

# Install Freenet on a GNU/Linux server

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*Jump over censorship. When Free Speech dies, we need a place to organize.*

Freenet is a peer-to-peer platform for censorship-resistant communication and publishing. But over the years many people asked how to install Freenet from the commandline, for example for a headless server.

## Contents

### General approach

To install Freenet:

- Install openjdk
- Get the Installer from [https://github.com/freenet/fred/releases/download/build01487/new\\_installer\\_offline\\_1487.jar](https://github.com/freenet/fred/releases/download/build01487/new_installer_offline_1487.jar)
- Run the installer with `java -jar new_installer_offline_1487.jar -console`

Then follow the prompts.

Finally open <http://127.0.0.1:8888> and follow the *wizard*.

### Example on GNU Guix

```
guix install openjdk
wget 'https://github.com/freenet/fred/releases/download/build01487/new_installer_offline_1487.jar'
java -jar new_installer_offline_1487.jar -console
LANG=C wget 'https://github.com/freenet/fred/releases/download/build01487/new_installer_offline_1487.jar'
```

```
...
new_installer_offline_1487.jar
100%[=====]
2020-10-20 09:35:26 (1.59 MB/s) - 'new_installer_offline_1487.jar' saved [19801684/19
java -jar new_installer_offline_1487.jar -console
Select target path [/tmp]
/tmp/Freenet
press 1 to continue, 2 to quit, 3 to redisplay
1
[ Starting to unpack ]
[ Processing package: Base (1/3) ]
[ Processing package: License (2/3) ]
[ Processing package: Unix (3/3) ]
[ Unpacking finished ]
[ Starting processing ]
Starting process Setting up the environment (1/16)
Offline installation mode
File './wrapper.jar' already exists.
Starting process Setting the Updater up (2/16)
Starting process Setting Opennet up (3/16)
Starting process Setting JSTUN up (4/16)
Downloading the STUN plugin
Starting process Setting UPnP up (5/16)
Downloading the UPnP plugin
Starting process Setting Librarian up (6/16)
Downloading the Library plugin
Starting process Setting KeyUtils up (7/16)
Downloading the KeyUtils plugin
Starting process Setting ThawIndexBrowser up (8/16)
Downloading the ThawIndexBrowser plugin
Starting process Setting plugins up (9/16)
Starting process Downloading freenet-stable-latest (10/16)
Starting process Downloading freenet-ext (11/16)
Starting process Downloading bcprov (12/16)
Starting process Detecting port availability (13/16)
Detecting tcp-ports availability...
...
Starting process Setting up auto-start (14/16)
Enabling auto-start.
Installing cron job to start Freenet on reboot...
mcron: autostart.install:1: Bad job line in Vixie file.
Starting process Starting the node up (15/16)
```

Starting Freenet 0.7...  
Starting process Cleaning up (16/16)  
All done, please click Next  
[ Console installation done ]

*note that mcron failed, on Guix you currently have to start Freenet manually.*

Now open the freenet web interface:

lynx 127.0.0.1:8888

Set Up Freenet

Connect to any Freenet user: (low security) Connect only to friends: (high security) Detailed settings: (custom)

If you live in a relatively free country where running Freenet is legal, you can choose this option. It is much safer than traditional P2P software like BitTorrent or Gnutella, but an attacker with moderate resources may be able to trace your activity on Freenet back to you. If you have friends who also run Freenet, you can improve security by adding them as Friends, then connecting only to them.

Choose low security

If you know several people you want to connect to, this setting allows you to create your own Freenet darknet for vastly improved security. If you only have a few people it may not be very useful, but if some of them know others, or have low security set, you can have a very large network.

Choose high security

If you want more fine-grained control, this option lets you set up Freenet according to your own privacy needs. It will take a bit longer than the other two options.

Choose custom security

[English\_\_\_\_\_] Submit

Choose **low security**.

For the next two dialogs, just click next.

Browser Security Advisory

You are using a browser with incognito mode for Freenet (this is good)  
You seem to be using a browser in privacy/incognito mode (check in

the title bar). This should be relatively safe, but do not use the same browser for the web and Freenet, unless it is in privacy mode.

