HostBMS

hostbms.com

V0.2.5 PREVIEW · PHP 8.1–8.3 · MYSQL / MARIADB

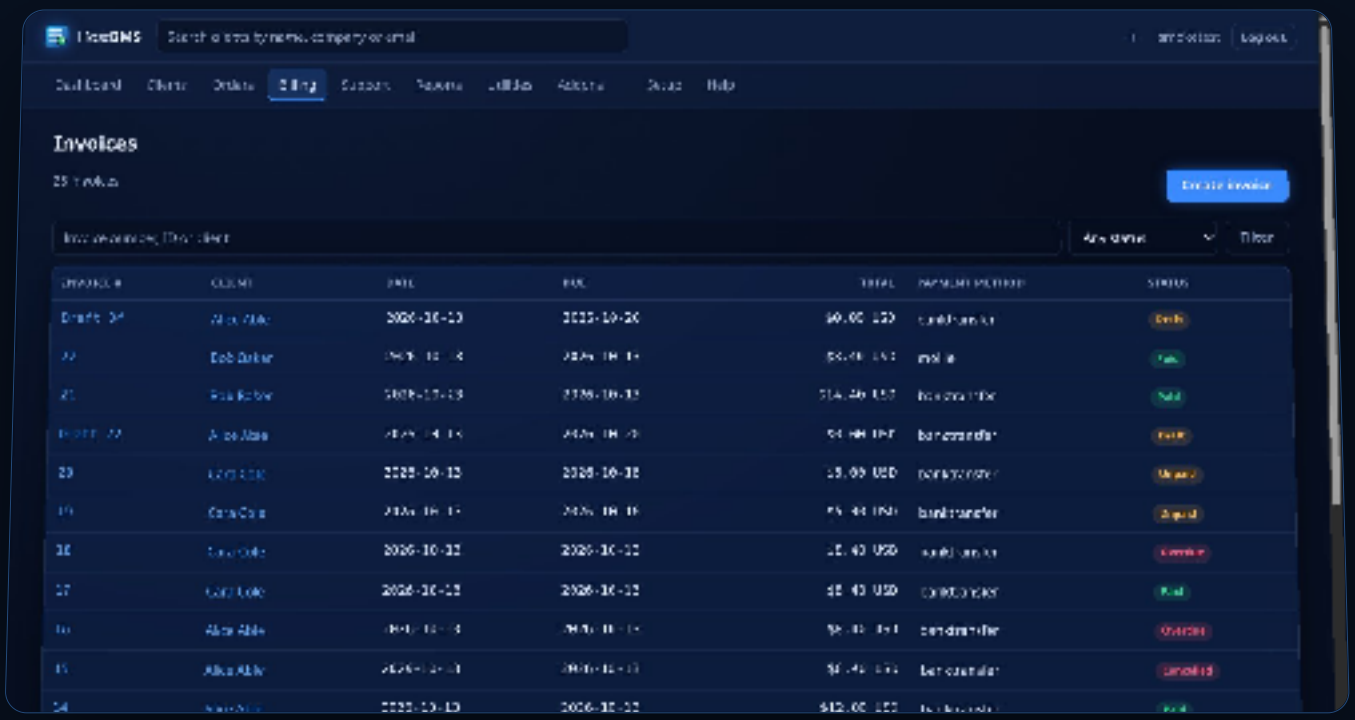
Billing for web hosts. Your server, your code.

HostBMS (Host Billing & Management Suite) runs the business side of your hosting company — clients, orders, invoices, payments, provisioning and support — on your own server. A WHMCS alternative you can actually read.

✓ Free to use · Source included · No ionCube, no licence server

Security scanned with Semgrep · 0 open findings

KarnakPanel server module included



ABOUT HOSTBMS

Run your hosting business from one place you own.

