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n8n webhooks: test URL, production URL, and why they do not fire

n8n Workflows

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n8n Workflows Created on **October 10, 2026** 3 min read



An n8n Webhook node has **two addresses**: a test one and a production one. The test address answers only while the editor is listening for it; the production address answers only when the workflow is **active**. Using one in place of the other is the commonest cause of “my webhook does not fire”.

The two addresses

	Test address	Production address
When it answers	Only while the node is listening in the editor, for one request.	Whenever the workflow is active.
What you get	The data arrives in the editor so you can see and map it.	Each request lands in the executions list.
How to spot it	A path containing `webhook-test`.	A path containing `webhook`, without the “test”.
Where to use it	Only while you design the workflow.	In outside services, for good.

If you are not sure what a webhook is yet, start with **what a webhook is and how to test one with curl**.

When the webhook does not fire

1. **Check which address you are using.** If you pasted the test one into an outside service, it stops answering as soon as the editor stops listening. Copy the production one.

2 **Activate the workflow.** An inactive workflow does not answer on the production address. The name of the button can change between n8n versions: check the official documentation.

3 **Check the method.** The Webhook node accepts one HTTP method at a time (GET or POST, for instance). If the service sends POST and the node expects GET, the request is refused.

4 **Make the request yourself, with curl,** before blaming the other service. If yours works and theirs does not, the fault is in their service or settings. If yours fails too, the problem is n8n or the network.

5 **Look at the executions list.** If the request arrived, it shows up there, even if the workflow then failed. If it is not there, the request never reached n8n.

6 **Confirm the public address.** With a wrong `WEBHOOK_URL`, n8n shows an address no outside service can reach. See **n8n behind HTTPS on your own domain**.

What curl tells you

Reply	Means	What to do
200	n8n received it and answered.	Look at the execution; if the workflow failed, the fault is inside it.
404	The address does not exist: workflow inactive, node not listening, or wrong path.	Activate the workflow or put the node on listen; check the path.
405	The method is not the one the node expects.	Change the method in the node or in the service.
401 or 403	Authentication is required, or the proxy or firewall blocks it.	Check the node authentication and the proxy rules.
502 or 504	The proxy cannot reach n8n, or n8n took too long.	Check the container is running and whether the workflow is slow.
No reply	The address, the port or the firewall.	See **ports and firewall on a VPS**.

! **The caller is not patient.**
Many services give up if the reply is slow, and try again. If the workflow is long, answer the request at once and carry on afterwards, instead of making the service wait. And build the workflow so that receiving the same request twice does not create two orders.

Design with the test address, hand over the production one,
and write down which one you gave to each service. When the domain changes, that list tells you where to update.

NEED A HAND?

Request failing because of the VPS (the machine does not answer, the network)? Open a ticket and tell us what curl returns.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- What a webhook is, and how to test one with curl →
- n8n behind HTTPS on your own domain →
- Securing n8n: access, credentials and exposed webhooks →

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