Skylager

Desktop client for Jottacloud on Linux

User manual

Installation, setup and everyday use – step by step

Version 1.0.0 · Open source · MIT · Ubuntu · Debian · Mint

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https://it-und-mehr.at
October 2026

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Welcome to Skylager

Skylager is a simple desktop window and panel icon for the official Jottacloud client on Linux. It shows the state of your backups at a glance and lets you manage everything with a few clicks – no terminal commands needed.

Back up
Choose folders that Jottacloud keeps backed up automatically.

Exchange
Move files between your computers through your Jottacloud Archive.

Stay informed
A cloud icon in your panel shows if everything is fine.

Contents

1 How Skylager works 2

2 Requirements 3

3 Install Skylager 4

4 First setup with the assistant 5

5 The main window 7

6 The panel icon 8

7 Back up folders 9

8 Exclude files and folders 10

9 Exchange files between computers (Transfers) 11

10 Pause and resume backups 13

11 Settings 13

12 Troubleshooting 14

13 Uninstall 14

14 Privacy, security and license 15

1 How Skylager works

Skylager is only the window and the panel icon. The actual work is done by the official Jottacloud software.

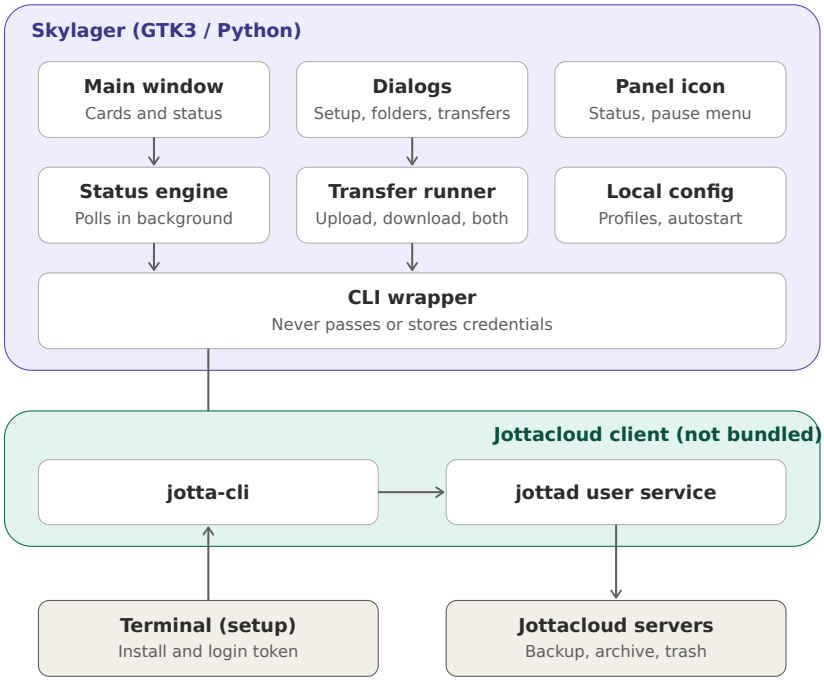

Figure 1 – Skylager talks only to the official Jottacloud client on your computer.

1. **You use Skylager**

   The main window, the dialogs and the panel icon show you the state of your backups and transfers.

2. **Skylager asks the official client**

   Everything Skylager does goes through one small part – the CLI wrapper – to `jotta-cli`, the official command line client from Jottacloud.

3. **The Jottacloud service does the work**

   `jotta-cli` controls the background service `jottad`. Only this service talks to the Jottacloud servers.

Your login stays with Jottacloud

You enter your login token in a terminal directly into `jotta-cli`. It never passes through Skylager – Skylager cannot see, store or log it.

2 Requirements

Check these points before you start.

You need	Details
A Debian-based Linux system	Ubuntu, Xubuntu, Kubuntu, Linux Mint, Debian – 64-bit (amd64)
A panel with status icons	XFCE, KDE Plasma, Cinnamon and MATE work out of the box. GNOME needs the “AppIndicator and KStatusNotifierItem Support” extension.
A Jottacloud account	Any subscription. You log in with a personal login token (see chapter 4).
Administrator rights	Your password for `sudo` – needed once to install Skylager and the Jottacloud client.
Internet access	For installing the client and for all backups and transfers.

No Jottacloud software included

Skylager does not contain any Jottacloud software. During setup, the official client is installed directly from Jottacloud's own package repository – the setup assistant does this for you.

3 Install Skylager

Skylager comes as a single installation file (`.deb`).

