



## BASIC SETUP GUIDE

# TrueNAS Mini



# TrueNAS Mini

## Contents

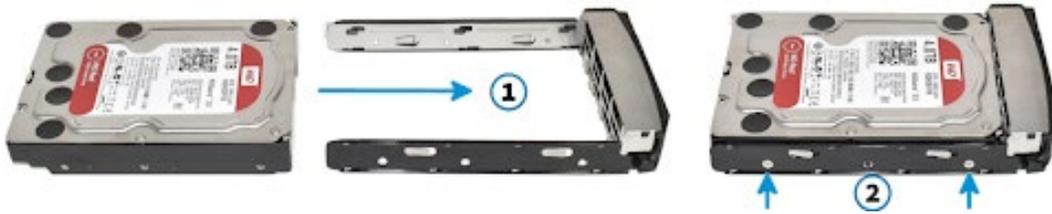
- 1 Initial Setup
- 2 Connecting Power and Network Cables
- 3 Accessing the Web Interface
- 4 Initial Pool Configuration
- 5 Create A Dataset
- 6 User Accounts
- 7 Assigning Permissions
- 8 Data Sharing (SMB)
- 9 vdevs (Virtual Devices)
- 10 Accessing From Other Devices
- 11 Upload and Access
- 12 Installing Applications
- 13 Backing Up TrueNAS Storage Data
- 14 Other Resources

Thank you for choosing the TrueNAS Mini! Your trust means a lot to us. This simplified setup guide is recommended for users who are less technical and want to get up and running quickly.

## 1 Initial Setup

Open the TrueNAS Mini box and take everything out. You should see hard drives (if a preconfigured unit was selected), drive trays, two ethernet cables, bags of screws for the hard drive trays (if your unit has both 3.5" and 2.5" drive bays, there will be a bag for each tray size) one power cord and one set of keys for the unit.

- To install hard drives, place the drive carefully into the hard drive tray and mount the drive using four screws. There should be places for two screws on each side.



- Starting with the top drive bay, insert the hard drive until it stops. Then, gently swing the latch closed until it clicks. Repeat for all drives that need to be installed in your TrueNAS Mini.

*NOTE: Drive bays can be locked to prevent tray removal. You can lock the tray with a flat-head screwdriver into the center slot of the button.*

## 2 Connecting Power and Network Cables

Your TrueNAS Mini should power up by itself after a short delay. It may take up to 10 minutes to complete the initial boot process. If desired, you may connect a VGA monitor to observe the boot process.



## 3 Accessing the Web Interface

An IP address is a unique address assigned to every device that is on a network. It's a series of numbers that helps information find its way to the correct destination.

- Open your web browser and go to → [TrueNAS.local](http://TrueNAS.local) or try to enter the **TrueNAS Mini's IP address** in the web browser's search bar.
- If an IP address is needed, connect a monitor to the TrueNAS Mini and view the console setup menu that displays at the end of the boot process.
- By default, the administrative account username is **admin** and the password is *abcd1234*

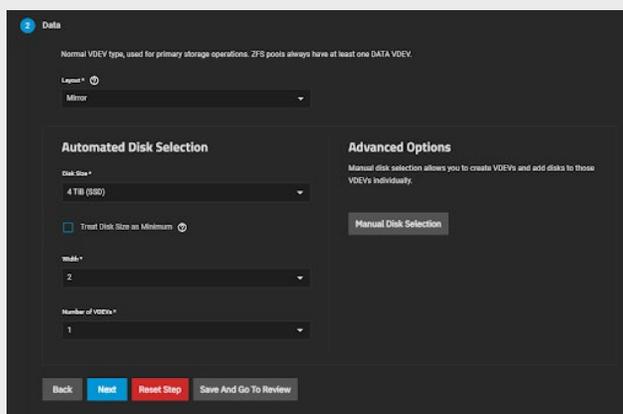
## 4 Initial Pool Configuration

In the world of data storage, a storage pool is like your pantry. It's a space where you can organize and store different types of digital data, such as photos, or videos. Each shelf and container in your pantry represents a specific storage disk or drive in the storage pool.

To create a new pool, navigate to **Storage** and click **Create Pool**.

Provide a name for your pool and click the **Next** button.

For the **Layout**, select **Mirror** from the drop-down menu. Your disk(s) should be shown in the **Disk Size** menu. Select a **Width** of 2 for 2-way mirroring, and adjust the **Number of VDEVs** until you have allocated all available disks.



Click **Save And Go To Review**. From this section, you can click the **Inspect VDEVs** button to check that you have the expected number of disks.

Click **Create Pool** when you are ready. Note that any existing data on your disks will be erased.

TrueNAS will automatically suggest a Mirror as the ideal layout for protection of your data. With this configuration, if one drive is damaged, your data will remain intact and accessible from the other drive, similar to having two SD cards to write to in a DSLR.

More than one mirror can be added to the same pool. If you have four drives, you can create two mirrors of two disks each, and benefit from additional capacity and performance.

For additional safety, you can back up your TrueNAS system to a cloud-based backup service, such as iX-Storj. Further information on this process can be found in our TrueNAS Documentation at:

<https://www.truenas.com/docs/scale/25.04/gettingstarted/>

## 5 Create A Dataset

It's good practice to create a dataset rather than store files in the root of your pool. This allows you to make adjustments to the datasets independently, rather than needing to take a "one size fits all" approach.

