

Complete Beginner's Setup Guide

For people with NO prior experience in Docker, Python, or networking

This guide assumes you know nothing about technical setup. We'll walk through every single step with clear explanations.

FASTEST PATH (New!)

Complete LOCAL setup in just 4 steps:

1. **Install tools** (Part 1 below) - 15 minutes
2. **Download platform** (Part 2) - 2 minutes
3. **Run automated setup:** `automated_setup.bat` - 10 minutes
4. **Create Flowise API key** when prompted - 1 minute

Total: ~30 minutes with almost no manual work!

The automated setup creates admin, teachers, and students automatically with credits already allocated!


⚠ **This sets up the platform on YOUR computer (localhost).** For school-wide access, see " **School Network Deployment**" section after setup.

Manual setup is also available if you want to learn each step.

What is this project?

This is a ChatProxy Platform that allows students and teachers to use AI chatbots. Think of it like installing a mini-server on your computer that runs several small programs (called "services") that work together.

⚠ **IMPORTANT - Two Setup Phases:**

1. **Phase 1: Local Setup (This Guide)** - Install on YOUR computer first
 - Works on your computer only (localhost)
 - Perfect for testing and learning
 - Follow the steps below
2. **Phase 2: School Network Deployment** - Make it available to everyone
 - Requires IT department involvement
 - Needs domain name, SSL certificate, and network configuration
 - See " **School Network Deployment**" section after setup


Recommendation: Complete Phase 1 first, test everything works, THEN work with IT on Phase 2.

Time Required

Phase 1 - Local Setup (This Computer Only):

- Setup time: About 30-45 minutes (or 15 minutes with automated setup)
- What you'll need:
 - A Windows computer
 - Internet connection
 - Administrator access to your computer

Phase 2 - School Network Deployment (Optional):

- Coordination time: 1-3 days (waiting for IT department)
- What you'll need:
 - IT department support
 - Domain name or static IP
 - SSL certificate
 - Network/firewall configuration
- See " **School Network Deployment**" section below

TWO SETUP OPTIONS

Option A: Automated Setup (Recommended! ★)

After installing the basic tools (Docker, Python, Git) in Part 1, you can run:

```
automated_setup.bat
```

This does almost EVERYTHING automatically:

- ☒ Checks your system
- ☒ Configures storage on the best drive
- ☒ Starts all services
- ☒ Prompts you to create a Flowise API key (only manual step!)
- ☒ Creates admin user + teachers + students automatically
- ☒ Allocates credits automatically
- ☒ Verifies everything works

Time: 10-15 minutes instead of 45 minutes!

You only need to: Follow Part 1 (install tools), then run the automated script!

Option B: Manual Setup (Step-by-Step)

Follow all the steps in this guide - good for learning how everything works.

Choose Option A if: You just want it to work quickly

Choose Option B if: You want to understand each step

Part 1: Installing the Basic Tools

Before we can run the ChatProxy Platform, we need to install 3 programs on your computer.

Step 1: Install Docker Desktop

What is Docker?

Docker is like a "container" system that packages programs with everything they need to run. Think of it as a virtual box that contains a complete mini-computer inside your computer.

How to install:


1. Download Docker Desktop:

- Go to: <https://www.docker.com/products/docker-desktop>
- Click the big blue "Download for Windows" button
- Wait for the download to finish (file is about 500MB)

2. Install Docker:

- Find the downloaded file (usually in your Downloads folder)
- File name: **Docker Desktop Installer.exe**
- Double-click to run it
- Click "Yes" when Windows asks "Do you want to allow this app to make changes?"
- Click "OK" to start installation
- **Wait 5-10 minutes** - this is normal!
- Click "Close and restart" when done

3. Start Docker:

- After your computer restarts, Docker Desktop should open automatically
- If not, look for "Docker Desktop" icon on your desktop or Start Menu
- **First time opening Docker takes 2-3 minutes** - be patient!
- You'll see a whale icon  in your taskbar (bottom-right corner) when it's ready
- The whale icon should be steady (not animating) when Docker is ready


4. Accept the agreement:

- Docker will show you a service agreement
- Check the box "I accept the terms"
- Click "Accept"

5. Skip the survey (optional):

- Docker might ask you questions about how you'll use it
- You can click "Skip" - it's not required

☒ How to know Docker is working:

- Look at the bottom-right of your screen (taskbar)
 - You should see a whale icon 
 - When you hover over it, it should say "Docker Desktop is running"
-

Step 2: Install Python

What is Python?

