

SafeHouse Explorer v3.01

User Guide

SafeHouseSoftware.com

PC DYNAMICS, INC.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This user guide covers all the information required to install and use the SafeHouse Explorer products on several Windows operating systems.

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1. Introduction

SafeHouse Explorer version 3.01 is free encryption software that helps to protect confidential files. The free version of SafeHouse Explorer is fully featured with a lifetime license. This software protects private documents and important files by locking and keeping them safe from unauthorized data access. This encrypted data can be viewed only after entering the password.

To hide and protect important files, including photos, videos, databases, and many more, SafeHouse Explorer uses 256-bit advanced encryption. SafeHouse Explorer creates private storage of your local drive or external media to hide, lock, and secure private files. It can also be used to protect smart cards. Meanwhile, it can also convert a USB drive into a smart card.

1.1. System requirements

The system requirements for installing SafeHouse Explorer (version 3.01) are as follows:

OS: Microsoft® Windows® 2000/XP/2003/2008/Vista/Win7, Win8, Win10.

- CPU: Intel® Celeron or higher processor
- GPU: Intel® graphics 172
- HDD: 10 MB of available hard disk space and additional space for your private files
- RAM: 1 GB for Windows® XP SP3, Vista, Win7, Win8, Win10
- Network connection: 512 Kbps for quick download and upgrade
- Browser: Internet Explorer 5.0 or greater

1.2 Downloading SafeHouse Explorer v3.01

To download the free version of SafeHouse Explorer, do the following:

1. Click the following link: <http://www.safehousesoftware.com/SafeHouseExplorer.aspx>

Then the SafeHouse Explorer v3.01 download screen is displayed.

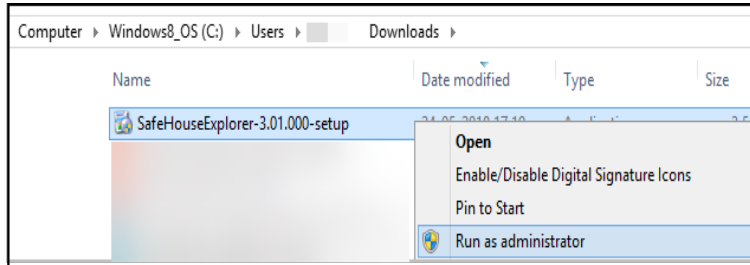


2. Click **Download free**. The **.exe** file will be downloaded to the folder where your system keeps all downloaded files.

1.3 Installing SafeHouse Explorer v3.01

To install SafeHouse Explorer v3.01, do the following:

1. Run the **SafeHouseExplorer-3.01.000-setup.exe** file with Administrator Rights.



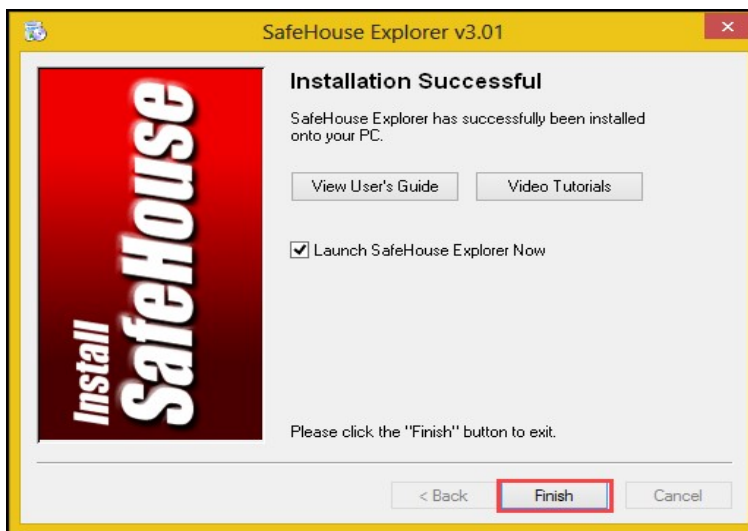
2. Read the information about the software and click **Next**.
3. Read License Agreement carefully, select I accept this Agreement, and then click **Next**.



