

COURSE:

Learn to secure website traffic using HTTPS by installing a FREE Let's Encrypt SSL Certificate!

PROJECT:

- **STEP ONE:**
Register a domain with the registrar of your choice.
- **STEP TWO:**
Configure the Name Servers of your domain to point to Digital Ocean:
ns1.digitalocean.com
ns2.digitalocean.com
ns3.digitalocean.com
- **STEP THREE:**
Create a new Droplet in your Digital Ocean Account named: myserver2
Use the following configuration:
512MB Memory
1 Core Processor
20 GB SSD Disk Space
1TB Transfer

Install the following Operating System: Ubuntu 16.04 LTS – 64 BIT
- **STEP FOUR:**
Connect to your newly created server using either PuTTY or Terminal.
Reset your default password, to a new one of your choice.

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- **STEP FIVE:**
Update your server using the following commands:
apt-get update
apt-get upgrade
- **STEP SIX:**
Install LAMP Stack on your server. Once installation has completed, access your server's IP address through your web browser, to make sure the default APACHE page loads.
- **STEP SEVEN:**
Configure your DNS Settings in Digital Ocean so that your Domain Name points to your new Server on Digital Ocean. Make sure to create an **A Record** and a **CNAME record** for the 'www' Prefix.
- **STEP EIGHT:**
Edit your host file to include your IP Address and Domain name. Make sure to save the file after you have finished.
- **STEP NINE:**
Install the Let's Encrypt Client and Install a Let's Encrypt SSL Certificate on your server, for your new Domain.
- **STEP TEN:**
Check the Status of your certificate on the SSL Labs Website.
- **STEP ELEVEN:**
Redirect all your domain variations including: IP Address, www, and http, to the HTTPS version of your website.
- **STEP TWELVE:**
Setup Auto Renewal of your SSL Certificate by creating a 'cron job' in your crontab. Have the certificate renew itself every Friday at 2:30am.
- **That's it! Once you have completed the steps above you have finished the project.**