Python is a programming language. Our setup scripts are written in Python, so we need it installed to run those scripts.

How to install:

1. Download Python:

- Go to: <https://www.python.org/downloads/>
- Click the big yellow button "Download Python 3.x.x"
- Wait for download (file is about 25MB)

2. Install Python:

- Find the downloaded file: `python-3.x.x-amd64.exe`
- Double-click to run it
- ⚠ **IMPORTANT:** Check the box "Add Python to PATH" at the bottom
- Click "Install Now"
- Click "Yes" when Windows asks for permission
- Wait 2-3 minutes
- Click "Close" when done

☑ How to know Python is working:

- Press `Windows key + R` on your keyboard
 - Type: `cmd` and press Enter
 - A black window will open (this is called "Command Prompt")
 - Type: `python --version` and press Enter
 - You should see something like: `Python 3.12.1`
 - Type `exit` and press Enter to close the window
-

Step 3: Install Git

What is Git?

Git is a tool for downloading code from the internet. We need it to download the ChatProxy Platform files.

How to install:

1. Download Git:

- Go to: <https://git-scm.com/download/win>
- The download should start automatically
- If not, click "Click here to download" link
- Wait for download (file is about 50MB)

2. Install Git:

- Find the downloaded file: `Git-2.x.x-64-bit.exe`
- Double-click to run it

- Click "Yes" when Windows asks for permission
- Click "Next" for all screens (default settings are fine)
- **Just keep clicking "Next"** - no need to change anything
- Click "Install"
- Wait 1-2 minutes
- Click "Finish"

☑ **How to know Git is working:**

- Press **Windows key + R**
- Type: **cmd** and press Enter
- Type: **git --version** and press Enter
- You should see something like: **git version 2.43.0**
- Type **exit** and press Enter

💡 Part 2: Download Platform & Choose Setup Method

Now you have two choices - automated or manual setup!

Step 1: Download the Platform

1. **Open Command Prompt:**

- Press **Windows key + R**
- Type: **cmd** and press Enter

2. **Navigate to Documents:**

```
cd %USERPROFILE%\Documents
```

3. **Download the platform:**

```
git clone https://github.com/vocabbreaker/ChatProxyPlatform.git
```

Wait 1-2 minutes for download to complete.

4. **Enter the folder:**

```
cd ChatProxyPlatform
```

Step 2A: AUTOMATED SETUP (RECOMMENDED ★)

Simply run:

```
automated_setup.bat
```

What happens next:

1. **Script checks your system** (Docker, Python, Git) - takes 10 seconds
2. **Asks about drive configuration** (just press Enter to use defaults)
3. **Starts Flowise** - wait 2-3 minutes
4. **IMPORTANT:** Script will open your browser with instructions:
 - Go to `http://localhost:3002`
 - Create your admin account
 - Go to Settings → API Keys → Create New Key
 - Copy the key
 - Paste it in the Command Prompt when asked
5. **Script does everything else automatically:**
 - Starts all services
 - Creates admin user
 - Creates 3 teachers (5,000 credits each)
 - Creates 5 students (1,000 credits each)
 - Verifies everything works

Total time: 10-15 minutes!

Default users created by automated setup:

- **Admin:** username=`admin`, password=`admin@admin`, credits=**10,000**
- **Teachers (3):** teacher1/teacher2/teacher3, password=`admin@admin`, credits=**5,000 each**
- **Students (5):** student1-5, password=`admin@admin`, credits=**1,000 each**

⚠ **All users have the same default password:** `admin@admin` (change after first login!)

