AREDN on Proxmox

German Video of Webinar on this channel: https://www.youtube.com/@uskapr113

Inhalt

[System Overview 3](#_Toc151470316)

[Needed Steps 4](#_Toc151470317)

[Proxmox 5](#_Toc151470318)

[Adjust the network of the node 6](#_Toc151470319)

[Create an AREDN VM 7](#_Toc151470320)

[Creating the VM 7](#_Toc151470321)

[Configuring the VM 10](#_Toc151470322)

[Setting Up the AREDN Disk 11](#_Toc151470323)

[Create a Debian VM as a Management Console 15](#_Toc151470324)

[Configure the AREDN Tunnel Server 24](#_Toc151470325)

[Initial setup of the AREDN router 24](#_Toc151470326)

[Connection to the configured Tunnel Server (incl. ssh) 25](#_Toc151470327)

[Network mapping inside the AREDN VM 27](#_Toc151470328)

[Backup of the VM 29](#_Toc151470329)

[Install QUEMU Agent 30](#_Toc151470330)

[AREDN Virtual Machine as a Telephone Server 32](#_Toc151470331)

[Overview 32](#_Toc151470332)

[Setup 32](#_Toc151470333)

[Final tip: 34](#_Toc151470334)

# System Overview

This is the setup we want to achieve:



# Needed Steps

1. Install Proxmox on an X.86 machine (PC)
2. Adjust network of the node
3. Create an AREDN VM
4. Create a Debian VM (or any other distribution that can run a terminal and a browser)
5. Connect to AREDN from Debian to setup the network configuration as well as the AREDN node

# Proxmox installation

You find many tutorials to install Proxmox on an X86 machine.

Find the IP address of your Proxmox server (using Advanced IP Scanner)

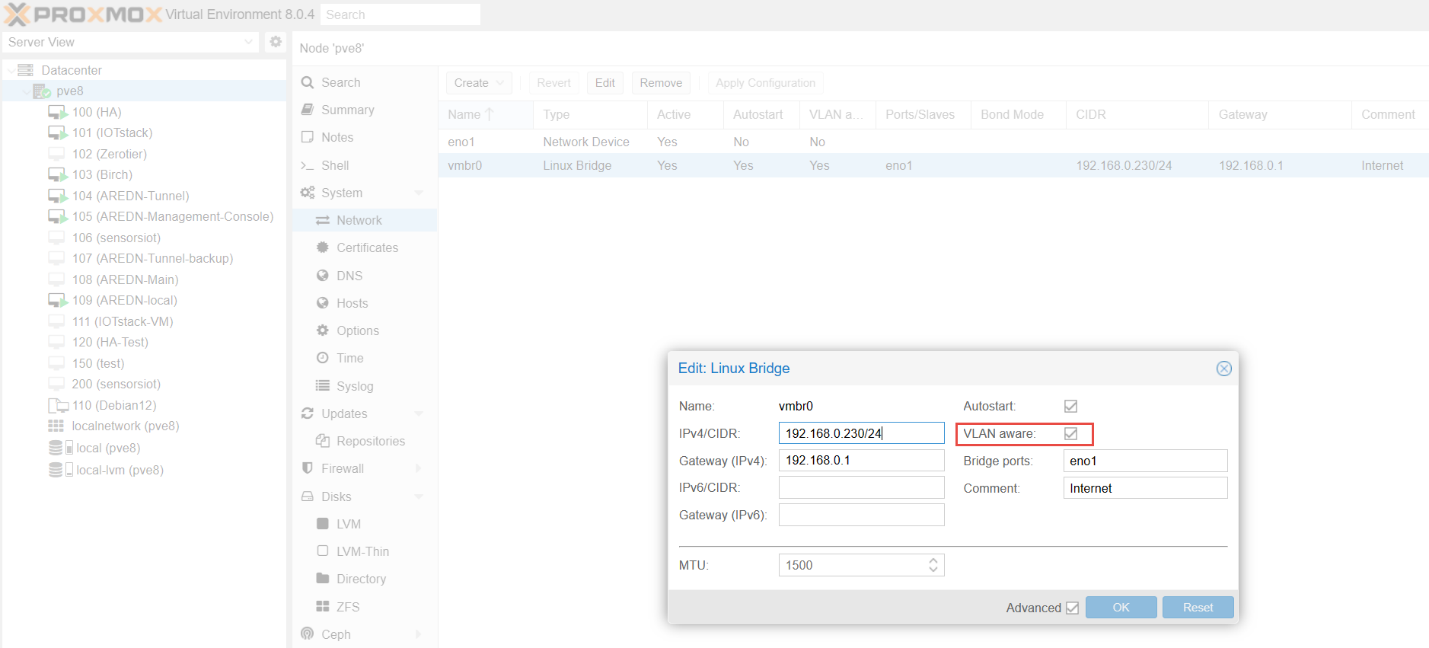
Open a web browser and navigate to the Proxmox web UI (e.g. https://192.168.0.230:8006/

# VLAN enabling of the Proxmox network

Navigate to pve8🡪Network

vmbr0 is the same as port 1 on the hap router and is connected to the internet (for tunnels) It is default on Proxmox.

Make vmbr0 VLAN aware:



## VLAN definition for this document

VLAN1: Used as “untagged” VLAN by AREDN

VLAN2: Used for Device-to-Device (DtD) communication by AREDN

VLAN10: Used as LAN network for the Tunnel Server (by the author, can be changed)

VLAN20: Used as LAN network for the Telephone Server (by the author, can be changed)

