

## Anonymising ICQ and MSN and other messangers via Tor on Linux pc

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If you want to improve your internet privacy through tor-rifing your network traffic of ICQ and MSN networks.

Do the following:

### 1. Install tor server

```
debian:~# apt-get install tor
```

### 2. Install the polipo caching proxy

```
debian:~# apt-get install polipo
```

### 3. Download and overwrite default polipo configuration with the one from torproject.org

This is necessary to configure in order to have polipo adapted to work with tor, so issue the following commands:

```
debian:~# cd /etc/polipo
debian:~# wget https://svn.torproject.org/svn/torbrowser/trunk/build-scripts/config/polipo.conf
debian:~# mv config config.bak
debian:~# mv polipo.conf config
```

#### 4. Restart polipo for the new config settings to take affect

```
debian:~# /etc/init.d/polipo restart
```

Make sure in your /etc/tor/torrc you have existing the following two torrc directives:

```
debian:~# vim /etc/tor/torrc
```

```
SocksPort 9050 # what port to open for local application connections
```

```
SocksListenAddress 127.0.0.1 # accept connections only from localhost
```

#### 5. Start up tor server if it's not already started

```
debian:~# /etc/init.d/tor restart
```

#### 6. Install pidgin if you haven't got it installed already

```
debian:~# apt-get install pidgin
```

#### 8. Start up the recent installed pidgin multi-protocol instant messenger

```
hipo@debian:~$ pidgin &
```

If you already previously properly installed and configured version of pidgin.

#### 9. In pidgin messenger do the following changes to configure it to proxy traffic via tor

In your either your existing ICQ / MSN pidgin account navigate to:

- Accounts -> Manage Accounts
- Under Protocol **ICQ**

click Modify..

- Now go to **Proxy**

The default Proxy setting in Debian Sid/Squeeze would **Use GNOME Proxy Settings** however in other Linux distributions or \*BSD it could be either **No Proxy** or some other setting.

- Now substitute whatever options is choosen with **SOCKS 5**
- In the below data input field with a name **Host:** type **127.0.0.1**

- For the **Port:** field box type the port 9050

You specify for a local proxy port 9050 because this is the default port where we have previously configured polipo to proxify traffic to **tor's anonymity network**

The settings for tunneling of traffic for **Protocol MSN** are analogous like for the ICQ Protocol so I won't repeat myself on that.

This described tor tunneling for ICQ and MSN traffic should be applicable to other IM protocols under the same logic.

Here is the time to note that the above instructions should be also applicable for **Gaim** with minor changes or even without any.

Of course because tunneling traffic via Poplipo and it's handling over to a tor node which will pass traffic randomly through different geographical locations whether tor servers reside will be more time consuming, so login account login time to your Messenger protocol of choice will vary and would be a bit longer.

The use of tor for your **MSN and ICQ traffic** is twofold:

1. Using tor anonymizing traffic network will keep your anonymity on the net private
2. Using the tor anonymity online services will let you access IM servers despite firewall blocking applied by administrators on certain places for instance (in your School or Your work env) and will therefore let you still use your favourite IM in spite of the applied firewall restrictions.

Anyways as we all know life is not perfect :)

Despite the slower logins and the bit slower message transmission, at least you won't be easily tracable by third party prying eyes, administrators or any other messenger spying sniffer traffic logger installed somewhere in between yourself and the end side of an IM server.

Hope this article helps somebody out there and will be a step further in the battle for securing your privacy online.