
Parallels Plesk Panel
User Guide



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Introduction

Parallels Plesk Panel is a powerful and intuitive online interface to help you easily manage your Windows or Linux dedicated server. It can automate your web hosting experience, and help you run a profitable business by allowing you to control your customers and their hosting accounts.

This guide will help you get started with some of the basics of Plesk.

Before you begin

Before you begin you need to make sure you have the following information available:

- Your dedicated server Administrator Login details.
- The primary IP address assigned to your server.
- The secondary IP address assigned to your server.

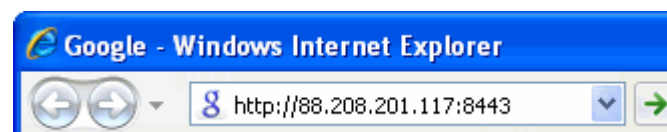
This information was sent to you in your server deployment email when your server was built. The IP addresses assigned to your server can also be viewed through your Fasthosts control panel.

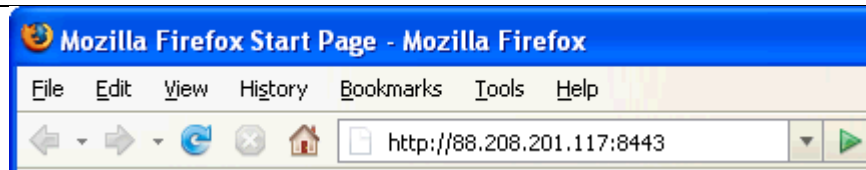
Logging in to the Plesk control panel

Plesk uses port 8443, and can be accessed from your web browser using the primary IP address assigned to your dedicated server.

Step 1

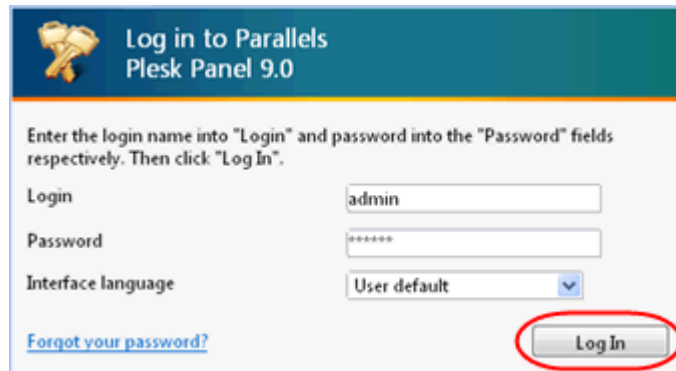
Open your web browser and enter *http://<your server's ip address>:8443*, then click **Go**. For example *http://88.208.201.117:8443*.





Step 2

You will be prompted to enter your username and password, which were sent to you in an email when your server was first deployed. Once you've entered these into the appropriate field, click Log in.



You are now logged in and ready to start administering your server and setting up your websites.

Note: The first time you login to the Plesk control panel you will be asked to accept the End User License Agreement. If you agree, select the *I agree to the terms of this license agreement* box and click the **Accept** button to continue.

Adding a domain to your server

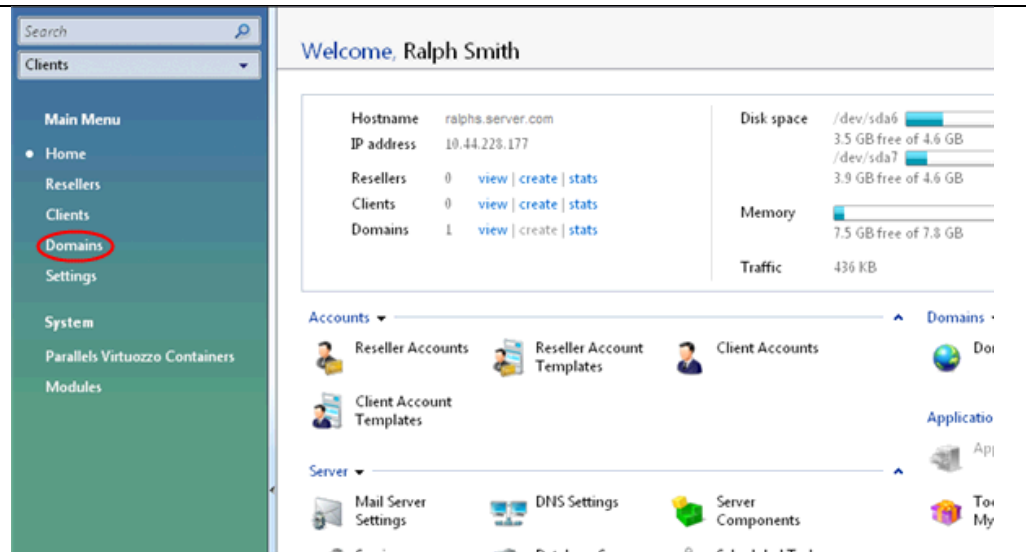
It's easy to setup and host a new website on your dedicated server through Plesk.

