

# DeviantArt Scraper - User Manual

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## Table of Contents

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1. [Introduction](#)
2. [System Requirements](#)
3. [Installation & Setup](#)
4. [Getting Started](#)
5. [API Configuration](#)
6. [Gallery Scraping](#)
7. [Favorites Scraping](#)
8. [Export Formats](#)
9. [Progress Monitoring](#)
10. [Troubleshooting](#)
11. [Tips & Best Practices](#)
12. [FAQ](#)

## Introduction

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DeviantArt Scraper is a professional desktop application designed to help you collect and export artwork data from DeviantArt. Whether you're a researcher, artist, collector, or data analyst, this tool provides a comprehensive solution for gathering DeviantArt content information.

## Key Features

- **Dual Functionality:** Scrape both user galleries and favorites
- **Multiple Export Formats:** CSV for analysis, HTML for viewing, Excel for reports
- **Real-Time Progress:** Live updates with transfer rates and item counts
- **Professional Quality:** Retry logic, rate limiting, and error handling
- **Secure:** Encrypted credential storage and OAuth2 authentication

## System Requirements

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## Minimum Requirements

- **Operating System:** Windows 10 version 1809 (build 17763) or later
- **Framework:** .NET 9 Runtime (automatically installed if missing)
- **Memory:** 2 GB RAM
- **Storage:** 100 MB available space (plus space for exported data)
- **Internet:** Stable internet connection for API access

## Recommended Requirements

- **Operating System:** Windows 11
- **Memory:** 4 GB RAM or more
- **Storage:** 1 GB available space
- **Internet:** Broadband connection for faster scraping

## Installation & Setup

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### Download & Install

1. Download the latest release from the project repository
2. Extract the application to your desired folder
3. Run `DeviantArtScraper.exe` to launch the application
4. The .NET 9 runtime will be downloaded automatically if not present

### First Launch

On first launch, you'll see the main application window with:

- **Status:** "Not configured - Please configure API settings"
- **Gallery Tab:** Ready for input but requiring API setup
- **Favorites Tab:** Also available after API configuration
- **Settings Button:** Located in the bottom right corner

## API Configuration

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Before you can scrape any data, you need to configure your DeviantArt API credentials.

# Getting DeviantArt API Access

## 1. Visit DeviantArt Developer Portal

- Go to [DeviantArt Developer Portal](#)
- Log in with your DeviantArt account

## 2. Create a New Application

- Click "Register your Application"
- Fill in the application details:
  - **Application Name:** "Personal Scraper" (or your choice)
  - **Description:** "Personal data collection tool"
  - **Website:** Your website or "N/A"
- **Grant Type:** Select "Client Credentials"
- Accept the terms and create the application

## 3. Get Your Credentials

- Once created, you'll receive:
  - **Client ID:** A long string of characters
  - **Client Secret:** Another long string (keep this private!)

# Configuring the Application

## 1. Open Settings

- Click the "Settings" button in the bottom right corner
- The Settings dialog will open

## 2. Enter Your Credentials

- **Client ID:** Paste your Client ID from DeviantArt
- **Client Secret:** Paste your Client Secret from DeviantArt
- Click "Test Connection" to verify your credentials
- If successful, you'll see "Connection successful!"

## 3. Save Configuration

- Click "OK" to save your settings
- Your credentials are encrypted and stored securely on your computer

- The main window status will update to "Ready - API configured and authenticated"

## Security Notes

- Your credentials are encrypted using Windows DPAPI
- Credentials are only stored on your local machine
- The application uses OAuth2 for secure API access
- No passwords or personal data are stored

## Gallery Scraping

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Gallery scraping collects all public artwork uploaded by a specific DeviantArt user.

