

# \*\*Email DNS Migration Guide

(cPanel Email + Cloudflare DNS)\*\*

This documentation explains how to correctly migrate DNS from **cPanel** to **Cloudflare** while keeping:

**Website on VPS or another server**

**Email services on cPanel**

This setup is very common and must be done carefully to avoid email failures.

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## ⭐ 1. Records Required for Email to Work

When moving DNS to Cloudflare, you MUST migrate these records from cPanel:

Record Type	Purpose
<b>MX</b>	Routes incoming email
<b>A (mail)</b>	Connects SMTP/IMAP/webmail
<b>SPF (TXT)</b>	Prevents outgoing email rejection
<b>DKIM (TXT)</b>	Email authenticity validation
<b>DMARC (TXT)</b>	Email policy/reporting
<b>A records for cPanel services</b>	Webmail, cPanel login, calendars, contacts

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## ⭐ 2. MX Record (REQUIRED)

In Cloudflare:

**Type:** MX

**Name:** @

**Mail server:**

mail.yourdomain.com

**Priority:** 10

**Proxy:** DNS Only (must be gray)

**TTL:** Auto

- 
- ✓ Do *not* proxy MX.
  - ✓ Always point MX to mail.domain.com, NOT to the server hostname.
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## ★ 3. A Record for mail.yourdomain.com

In Cloudflare:

**Type:** A  
**Name:** mail  
**IPv4:** (Your cPanel server IP)  
Example:

123.123.123.123

**Proxy:** DNS Only (gray cloud)

This is required for:

- SMTP
  - IMAP
  - POP3
  - Webmail
  - MX record routing
- 

## ★ 4. SPF Record (TXT)

Copy the EXACT SPF from:

**cPanel → Email Deliverability**

Example SPF:

v=spf1 +a +mx +ip4:YOUR\_Cpanel\_MAIL\_IP -all

In Cloudflare:

**Type:** TXT  
**Name:** @  
**Value:**

```
v=spf1 +a +mx +ip4:YOUR_Cpanel_MAIL_IP -all
```

- ✓ SPF must match the email-sending IP
  - ✓ Do not include the VPS IP (unless VPS sends mail)
- 

## ⭐ 5. DKIM Record (TXT)

Find it in:

cPanel → Email Deliverability

You will see:

**Name:**

default.\_domainkey

**Value:**

Long DKIM key:

```
v=DKIM1; k=rsa; p=MIIBIjANBgkqhkiG9...
```

In Cloudflare:

**Type:** TXT

**Name:** default.\_domainkey

**Value:** (paste entire DKIM key)

**Proxy:** Always DNS Only (TXT has no proxy)

- ✓ Do NOT add the domain name in the Name field
  - ✓ Cloudflare appends .yourdomain.com automatically
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## ⭐ 6. DMARC Record (TXT)

(Optional but recommended)

In Cloudflare:

**Type:** TXT  
**Name:** \_dmarc  
**Value:**

v=DMARC1; p=none;

This prevents spoofing and improves deliverability.

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## ⭐ 7. Required A Records for cPanel Services

To keep webmail and cPanel login working, add these as DNS Only:

Name	Type	IP	Proxy
cpanel	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
whm	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
webmail	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
webdisk	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
ftp	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
cpcontacts	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
cpcalendars	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
autodiscover	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
autoconfig	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only

⚠ These must NOT be proxied.  
Email, Webmail, IMAP, SMTP will break if proxied.

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## ⭐ 8. SRV Records

Copy any SRV records from cPanel exactly.

These are usually:

- autodiscover
- caldav
- carddav

- calendars
- ✓ Keep them as DNS Only
  - ✓ Do not proxy SRV records
  - ✓ No need to modify anything
- 

## ★ 9. Records That CAN Be Proxied

Only your **website** A/AAAA/CNAME records should be proxied:

Example:

```
yourdomain.com → VPS IP → Proxied  
www → VPS IP → Proxied  
api → VPS IP → Proxied (if needed)
```

Everything else (email-related) must stay **DNS Only**.

