How to install OnTrack software on Linux

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Ontrack is a simple yet powerful self-hosted budgeting software for Linux. It works by creating a beautiful interface where you can list your budget, review your finances, and even track your spending history. This article shows you how to install Ontrack on Ubuntu Linux 22.04 using Docker Compose and Caddy.

Get the dependencies for Ontrack

The first step in installing Ontrack budgeting software on Linux is to download Docker and Caddy. Docker will run the entire web application in an isolated container, while Caddy will let you broadcast it to the Internet.

To get started, find the signing key for the Docker repository from the developer's website:

```
curl -fsSL https://download.docker.com/linux/ubuntu/gpg | sudo gpg --dearmor -o /
sudo chmod a+r /etc/apt/keyrings/docker.gpg
```

Create new apt repository file for Docker:

```
sudo nano /etc/apt/sources.list.d/docker.list
```

Write the following line of code in your repository file:

```
deb [arch=amd64 signed-by=/etc/apt/keyrings/docker.gpg] https://download.docker.c
```

Download the signing key for the Caddy project repository:

```
curl -fsSL 'https://dl.cloudsmith.io/public/caddy/stable/gpg.key' | sudo gpg --de
```

Fetch the Caddy project's repository file by running the following command:

```
curl -fsSL 'https://dl.cloudsmith.io/public/caddy/stable/debian.deb.txt' | sudo t
```

Apply your new repository and make sure your system is completely updated:

```
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade
```

Install Docker, Docker Compose and Caddy using apt:

```
sudo apt install docker-ce docker-ce-cli containerd.io docker-compose-plugin dock
```

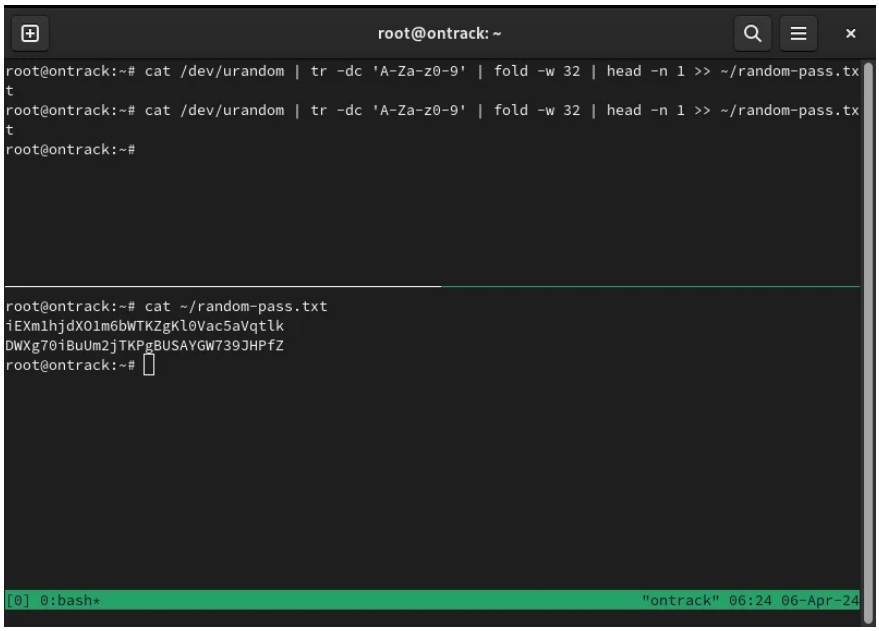
Download Docker containers Ontrack

Fetch the current Ontrack repository for Linux from the developer's Github page:

```
git clone https://github.com/inoda/ontrack.git && cd ./ontrack
```

Run the following command 2 times to generate two random long text strings:

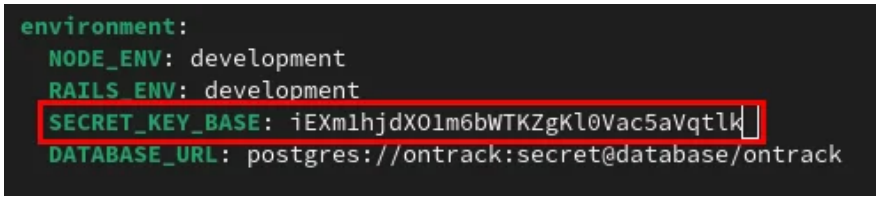
```
cat /dev/urandom | tr -dc 'A-Za-z0-9' | fold -w 32 | head -n 1 >> ~/random-pass.
```



