

Contabo VPS + Moltbot Setup Guide

Audience: non-technical PC users. Goal: buy a cheap VPS, secure it, install Moltbot, and connect it to Telegram and Claude (subscription).

This guide is written for **Contabo VPS 10 (8 GB RAM)** on **Ubuntu 24.04**.

What you will achieve

- A private server (VPS) running Ubuntu 24.04.
 - Secure access using **Tailscale** (no public admin ports).
 - Moltbot installed and running as a background service.
 - Telegram bot connected.
 - Claude connected via your subscription.
 - Browser automation working on the VPS.
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Preparation (do this first, on your own PC)

Complete these steps before buying the VPS. This way you can paste tokens directly during setup without switching context.

1. Create a Telegram bot and save the token

1. Open Telegram and find @BotFather.
2. Send /newbot.
3. Choose a name and a username.
4. BotFather will give you a **Bot Token** (looks like 123456:ABC...).

Save the Bot Token somewhere safe.

2. Install Tailscale on your PC

5. Go to tailscale.com and download the app for your computer.
6. Install it and sign in.
7. Confirm Tailscale is running (you'll see its icon in your system tray/menu bar).

3. Ensure you have a Claude subscription

You need an active Claude subscription at claude.ai.

Part 1: Buy and Access VPS

Step 1. Buy the VPS on Contabo

1. [Go to Contabo](#) and choose **VPS 10 (8 GB RAM)**.

2. Choose:

- **Operating system:** Ubuntu **24.04 LTS**
- **Server location:** pick the closest region

3. Set the **root password** option.

4. Finish checkout.

5. After the VPS is ready, find **Server IP address** (looks like 123.45.67.89) in your email.

Write it down.

Step 2. Connect to the server

1. Open Terminal (macOS/Linux) or Windows Terminal (Windows).

2. Type this command, replacing YOUR_SERVER_IP with your actual IP:

```
ssh root@YOUR_SERVER_IP
```

3. Type `yes` when asked about unknown host.

4. Paste the root password and press Enter.

If you see a prompt like `root@. . .`, you're connected.

Part 2: Secure the Server

Step 3. Update and create a user

Copy and paste each block. Wait for each to finish before running the next.

Update the system:

```
apt update && apt upgrade -y
```

Create a user named "remote":

```
adduser remote
usermod -aG sudo remote
```

It will ask you to create a password. Save it.

Allow this user to login:

```
mkdir -p /home/remote/.ssh && cp -r /root/.ssh/* /home/remote/.ssh/ 2>/dev/null || true && chown -R remote:remo
```

Now disconnect and reconnect as the new user:

```
exit
```

Then:

```
ssh remote@YOUR_SERVER_IP
```

Step 4. Install Tailscale on the server

Tailscale creates a private network between your PC and the server.

```
curl -fsSL https://tailscale.com/install.sh | sh
sudo tailscale up
```

After running, it shows a login link. Copy it, open in your browser, and approve the server.

Then get your server's Tailscale IP:

```
tailscale ip -4
```

It returns something like 100.x.y.z. Write this down as **TS_IP**.

Step 5. Lock down the server

After this step, you'll only access the server through Tailscale (more secure).

First, test that Tailscale works. On your PC, open a new terminal and run:

```
ssh remote@TS_IP
```

(Replace TS_IP with the 100.x.y.z address from Step 4.)

If this works, continue. If not, check that Tailscale is running on both your PC and server.

Enable the firewall:

```
sudo apt install -y ufw && sudo ufw default deny incoming && sudo ufw default allow outgoing && sudo ufw allow
```

Type *y* when asked.

Disable root login:

```
sudo sed -i 's/^#*PermitRootLogin.*/PermitRootLogin no/' /etc/ssh/sshd_config && sudo systemctl restart ssh
```

From now on, always connect using `ssh remote@TS_IP`.

Part 3: Install Moltbot

Step 6. Install Claude Code CLI

```
curl -fsSL https://claude.ai/install.sh | bash
echo 'export PATH="$HOME/.local/bin:$PATH"' >> ~/.bashrc && source ~/.bashrc
```

Generate a token:

```
claude setup-token
```

It shows a URL. Copy it and open it in your PC's browser. Log in to Claude and approve. You'll get a short code.

