Get Backup
Version 3.7.1

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Brief Description

The Get Backup application allows you to back up files and folders in the original or compressed format, and then restore them back. Use of the program does not require special computer skills.

You can run tasks manually or automatically according to the schedule.

In addition to the backup functionality, the program allows you to synchronize the content of duplicate folders keeping the most recent versions of files. Also you can create a bootable clone of a volume of a local or external drive.

System Requirements

The program requires macOS 10.10 or higher.

Why the Creation of Data Backups is Important

A backup is an additional copy of computer data that can be used to restore the original after a data loss. The data loss can be caused by a computer malfunction, natural disaster, user's mistake or other causes. You never know beforehand when this may happen. To protect your data, you should create backup copies of your files.

Which files are worth backing up? Think about the documents that you have created. Probably the only copy in the world is on your hard drive. Such a document is a candidate for inclusion in a backup. It is advisable to create a backup copy of your mail. You can also save the information related to your user account (in case you have to reinstall the operating system).

You shouldn't backup programs, clip arts and other computer data if you have it on installation discs. Also there is not much sense in backing up relatively small files or installation packages if they are available for free on the Internet.

Note that if you backup confidential information, you should make sure you keep the backup archives in a safe place.

Different Approaches to Backups

Get Backup consists of several tools which let you back up your files in different ways. You can create a backup, archived backup, clone a hard disk or sync the content of a pair of folders.

A backup is a way to place copies of files in another location preserving the original formats of these files. This is useful if you need to quickly access individual files in the backup. What is more, you can do this in Finder without using Get Backup. Encrypted backups are possible if you choose a disk image as the backup destination.

An archived backup stores files inside an archive. You can choose to compress the archive, thus potentially saving disk space. Such archives let you use some additional features such as encryption or making incremental backups.

Disk cloning is a special type of backup. It creates copies of your files in the original format. The main purpose of disk cloning is to duplicate your entire volume including the system files. As a result, you can boot your computer from the duplicate drive if it was your working drive. Cloning takes much longer than backing up only the user files. For this reason, cloning is usually combined with more frequent backups of files you modify regularly.

Synchronization is used to ensure that the contents of two folders are identical. Synchronization can also be used to create copies of your files in a second location and keep them up-to-date. As synchronization updates only files that have been changed, it is faster than copying all files every time.

There is a significant difference between the two types of backup on the one hand, and synchronization and disk cloning on the other. The first two tools can save versions of your files. This means that if you have set up daily backups, today's backup can be stored along with yesterday's and earlier ones. Thus, you can retrieve not only the most recent but also earlier copies of your document. Cloning and synchronization are designed to keep only the most recent versions of files.

Updating the Program

To have the most recent version of the program, you just need to install updates as soon as they are released. Before launching the update installer, make sure that the application and supporting files are at the default locations. Usually they are if you have followed the installation procedure and didn't change paths or transfer files manually. For default file locations, see in the *Uninstalling* section.

You can set up to check for updates automatically in the program Preferences.

To check for the latest update manually, use the **Get Backup Pro 3 > Check for Updates** command in the main menu. Also, you can visit the Get Backup Downloads page:
https://www.belightsoft.com/products/getbackup/downloads.php

If you are going to install a major update, for instance, update version 3 to version 4, it is recommended that you deactivate the schedule agent in the Preferences before updating.

Uninstalling the Program

Before uninstalling the program, you should deactivate the schedule agent and menu icon in the Preferences dialog. To do this, launch the Get Backup application. Choose **Get Backup Pro 3 > Preferences** in the menu. Deselect the **Use schedule agent** and **Show icon in the menu bar** checkboxes, and click **OK**. Quit the program.

To uninstall Get Backup downloaded from the developer's site, delete the following files and folders:
/Applications/Get Backup Pro 3.app
~/Library/Preferences/com.belightsoft.GetBackupPro3.plist
~/Library/Application Support/GBP3Launcher
~/Library/Preferences/com.belightsoft.GBP3Launcher.plist
~/Library/Application Support/Get Backup 3

IMPORTANT:
Folders marked with bold font contain auxiliary files with project settings and some other details. Do not delete these folders to be able to use Get Backup for restoring. Without having the project settings, it is still possible to extract files from your backups manually.

"~" means user's *Home* folder.

To access any path listed above, copy it. In Finder, choose **Go > Go to Folder** (**Cmd-Shift-G**). Then paste the path into the edit box, and click the **Go** button.

Licensing

You can find your license code in the purchase confirmation email.

To enter the license code:

1. Open the application.
2. Bring up the *License* dialog by choosing **Get Backup 3 > Pro Registration…** in the menu.
3. Enter your name and license code.

It is recommended that you keep the email containing your license code in a safe place in case you re-install or update the application.

The unlicensed version of Get Backup is fully operational with a limited trial period.

To get a license code, you need to purchase and enter the license code. See details on BeLight's website: https://www.belightsoft.com/store/

Technical Support

The developer of Get Backup offers free technical support.

By email:
support@belightsoft.com

Technical support form on BeLight's website:
https://www.belightsoft.com/support/

When reporting a problem, please make sure to specify:

- The version of Get Backup you are using.
- The version of macOS installed on your computer.
- Your previous actions that could have led to the problem.
- If the problem persists, describe how to reproduce it.
- When necessary, illustrate your report with screenshots (press **Cmd-Shift-3** to save a screenshot on your Desktop).

Useful Web Resources

BeLight Software home page:
https://www.belightsoft.com/

Get Backup home page:
https://www.belightsoft.com/products/getbackup/

BeLight Software buy page:
https://www.belightsoft.com/store/

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- We also use personal information to help us create, develop, operate, deliver and improve upon our products, services, content and advertising, as well as for loss prevention purposes.
- We may use your personal information to verify identity, assist with identification of users and determine appropriate services.
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Vimeo is used for video content playback:
https://vimeo.com/privacy

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https://fastspring.com/privacy/

Others

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BeLight Software will retain your personal information for the period necessary to fulfill the purposes outlined in this Privacy Statement unless a longer retention period is required or permitted by law.

Access to Personal Information

Access, correction or deletion requests can be made via email at:
sales@belightsoft.com

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If we learn that we have collected the personal information of a child under 13, or equivalent minimum age depending on jurisdiction, we will take steps to delete the information as soon as possible.

Parents can contact us via email at:
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To ensure that your personal information is secure, we communicate our privacy and security guidelines to BeLight Software employees and strictly enforce privacy safeguards within the company.

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns about the BeLight Software Privacy Statement or data processing, or if you would like to make a complaint about a possible breach of local privacy laws, please contact us at: sales@belightsoft.com

BeLight Software may update its Privacy Statement from time to time. When we change the policy in a material way, a notice will be posted on our website along with the updated Privacy Statement.

The Main Window

The main window provides tools for:

- Creation of backups
- Creation of archived backups
- Cloning disks
- Synchronization

We use the term "project" to refer tasks that can be set up and performed individually such as backing up some files or cloning a drive.
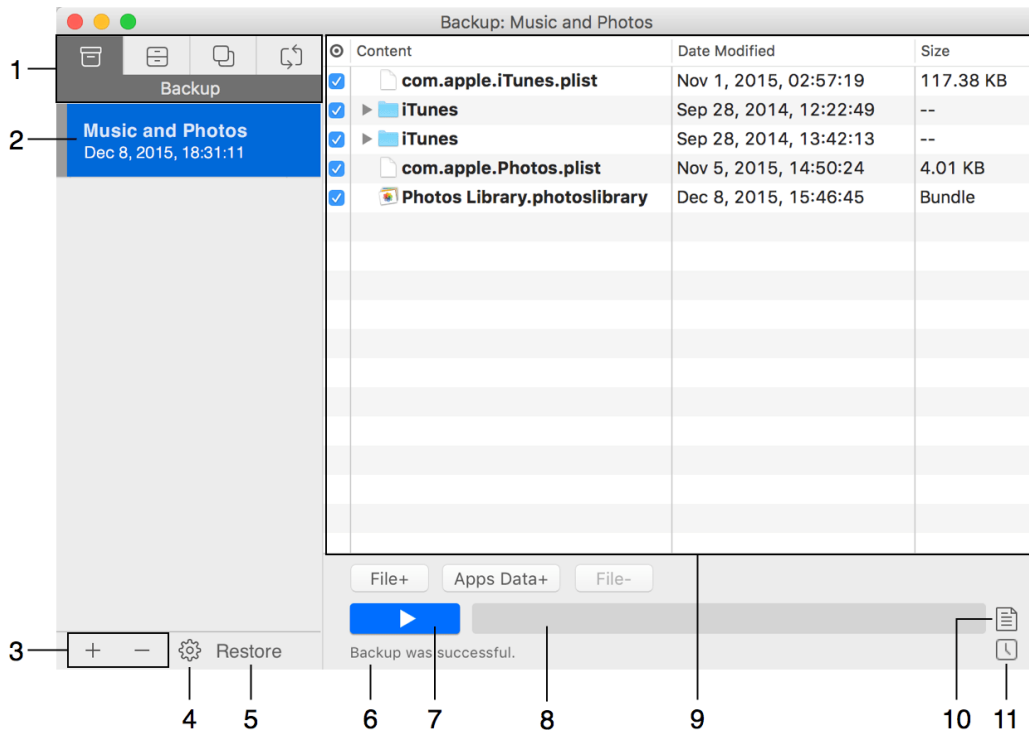
1 – Choose here the project type: backup, archived backup, disk clone or synchronization.

2 – A list of projects.

3 – Buttons to add or delete projects.

4 – Settings of the current project. The current project is highlighted in the list, and its content is displayed in the main part of the window.

5 – An option to restore files from the selected backup. Only backup and archived backup projects have this button.

6 – The status line. It indicates the state of the program and details about the currently running task.

7 – The **Run** button. It starts the task related to the selected project (e.g. starts backing up files).

8 – The progress bar.

9 – The middle of the main window displays files and folders of the current project.

10 – This button opens the Log Window.

11 – The Suspend Scheduler button lets you turn off the scheduler for some time.

If the program was started automatically by a schedule, the main window will be minimized. After completing the scheduled tasks, the program will quit.

All types of projects support duplication. You can choose this option from the context menu by right-clicking on a project, or by selecting **Process > Duplicate**. This might be useful if you need to backup or sync the same set of files to different destinations (e.g. alternate backup disks on even and odd weekdays). Notice that the schedule of the duplicate will be set to the same time but not activated by default.

The Preferences Dialog
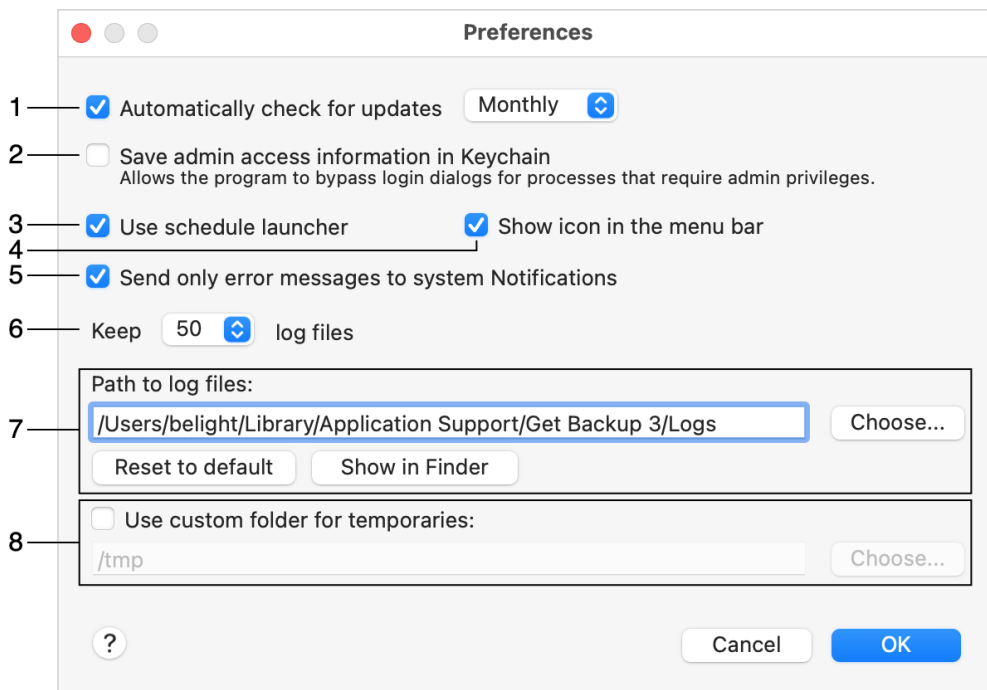
1 - Automatically check for updates lets you specify how frequently the program checks for updates.

2 - The option to store the administrator's password in the Keychain. Once you activate this option, be ready to input the user name and password. To remove the password from the Keychain, deactivate this option.

3 - Automatically start up Get Backup to perform scheduled tasks.

4 - Show the program icon in the menu bar.

The icon indicates whether the scheduler is in the regular mode or suspended. It also gives you options to suspend or resume the scheduler, and to bring up the main window of the program or its *Preferences*.

5 - Send only error messages to the system Notifications. This option doesn't affect the log which always receives all messages.

6 - Limit the number of the most recent log files stored on your computer.

7 - Determine where log files should be saved. You can specify a new location for log files or open their location in Finder.

8 - Choose a folder for temporary files. Normally, the system folder is used. Using a custom folder may be helpful when:

- There is not enough space on the system volume.
- While creating a multi-volume archive (with archive size limit option), the whole path to a temporary file is limited by 80 characters. If the program runs out of characters, you can change the location of temporary files. Choose a temporary folder that is as close to the root point of the file system as possible. So, a short path like "/Volume2/" is better than a long one "/Volume2/Users/Bobby/Documents/Backups/Temporary/".

