

You didn't forget something small—that's a big change in the design. With SolidCP, you're basically building a full hosting panel on top of everything we talked about, so the order and some choices (like SQL version) matter.

I'll rewrite the whole plan from scratch, assuming:

- **Single server:** All roles (web, mail, SQL, SolidCP) on the same VPS.
 - **Goals:** Multi-domain hosting, IIS, FTP, SQL Server, .NET/ASP.NET Core, mail (POP3/IMAP/SMTP with SSL), all managed through SolidCP.
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1. High-level architecture with SolidCP

SolidCP has three components:

- **Portal:** The web UI where you log in and manage hosting.
- **Enterprise service:** The “brain” that coordinates servers.
- **Server:** The agent installed on each hosting server.

On a **single VPS**, you install **all three** on the same machine. SolidCP then manages:

- IIS websites, FTP accounts, app pools.
 - SQL Server databases.
 - Mail accounts (via hMailServer/MailEnable).
 - SSL bindings (with some extra setup).
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2. Phase 1 – Prepare Windows Server 2022

2.1. Basic OS setup

- **Remote Desktop:**
 - **Connect:** Using RDP with the Administrator credentials.
- **Rename and time zone:**
 - **Open:** Server Manager → Local Server.
 - **Change computer name:** e.g., HOST01.
 - **Set time zone:** To your local (GMT+03:00).
- **Windows Update:**
 - Install all important updates and reboot.
- **Strong passwords:**
 - Set a strong password for Administrator (and later for SQL, SolidCP, mail, etc.).

2.2. Network and firewall

- **Static IP:**
Confirm your VPS has a static public IP in your provider's panel.
 - **Windows Firewall:**
Keep it **enabled**; we'll open specific ports later:
 - **Web:** 80, 443
 - **FTP:** 21 + passive range
 - **Mail:** 25, 587, 993, 995, etc.
 - **RDP:** 3389 (already open)
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3. Phase 2 – Install prerequisites for SolidCP

SolidCP has specific requirements:

- **Windows Server 2016/2019/2022**
- **IIS 8.5/10**
- **.NET Framework 4.8**
- **SQL Server 2019** (SolidCP 1.4.9 does **not** support SQL 2022 yet) ¹

3.1. Install IIS and required features

- **Open:** Server Manager → Manage → Add Roles and Features.
- **Role-based installation** → select your server.
- **Roles** → **Web Server IIS:**
 - Under **Web Server** → **Common HTTP Features:**
 - **Static Content**
 - **Default Document**
 - **HTTP Errors**
 - **HTTP Redirection** (useful)
 - Under **Application Development:**
 - **.NET Extensibility 4.8**
 - **ASP.NET 4.8**
 - **ISAPI Extensions**
 - **ISAPI Filters**
 - Under **Security:**
 - **Request Filtering**
 - **Windows Authentication** (optional)
 - Under **Management Tools:**
 - **IIS Management Console**
- Finish and install.

Later, SolidCP will use IIS to host its own portal and to manage your customer sites.

3.2. Install .NET Framework 4.8

- On Server 2022, .NET 4.8 is usually present or available as a feature.
- **Check:** Add Roles and Features → Features → **.NET Framework 4.8 Features**.
- Ensure it's installed.

3.3. Install SQL Server 2019

- **Download:** SQL Server 2019 (Express or Standard) installer. ¹
- **Run installer:**
 - **New SQL Server stand-alone installation.**
 - Features:
 - **Database Engine Services** (minimum).
 - **Authentication mode:**
 - Choose **Mixed Mode**.
 - Set a strong `sa` password.
 - Add your Windows Administrator as SQL admin.
- Finish installation.

3.4. Install SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS)

- Download and install SSMS.
- You'll use it to:
 - Create the SolidCP database (installer can do it too).
 - Manage your hosting databases.

3.5. Install Web Deploy and URL Rewrite

SolidCP and modern deployment workflows often rely on these:

- **Web Deploy:** from Microsoft (Web Deploy 3.6 or newer). ²
- **URL Rewrite:** IIS URL Rewrite module.

Install both on the server.

4. Phase 3 – Install SolidCP (Portal + Enterprise + Server)

You can follow SolidCP's "Standalone server within 5 minutes" guide conceptually, but we'll go slower. ²³

4.1. Download SolidCP installer

- Go to SolidCP's download page and download the **SolidCP Installer** (e.g., `SolidCPInstaller-1.x.x.exe`). ¹
- Copy it to your server, e.g., `C:\Installers`.