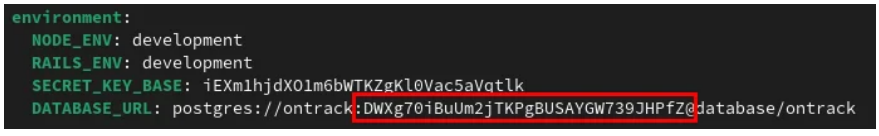
Open Ontrack's 'docker-compose.yml' file with your favorite text editor:

```
nano ./docker-compose.yml
```

Scroll to the variable 'SECRET_KEY_BASE' and change the value from 'super-secret' to your first random string.



Replace the string 'secret' on the variable **'DATABASE_URL'** with your second random string.



Scroll down to the **'POSTGRES_PASSWORD'** variable and replace the 'secret' value with your second random string.

```
  environment:
    NODE_ENV: development
    RAILS_ENV: development
    SECRET_KEY_BASE: iEXm1hjdXO1m6bWTKZgKl0Vac5aVqtlk
    DATABASE_URL: postgres://ontrack:DWXg70iBuUm2jTKPgBUSAYGW739JHPfZ@database/ontrack

database:
  image: postgres
  container_name: ontrack-db
  volumes:
    - database:/var/lib/postgresql/data
  environment:
    POSTGRES_PASSWORD: DWXg70iBuUm2jTKPgBUSAYGW739JHPfZ
    POSTGRES_USER: ontrack
    POSTGRES_DB: ontrack
```

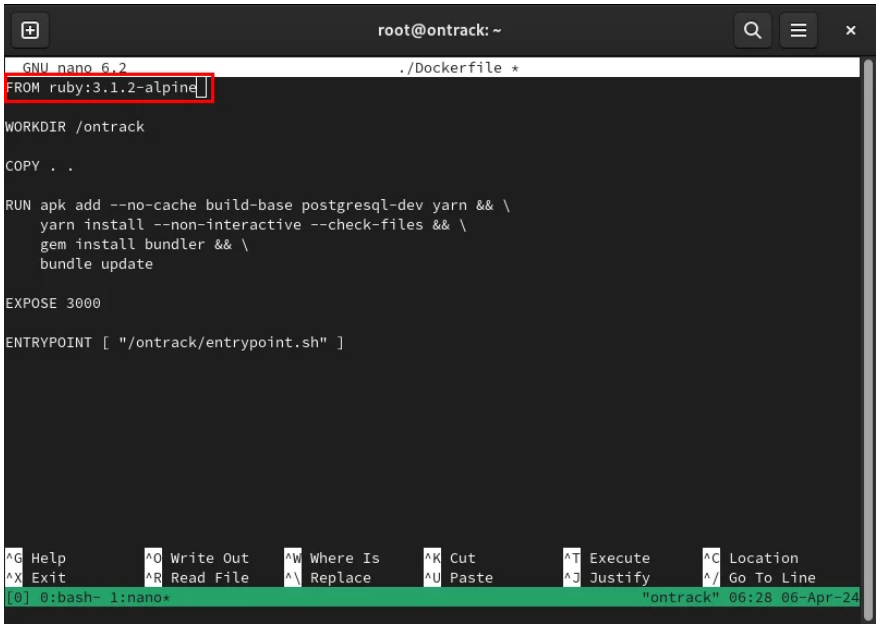
Updating and building Ontrack containers

Open the Dockerfile for Ontrack using your favorite text editor:

```
nano ./Dockerfile
```

Replace the value of the FROM variable with the following value:

```
FROM ruby:3.1.2-alpine
```