# Create an AREDN VM (Tunnel or Telephone Server)

Based on: <https://i12bretro.github.io/tutorials/0405.html>

and

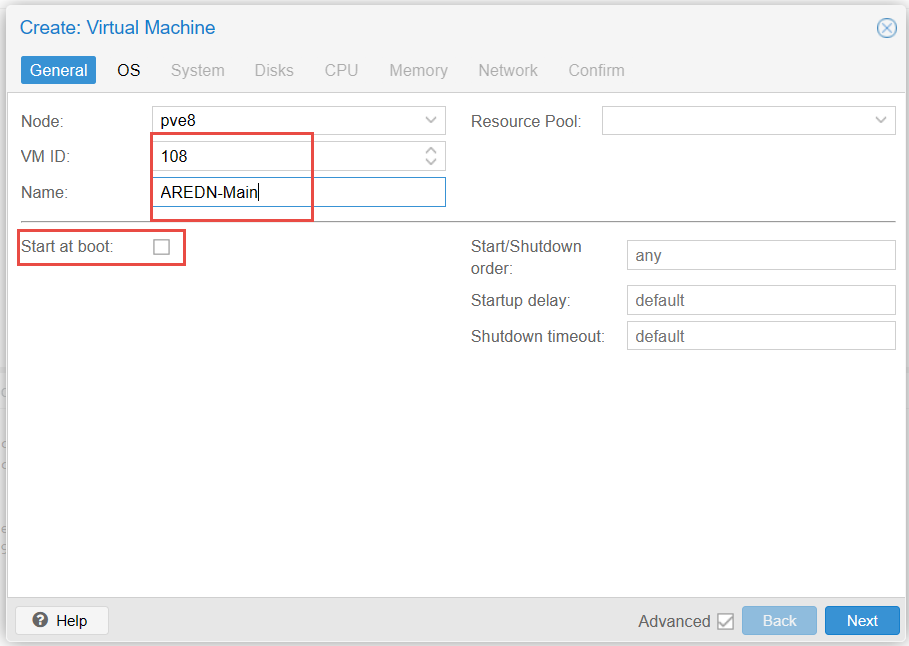
<https://youtu.be/8nsdrWeeg8o>

## Creating the VM

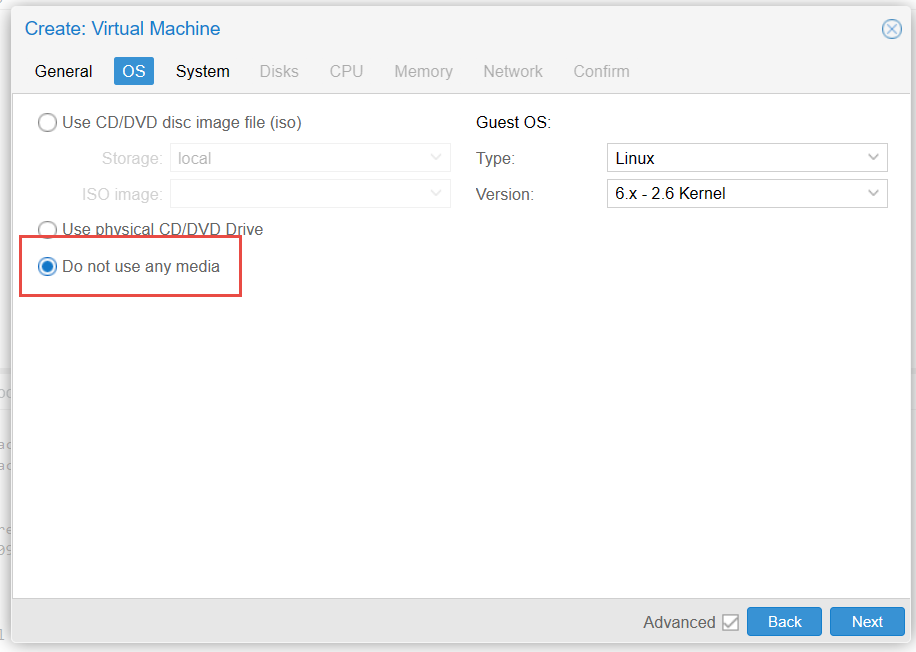
Click the Create VM button at the top right:

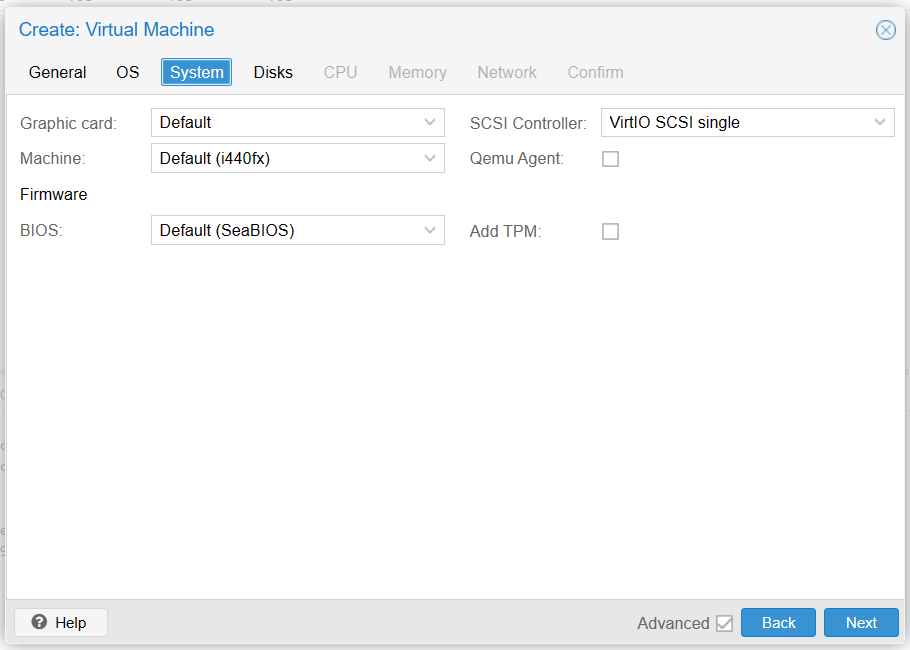


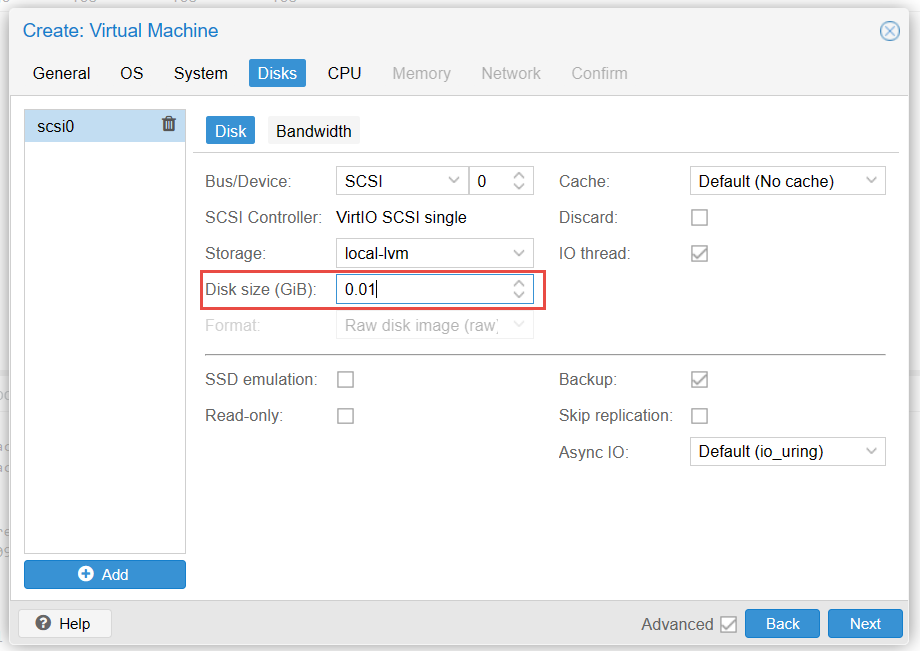
And fill in a name and an ID for your VM (start at boot not ticked):