Get Backup Menus

The "Get Backup" Menu

About Get Backup	Display information about the program.
Pro Registration…	Open the registration dialog box.
Check for Updates	Check for the latest update on the Internet.
Preferences (Cmd-",")	Bring up the program preferences dialog.
Quit Get Backup (Cmd-Q)	Quit the application.

The "Edit" Menu

Cut (Cmd-X)	Cut selected text.
Copy (Cmd-C)	Copy selected text into the Clipboard.
Paste (Cmd-V)	Paste text from the Clipboard.
Select All (Cmd-A)	Select all text or select all the items in the file list.

The "Process" Menu: Backup project

Start Backup	Run the current backup project.
New	Create a new backup project.
Duplicate	Duplicate the current project.
Remove Project…	Remove the current backup project.
Restore…	Restore files and folders from the current backup.
Restore from…	Restore files and folders from a backup which is not listed in the program. You should specify the location of this backup.
Project Properties…	Open the properties of the current backup project.
Add File…	Add a file or folder to the current backup project.
Remove File	Remove a selected file or folder from the current backup project.
Show in Finder	Open a folder containing a selected file or folder in Finder.
Suspend Scheduler…	Stop the scheduler for a specified period of time.
Create Disk Image…	Open the dialog where you can create a disk image.

The "Process" Menu: Archive project

Start Backup	Run the current backup project.
New	Create a new backup project.
Open…	Open a backup project saved in the past.
Duplicate	Duplicate the current project.
Save Project…	Save the current backup project.
Remove Project…	Remove the current backup project.
Restore…	Restore files and folders from the current backup.
Project Properties…	Open the properties of the current backup project.
Add File…	Add a file or folder to the current backup project.
Remove File	Remove a selected file or folder from the current backup project.
Show in Finder	Open a folder containing a selected file or folder in Finder.
Review Content…	Open a detailed list of the files and folders in the backup project.
Suspend Scheduler…	Stop the scheduler for a specified period of time.
Create Disk Image…	Open the dialog where you can create a disk image.

The "Process" Menu: Clone project

Start Cloning	Start cloning the selected disk volume.
Start Clean Cloning	Start the replication of the disk volume group with help of the Apple Software Restore utility.
New	Create a new disk cloning project.
Duplicate	Duplicate the current project.
Remove Project…	Remove the current project.
Project Properties…	Open the properties of the current backup project.
Suspend Scheduler…	Stop the scheduler for a specified period of time.
Create Disk Image…	Open the dialog where you can create a disk image.

The "Synchronize" Menu

Start Synchronization	Synchronize the two selected folders.
New	Create a new synchronization project.
Duplicate	Duplicate the current project.
Remove Project…	Remove the current project.
Analyze	Compare the two selected folders.
Project Properties…	Open the properties of the current backup project.
Choose Left Target…	Choose a folder to synchronize its content with another folder.
Choose Right Target…	Choose a folder to synchronize its content with another folder.
Suspend Scheduler…	Stop the scheduler for a specified period of time.
Create Disk Image…	Open the dialog where you can create a disk image.

The "Window" Menu

Zoom	Fit the program window to the screen size.
Minimize (Cmd-M)	Minimize the currently active window.
Close (Cmd-W)	Close the active window.
Enter Full Screen (Cmd-F)	Fit the program window to the screen size.
Backup View (Cmd-1)	Open the backup tool.
Archive View (Cmd-2)	Open the archived backup tool.
Clone View (Cmd-3)	Open the disk cloning tool.
Synchronize View (Cmd-4)	Open the synchronization tool.
Show Log (Cmd-L)	Open or close the log window.
Clear Log	Remove records from the log window.

The "Help" Menu

Get Backup Help	Open Get Backup documentation.
BeLight Software Web Site…	Open developer's website.
Send Feedback…	Send feedback to the developers by email.
Online Registration…	Open the on-line registration form.

The Log

Get Backup displays information about its progress in the *Log Window*. Unlike the status line, which indicates only the current state, the *Log Window* lists a history of records related to the current and previous sessions. In case of an error, you can scroll back to see what has been done and which operation has failed. If the program is set up to run your tasks automatically, the *Log Window* gives you a convenient way to find out if the recent tasks were completed successfully.

To open the *Log Window*, click on the **Show Log Window** in the main window, or select **Window > Show Log** in the main menu.

The program also saves logs on your local drive. Log files are even more detailed than logs in the *Log Window*. Every time you open the program, it creates a new log file. The latter contains progress and diagnostic messages.

To access log files, click the **Log History** button in the *Log Window*.

In the The Preferences Dialog, you can choose a new folder to save logs, and limit the number of old logs to be stored.

The program stores logs in the ZIP format. If you wish to read a log, double-click on the file to extract a text file from it.

The Backup Workspace

To open the backup tools, click the first button in the main window or press **Cmd-1**.
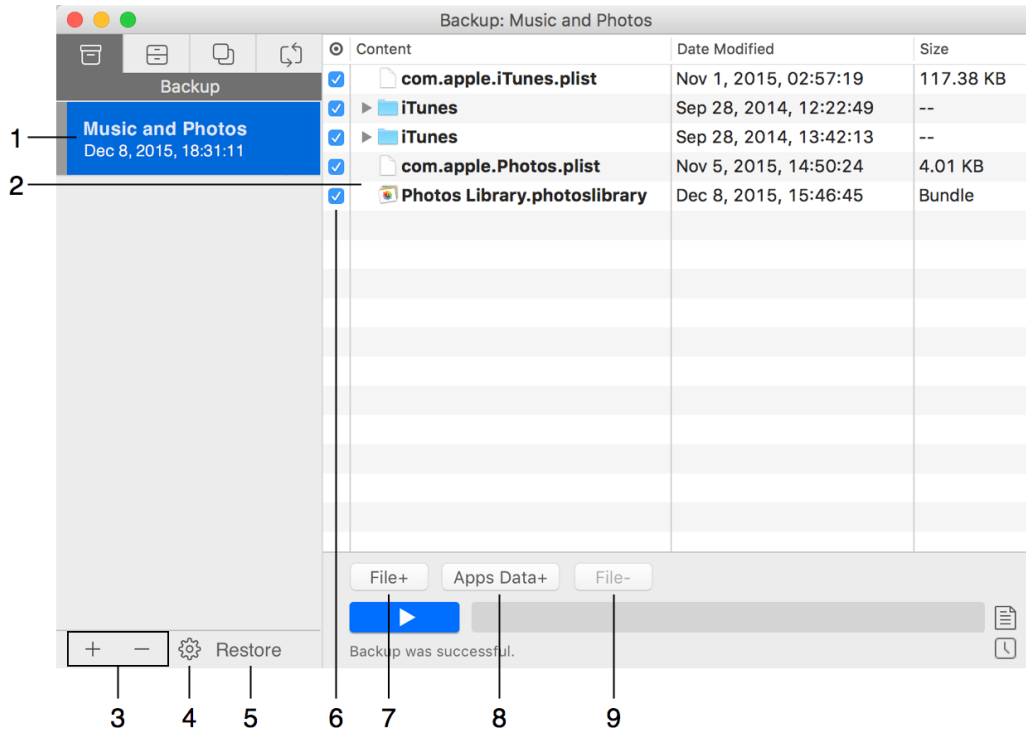
1 – List of backup projects. Along with the project name, there is the date and time of the most recent backup.

2 – List of files and folders included in the current project.

3 – Add or delete projects.

4 – Project properties.

5 – Open the Restore dialog to restore files from the backup.

6 – An option to exclude items from new backups without deleting them from the backup project. If you exclude a folder, all its content will be excluded too.

7 – Add a file or folder to the project.

8 – Add files to the project from a predesigned list. Each item in the list corresponds to user data such as contacts or a photo library.

9 – Remove a file or folder from the project. This button will actually delete top level items from the list, but it will exclude a subfolder or file inside a folder.

Creating Backups

To work with backups, make sure that the backup tool is activated. Choose **Window > Backup View** or press **Cmd-1**.

The APFS and Mac OS Extended file systems on the local destination drive lets you use its space more efficiently by creating incremental backups. If the local destination disk has a different file system, or if you want to save backups on a remote disk, you should choose the *Disk Image* option. It will be discussed in Step 2.

If your project includes files that are protected by the operating system (you may be unaware about that), you will need to activate the **Use administrator privileges** check box in the project settings, and approve this with the admin's password in order to let the program access those files.

Step 1: Create a new backup project

Click the **Plus** button at the bottom of the project list. Then type in the project name.

Step 2: Set up the backup

As soon as you add a new project, the program will open the project settings. You can set up the project right away, or do this later. Note that you must select the backup destination drive and folder before running the project.

Along with the destination, you should choose whether you want your data to be stored as original files and folders, or inside a disk image. In the first case, select *Folder* near the destination disk name. This is the default option. The two other options are *Disk Image* and *Disk Image (Encrypted)*. To find out why you might want to use a disk image, read the Using Disk Images section.

Step 3: Add files and folders to the project

To add a file or folder to the project, use any of these ways:

- Drag and drop a file or folder to the list on the main window.
- Click the **File+** button and select a file or folder. You can select multiple items at the same time.
- Choose **Process > Add File…** in the main menu and select a file or folder. You can select multiple items at the same time.

By clicking the **Apps Data+**, you can choose a preset. Each of them adds user's data related to one of the listed apps.

To delete an item from the list, select it and click the **File-** button below the list.

Step 4: Create a backup

To create a backup, click the **Start** button.

If you have activated scheduled creation of backups, the process will start automatically at the stated time.

If the **When source and destination are mounted** option is activated in the Properties dialog, the program can also start the process automatically when you connect a USB disk to the computer.

The Backup Properties

To open the *Properties* dialog, click the gear icon below the project list or choose **Process > Properties/Schedule…** menu item.
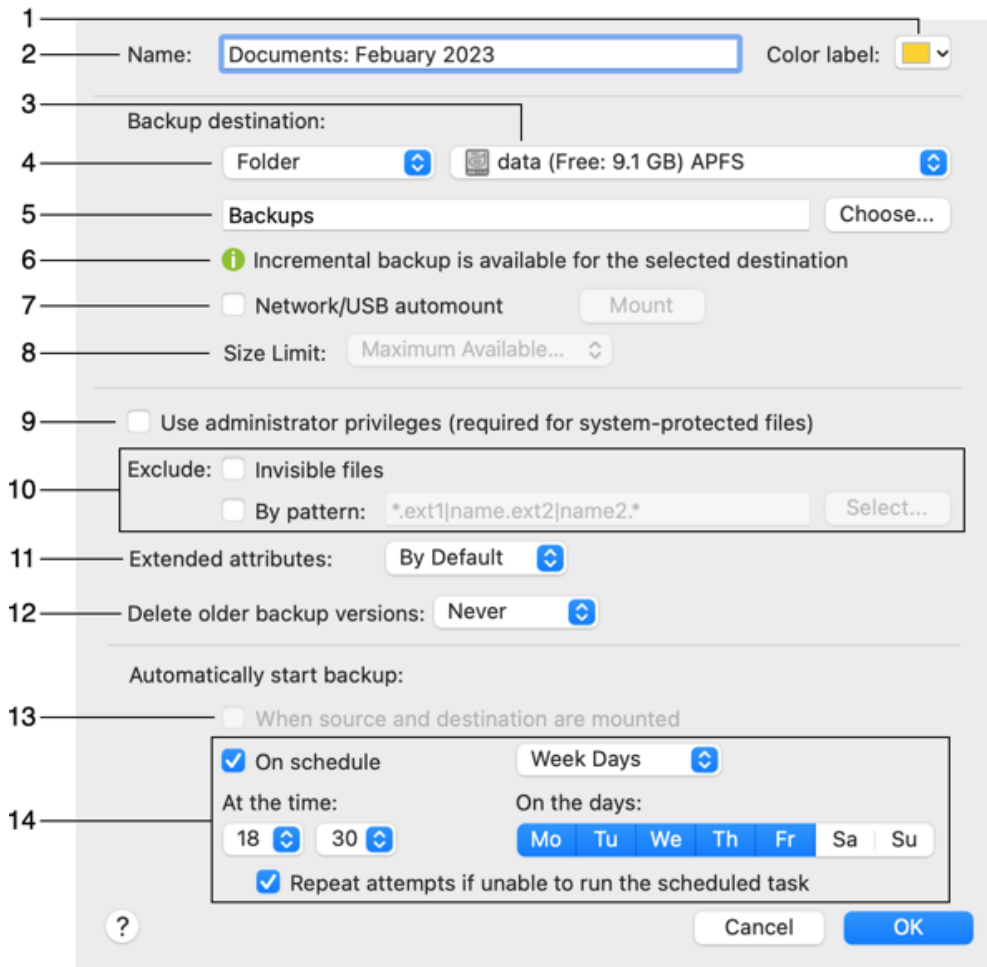
1 - The color of the tag in the project list. This can help you highlight projects by importance, frequency of creation or by other principle.

2 - The project name. It is displayed in the main window. Note that projects with identical names are not allowed.

3 - The backup destination drive. Here you can choose a volume, removable drive, network drive or another storage available on your computer. If you select a network drive, the program will display two more controls. The **Network/USB automount** check box allows the program to mount the selected disk automatically before writing files to it. The **Mount** button lets you mount the selected disk manually. (*)

4 - A way to store backed up files. The default *Folder* option lets you store files in the destination folder directly. If the *Disk Image* option is selected, a disk image will be created in the destination folder. This disk image will contain your files. You can also choose an encrypted disk image. (*)

5 - Select a folder on the destination drive. (*)

6 - Information about the possibility to create a backup with the selected destination drive and folder.

7 - If the destination folder or original files are located on a network or external drive, you can choose to mount it automatically.

