

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Complete Guide To XMPP + OTR | Safe, Secure, & Private Chat](#)

Schatten - July 6, 2015, 9:38 pm

Why XMPP?

You may be asking "Why should I use XMPP?" XMPP is a very secure and safe way of chatting. Unlike Skype, you don't have to worry about all of your conversations being logged and having it used against you. You also don't have to worry about having your account suspended. Not that XMPP is good for eWhoring or anything, but there are methods to suspend Skype accounts, so this is another reason XMPP is safer. You also don't have to worry about your account being jacked in 10 minutes because of braindead live support. XMPP is definitely the better choice unless you don't care for your safety or security. There are many more reasons why. Some people even like the way it looks better. My opinion is XMPP is a much better choice in every way. Stop using Skype if you care about your privacy, safety, and security and switch to XMPP now.

Installing XMPP

You're going to need you an XMPP client. There are many you can choose from. A list of XMPP clients can be found [here](#).

While there are many clients to choose from, I personally recommend using Pidgin. It is the most commonly used one as far as I know and it's what I'll be explaining how to use in this guide. You can experiment with the other clients if you want but I highly suggest using Pidgin instead. It works for several OS including Linux, Windows, and OSX.

Click [here](#) if you're using OSX.

Click [here](#) if you're using Linux.

Click [here](#) if you're using Windows.

Creating An Account

Once you have Pidgin downloaded, you're going to need to create an account to use Pidgin with. I'll explain how to do so below with pictures.

Go to the Accounts tab and select Manage Accounts.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

In the new window, select Add and this is where we create our account details.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Fill in the boxes just as I have below or fill it in like -

Protocol: Change to XMPP

Username: Any alias you want. It'll most likely not be taken.

Domain: Pick a domain from here - <http://www.jabberes.org/servers/> or <https://list.jabber.at/> - I do not recommend using exploit.im as your domain. Do not ask me why. Just know it's very unsafe and I highly suggest using something other than this. Creep.im or see.ph are ones I've used before.

Resource: Leave this blank. You don't need it.

Password: Set your own password and click Remember password.

Local Alias: Just put your username or leave it blank.

Finally, select "Create this new account on the server" and press Add.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

You should get this message.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

If something like this pops up, just accept it and you'll get the previous message above.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Once you're back on the Accounts screen, check the box on your account that says Enabled if it isn't already.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Congrats, your account has been created. You can use XMPP. Now we'll learn how to keep our conversations private and secure so only you and the receiver can receive them.

Installing OTR

OTR, Off-the-Record, is a plugin to keep your conversations safe, secure, and private while using XMPP. That's the short version of it but here's what the site says about it.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))Quote:Off-the-Record (OTR) Messaging allows you to have private conversations over instant messaging by providing:Encryption

No one else can read your instant messages.

Authentication

You are assured the correspondent is who you think it is.

Deniability

The messages you send do not have digital signatures that are checkable by a third party. Anyone can forge messages after a conversation to make them look like they came from you. However, during a conversation, your correspondent is assured the messages he sees are authentic and unmodified.

Perfect forward secrecy

If you lose control of your private keys, no previous conversation is compromised.

Download the OTR plugin [here](#).

Once you have OTR downloaded and installed, open up Pidgin, go to the Tools tab, and select Plugins.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Find OTR and click Configure Plugin (make sure you check the box for it).

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Make sure your OTR settings look like this.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Once that's done, press Close on both windows. Now you're done setting up your XMPP with Pidgin and securing it with OTR.

Adding A Friend

Adding a friend on XMPP is actually very simple. All you have to do is go to the Buddies tab and select "Add Buddy..." on Pidgin.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Fill in the boxes like I have below.

Account: Make sure this is the XMPP account you want them added on. This is your account. Not their account.

Buddy's Username: This is their XMPP. Not their alias, but their XMPP like fagboi420@420blazeit.im instead of Fagboi420.

Alias: Pick the alias you want them to be known by on your XMPP. This is like when you choose someone's name personally on Skype that's on your contact list. For example, if I want my friend to be known as Fagboi420, that's what I'd put there so I know who it is.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Finally, click Add and you're done.

Authenticating In OTR

Authenticating a friend in OTR is easy and it helps you make sure your friend is really who they say they are. All you have to do is go in the chat with the friend click the OTR icon shown below.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Click Authenticate Buddy and you should get this screen.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

Fill out the question box with a question for your friend and make sure you type the password correctly. It's also case sensitive so keep that in mind. Press authenticate and allow your friend to answer the question. Make sure they know the answer.