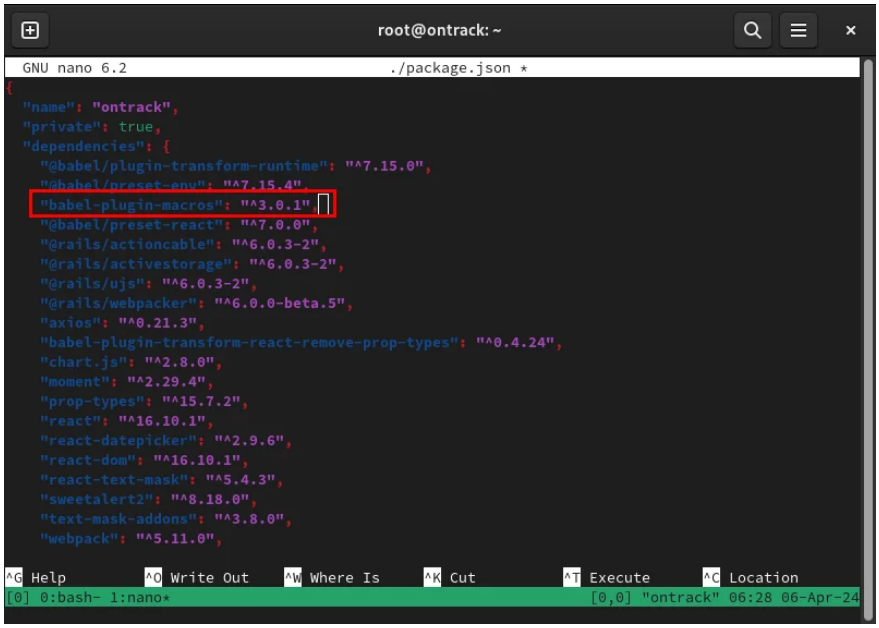


Save your modified Dockerfile, then open the 'package.json' file:

```
nano ./package.json
```

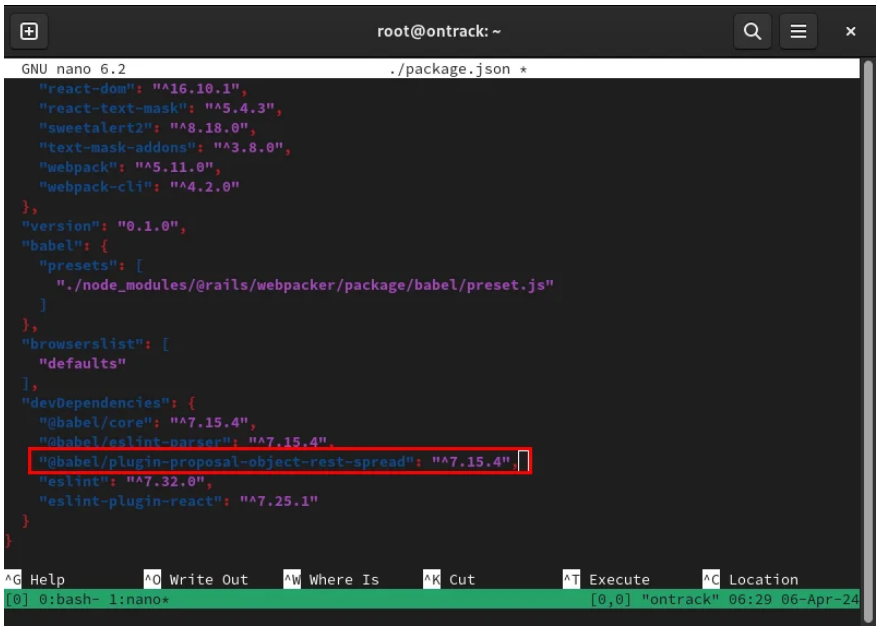
Find the line that starts with **@babel/preset-env** , then insert the following code below that line:

```
"babel-plugin-macros": "^3.0.1",
```



Scroll down to the 'devDependency' category , then add the following to the **@babel/eslint-parser** line :

```
"@babel/plugin-proposal-object-rest-spread": "^7.15.4",
```