8 - Disk image maximum size. This option is available when a disk image is selected as a container for the backup. Disk images can increase their capacity when you add more files. You can specify the maximum space the disk image can take. By default, the maximum is set to all available space on the destination disk. You have an option to input an arbitrary maximum size, but be aware of the physical capacity of the destination volume.

9 - Run the program with administrator privileges. To activate this option, you will have to input the administrator's password.

10 - The Exclude section allows you to create a set of rules for automatic exclusion of files from the archive. By selecting the **By pattern** check box, you can create your own rule. This is described in the Exclude Files by the Pattern section.

11 - The option to sync or ignore the extended attributes. Files on your Mac may have extended attributes that are not supported by the destination file system. In this case, you can tell the program to ignore them to avoid error messages in the log.

12 - Activate or deactivate removing old versions of the backup automatically.

13 - Activate the automatic backup creation when the source and destination volumes are mounted.

14 - Activate the automatic backup creation by schedule.

Note that changing the options marked with the asterisk (*) make the program to create a new destination folder or disk image. Consequently, backups will be distributed between several folders, disk images or both. This can also affect the possibility to restore from some of the backups because the *Restore* dialog restores only from the currently selected destination.

Exclude Files by Pattern

A folder added to your project may contain some files which you don't want to back up. The *Exclude* tool can help you automatically exclude such files.

You can choose a predefined file type or create your own pattern. To do this, activate the **By pattern** option and select a file you want to exclude. For example, if you select a *report.txt* file and choose the "the same extension" option, all *.txt* files will be excluded.

A pattern can contain a file name or extension, or both. Several patterns can be combined to create a complex rule.

To add a pattern:

1. Click the **Select** button.
2. Select one of radio buttons:
   • **the same extension** to exclude all files of the same type as the sample file has (the part of the full file name after the most right period.
   • **the same name** to exclude all files with the same name as the sample file has (the part of the full file name before the most right period).
   • **the same name and extension** to exclude all files with the same name and extension as the sample file.
3. Choose a sample file to use its name or extension as a pattern.
4. To join the current pattern with the existing one, select the **Combine with previous pattern** check box. This way you can exclude several file types from the archive. If you deselect the check box, a new pattern will replace the existing one.

5. Click **Capture**.

You can create a pattern manually by typing it into the edit box. You should follow these rules:

- All patterns consist of three elements: file name, period (.), and extension.
- Use the asterisk symbol (*) instead of the file name or extension to indicate a file with any name or any extension. Example: *.jpeg means "any file in the JPEG format".
- Don't add any extra symbols (quotation marks, spaces, commas, etc.) unless they are a part of the file name or extension.
- Use the | symbol (so called pipe) to separate several patterns.

Removing Old Backups

The more times you run the same backup project, the more versions of this backup can be stored on your drive taking more and more space. The program can delete old versions of the backup (let's call them old backups) in order to free disk space for new ones. Old backups to be removed are removed instantly.

The program removes old backups when you close it.

An old backup will be removed only if a new version of the backup is created successfully.

There are two ways to define which of the backups should be deleted. The first method lets you define for how long to store backups by selecting the *After* option. If you set "After 2 Months", the program will keep backups created within the two recent months. Backups created earlier will be deleted.

The second method allows you to set up the maximum number of versions stored at the same time using the *Exceeding* option. If you select "Exceeding 3 versions", the program will keep the three most recent backups.

Backup Storage

In the backup destination folder, the program creates a folder dedicated to a particular backup project. The name of this folder is the project name plus an underscore symbol plus an alphanumeric prefix. For example, if your project is called "Documents", the folder name can look as *Documents_4FFA23B7-207C-42BF-A9DB-A500023DD276*. The prefix is generated automatically and ensures that projects with the same name will not mix up their backup folders.

Inside the backup folder, there are:

- *gb3info.plist* - an auxiliary file needed to store some information related to the backup.
- *b3_2021-02-03_17-54-28* - a folder to store a version of backed up data. There can be one or many of such folders with different date and time in their names. Every time you run a backup project, the program creates one more folder, and copies the current version of your files into it.

If we look at the list of items included in the project, there are files and folders that are not inside of any other folder. Let's talk about them as top level items. So, the program places each top level item into a folder with the same name and unique prefixes such as ".wrp1", ".wrp2" and so on. If you go deeper in subfolders, the file structure will be exactly the same as in the original folders.

So in the whole, the backup storage content may look this way:

Documents_4FFA23B7-207C-42BF-A9DB-A500023DD276
    gb3info.plist
    b3_2021-02-03_17-54-28
        Document_1.txt.wrp1
            Document_1.txt
        Document_2.txt.wrp2
            Document_2.txt
    b3_2021-03-03_17-54-28
        Document_1.txt.wrp1
            Document_1.txt
        Document_2.txt.wrp2
            Document_2.txt
        Folder_1.wrp3
            Folder_1
        Folder_2.wrp3
            Folder_2
                Document_3.txt
                Document_4.txt

Bold font marks the backed up files and folders. The rest were used to organize the backup storage. To restore manually, you should copy the items in bold to the proper locations.

At the beginning of the backup process, a folder to store a new backup is named "GB3ProcessTemporaryFolder". When all files are successfully copied in this folder, the program gives it a proper name as explained earlier. If the process wasn't finished, the temporary folder remains until the next backup session. If files in the temporary folder are up-to-date, the program will not copy them again in the new session. This helps to finish the process faster.

Quasi-Incremental Backup Type

If the local destination drive has the APFS or Mac OS Extended file system, the program will create incremental backups. This means that files, which have not been changed since the previous backup, will not be copied to the backup storage again. Due to this, the program can save space on your destination drive, and may finish each backup session faster.

Instead of copying an unchanged file to a new backup, the program creates a hard link (feature of the file system) to a copy of this file already present in one of previous backups. So, there is no need to add another copy of the file and as a consequence take more disk space for it. To the user, the hard link behaves as it was the file itself. So, all backups appear to be full backups.

With a file system on the destination drive other than APFS or Mac OS Extended, hard links are not supported. In such a case, the program will create full backups. Each of them will contain copies of all files included in the project.

Incremental backups cannot be created on network disks because hard links cannot be used.

To create an incremental backup on a disk that doesn't support hard links, you can choose to create a disk image on the selected storage when you set up a new backup project. The disk image will have a proper file system.

Using Disk Images

A disk image is a file (actually a bundle) that can be mounted as a volume in Finder. A disk image can have a file system that is different from one the physical storage has. Get Backup can use a disk image with the proper file system as a container to store your files.

The program mounts and unmounts disk images automatically when it backs up or restores files. Since disk images are fully supported by macOS, you can mount them manually in Finder and access your files without Get Backup.

Files and folders inside the disk image have the same structure as described at the beginning of this page.

In order to create a disk image to store your backup, you should select the *Disk Image* or *Disk Image (Encrypted)* option in the Properties dialog.

An encrypted disk image can be mounted only if the correct password is provided. If you want to backup your data automatically, you should allow the program to save the password to the Keychain.

An important property of disk images is the maximum size. When you create a new backup project, you should set an adequate maximum disk image size. For example, if your data takes 200 MB of disk space and you want to keep the last 5 full backups, the disk image size should be at least 1 GB that is 5 * 200 MB. You should add extra 10-20% to this estimate to be sure that your files will fit.

The initial size of a new disk image is about 5% of the maximum or less. When files are added to the disk image, it becomes larger to accommodate new files. The disk image will grow up until it reaches the maximum size. When there is not enough space to complete the task, the program will offer to increase the maximum size of the existing disk image, or create a bigger one.

If you delete some files from a disk image, it will not shrink itself. The program cannot free unused disk space. You can only do this using the following Terminal command:
`hdiutil compact`

To run this command, open Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app. Copy and paste the command above. Then drag the disk image from Finder and drop it onto the Terminal window. Then hit the **Return** key. Note that there must be a space symbol between "compact" and the path to the disk image. If the disk image is encrypted, you will be asked to input the password. If you are not sure how to use Terminal, don't use it. Most of the actions that can be performed in Terminal have no UNDO function.

Backup Auxiliary Files

The program stores settings and other information related to backup projects in *Projects.plist* and *gb3info.plist* files. Without these files, the program cannot back up and restore your data.

It is recommended that you save a copy of *Projects.plist* in the same folder where your backup is located.

The *Projects.plist* file is one for all of your projects. It is located in the Backups folder. To find this folder, use the path specified on the Uninstalling the Program page.

gb3info.plist files are located inside the destination folder of each backup project. Every project has its own *gb3info.plist*.

The Archived Backup Workspace

To open the archived backup tools, click the second button in the main window or press **Cmd-2**.
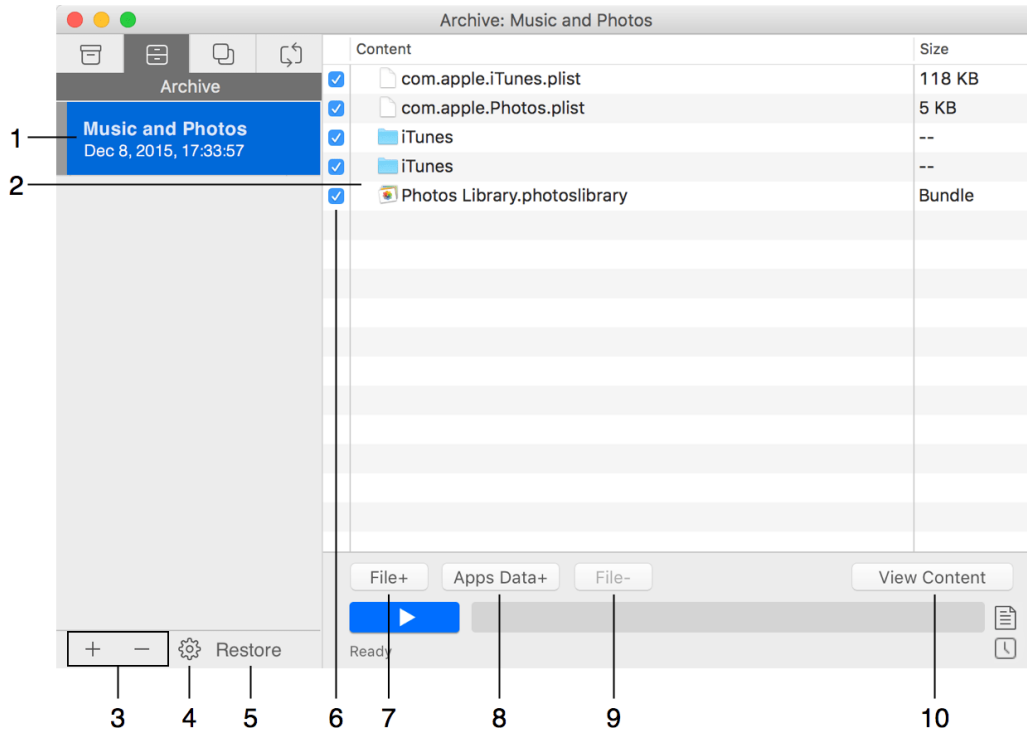
1 – List of backup projects. Along with the project name, there is the date and time of the most recent backup.

2 – List of files and folders included in the current project.

3 – Add or delete projects.

4 – Project properties.

5 – Open the Restore dialog to restore files from the backup.

6 – An option to exclude items from new backups without deleting them from the backup project. If you exclude a folder, all its content will be excluded too. To access files inside folders, click the View Content button.

7 – Add a file or folder in the project.

8 – Add files to the project from a predesigned list. Each item in the list corresponds to user data such as contacts or a photo library.

9 – Remove a file or folder from the project.

10 – Open the full list of files included to the project.

Backup Archive Types

Get Backup can handle two types of backup archives. Your choice should depend on the physical amount of memory available on the backup storage, on how frequently you create backup archives, on the reliability you expect from your archives, etc. One type may be optimal for some specific cases but not the best for others.

To set up a type for the current backup archive, choose **Backup > Properties/Schedule** menu item and select a type in the *Backup Method* section.

You can see the difference between the discussed backup types if:

1. Your backup project includes several files.
2. You create a sequence of backup archives.
3. One or several (but not all) files have been changed since the last archive creation.

Full Backup

A full backup contains copies of all files and folders listed in the backup project. The size of a full backup archive can be estimated as the total size of the original files. If you enable the compression feature, the archive can be smaller.

You can define whether to store previous versions of the backup, or to keep only the most recent one. To do this, use the **Keep previous backups** option in the project properties.

To restore files, you should have only the last version of the archive.

Incremental

An incremental archive contains only files that were changed after the previous backup archive (full or incremental) had been created. The archive size depends on the total size of modified files and can be much smaller than the full archive.

New incremental archives have unique names. The program places new archives into the folder where the previous archives are located.

To restore files, you should have all the previous incremental archives including the full archive.

Creating Archived Backups

To work with archived backups, make sure that the archived backup tool is activated. Choose **Window > Archive View** or press **Cmd-2**.

If your project includes files that are protected by the operating system (you may be unaware about that), you will need to activate the **Use administrator privileges** check box in the project settings, and approve this with the admin's password in order to let the program access those files.

Step 1: Create a new backup project

Click the **Plus** button at the bottom of the project list. Then type in the project name.

Step 2: Set up the backup

As soon as you add a new project, the program will open the project settings. You can set up the project right away, or do this later. Note that you must select the backup destination drive and folder before running the project.

Step 3: Add files and folders to the project

To add a file or folder to the project, use any of these ways:

- Drag and drop a file or folder to the list on the main window.
- Click the **File+** button and select a file or folder. You can select multiple items at the same time.
- Choose **Process > Add File…** in the main menu and select a file or folder. You can select multiple items at the same time.

By clicking the **Apps Data+**, you can choose a preset. Each of them adds user's data related to one of the listed apps.

To delete an item from the list, select it and click the **File-** button below the list.

Step 4: Create a backup archive

To create a backup archive, click the **Start** button.

