

ADMIN_MANUAL

Section 0: Installation Guide (New Section - Add before Section 1)

0.1 System Requirements

Server Requirements:

- **Operating System:** Linux (Ubuntu 20.04+ recommended) or Windows Server 2019+
- **Web Server:** Apache 2.4+ with mod_rewrite or Nginx 1.18+
- **PHP:** Version 8.0 or higher with extensions:
 - mysqli/pdo_mysql
 - gd/imagick
 - mbstring
 - json
 - xml
 - zip
 - openssl
 - curl
 - fileinfo
- **Database:** MySQL 8.0+ or MariaDB 10.5+
- **Storage:** Minimum 10GB free space (50GB+ recommended for game assets)
- **Memory:** 4GB RAM minimum (8GB+ recommended)
- **SSL Certificate:** Required for production (Let's Encrypt acceptable)

Client Requirements:

- Modern web browser (Chrome 90+, Firefox 88+, Safari 14+, Edge 90+)
- JavaScript enabled
- Cookies enabled

0.2 Pre-Installation Checklist

Before beginning installation:

- [] Domain name registered and DNS pointed to server
- [] Server access credentials (SSH/FTP)
- [] Database credentials (root or user with CREATE DATABASE privileges)
- [] SMTP server details (for email notifications)
- [] Payment gateway credentials (Stripe/PayPal - if applicable)
- [] CDN account (optional but recommended - CloudFlare/AWS CloudFront)

0.3 Installation Methods

Method A: Automated Installation (Recommended)

Using Installation Wizard:

1. Upload Files:

- Download latest GameHub release from repository
- Extract to web root directory (e.g., /var/www/html/ or public_html/)

- Set permissions: `chmod -R 755 /var/www/html/` and `chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/html/`

2. Create Database:

- Log into MySQL: `mysql -u root -p`
- Create database: `CREATE DATABASE gamehub CHARACTER SET utf8mb4 COLLATE utf8mb4_unicode_ci;`
- Create user: `CREATE USER 'gamehub_user'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'secure_password';`
- Grant privileges: `GRANT ALL PRIVILEGES ON gamehub.* TO 'gamehub_user'@'localhost';`
- Exit: `FLUSH PRIVILEGES; EXIT;`

3. Run Web Installer:

- Navigate to <https://yourdomain.com/install/>
- Follow wizard steps:
 - **Step 1:** Environment check (PHP extensions, permissions)
 - **Step 2:** Database configuration (host, database name, user, password)
 - **Step 3:** Admin account creation (username, email, password)
 - **Step 4:** Site configuration (site name, URL, timezone, currency)

- **Step 5:** Email configuration (SMTP host, port, username, password)
- **Step 6:** Installation confirmation and cleanup

4. **Post-Installation Security:**

- Delete /install/ directory immediately
- Change default admin URL (optional but recommended)
- Update config.php permissions to 640

Method B: Manual Installation

For advanced users or custom server configurations:

1. **Database Setup:**

- Import schema: `mysql -u gamehub_user -p gamehub < database/schema.sql`
- Import initial data: `mysql -u gamehub_user -p gamehub < database/seed_data.sql`

2. **Configuration File:**

- Copy config.example.php to config.php
- Edit with your settings:

php

```
define('DB_HOST', 'localhost');
```

```
define('DB_NAME', 'gamehub');
```

```
define('DB_USER', 'gamehub_user');
```

```
define('DB_PASS', 'your_secure_password');
```

```
define('SITE_URL', 'https://yourdomain.com');  
  
define('ADMIN_EMAIL', 'admin@yourdomain.com');  
  
define('SECRET_KEY', 'random_32_character_string');
```

3. Directory Permissions:

bash

```
chmod 755 uploads/  
  
chmod 755 uploads/games/  
  
chmod 755 uploads/avatars/  
  
chmod 755 cache/  
  
chmod 755 logs/
```

4. Web Server Configuration:

For Apache (.htaccess should exist):

- Ensure AllowOverride All is set in virtual host configuration
- Enable mod_rewrite: a2enmod rewrite

For Nginx: Add to server block:

nginx

```
location / {  
  
    try_files $uri $uri/ /index.php?$query_string;  
  
}  
  
location ~ \.php$ {
```

```
fastcgi_pass unix:/var/run/php/php8.0-fpm.sock;  
  
fastcgi_index index.php;  
  
include fastcgi_params;  
  
}
```

