In the section that links a user to a database, join the two and choose the privileges (for an application, all of them, on that database).

4. Open **Select PHP Version**, pick the PHP version of the site's folder and tick the **pgsql** extension. If the list also has **pdo_pgsql**, tick it to use PDO. See **switching extensions on and off**.

5. Create a test file in the site folder:

```
<?php
$conn = pg_connect('host=localhost port=5432 dbname=account_database user=account_user
password=your-password-here');
echo $conn ? 'Connected' : 'Failed';
```

6. Open the file in the browser, check for *Connected* and **delete the file**.

Detail	Value
Server (host)	`localhost`
Port	`5432`
Database and user name	With the account prefix, written in full.
Connecting from outside	No. Port 5432 is not open to the internet. Use an SSH tunnel.

If `pg_connect` still says "undefined function",
the PHP version chosen in "Select PHP Version" is not the one for the folder the file is in. The version is chosen **per folder**. Check which one it is and whether the extension was saved. See **viewing and adjusting your PHP configuration**.

Using PostgreSQL with an application

Many applications have an install screen that asks for the **database type**. Choose PostgreSQL, with host `localhost` and port `5432`, and use the full database and user names. Leave the database **empty**: the installer creates the tables. If a schema is requested, the usual answer is `public`. One point to note: the PHP `pgsql` module only matters for PHP applications. Node and Python do not need it, because they use their own libraries. See **connecting from Python and Node.js**. If the install fails saying it cannot find the database, the most common cause is the name written without the account prefix.

To connect from home
with a client such as DBeaver or `psql`, use an SSH tunnel. See **the SSH tunnel, step by step**. And if your application accepts MySQL or PostgreSQL, see **which to choose**.

NEED A HAND?

Created the database and the application cannot find it? Tell us the folder's PHP version and the exact error and we will look.

Open a support ticket →

Where to see it in your account

PostgreSQL is not part of the plan table, so confirm it on your own account: if PostgreSQL Databases and phpPgAdmin appear in cPanel, it is active there, and the PostgreSQL Databases page lists the databases you have. We do not publish a PostgreSQL database count per plan.

Access is local only: from your computer you need an SSH tunnel, and whether your account has SSH shows in cPanel as Terminal or SSH Access. The database also takes room from the plan's space (10 GB on Pro up to 200 GB on Business Ultra); the Statistics sidebar shows what is used. If you are not sure the plan covers your project, tell us what it needs.

SEE ALSO

- **Switching a PHP extension on or off in Select PHP Version**
- **Remote access to PostgreSQL: what works and what does not**
- **PostgreSQL or MySQL: which one for your project**

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