NETVANE

Quick-Start Guide

Install NetVane and run your first scan in minutes

Document version 1.0

A doorvane project

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See your network the way an outsider would.

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1. Introduction

A free, local, private network scanner and security monitor for Windows — everything runs on your own machine.

NetVane maps the devices on your home or office network, checks which of their services are reachable, and turns what it finds into a plain-language security picture. It shows you your router, computers, phones, printers, cameras and anything else that is connected, then flags the things worth attention and tells you how to fix them.

NetVane runs entirely on your own computer. It is not a cloud service and needs no account. When you start it, it serves a private dashboard at `http://127.0.0.1:8787` that only you can see in your browser. There is no telemetry, and nothing NetVane scans or monitors leaves your machine on its own. The only things that ever go out are ones you ask for: optional update checks (which send nothing about your network), a change-alert webhook if you set one up, a support report if you choose to send one, and the optional speed test and DNS benchmark, which contact public internet services by design. All of your data stays in a single local file on your machine.

It is deliberately gentle with the other devices on your network. NetVane looks at what is reachable and confirms whether an exposure is real by speaking each service's own protocol read-only — it never changes a setting, never writes anything, and never exploits a weakness. It does not send passwords either, unless you explicitly switch on the optional credential check described in the User Guide, which is off by default and asks you to authorize it for your own network first. Think of it as a careful outside look at your own network, not an attack tool.

This short guide takes you from a fresh download to your first completed scan and your first security score. It covers what you need, how to install and launch the app, how to run a scan, how to read the results, and the handful of keyboard shortcuts that make the dashboard fast to use. It should take only a few minutes to work through.

> **Responsible use**
> Only scan networks that you own or are explicitly authorized to test. NetVane is built for looking after your own network.

2. What you need

Very little — NetVane is self-contained and never needs administrator rights.

NetVane ships two ways from each release: a small per-user **installer**, `NetVane-Setup-1.3.1.exe` (recommended), and a single-file **portable** build, `NetVane-Portable-1.3.1.exe`, that runs with nothing installed at all. Either way there is no administrator prompt and no separate runtime such as Python, .NET or device drivers to set up.

Operating system	Windows 10 or 11, 64-bit
Download	`NetVane-Setup-1.3.1.exe` (installer, recommended) or `NetVane-Portable-1.3.1.exe` (portable) — about 19 MB and 17 MB respectively
Browser	Nothing to set up — NetVane opens its own app window (it prefers Brave or Chrome, falls back to Edge, and only opens a tab in your default browser if no Chromium-family browser is installed)
Disk space	About 200 MB free (the app plus a small local database that grows slowly)
Admin rights	Never required — the installer is per-user, with no UAC prompt
Runtimes / drivers	None — no Python, .NET, Npcap or WinPcap needed
nmap	Optional power-user extra — select the nmap engine in Settings to add deep OS fingerprinting; the built-in scanner is the default and needs nothing installed

nmap is entirely optional. By default NetVane uses its own built-in scanner, which needs nothing installed; nmap runs only if you explicitly choose it.

3. Install and launch

Run the installer, launch NetVane from the Start menu, and the dashboard opens in its own window.

NetVane is a direct download from `netvane.doorvane.com/download` — no account, no sign-up. There are two downloads; use the installer unless you specifically want a run-anywhere single file.

1. Download `NetVane-Setup-1.3.1.exe` from `netvane.doorvane.com/download`.
2. Double-click it. The install is per-user — quick, no administrator or UAC prompt — and adds Start-menu and desktop shortcuts. Installing a newer version automatically removes the old one.
3. Launch **NetVane** from the Start menu (the installer offers to launch it for you).
4. NetVane starts its local server and opens the dashboard at `http://127.0.0.1:8787` in its own app window — a clean, chromeless window with no tabs or address bar. If the window ever fails to appear, open a browser yourself and go to that address.

Portable alternative: download `NetVane-Portable-1.3.1.exe` instead, save it anywhere convenient, and double-click it — nothing is installed, and deleting the file removes it.

