

Shophook

E-commerce. Evolved.

Getting started with Shophook

What is needed to get you started with Shophook? Here we look in detail what you need upfront.

Brian Watson

11/4/25

Shophook Kick Start

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Getting Started with Shophook

https://shophook.mallway.co.za/

Overview

Shophook is a comprehensive and mobile-friendly e-commerce web application designed to deliver full client customization. Developed using PHP and JavaScript, Shophook offers a suite of customizable webpages that support every stage of the online shopping experience. These include dedicated category, catalog, registration, login, address entry, cart, and payment pages. Automated notifications are generated to confirm cart status updates for both buyers and sellers, ensuring clear and reliable communication throughout the transaction process.

Content Management System (CMS) and Customer Relationship Management (CRM)

At the heart of Shophook is an integrated Content Management System (CMS) paired with a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool. This robust system allows users to efficiently manage essential business data, including business details, departments, users, vendors, and registered clients. Shophook supports integration with courier services via Shiplogic, enhancing delivery management capabilities. Payment gateway integration is straightforward, with PayFast set as the default option and the flexibility to add additional gateways upon request.

E-commerce Management Screens

- Category Screen: Every item in the catalog must be assigned to a category, otherwise it will not be displayed. This ensures products are organized and easy to find for buyers.
- Product Type: This feature is used to define product specifications and warranty defaults. It primarily serves stock management and returns processes and should not be confused with product categories.
- Catalog Screen: The main interface for displaying products, the catalog screen includes essential details such as pricing, images, descriptions, and various controls to facilitate e-commerce transactions.
- Size Screen: As an optional child of the catalog, the size screen allows for size-specific pricing and product details. When size entries are used, they override information from the catalog.
- Design Screen: The design screen may be linked to either catalog items or sizes. When a design entry exists, it takes precedence over both size and catalog data, allowing for specialized product presentations.

Requirements

Quick Introduction

Shophook provides all the essential tools required to set up and manage an online store with efficiency. Designed for flexibility and scalability, the system ensures that businesses can adapt and grow to meet evolving needs and customer expectations.

THE MAIN IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

Download from: https://shophook.mallway.co.za/index.php

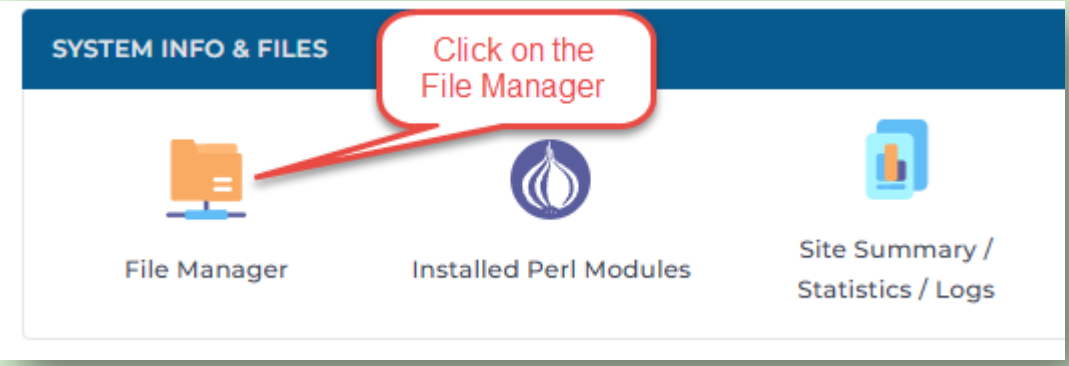
WARNING: The CRM contains an index.php file and will overwrite a file with the same name. Please backup your existing index.php file and when finished installing Shophook, bring your index.php file back, else, install Shophook to a subdirectory.

MAIN INSTALLATION PROCESS

1. **Domain**. Get your own domain or we will provide one for you at a monthly fee.
2. **MySQL**. Your domain must have MySQL in rder to load your database.
3. The domain must have no less than ½ GB free space, however, if your store has many images and get's a lot of traffic, it is advisable to ask your service provider to increase your domains memory.
4. From Shophook, download the following, then upload the files to your domain and unzip them into the root of where you will be running your ecommerce from (suggested: public_html):
    - ServerFile.zip (Consisting of the following folders):
        - Assets;
        - Classes;
        - DataLinks;
        - eCommerce;
        - MyInfo;
        - Reports
    - PHPMailer-master.zip (Unzip content into a folder called PHPMailer – if it does not exist then create the folder.
    - CRM.zip
    - Please Note: If you unzip into a folder ServerFile, you will have to either move the folders within the ServerFile folder to the root, or delete the folder and all its content and re-run the extract and make sure you are only extracting the contents of the zip file.
5. Then download the database to your own PC or to wherever you feel like on your domain. Once done, open the SQL file in a new tab. Copy all the content and go back to your control panel.

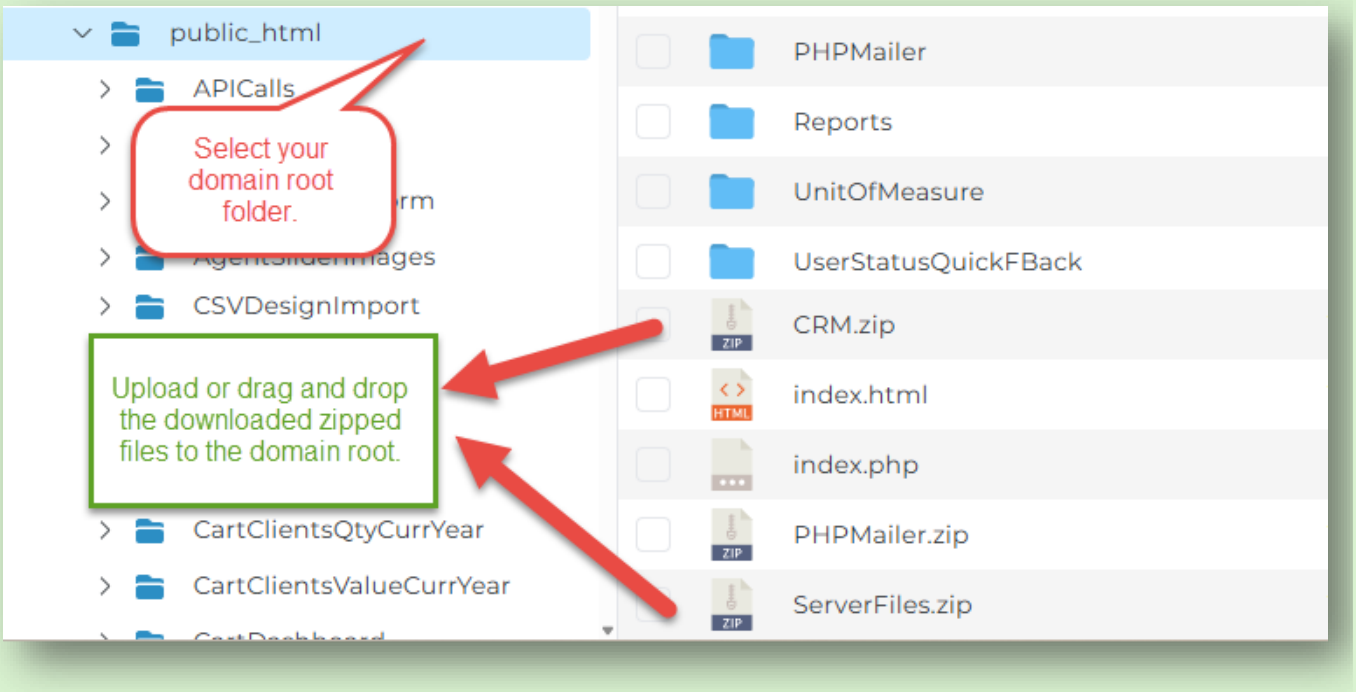
CONTROL PANEL FILE MANAGER

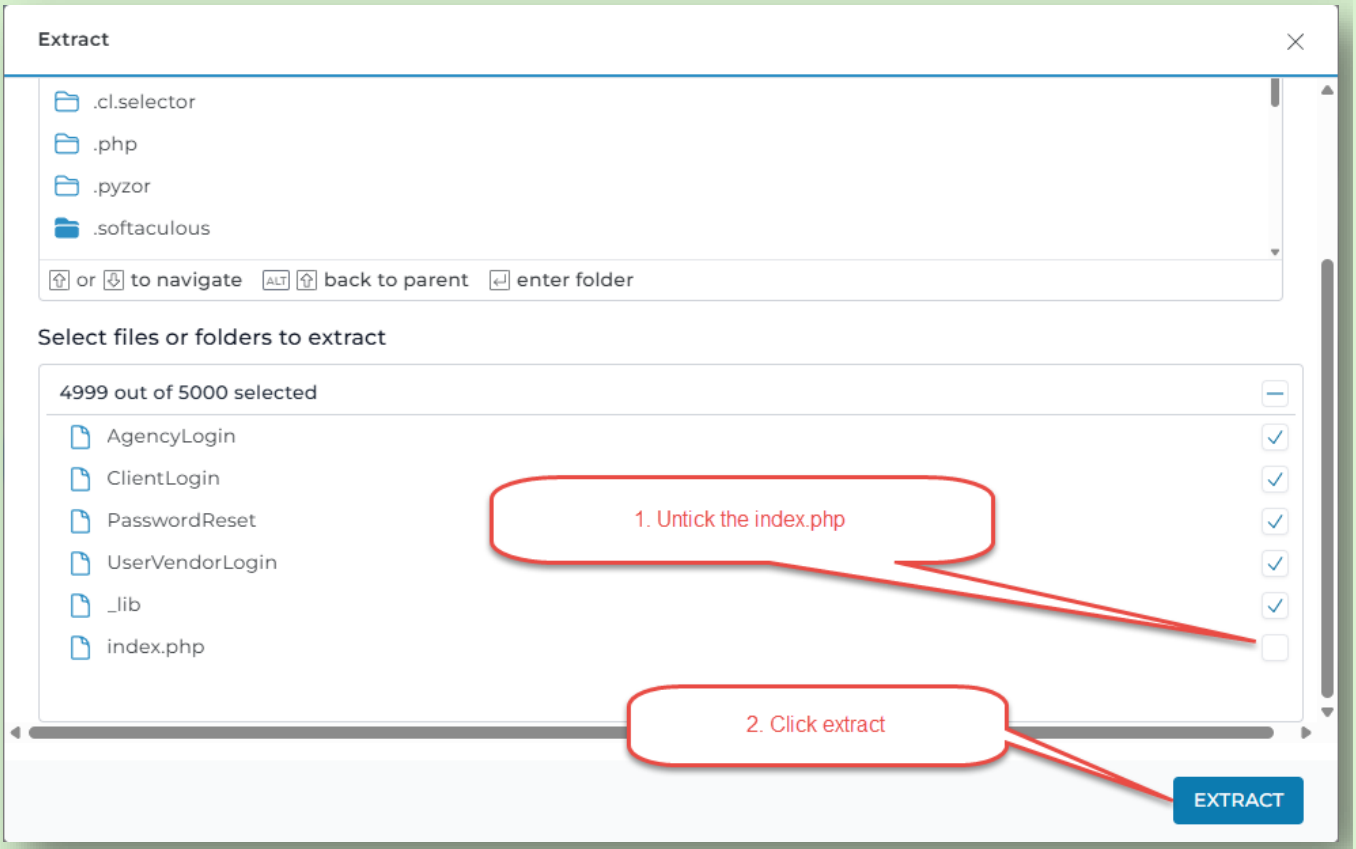
From your domain control panel, select your File Manager.



