



MODULE 5: DEPLOYMENT

LESSON 13: Deploying to Vercel (Free)

Learning Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will deploy your CeylonMart site to Vercel with a custom .lk domain.

13.1 Why Vercel?

Vercel is the best platform for Next.js because:

- Free tier available
- Automatic HTTPS
- Global CDN
- Automatic deployments from Git

- Preview deployments for each PR
 - Built by Next.js creators
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13.2 Step-by-Step Deployment

Step 1: Push code to GitHub

bash

- `git init`
- `git add .`
- `git commit -m "Ready for deployment"`
- `git remote add origin https://github.com/yourusername/ceylonmart.git`

`git push -u origin main`

Step 2: Go to vercel.com

Step 3: Click "Sign Up" (use GitHub account)

Step 4: Click "Add New Project"

Step 5: Import your GitHub repository

Step 6: Configure project:

- Framework Preset: Next.js (auto-detected)
- Root Directory: `./`
- Build Command: `next build` (auto)
- Output Directory: `.next` (auto)

Step 7: Add Environment Variables

Add all variables from your `.env.local` file:

- NEXT_PUBLIC_PAYHERE_MERCHANT_ID
- PAYHERE_SECRET

Step 8: Click "Deploy"

Wait 2-3 minutes...

✓ Done! Your site is live at <https://ceylonmart.vercel.app>

13.3 Setting Up Custom Domain (.lk)

Step 1: Buy a domain from a Sri Lankan registrar:

- [Site.lk](#)
- [Web.lk](#)
- [Simply.lk](#)

Example: [ceylonmart.lk](#) (check availability)

Step 2: In Vercel dashboard:

1. Go to your project
2. Click "Domains"
3. Add your domain: [ceylonmart.lk](#)
4. Follow instructions to update DNS

Step 3: Update DNS at your registrar:

- Add CNAME record pointing to [cname.vercel-dns.com](#)
- Or use Vercel's nameservers

Step 4: Wait for DNS propagation (up to 24 hours)

13.4 Continuous Deployment

Now every time you push to GitHub, Vercel automatically deploys:

```
bash
```

- `git add .`
- `git commit -m "Updated product images"`

```
git push
```

Wait 1-2 minutes, and changes are live!

13.5 Setting Up Environment Variables for Live PayHere

When ready for real payments:

Step 1: Get live credentials from PayHere

Step 2: In Vercel dashboard, update environment variables:

- `NEXT_PUBLIC_PAYHERE_MERCHANT_ID` → Your live merchant ID
- `PAYHERE_SECRET` → Your live secret

Step 3: Update code to use live URL

```
javascript
```

- *// In checkout page*
- `const PAYHERE_URL = process.env.NODE_ENV === 'production'`
- `? 'https://www.payhere.lk/pay/checkout'`

```
: 'https://sandbox.payhere.lk/pay/checkout';
```

Step 4: Redeploy

13.6 Monitoring Your Deployed Site

Vercel Analytics (free tier):

- View visitor stats
- Monitor performance
- Track Core Web Vitals

Enable:

1. Go to project dashboard
 2. Click "Analytics"
 3. Click "Enable"
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Lesson 13 Summary

- Vercel provides free hosting for Next.js
 - Automatic deployments from Git
 - Custom domains work easily
 - Environment variables stay secure
 - Analytics help monitor performance
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Practice Exercises

1. Deploy your site to Vercel (free tier)
2. Set up a preview domain for testing
3. Configure a custom domain (buy a .lk domain)
4. Challenge: Set up GitHub Actions for additional CI/CD