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Resellers and agencies: a new client's domain, DNS and mailboxes through the API, step by step

What You Can Automate

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Resellers and agencies: a new client's domain, DNS and mailboxes through the API, step by step

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The short answer: when a new client arrives, your program can do through the API what you would otherwise do by hand in My MozOut: check that the name is free, **register the domain** from your account credit, connect it to one of your hosting plans, **add the DNS records** and **create the mailboxes**. This guide gives the right order, with the real requests, and the precautions that prevent double charges and refused requests. For an overview of what the API does for resellers, see **the API for resellers and agencies**.

Before you start: two keys, each with its own job

Keep purchases apart from everything else. That way, if your everyday key leaks, it cannot spend your credit.

Key	Permissions	What for
Purchases	`domains:read`, `domains:write`, `billing:read`, `billing:purchase`	Checking names, seeing your credit, registering and renewing domains. With a spending limit that matches what you register.
Setup	`hosting:read`, `hosting:write`, `dns:read`, `dns:write`, `email:read`, `email:write`	Connecting the domain to a hosting plan, changing DNS, creating mailboxes and requesting SSL. No sensitive permissions.

`billing:purchase` is a sensitive permission, off by default: switch it on only for the purchases key. Keys are created on the **API page in My MozOut**, and the step-by-step guide is in **creating an API key**. Start with `sandbox_` keys: reads are real, while changes and purchases are simulated and nothing is charged.

From the client's name to their mailboxes, step by step

1. **Check the name and the price.** `GET /v1/domains/availability?domain=...` tells you whether the name is free (`available`), the one-year price in `one_year_price` and whether the name is handled in My MozOut (`portal_only`). If the status is `unknown` , it could not be confirmed right now and registration through the API will not go ahead.

2. **Check your credit.** Registration is paid only from your account credit, and `GET /v1/billing/credit` shows how much you have. If it is not enough, the purchase answers `402` and nothing is charged.

3. **Register the domain** with `POST /v1/domains/register` : `domain` , `years` and, if you like, `nameservers` . Always send the `Idempotency-Key` header, built from your client's order number: if the connection drops, you repeat with the same value and the domain is neither registered nor charged twice.

4. **Wait for it to finish.** The answer is `202` with an `action_id` , and `GET /v1/actions/{id}` says `running` while it runs, then `done` or `failed` . Some extensions, including .mz, are handled manually and take longer: your program checks again later, without repeating the purchase.

5. **Connect the domain to the hosting plan** where the site will live, with `POST /v1/services/{id}/addon-domains` and the `domain` (`directory` is optional). The `id` comes from `GET /v1/services` . The domain must be active in your account and point to our nameservers, and it counts towards the plan's site limit.

6. **Add the DNS records** with `POST /v1/domains/{domain}/dns` , for example an `A` record for the site or a verification `TXT` . To check without saving, first send the same body to `POST /v1/domains/{domain}/dns/validate` .

7. **Create the mailboxes** with `POST /v1/services/{id}/email/mailboxes` : `address` , `password` and `quota_mb` .

8. **Request the free SSL certificate** with `POST /v1/services/{id}/ssl/autossl` , which only works for domains already pointing at our servers, and check SPF, DKIM and DMARC with `GET /v1/services/{id}/email/authentication` .

The registration, with the purchases key:

```
curl https://api.mozout.com/v1/domains/register -X POST \
-H "Authorization: Bearer $PURCHASE_KEY" \
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \
```

```
-H "Idempotency-Key: order-1042-domain" \
-d '{"domain": "yourcompany.com", "years": 1}'
```

The client's first mailbox, with the setup key (`88` is the `id` of your hosting plan):

```
curl https://api.mozout.com/v1/services/88/email/mailboxes -X POST \
-H "Authorization: Bearer $SETUP_KEY" \
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \
-d '{"address": "info@yourcompany.com", "password": "...", "quota_mb": 1024}'
```

> **Creating a mailbox is not safe to repeat.**
> The API never stores the password, so on requests with a password the `Idempotency-Key` has no effect: repeating the request runs it again. If the connection drops halfway, list the mailboxes with `GET /v1/services/{id}/email/mailboxes` before trying again. The password must be 12 to 128 characters, with at least 3 kinds among lowercase, uppercase, digits and symbols, and the quota goes from 1 MB up to the plan's disk space.

DNS only counts if the domain uses our nameservers

`GET /v1/domains/{domain}/nameservers` returns the nameservers and `uses_our_nameservers`. If it is `false`, the zone you change with us is not the one answering: switch them with `PUT /v1/domains/{domain}/nameservers` to ours, `dns1.mozout.com` `dns2.mozout.com` `dns3.mozout.com` `dns4.mozout.com`. DNS management must also be on for the domain: in the list from `GET /v1/domains/{domain}/dns`, `dns_enabled` tells you. If it is off, switch it on in My MozOut. The details are in **DNS through the API**.

The answers you will meet, and what to do

Answer	When	What to do
`402 insufficient_credit`	There is not enough credit for the registration. Nothing was charged.	Top up your credit and ask again.
`403 spending_limit_exceeded`	The registration goes over the key's spending limit. Nothing was charged.	Create a key with a higher limit.
`422` with `portal_url`	The name is handled in My MozOut: for example .mz and .ao names of up to 3 characters, or extensions that need documents.	Follow the link and register it in My MozOut.
`409 domain_not_owned`	When connecting to the hosting plan, the domain is not yet active in your account.	Wait for the registration action to finish, then repeat.

Answer	When	What to do
`409 cname_conflict`	A CNAME with other records on the same name.	Change or delete the other record.
`409 account_email_domain`	The request touches mail for the domain of your account's e-mail, or of one of its users.	Make that change in My MozOut.
`429 rate_limited`	You went over a request limit.	Wait the number of seconds in `Retry-After` and repeat.

The limits that matter for a reseller

With many clients, the per-account limits matter more than the key's: buying domains and extras and paying invoices share **5 requests a minute**; domain and DNS changes, **20 a minute**; e-mail changes, 20 a minute per hosting plan, and passwords 10 a minute. Handle clients in a queue, one at a time, and answer a `429` by waiting for `Retry-After`. The current values can change: see **the API request limits**.

What the API does not do for you

Case	Where it is done
The accounts your clients have inside your reseller hosting	In the reseller's WHM. See **first steps as a reseller**.
.mz and .ao names of up to 3 characters, .ac.mz, .gov.mz and .mil.mz, extensions that need extra holder details, transfers of .mz and .ao	In My MozOut.
Changing a domain's contacts and holder	Not in the API yet: it is done in My MozOut.
Adding to a hosting plan a domain registered elsewhere	In the hosting plan's cPanel.

After registration, renewal:
`PUT /v1/domains/{domain}/auto-renew` turns the renewal invoices for each domain on or off, and `POST /v1/domains/{domain}/renew` renews whenever you choose. If you are still deciding how to organise your clients, see **reseller hosting or one plan per client**. The plans are on the **reseller hosting** page and the prices on **domain pricing**.

RECOMMENDED

Want to automate new client set-up? The API page has the documentation and the button to create your first key.

See the API page →

SEE ALSO

- The API for resellers and agencies: account, reseller programs and what the API does not cover →
- Domains through the API: checking a name, registering, renewing and transferring with credit →
- DNS through the API: adding, changing and deleting records, and restoring a zone backup →
- Hosting e-mail through the API: mailboxes, passwords, quotas, forwarders and the default address →
- Idempotency-Key in our API: repeating a purchase, payment or ticket without doing it twice →
- Reseller hosting or one plan per client: what suits a freelancer or agency →

Mozout

MozOut International

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