Then find your domain root which usually is public_html and click on it. Or, of you want to save Shophook under another folder then select that folder. When you are at your destination, drag and drop or upload the zipped folders previously downloaded from Shophook's site.

Tip: if you have a website under the root folder, please back it up to avoid unnecessary overwrites or, create a subdirectory and install Shophook under that subdirectory.

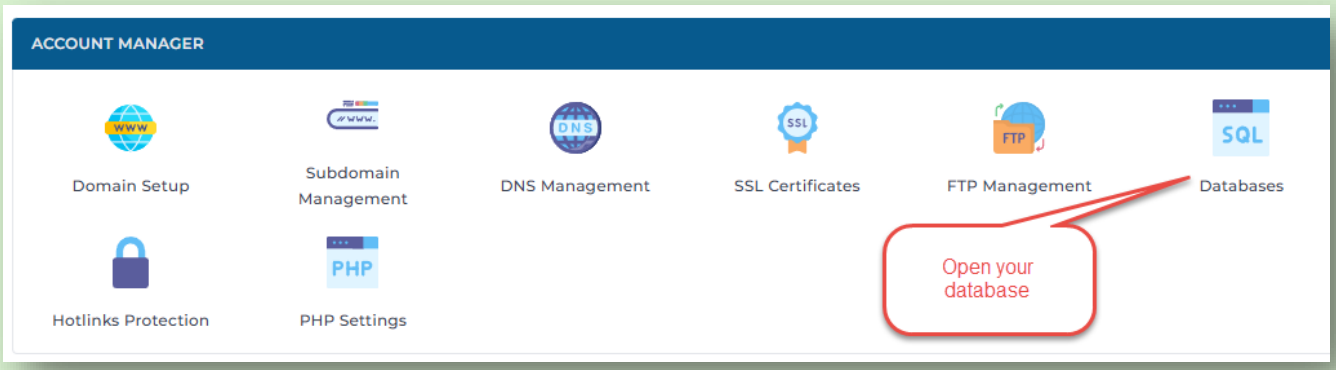




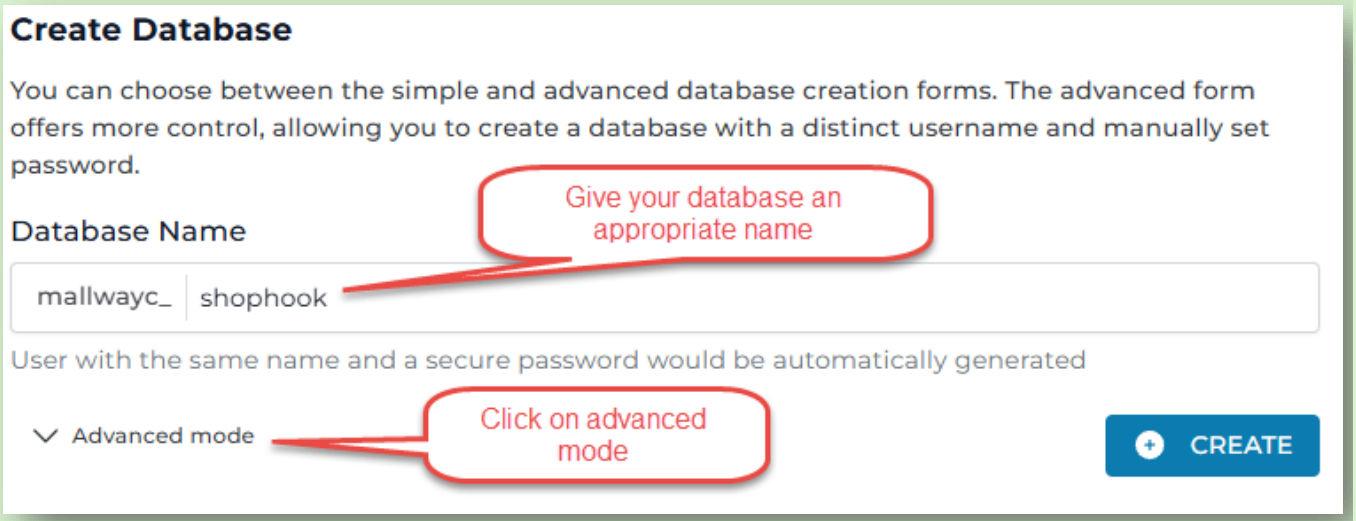
Tip 1: You only need to Untick the index.php option if you are loading under the root folder. If you have a website under the root. Your website may be using index.php as it's initial file.
Tip 2: Older control panels do not allow you to untick the index,php when you are unpacking a zipped folder. In such a case, either backup you current index.php file, or place Shophook under a new folder.

Control Panel – Databases

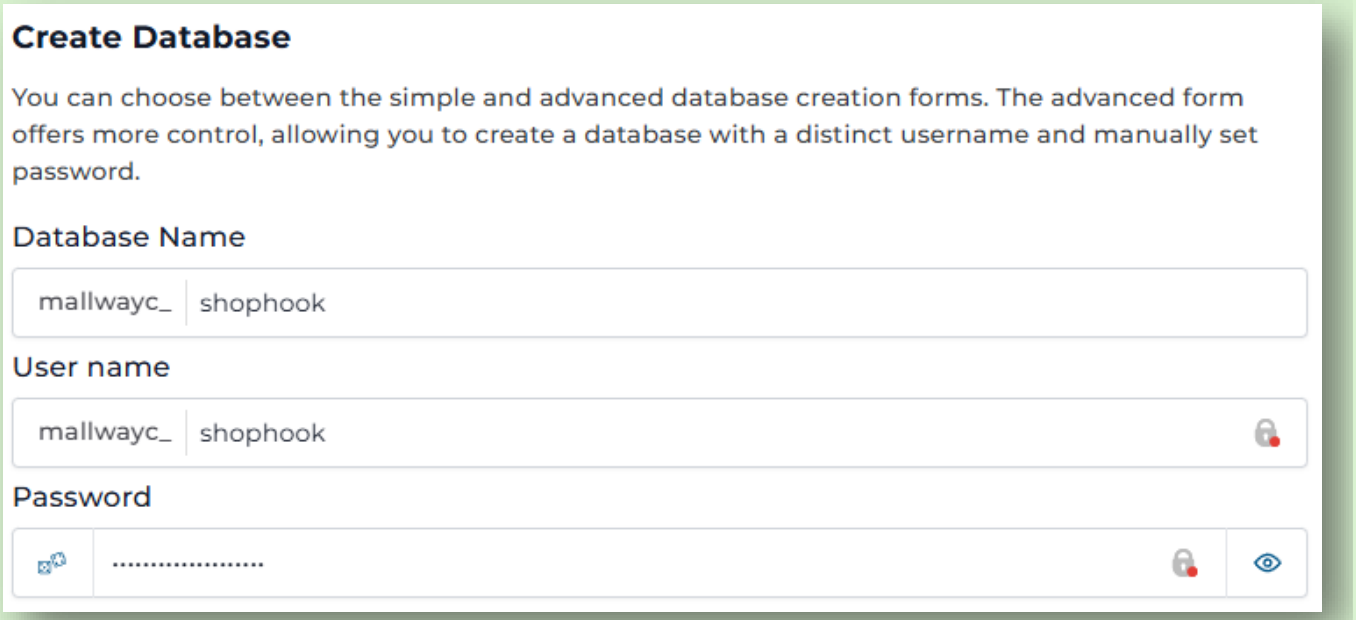
Open the Databases from your control panel:



Create your Database

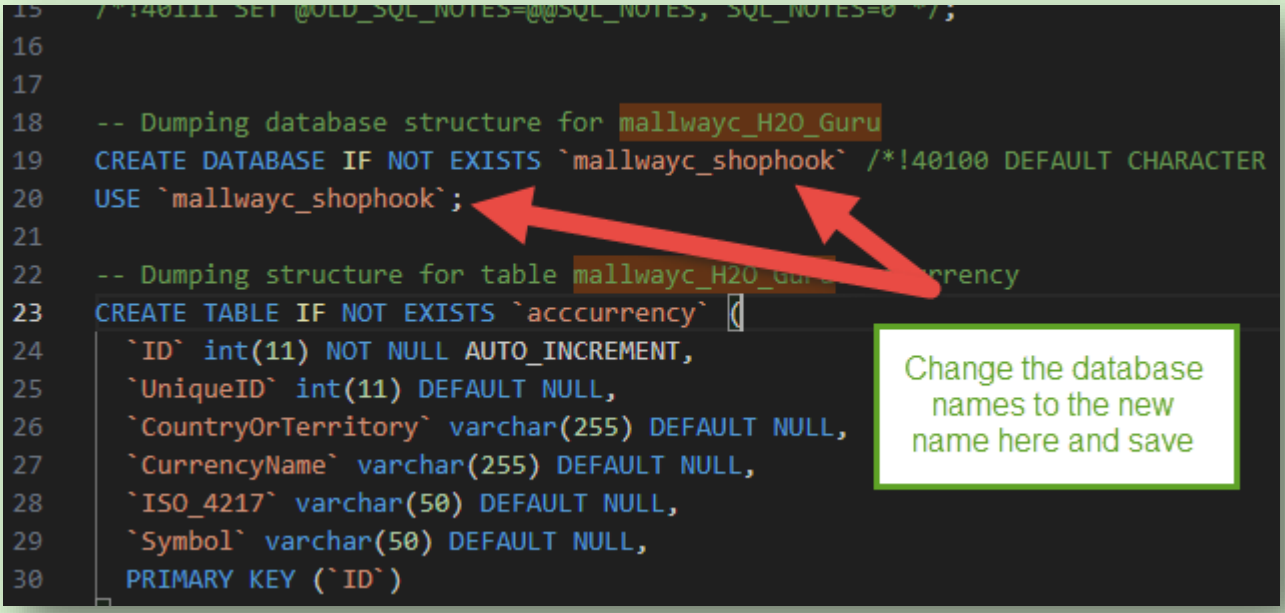


In the advanced mode, enter your user name and a password. Remember to write the details down in a safe document as you will be needing these details to make a connection. Please keep your password in a safe place.