4. Specify the hard drive directory to install this software. To create a shortcut icon on the desktop, select the check box.
5. Click **Next** to continue the installation process.



6. Click **Finish** to exit setup and launch SafeHouse Explorer v3.01.

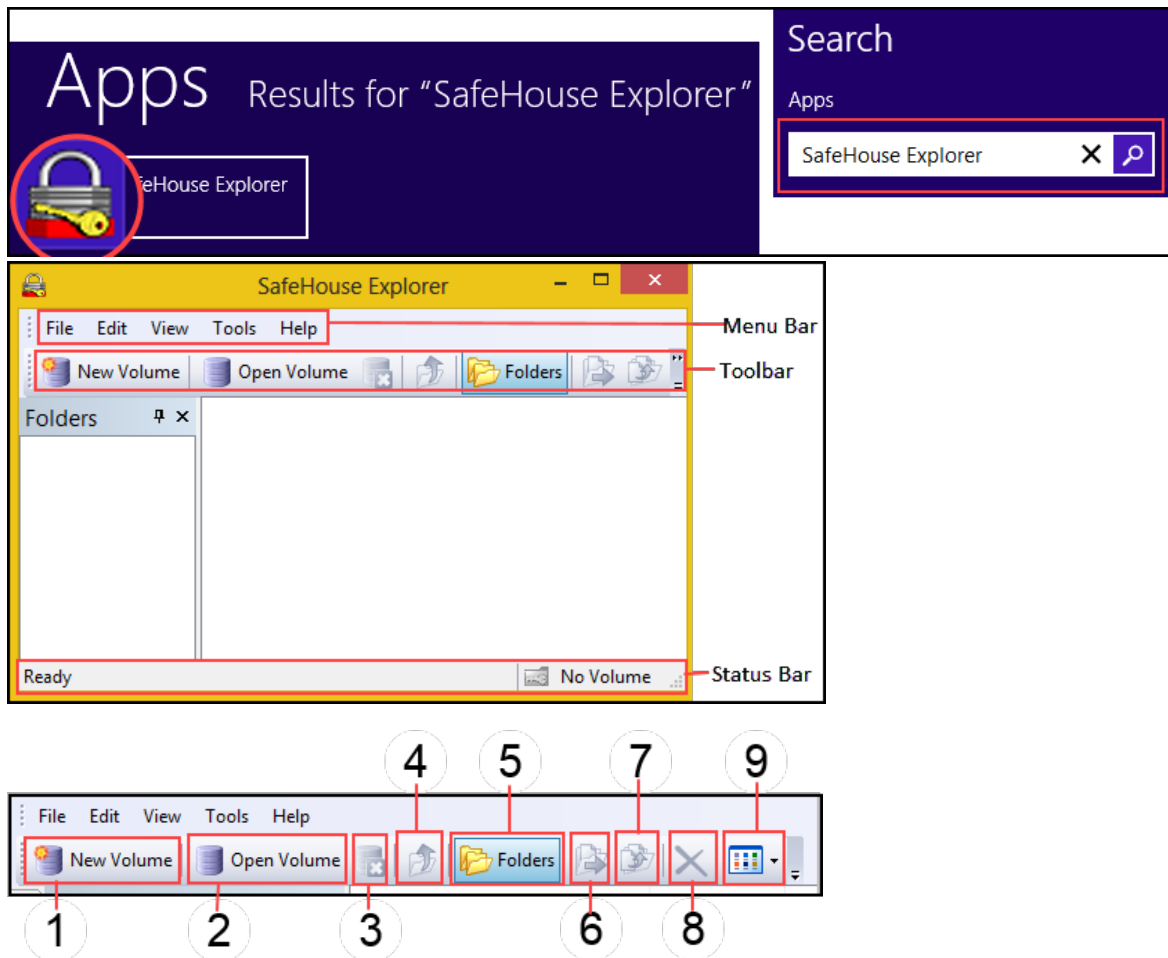


2. Getting Started

SafeHouse Explorer v3.01 is a simple product. Spend 10 to 15 minutes with this getting started chapter, and you will get acquainted with all the basic features of this software.

