Flowify Saver Pro Documentation

Flowify Saver Pro is a Blender add-on that makes saving and managing `.blend` files straightforward. It offers auto-save, versioned or timestamped backups, and quick access to projects and recent files. Designed for animators, modelers, and other Blender users, it integrates into the 3D View header or N-panel for a smooth workflow.

Installation

1. Download `flowify_saver_pro.zip` from extensions.blender.org (pending approval).
2. In Blender 4.3 or later, go to **Edit > Preferences > Extensions**.
3. Click **Install**, select the zip file, and enable "System: Flowify Saver Pro".
4. Find the Flowify icon (● or ○) in the 3D View header or the "Flowify" tab in the N-panel.

Note: The add-on creates a small database file in a Blender-approved user directory to track backup versions securely.

Features

● **Auto-Save**: Automatically saves your project at set intervals, either overwriting the current file or creating versioned (`_v001`) or timestamped (`_backup_DDMMYYYY_HH-MM-SS`) backups.
● **Manual Backups**: Generates backups instantly with versioned or timestamped filenames.
● **Save As**: Saves files with a `.blend` extension, even if you omit it.
● **File Access**: Opens projects, recent `.blend` files, or project folders directly from the 3D View.
● **Notifications**: Displays brief, non-intrusive alerts in the 3D View for save actions or errors.

Usage

Access Flowify Saver Pro via the 3D View header (click the ●/○ icon for a popover menu) or the N-panel (**N** key > "Flowify" tab).

Save As

1. Click **Save As** (icon: `FILE_TICK`) in the header or N-panel.
2. Select a directory and enter a filename (e.g., `my_project`).
3. Click **Save As**. The file saves as `my_project.blend`, and a notification confirms ("Project saved: my_project.blend").

Auto-Save

1. Toggle **Auto-Save** on in the header or N-panel (default: off).
2. Set **Interval** (e.g., 5 minutes, adjustable from 1 to 60).
3. Choose **Mode**:
   - **Overwrite**: Updates the current file.
   - **Suffix**: Creates a new file with a versioned or timestamped name.
4. Select **Pattern** for Suffix mode:
   - **Versioned**: Adds `_v001`, `_v002`, etc.
   - **Timestamped**: Adds `_backup_DDMMYYYY_HH-MM-SS` (e.g., `_backup_08052025_14-30-00`).
5. Auto-save runs at the set interval, showing a notification (e.g., "Auto-saved in my_project_v001.blend").

Manual Backup

1. Click **Create Manual Backup** (icon: `FILE_BACKUP`).
2. A backup is created with a versioned or timestamped name, based on your **Pattern** setting.
3. A notification confirms (e.g., "Backup created: my_project_v001.blend").

Open Project

1. Click **Open** (icon: `FILE`).
2. Select a `.blend` file.
3. The file opens, with a notification (e.g., "Opened: my_project.blend").

Open Recent

1. Click **Open Recent** (icon: `FILE_REFRESH`).
2. Choose a file from the list of recent `.blend` files.
3. The file opens, with a notification.

Open Backup Folder

1. Click **Open Backup Folder** (icon: `FILE_FOLDER`).
2. The folder containing your current `.blend` file opens in your file explorer.

Settings

Adjust settings in the header popover or N-panel:

- **Auto-Save**: Enable or disable auto-saving.
- **Interval**: Set how often auto-save runs (in minutes).
- **Mode**: Choose Overwrite or Suffix for auto-save behavior.
- **Pattern**: Select Versioned or Timestamped for backup filenames.

Keymapping

You can assign custom shortcuts to Flowify Saver Pro actions:

1. Go to **Edit > Preferences > Keymap**.
2. Search for "Flowify" or "wm.flowify" (e.g., `wm.flowify_save_project` for Save As).
3. Add a keybinding (e.g., `Ctrl+Shift+S` for Save As).
4. Test the shortcut in the 3D View.

Troubleshooting

- **Add-on Not Visible**: Ensure Blender is version 4.3 or later, reinstall the add-on, and check the 3D View header or N-panel.
- **Auto-Save Not Working**: Verify the file is saved (has a filepath) and the project folder is writable. Check your **Interval** and **Mode** settings.
- **Notifications Missing**: Confirm you're in the 3D View, as notifications don't appear in other editors.
- **Permission Errors**: Save projects to a local folder (e.g., `C:\Users\YourName\Documents`) and ensure write access. Avoid cloud-synced folders (e.g., OneDrive) or pause syncing during use.
- **Database Issues**: The backup database (`flowify_versions.db`) is stored in a safe user directory. If errors occur, delete the file (Blender recreates it) and report the issue.

Support

For bugs or questions, visit github.com/Beragragui/flowify-saver-pro/issues. Include:

- Blender version (e.g., 4.3.0).
- Operating system (e.g., Windows 11).
- Add-on version (0.9.0).
- Steps to reproduce the issue.
- Any error messages.

Notes

- Disable Blender's built-in auto-save (**Edit > Preferences > Save & Load > Auto Save Timer = 0**) to avoid conflicts.
- Backups are stored in the same folder as your `.blend` file. Regularly check for old backups to manage disk space.
- The add-on respects Blender's file handling, ensuring compatibility with existing workflows.