

# Setup guide for Linux

This guide installs Secretbase on a Linux computer and puts your first website online.

## Quick start

- 1 On the download page, click **Copy** under Linux, paste it into a terminal and press Enter.
- 2 Type your password, read the notice, then type `yes`.
- 3 Open a new terminal and go to your website's folder, for example `cd ~/my-site`.
- 4 Run `secretbase publish` and sign in to Tailscale in the page it opens.
- 5 Open the address it shows after "Live at". Run `secretbase open` to see the dashboard.

## What you need

- A Linux computer with a 64-bit Intel or AMD processor that can stay on: a desktop or a server.
- A free Tailscale account (sign in with a personal Google, Apple or GitHub account).
- A folder with a website or web app.

## Install

The installer downloads about 1.7 GB. At the end it asks whether to open Secretbase from any browser and, with Claude Code installed, whether to connect it. The last line is:

```
Secretbase 0.19.0 is installed. Open a new terminal and run: secretbase status
```

`secretbase status` starts with how many apps you have, how many are online and how many more fit, then the public addresses and each app with its state, address and usage. It starts like this:

```
$ secretbase status
Secretbase 0.19.0: 2 apps · 2 online · room for about 10 more
Publishing is on: the sandbox check passed.
Public addresses: Tailscale, ready · Cloudflare, ready
Tailscale key: added 2026-10-12; it lasts at most until 2027-01-10. New apps need a
valid key; existing addresses stay. Renew: make a new reusable key and run `secretbase
tailscale-key`.
AI address (MCP): https://secretbase-mcp.<your-tailnet>.ts.net/mcp
```

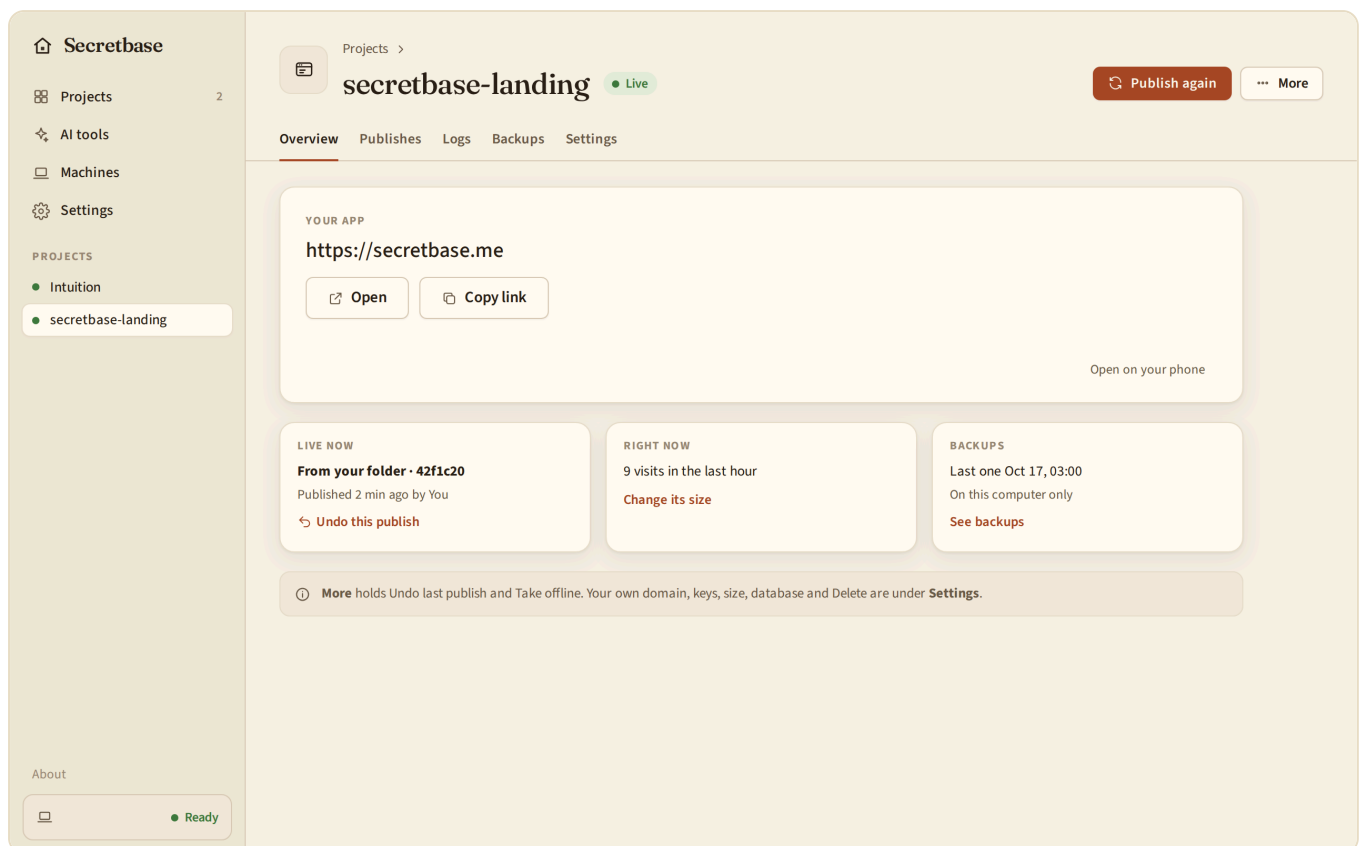
## Put your website online

The first time, sign in to Tailscale and click **Allow** if it asks. The very first address can take up to 30 minutes: let it wait at "Going online...". To change your app, change its files and publish again.

