

# Introduction to VPS Hosting with Digital Ocean

By John Jeffrey Joseph Michael “Jeffrey”  
Westhoff Effrey





# Why?

- Having a VPS allows you to run code on a machine that faces the public network
- This allows you to host projects that let anyone connect to them from anywhere
  - These projects can include services to others, such as a personal blog ([johnwesthoff.com](http://johnwesthoff.com))
  - These projects can include personal projects, such as a datastructures or diggums project ([gradcap.us](http://gradcap.us))
  - These projects can even include personal services, such as your own cloud storage server
- You have full control over what is running, you are the admin, with computers like Appa the man won't let you `rm -rf /*` whenever you feel like it



# Getting Started



**First, navigate to [digitalocean.com](https://digitalocean.com)**

123

BAT 93.34% 03:41:18 | W: ( 67% at MD-guest) 10.13.208.50 | 1.00 | 8.5 GiB | 2018-04-13 03:45:10

DigitalOcean: Cloud Com x +


← → ↺

🔒 DigitalOcean, LLC (US) https://www.digitalocean.com

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3D design A3QZ\_LEG...

NEW Announcing new Droplet plans with more CPUs, memory, and SSD storage. [Learn more.](#) →

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DocsSupport ▾Login[Sign Up](#)

# Simplicity at scale.

Our cloud computing platform was built with simplicity at the forefront, so managing infrastructure is easy, whether your business is running one virtual machine or ten thousand. DigitalOcean gets out of your way so teams can build, deploy, and scale cloud applications faster and more efficiently.







## Sign up and deploy your app in seconds.

Email Address

Password

Create Account →

By signing up you agree to the [Terms of Service](#).




**Next, sign in or make an account**

Hi, johnjwesthoff

Resources Activity

DROPLETS (1)

|                                                                                           |                |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|
|  Johnbot | 104.236.236.67 | ... |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----|

DOMAINS (1)

|                |                    |     |
|----------------|--------------------|-----|
| irc.johnbot.me | 1 A / 3 NS / 1 SOA | ... |
|----------------|--------------------|-----|

Create something new



Start using Spaces  
Deliver data with scalable object storage



Spin up a Load Balancer  
Distribute traffic between multiple Droplets

Build on what you have



Add a disk to your Droplet  
Create a block storage volume



Take a Snapshot  
Make on-demand copies of Droplets



Secure your Droplets  
Create a cloud firewall



Start using Floating IPs  
Redirect Droplet traffic quickly

CURRENT USAGE

\$2.40

17 days left in this billing period

[Go to Billing](#)

JOHNJWESTHOFF



johnjwesthoff@gmail.com

Droplet Limit: 25 Droplets

[Increase](#)

[Edit Profile](#)



Tutorials



API Docs



Status






**Click Create**



Hi, johnjwesthoff

[Resources](#) [Activity](#)

## DROPLETS (1)

|                                                                                                           |                |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
|  <a href="#">Johnbot</a> | 104.236.236.67 | <a href="#">...</a> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|

## DOMAINS (1)

|                                |                    |                     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <a href="#">irc.johnbot.me</a> | 1 A / 3 NS / 1 SOA | <a href="#">...</a> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|

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## CURRENT USAGE

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17 days left in this billing period

[Go to Billing](#)

## JOHNJWESTHOFF



johnjwesthoff@gmail.com  
Droplet Limit: 25 Droplets  
[Increase](#)

[Edit Profile](#)

## Droplets

Create cloud servers

## Volumes

Add storage to Droplets

## Domains/DNS

Route your existing domains

## Cloud Firewalls

Increase Droplet security

## Floating IPs

Reserve IP addresses for Droplets

## Load Balancers

Distribute traffic to Droplets

## Alert Policies

Monitor your Droplets

## Spaces

Store and serve static assets

[Tutorials](#)[API Docs](#)[Status](#)





**Choose Droplet, which is what DO calls their Virtual Private Servers**

Hi, johnjwesthoff

[Resources](#) [Activity](#)

## DROPLETS (1)

|                                                                                                           |                |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <a href="#">Johnbot</a> | 104.236.236.67 |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## DOMAINS (1)

|                                |                    |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <a href="#">irc.johnbot.me</a> | 1 A / 3 NS / 1 SOA |  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Create something new



