

# Survey for people who have their own server.

## Survey Flow

Standard: Intro (1 Question)  
Block: Environment (2 Questions)  
Standard: Containers (3 Questions)  
Standard: Own software (5 Questions)  
Standard: Users (5 Questions)  
Standard: Programs (2 Questions)  
Standard: Authentication (2 Questions)  
Standard: Other (2 Questions)

Page Break

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## Start of Block: Intro

Q18

You are being invited to participate in a research study. This study is being done by Floris Breggeman from the faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, and Computer Science at the University of Twente.

Please fill in this survey if you are the administrator of a non-commercial home server. Please complete this survey on a per-server basis; for example, if you administer two servers, it would be appreciated if you complete the survey twice. This survey should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

The purpose of this research study is to gain insight into what and how people self-host. The data will be used to create an overview the software used for and by home servers, with the eventual goal of creating software that can automate the self-hosting process.

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You are free to omit any question. I believe there are no known risks associated with this research study; however, as with any online related activity the risk of a breach is always possible. To the best of my ability your answers in this study will remain confidential. All answers are stored anonymously, and no information is collected except for the form fields you fill in. The raw data is only stored on qualtrics and the researcher's personal devices.

The (processed) results of this survey will be published on r/selfhosting at the completion of this study, as will the resulting research report.

Study contact details for further information: Floris Breggeman,  
f.t.breggeman@student.utwente.nl

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## End of Block: Intro

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## Start of Block: Environment

Q1 What kind of hardware do you use?

- ☐ Used desktop PC (older than 5 years) (1)
  - ☐ New desktop PC (newer than 5 years) (2)
  - ☐ Used enterprise hardware (older than 5 years) (3)
  - ☐ New enterprise hardware (newer than 5 years) (4)
  - ☐ Low-power x86 device (e.g. Intel NUC) (5)
  - ☐ Low-power ARM device (e.g. Raspberry Pi) (6)
  - ☐ I rent my hardware (e.g. hosting, VPS) (7)
  - ☐ Other: (8) \_\_\_\_\_
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Q3 What operating system does your server use?

- ☐ Debian-based Linux (Debian, Ubuntu, etc.) (1)
- ☐ Redhat-based Linux (CentOS, Redhat, etc.) (2)
- ☐ Other Linux: (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ BSD (FreeBSD, OpenBSD) (4)
- ☐ Windows (including Windows Server) (5)
- ☐ Other: (6) \_\_\_\_\_

End of Block: Environment

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Start of Block: Containers

Q4 Do you use containers?

- ☐ Yes, **all** my services are containerised (1)
- ☐ Partially, I run containerised services along regular services (4)
- ☐ No (5)

*Skip To: End of Block If Do you use containers? = No*

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Q7 Which container systems do you use?

- ☐ Docker (1)
  - ☐ Podman (2)
  - ☐ Other: (3) \_\_\_\_\_
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Q5 Do you use Kubernetes to manage your containers?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No, I manage them manually (2)
- ☐ No, I use another manager: (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**End of Block: Containers**

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**Start of Block: Own software**

Q19 Do you also program?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)

Skip To: Q22 If Do you also program? = No

Q20 On average, how many days a week do you sit down to program?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Click to write Choice 1 ( )



Q21 How much of your software do you host yourself?

- ☐ None (1)
- ☐ Some (2)
- ☐ About half (3)
- ☐ Most (4)
- ☐ All (5)

Q22 Which version control systems do you host?

- ☐ Gitlab (1)
- ☐ Gitea (2)
- ☐ Other: (3) \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ None (4)

Q23 Which CI/CD systems do you host?

☐

Gitlab (1)

☐

Jenkins (2)

☐

CircleCI (3)

☐

Other: (4) \_\_\_\_\_

☐

None (5)

End of Block: Own software

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Start of Block: Users



Q10 How many users do you have (including yourself)

\_\_\_\_\_

*Skip To: End of Block If Condition: How many users do you have ... Is Less Than or Equal to 1. Skip To: End of Block.*

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Q11 Who are your additional users?

☐

Direct Family (1)

☐

Indirect Family (2)

☐

Association / Club (3)

☐

Company (4)

☐

Other: (5) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q13 Do any of your users have additional access rights? (e.g. ssh login, administrative panels)?

☐ Yes (1)

☐ No (2)

*Skip To: End of Block If Do any of your users have additional access rights? (e.g. ssh login, administrative panels)? = No*

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Q14 What sort of additional access rights do your users have?

☐ Root access (1)

☐ Terminal login (ssh) (2)

☐ Administrative access to software (3)

☐ Other: (4) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q16 Do all of your users have extra rights?

☐ Yes, all of them (1)

☐ Only a few (2)

☐ Only one (3)

**End of Block: Users**

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**Start of Block: Programs**



Q6 What end-user services do you host? Please list all services you host that your users can actually interact with, separated by newline. Examples include NextCloud, Matrix, Email,

Samba.

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Q6 What backend technologies power your end-user services? Please list all backend technologies you use, separated by newline. Examples include Apache, PHP, Node.js, MySQL, Dovecot

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End of Block: Programs

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Start of Block: Authentication

Q8 Do you have a centralised authentication service?

- ☐ Yes (1)
- ☐ No (2)
- ☐ Yes, but it doesn't work for everything (3)

*Skip To: End of Survey If Do you have a centralised authentication service? = No*

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Q9 Which mechanisms does your authentication service use?

☐

Oauth (1)

☐

SAML (2)

☐

LDAP (3)

☐

PAM (4)

☐

Other: (5) \_\_\_\_\_

End of Block: Authentication

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Start of Block: Other

Q25 Why do you self-host?

☐

Privacy (1)

☐

Self-Reliance (2)

☐

"Fun" (3)

☐

Unique Software (4)

☐

Price (or the lack of it) (5)

☐

Other: (6) \_\_\_\_\_

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Q24 Open space If you have any additional information you'd like to share, you can leave it here.

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End of Block: Other

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