Step 1

Log into your Plesk control panel.

Step 2

Click on **Domains** in the menu on the left.



Step 3 Click on the **Create Domain** icon.



Step 4 Enter the domain name you're adding in the **Domain name** text box, and make sure the **WWW** box is selected.

Select one of the IP addresses assigned to your server from the **Assign IP address** drop down menu.

Select Default Domain from the **Use domain template settings** drop down menu.

Domain name and IP address

Domain name * WWW ralphsdomainname.com

Assign IP address

Use domain template settings

Step 5 Ensure the **Mail** and **DNS** boxes are selected, then choose the **Web Site Hosting** option from the Hosting type group.

Services

Switch on service Mail DNS

Hosting configuration

Hosting type Web Site Hosting
Host a Web site on this server

Forwarding
Redirect visitors to another Web site

No Hosting
Do not host a Web site at the moment

Step 6

Choose a username to use to connect to the FTP for this domain and enter it in the **Login** text box. You also need to enter a password in the **Password** text box and retype it in the **Confirm password** text box.

Hosting settings

Login *
This login is used to access your web site through FTP

Password
This password is used to access your web site through FTP

Confirm password

* Required fields

Click the **Finish** button when you are done. You will receive an on-screen message to let you know the domain has been added successfully.

Pointing a domain to your server

Once you've added hosting for a domain name through the Plesk control panel, you need to point the DNS for that domain to your server. To do this you need to create your own nameservers (also known as creating glue records).

It is not possible to create glue records for your domain name through the Plesk control panel. To create glue records you will need to contact your domain registrar.



Important: It may take up to 72 hours for your new glue records to become active and start pointing to your dedicated server.

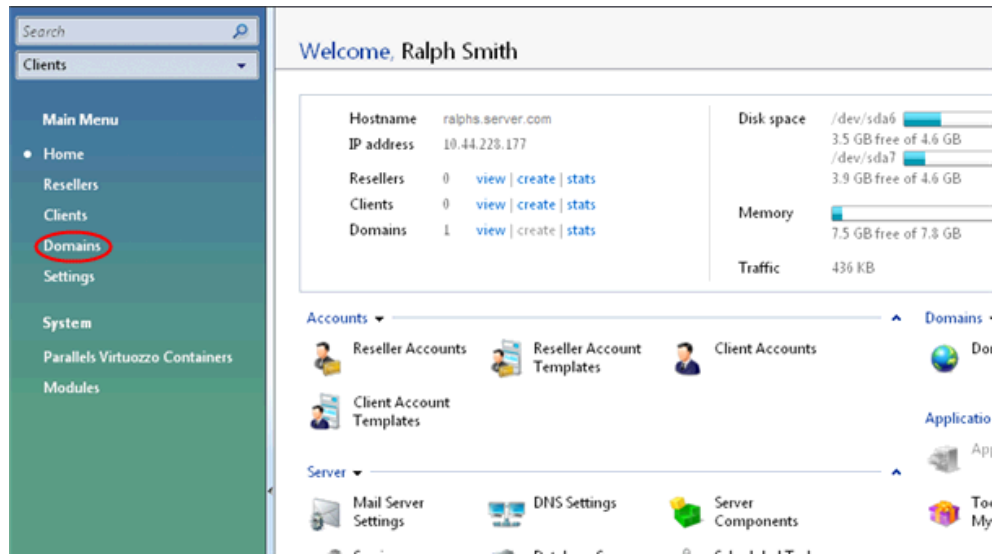
Changing the DNS settings of a domain on your server

Provided that you have followed the steps in the previous chapter to create Glue records, your dedicated server gives you full control over the DNS of all domains that are hosted on it.

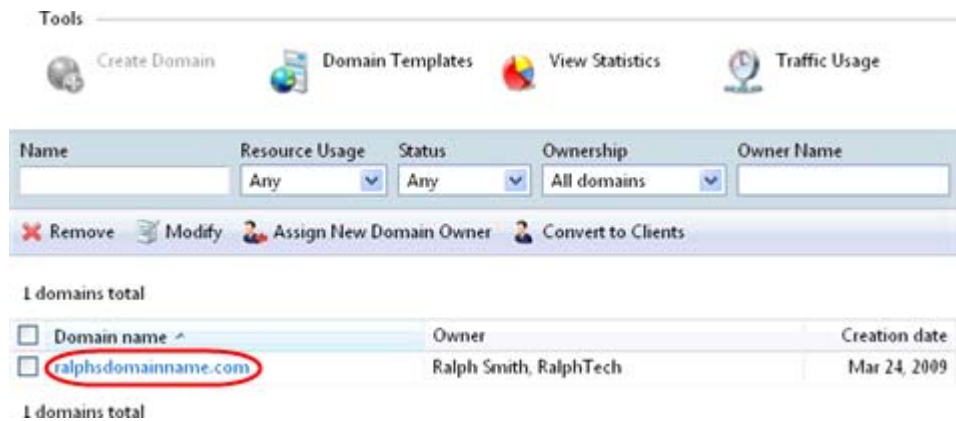
Step 1

Log into your Plesk control panel.