Closing the NetVane window stops the app. (If you later turn on the optional *Run in the background* setting, closing the window minimizes NetVane to the system tray instead, so scheduled scans and alerts keep working — the User Guide covers this.)

> **First-run SmartScreen or antivirus prompt**
>
> NetVane is signed as GRCSAC, so Windows names the publisher. SmartScreen may still prompt while a new certificate builds reputation the first time you run it. This is expected for software that is not yet code-signed. On the SmartScreen dialog, click **More info**, then **Run anyway**. No administrator rights are needed.

4. Run your first scan

Confirm your network range, pick a profile, and press Scan.

The first time you open NetVane, a short **guided tour** points out the essentials — the network map, the scan-target box, the Scan button, the view rail, and the **…** overflow menu. Step through it or skip it; you can replay it any time from **…** → **Take the guided tour**.

With the dashboard open, running your first scan takes three steps:

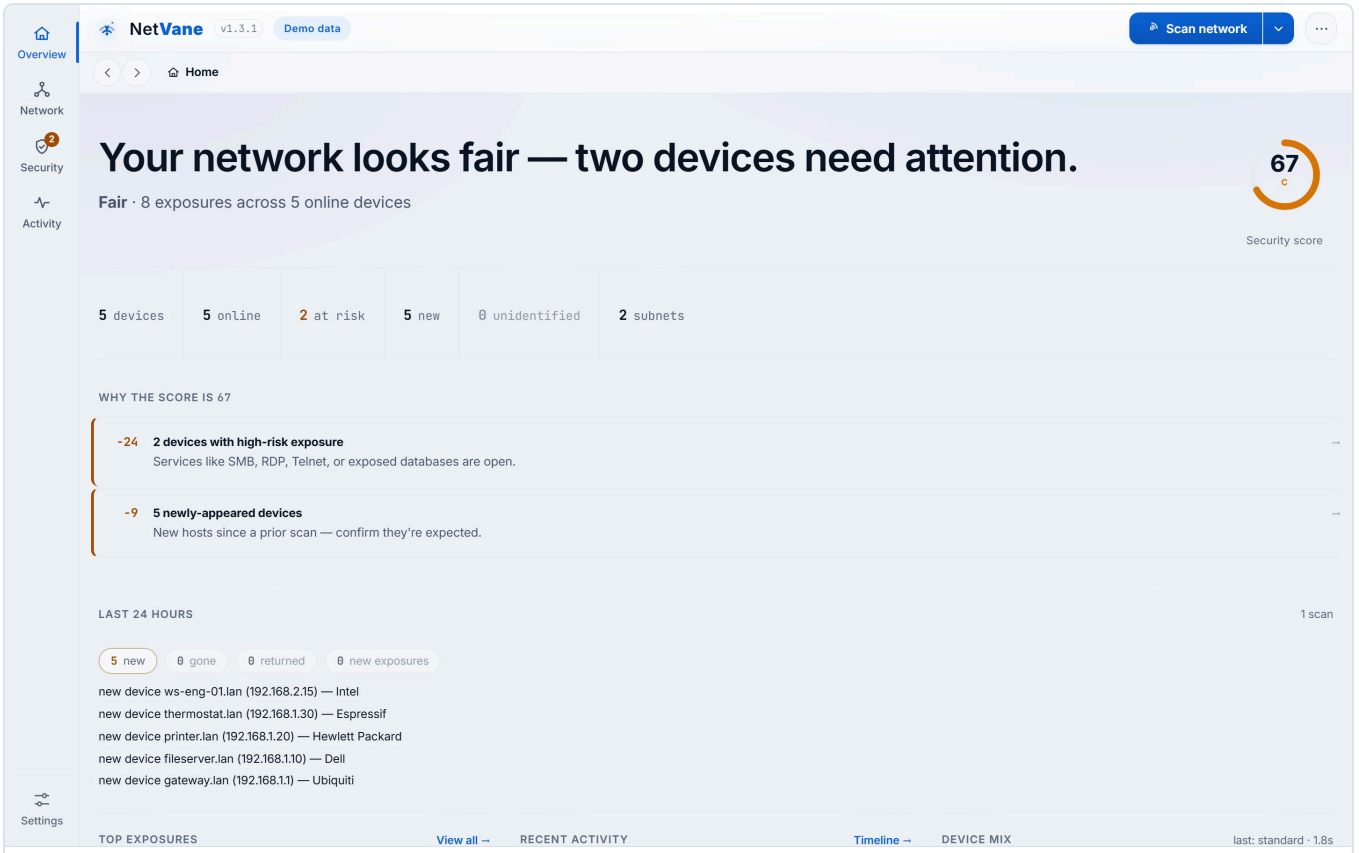
1. **Confirm the network range.** NetVane detects your local network and suggests a range to scan, such as `192.168.1.0/24`. In most homes and small offices the suggested range is correct — just confirm it.
2. **Pick a scan profile.** Choose **Standard** for your first run. It checks the most common 1,000 ports, detects service versions and makes an OS guess — a good balance of depth and speed, and the recommended default. Lighter and heavier profiles are available for later.
3. **Press Scan.** Before your very first scan, NetVane asks you to confirm — once — that you are authorized to scan this network; tick the box and continue. The scan then starts, and devices, open ports and your security score appear live as they are found, so you can watch the picture build without waiting for the whole scan to finish.