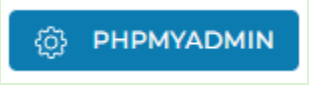
Change database name in SQL file

If not already open, open the SQL file and change the database name as follows:

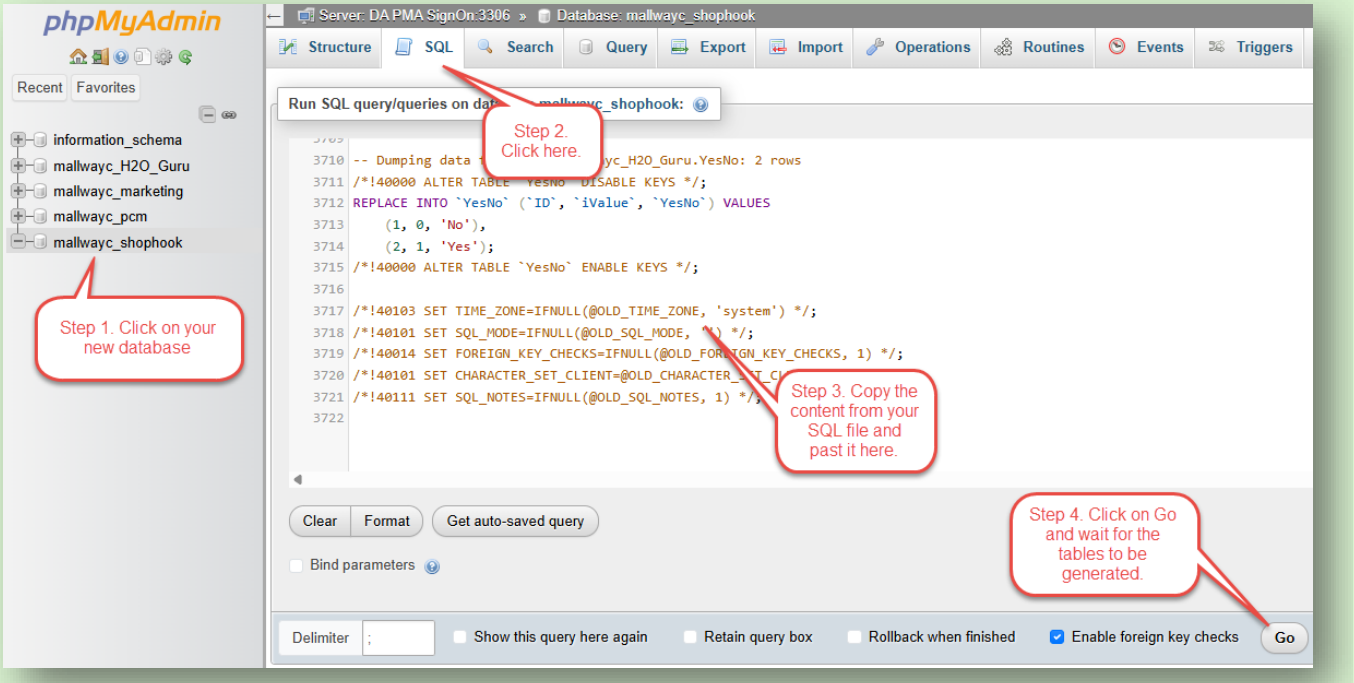


PHP My Admin

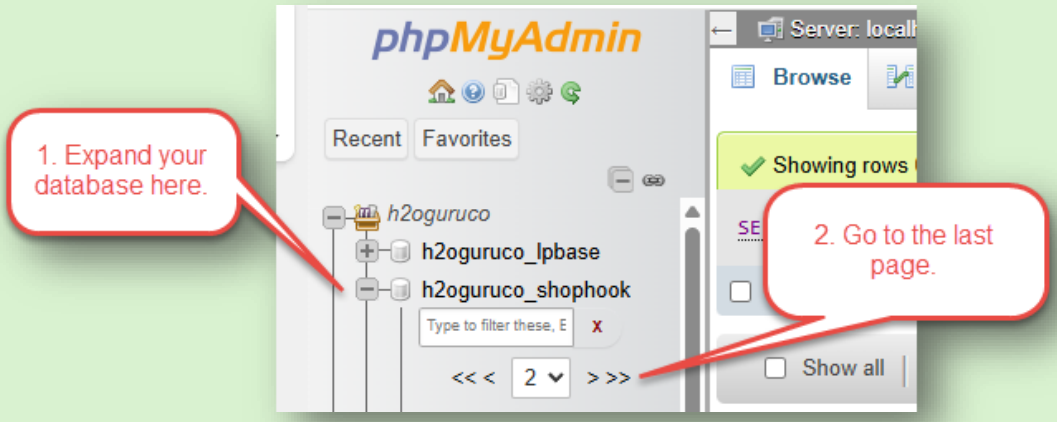
Now go to PHP MY ADMIN



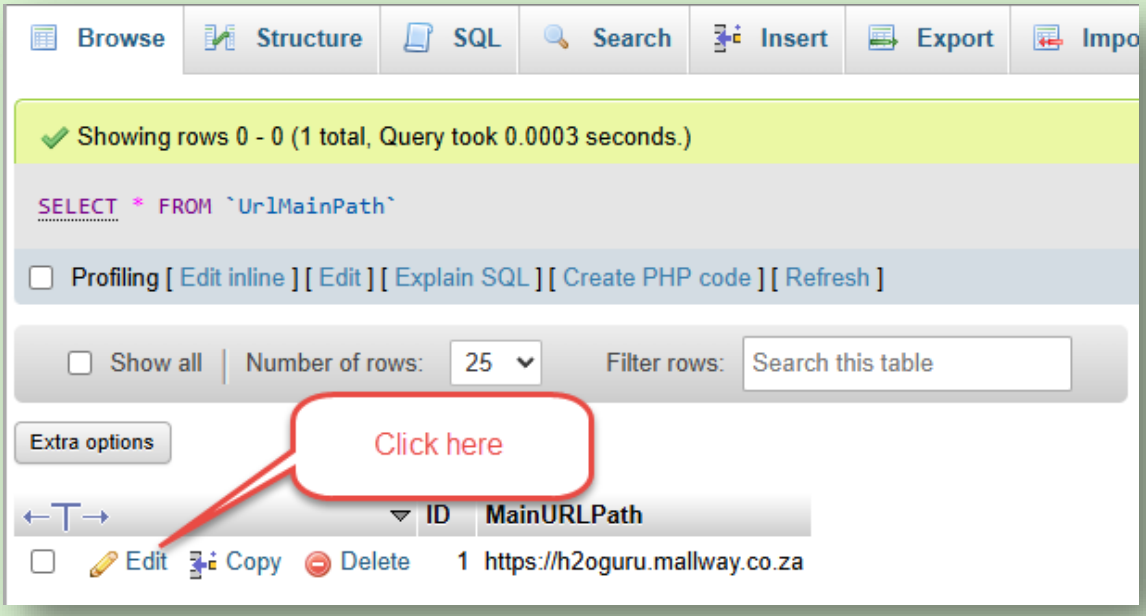
Follow the instructions to generate your new tables as follows:



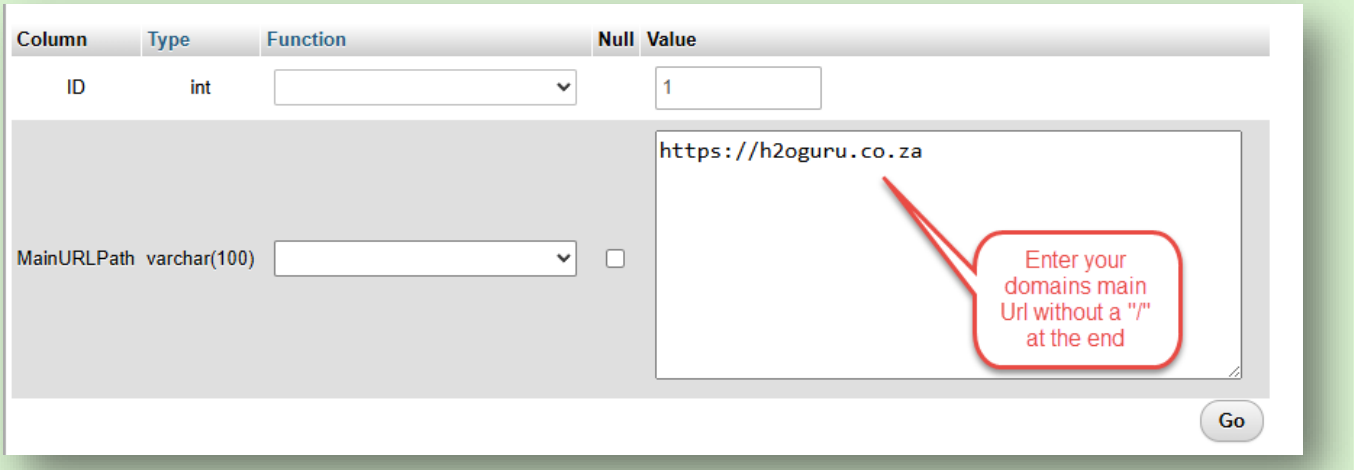
Before we go any further, we need to expand the database table and go to table UrlMainPath



Click on table UrlMainPath and then from the Browse tab click on Edit:



Enter your domains main url to the root and click on Go.