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## ★ 10. Final Checklist Before Going Live

- ✓ MX = **DNS Only**
- ✓ mail = **DNS Only**
- ✓ SPF TXT = **correct IP**
- ✓ DKIM TXT = **added**
- ✓ DMARC TXT = **added**
- ✓ cPanel/Webmail A records = **DNS Only**
- ✓ Website records = **Proxied (optional)**

If all these are correct →

**Email will work 100% on cPanel and website will work on VPS.**

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## 11. Common Problems & Fixes

### Gmail rejecting emails

- 👉 SPF or DKIM missing
- 👉 Wrong IP inside SPF
- 👉 MX pointed to wrong server

### Webmail not loading

- 👉 webmail A record proxied incorrectly

### Can't login to cPanel/WHM

- 👉 cpanel or whm record proxied

### Email not delivered

- 👉 Missing mail A record
  - 👉 MX proxied
- 

## 12. Copy-Paste Version for Clients

You can also send your clients this short version:

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**To keep your email on cPanel while using Cloudflare DNS, set these DNS records:**

1. **MX → mail.yourdomain.com (DNS Only)**
2. **A mail → cPanel IP (DNS Only)**
3. **SPF TXT → use the one from cPanel Email Deliverability**
4. **DKIM TXT → copy from cPanel Email Deliverability**
5. **DMARC TXT → v=DMARC1; p=none;**
6. **A records (DNS Only):**
  - cpanel
  - whm
  - webmail

- autodiscover
  - autoconfig
  - ftp
  - cpcontacts
  - cpcalendars
7. **SRV records** → copy from cPanel, DNS Only
  8. Website records (A/CNAME) → may be proxied

Here is the **full documentation**, now including a clear, client-friendly explanation of:

- What **Proxied (orange cloud)** is
- What **DNS Only (gray cloud)** is
- When to use each
- A simple rule that ANYONE can follow

This version is perfect for sending to clients.

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## \*\*Email DNS Migration Guide

(cPanel Email + Cloudflare DNS)\*\*  
*(With clear Proxied vs DNS Only rules)*

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## Purpose of This Guide

Use this guide when:

- You are moving DNS from **cPanel to Cloudflare**, AND
  - You want to keep **email services on cPanel**, AND
  - You want your **website hosted somewhere else (VPS)**
- 



## Understanding Cloudflare Proxy Modes

Cloudflare has two modes for DNS records:

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### 1. Proxied (Orange Cloud)

Cloudflare acts as a **reverse proxy** in front of the IP.

#### ✓ Safe to use for:

- Website traffic (HTTP/HTTPS)

- API traffic
- WordPress sites
- VPS sites
- Anything running on ports **80 or 443**

### Never use for:

- Email (SMTP)
- IMAP
- POP3
- Webmail
- cPanel
- WHM
- FTP
- Autodiscover

If you proxy email-related records → **Email breaks.**

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## 2. DNS Only (Gray Cloud)

Cloudflare does *not* proxy the record. DNS resolves directly to the server.

### Required for:

- MX records
- mail.yourdomain.com
- webmail, cpanel, whm
- ftp, autodiscover, autoconfig
- DKIM / SPF / DMARC (TXT)
- IMAP/SMTP/POP3
- SRV records

### Do NOT proxy these — email will not work.

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## Simple Rule for Clients

### Proxy ONLY the website (www + root domain)

### Everything related to email must be DNS Only

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## Required DNS Records for Email to Work

When moving DNS to Cloudflare, migrate these from cPanel:

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### 1. MX Record (DNS Only)

In Cloudflare:

**Type:** MX

**Name:** @

**Mail server:**

mail.yourdomain.com

**Priority:** 10

**Proxy:** DNS Only (gray)

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### 2. A Record for mail.yourdomain.com (DNS Only)

**Type:** A

**Name:** mail

**IP:** Your cPanel server IP

**Example:**

123.123.123.123

**Proxy:** DNS Only (gray)

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### 3. SPF Record (DNS Only)

Copy from:

**cPanel → Email Deliverability**

Example SPF:

```
v=spf1 +a +mx +ip4:YOUR_CPANEL_MAIL_IP -all
```

In Cloudflare:

**Type:** TXT

**Name:** @

**Value:** (paste unchanged)

**Proxy:** Automatically DNS Only

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## ⭐ 4. DKIM Record (DNS Only)

Find in cPanel → Email Deliverability

**Type:** TXT

**Name:**

default.\_domainkey

**Value:**

(long DKIM key starting with v=DKIM1...)

**Proxy:** DNS Only

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## ⭐ 5. DMARC Record (DNS Only)

(Optional but recommended)

**Type:** TXT

**Name:** \_dmarc

**Value:**

```
v=DMARC1; p=none;
```

**Proxy:** DNS Only

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## ⭐ 6. A Records for cPanel/Webmail (ALL DNS ONLY)

To keep cPanel login and webmail functional:

Name	Type	IP	Proxy
cpanel	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
whm	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
webmail	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
ftp	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
webdisk	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
autoconfig	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
autodiscover	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
cpcontacts	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only
cpcalendars	A	cPanel IP	DNS Only

⚠ NEVER proxy these records.

