

Portability

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Introduction

Atlantis supports two types of installation — non-portable and portable.

The most common way to install applications is as non-portable. When installed as non-portable, Atlantis stores its files under multiple folders that cannot be freely renamed or moved with the file manager. Some of those folders are specific to the Windows account of a user. So, if a given computer is used by multiple users with separate Windows accounts, Atlantis would create separate user-specific folders with the Atlantis files for each user. For instance, each Windows user gets their own folders with the Atlantis document templates, spellcheck lexicons, and backup files. In this way, when a user modifies a document template or adds words to a spellcheck lexicon, this does not affect the other users of this computer — their document templates and spellcheck lexicons remain unchanged. A non-portable copy of Atlantis also usually creates shortcuts in the Windows Start menu, and on the Windows Desktop, and makes some changes to the Windows Registry to enable integration with the file manager. The proper way to uninstall a non-portable copy of Atlantis is through the Windows Control Panel.

The other way to install Atlantis is as portable. All the files of a portable copy of Atlantis reside under the same home folder that can be freely renamed or moved to a new location (including a different computer) using the file manager. The portable Atlantis does not make changes to the Windows Registry or any other system files. Portable copies of Atlantis can be created both on removable drives (such as USB memory sticks or cards) and non-removable (fixed) drives (hard disks or solid state drives). When installed on a removable drive, a copy of Atlantis always acts as portable. The key thing that makes a copy of Atlantis on a fixed drive portable is the configuration file "Atlantis.ini" present under the home folder of this copy. If a copy of Atlantis is portable, there is a corresponding indication in its "Help | About..." window.

Choose the standard non-portable installation:

- If you are not sure which installation type to choose.
- If this copy of Atlantis will be used by multiple users.
- If you need a better integration between Atlantis and your Windows.

Install as portable:

- If you want all the Atlantis files to be stored under the same folder of your choice.
- If you want the home folder of Atlantis to be freely movable from one location to another using the file manager.
- If you plan to use the same copy of Atlantis on different computers.
- If you need Atlantis to be completely "stealth" (no changes to the host system).

Installing as portable

If you want to create a fresh new portable copy of Atlantis with the factory settings, first download the setup file of Atlantis.

If a portable copy has to be created on a USB memory stick, connect your USB device to the computer.

Run the setup. Then check the "Install as portable" option, and specify the folder to install the portable copy to:

The 'Install as portable' option

Note that the destination folder must be fully accessible by Atlantis for both reading and writing files. You cannot create a portable installation in a location requiring administrative privileges (including the system "Program files" folder). If you share your computer with other users, it is preferable to install a portable copy of Atlantis to one of your personal folders inaccessible to other users.

The setup file does not create the Desktop or Start menu shortcuts for the portable copy of Atlantis. Also, a portable copy cannot be uninstalled through the Control Panel of Windows. To remove a portable copy of Atlantis from your system you can simply delete its home folder with the file manager.

If you have a standard (non-portable) copy of Atlantis on your computer, you can create its portable clone: all the files and settings of your non-portable copy would be copied to the portable copy. Here is how to proceed:

Run the non-portable copy.

Choose the "Tools | Install as Portable..." menu command.

Follow the instructions in the "Install as Portable" dialog:

The 'Install as portable' dialog

If the non-portable copy of Atlantis is not needed anymore, you can uninstall it through the Control Panel of Windows.

If you need to, you can create multiple portable copies of Atlantis on the same computer, each configured differently for different purposes.

Using portable copies

To launch the portable copy, just run the "awp.exe" file from its home folder. If you are planning to use this portable copy at its current location on this computer for a while, you may wish to create a temporary shortcut to this "awp.exe" file on the Windows Desktop.

To update the portable copy, choose the "Help | Check for Updates..." menu command.

Never delete the configuration file "Atlantis.ini" from the home folder of the portable copy because this would turn it into an improperly installed non-portable copy. Do not delete, rename, or move any files or folders from the portable home folder that have been automatically generated by this portable copy or its setup. But you can create your own new folders under the portable home folder where you can store your documents or any other files.

