



Homebase Hub

The guide to every page and every setting

Version 1.43.1 Print edition

A self-hosted start page with bookmarks, notes, cards, tasks and browser tools.

Screenshots show the real app with example data.

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github.com/Jackpison/Homebase-Hub

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Chapter 1

Welcome

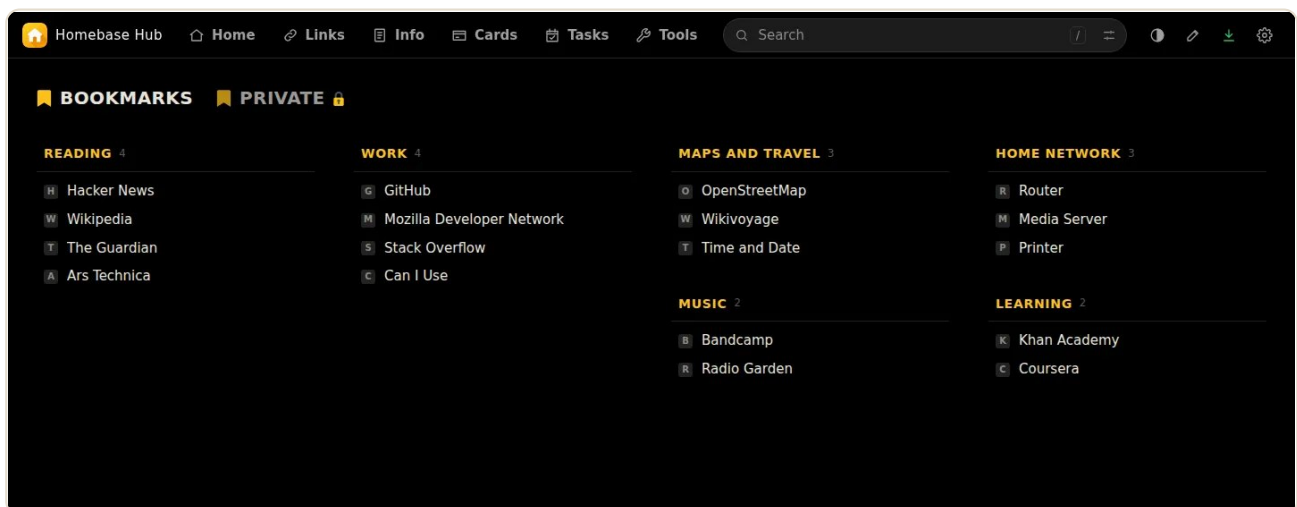
Homebase Hub puts the small things you open every day in one private place on your own hosting.

There are six pages and one Settings page, all behind one login. They share the same bar, the same look and the same backup. There is no database: your data lives in one folder, site-data, that browsers cannot open.

Page	What it is for
Home	Your start page, with background photos that change.
Links	Bookmarks in tabs and categories.
Info	Notes in tabs, arranged as boxes or written as a document.
Cards	Your cards in one table you can search.
Tasks	Bills, renewals and chores with due dates.
Tools	Image, PDF and text tools that run in your browser.
Settings	Everything about the site: look, security, Telegram, backups, updates, health.

The bar

On the left are the logo and the site name, then the pages. In the middle is search. On the right are four icons: **Theme** (dark or light), **Edit** (the pencil, with the edit options of the page you are on), **Backup** and **Settings** (the gear).



The bar is the same on every page. Here it sits above Links.

Search

Search covers Links, Info, Tasks and Tools; Cards has its own search box. The sliders button in the search box chooses where to look: everything, one page, one tab, which fields, and whole words only.

To do this	Press or type
Open search from anywhere	/ or Ctrl+K
Search only Links	links: followed by your words
Search only Info	info: followed by your words

Chapter 2

Install

You need web hosting with PHP 8.3 or newer and a file manager or FTP. HTTPS is recommended.

- 1 Download site-update-X.Y.Z.zip from the latest release on GitHub (github.com/Jackpison/Homebase-Hub/releases).
- 2 In your hosting file manager, open your domain's folder (for example public_html). Upload the zip and extract it there.
- 3 Open your domain in a browser and click the key icon at the top right. The welcome box opens.
- 4 In the file manager, open site-data/core/SETUP-CODE.php and copy the code from the line that starts with SETUP CODE. If the folder is not there yet, reload the file manager.
- 5 Paste the code, choose a site name and a password, and press **Create my site**. You are logged in, and the code file deletes itself.

Note. Never delete site-data. It holds all your data, and updates never touch it. Each domain has its own site-data folder, so domains never share data.

What is in the site folder

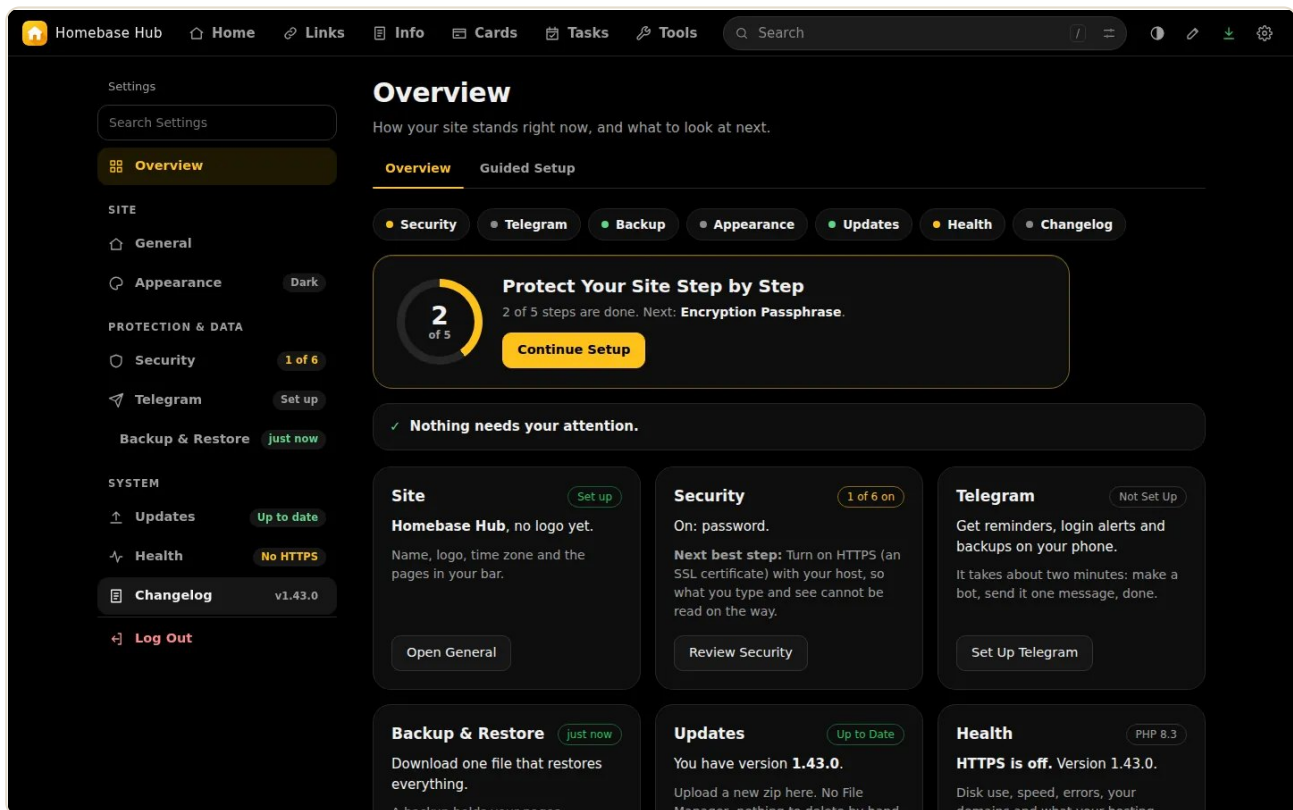
Folder	What it holds
index.php	The start page. The only file in the root of the site folder.
web/	Everything the site is made of: the pages, the shared engine (web/core-data) and the docs (web/docs).
web/core-data/media/	Your own files: your logo, start page photos and uploads, saved link icons. Never replaced by an update.
web/docs/	README.txt, CHANGELOG.md and the readable source. Closed to browsers.
site-data/	Your private data, made by the site. Closed to browsers.