A scan looks at what each device makes reachable, and confirms an exposure by talking to that service read-only. It never attacks anything, never alters a device, and never sends a password unless you have explicitly turned on the optional credential check. The one-time authorization prompt is there because even this much visibility should only ever be pointed at networks that are yours to examine.

5. Reading your results

One score, a list of exposures, and a fix for each — everything is clickable.

As the scan runs, the **Map** draws your network in front of you: the gateway, and every device hanging off it. When it finishes, NetVane opens on the **Overview** — a one-line verdict on your network, then the detail: your security score, headline counts for devices and risks, a recent-activity feed, your top exposures and a breakdown of device types.



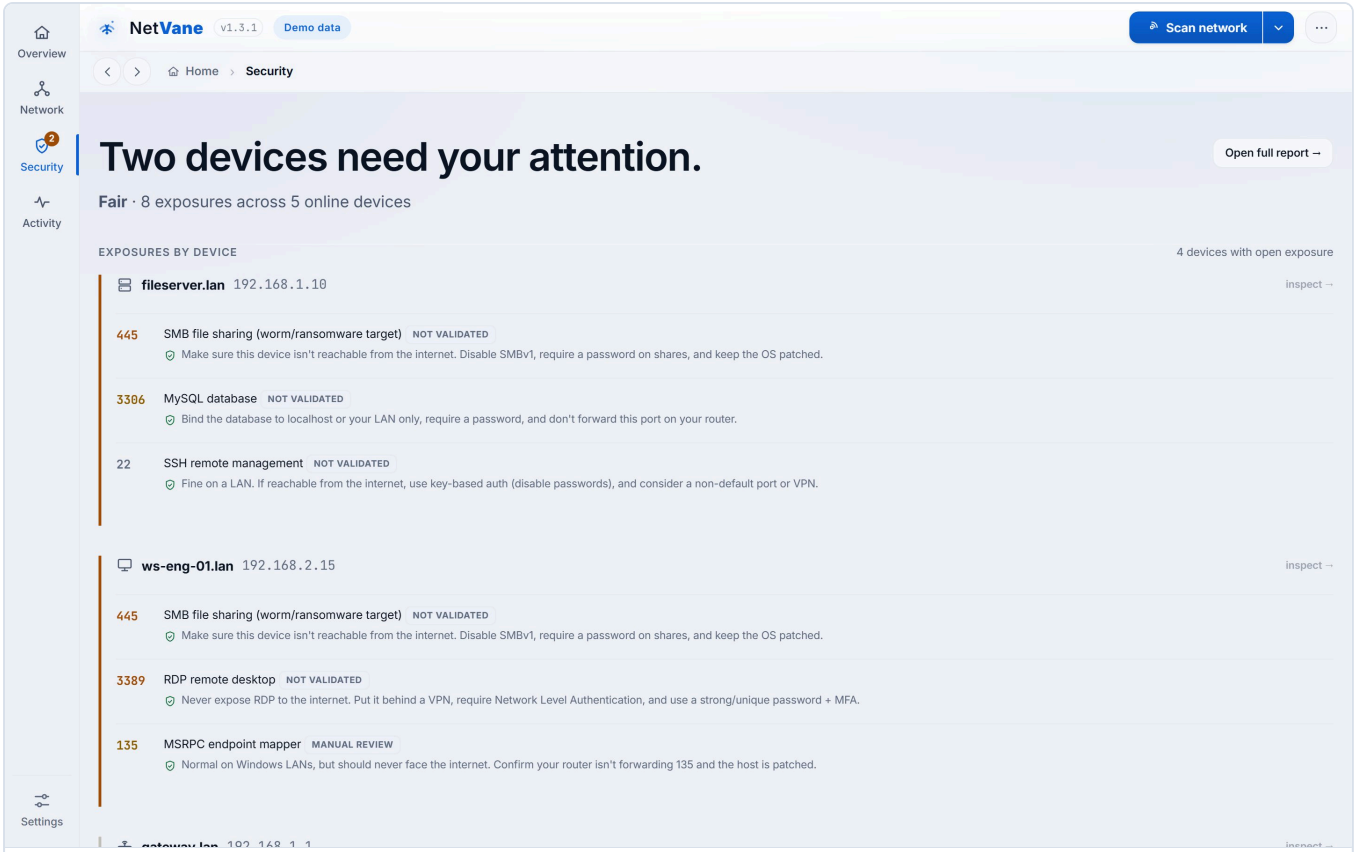
The Overview dashboard. A single security score, headline device and risk counts, recent activity and your top exposures at a glance (demo data).

