

Jellyfin

Get Started with Jellyfin

As the demand for personalized and easily accessible media libraries grows, many users are turning to open-source solutions for managing their media collections. [Jellyfin](#) is a standout option, offering a powerful, free, and open-source media server that allows you to organize, stream, and enjoy your media content across multiple devices. In this article, we will explore Jellyfin's features, its integration capabilities, and provide detailed installation and setup instructions.

What is Jellyfin?

Jellyfin is an open-source media server software that enables you to manage and stream your media files, including movies, TV shows, music, and photos. Unlike some commercial alternatives, Jellyfin does not rely on cloud services, ensuring your data remains private and under your control.

Key Features of Jellyfin

- Media Library Management:** Jellyfin allows you to organize your media library with ease. It supports various media types, including movies, TV shows, music, and photos, providing metadata scraping to enhance your library with detailed information.
- Multi-Platform Support:** Access your media on multiple devices, including smartphones, tablets, smart TVs, and web browsers. Jellyfin supports a wide range of operating systems, including Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, and iOS.
- Live TV and DVR:** Jellyfin includes live TV and DVR functionality, allowing you to watch and record live television broadcasts. With support for multiple TV tuners, you can manage your TV content directly through Jellyfin.
- User Profiles:** Create multiple user profiles with individual preferences and restrictions. This feature is particularly useful for families, enabling each member to have a personalized media experience.
- Parental Controls:** Manage access to content with robust parental controls. You can set viewing restrictions and monitor media usage to ensure a safe viewing environment for children.
- Plugins and Extensions:** Extend Jellyfin's functionality with a variety of plugins and extensions. From additional metadata providers to advanced playback options, the plugin ecosystem enhances your Jellyfin experience.
- Remote Access:** Access your media library from anywhere with remote access capabilities. Whether you're on the go or away from home, Jellyfin allows you to stream your content securely.

8. **Transcoding:** Jellyfin's built-in transcoding engine ensures smooth playback on any device by converting media files into compatible formats in real time.
9. **Open-Source and Free:** As an open-source project, Jellyfin is free to use and continuously improved by a community of developers. There are no hidden fees or premium tiers, making it an accessible option for everyone.

Integrations with Jellyfin

Jellyfin's flexibility extends to its integration capabilities, allowing it to work seamlessly with other applications and services. Here are some notable integrations:

1. **Kodi:** Integrate Jellyfin with [Kodi](#) to use Kodi as a front-end media player while leveraging Jellyfin's powerful media server capabilities.
2. **Plex and Emby:** Migrate your libraries from [Plex](#) and [Emby](#) to Jellyfin using available migration tools, ensuring a smooth transition without losing your existing media organization.
3. **Home Assistant:** Combine Jellyfin with [Home Assistant](#) to automate your media experience based on your home automation setup. Control playback, manage media, and more through Home Assistant's interface.
4. **Tautulli:** Monitor and manage your Jellyfin server with [Tautulli](#), providing detailed usage statistics and notifications about your media library.
5. **Trakt:** Sync your media consumption with [Trakt](#), keeping track of what you watch and allowing you to discover new content based on your viewing habits.
6. **NextPVR:** Integrate with [NextPVR](#) for advanced live TV and DVR functionality, enhancing Jellyfin's built-in capabilities.

Installation Instructions Using Docker Compose

Installing Jellyfin using Docker Compose is a streamlined way to get your media server up and running quickly. Docker Compose simplifies the setup process by managing Jellyfin and its dependencies in a single configuration file.

Prerequisites

- Ubuntu server (18.04 or later)
- Docker and Docker Compose installed

Install Docker and Docker Compose:

If Docker and Docker Compose are not already installed, you can install them with the following commands:

```
# Install Docker
sudo apt update
```

```
sudo apt install -y docker.io

# Start and enable Docker service
sudo systemctl start docker
sudo systemctl enable docker

# Install Docker Compose
sudo curl -L "https://github.com/docker/compose/releases/download/1.29.2/docker-compose-$(uname -s)-$(uname -m)" -o /usr/local/bin/docker-compose
sudo chmod +x /usr/local/bin/docker-compose
```

Docker Compose Configuration for Jellyfin

1. Create a Directory for Jellyfin:

```
mkdir jellyfin
cd jellyfin
```

2. Create a Docker Compose File:

Create a file named `docker-compose.yml` in the Jellyfin directory with the following content:

```
services:
  jellyfin:
    image: jellyfin/jellyfin:latest
    container_name: jellyfin
    ports:
      - "8096:8096"
      - "8920:8920"
    volumes:
      - jellyfin_config:/config
      - jellyfin_cache:/cache
      - /path/to/media:/media
    restart: unless-stopped

volumes:
  jellyfin_config:
  jellyfin_cache:
```

This configuration sets up the Jellyfin container, exposes ports 8096 (HTTP) and 8920 (HTTPS), and maps the container's configuration and cache directories to Docker volumes. Replace `/path/to/media` with the actual path to your media files.

3. Start the Jellyfin Container:

Run the following command to start Jellyfin using Docker Compose:

```
sudo docker-compose up -d
```

This command downloads the Jellyfin Docker image (if not already available), creates and starts the container in detached mode.

4. **Verify the Installation:**

Open your web browser and navigate to `http://<your_server_ip>:8096` to access the Jellyfin web interface. You should see the Jellyfin setup screen if the installation was successful.

Basic Setup Instructions

1. **Initial Setup:**

After navigating to `http://<your_server_ip>:8096`, follow the on-screen instructions to complete the initial setup. Create an administrator account and configure basic settings such as language and time zone.

2. **Add Media Libraries:**

Once logged in, go to `Dashboard > Libraries` to add your media libraries. Specify the type of media (movies, TV shows, music, etc.) and the directory path where the media files are stored.

3. **Configure Metadata:**

In the `Dashboard > Metadata` section, configure metadata fetching options to enhance your media library with detailed information, including posters, descriptions, and ratings.

4. **Set Up User Profiles:**

Navigate to `Dashboard > Users` to create and manage user profiles. Assign individual preferences and restrictions for each user, ensuring a personalized experience.

5. **Install Plugins:**

Enhance Jellyfin's functionality by installing plugins from the `Dashboard > Plugins` section. Browse and install plugins for additional metadata providers, playback options, and more.

6. **Enable Remote Access:**

To access your media library remotely, configure port forwarding on your router for ports 8096 and 8920. Ensure your firewall allows traffic on these ports. You can then access Jellyfin from outside your home network using your public IP address.

7. **Set Up Integrations:**

Integrate Jellyfin with other applications and services by following the setup instructions provided in the `Dashboard > Integrations` section. Configure integrations such as Kodi, Home Assistant, and Tautulli to enhance your media experience.

Additional Resources

- [Jellyfin Documentation](#) - Official documentation with comprehensive guides on setup, configuration, and advanced features.
- [Jellyfin GitHub Repository](#) - Access the source code and contribute to the project.
- [Jellyfin Community Forum](#) - Engage with the Jellyfin community for support, tips, and discussions.

Conclusion

Jellyfin is a powerful and flexible media server solution that allows you to take control of your media library and enjoy your content on any device. With its extensive features, robust integration capabilities, and privacy-focused approach, Jellyfin stands out as an excellent choice for managing and streaming your media. By following the installation and setup instructions provided, you can quickly deploy Jellyfin using Docker Compose and start enjoying a seamless media experience.

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