Chapter 3

First steps

Guided Setup walks you through protecting your site, one step at a time.

- 1 Open **Settings** (the gear in the bar).
- 2 Choose **Overview**, then the **Guided Setup** tab.
- 3 Work through the steps: a strong password, two-step login, an encryption passphrase, a first backup, and Telegram.
- 4 Come back to Overview any time: it shows what still needs a look.



Settings, Overview: a card for each area, the things to look at next, and a status on every menu item.

Tip. You can do the steps in any order, and skip the ones you do not need. Each one also lives in its own section of Settings.

Chapter 4

Home

Your start page: the first thing you see when you open your site.



Home, with a photo and its credit in the top corner, next to the buttons for the next photo and for settings.

Background photos change on their own, and the photo's credit is shown in the corner. Each new photo also gets a phone-sized copy, so the page loads quickly on a phone. Your own photos and uploads are kept in `web/core-data/media/home`, which updates never replace.

The start page can be shown with the bar or without it. Without the bar, the gear button in the corner opens editing, the other pages and Settings once you are logged in.

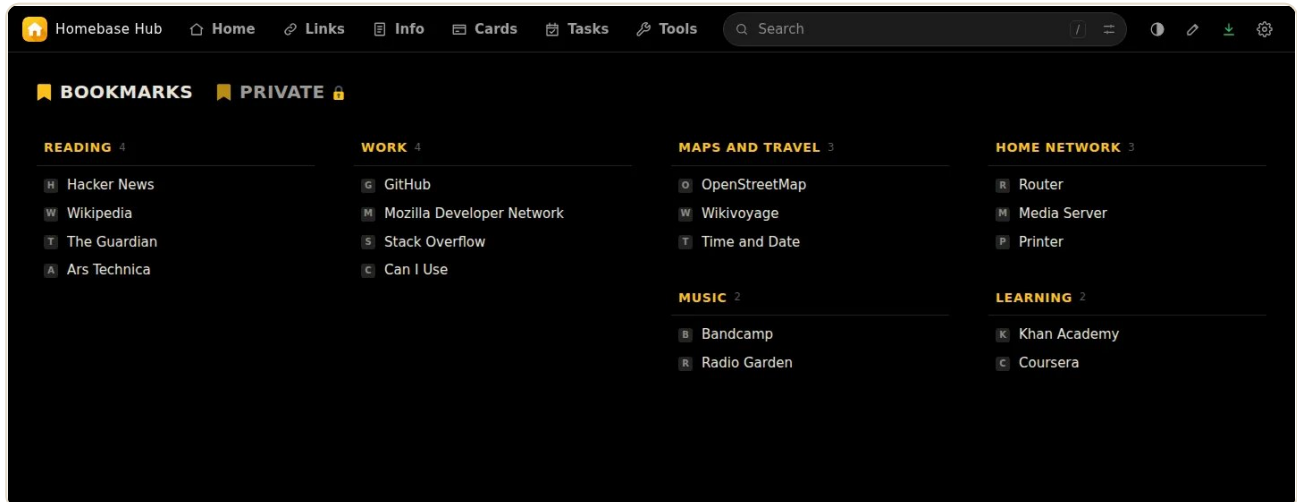


Another photo from the start page's rotation.

Chapter 5

Links

Bookmarks in tabs, each with categories of links.



Links with six categories. Each link shows its saved icon.

Edit your bookmarks

- 1 Open the pencil menu in the bar and choose **Edit This Page**.
- 2 Add, rename, reorder or remove tabs, categories and links.
- 3 Press **Done Editing** when you are finished.

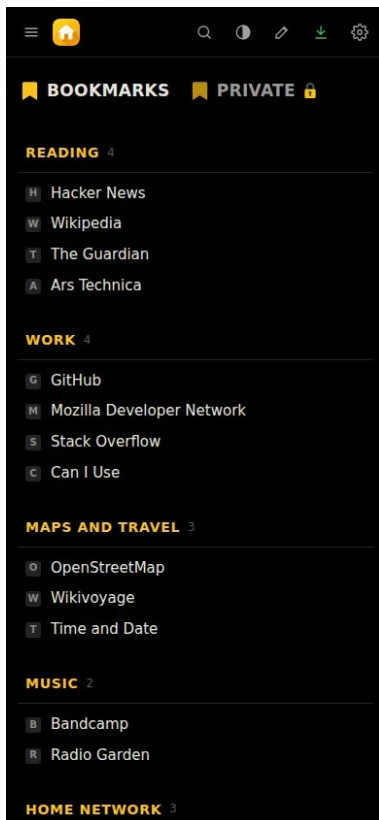
The pencil menu also has **Fetch Icons** (saves each link's icon on your server), **Column Colors**, **Text Sizes** and **Export**.

Encrypted tabs

A tab can be encrypted with your passphrase (set it in Settings, Security, Encryption). The same passphrase locks Info's encrypted tabs and your backup files. Search finds a locked tab by its name, but never shows what is inside.

A gold padlock on a tab means it is private: it is only shown when you are logged in. A green padlock with a tick means it is encrypted.

Note. A lost passphrase together with a lost recovery key means the encrypted tabs cannot be opened by anyone, including you.

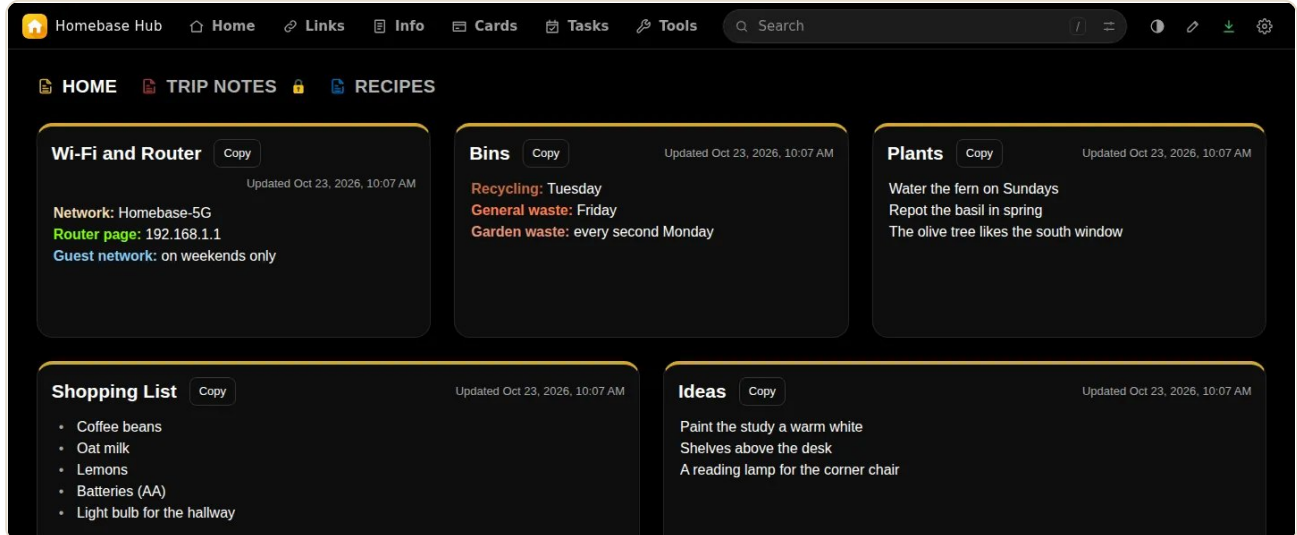


Links on a phone.