If you have activated scheduled creation of backups, the process will start automatically at the stated time.

If the **When source and destination are mounted** option is activated in the Properties dialog, the program can also start the process automatically when you connect a USB disk to the computer.

The Backup Content List

To preview the detailed list of files and folders in a project, click the **View Content** button in the main window. The main window lists only top level items.

In the list, you can exclude certain items by unchecking them. Excluded items remain listed but they will not get into the backup. The program also automatically unchecks items according to the Exclude settings.

	Folders & Files	^	Date Modified	Size
✓	com.apple.iTunes.plist		Nov 1, 2015, 02:57:19	118 KB
✓	com.apple.Photos.plist		Nov 5, 2015, 14:50:24	5 KB
⊟	▶ 📁 iTunes		Sep 28, 2014, 13:42:13	--
⊟	▶ 📁 iTunes		Sep 28, 2014, 12:22:49	--
✓	🖼 Photos Library.photoslibrary		Dec 8, 2015, 15:46:45	Bundle

Close

A column to the right from the file name indicates the presence of the item in the original location. No icon means that the original file cannot be found.

The Archived Backup Properties

To open the *Properties* dialog, click the gear icon below the project list or choose **Process > Properties/Schedule...** menu item.
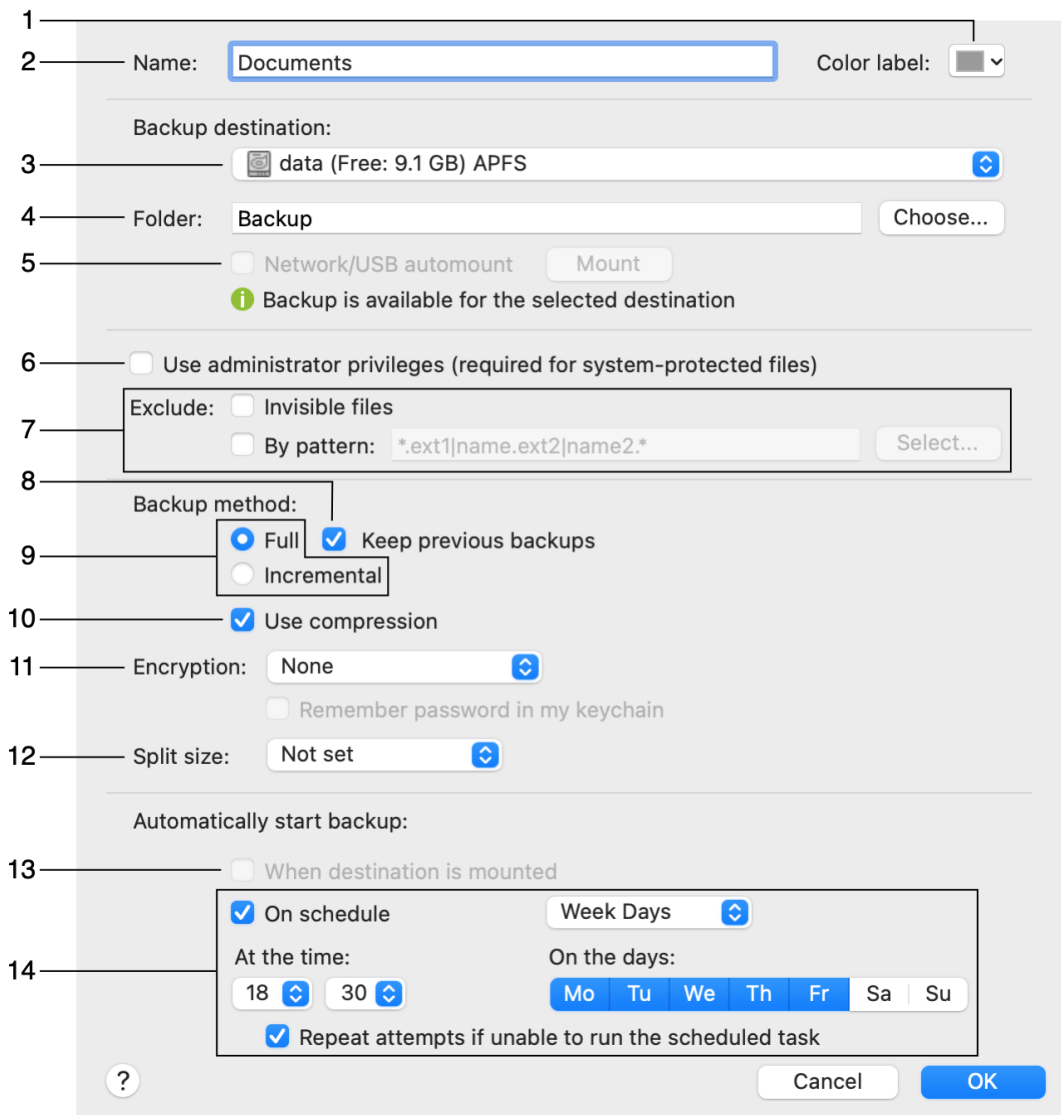
1 - The color of the tag in the project list. This can help you highlight projects by importance, frequency of creation or by other principle.

2 - The project name. It is displayed in the main window. Note that projects with identical names are not allowed.

3 - The backup destination drive. Here you can choose a volume, removable drive, network drive or CD/DVD/Blu-ray drive available on your computer.

4 - Select a folder on the destination drive.

5 - The **Network/USB automount** check box allows the program to mount the selected disk automatically before writing files to it. The **Mount** button lets you mount the selected disk manually. These two controls are available if you select a network or external drive as the destination.

6 - Run the program with administrator privileges. To activate this option, you will have to input the administrator's password.

7 - The Exclude section allows you to create a set of rules for automatic exclusion of files from the archive. By selecting the **By pattern** check box, you can create your own rule. This is described in the Exclude Files by the Pattern section.

8 - An option to keep only the most recent version of the backup or all of them. When the check box is activated, running the backup project will add new versions of the backup to the destination folder taking more and more disk space. In this case, you can delete old backups manually. This feature is available only with the Full backup type.

9 - The type of the backup project. See Backup Archive Types for more detail.

10 - An option to create compressed archives. With compression, archives usually take less disk space.

11 - The archive encryption method. If encryption is activated, you will have to input a password when you backup your files, and when you restore them. You can choose to remember the password in the Keychain.

12 - The **Split size** control allows you to split the archive into pieces (volumes) so that the size of any individual volume does not exceed the stated size. This is useful when you write backups on CD/DVD discs.

13 - Activate the automatic backup creation when the source and destination volumes are mounted.

14 - Activate the automatic backup creation by schedule.

Exclude Files by Pattern

A folder added to your project may contain some files which you don't want to back up. The *Exclude* tool can help you automatically exclude such files.

You can choose a predefined file type or create your own pattern. To do this, activate the **By pattern** option and select a file you want to exclude. For example, if you select a *report.txt* file and choose the "the same extension" option, all *.txt* files will be excluded.

A pattern can contain a file name or extension, or both. Several patterns can be combined to create a complex rule.

To add a pattern:

1. Click the **Select** button.
2. Select one of radio buttons:
   • **the same extension** to exclude all files of the same type as the sample file has (the part of the full file name after the most right period.
   • **the same name** to exclude all files with the same name as the sample file has (the part of the full file name before the most right period).
   • **the same name and extension** to exclude all files with the same name and extension as the sample file.
3. Choose a sample file to use its name or extension as a pattern.
4. To join the current pattern with the existing one, select the **Combine with previous pattern** check box. This way you can exclude several file types from the archive. If you deselect the check box, a new pattern will replace the existing one.
5. Click **Capture**.

You can create a pattern manually by typing it into the edit box. You should follow these rules:

- All patterns consist of three elements: file name, period (.), and extension.

- Use the asterisk symbol (*) instead of the file name or extension to indicate a file with any name or any extension. Example: *.jpeg means "any file in the JPEG format".
- Don't add any extra symbols (quotation marks, spaces, commas, etc.) unless they are a part of the file name or extension.
- Use the | symbol (so called pipe) to separate several patterns.

Burning Backups on CD, DVD or Blu-ray

You can save your backup archives directly to CD, DVD or Blu-ray discs. Get Backup allows you to use the disc burning capabilities provided by macOS.

To burn a backup archive using Mac OS capabilities:

1. Choose the CD/DVD/Blu-ray drive in the **Backup destination** drop-down menu in the backup project properties.
2. Insert a blank, recordable disc into the drive.
3. Click the **Start** button or choose **Backup > Start Backup** in the menu.
4. Click the **Burn** button to start burning.
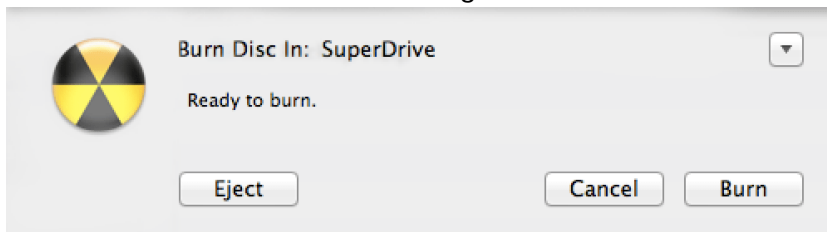
If you have inserted a rewritable disc, the program can ask you to erase it before burning your backup. To access more options, click the button in the top right corner.
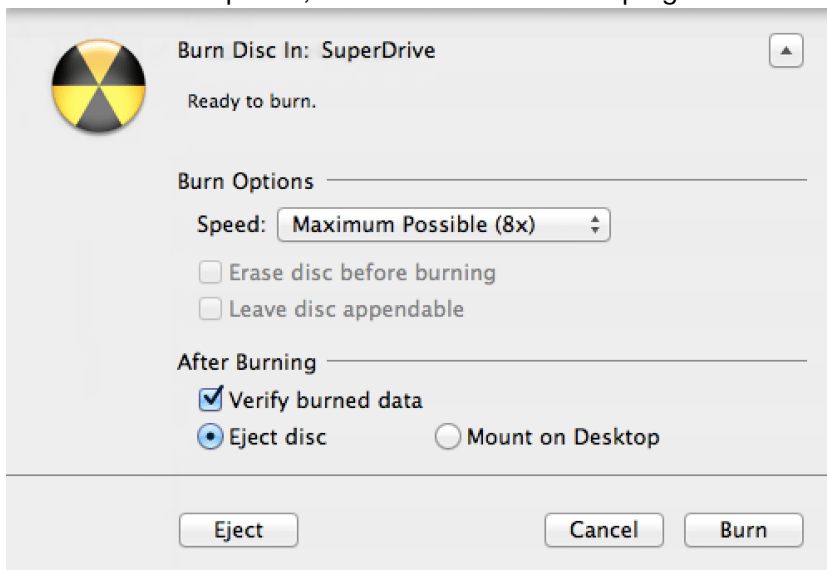
Here you can select the **Leave disc appendable** check box to be able to add more files if there is enough free space on the disc. Note that only appendable (multisession) discs are supported.

CD, DVD or Blu-ray discs can be used for incremental or full backups.

You should remember that the software requires some extra space on the system hard disk for temporary files.

Multi-Volume Archives

If your backup archive requires more space than one disc provides, you can burn it onto several disks. Select the disc capacity in the **Archive size** pop-up menu in the project Properties dialog. The program will split the archive into several parts. Then these parts will be merged when you restore files.

Archive File Names

The backup archive name reflects the chosen backup method and the creation time. The following format is used:

method_project_YYYY-MM-DD_hh-mm-ss_lp.ext

Here:
method – backup method: "full" – full, "incr" – incremental;
project – the name of the backup project;
YYYY – the year of the creation (for instance, 2016);
MM – month (for instance, 02);
DD – day (for instance, 11);
hh – hour (for instance, 16);
mm – minutes (for instance, 05);
ss – seconds (for instance, 14);
_lp – present in all file names;
ext – file extension (see below).

For example, the archive name "full_Documents_2016-02-11_16-05-14_lp.tgz" tells us that it is a full archive and it was created on February 11, 2016 at 16:05:14, with compression enabled.

File Name Extensions

The file name extension indicates whether or not the archive was compressed, encrypted or split into parts. If multiple features are activated, multiple extensions will be attached to the file name one after another.

Extension	Compression	Encryption
.tar	–	–
.tgz	+	–
.tar.bfe	–	Blowfish
.tgz.bfe	+	Blowfish
.tar.3des	–	Triple DES
.tgz.3des	+	Triple DES
.tar.aes128	–	AES-128
.tgz.aes128	+	AES-128
.tar.aes256	–	AES-256
.tgz.aes256	+	AES-256

Backup archives may be split into parts (the **Archive size limit** option in the Backup Properties). The consecutive parts will have the additional extension added in the end. The extension consists of three letters that change in the alphabetical order depending on the part number:
.tar.aaa – part 1;
.tar.aab – part 2;
.tar.aac – part 3;
and so on.

The Archived Backup Project File

When you create a backup archive, along with the archive itself, Get Backup creates a backup project file that contains information necessary to restore the archived files or create new archives. This additional file has the "bif" file name extension. The beginning of this file's fame coincides with the project's name.

The program saves the backup project file in the user's *Library* folder. The path to the project file is specified on the Updating and Uninstalling the Program page.

When you choose **Backup > Remove from List** in the menu, the program deletes the corresponding "bif" file. To be able to work with your backup in the future, save the project file using **Process > Save Project…**, and only then remove your project from the list. To open your backup project again, choose **Backup > Open…** and select its "bif" file.

It is recommended that you save the project in the same folder where the corresponding backup archives are located. When you relocate archives, make copies of them, or burn them to discs, place the project file together with the archives.

Using Get Backup to Restore Files

To restore files from a backup, you should have the backup itself and all related auxiliary files (see Backup Auxiliary Files for regular backups or Backup Project File for archived backups). In the case of a multi-volume archive, all the parts must be present.

