Guide: installing TrevantAI

For the Single-user version of TrevantAI. The same text is available in the Help centre.

What is this about?

The **TrevantAI installation program** puts TrevantAI on a computer, with everything that goes with it: the database, the local AI (Ollama), a secure connection and background services. You do not need to set anything up by hand. The program can do three things:

- **Install TrevantAI on this computer**: this computer becomes the **TrevantAI computer**. It holds the documents, the database and the local AI. This guide describes that choice.
- **Let this computer contribute computing power**: a second computer with a good graphics card helps the TrevantAI computer with the AI work. See the guide "Letting an extra computer contribute computing power".
- **Only use TrevantAI on this computer**: TrevantAI is already on another computer on the network; nothing needs to be installed here. See "Working on another computer" below.

If TrevantAI is already on the computer, the program offers **Update TrevantAI** and **Remove TrevantAI** instead of installing (see the chapters further on). On a computer that contributes computing power, it offers **Disconnect this computer**.

Nothing on the computer changes until you have clicked **Install** (or **Update**, **Remove**, **Disconnect**). Until then you can always go back or close the program.

What you need

- Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit) or a common Linux version (64-bit). macOS will follow later.
- Memory: at least 4 GB; 16 GB or more is recommended.
- Free disk space: at least 25 GB; 60 GB or more is recommended for documents and extra AI models.
- Preferably an NVIDIA graphics card with at least 8 GB of video memory. Without a suitable graphics card TrevantAI also works, but the local AI then runs on the processor and is slow. Later, another computer with a graphics card can contribute computing power.
- Permission to install programs: the program asks once for permission from the administrator.
- Internet, for downloading the components and the AI models.
- An email address and a password for the first account.

Allow ten to twenty minutes, plus the time for downloading the AI models the first time TrevantAI is opened.

Step 1 – Starting the program

- **Windows**: the zip file `TrevantAI-installatie-…-windows.zip`. Right-click it, choose **Extract All**, and in the extracted folder start **TrevantAI installatie.exe**. If Windows shows "Windows protected your PC", choose **More info** and **Run anyway**. That message appears because the program has not yet been digitally signed.

- **Linux**: the file `TrevantAI-installatie-…-linux.AppImage`. Make it executable (right-click > Properties > Allow executing file as program, or in a terminal `chmod +x` followed by the file name) and start it as an ordinary user, not as root.

Step 2 – Language and choice

1. Choose the **Language of this program** and **Next**. TrevantAI itself can be set to a different language later.
2. Choose **Install TrevantAI on this computer** and **Next**.

Step 3 – Checking the computer

The program checks whether the computer is suitable: operating system, memory, video card, free disk space, the network port (3001), Ollama and the internet connection. Nothing is changed.

- **OK** or **For information**: nothing to do.
- **Note**: you can continue; read the remark.
- **Problem**: solve it first and choose **Check again**. If it says, for example, that port 3001 is already in use, close the program that is using that port.

If Ollama is already there, TrevantAI uses it; otherwise the program installs Ollama.

Step 4 – The first account

You will use this account to log in to TrevantAI; it becomes the administrator.

1. Enter the **email address**.
2. Choose a **password** of at least 12 characters and enter it twice. A sentence of a few words is strong and easy to remember. With **Show passwords** you can see what you type.
3. Choose **Next**.

The password is only used on this computer and is erased from the program after installation.

Step 5 – Overview and media tools

The **Overview** lists what will be put on the computer: TrevantAI with the database (MariaDB), Ollama, the choice of AI models, background services, a secure connection (HTTPS) with a firewall rule, and the first account.

Install media tools (FFmpeg and yt-dlp). This box is ticked by default. FFmpeg and yt-dlp are needed to add YouTube videos and other media (the audio is transcribed into text). They are downloaded from their official websites and verified with a checksum. Anyone who retrieves media from a website is personally responsible for complying with that website's terms. If you untick the box, TrevantAI works normally, except for adding YouTube videos; they can be installed later (see "Installing the media tools later").

Choose **Install**.

