

# User Manual - Turtlenet Ballmer Peak

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# Chapter 1

## General

### 1.1 System Overview

Turtlenet is a purpose-built, privacy oriented social network, which demands zero security or technical knowledge on behalf of its users. It allows communication between users securely, which can either be in the form of instant messaging, or creating posts to a series of user created 'walls.'

What makes Turtlenet significant is even the service operators are unaware of the content of messages. It is designed from the ground up that they can never have access, even if they wanted to. This resolves a more common security issue that plagues modern social media networks, an issue Turtlenet has been created to not have.

### 1.2 Contact

Team contact information:

- [p.duff@turtlenet.com](mailto:p.duff@turtlenet.com)
- [l.thomas@turtlenet.com](mailto:l.thomas@turtlenet.com)
- [a.senin@turtlenet.com](mailto:a.senin@turtlenet.com)
- [l.prince@turtlenet.com](mailto:l.prince@turtlenet.com)
- [m.chadwick@turtlenet.com](mailto:m.chadwick@turtlenet.com)
- [l.choi@turtlenet.com](mailto:l.choi@turtlenet.com)

# Chapter 2

## Getting Started

### 2.1 Getting started

Welcome to using Turtlenet! Through the use of Turtlenet, you will experience the ease of use and the practicality of communicating and socialising with your friends, family, business associates or anyone else that you know through a medium where your data is ensured to be protected. This user manual has been designed and written specifically to assist the users by providing detailed description of all the various uses of the program. Let's get started!

### 2.2 System Requirements

These are the minimum system requirements for Turtlenet:

Windows:

- Client: Windows Vista SP2 or greater; Server: Windows Server 2008 or 2012(64-bit)
- Browser: Internet Explorer 7, Firefox, Chrome

Mac OS X:

- Intel-based using Mac OS X 10.7.3 (Lion) or later
- a 64-bit browser (Google Chrome may be a 32-bit browser, which could stop Java from operating successfully.)

Linux/Source:

- Any distribution capable of running a Java Virtual Machine (JVM) that is compatible with the official release of Java.

- Our UI uses 'Google Web Toolkit' (GWT) which requires GTK2 (GIMP Tool Kit) so this may also be required for your system

If you plan on building by source, which is probably required in Linux due to the many different distributions available, here is what you will need:

- Java Development Kit (JDK)
- Java Runtime Environment (JRE)
- Google Web Toolkit (GWT)
- Apache Ant
- GIMP Tool Kit 2 (GTK2)
- GNU make / Capability of using makefiles
- For Windows users, we suggest using 'Cygwin' for ease of use but there could be ways of building the source without it.

## 2.3 The Turtlenet Interface

Turtlenet comes with a simple interface that has the main menu, which has the following sections:

- Login screen
- My Wall
- My Details
- Messages
- Friends
- Logout

## 2.4 Account Creation

The user is expected to create a new account when using Turtlenet for the first time. In order to create an account, enter a user name and a password, as well as repeating your password into the confirmation box. Once the user has created an account, simply enter your password to login to Turtlenet. From here onwards, the user can then add further profile details should they wish to. How to do so will be explained under the 'Using the System' section.