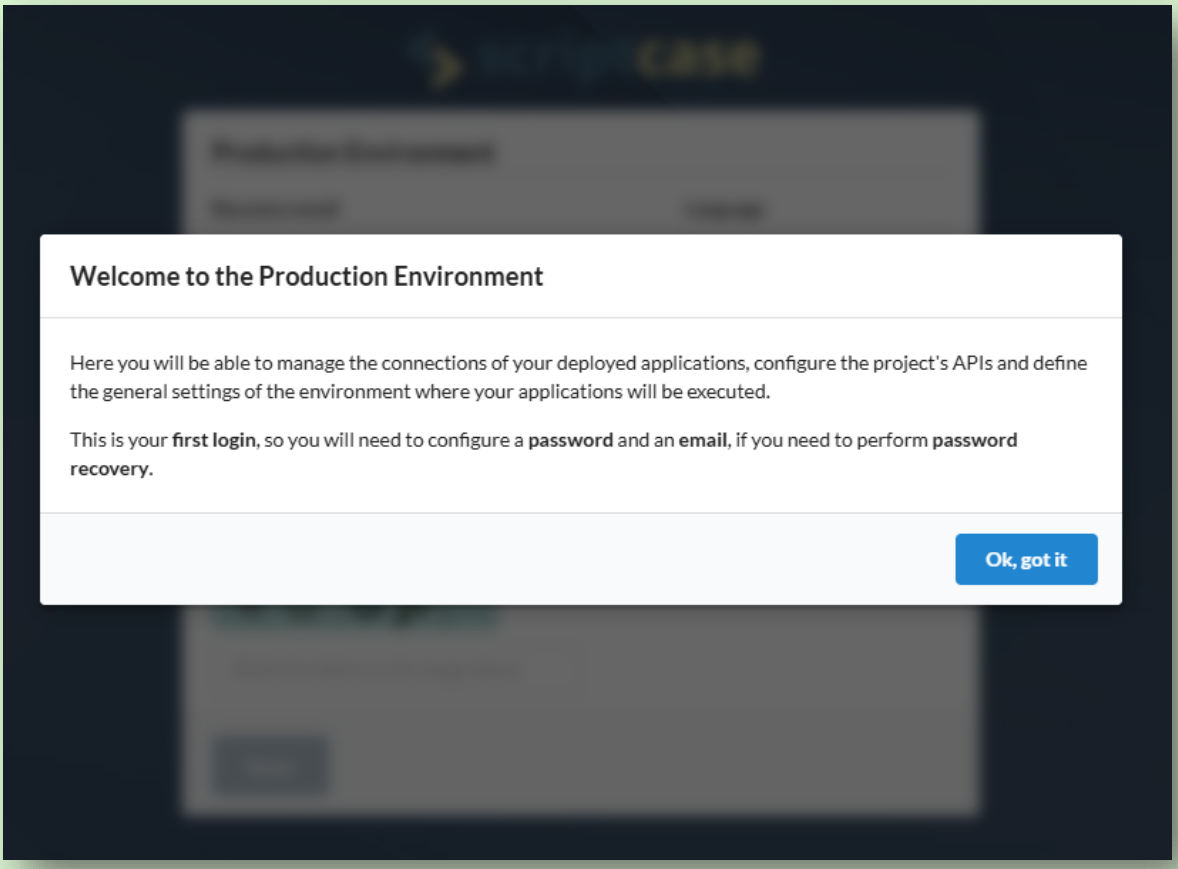


Once you have completed the above you are halfway there.

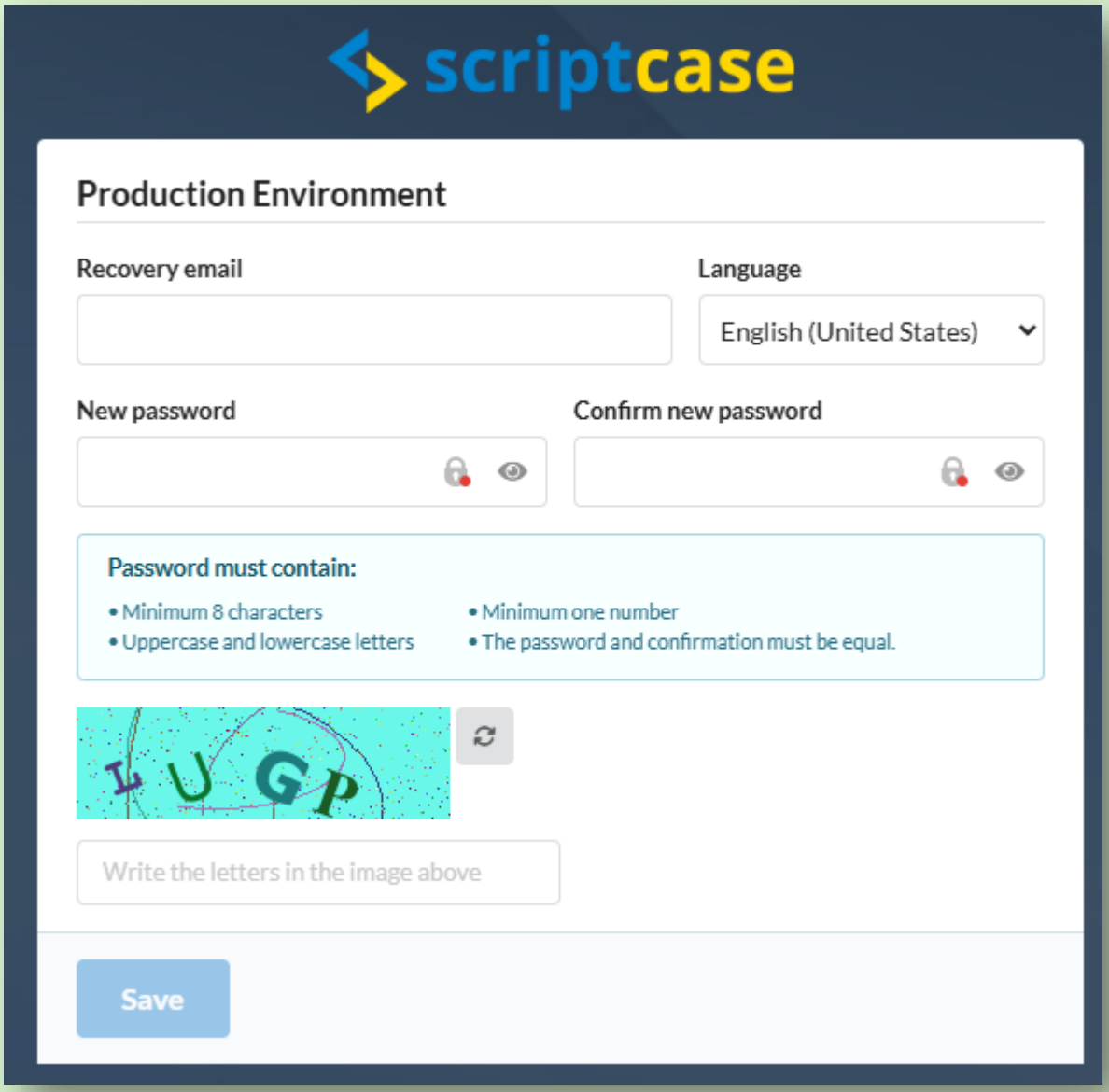
6. Now upload the biggest and last zip file that should be called CRM.zip and once done, extract the contents to the root.
7. Run the URL in your browser: http://yourdomain.com/your_project_folder/_lib/prod/lib/php/nm_ini_manager2.php?rand=ec708ec8e95d2b52
8. Example of the database URL:

https://shophook.mallway.co.za/_lib/prod/lib/php/nm_ini_manager2.php?rand=ec708ec8e95d2b52

If the installation/unpack went according to plan, then you should see this:



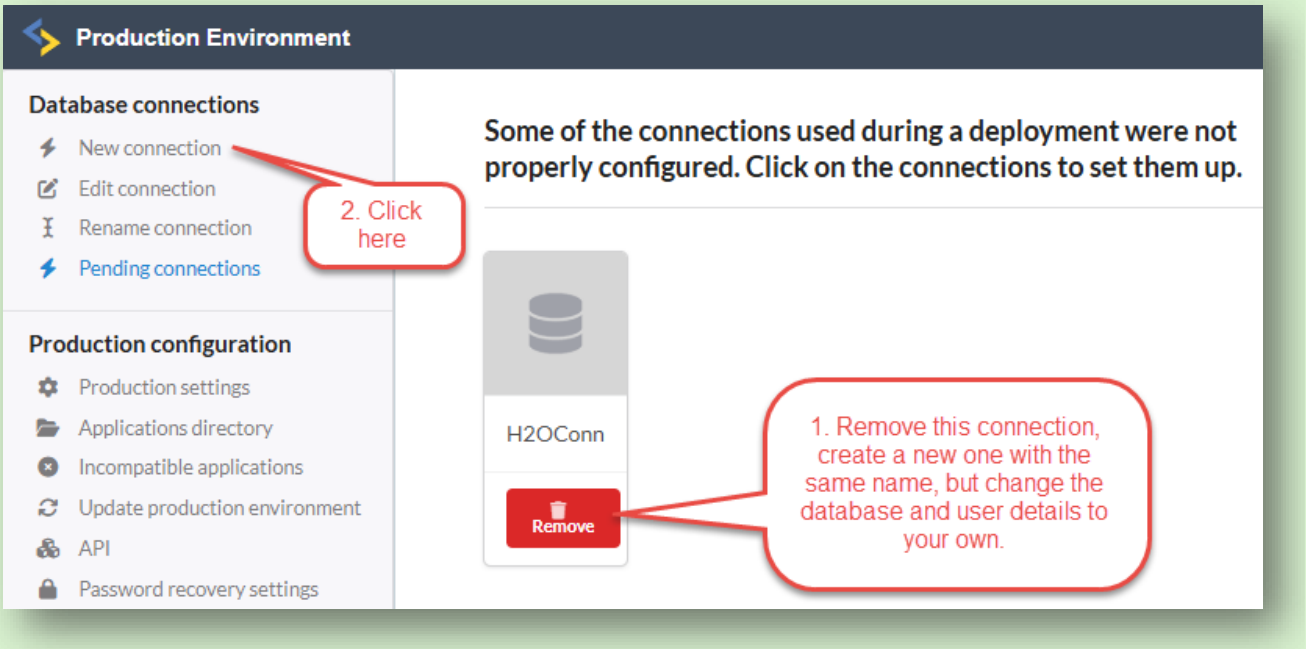
Now you should see this screen.



