

Mesh Chat on a Linux Server

Fresh LinuxMint Install

- Install [LinuxMint Xfce](#) on a cheap laptop.
- Change Hostname to VA7FI-Linux because that'll be the node name shown on Mesh Chat:

```
sudo hostnamectl set-hostname VA7FI-Linux
```

Installing Mesh Chat

Following the instructions on [Trevorsbench](#):

- Install dependencies:

```
sudo aptitude install curl apache2
```

- Download and install Mesh Chat:

```
wget https://s3.amazonaws.com/aredn/meshchat_1.02_all.deb  
sudo dpkg -i meshchat_1.02_all.deb
```

- Edit configuration file:

```
sudo pico /usr/lib/cgi-bin/meshchatconfig.pm
```

and edit the last two lines so that the zone matches the other Mesh Chat Instances, and the node is the name of your AREDN node. In my case:

```
our $pi_zone           = 'MIMeshChat';  
our $local_meshchat_node = 'VA7FI-HAP-1';
```

On LinuxMint there was an issue that needs to be fixed before continuing. Essentially, the current setup uses files in the /tmp folder, which the Apache server is not allowed to edit. So the solution was to create that folder somewhere else and set the permissions properly.¹⁾

- Create these folders:

```
sudo mkdir /var/www/html/meshchat/tmp/  
sudo mkdir /var/www/html/meshchat/tmp/meshchat/
```

- And change the ownership and permissions:

```
sudo chown www-data:www-data -R /var/www/html/meshchat/tmp/  
sudo chmod 770 -R /var/www/html/meshchat/tmp/
```

- Edit the config file:

```
sudo pico /usr/lib/cgi-bin/meshchatconfig.pm
```

- And replace every instance of /tmp/ by /var/www/html/meshchat/tmp/ (line 2, and 18)
- Restart services:

```
sudo systemctl daemon-reload  
sudo /etc/init.d/apache2 restart  
sudo /etc/init.d/meshchatsync restart
```

Tests

At this point, you should be able to run Mesh Chat from the computer where it's installed, but it won't talk to any other nodes yet: <http://localhost/meshchat/>

¹⁾

The /tmp issue is discussed here: <https://www.arednmesh.org/content/pi-meshchat-error-sending-message>