Tailscale Mesh VPN CLI

START HERE

`sudo tailscale up`
Connect and log in

`tailscale ssh <host>`
SSH via your tailnet

`tailscale status`
List devices and state

`tailscale serve --bg <port>`
Share a local port

`tailscale ip -4`
My tailnet IPv4

`tailscale file cp <file> <host>:`
Send a file

`tailscale ping <host>`
Test the path to a peer

`sudo tailscale down`
Disconnect

Device tailscaled — login → **Coordination** keys and policy — direct or relay → **Peer** WireGuard tunnel

CONCEPTS

Every device on your tailnet gets a stable 100.x.y.z address and a MagicDNS name, so you can reach it from anywhere.

Linux needs the tailscaled daemon running; the CLI only talks to it. Most commands that change state need sudo there.

Prefer tailscale set to change one preference; tailscale up needs every non-default flag repeated or it errors.

CONNECT

`sudo tailscale up`
Connect and log in

`sudo tailscale down`
Disconnect from the tailnet

`tailscale up --auth-key=<key>`
Log in unattended with a key

`tailscale up --ssh`
Enable Tailscale SSH on this device

`tailscale up --force-reauth`
Force a new login

`tailscale login`
Log in without bringing it up

`tailscale logout`
Expire this device's login

`tailscale switch <account>`
Switch between accounts

`tailscale switch --list`
List logged-in accounts

`tailscale version`
Show client version

`tailscale version --upstream`
Show latest release

STATUS AND ADDRESSES

`tailscale status`
List devices and connection state

`tailscale status --json`
Machine-readable status

`tailscale status --peers=false`
Show only this device

STATUS AND ADDRESSES (cont.)

`tailscale ip -4`
My IPv4 address

`tailscale ip -6`
My IPv6 address

`tailscale ip <host>`
A peer's address

`tailscale whois <ip>`
Which device and user owns an IP

`tailscale dns status`
Show DNS settings in use

`tailscale dns query <name>`
Resolve a name the Tailscale way

REACH PEERS

`tailscale ping <host>`
Test the path to a peer

`tailscale ping --until-direct <host>`
Ping until a direct path is found

`tailscale ping -c 3 <host>`
Send only 3 pings

`tailscale ping --tsmp <host>`
Ping at the Tailscale layer

`tailscale ssh [user@]<host>`
SSH over the tailnet

`tailscale netcheck`
Report NAT, UDP and relay latency

`tailscale file cp <file> <host>:`
Send a file to a peer

`tailscale file get <dir>`
Receive waiting files into a folder

`tailscale file get --wait <dir>`
Wait for incoming files

`tailscale file cp --targets`
List peers that can receive files

SHARE SERVICES

`tailscale serve --bg <port>`
Share a local port on your tailnet

`tailscale serve --bg --https=443 localhost:<port>`
Proxy a service over HTTPS

SHARE SERVICES (cont.)

`tailscale serve --set-path=/<path> localhost:<port>`
Mount a service under a path

`tailscale serve --tcp=<port> tcp://localhost:<port>`
Forward raw TCP

`tailscale serve status`
Show what is shared

`tailscale serve reset`
Remove all serve config

`tailscale funnel --bg <port>`
Share a port on the public internet

`tailscale funnel status`
Show public shares

`tailscale funnel reset`
Stop all public sharing

`tailscale cert <name>.ts.net`
Get a Let's Encrypt certificate

`tailscale cert --cert-file <f> --key-file <k> <name>`
Choose output file names

EXIT NODES AND ROUTES

`sudo tailscale set --advertise-exit-node`
Offer this device as an exit node

`tailscale exit-node list`
List available exit nodes

`tailscale exit-node suggest`
Suggest the best exit node

`sudo tailscale set --exit-node=<ip|name>`
Route all traffic through a node

`sudo tailscale set --exit-node=`
Stop using an exit node

`tailscale set --exit-node-allow-lan-access`
Keep local network reachable

`tailscale set --advertise-routes=<cidr>`
Share a subnet with the tailnet

`tailscale set --accept-routes`
Use subnets others advertise

EXIT NODES AND ROUTES (cont.)

Advertised exit nodes and subnet routes must be approved in the admin console before they take effect, and Linux routers need IP forwarding.

PREFERENCES

`tailscale set --hostname=<name>`
Rename this device

`tailscale set --accept-dns=false`
Don't let Tailscale manage DNS

`tailscale set --shields-up`
Block incoming connections

`tailscale set --ssh`
Turn Tailscale SSH on

`tailscale set --auto-update`
Update the client automatically

`tailscale set --operator=$USER`
Run the CLI without sudo

`tailscale lock status`
Show tailnet lock state

RECIPES

Use a home server as exit node

```
# on the server (IP forwarding enabled)
sudo tailscale set --advertise-exit-node
# approve it in the admin console, then on the laptop:
tailscale exit-node list
sudo tailscale set --exit-node=<server>
# done:
sudo tailscale set --exit-node=
```

Show a dev server to a teammate

```
python3 -m http.server 8000 &
tailscale serve --bg 8000
tailscale serve status
# or publicly:
tailscale funnel --bg 8000
```

Move a file between machines

```
tailscale file cp report.pdf laptop:
# on laptop:
tailscale file get ~/Downloads
```

Why is my connection slow?

```
tailscale ping --until-direct <host>
tailscale netcheck
tailscale status | grep <host>
```