

****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.

★ **1. Records Required for Email to Work**

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

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

★ **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.
-

★ 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
-

★ 6. DMARC Record (TXT)

(Optional but recommended)

In Cloudflare:

Type: TXT

Name: _dmarc

Value:

v=DMARC1; p=none;

This prevents spoofing and improves deliverability.

★ 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.

★ 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**.

★ 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.

★ 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:

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.



****Email DNS Migration Guide**

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



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:



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.**

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.

Simple Rule for Clients

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

 **Everything related to email must be DNS Only**

Required DNS Records for Email to Work

When moving DNS to Cloudflare, migrate these from cPanel:

1. MX Record (DNS Only)

In Cloudflare:

Type: MX

Name: @

Mail server:

`mail.yourdomain.com`

Priority: 10

Proxy: DNS Only (gray)

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)

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

★ 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

★ 5. DMARC Record (DNS Only)

(Optional but recommended)

Type: TXT

Name: _dmarc

Value:

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

Proxy: DNS Only

★ 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.

★ 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.

🔥 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.

🎁 Bonus: Short Version to Send Clients

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:

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
```

✓ 2. A Record for “mail”

This makes Webmail, IMAP, SMTP work.

```
A      mail      your cPanel server IP      DNS Only
```

Example IP:

```
136.243.117.33
```

✓ 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.

✓ 4. DKIM Record (TXT)

Also copy from cPanel → Email Deliverability

This is a long key starting with:

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

Paste it into Cloudflare exactly.

✓ 5. DMARC Record (TXT)

A simple recommended one:

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

This helps prevent email spoofing.



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

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