Chapter 6

Info

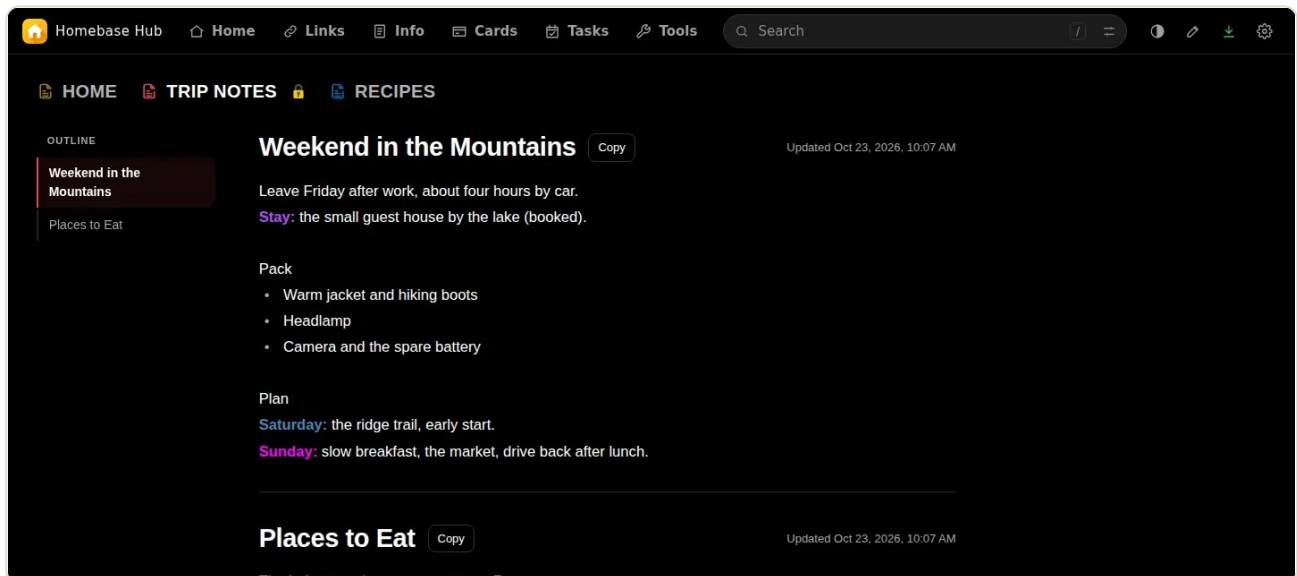
Notes in tabs. Each tab holds from 1 to 12 boxes.



A tab laid out as Notebook Cards: boxes of different widths.

Two layouts

Layout	How it looks
Notebook Cards	The default. Boxes are cards that you size and arrange.
Document	The boxes make one page, with an outline at the side.



A tab laid out as a Document, with its outline.

Add and size boxes

- 1 Choose [Edit This Page](#) from the pencil menu.
- 2 At the end of the tab, click the dashed + [Add Box](#) tile.
- 3 Open the box's [Box Settings](#) to set its width and height, move it earlier or later, or delete it.

Setting	Choices
Width	Auto, One Third, Half, Two Thirds, Full
Height	Auto, Short, Tall, Extra Tall

On a phone every box is full width. Tabs can be encrypted like Links tabs. [Export](#) saves the current tab or all tabs as PDF or text.

Tip. The PDF export uses a built-in font. For text in non-Latin scripts, export as text instead.

Chapter 7

Cards

Your cards in one table you can search and filter.

Bank	Card	Network	Variant	Limit	Holder	Type	Base	Charges	Expiry	Remark
Northwind Bank	Everyday Rewards	Visa	Signature	₹2,50,000	Alex	Credit	LTF	Free	08/29	1% back on everything
Contoso Bank	Travel Plus	Mastercard	World	₹4,00,000	Alex	Credit	LTF	₹2,500/yr	03/28	Lounge access
Fabrikam Bank	Fuel Saver	RuPay	Platinum	₹1,20,000	Sam	Credit	LTF	₹500/yr	11/27	Fuel surcharge waived
Northwind Bank	Savings Debit	Visa	Classic	Not Set	Sam	Debit	Savings	Free	05/30	—
Tailspin Bank	Shopping Card	Mastercard	Platinum	₹90,000	Alex	Credit	Secured	Free	01/31	Against a deposit

Cards with example data. The boxes at the top count cards and add up yearly charges.

Column	What it shows
Bank and Card	The bank and the card's name, linked to their pages where known.
Network	Visa, Mastercard, RuPay and so on.
Variant	For example Platinum or Signature.
Limit	The credit limit.
Holder	Whose card it is.
Type and Base	Credit or debit, and what it is based on.
Charges	The yearly fee, or Free.
Expiry	Month and year.
Remark	Your own note.

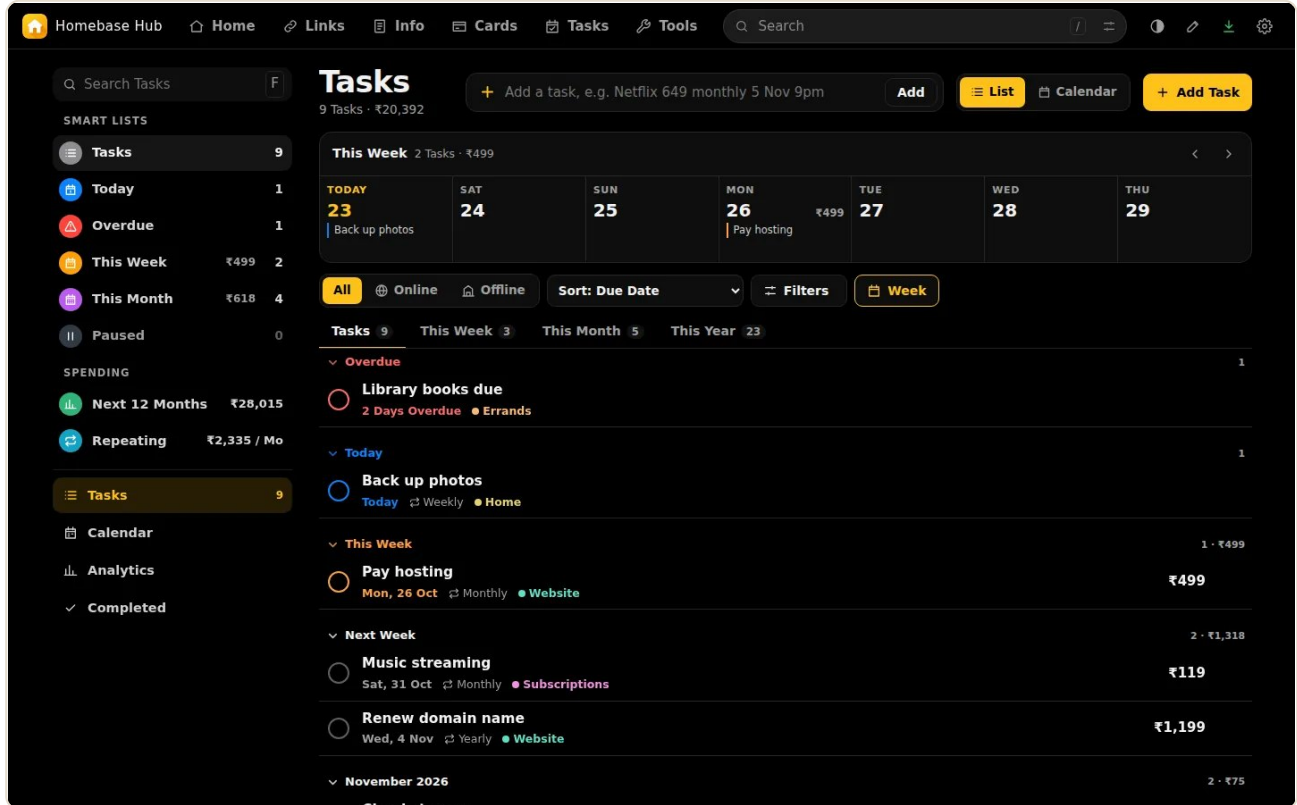
Filter by bank, network, type and holder, or type in the search box. Hover over a row to show its Edit button.

Note. No card data is sent to a browser until you are logged in. Deleting cards always keeps an earlier version first, so a delete can be undone from Backup and Restore.

Chapter 8

Tasks

Bills, renewals and chores: anything with a due date.



Tasks grouped by when they are due, with this week across the top.