2.1 Launching SafeHouse Explorer

You can search for a SafeHouse Explorer application in the Windows starts menu. Click on the icon to see SafeHouse's interface.



Some features of the SafeHouse Explorer Toolbar are as follows:

Table 1: Description of SafeHouse Explorer v3.01 Toolbar

Reference Number	Name of Field	Description
1	New Volume	Launches a dialogue to create SafeHouse volume.
2	Open Volume	Opens a SafeHouse volume.
3	Close Volume	Closes the SafeHouse volume.

Reference Number	Name of Field	Description
4	Up (folder)	Navigates up to the parent folder.
5	Folders	Toggles the Folders pane on and off.
6	Move to Folder	Moves the selected items to another location.
7	Copy to Folder	Copies the selected items to another location.
8	Delete	Deletes the selected items.
9	Views	Toggles the view attributes for the displayed items.

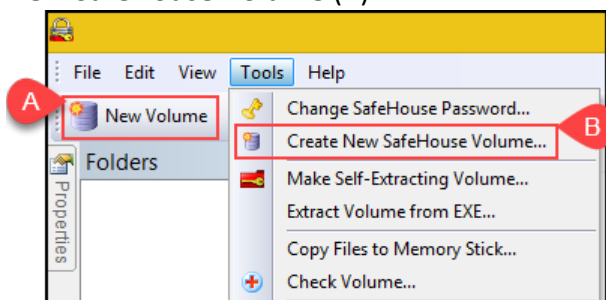
2.2. Performing basic tasks

2.2.1 Creating volumes

The **New Volume** wizard in SafeHouse creates container files in which you can store your private files. The volume can be in internal and external hard drives, network servers, USB flash disks, and memory sticks.

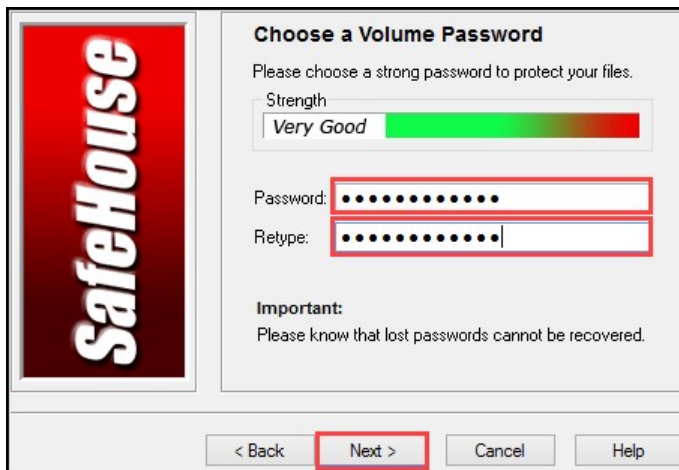
To create **New Volume**, do the following:

1. Start SafeHouse Explorer.
2. Click the **New Volume** (A) button on the toolbar **or** click the **Tools** tab > Click **Create New SafeHouse Volume** (B).



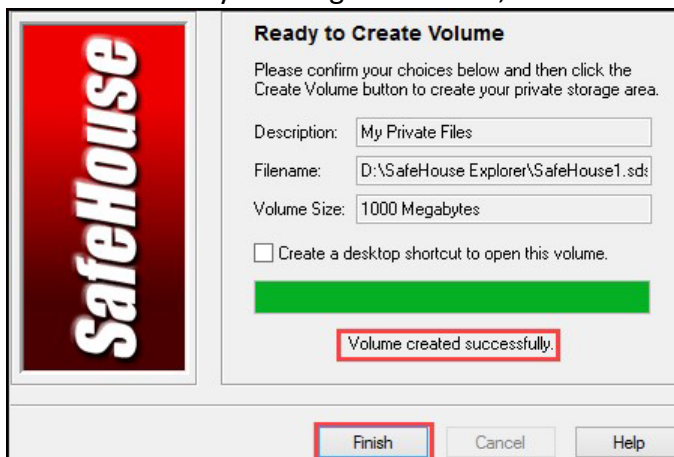
3. When Create New Volume window opens, click **Next**.
4. Specify **folder location** for file storage, **file name**, and **description**. Click **Next** to continue.
5. Specify the volume size of your private storage area and click **Next**.

