

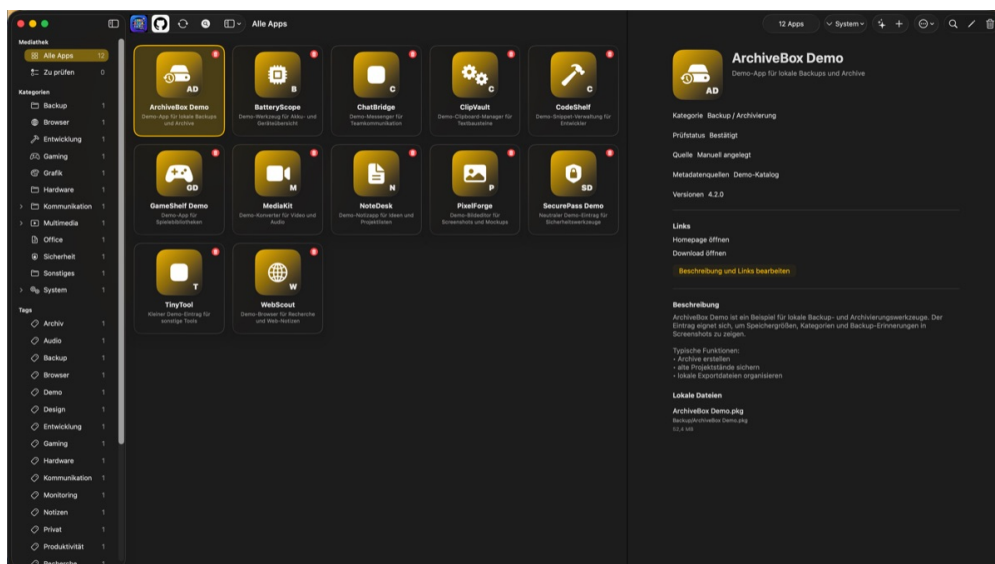


AppAtlas User Manual

A clear guide to your local application catalog

AppAtlas helps you collect applications, installers, and their information in one place. This manual explains every important feature, where to find it, and the simplest way to use it.

English | July 2026 edition



AppAtlas User Manual - Classic layout

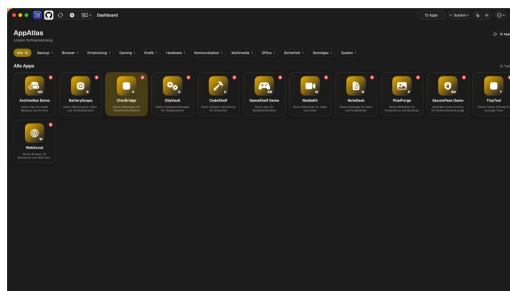
Contents

1. AppAtlas at a glance
2. Where to find everything
3. Create your first catalog
4. Manage apps
5. Search, filters, and layouts
6. Update online data
7. App Assistant and review
8. Licenses and private data
9. Export, import, and backup
10. Appearance and settings
11. Report an issue, help, and privacy

1. AppAtlas at a glance

AppAtlas is a local catalog for your software. You can scan folders for applications and installers, create apps manually, add information, and find everything again later. The app manages a catalog - it does not modify files it finds.

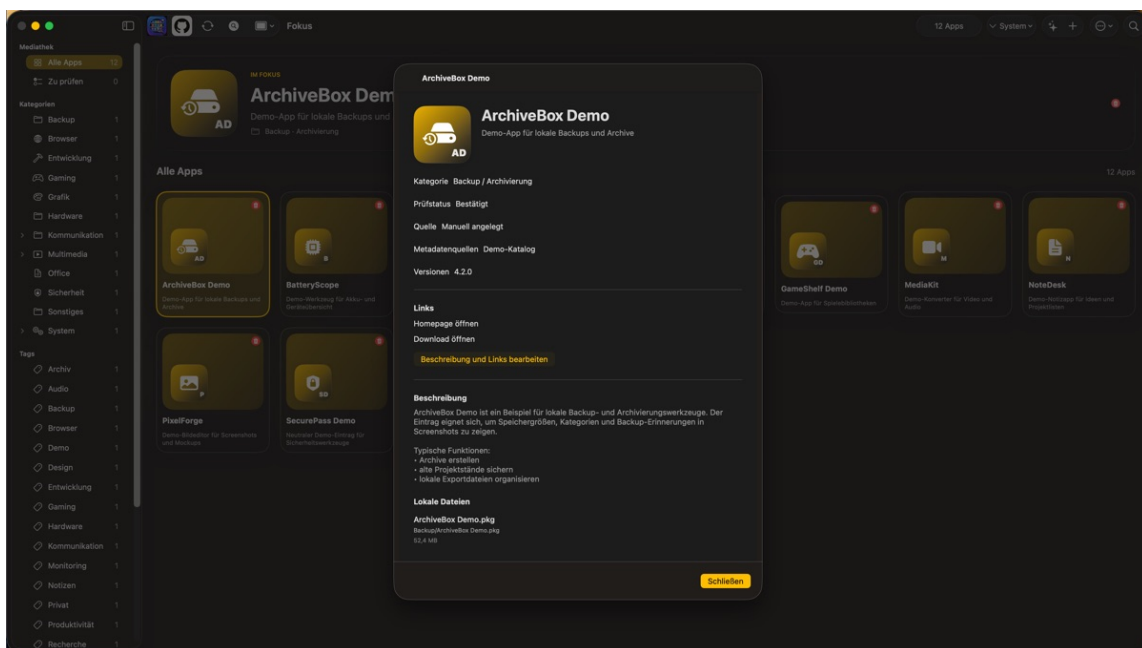
- Scan folders: add applications and installers from a folder you choose.
- Create manually: record software even when no local file is available.
- Organize and find: use categories, subcategories, tags, search, and five layouts.
- Enrich: deliberately look online for missing icons, descriptions, and links.
- Protect your work: export or import the catalog and license data separately.