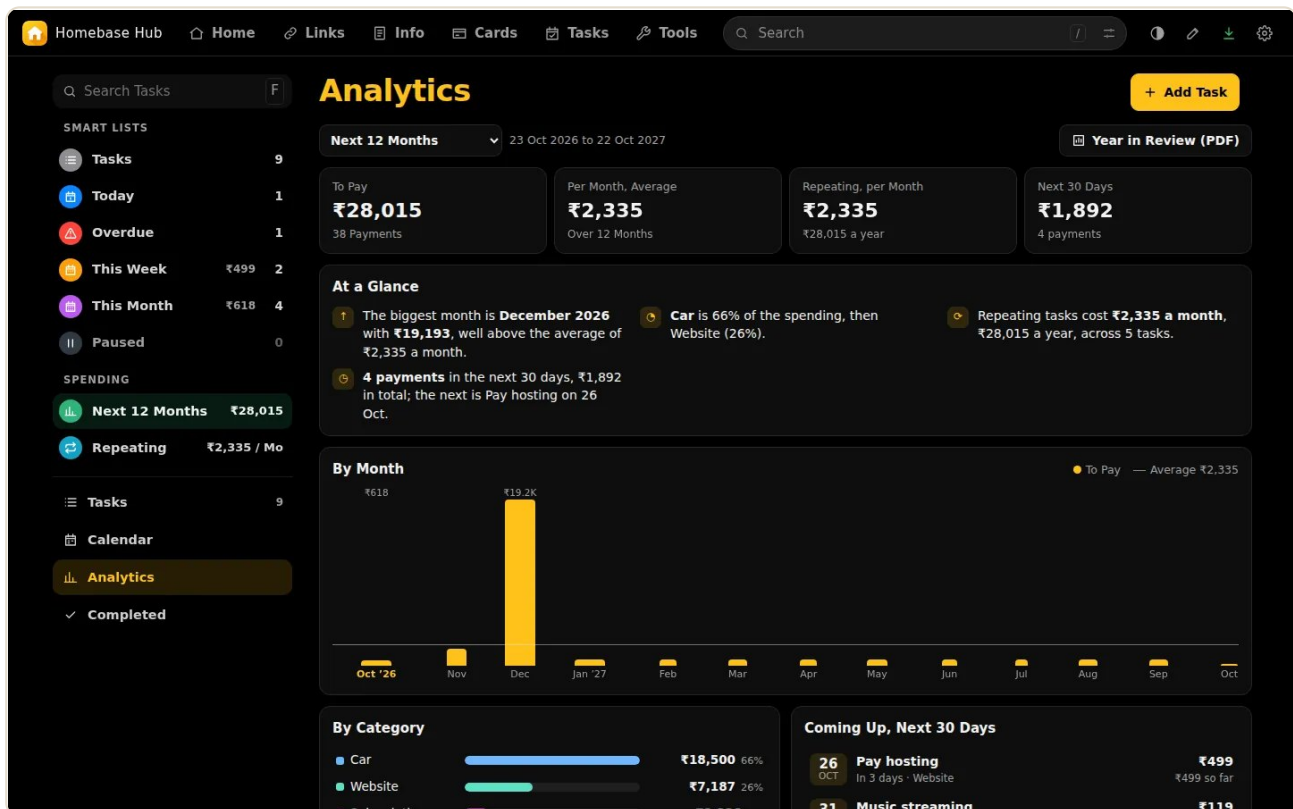
Add a task

- 1 Type into the quick box at the top, for example "Netflix 649 monthly 5 Nov 9pm", and press **Add**.
- 2 Or press **Add Task** to open the full editor.
- 3 Fill in what you need and save.

Field	What it is for
Name	What the task is.
Due	The date (and time) it is due.
Repeat	Every few days, weeks, months or years, or never.
Price and currency	What it costs, for the money views.
Category	Your own groups, such as Home or Website.
Payment	How you pay, such as Card or Bank transfer.

Smart lists and views

List or view	What it shows
Tasks	Everything.
Today, Overdue	What is due today, and what is late.
This Week, This Month	What is coming up, with the amounts.
Paused	Tasks you stopped for now.
Calendar	The month at a glance.
Analytics	Spending by month and by category, coming payments and repeating costs.
Completed	What you have done.



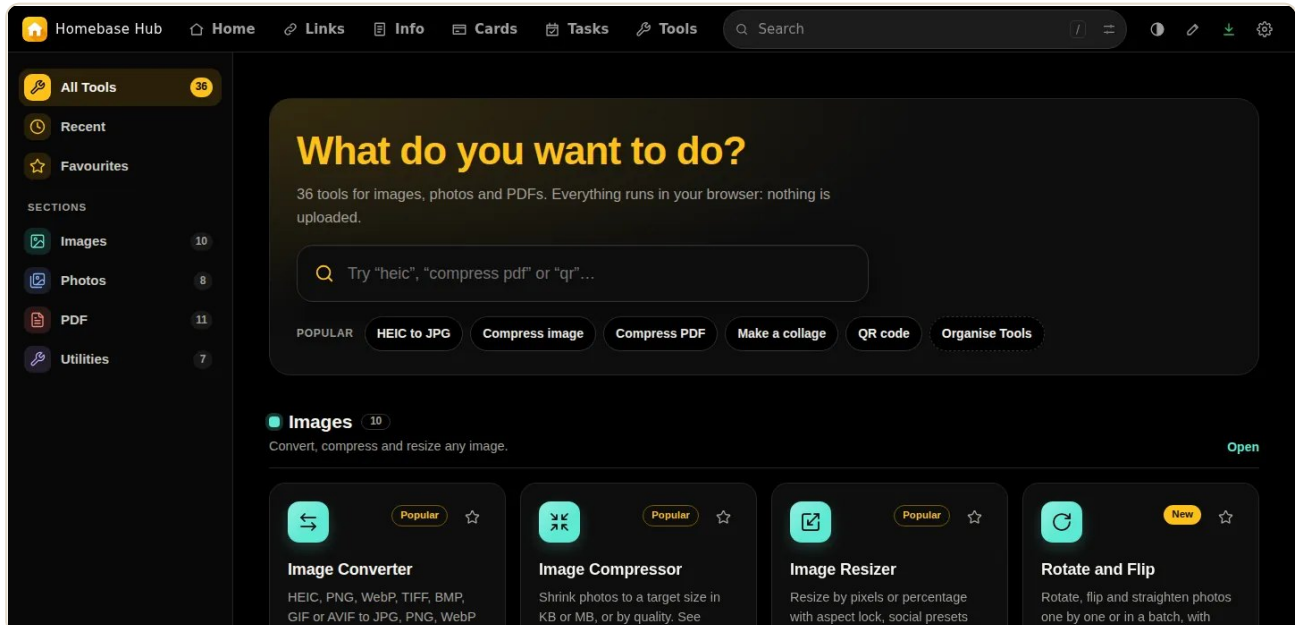
Analytics: the next 12 months at a glance.

Tip. Telegram can remind you when something is due (Settings, Telegram). Analytics also makes a Year in Review PDF.

Chapter 9

Tools

Small tools that run in your browser.



Tools, grouped into sections.

Kind	Tools
Images	Crop, circle crop, resize, compress, convert, rotate, adjust, watermark, redact, collage, meme, ID photo, colours, Base64, SVG to PNG, favicon, metadata
PDF	Merge, compress, organise, annotate, sign, protect, extract text, PDF to images, images to PDF
Other	Text from images (OCR), background removal, QR codes, hashes, JSON formatter, text tool, zip files

Favicon (Get from a Website) shows a website's icon in 16, 32, 64, 128, 256 and 512 pixels. Press **PNG** under a size and the file is saved right away. Google's icon service gives at most 256 pixels, so the 512 picture is enlarged from that.

Tools has its own sections: Tools, Recent, Favourites, one per category, Organise and Settings. In **Organise** you star favourites, drag tools to reorder them or move them to another section, and hide the ones you do not use.

Tip. Heavy engines, such as OCR and background removal, only load when a tool needs them.

