



# AliothPress

## Installation Guide

### What You Need

#### You need

- A cloud hosting account (free to create)
- A credit card (from ~€4–8/month)
- 5 minutes of your time

#### You don't need

- Terminal or command line
- Coding skills
- Server experience

### Supported Hosting Providers

AliothPress works on any cloud hosting provider that supports Ubuntu and Cloud-Init. Here are the tested and recommended providers:

Provider	Starts from	Locations	Cloud-Init field
<b>Hetzner Cloud</b>	€4–8/mo	EU, US, Asia	"Cloud config"
<b>DigitalOcean</b>	\$6/mo	Worldwide	"Advanced Options" → "User Data"
<b>Linode (Akamai)</b>	\$5/mo	Worldwide	"Add User Data"
<b>Vultr</b>	\$6/mo	Worldwide	"User Data" checkbox

💡 The installation process is the same on every provider: create a server, paste the script, open your browser. This guide uses Hetzner Cloud as an example, but the steps are nearly identical everywhere.

🌐 You can use any hosting provider you like — the ones listed above are simply the most popular and well-tested options. If your provider supports Ubuntu and Cloud-Init, AliothPress will work.

## How to Choose a Server

When creating a server, every provider will ask you to choose a plan (size). The plan determines how much CPU, RAM, and disk space your server has. Here's what AliothPress needs:

	vCPU	RAM	Disk	Good for
<b>Minimum</b>	1	2 GB	40 GB	Personal blog, few images, SQLite
<b>★ Recommended</b>	2	4 GB	40 GB	Business site, medium traffic, any database
<b>For growth</b>	4	8 GB	80 GB	Heavy media use, high traffic, PostgreSQL

**Why does AliothPress need 4 GB RAM?** When you upload an image, AliothPress automatically creates optimized versions in modern formats (WebP and AVIF) at multiple sizes, plus social media crops. This image processing is the most memory-intensive operation.

### Example plans at each provider (as of 2026)

*Plan names and prices change over time. Use these as a starting point — look for the closest match to 2 vCPU / 4 GB RAM on your provider's pricing page.*

Provider	Plan name	Price	Specs
<b>Hetzner Cloud</b>	CX23 or CPX22	€4–8/mo	2 vCPU, 4 GB, 40–80 GB
<b>DigitalOcean</b>	Basic — Regular	\$12/mo	2 vCPU, 2 GB, 50 GB
<b>Linode (Akamai)</b>	Linode 4 GB	\$24/mo	2 vCPU, 4 GB, 80 GB
<b>Vultr</b>	Cloud Compute	\$12/mo	1 vCPU, 2 GB, 50 GB

💡 Hetzner offers the best value for European users. For US-based sites, DigitalOcean and Vultr have more US data centers.

⚠️ Don't pick a plan with less than 2 GB RAM or less than 40 GB of disk space. AliothPress may not install correctly on very small servers.

## Step-by-Step Installation

*This guide uses Hetzner Cloud as an example. If you use a different hosting provider, the overall process is the same — only the names of the options may differ slightly.*

### 1 Create a Hetzner Account

Go to [hetzner.com/cloud](https://hetzner.com/cloud) and click **"Register"**. Enter your email, create a password, and verify your email. You will need to add a payment method (credit card or PayPal).

After registration, you will see your **Project** dashboard. Click **"+ Create Server"**.

You are now on the server creation page. Follow the sections below from top to bottom.

### 2 Configure Your Server

The server creation page has several sections. Here is exactly what to do in each one:

## Location

You will see a map of server locations: **Nürnberg, Falkenstein, Helsinki, Singapore, Hillsboro, Ashburn.**

Click the location **closest to your audience**. If your visitors are mostly in Europe, choose Nürnberg or Helsinki. For the US, choose Ashburn or Hillsboro.

💡 If you're unsure, Helsinki or Nürnberg are great all-around choices for Europe.