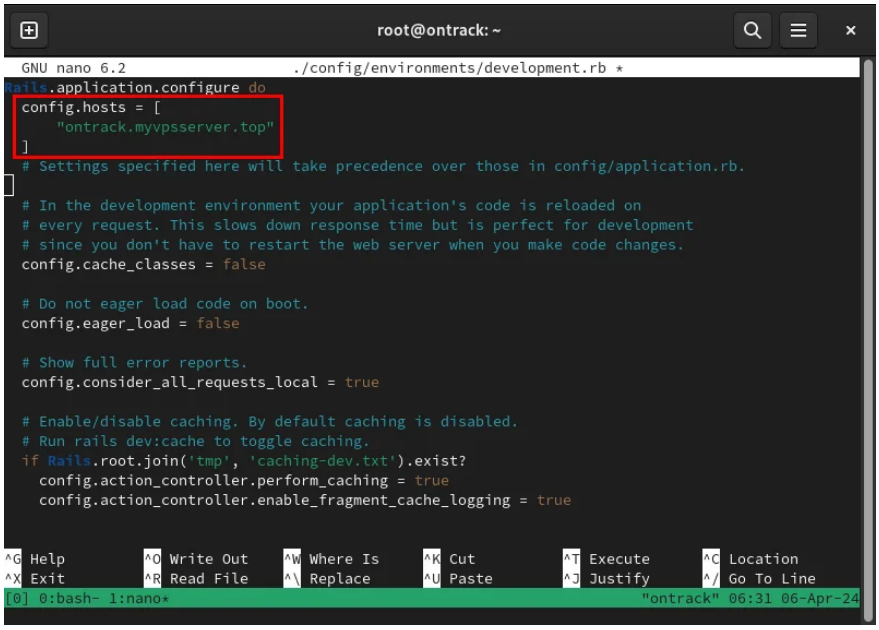


Open your instance configuration file with your favorite text editor:

```
nano ~/ontrack/config/environments/development.rb
```

Add the following line of code right below Rails.application.configure:

```
config.hosts = [ "SUBDOMAIN.YOUR-ROOT.DOMAIN" ]
```



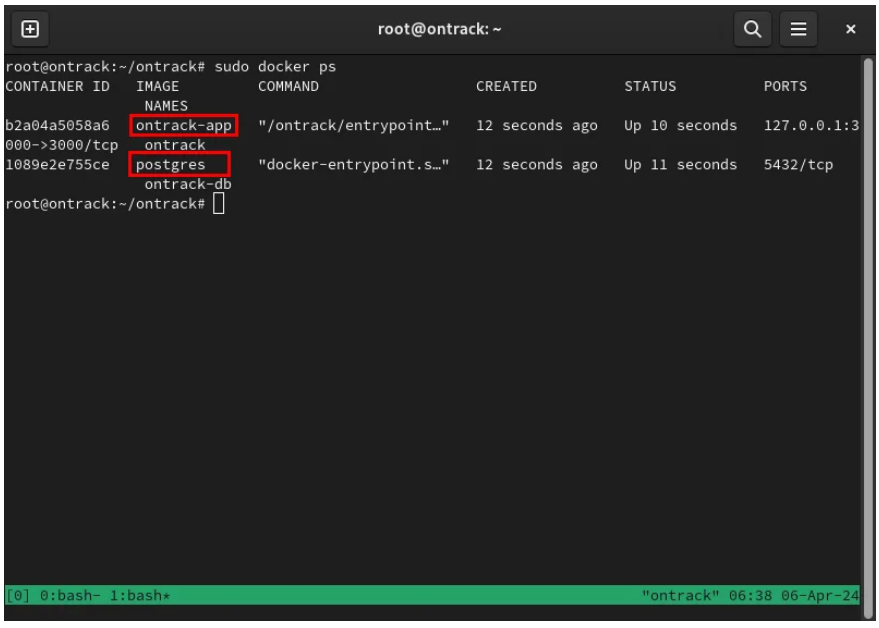
Save your instance configuration file, then run the following command to build both its Ontrack and Postgres databases:

```
sudo docker compose up --detach
```

Note : Ontrack Docker container building can take 5 to 10 minutes depending on your server resources. If your machine has less than 2GB RAM and no swap file, Docker will crash without reporting any errors on Terminal.

Confirm that Ontrack containers are running properly by listing all active Docker processes:

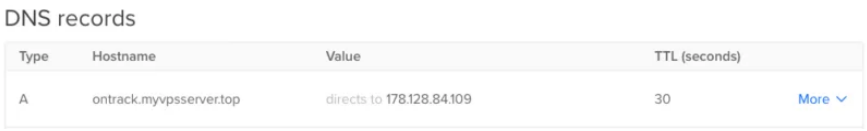
```
sudo docker ps
```



Create SSL Reverse Proxy with Caddy

At this point, you have Ontrack budgeting software running on port 3000 of your machine. To access this software securely, you need to create an SSL Reverse Proxy that encrypts the connection between you and your server.

Go to your domain's DNS manager, then add a new 'A' record for your Ontrack instance.