5.1 The security score

NetVane gives your network a single **security score from 0 to 100**, paired with a letter grade from A to F. The score is transparent: it starts high and deducts points for things like high-risk exposures, devices it could not identify, and unexpected new arrivals. Every factor that affects the score is shown with its point impact, so you can always see why the number is what it is.

5.2 Exposures and the Fix panel

An **exposure** is a reachable service worth reviewing — for example a file share, a remote-desktop port, or a database that is open to the network. The Security view groups your exposures by device and pairs each one with a plain-English fix.



The Security view. Exposures grouped by device, each with a plain-English fix and a "since last scan" summary at the top (demo data).

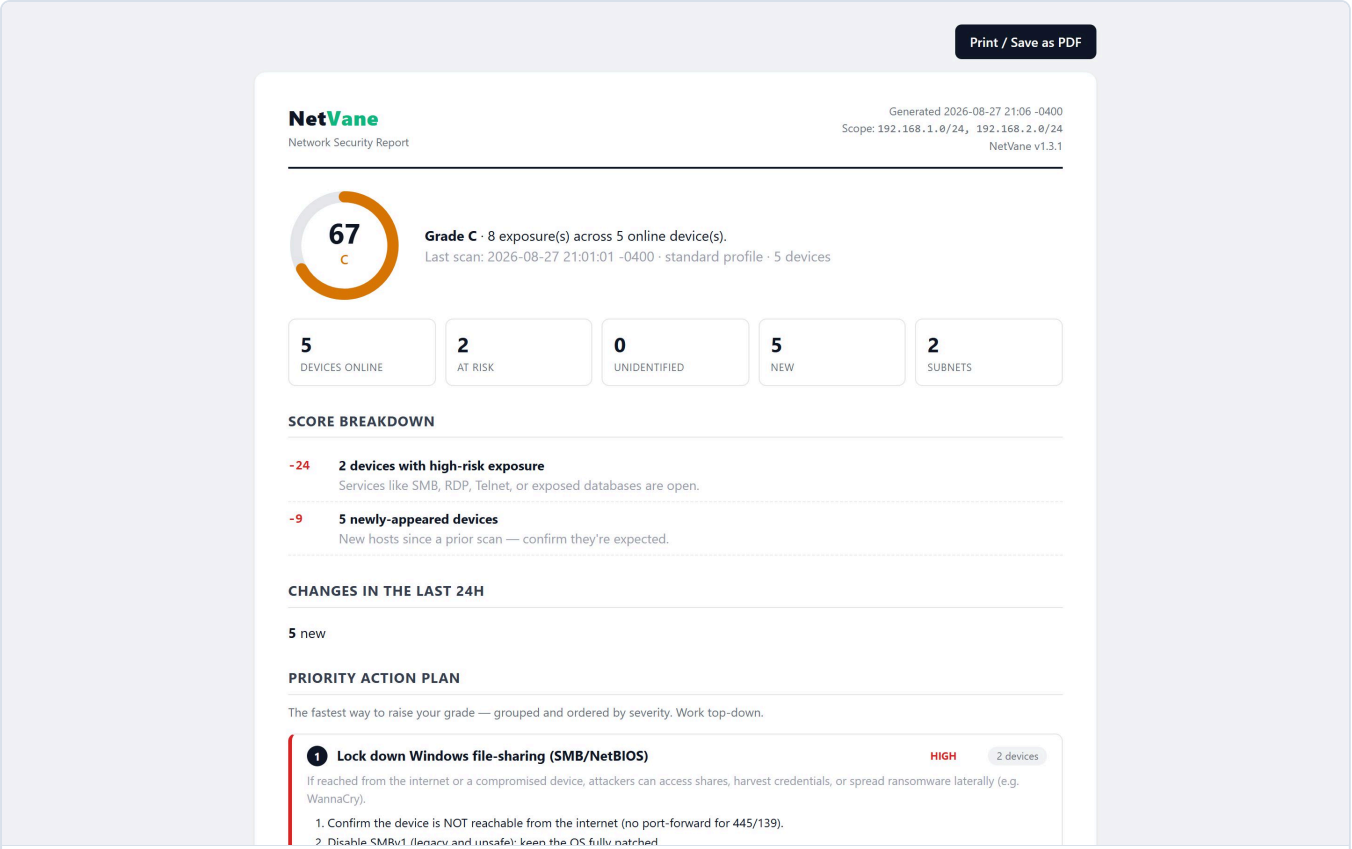
Each exposure comes with a **Fix panel** that explains it in plain language:

- **Why** the service was flagged;
- the **risk** it represents if left open;
- **how** to resolve it, as step-by-step instructions.

Once you have made a change, use **Verify** to re-scan that single device and confirm the exposure is now resolved rather than still open.

5.3 The printable report

When you want something to work through or share, NetVane produces a self-contained, printable security report. It is led by a **Priority Action Plan** — a ranked, de-duplicated to-do list grouped by fix, listing the devices affected by each item — so you know exactly what to tackle first.



The printable report. Led by a ranked Priority Action Plan with steps and the devices affected by each item (demo data).

5.4 Everything is clickable