When you see "Setup completed successfully!", skip to **Part 4: Testing Everything Works**

Step 2B: MANUAL SETUP (For Learning)

If you want to understand each step, continue with Part 3 below.



Part 3: Manual Setup (Skip if you used `automated_setup.bat`)

⚠ **NOTE:** If you ran `automated_setup.bat` successfully, **SKIP THIS ENTIRE SECTION** and go directly to **Part 4!**

Only follow this section if you want to set up everything manually step-by-step.

Step 1: Create Configuration Files

What we're doing: Creating special files that tell each service how to work

Type:

```
setup_env_files.bat
```

What you'll see:

- Several lines showing "Created .env file"
- Takes about 5 seconds
- You should see "✓" (checkmarks) for 5 services

If you see errors: That's okay! Skip to the troubleshooting section at the end.

Step 2: Generate Secure Passwords

What we're doing: Creating random secure passwords for databases and security tokens

Type:

```
generate_secrets.bat
```

What you'll see:

- Long random strings of letters and numbers
- Each line shows a different password being generated
- Takes about 10 seconds
- Should see "✓ All 11 updates completed successfully!"

What this does: Creates super secure passwords automatically so you don't have to think of them yourself

Step 3: Start the Flowise Service

What is Flowise? It's the AI chatbot builder - the main part of the platform

Type these commands one by one:

```
cd flowise  
start-with-postgres.bat
```

What you'll see:

- A lot of text scrolling - this is normal!
- You might see messages like "Pulling image" or "Creating container"
- **This takes 2-5 minutes the first time** (downloading images from internet)
- Eventually it will say "Started" or show container names

Wait 1 minute for everything to fully start

Step 4: Check if Flowise Started Successfully

Type:

```
docker ps
```

What you'll see: A table showing running containers. You should see at least 2 rows:

- One with "flowise" in the name
- One with "flowise-postgres" in the name

Status column should say: "Up" or "Up X seconds"

Step 5: Create Your Admin Account

1. **Open your web browser** (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, etc.)

2. **Go to:** `http://localhost:3002`

What is localhost? It's a special address that means "this computer" - you're accessing the server running on your own computer!

3. **Create admin account:**

- You should see a signup page
- **Fill in:**
 - Name: `admin` (or your name)
 - Email: `your-email@example.com` (use your real email)
 - Password: `Admin@2026` (or choose your own secure password)
- Click "Sign Up"

4. **You should now see the Flowise dashboard** - colorful interface with options to create chatflows

Step 6: Create an API Key

What is an API key? Think of it as a special password that lets different parts of the system talk to each other.

Go back to Command Prompt and type:

```
cd ..  
configure_flowise_api.bat
```

What happens:

1. Your browser will open showing instructions

2. Command Prompt will ask you to create an API key

Follow these steps in the browser:

1. In Flowise (http://localhost:3002), click your profile icon (top-right corner)
2. Click "Settings"
3. Click "API Keys" tab
4. Click "Create New Key" button
5. Give it a name: **proxy-service**
6. Click "Create"
7. **Copy the long key** that appears (looks like: **A27MfYLTbKBwYcpDb2M9s6rwXIwUAly9P8j_ujX_J9I**)

Go back to Command Prompt:

1. Right-click in the Command Prompt window
2. Choose "Paste"
3. Press Enter

What you'll see:

- "✓ API key validated successfully"
 - "✓ Updated successfully"
-

Step 7: Start the Other Services

What are these services?