To restore files:

1. In the main window, select a backup project you want to restore. Then click the **Restore** button. The Restore dialog will open.
2. By default, the program selects the most recent backup in the pop-up menu. If you need an earlier version of some file, select the corresponding backup from the list using the creation date.
3. Select files you want to restore. To select multiple files, use the **Cmd** or **Shift** keys. To restore all files, you don't have to select them.
4. Choose whether to restore to the original or to a custom folder.
5. Click the **Restore All** button to restore all files or click **Restore Selected** to restore only selected files. If the backup was encrypted, be ready to input the password.

Note that when you restore files to the original location, the program will replace files on your disk with files from the backup. If you want to keep both versions of your files, restore files to another folder.

If your backup project is not listed in the program, your actions in order to restore files from this backup will differ depending on the backup type. If you have a regular backup, choose the **Process > Restore from…** command from the main menu and select the folder containing your backup (the top level folder explained in the Backup Storage section). The program will open the *Restore* dialog. You can use this dialog as it was described earlier on this page.

To restore from an archived backup, you should open it in the program using the **Process > Open…** command. The further steps will be the same as described above.

You are limited to restore from the storage that is currently specified as the backup destination in the project *Properties* dialog. If you changed the path to the destination, only the current path will be searched for the backup. If some versions of the backup were deleted or moved to another location, their content will not be available in the *Restore* dialog.

The Restore Dialog

The *Restore* dialog contains the restoration options. To open it, click the **Restore** button in the main window.
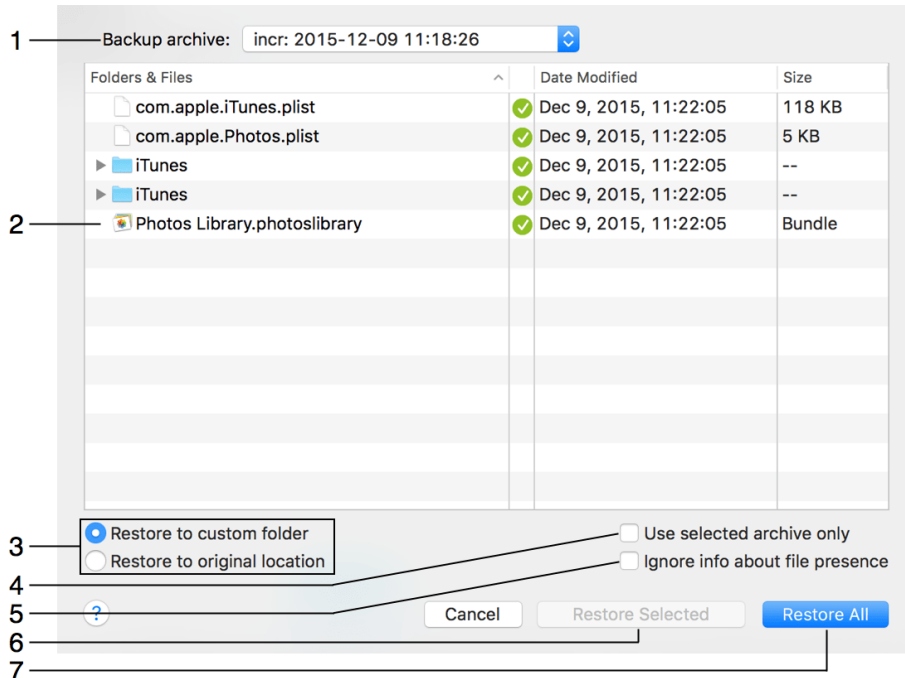
1 – The list of already created backups for the current project. You can choose one of them to restore the included files. A tick mark near the file name (archived backups only) indicates that a file is present in the selected backup.

2 – The list of files and folders in the current backup project. You can select one or several files to restore only them.

3 – Select where to restore files. If **Restore to custom folder** is selected, the program will ask you to choose a folder.

4 – Select **Use selected archive only** to restore files only from an archive selected in the drop-down menu at the top. This option is available only for incremental backups. It can speed up the restoration process because the program wouldn't have to process all incremental archives created before the selected one. Before using this option, make sure that a tick mark is present next to a file you want to restore. If there is no tick mark, choose another archive where the file is ticked, or restore with this option deactivated. This option is available only for archived backups.

5 – Select **Ignore info about file presence** to try to restore files from a backup selected in the drop-down menu even if they are marked as absent. This option is effective with backup projects created in older versions of Get Backup. This option is available only for archived backups.

6 – The **Restore Selected** button restores only files selected in the list.

7 – The **Restore All** button restores all files.

Restoring Files Manually

To restore from a non-archived backup, just copy files and folders from it. This page is aimed to explain how to restore from archived backups.

Get Backup uses standard file formats: TAR for creating archives and GZIP for compression. These formats are natively supported on macOS and other operating systems. This makes it possible to extract files from the archive without using the Get Backup application. On macOS, the *Archive Utility.app* is the default application for extracting files from archives.

Double-click on the backup archive file (*.tar or *.tgz) in Finder to extract. The archive content will appear in the folder where the archive is located. Then copy the files to the original location on the disk.

To convert a partitioned or encrypted archive to *.tar or *.tgz format, you have to use command line applications. Then double-click on the archive in Finder. Examples of command lines can be found below. If you are not familiar with shell applications, prefer using Get Backup.

Full Archive

You may have multiple archives created at different times (we call them versions). Choose one of them (the latest if you want to restore the most recent copies of your documents) and extract it. Older versions of Get Backup also supported Versioned Archive type which can be treated in the same way as Full Archives.

Incremental Archive

You may have a series of incremental archives containing only those files that were modified after the previous archive had been created. To restore all the files in the most recent versions, you should extract all the archives to separate folders. The first (oldest) archive must contain all the files included in the backup project. Use the files and folders extracted from this archive as the basis. Move or copy the newest versions of files there preserving the structure of included files and folders.

Examples of Command Lines

The *openssl* application is used for decryption. The *cat* application is used to concatenate parts of the archive. The *tar* application is used for decompression. To enter command lines and run the applications above, use the *Terminal.app* application located in the *Applications/Utilities* folder.

Remember that the elements of the command line should be separated with the "space" symbol. If a space symbol is present in the file or folder name, or in the password, replace it with "\ " (slash and space) in the command line. For example, use "document\ 1.txt" instead of "document 1.txt".

In command line examples below, parts you should change are underlined. Don't modify the rest.

To use a command:

1. Copy the command to a text editor (for instance, *TextEdit.app*).
2. Replace the sample path(s) to the actual file path(s). Replace the password if you have an encrypted backup. Retain the spaces that separate the parts of the command line.
   If a "space" symbol is present in the file or folder name, or in the password, replace it with "\ " (slash and space) in the command line. For example, write "document\ 1.txt" instead of "document 1.txt".
3. Select the command line and copy it (**Cmd-C**).
4. Open the *Terminal.app* application located in the *Applications/Utilities* folder.
5. Paste the command (**Cmd-V**) and press the **Return** key to run.

If you need to stop the process in *Terminal.app* urgently, press **Ctrl-C**.

Concatenate Parts

```
cat ~/path/vers20090701135457n.tar.aaa ~/path/vers20090701135457n.tar.aab >
~/path/backup.tar
```

Here:
`~/path/vers20090701135457n.tar.aaa` – the first part;
`~/path/vers20090701135457n.tar.aab` – the second part (if you have more parts, put the path to each separating them with the space symbol);
`~/path/backup.tar` – the output file path.

The input files (parts) must be present in the command line in the correct order: *.aaa* then *.aab* then *.aac* and so on.

Decrypt a Blowfish Archive

```
openssl enc -in ~/path/vers20090701143400n.tar.bfe -bf -d -k password >
~/path/backup.tar
```

Here:
`~/path/vers20090701143400n.tar.bfe` – an archive encrypted using the Blowfish algorithm (see the file extension).
`password` – the password used to encrypt the archive.
`~/path/backup.tar` – the output file path.

Decrypt a Triple DES Archive

```
openssl enc -in ~/path/vers20090701151110n.tar.3des -des3 -d -k password >
~/path/backup.tar
```

Here:
`~/path/vers20090701151110n.tar.3des` – an archive encrypted using the Triple DES algorithm (see the file extension).
`password` – the password used to encrypt the archive.
`~/path/backup.tar` – the output file path.

Decrypt a AES-128 Archive

```
openssl enc -in ~/path/vers20090701151110n.tar.aes128 -aes-128-cbc -d -k password
> ~/path/backup.tar
```

Here:
`~/path/vers20090701151110n.tar.aes128` – an archive encrypted using the AES-128 algorithm (see the file extension).
`password` – the password used to encrypt the archive.
`~/path/backup.tar` – the output file path.

Decrypt a AES-256 Archive

```
openssl enc -in ~/path/vers20090701151110n.tar.aes256 -aes-256-cbc -d -k password
> ~/path/backup.tar
```

Here:

`~/path/vers20090701151110n.tar.aes256` – an archive encrypted using the AES-256 algorithm (see the file extension).

`password` – the password used to encrypt the archive.

`~/path/backup.tar` – the output file path.

Decrypt a AES-256 Archive and Extract Files

```
openssl enc -in ~/path/vers20090701153031n.tgz.aes256 -aes-256-cbc -d -k password
| tar -zxv -C ~/Desktop/backup/
```

Here:

`~/path/vers20090701153031n.tgz.aes256` – a compressed archive encrypted using the AES-256 algorithm (see the file extension).

`password` – the password used to encrypt the archive.

`~/Desktop/backup/` – the path to an existing folder where the extracted files will be written.

Introduction to Disk Cloning

Disk cloning is one of many possible measures you can take to prevent data loss. Cloning duplicates the contents of a particular volume. If the original disk is bootable, its clone can also bootable. This means that you can back up not only your documents but also the operating system. The duplicate of your disk can be used to boot your computer.

Cloning the APFS file system also affects the hidden volumes: Preboot, Recovery and VM. Beginning from macOS 10.15, system and user data are stored on separate volumes which together create a disk volume group.

External drives such as HDD or SSD are the best media for a bootable disk clone.

The process of disk cloning takes quite a lot of time. Usually it isn't convenient to clone your disk frequently. Subsequent runs of the disk cloning take less time because the program updates only the modified or removed files. Planning your backup strategy, think about a combination of disk cloning with regular backups (e.g. incremental or full) that include only user files. In such a case, backing up can be more frequent (for example, daily), and disk cloning less frequent (weekly or monthly).

If you plan to use your disk duplicate as an emergency working system, the disk for a clone should be of sufficient capacity. It should be about 10% larger than all of your files take on the original disk.

It is recommended that you run the Disk Utility application to fix possible file system problems. The tools that allow you to verify your disk are located in the *First Aid* tab. This application is in the *Applications/Utilities* folder.

The disk cloning tool erases everything on the destination volume. Make sure that there are no critical files on it.

This documentation supposes that you create a system backup to be able to boot from it on the same computer.

It is recommended that you boot from your emergency disk to make sure that a copy of your operating system works well.

There are two ways to specify a disk from which your Mac should boot. If your current operating system is running, click the **Apple** menu and select **System Preferences…** Choose a disk in the *Startup Disk* section. If you cannot boot from the regular disk or your computer is turned off, press and hold the **Option** key before turning power on. Using this method, you can also boot from the Recovery volume if you need to use the Disk Utility or other computer maintenance tool.

Requirements for the Destination Volume

Disk cloning requires the APFS or Mac OS Extended (HFS+) file system. This file system has several subversions such as Encrypted or Case-sensitive. It is recommended that the destination disk has the same format as the source disk. Many disks and USB flash drives have been formatted as FAT32. You can copy files on these disks but cannot use them as a startup disk until it is properly formatted.

Possibility to make a clone bootable depending on the volume formatting

Source	Destination	Bootable
Mac OS Extended	Mac OS Extended	Yes
	APFS	No
APFS before macOS 10.15	Mac OS Extended	Yes
	APFS	Yes
APFS	Mac OS Extended	No
	APFS	Yes

The partition scheme should be the GUID Partition Table (GPT).

The destination disk should be writable. If it has any write protection, deactivate it.

The Partitioning and Formatting your Disk section gives you an idea of how to prepare a disk for creating a bootable copy of macOS.

Using a Disk Image as the Destination Volume

You can select a disk image as the destination volume. This feature enables you to store a backup of your files on a network volume or external disk that otherwise is not compatible because of formatting. Another reason why you may opt to use a disk image is that it can be encrypted. This gives your data additional protection when the backup is stored in the cloud. Note that you will not be able to boot your computer using the disk image.

Partitioning and Formatting your Disk

- Finding out the current partition map scheme
- Finding out the current disk format
- Partitioning your disk
- Formatting your disk or volume

For all tasks described here, use the Disk Utility application located in the *Applications/Utilities* folder.