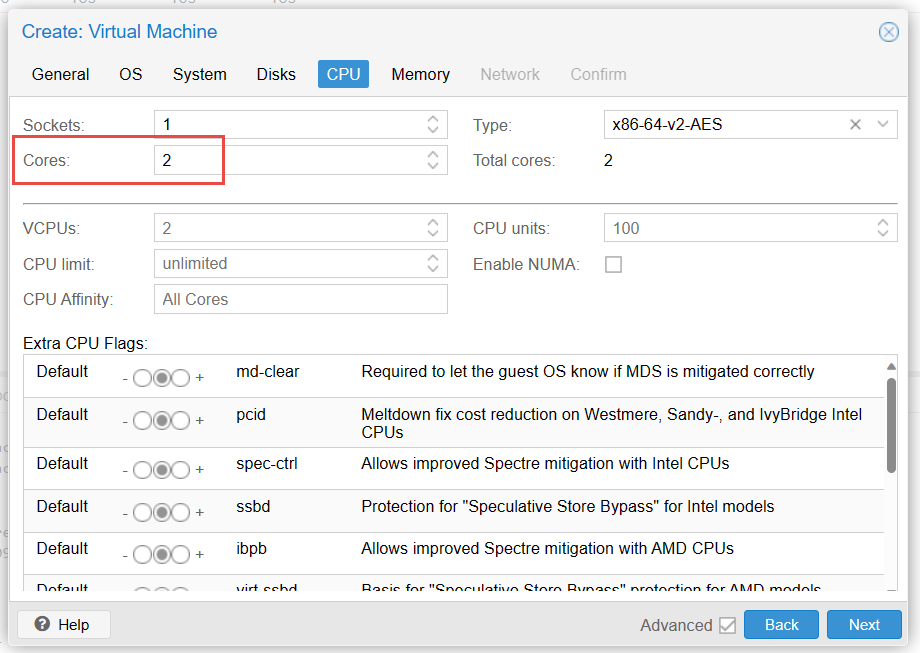


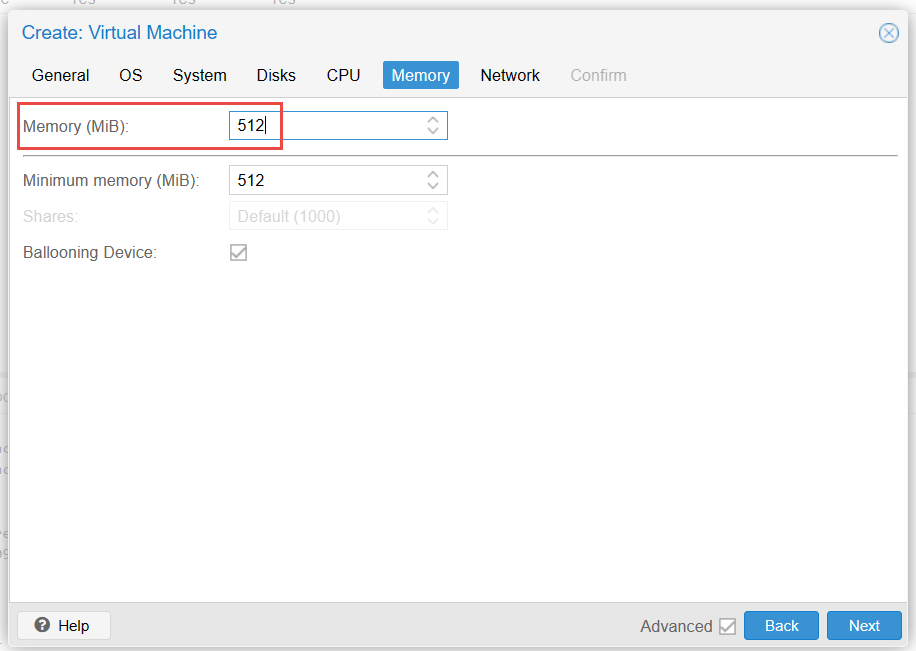
Start at boot can be ticked when everything works