HostBMS is a self-hosted billing, provisioning and support platform for web hosting companies. It does the jobs WHMCS is known for — and it runs on the same PHP, MySQL and Smarty stack, with the same menu layout — but the code is plain, readable PHP that you install on your own server and can change.

Why we built it

Hosting companies pay every month for billing software they can't read, that checks its licence online, and that stops if the vendor says so. We think the software that bills your customers should be yours to run, read and fix.

Who it's for

Small and growing web hosts, resellers and agencies who sell hosting, domains and services — especially teams already on **KarnakPanel**, or on WHMCS and tired of licence costs and encoded code.

Free

to use for your own business, including billing your customers

100% PHP

source included — no ionCube, no licence server, nothing phones home

1 zip

web installer, server install script and a built-in WHMCS importer

WHMCS-style

modules, hooks and API action names, so existing code ports easily

UK-ready

GBP, Europe/London and VAT-style tax rules by default — change them in one place

One cron line

every 5 minutes runs invoicing, dunning, renewals and the job queue



From the makers of KarnakPanel

HostBMS ships with a full KarnakPanel server module: accounts are created, suspended, unsuspended and deleted on your panel automatically, and clients can manage their domains, DNS, mail, databases and backups from the HostBMS client area. KarnakPanel is a free hosting control panel — karnakpanel.com.

FEATURES

Everything a hosting business runs on.

Built and working in the v0.2.5 preview. Each area covers the everyday flows end to end.

💷 Billing & invoicing

Renewal invoices created days ahead, one per client. Tax rules by country and state, credit, partial payments, refunds, branded PDFs on emails, multi-currency pricing and quotes clients can accept online.

🔁 Smart dunning

Your own schedule of reminders, card retries, late fees, suspension and termination. Hard declines stop retries at once, and after downtime it catches up without sending a burst of emails.

💳 Payments

Stripe Hosted Checkout, Mollie (cards, iDEAL, Klarna…), PayPal Checkout and bank transfer. Saved cards pay renewals automatically; card numbers never touch your server.

🛒 Products & order forms

Billing cycles from monthly to triennial, setup fees, configurable options, addons, stock and promo codes. A visual order-form builder with featured plans, upsells and A/B testing.

🖥️ Provisioning & domains

WHMCS-style server and registrar modules: create, suspend, terminate, change package; register, transfer, renew and sync domains. KarnakPanel module included.

🎧 Support desk

Departments, assignment, predefined replies and private staff notes. Email piping, guest tickets, safe attachments, a knowledgebase and announcements. Optional self-hosted live chat.

👥 Client area

The dark "Nebula" theme: services, domains, invoices, quotes, tickets and email history, sub-accounts with their own permissions, and an optional UK postcode address finder.

⚙️ Automation, email & reports

Cron and a background job queue with retries. Branded HTML emails with button links, a full email log, SMTP, and reports for income, MRR, top clients and dunning recovery.

🛡️ Security

Staff two-factor login, role permissions, lockouts, an audit log, CSRF protection and encrypted secrets. Every release is scanned with Semgrep before it's published.

🧹 Spam protection, built in

A question, an invisible browser check, email-domain and throwaway-inbox checks, link limits and blocked words on signups and guest tickets — with no outside service.

🔌 API & compatibility

A REST API using WHMCS action names (GetClients, CreateInvoice, AddInvoicePayment…), WHMCS hook names, localAPI and read-only tbl* views for modules.