## Image

You will see two tabs: **"OS Images"** and **"Apps"**. Make sure **"OS Images"** is selected.

Click on **Ubuntu**. In the version dropdown below it, select **24.04**. This should already be the default.

⚠️ Do not select Fedora, Debian, CentOS, or any other system. AliothPress requires Ubuntu 22.04 or 24.04.

## Type

You will see two categories: **"Shared Resources"** and **"Dedicated Resources"**.

Under Shared Resources, you will see two categories that work with AliothPress. Choose a plan with at least 2 vCPUs and 4 GB RAM:

1. **Cost-Optimized** (e.g. CX23, ~€4–5/mo) — older hardware with limited availability. A good starting point for personal projects or testing.
2. **Regular Performance** (e.g. CPX22, ~€7–8/mo) — newer hardware with stable availability. Recommended for business websites and production use.

💡 Plan names and prices change over time. Look for the specs (vCPU, RAM, disk) rather than the exact plan name.

## Networking

Leave everything as default:

- **Public IPv4** — checked
- **Public IPv6** — checked
- **Private Networks** — unchecked

💡 IPv4 is required — it gives your server a public address like 203.0.113.42 that you can open in a browser.

## SSH-Keys

If you see an SSH key already listed (e.g., from a previous setup), leave it selected. If not, don't worry — **skip this**. Hetzner will send you a root password by email instead.

## Sections to Skip

The following sections can be left empty — no action needed:

<b>Volumes</b>	Skip — not needed
<b>Backups</b>	Optional — adds 20% to the price. Nice to have, not required.
<b>Placement groups</b>	Skip — this is for advanced multi-server setups
<b>Labels</b>	Skip — just organizational tags

## Setting Up a Firewall

A firewall protects your server by blocking unwanted connections. You only need to allow three ports.

### How to create a firewall:

1. In the Hetzner dashboard, click "**Firewalls**" in the left menu (under Cloud).
2. Click "**Create Firewall**".
3. Add three **Inbound Rules** by clicking "+ Add Rule":

What it does	Port	Settings
SSH (server management)	<b>22</b>	TCP, Any IPv4 + Any IPv6
HTTP (your website)	<b>80</b>	TCP, Any IPv4 + Any IPv6
HTTPS (secure website)	<b>443</b>	TCP, Any IPv4 + Any IPv6

4. Leave the **Outbound** section empty — all outgoing traffic is allowed by default.
5. Give the firewall a name (e.g., “**web-server**”) and click “**Create Firewall**”.

### 3 Paste the Installation Script

**This is the most important step!** Scroll down to the section called “**Cloud config**”. It is near the bottom of the page, right above the “**Name**” field.

You will see a text field with the placeholder text “Cloud-init configuration”.

#### What to do:

1. Find the file called **cloud-init.sh** in your AliothPress folder (the one you downloaded).
2. Open it with any text editor (Notepad on Windows, TextEdit on Mac).
3. Select all text: press **Ctrl+A** (or **Cmd+A** on Mac).
4. Copy: press **Ctrl+C** (or **Cmd+C** on Mac).
5. Click inside the Cloud config text field on the Hetzner page.
6. Paste: press **Ctrl+V** (or **Cmd+V** on Mac).

⚠ Make sure you paste the ENTIRE content of the file. The first line must be `#!/bin/bash` — if you see it in the text field, you did it right.

### 4 Name Your Server and Create It

Below Cloud config, you will see the “**Name**” field. Type any name for your server, for example “**mysite**”. This is just for your reference in the Hetzner dashboard.

Click the button “**Create & Buy now**”.

Your server is being created! Hetzner will show a progress indicator. Wait about 2–3 minutes.


## 5 Open Your Site

After the server is created, Hetzner will show you the server details page with the **IP address** (it looks like 203.0.113.42 or similar).

