

Register & Install the Agent

Installation

When adding a pool, you will be asked whether the pool will be for HAProxy nodes.

Only select the HAProxy Pool Template if the backend server(s) are currently running, or will be running, HAProxy.

For all other server types—including cPanel, OpenLiteSpeed, MySQL/MariaDB, and general-purpose Linux hosts—select **Generic Linux**.

Choosing the correct template ensures that the UI enables the appropriate features and management tools for that server type. If you accidentally select the wrong template, remove any members from the pool and recreate the pool on the correct template.

Recommended: one-shot from the dashboard

You can access the UI using <https://serversctl.com/app> or <https://balctl.com/app>. Only the public websites are different.

1. Register an account at <https://serversctl.com/app/>
2. Add a new pool. <https://serversctl.com/app/sites>
 - Servers can be pooled together. For example, cPanel Servers, LiteSpeed, MariaDB/MySQL all use the **Generic Linux template**, or HAProxy servers use the dedicated **HAProxy template**.
3. Select **Add Member**. The modal generates a paste-ready command that:
 - Ensures `unzip` + `python3` (via `apt` or `dnf/yum`).
 - Downloads <https://download.serversctl.com/agent.zip>.
 - Runs `balctl-agent.sh --enrol --key ... --hostname ... --api-base ...`.
 - Writes `/etc/balctl/agent.env`, runs `--update`, enables `systemd`.
4. The ServersCTL UI will now start to report agent information.
 - See troubleshooting if you have problems.

To add further members to a pool. Keep using the Add Member button.

Files after install

Path	Role
<code>/usr/local/bin/balctl_heartbeat.py</code>	Agent binary
<code>/etc/systemd/system/balctl-heartbeat.service</code>	systemd unit
<code>/etc/balctl/agent.env</code>	Secrets + config (<code>chmod 600</code>)
<code>/var/lib/balctl/</code>	State stamps (e.g. <code>.haproxy-provisioned</code>)

Bundle contents (agent.zip)

Flat zip: `balctl_heartbeat.py`, `balctl-agent.sh`, `balctl-heartbeat.env.example`, `balctl-heartbeat.service`, `README.md`, `LICENSE`, `INSTALL_VM.txt`.

Configuration (`/etc/balctl/agent.env`)

If your configured hostname is different from the hostname sent to ServersCTL, use

`BALCTL_HOSTNAME`

Variable	Required	Default	Purpose
<code>BALCTL_ENROLLMENT_SECRET</code>	Yes (heartbeat)	—	48 hex chars from modal
<code>BALCTL_API_BASE</code>	No	<code>https://serversctl.com</code>	Control plane origin
<code>BALCTL_INTERVAL_SEC</code>	No	<code>1</code>	Bootstrap interval only; control plane returns authoritative <code>heartbeatIntervalSec</code> (1-60s)
<code>BALCTL_HOSTNAME</code>	No	OS hostname/FQDN	Override reported hostname
<code>BALCTL_DECLARE_IP</code>	No	—	Fixed IPv4 in heartbeat JSON (for DNS failover)

Variable	Required	Default	Purpose
<code>BALCTL_PROBE_PUBLIC_IP</code>	No	off	Discover public IPv4 via HTTPS each heartbeat
<code>BALCTL_PUBLIC_IP_URL</code>	No	<code>https://api.ipify.org</code>	Probe URL
<code>BALCTL_UPDATE_URL</code>	No	<code>https://download.serversctl.com/agent.zip</code>	Self-update zip
<code>BALCTL_PROVISION_HAPROXY</code>	No	off	One-shot HAProxy install on first start (root)
<code>BALCTL_ALLOW_AGENT_DOWNGRADE</code>	No	off	Allow installing older agent from zip (not recommended)

Systemd loads this via `EnvironmentFile=/etc/balctl/agent.env`. Manual `sudo python3 ...` runs merge missing vars from the same file.

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