Backup the original Caddyfile, then create a new Caddyfile in '/etc/caddy/':

```
sudo mv /etc/caddy/Caddyfile ~/Caddyfile.backup sudo nano /etc/caddy/Caddyfile
```

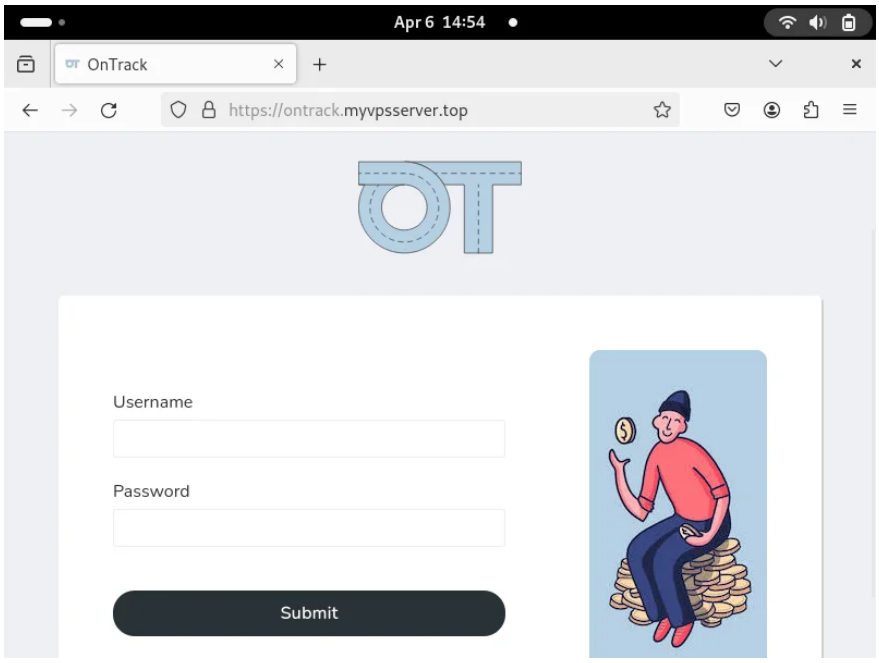
Paste the following block of code into your new Caddyfile:

```
SUBDOMAIN.YOUR-ROOT.DOMAIN { reverse_proxy :3000 }
```

Save your new Caddyfile, then start the Caddy daemon to run your new reverse proxy:

```
sudo systemctl enable --now caddy.service
```

Test if your SSL Reverse Proxy is working by navigating to your URL.



Use Ontrack and create a user account

Once Ontrack is up and running, you can now create your user account. To do this, return to the server's terminal window, then open the shell for the Ontrack container:

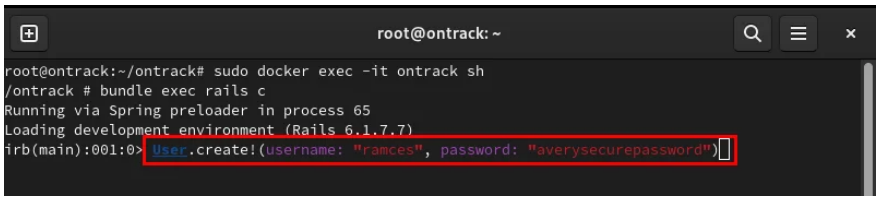
```
sudo docker exec -it ontrack sh
```

Open the database handler inside your Ontrack container:

```
bundle exec rails c
```

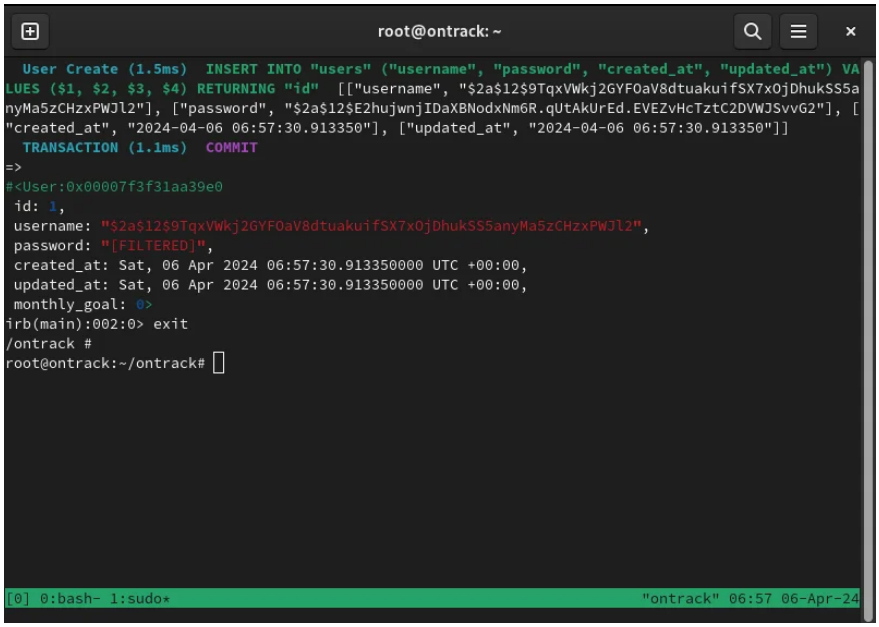
Create your new user account by running the following command:

```
User.create!(username: "YOUR-USERNAME", password: "YOUR-SECURE-PASSWORD")
```



