



THCZ BOOK EDITION 2026

FreeWebPanel User Manual

Hosting control panel operations for domains, websites, AutoSSL, mail, databases, files, apps, hosting accounts, backups, updates, recovery, agencies, and providers.

FreeWebPanel

VPS owners, agencies, resellers, hosting providers, WordPress teams, and server operators

Stable reader + downloadable PDF

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How To Use This Manual

Read the first pages once, then jump to the task-specific chapters.

FreeWebPanel User Manual is designed as a stable online reader and a downloadable PDF. The reader keeps navigation without heavy scroll effects, and the PDF is clean, readable, and suitable for forwarding or printing.

Start with the overview and quick start.

Use the operations chapters when doing live work.

Use troubleshooting and FAQ before asking for support.

Do not paste ^{02 / 48} secrets, private keys, API keys, customer data, or live server logs into public channels.

Source Map

The manual is based on public pages, local docs, and rollout notes.

These manuals consolidate the current public product story, live docs, release notes, and operational commands into a single readable book. They are intentionally public-safe.

FreeWebPanel public site: <https://freewebpanel.com/>

FreeWebPanel docs page: <https://docs.talktoai.org/freewebpanel/>

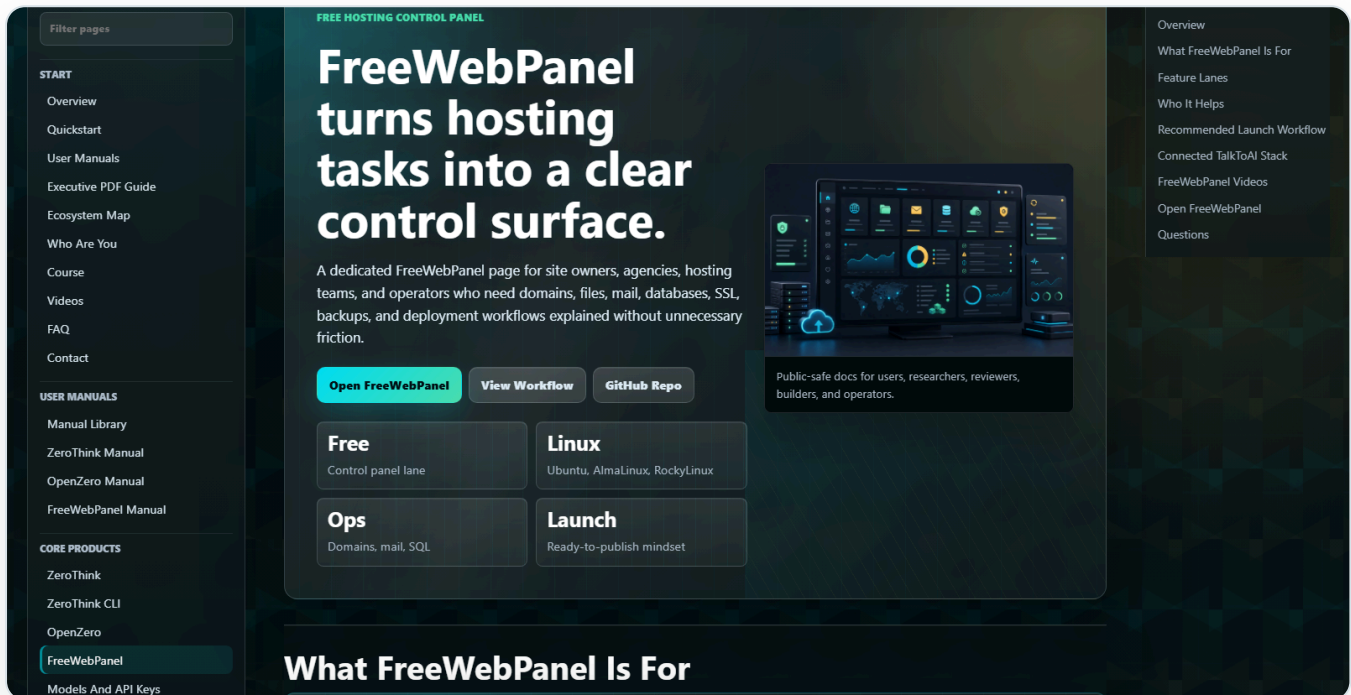
Install command: <https://freewebpanel.com/downloads/thcz-install.sh>

TalkToAI services docs: <https://docs.talktoai.org/services/>

ZSEC docs: <https://docs.talktoai.org/zsec/>

FreeWebPanel visual map

A live docs screenshot and practical orientation page for the panel.



