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Getting a Laravel application running

PHP & Development

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📁 PHP & Development 📅 Created on **September 27, 2026** ⌚ 4 min read



Laravel is not a CMS: it is the foundation you write a PHP application on top of. So this article has two halves. The first is for anyone who wants a fresh skeleton to start from; the second is for anyone who already has an application written and wants it here.

The cPanel installer carries two Laravel series, and both want **PHP 8.2** or newer. Neither needs extra extensions: everything Laravel asks for is already on for a new account.

📁 A. Starting from scratch, with the installer

- 1 In cPanel, check in **Select PHP Version** that you are on 8.2 or above: **changing your PHP version without breaking the site**.
- 2 Open the **Softaculous Apps Installer** and search for *Laravel*.
- 3 Pick the domain, the **https** protocol and the directory.
- 4 Install. What you get is an **empty Laravel project**, with the database created and the environment file written. From there the code is yours.



The installer is the quick way to get the boring part right:

The database, the application key and the permissions on the writable directories. Even if you intend to replace all the code, starting this way saves time.

➡ B. Bringing your own application

The difficulty is always the same one: **Laravel serves the site from the *public* directory**, not from the project root. The directories holding configuration, code and keys sit one level above, and must never be reachable from a browser.

- 1 **Upload the project** by FTP or File Manager: **FTP accounts and FileZilla**. Do not upload the dependency directory or the compiled asset directory.
- 2 **Put the project OUTSIDE the public directory** and point the domain document root at the project *public* folder. For an addon domain or a subdomain, you choose that when creating it: **adding another domain or a subdomain**.
- 3 **Create the database** and its user in cPanel: **creating databases and using phpMyAdmin**.
- 4 **Write the environment file** with the database details, the site address and the application key. Without a key, Laravel refuses to boot.
- 5 **Install dependencies and run the migrations** from the command line. You need **SSH access**: some accounts have a shell and some do not.
- 6 **Check the writable directories really are writable**. If the site throws a 500 straight away, it is nearly always this or a missing key. See **website errors explained**.

! **On the command line, the default *php* may not be the version you chose for the site.**
That produces a baffling result: the site works in the browser while the command line tools refuse to run, or the other way round. Always use the **full path** to the PHP version you selected, both when installing dependencies and in scheduled tasks.

The scheduler and the queues

If your application uses the Laravel scheduler, it needs **one scheduled task running every minute** that calls the scheduler. That is how Laravel was designed: a single cron entry, and everything else decided inside the code. See **cron jobs**, and do not forget the full PHP path.

! **Queue workers that stay resident are not for shared hosting.**
A process that runs without stopping hits the account process ceiling and gets cut off. If your application needs that, its home is a server of its own: **VPS, Cloud or Dedicated**. On the ceilings, see **the limits of your account**.

Before it goes live

- 1 **Turn debug mode off**. Left on, any error shows the visitor your code, your paths and sometimes your database credentials.

- 2 **Check the environment file is not reachable from a browser.** If the project is placed correctly, it is not.
- 3 **Switch on the PHP accelerator. opcache** arrives off on a new account and is enabled in **Select PHP Version**.
- 4 **Take the first backup**, code and database: **making and testing your own backup**.

For what every installation has in common, see **installing a ready-made platform**. If your application is in another language, see **Django** or **Ruby on Rails**.

NEED A HAND?

Application uploaded and all you get is a 500? Send us the domain and the directory and we will read the error log with you.

 [Open a support ticket →](#)

SEE ALSO

[Hosting plans and what each one includes](#)



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