

Installation Guide

This document provides multiple installation methods for the Audience Response System, ranging from automated installers to manual setup.

Quick Installation (Recommended)

Windows Users

1. **Download** `install-windows.bat`
2. **Right-click** the file and select “**Run as administrator**”
3. **Follow the prompts** - the installer will handle everything automatically
4. **Double-click** the desktop shortcut when installation completes

Mac Users

1. **Download** `install-mac.sh`
2. **Open Terminal** and navigate to the download folder
3. **Run:** `chmod +x install-mac.sh && ./install-mac.sh`
4. **Follow the prompts** - the installer will use Homebrew to install dependencies
5. **Double-click** “Audience Response System” on your desktop

Linux Users

1. **Download** `install-linux.sh`
2. **Open Terminal** and navigate to the download folder
3. **Run:** `chmod +x install-linux.sh && ./install-linux.sh`
4. **Follow the prompts** - the installer will detect your distribution automatically
5. **Use the desktop shortcut** or run the startup script

GUI Installer (Cross-Platform)

For users who prefer a graphical installer:




Prerequisites



- Python 3.6+ with tkinter support
- Internet connection

Installation

1. **Download** `install.py`
2. **Run:** `python3 install.py` (or double-click on Windows)
3. **Use the GUI** to configure installation options
4. **Click Install** and monitor the progress

The GUI installer provides:

-  Visual progress tracking
-  Installation logs
-  Customizable installation directory

-  Optional component selection
-  Error handling and troubleshooting

Manual Installation

For advanced users or custom setups:

Step 1: Install Dependencies

Windows:

- Node.js 18+: <https://nodejs.org>
- Git: <https://git-scm.com>
- PostgreSQL 14+: <https://postgresql.org>

Mac (with Homebrew):

```
brew install node git postgresql@14
brew services start postgresql@14
```

Linux (Ubuntu/Debian):

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install nodejs npm git postgresql postgresql-contrib
sudo systemctl start postgresql
sudo systemctl enable postgresql
```

Step 2: Download Application

```
git clone https://github.com/benny2744/ARS-BZ.git
cd ARS-BZ/app
```

Step 3: Setup Environment

```
# Install dependencies
npm install -g yarn
yarn install

# Copy environment template
cp .env.example .env

# Edit .env file with your settings
nano .env
```

Step 4: Database Setup

```
# Create database
createdb ars_database

# Initialize schema
npx prisma migrate deploy
npx prisma db seed
```

Step 5: Build & Run

```
# Build for production
yarn build

# Start the application
yarn start
```

Configuration Options

Environment Variables (.env)

Variable	Description	Default
DATABASE_URL	PostgreSQL connection string	Required
NEXTAUTH_URL	Application URL	http://localhost:3000
NEXTAUTH_SECRET	Authentication secret	Required
NODE_ENV	Environment mode	development
MAX_FILE_SIZE	Max upload size (bytes)	10485760 (10MB)
ALLOWED_FILE_TYPES	Allowed file extensions	.jpg, .png, .pdf

Database Configuration

Local PostgreSQL:

```
DATABASE_URL="postgresql://username:password@localhost:5432/ars_database"
```

Cloud PostgreSQL (recommended for production):

```
DATABASE_URL="postgresql://user:pass@host:5432/db?sslmode=require"
```

Network Setup

Local Network Access

To allow other devices on your network to access the system:

1. **Update NEXTAUTH_URL** in .env :

```
env
NEXTAUTH_URL="http://YOUR-IP-ADDRESS:3000"
```

2. **Configure Firewall:**

- **Windows:** Allow port 3000 through Windows Defender Firewall
- **Mac:** System Preferences → Security & Privacy → Firewall
- **Linux:** `sudo ufw allow 3000`

3. Find your IP address:

- **Windows:** `ipconfig`
- **Mac/Linux:** `ifconfig` or `ip addr show`

Production Deployment

For production use, consider:

- Using a reverse proxy (nginx, Apache)
- Setting up SSL certificates
- Using a cloud database service
- Implementing proper backup strategies



Security Considerations

Essential Security Steps

1. Change default secrets:

```
bash
# Generate a secure secret
openssl rand -base64 32
```

2. Use environment-specific URLs:

```
```env
Development
NEXTAUTH_URL="http://localhost:3000"

Production
NEXTAUTH_URL="https://yourdomain.com"
```
```

1. Secure database connections:

```
env
DATABASE_URL="postgresql://user:pass@host:5432/db?sslmode=require"
```

2. Configure file upload limits:

```
env
MAX_FILE_SIZE=10485760 # 10MB
ALLOWED_FILE_TYPES=".jpg,.jpeg,.png,.gif,.pdf"
```



Troubleshooting

Common Issues

Node.js version errors:

```
# Check version
node --version # Should be 18.0.0 or higher

# Update using package manager
# Windows: Download from nodejs.org
# Mac: brew upgrade node
# Linux: Use NodeSource repository
```

Database connection errors:

```
# Test PostgreSQL connection
psql -h localhost -U postgres -d ars_database

# Check if PostgreSQL is running
# Windows: Services.msc
# Mac: brew services list | grep postgresql
# Linux: sudo systemctl status postgresql
```

Port already in use:

```
# Find process using port 3000
# Windows: netstat -ano | findstr 3000
# Mac/Linux: lsof -i :3000

# Kill process and restart
```

Permission errors (Linux/Mac):

```
# Fix file permissions
chmod -R 755 /path/to/installation

# Fix ownership
sudo chown -R $USER:$USER /path/to/installation
```

Installation Logs

Check installation logs for detailed error information:

- **Windows:** %USERPROFILE%\AudienceResponseSystem\.logs\
- **Mac/Linux:** ~/AudienceResponseSystem/.logs/

Getting Help

1. **Check the FAQ** in README.md
2. **Review troubleshooting** in DEPLOYMENT.md
3. **Search existing issues** on GitHub
4. **Create a new issue** with:
 - Operating system and version
 - Installation method used
 - Error messages and logs
 - Steps to reproduce

System Requirements

Minimum Requirements

- **OS:** Windows 10, macOS 10.15, or Linux (Ubuntu 18.04+)
- **RAM:** 2GB available memory
- **Storage:** 1GB free disk space
- **Network:** Internet connection for initial setup
- **Database:** PostgreSQL 12+ (can be installed automatically)

Recommended Requirements

- **OS:** Latest versions of Windows 11, macOS 12+, or Ubuntu 20.04+
- **RAM:** 4GB+ available memory
- **Storage:** 2GB+ free disk space (for logs and uploads)
- **Network:** Stable internet connection and local network access
- **Database:** PostgreSQL 14+ with SSL support

Post-Installation Checklist

After installation, verify these items:

- ☐ Application starts without errors
- ☐ Database connection successful
- ☐ Admin account can be created
- ☐ Sessions can be created and joined
- ☐ File uploads work correctly
- ☐ Real-time updates function properly
- ☐ Desktop shortcuts work
- ☐ Network access configured (if needed)
- ☐ Firewall rules configured
- ☐ Backup strategy implemented

Updates

Automated Updates

The installers include update functionality:

- **Windows:** Re-run `install-windows.bat`
- **Mac/Linux:** Re-run the installation script
- **GUI:** Use the “Update” option in the installer

Manual Updates

```
cd /path/to/ARS-BZ
git pull origin main
cd app
yarn install
yarn build
```

Need additional help? Visit our [GitHub repository](https://github.com/benny2744/ARS-BZ) (<https://github.com/benny2744/ARS-BZ>) or check the [troubleshooting guide](#) (DEPLOYMENT.md#troubleshooting).