

Back up your apps

Secretbase backs up every app by itself, every night. This guide shows where to keep copies, how to keep the recovery key, how to restore an app, and how to bring apps back onto a new computer.

Quick start

- 1 Open the dashboard (`secretbase open`) and go to **Settings > Backups**.
- 2 Click **Add a place** and choose **Add a USB drive or another disk**.
- 3 Add a copy somewhere else: a storage bucket you own, or another machine you paired.
- 4 Click **Show recovery key** and keep the key somewhere other than this computer.
- 5 To get an app's data back, click **Restore** on its **Backups** tab.

What is backed up, and when

Each backup holds one app: its `/data` folder, its database if it has one, its keys, its settings and its live release. It is encrypted on this computer before it is written anywhere.

Secretbase backs up every night at 3 AM (or about a minute after the computer starts, if it was off), before every update and before every restore. **Back up now** on the app's Backups tab, or `secretbase backup my-app`, makes one at once. It keeps a week of daily copies and a month of weekly ones.

What protects against what

Each app's Backups tab shows what it is protected against, with ✓ or ✗, and the one next step that fixes the first ✗:

- **Deleted by mistake:** a copy on this computer is enough.
- **Disk dies:** a copy on a USB drive or another disk.
- **Machine dies:** a copy in a storage bucket you own, or on another machine you paired.
- **House fire or theft:** a copy in a storage bucket, or on a paired machine in another building.

Add places

In **Settings > Backups**, click **Add a place** and choose the kind:

- **A USB drive or another disk:** choose **Add a USB drive or another disk**, type a folder on it, like `/media/you/USB/backups`, and click **Add folder**. Or run `secretbase places add /media/you/USB/backups`.
- **A storage bucket you own** (any S3-compatible storage): choose **Add a storage bucket you own**, fill in its address, bucket, access key ID and secret, and click **Add**

storage bucket. Or run `secretbase places add-bucket`.

- **Another machine you paired:** choose **Keep copies on another machine**, pick the **Machine** and click **Keep copies there**. Or run `secretbase places add-machine <name>`. The "Use several machines" guide shows how to pair.

`secretbase places` lists your places and whether each works; `secretbase places remove <id>` stops using one. Places are changed only on the computer itself.

Keep the recovery key

In **Settings > Backups**, click **Show recovery key** under **Recovery key**, or run `secretbase recovery-key`. Without this key nobody, not even you, can open your backups. Keep it in a password manager or on paper, then click **I've saved it**.

Restore an app

On the app's **Backups** tab, click **Restore** next to a backup. Its data, keys and release come back, and its address stays the same. Its current data is backed up first, so you can undo a restore.

In a terminal: `secretbase restore my-app` restores the newest backup; `--backup <id>` picks another (`secretbase backups my-app` lists them). From a laptop, add `--to home`.

The self-check

Every night, and when you click **Check now**, Secretbase opens the newest backup of each app, checks every file, and starts the app from it, out of sight. The Backups tab then says "Your backup works", or what went wrong.

Bring apps back onto a new computer

When a computer dies, its apps come back on another one from their backups, with the old computer's recovery key.

- 1 Install Secretbase on the new computer. Add the USB drive, disk or bucket that holds the backups as a place, or pair it with the machine that kept them.
- 2 In **Settings > Backups**, under **Bring back an app from another computer**, type the old **Recovery key** and click **Use this key**. Or run `secretbase recovery-key enter`.
- 3 Click **Bring back** next to an app. Or run `secretbase restore --list`, then the `secretbase restore --from <backup id>` line it shows.

The app comes back with its data, database, keys, release and settings, at the new computer's address.

When you delete an app

Its backups stay, so you can still bring it back. To remove them too, run `secretbase backups remove <app>` on the computer.

If something goes wrong

- "That folder is on the same disk as your apps": pick a USB drive or another disk.
- "The storage bucket refused the sign-in": check the access key and secret.
- A place can't be reached (a drive unplugged): backups still go to your other places.
- "didn't start from its backup" (HB-BACKUP-004): the checked copy starts with no internet access, so an app that needs an outside service to start fails the check even when its files are fine.
- "Enter the recovery key of the computer that made them": some backups were made by another computer. Run `secretbase recovery-key enter` with its key.
- A brought-back app has no folder or git link here. To change it, publish its folder again with `secretbase publish <folder> --name <name>`.
- Undo doesn't put a database back: restore the app's "Before an update" backup.