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## ⭐ 7. SRV Records (DNS Only)

Copy SRV records from cPanel as-is.

Examples:

- autodiscover
- \_caldav
- \_carddav
- calendars

- ✓ Always DNS Only
  - ✓ No proxy possible
  - ✓ Do not delete
-

## ⭐ 8. Website Records (CAN BE PROXIED)

These are safe to proxy (orange cloud):

yourdomain.com	→ VPS IP
www	→ VPS IP
api	→ VPS IP (optional)

Proxying protects your website and adds Cloudflare performance & security.

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## 🔥 Final Checklist Before Completing Migration

- Website A records → Proxied**
- Email-related records → DNS Only**
- mail A record exists**
- MX record points to mail.domain.com**
- Correct SPF from cPanel**
- DKIM TXT added**
- DMARC TXT added**
- No orange clouds on email records**

If all boxes are checked →

**Email will work perfectly on cPanel, and your website will run safely on Cloudflare.**

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## Bonus: Short Version to Send Clients

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## Cloudflare DNS Setup (When Using cPanel Email)

### Proxy (Orange Cloud):

- Root domain (example.com)
- www
- Website/API subdomains

### DNS Only (Gray Cloud):

- mail
- webmail
- cpanel
- whm
- autodiscover
- autoconfig
- cpcontacts
- cpcalendars
- ftp
- MX
- SPF TXT
- DKIM TXT
- DMARC TXT
- SRV records

### Required Records:

- MX → mail.domain.com
- A mail → cPanel IP
- SPF → cPanel Email Deliverability
- DKIM → cPanel Email Deliverability
- DMARC → v=DMARC1; p=none;

# Simple Guide: Using Cloudflare for DNS + Keeping Email on cPanel

(Easy, beginner-friendly version)

When you move your domain to Cloudflare, you must tell Cloudflare:

- Where your **website** is hosted
- Where your **email** is hosted

This is important so that **your website works AND your email continues working.**

Here's the simple rule:

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## Rule 1 — Website = Proxied (Orange Cloud)

Turn ON the orange cloud **ONLY** for your website:

- example.com
- www.example.com
- (api.example.com if used)

This gives:

- ✓ Speed
  - ✓ Security
  - ✓ Cloudflare protection
- 

## Rule 2 — Email = DNS Only (Gray Cloud)

Turn OFF the orange cloud (DNS Only / Gray cloud) for ALL email-related records:

- mail.example.com

- webmail.example.com
- cpanel.example.com
- whm.example.com
- ftp.example.com
- autodiscover.example.com
- autoconfig.example.com
- cpcalendars
- cpcontacts

And all these **must be gray cloud**.

If these are orange:

- ✗ Email will fail
  - ✗ Webmail won't load
  - ✗ Gmail may reject your mail
- 



## Required Email Records (DNS Only)

### 1. MX Record

This tells the world where your email inbox is.

It must look like:

MX @ mail.yourdomain.com (priority 10) DNS Only

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### 2. A Record for “mail”

This makes Webmail, IMAP, SMTP work.

A mail your cPanel server IP DNS Only

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Example IP:

136.243.117.33

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### 3. SPF Record (TXT)

Copy from cPanel → Email Deliverability

Looks like:

```
v=spf1 +a +mx +ip4:xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx -all
```

This stops Gmail/Yahoo from rejecting your emails.

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#### 4. DKIM Record (TXT)

Also copy from cPanel → Email Deliverability

This is a long key starting with:

```
v=DKIM1; k=rsa; p=MIIIBIjANBgk...
```

Paste it into Cloudflare exactly.

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#### 5. DMARC Record (TXT)

A simple recommended one:

```
v=DMARC1; p=none;
```

This helps prevent email spoofing.

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## In 1 Minute: Quick Checklist

### ORANGE CLOUD ONLY FOR:

- ✓ yourdomain.com
- ✓ www.yourdomain.com

### GRAY CLOUD FOR EVERYTHING RELATED TO EMAIL

- ✓ mail
- ✓ webmail
- ✓ cpanel
- ✓ whm

- ✓ ftp
- ✓ autodiscover
- ✓ autoconfig
- ✓ cpcontacts
- ✓ cpcalendars
- ✓ MX
- ✓ SPF
- ✓ DKIM
- ✓ DMARC
- ✓ SRV Records

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**If you follow this, your website will work  
AND your email will work perfectly.**