

# cPanel Deployment Guide for Everguard Intelligence Website

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## Important Notes About Contact Forms

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**⚠ Contact Form Limitation:** Your website currently has a contact form that uses server-side API routes ( `/api/contact` ). These will NOT work on static hosting. You have two options:

### Option A: Use Third-Party Form Service (Recommended)

Replace the current contact form with services like:

- **Formspree** (formspree.io) - Easy integration, free tier available
- **Netlify Forms** - If you deploy on Netlify instead
- **EmailJS** - Client-side email sending
- **Google Forms** - Embed a Google Form

### Option B: Keep Current Form (Requires Node.js hosting)

If your cPanel supports Node.js applications, you can deploy as a full Next.js app.

## Method 1: Static Export (Most Compatible)

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### Step 1: Prepare for Static Export

1. Download your project files to your local machine
2. Open `next.config.js` and replace the content with:

```
/** @type {import('next').NextConfig} */
const nextConfig = {
  output: 'export',
  trailingSlash: true,
  images: {
    unoptimized: true,
  },
  experimental: {
    outputFileTracingRoot: process.cwd(),
  },
}

module.exports = nextConfig
```

### Step 2: Remove Server-Side Features

Since you're going static, you need to either:

#### Option A: Remove contact form temporarily

- Comment out or remove the contact form from `/app/components/contact-sections/contact-form.tsx`
- Remove the `/app/api/contact/route.ts` file

**Option B: Replace with static form**

- Replace the form action to point to a service like Formspree
- Update the form submission logic

**Step 3: Build Static Files**

```
cd your-project-folder
yarn install
yarn build
```

This creates an `out` folder with all static files.

**Step 4: Upload to cPanel**

1. Log into your cPanel
2. Open **File Manager**
3. Navigate to your domain's `public_html` folder
4. Upload all contents from the `out` folder to `public_html`
5. Make sure `index.html` is in the root of `public_html`

**Method 2: Node.js Application (If Supported)**

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**Check Node.js Support**

1. Log into cPanel
2. Look for **Node.js App** or **Node.js Selector**
3. If available, proceed with this method

**Steps for Node.js Deployment**

1. Create a new Node.js app in cPanel
2. Set Node.js version to 18+ if available
3. Upload your entire project folder
4. Install dependencies: `npm install` or `yarn install`
5. Set startup file to `server.js` or configure for Next.js
6. Configure environment variables in cPanel

**Method 3: Alternative Hosting (Recommended)**

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Consider these alternatives that better support Next.js:

**Free Options:**

- **Vercel** (vercel.com) - Made by Next.js creators, perfect integration
- **Netlify** (netlify.com) - Great for static sites with forms
- **GitHub Pages** - For static exports only

**Paid Options:**

- **DigitalOcean App Platform**
- **Railway**
- **Heroku**

## Contact Form Solutions

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### Formspree Integration Example:

Replace your current form action with:

```
<form action="https://formspree.io/f/YOUR_FORM_ID" method="POST">
```

### EmailJS Integration:

1. Sign up at emailjs.com
2. Install EmailJS: `npm install emailjs-com`
3. Replace your form submission logic with EmailJS calls

## File Structure for Static Export:

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```
public_html/  
├── index.html  
├── about/  
│   └── index.html  
├── contact/  
│   └── index.html  
├── services/  
│   └── index.html  
├── _next/  
│   └── static/  
└── images/
```

## Testing Your Deployment:

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1. Visit your domain
2. Test all navigation links
3. Check that images load correctly
4. Test contact form (if using external service)
5. Verify mobile responsiveness

## Troubleshooting:

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### Common Issues:

1. **404 Errors:** Make sure all files are in correct directories
2. **Images not loading:** Check file paths and case sensitivity
3. **Contact form not working:** Implement external form service
4. **CSS not loading:** Verify `_next` folder is uploaded correctly

### File Permissions:

Set folder permissions to 755 and files to 644:

```
find public_html/ -type d -exec chmod 755 {} \;  
find public_html/ -type f -exec chmod 644 {} \;
```

## Final Checklist:

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- ☐ Next.js app configured for static export
- ☐ Contact form replaced with external service or removed
- ☐ Static files generated successfully
- ☐ All files uploaded to cPanel public\_html
- ☐ Website accessible via domain
- ☐ All pages loading correctly
- ☐ Contact form working (if implemented)
- ☐ Mobile responsiveness verified

## Need Help?

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If you encounter issues:

1. Check cPanel error logs
2. Contact your hosting provider about Node.js support
3. Consider using Vercel for easier Next.js deployment