0.4 Post-Installation Configuration

Essential Settings (Configure Before Going Live)

1. Security Hardening:

- Change default admin panel URL from /admin/ to custom path (e.g., /manage/ or /controlpanel/)
- Enable two-factor authentication for admin accounts
- Set up IP whitelisting for admin access
- Configure automated security scans

2. Email Configuration:

- Test email delivery (registration, password reset, order confirmations)
- Set up SPF and DKIM records for domain
- Configure SMTP fallback for high-volume periods

3. Payment Processing:

- Enable test mode initially
- Configure Stripe/PayPal API keys
- Set up webhook endpoints for payment notifications
- Test complete purchase flow with test credentials

4. Content Delivery Network (CDN):

- Configure CloudFlare or alternative CDN
- Set up caching rules for static assets
- Enable image optimization
- Configure SSL/TLS settings

5. Backup Configuration:

- Set up automated daily database backups
- Configure off-site backup storage (AWS S3, Google Cloud Storage)
- Test backup restoration procedure
- Set up backup failure alerts

0.5 Verification Checklist

Before declaring installation complete:

Functionality Testing:

- [] User registration and login
- [] Game browsing and search
- [] Shopping cart and checkout process
- [] Payment processing (test mode)
- [] Email notifications (registration, order confirmation)
- [] Admin panel access and all sections
- [] Forum creation and posting
- [] File uploads (game images, avatars)

Security Verification:

- ☐ SSL certificate valid and auto-renewing
- ☐ Admin panel accessible only via HTTPS
- ☐ SQL injection protection tested
- ☐ XSS protection verified
- ☐ File upload restrictions working
- ☐ Rate limiting active on login forms

Performance Checks:

- ☐ Page load times under 3 seconds
- ☐ Database queries optimized
- ☐ Image compression enabled
- ☐ Browser caching configured
- ☐ Gzip compression enabled

0.6 Troubleshooting Installation Issues

"500 Internal Server Error" during installation:

- Check PHP error logs: `/var/log/apache2/error.log` or `/var/log/nginx/error.log`
- Verify `.htaccess` file exists and is readable
- Check PHP version compatibility: `php -v`
- Increase PHP memory limit in `php.ini`: `memory_limit = 256M`

"Database connection failed":

- Verify database credentials in `config.php`
- Test connection manually: `mysql -u gamehub_user -p -h localhost`

- Check if MySQL is running: `sudo systemctl status mysql`
- Verify database exists: `SHOW DATABASES;` in MySQL

"Permission denied" on file uploads:

- Check directory ownership: `ls -la uploads/`
- Set correct ownership: `sudo chown -R www-data:www-data uploads/`
- Verify PHP running as correct user

"Unable to send email":

- Test SMTP settings with external tool (e.g., Mailtrap)
- Check firewall rules for outbound port 587/465
- Verify DNS records (SPF, DKIM, DMARC)
- Check email logs in `logs/mail.log`

White screen after installation:

- Enable PHP error display temporarily in `php.ini`: `display_errors = On`
- Check for missing PHP extensions: `php -m`
- Verify `config.php` syntax: `php -l config.php`

0.7 Updating from Previous Versions

Before Updating:

- Create full backup (database + files)
- Put site in maintenance mode
- Check release notes for breaking changes

Update Procedure:

1. Download update package
2. Extract to temporary directory
3. Run database migrations: `php migrate.php`
4. Replace core files (preserve `config.php` and `uploads/` directory)
5. Clear cache directory
6. Test critical functionality
7. Remove maintenance mode

Rollback Plan:

- Keep previous version backup for 48 hours
- Document database schema changes
- Test rollback procedure on staging environment

1. Introduction & Access Control

This guide is for authorized administrators of the GameHub website. It covers all backend management operations including product management, user administration, order processing, forum moderation, and website maintenance.

Responsibilities:

Manage game inventory and pricing

Process customer orders

Moderate forum discussions

Update website content

Manage user accounts

Ensure website security and performance

Access Control:

Only authorized administrators can access the management panel using unique admin credentials.

