

1 Server prerequisites

Use WHM/root access. Point your chosen domain to this server separately. The app must remain outside public_html.

- Node.js 22.13+ (Node 24 LTS also supported).
- Apache proxy modules, AutoSSL and Terminal/SSH access.
- Keep only one app process because the included database is SQLite.

2 Install and verify Node.js

WHM > EasyApache 4 > Customize > Additional Packages > enable ea-nodejs22 > Provision.

```
/opt/cpanel/ea-nodejs22/bin/node --version
/opt/cpanel/ea-nodejs22/bin/npm --version
```

3 Upload the application privately

Upload and extract the supplied ZIP so server.js and package.json are directly inside the folder below. No npm install is required.

```
/home/<CPANEL_USER>/alab-job-portal/
chown -R <CPANEL_USER>:<CPANEL_USER> /home/<CPANEL_USER>/alab-job-portal
chmod 750 data storage storage/resumes
```

4 Configure production environment

Copy .env.example to .env. Set the final HR credentials before first launch; the initial administrator is seeded only when the database is empty.

```
NODE_ENV=production PORT=8080 TRUST_PROXY=true
APP_URL=https://<YOUR_DOMAIN>
APP_SECRET=<openssl rand -hex 48>
ADMIN_EMAIL=<HR_EMAIL> ADMIN_PASSWORD=<STRONG_PASSWORD>
SMTP_ENABLED=true SMTP_HOST=<MAIL_HOST> SMTP_PORT=465
SMTP_SECURE=true SMTP_USERNAME=<MAILBOX> SMTP_PASSWORD=<PASSWORD>
chmod 600 .env
```

5 Bind to localhost and test

Keep port 8080 private; Apache will publish the portal through HTTPS.

```
sed -i "s/'0.0.0.0'/'127.0.0.1'/" server.js
/opt/cpanel/ea-nodejs22/bin/node --experimental-sqlite server.js
curl -I http://127.0.0.1:8080
```

6 Create the permanent systemd service

Create /etc/systemd/system/alab-job-portal.service with the following essential values:

```
[Service]
User=<CPANEL_USER> Group=<CPANEL_USER>
WorkingDirectory=/home/<CPANEL_USER>/alab-job-portal
ExecStart=/opt/cpanel/ea-nodejs22/bin/node --experimental-sqlite server.js
Restart=always
systemctl daemon-reload && systemctl enable --now alab-job-portal
systemctl status alab-job-portal
```

7 Connect Apache reverse proxy

Create the same jobportal.conf under both std and ssl userdata paths for your chosen domain.

```
ProxyPreserveHost On
ProxyPass / http://127.0.0.1:8080/ retry=0 timeout=60
ProxyPassReverse / http://127.0.0.1:8080/
LimitRequestBody 7340032
/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/ensure_vhost_includes --user=<CPANEL_USER>
/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/rebuildhttpdconf
apachectl configtest && /usr/local/cpanel/scripts/restartsrv_httpd
```

8 SSL, validation and daily backup

- Run AutoSSL and enable Force HTTPS Redirect for the selected domain.
- Open / for candidates and /admin for HR; test application, email, duplicate prevention, resume access, Kanban drag/drop, favorites and CSV export.
- Back up data/portal.sqlite* and storage/resumes/ together every day.

```
journalctl -u alab-job-portal -n 100 --no-pager
systemctl restart alab-job-portal
```