🚀 Subdomain Setup Guide

Connecting Sistema Ana (Vercel) to Client's Domain via Subdomain

> 📋 **What This Guide Covers:**
> How to create a subdomain in cPanel and point it to your Sistema Ana application hosted on Vercel using the recommended CNAME method.

> ✅ **Method Used:** CNAME Record (Recommended)
> ⏱️ **Estimated Time:** 15-30 minutes (including DNS propagation)
> 🎯 **Result:** <mark>app.clientdomain.com</mark> → Sistema Ana on Vercel

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Part 1: Create Subdomain in cPanel

1 Access cPanel

- Open your browser and navigate to your client's cPanel login page
- Common URLs:

```
https://clientdomain.com:2083
https://cpanel.clientdomain.com
https://hostingprovider.com/cpanel
```

- Log in with cPanel credentials (ask client or hosting provider)

2 Navigate to Subdomains Section

- In the cPanel dashboard, scroll to the **"Domains"** section
- Click on **"Subdomains"** icon
- Alternative: Use the search bar at top and type "subdomain"

3   **Create the Subdomain**

- In the `Subdomain` field, enter: `app` (or your preferred name: sistema, portal, etc.)
- In the `Domain` dropdown, select: **clientdomain.com**
- The `Document Root` will auto-fill (e.g., /public_html/app) — leave it as is
- Click the **"Create"** button

> ☑ You should see a success message: "Subdomain app.clientdomain.com has been created"

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Part 2: Configure DNS with CNAME Record

4   **Access DNS Zone Editor**

- Still in cPanel, scroll to the **"Domains"** section
- Click on **"Zone Editor"** or **"Advanced DNS Zone Editor"**
- Find your domain **clientdomain.com** in the list
- Click **"Manage"** or **"+ Add Record"** button

5   **Add CNAME Record**

Fill in the DNS record form with these exact values:

Field	Value	Notes
`Type`	**CNAME**	Select from dropdown
`Name`	**app**	Your subdomain prefix (without the domain)

Record / Points to / Target	cname.vercel-dns.com.	⚠ Include the trailing dot (.)
TTL	14400	Or leave default (often 3600 or 14400)

> ⚠ **Important:** The CNAME target must be `cname.vercel-dns.com.` with a trailing dot. Some cPanel versions add it automatically, others require you to type it.

- Click **"Add Record"** or **"Save"**
- Verify the record appears in the DNS zone list

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6 **Remove Conflicting Records (If Any)**

- Check if there's an existing **A record** for `app`
- If found, **delete it** (you can't have both CNAME and A for same subdomain)
- Keep only the CNAME record you just created

Part 3: Configure Domain in Vercel

7 **Add Domain in Vercel Dashboard**

- Go to https://vercel.com/dashboard
- Select your **Sistema Ana** project
- Click **Settings** tab
- Click **Domains** in left sidebar
- Click **"Add"** or **"Add Domain"** button
- Enter: `app.clientdomain.com`

- Click **"Add"**

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8 **Wait for Verification**

- Vercel will automatically check the DNS records
- Initial status may show: **"Invalid Configuration"** or **"Pending"**
- Wait 5-30 minutes for DNS propagation
- Vercel checks every few minutes and will auto-update
- Click **"Refresh"** button to manually check

> ✅ When successful, status will change to **"Valid Configuration"** and SSL certificate will be provisioned automatically.