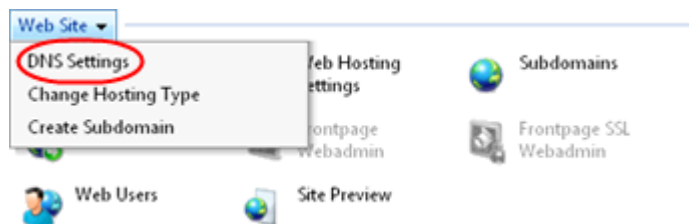
Step 2 Click on **Domains** in the menu on the left.



Step 3 Locate the domain you want to modify in the list and click on it.



Step 4 Click on the **Web site** group title, and select **DNS Settings** from the pop up menu.



Step 5 You will be presented with a list of all DNS records currently set up on the domain.

<input type="checkbox"/> Host ^	Record type	Value
<input type="checkbox"/> 10.44.228.126 / 24	PTR	ralphsdomainname.com.
<input type="checkbox"/> ftp.ralphsdomainname.com.	CNAME	ralphsdomainname.com.
<input type="checkbox"/> mail.ralphsdomainname.com.	A	10.44.228.126
<input type="checkbox"/> ns.ralphsdomainname.com.	A	10.44.228.126
<input type="checkbox"/> ralphsdomainname.com.	NS	ns.ralphsdomainname.com.
<input type="checkbox"/> ralphsdomainname.com.	A	10.44.228.126
<input type="checkbox"/> ralphsdomainname.com.	MX (10)	mail.ralphsdomainname.com.
<input type="checkbox"/> webmail.ralphsdomainname.com.	A	10.44.228.126
<input type="checkbox"/> www.ralphsdomainname.com.	CNAME	ralphsdomainname.com.

9 DNS records total Number of entries per page: [10](#) [25](#) [100](#) [All](#)

Edit an existing DNS record

Step 1 Locate the record you wish to change in the list and click on it.

Step 2 Enter your new DNS record information and click the **OK** button.

DNS records

Record type:

Enter domain name: .ralphsdomainname.com.

Enter IP address *
For example, 123.123.123.123

* Required fields

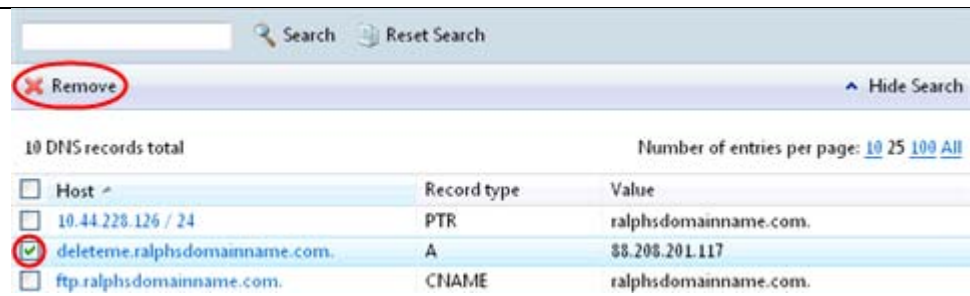
Step 3 You will receive confirmation that the DNS properties have been changed, but the changes won't be saved until you write them to the server. To do this, click the **Update** button.

Information: The properties of the resource record mail.ralphsdomainname.com. A 88.208.201.117 were changed.

Information: Changes made to DNS records are not saved yet. The changes made are highlighted below. Click Update to apply the changes to DNS zone or click Revert to abandon the changes.

Delete a DNS record

Step 1 Select the check box that corresponds to the record(s) you want to delete, and click **Remove**.



Step 2

Make sure the *Confirm removal* box is selected and click **Ok**.



Step 3

On the next screen, click the **Update** button to save the DNS record deletion changes to the server.