This screenshot shows the public FreeWebPanel docs route that this manual expands: domains, files, mail, SQL, SSL, backups, WordPress, deployment workflow, ZSEC companion security, and business handover.

Use the screenshot as the map: domain/DNS, file release, mail, database, SSL, backup, and deployment tasks should each have a clear panel page or support note.

For OpenZero AIOS web-server deployments, prepare DNS before asking the panel to issue SSL or host customer domains.

When a user reports a hosting issue, identify the lane first: DNS, web root, SSL, mail, database, permissions, backup, update, or account access.

What FreeWebPanel Is

FreeWebPanel is a hosting control panel lane for VPS owners, agencies, resellers, hosting providers, and operators who need websites, domains, SSL, mail, databases, files, apps, accounts, updates, and recovery workflows.

FreeWebPanel is a hosting control panel lane for VPS owners, agencies, resellers, hosting providers, and operators who need websites, domains, SSL, mail, databases, files, apps, accounts, updates, and recovery workflows.

It aims to be practical and approachable.

It should reduce hosting friction without hiding server responsibility.

It is positioned as a free/pro Linux hosting control panel path.

Do next

Use it when the user wants hosting control rather than raw terminal-only management.

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Who It Is For

FreeWebPanel is useful for single-site owners, web agencies, SEO teams, hosting providers, resellers, and server operators.

FreeWebPanel is useful for single-site owners, web agencies, SEO teams, hosting providers, resellers, and server operators.

Beginners need safe defaults.

Agencies need repeatable deployments.

Providers need accounts, isolation, mail, SSL, and recovery flows.

Do next

Choose the workflow by audience before configuring services.

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Supported Server Direction

FreeWebPanel material positions the panel around Ubuntu, AlmaLinux, and RockyLinux hosting control.

FreeWebPanel material positions the panel around Ubuntu, AlmaLinux, and RockyLinux hosting control.

Ubuntu VPS is the main install story.

Clean servers are safer than overloaded legacy machines.

Panel installs should not be tested first on irreplaceable production servers.

Do next

Use a fresh VPS or snapshot before installing.

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Clean VPS Principle

Hosting panels touch web server, mail, database, firewall, SSL, users, files, and service configuration. A clean VPS reduces conflicts.

Hosting panels touch web server, mail, database, firewall, SSL, users, files, and service configuration. A clean VPS reduces conflicts.

Avoid installing over an unknown control panel.

Snapshot before major changes.

Read preflight warnings.

Do next

If migrating, document old DNS, mailboxes, databases, and files first.

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Install Command

The primary install command is a one-line shell installer.

The primary install command is a one-line shell installer.

Read the script source before running on sensitive machines.

Use sudo/root only when you understand the target.

Run on a supported server.

Do next

Command: `curl -fsSL https://freewebpanel.com/downloads/thcz-install.sh | sudo bash`

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Installer Preflight Checks

Preflight checks should identify OS, privileges, ports, packages, disk, hostname, and obvious conflicts before making changes.

Preflight checks should identify OS, privileges, ports, packages, disk, hostname, and obvious conflicts before making changes.

Do not ignore warnings.

Fix hostname/DNS before mail setup.

Keep enough disk free for sites, mail, databases, and backups.

Do next

Record preflight output when asking for support.

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First Login

After install, the first login flow should show the panel URL, credentials, and any required final setup steps.

After install, the first login flow should show the panel URL, credentials, and any required final setup steps.

Save credentials safely.

Change temporary passwords.

Restrict admin access.

Do next

If login info is lost, use `thcz-login-info`.

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Login Recovery

The login recovery command is part of the public FreeWebPanel direction.