[Start using Spaces](#)  
Deliver data with scalable object storage



[Spin up a Load Balancer](#)  
Distribute traffic between multiple Droplets

## Build on what you have



[Add a disk to your Droplet](#)  
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Make on-demand copies of Droplets



[Secure your Droplets](#)  
Create a cloud firewall



[Start using Floating IPs](#)  
Redirect Droplet traffic quickly

## CURRENT USAGE

\$2.40

17 days left in this billing period

[Go to Billing](#)

## JOHNJWESTHOFF



johnjwesthoff@gmail.com  
Droplet Limit: 25 Droplets  
[Increase](#)  
[Edit Profile](#)

## Droplets

Create cloud servers

## Volumes

Add storage to Droplets

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Route your existing domains

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Distribute traffic to Droplets

## Alert Policies

Monitor your Droplets

## Spaces

Store and serve static assets



Tutorials



API Docs



Status





**Choose your operating system, such as  
Ubuntu**

123

BAT 93.04% 03:21:43 | W: ( 67% at NO-guest) 10.13.208.50 | 1.56 | 8.5 GiB | 2018-04-13 03:45:45

DigitalOcean - Create Droplet

← → ↺

DigitalOcean, LLC (US) https://cloud.digitalocean.com/droplets/new?fleetUuid=d3416baf-b21d-4924-9294-435d79812a0d&i=e0dc92&size=s-2vcpu-4gb&region=lon1

3D design A3QZ\_LEG...

DigitalOcean

Dashboard Droplets Spaces Images Networking Monitoring API

19

# Create Droplets


## Choose an image ?

Distributions


Container distributions

One-click apps


Snapshots

Ubuntu


16.04.4 x64

FreeBSD


Select version

Fedora

Select version

Debian

Select version

CentOS

Select version

## Choose a size

### Standard Droplets

Balanced virtual machines with a healthy amount of memory tuned to host and scale applications like blogs, web applications, testing / staging environments, in-memory caching and databases.

| MEMORY | vCPUs  | SSD DISK | TRANSFER | PRICE                |
|--------|--------|----------|----------|----------------------|
| 1 GB   | 1 vCPU | 25 GB    | 1 TB     | \$5/mo<br>\$0.007/hr |

### Optimized Droplets

Compute optimized virtual machines with dedicated hyper-threads from best in class Intel CPUs for CPU Intensive applications like CI/CD, video encoding, machine learning, ad serving, batch processing and active front-end web servers.

| MEMORY | DEDICATED vCPUs | SSD DISK | TRANSFER | PRICE                 |
|--------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------------------|
| 4 GB   | 2 vCPUs         | 25 GB    | 4 TB     | \$40/mo<br>\$0.060/hr |



**Choose a size, smaller is cheaper, and probably good enough**

123

DigitalOcean - Create Droplet

BAT 93.02% 03:24:06 | W: ( 67% at NO-guest) 10.13.208.50 | 1.52 | 8.5 GiB | 2018-04-13 03:45:50

← → ↺

DigitalOcean, LLC (US) https://cloud.digitalocean.com/droplets/new?fleetUuid=d3416baf-b21d-4924-9294-435d79812a0d&i=e0dc92&size=s-1vcpu-1gb&region=lon1

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🔍 📄 📄 📄

3D design A3QZ\_LEG...

16.04.4 x64

Select version

Select version

Select version

Select version

## Choose a size

### Standard Droplets

Balanced virtual machines with a healthy amount of memory tuned to host and scale applications like blogs, web applications, testing / staging environments, in-memory caching and databases.

| MEMORY | vCPUs    | SSD DISK | TRANSFER | PRICE                  |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| 1 GB   | 1 vCPU   | 25 GB    | 1 TB     | \$5/mo<br>\$0.007/hr   |
| 2 GB   | 1 vCPU   | 50 GB    | 2 TB     | \$10/mo<br>\$0.015/hr  |
| 4 GB   | 2 vCPUs  | 80 GB    | 4 TB     | \$20/mo<br>\$0.030/hr  |
| 8 GB   | 4 vCPUs  | 160 GB   | 5 TB     | \$40/mo<br>\$0.060/hr  |
| 16 GB  | 6 vCPUs  | 320 GB   | 6 TB     | \$80/mo<br>\$0.119/hr  |
| 32 GB  | 8 vCPUs  | 640 GB   | 7 TB     | \$160/mo<br>\$0.238/hr |
| 48 GB  | 12 vCPUs | 960 GB   | 8 TB     | \$240/mo<br>\$0.357/hr |
| 64 GB  | 16 vCPUs | 1.25 TB  | 9 TB     | \$320/mo<br>\$0.476/hr |