6. Choose a strong password with an alpha-numeric combination to protect your files and click **Next**.



The dialog box is titled "Choose a Volume Password". It features the SafeHouse logo on the left. The main text says "Please choose a strong password to protect your files." Below this, there is a "Strength" indicator showing "Very Good" with a green bar. There are two password input fields labeled "Password:" and "Retype:". At the bottom, there is an "Important:" note stating "Please know that lost passwords cannot be recovered." and four buttons: "< Back", "Next >", "Cancel", and "Help".

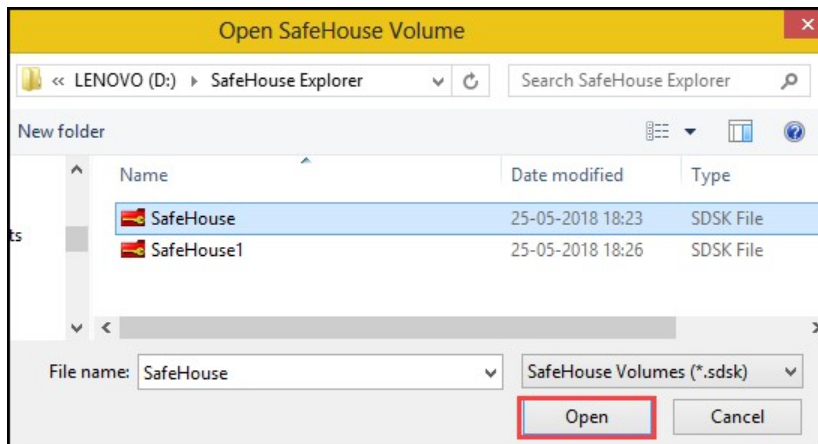
7. Click on **Create Volume** and wait for less than one minute.
8. After successfully creating the volume, click Finish to open the newly created volume.



The dialog box is titled "Ready to Create Volume". It features the SafeHouse logo on the left. The main text says "Please confirm your choices below and then click the Create Volume button to create your private storage area." Below this, there are three input fields: "Description:" with "My Private Files", "Filename:" with "D:\SafeHouse Explorer\SafeHouse1.sds", and "Volume Size:" with "1000 Megabytes". There is a checkbox labeled "Create a desktop shortcut to open this volume." which is unchecked. A green progress bar is shown. A red box highlights the text "Volume created successfully." At the bottom, there are three buttons: "Finish", "Cancel", and "Help".

2.2.1 Opening and closing volumes

To **Open Volume** > Click the **File** tab, select Open Volume from the drop-down, or click the Open Volume button on the toolbar. In the Windows file picker, select the folder location where you created the Volume file (SDSK file type) and click open.



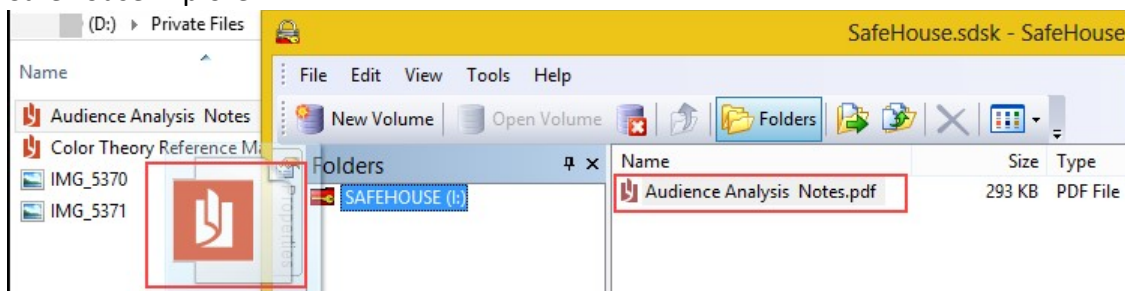
Then, enter the password and click **Open**.