Code on GitHub? Run `secretbase publish https://github.com/you/app`. Secretbase then checks for a new commit every minute and publishes it (**Update on push**; turn it off with `secretbase updates <app> off`).

## The dashboard

Run `secretbase open`, or open **Secretbase** from your apps menu. Its menu has **Projects**, **AI tools**, **Machines** and **Settings**. Click your app to see its address and open it on your phone. **Publish again** is at the top, and **More** holds **Undo last publish** and **Take offline**. Its tabs show its publishes, logs and backups, and its **Settings** tab holds its own domain, keys, size, database and **Delete app**.



An app's page in the dashboard: its public address, Publish again, More, its tabs and its usage.

Secretbase runs websites (plain files or Create React App), Node, Python and Go apps, folders with their own Dockerfile, and Docker Compose files with one web service plus Postgres or Redis.

## Everyday commands

Run them in the app's folder; each has a button on the app's page too.

- `secretbase undo` : puts the release before back online.
- `secretbase logs` : the build and app output.
- `secretbase keys set API_KEY` : asks for the value and gives it to your app as an environment variable.

- `secretbase database <app> postgres on` (or `redis on`): the app's own database; it gets `DATABASE_URL` (or `REDIS_URL`).
- `secretbase resources <app> large`: more CPU, memory and disk; `--copies 2` runs a second copy.
- `secretbase password on`: puts a password on the app.

Secretbase restarts an app that stops, and on a desktop it tells you when an app keeps crashing, a backup fails, or the disk is 85% full.

## Open Secretbase from anywhere

Run `secretbase dashboard on` and choose a username and password, or click **Turn on** under **Settings** > **Open from anywhere** in the dashboard. `secretbase dashboard` shows the address to open anywhere.

## Use your own domain (optional)

Your app can also go on a domain you own, like yourname.com, through your own free Cloudflare account (<https://dash.cloudflare.com/sign-up>). The domain's nameservers must be on Cloudflare: for a domain bought elsewhere, Secretbase adds it to your Cloudflare account and shows the two nameservers to set where you bought it.

- 1 In the dashboard, open your app's **Settings** tab, type your domain under **Your own domain** and click **Use this domain**.
- 2 The first time, click **Create a key at Cloudflare**. Check that the key lists **Zone** → **Zone** → **Edit**, **Zone** → **DNS** → **Edit** and **Account** → **Cloudflare Tunnel** → **Edit**, click **Continue to summary**, then **Create Token**, and copy the key.
- 3 Paste it under **Paste the key here** and click **Connect Cloudflare**.
- 4 If the page shows two nameservers, set them where you bought the domain (turn DNSSEC off there first). If the domain has email, first check in Cloudflare that its MX and TXT records were copied, so email keeps working.

Your app goes live on your domain by itself, within minutes, sometimes a few hours. In a terminal: `secretbase cloudflare connect` once, then `secretbase domain yourname.com` in the app's folder; `secretbase domain list` shows how it is going.

Visitors reach your domain through Cloudflare, which can see what they send. Cloudflare's free plan doesn't allow serving video or mostly large files.

## Connect your AI tool

Click **Copy the prompt** under **Connect an AI tool** on the dashboard's **AI tools** page and paste it into Claude Code, Codex, Cursor or another AI tool on this computer. It connects itself; then ask it to publish your app.

## Update and remove

- `secretbase update` installs the newest genuine release; your apps pause briefly while it restarts. `secretbase update --all` updates all your machines.
- `sudo /opt/secretbase/uninstall.sh` removes Secretbase and keeps your apps' data; `--purge` deletes that too.

## If something goes wrong

- "An older Secretbase test build is on this computer": type `yes` to remove it first.
- "Secretbase is installed, but Publishing is off": the safety check didn't pass. Run `secretbase status` to see why.
- You pressed Enter at the notice: Secretbase asks again when you first publish.
- No sign-in page opened: open the link after "Continue in your browser".
- "Your new address is being published by Tailscale": your app comes online by itself.
- "Your app keeps crashing": read its last log lines with `secretbase logs`.
- "This computer can't update itself": install the new version once with the one-line command.
- Your domain already has a record Secretbase didn't make: click **Move it to this computer**, or run `secretbase domain approve yourname.com`.
- To download by hand: get `secretbase-0.19.0-linux-amd64.tar.gz` and its `.sha256` from <https://secretbase.me/download/>, run `sha256sum -c secretbase-0.19.0-linux-amd64.tar.gz.sha256` (it must say "OK"), then `tar xzf secretbase-0.19.0-linux-amd64.tar.gz` and `sudo ./secretbase/install.sh`.

Still stuck? Send us the exact message and what `secretbase status` shows.