

Cube Cart Quick Start Guide to Installation & Initial Setup.

By Kerry Watson, osCommerceManuals.com

A. Pre-Installation Checklist:

1. Supporting Programs Needed on Your Personal Computer

- FTP (File Transfer Protocol) program** to upload files, create directories and set file permissions. CuteFTP www.globalscape.com has a free 30 day trial.
- WinZip (PC) or Windows XP (WinZip is pre-installed)
- (Recommended) A **code comparison program** such as Beyond Compare www.scootersoftware.com – Free Trial.
- (Optional) Site management/HTML editor program like **Dreamweaver** to synchronize [create a mirror website on your PC] and perform quick Searches [CTRL-F] to locate the code you wish to edit)
- (Optional) If you don't use Dreamweaver, a **PHP editor/debugger** such as PHPEdit, PHP Coder 3, etc. which highlight various sections of code in different colors, making it easy to see coding errors

3. Secure Server Info: *Ask your Web Host for this information.*

- What is the internal path to your secure server?
- What is the internal path to your secure images directory?
- Does your web host offer a shared SSL certificate, or will you purchase your own SSL certificate? (Note, you may not need your own—check with your payment processor first)

5. Domain Name/Location: *Ask your Web Host for this information.*

- Do you have your domain name registered?
- What is the exact www address?
- Did you register it at least 24-72 hours ago? Type the address in your browser to be sure it is live.
- Have you notified your web host about your new domain name so they can “point” your files to it?
- What is the full path to your Web Server Root Directory? (Ask your web host, it will be like /usr/www/users/yourname/html/)
- Is there a secondary database username and password with more restrictions which offers more security?

2. Hosting Information *Ask your Web Host for this information.*

- What version of PHP and MySQL does your web host use/support?
- What kind of servers does your web host use? (Apache, etc.)
- What tools (i.e. cPanel) does your web host offer for database creation and account administration?
- Does your web host support phpMyAdmin for administering your database? If not, what do they use or recommend for database creation and administration?
- Does your web host back up your website files? How often? Your database? How often? How do you have files restored?

4. Database Info: *Ask your Web Host for this information.*

- What is the Hostname or IP address of your database server?
- What is your exact database username?
- What full-rights password does your database use?
- What is the name of your database (not database username)?
- Have the database and username been linked?
- Is there a secondary database username and password with more restrictions which offers more security?

6. Other Information:

- What payment gateway will you use? What is their URL, Username, account number, and password?
- What shipping company will you use? What is their URL, Username, account number, and password?
- Are you required to charge tax? On what products, what rate, and in what regions? Get help from your attorney.
TIP: To help you select payment and shipping carriers, a 40-page special report “Payment & Shipping Comparisons” is available from oscommercemanuals.com. Includes bonus chapter on disaster prevention and recovery.

Part I. Installation:

Check off each item as you complete it.

1. Get your *free* copy of Cube Cart



Download the most recent version of Cube Cart from <http://www.cubecart.com/site/forums/index.php?act=Downloads> – Click Register and fill in personal information. After you have registered, select the **FULL DOWNLOAD**. Write down the name of the folder where you save the zip file.

2. Unzip the files onto your PC

Double-Click the Zip file name (Windows XP) or use WinZip or a similar zip program to unzip your files. Make a new folder called My Store in the My Documents folder.

3. Upload the files to your web host

If you don't have an FTP program, get a free or trial version such as CuteFTP or similar FTP program. There will be a "Wizard" to walk you through setting it up for your website. **Use the settings from your Pre-Installation Checklist.**



CuteFTP www.cuteftp.com

CoffeecupFTP www.coffeecup.com

Upload all the files into your ROOT directory (see your Pre-Installation Checklist).



TIP: There are over 1,000 files to upload. If you are on dial-up or satellite uplink, it may take you hours to upload! Try starting your upload before bedtime.

CAUTION:

TIP: Make sure ALL your files get uploaded! If all the files do not upload completely, your install may not be successful and/or the program may not function normally. It is difficult to track down this problem, so it is best to be certain to prevent it. Either "synchronize" using a site manager like Dreamweaver or FrontPage, or upload twice using your FTP program.

CAUTION:

IMPORTANT: DOUBLE-CHECK to make sure all the files uploaded completely. Your installation will not succeed if any file is missing. This is one of the MOST COMMON INSTALLATION PROBLEMS.

