

FaceForge

A local-first, self-hosted **Asset Management System (AMS)** focused on **entities** (real or fictional, human or non-human) and the **assets** attached to them.

FaceForge is designed to be a stable, integration-friendly “boring core” for storing metadata + files, while advanced features (recognition, graph visualization, training, third-party integrations) live in optional plugins.

Status

This repository is currently **docs-first scaffolding** with an initial runnable Core implementation:

- core/ contains a FastAPI app with versioned routing (/v1/ . . .), token auth defaults, SQLite migrations, and initial real endpoints (starting with Entities CRUD).
- desktop/ contains a Tauri v2 Desktop shell MVP (wizard + tray + local process orchestration).
- The “what it is / how it should work” is defined in the spec and the MVP sprint plan.

If you’re arriving here to understand the project, start with:

- Design spec: [docs/FaceForge - Dev Guide - Project Design Specification.html](https://docs.faceforge.dev/docs/FaceForge%20-%20Dev%20Guide%20-%20Project%20Design%20Specification.html)

What FaceForge is (and isn’t)

FaceForge is:

- A desktop-managed local services bundle (no end-user Docker)
- A local HTTP API + web UI for CRUD of entities, assets, relationships, jobs, and plugin configuration
- Built for large local datasets: streaming download + HTTP range/resume support
- Integration-first: external tools should be able to query Core via a stable OpenAPI-documented API

FaceForge is not (in Core):

- Face recognition, embedding generation, LoRA training, graph rendering, or deep third-party integrations

- A cloud-hosted SaaS requirement

Those capabilities are intended to ship as plugins that talk to Core over its public APIs.

Audience

- **End Users:** See [For End Users](#) below.
- **Developers:** See [For Developers](#) to learn how to build and contribute.

For End Users

FaceForge is a self-hosted application designed to run locally on your machine. You do not need to write code or run commands to use it.

1. **Download:** Go to [GitHub Releases](#). You will see two main assets:
 - **FaceForge Desktop Installer (.exe or .msi):** This is the **recommended** download for most users. It includes the full Desktop App, the Core API server, and everything you need to run FaceForge.
 - **FaceForge Core API (.zip):** This is an **advanced** package containing only the Python API server (Core). Use this only if you intend to run the API headlessly or integrate it into a custom setup without the Desktop UI.
2. **Install & Setup:** Follow the [User Guide](#).
 - On first launch, the **System Settings** screen will ask you to select a **Data Directory** (default: C:\FaceForge).
 - The Desktop app manages the background services (database, API, storage) for you.
3. **Use:** Managing your assets happens in the Web UI, which you launch from the Desktop app.

For Developers

This repository is a monorepo containing the Core service (Python) and the Desktop orchestrator (Rust/Tauri).

High-level architecture (intended)

- **FaceForge Desktop** (Tauri v2): orchestrates local components (Core server, optional sidecars like object storage, plugin runners), manages lifecycle, and opens the UI.
- **FaceForge Core** (planned: Python 3.11/3.12 + FastAPI + Uvicorn): serves a versioned API under /v1/ . . . , plus /docs and /redoc, and hosts the web UI.
- **Storage:** transparent, user-controlled storage paths. Core supports filesystem-only mode and an optional S3-compatible provider (intended: SeaweedFS S3 endpoint) with upload-time

routing + automatic fallback.

- **Metadata DB:** SQLite, using a “relational spine + JSON fields” approach (entities/assets/relationships/jobs + flexible descriptors).

Core conventions (from the spec)

When implementation starts, the repo will follow these conventions:

- Network defaults: bind to 127.0.0.1; require a per-install token for non-health endpoints.
- API routing: versioned under /v1/... with OpenAPI always kept accurate.
- Local-first storage contract: FACEFORGE_HOME is the root data directory; Core creates these subfolders under it: db/, s3/, assets/, logs/, tmp/, config/, tools/, plugins/.
- Asset downloads: streaming-first, HTTP range support (resume-friendly), no opaque container volumes.

Repository layout

Quick map of what lives where:

```
desktop/      # Tauri desktop shell (Sprint 12 MVP)
faceforge/
core/         # FastAPI Core service (runnable today)
desktop/      # Tauri desktop shell
docs/         # Project spec + MVP sprint plan (source of truth)
scripts/      # Dev scripts (PowerShell) to run/check Core using .venv
brand/        # Logos, favicon, fonts (UI branding assets)
```

Core service code is a standard Python package under:

```
core/
src/faceforge_core/  # app entrypoint + API + DB + storage
  app.py             # FastAPI app factory / wiring
  api/v1/            # versioned HTTP routes
  db/                # SQLite schema + migrations + queries
  internal/          # internal CLIs/utilities (dev/admin)
tests/              # pytest tests for Core
pyproject.toml      # Core packaging/deps
```

If you're new and wondering “where do I add a route?”, start at:

- core/src/faceforge_core/api/v1/router.py (v1 router)
- core/src/faceforge_core/app.py (app wiring)

Getting started (Development)

FaceForge Core is runnable in dev today, and FaceForge Desktop can orchestrate it.