When the portable copy is not running, you can rename its home folder and/or move it to a new location using the file manager.

You can use portable fonts with the portable copy of Atlantis.

To back up your portable copy, you can simply back up its entire home folder. Zip the folder first to save disk space.

You can also create a non-portable copy from a portable copy. Just run the portable copy and choose the "Tools | Install as Non-Portable..." menu command.

Privacy, Security & Safety

Atlantis Word Processor is designed with an emphasis on making document editing not only productive and comfortable, but also safe and secure. Below is a summary of how Atlantis treats your personal data, and how you can configure Atlantis to have a secure and safe working environment.

Terminology

This article refers to the "user files" folder that is the folder where Atlantis stores its user-specific files (the main configuration file "Atlantis.ini", document templates, spellcheck lexicons, Backup Files, the Clip Library, and more). The actual location of this folder is reported by the "User files location" box on the "Load\Save" tab of the "Tools | Options..." dialog of Atlantis.

The temporary folder is a location where Atlantis stores its various temporary files. A non-portable copy of Atlantis uses the system Temp folder of the current Windows user for its temporary files. A portable copy of Atlantis stores its temporary files in the "Temp" folder under the home folder of this portable copy.

Privacy

Atlantis is an offline word processor that does not require an Internet connection to function.¹ It is not based on and does not use any cloud or remote services. To use Atlantis, you are not required to create an account with or login to any Web-based service.

Atlantis never sends any data (including your document files or their fragments) from your computer to any other device or server unless you explicitly instruct Atlantis to do so (for instance, by using the "Send by email" command of Atlantis, or the "Install as portable" command to create a portable clone of the current Atlantis copy on another drive).

Atlantis makes as few changes to the host system and leaves as few traces of its functioning as possible. Atlantis does not make changes to the system files or system configuration (including the file type associations). A non-portable copy of Atlantis makes minimal changes to the Windows Registry². A portable copy of Atlantis never makes changes to the Windows Registry.

There are a number of the program components that may require your attention concerning your privacy:

As you use Atlantis, it may record certain elements of your activity in various history lists. For instance, the "File | Recent Documents" menu lists the document files that you have recently opened. Or the Find/Replace tool of Atlantis keeps a track of recently

used search patterns. These history lists do not get cleared by default on program close. You may decide to set certain history lists to be automatically cleared on program close, or disable the history lists altogether.

When the Atlantis Clipboard history is enabled, Atlantis collects data placed onto the clipboard as separate clips in the temporary folder. These temporary clips get deleted on program close. You can disable the Clipboard history on the "Edit" tab of the "Tools | Options..." dialog.

The Clippy Bank of Atlantis may contain your sensitive information. You can press F8 in Atlantis to open the Clippy Bank, and examine its contents. The Clippy Bank file does not get cleared on program close, so you may need to do so manually. The Clippy Bank file is named "Clippy Bank.rtf", and you may find it under the "user files" folder.

If the Power Type tool is enabled, the "Spellcheck" folder under the "user files" folder may contain files with the .cache extension. These files may contain words and entire phrases that you have typed in Atlantis over time. In addition to disabling the Power Type tool, you may also decide to delete its .cache files with the file manager.

The spellcheck user lexicons are stored as files with the .tlx file extension in the "Spellcheck" folder under the "user files" folder. If you have added words or phrases to the spellcheck user lexicons, you may wish to make sure these files do not contain your sensitive information.

The "User name" box on the "General" tab of the "Tools | Options..." dialog lists the name of the user of this copy of Atlantis. Atlantis may put this name in document files when saving documents or use it when updating fields. You may decide to change this "user name" for privacy reasons.

Atlantis removes its temporary files from the temporary folder on program close. But if Atlantis terminated abnormally for any reason, the temporary folder might contain files with your sensitive information. Running Atlantis again and closing it will remove the temporary files created by the earlier instances of Atlantis that were not closed correctly.