Create a new DNS record

Step 1

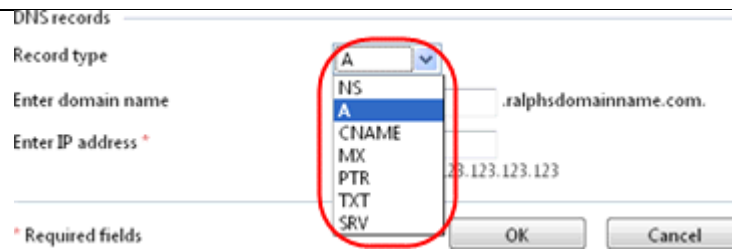
Click the **Add Record** icon above the DNS records list.



Step 2

Select the type of DNS record you want to create from the **Record type** drop down list. The options are:

- **NS:** Create a nameserver record.
- **A:** Create an A record.
- **CNAME:** Create a Canonical Name record.
- **MX:** Create a Mail exchanger record.
- **PTR:** Create a Pointer record.
- **TXT:** Create a Text record.
- **SRV:** Create a Service Locator record.



DNS records

Record type: A (dropdown menu is open showing options: A, NS, CNAME, MX, PTR, TXT, SRV)

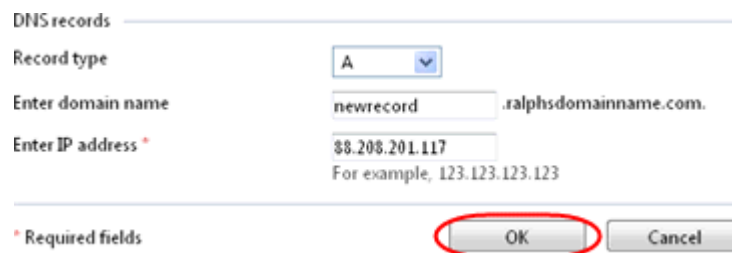
Enter domain name: .ralphsdomainname.com

Enter IP address *: 123.123.123.123

* Required fields

OK Cancel

Step 3 Enter the details of the new DNS record you're creating. The information Plesk asks for will vary depending on the type of record you are creating.



DNS records

Record type: A

Enter domain name: newrecord.ralphsdomainname.com

Enter IP address *: 88.208.201.117
For example, 123.123.123.123

* Required fields

OK Cancel



Quick tip: The built-in help documentation can provide more help on creating your DNS record if you need it. Just click the Help link at the bottom of the menu on the left side of the page.

Step 4 Once you're done, click **OK**.

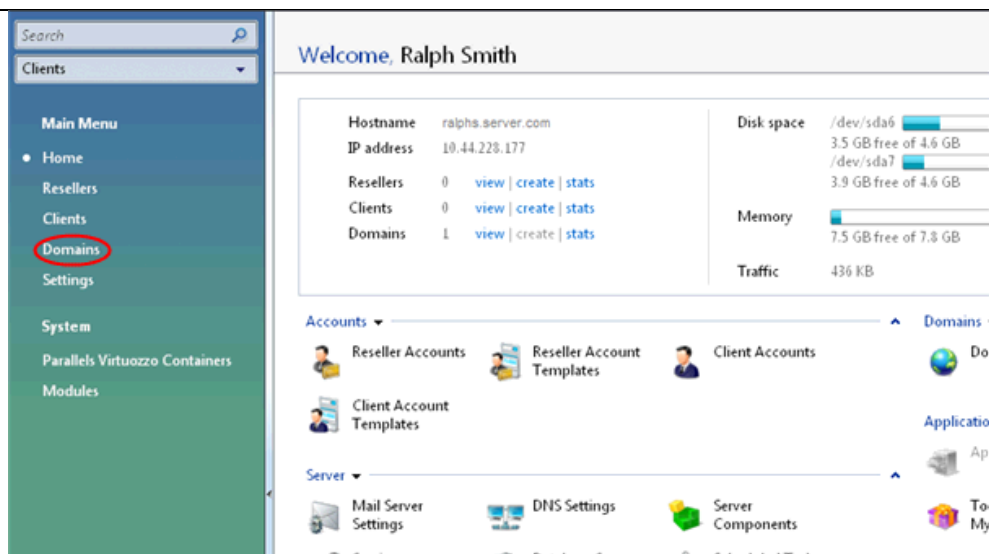
Step 5 On the next screen, click the **Update** button to save the DNS record deletion changes to the server.