Type '**exit**' , then press **Enter** to exit the database handler.

Press **Ctrl + D** to leave the Docker container's root shell.

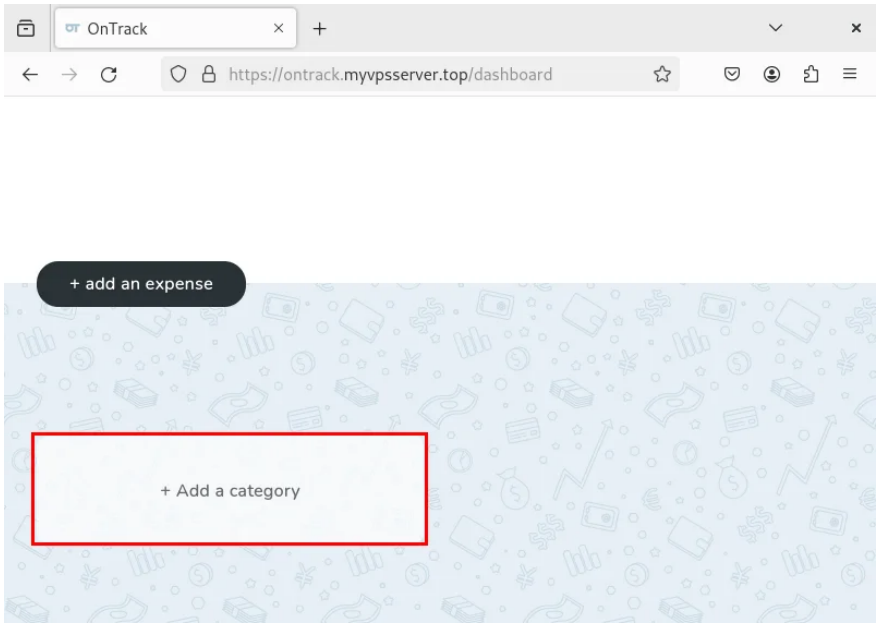


Test your new account by opening Ontrack in your web browser and logging in to your account.

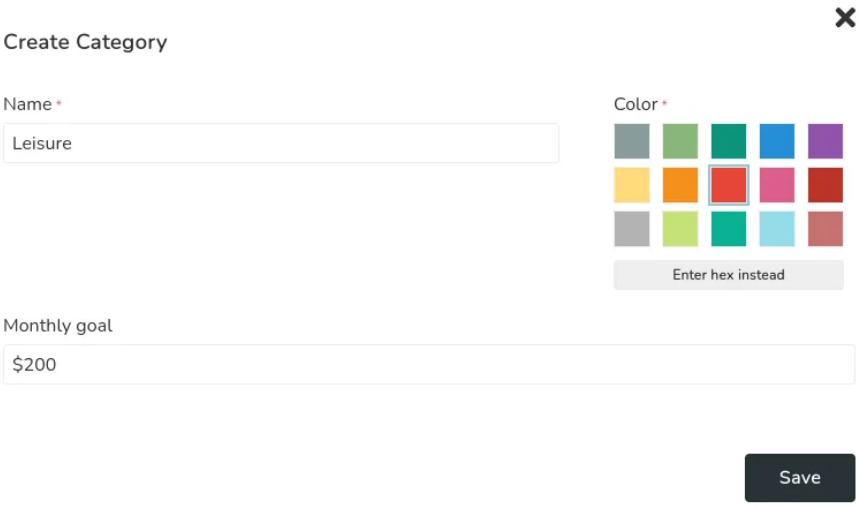
Create your first trade on Ontrack

To use Ontrack to record transactions, you need to create an expense category. This allows the web app to collate your expenses by group, making it easy to deduce insights into your spending habits.

