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>
```