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## Server Maintenance Guide

Ubuntu VPS (Ubuntu 24.04)

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### DAILY TASKS

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#### 1. Check Server Uptime & Load

Command: `uptime`

Purpose: Shows how long the server's been running + load averages.

Watch For: Load average > CPU cores = possible overload.

Fix: Use 'top' to find heavy processes; restart services or scale VPS.

#### 2. Verify Firewall Status

Command: `sudo ufw status`

Purpose: Confirms firewall is active.

Fix: Enable it (`sudo ufw enable`); adjust ports with 'allow' or 'deny'.

#### 3. Review System Logs

Command: `sudo journalctl -xe`

Purpose: Check for errors or warnings.

Watch For: Repeated service errors or login issues.

Fix: Restart problem service, or look up error messages online.

#### 4. Check Critical Services

Command: `systemctl status [service]`

Example: `systemctl status nginx`

Purpose: Confirms services are active/running.

Fix: Restart services if inactive (`sudo systemctl restart [service]`).

## WEEKLY TASKS

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### 1. Update System Packages

Commands:

`sudo apt update`

`sudo apt upgrade`

Purpose: Keeps server secure and stable.

Fix: If errors, try '`sudo apt --fix-broken install`'.

### 2. Check Disk Space

Command: `df -h`

Watch For: Any partition >80% full.

Fix: Clean logs (`sudo journalctl --vacuum-time=7d`), remove old files.

### 3. Monitor Memory/CPU

Commands:

`free -h`

`top`

Watch For: High RAM or CPU usage.

Fix: Stop or restart heavy processes. Optimize app if needed.

### 4. Server Backup

Note: Hostinger automatically backs up once per week.

Tip: Still consider a second backup (rsync or cloud) before major changes.

## AUTOMATING WITH CRON

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Cron is a tool that runs commands on a schedule.

To edit your cron tasks:

Command: `crontab -e`

Example cron jobs:

- System updates every day at 3:30 AM:

```
30 3 * * * sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y
```

- Clean logs weekly (Sunday at 4:00 AM):

```
0 4 * * 0 sudo journalctl --vacuum-time=7d
```

Format:

┌──────── min (0–59)

| ┌──────── hour (0–23)

| | ┌──────── day of month (1–31)

| | | ┌──────── month (1–12)

| | | | ┌──────── day of week (0–6, Sunday=0 or 7)

| | | | |

\* \* \* \* \* command

## TIPS

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- Don't forget: use 'sudo' where needed.
- Always back up before major config changes.
- After updates, reboot if necessary: `sudo reboot`
- Test cron jobs by running the command manually first.

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