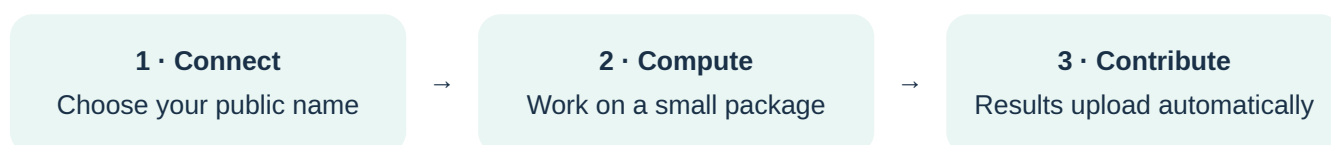


A little computing. A shared discovery.

Set up NQueensFAF, contribute to the N-Queens count, and try a small calculation of your own.

Help count the ways to place N queens on a chessboard without any attacking another. Your computer or phone works on a small part of the problem. Even **one thread** helps.



Choose your setup route

Your device	With an app window	With a terminal
Windows 10/11, x64	Windows GUI · page 2	PowerShell · page 4
Linux, x64	Debian 13 GUI · page 3	Linux CLI · page 5
Android 8.0+, ARM64	Android app · page 6	Use the app

GUI means buttons and windows. **CLI** means typed commands. The desktop app includes the solver, so you do not need both downloads.

You create your own account

Download the program, choose a public name when you connect, and start computing. **You do not need an invitation or an administrator to create your account.**

An administrator activates the account later. Saved results are then checked and included in the official totals if accepted. See [page 7](#).

Need help? Email nqueens.distributed@poeschl.io with your device and operating system.

Choose Contribute to help the campaign

Contribute helps the shared campaign over the internet. The server chooses N and sends work automatically. **Local** counts an entire board on your own device; those results are not uploaded to the campaign.

Coordinator address: <https://faffer.olepoeschl.com>

Your account and device names will appear on the website. Email is optional and private.

Guide checked 12 September 2026 · Desktop 1.3.0 · Native CLI 1.3 · Android 1.4.0.

The app and project are called NQueensFAF.

Install, connect, and start

For Windows 10/11 on an x64 PC.

1 Download and extract the whole ZIP

Get [NQueensFAF Desktop 1.3.0 for Windows](#). In File Explorer, right-click the ZIP → **Extract All**. Open the extracted folder and double-click `faffer-desktop.exe`.

2 Open Contribute and connect

Click the **Contribute** tab near the top of the window. Under **Connect this computer**, choose **Create account** and enter a public account name. Device name and email are optional. Click **Connect account**.

Already have an account? Choose **Link existing account** and paste its private key. No account name is needed. See [page 7](#).

3 Begin with one thread

Set **Thread count** to **1**, then click **Start / continue contributing**. The program may first measure your computer's speed. After that, it computes and uploads work automatically.

Connect this computer · example

Coordinator

`https://faffer.olepoeschl.com`

Account name

YourName

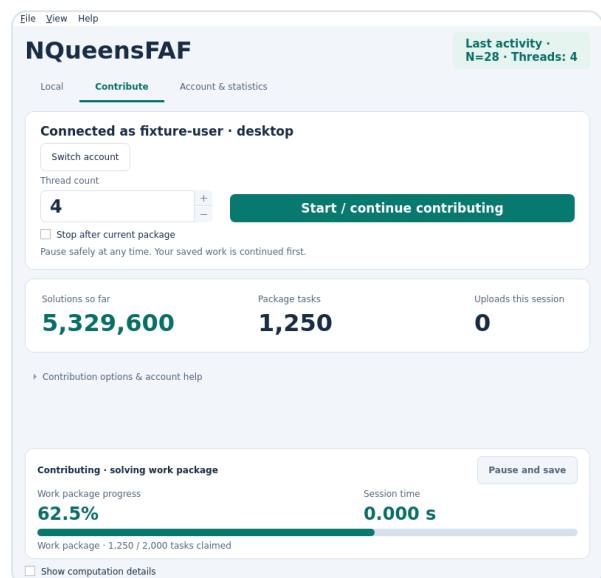
Device name

My laptop

Email (optional)

`you@example.org`

Choose your own public name. Email is optional and private.