## Chapter 3

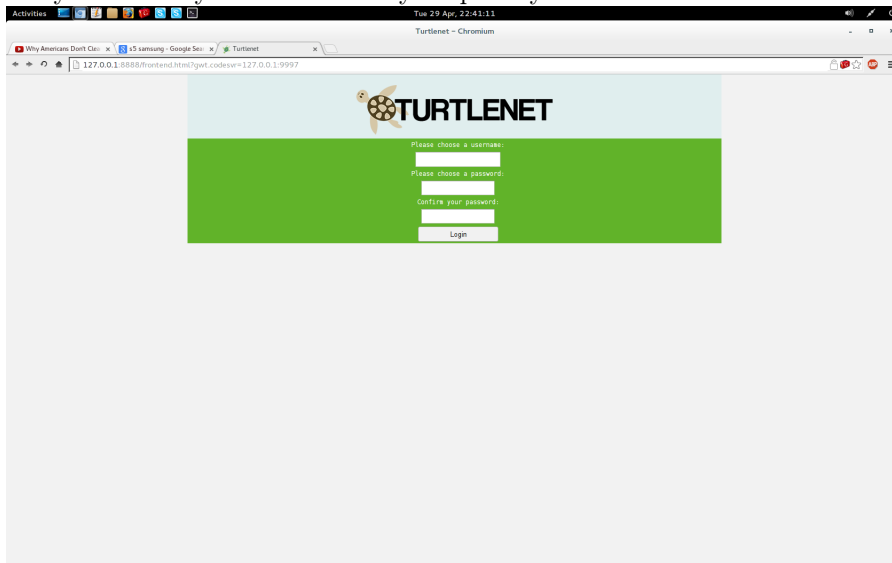
# Using the System

This section extends upon the fundamentals mentioned in the Turtlenet (TN) general section.

### 3.1 Creating an Account

The 'General' chapter only briefly mentions creating an account so to make this section complete as a 'go-to' resource for users it will also be mentioned here too.

This is where your private communications begin. Therefore it is important that this is done correctly otherwise you can't bolster your privacy with our client.



This image shows the account creation page, which you should see when you run the client for the first time on your computer. From the top there are three text boxes:

- a Username box
- a Password box
- a Confirmation box

You fill in each of the fields with the required information which will be the following:

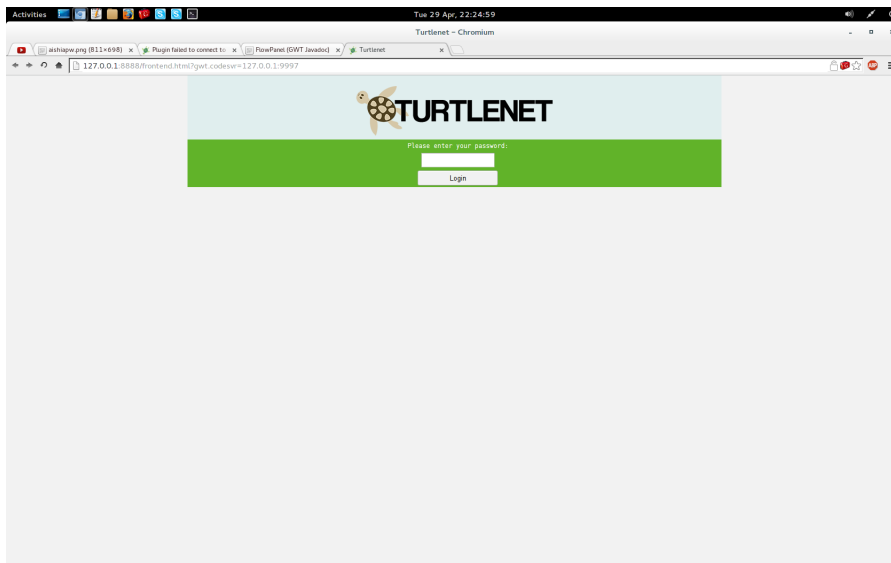
- The Username box should be filled in with your user name. This is what other users would call you when posting messages. This should be something that represents you, but should not link to you outside of Turtlenet. Simply, your Turtlenet user name should not be the same as any other user name you use on the internet. Can't improve anonymity if you use the same name around the internet.
- The Password is important as it is the only form of validation for logging into Turtlenet. Therefore it should be easy to remember but difficult for anyone else to crack. A good method for coming up with new passwords is to use four or five words, like a phrase you use. An example would be 'ThisIsTurtlenetzPassword'. This is better and easier to remember than what is usually suggested which is a shorter password with numbers in them: 'P@ssw0rd'. Of course, it depends on who is remembering the password so choose your own method if either option mentioned feels uncomfortable for you.
- The Confirmation box is where you type the password you defined in the previous box. Because of this, they should match, and must if the account creation is to be successful. The easiest way of thinking about this box is that it is giving you the practice of inputting your password while it is still fresh in your mind, to help you remember for later on.

By filling in these text boxes with the kind of information mentioned in this section, you can then click the button underneath these boxes to create your account. If successful, the password prompt screen should appear and you can move onto logging into Turtlenet to begin the communicative fun!



