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WHMCS automation settings: when invoices go out, reminders, suspension and termination

Choosing the Right Plan

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This article is for resellers who run their own WHMCS. WHMCS is another company's product: we neither sell nor resell licences, as explained in **what WHMCS is**. Menu names change from one WHMCS version to the next. **The short answer:** the **Automation Settings** screen (**Configuration > System Settings**) is where you decide how far ahead each invoice is raised, when reminders go out, how long an unpaid service runs before it is suspended, and when it is terminated. None of these values ships right for your business: they ship as the maker set them. And none of it happens unless the cron job runs.

The settings that matter most

Setting	What it decides, and what to think about
Cron status and time of day	The top of the screen shows when the cron job last ran and the line to put in cPanel. The time of day picks when the daily tasks run (invoices, suspensions). Choose a quiet hour.
Invoice generation	How many days before the due date the invoice is created. Too little notice leaves customers who pay by bank transfer no time to pay.
Payment reminders	One notice before the due date and up to three after it. Each uses an e-mail template you can rewrite.
Late fees	Optional. Only switch them on if your terms say so.
Suspension	Turns automatic suspension on or off and sets how many days overdue it happens. Another option unsuspends on its own once payment arrives.
Termination	Turns automatic termination on or off and sets when. Terminating deletes the account in WHM , files and mail included.
Cancellation requests	Whether cancellations requested "at the end of the billing period" are carried out on their own.

➔ Matching the calendar to your business

- 1 **Write your rules down first**, in the terms your customers accept: when you bill, when you suspend, when you terminate. WHMCS only carries out what is there. See **reseller hosting: starting out, pricing and billing**.
- 2 **Confirm the cron job runs**, at the top of the automation screen and on the automation status screen. If it does not, nothing else counts: **cron jobs**.
- 3 **Choose the invoice lead time** with your slowest accepted payment method in mind. Someone paying by bank transfer needs more time than someone paying by card.
- 4 **Space out the reminders**: one before the due date, one right after, and the last shortly before suspension, giving the exact date it will happen.
- 5 **Leave room between suspension and termination**. Suspension can be undone; termination cannot. Many resellers keep automatic termination off and terminate by hand after a look.
- 6 **Test with a dummy customer**: place an order for yourself, let the invoice go overdue, and watch each e-mail and each suspension happen on the expected day.

! Your reseller account has a calendar too, and it is ours.
WHMCS and your customers' accounts live on the reseller plan you pay us for. If that invoice goes unpaid, the reseller account is suspended and, with it, WHMCS and every one of your customers' sites, however well tuned your own calendar is. Set your reseller renewal for a date when your customers have already paid you.

💡 Do not run the cron job more often to "speed up" invoices.
The lead time is changed on this screen, not in cPanel. Extra runs only trip over each other, as explained in **the most common WHMCS problems**.

🗨️ NEED A HAND?

Want to know when your reseller plan renews, or why one of your customers' accounts was suspended on our side? Ask us.

 [Open a support ticket ➔](#)

In our plans

The reseller plans differ in how many accounts and how much space they give:

Plan	Accounts	Space
Reseller I	10	50 GB
Reseller II	30	120 GB
Reseller III	60	250 GB

This matters for the automation settings. WHMCS creates accounts in WHM for as long as the plan has room, so when you near the account count of your plan, move up before the next customer pays. We do not state billing cycles or what happens after a missed renewal here: the terms and the reminders you receive cover that, and you can ask us.

SEE ALSO

[The most common WHMCS problems, and what causes them](#)



[Cron jobs: what they are for and how to create one](#)



[Connecting WHMCS to WHM so accounts are created on their own](#)



[Reseller hosting: starting out, pricing and billing](#)



[Recurring invoices and payment reminders: automating the follow-up for a service business](#)



[First steps as a reseller \(WHM\)](#)





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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@mozout.co.mz · +258 84 635 1111 · +258 86 635 1111 · www.mozout.co.mz
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