Step 6 – Installing

1. Windows or Linux asks once for **permission from the administrator**. Give it.
2. The program shows each step with a progress bar: among other things, downloading Node.js, the database and, if necessary, Ollama, preparing TrevantAI, setting up the database, creating the security certificate, setting up the background services and the firewall, starting TrevantAI and creating the first account. Each downloaded component is verified with a checksum; if it does not match, it is not used.
3. The window stays open until the installation is complete. It cannot be closed during that time.

If something goes wrong, the program removes what it had already installed during this attempt, and says what went wrong and where the log is. Then choose **Try again**.

Step 7 – Done: opening TrevantAI

Done shows the **address** of TrevantAI, for example `https://studeerkamer-pc.local:3001/`, and the button **Open TrevantAI**.

1. Choose **Open TrevantAI**. The browser opens TrevantAI; on this computer the connection is already trusted.
2. Log in with the email address and the password from step 4.
3. The first time, TrevantAI suggests the AI models that suit the graphics card, and downloads them after your confirmation. This can take a while (a few gigabytes).

Save the address as a bookmark. TrevantAI runs as a background service: it starts automatically with the computer, even when someone else logs on or nobody is signed in.

If **Done** says "The media tools were not installed", FFmpeg and yt-dlp could not be downloaded. TrevantAI works normally; see "Installing the media tools later".

Working on another computer

Other computers, laptops and tablets on the same network open TrevantAI with a link in the browser, just like a website. Nothing needs to be installed there.

1. On the TrevantAI computer, TrevantAI shows the card **Working on another computer** under **Admin > Settings > Other computers**, with the link, the numeric address (if the name does not work) and QR codes.
2. **Once per device: Trust this device.** On the other device, open the **Trust this device** page. The address is on the card; it is the name of the TrevantAI computer with `http://` in front and `:3002` at the end, for example `http://studeerkamer-pc.local:3002`. On that page:
   - download the file of the security issuer;
   - compare the **fingerprint** with the one on the card on the TrevantAI computer;
   - install the file. The page explains this for Windows, macOS, Linux, Android, iPhone and iPad, and Firefox.
   - on **Windows**, choose **Trusted Root Certification Authorities** yourself when installing. If you let Windows choose automatically, the file ends up under *Intermediate Certification Authorities* and the warning remains.

3. Then open the link (`https://…:3001/`). The browser no longer shows a warning; the connection is encrypted.
4. Log in with your TrevantAI account.

Easier on Windows and Linux: with this installation program. On the other computer, start this installation program and choose **Work with TrevantAI on this computer**. Paste the link text from the **Working on another computer** card (button **Copy link text**). The program checks the fingerprint itself, puts the security in the right place (also for Firefox), creates a shortcut on the desktop and tests the connection. Step 2 is then not needed. You can undo it with the same choice in the program: **Stop working with TrevantAI on this computer**.

For an organisation with its own IT management. The administrator can distribute the issuer file (`trevantai-ca.crt`, from the **Trust this device** page, after checking the fingerprint) in one go: with Group Policy (Computer Configuration > Policies > Windows Settings > Security Settings > Public Key Policies > Trusted Root Certification Authorities > Import), with Intune (a *Trusted certificate* configuration profile, for Windows, macOS, iOS and Android) or with another device management system. Then nobody has to do anything on the devices.

One place at a time. In the Single-user version, TrevantAI works in one place at a time. If you sign in on another computer, the session in the previous place is ended. There, at the next action, "Signed in on another computer" appears, with the button **Continue here**: you then sign in there again and the session on the other computer is ended. Nothing is lost.

If you start the installation program on such another computer and choose **Only use TrevantAI on this computer**, the program shows this explanation and installs nothing.

Working from outside the own network will follow later.

Updating TrevantAI

You install a new version of TrevantAI with the new installation program, on the TrevantAI computer. Documents, accounts, settings and the secure connection are kept.