### Step-by-Step Process

#### 1. Navigate to Gallery Tab

- The Gallery tab is selected by default
- Ensure your API is configured (status shows "Ready")

#### 2. Enter Target Username

- In the "DeviantArt Username" field, enter the username you want to scrape
- Example: "sakimichan", "loish", "david-revoy"
- **Note:** Only public galleries can be scraped

#### 3. Choose Export Filename

- Enter a filename in the "File Name" field (without extension)
- Default: "gallery\_export"
- You can use the "..." button to browse and select a location

#### 4. Select Export Format

- **CSV:** Best for data analysis and spreadsheets
- **HTML:** Creates a visual gallery for web viewing
- **Excel (XLSX):** Professional reports with advanced formatting

#### 5. Start Scraping

- Click "Start Scraping" to begin the process
- The progress bar will appear and show live updates
- You'll see real-time statistics:
  - Number of items collected
  - Transfer rate in KB/s
  - Current operation status

## What Gets Collected

- **Basic Information:** Title, URL, publication date
- **Artist Details:** Username and profile information
- **Engagement Stats:** Favorites count, comments count
- **Media Information:** Download URLs, thumbnail URLs
- **Content Flags:** Mature content indicators
- **Metadata:** All available public data from the API

## Data Sorting

Gallery items are automatically sorted by publication date (newest first) to maintain chronological organization.

## Favorites Scraping

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Favorites scraping collects all public artwork that a user has favorited from other artists.

## How It Works

### 1. Switch to Favorites Tab

- Click the "Favorites" tab in the main window
- The interface is similar to the Gallery tab

### 2. Configure Scraping

- **Username:** Enter the user whose favorites you want to collect
- **Filename:** Choose a name for your export (default: "favorites\_export")
- **Format:** Select CSV, HTML, or Excel export

### 3. Start Collection

- Click "Start Scraping" to begin
- The process works the same as gallery scraping
- Progress is shown in real-time

## Favorites-Specific Features

- **Multi-Artist Data:** Collects works from many different artists
- **Special Sorting:** Organized by artist name, then by date
- **Unique Templates:** HTML exports use favorites-specific styling
- **Collection Analysis:** Great for studying user preferences and trends

## Use Cases for Favorites

- **Inspiration Research:** See what inspires specific artists
- **Trend Analysis:** Identify popular styles and themes
- **Community Mapping:** Understand artistic communities and connections
- **Curation Studies:** Analyze how users curate their collections

## Export Formats

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### CSV (Comma-Separated Values)

**Best For:** Data analysis, spreadsheets, statistical research

**File Structure:**

```
Title,Author,URL,Published Date,Mature Content,Stats Favourites,Stats Comments,Download URL,1
"Fantasy Landscape","artist123","https://...", "2025-01-15 14:30:00",false,"1250","45","https:
```



**Features:**

- UTF-8 encoding for international characters
- Proper CSV escaping for special characters
- Compatible with Excel, Google Sheets, and analysis tools
- Small file size for large datasets

## HTML (Web Gallery)

**Best For:** Visual browsing, presentations, offline viewing

**Features:**

- **Professional Design:** Dark theme with modern styling
- **Responsive Layout:** Grid layout that adapts to screen size
- **Interactive Elements:** Clickable thumbnails with hover effects
- **Pagination:** 100 items per page for performance
- **Metadata Display:** Shows stats and information for each piece
- **Navigation:** Easy browsing between pages

**File Structure:**

- Main files: {base\_name}.html , {base\_name}\_page2\_.html , etc.
- Self-contained: No external dependencies required
- Mobile-friendly responsive design

## Excel (XLSX)

**Best For:** Professional reports, business analysis, detailed documentation

**Features:**

- **Professional Formatting:** Clean, business-ready appearance
- **Hyperlinked URLs:** Click to visit artwork directly
- **Conditional Formatting:** Visual indicators for mature content
- **Auto-Fitted Columns:** Optimal width for all data
- **Frozen Headers:** Header row stays visible while scrolling
- **Auto-Filtering:** Easy sorting and filtering options
- **Number Formatting:** Properly formatted statistics

**Advanced Features:**

- Multiple worksheets for complex analyses
- Formula-ready data for calculations
- Professional styling with corporate color schemes
- Export-ready for sharing with stakeholders

# Progress Monitoring

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## Real-Time Feedback

The application provides comprehensive progress information during scraping operations:

### Progress Indicators:

- **Progress Bar:** Visual indication of activity (marquee style)
- **Item Counter:** "Collected X items..." shows current progress
- **Transfer Rate:** Real-time KB/s measurement
- **Status Messages:** Current operation details

