

# Set up Elasticsearch<sup>[edit](#)</sup>

This section includes information on how to setup Elasticsearch and get it running, including:

- Downloading
- Installing
- Starting
- Configuring

## Supported platforms<sup>[edit](#)</sup>

The matrix of officially supported operating systems and JVMs is available here: [Support Matrix](#). Elasticsearch is tested on the listed platforms, but it is possible that it will work on other platforms too.

## Java (JVM) Version<sup>[edit](#)</sup>

Elasticsearch is built using Java, and includes a bundled version of [OpenJDK](#) from the JDK maintainers (GPLv2+CE) within each distribution. The bundled JVM is the recommended JVM and is located within the `jdk` directory of the Elasticsearch home directory.

To use your own version of Java, set the `ES_JAVA_HOME` environment variable. If you must use a version of Java that is different from the bundled JVM, we recommend using a [supported LTS version of Java](#). Elasticsearch will refuse to start if a known-bad version of Java is used. The bundled JVM directory may be removed when using your own JVM.

## Use dedicated hosts<sup>[edit](#)</sup>

In production, we recommend you run Elasticsearch on a dedicated host or as a primary service. Several Elasticsearch features, such as automatic JVM heap sizing, assume it's the only resource-intensive application on the host or container. For example, you might run Metricbeat alongside Elasticsearch for cluster statistics, but a resource-heavy Logstash deployment should be on its own host.

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