Local Configuration System - Visual Guide

How It Works



File Flow

Initial Setup

```
    Clone Repository
        Downloads: Code + Templates
        Does NOT download: *.local.json (don't exist yet)

    Run: ./scripts/init-local-config.sh
        Reads: *.template.json
        Creates: *.local.json (YOUR copy)

    Edit your local files
        nano config/local.local.json
        Configure Wolfpack IP, ports, etc.
        Settings saved locally
```

During Git Pull



Example: Wolfpack Configuration

Template (in GitHub)

Your Local Config (NOT in GitHub)

What Happens During Git Pull

```
Before pull:
    config/local.local.json → { "ip": "192.168.50.230" } ← YOUR IP

GitHub has:
    config/local.template.json → { "ip": "192.168.1.100" } ← Example

After pull:
    config/local.template.json → { "ip": "192.168.1.100" } ← Updated from GitHub
    config/local.local.json → { "ip": "192.168.50.230" } ← UNCHANGED! (gitignored)
```

Multiple Locations

Bar 1 (Downtown)

```
// config/local.local.json
{
    "system": { "name": "Downtown Sports Bar" },
    "wolfpack": { "ip": "192.168.1.100" }
}
```

Bar 2 (Westside)

```
// config/local.local.json
{
   "system": { "name": "Westside Sports Bar" },
   "wolfpack": { "ip": "192.168.2.100" }
}
```

Both Use Same Codebase

Testing the System

Step 1: Verify Local Files Exist

```
$ ls -la config/*.local.json
-rw-r--r-- 1 ubuntu ubuntu 1288 Oct  1 05:27 config/local.local.json
-rw-r--r-- 1 ubuntu ubuntu 255 Oct  1 05:27 config/devices.local.json
-rw-r--r-- 1 ubuntu ubuntu 164 Oct  1 05:27 config/sports-teams.local.json
```

Step 2: Verify NOT Tracked by Git

```
$ git status
On branch main
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/main'.
nothing to commit, working tree clean
```

Good! Local files exist but Git doesn't see them.

Step 3: Make a Test Change

```
$ echo '// TEST CHANGE' >> config/local.local.json
$ cat config/local.local.json | tail -1
// TEST CHANGE
```

Step 4: Pull from GitHub

```
$ git pull origin main
Already up to date.
```

Step 5: Verify Change Still There

```
$ cat config/local.local.json | tail -1
// TEST CHANGE
```

✓ Success! Your local changes survived the git pull.

Directory Structure

```
Sports-Bar-TV-Controller/
  - config/
      — 📘 README.md (guide)
      - TEMPLATES (tracked in Git)
        ├─ local.template.json
          devices.template.json
        sports-teams.template.json

    LOCAL (gitignored, YOUR data)

        ├─ local.local.json
          - devices.local.json
        └─ sports-teams.local.json
      - SHARED (tracked in Git)
        └─ auto-sync.json
   scripts/

    init-local-config.sh (setup script)

    LOCAL_CONFIG_SYSTEM.md (full guide)
```

Configuration Loading

```
Application Startup

-> 1. Load config/local.template.json (defaults)
-> 2. Load config/local.local.json (YOUR overrides)
-> Merges with defaults
-> Your values take priority
-> 3. Load .env (secrets, API keys)
-> Overrides config files
-> 4. Load database (runtime settings)
-> Overrides everything
```

Quick Reference

Commands

```
# Initialize local config (one time)
./scripts/init-local-config.sh

# Edit your settings
nano config/local.local.json

# Update from GitHub (safe!)
git pull origin main

# Verify local files
ls -la config/*.local.json

# Check git status (should be clean)
git status

# Backup your config
tar -czf ~/config-backup.tar.gz config/*.local.json .env
```

File Types

Extension	Tracked	Purpose	Edit?
.template.json	✓ Yes	Defaults	Rarely
.local.json	X No	Your data	Yes
.json	✓ Yes	Shared	Sometimes

Benefits

Before	After	
⚠ Manual backup before update	✓ Automatic preservation	
⚠ Risk of losing settings	✓ Settings always safe	
⚠ Reconfigure after update	✓ No reconfiguration needed	
⚠ Hard to manage multiple bars	✓ Easy multi-location support	
⚠ No clear config structure	✓ Organized, documented system	

Your configuration is now protected!



Update fearlessly with git pull - your settings are safe!