

Tutorial installing Booksonic server on Ubuntu 17:04

Booksonic is a server and an app for streaming your audiobooks to any pc or android phone. Most of the functionality is also available on other platforms that have apps for subsonic.

Homepage: <http://booksonic.org/>

Step 1. Install Tomcat

Install Tomcat and Java. Tomcat is the web server that runs the Booksonic application as a “webapp”. This runs on Java language.

```
sudo apt-get install default-jdk tomcat8 libservlet3.1-java tomcat8-admin
wget https://github.com/popeen/Popeens-Subsonic/releases/download/1.2/booksonic.war

sudo mkdir /var/booksonic
sudo chown tomcat8:tomcat8 /var/booksonic
cp booksonic.war /var/lib/tomcat8/webapps/
```

Tomcat management console

We can use the web manager console for Tomcat to start/stop the Booksonic application. Edit the user configuration file for this management interface.

```
sudo nano /etc/tomcat8/tomcat-users.xml
```

You need to add both the below listed “role” and “user” lines. Without comments, the file looks like this. Of course, substitute the “yourname” and “yoursecret” text.

```
<?xml version='1.0' encoding='utf-8'?>
<tomcat-users xmlns="http://tomcat.apache.org/xml"
               xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
               xsi:schemaLocation="http://tomcat.apache.org/xml
tomcat-users.xsd"
               version="1.0">
  <role rolename="manager-gui"/>
  <user username="yourname" password="yoursecret" roles="manager-gui"/>
</tomcat-users>
```

Restart tomcat

Restart the tomcat service:

```
service tomcat8 restart
```

By default tomcat runs on port 8080. Go to the web-manager page to check if tomcat is running and if the booksonic webapp was launched successfully.

<http://yourHOSTNAMEorIP:8080/manager/>

Upon restarting the tomcat service, the booksonic app should have been installed automatically. If this was successful, it should show as running.

Applications					
Path	Version	Display Name	Running	Sessions	Commands
/	None specified		true	0	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle ≥ 30 minutes
/booksonic	None specified	Subsonic Music Streamer	true	1	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle ≥ 30 minutes
/host-manager	None specified	Tomcat Host Manager Application	true	0	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle ≥ 30 minutes
/manager	None specified	Tomcat Manager Application	true	1	Start Stop Reload Undeploy Expire sessions with idle ≥ 30 minutes

If you don't want to use port 8080 you can forward it using iptables like this. Tomcat can't bind to port 80 without being run as root and that's really not a good idea

```
sudo iptables -A PREROUTING -t nat -p tcp --dport 80 -j REDIRECT --to-ports 8080
```

Debugging issues

If not running, you can try to restart. Very likely this will then give an error message. To debug what is preventing the booksonic webapp from running, check out this log file.

```
less /var/booksonic/booksonic.log
```

After resolving any issues (for example, this was the way I found out I had to create the /var/booksonic folder and give write access to the tomcat8 user), restart again and check if that resolved your issue.

First login via web

Now go to <http://yourHOSTNAMEorIP:8080/booksonic/> and follow the instructions shown:

1. Change admin password
2. Add media folder(s), scan the media
3. Add a new (non admin) user for yourself.

Note that you should make sure that the tomcat8 user has at least read access the media folder (and subfolders, files). I've added the user to the group that owned the files.

The android app

Lastly, buy the android app for your phone. For setting up connection to your server, use the same URL you used above, including the “/booksonic” part. If you are connecting from the internet to a home pc/server, you may need to configure your network router(s) with port forwarding.

If you have connection issues, as I did, debug them by looking at the log file mentioned above. Now that you have access to the web interface, you can also view this from the “About Booksonic” page. In my case, I found that the server was not accepting the username/password was using. (Not sure why, when I used a shorter password it worked).

Everything up and running? Enjoy!

Notes:

- For security reasons you may want to disable/remove the tomcat8-manager package after you successfully installed Booksonic.
- I've set this up within an [LXC container](#). So just in case you were wondering - yes that works. No special instructions for the LXC container required, if you already have that up and running.

Tutorial Todo:

- Figure out how to run booksonic on HTTPS. Comments/instructions welcome