4.2. Run SolidCP Installer

- Run the installer as **Administrator**.
- It will offer to install:
 - **Enterprise Server**
 - **Portal**
 - **Server**

For a **single-server setup**, you will install **all three** on this machine.

4.3. Create SolidCP database

During the Enterprise/Portal installation:

- **SQL connection:**
 - Server: `localhost` or `.\SQLEXPRESS` (depending on your instance).
 - Authentication: SQL or Windows (use what you configured).
- **Database name:** e.g., `SolidCP`.
- Let the installer create the database and schema.

4.4. Configure SolidCP Portal site in IIS

The installer will:

- Create an IIS site or application for the **Portal**.
- Ask for:
 - **Site name:** e.g., `SolidCPPortal`.
 - **Port:** you can use `9001` or bind it to a domain later (e.g., panel.yourdomain.com).
 - **Application pool:** it will create one using .NET 4.8.

After installation:

- Open a browser on the server and go to:
 - `http://localhost:9001` (or whatever you chose).
- You should see the SolidCP login page.

4.5. Enterprise service configuration

The installer also sets up the **Enterprise service** (the backend API):

- It may be installed as a separate site or service.
- The Portal needs the correct URL to talk to the Enterprise service (usually configured automatically by the installer).

4.6. Install SolidCP Server component

Still in the installer:

- Choose to install **Server** on this same machine.
- It will:
 - Install the SolidCP Server service.
 - Register it with the Enterprise service (you'll provide the Enterprise URL and a password/token).

After this, in the SolidCP Portal:

- Log in as **serveradmin** (default) with the password you set.
 - Go to **Servers** and confirm your local server is listed and online.
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5. Phase 4 – Connect services to SolidCP

Now SolidCP needs to know how to manage IIS, FTP, SQL, and mail on this server.

5.1. IIS and web sites

SolidCP's Server component will automatically detect IIS.

- In the Portal:
 - **Servers** → **Your server** → **Web**:
 - Ensure **IIS** provider is enabled.
- SolidCP will then be able to:
 - Create websites.
 - Create app pools.
 - Set host headers and paths.

You'll later create **hosting plans** that define how many sites, domains, etc., a user can have.

5.2. FTP service

You already installed FTP features with IIS earlier.

- In SolidCP:
 - **Servers** → **Your server** → **FTP**:
 - Enable the **FTP** provider (IIS FTP).
- Configure:
 - **Root path** for FTP home directories (e.g., C:\HostingSpaces).

- SolidCP will then create FTP accounts per hosting space and map them to the right folders.

5.3. SQL Server provider

- In SolidCP Portal:
 - **Servers** → **Your server** → **Databases**:
 - Add a **SQL Server** provider.
 - Settings:
 - **Server**: localhost or your instance name.
 - **Authentication**: SQL login with rights to create databases and users.
 - After that, SolidCP can:
 - Create databases.
 - Create SQL logins.
 - Assign them to customers.
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6. Phase 5 – Mail server with SSL (managed by SolidCP)

Windows Server doesn't include a full mail server, so you'll use something like **hMailServer** or **MailEnable**. SolidCP supports both; hMailServer is a common free choice. ³

6.1. Install hMailServer

- Download and install **hMailServer** on the same VPS.
- During setup:
 - Set a strong admin password.
 - Use built-in DB or SQL Server (for more serious use, SQL is better).

6.2. Basic hMailServer configuration

- Open **hMailServer Administrator**:
 - **Connect** to localhost.
- **Domains**:
 - Add each mail domain (e.g., example.com).
- **Accounts**:
 - You can create test accounts now, but later SolidCP will manage them.

6.3. Enable protocols and ports

In hMailServer:

- **Protocols**:
 - Enable **SMTP, POP3, IMAP**.

- **Ports:**
 - SMTP: 25 (and 587 for submission).
 - POP3: 110 (and 995 for SSL).
 - IMAP: 143 (and 993 for SSL).

6.4. SSL/TLS for mail

- Use Let's Encrypt certificates (we'll set them up in a moment).
- In hMailServer:
 - Add SSL certificates and bind them to:
 - POP3S (995)
 - IMAPS (993)
 - SMTPS/Submission (587 with STARTTLS or SSL).

