

# OnApp Basics

The OnApp cloud hosting engine enables hosting providers to set up and manage private and public cloud servers, and virtual servers, quickly and easily using commodity hardware.

Basically, virtualization is the partitioning of a physical [server](#) into smaller virtual servers. Through a user-friendly Control Panel, you can deploy virtual machines running different operating systems and their applications on the same hardware at the same time, dynamically allocate resources, deploy services, save on resource consumption, and much more.

With flexible control of your cloud environment, OnApp lets you make best use of your hardware and create efficient, cost-effective server clusters for development, staging, and production environments.