Chapter 10

Settings

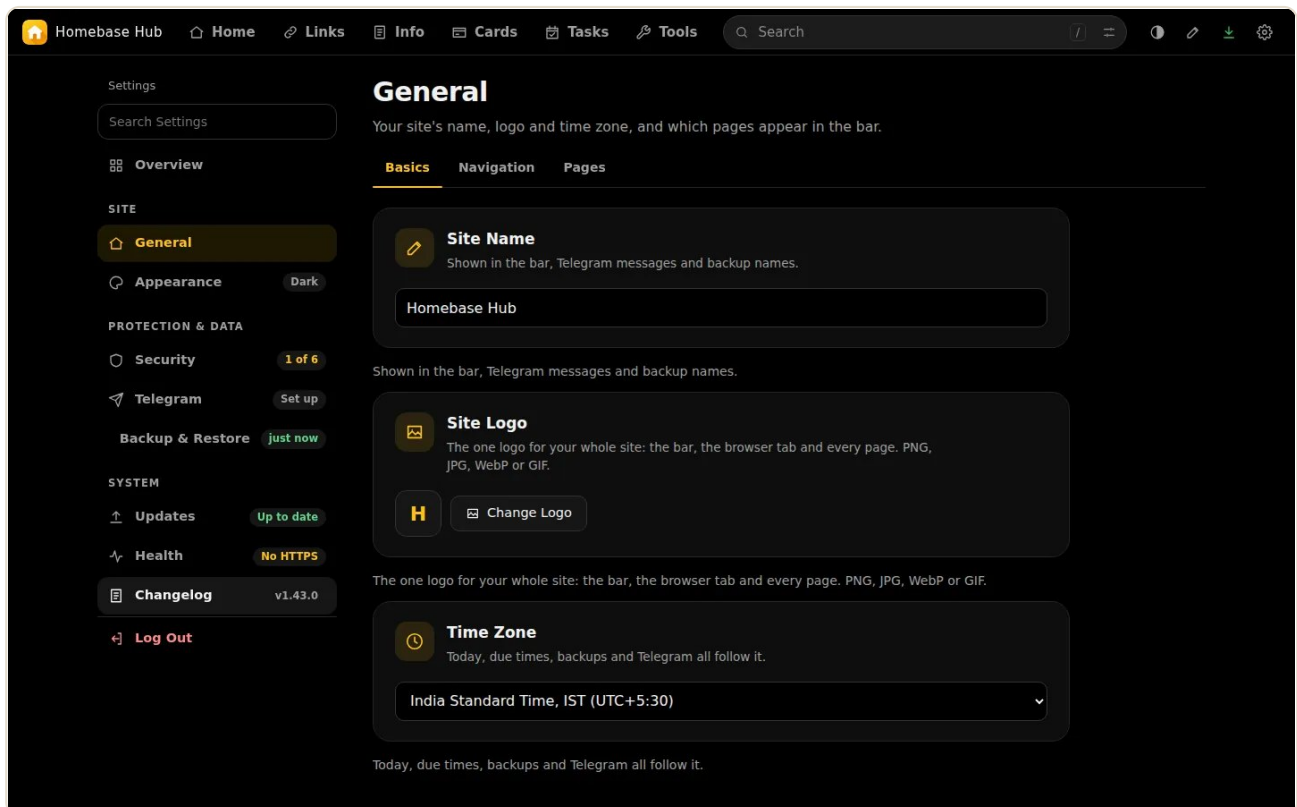
Everything about the site, in one page.

The menu on the left has three groups: **Site** (General, Appearance), **Protection and Data** (Security, Telegram, Backup and Restore) and **System** (Updates, Health, Changelog). The search box at the top of the menu jumps to any setting.

Note. General and Appearance show changes as you make them and are kept with **Save Settings**; a bar appears at the bottom while something is unsaved. Every other section saves each change at once.

General

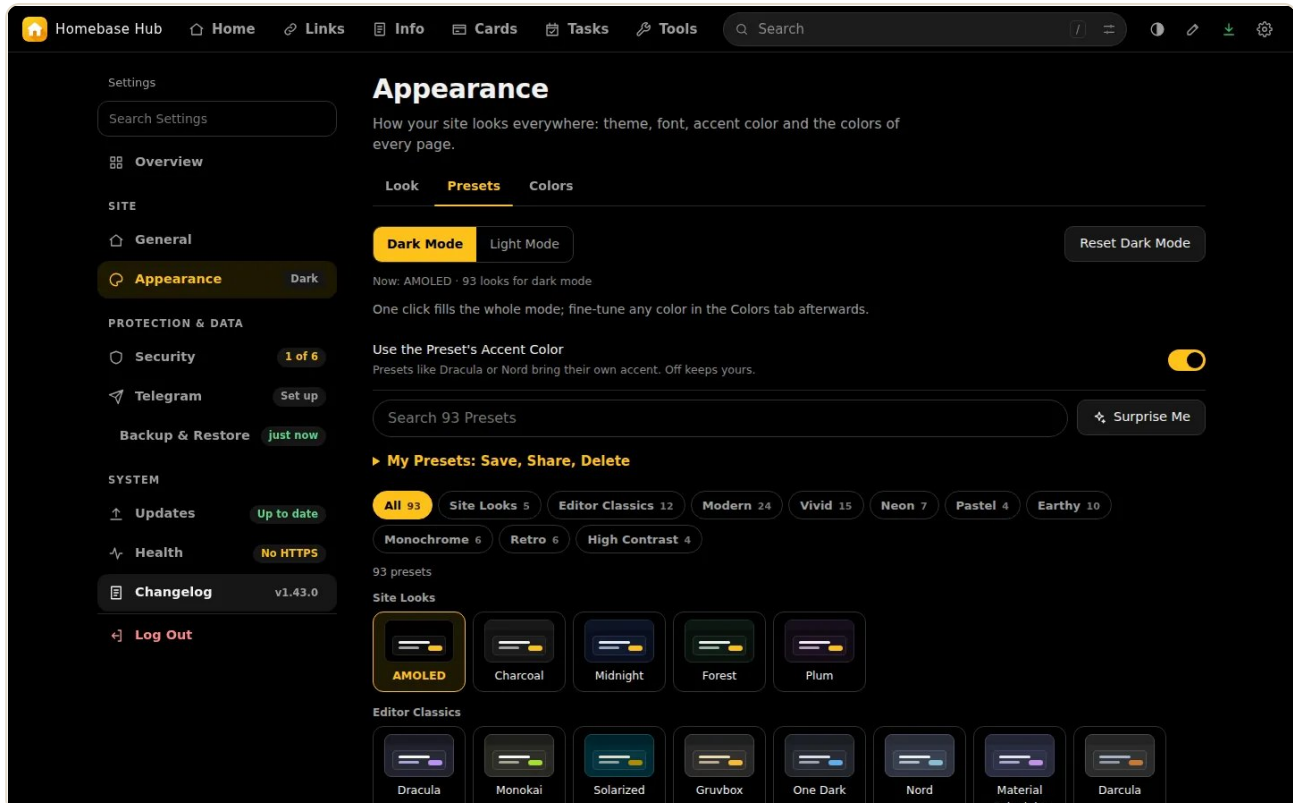
Tab	What it holds
Basics	Site name, logo and time zone. One logo is used everywhere; until you choose one, Homebase Hub's gold house is used.
Navigation	Rename, reorder or hide the pages in the bar. The start page can run without the bar.
Pages	The site's pages.



Settings, General.

Appearance

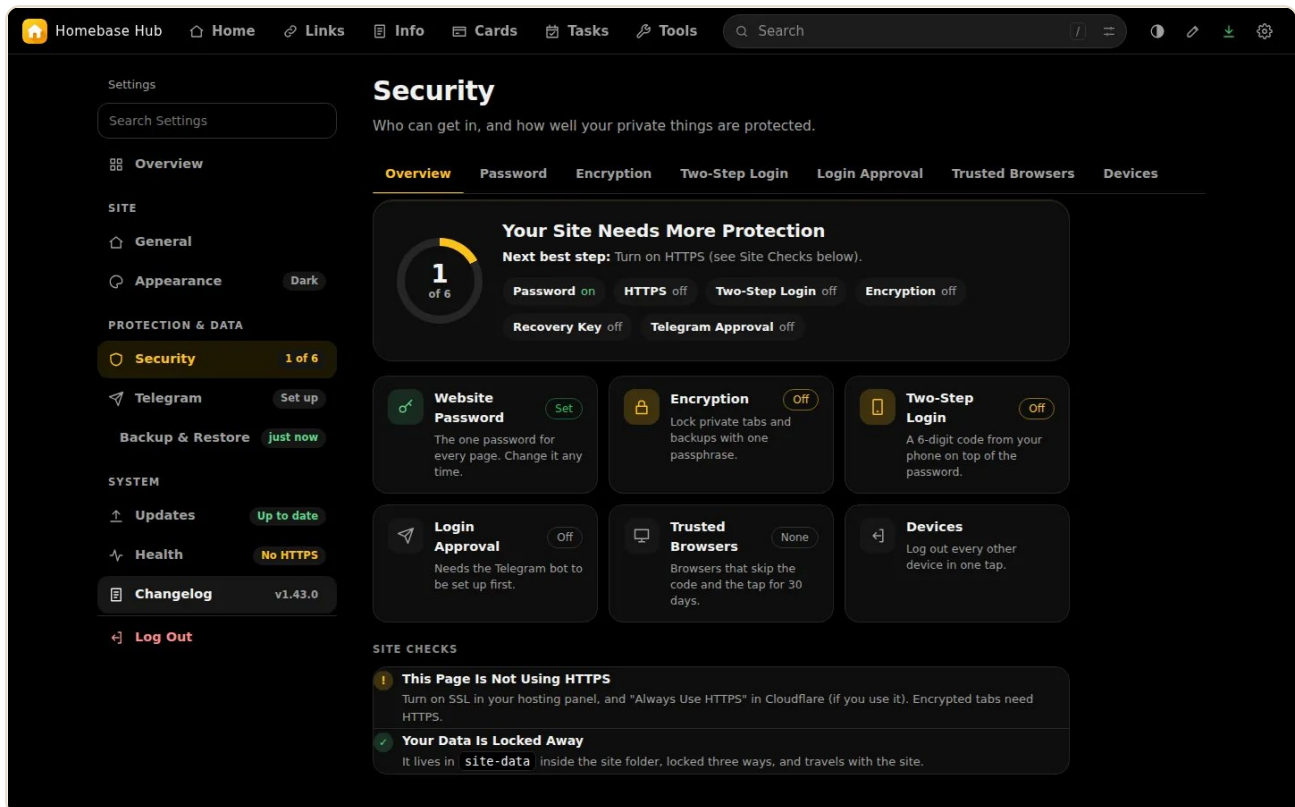
Tab	What it holds
Look	Where the bar sits, the font and the default theme.
Presets	166 looks with a search box and Surprise Me. Save your own and export or import them.
Colors	Colours for Dark and Light separately, and a separate accent for each page.



