



Synapse-Time — Docker Quick Start

Compose v2 (docker compose). Run from the project root.

1. First-time setup (in order)

Create the env file, then start the stack:

```
cp .env.example .env
# edit .env — set the 4 secrets
docker compose up -d --build
```

Confirm it's up:

```
curl http://localhost:8000/healthz
# -> {"status":"ok"}
```

Optional demo staff:

```
docker compose exec api-gateway \
python -m app.seed
```

Open **http://localhost:3000** (or http://<host-ip>:3000). First visit shows **Set up administrator** — create your admin, and you're in.

2. After updating the app

Did the change touch the database schema (new tables, columns or permissions)? That decides the command.

A. Schema changed → recreate the DB

schema.sql only runs on a fresh volume, so wipe it:

```
docker compose down -v
docker compose up -d --build
docker compose exec api-gateway \
python -m app.seed # optional
```

Then recreate your admin at **/setup**.

B. Code-only change → keep data

```
docker compose up -d --build
# one service only:
docker compose up -d --build \
api-gateway
```

Unsure on a dev box? Use A. down -v is always safe — it just rebuilds the DB from the current schema. (This is what fixes "can't save" errors and empty dropdowns.)

3. Everyday commands

```
docker compose ps          # status
docker compose logs \
  api-gateway --tail 30
docker compose restart \
  api-gateway
docker compose down        # stop (keep data)
docker compose down -v    # stop (DELETE data)
```

4. Troubleshooting

Symptom	Fix
"Cannot save"; empty dropdowns	DB missing new columns → down -v + up --build
"Cannot reach the API"	Gateway down → check logs api-gateway
Gateway exits at start	Bad/missing .env value → read the log traceback
Setup screen won't appear	Admin already exists → down -v to reset
Works local, not remote PC	Use http://<host-ip>:3000, not localhost

Check the gateway from inside the network:

```
docker compose exec frontend \
  wget -qO- http://api-gateway:8000/healthz
```

5. Compose v1 (docker-compose)

v1 has a recreate bug — **always down before up**, and use the hyphen:

```
docker-compose down -v \
  --remove-orphans
docker-compose build
docker-compose up -d
```

■ down -v deletes all data — dev only. For production, apply versioned migrations instead of wiping the volume.