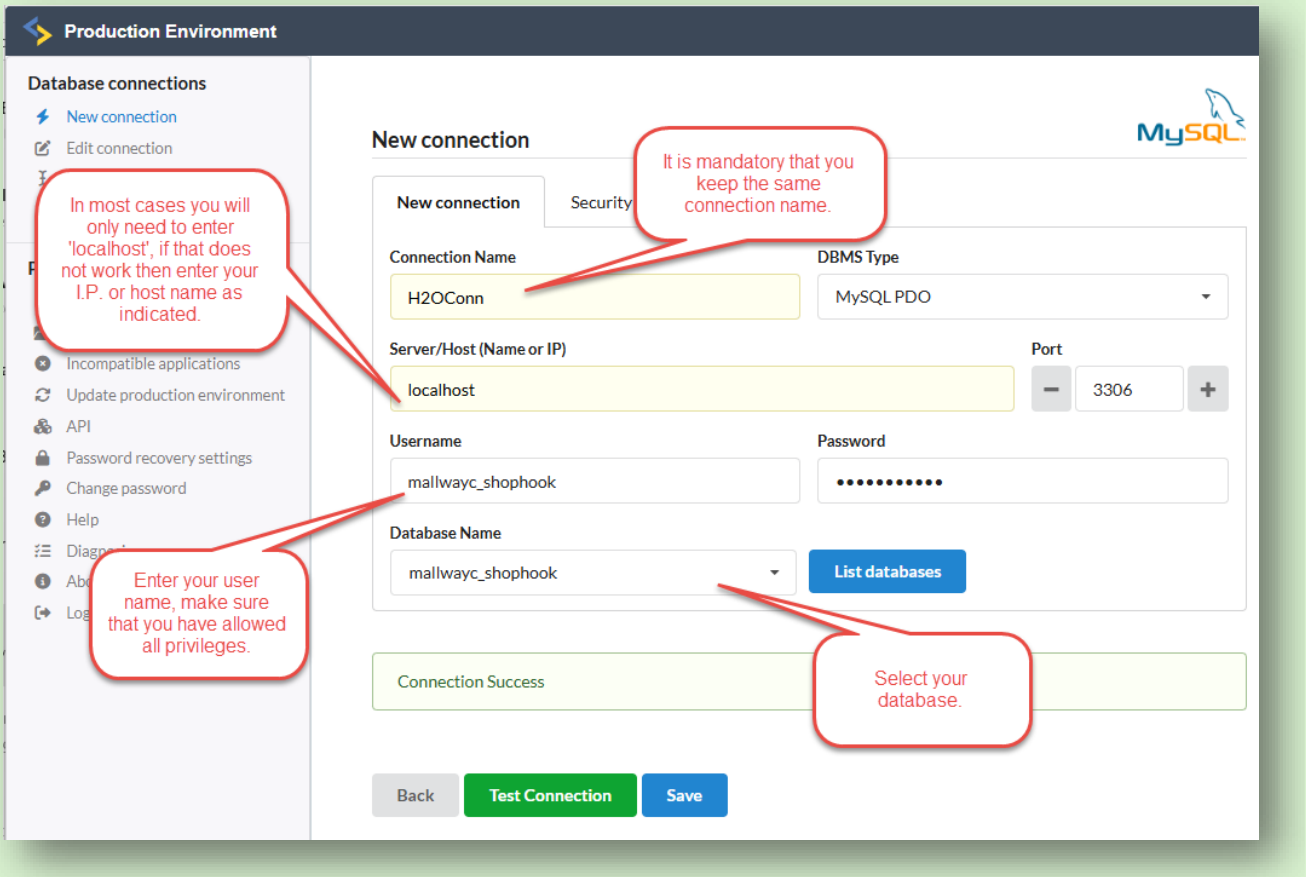
After you have entered your details and the recapthcha details you may have to wait for a few seconds before it takes you to the Production Environment to login.



Enter your new password and login to the Production Environment. It is best to remove the current connection and create a complete new one.



Now enter your database details as seen below.

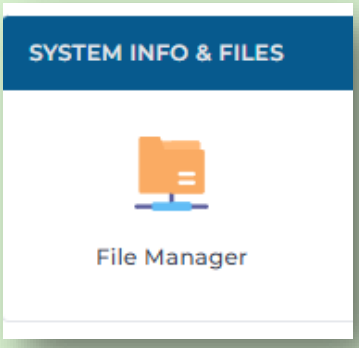


Now that you have made your first database connection the CMS will be fully functional, however, we need to make one more connection for the ecommerce screens to work.

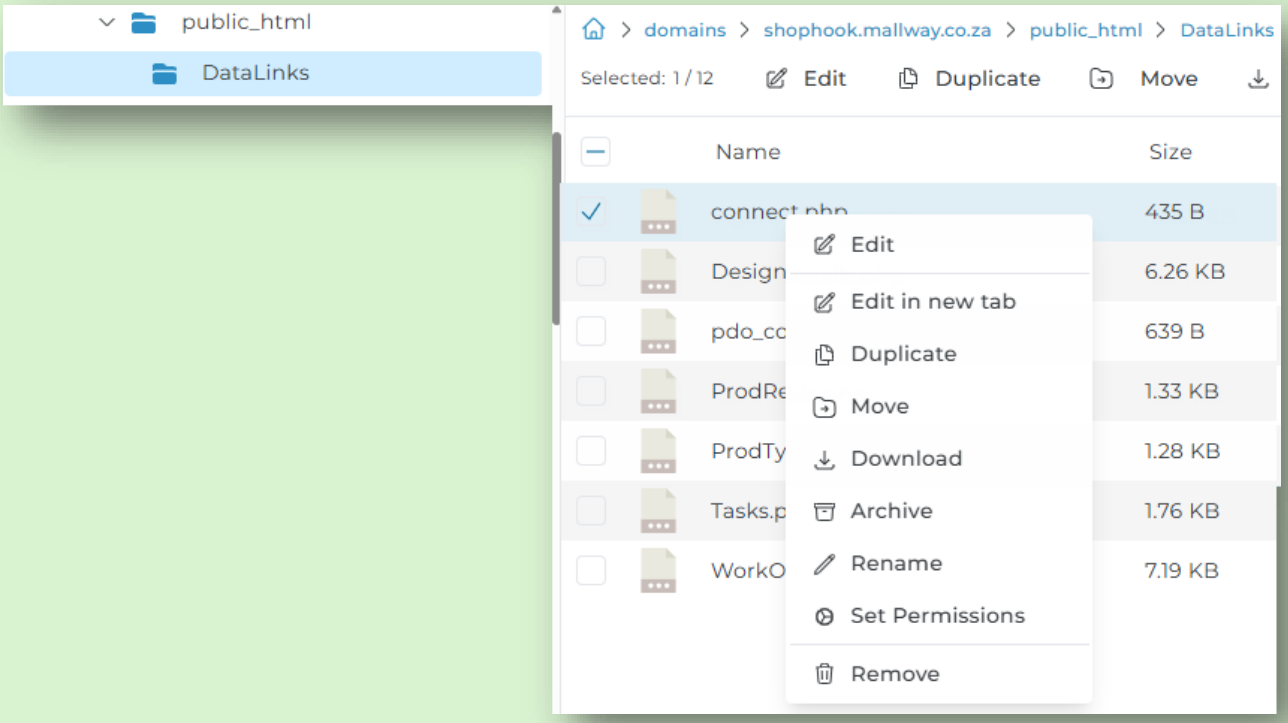
This will be your login details; however, we will get back to this in due course:

https://h2oguru.mallway.co.za/AgencyLogin/AgencyLogin.php

Go back to your Control Panel and click on the File Manager as seen below:



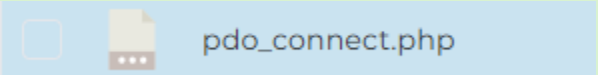
Now scroll to the Folder “DataLinks”, select the file connect.php and Edit in new tab.



Enter your connection details.



Now do the same with the pdo_connect.php



pdo_connect.php

/domains/shophook.mallway.co.za/public_html/DataLinks

Reload file | Save File | Save File As

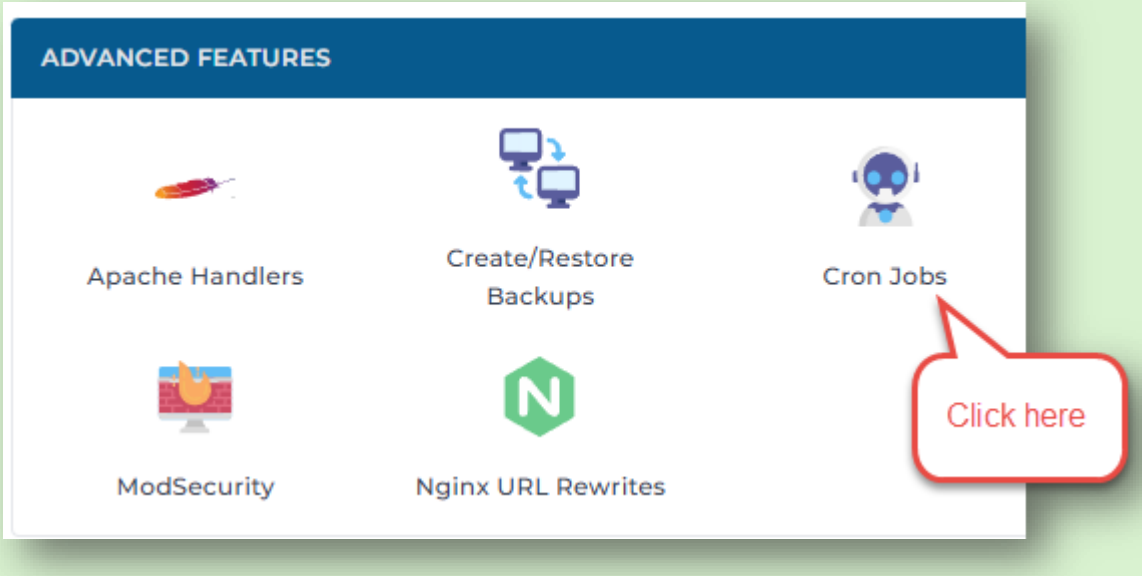
```php
<?php
    // Database credentials - **REPLACE WITH YOUR OWN**
    define('DB_HOST', 'localhost');
    define('DB_USER', 'mallwayc_shophook');
    define('DB_PASS', '***************');
    define('DB_NAME', 'mallwayc_shophook');

    // Attempt to connect to the database using PDO
    try {
        $pdo = new PDO("mysql:host=" . DB_HOST . ";dbname=" . DB_NAME, DB_USER, DB_PASS);
        $pdo->setAttribute(PDO::ATTR_ERRMODE, PDO::ERRMODE_EXCEPTION);
        $pdo->setAttribute(PDO::ATTR_EMULATE_PREPARES, false);
    } catch (PDOException $e) {
        die("Database connection failed: " . $e->getMessage());
    }
?>
```

CRON JOBS SETUP – AUTOMATING PARTS OF THE E-COMMERCE

What is Cron Jobs. Cron Jobs are auto executed command placed on a timer on Linux hosting domains. This is very important as it helps automate many processors without having to have any application open on a timer.