Add a mailbox to a domain

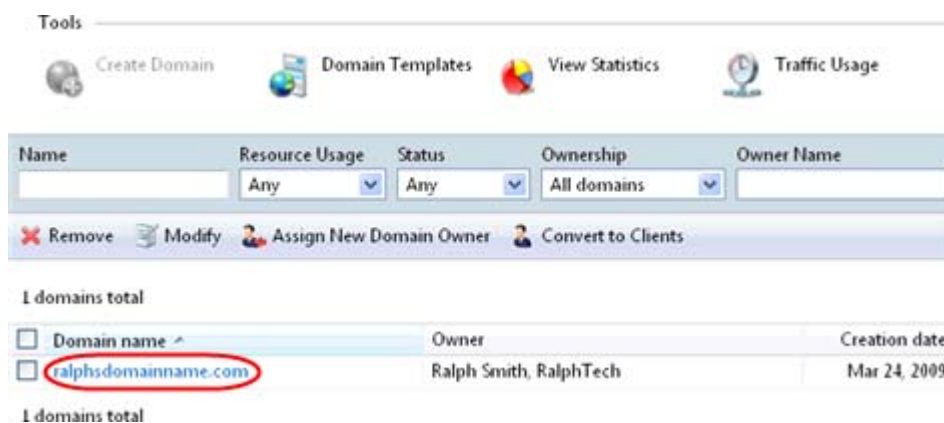
You can create and manage your mailboxes through the Plesk control panel to allow you and your customers to send/receive mail.

Step 1 Log into your Plesk control panel.

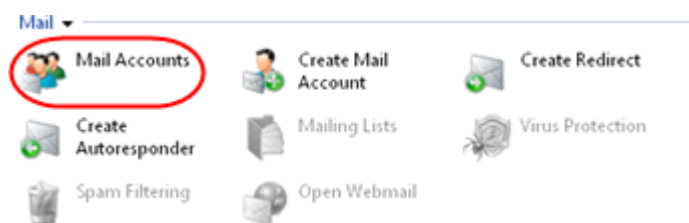
Step 2 Click on **Domains** in the menu on the left.



Step 3 Click the domain you want to add the mailbox to.



Step 4 Click on the Mail Accounts icon in the Mail section



Step 5 On the next screen you will see a list of all mailboxes that have already been set up on the domain. Click the **Create Mail Account** icon.



Step 6 Enter the following information:

- **Mail account:** Enter the name of the mailbox you want to create.
- **Old password:** Not required.
- **New Password:** Enter a password for the mailbox
- **Confirm password:** Retype the password you have chosen.

Mail account properties

Mail account *	me @ ralphsdomainname.com
Old password	None
New password	*****
Confirm password	*****

Step 7 The settings in the *Control panel access* section are all optional, so you can leave them on their default values.

Control panel access

Button label length	<input type="text"/>
Interface language	ENGLISH (United States) ▼
Interface skin	Vista ▼
Allow multiple sessions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prevent users from working with the control panel until interface screens are completely loaded	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Step 8 The settings in the *Mailbox* section are also optional. Leave the **Mailbox** option selected, unless you want to create a forwarder instead of a mailbox.

If you want to limit the size of the mailbox, you can select the **Enter size** option and enter a file size (in kilobytes).

Mailbox

Mailbox	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mailbox quota	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Default for the domain (97.7 MB) <input type="radio"/> Enter size <input type="text"/> kilobytes

Step 9 Click **Finish**. Your new mailbox will be created and you will receive an on-screen confirmation message.

Plesk user accounts

The Plesk control panel uses the following user account hierarchy:

Server administrator

The server administrator has full access to all features of the Plesk control panel. This includes the ability to create all other user accounts as well as the ability to manage server wide settings.

Reseller accounts

Reseller accounts are designed for your customers to sell your hosting services to their own clients. Resellers can create client accounts for their own customers, as well as creating hosting and email services, but they cannot create other reseller accounts.

Client accounts

Client accounts provide end-user access to create individual hosting and email services. Clients cannot resell any hosting services.

Domain administrators

Similar to the Client account, you can enable one domain administrator account per hosted domain. This login allows users to set up and manage their website hosting and email services --these accounts are disabled by default. In most circumstances, a Client account would be more suitable.

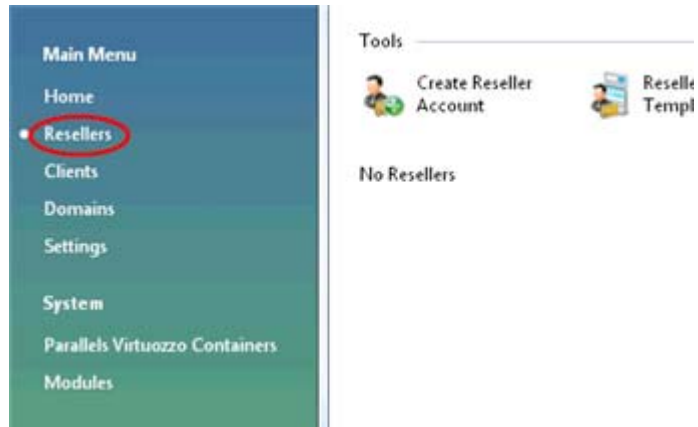
Email users

Email users can login to the Plesk control panel to modify their email address. Each mailbox that you create on a domain will be given access to their own control panel, from which the user can change their mailbox password, and set up autoresponders and redirects (forwarders).