- Navigate to **Storage > Datasets**
- Click the **Add Dataset** button
- Provide a name for your first dataset. The default dataset values for compression are optimized for most use cases - TrueNAS can identify incompressible data and will not attempt to compress it further.
- **Save**

## 6 User Accounts

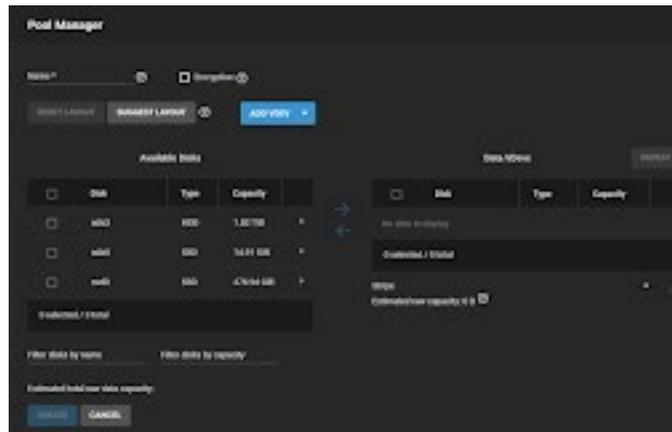
Create User Accounts:

- Navigate to **Credentials > Local Users**
- Click **ADD** and create a user account for yourself and each person you intend to access the files shared on your TrueNAS Mini.
- Each user should choose a secure, memorable password that is hard to guess.

## 7 Assigning Permissions

Permissions allow certain users to access certain data. For example, giving an editor at work permission to only access photos from a recent photoshoot rather than every photo on your TrueNAS Mini.

- Go to **Datasets** and edit your storage pool
- Under Permissions, click **Edit Permissions**.
- Add ACL items for users with basic read and write permissions.



## 8 Data Sharing (SMB)

SMB stands for Server Message Block, a protocol that allows computers to share files and communicate with each other on a network. SMB is a "common language" that can be spoken by Windows, MacOS, and Linux operating systems, and is recommended for ease of access among different types of computers.

Create an SMB Share:

- Visit **Sharing > Windows (SMB)**. For this guide, we will ignore AFP as Apple devices now support SMB sharing.
- Click **ADD** to create a new share.
- Choose your dataset (folder) and set a clear Share Name (e.g., "Photography").

### Configure SMB Service:

If you weren't prompted to automatically enable the SMB service after creating your share above (or you accidentally clicked away from it) don't worry - you can enable it manually.

- Head to **Services** > SMB/CIFS.
- Toggle the service switch to enable SMB.

## 9 vdevs (Virtual Devices)

### Understanding vdevs:

- Think of vdevs like drawers in your storage cabinet.
- Each drawer (vdev) can contain hard drives, and the more drawers, the more space

### Simple vdev Recommendations:

- For basic setups, choose a Mirror vdev.
- For workloads with few users and very large files (eg: videos) consider RAIDZ2

### Connecting vdevs:

- In **Storage** > **Pools**, create a new pool.
- Choose the recommended vdev and add your hard drives.

## 10 Accessing From Other Devices

- Open your computer's file explorer and enter your **TrueNAS Mini's IP address** in the search bar to access shared files  
*Your TrueNAS Minis IP can be found from within the WebUI in the network interfaces section.*
- You may be prompted to enter the user credentials that you configured in the TrueNAS UI for the user.

[Click here](#) for instructions on mounting the share using other operating systems.

## 11 Upload and Access

### Upload Your Files:

- Use your computer to copy your photography files to the SMB share you created.

### Access Files from Any computer on your network:

- Open File Explorer or Finder (Apple devices) on your computer.
- Enter the hostname ([truenas.local](#)) or IP address to access your shared files.

## 12 Installing Applications

- The first time you open the **Applications** screen, it displays an **Apps Service Not Configured** status on the screen header.
- Click **Settings** > **Choose Pool** to choose the newly created apps storage pool. Use **Discover Apps** to open the **Discover Applications** screen.
- Browse the widgets or use the search field to find available applications. Click an application widget to go to the application information screen.
- Click **Install** to open the installation wizard for the application. After installing an application, the Installed Applications screen shows the application in the **Deploying** state. It changes to **Running** when the application is ready to use.

## 13 Backing Up TrueNAS Storage Data

You can configure TrueNAS to send, receive, or synchronize data with a cloud storage provider. The simplest way to set up a cloud sync task is using a free iX Storj account.

To create and link to an iX Storj account:

1. From the **TrueNAS Dashboard**, find the **Backup Tasks** widget and click **Cloud Sync to Storj or similar provider** to open the **Cloudsync Task Wizard**.
2. Open the **Credentials** dropdown and select **Add New**.
3. The **Storj iX** provider is preselected. Click **Signup for account** to open a browser tab then register and activate a free iX-Storj Account.
4. After the iX-Storj account is created, log in to the Storj portal, create a new bucket, and create new S3 access credentials ([click here](#) for more information).
5. When the new S3 Credentials are created, download the **Access Key** and **Secret Key** and paste each string into the TrueNAS **Access Key ID** and **Secret Access Key** fields, respectively. Click **Save**.
6. In the TrueNAS Cloud sync task wizard, review the fields in the **What and When** section (details). Select the created Storj **Bucket** before attempting to choose a **Folder**.
7. There are several predefined **Schedules** to choose from, or select **Custom** to define your own.
8. Click **Save**.

Congratulations! You've successfully set up your TrueNAS Mini. This basic guide ensures a smooth experience, allowing easy sharing and access to your valuable files. Feel free to explore advanced features as needed.

## 14 Other Resources

TrueNAS Official Documentation: <https://www.truenas.com/docs/>

Networking Recommendations: <https://www.truenas.com/docs/solutions/optimizations/networking/>

Security Recommendations: <https://www.truenas.com/docs/solutions/optimizations/security/>

TrueNAS Reference Articles: <https://www.truenas.com/docs/references/>

ZFS Primer: <https://www.truenas.com/docs/references/zfsprimer/>

ACL Primer: <https://www.truenas.com/docs/references/aclprimer/>