## 3.2 Logging into Turtlenet

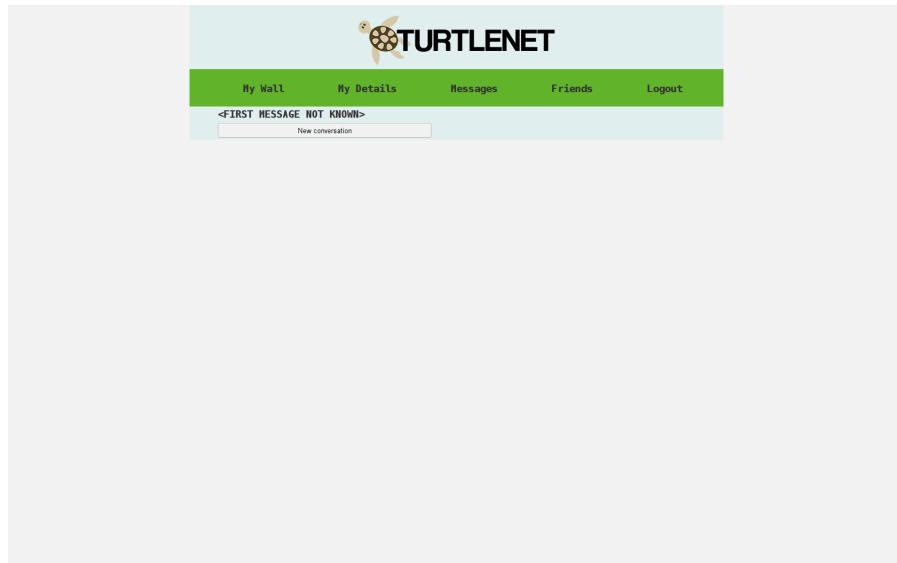
Logging into the Turtlenet client is as simple as using the password that you had used to create your account, as it is your primary method of informing the system of who you are. Please understand that whilst the password is a way of proving that you are 'you,' other users will not know your password, or even anything you post until you link them your public key, which will be covered later in this chapter.



The screen shot shows the initial page you might see once you have created an account. Enter your password into the white text box above the 'Login' button and if the password is correct, you would have logged in.

### 3.3 Navigating around the Turtlenet client

Getting around the client's various areas is important in order to make the most of the functionality provided by Turtlenet. This is why all of the main segments are provided as buttons at the top of the interface:



The image shows that there are several main sections to the client - The wall, the user's details, messages between the user and other people, friends that the user has linked with and finally the function to logout. Click the corresponding button to get to the area you wish to view. The following sections will go through each section from right to left, as it is important to obtain other users that can read what you post.

### 3.4 Logging out

For when you decide that you want to leave the safety of Turtlenet and work on other things, or you simply need to be away for a while and want to be sure that no one is using your account, you will want to log off. It is as painless as clicking the 'log off' button found at the top right of every page. Doing so will take you to the login screen (the one with just the password box and login button). Of course, we wish you good fortune until you come and join us again at Turtlenet.