Finding out the current partition map scheme

Select your disk (not a volume) in Disk Utility. The partition map scheme is indicated in the table.
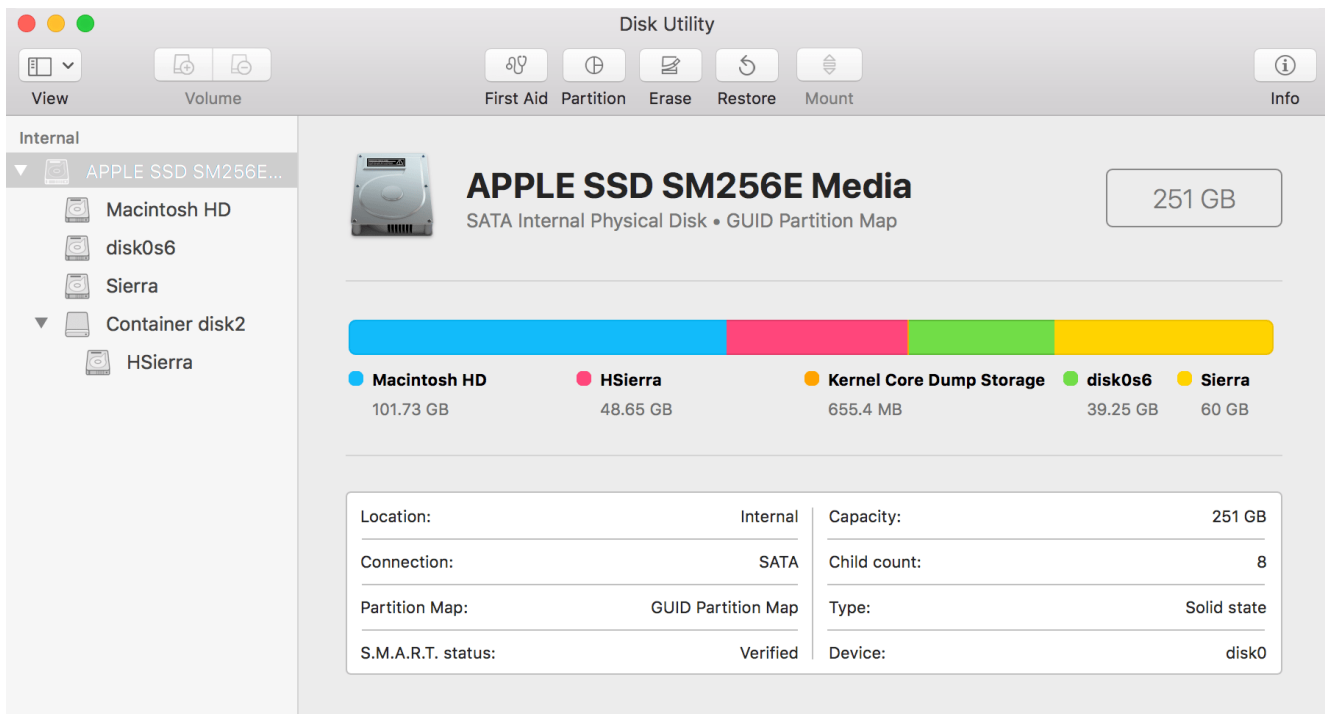
If the sidebar displays only volumes, select the **View > Show all Devices** in the main menu.

Finding out the current disk format

In Disk Utility, select a volume. Its format will be indicated right below the volume name in the upper section of the main window.
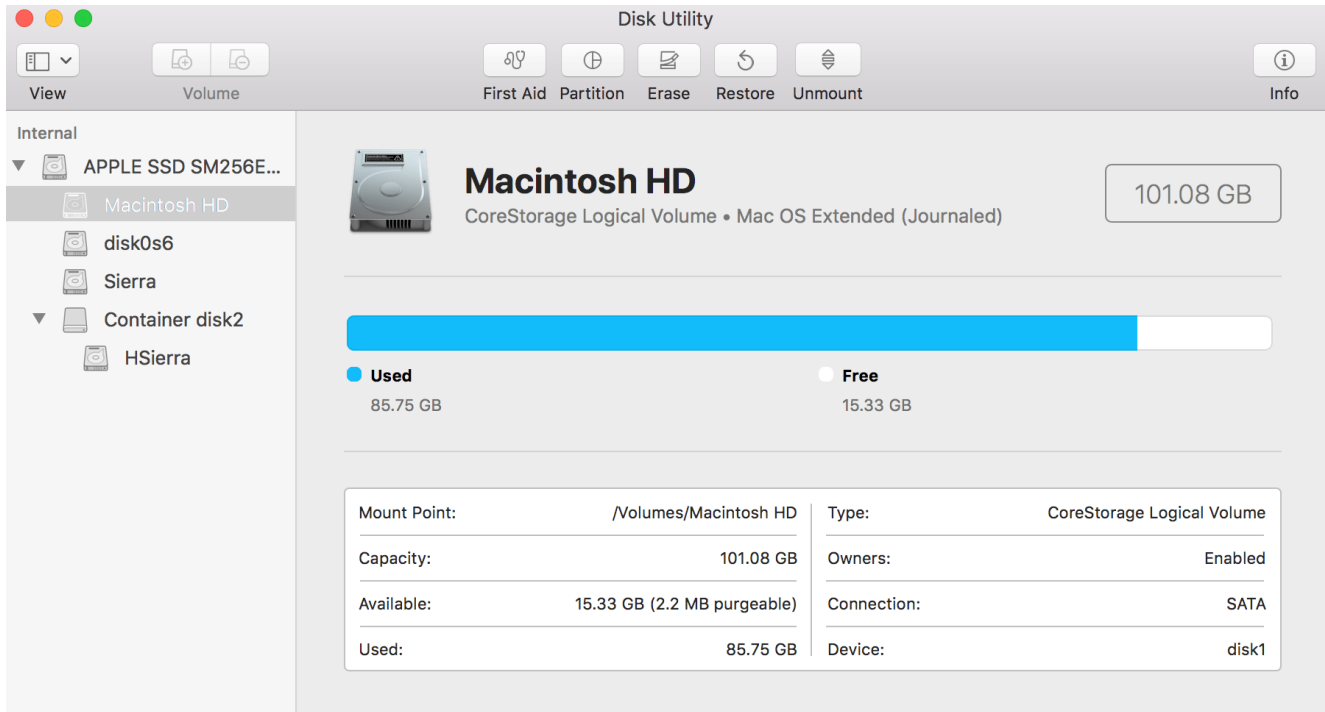
Also, you can click the **Info** button in the toolbar to get more details.
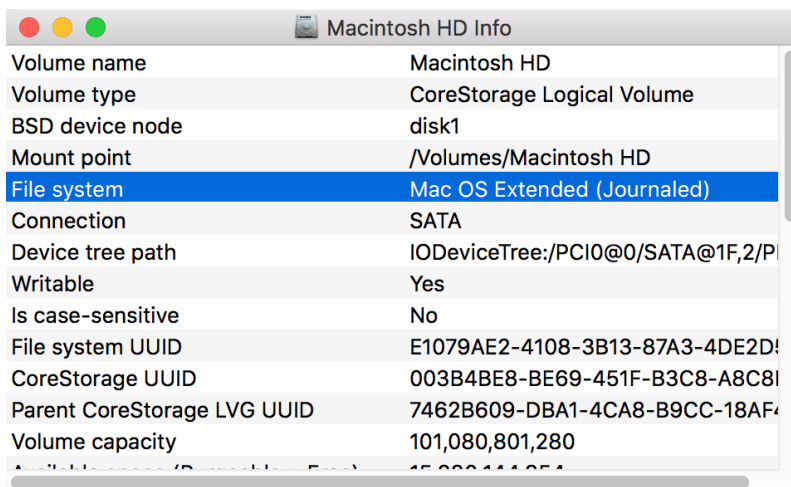
Partitioning your disk

Partitioning can erase all data on your disk. It is recommended that you backup your data before making any changes.

To choose the partition map scheme, select the disk (not a volume) and click the **Erase** button. Choose *GUID Partition Map* to make the disk bootable.
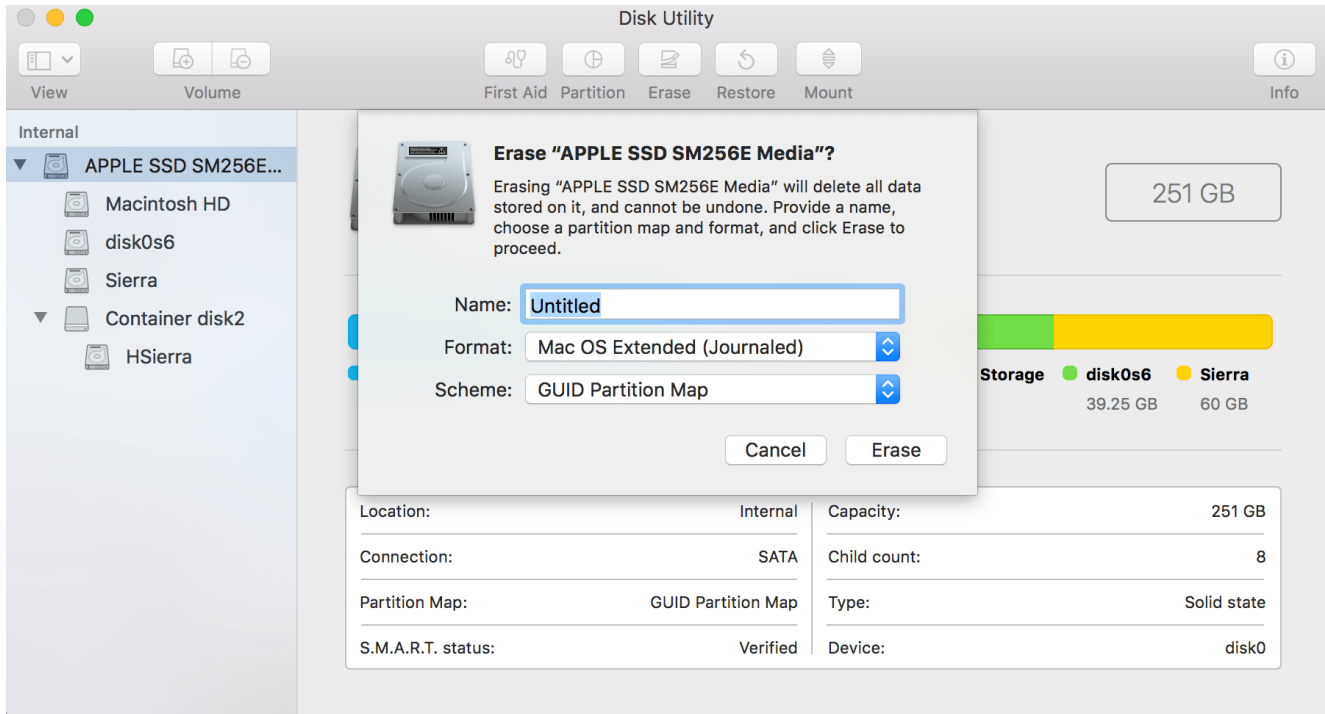
To partition your disk, select it and click the **Partition** button. Then select how many partitions you need, and specify the name, formatting and size for each of them.
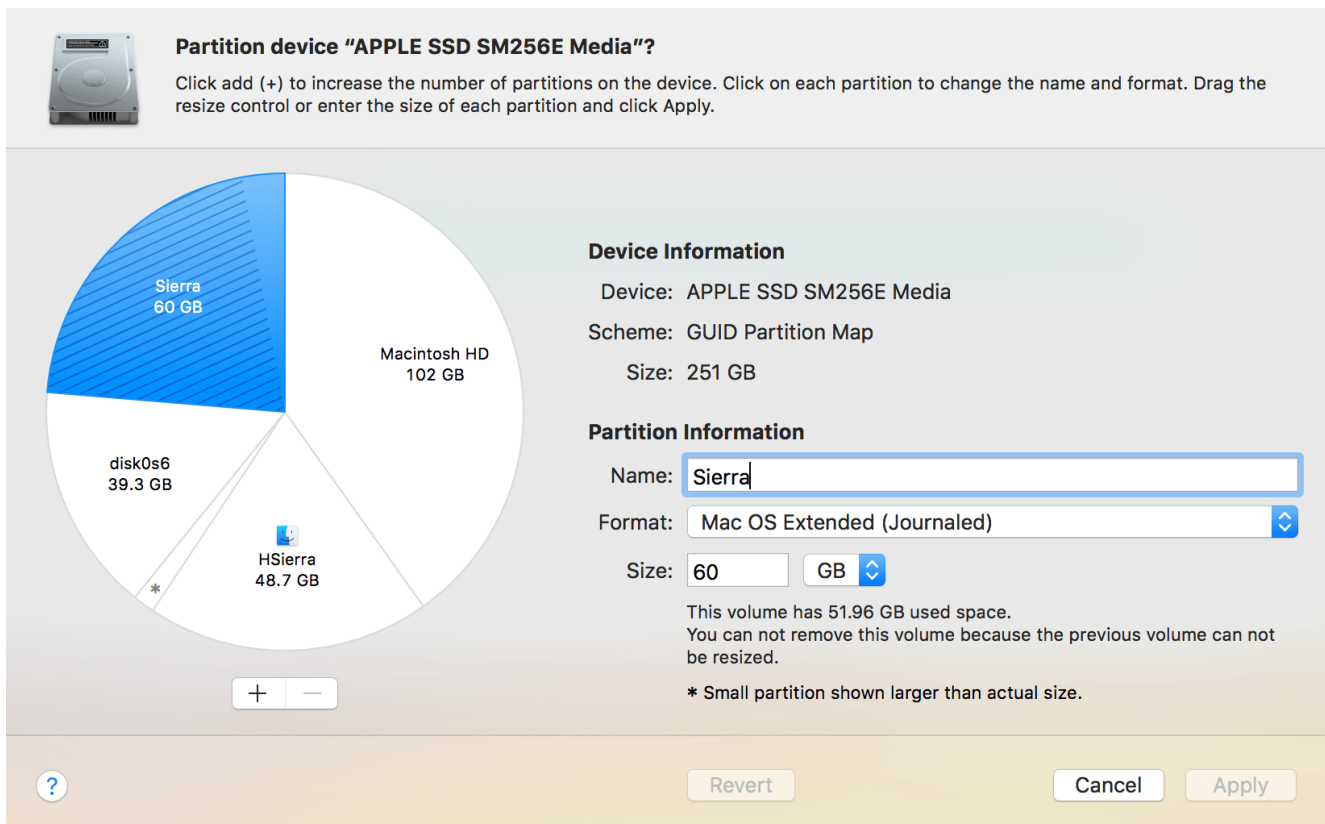
Formatting your disk or volume

Formatting erases all data on your disk or a volume (depending on what is selected).

