PPA Desktop – Installation and Local Use Guide (for Windows users)

1. What is the PPA Desktop?

The PPA Desktop is a desktop application that runs on your computer. It opens offline in your web browser and helps you create a Patient Pathway Analysis (PPA).

2. Before you start: system requirements

System requirements:

- Windows 10 or 11 (64-bit)
- At least 4 GB of memory is required; 8 GB is recommended
- Internet connection the first time you run PPA Desktop (to download components)
- Hardware virtualization enabled in the BIOS/UEFI (Intel VT-x or AMD-V)
- Windows features for WSL 2 and virtualization enabled

PPA Desktop uses Docker Desktop with the WSL 2 backend. Docker Desktop and WSL 2 together provide the containers that run the application, database, and R layer.

3. Optional – Ensure that hardware virtualization is enabled

- Restart your computer and enter the BIOS/UEFI setup (commonly F2, Del, Esc, or F10).
- Look for settings such as Intel VT-x, Intel Virtualization Technology, AMD-V, or SVM Mode and ensure they are enabled.
- After restarting Windows, open Task Manager (Ctrl + Shift + Esc) → Performance → CPU and confirm that “Virtualization” is shown as Enabled.

4. Optional – Enable Windows features for WSL 2

- Docker Desktop with WSL 2 requires two Windows features to be enabled: Windows Subsystem for Linux and Virtual Machine Platform.
- For Windows 11 or fully updated Windows 10, open Windows Terminal (Admin) or PowerShell (Admin) and run: wsl --install
- Restart the computer if Windows asks for it.
- If WSL is already installed, you can manually enable the features using DISM commands and then restart the computer.
- After restarting, open PowerShell and ensure WSL 2 is the default version using: wsl --set-default-version 2

5. Optional – Install or update WSL

- If you have never used WSL before, open PowerShell (Admin) and run: wsl --install -d Ubunt
- Restart the computer if asked and create a username and password when Ubuntu starts.
- If WSL is already installed, update it using: wsl --update
- Check the status and default version using: wsl --status
- Ensure the default version is set to 2.

6. Install Docker Desktop for Windows

- PPA Desktop uses Docker Desktop to run its background services.
- Docker Desktop will be installed automatically as part of the PPA Desktop installation if it is not already present.
- During installation, select the WSL 2 backend and restart the computer if requested.
- After installation, start Docker Desktop and wait until it shows that it is running (whale icon in the system tray).

7. Install PPA Desktop

- Double-click the PPA Desktop installer file (for example ppa-desktop-setup-1.6.0.exe).
- Follow the on-screen instructions.
- If Docker Desktop is not installed, the installer will guide you through installing it.
- After installation, shortcuts for PPA Desktop (Start) and PPA Desktop (Stop) will be available in the Start Menu.

8. Starting and stopping PPA Desktop

- To start PPA Desktop, click Start → PPA Desktop → PPA Desktop (Start) or double-click the desktop icon.
- You can also double-click a .ppaw file to start PPA Desktop and open it in your browser.
- A PowerShell window will appear while background services are starting.
- Your browser will open at http://localhost:8080.
- To stop PPA Desktop, use Start → PPA Desktop → PPA Desktop (Stop). This stops both PPA Desktop and Docker.

9. Updating PPA Desktop to a newer version

- When starting PPA Desktop, the application automatically checks for a newer version.
- If a newer version is available, you can approve the download and installer launch directly.
- The installer replaces the existing version; no manual uninstall is required.
- You can also manually download installers from the PPA Desktop GitHub releases page.

10. Quick check: is everything running?

- Open a browser and go to http://localhost:8080.
- If the page does not load, make sure Docker Desktop is running.
- Try starting PPA Desktop again using the Start shortcut.

11. Where are my files stored?

- PPA Desktop stores its internal working files in a Docker-managed folder that does not need to be accessed manually.
- Output ZIP files downloaded from the app are saved to your standard Downloads folder.

12. Getting help

- Note any error messages shown by PPA Desktop, Docker Desktop, or Windows.
- Take a screenshot if possible.
- Contact your technical contact person or PPA support team and share details of what you were trying to do and any error messages.