

Linux Guide: 24/7 Headless VLC Stream

```
Shell
Type=simple
User=hallway-display
ExecStart=/usr/bin/vlc -I dummy --loop --repeat
"rtmp://192.168.112.33/live/SydjyHfHk1"
Restart=always
RestartSec=10

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

3. Installation & Activation Commands

Run these commands in order to activate the service:

Step	Command	Description
1	<code>sudo systemctl daemon-reload</code>	Refreshes systemd to recognize new changes.
2	<code>sudo systemctl enable vlc-stream.service</code>	Sets the stream to start automatically on boot.
3	<code>sudo systemctl start vlc-stream.service</code>	Starts the stream immediately.

4. Maintenance & Monitoring

Use these commands to manage the stream after installation:

- **Check if it's running:** `systemctl status vlc-stream.service`
- **Watch the logs (Troubleshooting):** `journalctl -u vlc-stream.service -f`

- **Stop the stream:** `sudo systemctl stop vlc-stream.service`
- **Manually restart:** `sudo systemctl restart v`
- **Project Name:** RTMP Stream Watchdog

System User: `hallway-display/narthex-display`

Target URL: `rtmp://192.168.112.33/live/SydjyHfHk1`

1. Prerequisites

Before setting up the automation, verify your system paths:

- **Check Username:** Run `whoami` (Ensure it matches the service file).
 - **Check VLC Path:** Run `which vlc` (Standard is `/usr/bin/vlc`).
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2. The Service Configuration

This configuration ensures the stream starts at boot and restarts automatically if it crashes or the network blips.

File Location: `/etc/systemd/system/vlc-stream.service`

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```
None
[Unit]
Description=VLC RTMP Stream Watchdog
After=network-online.target
Wants=network-online.target
```

```
[Service]
```

- `lc-stream.service`
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5. Troubleshooting Notes

- **"Failed at step USER":** Ensure the `User=` line in the service file matches your Linux username exactly.
 - **VLC and Root:** VLC will refuse to run if `User=root` is used. Always use a standard user account.
 - **Network Delays:** The `After=network-online.target` ensures VLC doesn't try to pull the stream before the internet is ready.
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