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The DLGuard set of scripts allow anybody with their own web server to sell digital products over the internet through providing secure download links after administering the checkout and handling payment processing of sales. This DLGuard review principally highlights the products use in selling ebooks online, but the product can handle any digital file type that can be uploaded.

The application is primarily a PHP script with functionality to protect on-line sales. The script covers a multi or single step checkout process, handling the secure payment processing with the majority of the large providers and also inventory administration.

The checkout phase in DLGuard is able to handle a number of possible sales types. The simplest sales type is the sale of a single product or item. If your ebook business follows a publisher style business model then the application facilitates customers with a shopping basket to store items before checkout. Lastly selling website memberships (monthly sales) can also be managed. If you have free downloads then you could also use the single-item sales approach (omitting the payment step) in order to capture customer email addresses.

My initial use of the product was intended purely for selling ebooks online on four separate websites. I have also used it for providing free download links to small software applications. Note that the product license has a two domain usage limit so the initial configuration I used had DLGuard installed on one server which handled the checkout stage for all four sites.

Installing the product took less than a half hour to complete. Setting up my inventory of files to make available for download took a little longer. As did adding buy now hyperlinks to 4 of my sites. Within a few days DLGuard was already fully managing the checkout process, dealing with Paypal and sending customers their download links.

The functionality that comes with DLGuard is impressive and is flexible enough to facilitate advanced users. In particular, the membership sales functionality is something that I will look into using this year. Any forum posts on the web indicate that maintaining membership subscribers is a good way of creating a steady cash flow from your websites.

Originally I looked into selling ebooks through one of the large on-line distributors. My objection to this was that I not be able to create my own customer sign-up lists during the checkout process. Having to pay a sales commission also made the deal a little one sided.

From my analysis, the one constraint using the product is the 2 web domain license limit. This states that the product can only be installed on 2 servers from the one product purchase. In truth though, any sales made will pay for a license quickly enough as the product is quite competitively priced.

In summary, DLGuard ticks all the boxes for the functionality most users would require from a download sales management tool. Its ease of installation and use means I can spend less time administering my websites and more time writing ebooks. The addition of the membership sales feature is one web trend that is definitely worth further investigation.

[Writing ebooks](#) and want to sell them yourself? Then read my [DLGuard](#) review - the one-stop solution for selling digital downloads.

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