You can erase and format the whole disk. If there are several volumes, you can format them separately.

To format a volume, select it. Click the **Erase** button in the toolbar and specify the volume name and formatting. It is recommended that you choose the *APFS* disk format.
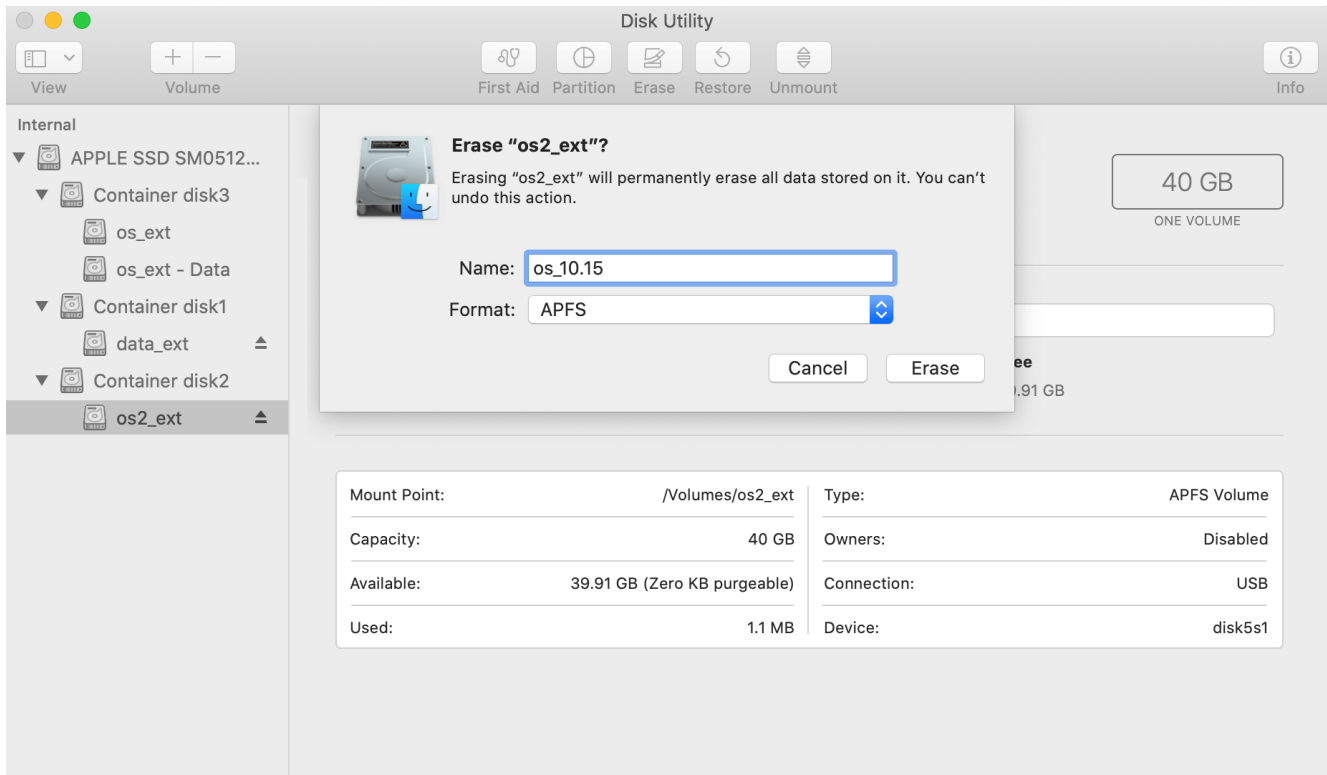
The Disk Cloner Workspace

To open the disk cloning tools, click the third button in the main window or press **Cmd-3**.
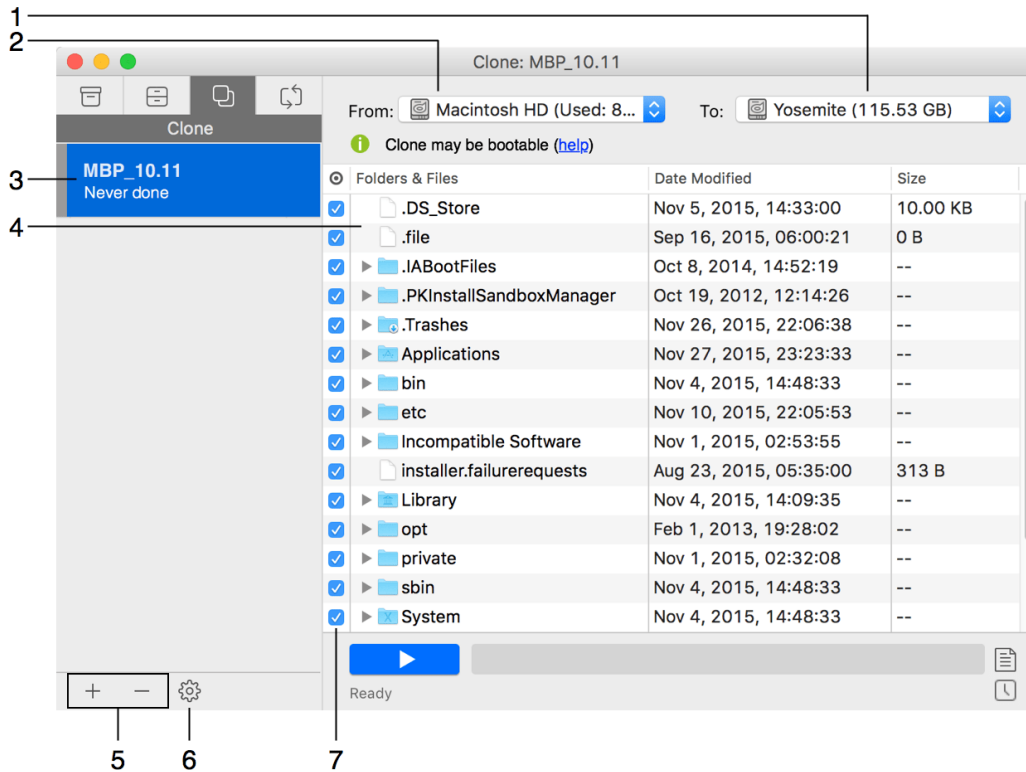
1 – Select the destination disk where a copy of the source disk will be saved.

2 – Select the source disk that will be duplicated.

3 – The list of projects.

4 – The content of the source disk. To preview the content of a folder, click on the triangle next to its name.

5 – Add or delete a project.

6 – The disk cloning project properties.

7 – An option to exclude items from the cloning process without deleting them from the backup project. If you exclude a folder, all its content will be excluded too.

Cloning a Disk

The disk cloning tool will delete all files on the destination volume if you clone to this disk for the first time. Deleting files can take some time. To save your time, you can erase the destination volume using the Disk Utility application beforehand. There is no need to erase the destination disk if you run cloning with the same source and destination disks again because most of the files can be reused.

1. Select a volume that you want to duplicate in the **From** drop-down list.
   The volume must be formatted as APFS or Mac OS Extended and contain macOS installed if you want your clone drive to be bootable.
2. Select a volume where the duplicate will be saved in the **To** drop-down list.
   Make sure that there is enough space. Note that the existing content of the destination volume will be erased. If the formatting of the destination is other than APFS or Mac OS Extended, you have to change its formatting or choose another disk. You can also use a disk image as the destination.
3. Set up the disk cloning properties.
4. Exclude files or folders if necessary. To do this, deselect check boxes next to the file or folder names. It is not recommended to exclude anything outside your *Home* folder.
5. Click the **Start** button.

Notice that on macOS 10.15 and later, there are two commands for cloning in the main menu. The **Start Clean Cloning** command should be used for the first time (e.g., when you clone to an empty destination). This command formats the destination volume and replicates your disk volume with help of the asr (Apple Software Restore) utility.

The second command **Start Cloning** is used to update a previously created clone. On systems earlier than macOS 10.15, this command is used for both the initial and repeated cloning.

Creating a Disk Image

A disk image can be used as the destination volume. The **To** drop-down menu lets you choose an existing disk image or create a new one.

Select a Destination
— Internal Disk(s) —
📇 data (Size: 280.0 GB) APFS
📇 os2 (Size: 30.0 GB) APFS
— Disk Image(s) —
✓ Create Disk Image...
Choose Disk Image...
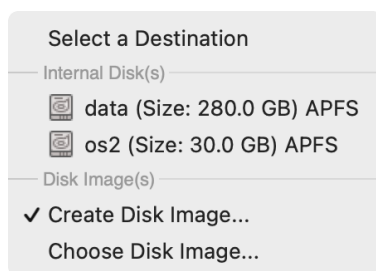
In order to create a disk image, select *Create Disk Image…* in the drop-down menu. Select location and type in the file name and disk image name. Then set up the maximum size of the disk image and format.

Restoring a Disk

Restoring from a clone is basically cloning in the opposite direction – from the backup to your original disk. Being a copy of your original disk, the clone should be bootable.

To restore:

1. Boot from the clone. This should let you run Get Backup and Disk Utility.
2. Prepare the disk or volume you want to restore to (destination).
    - Make sure that you copied all files you want to keep to another storage because restoring will remove everything from your destination disk volume.
    - Make sure that the destination disk is formatted to APFS (your clone must have APFS in this case), or Mac OS Extended (Journaled). It is recommended that you format it now to ensure that there are no errors in the file system.
3. Open Get Backup and close all other programs. Select the clone (volume from which you have booted) as the source, and the prepared disk as the destination. Start the cloning process.

The Disk Cloning Settings

The disk cloning tool lets you change the project name and color. Also, you can activate scheduled cloning and set up its frequency.

The **Show warning dialog when starting cloning** option lets you skip displaying the warning message before starting cloning. The message states that the content of the destination volume will be removed. Select this check box to run scheduled cloning with no need of the user's attention.

The **Network/USB source and destination automount** option allows the program to mount a network or USB storage that is currently connected but not mounted. Once the option is activated, the program will be able to mount the network storage or USB device and run the scheduled task, unmount, and then mount it again for the next cycle.

Using the **When source and destination are mounted** option, you can allow the program to start cloning automatically when the source and destination disks become available.

In order to have a scheduled project running fully automatically, it is recommended that you save your system password to the Keychain. This can be done by using the **Save admin access information in Keychain** option in the Preferences dialog.

Explanations of Disk Cloner Messages

Messages in the disk cloning window instruct you or indicate the current state of the program. Below are given explanations of them.

Select source and destination
– Suggests you select the source and destination volumes.

Clone will not be bootable (Source is not bootable)
– The volume clone will not be bootable because the original volume was not bootable.

Clone will not be bootable (Destination is not bootable)
– The volume clone will not be bootable because the file system or partitioning of the destination volume does not comply with the requirements.

Clone may be bootable
– More likely the volume clone will be bootable.

Destination has insufficient space
– The volume of the destination disk must be equal to or greater than the volume of the source disk.

Source and destination must differ
– The same volume cannot be selected as the source and destination at the same time. Choose another volume for either the source or destination.

Destination is read only
– The selected destination volume has hardware or software write protection. Deactivate the protection or select another volume.

Source or destination is not accessible
– The program cannot access a previously selected volume. If you use an external or network volume, make sure that it is connected. To verify that a volume is accessible, try to preview its contents in Finder.

Mac OS Extended or APFS required for source and destination
– The file system of the source or destination volume does not comply with the requirements.

Mac OS Extended (Case-sensitive, Journaled) recommended for destination
– Since the source volume has a case-sensitive format, it is recommended that you format the destination volume with the "case-sensitive" option.

Clone will not be bootable (unable to create bootable volume on the destination)
– The destination volume is APFS formatted while the source has Mac OS Extended formatting. To make the destination volume bootable, its formatting should also be Mac OS Extended.

Clone may be bootable (source is a Volume Group)
– The clone will be bootable.

Clone will not be bootable (APFS format is required on destination)
– The system volume should have the APFS file system for macOS 10.15 and higher.

Cloning Data Volume only
– Only APFS Data Volume will be copied because you are cloning an inactive system volume with macOS Big Sur (version 11) or Monterey (version 12).

Introduction to File Synchronization

File synchronization is aimed to make copies of files in two folders identical.

File synchronization can be one-way or two-way. When you mirror files from one location to another, it is called one-way synchronization. This happens when you copy new versions of files to a backup archive. Your working folder is the source and the backup folder is the destination.

We talk about two-way synchronization, when one folder contains the newest version of one file and a second folder contains the last version of another file. Both folders are the source and destination. You should take into account that two-way synchronization in Get Backup is two one-way synchronizations performed one after another. If it makes a difference for you which of the folders will be the source first, run one-way synchronization in one direction and then in the opposite one.

In the Synchronization Settings, you can allow the program to delete files and folders in the destination by deactivating the **Never delete anything** option. Nevertheless, files that have the **Locked** property activated, cannot be removed or replaced. To verify this property, right-click on a file in Finder and choose **Get Info**.

The synchronization tool also has an option to consider the file modification date.