If they answered the question right, you should get this message.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))

If you got this message then they are who they say they are.

If they answered wrong, you'll get a different message such as this one.

Spoiler ([Click to View](#))<https://i.imgur.com/l4uW62R.png> - Too many pictures lol.

Maybe they entered the answer wrong or used the wrong case, give it another try.

There you go. Always make sure the person is who they say they are.

Checking The Safety Of A Domain

You may want to check the safety of a domain. Maybe you wonder how safe it is compared to others or maybe you want to find one that's safe in general. Either way, you should always check out the grade of the domain you're choosing before you use it. All you have to do is enter this domain into the URL bar - xmpp.net/result.php?domain=(DOMAIN HERE)&type=client - and replace the "(DOMAIN HERE)" part with your server. An example is - xmpp.net/result.php?domain=wtfismyip.com&type=client - which has a very good grade. Now this server - xmpp.net/result.php?domain=exploit.im&type=client - has a very bad grade and you should look for something more trustworthy than it. Always check the safety of your server before signing up to it.

I hope you guys enjoyed my tutorial. If you find any grammar/spelling mistakes, PM me and I'll fix it. If you have any suggestions, PM me them or post them below. ?

'Cynical - July 6, 2015, 9:39 pm

I already have a tutorial on this, but you added many more details than I did.
Good work. ?

Schatten - July 6, 2015, 9:40 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 09:39 PM)?Roku Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I already have a tutorial on this, but you added many more details than I did.

Good work. ?

If I missed anything or there's any mistakes, please let me know. If not, thanks. ?

Aurora - July 6, 2015, 9:44 pm

Pidgin's nice. ?

Good job on the tutorial. Let's get rid of Skype.

'Cynical - July 6, 2015, 9:59 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 09:40 PM)Schatten Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) If I missed anything or there's any mistakes, please let me know. If not, thanks. ?

You should add information on Authentication in OTR.

Optimization - July 6, 2015, 10:00 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 09:44 PM).Sinister Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Pidgin's nice. ?

Good job on the tutorial. Let's get rid of Skype.

Yes let us please get rid of that microsoft shitty software?

Schatten - July 6, 2015, 10:01 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 09:59 PM)?Roku Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You should add information on Authentication in OTR.
That's not a bad idea - I'll add that in a bit. Thanks.

SIM-1073426 - July 6, 2015, 10:12 pm

Great tutorial, you explained it well.

There's a broken image here btw: <https://i.gyazo.com/6f5f34b9cc357faab2741cd6a3bc3be0.png>

Schatten - July 6, 2015, 10:16 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 10:12 PM)Aces. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great tutorial, you explained it well.

There's a broken image here btw: <https://i.gyazo.com/6f5f34b9cc357faab2741cd6a3bc3be0.png>

Fixed that and added authentication in OTR to make sure you're talking to who they say they are.

If there's any other suggestions or mistakes, please let me know. ?

Chillingworth - July 6, 2015, 10:18 pm

Oh lord, another rehash of an XMPP tutorial.

Schatten - July 6, 2015, 10:19 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 10:18 PM)Chillingworth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh lord, another rehash of an XMPP tutorial.
But you don't say this on the 1,000th doxing thread posted by an Ub3r member, right? ?

Chillingworth - July 6, 2015, 10:29 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 10:19 PM)Schatten Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) But you don't say this on the 1,000th doxing thread posted by an Ub3r member, right? ?

Don't know what thread you're referring to but I'm sure it isn't even worth my energy to reply

Schatten - July 6, 2015, 10:33 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 10:29 PM)Chillingworth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Don't know what thread you're referring to but I'm sure it isn't even worth my energy to reply

I'm saying why waste your time posting shit on a XMPP tutorial when there's only like 5 out there that's worth reading and I'm sure not many cover much. Why not post on one of the 1,000 doxing tutorials posted out there? Always love to see people afraid of upgraded members so they only talk shit to nonupgraded. ?

Anyways, idrc, the tutorial is there for those who need it.

Chillingworth - July 6, 2015, 10:35 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 10:33 PM)Schatten Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'm saying why waste your time posting shit on a XMPP tutorial when there's only like 5 out there that's worth reading and I'm sure not many cover much. Why not post on one of the 1,000 doxing tutorials posted out there? Always love to see people afraid of upgraded members so they only talk shit to nonupgraded. ?

Anyways, idrc, the tutorial is there for those who need it.

Yeah you're right, I'm absolutely petrified of upgraded members.

Schatten - July 6, 2015, 10:37 pm

(Jul 6, 2015 10:35 PM)Chillingworth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Yeah you're right, I'm absolutely petrified of upgraded members.

