Guide

Quickstart

Install Pando with Docker Compose so it keeps itself up to date, create the administrator account, deploy your first app and install the optional CLI.

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1 Install the server

To run Pando on rootless Docker on Linux, see Running Pando on rootless Docker.

1.1 Download the Compose file

```
$ mkdir pando && cd pando
$ curl -fsSLO
  https://github.com/trypando/pando/releases/latest/download/docker-
  compose.yml
```

1.2 Turn on automatic updates

```
docker-compose.override.yml
cat > docker-compose.override.yml <<'EOF'
services:
  pando:
    image: trypando/pando:latest
    environment:
      PANDO_POLICY_UPGRADE_IN_PLACE: "true"
      PANDO_POLICY_AUTO_UPGRADE_PATCHES: "true"
      PANDO_POLICY_MAINTENANCE_WINDOW: "sun 02:00 2h"   # UTC
EOF
```

Settings made here are locked in the console. To install patch releases only when you choose, delete the last two lines.

1.3 Optional: change the ports

To use ports other than `8080` for the console and `9000`–`9019` for apps (one port each), add them to `.env`:

```
PANDO_PORT=8081
PANDO_APP_PORT_START=9100
PANDO_APP_PORT_END=9199
```

1.4 Start Pando

```
$ docker compose up -d
```

Open `http://localhost:8080`, or `http://<host>:8080` from another machine, using your `PANDO_PORT` if you set one.

2 Create the administrator account

Get the one-time setup token from Pando's log:

```
$ docker compose logs pando | grep setup_token
```

On **Set up Pando**, paste the token, enter a username, your name and a password, then choose **Create account**.

If the log no longer has the token, make a new one:

```
$ docker compose exec pando pando admin setup-token
```

For an unattended install, set the password at the first start instead. The account is named `admin`, and you're asked to change the password when you first sign in:

```
$ PANDO_ADMIN_PASSWORD=choose-a-password docker compose up -d
```

To reset a lost administrator password, run this on the host. It signs that account out everywhere:

```
$ docker compose exec pando pando admin reset-password
```

3 Deploy your first app

1. Choose **Add app**.
2. Paste a git repository's URL into **Repository**, such as `https://github.com/acme/notes`, and choose **Add app**.
3. Check the build method, port and services Pando proposes, and answer any questions.
4. Choose **Accept and deploy**.

4 Keep Pando up to date

New releases appear in **System > Updates**.

Release	Example	Installed
Patch	`0.4.1 → 0.4.2`	Automatically, in the maintenance window. Or earlier, when you choose **Upgrade**.
Minor or major	`0.4.2 → 0.5.0`	When you choose **Upgrade**.

Table 1. When each kind of release is installed, with the settings from section 1.2.

4.1 Upgrading

In **System > Updates**, choose **Upgrade to** the new version and give a passphrase for the backup taken first, or run `pando upgrade`.

Keep the passphrase. It isn't stored, and the backup can't be restored without it.

Apps can't be reached while Pando restarts, usually for under a minute.

Automatic patch upgrades take no full backup. Take your own in **System > Backups** or with `pando backup create`.

If you also back up Docker volumes, back up `pando-secrets` together with `postgres-data`. It holds the database password, which is made on the first start.

4.2 Going back

Pando can't run on a database a newer version has migrated. To go back, restore the backup taken before the upgrade.

5 Install the CLI

Optional. Install it on your own computer, not the host.

System	Install
macOS, or Linux with Homebrew	`brew install trypando/tap/pando`
Debian, Ubuntu	`pando_<version>_linux_<arch>.deb`
Fedora, RHEL and other RPM systems	`pando_<version>_linux_<arch>.rpm`
Alpine	`pando_<version>_linux_<arch>.apk`
Any macOS or Linux	`pando_<version>_<os>_<arch>.tar.gz`, then put `pando` on your `PATH`

Table 2. CLI packages, on the latest release's page. `<arch>` is `amd64` or `arm64`. There is no Windows build.

For example, on Ubuntu on Intel or AMD:

```
$ VERSION=$(curl -fsSLI -o /dev/null -w '%{url_effective}'
  https://github.com/trypando/pando/releases/latest | sed 's|.*/v||')
$ curl -LO
  https://github.com/trypando/pando/releases/download/v${VERSION}/pando_${VERS
$ sudo apt install ./pando_${VERSION}_linux_amd64.deb
```

Then sign in with the console's address:

```
$ pando login http://localhost:8080
```

To update the CLI, run `pando self-update`. For Homebrew and the Linux packages it prints the package manager's command instead.

Without installing it, run `docker compose exec pando pando <command>` on the host.

6 Where to go next

- Configuration: every setting for the `pando` service, including `PANDO_SERVER_EXTERNAL_URL` when TLS is terminated in front of Pando.
- Adapters: routing, identity providers, AI and the other services Pando connects to, and their settings.
- CLI, API and MCP server: every command, endpoint and tool.
- Running on Kubernetes: install on a cluster instead of with Docker Compose.
- Report a problem on GitHub.

Revision history

Version	Date	Changes
`1.2`	10 October 2026	Where to go next (6) links the generated reference: Configuration, Adapters, the CLI, API and MCP server, and Running on Kubernetes on GitHub. Using Pando is gone.
`1.1`	9 October 2026	Added a link to running Pando on rootless Docker (1) and backing up `pando-secrets` (4.1). Removed setting the database password, which is now generated. The port change is its own step (1.3).
`1.0`	9 October 2026	First published.