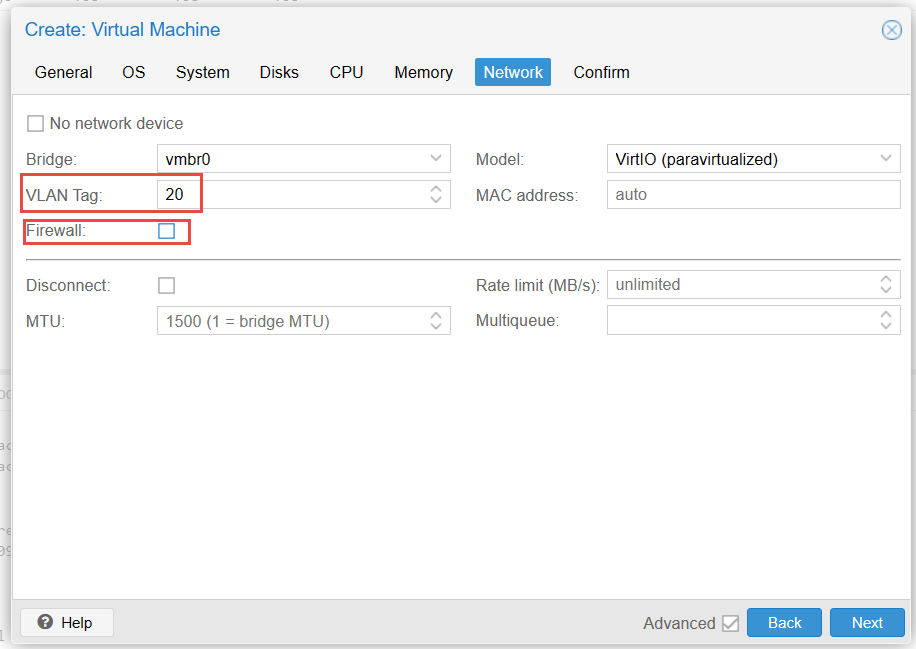




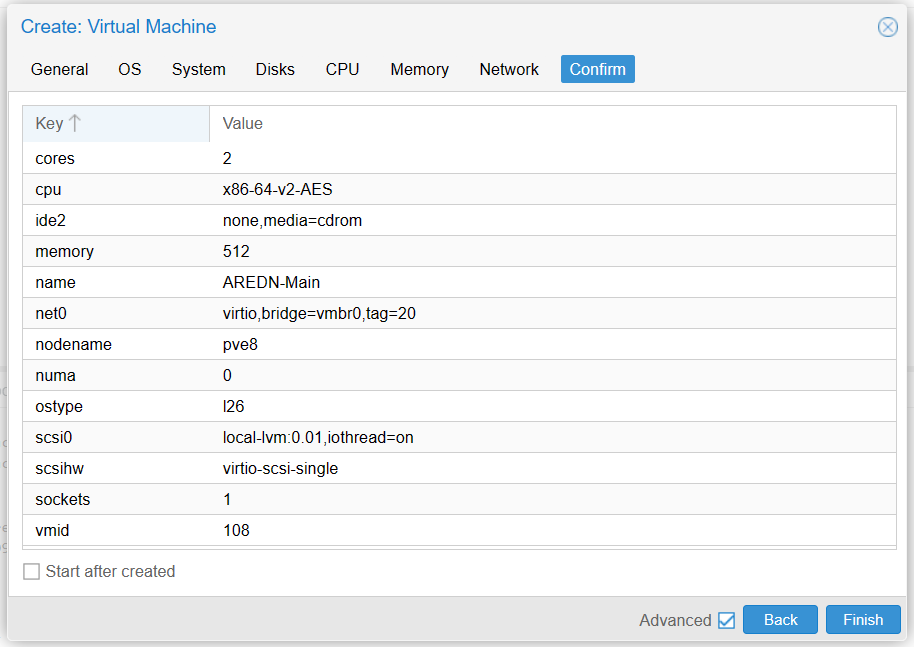








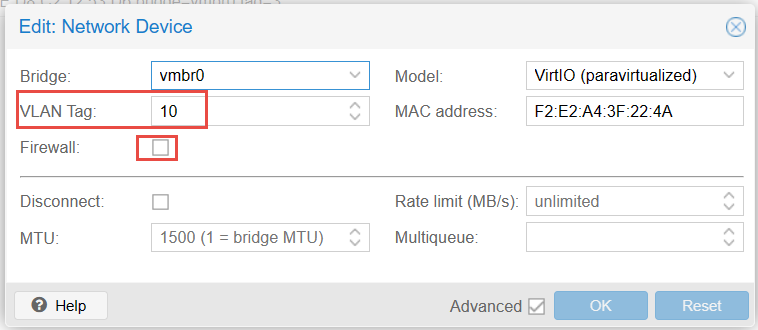
Add VLAN 20 (to prevent DHCP server interacting with your home network (and untick firewall):



Confirm the summary and wait till the VM is created

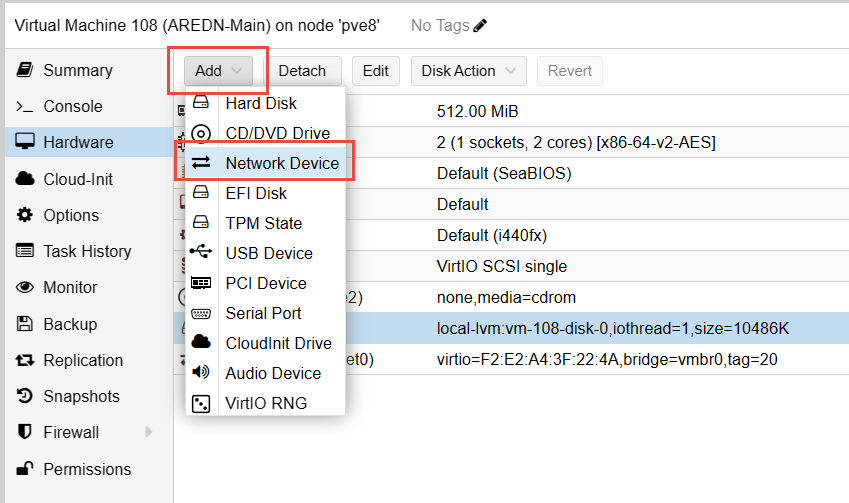
## Configuring the AREDN VM

Change VLAN tag and remove firewall of Network device (net0) to create LAN port

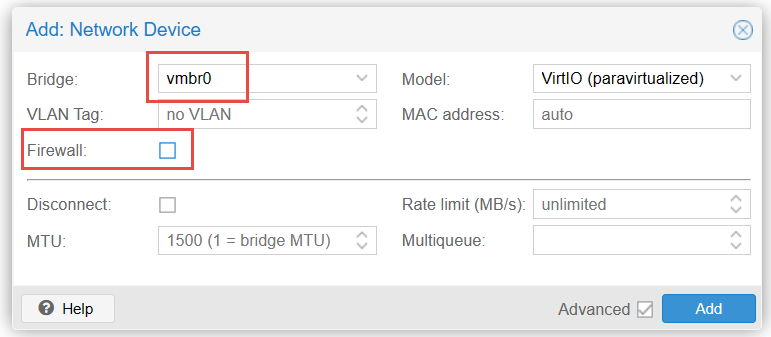


VLAN 10 is used to insulate the DHCP server of the AREDN node. If you forget it, you can shut down your whole home network when you start the server!

Click the Add button > Network Device



to create the WAN port

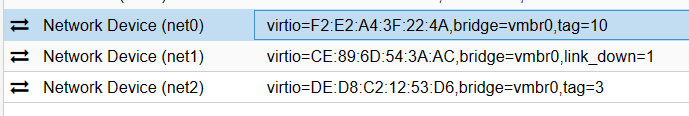


Add the DtD interface in VLAN2

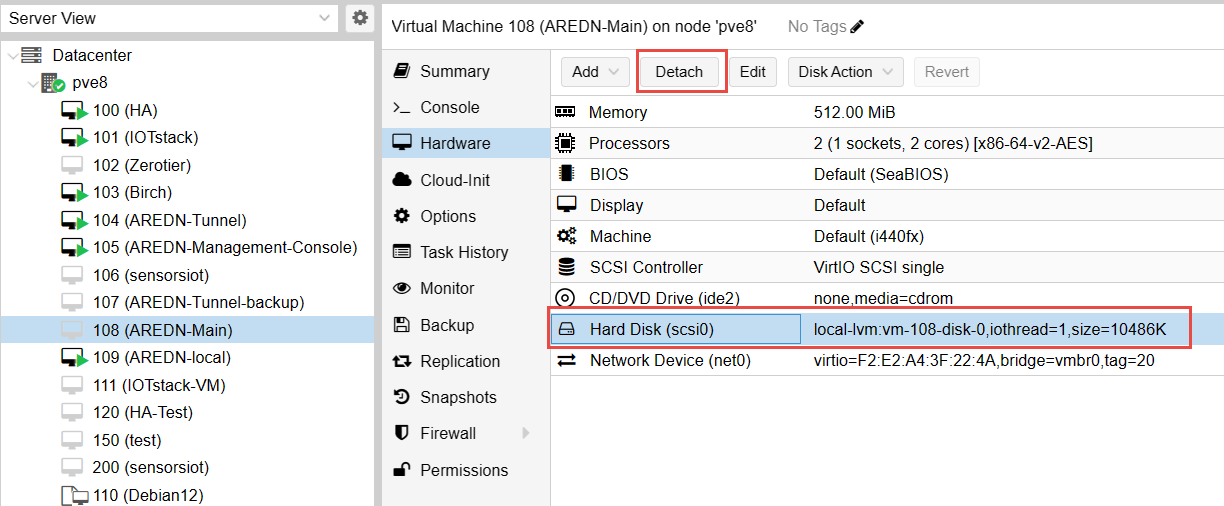
Ein Bild, das Text, Schrift, Zahl, Reihe enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

The result should look like that:



And finally, detach and remove harddisk (scsi0)



## Setting Up the AREDN Disk

Go to the shell of the server and download the image

Ein Bild, das Text, Screenshot, Software, Computersymbol enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

wget -O aredn.img.gz http://downloads.arednmesh.org/releases/3.23.8.0/targets/x86/64/aredn-3.23.8.0-x86-64-generic-ext4-combined.img.gz

