

BookStack VPS Migration & Setup Documentation

Summary

This documentation outlines the successful migration of a self-hosted BookStack instance from a local Proxmox environment to a cloud-hosted VPS. The goal was to maintain all user data, uploaded content, and configuration with minimal downtime.

Live Instance: <https://docs.natenetworks.com>

Technologies Used

Infrastructure

- **Host Provider:** Hostinger VPS
- **Operating System:** Ubuntu Server 22.04 LTS
- **Architecture:** 64-bit KVM VPS

Core Stack (LAMP)

- **Web Server:** Apache 2
- **Database:** MariaDB (MySQL-compatible)
- **PHP:** 8.2 with required extensions
- **Application:** BookStack v24.02.2 (Laravel-based)

Domain Configuration

- **DNS:** A record for `docs.natenetworks.com` pointing to VPS public IP
- **URL Configuration:** Set in `.env` and updated via `artisan` command

Tools Used

- **SSH Client:** PuTTY
 - **SFTP Client:** WinSCP
 - **Source Control:** Git
 - **PHP Dependency Manager:** Composer
 - **Laravel CLI:** Artisan
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☐ Migration Process

1. VPS Preparation

Logged into the VPS via SSH and installed required packages:

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y  
sudo apt install apache2 mariadb-server php8.2 php8.2-common php8.2-cli php8.2-mbstring php8.2-curl php8.2-xml php8.2-mysql unzip git curl composer
```

2. BookStack Deployment

Cloned the official BookStack repository:

```
sudo git clone https://github.com/BookStackApp/BookStack.git /var/www/bookstack  
cd /var/www/bookstack  
git checkout 24.02.2
```

Installed PHP dependencies:

```
composer install --no-dev --optimize-autoloader
```

Set correct file permissions:

```
sudo chown -R www-data:www-data /var/www/bookstack  
sudo chmod -R 755 /var/www/bookstack
```

3. Configuration

- Restored `.env` file from backup
- Updated `APP_URL` to: `https://docs.natenetworks.com`

- Verified required PHP extensions
 - Ensured Apache service was active
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4. Database Setup

- Created database and user credentials for BookStack
- Restored MySQL dump from local backup:

```
mysql -u bookstack -p bookstack < /tmp/bookstack.backup_5_3_25.sql
```

5. File Migration

Uploaded archive of uploaded files and customizations via SFTP, then extracted:

```
tar -xzf /tmp/bookstack-files-backup_5_3_25.tar.gz -C /var/www/bookstack
```

6. Laravel Maintenance Commands

Cleared and rebuilt application cache:

```
php artisan config:clear  
php artisan cache:clear  
php artisan view:clear
```

Updated stored URLs in the database:

```
php artisan bookstack:update-url http://192.168.1.236 https://docs.natenetworks.com
```

7. Final Testing

Restarted Apache and verified everything was operational:

```
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

- Public site loaded successfully
 - All pages, users, and uploads migrated cleanly
 - Admin accounts remained intact
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📄 Notes

- All user and admin accounts retained post-migration
 - SQL and file backups preserved externally
 - Public/private visibility was maintained
 - SMTP email is not currently configured (`.env` uses defaults)
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Migration Date: May 4th, 2025

Lead Engineer: Nathaniel Nash

Environment: Production (Public Access)

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