



OISouq

Arabic Classifieds Marketplace

Installation & User Guide

Complete installation walkthrough
Admin panel management guide
User dashboard & ad posting
Messaging, notifications & FAQ

PHP 7.4+

MySQL

RTL Arabic

Responsive

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1

System Requirements

What your hosting must support

Verify that your server or hosting meets all requirements below before installation.

Requirement	Min. Version	Recommended	Status
PHP	7.4	8.1 / 8.2	Required
MySQL / MariaDB	5.7 / 10.3	8.0 / 10.6	Required
Web Server	Apache or Nginx	Apache + .htaccess	Required
mod_rewrite	Enabled	Enabled	Required
PDO + PDO_MySQL	Any	Any	Required
GD Library	GD 2.x	Any	Required
mbstring, json, fileinfo	Any	Any	Required
Disk Space	50 MB	500 MB+	Varies
SSL Certificate	Optional	Strongly advised	Optional



TIP: In cPanel, check PHP version at: Home > Software > Select PHP Version. Most 8.x shared hosts support PHP by default.

2 Auto Installation Wizard

Recommended - complete setup in under 5 minutes

OISouq includes `install.php` — a smart wizard that creates your database, imports the schema, and sets up your admin account with no command line needed.

1

Upload all project files

Upload the full project to your hosting root (`public_html`, `htdocs`, `www`) via FTP or cPanel File Manager.

2

Create a MySQL database

In cPanel: MySQL Databases > create database > create user > assign user with ALL Keep all PRIVILEGES. three values handy.

3

Open the installer

In your browser, navigate to: <https://yoursite.com/install.php>

4

Enter your database credentials

Fill in DB Host (usually `localhost`), DB Name, DB Username, DB Password. All tables are created automatically.

5

Create your administrator account

Enter a valid email and strong password (min 6 characters) for the main admin account.

6

Done - your site is live

All tables created, sample categories imported. You are redirected to the login page.



SECURITY: Delete `install.php` and `fix_database.php` from your server immediately after installation.

3 Manual Installation

Use this if the wizard fails or you prefer full control

Follow each step carefully. This method imports the database schema manually via phpMyAdmin.

Step A	Copy the config template -- Duplicate includes/config.example.php and rename the copy to includes/config.php
Step B	Edit config.php -- Open the file and enter your DB_HOST, DB_NAME, DB_USER, DB_PASS, and SITE_URL
Step C	Import the database schema -- In phpMyAdmin: select database > Import tab > choose database/schema.sql > click Go
Step D	Run the database fixer -- Open in browser: yoursite.com/fix_database.php?run=yes_fix_now
Step E	Delete sensitive setup files -- Remove fix_database.php and install.php from your server when done

config.php -- required values to fill in:

```
define("DB_HOST", "localhost"); // Usually: localhost
define("DB_NAME", "your_database_name"); // Database name from cPanel
define("DB_USER", "your_db_username"); // Database username
define("DB_PASS", "your_password"); // Database password
define("SITE_NAME", "My Marketplace"); // Displayed site name
define("SITE_URL", "https://yoursite.com"); // No trailing slash
define("DEBUG_MODE", false); // true only in development
```

4

First-Time Setup

Configure your site right after installation

* 1. Log in as Administrator

Go to yoursite.com/auth/login.php and sign in with the email and password you set during installation.

* 2. Configure Site Settings

Admin Panel > Settings: update the site name, contact email, phone number, and ads per page count.

* 3. Create Your Categories

Admin Panel > Categories: add your listing categories (Cars, Electronics, Real Estate) before any users post ads.

* 4. Set Upload Folder Permissions

Ensure uploads/ has permission 755. In cPanel File Manager: right-click uploads > Change Permissions > 755.

* 5. Verify mod_rewrite is Active

If inner pages return 404 errors, confirm mod_rewrite is enabled. Contact your hosting provider if needed.

5

Admin Panel

<yoursite.com/admin/index.php>

The admin panel gives you complete control over every aspect of your marketplace.