Most web browsers, apart from Microsoft Internet Explorer, will work adequately with Freenet, for example Firefox, Opera, Safari, Chrome, and Lynx are known to work.

If you are using a thirdparty IME (Input Method Editor, used as text input for common asian languages), please disable it for Freenet and use an IME from your Operating System. There have been reports of the IME collecting your keystrokes and sending them to remote servers.

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## Datastore Size

### Datastore size

Please select a size for your datastore. Recommended values lie between 1GiB and 20GiB. A smaller datastore can result in problems downloading files, a larger datastore is beneficial to the network but might slow down your computer due to high filesystem load, especially in the first few hours after installation. The datastore acts like a cache; storing data for the network will help you to get better throughput when requesting popular files. The more space you can afford the better it is for the community and the faster your node and especially your downloads will go.

[10.0 GiB]

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## Bandwidth Limits

### Bandwidth Limits

Does your internet connection have a monthly data limit?

Yes No

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I have **No monthly limits**.

## Bandwidth Limits

### Transfer Rate Limit

How fast is your Internet connection? Freenet should use no more than half of it. You can change this setting later on the Core settings page. Note that 1 megabit per second (1 Mbps) = 125 kilobytes per second (125 KB/s).

Connection type	Download limit	Upload limit	Se
4 megabits	256 KiB/s (= 2Mbps)	16.0 KiB/s	(
6 megabits (average ADSL1)	384 KiB/s (= 3Mbps)	16.0 KiB/s	(
8 megabits (fast ADSL1)	512 KiB/s (= 4Mbps)	32.0 KiB/s	(
12 megabits (slow ADSL2)	768 KiB/s (= 6Mbps)	64.0 KiB/s	(*
20 megabits (fast ADSL2, fast cable)	1.25 MiB/s (= 10Mbps)	64.0 KiB/s	(
VDSL (20/5)	1.25 MiB/s (= 10Mbps)	320 KiB/s	(
100 megabits (fibre)	2.0 MiB/s (= 16Mbps)	2.0 MiB/s	(
Enter a custom bandwidth limit	-----	-----	
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⇒ Freenet is setup and running.

Now open [127.0.0.1:8888](http://127.0.0.1:8888) in any webbrowser to use Freenet. To increase security, you can [setup Freenet as a proxy](#) in your webbrowser, using a nonstandard IP and Port.

## Distributions

### Debian

```
sudo apt-get install default-jre wget lynx
wget 'https://github.com/freenet/fred/releases/download/build01487/new_installer_offline_1487.jar'
java -jar new_installer_offline_1487.jar -console
# follow the prompts
lynx 127.0.0.1:8888
# follow the wizard
```

### Gentoo

```
sudo emerge freenet lynx
sudo rc-update add freenet default
sudo rc-config start freenet
lynx 127.0.0.1:8888
# follow the wizard
```

### Arch

Install [from AUR package freenet](#):

```
pacman -S --needed git base-devel wget lynx
git clone https://aur.archlinux.org/freenet.git
cd freenet
curl -sS https://freenetproject.org/assets/keyring.gpg | gpg --import -
```

```
makepkg -si
lynx 127.0.0.1:8888
# follow the wizard
```

## CentOS

```
sudo yum install java-11-openjdk wget lynx
wget 'https://github.com/freenet/fred/releases/download/build01487/new_installer_offl
java -jar new_installer_offline_1487.jar -console
# follow the prompts
lynx 127.0.0.1:8888
# follow the wizard
```

## SUSE

```
sudo zypper install java-11-openjdk wget lynx
wget 'https://github.com/freenet/fred/releases/download/build01487/new_installer_offl
java -jar new_installer_offline_1487.jar -console
# follow the prompts
lynx 127.0.0.1:8888
# follow the wizard
```

## Guix

```
guix install openjdk wget lynx
wget 'https://github.com/freenet/fred/releases/download/build01487/new_installer_offl
java -jar new_installer_offline_1487.jar -console
# follow the prompts
lynx 127.0.0.1:8888
# follow the wizard
```