1. Start the new installation program as in step 1.
2. The program sees that TrevantAI is already there and names the version. Choose **Update TrevantAI from version … to …** and **Next**.
3. The **Overview** says what will happen. It also shows the check box **Install or update the media tools** (ticked by default): the program then fetches the latest yt-dlp, which YouTube videos often need, and FFmpeg if necessary. On Windows, if this program comes with a newer Ollama, it also shows **Update Ollama from version … to …**; the AI models stay. If necessary, let the other users know that TrevantAI will be unavailable for a few minutes, and choose **Update**. Windows or Linux asks once for permission from the administrator.
4. The program first makes a **backup** (the database, the settings and the certificates), stops TrevantAI, replaces the program files and starts TrevantAI again. The database is updated automatically.
5. On **Done**, choose **Open TrevantAI**. Everyone logs in as usual; other devices do not need to trust anything again.

If TrevantAI does not start, the program automatically restores the previous version, with the database from before the update. TrevantAI then works as before; include the log when you ask for help.

The backups are in TrevantAI's `backups` folder (see "Where is what?"); the last three are kept. Installing an older version over a newer one is not possible: the option is then unavailable.

Removing TrevantAI

1. Start the installation program on the TrevantAI computer, choose **Remove TrevantAI from this computer** and **Next**.
2. Choose what happens to the data:
   - **Keep the data (recommended)**: the database, the documents, the settings and the certificates are kept in TrevantAI's `bewaard` folder, readable only by the administrator. If you install TrevantAI again later, you can restore them (see below).
   - **Erase everything**: all documents, conversations, accounts and settings are permanently erased. This cannot be undone; you therefore first tick a box to confirm that you understand this.
3. Choose **Remove** and give permission from the administrator.

The program stops TrevantAI and removes the background services, the database, the firewall rules and the own issuer, and then the files. On **Windows**, TrevantAI's database software and Ollama are also removed; with Keep the data, the AI models stay. On **Linux**, MariaDB, Ollama and FFmpeg stay installed: they are system software and can be removed with the package manager.

If keeping the data fails (for example because of too little disk space), the program removes nothing and starts TrevantAI again.

Other devices still trust the TrevantAI issuer. If you want to clean this up, remove the certificate "TrevantAI" from the list of trusted certificates on those devices. Computers that contribute computing power are disconnected with the installation program on those computers.

Restoring saved data

If you removed TrevantAI with **Keep the data**, the installation program finds that data during a new installation on the same computer.

1. Choose **Install TrevantAI on this computer** as in step 2.
2. In step 4 there is the check box **Restore saved data**, with the date and the version. Leave it ticked: you then do not need to create a new account.
3. Install as usual. The program restores the database, the documents, the settings and the secure connection.
4. Log in with an account from the earlier installation. Devices that already trusted TrevantAI do not need to do anything again.

If you untick the box, TrevantAI starts empty with a new account; the saved data then stays in the `bewaard` folder, and you can delete it yourself if you no longer need it.

Installing the media tools later

If you unticked the box, or the download failed, TrevantAI reports for a YouTube video: "FFmpeg and yt-dlp are missing on the TrevantAI computer". The simplest way: start the installation program, choose **Update TrevantAI** and leave the check box **Install or update the media tools** ticked (see "Updating TrevantAI"). To do it by hand, proceed as follows, on the TrevantAI computer. Anyone who retrieves media from a website is personally responsible for complying with that website's terms.

Windows

1. Download `yt-dlp.exe` from the official page **https://github.com/yt-dlp/yt-dlp/releases/latest**.
2. Download FFmpeg: on **https://github.com/BtbN/FFmpeg-Builds/releases** (the build that ffmpeg.org refers to), the file ending in `-win64-gpl-….zip` (the latest version with a version number, not "master"). Extract it; the `bin` folder contains `ffmpeg.exe` and `ffprobe.exe`.
3. Put `yt-dlp.exe`, `ffmpeg.exe` and `ffprobe.exe` in the folder `C:\ProgramData\TrevantAI\app\backend\bin`. Windows asks for permission from the administrator to do this.