4. Temporarily Set File Permissions to 706**

Using your **Pre-Installation Checklist** and your **FTP PROGRAM** or your web host's web-based **administration tool** (not osCommerce's), you are now going to change the file permissions on the 2 following configuration files.

Open CuteFTP, enter your ftp website address (usually <ftp.yourdomain.com>), start by entering your FTP username and password that your web host gave you, and the path to your domain's folder.

To set permissions, from your domain's root (usually public_html), double-click the folder INCLUDES to open it, then find and RIGHT-click on the file configure.php. From the drop-down menu that appears, select PROPERTIES and change the permissions as described and shown in the picture below. Repeat this procedure for the other configure file.

[/includes/configure.php](#)
[/admin/includes/configure.php](#)



An FTP Program with permissions set to 706.



SECURITY WARNING: **Set permissions initially to 706. Change it to 777 ONLY if the program gives an error message telling you that the permissions need to be changed. You MUST change the permissions again after installation for security reasons.



TIP: Leave your FTP program open while you move on to the Installation section in case you need to change some additional permissions.

5. Create your database

Use **phpMyAdmin, cPanel, or your web host's web-based database administration tool** to:

1. Create an empty database
2. Create a user, and
3. Assign a user to the database.

Each web host will use a different or even custom database administration tool, so check out their support section or contact them for specific directions on how to use it.

After Database Setup:

Once you have created your empty database, you will receive an information screen with the exact database name, server location, and your username and password. **PRINT AND SAVE THIS DATABASE AND PASSWORD INFORMATION** and keep it in a safe place – you will need it for the next step.

6. Begin installing the Cube Cart program

Using your web browser, go to the following address: <http://www.yourdomainname.com/install/>

Please refer to your **Pre-Installation Checklist** for each item on the following Installation screens.



TIP: If your domain name is new, it may not be active yet – it can take up to 72 hours. Instead, you will have to use your "IP Address" to install the program. Ask your web host for your site's exact IP address.



If you are copying and pasting information into your install screens, and have trouble, check to be sure you are not pasting extra SPACES at the beginning or end of the words.

Install Step 1. Welcome Screen

The screenshot shows the 'CubeCart Installation' screen, Step 1 of 5. The title is 'Step 1 - License Agreement'. The text reads: 'YOU MUST READ, UNDERSTAND & AGREE TO THE CURRENT VERSION OF CubeCart™. THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS, CONDITIONS, PERMITTED AND/OR RESTRICTIONS FOR THE USA'. Below this, it lists 'Licensor: Devellion Limited' and 'Product: CubeCart™ Software Package'. There is a checkbox labeled 'I have read, understood and agree to the licence agreement' which is currently unchecked. A blue button at the bottom says 'Continue to Step >>'. The footer says 'Copyright Devellion Limited 2005.'

If you agree, check the box and click the "Continue" Button at the bottom to begin automatic installation.

Install Step 2. New Installation Screen

The screenshot shows the 'CubeCart Installation' screen, Step 2 of 5. The title is 'Step 2 - Check File Permissions'. The text reads: 'Please check the following file permissions:'. Below this is a table with file paths and permissions:

images/uploads/	777
images/uploads/thumbs/	777
includes/global.inc.php	777
pear/tmp/	777

A blue button at the bottom says 'Continue to Step >>'. The footer says 'Copyright Devellion Limited 2005.'

Use your FTP program to change the four files or folders to 777. Click the ? for helpful details about each selection. Click **Continue**

Install Step 3. General Information

Database Information:
Database Hostname:
Database Name:
Database Username:
Database Password:
Database Prefix:
Drop Tables:

Locale Settings:
Store Country:

Administrator Configuration Settings:
Username:
Password:
Confirm:
Email:
Full Name:

Skin

Classic (Fixed) Legend (Fixed) Killer (100%)

Advanced Settings:
Store URL:
Server Root:
Site Root Relative:
GD Version:

[Continue to Step >>](#)

Copyright Devellion Limited 2005.

DATABASE INFORMATION:
Copy this from your Pre-Installation Checklist.

LOCALE SETTINGS:
Select your country from the drop-down box.

ADMINISTRATOR CONFIG SETTINGS:
Choose a username, password, and email address you want to use when you log into your new store

SKIN:

Choose a look for your store.

ADVANCED SETTINGS:

This information is filled in for you – accept it as-is unless you know otherwise.

You might get Step 3 wrong a few times – especially database SERVER (usually a number) and database NAME (usually a name). **Don't worry, you can't break it! Just hit your browser's BACK button, switch the information and try again.**

Click the “Continue” Button.

