Run n8n Free on Your Own Computer in 1 Command

Plus a ready-made website uptime check workflow · tested on our machine 30 Oct 2026 (n8n 2.45.6)

What you need

- **Node.js** (LTS, nodejs.org). n8n's community edition is free to self-host under its fair-code licence.

Start n8n

```
npx n8n
```

Open **http://localhost:5678**, create your owner login, and you have a working automation builder.

Import the free workflow (UPTIME)

```
npx n8n import:workflow --input=n8n-uptime-check-workflow-UPTIME.json
```

Or in the editor: **Workflows** → **Import from file**. It has 3 nodes: Manual Trigger → HTTP Request (checks your URL) → Code (marks it up or down with a timestamp).

Make it yours

- ☐ Change `https://example.com` in both nodes to your site.
- ☐ Swap Manual Trigger for a **Schedule Trigger** (e.g. every 15 minutes).
- ☐ Add an **IF** node on `up = false`, then an Email, Slack or Telegram node to alert you.
- ☐ Run from the terminal any time: `npx n8n execute --id=WORKFLOW_ID`

Our test result

Imported and executed on our machine: "Execution was successful", status 200, up = true.

> **Tip:** for 24/7 checks, run n8n on an always-on server or VPS, not a laptop that sleeps.