



Instant Messenger Setup Guide

This is my newbie-friendly guide to setting up instant messenger services anonymously. The ICQ/Jabber guide is for Pidgin IM client, which has been known to leak DNS under certain circumstances so I recommend your setup is VPN -> Tor to mitigate any risk. I am assuming you already have Tor setup and running for the following configurations.

[Edit] Note: If you have the Tor Browser Bundle and haven't installed Tor separately, use port 9150 instead of 9050 for the following configurations.

Torchat

TorChat is a decentralized anonymous instant messenger that uses Tor hidden services as its underlying Network. It does not require any additional anonymizing steps after install.

Download from:

<https://github.com/prof7bit/TorChat/downloads> (Windows/Linux)

<http://www.sourcemacs.com/?page=torchat> (Mac OS X unofficial port)

Reference:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/TorChat>

ICQ

Sign up for an account at <http://www.icq.com/join/en>

Enter any first and lastname you like and email for confirmation (any free email works).

Log into account at icq.com, and note your UIN (ICQ number).

In Settings, select "only your name viewable" and "nobody can see your contact list".

Save and logout.

Download Pidgin IM client:

<http://pidgin.im/download> (Windows/Linux/Mac OS X)

In Tools -> Preferences -> Network,
disable "Use automatically detected IP address"
disable "Automatic router port forwarding"

In Tools -> Preferences -> Proxy,
Proxy type: Socks5
Host: 127.0.0.1
Port: 9050
(Leave remote DNS for socks4 unchecked)

In Accounts -> Manage Accounts -> Add
Protocol: ICQ
Username: ICQ UIN
Password: Password you entered during setup

For added security, install the OTR plugin to encrypt your messages.

Download from <http://www.cypherpunks.ca/otr>

Jabber

Follow instructions above for setting up Pidgin IM client.

In Accounts -> Manage Accounts -> Add

Protocol: XMPP

Username: choose your username

Domain: server you want to use (<http://xmpp.net> has a list)

Password: choose a password

Check "Create this new account on the server"

If you get an authorization error, you may have to sign up on the website.

For added security, install the OTR plugin to encrypt your messages.

Download from <http://www.cypherpunks.ca/otr>