SnapShot Studio

Manual

SnapShot Studio

Manual

What is SnapShot Studio?

In a world where digital content plays an increasingly important role, content creators face the daily challenge of storing their work safely and in an organized way. Photos, videos, designs, audio clips, and project files together form a creative stream that is constantly in motion. Losing even a single version can be a major setback in the creative process. This is where SnapShot Studio comes in: the very first backup system designed specifically with content creators in mind.

Unlike traditional backups, which often make a full copy of data at fixed times, SnapShot Studio works completely differently. Where conventional systems might, for example, save a full disk copy every night at midnight, SnapShot Studio takes an innovative approach with incremental snapshots. This means the system does not wait for a scheduled moment but continuously monitors for changes to source files. As soon as an adjustment is made—whether it's a minor tweak to a photo or a major change to a video project—SnapShot Studio instantly creates a new, compact snapshot.

This way of working provides huge flexibility. Imagine you are working on a new photo series and after a few hours realize that the edit on a particular shot didn't turn out as you wanted. With SnapShot Studio, you can literally go back in time to the exact moment when the file was still perfect. No more hours of searching through old backups, no risk of losing an entire day's work; everything is organized and immediately accessible.

Moreover, this real-time approach ensures that your workflow is hardly interrupted. SnapShot Studio quietly runs in the background, without slowing down your system or unnecessarily filling your storage. The incremental snapshots are compact and efficient, allowing even large projects—think 4K videos or complex animation files—to be stored safely and quickly.

For the modern content creator, this not only means peace of mind but also a creative advantage: you can experiment, take risks, and try new styles without fear of losing something irretrievably. SnapShot Studio opens the door to a free, unrestrained creative workflow where your work is always protected, exactly the way you want.

In short, SnapShot Studio is not just a backup system; it is a creative partner that grows with your ideas, your projects, and your ambitions. With its smart, incremental snapshots, traveling back in time is simple, secure, and lightning-fast, allowing you to focus entirely on what really matters: creating.

How SnapShot Studio keeps snapshots compact

Although each snapshot appears as a complete version of your files, SnapShot Studio only stores the data that has actually changed. Unmodified files are not copied again but safely referenced from previous snapshots. This means every snapshot is fully restorable on its own, while storage usage grows only when files are added or modified. As a result, you can keep many restore points without rapidly consuming disk space, even when working with large projects.

Setting SnapShot Studio up

SnapShot Studio is designed to be user-friendly, making the setup process incredibly straightforward. To begin, simply open the application on your device. Once the app is launched, you will be greeted with a clean and intuitive interface that guides you through the initial setup steps.

Prior to initiating SnapShot Studio, disk access is required. This process is a one-time occurrence. We recommend configuring the application to automatically launch upon startup.
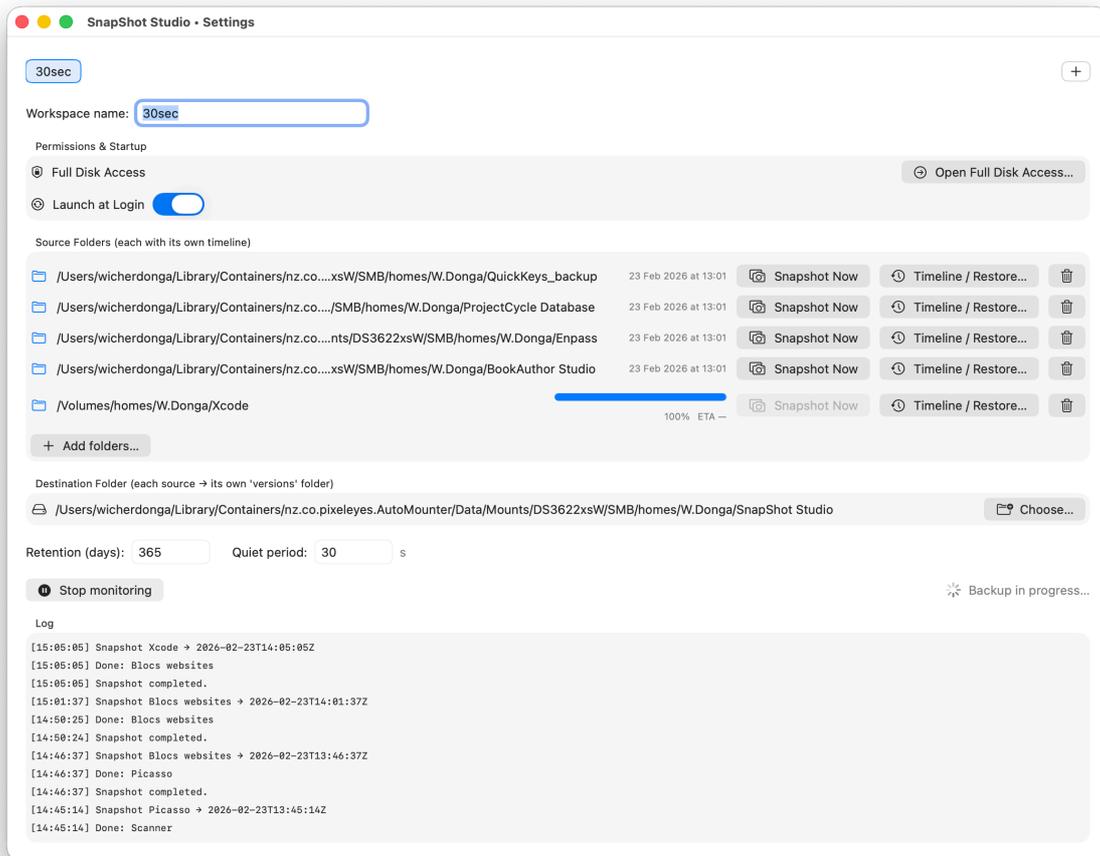
The first step in setting up SnapShot Studio is to select a source folder. This is the folder where your data resides, and it is crucial to choose the correct one to ensure that your snapshots are taken from the right location. After selecting the source folder, the next step is to choose a target folder. This is where the snapshots will be stored, so it is important to select a location that is easily accessible and has sufficient storage capacity.