STEP 1:

Go to your domain control panel, then scroll down to Advanced Features and click on Cron Jobs.



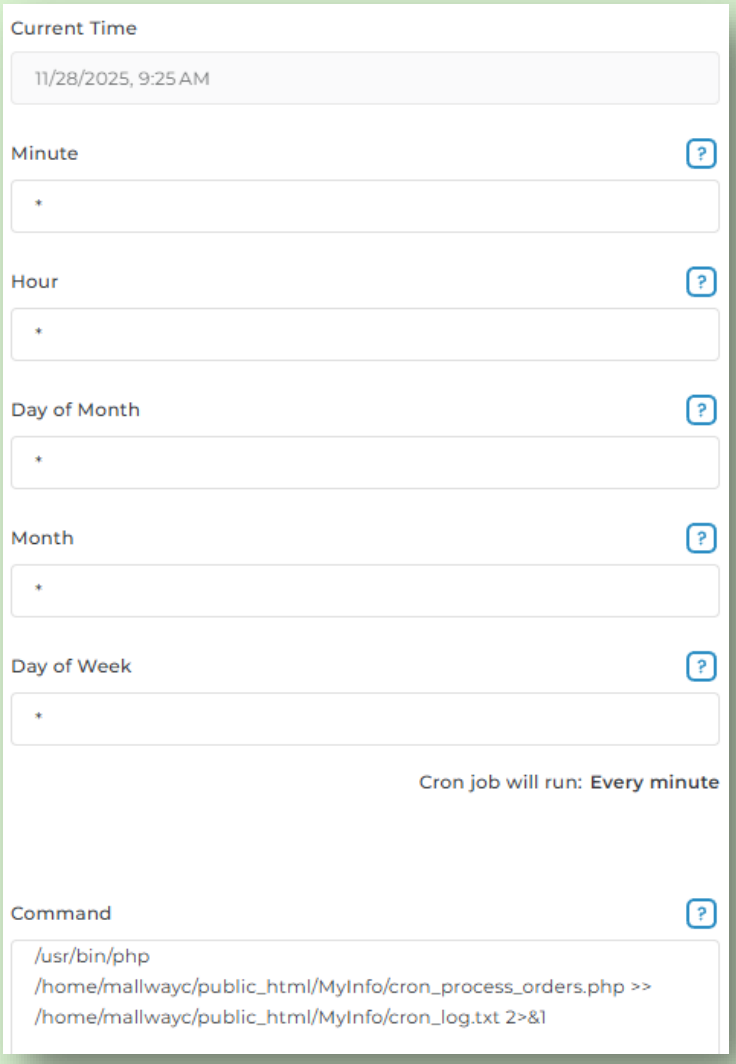
STEP 2:

Click on Create Cron Jobs.



STEP 3:

Level all as is and go to the Command box. Build your command string as per the examples. Just remember to change the domain name to your own domain and, if you install Shophook under a subfolder to also add in the folder name.



Step 4 – Creating a Cron Job

If creating a Cron Job does not work from your domain, then please go to step 5.

Run the path.php file

https://h2oguru.mallway.co.za/MyInfo/path.php (change the domain name to your domain).
Run the above file to get your path for the Cron command setup.

If you are battling to create your Cron command, ask Gemini AI.

Tip: Set your file and folder permissions to a minimum of 755

Important Next Step
Since path.php reveals your internal server structure to the world, **please delete the path.php file** from your server now that you have the information you need.

Example String with no subdirectory for the CRM:

/usr/bin/php /home/mallwayc/public_html/MyInfo/cron_process_orders.php >> /home/mallwayc/public_html/MyInfo/cron_log.txt 2>&1

Example String with AppCMS subdirectory for the CRM:

/usr/bin/php /home/mallwayc/ public_html/AppCMS/MyInfo/cron_process_orders.php >> /home/mallwayc/public_html/ AppCMS/MyInfo/cron_log.txt 2>&1

Example String with subdomain h2oguru.mallway.co.za:

/usr/bin/php /home/mallwayc/h2oguru.mallway.co.za/public_html/MyInfo/cron_process_orders.php >> /home/mallwayc/public_html/MyInfo/cron_log.txt 2>&1

Example String with subdomain h2oguru.mallway.co.za and AppCMS subdirectory:

/usr/bin/php /home/mallwayc/h2oguru.mallway.co.za/public_html/ AppCMS/MyInfo/cron_process_orders.php >> /home/mallwayc/public_html/MyInfo/cron_log.txt 2>&1

Tip: The >> … cron_log.txt part will save the output to a text file. Check this file after 5 minutes to see if it is working or if there are PHP errors! Once it works perfectly, remove that part to save disk space.

Step 5 (Optional – If Cron Jobs does not work)

Option A: cron-job.org (Free & Reliable)

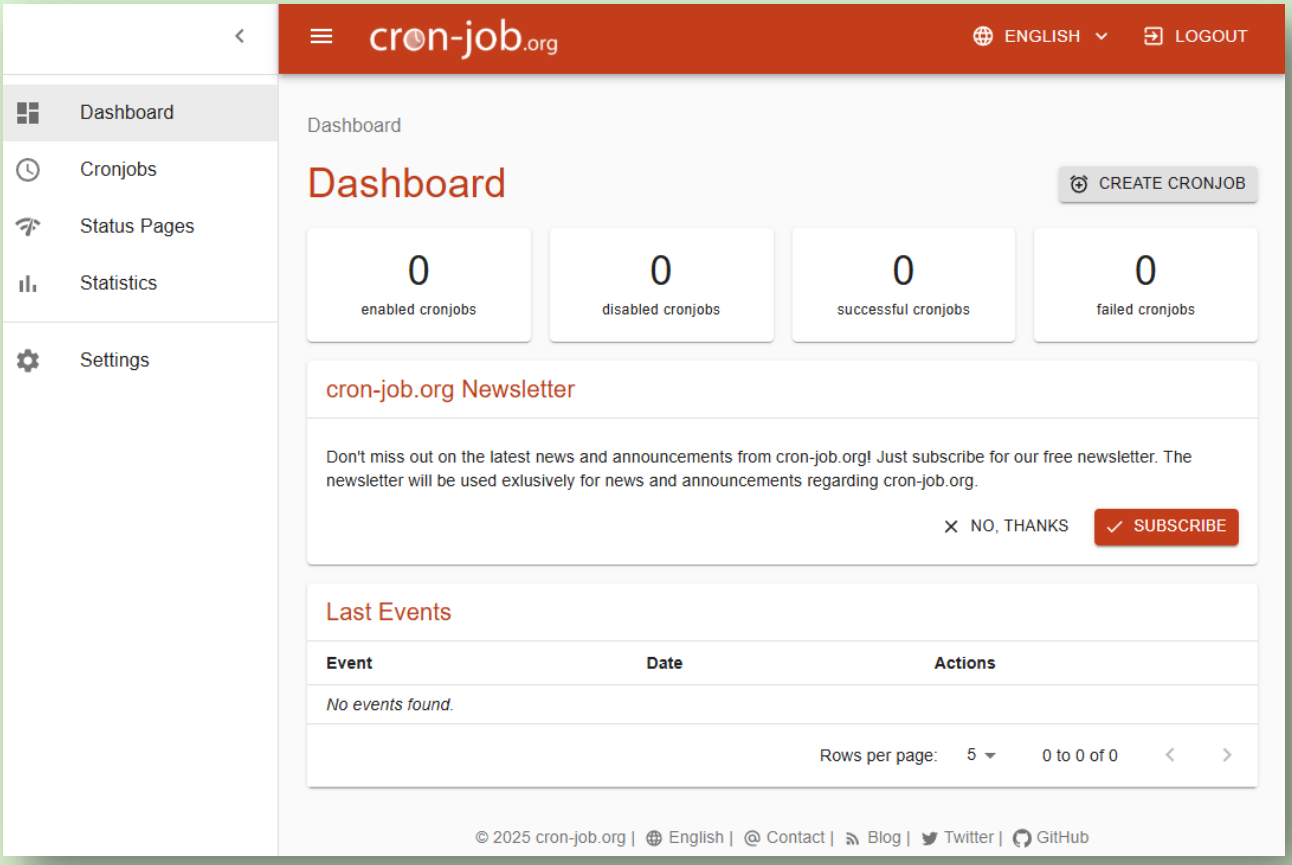
1. Go to **cron-job.org** and sign up for a free account.
2. Click **"Create Cronjob"**.
3. **Title:** Process Orders
4. **URL:** https://h2oguru.mallway.co.za/MyInfo/cron_process_orders.php
5. **Schedule:** Select "Every 1 minute".