Adjust the release if you want. Or upgrade your VM later using the AREDN VM

extract the AREDN img

gunzip ./aredn.img.gz

rename the extracted img

mv ./aredn\*.img ./aredn.raw

increase the raw disk to 512 MB

qemu-img resize -f raw ./aredn.raw 512M

import the disk to the openwrt VM (replace 104 with your VM number)

qm importdisk 104 /root/aredn.raw local-lvm

The disk is now visible as “Unused Disk 0”. Add the disk (double click on it) to your VM:

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Change boot order:

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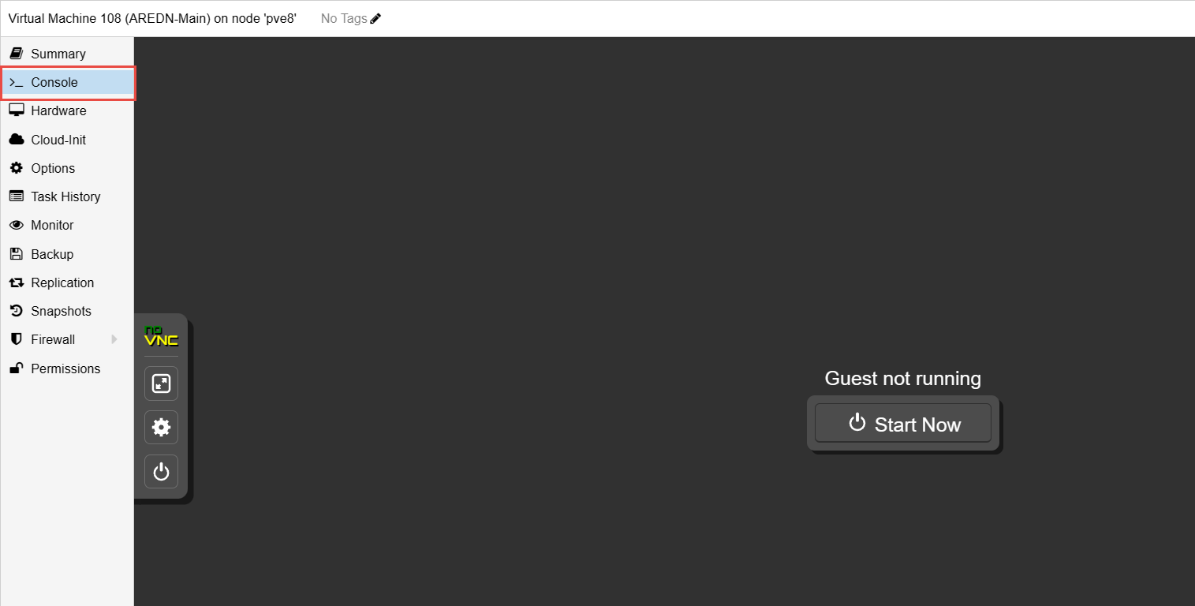
Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Double click Use tablet pointer > Uncheck the Enabled box > Click OK

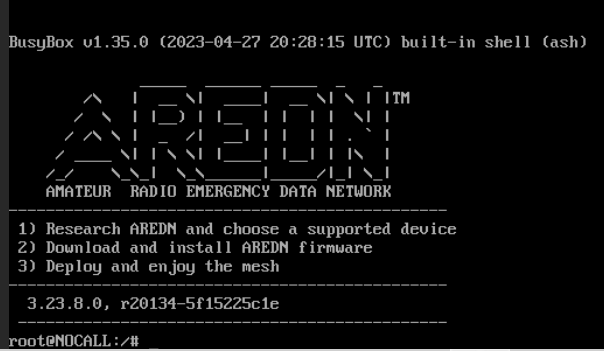
Ein Bild, das Text, Zahl, Schrift, Software enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Go to Console and press “Start Now”



Watch the boot process, wait for the text to stop scrolling and press “Enter”



Run the following command to change/set the root password

passwd

Type a new root password twice. Attention: It is a US keyboard (Y/Z)

For the moment we are done with the AREDN node. Because we had to separate the LAN from our home network, we only can manage the node in the Proxmox terminal (it does not offer a browser). To solve the problem, we add a VM with plain vanilla Debian and connect it to VLAN20, too. Like that we have a private connection to manage our AREDN node.

Of course, you can use any other VM that offers a browser and is connected to vmbr0/VLAN10.

Type

Ip addr

To check the address of your VM. It should be 192.168.1.1

# Create a Debian VM as a Management Console

<https://youtu.be/OUC7DMBfR3Y?si=y4r3edcwzzpd2JHJ>

Download the Debian 11 iso Download

<https://cdimage.debian.org/debian-cd/current/amd64/iso-cd/> (debian-12.1.0-amd64-netinst.iso)

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Create VM

Ein Bild, das Text, Screenshot, Software, Display enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

On the OS tab,

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Leave the defaults on the System tab

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

On the Hard Disk tab, set the Disk size to 16 GiB or more

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

On the CPU tab

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung,

On the Memory tab

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Network tab: Add the VLAN number of the LAN port of the AREDN server you want to connect to and untick the firewall.

Edit: Do not add the VLAN right now. Add it when you are finished with the installation and want to connect to an AREDN node. Otherwise you will not be able to continue.

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Verify the summary and click Finish

Start the VM

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Graphical Install

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select a language

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select a Location (other 🡪Europe🡪Switzerland)

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select locales (can be adapted later)

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select a keyboard layout (can be changed later)

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Enter a hostname for the VM

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Leave domain name empty

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Leave root password empty

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Enter the full name for the new user

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Enter the username for the new user

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Enter and confirm a password for the new user

Ein Bild, das Text, Reihe, Schrift, Zahl enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select Disk

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung



Ein Bild, das Text, Schrift, Screenshot enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Check and click Continue

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select Yes to confirm writing the changes

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Wait for Debian to copy and install files

Ein Bild, das Text, Screenshot, Schrift enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Ein Bild, das Text, Screenshot, Display, Software enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Ein Bild, das Text, Schrift, Screenshot enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Ein Bild, das Text, Schrift, Reihe, Screenshot enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Wait

Participating in package survey

Ein Bild, das Text, Schrift, Screenshot enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select the software to install

Ein Bild, das Text, Software, Screenshot, Webseite enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select (tick) “SSH server”

Wait

Select Yes to install GRUB

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Select drive for the boot loader

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Reboot

Remove CD drive (it will only be removed after reboot)

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Go to the Console and login

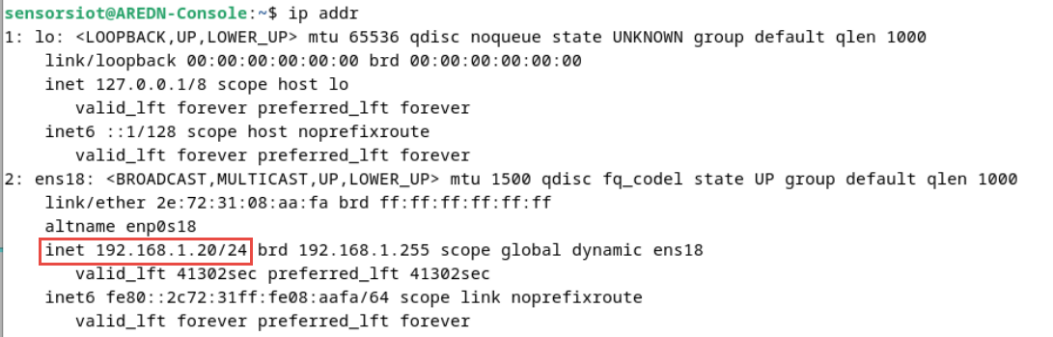
Ein Bild, das Screenshot, Schwarz, Schwarzweiß enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Start Firefox. On <http://localnode.local.mesh> you should see your AREDN server on the same VLAN because your Management Console is connected via the vmbr0/10 interface.