Before finalising the setup, it is essential to configure the retention days and quiet period settings. The retention days setting determines how long snapshots are stored before they are automatically deleted. This feature is particularly useful for managing storage space and ensuring that only the most recent snapshots are retained. The quiet period setting specifies the time the source must remain stable before a snapshot is taken. This helps to prevent snapshots from being taken during periods of high activity or instability, ensuring that the data captured is accurate and reliable.

Once both the source and target folders are selected, you can proceed by pressing the play button. This action initiates the snapshotting process, allowing SnapShot Studio to begin capturing and storing your data according to your specified settings.

SnapShot Studio offers the flexibility to add multiple source folders, catering to users with diverse data storage needs. This capability allows you to manage

snapshots from various locations within your network, providing a comprehensive solution for data backup and recovery.
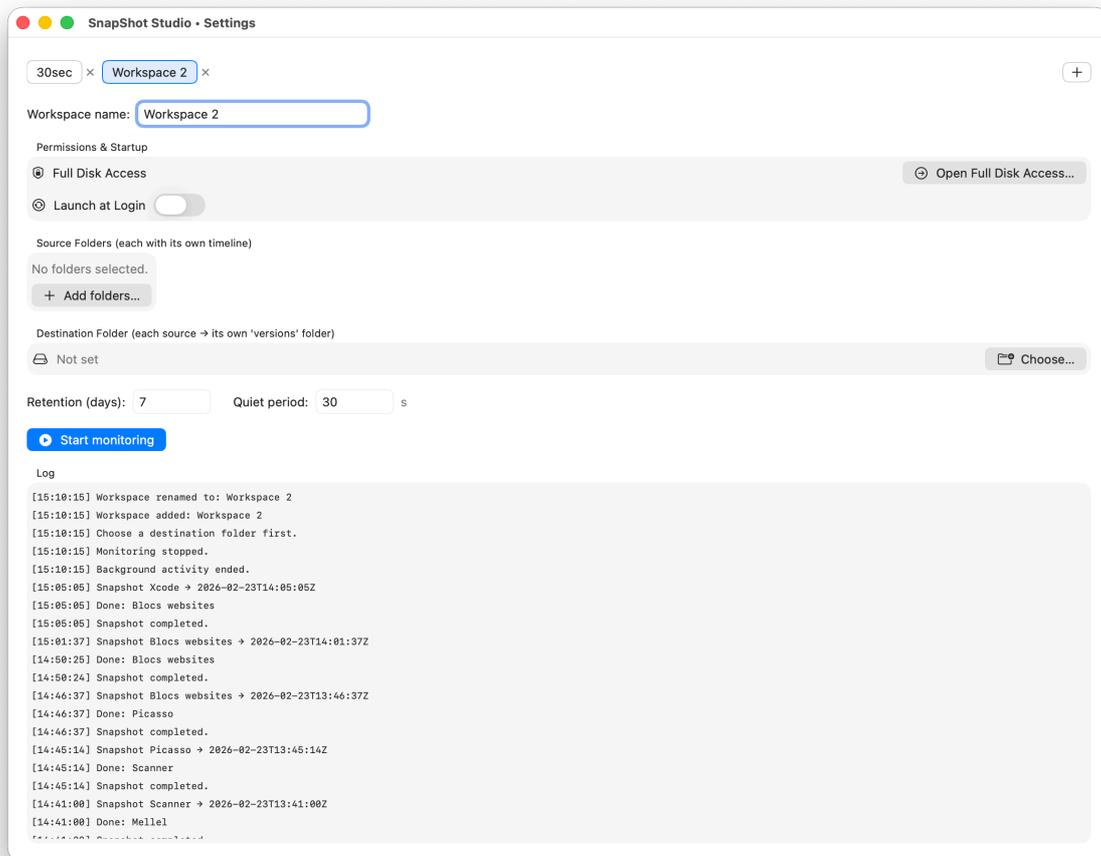
In the top right corner of the app, you will find a plus sign. This icon is a powerful tool that allows you to create tabs within the application. Tabs are particularly useful if you have multiple destination folders or different quiet time settings. By creating tabs, you can organise your snapshot settings more efficiently, making it easier to manage and monitor the snapshotting process across different folders and time periods.

