Quick start

What happens between clicking download and asking your first question. Read this before you install.



What Fireplace is

Fireplace links the computers you already own into one private AI setup. Each computer gets a job that fits its memory, and when you ask a question, the strongest one that is online answers. Models run on your own hardware. Keys are made on each device and stay there.

Your temperature

Fireplace adds up the memory your linked computers can put to work and calls it your temperature. One degree is one gigabyte. A laptop with 16 GB and a desktop with an 8 GB graphics card make a 24 degree fire.

What you need

- **Python 3.10 or newer** on each computer. Check with `python --version`.
- **Ollama** on each computer that will run a model. It is free at ollama.com.
- **One home network** that all your devices share.
- About ten minutes, plus the time it takes to download a model.

Four steps

1 Download Fireplace

On your main computer, open a terminal and run:

```
curl -fsSL https://fireplace.sh/fireplace.py -o fireplace.py
```

You can also download fireplace.py from fireplace.sh in your browser.

2 Start your fire

```
python fireplace.py
```

A setup page opens in your browser. Fireplace reads the hardware, makes its keys, picks a role and a model, and starts its two watch agents. There is nothing to fill in. Pull the model it picked once, for example `ollama pull phi4-mini`.

3 Add another computer

The setup page shows a 16 character link code. On the second computer, download Fireplace the same way, then run:

```
python fireplace.py --join "XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX"
```

Its degrees are added to your temperature. Each code works once and lasts ten minutes. Press New code for the next device.

4 Add your phone

On the phone, connected to the same home network, open **fireplace.sh/heatcheck** and type a link code. The page sends you to your own computer, and from then on you can ask your fire questions from the phone.

The watch agents

- **Timekeeper** stops any job that runs past its time limit, so one stuck job cannot hold a device.
- **Sentry** checks Fireplace's own file and its key file. If either changes, the device stops taking jobs until you look and restart.

Good to know in version 1

- Links between devices are signed but not yet encrypted. Use Fireplace on a home network you trust.
- A phone uses the fire but does not add degrees, because it does not run a model itself.
- To remove a device, press Remove next to it on the setup page. Its key stops working at once.