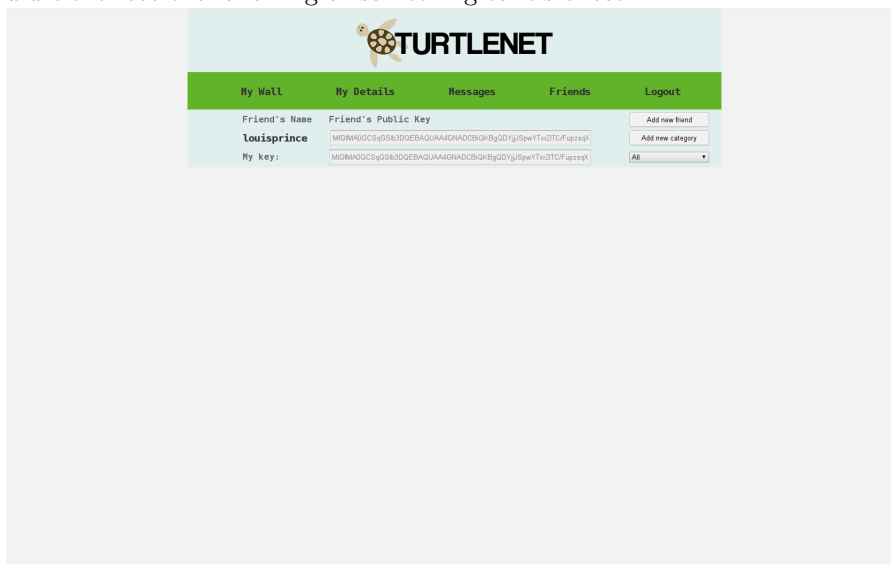
## 3.5 Friends on Turtlenet

Part of the philosophy of Turtlenet is to encrypt the messages that you send so that only the intended recipients can read them with any understanding. These people are known as your 'friends' on Turtlenet. In order to make any use of Turtlenet you need to add friends. You do this by exchanging 'public keys' with another user. Turtlenet uses Asymmetric relationships - this means that you may have some people as friends but they might not have you as a friend. Therefore you might understand what people have typed but they might not be reciprocated. If this doesn't make sense at the moment, the following sections will help.

### 3.5.1 The 'Getting'

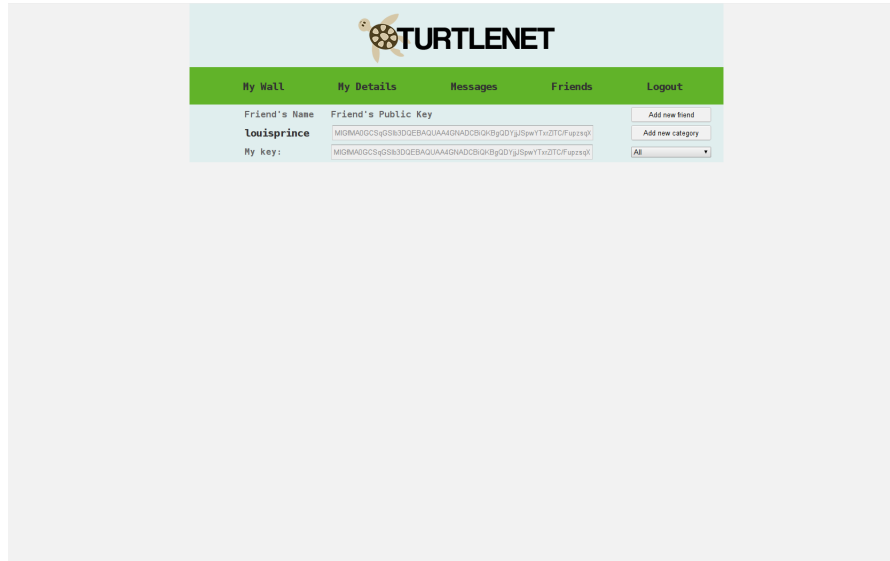
In order to get public keys from other users, they need to pass the information to you in some other format - it is near, if not fully, impossible to pass the key through Turtlenet so you need to agree to some other form of communication until Turtlenet is set up for both you and your soon-to-be TN-friends. In an internet based age, the most secure, and ironic, way of getting the key off of your friend would use a method that does not use the internet, such as a text message or a phone call - even standard mail would suffice and be more secure than an internet equivalent.

Once you have the public key off of your friend, you will want to proceed to the 'friends' section of the Turtlenet client, by clicking the button near the top which has 'Friends' written upon it. You should either see the following or something to it's effect:



As you can see, there is 'My Key' which will be used by you to allow others to send you messages but that will be explained in the next section. For now, you want to click the 'Add new friend' button located to the right of the screen. This will bring you to a screen with a long input box which

asks for the key of who will become your friend. You enter the long line of letters and numbers that you were given by your friend into the input box. Once you have the other person added, you should see something similar to this:



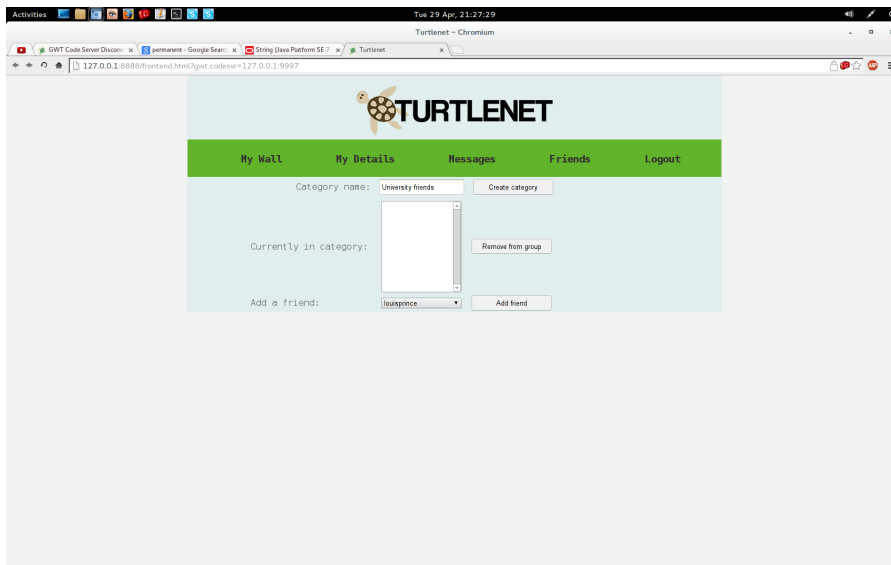
In the image above, the current user has added themselves to their friends list. Simply repeat the process as it takes you back to the main section for the friends tab.

### 3.5.2 The 'Making'

By getting other people's keys you can send messages to them but for people to send anything back that you can read, they would need to have your key as well. All you do in order to help others add you is to send the letters and numbers in the text box next to 'My key' and get the other user to follow the steps in the above section 'The 'Getting'.' Unfortunately it is up to the other user if they are able to properly converse with you, due to asymmetric relations.

### 3.5.3 Banding Together

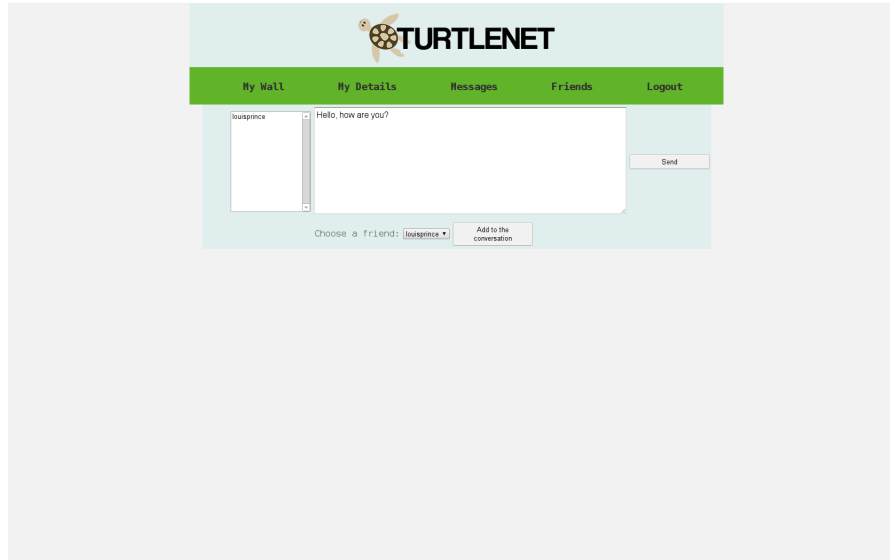
In Turtlenet you can associate other users with categories, custom made by you. This is useful if you want to send the same message to a number of people and due to the way that Turtlenet has been made, only those who have your key can read what is sent, so some of the members of the group may not be able to read other members, which can be advantageous if that is what you require. To do this, whilst you are in the friends section of the client, click the 'Create category' button on the right. It should take you to this screen:



You may give your category a name so it hints to the kind of users you have in them together by typing the group name in the top text box. Click 'Create category' once you have finished the naming procedure. You are then able to add any members you wish whose keys you have attached to your account. This is done in the drop-down menu at the bottom of the interface and then clicking the 'Add friend' button next to said menu. If you no longer want a particular user in the group any more, select their user name in the large box in the middle and click the button to the side which says 'Remove from group'.

