



# Install & Run n8n Locally on Windows

A complete step-by-step guide for developers and power users to set up n8n workflow automation locally on Windows.

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# What is n8n?

n8n is a powerful, open-source workflow automation tool that connects different services and automates repetitive tasks. Think of it as your personal automation assistant.

## Visual Workflow Builder

Create workflows with drag-and-drop interface

## 300+ Integrations

Connect apps, APIs, and databases seamlessly

## Self-Hosted

Run it locally for complete control



# Prerequisites Overview

01

## **Node Version Manager (NVM)**

Essential for managing Node.js versions efficiently on Windows

02

## **Node.js LTS Version**

The runtime environment that powers n8n's execution

03

## **Administrator Privileges**

Required for global npm package installation

04

## **Active Internet Connection**

Needed for downloads and license activation

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# Step 1: Install NVM for Windows

## Download & Install

Visit the [NVM Windows releases page](#) and download the latest nvm-setup.exe file.

### 1 Download nvm-setup.exe

Always choose the latest stable release

### 2 Run installer with default settings

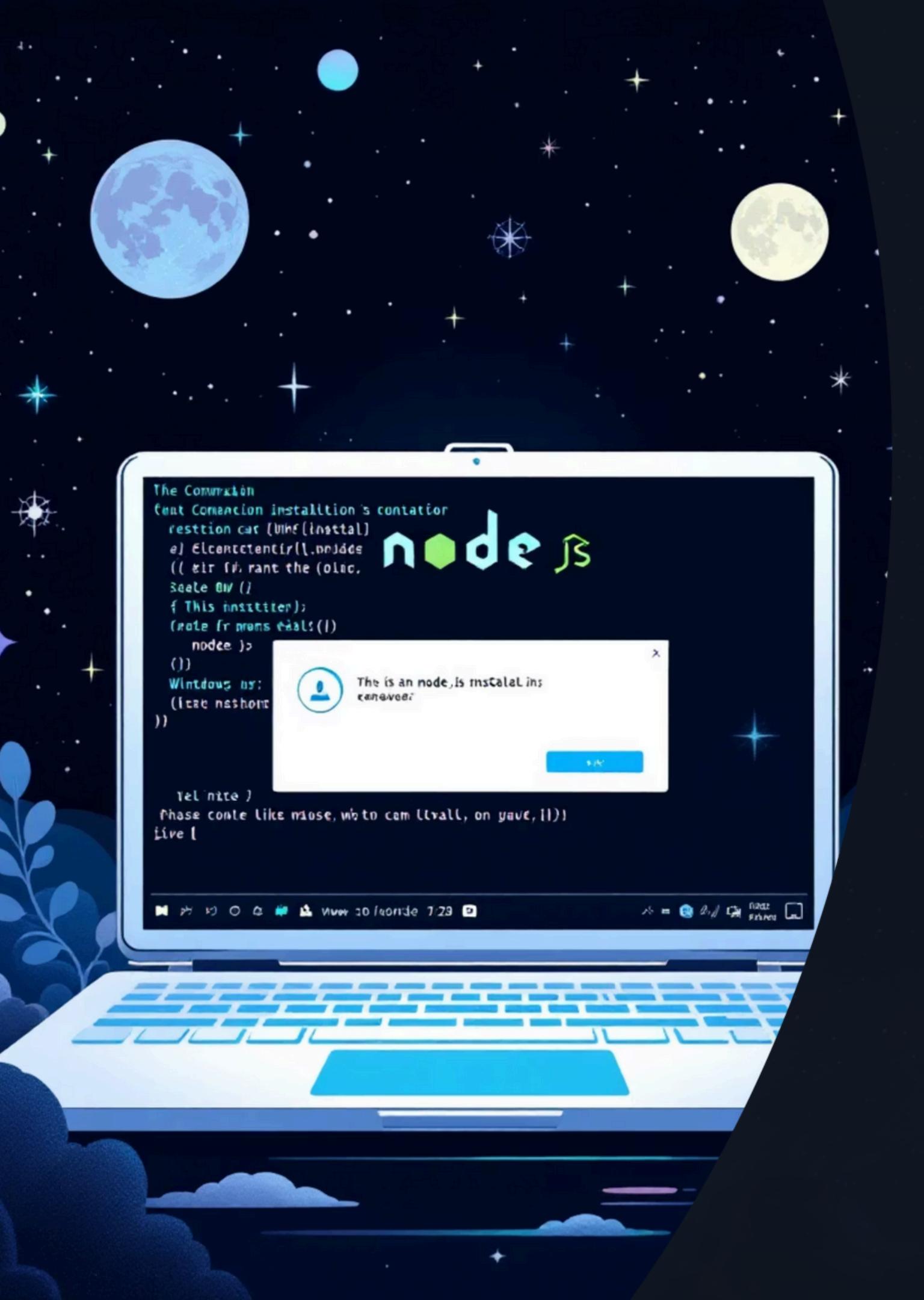
No custom configuration needed

### 3 Verify installation

Open CMD and type: nvm version



# Step 2: Install Node.js LTS



## Install Latest LTS

```
nvm install 18.20.4
```

Check [Node.js Downloads](#) for the current LTS version

## Switch to Version

```
nvm use 18.20.4
```

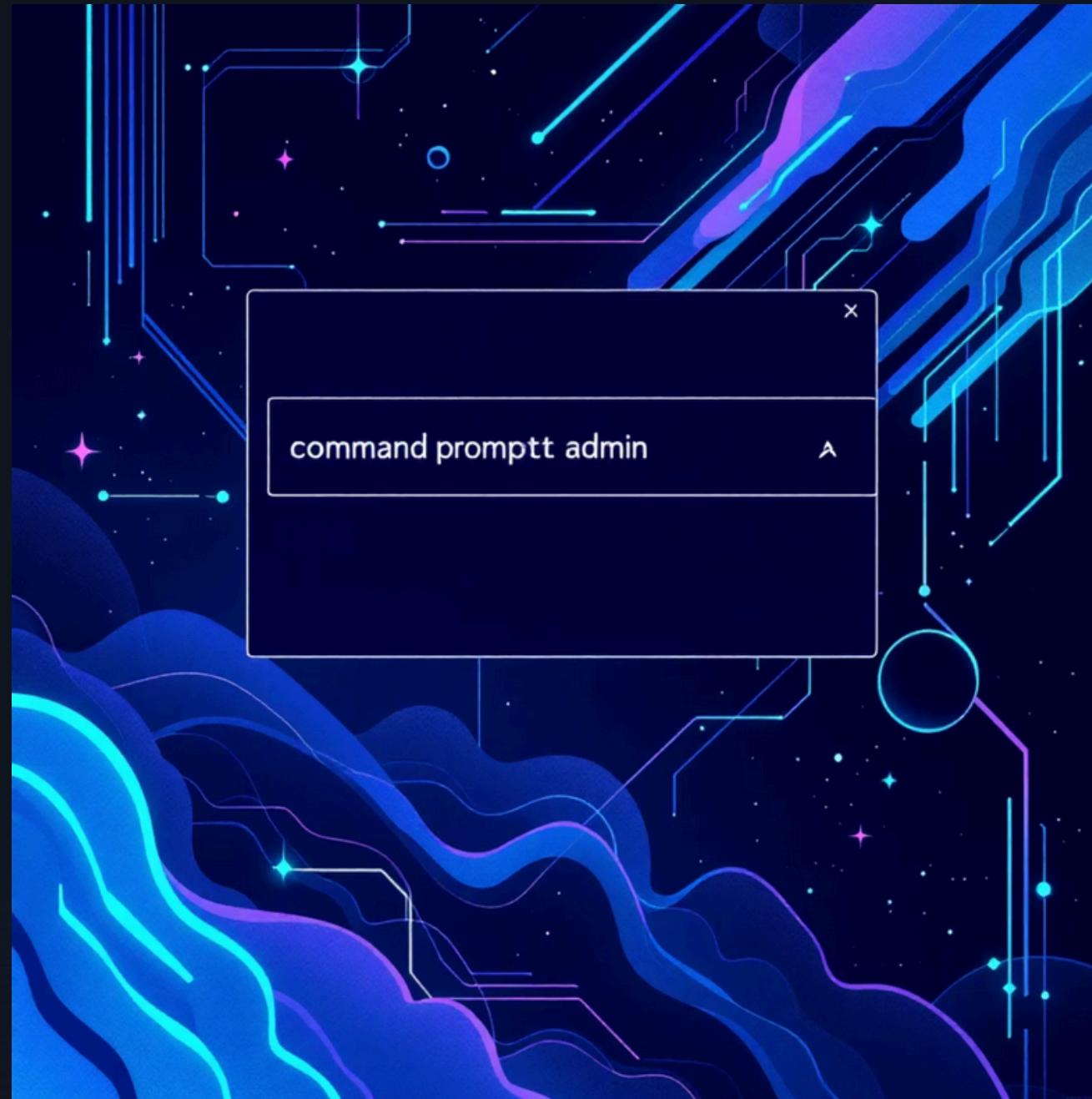
Activates the installed version for current session