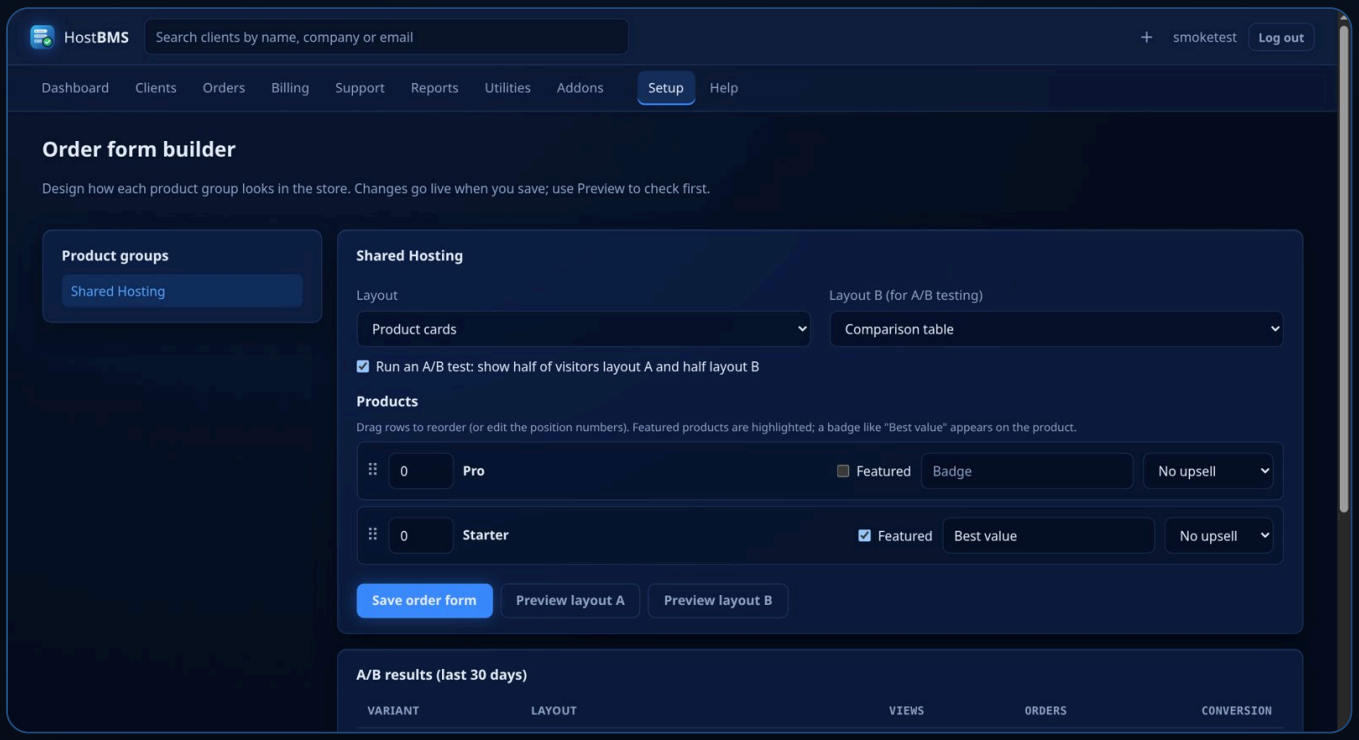
🚚 Install & migrate

A web installer that checks your server, a script for fresh Linux servers, a WHMCS importer and signed one-click updates.

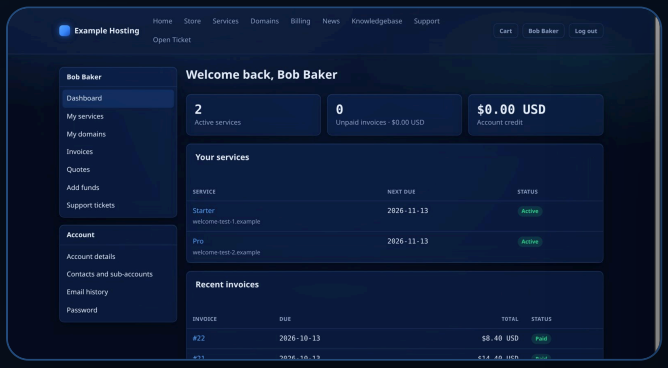
A LOOK INSIDE

Dark, glassy and easy to work in.