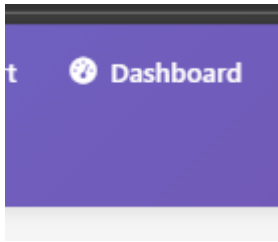
2. Login & Dashboard Overview

Access the Admin Panel:

Navigate to the login page

Enter admin credentials

Access the dashboard

**Dashboard Features:**

Quick statistics overview

Navigation to all management sections

Recent activity monitoring

System status indicators

3. Managing Game Products

3.1 Access Product Management

Log in to admin panel

Navigate to "Product Management" or equivalent section

3.2 Add New Game

Click "Add New Product"

Fill in game details:

Game name and description

Price and discount

Category and platform information

Developer and publisher details











Game features

Upload game images

Save the new product

From the product list, select the game to edit
Update any information as needed
Save changes

Product Inventory

ID	PRODUCT	PRICE	STOCK	SALES	ACTIONS
#75	Animal Crossing: New Horizons Simulation	\$59.99	<input type="text" value="200"/> 	1600	
#74	Street Fighter 6 Sports	\$59.99 15.00% off	<input type="text" value="120"/> 	700	
#73	Diablo IV RPG	\$69.99 10.00% off	<input type="text" value="140"/> 	950	
#72	Marvel's Spider-Man 2 Action	\$69.99 5.00% off	<input type="text" value="150"/> 	1100	
	Baldur's Gate		<input type="text" value=""/> 		

3.4 Delete Games

Locate the game in the product list
Click "Delete" or equivalent action
Confirm deletion

Product Inventory						
ID	PRODUCT	PRICE	STOCK		SALES	ACTIONS
#75	Animal Crossing: New Horizons Simulation	\$59.99	<input type="text" value="200"/>	<input type="button" value="🔒"/>	1600	<input type="button" value="🗑️"/>
#74	Street Fighter 6 Sports	\$59.99 15.00% off	<input type="text" value="120"/>	<input type="button" value="🔒"/>	700	<input type="button" value="🗑️"/>
#73	Diablo IV RPG	\$69.99 10.00% off	<input type="text" value="140"/>	<input type="button" value="🔒"/>	950	<input type="button" value="🗑️"/>
#72	Marvel's Spider-Man 2 Action	\$69.99 5.00% off	<input type="text" value="150"/>	<input type="button" value="🔒"/>	1100	<input type="button" value="🗑️"/>
	Baldur's Gate		<input type="text"/>	<input type="button"/>		<input type="button"/>

3.5 View All Products

The product management interface displays:

Game ID and name

Current price and discount

Stock status

Category information

Action buttons for editing/deleting

Product Inventory

ID	PRODUCT	PRICE	STOCK		SALES	ACTIONS
#75	Animal Crossing: New Horizons Simulation	\$59.99	<input type="text" value="200"/> <input type="button" value="lock"/>		1600	<input type="button" value="trash"/>
#74	Street Fighter 6 Sports	\$59.99 15.00% off	<input type="text" value="120"/> <input type="button" value="lock"/>		700	<input type="button" value="trash"/>
#73	Diablo IV RPG	\$69.99 10.00% off	<input type="text" value="140"/> <input type="button" value="lock"/>		950	<input type="button" value="trash"/>
#72	Marvel's Spider-Man 2 Action	\$69.99 5.00% off	<input type="text" value="150"/> <input type="button" value="lock"/>		1100	<input type="button" value="trash"/>
	Baldur's Gate		<input type="text"/> <input type="button"/>			<input type="button"/>

4. Managing Users

4.1 View User List

Navigate to "User Management"

View all registered users with details including:

Username and email

Registration date

Account status

User role

4.1 View User List

[Existing content remains]

4.2 Edit User Accounts

To edit a user account:

Navigate to "User Management" → Select user from list → Click "Edit"

Editable fields:

- **Profile Information:** Username, display name, avatar, bio
- **Contact Details:** Email address, phone number, location
- **Account Settings:** Email verification status, newsletter preferences
- **Security:** Force password reset on next login, revoke active sessions

Important: Changes to email addresses require re-verification. System sends confirmation email automatically.