## 3.6 Messages in Turtlenet

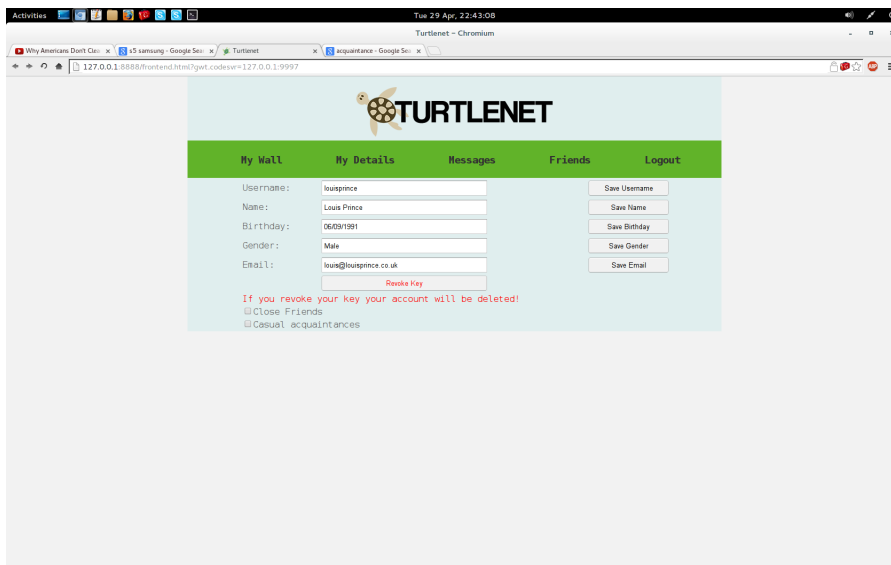
Messages can be sent to singular users or they can be sent to categories of users created by the current user of the client. Below is an example of what you may find in the messages section:



- the box at the left hand side is for your available recipients - our example user only has himself at the moment. This will fill up over time when you add public keys from other users.
- The larger of the two boxes is where you type the content of your message. While the limit is quite forgiving, it is not so large to the point where you can type a monologue to the recipient for them to read.
- The Send button on the right finalises the message and sends it to the recipient to read. You cannot edit your message once you have sent it so be sure to re-read what has been typed to avoid any unfortunate errors!
- Other friends can be added to the conversation too, making Turtlenet good for group discussions in a similar manner to the functionality of 'Internet Relay Chat' (IRC). By selecting the user you wish to add to the discussion in the drop down menu and clicking the 'Add to the conversation' button, an invite to the group can be given to the target. You may wish to invite them before you send any messages they may require as they might not have access to them otherwise, requiring a re-type on your behalf.

## 3.7 What's mine is mine - Personal Data

When using Turtlenet, personal data is just that - personal. Similar to all of the messages and posts you make, your personal data is also encrypted and made secure so that the server moderators have no access to them. Here is a view at what you could see when entering the 'My Details' section of the client:



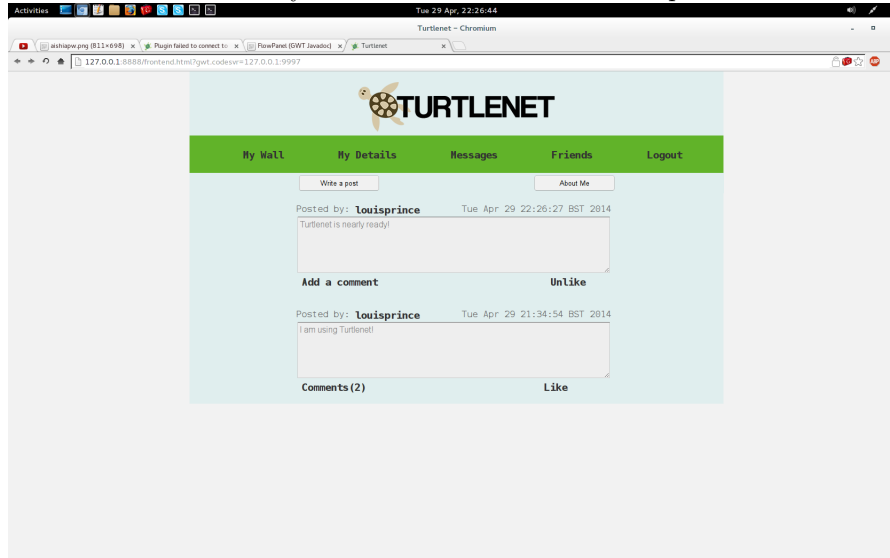
The image shows the only personal information that you may store using the Turtlenet client. Note that the only piece of information here that is important is the user name - all other fields are optional and at the user's discretion to fill in or not. Each button to the right saves what is currently in the associated field at the time of clicking, so you will need to save again if you edit after a save.