Me too man. Their rank just gives me the spooks. ?

Are we done here? You're not getting anywhere fam. ?

Optimization - July 7, 2015, 7:39 am

(Jul 6, 2015 10:18 PM)Chillingworth Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Oh lord, another rehash of an XMPP tutorial. Use skype please.

you are not ready for XMPP.

Be happy that OP is trying to spread something useful compared to all the other crap being posted!

So get the fuck out of here bro?

HIGH PAID FELLA - July 7, 2015, 8:12 am

You covered all the aspects of Jabber and the OTR plug-in (if I didn't miss out something). Well done.

Edit: you forgot to tell how to start a group conversation.

sinmar - July 7, 2015, 9:16 am

XMPP as a protocol sucks, but it's the best there is for this purpose. If you've ever actually looked into the protocol it's horrendous, along with a lot of clients.

HIGH PAID FELLA - July 7, 2015, 9:24 am

(Jul 7, 2015 09:16 AM)sinmar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) XMPP as a protocol sucks, but it's the best there is for this purpose. If you've ever actually looked into the protocol it's horrendous, along with a lot of clients.

I can agree, there is a XMPP DoS 0day floating around because of a bug in the protocol.

sinmar - July 7, 2015, 9:27 am

(Jul 7, 2015 09:24 AM)Asterea Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I can agree, there is a XMPP DoS 0day floating around because of a bug in the protocol.

There's multiple, depending on the client and their implementation of certain features. Exemplis gratis: Pidgin might crash with a bug but Adium and Psi won't.

HIGH PAID FELLA - July 7, 2015, 9:30 am

(Jul 7, 2015 09:27 AM)sinmar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) There's multiple, depending on the client and their implementation of certain features. Exemplis gratis: Pidgin might crash with a bug but Adium and Psi won't.

I'll switch to Adium to see if it's better. Thanks.

Tony S - July 7, 2015, 9:40 am

(Jul 7, 2015 09:30 AM)Asterea Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I'll switch to Adium to see if it's better. Thanks. Adium only supports OS X, if you weren't already aware.

I tried using it years ago, had nothing but bad experiences with it.

Aurora - July 7, 2015, 9:54 am

(Jul 7, 2015 09:40 AM)Tony Spilotro Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Adium only supports OS X, if you weren't already aware.

I tried using it years ago, had nothing but bad experiences with it.
What client would you recommend then?

Tony S - July 7, 2015, 10:00 am

(Jul 7, 2015 09:54 AM).Sinister Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) What client would you recommend then?
I've been using the [irssi-xmpp](#) plugin for [irssi](#) for the past while. I love it.

HIGH PAID FELLA - July 7, 2015, 10:50 am

(Jul 7, 2015 10:00 AM)Tony Spilotro Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've been using the [irssi-xmpp](#) plugin for [irssi](#) for the past while. I love it.

Alright, I'll check that out soon enough. Thanks.

Schatten - July 7, 2015, 11:44 am

(Jul 7, 2015 09:16 AM)sinmar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) XMPP as a protocol sucks, but it's the best there is for this purpose. If you've ever actually looked into the protocol it's horrendous, along with a lot of clients.

(Jul 7, 2015 09:24 AM)Asterea Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I can agree, there is a XMPP DoS 0day floating around because of a bug in the protocol.

Either way I'd rather use a service that has a 0day that barely anyone knows than use Skype and have my IP resolved and doxed or have my Skype suspended and jacked by some 11 year old with no knowledge. ?

Skype is way less safe and secure.

Aurora - July 7, 2015, 11:48 am

(Jul 7, 2015 10:00 AM)Tony Spilotro Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I've been using the [irssi-xmpp](#) plugin for [irssi](#) for the past while. I love it.

Appreciate the response. Will take a look at it.

sinmar - July 7, 2015, 12:19 pm

(Jul 7, 2015 11:44 AM)Schatten Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Either way I'd rather use a service that has a 0day that barely anyone knows than use Skype and have my IP resolved and doxed or have my Skype

suspended and jacked by some 11 year old with no knowledge. ?

Skype is way less safe and secure.

Usually those things are easy to do with XMPP services too.

Schatten - July 7, 2015, 12:39 pm

(Jul 7, 2015 12:19 PM)sinmar Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Usually those things are easy to do with XMPP services too.

Skype undeniably is a lot easier and while you say XMPP is easy to do, I doubt anyone on this forum knows how or at least very few.

King of Clubs - July 7, 2015, 12:41 pm

Thanks for this OP. Really appreciated!