4.3 Suspend/Ban Users

Temporary Suspension:

- Select user → Click "Suspend" → Set duration (1-30 days) → Provide reason
- User cannot log in during suspension period
- Automatic reactivation after duration expires

Permanent Ban:

- Select user → Click "Ban Permanently" → Confirm with admin password
- Banned users cannot register new accounts with same email
- Option to "Ban IP" to prevent re-registration

Unban User:

- Navigate to "Banned Users" tab → Select user → Click "Reinstate"
- User regains full access immediately

4.4 Reset User Passwords

- Select user → Click "Reset Password" → Generate secure temporary password
- System emails temporary password to user
- User forced to change password on next login
- **Audit Log:** All password resets logged with admin ID and timestamp

4.5 Manage User Roles

Available Roles:

- **User:** Standard access, can purchase games, post in forums
- **VIP:** Early access to sales, exclusive forum badge, priority support
- **Moderator:** Can moderate forum posts, view reported content
- **Super Moderator:** Can ban users, manage forum categories, edit any post
- **Admin:** Full system access (cannot be assigned through this interface)

To change role: Select user → "Change Role" → Select new role → Confirm

- Role changes take effect immediately
- Previous permissions revoked, new permissions granted

Id	User Id	Hash	Contact Owner	Company Id	Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Email	Time
57	—	—	—	—	—	Stephanie	Rodriguez	stephanie.rodriguez2@email.com	—
56	—	—	—	—	—	Charles	Clark	charles.clark2@email.com	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	Michelle	Robinson	michelle.robinson2@email.com	—
54	—	—	—	—	—	Richard	Martinez	richard.martinez2@email.com	—
53	—	—	—	—	—	Ashley	Garcia	ashley.garcia2@email.com	—
52	—	—	—	—	—	Kevin	Thompson	kevin.thompson2@email.com	—

5. Managing the Forum

5.1 Content Moderation

Review forum posts for compliance with guidelines

Remove inappropriate content

Manage user permissions for posting

Pin important announcements

5.1 Content Moderation

[Existing content remains]

5.2 Create/Delete Forum Categories

Create New Category: Navigate to "Forum Management" → "Categories" → "Add Category"

Required fields:

- **Category Name:** Display name (e.g., "Action Games Discussion")
- **Slug:** URL-friendly identifier (auto-generated)
- **Description:** Brief description shown on forum index
- **Parent Category:** Optional - for subcategories
- **Icon:** FontAwesome icon class or custom image
- **Permissions:** Which user roles can view/post
- **Moderators:** Assign specific moderators to this category

Delete Category:

- Click "Delete" next to category
- **Option A:** Move all threads to another category
- **Option B:** Delete all threads permanently
- Requires confirmation with admin password

5.3 Manage Forum Threads and Replies

Thread Actions:

- **Pin Thread:** Stays at top of category, "Unpin" to remove
- **Lock Thread:** Prevents new replies, "Unlock" to reopen
- **Move Thread:** Transfer to different category with redirect notice
- **Merge Threads:** Combine duplicate discussions
- **Delete Thread:** Remove permanently or soft delete (recoverable for 30 days)

Bulk Actions: Select multiple threads → Apply action: Pin/Lock/Move/Delete/Spam

Reply Management:

- Edit any reply (shows "Edited by Admin" notice)
- Delete individual replies
- Hide replies (visible only to moderators)
- Mark as "Best Answer" for support forums

5.4 User Reporting System

Access Reports: "Forum Management" → "Reports"

Report Types:

- Spam
- Harassment
- Off-topic
- Duplicate content
- Other (with description)

Processing Reports:

1. View reported content
2. **Actions Available:**
 - Dismiss Report (no action taken)
 - Remove Content (delete post/thread)
 - Warn User (sends warning, logged on account)
 - Ban User (immediate ban)
3. Mark as "Resolved" with resolution note

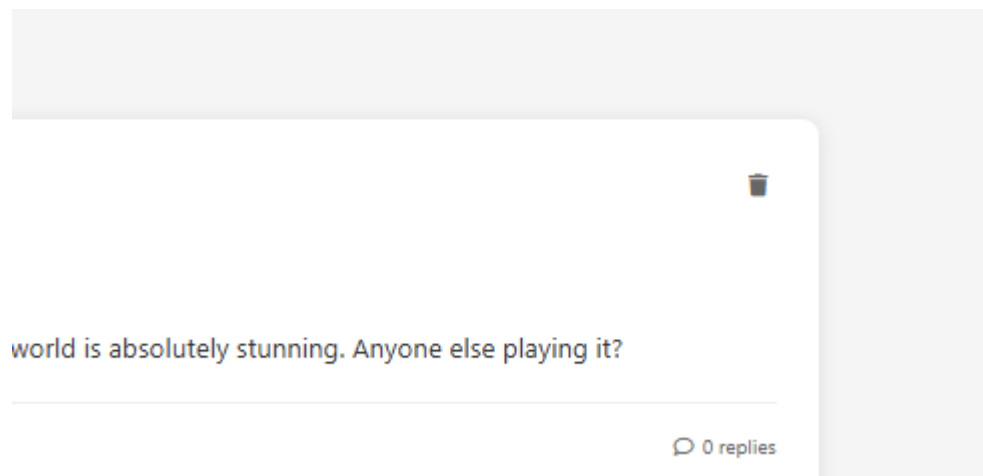
Auto-moderation Settings:

- Auto-hide posts after X reports (pending review)
- Auto-ban users after X warnings
- Keyword filter for automatic flagging

5.5 Forum Statistics and Analytics

Dashboard Metrics:

- New threads/replies (daily/weekly/monthly)
- Most active categories
- Top contributors
- Report resolution time
- User growth in forum section



6. Managing Website Content

6.1 Update Static Pages

[Existing content remains, expanded with procedures]

Homepage Management: Navigate to "Content" → "Homepage"

Hero Banner Section:

- Upload background image (recommended: 1920x600px, <500KB)
- Set headline text and subheadline
- Configure CTA button text and link (e.g., "Explore Games" → /games)
- Set display duration for rotating banners (if multiple)
- Schedule banner start/end dates for time-limited promotions

Featured Games Section:

- Select "Add Featured Game"
- Search and select from product database
- Set display order (drag to reorder)
- Add custom tagline (optional, overrides default game description)
- Maximum 6 featured games recommended

Promotional Banners:

- Sidebar promotional slots (3 available)
- Set image, link, and alt text
- Track click-through rates

6.2 Content Editor Usage

Rich Text Editor Features:

- **Formatting:** Bold, italic, headings, lists, quotes
- **Media Insertion:** Images (drag-drop or URL), videos (YouTube/Vimeo embed)
- **Tables:** Create comparison tables for game features
- **HTML Mode:** Direct HTML editing for advanced customization
- **Preview:** Live preview before publishing

SEO Fields (per page):

- **Meta Title:** 50-60 characters (browser tab + search results)
- **Meta Description:** 150-160 characters (search result snippet)
- **URL Slug:** Edit permalink structure
- **Open Graph Image:** Social media sharing image (1200x630px)

6.3 Media Library Management

Access: "Content" → "Media Library"

Upload Guidelines:

- **Images:** JPG/PNG/WebP, max 5MB per file, auto-optimized on upload
- **Videos:** MP4 only, max 100MB (larger files: use external hosting)
- **Documents:** PDF only (for press kits, manuals)

Organization:

- **Create folders by category** (Games/2024, Marketing/Banners, etc.)
- **Bulk upload** (up to 20 files simultaneously)
- **Automatic alt-text generation** (editable)
- **Unused media cleanup tool** (shows files not linked in any content)

6.4 Content Scheduling

Schedule New Content:

- **Create content as draft**
- **Set "Publish Date" and time**
- **Select timezone** (defaults to server timezone)
- **System auto-publishes at scheduled time**

Content Calendar View:

- **Monthly calendar showing all scheduled posts**
- **Drag to reschedule**
- **Bulk schedule multiple updates**

7. Subscribers Management

7.1 Access Subscribers List

Log in as administrator

Navigate to "Subscribers" section

View all registered subscribers

Id	User Id	Hash	Contact Owner	Company Id	Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Email	Time
57	—	—	—	—	—	Stephanie	Rodriguez	stephanie.rodriguez2@email.com	—
56	—	—	—	—	—	Charles	Clark	charles.clark2@email.com	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	Michelle	Robinson	michelle.robinson2@email.com	—
54	—	—	—	—	—	Richard	Martinez	richard.martinez2@email.com	—
53	—	—	—	—	—	Ashley	Garcia	ashley.garcia2@email.com	—