6. **Create.**

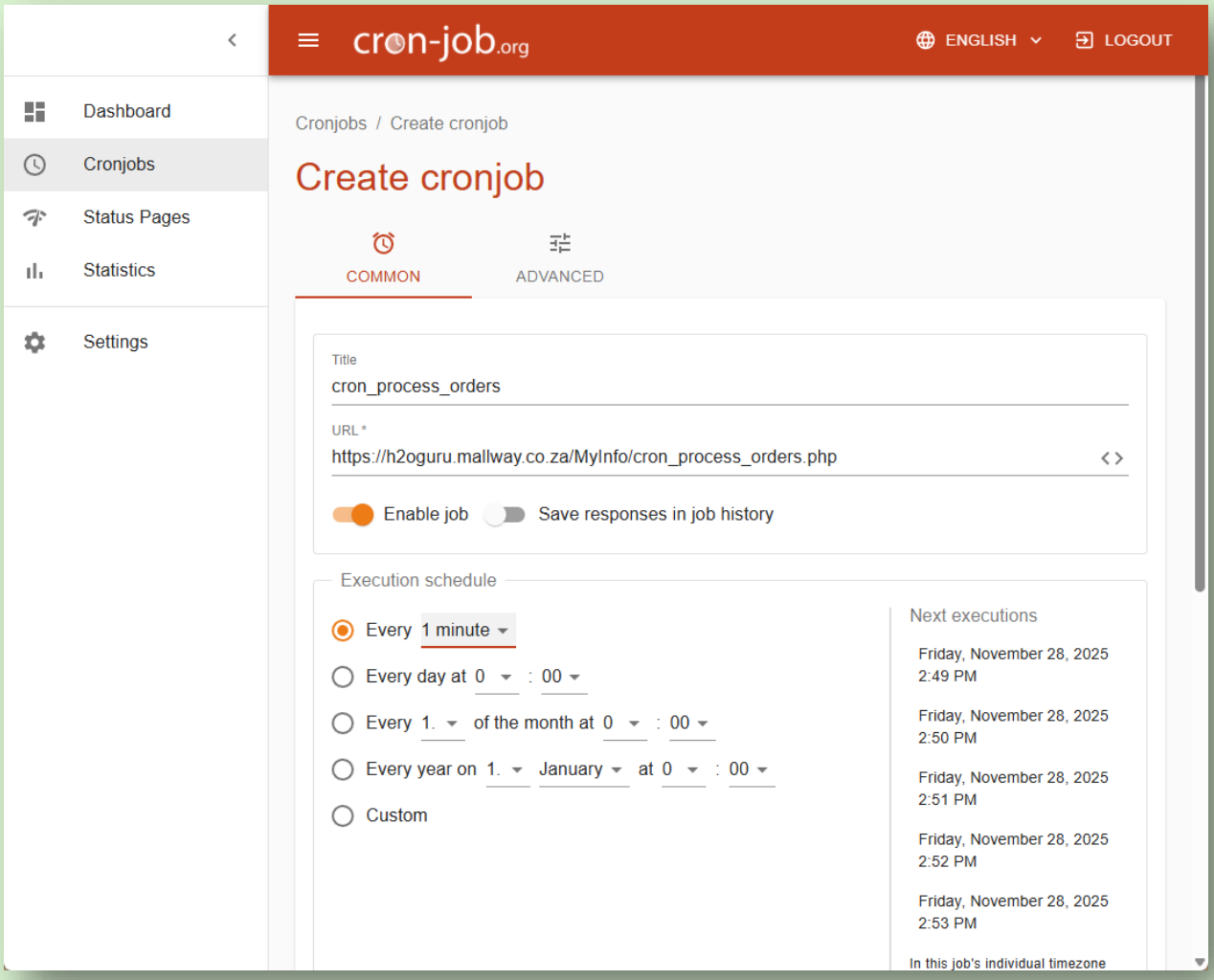
Done. This bypasses all the /usr/bin/php path nonsense, bypasses the "Jailed Shell," and bypasses the file permission errors. You will also get a nice dashboard showing you exactly when it ran and if it succeeded.

Login to cron-job.org

Once you have created an account and successfully activated it from your email. Login to your account and you should see your dashboard.



Click on CREATE CRONJOB button in the top right hand corner.



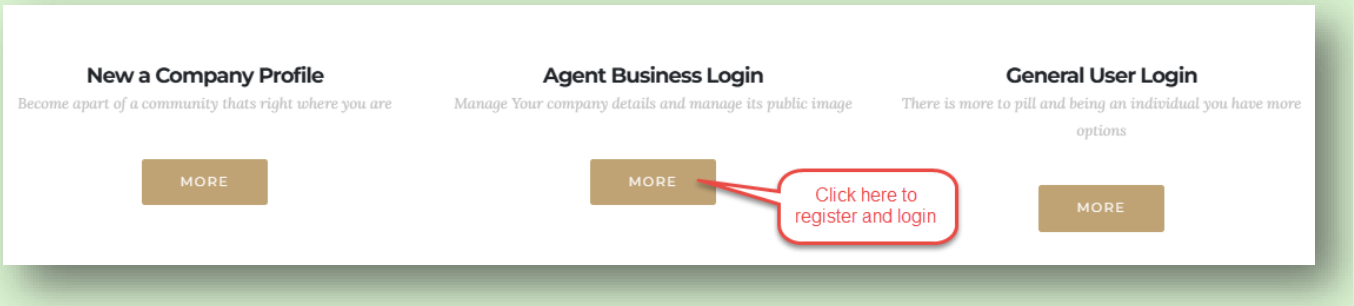
- Enter a Title.
- Add the Url: https://h2oguru.mallway.co.za/MyInfo/cron_process_orders.php (but just remember to change it to your own domain.
- Enter your execution schedule.
- Click on Create

Tip: If your on-line sales are not that frequent then you can change your schedule to 5 minutes or 10 minutes or even more.

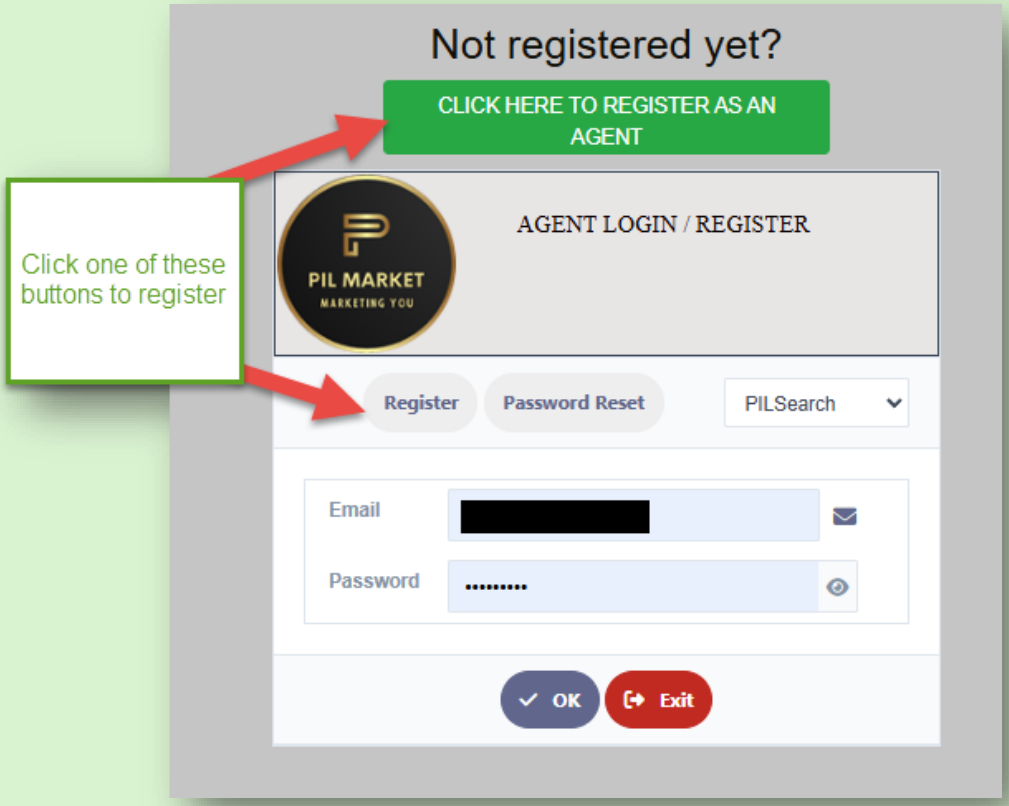
We are now 99% done with the installation. To finish off we need to get 3 API keys, let's start with the API key from PIL Market. Who is PIL Market? We are PIL Market! We will present PIL Market at your request.

For now, please click on https://pilmobi.com/

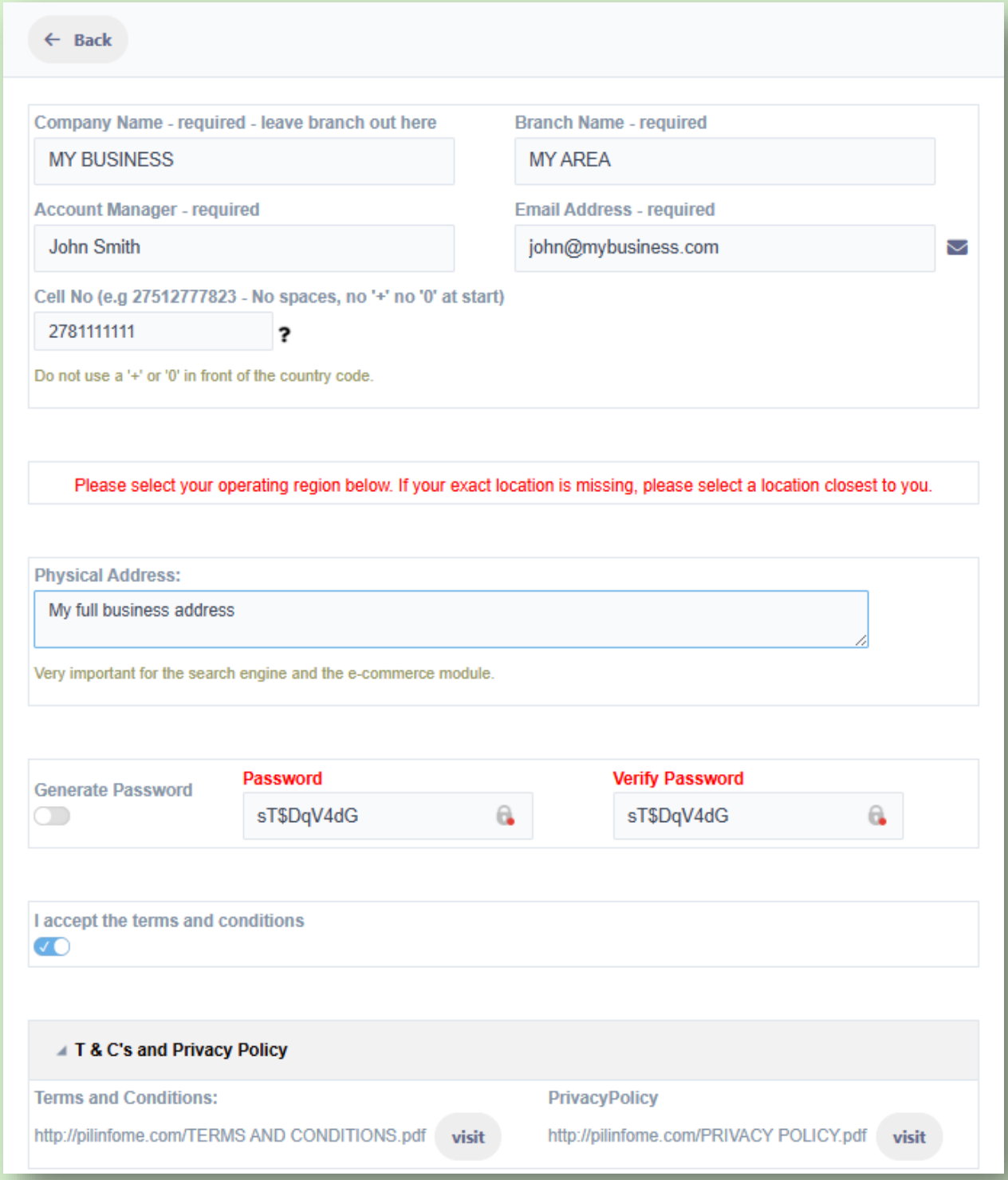
Scroll to the bottom of the webpage and click on the following button:



Click on one of the two buttons to Register your business with PIL.



