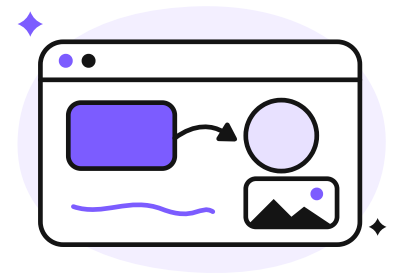


Install online

SnipDot is an idea board for images, notes, sketches and arrows. It runs on your own web space and is protected by your password. This guide takes you through the setup once. You don't need to know how to program.



About 30 minutes

Mac or Windows

Then on Mac, iPad and iPhone

What you need



The SnipDot package

The file `snipdot-installation.zip`. It contains the file `snipdot.zip`, which you upload, and the folder **Guide Online** with this guide and a short video.



Web space with PHP

A web hosting plan from any hosting provider. It usually costs a few euros a month and often includes your own address (domain). It needs PHP 8.1 or newer and an SSL certificate.



A web browser

You upload in your provider's customer area, right in the browser. You don't need any extra software.



A good password

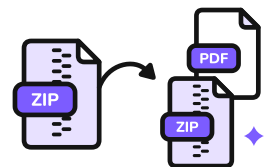
At least 10 characters, ideally created and stored by a password manager.

No web hosting? SnipDot is also available as a desktop app for Mac and Windows, with no hosting at all. It's in the package too, and its guide is in the **Guide Desktop** folder.

Step by step

1 Open the package

Double-click `snipdot-installation.zip`. This creates the folder `snipdot-installation`. For your web space you only need the highlighted file **snipdot.zip**. Don't open it: it goes onto your web space exactly as it is and is only unpacked there.



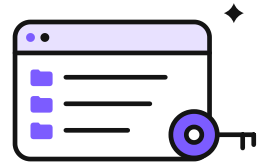
```
snipdot-installation/
├─ Guide Desktop/      guide and video for the desktop app
├─ Guide Online/       this guide and video
├─ SnipDot.app          desktop app for the Mac
├─ SnipDot-Setup.exe    desktop app for Windows
└─ snipdot.zip         goes onto your web space
```

`snipdot.zip` also contains two **hidden files**, `.htaccess` and `.user.ini`. They protect your data and allow large uploads. Because everything is in one file, they are sure to come along.

2

Open the file manager

Log in to your provider's customer area and open the **file manager** for your web space. It shows the files on your web space right in the browser. Depending on the provider it may be called "File Manager" or "Files".

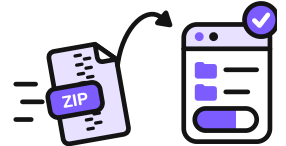


Prefer an app? Instead of the browser you can also use an FTP program, for example Cyberduck (Mac and Windows) or WinSCP (Windows), both free. How is explained at the end of step 3.

3

Upload and unpack snipdot.zip

1. In the file manager, go to the **top level** of your web space, not into another folder.
2. Upload the file `snipdot.zip` : with "Upload" or by dragging it into the browser window.
3. Select the uploaded `snipdot.zip` and choose "Extract" (sometimes "Unpack" or "Unzip").



Your web space now has a folder called **snipdot**. It comes inside the ZIP file, so you don't create it yourself. You can delete `snipdot.zip` afterwards. This is what the folder looks like. The two highlighted files are the hidden ones; many file managers don't show them, and that's fine:

```
snipdot/
├─ .htaccess
├─ .user.ini
├─ api.php
├─ css/
├─ favicon.png
├─ icon-180.png
├─ icon.svg
├─ index.html
├─ js/
├─ robots.txt
└─ vendor/
```

If the folder ends up one level deeper (`snipdot/snipdot`), use the inner one, which contains `index.html` , in step 4. If your web space already has a folder called `snipdot`, unpack the file in a new, empty folder, for example `boards` , and use `/boards/snipdot` in step 4.

Prefer an FTP program such as Cyberduck or WinSCP? That works too: unpack `snipdot.zip` on your computer and upload the whole `snipdot` folder to the top level via SFTP, including the hidden files.

4

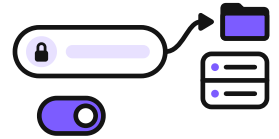
Set up an address

In the customer area, choose the address where SnipDot should be reachable, for example `ideas.your-domain.com`. As the **target**, select the `/snipdot` folder that was created when you unpacked the file.

- Turn on the **SSL certificate** for the address so that it works with `https://`.
- Check that **PHP 8.1 or newer** is selected.

Where to find it: usually in the customer area under "Domains" or "Subdomains". Set the folder `/snipdot` as the target (sometimes called "directory" or "document root"). The PHP version is usually under "PHP settings".

A new address sometimes takes a few minutes to start working.

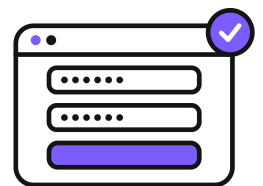


5

Set your password

Open the address in your browser. SnipDot shows **"No password set up yet"**. Enter your password twice and click **"Set password"**. You're then logged in.