The login recovery command is part of the public FreeWebPanel direction.

Use it on the server, not in a browser.

Protect the output.

Rotate credentials if exposed.

Do next

Command: `thcz-login-info`

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Dashboard Overview

The dashboard should quickly show websites, domains, SSL status, mail, databases, backups, server health, updates, and important warnings.

The dashboard should quickly show websites, domains, SSL status, mail, databases, backups, server health, updates, and important warnings.

A dashboard is for scanning.

Deep settings belong in dedicated pages.

Warnings should be actionable.

Do next

Check dashboard after every install, restore, or update.

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Websites

Website management should support creating sites, pointing document roots, managing runtime settings, and seeing status.

Website management should support creating sites, pointing document roots, managing runtime settings, and seeing status.

Keep one site per clear directory.

Document app type.

Do not mix unrelated projects in one folder.

Do next

Test each site with HTTP and HTTPS after creation.

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Domains

Domain management connects DNS names to websites and services.

Domain management connects DNS names to websites and services.

DNS must point to the server.

Propagation takes time.

Mail and web DNS are separate concerns.

Do next

Check A/AAAA, MX, SPF, DKIM, and DMARC where relevant.

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AutoSSL

AutoSSL should request and renew certificates for domains that resolve correctly.

AutoSSL should request and renew certificates for domains that resolve correctly.

DNS must be correct first.

Ports 80/443 must be reachable.

Renewal failures should be visible.

Do next

If SSL fails, check DNS, firewall, web server, and rate limits.

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Mail Accounts

Mail support means users, mailboxes, domains, DNS records, spam posture, and deliverability boundaries.

Mail support means users, mailboxes, domains, DNS records, spam posture, and deliverability boundaries.

Mail is DNS-sensitive.

Set SPF, DKIM, DMARC.

Avoid using a poor-reputation IP for serious email.

Do next

Test inbound and outbound mail before promising production readiness.

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Databases

Database management should allow creating databases/users, assigning permissions, and understanding backups.

Database management should allow creating databases/users, assigning permissions, and understanding backups.

Use separate users per app.

Limit privileges.

Back up before migrations.

Do next

Store database credentials outside public web roots.

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File Manager

File management helps upload, edit, move, and inspect website files without always using SSH.

File management helps upload, edit, move, and inspect website files without always using SSH.

Avoid editing live production code without backup.

Check permissions.

Do not upload secrets to public folders.

Do next

Use version control for serious projects.

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Apps And WordPress

App deployment can include WordPress and other site stacks.

App deployment can include WordPress and other site stacks.

Keep app versions updated.

Use SSL.

Use strong admin credentials.

Install only trusted plugins/themes.

Do next

Back up before plugin or theme changes.

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Hosting Accounts

Hosting accounts are useful for agencies, resellers, and providers who need separation by customer or site.

Hosting accounts are useful for agencies, resellers, and providers who need separation by customer or site.

Separate users.

Limit access.

Avoid sharing admin credentials with clients.

Do next

Define account owner and quota policy before onboarding customers.

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Backups

Backups are the difference between inconvenience and disaster.

Backups are the difference between inconvenience and disaster.

Back up files, databases, mail, and config.

Store copies off-server.

Test restores.

Do next

Never trust a backup that has not been restored in a test.

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Restore Workflow

Restore workflows should be calm and documented.

Restore workflows should be calm and documented.

Identify what failed.

Select the right restore point.

Restore smallest needed scope first.

Verify after restore.

Do next

Keep a restore checklist on hand.

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Updates

Panel updates and system updates should be planned, not random.

Panel updates and system updates should be planned, not random.

Read changelog.

Back up first.

Update during a maintenance window.

Verify sites after.

Do next

Document panel and OS versions after updates.

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Recovery Flows

Recovery flows should include login recovery, service restart, backup restore, DNS correction, and update rollback where possible.

Recovery flows should include login recovery, service restart, backup restore, DNS correction, and update rollback where possible.

Do not panic-reinstall.

Collect logs.

Fix the smallest broken component.

Do next

Use `thcz-login-info` for login problems; use logs for service problems.