Prerequisites

Before you start, make sure these tools are installed.

- Rust toolchain (rustc, cargo)
- Verify: `rustc --version` and `cargo --version`
- Install (recommended): Rustup from <https://rustup.rs>
 - Or via WinGet: `winget install --id Rustlang.Rustup -e`
- Tauri CLI (cargo tauri)
- Verify: `cargo tauri --version`
- Install: `cargo install tauri-cli`
- Python 3.12.x
- Verify: `python --version`
- Install: <https://www.python.org/downloads/> (make sure "Add Python to PATH" is enabled)
 - Or via WinGet: `winget install --id Python.Python.3.12 -e`

If you have multiple Pythons installed, ensure python resolves to 3.12.x in the same terminal where you run `./scripts/*.ps1`.

Run Desktop (dev)

Prereq: Rust toolchain (stable).

From the repo root:

- `cargo tauri dev --manifest-path .\desktop\src-tauri\Cargo.toml`

What it does:

- Launches the **System Settings** wizard (Data Directory configuration) on first run
- Starts/stops Core (and optional SeaweedFS if you provide a weed binary under `${FACEFORGE_HOME}/tools`)
- Runs in the tray (closing the window hides it)

Notes:

- Desktop launches Core using the repo-local `.venv` if present. If you haven't bootstrapped `.venv` yet, run `./scripts/dev-core.ps1` once.

- "Open UI" opens /ui/login (paste token once; it becomes a cookie).

Run Core (dev)

From the repo root (Windows PowerShell):

Prereq: Python 3.12.x installed (used only to bootstrap the repo-local .venv).

- ./scripts/dev-core.ps1

Then open:

- http://127.0.0.1:8787/healthz
- http://127.0.0.1:8787/docs

Core also serves a lightweight **Web UI** (no runtime Node dependency):

- http://127.0.0.1:8787/ (redirects to the UI)
- http://127.0.0.1:8787/ui/login

Core now exposes initial Entities + Assets v1 endpoints (token required):

- GET /v1/entities
- POST /v1/entities
- GET/PATCH/DELETE /v1/entities/{entity_id}
- POST /v1/assets/upload (multipart)
- GET /v1/assets/{asset_id}
- GET /v1/assets/{asset_id}/download (streaming + HTTP Range)
- POST /v1/assets/bulk-import (starts a durable job)
- POST /v1/entities/{entity_id}/assets/{asset_id} (link)
- DELETE /v1/entities/{entity_id}/assets/{asset_id} (unlink)

Core also exposes initial Jobs endpoints (Sprint 9):

- POST /v1/jobs
- GET /v1/jobs
- GET /v1/jobs/{job_id}
- GET /v1/jobs/{job_id}/log (append-only, pollable)
- POST /v1/jobs/{job_id}/cancel (cooperative cancellation)

Core also exposes initial Descriptor + Field Definition endpoints (Sprint 7):

- GET /v1/admin/field-defs (admin)
- POST /v1/admin/field-defs (admin)
- GET /v1/admin/field-defs/{field_def_id} (admin)
- PATCH /v1/admin/field-defs/{field_def_id} (admin)
- DELETE /v1/admin/field-defs/{field_def_id} (admin)
- GET /v1/entities/{entity_id}/descriptors
- POST /v1/entities/{entity_id}/descriptors
- PATCH /v1/descriptors/{descriptor_id}
- DELETE /v1/descriptors/{descriptor_id}

Core also exposes initial Relationships endpoints (Sprint 8):

- POST /v1/relationships
- GET /v1/relationships?entity_id=...
- DELETE /v1/relationships/{relationship_id}
- GET /v1/relation-types?query=...