A note about revoking your key: This means that you delete the link to your key and therefore your Turtlenet identity. **Do not click unless you wish to reset your Turtlenet presence.** After a revoke, another key is made for you to use, which means that any other users that had your key will need to be informed that you have changed and you will need to give them your new key if you wish to continue getting messages and posts from them.

### 3.8 Personal Graffiti - your Turtlenet wall

Your wall is a central social hub for many users of Turtlenet. It is a collection of messages aimed at the user, who may be off-line at the time. This section is for the functionality of the wall.

In Turtlenet a post is the generic way of talking about a message being left for another user - think of it similar to a sticky note on a cork board. An example of a wall is below:

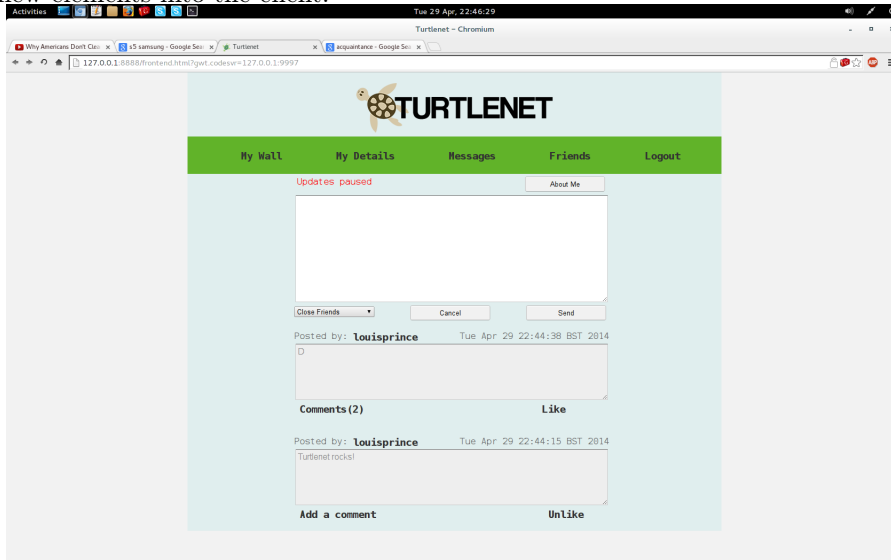


The image outlines a couple of posts being made by the example user. Before posting is explained, this manual will explain the other elements in view:

- The 'About me' button allows a user to see an overview of their personal data stored on their device. This allows a user quick access to their key, which could be used to send to another user if you have their key - they can decode your message to obtain your key so they can start using all of the features available in Turtlenet with you.
- You can 'like' posts to show enjoyment, appreciation or agreement with what another user has posted. This is done by simply clicking the 'like' that is found underneath the target post. Should your political views change for example, you can unlike any currently liked post in the same manner - clicking the 'unlike' that will be found in the same place under the target post.
- Commenting on a post is also possible with the Turtlenet client. Simply click the 'Add a comment' phrase underneath the target post and a large input box will appear beneath. Simply type your 'two cents' then click the 'Post comment' button under the input box. If you decide not to insert an interjection then you may click the Cancel button to remove the box and not attach your comment to the post.