Adding a new Reseller account

Step 1 Log into your Plesk control panel as the server administrator.

Step 2 Click the **Resellers** link in the menu on the left of the page.



Step 3 Click the **Create Reseller Account** icon.




Step 4 Enter the details of your new account user in the text boxes provided. Choose a **Login** and **Password**, then retype the password in the **Confirm password** text box. The telephone and address details are optional.

The **Interface skin** determines what Plesk will look like when your new user logs in. Select the skin you would like to use, or leave it on the default, which is Vista.

Reseller form

Company name	<input type="text" value="Bobs Cakes"/>
Contact name *	<input type="text" value="Bob Johnson"/>
Login *	<input type="text" value="bobscakes"/>
Password *	<input type="password" value="*****"/>
Confirm password *	<input type="password" value="*****"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>
Fax	<input type="text"/>
E-mail	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>
State/Province	<input type="text"/>
Postal/ZIP code	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text" value="United States"/>
Interface language	<input type="text" value="ENGLISH (United States)"/>
Interface skin	<input type="text" value="Vista"/>
Create user account based on a template	<input type="text" value="Default Reseller"/>

* Required fields

 **Note:** You can create your own account templates in Plesk, or modify the default templates, in order to speed up the process of adding multiple user accounts. To add a reseller account template click the Resellers link in the menu on the left, then click the Reseller Account Templates icon.

Once you've entered all the information on this screen click the **Next** button.

Step 5

Select your overuse and overselling policy settings.

If you select the *Overuse is not allowed* option, then your new user will not be able to use any resources other than those allocated to this account. If the *Overuse is allowed* option is selected then your new user will be able to exceed the resource limits you have set.

Overuse and overselling policy

Overuse policy tells Parallels Plesk Panel what to do when resources are overused.

Overuse policy

Overuse is not allowed

Block the overuse of resources. Actual resource usage cannot exceed the initial resource allocation

Overuse is allowed

Do not block the overuse of resources, allowing the reseller to use more resources than initially provided. Actual resource usage can exceed the initial resource allocation

Notify the reseller about reaching the resource limit

Overselling allows the reseller to sell more resources than was actually allocated to him or her. If overselling is allowed, the reseller is governed by actual resource usage instead of initial resource allocation

Allow overselling

Step 6

Choose the limits you wish to impose on this user account and click **Next**.

Databases			
Databases	0	<input type="text" value="100"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited
Applications			
Java applications	0	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited
Validity period			
Expiration date	-	30 Mar 2010	<input type="checkbox"/> Never expires
<input checked="" type="button" value="Next >>"/> <input type="button" value="Finish"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>			

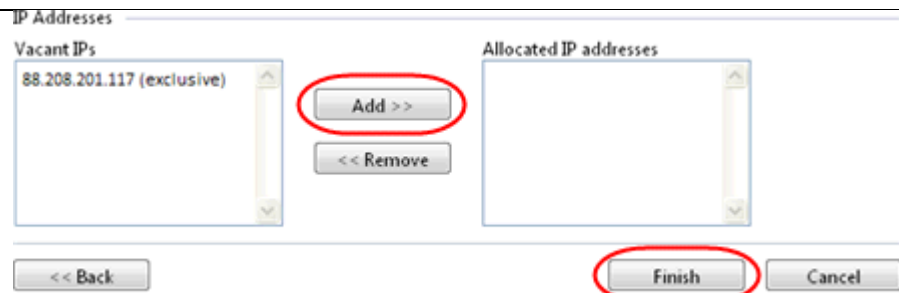
Step 7

Choose what features you want this user to have access to, and click **Next**.

Databases			
Databases	0	<input type="text" value="100"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited
Applications			
Java applications	0	<input type="text" value="10"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unlimited
Validity period			
Expiration date	-	30 Mar 2010	<input type="checkbox"/> Never expires
<input checked="" type="button" value="Next >>"/> <input type="button" value="Finish"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>			

Step 8

Select the IP address(es) you would like to assign to this user. They will be able to use these IP addresses to set up their own DNS for their hosted domains. Click **Finish** when you're done.



You will receive on-screen confirmation that the new reseller account user has been created.

Branding the control panel

You can add your own logo and title to the Plesk control panel in place of the standard Parallels Plesk Panel logo.

Step 1 Log into your Plesk control panel.

Step 2 Click on the **Control Panel Branding** icon in the *Interface* group.



Step 3 If you want to display your own text in the web browser's title bar, enter your own caption in the **Parallels Plesk Panel's title bar text box** and make sure **Use default** is not selected.