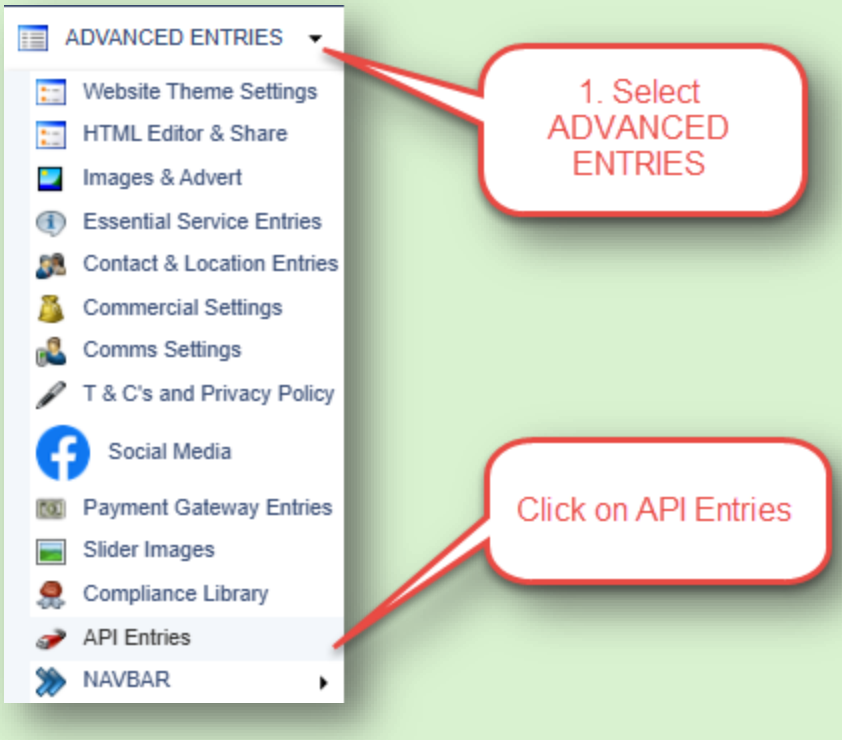
Enter your business details, address, and password. Accept terms and conditions then click OK.



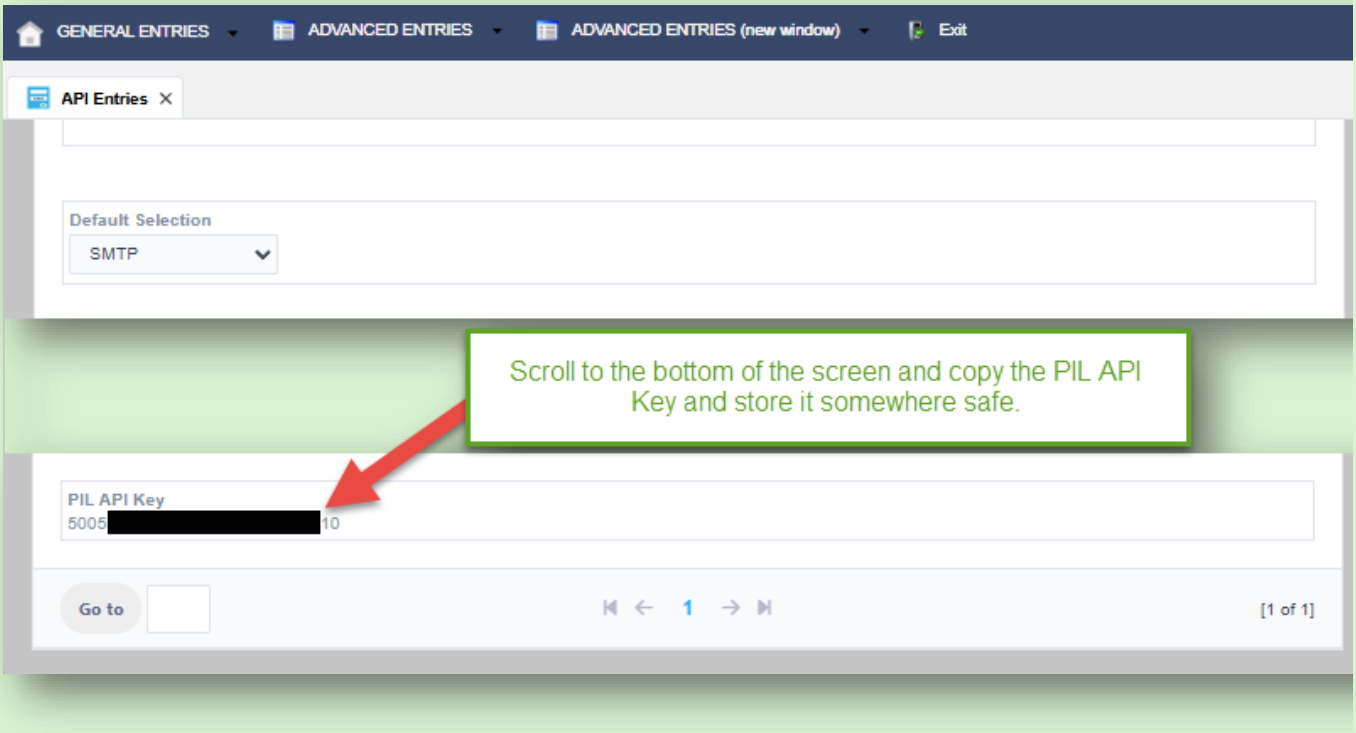
Once registered, return to your PIL Market login screen and log in with your new details. You will be presented with an advanced menu that is the core functionality of PIL Market that can be presented in request.



Record your PIL Market ID number to a safe document as you will need to enter it later into Shophook. Then click on AGENCY MENU to open the agents menu where we will be getting out API Key.



From the agency menu, select advanced entries and then click on API Entries.



Copy your API Key to a safe and secure place.

How to Log In to Shophook:

Navigate to your login URL in your browser. Please replace mydomain.com with your actual domain name.

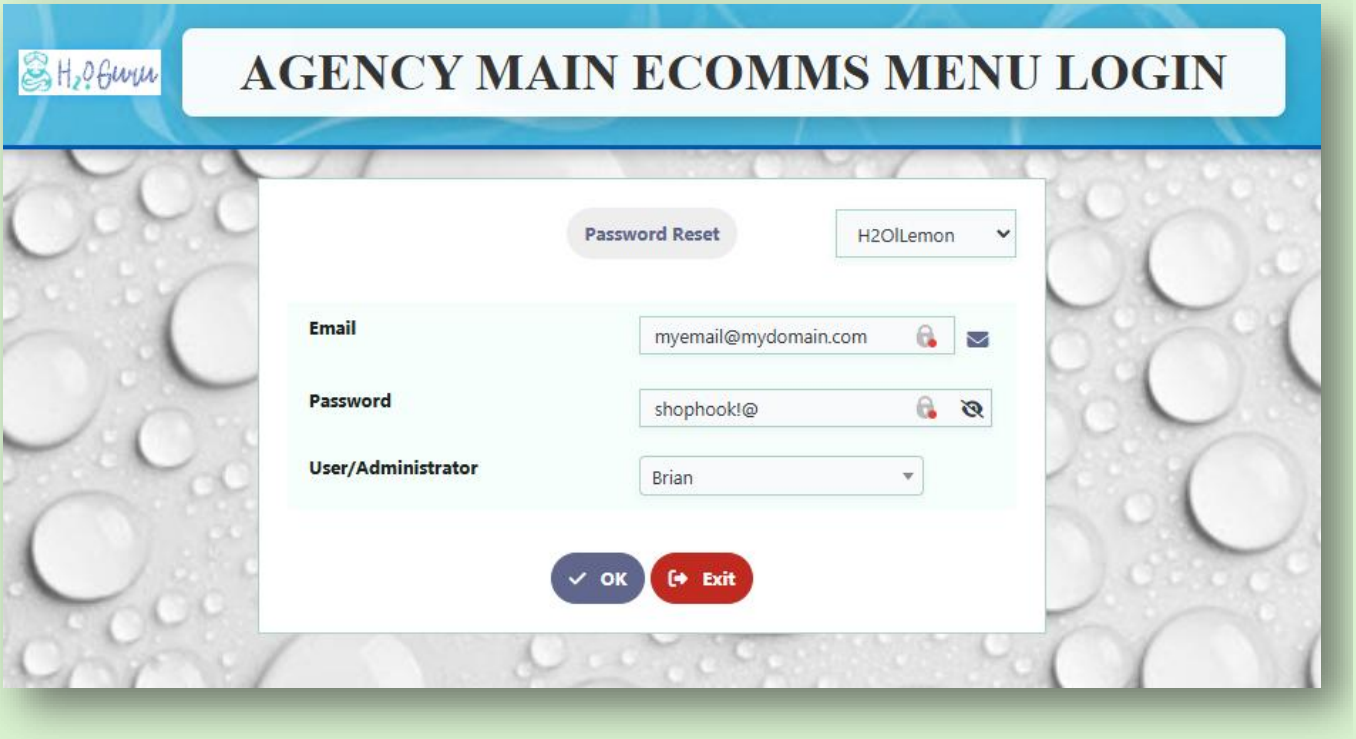
- **Standard Installation:** https://mydomain.com/MainLogin/MainLogin.php
- **Sub-folder Installation:** (e.g., if installed under "AppCMS") https://mydomain.com/AppCMS/AgencyLogin/AgencyLogin.php

Default Credentials Once on the login page, use the following details:

- **Email:** myemail@mydomain.com
- **Password:** shophook!@

Troubleshooting If the default credentials do not work, you must update the database manually:

1. Open the database table named **AgentDetails**.
2. Locate the field **AMEmail** and enter your desired email address.
3. Locate the field **AMPassword** and enter your desired password.



ADDING IN YOUR PIL AGENT ID AND PIL API KEY

For final activation of your PIL Account, from the E-Commerce Menu, click on Agent Details and add in your copied PIL Agent ID and the PIL API Key.

Account Activation

Once you have done all of this you can send an email to support@pilmobi.com to activate your account with your PIL ID.

