

Start here

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Welcome - you own a complete cryptocurrency stack: your own blockchain, a wallet app, a website, and the tools that go with them. This guide gets it all running safely. No coding required. If you can copy and paste, you can do this.

*Everything runs on testnet - the coins are for testing and have **no real money value. You are now the operator*: it runs on *your server, not ours. Please read OPERATOR-LICENCE.pdf (or .md) before you start.*

What you need (about 20 minutes)

1. A VPS. That's just a computer you rent in the cloud - an always-on server you control over the internet. Any provider works (Hostinger, Contabo, DigitalOcean, Hetzner...). Ask for Ubuntu 22.04 or 24.04, about 2 CPUs, 4 GB RAM, 40 GB disk. It costs roughly £5-£10 a month.

(A normal website "shared hosting" / cPanel account will not work - a blockchain needs a real server you control. If you're not sure, pick any "VPS" or "Cloud Server" plan.)

2. The login details your VPS provider emails you (an IP address, a username like root, and a password or key).

That's it. You don't need to install anything on your own laptop.

Step 1 - Get the files onto your server

Most providers give you a "Console" or "Terminal" button in their control panel - click it to get a black command screen connected to your server. You will be logged in as root (the default on any new VPS). That is fine for now.

1. Upload this package to the server (your provider's file manager, or drag-and-drop in the console), or download it straight onto the server.

2. Unpack it:

```
tar -xzf getcryptocoin-stack-full-1.0.0.tar.gz      # if you have the .tar.gz
# - or -
unzip getcryptocoin-stack-full-1.0.0.zip           # if you have the .zip
```

3. Go into the folder it created:

```
cd getcryptocoin-stack-full
```

Step 2 - Create your safe account (takes 30 seconds)

Why do this? Your VPS logs you in as root by default. Think of root as a master key to the whole building - it can delete files, change any setting, run anything. Running your blockchain as root is risky: if anything went wrong, it could affect your entire server with nothing to stop it. We fix that right now.

This creates a normal user account with just enough power to run your stack - and nothing more. It takes 30 seconds and you only do it once.

While still logged in as root, paste this and press Enter:

```
bash bootstrap.sh
```

It will walk you through everything, explaining what it is doing and why at each step:

1. Ask you to choose a username (e.g. steve, admin, owner)
2. Ask you to set a password for that account
3. Create the account with the right permissions
4. Install Docker (the engine that runs everything)
5. Copy your stack files into your new account's home folder
6. Print exactly what to do next

Step 3 - Log back in as your new user

When bootstrap.sh finishes, type this to log out of root:

```
exit
```

Then log back in as the username you just created. Your VPS provider's control panel usually has a "New session" or "Reconnect" button, or from your own computer:

```
ssh YOUR_USERNAME@YOUR_SERVER_IP_ADDRESS
```

Use the password you set in Step 2.

Why log out and back in? Linux does not apply new group memberships (like the Docker group) until you start a fresh session. Skip this step and the next command will not work.

Step 4 - Start your stack

You are now logged in as your new user. Copy and paste these two commands:

```
cd getcryptocoin-stack-full
bash setup.sh
```

That's the whole thing. It will:

- Build and start your blockchain (this first build takes ~10-15 minutes - go make a cup of tea),
- Start your website, and
- Print the web address when it's done.

You'll see tidy progress messages with a green [ok] after each part.

Step 5 - Look at what you made

When it finishes, it prints something like:

```
Your stack is running.  
Website      -> http://123.45.67.89:8080  
Watch blocks -> cd chain && docker compose logs -f miner
```

- Open the Website link in your browser - that's your site.
- Run the Watch blocks command to see new blocks being mined, about one a minute.

Congratulations - you're running your own cryptocurrency network.

Want the extras? (optional)

The mining pool and the standalone block explorer are a little more hands-on (a couple of settings to choose). When you're ready, open `INSTALL.pdf` - it walks through each one. You don't need them to have a working chain + site.

The wallet

Inside the wallet folder is an Android app (.apk). Copy it to an Android phone and install it (you may need to allow "install from this source"). It's already set up to talk to your chain.

If you get stuck

- `bootstrap.sh` is safe to run again - it explains what went wrong and picks up where it left off.
- `setup.sh` is also safe to re-run. The first line that is not [ok] usually says what's wrong (often just "Docker needs a moment").
- Make sure you are logged in as your new user (not root) when you run `setup.sh`.
- Make sure you picked a VPS, not shared hosting.
- The detailed, technical version of every step is in `INSTALL.pdf` / `INSTALL.md`.

Software you run yourself. Testnet - no monetary value. You are the operator of anything you launch; your domain, licences, tax and compliance are yours. This is not financial advice - take your own legal advice for your country.