Actual desktop interface with test data. The same controls are used on Windows and Linux.

Pause and come back

Click **Pause and save** and wait for it to finish. Next time, use **Start / continue contributing**. You can change the thread count while paused. Check **Stop after current package** to finish and upload before stopping; it is off by default.

Try a local count

Pause contribution. Open **Local**, set N to **14**, choose **Exact count** and 1 thread, then **Start new run**. Expect **365,596 solutions**.

Check your first upload: open **Account & statistics** or the website. Uploads marked “pending activation” are saved. Contact us to activate the account; you do not need to repeat the work.

Use the desktop app

The ready-made GUI package is for Debian 13, x64.

1 Download the Debian package

Get [NQueensFAF Desktop 1.3.0 for Debian 13](#). Open a terminal in the folder where you saved it. Install with:

```
sudo apt install ./faffer-desktop_1.3.0_debian13_amd64.deb
```

When installation finishes, open **NQueensFAF** from your application menu. Using another Linux distribution? Ask us for help or follow [page 5](#).

2 Connect to the campaign

Click **Contribute** near the top of the window. Choose **Link existing account** and paste your private account key. The coordinator and device fields are already filled in; no account name is needed.

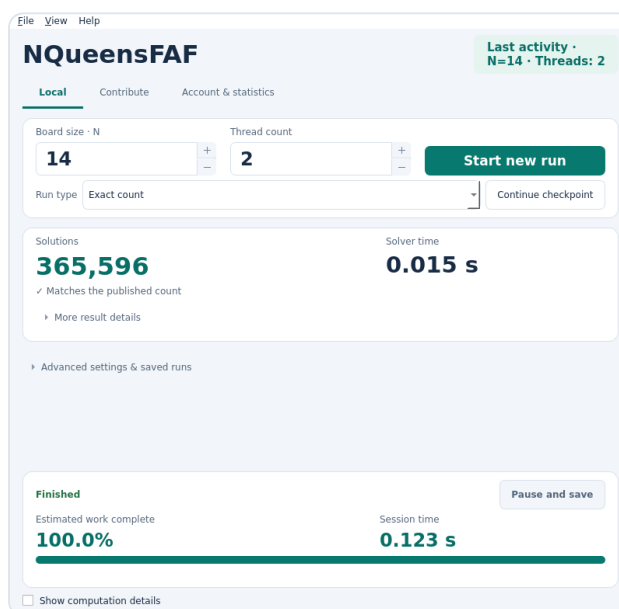
For your first account, choose **Create account**, enter a public name, and click **Connect account**. Email is optional. See [page 7](#) for switching accounts.

3 Start and pause

Choose **1** thread → **Start / continue contributing**. To stop, click **Pause and save** and wait. The same Start button resumes saved packages next time. The contribution controls are pictured on page 2.

4 Explore a small local problem

Pause contribution first. Open **Local**, choose **N = 14**, **Exact count**, and **1** thread. Click **Start new run**. The expected result is **365,596 total** and **45,752 unique** solutions.



A completed N=14 local run. Your timing will depend on your computer.

Continue a local calculation later: click **Pause and save** and wait. When you return, open **Local** → **Continue checkpoint**. A checkpoint is simply your saved calculation.

Use either the app or a terminal to contribute on this computer; do not run both at once.

Contribute from PowerShell

Copy commands as shown. Replace YourName with your chosen name.

1 Download, extract, and open PowerShell

Get the [Native 1.3 Windows x64 ZIP](#) (the version without “v3”). Use **Extract All**. Open the folder containing `faffer.exe`, click File Explorer’s address bar, type `powershell`, and press Enter.

2 Create your account

Choose a public name and replace YourName below. Copy the full command into PowerShell and press Enter:

```
.\faffer.exe client configure `
--server https://faffer.olepoeschl.com `
--account "YourName" --label "My Windows PC"
```

Keep the backticks at the ends of the first two lines. Already have an account? Follow [page 7](#) before running this command.

To add an optional, private contact email:

```
.\faffer.exe client account --email "you@example.org"
```

3 Start contributing

```
.\faffer.exe client run -t 1
```

Leave PowerShell open while it works. `-t 1` uses one worker thread. The program handles downloads and uploads for you. To finish and upload one package, add `--stop-after-current-package`.