Dashboard	Live statistics: users, ads, messages. Activity chart. Quick-access action buttons.
Users	View, search, activate, suspend, promote to admin, or delete user accounts.
Ads	Browse all ads. Change status (Active/Inactive/Sold/Banned). Delete any listing.
Reports	Review abuse reports. Tabs: Pending, Resolved, Dismissed. Resolve, dismiss, or ban the reported ad.
Categories	Add, edit, delete listing categories. Assign a Font Awesome icon and sort order.
Settings	Configure site name, email, phone, ads per page. All changes take effect immediately.

6 Managing Categories

Admin Panel > Categories

How to add a new category:

1

Go to Admin Panel

Click "Categories" in the left sidebar menu.

2

Use the Add form

The form is displayed at the top of the categories page.

3

Fill in all fields

Enter: Arabic name, English name, Font Awesome icon class (e.g. fa-car), sort order.

4

Save

The category appears immediately in the navigation bar and homepage grid.

Common Font Awesome icon classes:

Category	Icon Class	Category	Icon Class
Cars & Vehicles	fa-car	Phones & Electronics	fa-mobile-alt
Real Estate	fa-home	Clothing & Fashion	fa-tshirt
Furniture	fa-couch	Sports & Fitness	fa-futbol
Tools & DIY	fa-tools	Books & Education	fa-book
Animals & Pets	fa-paw	Jobs & Services	fa-briefcase
Computers & Laptops	fa-laptop	Jewelry & Watches	fa-gem

7

User Dashboard

<yoursite.com/dashboard/index.php>

Every registered user has a personal dashboard accessible from the top navigation bar after signing in.

Section	URL Path	Description
Overview	dashboard/index.php	Stats: active ads, messages, favorites. Recent activity summary.
My Ads	dashboard/ads.php	All posted ads. View, Edit, Pause, Activate, Delete.
Messages	dashboard/messages.php	All conversations sorted by most recent. Unread counter badge.
Notifications	dashboard/notifications.php	All alerts. Mark all as read in one click.
Favorites	dashboard/favorites.php	Saved listings in a card grid. One-click remove.
Profile	dashboard/profile.php	Edit name, phone, city, bio, and avatar. Change password.

8 Posting a New Ad

Step-by-step walkthrough from start to publish

- 1

Click the Post Ad button

The button is in the top navigation on every page. You must be logged in.
- 2

Write a clear specific title

Minimum 5 characters. Example: "Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra 256GB -- Mint Condition".
- 3

Select Category and City

Choose the most relevant category and the city where the item is located.
- 4

Write a detailed Description

Minimum 20 characters. Include specs, condition details, and reason for selling.
- 5

Set Price and Condition

Enter a price or tick "Free". Select condition: New / Like New / Used.
- 6

Phone Number is auto-filled

Your profile phone fills automatically. Toggle "Show phone on ad" to control visibility.
- 7

Upload Photos

Drag and drop up to 8 photos (JPG, PNG, WEBP, max 5 MB each). First photo = main thumbnail.
- 8

Click Publish Ad

Your listing appears immediately on the homepage, search results, and dashboard.

Ad Form -- Field Reference

Field	Required	Notes
Title	Yes	Minimum 5 characters. Clear and specific.
Category	Yes	Choose the closest matching category.
City	Yes	Select from the dropdown list.
Description	Yes	Minimum 20 characters. More detail = faster sale.

Price	No	Leave at 0 or tick Free for giveaways.
Condition	No	New / Like New / Used. Defaults to Used.
Phone Number	No	Auto-filled from your profile. Toggle per-ad.
Photos	No	Up to 8 images. First upload = main thumbnail.

9 **Messaging & Notifications** Internal communication system

How to send a message to a seller:

- 1

Open any listing page

Navigate to the ad you are interested in.
- 2

Click Send Message

A message dialog appears. Login is required.
- 3

Write your message and send

Type your inquiry and press Send. The seller is notified instantly.
- 4

Check your inbox

Go to Dashboard > Messages to see all conversations.
- 5

Reply to a message

Click any conversation to open it and type your reply directly.

Smart Phone Reveal System

show_phone = ON	A "Tap to reveal" button appears on the listing. Clicking it shows the sellers number and a WhatsApp direct-contact button.
show_phone = OFF	No phone number is shown at all. Buyers can only contact the seller via the internal messaging system.
Auto-fill	Your saved profile phone pre-fills the field automatically when posting. Editable or clearable per individual ad.