Schatten - July 7, 2015, 12:46 pm

(Jul 7, 2015 12:41 PM)Crazy Dave Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thanks for this OP. Really appreciated!

Glad I could help. Please PM me any suggestions if you have any. ?

Chillingworth - July 7, 2015, 12:47 pm

(Jul 7, 2015 07:39 AM)CrackerTux Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Use skype please.

you are not ready for XMPP.

Be happy that OP is trying to spread something useful compared to all the other crap being posted!

So get the fuck out of here bro?

LOL funniest shit I've read in a while ???

But you are right, I'm not ready for XMPP, it's way too intricate for the average computer user ???

TerenceMcKenna - July 7, 2015, 1:32 pm

Good tutorial, I'll make sure to do this when I get home.?

Mr.Purple343 - July 9, 2015, 12:43 pm

Really great tutorial thanks

Schatten - July 15, 2015, 10:04 pm

(Jul 9, 2015 12:43 PM)Mr.Purple343 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Really great tutorial thanks

(Jul 7, 2015 01:32 PM)Raven Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Good tutorial, I'll make sure to do this when I get home.?

I'm glad you guys like the tutorial. Thanks for the kind words.

Schatten - July 23, 2015, 8:05 pm

Just added how to check the safety of the server you're using. ?

Joeguy123 - July 24, 2015, 8:02 pm

pidgin wont download for me.... and it says gtk + missing so i downloaded that and still dosent work. help

Schatten - July 24, 2015, 8:04 pm

(Jul 24, 2015 08:02 PM)Joeguy123 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) pidgin wont download for me.... and it says gtk + missing so i downloaded that and still dosent work. help

Quote:If you would like to have GTK+ included in the installer, we have an offline installer that bundles everything except spell-checking dictionaries.

Does this help you at all?

Joeguy123 - July 24, 2015, 8:06 pm

(Jul 24, 2015 08:04 PM)Schatten Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#)]Page[/url]

Does this help you at all?

i tried that source forge thing just takes me to this file page... and i tried the mirror version and that didnt work same for direct link the all took me to the same page

Schatten - July 24, 2015, 10:07 pm

(Jul 24, 2015 08:06 PM)Joeguy123 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) i tried that source forge thing just takes me to this file page... and i tried the mirror version and that didnt work same for direct link the all took me to the same page

It's a problem on your end if none of the downloads work - I can't help with that.

HIGH PAID FELLA - July 24, 2015, 10:46 pm

Thank you for your contribution.

Schatten - July 25, 2015, 3:20 pm

(Jul 24, 2015 10:46 PM)Asterea Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Thank you for your contribution.

Glad I could help out the community. ?

Fighting - August 2, 2015, 7:49 pm

This is a great guide thanks for using your time to make this :D

Diablo3585 - August 2, 2015, 8:02 pm

just a word of advice... op u put a link to pidgin under OS X but for someone reading this thread who is a beginner i would suggest u link an OS Xer to Adium. it's a client just for macs. not trying to be a dick but it will save anyone using a mac some time. good thread either way :)

Schatten - August 2, 2015, 8:16 pm

(Aug 2, 2015 08:02 PM)Diablo3585 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) just a word of advice... op u put a link to pidgin under OS X but for someone reading this thread who is a beginner i would suggest u link an OS Xer to Adium. it's a client just for macs. not trying to be a dick but it will save anyone using a mac some time. good thread either way :)

That's a good idea; will update in a bit. ?

Strayta - August 2, 2015, 8:17 pm

Good job op! Really nice tutorial and detail

The Plague Doctor - August 2, 2015, 8:45 pm

Thanks for this tutorial, was very helpful.

Schatten - August 2, 2015, 11:08 pm

Glad you guys enjoyed the tutorial.

CalvinCake - August 2, 2015, 11:26 pm

Great guide, useful... thanks!

Schatten - August 3, 2015, 8:38 am

(Aug 2, 2015 11:26 PM)mshzmm Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Great guide, useful... thanks!

Glad you enjoy it man. Thanks for the kind words. ?

Senpie - *August 8, 2015, 10:53 pm*

Very good tutorial!

Also very well-written, probably the best I have seen on XMPP + OTR.

Check The Name - *August 18, 2016, 5:48 am*

Hey, thanks for the share bud.

R1l3yHur27 - *February 7, 2017, 2:35 pm*

Awesome! Thank you, great job! I just installed

pentest01 - *February 8, 2017, 9:47 am*

Thanks for the tutorial, bumping so newbies can start using XMPP instead of using \$kype.

Merryweather - *November 4, 2023, 12:28 pm*

Thank you for the tutorial, appreciated.