In summary, setting up SnapShot Studio is a simple yet powerful process that allows you to efficiently manage your data backup and recovery needs. With its intuitive interface, flexible settings, and organisational tools, SnapShot Studio provides a reliable solution for protecting your valuable data.

Performance booster

SnapShot Studio is most effective when you avoid attempting to back up large volumes of data. If you attempt to back up a substantial folder, it can adversely affect both reading and writing times. To achieve optimal performance, it is advisable to add each project individually rather than backing up an entire folder or drive containing multiple projects. By keeping the folder size smaller, you can

perform more backups within a given time frame, resulting in a greater number of restore points.

Restore data

SnapShot Studio data recovery is straightforward. Simply click on the Timeline/Restore… button. A pop-up screen will appear. At the top of the screen, you will see all available backups. Just select the date and time when your data was functioning as intended.

Then, at the bottom of the screen, choose which data needs to be restored. You can use the Shift key to select more than one file. Next, press the Restore Selected Items button and wait a few seconds for all the data to be restored.
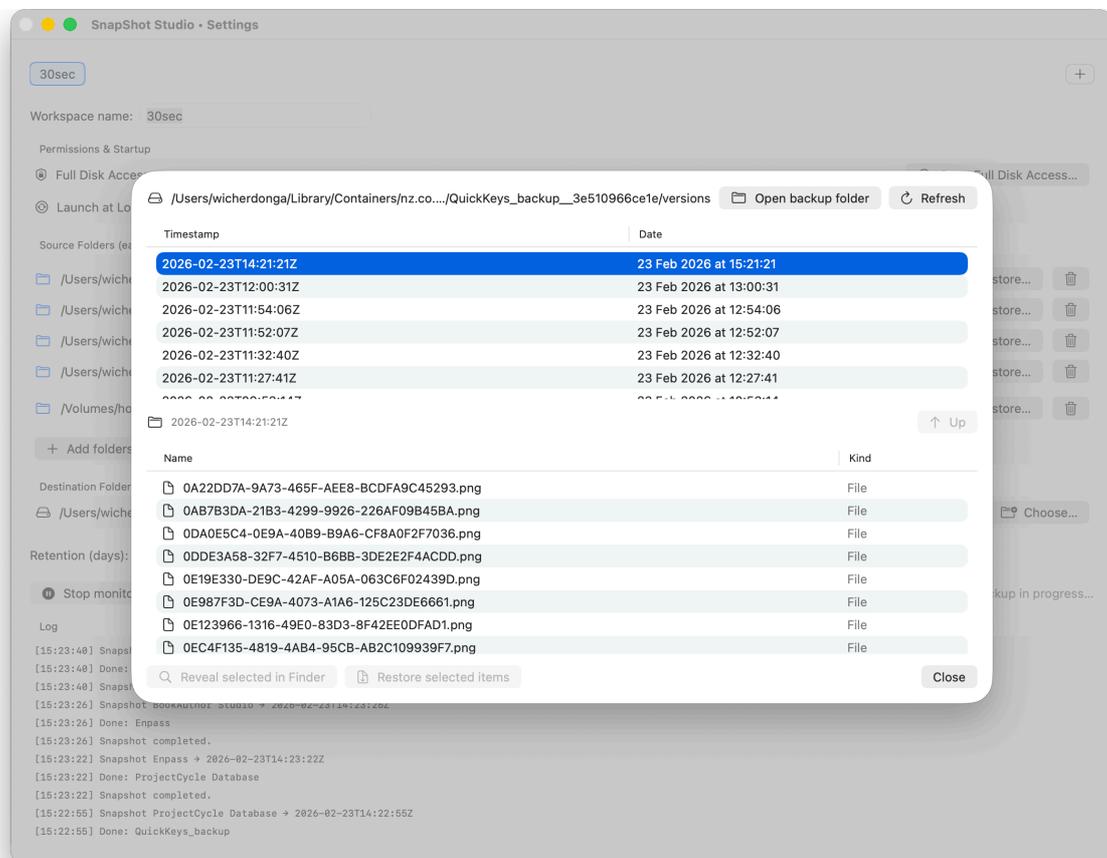
Using SnapShot Studio Alongside Time Machine and Carbon Copy Cloner