### Optimized Droplets

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| MEMORY | DEDICATED vCPUs | SSD DISK | TRANSFER | PRICE                  |
|--------|-----------------|----------|----------|------------------------|
| 4 GB   | 2 vCPUs         | 25 GB    | 4 TB     | \$40/mo<br>\$0.060/hr  |
| 8 GB   | 4 vCPUs         | 50 GB    | 5 TB     | \$80/mo<br>\$0.119/hr  |
| 16 GB  | 8 vCPUs         | 100 GB   | 6 TB     | \$160/mo<br>\$0.238/hr |
| 32 GB  | 16 vCPUs        | 200 GB   | 7 TB     | \$320/mo<br>\$0.476/hr |
| 64 GB  | 32 vCPUs        | 400 GB   | 9 TB     | \$640/mo<br>\$0.952/hr |

### Flexible Droplets

Three plans at the same price point with varying resources that allow you to get started without worrying about price.



**Choose a location - the closer to you  
the better**



DigitalOcean - Create Droplet

← → ↺

DigitalOcean, LLC (US) https://cloud.digitalocean.com/droplets/new?fleetUuid=d3416baf-b21d-4924-9294-435d79812a0d&i=e0dc92&size=s-1vcpu-1gb&region=nyc1

3D design A3QZ\_LEG...

\$1.42/mo

1 GB

3 vCPUs

60 GB

3 TB

\$15/mo  
\$0.022/hr

**Add block storage** Currently only available in AMS3, BLR1, FRA1, LON1, NYC1, NYC3, SFO2, SGP1 and TOR1.

Add Volume

Choose a datacenter region

|                                                                                                        |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <br>New York<br>1 2 3 | <br>San Francisco<br>1 2 | <br>Amsterdam<br>2 3 | <br>Singapore<br>1 | <br>London<br>1 | <br>Frankfurt<br>1 |
| <br>Toronto<br>1      | <br>Bangalore<br>1       |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                       |

Select additional options ?

☐ Private networking ☐ Backups ☐ IPv6 ☐ User data ☐ Monitoring

Add your SSH keys ?



# **Choose a hostname**

## Add your SSH keys ?

New SSH Key

## Finalize and create

### How many Droplets?

Deploy multiple Droplets with the same [configuration](#).

−

1 Droplet

+

### Choose a hostname

Give your Droplets an identifying name you will remember them by. Your Droplet name can only contain alphanumeric characters, dashes, and periods.

mynewserverofdoom

[Add Tags](#)

Create





**Wait for it to finish firing up your droplet**



Hi, johnjwesthoff

[Resources](#) [Activity](#)

## DROPLETS (2)

|                                                                                                       |                        |                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|  mynewsserverofdo... | <div><div></div></div> | NYC1 / 1GB / 25GB Disk |
|  Johnbot             | 104.236.236.67         | ...                    |

## DOMAINS (1)

|                                |                    |     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| <a href="#">irc.johnbot.me</a> | 1 A / 3 NS / 1 SOA | ... |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----|

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## Build on what you have

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Make on-demand copies of Droplets

## CURRENT USAGE

\$2.40

17 days left in this billing period

[Go to Billing](#)

## JOHNJWESTHOFF



johnjwesthoff@gmail.com

Droplet Limit: 25 Droplets

[Increase](#)[Edit Profile](#)[Tutorials](#)[API Docs](#)[Status](#)



**Once it is done, you'll get an email**

Google

Gmail

1 of 9,213



COMPOSE

Inbox (6,100)

Sent

Email (55)

John

John

John

John

John

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John

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## Your New Droplet: mynewserverofdoom

Inbox x

 **DigitalOcean** <support@support.digitalocean.com>  
to me

3:47 PM (1 minute ago) ☆ ↩

Your new Droplet is all set to go! You can access it using the following credentials:

Droplet Name: mynewserverofdoom  
IP Address: 67.207.88.201  
Username: root  
Password: 2e045f89bea3d9cb819975daf5

For security reasons, you will be required to change this Droplet's root password when you login. You should choose a strong password that will be easy for you to remember, but hard for a computer to guess. You might try creating an alpha-numerical phrase from a memorable sentence (e.g. "I won my first spelling bee at age 7," might become "Iwm#1sbaa7"). Random strings of common words, such as "Mousetrap Sandwich Hospital Anecdote," tend to work well, too.