Appearance, Presets.

Security

Tab	What it holds
Password	Change your password, with a strength meter.
Two-Step Login	An authenticator app and recovery codes.
Login Approval	Approve each login in Telegram.
Trusted Browsers	Browsers that skip the two-step code for 30 days (never the password).
Devices	Login history and logged-in devices. Log out one, or all others.
Encryption	Set, change or remove the passphrase, and make a recovery key.

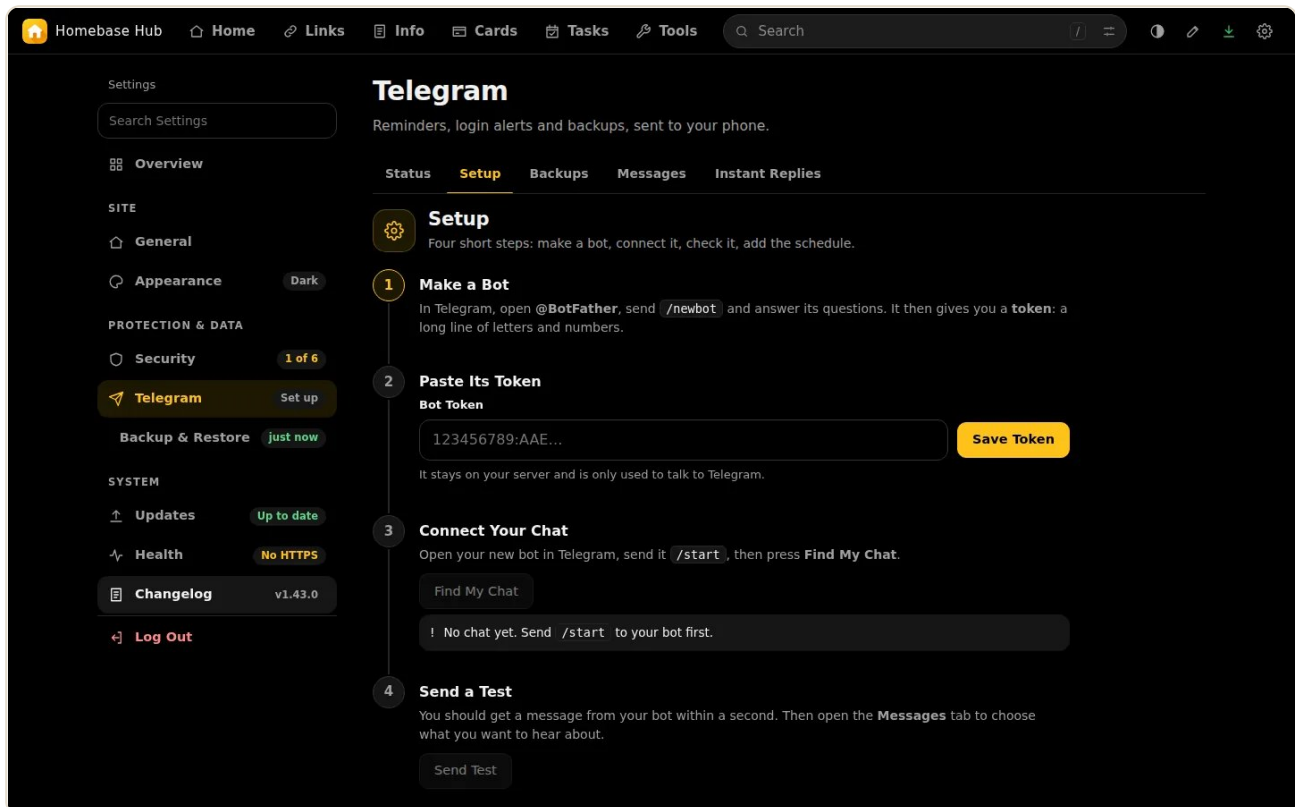


Settings, Security.

Telegram

Telegram can send a daily digest, Due Now messages, a backup reminder, login alerts and backup files, and can answer you in a two-way bot.

- 1 Make a bot with @BotFather in Telegram and copy its token.
- 2 Paste the token in [Setup](#), then connect your chat.
- 3 Send a test message.
- 4 Set up the schedule: a cron job in your hosting panel. The Setup tab shows the exact command with a copy button.

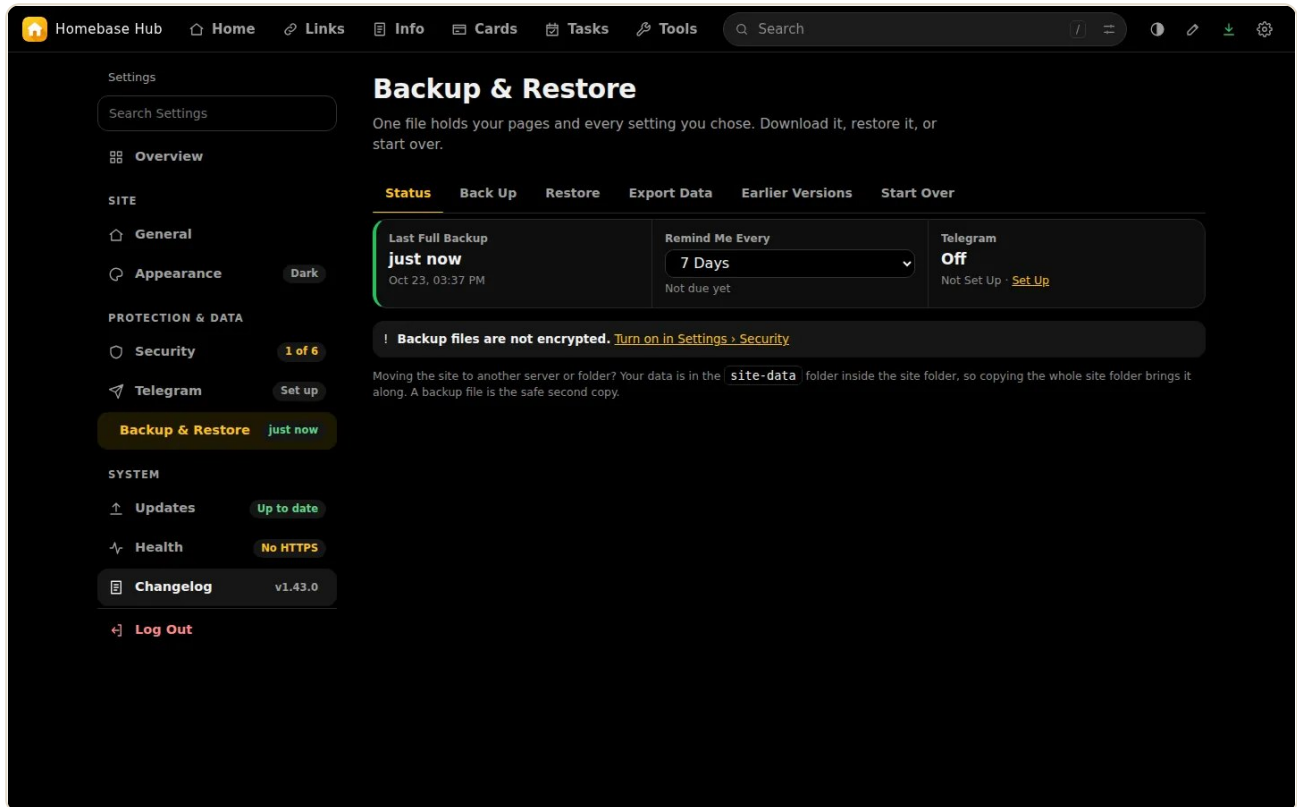


Settings, Telegram.