### What to do:

1. Copy the IP address from the Hetzner dashboard.
2. Open your web browser.
3. Paste it into the address bar, add **http://** in front, and press Enter: **http:// YOUR-SERVER-IP**

For example: **http:// 203.0.113.42**

 Make sure the address starts with `http://` (not `https://`). Your server does not have an SSL certificate yet, and most browsers will otherwise default to `https://` — which would show a 404 error instead of the Setup Wizard. Also, the page won't open right away — this is normal. The server needs 1–2 minutes to finish installing AliothPress. Wait a moment, then refresh. If you see "Connection refused" or a blank page, just wait a bit longer and try again.

### You might see the following while waiting:

## Welcome to nginx!





If you see this page, the nginx web server is successfully installed and working. Further configuration is required.

For online documentation and support please refer to [nginx.org](http://nginx.org).  
Commercial support is available at [nginx.com](http://nginx.com).

*Thank you for using nginx.*

*This is normal — it means your server is already responding, but AliothPress is still being configured. Wait a few minutes and refresh the page.*

You will see the **AliothPress Setup Wizard** — a friendly form where you:

-  Choose your language — 31 languages available
-  Choose a database — SQLite or PostgreSQL
-  Create your admin account — pick a username, email, and password
-  Name your site and optionally enter your license key


Click **“Launch Your Site!”** and you’re done.

Congratulations! Your site is live. You can now log into your admin panel and start creating content.

## After Installation

### Connecting Your Domain

Right now, your site is accessible via its IP address (e.g., `http://203.0.113.42`). To use your own domain name (e.g., `mysite.com`), you need to create a DNS record that points your domain to the server.

 You can use any domain registrar — Porkbun, Namecheap, Cloudflare, GoDaddy, Squarespace Domains, or any other. The process is the same everywhere: you create an A record pointing to your server’s IP address. The screenshots below use Porkbun as an example, but your registrar will have a very similar interface.

### Step-by-step (example: Porkbun)

*Here is what the DNS settings page looks like on Porkbun. Your registrar will have a very similar form:*

## MANAGE DNS RECORDS

Powered by Cloudflare · [Switch to new view](#)

Here you can configure custom DNS records for your domain.

[More Information](#)

Type  
A - Address record

Host  
Leave blank to create a record for the root domain. Use \* to create a wildcard. Please note that ALIAS records do not support wildcards.  
  
.aliothpress.com

Answer / Value

TTL  
600

Priority

Notes  
This is for your own use and does not affect DNS.


1. Log in to your domain registrar (where you bought the domain).
2. Find **“DNS Settings”** or **“Manage DNS Records”**. On Porkbun, click the “DNS” button next to your domain.
3. Create a new record with these settings:

Field	Value	Explanation
Type	A - Address record	This tells the DNS to point to an IP address
Host	(leave blank)	Blank = root domain (e.g., mysite.com)
Answer / Value	Your server IP	e.g., 203.0.113.42 — copy from Hetzner
TTL	600	How quickly changes take effect (600 = 10 min)

4. Click **“Add”** (or “Save” on other registrars).
5. Wait 5–30 minutes for the DNS to update.
6. Open **http:// mysite.com** in your browser — your site should be there!


⚠ Until you enable HTTPS (next section), always use **http://** when opening your domain. Most browsers will otherwise default to **https://**, which will show a 404 error because your server does not have an SSL certificate yet.

## Enabling HTTPS (Free)

HTTPS makes your site secure and shows a lock icon  in the browser. Visitors trust sites with HTTPS more, and search engines rank them higher.

**The good news:** AliothPress has a built-in HTTPS setup. You don't need to install anything or use the command line. It uses Let's Encrypt — a free, trusted certificate provider.

*Here is what the Domain & HTTPS settings look like in the AliothPress admin panel:*



**Domain & HTTPS**

**Domain Name**  
example.com

Enter your domain (e.g. example.com). The A record must point to this server's IP before enabling HTTPS.