As an added security measure, we also strongly recommend adding an SSH key to your account. You can do that here: <https://cloud.digitalocean.com/settings/security?i=e0dc92>

Once added, you can select your SSH key and use it when creating future Droplets. This eliminates the need for root passwords altogether, and makes your Droplets much less vulnerable to attack.

Happy Coding,  
Team DigitalOcean



Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

13.25 GB (88%) of 15 GB used  
[Manage](#)

[Terms](#) - [Privacy](#)

Last account activity: 13 minutes ago  
[Details](#)

**That email contains your  
information for logging  
in, it is IMPORTANT, and  
keep it secret**





**Log in by opening a terminal, and  
running ssh  
root@THEIPADDRESSFROMTHEEMAIL,  
and saying yes**

123

DigitalOcean - mynewse X Your New Droplet: myne: X +

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxmZVFtwHcnGk... ☆

3D design A3QZ\_LEG...

Google

Gmail · 1 of 9,213

COMPOSE

Inbox (6,100)  
Sent  
Spam (56)  
Receipts (45)  
John +

Make a call  
Also try our mobile apps for Android and iOS

Your New Droplet: mynewserverofdoom

DigitalOcean <support@support.digita 3:47 PM (1 minute ago) ☆

to me

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Happy Coding,  
Team DigitalOcean

Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

13.25 GB (88%) of 15 GB used  
[Manage](#)

[Terms](#) - [Privacy](#)

Last account activity: 13 minutes ago  
[Details](#)


BAT 91.44% 04:15:05 | W: ( 67% at NO-guest) 10.13.208.50 | 0.85 | 8.5 GiB | 2018-04-13 03:49:50

john@zuko:~\$ ssh root@67.207.88.201

The authenticity of host '67.207.88.201 (67.207.88.201)' can't be established.

ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:zUZ6iQkJz00vAl2HRDXajAKh30HXioi/sOLkf0sT+4A.

Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes





**It will ask for a password, type in the password from the email. It will then have you change that password by first asking for the password again**

1 2 3

DigitalOcean - mynewse X Your New Droplet: myne X +

3D design A3QZ\_LEG...

Google

Gmail - 1 of 9,213

COMPOSE

Inbox (6,100)  
Sent  
Spam (56)  
Receipts (45)

John +

Make a call

Also try our mobile apps for [Android](#) and [iOS](#)

### Your New Droplet: mynewserverofdoom

DigitalOcean <support@support.digit... 3:47 PM (1 minute ago) ☆

to me

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IP Address: 67.207.88.201  
Username: root  
Password: 2e045f89bea3d9cb819975da5f

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Happy Coding,  
Team DigitalOcean

Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

13.25 GB (88%) of 15 GB used  
[Manage](#)

[Terms](#) - [Privacy](#)

Last account activity: 13 minutes ago  
[Details](#)

BAT 91.38% 04:17:46 | W: ( 67% at NO-guest) 10.13.208.50 | 0.79 | 8.5 GiB | 2018-04-13 03:50:00

```
john@zuko:~$ ssh root@67.207.88.201
The authenticity of host '67.207.88.201 (67.207.88.201)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:zU6iQkJz00vAl2HRDXajAKh30HXioi/sOLkF0sT+4A.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '67.207.88.201' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
root@67.207.88.201's password:
You are required to change your password immediately (root enforced)
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.4.0-119-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:        https://ubuntu.com/advantage

Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest:
http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud

0 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

Changing password for root.
(current) UNIX password:
Enter new UNIX password: 
```



**Enter a new password after that, and make it a good one**

1 2 3

DigitalOcean - mynewse X Your New Droplet: myne X +

3D design A3QZ\_LEG...