Core also exposes initial Plugins endpoints:

- GET /v1/plugins
- POST /v1/plugins/{plugin_id}/enable
- POST /v1/plugins/{plugin_id}/disable
- GET /v1/plugins/{plugin_id}/config
- PUT /v1/plugins/{plugin_id}/config

Plugins

Core discovers plugin manifests from:

- \${FACEFORGE_HOME}/plugins/*/plugin.json

Minimal plugin.json example:

```
{
  "id": "demo.plugin",
  "name": "Demo Plugin",
  "version": "0.1.0",
  "capabilities": ["ui"],
  "config_schema": {
    "type": "object",
```

```

    "properties": {
      "example_flag": { "type": "boolean" }
    },
    "additionalProperties": true
  }
}

```

Notes:

- Plugin enable/disable and config are persisted in Core's SQLite DB.
- If a config_schema is provided, PUT /v1/plugins/{plugin_id}/config validates the config using JSON Schema.
- The namespace /v1/plugins/{plugin_id}/... is reserved for future plugin-provided HTTP surfaces.

For optional SeaweedFS/S3 storage configuration (Sprint 6), see:

- [docs/FaceForge - Dev Guide - Core.md](#)

Auth

Core binds to localhost by default and requires a **per-install token** for non-health endpoints.

- Health endpoint (no token): GET /healthz
- Example protected endpoint: GET /v1/ping
- System identity endpoint (protected): GET /v1/system/info

Build a Windows executable (Core)

To produce a standalone faceforge-core.exe (PyInstaller one-file build):

1. Verify Python is available (3.12.x): - python --version
2. Build the executable from the repo root: - ./scripts/build-core.ps1 - This script creates/updates the repo-local .venv, installs build dependencies, and runs PyInstaller. - If it fails to delete core/dist or core/build, close any terminals/Explorer windows using those folders and re-run.
 - Optional: ./scripts/build-core.ps1 -AllowTimestampFallback

Outputs:

- core/dist/faceforge-core.exe

Run the built executable (example):

- `./core/dist/faceforge-core.exe --help`

Notes:

- Core still uses `FACEFORGE_HOME` as its data root; if it's not set, Core will use the default behavior described in the spec.
- On first start, Core generates the install token (if missing) and writes it under `${FACEFORGE_HOME}/config/core.json`.

If you want to run Core in dev instead of building an exe:

- `./scripts/dev-core.ps1`

GitHub Releases

This repo includes a GitHub Actions workflow that builds and attaches release assets automatically.

- Workflow: `.github/workflows/release-core.yml`
- Trigger: publish a GitHub Release for a tag like `v0.1.0` (or run the workflow manually with a tag input)

How to cut a release (GitHub UI):

1. Go to **Releases** → **Draft a new release**.
2. Pick an existing tag or create a new one (recommended tag format: `v0.1.0`).
3. Fill in title/notes and click **Publish release**.
4. Wait for the **release-core** workflow to finish; it will upload assets onto the Release.

After the workflow completes, the Release will contain:

- `faceforge-core.exe` (Windows)
- `faceforge-core.sha256` (Windows)
- `faceforge-core-*.whl` (Python wheel)
- `faceforge-core-*.tar.gz` (Python sdist)

The token is generated on first start (if missing) and stored in:

- `${FACEFORGE_HOME}/config/core.json` → `auth.install_token`

Send it using either header:

- `Authorization: Bearer <token>`
- `X-FaceForge-Token: <token>`

For the Web UI in a browser, you can also log in at `/ui/login`, which stores the token in an `HttpOnly` cookie.

Example (PowerShell):

- `Invoke-RestMethod -Headers @{ Authorization = "Bearer <token>" } http://127.0.0.1:8787/v1/ping`

Checks (format + lint + tests)

- `./scripts/check-core.ps1`

These scripts create/use the `repo-local .venv` and always run commands through it.

To get productive right now:

- Read the Project Design Specification:
- [HTML](#)
- [Markdown](#)
- [PDF](#)
- For implementers using AI assistance (e.g. GitHub Copilot), follow these guidelines
- Markdown doc via the repo UI: [copilot-instructions.md](#)

Building for Release

To create a distributable installer:

1. **Build Core Executable:** `powershell ./scripts/build-core.ps1` This uses PyInstaller to freeze the Python service into `core/dist/faceforge-core.exe`.
2. **Build Desktop Bundle:** `powershell ./scripts/build-desktop.ps1` # or, if you want to run Tauri directly: `Push-Location 'desktop/src-tauri' cargo tauri build Pop-Location` This packages the Desktop shell, bundles the Core executable (as a sidecar), and includes necessary tools (ExifTool, etc.).

Contributing

Contributions are welcome, especially as the repo moves from docs → scaffolding → MVP.

- If you're proposing changes, align them to the spec and the sprint sequence.
- Prefer small PRs that complete a sprint deliverable or a clearly scoped subtask.

License

See [LICENSE](#).