### Progress States:

- **Initializing:** Setting up API connection
- **Collecting:** Actively gathering data
- **Exporting:** Processing and saving data
- **Complete:** Operation finished successfully
- **Error:** Issue encountered (with details)

## Cancellation Support

### How to Cancel:

- Click the "Cancel" button that appears during scraping
- The operation will stop safely after the current API request
- You'll be offered the option to export partial results

### Partial Export Options:

- **Export Collected Data:** Save what was gathered before cancellation
- **Discard Results:** Cancel completely without saving
- **Resume Later:** Not supported - restart from beginning

## Performance Monitoring

### Transfer Rate Calculation:

- Based on items collected per second
- Estimated at ~2KB per artwork metadata



- Updates in real-time during operation
- Helps estimate completion time for large collections

#### Typical Performance:

- **Small Collections** (< 100 items): 30-60 seconds
- **Medium Collections** (100-1000 items): 2-10 minutes
- **Large Collections** (1000+ items): 10+ minutes
- **Factors:** Internet speed, API response time, collection size

## Troubleshooting

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### Common Issues and Solutions

#### "Status: Not configured"

**Problem:** API credentials not set up **Solution:**

1. Click "Settings" button
2. Enter your DeviantArt API credentials
3. Test connection and save

#### "Connection Test Failed"

**Problem:** Invalid API credentials or network issue **Solutions:**

1. Verify your Client ID and Client Secret are correct
2. Check your internet connection
3. Ensure your DeviantArt application is active
4. Try again in a few minutes (temporary API issues)

#### "No gallery items found"

**Problem:** User has no public gallery or username is incorrect **Solutions:**

1. Verify the username is spelled correctly
2. Check if the user's gallery is public
3. Try a different username to test
4. Some users may have empty galleries

## "Request failed (attempt 1/3)"

**Problem:** Temporary API or network issue **Solution:** The application automatically retries - wait for completion

## Application Freezes or Crashes

**Problem:** Unexpected error or system issue **Solutions:**

1. Close and restart the application
2. Check available memory and disk space
3. Temporarily disable antivirus (may interfere)
4. Run as administrator if needed

## Export File Access Denied

**Problem:** File is open in another program or permissions issue **Solutions:**

1. Close Excel or other programs using the file
2. Choose a different filename or location
3. Run application as administrator
4. Check folder permissions

## Error Messages

### API Error Messages

- "Invalid client credentials": Check your Client ID and Secret
- "Rate limit exceeded": Wait and try again (rare with built-in rate limiting)
- "User not found": Verify the username exists and is public
- "Network timeout": Check internet connection and retry

### File Error Messages

- "File already exists": Choose a different filename or delete existing file
- "Insufficient disk space": Free up storage space
- "Invalid filename": Use only letters, numbers, hyphens, and underscores

## Performance Issues

### Slow Scraping Speed

## Causes and Solutions:

1. **Slow Internet:** Use wired connection if possible
2. **Large Collections:** Normal for 1000+ items - be patient
3. **API Throttling:** Built-in rate limiting is working correctly
4. **System Resources:** Close other applications to free memory

## High Memory Usage

**Normal For:** Large collections (1000+ items) **Solutions if Excessive:**

1. Restart application between large scraping sessions
2. Export smaller batches if possible
3. Close other memory-intensive applications

# Tips & Best Practices

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## Maximizing Success

### Username Research

- **Popular Artists:** Search DeviantArt's popular section
- **Username Format:** Most usernames are lowercase with hyphens or numbers
- **Profile URLs:** Username is in the URL: `deviantart.com/USERNAME`
- **Case Sensitivity:** DeviantArt usernames are case-insensitive

### Export Planning

- **Large Collections:** Plan for longer processing times
- **File Organization:** Use descriptive filenames with dates
- **Format Selection:** Choose format based on intended use
- **Storage Space:** Large collections can generate significant data

### Optimal Performance

- **Stable Internet:** Use wired connection for large collections
- **Close Other Apps:** Free up system resources for faster processing
- **Regular Updates:** Keep the application updated for best performance

- **Batch Processing:** Process multiple users separately rather than one massive operation

