

Guide: Creating & Managing a Subdomain for Code Testing in cPanel

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This guide covers the **step-by-step process** of setting up, managing, and troubleshooting a **testing subdomain** (staging.aslsteamhub.org) using **cPanel**.

1 Creating a Subdomain in cPanel

Since your domain's **DNS is managed inside cPanel**, you can create a subdomain directly.

Steps to Create a Subdomain

1. **Log into cPanel.**
2. Go to **Domains**
3. Under "**Create a Domain**":
 - o **Domain:** <your subdomain name>.aslsteamhub.org (staging.aslsteamhub.org)
 - o **Document Root:** /home/aslsteam/staging.aslsteamhub.org
4. Click "**Create**".

Your subdomain is now set up and listed under **cPanel > Domains**.

2 Managing DNS in cPanel

After creating a subdomain, cPanel **automatically generates an A record** for it. However, you can manually verify it.

Verify That the A Record Exists

1. **Go to cPanel > Zone Editor.**
2. Look for an **A Record for staging.aslsteamhub.org**.
 - o It should point to your **server's IP address**.
3. If needed, **edit or add a new A Record**:
 - o **Type:** A
 - o **Name:** staging.aslsteamhub.org
 - o **Value:** (*Your server's IP address*)
 - o **TTL:** 300
4. Save changes.

If you made changes, wait **a few minutes for DNS propagation**.

3 Uploading Your Test Folder to File Manager in cPanel

Since your **testing subdomain directory** is `/home/aslsteam/staging.aslsteamhub.org`, you need to upload your test files here.

Steps to Upload the Test Folder

1. Zip the test project folder that you want to upload
 - i. Make sure to remove any unnecessary files like `.gitignore` or `.git` folder.
 - ii. *****Important:** Make sure to change the `.env` file so that it accommodates whatever **test database** and **user** that you used to sign up with.
2. **Go to cPanel > File Manager.**
`/home/aslsteam/staging.aslsteamhub.org`
3. Click **Upload** (top menu).
4. **Drag and drop** your test project folder OR click **"Select File"** to upload it manually.
5. **Extract ZIP (if applicable):**
 - o If you uploaded a **ZIP file**, right-click it and select **"Extract"**.
 - o Ensure extracted files go into `/staging.aslsteamhub.org`.

✓ Your test files are now inside `/home/aslsteam/staging.aslsteamhub.org`.

4 Setting Up a Web Application (Optional)

If your test environment is a **Node.js** or **PHP application**, you can configure it in **cPanel > Application Manager**.

Steps to Set Up a Web App

1. **Go to cPanel > Application Manager.**
2. Click **"Register Application"**.
3. Filled in these info:
 - o **Application Name** (Enter a display name for the deployed application).
 - o **Deployment Domain** (Select the domain or subdomain to deploy the application to):
`staging.aslsteamhub.org`
 - o **Base Application URL: No need to edit this**
 - o **Application Path:** `home/aslsteam/staging.aslsteamhub.org`
 - o **Deployment Environment:** choose development for a testing website.
4. Click **Deploy**.

Your application is now linked to `staging.aslsteamhub.org`.

5 Database Setup for Testing

If your test environment needs a **database**, create a separate one in cPanel.

Steps to Create a Testing Database

1. **Go to cPanel > MySQL Databases.**
2. **Create a new database**, e.g., staging_db.
3. **Create a new MySQL user**, e.g., staging_user.
4. **Assign the user to the database:**
 - Select staging_user and staging_db.
 - Click "**Grant All Privileges**".
5. **Update .env or configuration files:**

```
DATABASE=staging_db
DATABASE_HOST=localhost
DATABASE_USER=staging_user
DATABASE_PASSWORD=yourpassword
DATABASE_PORT=3306
```

✓ Now, your test environment has a **separate database**.

7 Managing & Restarting the Subdomain

If your test environment stops working, **restart the application**.

Restarting an App in cPanel

1. **Go to cPanel > Application Manager.**
2. Find ASLSTEAMHub-Staging.
3. **Disable** the website, then **enable** it again..

✓ This reloads your test environment.

8 Clearing Cache & Debugging Issues

If changes **don't appear**, clear your cache.

Clear Local DNS Cache

If DNS changes were made:

- **Windows:**
ipconfig /flushdns
- **Mac/Linux:**
sudo systemctl restart nscd

Now, your browser should load the latest version of staging.aslsteamhub.org.

9 Removing a Subdomain (If No Longer Needed)

To **delete** the test environment:

1. **Go to cPanel > Domains.**
2. Find staging.aslsteamhub.org.
3. Click **Remove**.