Step 4 You can upload your own logo. Click the **Browse** button by the **Choose new logo file** text box and locate your logo on your local computer.

Note: Your logo image should be no more than 50 pixels in height. *GIF*, *JPEG*, or *PNG* image formats are supported.

Your logo can be a clickable link to your website. To enable this, make sure **Value** is

selected in the *Enter new URL for logo* section and then enter the web address of your corporate website into the text box provided.

Set up Parallels Plesk Panel's title bar text

Parallels Plesk Panel's title bar text: Use default

Set up logo properties

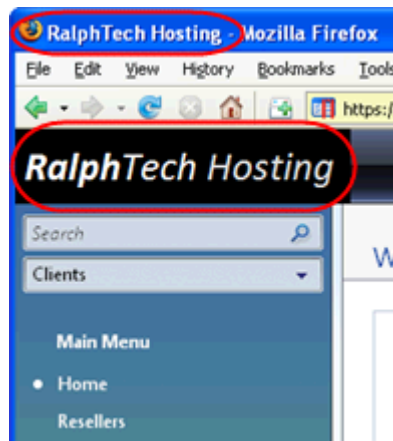
Choose new logo file

Enter new URL for logo

None

Value

Click **OK** when you're done. Your new branding settings will be saved and your logo will be uploaded in place of the default Plesk logo.

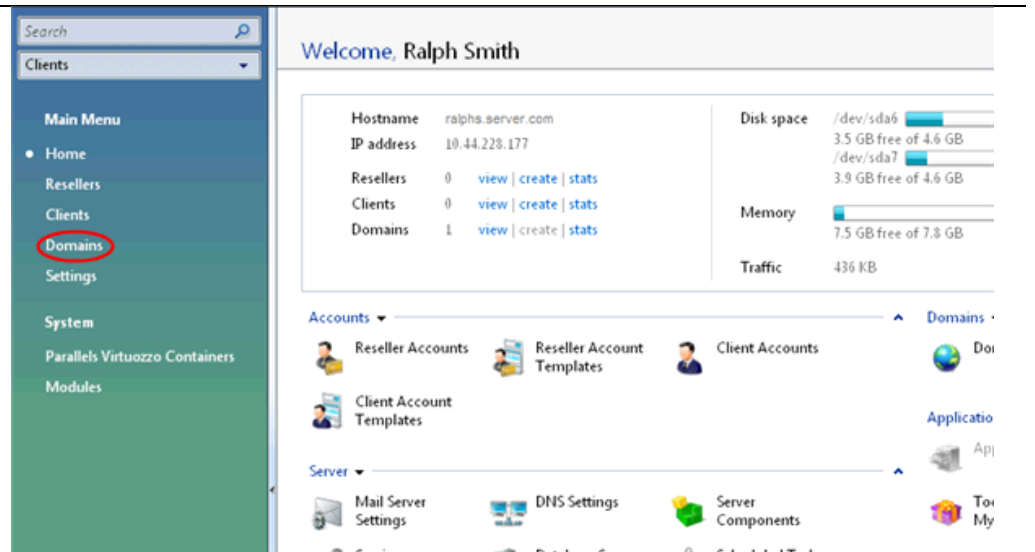


Adding a new database to your server

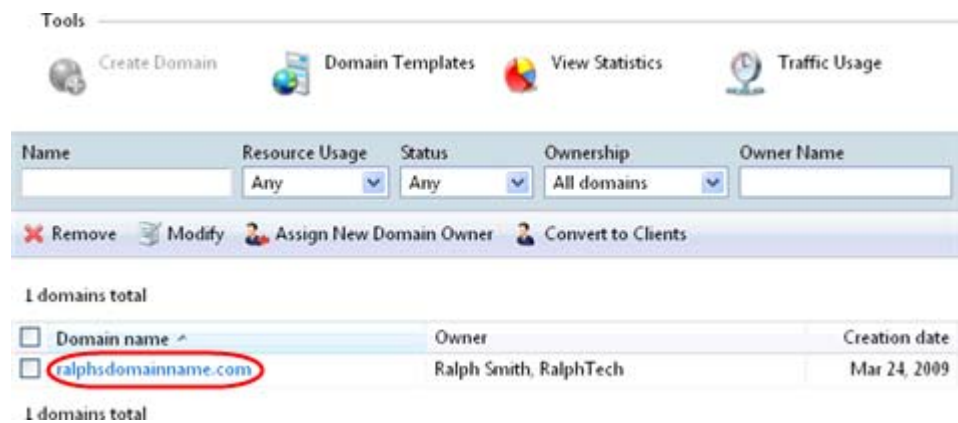
Plesk allows you to add and manage databases to your dedicated server through its online interface. Depending on the options you chose when you bought or last rebuilt your server, you may have Microsoft SQL Server 2008 (Windows only) or MySQL installed on it.