Posting is as simple as clicking the 'Write a post' button near the top, which will bring a couple of new elements into the client:



As the above image shows, there are a couple of new buttons and a large text box that appears onto the Turtlenet client. First it is easiest to define a target for the post, which is done by clicking the drop down menu below the input box on the left side. The user is able to choose either other users, or categories that have been created, sending the post to multiple users. Once decided, type the content of the post into the large input box. Once finished, click the 'Send' button below the input box on the right side. If you wish to stop making a post, click the Cancel button in the middle, underneath the input box.

## Chapter 4

# Troubleshooting

### 4.1 Frequently Asked Questions

This is the section which should hopefully answer most of the questions that most users might have about the system. Sending emails to one of the addresses in the contact section in the beginning of the user manual may help you get your answer but it is best if you continue looking for an answer whilst you wait for an official reply.

#### 4.1.1 What does Turtlenet do?

Think of Turtlenet in a similar manner to any other social network commonly in use. It allows users to communicate with each other and allowing other people to voice their opinions on what others have written. At the moment it is text based, meaning you can't attach images and video to it when you post or comment. You can however send Universal Resource Links (URL) to each other, as they are text based. That is a convenient enough work around for the time being as it means that no one is having to download an encrypted video but are never able to view it as they do not have the key to unlock the data. I think everyone will appreciate not having current top 40 stored for a long time.

#### 4.1.2 How many accounts can I have on Turtlenet?

As many as you like! If you wish to have different personae within Turtlenet to help filter friends from "It's kind of tricky I like them but they can be annoying" people then by all means - it's not on our head if they catch you putting them in the unmentionables list.

### 4.1.3 I forgot my password. Can someone reset it for me?

The short answer is no. Turtlenet was designed so that no one but the user had access to personal data, protecting them from unwanted external influences. As a result, if you lose your password we are unable to recover anything in the account. The only thing you can do is simply to create another. Feel safe in the knowledge that everything is encrypted on your old account so at least no one can access what was lost.

### 4.1.4 Where is everything stored?

On your computer, laptop or whatever else it is that uses the Turtlenet client. Each client downloads all of the data and reads what it can, using keys you have collected over time off of other users. Keeping it local means that nothing is stored on the server, so evil moderators cannot have their way with your data. This also means that your data is stored on someone else's device but don't worry - just as you cannot read that user's information they cannot read yours.

### 4.1.5 How big does this database get?

As the only things being stored are text, not images or video, this means that each message is only small and could only be about 4-8 gigabytes (GB) over one year's use. Bear in mind that the database is a replica of the entire history of Turtlenet, along with everything every user has ever posted and commented on. so much data for such a small size is pretty good. In this time the project may also have development applied to it, either from the original developers or the community, so a cleaning function may be added to a future release. We don't know.

### 4.1.6 Why would someone want to build from source?

For computers using Linux especially, the pre-built files may not work on their system so in order to use Turtlenet, they would have to build the client themselves. Most Windows and Mac OS X users won't have to worry about this, although if they want and know what to do, they are welcome to try!

### 4.1.7 The Client does stuff I don't think it should do...

You may have found a bug for us accidentally. email to one of the addresses at the beginning of the user manual and the developers will have a look at it. As the source is being released, maybe the community will have a look and suggest a fix themselves.

#### **4.1.8 What do Server Moderators of Turtlenet do?**

Most of the time they watch text that they cannot understand go across the screen. This is to make sure that the server doesn't stop for some unknown reason. They don't actually have any knowledge about what is being sent between users so encode mildly evil messages and they will be none the wiser. Unless they have logged in as a user as well as moderating. Then they still won't know everything unless everyone adds the moderator's 'user account.' A need-to-know basis is what Turtlenet achieves.

#### **4.1.9 I want to mod Turtlenet. Can I have the source?**

It's nice to know that others wish to take up the helm, pioneering a secure method of communication. You can have the source, it is available to the public to browse and modify. One of the tools used in the initial development uses a version of the GNU GPL, so be aware of what you can and can't do because of the copyleft licence when you modify and distribute the project and it's source code.

#### **4.1.10 Why choose 'X' over the clearly superior 'Y'?**

As developers ourselves, we understand that other people have differing opinions. That's the joy of releasing code. Other people can pick up what we have done, or use our ideals as a starting point for their own thing. What this project stood for is ease of use for the end user and security from any unwanted external influences and this, we believe, is achieved.