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Security Basics

Hosting security starts with updates, SSH keys, firewall policy, least privilege, backups, and monitoring.

Hosting security starts with updates, SSH keys, firewall policy, least privilege, backups, and monitoring.

Disable unnecessary services.

Use strong passwords or keys.

Keep admin panels private where possible.

Do next

Run security checks after initial setup.

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ZSEC Companion

ZSEC can support update discipline for Linux servers with security-only updates and advisory notes.

ZSEC can support update discipline for Linux servers with security-only updates and advisory notes.

ZSEC does not replace backups.

ZSEC does not accept remote commands.

Use it as part of operations discipline.

Do next

Read [ZSEC docs](#) before enabling automation.

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Firewall And Ports

A hosting server usually needs web, mail, DNS, SSH, and panel access depending on configuration.

A hosting server usually needs web, mail, DNS, SSH, and panel access depending on configuration.

Open only what is needed.

Restrict admin ports.

Keep SSH recoverable.

Do next

Document every open port and why it exists.

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DNS And Nameservers

DNS is the launch spine for FreeWebPanel: websites, nameservers, AutoSSL, mail, redirects, and customer domains all depend on clean records.

Start DNS work before moving production traffic. Decide whether the domain is using registrar nameservers, Cloudflare-style DNS, or FreeWebPanel-managed nameservers. Record the current state, lower TTLs where appropriate, then change one layer at a time.

Website records: use A records for the root/apex and www to the server IPv4, AAAA only when IPv6 is correctly configured, and CNAME only where it will not conflict with required mail or apex behavior.

OpenZero AIOS lane: create web.domain.com, ns1.web.domain.com, and ns2.web.domain.com A records to the same server IPv4, keep them DNS-only/grey-cloud while preparing the host, then use those nameservers for customer domains on the AIOS web node.

Mail records: verify MX, SPF TXT, DKIM TXT, and DMARC TXT before promising mail delivery. A panel can create mailboxes, but DNS and IP reputation decide deliverability.

SSL records: AutoSSL/HTTP validation needs the domain to resolve to the panel server, port 80 reachable, and no proxy or redirect blocking the challenge path.

Nameserver delegation: only delegate customer domains to ns1/ns2 after glue/A records and panel DNS zones are ready. Keep a rollback note with old nameservers and previous MX records.

AIOS DNS example

```
web.domain.com A SERVER_IPV4
ns1.web.domain.com A SERVER_IPV4
ns2.web.domain.com A SERVER_IPV4
```

Customer domain checklist

```
apex A/AAAA -> correct server
www -> apex or server
MX -> intended mail host
SPF/DKIM/DMARC -> present
port 80 -> reachable for AutoSSL
old records -> documented before change
```

Do next

Check DNS from at least two resolvers, confirm the web server answers the domain, then request SSL once the records are stable.

SSL Troubleshooting

AutoSSL depends on DNS, port 80, web-server routing, challenge files, redirects, proxies, and certificate-rate discipline.

When SSL fails, pause repeated certificate requests and diagnose the path. Repeated failed attempts can waste time and may hit provider rate limits. The correct order is DNS first, HTTP reachability second, panel/site mapping third, then certificate request.

Confirm the domain and www resolve to the FreeWebPanel server with the intended A/AAAA records.

Check port 80 is open publicly and the HTTP challenge path is not blocked by firewall, redirect loops, maintenance pages, or a proxy mode that hides the origin.

Confirm the website exists in the panel, the document root is correct, and the domain is attached to the right account/site.

If Cloudflare or another proxy is used, test DNS-only/grey-cloud during issuance when HTTP validation is failing.

After issuance, verify HTTPS, forced redirects, mixed-content warnings, certificate name coverage, expiry date, and renewal behavior.

SSL triage order

1. DNS resolves to panel server
2. HTTP port 80 reaches the site
3. Domain maps to the correct web root
4. Challenge path is reachable
5. Certificate request is made once
6. HTTPS redirect and renewal are tested

Do next

Fix DNS or web routing before another AutoSSL run. Save the final working DNS and certificate state in the site handover notes.

