

Setup guide for Windows

This guide installs Secretbase on a Windows 11 PC and puts your first website online. It is a preview: if something goes wrong, the last part of this guide says exactly what to send us.

What you need

- A PC with Windows 11 (64-bit) that can stay on.
- A free Tailscale account. Tailscale gives your apps their public address. Sign in with a personal Google, Apple or GitHub account: a work account starts a business trial.
- A folder with a website in it, for example one your AI tool built. A folder with an `index.html` is the easiest first try.

Install

- 1 On the download page, click **Download for Windows**.
- 2 If your browser says the file isn't commonly downloaded, choose **Keep**.
- 3 Open the downloaded file.
- 4 If you tested an earlier preview, setup asks to **remove the older preview first**: choose **Yes**. Its apps are removed and their old addresses stop working; publish them again in step 12.
- 5 If Windows shows "Windows protected your PC", click **More info**, then **Run anyway**. Preview builds aren't signed yet, so Windows asks once.
- 6 If Windows asks to turn on a Windows feature (it is called WSL; Secretbase runs your apps inside it), click **Yes** and let your PC restart.
- 7 After you sign in again, a window called "Secretbase setup" opens by itself, finishes, and closes on its own.

Check that it works

- 8 Open a new terminal: Start, then type **Terminal**.
- 9 Type `secretbase status` and press Enter. It shows Secretbase's version.

From now on, **Start** → **Secretbase** opens your dashboard.

The first start also downloads about 400 MB and checks that apps run safely on this PC. Publishing stays off until that check passes. Run `secretbase status` again after a few minutes.

Put your first website online

- 10 Type `secretbase notice`, read the notice, and type `yes` if you agree.

- 11 Type `secretbase frontdoor setup`. Open the link it shows (Ctrl+click), sign in to Tailscale with your personal account, and come back to the terminal.
- 12 Type `secretbase publish` followed by your folder, for example `secretbase publish C:\Users\you\my-site`, and press Enter. It shows your app's public address when it is online.
- 13 Open that address on your phone.

If your folder is in OneDrive, right-click it and choose **Always keep on this device** first.

To publish a change, run the same `secretbase publish` again. The address stays the same.

Remove Secretbase

- 14 Open Settings, then Apps, then Installed apps.
- 15 Find **Secretbase (preview)** and click **Uninstall**. This also deletes the apps you published from this PC.

If anything is left afterwards (a "Secretbase" folder in `%LOCALAPPDATA%`, or `secretbase` in the list `wsl --list` shows), tell us.

Known limits of this preview: your apps run only while you are signed in and your PC is awake.

If something goes wrong

Send us these three things:

- the setup log: paste `%LOCALAPPDATA%\Secretbase\setup.log` into File Explorer's address bar and send the file it opens;
- the step number in this guide where it went wrong;
- a screenshot, or the exact message you saw.

If you got as far as step 8, also send what `secretbase status` shows. If Windows blocked the installer with no **Run anyway** button, tell us and include your Windows version (Start, type `winver`, press Enter).