Atlantis may move files to the Windows Recycle bin if the "Never move files to the Recycle Bin" option is not checked on the "General" tab of the "Tools | Options..." dialog.

The "Clip Library" folder under the "user files" folder may contain clips with your sensitive information if you ever added items to the Clip Library.

The "Favorites" folder under the "user files" folder may contain links to your documents if you ever added documents to the Favorites.

If you ever created your document templates or made changes to the standard document templates of Atlantis, the "Templates" folder under the "user files" folder may contain document files with your personal information.

The "Backup files" folder under the "user files" folder may contain old versions of your documents with sensitive information. To customize the Backup Files tool of Atlantis or revise the currently backed-up files, click the "Backup Files..." button on the "Load\Save" tab of the "Tools | Options..." dialog of Atlantis.

The "user files" folder may contain document files with your personal information if you ever instructed Atlantis to save your documents to this folder.

1 An Internet connection may be required to download certain optional components of Atlantis, update Atlantis, and access the online Help articles.

2 When creating a non-portable installation, the setup of Atlantis saves the install configuration (the destination folder and a few other options like "Create the Desktop shortcut" and "Install to all users") to the following Registry key:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Atlantis Word Processor\Install. This information may be automatically used the next time you run the setup of Atlantis. To enable uninstallation of the non-portable copy of Atlantis, the setup also adds corresponding information to the following Registry key:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\Atlantis Word Processor.

Also, a non-portable copy of Atlantis adds information to the HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT section of the Windows Registry to allow correct association between Atlantis and its supported document types (the "HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\Atlantis.<document_type>" and "HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\.<file_extension>\OpenWithProgIds" Registry keys).

Security

The setup file of Atlantis does not install third-party applications or services. The Save as eBook tool of Atlantis may download the Amazon's kindlegen utility on the user's request. This utility is used by Atlantis exclusively to convert eBooks to the MOBI format. Atlantis may also download optional components (proofing tools, sound schemes, UI language packs, etc) from its server if requested by the user.

The "user files" folder of a non-portable copy of Atlantis by default is located under the personal folder of the current Windows user which is normally inaccessible to other users of this system. Note that Windows may automatically synchronize your personal folder (including the "user files" folder of Atlantis) to your cloud storage account. If you do not want your Atlantis files to be uploaded to a cloud storage, you can choose a different location for the "user files" of Atlantis on the "Load\Save" tab of the "Tools | Options..." dialog. Alternatively, you can convert your non-portable copy of Atlantis into a portable one (use the "Tools | Install as Portable..." menu command of Atlantis).

A portable copy of Atlantis stores all its files under a folder chosen by the user, making it easier to secure and monitor its contents.

You may decide to encrypt documents containing sensitive information.

Atlantis never saves your passwords to encrypted documents to disk.

Safety

Atlantis offers multiple tools and options meant to prevent loss of data, be it document files or the configuration data.

The Backup Files tool can create automatic and regular backups of your documents as you work on them. Successive versions of each document are saved to a special backup folder. In this way, you will always be able to go back to earlier versions of any document. You can choose where to backup documents to (for example, to a different drive or a cloud storage).

Atlantis can create safe copies of documents in the temporary folder and autosave its settings at regular intervals against system failure and crashes.

To prevent accidental changes to certain document files, you can open them in Atlantis as read-only.

The entire Atlantis configuration can be easily backed-up:

If you are using a non-portable copy of Atlantis, you can backup the Atlantis "user files" folder with the file manager. To restore a configuration backed-up in this way, you can simply copy the backed-up "user files" back to their original location with the file manager.

An alternative way to backup the configuration of a non-portable copy of Atlantis is by creating its portable clone (use the "Tools | Install as Portable..." menu command). To restore a non-portable copy from its portable clone, run the portable copy, and use its "Tools | Install as Non-Portable..." menu command.

In case of a portable copy, you can simply backup the entire home folder of Atlantis with the file manager. When you need to restore your portable copy from the backup, just copy the backed-up home folder of Atlantis to the original or any other location.