Mail Troubleshooting

Mail success needs panel mailboxes, DNS authentication, provider port policy, reverse DNS, IP reputation, and realistic delivery expectations.

FreeWebPanel can provide the control surface for mail accounts and domain mail settings, but deliverability is wider than the panel. Treat mail as an operational service: test inbound, outbound, authentication, spam placement, and recovery before moving customer communication.

Inbound mail: confirm MX points to the intended mail host, mailboxes exist, quotas are not full, and the domain is attached to the correct account.

Outbound mail: check whether the VPS provider blocks SMTP ports, then verify SPF alignment, DKIM signing, DMARC policy, reverse DNS/PTR, and server hostname consistency.

Forwarding: test forwards to Gmail/Outlook carefully because forwarded mail can fail SPF unless DKIM/ARC/provider policy is handled well.

Reputation: new or poor-reputation IPs may place mail in spam even when records are technically correct. Use transactional providers for critical business mail when needed.

Support notes: never paste full mailbox passwords, private customer messages, or raw authentication logs into public support channels.

```
Mail DNS minimum
MX mail.domain.com
A mail.domain.com -> SERVER_IPV4
TXT SPF: v=spf1 mx ip4:SERVER_IPV4 -all
TXT DKIM: panel/provider public key
TXT DMARC: v=DMARC1; p=quarantine; rua=mailto:postmaster@domain.com
```

Do next

Send test messages both ways, inspect headers, and document the final MX/SPF/DKIM/DMARC/PTR state before handing mail to a client.

Database Troubleshooting

Database issues come from bad credentials, permissions, service down, full disk, corruption, or app config mismatch.

Database issues come from bad credentials, permissions, service down, full disk, corruption, or app config mismatch.

Check service status.

Check disk.

Check app config.

Restore from backup only after diagnosing.

Do next

Back up before repair attempts.

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File Permission Troubleshooting

Permissions can break uploads, PHP, static files, and security.

Permissions can break uploads, PHP, static files, and security.

Avoid 777 as a lazy fix.

Use correct owner/group.

Keep secrets unreadable by web users.

Do next

Record working permission patterns per app.

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Agency Workflow

Agencies need a repeatable project path: create account, add domain, deploy site, enable SSL, set mail if needed, set backups, document handoff.

Agencies need a repeatable project path: create account, add domain, deploy site, enable SSL, set mail if needed, set backups, document handoff.

Use checklists.

Keep client access limited.

Store handoff notes.

Do next

Create a standard new-site template.

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Provider Workflow

Hosting providers need onboarding, account limits, support boundaries, backups, updates, billing integration, and abuse handling.

Hosting providers need onboarding, account limits, support boundaries, backups, updates, billing integration, and abuse handling.

Separate customer accounts.

Define acceptable use.

Monitor resource usage.

Do next

Document support levels clearly.

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Migration From Another Panel

Migration should inventory domains, files, databases, mailboxes, cron jobs, DNS, SSL, and app configs before moving.

Migration should inventory domains, files, databases, mailboxes, cron jobs, DNS, SSL, and app configs before moving.

Do not migrate blindly.

Lower DNS TTL first.

Test on temporary domain or hosts file.

Keep old server until verification.

Do next

Create a migration checklist per customer.

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Comparing Alternatives

FreeWebPanel can be positioned as a free/pro Ubuntu-first panel, but comparisons should be factual and respectful.

FreeWebPanel can be positioned as a free/pro Ubuntu-first panel, but comparisons should be factual and respectful.

Avoid defamatory claims.

Use feature tables.

Tell users to test on a clean VPS first.

Do next

Comparison pages should link to install, free, FAQ, demo, and benchmark pages.

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SEO And Landing Pages

For product growth, FreeWebPanel needs clear pages for cPanel alternative, Ubuntu control panel, CWP alternative, CloudPanel alternative, mail server panel, agency hosting, providers, security, changelog, roadmap, and press.

For product growth, FreeWebPanel needs clear pages for cPanel alternative, Ubuntu control panel, CWP alternative, CloudPanel alternative, mail server panel, agency hosting, providers, security, changelog, roadmap, and press.

Each page needs a clear H1.