To **Close Volume** → Click the **File** tab, select Close Volume from the drop-down, or click Close Volume button on the toolbar.

2.2.2. Adding private files to SafeHouse Explorer

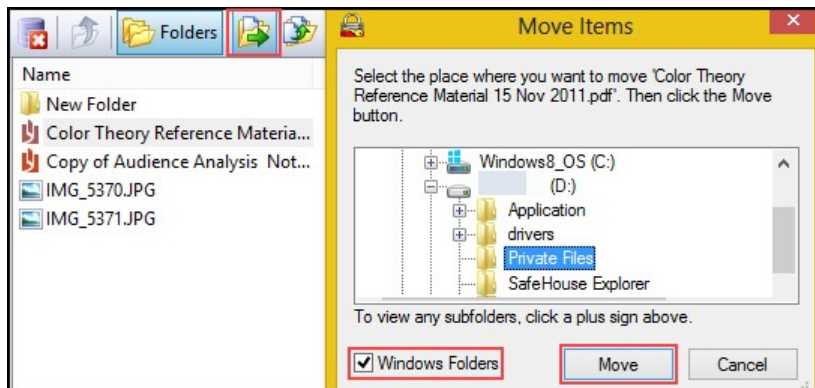
You can add private files to the SafeHouse volume by dragging and dropping the files in SafeHouse Explorer.



2.2.3 Moving the file to another folder

To move the file to another location, do the following:

1. Select the file and click the Move to Folder toolbar button.
2. Select the **Window Folders** checkbox, select where to move the file, and click **Move**.

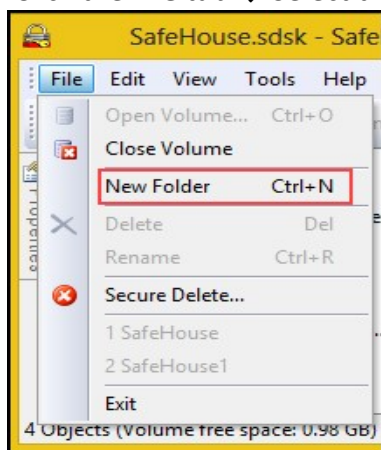


You can follow the same process to copy files to another location. To copy the

2.2.4 Creating a new folder in SafeHouse volume

To create a new folder in SafeHouse volume, do the following:

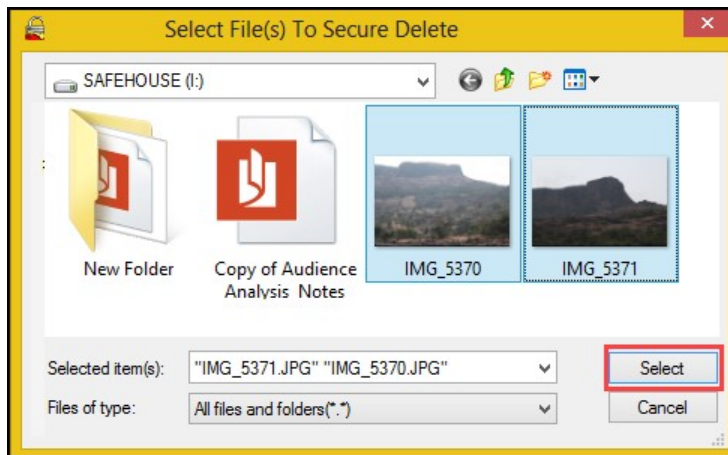
Click the **File** tab → Select the **New Folder** command from the drop-down.