1. **Download the file**

   Download `skylager_1.0.0_all.deb` from **it-und-mehr.at**. It is usually saved in your **Downloads** folder.

2. **Open a terminal in that folder**

   Open your file manager, go to **Downloads**, right-click into the empty space and choose **Open Terminal Here**.

3. **Install the package**

   Type the following command and press Enter. Enter your password when asked – it is not shown while typing.

   ```
   sudo apt install ./skylager_1.0.0_all.deb
   ```

4. **Start Skylager**

   Open your application menu and start **Skylager** (category *Accessories* or *Utility*). Alternatively type `skylager` in a terminal.

> **Double-clicking the .deb file does not work?**
> On some systems the graphical package installer crashes or does nothing. This is a problem of that installer, not of Skylager – simply use the terminal command from step 3.

4 First setup with the assistant

On the first start Skylager checks what is missing and opens the setup assistant. It guides you through four steps and ticks each one off automatically.

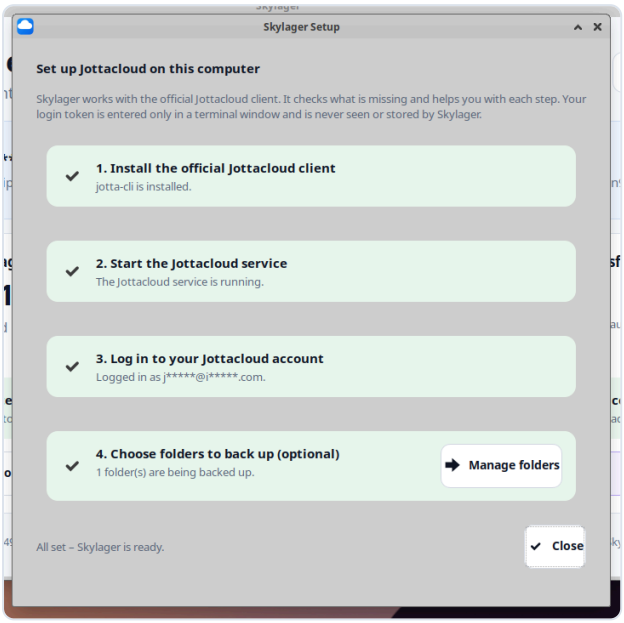

Figure 2 – The setup assistant after a complete setup.

Colour	Meaning
Orange	This step needs you – click the button on the right.
Green	Done.
Grey	Available after the previous step.

You can open the assistant again at any time via the menu button ≡ → **Setup assistant…**

Step 1 – Install the official Jottacloud client

1. **Click Install…**
   A terminal window opens. It runs the installation commands published by Jottacloud.
2. **Enter your password**
   Type your password and press Enter. The client is downloaded from `repo.jotta.cloud` and installed.
3. **Close the terminal**
   When the terminal says *Done*, press Enter. Back in the assistant, step 1 turns green.

Step 2 – Start the Jottacloud service

1. **Click Start service**
   The background service starts and will also start automatically whenever you log in to your computer. Step 2 turns green.

Step 3 – Log in to your Jottacloud account

1. **Click** `Log in…`
   A terminal window opens and guides you through the login.
2. **Open the token page**
   Press Enter. Your browser opens **jottacloud.com/web/secure**. If no browser opens, open this address yourself (Ctrl + click on the link in the terminal).
3. **Create a personal login token**
   Log in on the website, create a **Personal login token** and copy it.
4. **Go back to the terminal**
   Press Enter, accept the Jottacloud terms by typing `yes` and paste the token with **Ctrl + Shift + V**.
5. **Name this computer**
   Enter a clear, unique device name, for example `Laptop-Office`, and press Enter. The terminal confirms the login – press Enter to close it.

> ! **Every login creates a new device**
> Jottacloud cannot reuse a device name that already exists. Each login adds a new device to your account; old devices and their backups stay until you delete them on jottacloud.com. Choose a name you will recognise later.

> ! **Keep your token private**
> The terminal shows the token while you paste it. Close the terminal after logging in and never share a screenshot of it.

Step 4 – Choose folders to back up (optional)

1. **Click** `Choose folders…`
   The backup folder dialog opens – see chapter 7. You can also skip this and do it later.
2. **Click** `Close`
   When all steps are green, the assistant says *All set – Skylager is ready.*

5 The main window

The main window shows everything important on one screen. It refreshes itself every 30 seconds.

