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# How to host several websites on one VPS

VPS & Servers

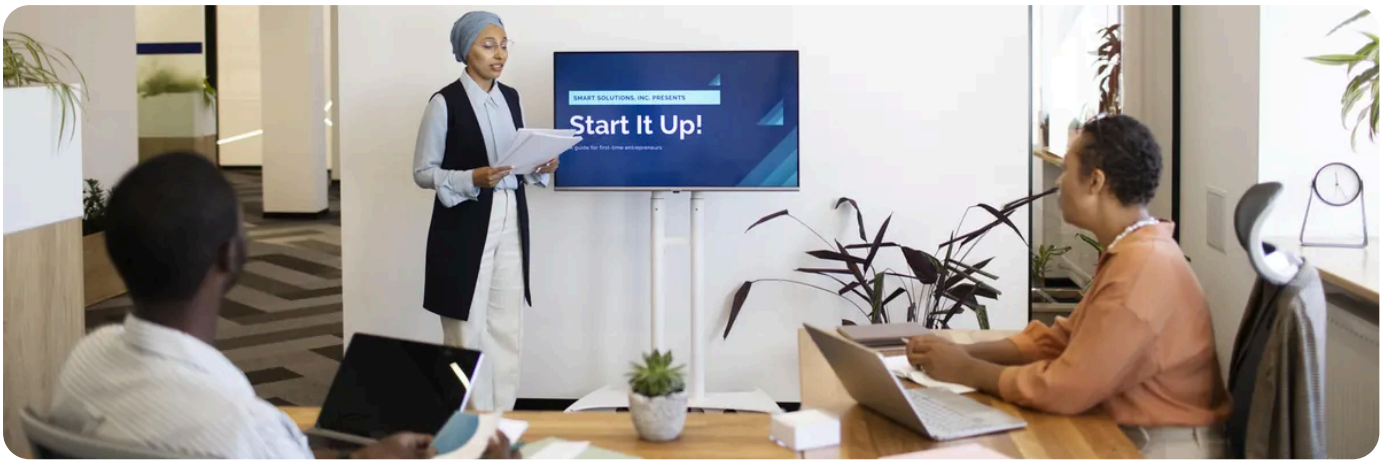
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| RLX-INT-KB-4218 | v2026.10.10 | International · English |

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Tax no. (SARS) 943 907 6234 · Registration no. (CIPC) 2025/667953/07

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# How to host several websites on one VPS

VPS & Servers Created on **October 10, 2026** 3 min read




A VPS has one IP address and can serve **as many sites as its memory and processor can carry**. The web server picks which one to show from the name in the request ( `server_name` in nginx, `ServerName` in Apache). Each site needs three things: its domain pointing at the VPS IP, its own folder, and its own configuration block.

You do not need an IP per site, nor a VPS per site. What is shared is the machine: if one site eats everything, the others feel it. Think about that before putting a shop and a test blog side by side.

## Step by step

1. **One folder per site.** For example `/var/www/first.tld/public` and `/var/www/second.tld/public`. Mixing sites in one folder lets a fault in one reach the other.

2. **One configuration file per site.** In nginx, one `server { ... }` per domain in `sites-available`; in Apache, one `<VirtualHost>`. Each one's steps are in **installing nginx and serving a site** and **installing Apache and setting up a virtual host**.

3. **One A record per domain** (and for `www`) with the VPS IP. If the domain is with us, it is in My MozOut; if it is elsewhere, it is there. See **pointing a domain at your own VPS**.

4. **Test each one before DNS has spread.** From your computer: `curl -I --resolve first.tld:80:203.0.113.10 http://first.tld/` (swap the IP for your VPS's). Does the right site answer? Then the configuration is right. Alternative: **the hosts file**.

5. **One certificate per name.** With certbot, `sudo certbot --nginx -d first.tld -d www.first.tld`, and the same for the second. Renewal is automatic for all of them, but test it: **when the renewal fails**.

6 **One error log per site.** When something breaks, knowing which site it came from saves an afternoon. In nginx, `error_log /var/log/nginx/first.tld.error.log;` inside the site's block.

## What happens to a name you did not configure

If anyone points some domain at your VPS's IP, the server answers with the **first** site configured, or with the one marked as default. That shows your site under someone else's name. To prevent it, mark one block as the default (in nginx, `listen 80 default_server;`) that returns nothing useful, and leave the real sites only on their own names.

| Shared | Worth keeping apart |
|---|---|
| **The VPS's processor, memory and disk** | Each site's folder, so one cannot read the other |
| **The IP and ports 80 and 443** | A database and a database user per site |
| **The web server and PHP** | Each site's logs, to know whose error is whose |
| **The backup (which is yours)** | Certificates per name, not one for everything |

**One compromised site compromises its neighbours.**
On a VPS with several sites under the same user, whoever gets in through an outdated WordPress reaches the other folders. If the sites belong to different customers, or matter very differently, use different system users per site (**file permissions**) or, better, different VPSs. See also **keeping your VPS secure**.

**E-mail does not change because you put sites on a VPS.**
Only the A record (the site) points at the VPS; the MX stays where it was. See **e-mail with us and the site elsewhere**.

NEED A HAND?

Want to know whether your VPS can carry one more site? Tell us the plan and what you plan to put on it, and we will help you read the numbers in the panel.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Installing nginx and serving a site** →

- Installing Apache and setting up a virtual host
- Pointing a domain at your own VPS
- VPS server plans


## MozOut International

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