**Free SSL Certificate (Let's Encrypt)**  
Enter your domain above and click to get a free SSL certificate. [Enable HTTPS](#)

Step 1: Add an A record for your domain pointing to this server's IP. Step 2: Wait 5-15 minutes for DNS propagation. Step 3: Enter the domain above and click Enable HTTPS. The certificate is free and renews automatically.

### How to enable HTTPS:

1. Make sure your domain is already connected (Step above) and loads your site via **http://mysite.com**.
2. Log into your AliothPress admin panel.
3. Go to **Settings** → **Domain & HTTPS**.
4. Enter your domain name (e.g., **mysite.com**) in the **Domain Name** field.
5. Click the **"Enable HTTPS"** button. That's it!

Your site is now running on HTTPS. The certificate is free and renews automatically — you never have to think about it again.

⚠️ HTTPS will only work after your domain's DNS is fully set up and the domain loads your site. If you get an error, wait a few more minutes and try again.

⚠️ After enabling HTTPS, your site will only be accessible via your domain name. The old IP address (e.g., `http:// 203.0.113.42`) will stop working. To access your admin panel, go to **`https:// yourdomain.com/admin`**.

## License Key

AliothPress is **free for non-commercial use** — personal websites, blogs, educational projects, non-profits, and hobby projects. No license key is needed. The only requirement is that the “Powered by AliothPress” attribution link remains visible in the footer and system emails.

A **license key is required for commercial use** — business websites, online stores, paid services, lead generation, advertising, or client projects. Each license key is valid for one domain.

With an active license key:

- The “Powered by AliothPress” attribution is removed from the footer and emails
- Automatic updates become available

You can enter your license key during setup (step 4 of the wizard) or later in **Settings** → **License & Updates**. The license can be activated at any time.

💡 Web agencies: you may use AliothPress for client projects, but each client domain requires its own license key. See the End-User License Agreement for full terms.

## Updating AliothPress

With an active license: go to **Settings** → **License & Updates**, click “**Check for Updates**”. If a new version is available, click “**Update Now**” — everything happens automatically.

## Cloud-Init on Other Providers

If you're using a provider other than Hetzner, the installation process is the same. The only difference is where you paste the cloud-init script and which plan to choose. Here's a quick reference:

Provider	Look for plan	Where to paste the script
<b>Hetzner Cloud</b>	≥ 2 vCPU, 4 GB	Scroll down → “Cloud config” → paste
<b>DigitalOcean</b>	≥ 2 vCPU, 2 GB	“Advanced Options” → check “User Data” → paste
<b>Linode (Akamai)</b>	≥ 2 vCPU, 4 GB	“Add User Data” section → paste
<b>Vultr</b>	≥ 1 vCPU, 2 GB	“User Data” → check the box → paste

💡 On every provider, make sure to select Ubuntu 22.04 or 24.04 as the operating system, and choose a server with at least 2 vCPUs and 4 GB RAM. See the “How to Choose a Server” section at the beginning of this guide for details.

## Troubleshooting

Here are solutions to the most common issues:

Problem	Solution
<b>Site doesn’t load after creating server</b>	Wait 3 minutes and refresh. The installation needs a moment to complete.
<b>“Connection refused” error</b>	The installation is still running. Wait 2 more minutes and try again.
<b>White page or error page</b>	Try clearing your browser cache, or open in a private/incognito window.
<b>Domain doesn’t show your site</b>	DNS changes can take up to 30 minutes. Wait and try again. Make sure the A record points to the correct IP.
<b>HTTPS error or “Enable HTTPS” fails</b>	Your DNS must be fully active first. Wait 15–30 minutes after setting the A record, then try again.

**Want to start over**

Delete the server in your hosting dashboard and create a new one. The cloud-init script will install everything fresh.

*Enjoy building with AliothPress!* 🌿

[aliothpress.com](https://aliothpress.com)