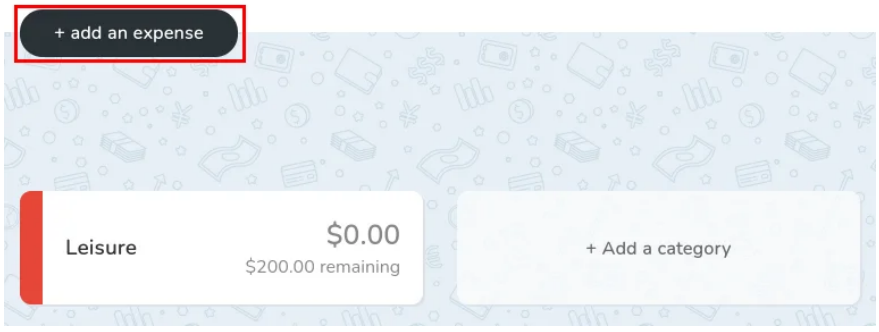
Scroll down to the Ontrack dashboard, then click **Add a category** .



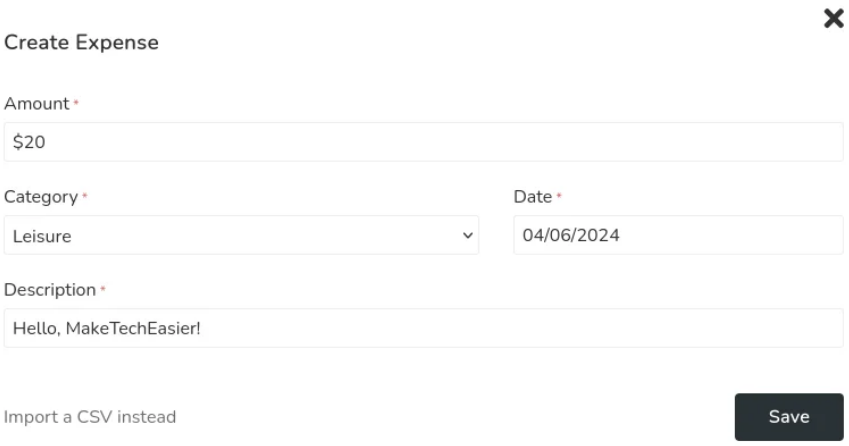
Provide the category name, tag color, and whether the category has spending limits.



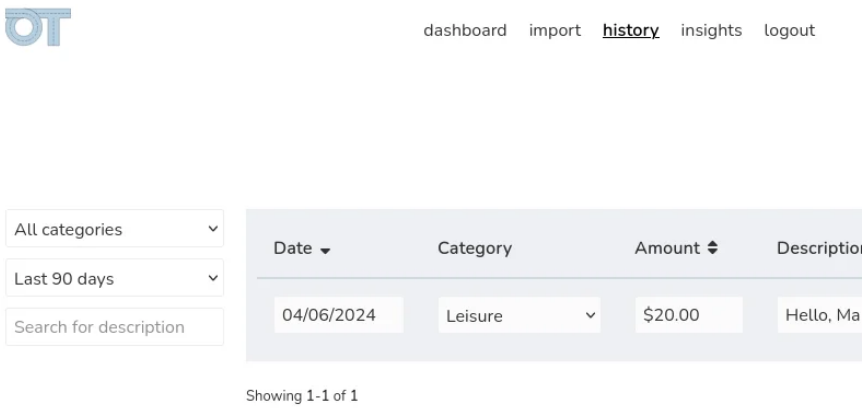
Click **Add an expense** on the Ontrack Dashboard.



Fill in your expense details, then click **Save** to transfer it to your Ontrack instance.



Finally, confirm that Ontrack successfully saved the transaction by checking your expense history. To do that, scroll up the page, then click **the History** link in the upper right corner of the page.



Installing and implementing your own expense tracking software is just the first step to taking back control of your online and digital life. Learn how you can ensure your privacy when sending emails by installing an alias server like SimpleLogin.

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