## Verify Installation

```
node -v npm -v
```

Both commands should return version numbers

# Step 3: Administrator Setup



## Run Command Prompt as Administrator

Global npm installations require administrator privileges on Windows systems.

- Press **Windows key + R**, type "cmd"
- Right-click on Command Prompt
- Select "**Run as administrator**"
- Click "**Yes**" when prompted by UAC



This step is crucial - n8n installation will fail without admin privileges.

# Steps 4-5: Install & Launch n8n

## Install n8n Globally

```
npm install -g n8n
```

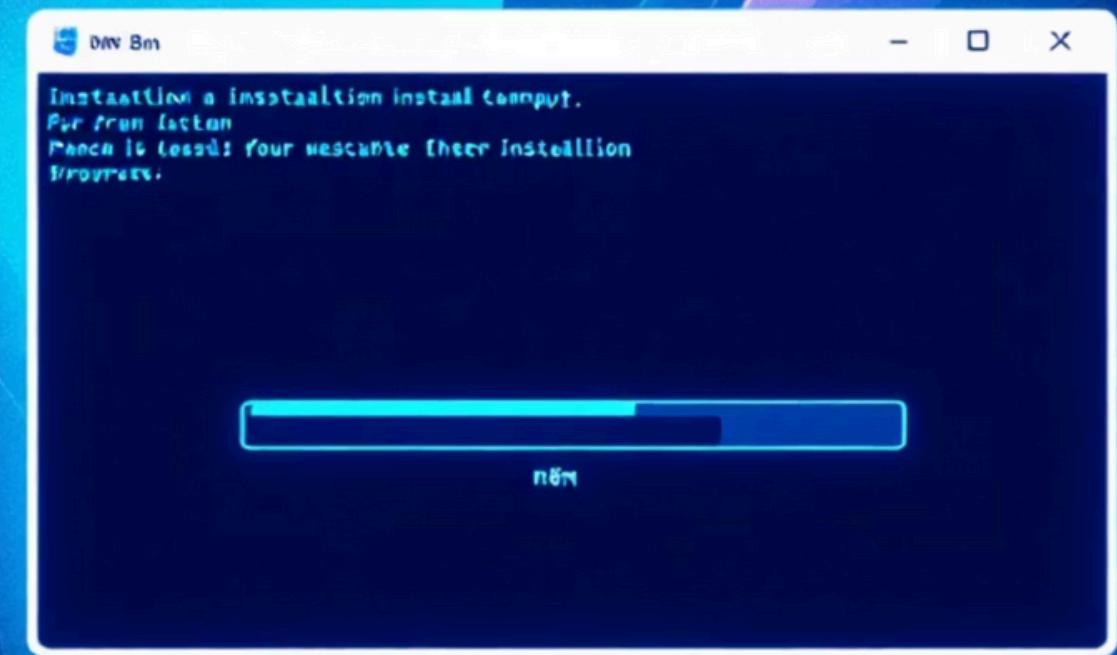
This process may take 2-3 minutes as it downloads all dependencies.

