

How to Set Up Cloudflare CDN (Step-by-Step Guide)

Here's the **way** to set up Cloudflare for your website. Follow these steps:

Step 1: Sign Up for Cloudflare

1. Go to [Cloudflare's website](#).
2. Click "**Sign Up**" (top-right corner).
3. Enter your **email** and **create a password**.
4. Click "**Create Account**".

You're on the **Cloudflare dashboard**, and will ask you to **connect a domain**. Here's exactly what to do:

Step 2: Enter Your Existing Domain

- In the box that says "**Enter an existing domain**", type:
 - Your **registered domain name** (e.g., yourwebsite.com).
 - *Do NOT add http:// or www*—just the plain domain (e.g., example.com).

Important:

- You **must own this domain already** (purchased from GoDaddy, Namecheap, etc.).
- If you haven't bought a domain yet, click "**Or register a new domain →**" (but it's usually cheaper to buy directly from registrars like Namecheap).

Choose DNS Record Import Method

Cloudflare will **auto-detect your DNS records** (like A, CNAME, MX for email). Pick:

- **Quick scan for DNS records** (Recommended)
 - Cloudflare finds and imports records automatically.
- **Manually enter DNS records** (Only if you're advanced and want full control).
- **Upload a DNS zone file** (Rarely used—for bulk imports).

Click "**Continue**".

Step 3: Select a Plan

Choose the **free plan** (covers CDN, basic SSL, and DDoS protection). Click "**Continue**".

Step 4: Verify DNS Records

Cloudflare will show a list of detected records.

- **Check if all critical records are there** (e.g., A record pointing to your hosting IP).
- If missing, click "**Add more**" to add manually.

Step 4: Change Nameservers (Final Step!)

After clicking "**Continue to Activate**", Cloudflare will give you **2 custom nameservers** (e.g., george.ns.cloudflare.com, arya.ns.cloudflare.com).

How to Update Nameservers?

1. **Go to your domain registrar** (where you bought the domain, like GoDaddy, Namecheap).
2. Find **DNS/Nameserver settings** (usually under "Domain Management").
3. **Replace existing nameservers** with Cloudflare's two nameservers.
4. **Save changes**.

Wait up to 48 hours for DNS to propagate (usually <1 hour).

Step 6: Configure Cloudflare Settings (After DNS Propagation)

Once Cloudflare detects the nameserver change:

1. **Enable SSL:**
 - Go to **SSL/TLS** > Set encryption to "**Full**" (recommended).
2. **Optimize Speed:**
 - Go to **Speed** > Enable **Auto Minify**, **Brotli Compression**, and **Rocket Loader**.
3. **Configure Caching:**
 - Go to **Caching** > Set cache expiration (e.g., 1 month for static files).

Step 7: Verify CDN is Active

1. Visit [WhatsMyCDN](#).
2. Enter your website URL.
3. If it shows "**Cloudflare**", your CDN is active! 🎉

Step 8 : Use GTmetrix

for checking the performance before and after uploading into Cloudflare

1. Go to <https://gtmetrix.com/>
2. Add your site
3. Click on test now
4. It will analyse and give the performance