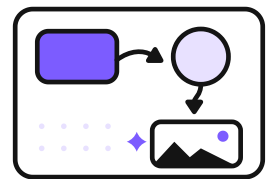
Do this straight away. As long as no password has been set, anyone who knows the address could set one. So open it right after step 4. If someone got there first, see "Forgot your password" below.



6

Try it out

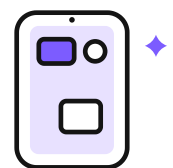
- **Language:** SnipDot starts in English. To change it, click **"..."** at the top right of the overview, then **"Language: English"**.
- **Check saving:** create a **"New board"**, drag an image into it and reload the page. The image is still there.
- **Check protection:** open `https://your-address/data/`. You should see **"Forbidden"**. This means nobody can fetch your boards directly.



7

On iPad and iPhone

Open the address in Safari, tap the Share button and choose **"Add to Home Screen"**. SnipDot then starts full screen like an app. You log in once on each device and then stay logged in for 60 days.



● Everyday use

Change password	Overview → "... " → "Change password..." . All other devices are logged out. This also helps if a device gets lost.
Back up	Overview → "... " → "Download backup". You get a ZIP file with all boards and images. Do this regularly, for example once a month, because your boards are stored only on your web space. Don't unpack the ZIP file. To bring it back, use "Restore backup...". This is also how you move to the desktop app and back.
Videos	Drag videos (MP4, MOV, WebM, up to 1 GB) onto a board just like images; the play symbol plays them. They're stored on your web space and need room there – a phone video can easily take a few hundred MB. When you back up, SnipDot asks whether to include the videos. Videos from an iPhone play in Safari and Chrome, but not always in Firefox or on some Windows computers. You can still download them.
Install a new version	Download a backup first. Then upload <code>snipdot.zip</code> from the new package to the top level in the file manager and unpack it there. If the file manager asks whether to replace existing files, confirm. Never delete the <code>data</code> folder or the <code>config.php</code> file inside the snipdot folder on your web space. They hold your boards and your password. <code>snipdot.zip</code> contains neither, so it doesn't overwrite them.
Connect Claude	Optional: with the connector, Claude can read and edit your boards – on <code>claude.ai</code>, in the Claude apps and in Claude Code. In SnipDot: Overview → "... " → "Connect Claude...". There you can copy the address: <code>https://your-address/mcp.php</code>. In Claude, open Connectors (<code>claude.ai/customize/connectors</code>) and add a custom connector ("Add custom connector"). Enter a name such as "SnipDot" and the address, leave the other settings as they are, add it and connect. In the SnipDot window that opens, enter your SnipDot password. The free Claude plan allows one custom connector. To disconnect: in the same window in SnipDot, "Disconnect all". A new password disconnects Claude as well.

● If something doesn't work

Forgot your password

In the file manager, open the snipdot folder and delete the file `config.php`. Then open the address and set a new password. Boards and images are kept.

The file manager can't unpack ZIP files

Then unpack `snipdot.zip` on your computer and upload the snipdot folder with an FTP program, as described at the end of step 3. Your provider's customer area lists the SFTP login details.

The address shows a provider page or “Not Found”

The address doesn't point to the snipdot folder yet. Check it in the customer area and wait a few minutes after a change.

The browser warns “Not secure”

The address doesn't have an SSL certificate yet. Turn it on and wait a little until it is active.

Blank page or an error message when opening

The PHP version is usually too old. Select PHP 8.1 or newer in the customer area.

/data/ doesn't show “Forbidden”

The hidden file `.htaccess` may be missing: unpack `snipdot.zip` again and replace existing files. If that doesn't help, your web space ignores the protection files. Please don't store your boards there and ask your provider whether `.htaccess` files are supported. Standard web hosting plans support them.

Large images or PDFs won't upload

The hidden file `.user.ini` is probably missing. Upload and unpack `snipdot.zip` again. If that doesn't help, your provider limits the size of uploads.

Message about write permissions

SnipDot isn't allowed to create files in its folder. Ask your provider how to give PHP write permission for the folder.

“Too many failed attempts”

After five wrong passwords, logging in from that connection is blocked for 15 minutes. This stops people from guessing passwords. Just wait.

Claude can't connect

The address must start with `https://` and end with `/mcp.php`; it's easiest to copy it from the “Connect Claude...” window. If Claude asks for the OAuth client when you add it, both “Use Claude's published identity” and “Register automatically” work. If signing in works but Claude then reports an access error, the file `.htaccess` is probably missing: unzip `snipdot.zip` again and replace existing files.

In the “Connect Claude...” window, “Check connection” tests whether everything is ready and says what to do about each problem. If SnipDot sits in a subfolder of another website (such as `https://your-website/snipdot/`), Claude can't find the sign-in service: put SnipDot in its own folder with its own (sub)domain pointing to it, as described in the installation.

As of 14 October 2026. The menus of your provider and of Claude may be named slightly differently from this guide.