- **Auth Service:** Handles user logins
- **Accounting Service:** Tracks credits (like tokens for using AI)
- **Proxy Service:** Connects everything together
- **Bridge:** The website interface students/teachers will use

Type these commands one by one (wait 30 seconds between each):

```
cd auth-service  
start.bat
```

Wait 30 seconds

```
cd ..\accounting-service  
start.bat
```

Wait 30 seconds

```
cd ..\flowise-proxy-service-py  
start-docker.bat
```

Wait 30 seconds

```
cd ..\bridge  
start.bat
```

Each time you'll see:

- Text scrolling
 - "Creating network"
 - "Creating container"
 - "Started" or container name
-

Step 8: Create Users

Now let's create teacher and student accounts

1. Navigate to the user management folder:

```
cd ..\auth-service\quickCreateAdminPy
```

2. Right-click on `manage_users_admin.bat` in File Explorer:

- Open File Explorer
- Navigate to: `Documents\ChatProxyPlatform\auth-service\quickCreateAdminPy`
- Find `manage_users_admin.bat`
- Right-click it
- Choose "Run as administrator"
- Click "Yes" when Windows asks for permission

3. Follow the prompts in the window that opens

Or use the CSV method to create multiple users at once:

```
notepad users.csv
```

This opens a spreadsheet-like file. Edit it following this format:

```
action,username,email,password,role,fullName,credits  
create,teacher1,teacher1@school.com,Teacher1!,teacher,Teacher One,5000  
create,student1,student1@school.com,Student1!,student,Student One,1000
```

Save and close, then run:

```
sync_all_users.bat
```

💡 School Network Deployment (Important!)

⚠️ **READ THIS if you're setting this up for a school (multiple users on different computers)**

What You Have Now

Right now, the platform runs on **localhost** which means:

- ☒ It works perfectly on YOUR computer
- ☒ Other computers on the school network CANNOT access it
- ☒ It's not secure for internet access (no encryption)

What You Need for School-Wide Access

To make this available to teachers and students on different computers, you need **3 things from your school's IT department**:

1. 🖨️ Static IP Address or Domain Name

What is this?

Instead of `localhost:3082`, you need a real address that other computers can find.

In simple terms:

- **Localhost** = "this computer" (only you can access)
- **Internal IP** = "computer #192.168.1.50" (others on school network can access)
- **Domain name** = "chatbot.yourschool.edu" (easy to remember, others can access)

What to ask IT for:

"We need either:

1. A static IP address on the school network for this server, OR
2. A subdomain like `chatbot.ourschool.edu` that points to this server"

Example addresses:

- Internal: `http://192.168.1.50:3082` (works on school WiFi/LAN only)
- Domain: `https://chatbot.yourschool.edu` (better - works anywhere)

2. 🔒 SSL Certificate (HTTPS)

What is this?

SSL makes your website secure (the little lock icon 🔒 in the browser).

Why you need it:

- ☒ Encrypts passwords and data (so hackers can't see them)
- ☒ Required for modern browsers to work properly
- ☒ Shows students/teachers the site is safe
- ☒ Prevents "Not Secure" warnings

In simple terms:

- **HTTP** (no SSL) = Sending postcards (anyone can read them)
- **HTTPS** (with SSL) = Sending locked letters (only recipient can read)

What to ask IT for:

"We need an SSL certificate for the chatbot platform. Can you provide either:

1. A certificate from the school's certificate authority, OR
2. A Let's Encrypt free SSL certificate?"

What IT needs to know:

- Domain name (e.g., `chatbot.yourschool.edu`)
- Server where it's installed (the computer running Docker)

3. Reverse Proxy (For External Access)

What is this?

A reverse proxy is like a "reception desk" that forwards visitors to the right place.

Why you need it:

- ☒ Allows external (internet) access to internal (school network) server
- ☒ Handles SSL/HTTPS encryption
- ☒ Protects your server from direct internet exposure
- ☒ Can add additional security (firewall, authentication)

In simple terms: Think of your school network like an office building:

- **Without proxy:** Students must physically come to your computer room
- **With proxy:** Students can "call in" from home, and reception (proxy) transfers them to the right office

What to ask IT for:

"We need a reverse proxy (like nginx or Apache) to make the chatbot platform accessible from outside the school network. It should:

1. Forward traffic from `https://chatbot.ourschool.edu` to `http://localhost:3082`
2. Handle SSL termination
3. Be accessible from both school network AND internet (if remote access needed)"

