




Never leave an IRC channel again with ZNC



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RITlug, 2015
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What is IRC?

- Online chat protocol in existence since 1988
- Large network of chat rooms (#channels)
 - Often used with web chat clients
 - Most commonly used with IRC client (e.g. HexChat)
- Popular networks are often hubs for different kinds of communities
 - freenode: ~99,000 users connected at peak hours
 - Projects on freenode: Ubuntu, Fedora, Perl, SELinux... FOSS loves freenode
 - #ritlug, #rit-foss
- Your digital life is incomplete without IRC

Do people live in IRC?

- *Context:* The same group of people idling in the same IRC channels every time you connect
 - Answer: No (usually)
- Popular solution is an IRC “bouncer” (a.k.a. proxy)
- ZNC is open-source IRC bouncer in C++
 - <https://github.com/znc/znc>
- **Without ZNC:** *chat.freenode.net*
- **With ZNC:** *znc.mysite.com => chat.freenode.net*

How do I get it?

- Unless you use an obscure distro, check your distro's repos (probably is packaged)
 - Fedora: `sudo dnf install znc`
 - RHEL, CentOS: `sudo yum install znc`
 - Ubuntu, Debian, other Debian-based distros: `sudo apt-get install znc`
 - Arch: Ask Nate
- Package manager will take care of the details for you
- Also possible to compile and build from source

Doing the prep work

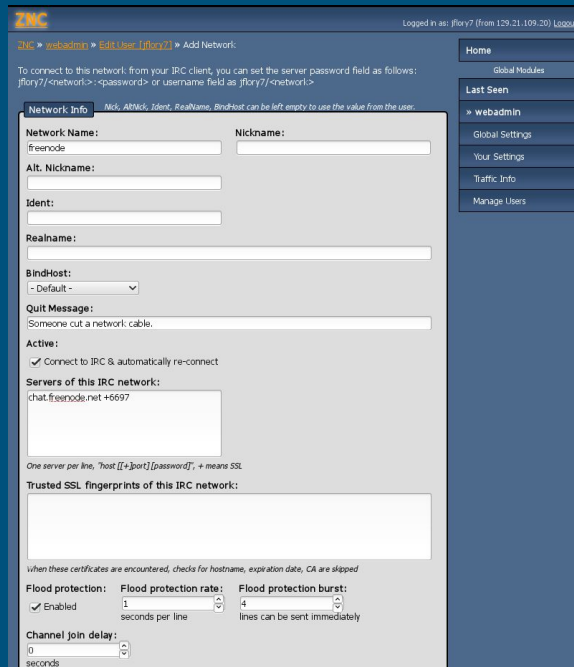
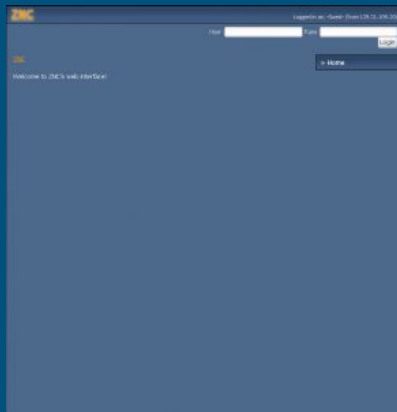
- The extensive, laborious, difficult prep work for getting your system to handle the firewall is...
- **Adjusting your firewall**
 - CentOS/RHEL 7 or later, Fedora, Arch(?):
 - `sudo firewall-cmd --add-port=6697/tcp`
 - `sudo firewall-cmd --runtime-to-permanent`
 - CentOS/RHEL 6 or earlier, Debian, Ubuntu, etc.:
 - `sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 6697 -j ACCEPT`
 - `sudo service iptables save`

Configuring ZNC

- Initial configuration in CLI
 - `sudo -u znc znc --makeconf`
- Will begin prompting you for basic configuration information
 - Usually the defaults are fine
- Example: [Fedora Magazine](#)

Using the web panel

- After configuration, ZNC will launch immediately
 - `http(s)://<server_ip>:<your_port>`
 - If you opted to use SSL, *must* include https



Final steps

- If server ever reboots, you will want ZNC to restart itself
- Can be done with `systemd` or `chkconfig`
 - CentOS/RHEL 7 or later, Fedora, Arch(?): `sudo systemctl enable znc`
 - CentOS/RHEL 6 or earlier, Ubuntu, Debian, etc.: `sudo chkconfig znc on`

Setting up HexChat

- Numerous IRC clients, it's all personal preference - find one that you look
 - Example uses HexChat because it is one of the most well-known and popular ones
- Instead of connecting to IRC network, connect to your bouncer
 - `irc.freenode.net => mysupercoolbouncer.example.com`
- Detail of note: **Server Password**
 - To connect to ZNC, server password required
 - Generally formatted as: `username/network:password`
 - *Example:* `jflory7/freenode:SomeWlttyPassw0rd`
- Reference [ZNC wiki](#) for help

A HexChat window

- Yours should look similar
- Note accepting invalid SSL certificates
 - If you use SSL, you are using a self-signed certificate - this is safe but a necessary step because it is self-signed
 - Also note the + before the port: denotes SSL

HexChat: Edit ZNC Test

my.bouncer.com/+6697

Add Remove Edit

Servers Autojoin channels Connect commands

☐ Connect to selected server only

☒ Connect to this network automatically

☐ Bypass proxy server

☒ Use SSL for all the servers on this network

☒ Accept invalid SSL certificates

☒ Use global user information

Nick name:

Second choice:

Real name:

User name:

Login method: Server Password (/PASS password) ▼

Password:

Character set: UTF-8 (Unicode) ▼

Close

Congratulations, you are now ZNC Certified!

- Credit: [Fedora Magazine](#)
 - Read my other work: [fedoramagazine/author/jflory7](https://fedoramagazine.org/author/jflory7/)