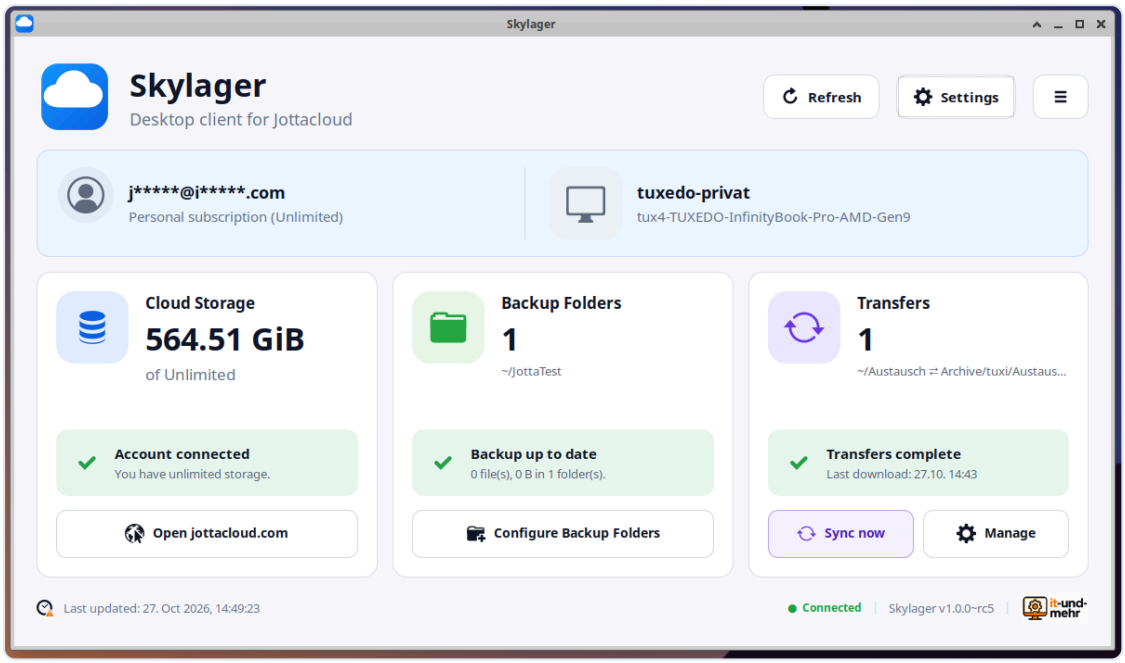

Figure 3 – The Skylager main window.

Area	What it shows and does
Top buttons	**Refresh** updates at once · **Settings** see chapter 11 · ≡ menu with pause/resume, setup assistant, log file, about and quit
Account bar	Your e-mail address (masked), subscription, device name and computer name
Cloud Storage	Used storage and your quota. **Open jottacloud.com** opens your account in the browser – files, trash and devices.
Backup Folders	Number and paths of your backup folders and the backup state. **Configure Backup Folders** – chapter 7.
Transfers	Your transfers and the last result. **Sync now** and **Manage** – chapter 9.
Footer	Time of the last update and the connection state: Connected, Transferring, Paused or an error

Closing the window does not quit Skylager

The window is only hidden; Skylager keeps watching your backups from the panel. To quit completely, choose ≡ → **Quit Skylager** or use the panel menu.

6 The panel icon

A small cloud in your panel shows the state of your backups – even when the window is closed.

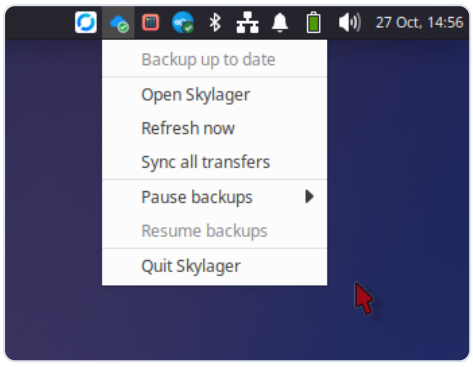

Figure 4 – The panel icon and its menu.

Dot on the cloud	Meaning
Green	Everything is backed up
Blue	Files are being transferred
Orange	Paused, errors, or no backup folder yet
Red	Client missing, service stopped or not logged in

Use the panel menu

1. **Open the menu**
   Click on the cloud icon (right-click or left-click, depending on your desktop). The first, grey line shows the current state.
2. **Choose an action**
   Open Skylager shows the window · **Refresh now** updates the state · **Sync all transfers** runs all transfers · **Pause backups** / **Resume backups** · **Quit Skylager**

Start Skylager automatically

1. **Open** **Settings**
   In the section *Skylager*, switch on **Start Skylager at login (panel icon only)**.
2. **Click** **Save**
   From now on Skylager starts with the panel icon whenever you log in.