Install Step 4. Set Back File Permissions

Step 4-Set Back File Permissions

Please make sure the following file permissions are set back correctly:

includes/global.inc.php	644
-------------------------	-----

[Continue to Step >>](#)

Copyright Devellion Limited 2005.

Use your FTP program to change the four files or folders to 777 AND TO **DELETE THE INSTALL DIRECTORY!!!**

WARNING: Your store will not function until you delete the Install directory.



Success!

Click Admin Homepage to begin setting up your new store, or Store Homepage to see what your new store actually looks like.

Installation Problem-Solving

If you've had any difficulty with your installation, check again to be sure that you have set the appropriate file permissions for each folder or directory that requires it. Especially make sure you have not copied and pasted in any SPACES before or after a word or password. That usually fixes 99% of installation problems.

If you still have difficulty, the osCommerce Technical Manual contains solutions to the top 25 osCommerce errors. See the **back of this Quick Install Guide for more information.**



Technical Help Procedure: For any support issues please visit: <http://www.cubecart.com/site/support/>

1. Read your Manual.
2. Ask your email group for more help, such as osCommerce-Newbies@yahoogroups.com
3. Go to the technical forums and FAQ for a similar problem (www.creloaded.com)
4. When all else fails, pay for technical support (or get free support from chainreactionweb.com, if you are a web hosting customer or wish to become one).

Part II: Initial Setup

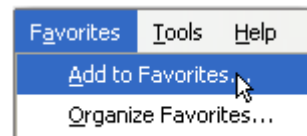
A quick introduction to help you get started.

Log onto your New Cube Cart Admin for the First Time:

Using your web browser, go to the following address: <http://www.yourdomainname.com/admin/>



BOOKMARK your new Admin page or add it to your "FAVORITES" List NOW! You will be going there every day from now on.



Log in with the email address and password you specified during installation.

TIP: If you forget the password click "Password forgotten?" and look for a

Please login below:

Username:

Password:

[Request Password](#)

message at the email address you gave during installation.

This brings you to the **MAIN ADMINISTRATIVE MENU:**

Admin Setup Summary:

Instructions for each step are below.



RULE #1: ALWAYS back up before making any changes, and always work on a copy, not the original. You MUST develop a disaster prevention procedure and back up regularly. Draft pages in your email program or other editor, save copies in a safe place.

Your store's Main Admin menu
Seen next page for left column menu detail

1. **Set Your Store Config Settings – General, Tax, Countries & Zones, and Currencies.**
2. **Set up Shipping & Payment Info in Modules.**
3. **Enter Products into your store in Catalog –Add Category and Add Product.**
4. **Enter your Welcome or “Homepage” Text in Documents - Homepage.**
5. **Edit your Information Pages (Privacy, etc.) in Documents – Site Documents.**
If you have any difficulty, get technical help.

Your newly installed store!

Navigation
Admin Home
Store Home
Store Config
General Settings
Taxes
Countries & Zones
Currencies

Modules
Shipping
Gateways
Affiliates

Catalog
View Products
Add Product
Product Options
View Categories
Add Category

Customers
View Customers
Email Customers
Orders

File Manager
Manage Images
Upload Images

Statistics
View Stats

Documents
Homepage
Site Documents

Misc
Server Info

Admin Users
Administrators
Admin Sessions

1. Set Your Store's General Settings:

The General Settings menu is where you tell your store where things are and how you want it to look. Virtually every menu in this program also has a setting here IN ADDITION to the main settings. This menu tells your store its new name, your name, email address, and other details that will be displayed throughout many areas throughout the program.

From the left column of any page, under **Store Config**, click **General Settings**. Look at ALL menus in Store Config, but for now change only items that you KNOW need to be changed. It's figured out MOST stuff for you already. If you have a secure server for your store, which you should to protect credit card information from your customers, enter the information from your Pre-Installation Checklist in the Directories & Folders section. Continue by clicking Taxes, Countries & Zones, and Currencies.

2. Set up Modules Payment & Shipping:

Specify methods that customers will be allowed to use to pay, and shipping companies you will use.

Select **MODULES – Shipping**. Choose a shipping method including flat rate, per item, UPS and more. Click INSTALL or EDIT for each method and follow the instructions.

Select **MODULES – Payment**. Choose a payment method including checks, PayPal, or manual credit cards if you are currently a retailer who processes credit cards. Click INSTALL or EDIT for each method and follow the instructions.

