

IRC-SASL Connections

We've made a small change to make it possible for people to join the IRC network anonymously without anyone (even us!) knowing their true IP address or geographical location.

Why do this?

While many of our users fully embrace the lifestyle others are not so open and may fear reprisal from friends, family, colleagues or worse should their interested in this area be made public. By allowing users to access our services via anonymous proxies, individual anonymity can be preserved.

Don't you already hide our IP addresses?

While we do currently provide host masking to prevent non administrators from viewing your real IP address, this often results in macro level details still leaking, for example it is common to be able to determine country based on masked host. In addition this does not hide the fact you have visited us from our administrators, your internet service provider, or anyone else with the access/ability to snoop on your network activities.

So how do I use IRC anonymously?

In order to allow anonymity, yet still prevent spam and bots etc, we have restricted this to users who have a registered nick. If you are a new user and are unable to connect from a public place to register, then please email us. Once you have a registered nick, you next need to enable SASL authentication in your IRC client, once this is setup and working, you can connect to 217.182.73.194 using SSL, assuming you authenticate successfully with SASL, no proxy checks will be carried out allowing you to use anonymous proxies, including TOR.

What is SASL?

SASL is a Simple Authentication and Security Layer - essentially this allows us to identify you as a legitimate user and owner of a nick prior to allowing you to fully connect to the IRC network. As we are able to verify you are the correct owner of a nick prior to letting you onto the network, we no longer need to worry about your IP address as we can identify you to a sufficient level (you own the nick).

What is TOR?

TOR is a project dedicated to providing people with anonymity online. Tor enables its users to surf the Internet, chat and send instant messages anonymously, and is used by a wide variety of people for both licit and illicit purposes - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tor_\(anonymity_network\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tor_(anonymity_network))

How do I ban someone using this service if I can't use IP?

You can ban the same way as normal, if the user takes advantage of this functionality to evade the ban, you can have services ban the account with `/cs akick #channel add nick` - this will tell services to ban anyone from that account regardless of details like IP address. If this fails, come see us in `#help` - if people abuse this feature we can simply take it off them.

How do I setup SASL?

The easiest way is to follow guides made by others, such as this one from freenode <https://freenode.net/kb/answer/sasl> all files referenced are available here: <https://github.com/freenode/www/tree/master/sasl>

This is all very hard, how can I get some help?

As always, the lovely people of `#help` are available for general IRC assistance, if you have any further questions/suggestions relating to this, please feel free to get in touch with Rob (he'll likely be idling in `#help`!)