To ensure that your data is both quickly recoverable and securely archived for the long term, we recommend using SnapShot Studio in combination with either Time Machine or Carbon Copy Cloner. This dual approach leverages

the strengths of each tool, providing a comprehensive backup strategy.

Why Combine SnapShot Studio with Time Machine or Carbon Copy Cloner?

SnapShot Studio excels at creating fast, lightweight snapshots of your system. These snapshots allow you to roll back to a previous state in moments, which is invaluable for quickly recovering from accidental changes, software issues, or minor data loss.

However, snapshots alone are not a complete backup solution. They typically reside on the same storage device and are designed for short-term recovery. If your primary disk is damaged, lost, or corrupted, snapshots will not protect your data. This is where long-term backups, such as those created by Time Machine or Carbon Copy Cloner, become essential.

Benefits of This Two-Layer Backup Strategy

1. **Fast Recovery:** SnapShot Studio provides near-instant restoration of files or system states.
2. **Long-Term Security:** Time Machine or Carbon Copy Cloner maintains comprehensive backups on separate storage devices, protecting against hardware failure or catastrophic loss.
3. **Efficient Storage Use:** Snapshots are lightweight and do not consume excessive disk space, while periodic full backups ensure complete data protection.

Recommended Setup

1. **Configure SnapShot Studio** to create automatic snapshots when your work changes. These snapshots will serve as your first line of defence against recent changes or deletions.
2. **Set Up Time Machine or Carbon Copy Cloner** to run scheduled backups to an external drive or network storage. This provides a separate, reliable repository for long-term data retention.
3. **Monitor Storage Usage** to ensure that snapshots and backups are balanced, preventing excessive disk consumption.

By using SnapShot Studio alongside Time Machine or Carbon Copy Cloner, you achieve the best of both worlds: the speed of snapshots for day-to-day protection and the safety of long-term backups for total peace of mind.

Retention

In the previous chapter, we discovered that SnapShot Studio doesn't necessitate extensive backup durations to establish a fail-safe backup strategy. However, long-term retention can be advantageous in specific situations. For instance, you might need to provide evidence over time that you worked on a particular project, whether it's to deliver proof to paying customers or, for example, to demonstrate that you were the inventor of that unique piece of code. With SnapShot Studio, you can create a timeline of events. Since each backup is accompanied by its unique timestamp, you have irrefutable proof. This feature can save a significant amount of time for certain creative professionals, such as engineers or software developers.

Spinning beachball

Although SnapShot Studio operates smoothly on the majority of hardware configurations, there are instances where it may appear as though the software has crashed. We can assure you that this is not the case in most situations. The macOS operating system restricts our ability to perform certain operations in the background. Consequently, when using specific backup drives, network-attached storage (NAS) devices, or cloud locations that are not particularly fast or may require some time to respond, macOS might display a misleading message indicating that the application has crashed. In the majority of these cases, simply waiting will resolve the issue automatically. Once the estimated time of arrival (ETA) is displayed, the spinning beach ball will disappear.

Helpdesk

Our support team is there for you!

We'd love to hear from you! If you have any questions about your purchase or some fresh ideas to enhance our products, don't hesitate to reach out. We're always here to respond!

https://www.enlightenment.school/contact.html