Backup and Restore

Tab	What it holds
Back Up	Choose the parts, see the size, and download one backup file.
Restore	Replace everything, or add or update only some tabs. The current data is kept as an earlier version first.
Export Data	Links, Cards or Tasks as CSV or JSON.
Earlier Versions	Each page's saved versions, with Restore.
Start Over	Erase everything except your password and two-step login. Needs ERASE and your password.

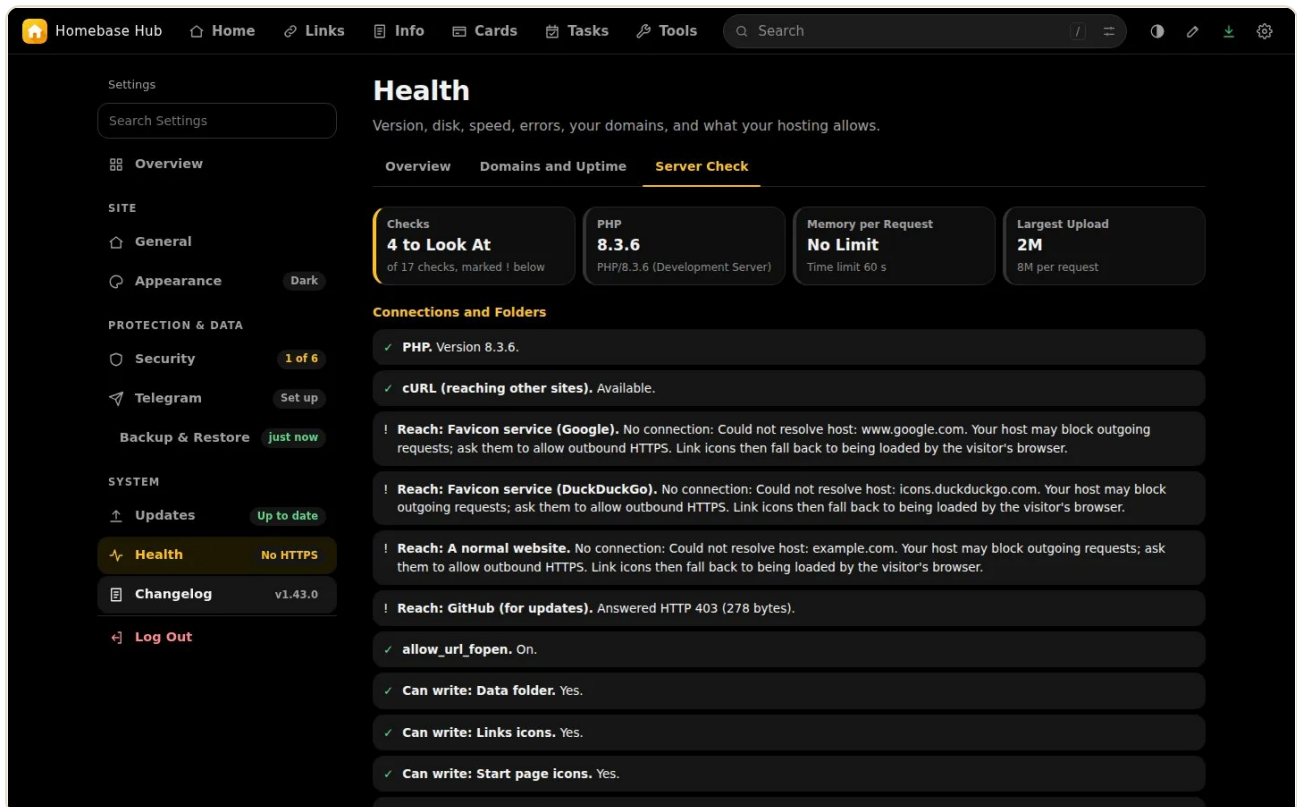
Note. A backup holds every page and its settings, Telegram and the domain watch list. It does not hold your password, two-step login, trusted browsers or passphrase. Keep backup files somewhere other than your server.



Settings, Backup and Restore.

Health

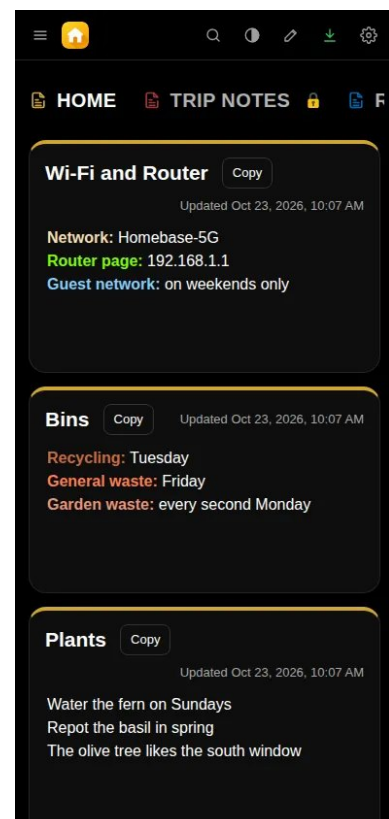
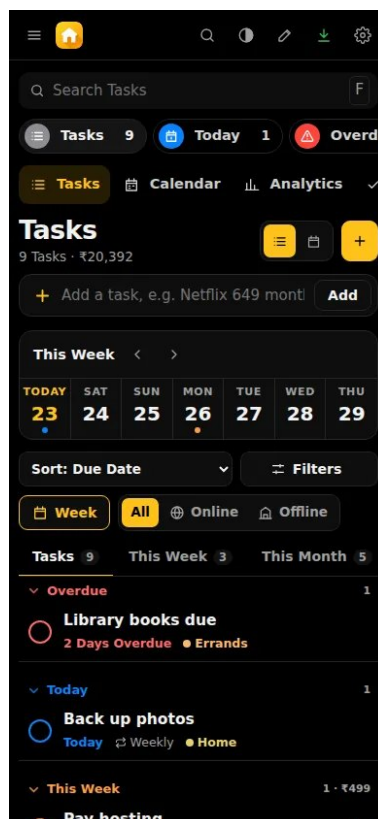
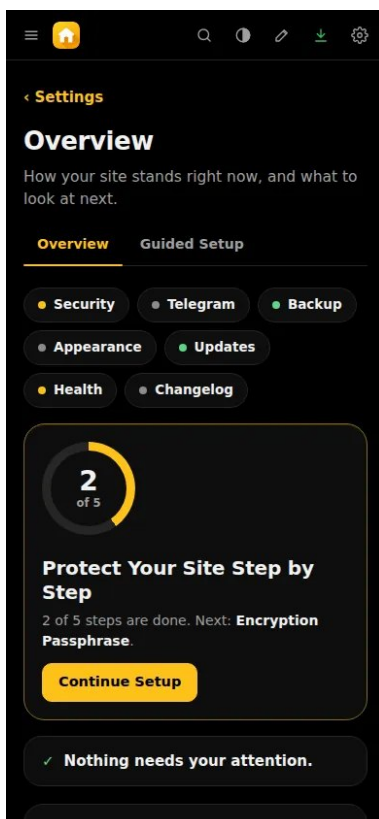
Tab	What it holds
Overview	Disk use, speed, errors, backups, and Test a Restore.
Domains and Uptime	A watch on your domains, their SSL and whether they answer.
Server Check	What your hosting allows: reaching other websites (including GitHub), writing folders, PHP limits and extensions.