# Configure the AREDN Tunnel Server

Because our Management Console VM is connected to our AREDN VM via vmbr0/VLAN10 it should get an IP.

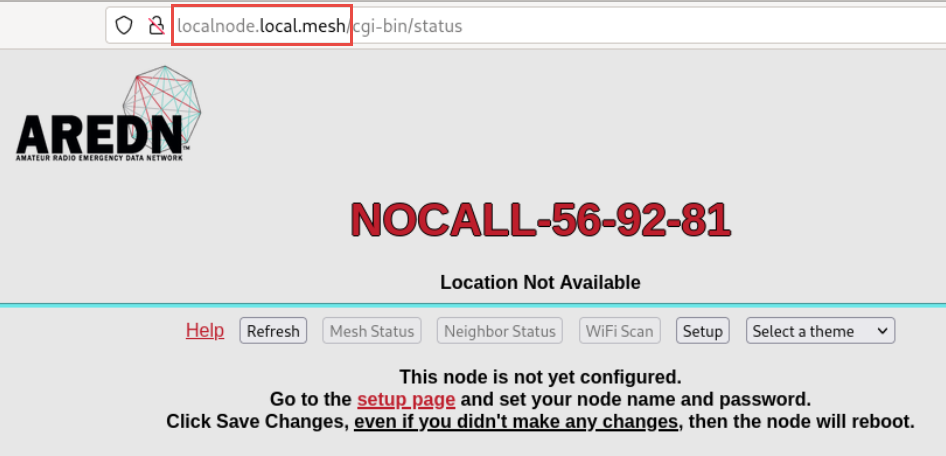


To check the connection, you can ping the AREDN VM:

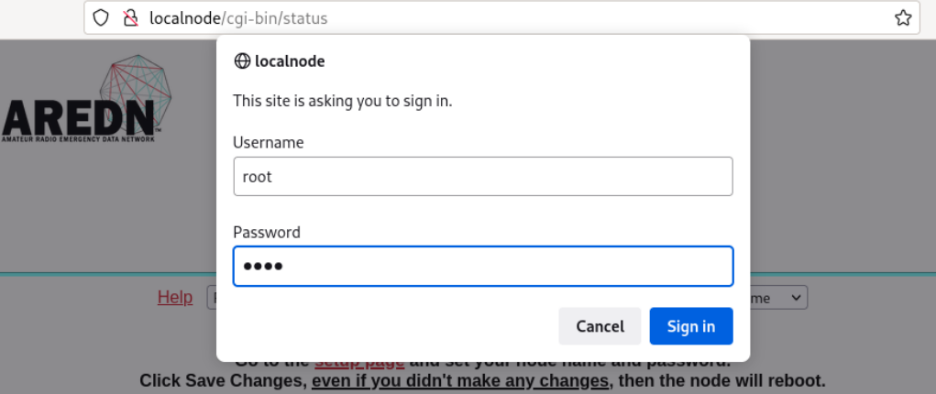
ping localnode.local.mesh

## Initial setup of the AREDN router

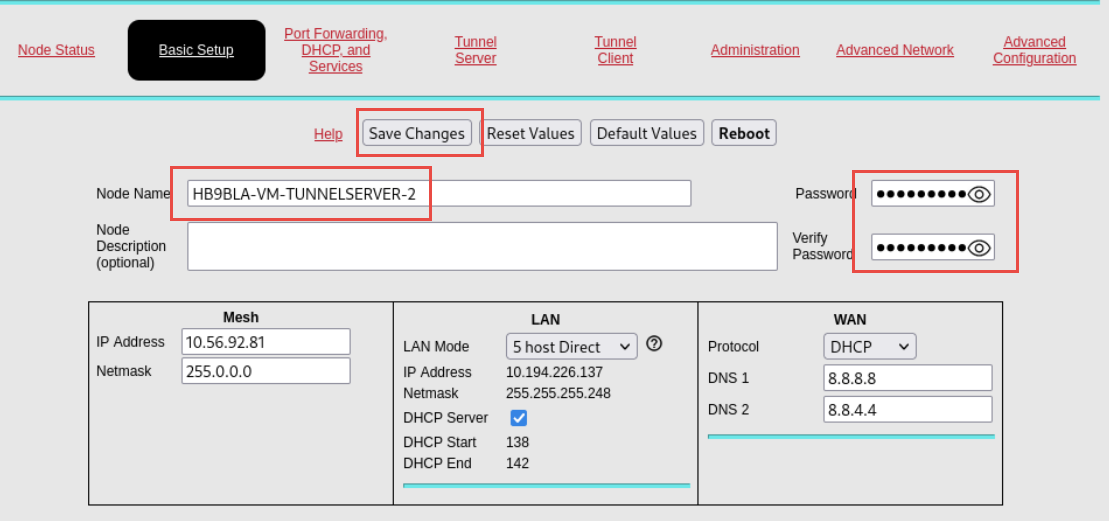
Open the browser and call localnode.local.mesh



Press setup (password: hsmm)



Give it a name and a password, hit “Save changes” and “reboot”