Every number on the Overview is a link. Click a device count, an exposure category or a score factor to drill straight through to the underlying detail — the devices, ports or events behind that figure.

6. Handy shortcuts

A few keys make the dashboard fast to move around.

NetVane has a command palette and single-key shortcuts so you rarely need the mouse.

Shortcut	Action
`Ctrl` `K`	Open the command palette
`1` – `4`	Jump to a view (Overview, Network, Security, Activity)
`/`	Focus search
`s`	Start a scan
`t`	Toggle dark / light theme
`?`	Show keyboard help
`Esc`	Close the palette, a panel or a dialog

7. Next steps

Ready to go deeper? Two companion documents and the online FAQ pick up where this guide ends.

You now have NetVane installed and your first scan behind you. When you want more depth, these documents cover the rest:

- **User Guide** — the complete walkthrough of every view, the scan profiles and engines, device identification, change tracking, search, and the printable security report.
- **FAQ** (online, at `netvane.doorvane.com/faq`) — quick answers to common questions about privacy, requirements, scanning safety and day-to-day use.
- **Specifications** — the technical reference: the full requirements, technology stack, scan details, exposure categories and data handling.

Whichever you reach for next, remember the essentials from this guide: NetVane runs entirely on your own machine, it never alters or exploits the devices it finds, and you should only ever scan networks you own or are authorized to test.

8. Revision history

A record of changes to this document.

This table is updated with each revision of this document.

Version	Date	Summary
1.0	July 30, 2026	Initial release.