Use internal links.

Use real visible FAQ content.

Do not fake reviews.

Do next

Keep installer URL stable.

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Structured Data

Public pages can use Organization, WebSite, SoftwareApplication, BreadcrumbList, FAQPage for visible FAQ, and HowTo only on real how-to pages.

Public pages can use Organization, WebSite, SoftwareApplication, BreadcrumbList, FAQPage for visible FAQ, and HowTo only on real how-to pages.

No fake AggregateRating.

Keep canonical URLs clean.

Match schema to visible page content.

Do next

Validate after changes.

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Support Requests

A useful support request includes OS, VPS provider, install time, error, domain, logs excerpt, and what changed recently.

A useful support request includes OS, VPS provider, install time, error, domain, logs excerpt, and what changed recently.

Do not include passwords.

Do not include private keys.

Redact customer data.

Do next

Paste minimal relevant logs only.

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Operations Checklist

Daily operations: dashboard, disk, backups, SSL, mail queue, security updates, error logs, and customer tickets.

Daily operations: dashboard, disk, backups, SSL, mail queue, security updates, error logs, and customer tickets.

Scan before making changes.

Fix warnings while small.

Schedule updates.

Do next

Keep a weekly restore test habit.

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Glossary

FreeWebPanel terms map to hosting tasks: site, domain, SSL, mailbox, database, file manager, app, hosting account, backup, restore, preflight, recovery.

FreeWebPanel terms map to hosting tasks: site, domain, SSL, mailbox, database, file manager, app, hosting account, backup, restore, preflight, recovery.

Use plain labels.

Avoid internal-only terms in public UI.

Make every warning actionable.

Do next

Send new operators to this manual first.

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Command And URL Appendix

Use these only in the right context.

Commands and URLs are repeated here so operators can find them quickly. Read the chapter before running commands on production systems.

Install FreeWebPanel: `curl -fsSL https://freewebpanel.com/downloads/thcz-install.sh | sudo bash`

Recover login details: `thcz-login-info`

Read docs: ^{45 / 48} `https://docs.talktoai.org/freewebpanel/`

Safe Operations Checklist

Run this before serious changes.

A manual is only useful when it changes behavior. This checklist is the calm-before-action page for live work.

Confirm the exact account, server, domain, or project.

Back up before destructive or live changes.

Use read-only checks before write actions.

Keep keys and secrets out of prompts, screenshots, and PDFs.

Verify the result in a browser and with a direct HTTP or command-line check.

Record ^{46 / 48} what changed and how to roll it back.

Questions And Answers

The short support answers most users need before asking for help.

What is the install command? — `curl -fsSL https://freewebpanel.com/downloads/thcz-install.sh | sudo bash`

How do I recover login details? — Run `thcz-login-info` on the server and protect the output.

Should I install on a clean VPS? — Yes. A clean supported VPS or a snapshot is safest.

Does it manage mail and databases? — The FreeWebPanel direction includes mail accounts, databases, files, websites, domains, AutoSSL, apps, and hosting accounts.

What DNS does the OpenZero AIOS web lane need? — Prepare `web.domain.com`, `ns1.web.domain.com`, and `ns2.web.domain.com` A records to the server IPv4, keep them DNS-only while preparing the host, then delegate customer domains only after the panel DNS zones are ready.

Why did AutoSSL fail? — Usually DNS, port 80, domain-to-site mapping, redirects, proxy mode, or challenge-path access. Fix those before retrying.

Why is mail not delivering? — Check MX, SPF, DKIM, DMARC, PTR/reverse DNS, provider SMTP port policy, mailbox quota, and IP reputation.

Does it replace backups? — No. The panel should make backups easier, but you still need tested off-server backup discipline.

Next Best Step

Do the smallest useful next action.

FreeWebPanel becomes easier when the next action is explicit. Pick the task, read the matching chapter, run a tiny verification, then scale up only after the first result works.

New user: read overview, quick start, and glossary.

Operator: read install, security, backup, and troubleshooting chapters.

Reviewer: read source map, boundaries, and proof links.

Team: ^{48 / 48}standardize keys, templates, support notes, and update windows.