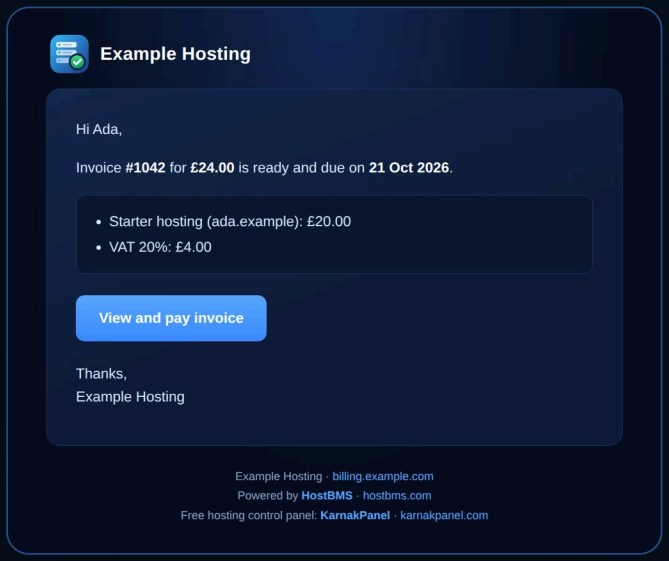
The admin area follows the menu layout WHMCS users already know, in our own dark glassy blue theme. Clients get the matching "Nebula" client area, and every email goes out in the same style.



Order form builder. Choose cards, list or comparison layouts per product group, feature a plan with a badge, add upsells, and A/B test two layouts.



Client area. Services, invoices, domains and tickets in one dashboard, under your own company name.



Branded emails. Every message in the panel's style, with clear buttons and a plain-text copy for every mail app.

HEAD TO HEAD

HostBMS and WHMCS compared.

Written in good faith from our understanding of WHMCS 8.x — check whmcs.com for current details. WHMCS is a mature product; where it is ahead, we say so.

AREA	HOSTBMS V0.2.5	WHMCS
Licence	Free to use, source included — not for resale	Commercial, paid licence
Source code	Plain, readable PHP	Core encoded with ionCube
Licence server	None — keeps working if we disappear	Licence is validated online
Stack	PHP 8.1–8.3, MySQL/MariaDB, Smarty	PHP, MySQL, Smarty
Admin and client area	Same menu structure, own dark glassy theme	The original
Modules (gateway, server, registrar, addon)	Same conventions and hooks; small port needed	Native, large third-party marketplace
Ready-made server / registrar modules	KarnakPanel server module; more to come	cPanel, Plesk, DirectAdmin, many registrars
API	22 actions, WHMCS names and responses	Extensive
Dunning	Step schedule, hard-decline stop, catch-up window, recovery report	Reminders, late fees, overdue suspension and card retry settings
Order form builder	Visual builder with A/B testing	Template-based order forms
Spam protection	Built in, no outside service	Captcha options
Import from WHMCS	Built in, keeps IDs, dry run first	—
Maturity	Early development, not production ready	Mature, widely used

✅ Choose HostBMS if…

- ✔ You want to own and read the code that bills your customers.
- ✔ Licence costs or licence checks are a pain point.
- ✔ You're happy to test early software and help shape it.

⏳ Stay on WHMCS for now if…

- ! You need it in production today — HostBMS is v0.2.5.
- ! You depend on ready-made cPanel, Plesk or registrar modules we don't ship yet.
- ! You rely on third-party WHMCS addons that need the full WHMCS API.

DOWNLOAD & INSTALL

From zip to first invoice.

Everything is in one zip: the app, its libraries, the web installer and a server install script. No Composer, no build step. Full steps are in `INSTALL.txt` inside the zip.

1. **Create a site and a database**
   HTTPS on, e.g. `billing.yourdomain.com`, plus an empty MySQL/MariaDB database and user.

2. **Upload the files**
   Put the contents of `hostbms/` in the site's web root, including the hidden `.htaccess`.