Network Setup Diagram

```
[Student's Device]
  ↓
[Internet] ← (if remote access)
  ↓
[School Firewall]
  ↓
[Reverse Proxy Server] ← SSL Certificate installed here
                        (handles HTTPS)
  ↓
[Your Docker Server] ← ChatProxy Platform running here
                      (localhost:3082)
```

Two Deployment Options

Option A: School Network Only (Simpler)

Best for: Students/teachers only access from school WiFi/computers

What you need:

1. ☒ Static IP address: **192.168.1.50**
2. ☒ SSL certificate (optional but recommended)
3. ☒ No reverse proxy needed (internal only)

Students access via: **<http://192.168.1.50:3082>** or **<https://chatbot-internal.school.local>**

Pros:

- Simpler to set up
- More secure (not exposed to internet)
- Lower IT requirements

Cons:

- Only works on school network
- Can't access from home

Option B: Internet Access (More Complex)

Best for: Students/teachers need access from home

What you need:

1. ☒ Domain name: **chatbot.yourschool.edu**
2. ☒ SSL certificate (REQUIRED)
3. ☒ Reverse proxy with port forwarding
4. ☒ Firewall rules

Students access via: **<https://chatbot.yourschool.edu>**

Pros:

- Works from anywhere
- Professional setup
- Better user experience

Cons:

- Requires more IT involvement
- Security considerations (need firewall, monitoring)
- May need approval from school administration

What to Tell Your IT Department

Copy and send this to your IT team:

Email Template for IT Department:

Subject: Request for ChatProxy Platform Network Setup

Hello IT Team,

We are setting up a ChatProxy Platform (AI chatbot system) for educational use. The platform is currently running on Docker on [Computer Name/Location].

To make it accessible to students and teachers, we need:

OPTION 1 - School Network Only:

- ☐ Static IP address for the server
- ☐ Internal DNS record (optional): chatbot.ourschool.local → [IP address]
- ☐ SSL certificate (recommended but optional for internal use)

OPTION 2 - Internet Access Required:

- ☐ Public domain or subdomain: chatbot.yourschool.edu
- ☐ SSL certificate for the domain
- ☐ Reverse proxy (nginx/Apache) configuration
- ☐ Port forwarding: HTTPS (443) → Server:3082
- ☐ Firewall rules to allow external access

Technical Details:

- Platform runs on Docker (Windows)
- Service ports: 3082 (Bridge UI), 3000 (Auth), 3001 (Accounting), 3002 (Flowise)
- Only port 3082 needs to be accessible to end users
- All other ports should remain internal/backend only

Security Requirements:

- HTTPS/SSL required for production use
- User authentication already built-in (JWT tokens)
- Database access is internal only (MongoDB, PostgreSQL)

Please let me know which option is feasible and what information you need from me.

Thank you!

After IT Setup - Update Configuration

Once IT provides the domain/IP and SSL, you need to update these files:

1. Bridge UI environment (**bridge/.env**):

```
# Change from:
VITE_API_BASE_URL=http://localhost:3000

# To your domain:
VITE_API_BASE_URL=https://chatbot.yourschool.edu/api
```

2. Auth Service environment (**auth-service/.env**):

```
# Change from:
CORS_ORIGIN=http://localhost:3082

# To your domain:
CORS_ORIGIN=https://chatbot.yourschool.edu
```

3. Accounting Service environment (**accounting-service/.env**):

```
# Change from:
CORS_ORIGINS=http://localhost:3082,http://localhost:3000

# To your domain:
CORS_ORIGINS=https://chatbot.yourschool.edu
```

4. Restart all services:

```
cd bridge
stop.bat
start.bat

cd ../auth-service
stop.bat
start.bat

cd ../accounting-service
```

```
stop.bat  
start.bat
```

Testing Network Access

After IT sets everything up:


1. Test from another computer on school network:

- Open browser
- Go to: <https://chatbot.yourschool.edu> (or the address IT gave you)
- You should see the login page
- Try logging in with: `admin / admin@admin`

2. Test from home (if internet access enabled):

- Use your phone (disconnect from school WiFi)
- Go to the same address
- Should work the same way

3. Check HTTPS:

- Look for lock icon  in browser address bar
 - Click it - should say "Connection is secure"
-

Security Checklist for Production

Before allowing students to use it:

- ☐ HTTPS/SSL is working (lock icon in browser)
 - ☐ Change default admin password from `admin@admin`
 - ☐ Change all default user passwords
 - ☐ Regular backups configured (see backup section below)
 - ☐ Only port 3082 is accessible from outside (other ports blocked)
 - ☐ Firewall rules in place
 - ☐ IT department has admin access for monitoring
 - ☐ Data storage on RAID or backed-up drive
-

Part 4: Testing Everything Works

Check if Services are Running

In Command Prompt, type:

```
docker ps
```


You should see about 8-10 containers running:

- flowise
- flowise-postgres
- mongodb-auth
- mongodb-proxy
- postgres-accounting
- auth-service
- accounting-service
- flowise-proxy-service
- bridge
- mailhog (email testing)

Status should say "Up" for all of them

Access the Platform

Open your web browser and try these addresses:

1. Flowise (AI Builder):

- `http://localhost:3002`
- You should see the Flowise dashboard

2. Bridge (Student/Teacher Interface):

- `http://localhost:3082`
- You should see a login page

3. Try logging in to Bridge:

- Use the username/password you created in Step 8
- You should see the main interface

Stopping Everything

When you're done and want to turn everything off:

Option 1: Stop all at once

In Command Prompt, from the ChatProxyPlatform folder, type:

```
docker stop $(docker ps -q)
```

Option 2: Stop each service individually

```
cd flowise
stop.bat

cd ..\auth-service
stop.bat


cd ..\accounting-service
stop.bat

cd ..\flowise-proxy-service-py
docker compose down

cd ..\bridge
stop.bat
```

Starting Everything Again Later

When you restart your computer or want to use the platform again:

1. **Make sure Docker Desktop is running** (look for whale icon  in taskbar)
2. **Open Command Prompt and navigate to the folder:**

```
cd %USERPROFILE%\Documents\ChatProxyPlatform
```

3. **Start services in order:**

```
cd flowise
start-with-postgres.bat
```

Wait 30 seconds

```
cd ..\auth-service
start.bat
```

Wait 30 seconds

```
cd ..\accounting-service
start.bat
```

Wait 30 seconds

```
cd ..\flowise-proxy-service-py
start-docker.bat
```

Wait 30 seconds

```
cd ..\bridge
start.bat
```

4. **Wait 1-2 minutes for everything to fully start**

5. **Open browser:** <http://localhost:3082>

Troubleshooting - When Things Don't Work

"automated_setup.bat failed" or "Setup encountered errors"

What this means: The automated setup script hit a problem

Solutions to try:

1. **Check the error message carefully** - it usually tells you what's wrong:

- "Docker is not running" → Start Docker Desktop
- "Python is not installed" → Install Python (Part 1, Step 2)
- "Git not found" → Install Git (Part 1, Step 3)

2. **Run the diagnostic:**

```
check_system.bat
```

This creates a report showing what's wrong

3. **Try manual setup instead:** Follow Part 3 of this guide step-by-step

4. **Check Docker Desktop:**

- Open Docker Desktop application
 - Make sure the whale icon  is solid (not animated)
 - Try running `docker ps` in Command Prompt
-

"Docker is not running"

What you see: Error message mentioning Docker

Solution:

1. Look at bottom-right of screen (taskbar)
 2. Do you see a whale icon 🐳?
 3. If not, find "Docker Desktop" in Start Menu and click it
 4. Wait 2-3 minutes for Docker to start
 5. Try the command again
-

"Port 3002 is already in use"

What this means: Something else is using that port

Solution:

1. Restart your computer
 2. Start Docker Desktop
 3. Try the setup again
-

"Cannot find the path specified"

What this means: You're in the wrong folder

Solution:

1. In Command Prompt, type:

```
cd %USERPROFILE%\Documents\ChatProxyPlatform
```

2. Try the command again
-

"Python is not recognized"

What this means: Python didn't install correctly

Solution:

1. Uninstall Python (Settings → Apps → Python → Uninstall)
 2. Download Python again from <https://www.python.org>
 3. **IMPORTANT:** Check "Add Python to PATH" during installation
 4. Install again
-

Website not loading (localhost:3002 or localhost:3082)

Solutions to try:

1. **Wait longer:** Sometimes services take 2-3 minutes to fully start
 2. **Check if containers are running:**
-

```
docker ps
```

Should show "Up" status for containers

3. Check Docker Desktop:

- Open Docker Desktop application
- Click "Containers" on the left
- See if containers are running (green icon)

4. Restart services:

```
cd flowise  
stop.bat  
start-with-postgres.bat
```

"Access Denied" or "Permission Error"

Solution:

1. Close Command Prompt
2. Right-click on "Command Prompt" in Start Menu
3. Choose "Run as administrator"
4. Click "Yes" when Windows asks
5. Navigate back to the folder and try again

Getting Help

If you're still stuck after trying troubleshooting:

1. **Take a screenshot** of the error message
2. **Run the diagnostic script:**

```
cd %USERPROFILE%\Documents\ChatProxyPlatform  
check_system.bat
```

This creates a report file that shows what's wrong

3. Check the logs:

```
cd flowise  
docker logs flowise
```

4. **Share the error messages** with someone technical or the support team

What Each Folder Does

Now that everything is set up, here's what each part does:

- **flowise/** - The AI chatbot builder (like the "brain")
 - **auth-service/** - Handles login/logout (the "security guard")
 - **accounting-service/** - Tracks credits (the "accountant")
 - **flowise-proxy-service-py/** - Connects services together (the "messenger")
 - **bridge/** - The website students/teachers use (the "front door")
-

Learning More

Want to understand what you just did?

- **Docker:** Think of it as running multiple mini-computers inside your computer
 - **Services:** Each mini-computer runs one part of the platform
 - **Ports (3002, 3082, etc.):** Like different doors to different rooms in a building
 - **localhost:** A special address meaning "this computer"
 - **API Key:** A secret password that lets services talk to each other
-

Success Checklist

You're done when:

- ☐ Docker Desktop is running (whale icon in taskbar)
 - ☐ All services show "Up" when you run `docker ps`
 - ☐ You can open `http://localhost:3002` (Flowise)
 - ☐ You can open `http://localhost:3082` (Bridge)
 - ☐ You can log in with a student or teacher account
 - ☐ You created users successfully
-

Quick Reference Commands

Check if Docker is running:

```
docker ps
```

Start everything:

```
cd %USERPROFILE%\Documents\ChatProxyPlatform
cd flowise && start-with-postgres.bat
cd ..\auth-service && start.bat
```

```
cd ..\accounting-service && start.bat
cd ..\flowise-proxy-service-py && start-docker.bat
cd ..\bridge && start.bat
```

Stop everything:

```
docker stop $(docker ps -q)
```

View what's running:

- Open Docker Desktop application
- Click "Containers" on the left







Next Steps After Local Setup

You're running on localhost - what now?

If you just want to test/learn:

- ☒ You're done! Keep using <http://localhost:3082>

If you need school-wide access (multiple computers):

-  Read the " **School Network Deployment**" section above
-  Send the email template to your IT department
-  Wait for IT to provide domain/IP and SSL certificate
-  Update configuration files as instructed
-  Share the new URL with teachers and students

If you need help:

- Check troubleshooting section
- Run [check_system.bat](#) for diagnostics
- Review logs using [logs.bat](#) in each service folder

Questions or stuck? Check the troubleshooting section above!

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