> **No icon in the panel?**
> Your panel needs a status or notification area. On GNOME, install the AppIndicator extension. See chapter 12.

7 Back up folders

Jottacloud keeps your backup folders up to date automatically. By default it checks them every hour for new and changed files.

> **A backup is a mirror, not an archive**
> When you delete a file in a backup folder, it is also deleted from the cloud backup after the next scan. For files you want to keep in the cloud independently, use Transfers (chapter 9).

Add a folder

1. **Click** `Configure Backup Folders`
   The list of your backup folders opens.
2. **Click** `Add Folder...`
   Choose the folder in the file browser and click `Select`.
3. **Confirm**
   Read the note and click `Add to Backup`. The upload starts in the background; the card shows *Uploading...* and the panel icon turns blue.

System folders such as `/etc` or `/usr` cannot be added. Skylager warns you if a new folder overlaps with an existing one, because files would then be uploaded twice.

Remove a folder

1. **Click** `Remove` **next to the folder**
   A warning explains what happens.
2. **Click** `Stop Backup`
   Jottacloud stops backing up this folder. The folder is shown as *Removing...* for a moment.

> **What happens to the files?**
> Your local files are not touched. The copy in the cloud is moved to the **Jottacloud trash**, where you can restore it on jottacloud.com until the trash is emptied.

> **After reinstalling your computer**
> If you add a folder that Jottacloud already knows, Skylager asks whether to continue the existing backup. Choose `Continue backup`.

8 Exclude files and folders

Skip files you don't need in the backup – temporary files, caches or large videos, for example.

1. **Open** **Configure Backup Folders**
   Click **Exclusions** next to the folder.
2. **Add a rule – three ways**
   Common rule: choose one from the list *Add a common rule…* (temporary files, backup copies, cache, node_modules, Git, trash).
   Subfolder: click **Exclude subfolder…** and pick the folder in the file browser.
   Own pattern: type a pattern and click **Add**.
3. **Remove a rule**
   Click the minus button next to the rule.

Pattern examples

Pattern	Excludes
`*.tmp`	Files ending in .tmp directly in the backup folder
`**.tmp`	Files ending in .tmp in all subfolders
`Videos/Raw`	The subfolder Videos/Raw
`**node_modules/**`	Every folder named node_modules

Rules apply to one folder only
Patterns are relative to the backup folder. A folder you add later does not inherit them – add the rules there again if needed.

9 Exchange files between computers (Transfers)

A transfer connects a local folder with a folder in your Jottacloud **Archive**. Only new files are transferred – and nothing is ever deleted.

Typical use
Put a file into the exchange folder on your laptop, click **Sync now** – and get it on your other computer with one more click.

Deleted files come back
A file you delete locally is fetched again with the next sync, because it still exists in the cloud. To remove it for good, delete it locally *and* on jottacloud.com.

On the first computer – create a new cloud folder

1. **Click Manage on the Transfers card**
   Then click **New Transfer…** and choose **New cloud folder…**
2. **Choose the local folder**
   For example `~/Exchange`, and click **Select**.
3. **Choose a parent folder in the Archive (optional)**
   Leave the field empty, or enter a name such as `Laptop` to keep things organised. Click **OK**.
4. **Upload your files**
   Click **Upload new** or **Both**.

Local folder	Parent folder	Cloud folder
`~/Exchange`	*(empty)*	`Archive/Exchange`
`~/Exchange`	`Laptop`	`Archive/Laptop/Exchange`

Good to know: transfers keep running even if you close the window. An empty folder or a cloud folder that does not exist yet is not an error – Skylager simply tells you that there is nothing to transfer. The cloud folder is created with the first upload.

On every further computer – connect to the existing folder

1. **Click** **Manage** → **New Transfer…**
   Choose **Connect to existing cloud folder…**
2. **Find the cloud folder**
   Skylager lists the folders in your Archive. Double-click a folder to open it, **Up** goes back one level.
3. **Select it**
   Select the folder (for example *Exchange*) and click **Use this folder**.
4. **Choose where it goes on this computer**
   Pick a place such as your home folder. Skylager creates the folder with the same name there.
5. **Get the files**
   Answer **Get files** – the files from the cloud are downloaded.