Part 4: Update Environment Variables

9 **Update NEXTAUTH_URL**

- Still in Vercel project settings, click **Environment Variables**
- Find `NEXTAUTH_URL` variable
- Click **Edit** (pencil icon)
- Update value to: **https://app.clientdomain.com**
- ⚠️ **No trailing slash!**
- Ensure it's set for **Production** environment
- Click **Save**

10 **Redeploy Application**

- Go to **Deployments** tab
- Find the most recent deployment
- Click the **three dots (...)** menu

- Click **"Redeploy"**
- Check **"Use existing Build Cache"** for faster deployment
- Click **"Redeploy"** to confirm
- Wait for deployment to complete (usually 1-2 minutes)

Part 5: Verification & Testing

11 Check DNS Propagation

Use these tools to verify DNS is working globally:

- **Online Tool:** Visit https://dnschecker.org
- Enter: app.clientdomain.com
- Check that CNAME points to **cname.vercel-dns.com**
- Green checkmarks worldwide = DNS propagated successfully

Command Line (Optional):

```
nslookup app.clientdomain.com
# Should show: app.clientdomain.com canonical name = cname.vercel-dns.com
```

12 Test the Application

- Open browser and navigate to: **https://app.clientdomain.com**
- Verify SSL certificate is valid (🔒 padlock icon in browser)
- Test login functionality
- Verify authentication redirects work correctly
- Check that all pages load properly

☑️ **Success!** Your Sistema Ana application is now live at the client's subdomain with automatic SSL.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

❌ **"Invalid DNS Configuration" in Vercel**

- **Wait:** DNS propagation can take up to 48 hours (usually 15-30 minutes)
- **Check CNAME:** Verify it points to `cname.vercel-dns.com.` (with dot)
- **Remove A records:** Delete any conflicting A records for the subdomain
- **Refresh:** Click "Refresh" button in Vercel after 10-15 minutes

❌ **SSL Certificate Not Generating**

- **Wait:** SSL can take up to 24 hours to provision
- **Verify DNS:** Ensure CNAME is correctly configured
- **Check Status:** Visit vercel-status.com for service issues
- **Remove & Re-add:** As last resort, remove domain from Vercel and add again

❌ **Login/Redirect Errors After Setup**

- **Check NEXTAUTH_URL:** Must exactly match `https://app.clientdomain.com`
- **No trailing slash:** Remove any trailing / from the URL
- **Redeploy:** Environment variable changes require a redeploy
- **Clear cookies:** Clear browser cookies for the domain and try again

> ❌ **"This site can't be reached"**
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> - **DNS not propagated:** Wait longer and check dnschecker.org
> - **Wrong CNAME:** Double-check it's `cname.vercel-dns.com.`
> - **Subdomain not created:** Verify subdomain exists in cPanel Subdomains section

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Quick Reference Checklist

> ✅ **Pre-Setup Checklist:**
>
> - ☐ Have cPanel login credentials
> - ☐ Have Vercel account access to Sistema Ana project
> - ☐ Decided on subdomain name (e.g., app, sistema, portal)

> ✅ **Configuration Checklist:**
>
> - ☐ Subdomain created in cPanel
> - ☐ CNAME record added: app → cname.vercel-dns.com.
> - ☐ No conflicting A records exist
> - ☐ Domain added in Vercel (app.clientdomain.com)
> - ☐ NEXTAUTH_URL updated to https://app.clientdomain.com
> - ☐ Application redeployed in Vercel

> ✅ **Verification Checklist:**
>
> - ☐ DNS propagation confirmed (dnschecker.org shows green)
> - ☐ Domain shows "Valid Configuration" in Vercel
> - ☐ SSL certificate provisioned (🔒 in browser)
> - ☐ Website loads at https://app.clientdomain.com
> - ☐ Login functionality works correctly

Important Notes

🕐 **Timeline Expectations:**

- DNS propagation: 15-30 minutes (can be up to 48 hours)
- SSL certificate: 5-60 minutes after DNS resolves
- Total setup time: Usually 30-45 minutes including waiting

✨ **Why CNAME Method is Recommended:**

- Vercel can update their infrastructure without requiring DNS changes from you
- Automatic SSL certificate management and renewal
- Better redundancy and global CDN routing
- Industry standard for pointing subdomains to external services

Sistema Ana - Subdomain Setup Guide

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For questions or issues, refer to Vercel Domains Documentation