

15: BookStack - Documentation Platform / Wiki

BookStack is a beautiful, simple documentation and wiki platform. It helps you organize information into Books, Chapters, and Pages - just like a real book! You can write documentation, create knowledge bases, and share information with your team or the world.

For advanced features, API documentation, and customization options, see the [official BookStack documentation](#).

Why BookStack?

- **Easy to use** - Write like you would in Word or Google Docs
- **Organized structure** - Books → Chapters → Pages
- **Rich editor** - WYSIWYG editor with Markdown support
- **Full-text search** - Find anything quickly across all your content
- **Image uploads** - Add pictures, diagrams, and attachments
- **User permissions** - Control who can view and edit what
- **Export options** - Download as PDF, HTML, or Markdown
- **Beautiful design** - Clean, modern interface that's easy on the eyes
- **Fun fact:** the platform you are seeing right now is BookStack - it hosts our docs.

Prerequisites

- **Docker running** (from Chapter 3)
- **Optional: Traefik installed** (from Chapter 4) for HTTPS access with a domain
- **Optional: Subdomain** (from Chapter 4.5), e.g., `docs.yourdomain.com`

Note: BookStack works best with Traefik and a domain name. It's designed for sharing documentation, so having a friendly URL like `docs.yourdomain.com` makes it much easier to access.

Step 1: Start Infinity Tools

```
sudo infinity-tools
```

Step 2: Install BookStack

1. Go to **APPLICATIONS**
2. Select **BookStack**
3. Choose **Install BookStack**

Using the Infinity Tools GUI

- Use **↑/↓** to move, **Enter** to select, **Esc** to go back
- Look for the **turquoise cursor** indicating the current selection
- Each screen shows a short description at the top explaining what's needed

Step 2.1: Choose SSL Mode

You'll see two options. Here's what each means:

- **Traefik (recommended)**
 - **What it is:** Uses your domain name with a trusted HTTPS certificate from Let's Encrypt
 - **What you need:** A subdomain (e.g., `docs.yourdomain.com`) pointing to your server (see Chapter 4.5)
 - **What you get:** Professional URL like `https://docs.yourdomain.com` with trusted SSL
 - **Pick this if:** You want to share documentation with others (recommended)
- **Standalone HTTPS (self-signed)**
 - **What it is:** Uses HTTPS with a self-signed certificate (your browser will warn it's not trusted)
 - **What you need:** Just a free port (default: 8092)
 - **What you get:** URL like `https://SERVER_IP:8092` with a warning you must accept
 - **Pick this if:** You're just testing or only using it on your local network

Simple rule of thumb: Use **Traefik** if you have a domain and want to share your documentation. Use **Standalone HTTPS** only for testing or private use.

Step 2.2: If You Choose Traefik

1. Enter your subdomain, e.g., `docs.yourdomain.com`
2. Ensure the subdomain's DNS A record points to your server (see Chapter 4.5)
3. Enter your email address (for SSL certificate notifications)
4. Infinity Tools will configure HTTPS automatically via Let's Encrypt

After install: Your BookStack will be available at `https://docs.yourdomain.com`

Step 2.3: If You Choose Standalone

1. Pick a port (default: 8092)
2. You'll access BookStack via `https://SERVER_IP:8092`
3. Accept the browser security warning (it's safe for private use)

What Happens During Installation

- BookStack container is created
- MariaDB database container is created
- Database passwords are generated and saved securely
- Data directory is set up at `/opt/speedbits/bookstack`
- Optional domain + Traefik HTTPS routing (if using Traefik)
- Services start and become accessible
- Initial setup takes 2-3 minutes (database initialization)

Step 3: Access BookStack

If Using Traefik

1. Wait 30-60 seconds for SSL certificate generation
2. Open `https://docs.yourdomain.com` in your browser
3. You'll see the BookStack welcome page

If Using Standalone

1. Open `https://SERVER_IP:8092` in your browser
2. You'll see a security warning (normal for self-signed certificates)
3. Click "Advanced" → "Proceed to site" to continue
4. You'll see the BookStack welcome page

Step 4: First Login

⚠ **CRITICAL SECURITY STEP:** BookStack comes with default admin credentials that **MUST** be changed immediately!

Default Credentials (First Time Only)

- **Email:** `admin@admin.com`

- **Password:**

⚠ **CHANGE THESE IMMEDIATELY!** These are public defaults - anyone can guess them!

Login Steps

1. Click "Login" in the top right corner
2. Enter email:
3. Enter password:
4. Click "Log In"

Change Your Password Immediately

1. After logging in, click your name in the top right corner
2. Select "My Profile"
3. Click "Change Password"
4. Enter your current password ()
5. Enter a strong new password (use a password manager!)
6. Confirm the new password
7. Click "Save"

Tip: Use a password manager (like Vaultwarden from Chapter 7) to generate and store a strong password!