AppAtlas User Manual - Dashboard layout

2. Where to find everything

Feature	Where to find it
Scan a folder	Top left toolbar: folder icon with a plus.
Change layout	Next to Scan Folder: click the current layout icon.
All apps, categories, tags	Left sidebar.
Search apps	Top right toolbar: Search with magnifying-glass icon.
App Assistant	Top right toolbar: App Assistant with sparkle icon.
Add an app manually	Top right toolbar: Add App with plus icon.
Catalog, import, licenses, statistics	Top right toolbar: App Actions, the circle with three dots.
Settings and report an issue	Inside App Actions.
Themes	Toolbar: theme/color menu next to the app count.
Discord and GitHub	Far left in the top toolbar: the two logo buttons.



AppAtlas User Manual - Focus layout

3. Create your first catalog

Add apps and installers from a folder

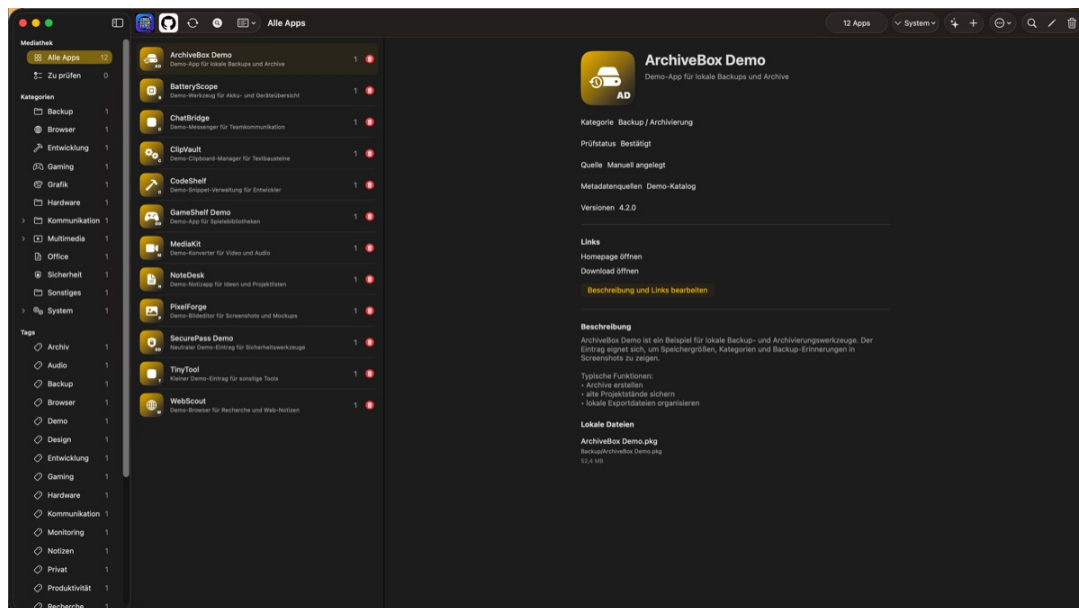
Scanning is the usual starting point. It only searches the folder you choose. Typical file types such as .app, .dmg, .pkg, .zip, .iso, .apk, and .exe are supported. Your original files remain unchanged.

1. Click Scan Folder in the top-left toolbar.
2. Choose the folder containing your applications or installers.
3. Review the proposed matches and remove individual entries if needed.
4. Start the import. Your apps then appear in the library.

When you scan again, AppAtlas can remove local catalog entries that are no longer found. Apps you created manually remain in the catalog.

Use an existing catalog

1. Open App Actions in the top-right toolbar.
2. Choose Import and replace catalog.
3. Choose your AppAtlas JSON file. For a protected export, also enter its password.
4. Confirm only when the current catalog may really be replaced.