Linux

1. FFmpeg from the package manager: `sudo apt install ffmpeg` (Debian, Ubuntu) or `sudo dnf install ffmpeg` (Fedora).

2. yt-dlp: download `yt-dlp_linux` from **https://github.com/yt-dlp/yt-dlp/releases/latest** and run:

   ```
   sudo install -m 755 yt-dlp_linux /opt/trevantai/app/backend/bin/yt-dlp
   ```

TrevantAI finds the programs immediately; no restart is needed.

Where is what?

	Windows	Linux
TrevantAI	`C:\ProgramData\TrevantAI`	`/opt/trevantai`
Background services	**TrevantAI**, **TrevantAI-MariaDB** and, if necessary, **TrevantAI-Ollama** (see `services.msc`)	`trevantai.service`, the system's database and `ollama.service`
Address	`https://<name>.local:3001/`	same
Trust this device	`http://<name>.local:3002/`	same
Installation program log	`%APPDATA%\TrevantAI installatie\installatie\installatie.log`	`~/.config/TrevantAI installatie/installatie/installatie.log`

	Windows	Linux
Backups (when updating; the last three)	`C:\ProgramData\TrevantAI\backups`	`/opt/trevantai/backups`
Saved data (after removing with Keep the data)	`C:\ProgramData\TrevantAI\bewaard`	`/opt/trevantai/bewaard`

The firewall only lets ports 3001 and 3002 through on the own network (Windows: the Private and Domain profiles). The backups and the saved data can only be read by the administrator.

Troubleshooting

What you see	Probable cause	What to do
"Windows protected your PC"	The program has not yet been digitally signed	Choose **More info** and **Run anyway**.
During the check: "Port 3001 is already used by another program."	Another program is using that port	Close that program and choose **Check again**.
"TrevantAI is already running on this computer" or "TrevantAI is already installed on this computer."	TrevantAI is already installed here	Start the program again and choose **Update TrevantAI** or **Remove TrevantAI**.
The option **Update TrevantAI** is unavailable	This program contains an older version than the one on the computer	Download the latest installation program.
"The backup could not be made."	Often too little free disk space	Nothing has changed. Free up space and try again.
"The previous version of TrevantAI has been restored"	The new version did not start	TrevantAI works as before. Include the log when you ask for help.
"The data could not be kept."	Often too little free disk space	Nothing has been removed and TrevantAI is running again. Free up space and try again.
"TrevantAI cannot be installed without permission from the administrator."	The request for permission was refused or closed	Choose **Try again** and give permission.
"A component could not be downloaded."	No internet connection, or an interrupted one	Check the connection and choose **Try again**.
"A downloaded file was not the genuine file (the checksum does not match)"	The file was damaged or changed on the way	Try again; if it happens again, contact the helpdesk.

What you see	Probable cause	What to do
"The MariaDB on this computer is too old" (Linux)	The system's MariaDB is older than 11.7	Update MariaDB and try again.
"A database named trevantai already exists."	An earlier installation left the database in place	The database is not overwritten. Ask the helpdesk how to proceed.
"TrevantAI does not start. Check whether port 3001 is free."	Another program took the port, or TrevantAI hangs while starting	Restart the computer and try again; otherwise include the log when you ask for help.
"Not everything could be removed."	Something was left behind when the installation was undone	Restart the computer and then try again.
The browser warns about an insecure connection on another device	That device does not yet trust the TrevantAI issuer	Do **Trust this device** once (see "Working on another computer").
The warning remains, even after **Trust this device** (Windows)	Windows put the file under *Intermediate Certification Authorities*, or the browser is still running with the old settings	Press the Windows key + R and open `certmgr.msc`. Drag **TrevantAI op …** from *Intermediate Certification Authorities* > *Certificates* to *Trusted Root Certification Authorities* > *Certificates*. Then restart the browser completely (Chrome: `chrome://restart`).
The link with `.local` does not open on another device	Some devices (especially Android) cannot find names ending in `.local`	Use the numeric address from the card **Working on another computer**.
"Signed in on another computer"	You have signed in somewhere else (Single-user: one place at a time)	Choose **Continue here** to continue working here.
"FFmpeg and yt-dlp are missing on the TrevantAI computer"	The media tools have not been installed	See "Installing the media tools later".

If you include the log when asking for help: it contains no passwords.