Step 1 Log into your Plesk control panel.

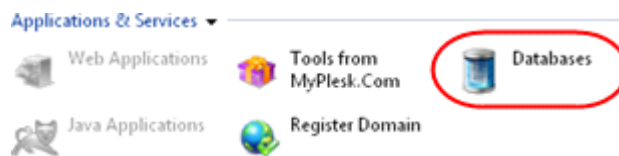
Step 2 Click on **Domains** in the menu on the left.



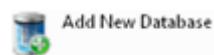
Step 3 From the list of domains, locate and click on the domain you would like to associate with the new database.



Step 4 Click on the **Databases** icon in the *Applications & Services* group.



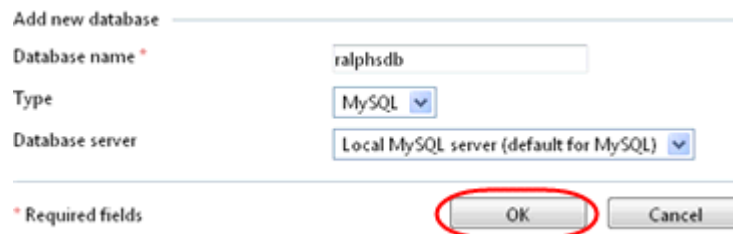
Step 5 Click the **Add New Database** icon.



Step 6 You will be asked to enter details of the database you would like to add.

- **Database name:** Enter a name for the database. This can be anything you'd like, but you can't give two databases on the same server the same name.

- **Type:** Select the type of database you want to create from the drop-down list. If you have a Linux server you can choose MySQL. If you have a Windows server you may be able to choose Microsoft SQL Server if you chose to add this product when the server was built.
- **Database server:** The database server was created for you when the server was built. Select the default option.



Add new database

Database name *

Type

Database server

* Required fields

Click **Ok** when you have entered the required information.

Step 7

You will receive confirmation that the database has been created.

Create a database user

Once you've created your database you need to create a database owner so you can login to your database to add and manage its content.

Step 1

From the databases page, click the **Add New Database User** icon.



Step 2

Enter the following details and click **Ok**.

- **Database user name:** Enter a name for the new user.
- **New password:** Choose a password for this user. The password cannot contain the database name.

- **Confirm password:** Retype your password.

Database user

Database user name * dbadmin

Old password None

New password * *****

Confirm password * *****

* Required fields

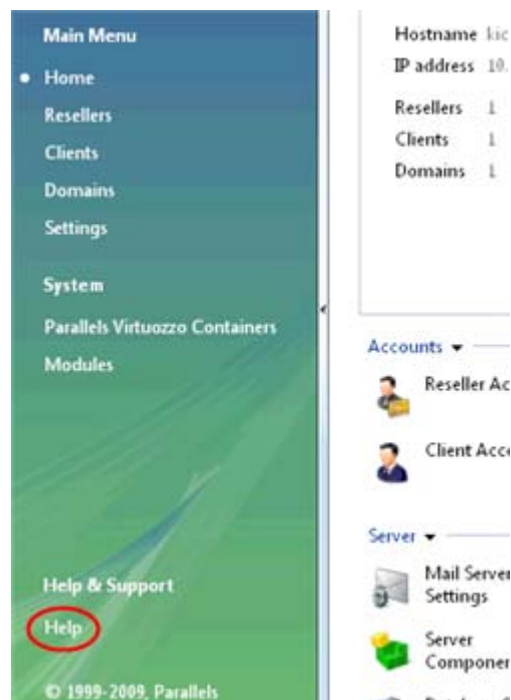
OK Cancel

You will receive confirmation that the new user has been added. You can repeat these steps to create additional users for your new database if you wish.

Where to find further help and assistance

If you have any questions that are not answered by this guide, be sure to check out our extensive support website, accessible through your Fasthosts control panel.

Plesk also has a built-in help system which is easily accessible from the bottom of the main menu, located on the left of the page.



If you're unable to find the help you require using the supplied documentation, -- Parallels Inc, the manufacturer of Plesk, have a comprehensive support website to help you use the Plesk control panel to setup and administer your dedicated server.

- **Guides and documentation:**
<http://www.parallels.com/products/plesk/resources>
- **Parallels knowledge base:**
<http://kb.parallels.com/products/?id=52>
- **Flash tutorials:**
<http://www.parallels.com/uk/products/plesk/tutorials>

In addition, Parallels also have a forum where you can discuss your questions with other Plesk users.

- **Plesk forum:** <http://forum.parallels.com>