Step 5: Create Your First Book

Now that you're logged in, let's create your first documentation book!

Creating a Book

1. Click "Create Book" (usually a big button on the home page)
2. Enter a book name, e.g., "My Server Documentation"
3. Add a description (optional but helpful)
4. Click "Save Book"

Adding Chapters

1. Inside your book, click "Add Chapter"
2. Enter a chapter name, e.g., "Getting Started"
3. Add a description (optional)
4. Click "Save Chapter"

Creating Pages

1. Inside a chapter, click "Add Page"
2. Enter a page title
3. Start writing! Use the editor toolbar to format text, add images, create lists, etc.
4. Click "Save Page" when done

Using the Editor

The BookStack editor is like Word or Google Docs:

- **Bold** and *Italic* buttons for formatting
- Headings dropdown (H1, H2, H3, etc.)
- Image upload button (🖼️ icon)
- Link button to add hyperlinks
- Code blocks for technical content
- Markdown support (you can type Markdown if you prefer)

What You Can Do in BookStack

Content Organization

- 📁 **Books** - Top-level containers (e.g., "Server Setup Guide")
- 📁 **Chapters** - Sections within books (e.g., "Installation", "Configuration")
- 📄 **Pages** - Individual documentation pages
- 🔄 **Reordering** - Drag and drop to reorganize content

Content Features








- 🖋️ **Rich text editor** - WYSIWYG editing with Markdown support
- 🖼️ **Image uploads** - Add screenshots, diagrams, photos
- 📎 **Attachments** - Upload files (PDFs, documents, etc.)
- 🔍 **Full-text search** - Search across all books and pages
- 🏷️ **Tags** - Organize content with tags

Sharing & Export

- 👤 **User roles** - Control who can view/edit (Admin, Editor, Viewer)
- 🔗 **Public links** - Share specific pages publicly
- 📄 **Export** - Download as PDF, HTML, Markdown, or Plain Text

-  **Print** - Print-friendly view

Security Recommendations

-  **Change default password immediately** - This is critical!
-  **Use Traefik mode** - Provides trusted SSL certificates
-  **Strong passwords** - Use a password manager to generate strong passwords
-  **User permissions** - Set appropriate roles (don't make everyone an admin!)
-  **Regular backups** - BookStack data is stored in `/opt/speedbits/bookstack`
-  **Keep updated** - Re-run the install script to get updates
-  **Public content** - Be careful what you make public if using public links

Troubleshooting

Can't Access BookStack

- **Traefik mode:** Wait 30-60 seconds after installation for SSL certificate generation
- **Check containers:** Run `docker ps | grep bookstack` to see if containers are running
- **Check logs:** Run `docker logs bookstack` to see error messages
- **Database issues:** Check database container: `docker logs bookstack-db`


Can't Login

- Make sure you're using the exact default credentials: `admin@admin.com` / `password`
- Check that BookStack finished initializing (wait 2-3 minutes after installation)
- Check container logs: `docker logs bookstack`

Slow Loading

- First-time setup takes 2-3 minutes (database initialization)
- Large images can slow down pages - optimize images before uploading
- Check server resources: `docker stats bookstack`

Lost Password

- If you forgot your password, you can reset it via the database
- Or reinstall with `--deleteall` flag ( this deletes all content!)
- Better: Keep your password in a password manager!

Where to Find BookStack After Install

- On the finish screen, Infinity Tools prints the access URL
- You can also see it in **STATUS & HEALTH → STATUS**
- Check the installation directory: `/opt/speedbits/bookstack`
- Database password saved in: `/opt/speedbits/bookstack/db_password.txt`

Backing Up Your Documentation

Your BookStack content is stored in:

- **Database:** `/opt/speedbits/bookstack/db_data/`
- **Config:** `/opt/speedbits/bookstack/config/`
- **Uploads:** Inside the config directory

To backup:

```
cd /opt/speedbits
tar czf bookstack-backup.tar.gz bookstack/
```

To restore: Extract the backup and restart BookStack containers.

Email Configuration (Optional)

After installation, you'll be asked if you want to configure email (SMTP). This is optional but useful for:

- Password reset emails
- Notification emails when pages are updated
- User invitation emails




You can skip this and configure it later from the Infinity Tools menu or web interface.

You're Ready!

BookStack is now installed and ready to use. You can start creating beautiful documentation!

Remember:

- Change the default password immediately!
- Create books to organize your content

-  Use the rich editor to write beautiful documentation
-  Use search to find content quickly
-  Invite team members and set appropriate permissions

Next steps: Create your first book, write some pages, upload images, and explore all the features. BookStack makes documentation fun and easy!

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