

dMagy Portable Archive Data

A support folder created and used by dMagy Picture Prep (dMPP)

Do not delete this folder

This folder stores portable, human-readable data that helps dMPP keep your photo archive organized without modifying your original photo files.

Why this folder exists

- People names are consistent across the whole archive (no retyping and no duplicates).
- Locations, tags, and crop presets are reusable and shared across folders.
- The archive stays portable - when you move or copy the archive, this data travels with it.

What is stored here

Typical structure (names may evolve over time):

- People/ - one JSON file per person (record-per-file)
- Locations/ - one JSON file per location
- Tags/ - one JSON file per tag
- Crops/ - one JSON file per crop preset
- _locks/ - soft locks that warn when someone else may be editing the same photo
- _meta/ - schema and app version info used for safe upgrades
- _indexes/ - optional, rebuildable index files used for speed

Collaboration and shared archives

If multiple family members use the same shared archive (Drive, Dropbox, etc.), dMPP supports working on different photos at the same time.

Soft locks (warning only)

- dMPP may create a small lock file in _locks/ while a photo is being edited.
- Locks are warnings only and never block work.
- Locks become stale after a while and are ignored.

What you can safely delete

- Stale files under _locks/ (optional)
- Any files under _indexes/ (dMPP can rebuild them)

What you should not delete

- People/, Locations/, Tags/, Crops/
- _meta/
- Any sidecar JSON files stored next to photos

Where photo metadata is stored

Per-photo metadata is stored next to each image as a dMPMS sidecar JSON file. This keeps the archive portable and avoids a separate database export step.

If something looks wrong

- If you moved the archive, open dMPP and re-select the archive root folder.
- If this folder was deleted accidentally, restore it from a backup.

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