Guide to Installing and Configuring Verba

# Introduction

This document will provide the installation and configuration information on setting up the Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) system using Verba, Weaviate, Ollama and Docker.

# Step 1: Preparing for Installation

Before diving into the installation process, it’s important to prepare your device. The only 2 prerequisites known before hand is the PC must at least be running Windows 10, and must have Python installed, within the version parameters of 3.10 – 3.12.

* Create a project folder (for directory creation I used Git Bash or Command Prompt)
  + mkdir -p ~/phredo/my\_project/verba && cd ~/phredo/my\_project
* Clone the repo
  + git clone https://github.com/weaviate/Verba.git
  + cd Verba
* Copy and edit .env
  + cp goldenverba/.env.example goldenverba/.env
  + API keys:
    - OLLAMA\_URL=http://host.docker.internal:11434
    - OLLAMA\_MODEL=llama3
    - OLLAMA\_EMBED\_MODEL=nomic-embed-text
    - WEAVIATE\_URL\_VERBA=http://weaviate:8080
* Build and run
  + docker compose --env-file goldenverba/.env up –build (test by visiting #https://localhost.8000

Step 1A: Created Launch Scripts (Optional)

* In Git Bash:

nano ~/start-verba.sh#!/bin/bashecho " ~@ Starting Ollama..."ollama serve &echo " M-3 Starting Docker containers..."cd ~/phredo/my\_project/verbadocker compose up -decho " ~P Opening Verba in browser..."sleep 5start http://localhost:8000read -p "Press Enter to close this window..."chmod +x ~/start-verba.shnano ~/stop-verba.sh#!/bin/bashecho " ~Q Stopping Verba containers..."cd ~/phredo/my\_project/verbadocker compose downecho " M- Stopping Ollama (if running)..."pkill -f "ollama serve"echo "✅ All systems powered down."chmod +x ~/stop-verba.sh

# Step 2: Downloading the Application

For the actual installation process for Verba, I utilized Docker Desktop and Ollama.

* Docker Desktop -> Installed via Docker’s webpage - [Docker Desktop: The #1 Containerization Tool for Developers | Docker](https://www.docker.com/products/docker-desktop/)
* Git -> Git – Downloads
* Ollama -> Download Ollama on Windows

# Step 3: Installing the Application

I installed Verba using Docker Desktop and also use it when launching Verba and its dependencies.

* Ollama runs independently via `ollama serve &`
* Configured Dockerfile:
  + FROM python:3.11
  + WORKDIR /Verba
  + COPY . /Verba
  + RUN pip install '.'
  + EXPOSE 8000
  + CMD ["verba", "start","--port","8000","--host","0.0.0.0"]
  + RUN pip install "unstructured[local-inference]"
* Configured docker-compose.yml

# Step 4: Initial App Launch and Permissions

* Verba uses environment variables and required access to local ports:
  + WEAVIATE\_U
    - Sets URL (including port) for the Weaviate instance Verba connects to
  + OLLAMA\_UR
    - Sets the URL for the Ollama model server
* Ollama required admin privileges during initial installation (UAC prompt)
  + OLLAMA\_MC
    - Sets the directory where models are stored (/home/user/ollama\_models)
* Docker required admin/root privileges to install a privileges helper service, WSL2 and Hyper-V.

# Step 5: Configuring the Application

Now that the app is installed, tailor it to your needs for the best experience.

## General Configuration Steps

* Access Settings: Look for a gear icon, menu bar, or Settings option within the app.
* Change Language/Region: Set your preferred language and region for content and notifications.
* Customize Notifications: Decide what types of alerts you receive and how (e.g., push, email, in-app).
* Appearance and Themes: Many apps let you switch between light and dark modes, change color schemes, and adjust font sizes.
* Account Settings: Review privacy settings, security options, and connected accounts.

## App-Specific Configuration

**Verba (10)**

**├── .env / Config (8)**



**├── Frontend/UI (5)**



**└── Docker (4)**

**Weaviate (10)**

**└── Document Storage (6)**

**Ollama (10)**

**└── Model (LLM) (9)**

# Step 6: Updating and Maintaining Your Apps

Keeping your applications up-to-date is essential for security, stability, and accessing new features.

* Automatic Updates: Enable automatic updates in your app store or within the app itself when available.
* Manual Checks: Periodically check for updates, especially for critical apps. On Windows, go to Microsoft Store > Library > Get updates. On macOS, open the App Store and check Updates.
* Review Changelogs: These inform you about what’s new or fixed in each version.

# Step 7: Troubleshooting Common Issues

Sometimes, things don’t go as planned. Here are some common issues and solutions:

* App Won't Install: Check your internet connection, free up disk space, and ensure your system meets the requirements. Try restarting your device.
* App Crashes or Won’t Open: Update the app, restart your device, or reinstall the app. Check for conflicting software or outdated drivers.
* Permission Problems: Revisit app settings to adjust permissions. On mobile, uninstalling and reinstalling can reset permission prompts.
* Missing Features: Confirm you have the latest version, check app documentation, and look for add-ons or plugins that unlock more functionality.
* Change the Model type in Verba chat: ("nomic-embed-test:latest" to "llama3:latest"):
* Remove the original uploaded version of the file you are using and re-upload the PDF back into Verba. This will:
  + Create the missing class VERBA\_Embedding\_llama3\_latest
  + Add the correct schema (including doc\_uuid, chunk, text, etc.)
  + Embed and store the document chunks using the llama3 model

# Step 8: Uninstalling or Resetting Apps

If you no longer need an app or it’s misbehaving, here’s how to remove or reset it:

* Uninstalling:
  + Windows: Settings > Apps > Installed Apps, select the app, then click Uninstall.

Resetting: Some apps have a reset option in their settings, which returns them to default without full uninstallation.

# Conclusion

Installing and configuring applications doesn’t have to be daunting. By preparing your system, downloading apps from trusted sources, following installation prompts, and customizing settings, you gain control over your digital environment. Regular updates and maintenance keep your apps running smoothly, while troubleshooting skills help overcome any hurdles.

Whether you’re setting up your machine for work, study, or leisure, these step-by-step instructions empower you to make the most of your apps—safely, efficiently, and with confidence.