2.2.5 Deleting files

SafeHouse Explorer v3.01 provides the following two types of features:
Secure Delete and Normal Delete.

When you usually delete the files, they can be recovered. The Secure Delete feature can delete files entirely from your hard drive.



3. Working with protected files in SafeHouse Explorer

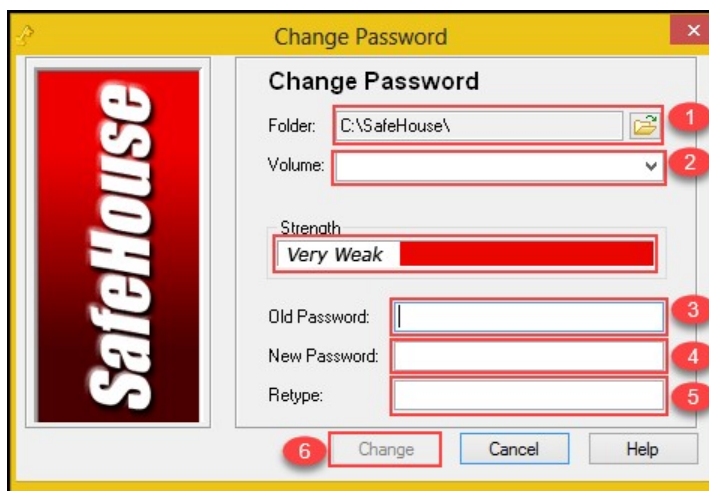
3.1 Tools and Options

3.1.1 Changing a SafeHouse password

SafeHouse Explorer v3.01 provides a facility for changing the volume password. While changing an old password, consider the following points:

- Choose a password having at least ten or more characters.
- Combine letters, numbers, symbols, and upper-case and lower-case letters.

To change your SafeHouse password, → Start SafeHouse Explorer → Click **Tools** on the menu bar → Click **Change SafeHouse Password** → Change Password window opens.



When the **Change Password** window opens, do the following:

1. Locate the SafeHouse Explorer folder containing volume files.
2. Choose the SafeHouse volume file.
3. Enter the old password.
4. Enter the new password.
5. Retype the new password.
6. Click **Change**.

3.3.2 Making Self-extracting volume

The feature **Make Self-Extracting Volume** allows the turn of standard volume into self-running volume. For accessing files, the self-extracting volume does not require SafeHouse Explorer. It needs only the volume password.

The following are the benefits of self-extracting volume:

- Allows the user to access private files without any help of software, including SafeHouse Explorer.
- Allows the user to share sensitive files with others.
- Allows the user to distribute volumes by email.

To **Make Self-Extracting Volume** > Click **Tools** on the menu bar > Click **Make Self-Extracting Volume** > SafeHouse window opens.

Self-extracting volumes can easily be attached to emails.

Note: These are **.exe** files. Hence, email readers (including Outlook) will block them. To avoid this, place the volume inside a zip file because all email readers allow zip files to pass through without alteration.

Important: Never include the password in the same email as the secure attachment!

7777A popular application of SafeHouse's self-extracting volumes is to use them for making secure DVDs. Your files can then be accessed directly from the DVD without needing any other software, not SafeHouse Explorer!

Self-extracting volumes are created from within the regular version of SafeHouse Explorer using the Make Self-Extracting Volume item on the Tools menu. The tool makes a copy of SafeHouse Explorer and then attaches your existing volumes.

The initial password for self-extracting volumes is the same as the original volume from which it was copied. You can change the password as often as desired by opening the volume.

The maximum size for self-extracting volume is 3GB.

4. Troubleshooting

How do I recover a damaged volume?

The best way to recover the SafeHouse volume that has been damaged is to restore your most recent safety backup. If you do not have a recent backup, then SafeHouse keeps a shadow copy of certain critical information, and you can restore from that copy in case of an emergency. For more information, see *How to Repair a Volume for more information*.