10

Frequently Asked Questions

Common issues and their solutions

Q1. Images are not uploading, or uploaded images appear broken.

A. Confirm the uploads/ folder exists and has permission 755. In cPanel File Manager: right-click uploads > Change Permissions > 755. Also verify the GD extension is enabled in your PHP configuration.

Q2. I see a 500 Internal Server Error on some pages.

A. Temporarily set DEBUG_MODE to true in config.php, then reload the page. Check the server error log (cPanel > Errors). Most common causes: incorrect permissions, a missing PHP extension, or a typo in config.php.

Q3. install.php shows a database connection error.

A. Check DB_HOST (usually localhost, sometimes 127.0.0.1). Confirm the MySQL user has ALL PRIVILEGES on the selected database. Look for typos in the password field.

Q4. Inner pages return a 404 Not Found error.

A. For Apache: ensure mod_rewrite is enabled and .htaccess was uploaded to the root folder. For Nginx: add a try_files rule to your server block -- your hosting provider can help with this.

Q5. How do I change the site name or logo?

A. Site name: Admin Panel > Settings. To change the logo icon, open includes/header.php and replace the Font Awesome class in the logo element.

Q6. How do I reset the admin password?

A. Visit yoursite.com/auth/forgot-password.php and enter the admin email to receive a reset link. Or update the hash directly in phpMyAdmin via the users table.

Q7. fix_database.php shows SQL errors.

A. This is expected when some columns already exist. The script is safe to run multiple times -- it skips existing columns and only adds missing ones.

Q8. Does OISouq work on shared hosting?

A. Yes. Built and tested on shared hosting: Hostinger, Namecheap, GoDaddy, and SiteGround. A VPS or dedicated server is not required.

Complete Feature List

Everything included in OISouq v1.0

Public Website

- ✓ Homepage with featured ads, categories grid, and live site statistics
- ✓ Advanced search with 5 filters: city, category, price range, condition, sort
- ✓ Full ad detail page with image gallery (up to 8 photos)
- ✓ Smart phone reveal -- click-to-show number with WhatsApp button
- ✓ Related ads section on every listing page
- ✓ Abuse reporting system with full admin review workflow
- ✓ All-categories page showing ad count per category
- ✓ Social sharing: WhatsApp, Twitter, and copy-link

User Accounts

- ✓ Registration, login, and forgot-password flow
- ✓ Full profile editor: name, phone, city, bio, and avatar photo
- ✓ Secure password change with current-password verification

Ad Management

- ✓ Post new ads with drag-and-drop multi-image upload (up to 8 photos)
- ✓ Edit any field of a published listing at any time
- ✓ Change ad status: Active / Inactive / Sold
- ✓ Phone number auto-fill with per-ad visibility toggle
- ✓ Server-side image resize and compression on upload

Messaging & Engagement

- ✓ Private messaging tied to each individual ad
- ✓ Conversation inbox sorted by most recent message
- ✓ Unread badge counters in navigation bar and dashboard
- ✓ Full notification center with mark-all-as-read action
- ✓ Favorites: save and remove listings with one click

Admin Panel

- ✓ Dashboard with live stats and registration activity chart
- ✓ User management: view, search, suspend, promote, delete
- ✓ Ad management: status changes, search, and deletion
- ✓ Reports: three-tab workflow with resolve, dismiss, and ban actions
- ✓ Category management: icons, names, and sort order
- ✓ Site-wide settings panel with instant effect

Technical

- ✓ Automatic installer wizard (install.php)
- ✓ Auto database migration -- missing columns added on first run
- ✓ CSRF protection on all forms and API endpoints
- ✓ Bcrypt password hashing (cost factor 12)
- ✓ PDO prepared statements -- SQL injection safe
- ✓ Input sanitization on all user-submitted data
- ✓ Mobile-first responsive design: phones, tablets, desktops
- ✓ Full RTL Arabic layout -- no third-party plugins required
- ✓ Debug mode for development environments

Thank you for choosing OISouq -- Wishing you many successful sales!

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