

Valheim Dedicated Server - How To Easily Setup A Dedicated Server

Valheim has taken Steam by storm, and its inherently cooperative design means plenty of fans want to start their own Dedicated Server. There are many options for setting up your Valheim dedicated servers, including SteamCMD and manually creating files. The good news is that you don't need to do all of this. Developer Iron Gate has actually made creating a dedicated server for Valheim painless and easy (well, relatively), so even complete idiots like myself can get one up and running.

After you have purchased the game, download the Valheim Dedicated Server software from your Steam Library.

Iron Gate has a standalone Dedicated Server application for Valheim, and it's accessible to everyone who owns the game. Game servers are a lot of fun. It's easy to find Valheim in your Steam Library. It is approximately 1 gig in size, just like the main game. To get started, just download the Valheim Dedicated Server application in Steam. This app also works with Linux. If you cannot find it, make certain you have the Tools filter in Steam library selected.

Once you have the Valheim Dedicated Server software downloaded, you can click on it and convert your personal computer to a persistent Valheim Server for your friends or community. To ensure everything runs smoothly, there are a few things that you need to do before you launch the Dedicated Server application. To access the file that you need to modify, open the Valheim Dedicated Server's installation folder. It should be located at: Program Files x86 > Steam > steamapps. Common > Valheim dedicated servers. If you've manually altered where Steam games were installed, you can then go to the drive and find your Steam folder. Follow the rest of the path.

Edit the "start_headless_server.bat" file in Notepad to ensure your Valheim server runs smoothly.

In this folder is the file "start_headless_server.bat" (or "start_server.sh" on Linux). To avoid any problems, save a copy of the file and move it to a different folder. Important to note is that any changes to the file inside the Valheim Dedicated Server install folder will be lost every time you update the app in Steam. Therefore, you should save a second copy after you've made all the adjustments I'm going to discuss below.

First, right click the "start_headless_server.bat" file and select Edit to open the file in Notepad (Linux users will want to open a terminal in the server directory and run the bash script: `./start_server.sh`, per Iron Gate). After the file is open, locate line 7, which starts at "start_valheim_server ...". This line contains all the properties that we need to adjust in order to make our Valheim Dedicated Server run smoothly. If you don't see any lines, just search for

“start valheim_server”. These properties are:

- name> "My Server" – Enter a name for your server. You cannot use the same words in your password or World name twice.

- This port is the default, but you'll need to change it so that your router can use Port Forwarding. To find the Port Forwarding setting, log in to router and choose it. Also be sure this port is open in your firewall.

- The name of your world. You can also choose a world that already exists by entering its name.

- The password for your server. If you leave this field empty, it will allow you to run an unprotected server.

Save the file, create a duplicate for backup purposes (and save it elsewhere), then fire up the Valheim Dedicated Server application either from Windows or within Steam. Once the Command Processor finishes its work, your Valheim dedicated servers will be up and running. Bear in mind that closing the Command-window won't kill the server: you have to press Any Key (or the ENTER KEY in Linux) within the command prompt window to shut down your server. You should also remember that a dedicated servers is something you leave on. If your home PC is being used, be sure to change your power settings in order to stop your friends getting the boot because your computer decided it was shutting down. You can also play in your server and run it in the background.