Evolution API — Full Setup Guide

Includes Docker installation, adding an instance, and webhook configuration with ngrok

# 1. Evolution API — Installation Guide (Docker Version)

## 1.1 Clone the Repository

Run the following commands in your terminal:

git clone https://github.com/EvolutionAPI/evolution-api.git

cd evolution-api

## 1.2 Create and Configure the Environment File

Create a new .env file by copying the example:

cp .env.example .env

Open .env in a text editor and make the following changes:

Required:

Find:

CACHE\_REDIS\_URI=redis://localhost:6379/6

Replace with:

CACHE\_REDIS\_URI=redis://redis:6379/6

(This is required for Docker networking to work properly.)

Optional:

- You may change the AUTHENTICATION\_API\_KEY value to something custom (or leave it as-is).

> **Make sure to save this value; you will use it to log in to the admin panel.**

- Feel free to modify other environment variables if needed.

## 1.3 Start with Docker

Before starting, update docker-compose.yaml to always restart the Redis service. Add or ensure the following under the redis service:

services:

redis:

image: redis:latest

restart: always

# (Optional) other settings like ports/volumes go here

# ports:

# - "6379:6379"

# volumes:

# - evolution\_redis:/data

Make sure you're still in the evolution-api directory, then run:

docker compose up -d

Docker will download and start the Evolution API along with required services like Redis.

## 1.4 Verify Installation

Visit the following URL in your browser (based on the SERVER\_URL in your .env file):

http://localhost:8080

You should receive a JSON response like:

{

"status": 200,

"message": "Welcome to the Evolution API, it is working!",

"version": "2.3.0",

"clientName": "evolution\_exchange",

"manager": "http://localhost:8080/manager",

"documentation": "https://doc.evolution-api.com",

"whatsappWebVersion": "2.3000.1024517539"

}

## 1.5 Access the Admin Manager Panel

Visit:

http://localhost:8080/manager

Login:

Server URL: (http://localhost:8080)

API Key Global: Use the AUTHENTICATION\_API\_KEY value from your .env file

**Screenshot 1.5 — Manager login**

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# 2. Add a New Instance

## 2.1 Open Manager & Sign In

In your browser, go to http://localhost:8080/manager/. Enter your API key to sign in.

**Screenshot 2.1 — Open Manager & Sign In**

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## 2.2 Create an Instance

Click the “Instance +” button to create a new instance.

**Screenshot 2.2 — Create an Instance**

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## 2.3 Name the Instance

Enter a unique name for your instance and click “Save”.

**Screenshot 2.3 — Name the Instance**

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## 2.4 Open the Instance Dashboard

Click the instance you just created to open its management dashboard.

**Screenshot 2.4 — Open the Instance Dashboard**

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## 2.5 Get the QR Code

Click “Get QR Code” to generate a QR code for WhatsApp linking.

**Screenshot 2.5.1 — Get the QR Code**

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**Screenshot 2.5.2 — Example QR Code**

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## 2.6 Link WhatsApp on Your Phone

On your phone, open WhatsApp → Menu (⋮) → Linked devices → Link a device, then scan the QR code on your screen.

**Screenshot 2.6 — Link WhatsApp on Your Phone**

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## 2.7 Finish & Verify

Refresh the instance dashboard. The instance should show as connected.

**Screenshot 2.7 — Finish & Verify**

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# 3. Configure Webhook with ngrok

## 3.1 Run Your Backend API

Start your backend server locally so that it can receive webhook requests.

Example local endpoint you might expose:

http://localhost:5016/api/EvolutionApiWhatsAppMessage

**Screenshot 3.1 — Backend running**

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## 3.2 Start ngrok and Forward Your Local Server

Open a terminal and start ngrok to forward your local server. Copy the HTTPS forwarding URL (you will paste this into Evolution Manager).

If you have ngrok.exe in a folder (e.g., C:\Tools\ngrok\ngrok.exe), follow these steps:

1) Open File Explorer and navigate to the folder that contains ngrok.exe.

2) Click the address bar, type 'cmd', and press Enter — a Command Prompt opens in that folder.

3) In Command Prompt, run:

ngrok http http://localhost:5016

Note: Keep the ngrok window running so the public URL remains active.

Important: This guide assumes you have already set up and authenticated ngrok on this machine (e.g., ran 'ngrok config add-authtoken <YOUR\_TOKEN>' beforehand).

**Screenshot 3.2.1 — File Explorer with ngrok.exe + opening CMD/Terminal**

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**Screenshot 3.2.2 — Command window running ngrok and showing the HTTPS URL**

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## 3.3 Open Events → Webhook in Evolution Manager

Inside the instance dashboard, open the left menu and navigate to: Events → Webhook.

**Screenshot 3.3 — Events → Webhook page**

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## 3.4 Set the Webhook URL

In the URL field, paste your ngrok HTTPS domain combined with your API endpoint path.

Example:

https://3d78af5e5482.ngrok-free.app/api/EvolutionApiWhatsAppMessage

Make sure to use the HTTPS URL from ngrok (not the HTTP URL).

**Screenshot 3.4 — Webhook URL field**

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## 3.5 Enable Webhook Options & Save

Enable the following options:

• Enabled

• Webhook by Events

• MESSAGES\_UPSERT

Then click “Save”.

**Screenshot 3.5.1 — Enable toggles & Save**

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**Screenshot 3.5.2 — Enable toggles & Save**

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## 3.6 Verify the Webhook

Send a test message to the WhatsApp account linked to this instance and confirm your backend receives the webhook request.

Check your server logs or console output for the incoming request payload.

**Screenshot 3.6 — Server logs showing webhook hit**

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# 4. Tips & Troubleshooting

• If the QR code expires, click “Get QR Code” again to regenerate it.

• If you restart ngrok, the public domain usually changes—update the Webhook URL accordingly and click Save again.