## Start n8n Server

```
n8n
```

Server starts automatically at <http://localhost:5678>

Press 'O' in CMD to auto-open in browser



# Steps 6-7: Account Setup & License

## Create Your Account

**1** Navigate to localhost:5678

n8n interface opens in your browser

**2** Sign up with email

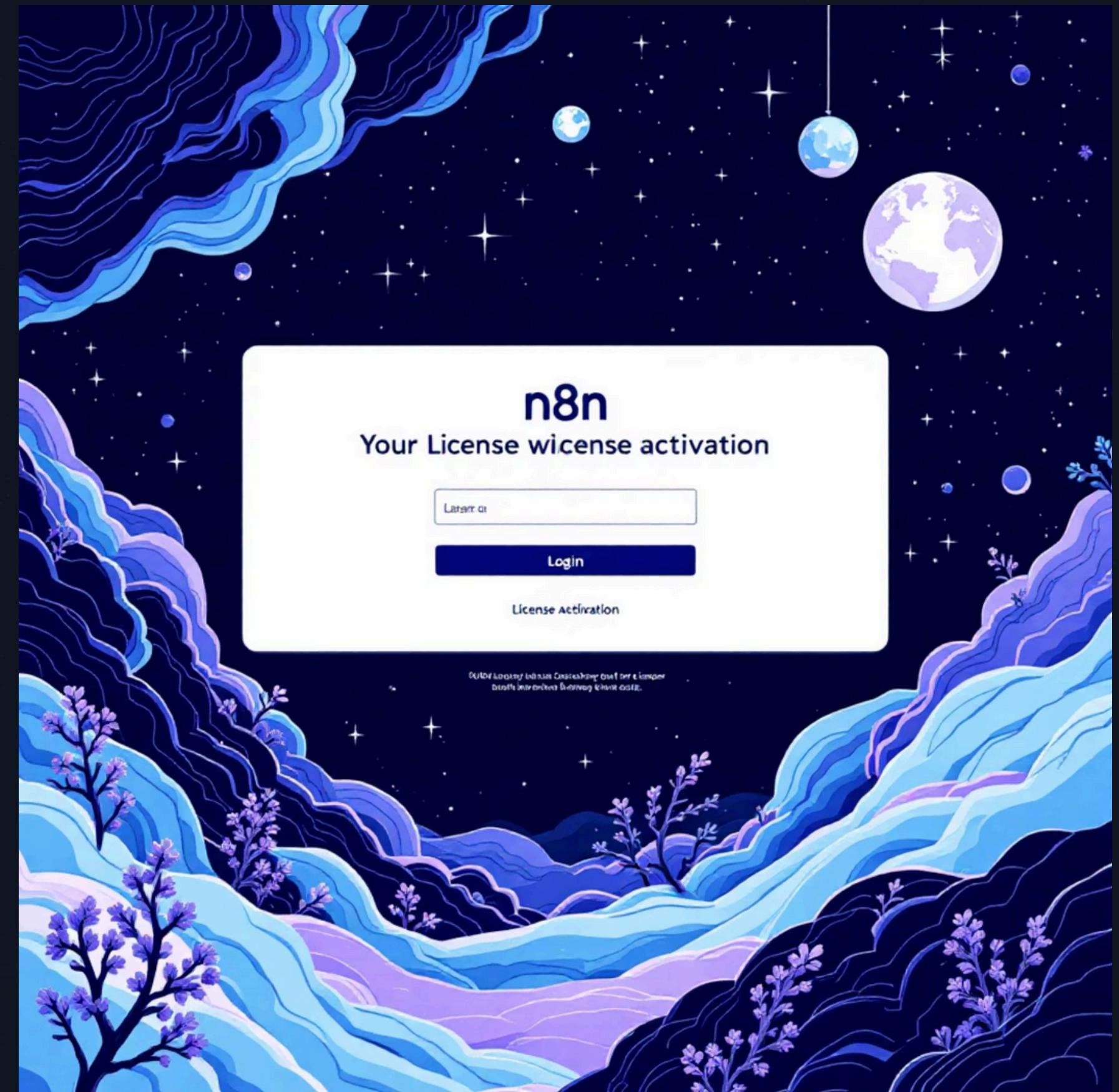
Create a new account or log into existing

**3** Receive license key

Check your email for the activation key

**4** Paste license key

Enter the key when prompted to activate



# Troubleshooting & Success

## License Activation Error?

If you encounter licensing issues, clear the license cache and restart:

```
n8n license:clear  
n8n start
```

## Port Already in Use?

Start n8n on a different port if 5678 is occupied:

```
n8n start --port 5679
```

## Success Indicators

- Server starts without errors
- Browser opens to n8n interface
- License activates successfully
- Dashboard loads completely

# You're All Set!

5

Minutes

Total setup time

300+

Integrations

Available services

0

Cost

Free for personal use

## Next Steps

n8n is now running locally at <http://localhost:5678>. Start building your first workflow by connecting your favorite apps and automating repetitive tasks!

### Connect with Chinmay

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