After reboot, your AREDN VM should have an 10.x.x.x address

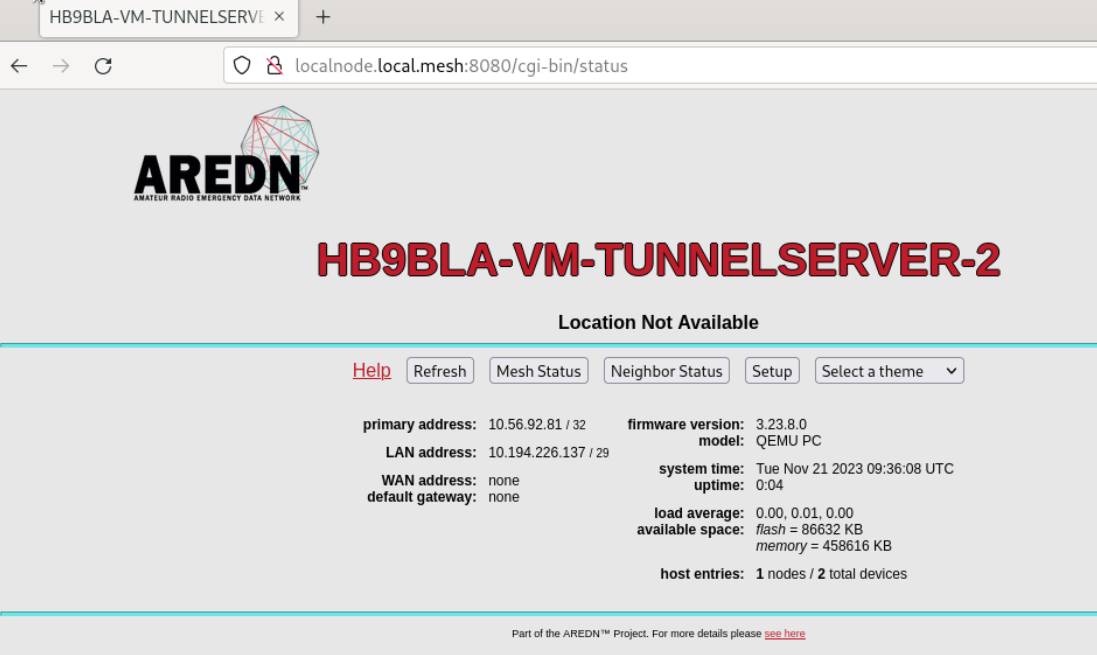
If the Management Console does not connect to the AREDN VM, it still has its old address.

So type these two commands to get a new address from the AREDN VM:

sudo dhclient -r

sudo dhclient

From now on, you can manage your AREDN node from the Management Console



### Connection to the configured Tunnel Server (incl. ssh)

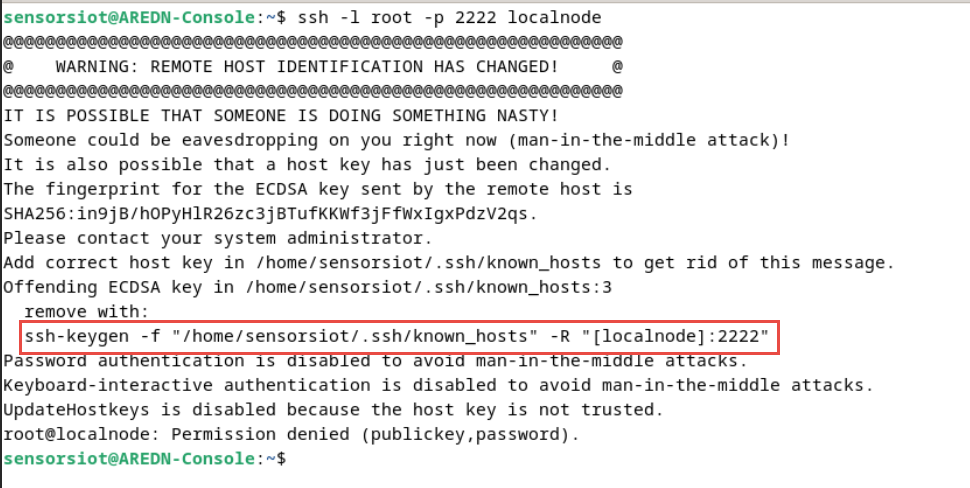
Connect again to your AREDN server (unfortunately, Proxmox does not allow copy-paste):

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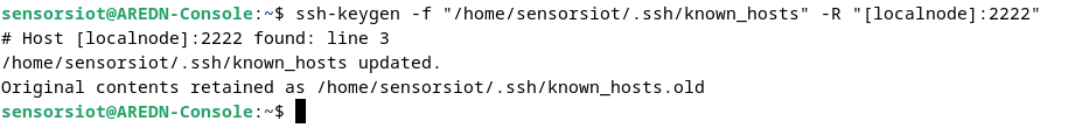
Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Press yes, and enter the password **hsmm**

If you get a “man in the middle” warning, key in the suggested command:



This is the correct answer:



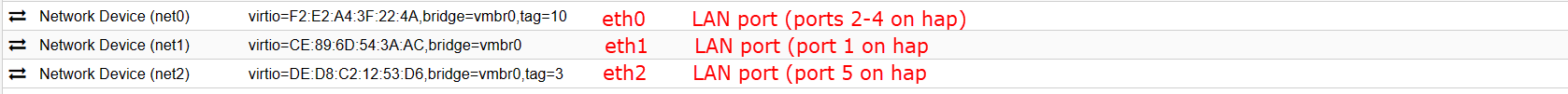
Now you can try to ssh into your server as before

Ein Bild, das Text, Elektronik, Screenshot, Display enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

### Network mapping inside the AREDN VM

In the end we would like the following mapping:



The mapping of the nets has to be done now in the terminal of the Management Console.

Type:

vi /etc/config/network

and hit the “insert” key.

Leave the Wi-Fi configuration as it is:

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Add two ports to the bridge configuration:

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Adjust the LAN configuration:

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

The LAN is connected to eth0 that is net0 in Proxmox on VLAN 20. Only our Management Console is connected to this network. So the DHCP server inside the AREDN server is insulated and does not harm your home network.

The WAN port has to be connected to the internet. Vmbr0 is connected to the RJ45 connector of your server. It uses the general purpose VLAN 1 and will get a DHCP address from your home network.

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

The DtD (device-to-device) port is connected to the RJ45 of your Proxmox server via vmbr0, but this time using VLAN 2. To avoid problems with the DHCP server of other AREDN devices like the hap routers, we have to add a managed switch where we only transfer VLAN 2 to the ports where we connect port 5 of the hap routers or any “antennas”.

Ein Bild, das Text, Screenshot, Schrift enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

All networks have to marked “untagged” (e.g. “eth2:u”). They are tagged by Proxmox. And Proxmox does not like tagged stuff from the container.

The rest of the configuration file is only comments and is not changed for the moment.

Press the “escape” button and “:wq” to save your changes.

Reboot.

Now you can connect to localnode.local.mesh via browser and start to customize your server.

Give it the name: Callsign-VM-TUNNELSERVER (if not done before).

Connect it as a client to your Tunnel Server in the AREDN network. Make sure the administrator of your tunnel adjusts the name and the address of your new server. Maybe you want to run in parallel for a few days. After connecting to your Tunnel Server, you should see the other nodes in the net.

Now, you can add the tunnels you serve. Do not forget to forward port 5525 to the address of your Tunnel Server.

Ein Bild, das Text, Schrift, Software, Zahl enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Now your Server should be connected to the SwissDigitalNet. Congratulations!

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

## Backup of the VM

Backup machine to the local directory

Ein Bild, das Text, Screenshot, Software, Zahl enthält.

Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

You find this directory

cd /var/lib/vz/dump/

on the Proxmox server. It can be saved to the local disk using WinSCP

## Install QUEMU Agent

This step is needed to control (e.g. shut down) the AREDN VM from Proxmox

You have to be connected to the SwissDigitalNet for this task

In your Management Console, you go to mesh status and select HB9EDI’s filerepo:

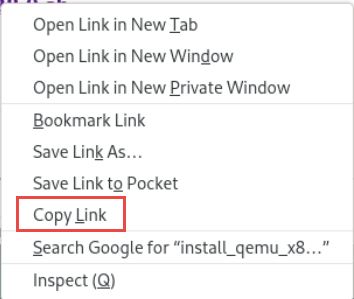
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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

And copy this link (right mouse click):

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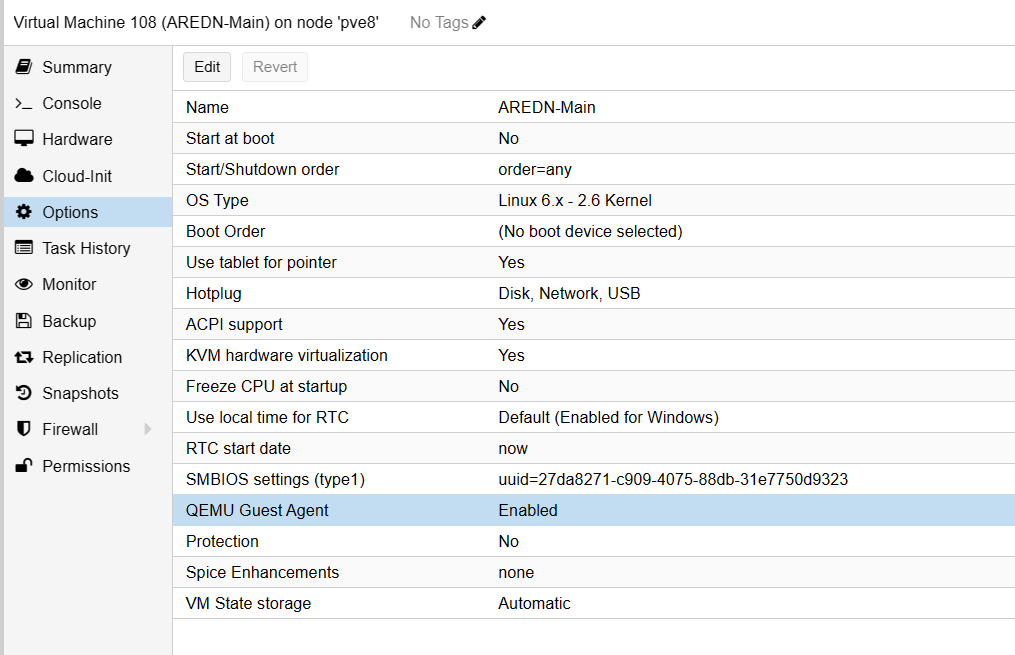
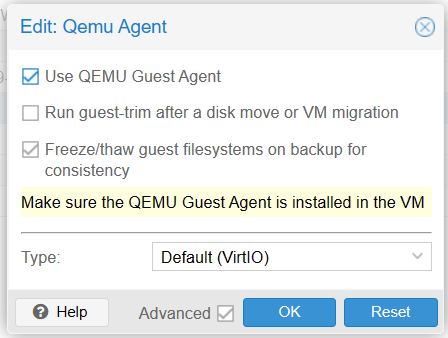
Automatisch generierte Beschreibung



Now you paste the link into your terminal and add the yellow command

curl http://hb9edi-vm-gw.local.mesh/filerepo/install\_qemu\_x86\_agents\_3.28.0.sh |ash

Finally, you enable Guest Agent and reboot the machine



Now your Tunnel Server can be controlled by Proxmox.

# AREDN Virtual Machine as a Telephone Server

## Overview

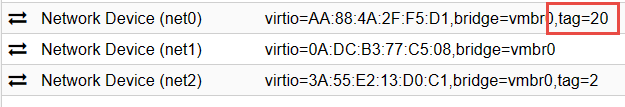


## Setup

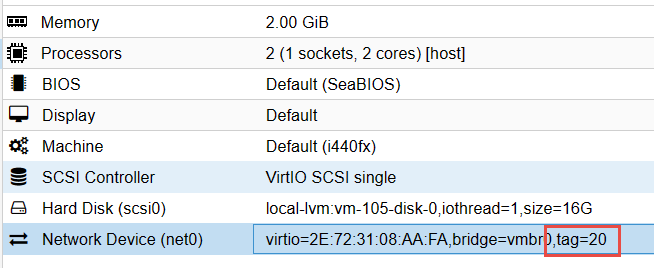
We create a new VM in addition to the Tunnel Server. If you do not operate a Tunnel Server, you just create a VM for your Telephone Server.

Do not copy the VM of the Tunnel Server.

The basis setup has to be done the same way as for the Tunnel Server. The main difference is that we chose VLAN10 as the management connection:



And we have to change the network of the Management Console, too:



Do not assign the same VLAN to two AREDN management connections (you will get two concurrent DHCP servers)!

Now we should be able to manage the Telephone Server from the Management Console.

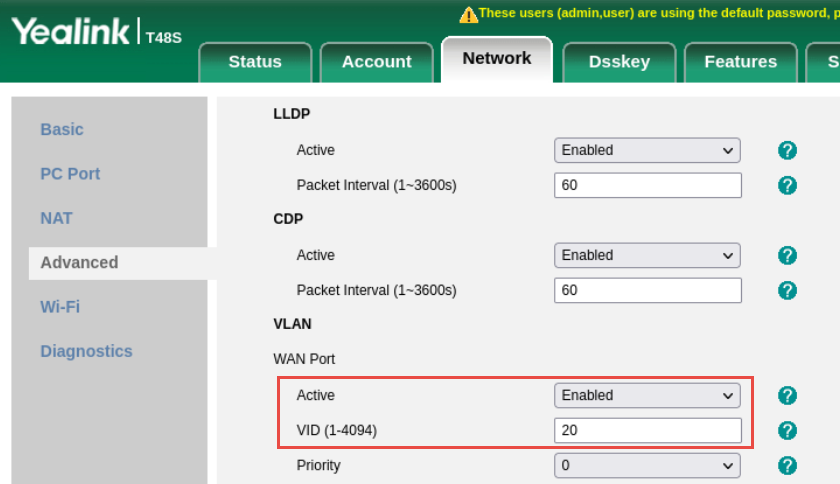
Maybe you have to reassign a new IP to the Management Console:

sudo dhclient -r

sudo dhclient

We can connect our phones to our home network instead of the hap router and they should get a normal address in the 192.168.xxx.xxx range.

Because our LAN of the VM is on VLAN 20, we must change the VLAN of the phone, too. We login and go to Network🡪 Advanced and enable VLAN 20.



Now your phone should get a 10.xx.xx.xx address (instead of a 192.168.xxx.xxx) and you can install the phonebook and the SIP server as in every hap router and make the first test call.

The Tunnel Server VM and the telephone VM should be connected by a DtD link. You see this in the neighbour status:

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Automatisch generierte Beschreibung

Be aware that you can only manage your VMs (other than the Tunnel Server) and phones from the Management Console. They are not connected to your home network.

You can shut the Management Console VM down if you do not need it if you do not have too much resources on your server.

## Final tip:

You can connect your Management Console to whatever AREDN VM you want (select VLAN 10 for the Tunnel and VLAN20 for the Telephone Server). From there, you can reach all your devices without changing the VLAN of the Management Console .