3. **Keep private folders private**
   The installer checks this and stops if code or uploads could be downloaded. On OpenLiteSpeed or KarnakPanel, load the `.htaccess` rules into the site's rewrite rules; on Nginx, add the deny rules from `INSTALL.txt`.

4. **Run the installer at /install/**
   It checks requirements, creates the tables and your admin, then locks itself.

5. **Add the cron job, then secure it**
   Run the cron every 5 minutes, turn on two-factor login and set up mail.

```
# cron, every 5 minutes
*/5 * * * * php /path/to/crons/cron.php
# or a fresh Ubuntu/Debian/Alma/Rocky server:
sudo bash install.sh --domain
billing.example.com --email you@example.com
```

Requirements

	MINIMUM	RECOMMENDED
PHP	8.1	8.2 or 8.3
Database	MySQL 5.7 / MariaDB 10.4	MySQL 8 / MariaDB 10.11
Web server	Apache, LiteSpeed or Nginx + PHP-FPM, with HTTPS	
Extensions	curl, gd, json, mbstring, openssl, pdo_mysql, xml, zip, intl, bcmath, fileinfo	

🔁 Coming from WHMCS?

Choose **"Migrate from WHMCS"** in the installer, or run `bin/console bm:migrate:whmcs`. It always shows a dry run first, then brings over clients, contacts, products, services, domains, invoices, transactions and tickets, keeping your WHMCS ID numbers.

Download: hostbms.com/downloads/hostbms-0.2.5.zip · 19 MB · SHA-256 checksum on the website

TRUST

Security, licence and what's next.

🛡️ Security

- ✔ Staff two-factor login, role permissions, lockouts per user and per IP, and an audit log of every change.
- ✔ CSRF protection on every form, auto-escaped templates, a Content Security Policy and AES-256-GCM encryption of stored secrets.
- ✔ **Scanned with Semgrep.** v0.2.5 (28 Oct 2026): 464 files, 0 open findings, with the PHP, JavaScript, security-audit, OWASP Top 10 and secrets rule packs. The scan doesn't cover third-party libraries or server setup; SECURITY.md in the zip has the details.
- ✔ Found a problem? Email info@hostbms.com.

⚖️ HostBMS Licence — free to use, not to resell

- ✔ Run it on your own servers and bill your own customers, free of charge.
- ✔ Change the code for your own installs, and write and sell your own modules and themes.
- ✘ No selling, redistributing or offering HostBMS as a hosted service to others.
- ✘ No using the HostBMS name or logo for your own product, and the "Powered by HostBMS" credit stays.

Source-available, not open source. Full text: hostbms.com/license.html

🛣️ Roadmap

BUILT · V0.1
The full core
Clients, orders, invoicing, dunning, client area, support, modules, automation, email, reports, quotes, API, Stripe and Mollie, installers and the WHMCS importer.

BUILT · V0.2
Polish & protection
Spam protection, branded emails, a UK postcode finder and clearer product pricing.

BUILT · V0.2.3
Chat, PayPal & updates
Live chat, PayPal, branded PDF invoices and a signed one-click updater.

NEXT
Public demo & testers
A live demo, real-world WHMCS migrations and the first production server and registrar modules.

LATER
Depth
Client 2FA, upgrades, more gateways and deeper WHMCS coverage.

⚠️ Honest limits (v0.2.5)

- ! Early development, not production ready — try it on a spare site first.
- ! The WHMCS importer has only been tested on sample data so far.
- ! Server modules: KarnakPanel plus a demo module; cPanel, Plesk and registrar modules come next.
- ! English only for now.

Have a test WHMCS install? A copy of its database is the most useful thing a tester can give us.

Try it, and tell us what you think.

We're looking for hosting companies to test HostBMS and help shape it.

hostbms.com | **info@hostbms.com** | **karnakpanel.com**

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