Go back to the server terminal and paste the code. Press Enter.

You'll see a token like `sk-ant-xxxxxxx`. This is saved automatically.

Step 7. Install Moltbot

These commands install prerequisites and Moltbot. Run them one at a time.

Install Homebrew:

```
/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.sh)"  
echo 'eval "$(/home/linuxbrew/.linuxbrew/bin/brew shellenv)"' >> ~/.bashrc && eval "$(/home/linuxbrew/.linuxbrew/bin/brew shellenv)"
```

Install pnpm:

```
curl -fsSL https://get.pnpm.io/install.sh | sh - && source ~/.bashrc
```

Install Moltbot:

```
curl -fsSL https://molt.bot/install.sh | bash
```

This takes a while. Wait for it to finish.

Step 8. Onboarding

When Moltbot finishes installing, onboarding starts automatically.

If it doesn't, run:

```
clawdbot onboard --install-daemon
```

Follow each screen exactly:

Screen	What to select
Security confirmation	**Yes**
Onboarding mode	**QuickStart**
Model / auth provider	**Anthropic (Claude Code CLI + API key)**
Anthropic auth method	**Anthropic token** → paste your `sk-ant-...` token
Token name	Leave blank, press Enter
Default model	**Keep current (default)**
Channel selection	**Telegram (Bot API)** → paste your Telegram bot token
Skills setup	**Skip for now**
Hooks	**Enable hooks** → select all three

After onboarding, Moltbot starts running automatically.

Step 9. Install browser support

This lets the bot browse websites.

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt install -y chromium xvfb fonts-liberation libnss3 libatk-bridge2.0-0t64 libgtk-3-0t64
```

Restart Moltbot:

```
systemctl --user restart clawdbot-gateway.service
```

Part 4: Connect and Verify

Step 10. Pair your Telegram account

1. Open your bot in Telegram.
2. Send `/start`.
3. The bot replies with a pairing code.
4. On the server, run (replace CODE with your actual code):

```
clawdbot pairing approve telegram CODE
```

Step 11. Open the Dashboard

The dashboard lets you manage Moltbot from your browser.

On your PC, open Terminal/Windows Terminal and run:

```
ssh -L 18789:127.0.0.1:18789 remote@TS_IP
```

Keep this window open.

On the server, run:

```
clawdbot dashboard --no-open
```

It prints a link like `http://127.0.0.1:18789/?token=...`

Copy the full link and open it in your PC's browser.

Step 12. Test the bot

1. Open your bot in Telegram.
2. Send `hi`.
3. You should get a response.

Done! Your Moltbot is running.

Troubleshooting

Bot doesn't respond

Check if Moltbot is running:

```
systemctl --user status clawdbot-gateway.service
```

View logs:

```
journalctl --user -u clawdbot-gateway.service -n 100 --no-pager
```

Restart it:

```
systemctl --user restart clawdbot-gateway.service
```

Can't open dashboard

Make sure the SSH tunnel command is still running on your PC.

Browser tool fails

Run the browser install command from Step 9 again, then restart Moltbot.

Security notes

- Keep your tokens in a password manager.
 - Always use Tailscale to connect to your server.
 - Don't share your dashboard link.
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Appendix A: WhatsApp setup

In the Dashboard:

1. Go to Channels
 2. Add WhatsApp
 3. Scan the QR code with your phone (WhatsApp → Settings → Linked Devices)
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Appendix B: Skills and Gemini API

After the bot works, you can add extra features:

```
clawdbot configure
```

Some skills need a Gemini API key. Get one at <https://aistudio.google.com/app/api-keys>, then:

```
echo 'export GEMINI_API_KEY="YOUR_KEY"' >> ~/.bashrc && source ~/.bashrc
```

Appendix C: Useful commands

```
# Check if Moltbot is running
systemctl --user status clawdbot-gateway.service

# Restart Moltbot
```

```
systemctl --user restart clawdbot-gateway.service

# View logs
journalctl --user -u clawdbot-gateway.service -n 100 --no-pager

# Check Tailscale
tailscale status

# Reconfigure Moltbot
clawdbot configure
```

Get a VPS

[Buy a VPS at Contabo](#)