




Never leave an IRC channel again with ZNC

Justin W. Flory
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What is IRC?

- Online chat protocol in existence since 1988
- Large network of chat rooms (#channels)
 - Often used with web chat clients
 - Most commonly used with IRC client (e.g. HexChat)
- Popular networks are often hubs for different kinds of communities
 - freenode: ~99,000 users connected at peak hours
 - Projects on freenode: Ubuntu, Fedora, Perl, SELinux... FOSS loves freenode
 - #ritlug, #rit-foss
- Your digital life is incomplete without IRC

Do people live in IRC?

- *Context*: The same group of people idling in the same IRC channels every time you connect
 - Answer: No (usually)
- Popular solution is an IRC “bouncer” (a.k.a. proxy)
- ZNC is open-source IRC bouncer in C++
 - <https://github.com/znc/znc>
- **Without ZNC**: *chat.freenode.net*
- **With ZNC**: *znc.mysite.com => chat.freenode.net*

How do I get it?

- Unless you use an obscure distro, check your distro's repos (probably is packaged)
 - Fedora: `sudo dnf install znc`
 - RHEL, CentOS: `sudo yum install znc`
 - Ubuntu, Debian, other Debian-based distros: `sudo apt-get install znc`
 - Arch: Ask Nate
- Package manager will take care of the details for you
- Also possible to compile and build from source

Doing the prep work

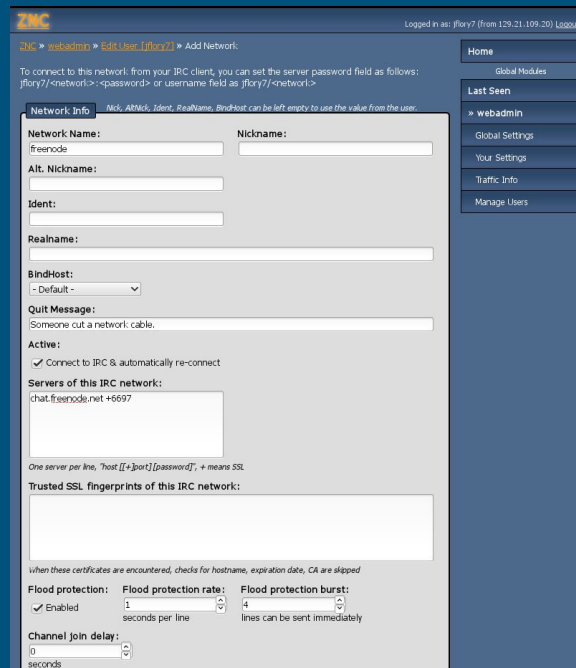
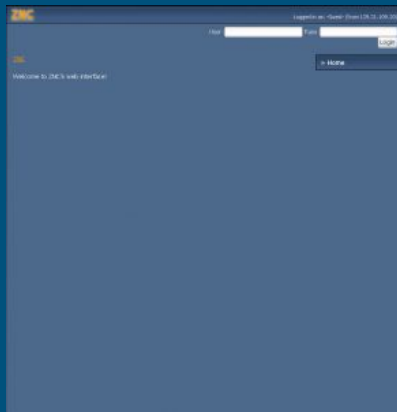
- The extensive, laborious, difficult prep work for getting your system to handle the firewall is...
- **Adjusting your firewall**
 - CentOS/RHEL 7 or later, Fedora, Arch(?):
 - `sudo firewall-cmd --add-port=6697/tcp`
 - `sudo firewall-cmd --runtime-to-permanent`
 - CentOS/RHEL 6 or earlier, Debian, Ubuntu, etc.:
 - `sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --dport 6697 -j ACCEPT`
 - `sudo service iptables save`

Configuring ZNC

- Initial configuration in CLI
 - `sudo -u znc znc --makeconf`
- Will begin prompting you for basic configuration information
 - Usually the defaults are fine
- Example: [Fedora Magazine](#)

Using the web panel

- After configuration, ZNC will launch immediately
 - `http(s)://<server_ip>:<your_port>`
 - If you opted to use SSL, *must* include https



Final steps

- If server ever reboots, you will want ZNC to restart itself
- Can be done with `systemd` or `chkconfig`
 - CentOS/RHEL 7 or later, Fedora, Arch(?): `sudo systemctl enable znc`
 - CentOS/RHEL 6 or earlier, Ubuntu, Debian, etc.: `sudo chkconfig znc on`

Setting up HexChat

- Numerous IRC clients, it's all personal preference - find one that you look
 - Example uses HexChat because it is one of the most well-known and popular ones
- Instead of connecting to IRC network, connect to your bouncer
 - irc.freenode.net => mysupercoolbouncer.example.com
- Detail of note: **Server Password**
 - To connect to ZNC, server password required
 - Generally formatted as: `username/network:password`
 - *Example:* `jflory7/freenode:SomeW1ttyPassw0rd`
- Reference [ZNC wiki](#) for help

A HexChat window

- Yours should look similar
- Note accepting invalid SSL certificates
 - If you use SSL, you are using a self-signed certificate - this is safe but a necessary step because it is self-signed
 - Also note the + before the port: denotes SSL

HexChat: Edit ZNC Test

my.bouncer.com/+6697

Add

Remove

Edit

Servers Autojoin channels Connect commands

Connect to selected server only

Connect to this network automatically

Bypass proxy server

Use SSL for all the servers on this network

Accept invalid SSL certificates

Use global user information

Nick name:

Second choice:

Real name:

User name:

Login method: Server Password (/PASS password) ▼

Password:

Character set: UTF-8 (Unicode) ▼

Close

Congratulations, you are now ZNC Certified!

- Credit: [Fedora Magazine](#)
 - Read my other work: fedoramagazine.org/author/jflory7