3. Enter your Product Information:

First you must set up your **product categories – like store departments**- then you can enter the **product information**.



TIP: Do you have dozens or hundreds of products and images to enter? If so, the EasyPopulate contribution can upload them for you.

A. To enter product information, under **CATALOG**, click **Add Category**. **Look at the Demo product** to see how it was set up. Delete the Demo stuff before you launch your store.

B. Then create your own CATEGORY: Remember, like a department in a store, or a chapter in a paper catalog. Enter the category name and if you wish, a picture for the category.

C. Enter a new PRODUCT: Click the ADD PRODUCT link, fill in at least the product NAME, MODEL, and WEIGHT (or it will think the weight is zero, a downloadable product, and not charge shipping). You can add details later. Click the ADD PRODUCT button to save. **Repeat for all your products.**



TIP: Enter ONE category and ONE product to test your site, THEN enter the remaining products when you know you have done it properly. You can easily MOVE, COPY or DELETE products if necessary.

4. Enter your Welcome or “Homepage” Text:

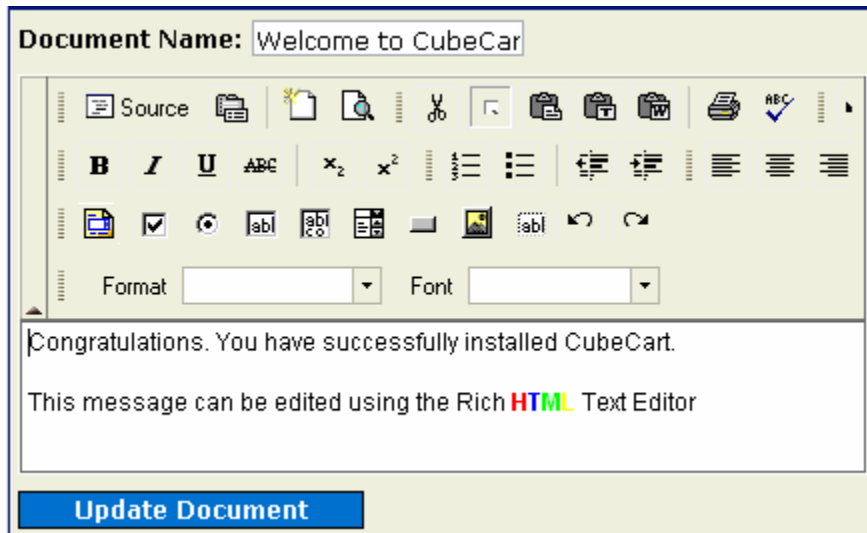
To begin editing the welcome text on your main page, under documents click **HOME PAGE**.

Simply delete the current Homepage text and type in what you want.

TIP: SAVE every 10-15 minutes or for security your store will ask you to log in again and you will lose your work!

TIP: Do your thoughtful composing in an email, then copy and paste it here.

When you are finished typing, select the **UPDATE HOMEPAGE** button.



5. Edit Your Site Documents Pages:

About Us | Contact Us | Privacy Policy | Terms & Conditions

In your Cube Cart store, these are located at the bottom of each page. Under Documents, click Site Documents, then the name of the document you wish to edit. When finished, select the **UPDATE DOCUMENT** button.

About the osCommerce Manuals Series by Kerry Watson:

“User-Friendly Spoken Here.”

These directions in this Quick Install Guide are abridged excerpts from the user-friendly books you will find at osCommerceManuals.com. There is not room in this Quick Install Guide to explain why, or deal with exceptions, or to help you with many of the other changes you may wish to make to your store.

Books are available for immediate download, or in paperback, from www.oscommercemanuals.com

FREE BUTTON SETS for Cube Cart

...from our Free “Button Library.” Fresh, new buttons give a customized look to your store! Dozens of buttons in all colors and styles to match your store’s personality.



Sample free button
Many more styles to choose from.

This FREE Cube Cart Quick Start Guide for Installation & Initial Setup

is used with permission, courtesy of author Kerry Watson. Copyright 2005 by Kerry Watson. **May be distributed freely as long as the copyright statements remain intact.**

WARNING AND DISCLAIMER

This publication is NOT a substitute for professional advice for your particular situation. Every effort has been made to make this information as complete and accurate as possible, but no warranty or fitness is implied. The information is provided on an AS-IS basis. The author and the publisher have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss or damages arising from the information contained in this publication.