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n8n behind HTTPS on your own domain

Automation & n8n

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n8n behind HTTPS on your own domain

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To use n8n properly you need an address such as **n8n.asuaempresa.co.mz**, with a padlock. There are four pieces: a DNS record pointing at the VPS, a proxy that speaks HTTPS, a certificate, and the `WEBHOOK_URL` variable telling n8n its public address. Without the last one, n8n shows webhook addresses with `localhost` in them, and no outside service can reach them.

Step by step

1. **Create the DNS record.** An A record for `n8n` (a subdomain) with the VPS IP address. See **how to configure a domain DNS** and, to find the IP, **where to find your VPS IP address**. Wait for propagation.

2. **Install a reverse proxy** on the VPS (Nginx is the best documented) and make it forward the domain to `127.0.0.1:5678`. The full guide is **Nginx as a reverse proxy in front of a container**.

3. **Let real-time connections through.** The n8n editor uses them. In Nginx that means `proxy_http_version 1.1` and passing the `Upgrade` and `Connection` headers. Without it the editor opens but says it lost the connection.

4. **Get the certificate.** Let's Encrypt, through Certbot, is the usual road. See **HTTPS for a container: a certificate and a domain**.

5. **Tell n8n its address.** In the compose file set `WEBHOOK_URL` to the full address, `https://n8n.asuaempresa.co.mz/`, with the trailing slash. Check the official documentation to see whether your version also wants the host and protocol variables. Then run `docker compose up -d` to recreate the container.

6. **Test.** Open the address in the browser, create a workflow with a Webhook node and confirm that the address it shows already starts with `https://n8n.asuaempresa.co.mz`.

What goes wrong

Symptom	Likely cause	What to do
Webhook addresses show `localhost:5678`	`WEBHOOK_URL` missing, or the container was not recreated.	Fix the variable and run `docker compose up -d` again.
The editor opens but says the connection was lost	The proxy does not pass real-time connections.	Add `proxy_http_version 1.1` and the `Upgrade` and `Connection` headers.
502 Bad Gateway	The proxy cannot reach n8n: container stopped, wrong port.	Check `docker compose ps` and confirm `127.0.0.1:5678` in the proxy.
The certificate is not issued	The DNS record does not point at the VPS yet, or port 80 is closed.	Check DNS and the firewall: **ports and firewall**.
“Too many redirects”	Cloudflare in the wrong mode in front of the proxy.	See **switching on SSL at Cloudflare without breaking the site**.

A typo in `WEBHOOK_URL` breaks every webhook.
If you change domain, the addresses you already gave to outside services stop working. After any change, copy the address from the Webhook node again, wherever you use it.

Use a subdomain just for n8n.
It is easy to move to another server (change one A record) and it does not get mixed up with the company website.

NEED A HAND?

The domain does not point at the VPS yet? We will show you what has to be in the DNS.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Installing n8n with Docker Compose on a VPS** →
- **HTTPS for a container: a certificate and a domain** →
- **Nginx as a reverse proxy in front of a container** →

DNS records explained: A, CNAME, MX, TXT and TTL

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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 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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