AppAtlas User Manual - Compact layout

4. Manage apps

Add an app manually

1. Click Add App in the top-right toolbar.
2. Enter at least the name. Developer, short description, category, and subcategory are optional but useful.
3. Add keywords and tags separated by commas so that the app is easier to find later.
4. Under Links, add a homepage, download page, and GitHub address when available.
5. Save the entry using Save.

Edit, icon, and delete

First select an app in the list. Then open App Actions and choose Edit. There you can change descriptions, categories, tags, links, and the review status. You can choose an icon from a file, paste one from the clipboard, or load it from a direct image URL. Deleting one app and deleting the entire catalog are also available in App Actions.

5. Search, filters, and layouts

The left sidebar is your navigation. All Apps shows the entire catalog. Needs Review shows entries that should still be checked. Categories can contain subfolders; Tags filter by your own labels. The number on the right shows how many apps match.

Search and layouts

Click Search in the top-right toolbar. Search checks app names, categories, and file names. To change the presentation, click the layout icon next to Scan Folder in the top-left toolbar. There are five layouts: Classic, Focus, Compact, Dashboard, and Shelves. The content stays the same; only the presentation changes.

Catalog statistics

Open App Actions > Catalog Statistics for a quick overview. It shows the total number of apps, the size of local files, the number of apps with license data, missing descriptions, icons and homepages, and the distribution across categories.

6. Update online data

When icons, descriptions, or links are missing, you can deliberately enrich them online. Click Update Online Data in the top-left toolbar, or choose the same action in App Actions. During the update, you can Pause, Resume, or Cancel. Progress appears directly in the top toolbar.

- Depending on availability, AppAtlas uses public sources such as iTunes, GitHub, Reddit, and DuckDuckGo. Homebrew and Setapp catalogs are loaded only during this deliberate update and then cached locally.
- A clear Setapp macOS app match adds a short description and, when no download link exists, its Setapp app page. The official developer homepage remains unchanged.
- Afterward, open Needs Review in the sidebar and check suggestions and sources.
- Your own entries are protected: information you maintain yourself is not simply overwritten.
- In Settings, adjust the number of concurrent requests and extended online search.

7. App Assistant and review

Open App Assistant in the top-right toolbar. It answers questions about your local catalog, for example which apps belong to a category or which entries still need review. It works locally. A Reddit search starts online only when you explicitly choose it; only your question is sent, not your catalog or license data.

Review and website exclusion list

Needs Review in the sidebar collects entries whose information should be checked. If AppAtlas wants to ask about a website for an app, you can suppress this prompt for individual apps or groups of apps. Find this under App Actions > Website Exclusion List.

8. Licenses and private data

Open an app through Edit. In the Private License Data area, you can save a serial number, registered email address, license type, and notes. This data is stored only in the macOS Keychain for your user account - it is not part of the regular app catalog.

1. Select an app and open App Actions > Edit.
2. Fill in the fields you want in the Private License Data area.
3. Use the eye icon when you want to reveal the serial number briefly.
4. Click Save. AppAtlas displays a message if saving fails.

License data can also be imported from JSON or CSV: App Actions > Import License Data. AppAtlas shows a preview before the final import. You may optionally create matching catalog entries that are missing.

9. Export, import, and backup

For a backup, open App Actions > Export Catalog. You can export only the catalog, include license data separately, or create a protected export. A protected export uses a password with at least 12 characters and AES-256-GCM encryption. Keep that password safe - the file cannot be restored without it.

1. Open App Actions and choose Export Catalog.
2. Choose the content you need and password protection when desired.
3. Store the JSON file somewhere safe, for example on an encrypted backup drive.
4. To restore it, choose Import and replace catalog.

The backup reminder can be enabled or disabled in Settings > General.

10. Appearance and settings

Themes and your own colors

The theme menu is in the toolbar next to the app count. There you can choose built-in appearances or your own themes. Custom themes can be imported, exported, and deleted. On macOS 26, AppAtlas can automatically use the system Liquid Glass style.

Open App Actions > Settings. On the General tab, choose language, backup reminder, update checking, online search behavior, and the number of parallel online requests. Update checking can display a newer version and open its GitHub release page. On the Scanner tab, define excluded folders, names, relative paths, and file extensions. This is useful when certain areas should never be scanned.

11. Report an issue, help, and privacy

Report an Issue is in App Actions. The report is intentionally small and contains the app version, macOS version, selected language, and your description of the problem. You decide whether to share it. Discord and GitHub are available through the logo buttons at the far left of the top toolbar. The manual and AI help are also linked from the empty start screen.

Privacy in one sentence

AppAtlas works locally first. It reads only folders you choose, does not modify files it finds, and sends data only for features you deliberately start online. License data stays in your macOS user Keychain.

Recommended first steps

1. Scan a folder containing apps or installers.
2. Check the first entries in Needs Review and edit them when needed.
3. Start Update Online Data only when information is missing.
4. After important changes, save an Export Catalog backup.

AppAtlas User Manual