4 Pause and resume

Press **Ctrl+C** **once** and wait for saving to finish. To resume, open PowerShell in the same folder and repeat step 3. Do not register again.

Check your participation

```
.\faffer.exe client status
.\faffer.exe client account
.\faffer.exe client progress
```

Local saved work · activation status · campaign progress.

Try a local count

```
.\faffer.exe 14 -t 1
```

Expected: **365,596 total**, **45,752 unique**. This calculation does not upload campaign work.

Save a longer local calculation

```
.\faffer.exe 18 -t 1 --checkpoint=practice.faffer
# After Ctrl+C has finished saving:
.\faffer.exe resume practice.faffer -t 1
```

Your work is saved automatically. Keep the NQueensFAF data folder at `%LOCALAPPDATA%\faffer`. To use another computer, link it to your account using [page 7](#); do not copy this folder.

Contribute from a terminal

For Linux x64. Download, unpack, and run.

1 Download and unpack

Get the [Native 1.3 Linux x64 archive](#) (without “v3”). Open a terminal in the download folder, then run:

```
tar -xzf faffer-native-1.3-linux-x86-64.tar.gz
cd faffer-native-1.3-linux-x86-64
```

Keep this terminal open for the next steps. If a command fails, see [page 7](#).

2 Create your account

Replace YourName with a public name of your choice. Copy the full command and press Enter:

```
./faffer client configure \
--server https://faffer.olepoeschl.com \
--account "YourName" --label "My Linux PC"
```

Keep the backslashes at the ends of the first two lines. Already have an account? Follow [page 7](#) before running this command.

To add an optional, private contact email:

```
./faffer client account --email "you@example.org"
```

3 Start, pause, and continue

```
./faffer client run -t 1
```

Keep the terminal open while it works. `-t 1` uses one worker thread. Press **Ctrl+C once** to stop and save; wait until you can type again. To resume later, open a terminal in the extracted folder and repeat this command. Add `--stop-after-current-package` to finish and upload one package, then stop.

Check your participation

```
./faffer client status
./faffer client account
./faffer client progress
```

Saved packages, account activation, and campaign progress.

Try a local count

```
./faffer 14 -t 1
```

Expected: **365,596 total, 45,752 unique**. No account or internet is needed for this local test.

Save and resume a longer local calculation

```
./faffer 18 -t 1 --checkpoint=practice.faffer
# After Ctrl+C has finished saving:
./faffer resume practice.faffer -t 1
```

Your work is saved automatically. Keep the NQueensFAF data folder, usually `~/ .local/state/faffer`. To add another computer, follow [page 7](#); do not copy this folder.

Let your phone help

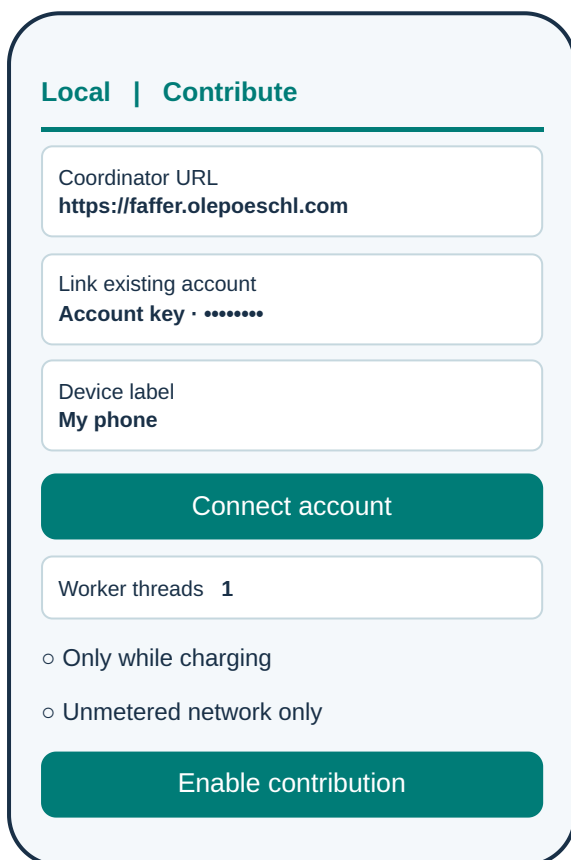
Android 8.0 or newer, with an ARM64 processor.