The Synchronization Workspace

To open the synchronization tools, click the fourth button in the main window or press **Cmd-4**.
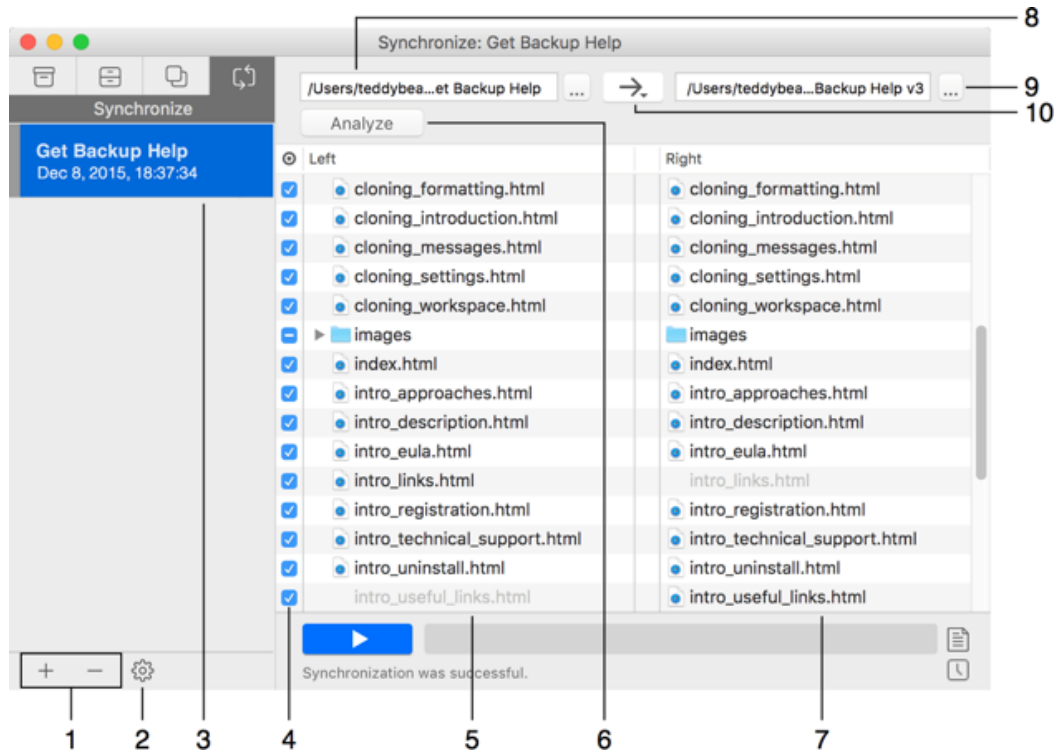
1 – Add or delete projects.

2 – Project properties.

3 – List of synchronization projects. Along with the project name, there is the date and time indicating when you synchronized data the last time.

4 – An option to exclude items from the synchronization process. If you exclude a folder, all its content will be excluded too. An excluded file or folder is treated as if it doesn't exist in the source.

5 and 7 – Lists of files and folders in the selected folders.

6 – The **Analyze** button compares the two selected folders. See The Meaning of Colored Signs and File Names.

8 and 9 – Choose the folders you wish to compare and synchronize.

10 – The direction of the synchronization.
Left to right updates only the content of the right column. The left column is the source.
Right to left updates only the content of the left column. The right column is the source.
Bidirectional updates the content of both columns.

The Meaning of Colored Signs and File Names

The **Analyze** button compares the two selected folders and shows what the program will do if you run synchronization. Icons in the middle of the list will indicate what kind of action will be taken. If a file is not present in the source of destination, its name in the corresponding list is gray.

Gray circle means that no action will be taken.

☑   ◦ archive_content.html   ○   ◦ archive_content.html

Green arrow indicates that the respective file will be copied from the source to the destination.

☑   🖼 main_window.png   ➡ 🖼 main_window.png

Red cross indicates that the respective file will be removed from the destination because it is not present in the source. This is possible only if you deselect the **Never delete anything** check box in the project properties.

☑   main_window.jpg   ❌ 🖼 main_window.jpg
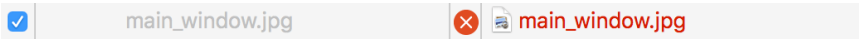
Red cross next to the excluded file indicates that the respective file will be removed from the destination because it was excluded. This is possible only if you deselect the **Never delete anything** check box in the project properties.

☐   🖼 main_window.png   ❌ 🖼 main_window.png

Contour blue arrow indicates that the destination folder's properties (such as modification date or colored label) will be updated. The content of the destination folder will remain unchanged.

⊟ ▼ 📁 images   ⊖ 📁 images

Blue triangle indicates that the content or properties of the destination folder will be updated. Some files or folders of the destination can be updated or deleted.

☑ ▼ 📁 images   🔽 📁 images

Gray file name indicates that a file or folder is not present in one of the lists (source or destination) while it is present in another.

☑   intro_useful_links.html   ◦ intro_useful_links.html
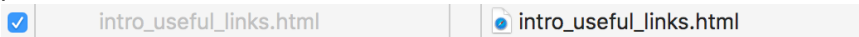
Synchronizing Files

In order to sync the contents of two folder:

1. Select two folders to be synchronized. To do this, click on a path box above the left and right columns.
2. Set up the synchronization direction by clicking on the arrow at the top. The arrow should point from the source to the destination. By choosing the bidirectional arrow, you allow updating files in both selected folders.
3. Click the **Properties** button and check the settings.
4. To find out what the synchronization tool is about to do, click the **Analyze** button. Icons in the file list will display if there are different or missing files in the two locations, and how the program will deal with this.
5. Click the **Start** button.

If your project includes files that are protected by the operating system (you may be unaware about that), you will need to activate the **Use administrator privileges** check box in the project settings, and approve this with the admin's password in order to let the program access those files.

Instead of one or two folders, you can sync the contents of sparse bundle disk images. A disk image can help you store files on a file system that is not compatible with Macs (e.g., network drive). This also allows you to protect your files using an encrypted disk image. In order to create a disc image, select **Process > Create Disk Image…** in the main menu. You can also create disk images, using the Disk Utility application.

The Synchronization Settings
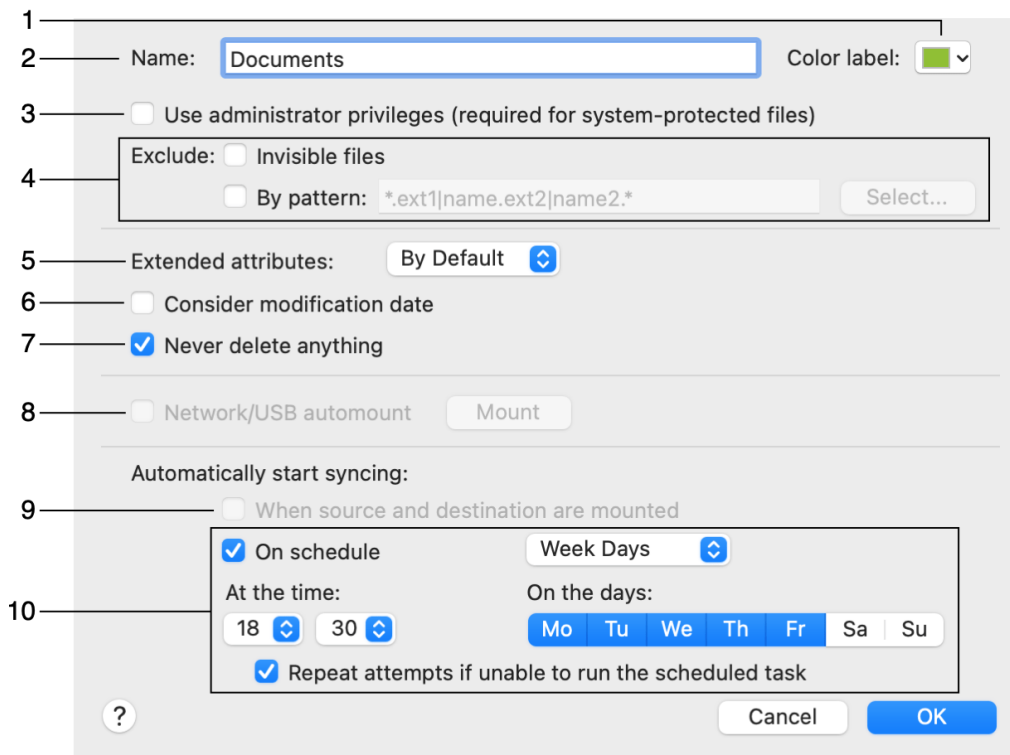
1 - The color of the tag in the project list. This can help you highlight projects by importance or by other principles.

2 - The project name. It is displayed in the main window. Note that projects with identical names are not allowed.

3 - Run the program with administrator privileges. To activate this option, you will have to input the administrator's password.

4 - Exclude files. While comparing and synchronizing the content of two folders, the program can disregard files of the specified type. You can also create a custom pattern to exclude files.

5 - The option to sync or ignore the extended attributes. Files on your Mac may have extended attributes that are not supported by the destination file system. In this case, you can tell the program to ignore them to avoid error messages in the log.

6 - The **Consider modification date** option is needed for the situation when the destination folder contains a newer version of a file than the source folder. Select this check box if you don't want to overwrite the newer version.

7 - This option prevents the deletion of files in the destination folder if they are not found in the source folder. Be careful with this option!

8 - An option to mount network drives and external drives automatically. This option can be disabled if the remote or external drive is (or can be) physically disconnected (e.g. a USB drive). To check the ability to mount the network drive, unmount it in the Finder and click the Mount button here.

9 - Activate the automatic backup creation when the source and destination volumes are mounted.

10 - Automate file synchronization according to the time schedule.

Exclude Files by Pattern

A folder added to your project may contain some files which you don't want to back up. The *Exclude* tool can help you automatically exclude such files.

You can choose a predefined file type or create your own pattern. To do this, activate the **By pattern** option and select a file you want to exclude. For example, if you select a *report.txt* file and choose the "the same extension" option, all *.txt* files will be excluded.

A pattern can contain a file name or extension, or both. Several patterns can be combined to create a complex rule.

To add a pattern:

1. Click the **Select** button.
2. Select one of radio buttons:
   • **the same extension** to exclude all files of the same type as the sample file has (the part of the full file name after the most right period.
   • **the same name** to exclude all files with the same name as the sample file has (the part of the full file name before the most right period).
   • **the same name and extension** to exclude all files with the same name and extension as the sample file.
3. Choose a sample file to use its name or extension as a pattern.
4. To join the current pattern with the existing one, select the **Combine with previous pattern** check box. This way you can exclude several file types from the archive. If you deselect the check box, a new pattern will replace the existing one.
5. Click **Capture**.

You can create a pattern manually by typing it into the edit box. You should follow these rules:

- All patterns consist of three elements: file name, period (.), and extension.
- Use the asterisk symbol (*) instead of the file name or extension to indicate a file with any name or any extension. Example: *.jpeg means "any file in the JPEG format".
- Don't add any extra symbols (quotation marks, spaces, commas, etc.) unless they are a part of the file name or extension.
- Use the | symbol (so called pipe) to separate several patterns.

Starting a Task by a Schedule

The program can start a backup, cloning or synchronization process automatically with a certain period of time. You can set up each project's schedule individually in the project *Properties* dialog.
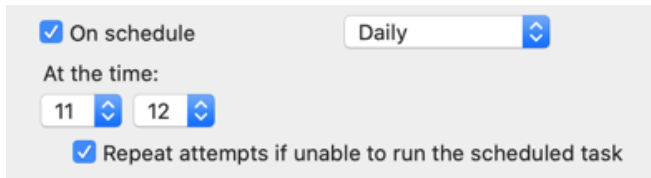
In order scheduled tasks to be performed automatically, you should activate the schedule agent in the Preferences dialog. As soon as you activate the schedule of any project, the program will remind you to activate the schedule agent. When the time to start a scheduled project comes, the agent opens the program.

When you are setting up the schedule, take into account that it is better to choose time when your computer is less loaded by the user or other autonomously running software.

Notice that the program can also run a task when you mount the destination or source volume. This takes place in the case a scheduled task couldn't be performed because the source or destination or both volumes were unavailable. Once both locations are reachable, the program will start tasks without waiting for the following scheduled time.

The **Repeat attempts if unable to run the scheduled task** option defines how to deal with situations when it is not possible to complete the task at the scheduled time. For example, an external drive might not be connected to the computer. If the option is activated, the app will try to run the task again when the conditions to finish the task are good. This may happen anytime before the next scheduled time. When the option is deactivated, the program will try to run your project within 10 minutes starting from the scheduled time. Then it stops its attempts until the next scheduled time.

Starting a Task When a Disk is Mounted

The destination or source disk of any of your projects can be an external disk such as an USB drive. You can tell the program to start a corresponding task automatically when its source and destination disks are mounted. In other words, when you connect a USB stick, which is set as the destination, your files will be automatically copied to it. You can activate this feature in the project *Properties* dialog by selecting the **When source and destination are mounted** check box.

Note that mounting other types of disks like local or network ones cannot start automatic tasks.

In order to have your task be performed automatically when the program is not open, you should activate the schedule agent in the Preferences dialog. As soon as you turn on the auto start of any project, the program will remind you to activate the schedule agent.

It is possible that you activate the **When source and destination are mounted** check box together with the schedule in the same project. In this case, starting a task by the schedule will be primary. As long as the task is performed by the schedule successfully, plugging in the source or destination disk between the scheduled times will not run the task. Only if a task was finished unsuccessfully at the last time, the program will run it again when you connect the corresponding external disk.

Suspending Scheduled Tasks

You can suspend starting scheduled tasks when the regular time is not appropriate for some reason. For example, you can be in the process of editing some document, and want to get the document backed up when it is finished.

Suspending tasks for a specified period of time guarantees that the scheduler will be activated automatically. If you deactivate the scheduler manually, you risk forgetting to activate it again.

The **Suspend Scheduler** button in the bottom right corner of the main window indicates the scheduler mode. Normally, its icon shows a clock.

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In the suspended mode, the icon shows an exclamation mark. The same applies to the menu bar icon.

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To suspend all scheduled tasks, click the **Suspend Scheduler** button. Then select how long the scheduler should stay deactivated.

Alternatively, you can click on the menu bar icon of Get Backup, choose **Suspend Scheduler…** and specify for how long this state should last.

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The program resumes the scheduler automatically unless you have selected the "unlimited time" option. In this case, you should stop the suspended mode manually.

To exit the suspended mode, click the **Suspend Scheduler** button.

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