RED BANDANA TECH

WORKSHOP MINDED. FIELD BOUND.

01 / GET CONNECTED

TAK SERVER

Your iPhone. Your team. One shared map. Connect with iTAK + Tailscale.

IPHONE + IPAD / INVITED USERS

Your connection kit

Install **Tailscale** and **iTAK** from the App Store. Mark has emailed you your personal **_CONFIG_iTAK.zip** configuration file. Have your Tailscale invitation, server address, and personal TAK login ready. You do not need to log into the dashboard or generate a package.

1 Connect Tailscale

Sign in to Tailscale with your own account. Open Mark's invitation link and accept access to **tak-pi** using that same account. Allow Tailscale to add a VPN configuration, then turn it on. Keep it connected whenever you use the server.

2 Save your emailed ZIP

Open the email from Mark on your iPhone or iPad. Press and hold your personal **_CONFIG_iTAK.zip** attachment, then choose **Share > Save to Files** (the wording may vary by mail app). Save it in Downloads or another folder you can find. Keep it zipped: do not tap it in Files to extract it. If the attachment is missing or you only have an extracted folder, ask Mark to resend the original ZIP.

3 Import the server into iTAK

Open **Settings > Network > Servers**. Add a server, choose **Upload Server Package**, and select the emailed ZIP from Files. Then open the imported server and tap **Edit**. Manually change **Address** from **192.168.4.29** to **100.97.234.120**. Keep **Port: 8089**, **Protocol: SSL**, and the imported certificates. Save the change and leave Enabled on. The Name may still contain 192.168.4.29; the **Address** field controls the connection. If asked, enter your personal TAK login with exact username capitalization.

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02 / PROVE THE LINK

GO MOBILE

Test away from home. Know what to check when a connection drops.

iTAK
PHONE

TAILSCALE
PRIVATE LINK

TAK SERVER
RASPBERRY PI

Test over cellular

Confirm the server shows **Connected**. Set a recognizable callsign and allow location access in iTAK. Turn Wi-Fi off while leaving cellular data and Tailscale on. Confirm iTAK stays connected, then coordinate with Mark to verify your callsign appears and a test message arrives.

If something does not connect

Check Tailscale is connected and the sharing invitation was accepted by the account on your phone. Confirm iTAK uses the Tailscale server address Mark emailed, port **8089**, **SSL**, the imported certificates, and your personal TAK credentials. Username capitalization must match exactly. If the ZIP is missing or will not import, ask Mark to resend it. Send Mark a screenshot of any connection error; dashboard access is not needed.

Keep your access private

Your certificate ZIP and login belong to you. Do not post or forward them. Tailscale requires internet access on both devices; this setup does not provide off-grid connectivity.

QUICK CHECK

Tailscale ON / Server address correct / SSL + port 8089 / Personal ZIP imported

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03 / HOST CHECKLIST

BUILD YOUR TEAM

For Mark: prepare an individual connection kit for every friend.

1 Share the Pi

In the Tailscale admin console, find **tak-pi**, open its menu, and choose **Share**. Create a sharing invitation for each friend. They sign in with their own account and accept the link. This shares access to the Pi rather than requiring your Tailscale login.

2 Create a TAK account

In OpenTAKServer, use **Admin > Users > Add User**. Create a separate regular account for each friend. Do not distribute the administrator account or its certificate package.

3 Generate their package

Log out of the dashboard and sign in as the friend's account using the exact username capitalization. Open **Data Packages > Generate Configuration Data Package**. Download **theirusername_CONFIG_iTAK.zip**. The generator uses the currently signed-in account. Log back in as administrator when finished.

4 Send their setup details

Email each friend their personal **_CONFIG_iTAK.zip** attachment, TAK login, and the Pi's Tailscale address. Send their Tailscale invitation too. Friends save the emailed ZIP and import it into iTAK; they do not log into the dashboard or generate packages. Keep credentials and invitation links off the public website.

5 Verify access

Confirm their iPhone appears under **EUDs** and their callsign appears on the dashboard map. Test a message while their Wi-Fi is off. If connected but you cannot see each other, check location permissions and user group membership. Keep the Pi powered on, connected to the internet, and Tailscale running.

Reference: Tailscale sharing | OpenTAKServer accounts

Validated setup: Raspberry Pi 3B / OpenTAKServer 1.7.14 / iTAK. App labels may change.