# Google

Gmail 1 of 9,213

COMPOSE

Inbox (6,100)  
Sent  
Spam (56)  
Receipts (45)

John +

## Your New Droplet: mynewserverofdoom

DigitalOcean <support@support.digitalc> Apr 13, 2018, 3:47 PM ☆

to me

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Happy Coding,  
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Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

13.25 GB (88%) of 15 GB used  
[Manage](#)

[Terms](#) - [Privacy](#)

Last account activity: 13 minutes ago  
[Details](#)

BAT 91.31% 04:28:57 | W: ( 67% at NO-guest) 10.13.208.50 | 0.62 | 8.5 GiB | 2018-04-13 03:50:15

```
john@zuko:~$ ssh root@67.207.88.201
The authenticity of host '67.207.88.201 (67.207.88.201)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:zU6iQkJz00vAl2HRDXajAKh30HXioi/sOLkF0sT+4A.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '67.207.88.201' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
root@67.207.88.201's password:
You are required to change your password immediately (root enforced)
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.4.0-119-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:        https://ubuntu.com/advantage

Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest:
http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud

0 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

Changing password for root.
(current) UNIX password:
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
root@mynewserverofdoom:~#
```

# CHOOSE A GOOD PASSWORD

I used the password “breezy” once and my server was hacked and joined a botnet



**Do whatever you want**



1 2 3

DigitalOcean - mynewse X Your New Droplet: myne X +

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxmZVFtwHcnGk ...

3D design A3QZ\_LEG...

# Google

Gmail 1 of 9,213

COMPOSE

Inbox (6,100)  
Sent  
Spam (56)  
Receipts (45)

John +

## Your New Droplet: mynewserverofdoom

DigitalOcean <support@support.digitalc> Apr 13, 2018, 3:47 PM ☆

to me

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Happy Coding,  
Team DigitalOcean

Click here to [Reply](#) or [Forward](#)

13.25 GB (88%) of 15 GB used  
[Manage](#)

[Terms](#) - [Privacy](#)

Last account activity: 13 minutes ago  
[Details](#)

BAT 91.23% 04:42:06 | W: ( 67% at NO-guest) 10.13.208.50 | 0.44 | 8.5 GiB | 2018-04-13 03:50:35

```
john@zuko:~$ ssh root@67.207.88.201
The authenticity of host '67.207.88.201 (67.207.88.201)' can't be established.
ECDSA key fingerprint is SHA256:zU6iQkJz00vAl2HRDXajAKh30HXioi/sOLkf0sT+4A.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added '67.207.88.201' (ECDSA) to the list of known hosts.
root@67.207.88.201's password:
You are required to change your password immediately (root enforced)
Welcome to Ubuntu 16.04.4 LTS (GNU/Linux 4.4.0-119-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:        https://ubuntu.com/advantage

Get cloud support with Ubuntu Advantage Cloud Guest:
http://www.ubuntu.com/business/services/cloud

0 packages can be updated.
0 updates are security updates.

The programs included with the Ubuntu system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Ubuntu comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by
applicable law.

Changing password for root.
(current) UNIX password:
Enter new UNIX password:
Retype new UNIX password:
root@mynewserverofdoom:~# sudo apt install whatever
```



# Tips





# Freeeeeeeeeeee

- GitHub will give you a lot of goodies for being a student, including \$100 of DigitalOcean credit - <https://education.github.com/pack>
- You can also find other free digital ocean credits randomly from the internet, pbui says nerdy podcasts often have them



# It's a Unix System (I know this)

- It's just running whatever OS you chose, so you can run any of the stuff you want, like apt install, or whatever
- You can sftp files to it, or wget them from somewhere else
- You can install git and clone your code



# Keys are probably a good idea

- Bug someone in lug into telling you how to set up SSH keys
- Bug someone in lug into telling you how to configure SSH to have aliases so you can run ``ssh vps`` instead of `ssh root@19.34.43.43`
- Probably stop using the root account
- Probably disable password login, lest you join the ranks of the mighty botnet



# There are other options, too

- GitHub will also give you some free Azure stuff
- AWS has a “free for a year or something” tier, but they always ended up charging me anyway, and then I got my account banned, then they apologized and withdrew the charges
- Vultr is another VPS provider, and they offer lower pricing options
  - I use both Vultr and DO, I think both are fine options
- Google has an always free tier