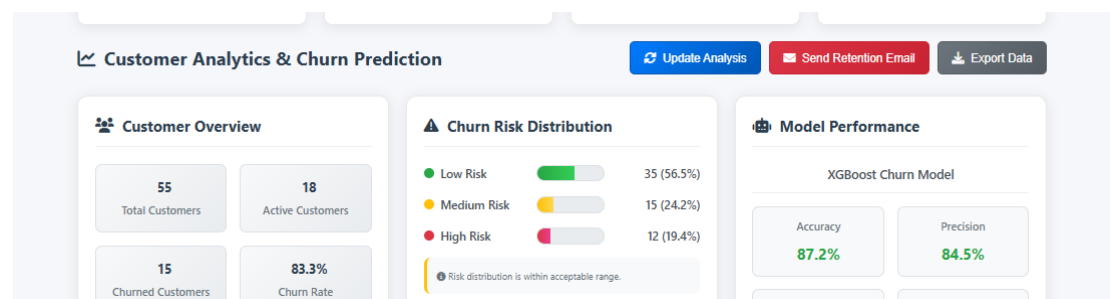
7.2 Subscriber Management Features

View complete subscriber list with details

Search and filter subscribers

Export subscriber data to CSV

Monitor subscriber growth and trends



8. Website Maintenance

8.1 Regular Maintenance Tasks

Database Backups: Regular backup of website database

File Backups: Backup critical directories and files

Updates: Check for system and software updates monthly

Performance Monitoring: Regular checks of server performance

8.2 Backup Process

Database Backup:

Export database through phpMyAdmin or similar tool

Store backups in secure location
Test backup restoration periodically

File Backup:

Backup website files including:

PHP files
Configuration files
Uploaded images and content
Theme and template files

8.3 Update Procedures

Always backup before updating

Test updates in staging environment first
Apply updates during low-traffic periods
Monitor website after updates for issues

9. Security & Best Practices

Section 9.1 Security Measures (Enhanced)

IP Whitelisting for Admin Panel

Configuration: "Settings" → "Security" → "Admin Access"

Options:

- **Disabled:** Access from any IP (not recommended)
- **Specific IPs:** Comma-separated list (e.g., 203.0.113.0, 203.0.113.1)
- **IP Range:** CIDR notation (e.g., 203.0.113.0/24)
- **Geographic:** Allow only from specific countries

Emergency Access:

- **Backup method via email verification if IP changes unexpectedly**
- **Log all blocked access attempts with IP and timestamp**

Login Attempt Limiting

Brute Force Protection:

- **Max Attempts:** 5 failed logins per IP per 15 minutes
- **Lockout Duration:** 30 minutes temporary block
- **Permanent Ban:** Auto-ban IP after 3 lockouts in 24 hours
- **Account Lock:** Lock specific account after 10 failed attempts (requires admin unlock)

CAPTCHA Integration:

- **Enable after 2 failed attempts**
- **Options:** Google reCAPTCHA v2/v3, hCaptcha, Cloudflare Turnstile

SSL Certificate Management

Auto-SSL (Let's Encrypt):

- **Automatic renewal** 30 days before expiration
- **Email alert** 7 days before expiry if auto-renewal fails
- **Force HTTPS redirect** (recommended: enabled)

Custom SSL:

- **Upload certificate and private key**
- **Intermediate certificate chain support**
- **Certificate expiration monitoring**

Security Incident Response

Incident Classification:

- **Low:** Suspicious login attempt blocked
- **Medium:** Successful unauthorized access to non-critical data
- **High:** Admin account compromise, database breach, payment data access

Response Procedures:

1. **Immediate:** Isolate affected systems, preserve logs
2. **Assessment:** Determine scope of breach, affected data
3. **Containment:** Reset compromised credentials, patch vulnerability
4. **Notification:** User notification if PII exposed (per GDPR/CCPA requirements)
5. **Recovery:** Restore from clean backup if necessary

6. Post-Incident: Security audit, policy updates

Security Log Retention:

- **Admin actions: 2 years**
- **Failed logins: 1 year**
- **System access: 90 days**

10. Troubleshooting (Administrators)

10.1 Common Issues and Solutions

500 Internal Server Error:

Check server error logs
Verify .htaccess configuration
Check PHP version compatibility
Review recent changes to code

404 Page Not Found:

Verify file paths and permissions
Check .htaccess rewrite rules
Ensure files exist in correct locations

Database Connection Errors:

Verify database credentials in configuration files
Check if database server is running
Test database connection separately
Check for firewall restrictions

Form Submission Issues:

Check PHP settings (max_input_vars, post_max_size)
Verify form action URLs
Check browser console for JavaScript errors
Review server error logs

Performance Issues:

- Optimize images and media files
- Enable caching mechanisms
- Reduce unnecessary database queries
- Monitor server resources
- Optimize code and reduce redirects

10.2 Contacting Hosting Support

If issues persist, contact your hosting provider with:

- Detailed error messages
- Steps to reproduce the issue
- Recent changes made to the website
- Server logs if available