Run transfers

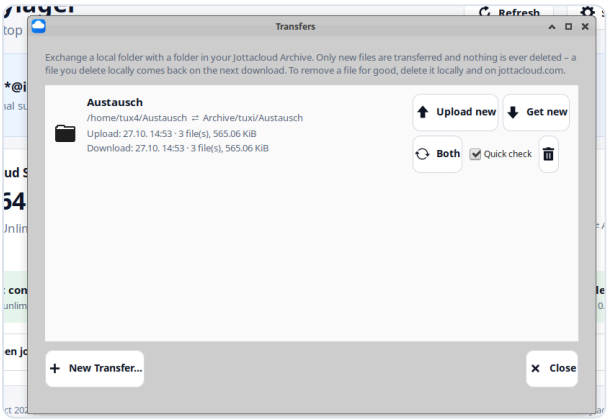

Figure 5 – The transfers list with one transfer.

Button	What it does
Sync now (main window)	Runs **Both** for all your transfers at once. Shows *Syncing…* while running. Also in the panel menu as *Sync all transfers*.
Upload new	Uploads local files that are not yet in the cloud folder
Get new	Downloads files from the cloud folder that are missing locally
Both	Uploads first, then downloads when the upload has finished
Quick check	When downloading, compares only size and date – faster, but less thorough
Trash button	Removes only the transfer entry – no files are deleted, neither locally nor in the cloud

10 Pause and resume backups

Pause backups when you need your full internet speed – for a video call, for example.

1. **Open the menu**
   Click ≡ in the main window, or click the cloud icon in the panel.
2. **Choose Pause backups**
   Select **1 hour**, **3 hours**, **8 hours** or **Until resumed**. The window shows *Backups paused until …* and the panel icon turns orange.
3. **Resume**
   Choose **Resume backups** in the same menu. Timed pauses also end automatically.

11 Settings

Click **Settings** in the main window. Only values you change are saved – **Save** becomes active as soon as you change something.

Setting	Description
Upload / download limit	Maximum speed in MB/s. `0` means unlimited.
Parallel uploads / downloads	How many files are transferred at the same time
Scan backup folders	How often backup folders are checked for changes (15 minutes to 24 hours)
Skip hidden files and folders	Ignore files and folders whose names start with a dot
Start Skylager at login	Starts Skylager with the panel icon when you log in
Log uploads and downloads	Writes every transfer to the Jottacloud log file
Log files skipped by the scanner	Writes excluded files to the log file

Proxy settings are intentionally not offered: the Jottacloud client would need proxy passwords on the command line, where other programs could read them.

12 Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
“Jottacloud client not installed”	Open ≡ → **Setup assistant…** and run step 1.
“Jottacloud service not running”	Setup assistant, step 2 – or run `systemctl --user start jottad`
“Not logged in”	Setup assistant, step 3.
No icon in the panel	Make sure your panel has a status/notification area. Install the package `gir1.2-ayatanaappindicator3-0.1`. On GNOME, enable the AppIndicator extension.
“Failed to execute default Web Browser” during login	Your desktop's default browser points to a browser that is not installed. Open the link shown in the terminal yourself and fix the setting (XFCE: Settings → Default Applications → Web Browser).
Double-clicking the .deb file does nothing or crashes	Install from a terminal: `sudo apt install ./skylager_1.0.0_all.deb`
Files don't arrive on the other computer	Both computers must use the **same cloud folder**. On the second computer, use *Connect to existing cloud folder* (chapter 9).
Folder cannot be added after reinstalling	Skylager asks whether to continue the existing backup – choose **Continue backup**.
You need details about an error	≡ → **Open log file** shows the Jottacloud log.

13 Uninstall

Your data in the cloud is not affected by any of these steps.

Remove Skylager only

1. **Quit Skylager**
   Choose ≡ → **Quit Skylager**.
2. **Remove the program and its settings**

```
sudo apt purge skylager
rm -rf ~/.config/skylager ~/.config/autostart/skylager.desktop
```

Also remove the Jottacloud client

1. **Stop the service and remove the client**

```
systemctl --user disable --now jottad.service
sudo apt purge jotta-cli
sudo rm -f /etc/apt/sources.list.d/jotta-cli.list /usr/share/keyrings/jotta.gpg
rm -rf ~/.jottad
```

2. **Clean up your account (optional)**

   On jottacloud.com you can delete devices you no longer use and empty the trash.

14 Privacy, security and license

Privacy and security

- Skylager talks only to the Jottacloud client on your own computer. It has no server, no account and no tracking of its own.
- Your login token is entered only in `jotta-cli` in a terminal. Skylager never sees, stores or logs it and never passes credentials on the command line.
- Your e-mail address is shown masked in the window.
- Transfer profiles are stored in `~/.config/skylager/transfers.json`, readable only by you. They contain folder paths only.

License

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