1 Install NQueensFAF

Tap the [Android download](#) on your phone. Open the downloaded **.apk** file in Downloads or Files. If Android asks, allow Files or your browser to install apps, then tap **Install**. Afterwards, open **NQueensFAF**.

2 Open Contribute and connect

Choose **Link existing account**, paste the private key copied from a connected device, and tap **Connect account**. No account name is needed. For your first account, choose **Create account** and a public name. Email is optional. See [page 7](#).



The image shows a mockup of the NQueensFAF app interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Local' and 'Contribute', with 'Contribute' being the active tab. Below the tabs, there are several input fields and buttons. The first field is 'Coordinator URL' with the value 'https://faffer.olepoeschl.com'. The second field is 'Link existing account' with the value 'Account key ·'. The third field is 'Device label' with the value 'My phone'. Below these fields is a large green button labeled 'Connect account'. Underneath the button is a field for 'Worker threads' with the value '1'. Below this field are two radio button options: 'Only while charging' and 'Unmetered network only'. At the bottom of the form is another large green button labeled 'Enable contribution'.

Illustrated control map. Registration and running controls appear at different stages; this is not a screenshot.

3 Choose comfortable settings

Set **Worker threads** to **1**. **Only while charging** and **Unmetered network only** are optional and off by default. Existing saved choices stay unchanged after an upgrade.

4 Start, then check status

Tap **Enable contribution** and allow notifications when asked. Progress appears in the app and its notification. If it says “waiting”, check the network and any requirements you enabled.

5 Pause and resume

Tap **Pause contribution** in the app, or **Pause** in the notification, and wait. Tap **Enable contribution** when you want to continue. Check **Stop after current package** to finish and upload before stopping. It defaults to off and resets after the upload.

Try Local mode: pause contribution, select **Local**, enter $N = 14$ and 1 thread, then **Start**. Expect **365,596 solutions**. Local calculations on Android cannot be saved for later; stopping starts over next time.

If your phone gets too warm, pause or use fewer threads. If the app will not install, send us your phone model and Android version.

Know that it is working

You create your account when you first connect. You can start computing straight away. The program solves a package and uploads it automatically.

Get your results included in the count

Before activation, uploads are saved but not yet included in the official totals. Email us your public account name to request activation. We activate the account or send you an activation code. Your saved results are then checked; you do not need to compute them again.

If we send a code: on desktop, open **Contribute** → **Contribution options & account help** → **Activate account**. On Android, open **Contribute** → **Activation & account options**, enter the code, and tap **Activate account**. In a terminal:

```
./faffer client activate --activation-code CODE
```

On Windows, replace `./faffer` with `.\faffer.exe`. Activation covers linked devices and checks earlier uploads automatically.

Add another device to your account

1. On a connected device, choose **Copy account key** in account options. CLI: `./faffer client account-key`.
2. Choose **Link existing account** on the other device, paste the key, and connect. No account name is needed. CLI: `./faffer client link --account-key-stdin`, then paste the key and press Enter.
3. To switch accounts, pause and wait for saving, choose **Switch account**, and paste the other key. Your current package uploads under the old account; new packages use the new one. Returning reuses the saved device identity.

Keep the key private. No new data folder is needed. A reinstall creates a new installation; ask us to group confirmed historical registrations without losing their work.

If something gets in the way

What you see	What to do
No campaign / no work	Check the website or ask us when work opens. The CLI exits; run it again later. Do not register again.
Unapproved build	Send us the message and your app version. For CLI, include the output of <code>build-info</code> .
Network error	Reconnect and start/continue again. Saved work is retained; retrying a completed upload is safe.
Slow pause / slow progress	Some tasks take longer. Wait for the program to finish saving before closing it.

Need a hand? nqueens.distributed@poeschl.io

Tell us your public account name, device and operating system, and what happened. Include the exact message or a screenshot. Keep account keys and private files out of screenshots and emails.

Official references: [Participation](#) · [Desktop](#) · [Android](#) · [Downloads & verification](#).