## Data Management

### File Organization

```
DeviantArt_Exports/  
├─ 2025-01-15_artist1_gallery.csv  
├─ 2025-01-15_artist1_favorites.html  
├─ 2025-01-16_artist2_gallery.xlsx  
└─ README.txt (your notes)
```

### Naming Conventions

- Include date: 2025-01-15\_username\_gallery
- Specify type: \_gallery or \_favorites
- Use format: .csv , .html , or .xlsx
- Avoid spaces: Use underscores or hyphens

### Data Backup

- **Regular Backups:** Export files can't be regenerated identically
- **Cloud Storage:** Consider backing up to cloud services
- **Version Control:** Keep dated versions for research continuity

## Ethical Usage

### Respect Guidelines

- **Public Data Only:** Only scrape publicly available information
- **Rate Limiting:** Don't attempt to bypass built-in rate limiting
- **Academic Use:** Cite DeviantArt and artists in research
- **Commercial Use:** Respect DeviantArt's terms of service

### Best Practices

- **Attribution:** Credit artists when using their data
- **Privacy:** Don't scrape or share private information
- **Research Ethics:** Follow institutional guidelines for data collection
- **Fair Use:** Use data responsibly and within legal boundaries

# FAQ

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## General Questions

**Q: Is this application free to use?**

A: Yes, DeviantArt Scrapper is free software. However, you need your own DeviantArt API credentials.

**Q: Do I need a DeviantArt account?**

A: Yes, you need a DeviantArt account to create API credentials, but you can scrape any public user's content.

**Q: Can I scrape private or mature content?**

A: Only content that's publicly visible on DeviantArt can be scraped. Mature content flags are preserved in exports.

**Q: How much data can I collect?**

A: There are no built-in limits, but be respectful of DeviantArt's API usage guidelines.

## Technical Questions

**Q: Why do I need API credentials?**

A: DeviantArt requires authentication for all API access to prevent abuse and ensure stable service.

**Q: Is my data secure?**

A: Yes, credentials are encrypted locally using Windows security features. No data is sent to third parties.

**Q: Can I run multiple instances?**

A: No, the application prevents multiple instances from running simultaneously. This ensures proper API rate limiting and prevents conflicts during scraping operations.

**Q: What if DeviantArt changes their API?**

A: The application may need updates. Check for new versions if you encounter API errors.

## Usage Questions

**Q: How do I know if a user has a lot of content?**

A: Check their DeviantArt profile page - it shows total deviations and favorites counts.

**Q: Can I scrape my own content?**

A: Yes, you can scrape your own gallery and favorites just like any other public user.

**Q: What's the difference between Gallery and Favorites?**

A: Gallery contains artwork uploaded by the user; Favorites contains artwork they've favorited from others.

**Q: Can I modify the HTML export appearance?**

A: The current version uses embedded templates, but future versions may allow customization.

## Troubleshooting Questions

**Q: The application won't start. What should I do?**

A: Ensure you have Windows 10/11 and that .NET 9 is installed. Try running as administrator.

**Q: I'm getting "Access Denied" errors when exporting.**

A: Check that the target folder exists and you have write permissions. Close any open files with the same name.

**Q: Scraping is very slow. Is this normal?**

A: Yes, the application includes respectful rate limiting. Large collections naturally take longer to process.

**Q: Can I pause and resume scraping?**

A: Currently, you can cancel and export partial results, but pause/resume isn't supported.

## Support and Updates

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### Getting Help

- **Documentation:** Refer to this manual for technical details
- **Issues:** Report bugs and feature requests through the project repository
- **Community:** Connect with other users for tips and best practices

### Staying Updated

- **Check Regularly:** New versions may include bug fixes and new features
- **API Changes:** DeviantArt occasionally updates their API - new versions adapt to changes
- **Feature Requests:** Suggest new features through project channels

## Contributing

- **Bug Reports:** Detailed reports help improve the application
- **Feature Ideas:** User feedback drives development priorities
- **Documentation:** Help improve this manual and other documentation

*DeviantArt Scraper v0.1.25.1005 - Professional DeviantArt Data Collection Tool*

*This manual covers all major features and common usage scenarios. For technical development information, see `CLAUDE.md` in the project repository.*