6.5. Connect hMailServer to SolidCP

In SolidCP Portal:

- **Servers → Your server → Mail:**
 - Add hMailServer provider.
- **Provide:**
 - hMailServer admin credentials.
 - Host (localhost).
- **After that, SolidCP can:**
 - Create mail domains.
 - Create mailboxes.
 - Manage aliases, etc.

7. Phase 6 – DNS and SSL for websites

7.1. DNS for each domain

At your domain registrar/DNS provider:

- **A records:**
 - @ → your VPS IP.
 - www → your VPS IP.
- **MX record:**
 - example.com → mail.example.com.
- **A record for mail:**
 - mail → your VPS IP.
- **SPF (TXT):**
 - `v=spf1 ip4:YOUR_SERVER_IP ~all`

Later you can add DKIM/DMARC.

7.2. Let's Encrypt SSL

You have two main paths:

- Use **win-acme (wacs.exe)** directly and then bind certs in IIS and hMailServer.
- Or use a **SolidCP Let's Encrypt extension** (if you want it integrated in the panel; requires extra setup).

Simpler to start with **win-acme**:

- Download **win-acme** and run `wacs.exe` as Administrator.
- Choose:
 - **Create new certificate** → select IIS bindings for your sites.
- It will:
 - Validate via HTTP.
 - Install certificates in Windows.
 - Create HTTPS bindings in IIS.
 - Set up auto-renewal.

Then:

- Export or reference those certs in hMailServer for SSL ports.

8. Phase 7 – Hosting plans and actual sites in SolidCP

8.1. Initial SolidCP configuration

In the Portal:

- **Add server group:** e.g., `Default Group`.
- **Assign your server** to that group.
- **Create hosting plan:**
 - Limits for:
 - **Web sites**
 - **FTP accounts**
 - **Mail domains/accounts**
 - **SQL databases**
- **Create a user** (customer) and assign a hosting space with that plan.

8.2. Create a website

As that user (or as admin):

- Go to the hosting space.
- **Web → Web Sites → Create:**
 - Domain: example.com.
 - Choose IP/host header (SolidCP will configure IIS).
- **FTP:**
Create an FTP account mapped to that site.
- **Databases:**
Create a SQL database and user.
- **Mail:**
Create mail domain and mailboxes.

Deploy your ASP.NET / ASP.NET Core app by:

- Publishing from Visual Studio to a folder or via Web Deploy.
- Uploading via FTP or Web Deploy to the site's root.

SolidCP will have already created the IIS site and app pool.

9. Phase 8 – Security, backups, and maintenance

9.1. Security basics

- **RDP:**
Consider:
 - Changing the RDP port.
 - Using a VPN or IP restrictions if possible.
- **Strong passwords everywhere:**
SQL, SolidCP admin, hMailServer, FTP, mail accounts.

9.2. Backups

- Regularly back up:
 - **SolidCP database** (SQL).
 - **Customer databases.**
 - **Website files** (e.g., C:\HostingSpaces).
 - **hMailServer data** (and DB if external).

9.3. Monitoring

- Watch:
 - Disk space.

- CPU/RAM.
 - IIS logs and hMailServer logs for abuse.
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10. How we can proceed step-by-step

We now have a **SolidCP-centric roadmap** from a fresh Windows Server 2022 to a full hosting environment.

If you want to go truly step-by-step, we can do it like this:

1. **Phase 1 & 2:** You confirm when OS, IIS, .NET 4.8, SQL 2019, Web Deploy, URL Rewrite are done.
2. Then we walk **together** through the SolidCP installer screens.
3. Then we wire up hMailServer, DNS, SSL, and finally create your first real hosting plan and site.

Tell me where you are right now (fresh server, or have you already installed IIS/SQL/anything?), and we'll start from that exact point with concrete clicks and values.

References (3)

1*How to Install SolidCP on Windows Server - Database Mart.*

<https://portal.databasemart.com/kb/a446/how-to-install-solidcp-on-windows-server.aspx>

2*Install SolidCP Standalone server within 5 minutes.* <https://solidcp.com/kb/installation/install-solidcp-standalone-server-within-5-minutes/>

3*Installation Manuals - SolidCP.* <https://solidcp.com/kb/installation/>