Health, Server Check.

Changelog

Every version and what it changed, newest first.

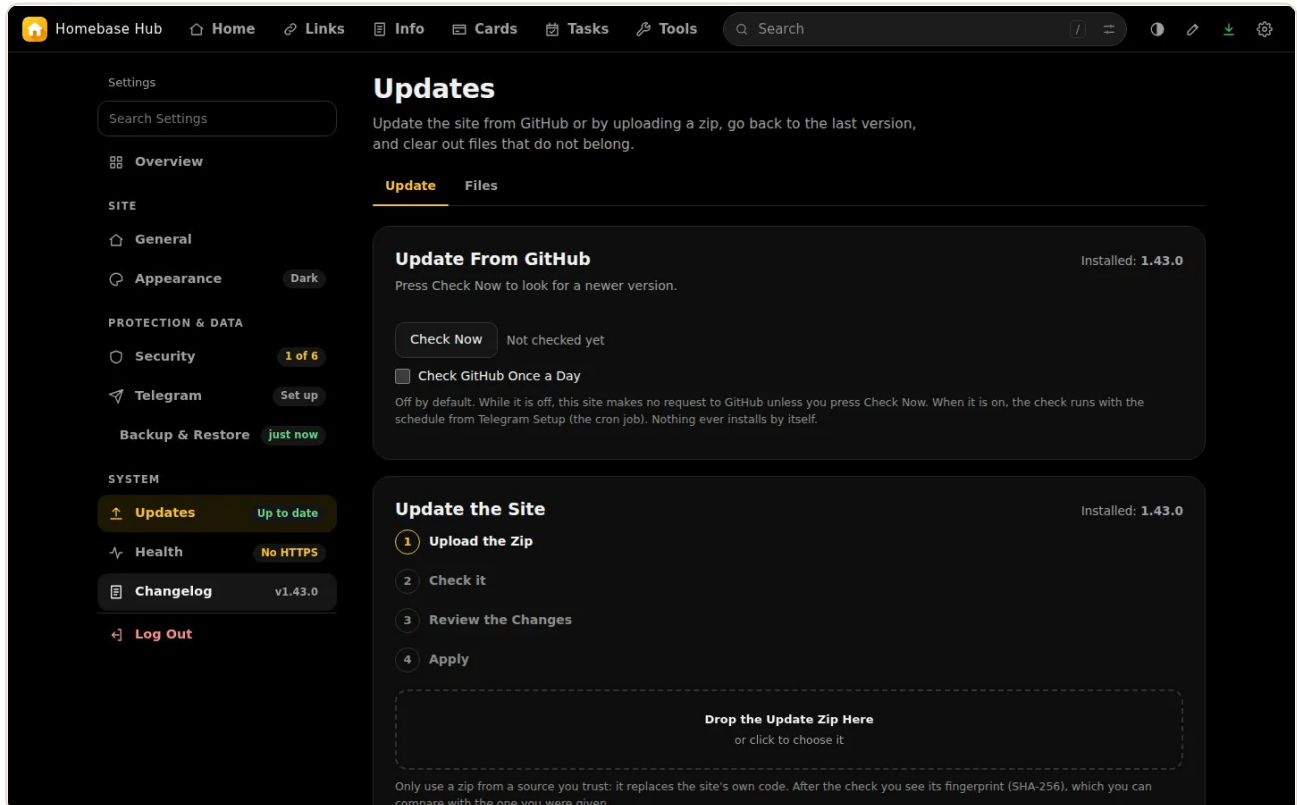


On a phone, Settings opens with its menu, and every page fits the screen.

Chapter 11

Updates

Update from GitHub with one click and your password, or by uploading a zip.



Settings, Updates: Update From GitHub above, Update the Site by zip below.

Update from GitHub

- 1 Open **Settings**, then **Updates**.
- 2 Press **Check Now**.
- 3 If a newer version exists, press **Download and Check Version X**. The site downloads it and checks its size and SHA-256, then gives it the same checks as an uploaded zip.
- 4 Read what will change and what the new version says about itself.
- 5 Type your website password and apply it.

Note. The daily check (**Check GitHub Once a Day**) is off by default. While it is off, the site never contacts GitHub unless you press Check Now. When it is on, the check runs with the Telegram schedule, and nothing ever installs by itself.

Update by zip

- 1 Download the new zip on your computer.
- 2 In [Updates](#), upload it under [Update the Site](#).
- 3 Read the changes and apply with your password.

What happens when you apply

The site saves the version it has now, replaces its files one by one, removes old files, and then looks at itself. If it cannot answer, the saved version comes back by itself. [Go Back](#) does the same on request.

Never touched by an update

site-data/	Your data.
web/core-data/media/	Your logo, photos and saved icons.
web/core-data/config.php	Site limits.
Tools settings	Your tools layout and favourites.

Files

The [Files](#) tab compares your server with this version's file list. It shows files that do not belong, files changed by hand, and missing files. You can delete the ones that do not belong after typing your password.

The screenshot shows the Homebase Hub interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Homebase Hub, Home, Links, Info, Cards, Tasks, and Tools, along with a search bar. The left sidebar contains a 'Settings' section with a search bar and a list of categories: Overview, SITE (General, Appearance, Protection & Data, System), and Log Out. The main content area is titled 'Updates' and shows a summary of the current state: 190 files match version 1.43.0, 0 files changed by hand, 0 files missing, and 0 files not part of this version. A green checkmark indicates that nothing on the server is out of place. Below this, a message states that the server is up to date and that the files have been checked just now in 269 ms. A 'Check Again' link is provided. The 'Files' tab is selected, showing a list of files with their status and size.

Homebase Hub Home Links Info Cards Tasks Tools Search

Settings

Search Settings

Overview

SITE

General

Appearance Dark

PROTECTION & DATA

Security 1 of 6

Telegram Set up

Backup & Restore just now

SYSTEM

Updates Up to date

Health No HTTPS

Changelog v1.43.0

Log Out

Updates

Update the site from GitHub or by uploading a zip, go back to the last version, and clear out files that do not belong.

Update Files

190 files match version 1.43.0

0 changed by hand

0 missing

0 not part of this version

✓ Nothing on your server is out of place. Every file there belongs to version 1.43.0.

Never listed or touched: site-data, web/core-data/media (your pictures and logo), web/core-data/config.php. Checked just now in 269 ms. [Check Again](#)

Updates, Files.

A

Help and recovery

What to do when something goes wrong.

Forgot the password

- 1 In your hosting file manager, delete site-data/core/auth.php.
- 2 Open the site and click the key icon. It asks for a setup code.
- 3 Copy the code from site-data/core/SETUP-CODE.php, enter it with a new password. The file deletes itself afterwards.

Note. This turns two-step login off; turn it on again in Settings, Security. Encrypted tabs and backups are locked with your passphrase, not your password, so they are not affected.

Lost the phone with the authenticator app

Log in with a recovery code instead of the 6-digit code. With no codes left, follow Forgot the password.

Link icons do not load

Run Settings, Health, Server Check. It shows whether your hosting can reach other websites and write to the icon folders. If it cannot reach other websites, Links shows icons from an icon service instead.

Keeping your site safe

The site itself needs no regular work. The one thing to watch is PHP, the language your hosting runs it with. Each PHP version gets security fixes for about four years, and then stops. Homebase Hub needs PHP 8.3 or newer.

What	What to do
PHP version	Check it in Settings, Health, Server Check. Settings, Overview warns you when your PHP is about to stop getting fixes. Change it in your hosting panel (in cPanel: MultiPHP Manager) to 8.4 or newer.
New versions	Install them from Settings, Updates when you see them. Each release says what changed.
Backups	Make one now and then in Settings, Backup and Restore, and keep it somewhere other than your server.

Note. An update that needs a newer PHP than your server has is refused with a clear message, and nothing changes. Change the PHP version, then try again.

Moving the site

Copy the whole site folder, data included. Or export a backup, install a new site, and import the backup there. Backups made before a passphrase change need the old passphrase.

Contact

For	Where
Questions and ideas	Telegram @Jackpison (t.me/Jackpison)
Bugs	github.com/Jackpison/Homebase-Hub/issues
Security problems	Telegram @Jackpison, not a public issue
Website and downloads	jackpison.github.io/Homebase-Hub