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☐ Firefox

Recovering important data from an old profile

A Firefox [profile](#) stores all of your important data, such as your bookmarks, history, cookies, and passwords. This article explains how to copy the files to a new profile, lists important files in the profile and describes what information is stored in these files.

- To switch to another profile to recover missing data and settings, see [Recover user data missing after Firefox update](#).

Note: Because your preferences and extensions often cause problems, this article does not explain how to copy these between profiles. If you follow the steps in this article, you will have to reinstall your extensions and reconfigure your Firefox preferences.

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Back up your current profile

Before starting it is recommended that you make a complete backup of your existing Firefox profile in case something goes wrong. Please read the [Back up and restore information in Firefox profiles](#) article for instructions.


Create a new Firefox profile

For information on how to create a brand new Firefox profile, please read the [Profile Manager - Create, remove, or switch Firefox profiles](#) article.


Copying files between profile folders

Important: Firefox must be closed down while copying files between profile folders. Also, Step 1 refers to your "old" profile folder - the profile containing data you want to copy to a new profile. If you can't open a profile from within Firefox, see [Finding your profile without opening Firefox](#).

1. Open your profile folder:

- Click the menu button  , click **Help** and select **Troubleshooting Information** . The **Troubleshooting Information** tab will open.
- Under the **Application Basics** section next to Profile Folder, click  . Your profile folder will open.

Note: If you are unable to open or use Firefox, follow the instructions in [Finding your profile without opening Firefox](#).

2. Click the Firefox menu  and select **Exit** .
3. Right-click on a file you want to copy and choose **Copy** .
4. Open the new Firefox profile folder.
5. Right-click inside the profile folder and choose **Paste** .

Repeat steps 3-5 for each file you wish to transfer over to your new profile folder.

While copying your personal data from an old Firefox profile to a new Firefox profile, it is possible that you could copy over the file that is causing the problem you are trying to get rid of! The more files you copy over, the greater the chance of this happening. It is therefore recommended that:

- You copy over only the minimal amount of files that contain your most important data that you simply can't live without.
- You copy over a few files at a time, and then check that the problem you are trying to get rid of hasn't returned.

Note: By default, Windows hides the *AppData* folder where Firefox stores your profile. To set Windows to show hidden files and folders, see [Show hidden files - Windows Help](#).

Your important data and their files

Bookmarks, Downloads and Browsing History

- *places.sqlite*

This file contains all your Firefox bookmarks and lists of files you have downloaded and of websites you have previously visited. For more information, see [Bookmarks in Firefox](#).

- *favicons.sqlite*

This file stores website favicon images. It's best to also include this file when recovering the *places.sqlite* file.

Passwords

Your passwords are stored in two different files, both of which are required:

- *key4.db* - This file stores your key database for your passwords. To transfer saved passwords, you must copy this file along with the following file.
- *logins.json* - Saved passwords.

For more information see [Password Manager - Remember, delete and edit logins and passwords in Firefox](#).

Site-specific preferences

- *permissions.sqlite*

This file stores many of your Firefox permissions that are decided on a per-site basis. For example, it stores which sites are allowed to, or blocked from setting cookies, installing extensions, showing images, displaying popups, etc.

Search engines

- *search.json.mozlz4*

This file stores user-installed search engines. For more information, see [Add or remove a search engine in Firefox](#).

Personal dictionary

- *persdict.dat*

This file stores any custom words you have added to Firefox's dictionary. If you have never added a custom word to the

Firefox dictionary, then you will not have this file. For more information see [How do I use the Firefox spell checker?](#).

Autocomplete history

- *formhistory.sqlite*

This file remembers what you have searched for in the Firefox search bar and what information you have entered into forms on websites. For more information see [Control whether Firefox automatically fills in forms](#).

Cookies

- *cookies.sqlite*

[Cookies](#) are used by websites for a variety of reasons, some of which include keeping you logged in to a website you have previously logged in to, remembering any preferences a website has allowed you to set, authenticating you as a person who has visited a specific website before, etc.

Security certificate settings

- *cert9.db*

This file stores all your security certificate settings and any SSL certificates you have imported into Firefox.

File types and download actions

- *handlers.json*

This file stores your preferences with respect to what Firefox does when it comes across known file types, such as whether you want to save a file or open it with a specific application. For more information see [Change what Firefox does when you click on or download a file](#).

Based on information from [Transferring data to a new profile - Firefox \(mozillaZine KB\)](#)

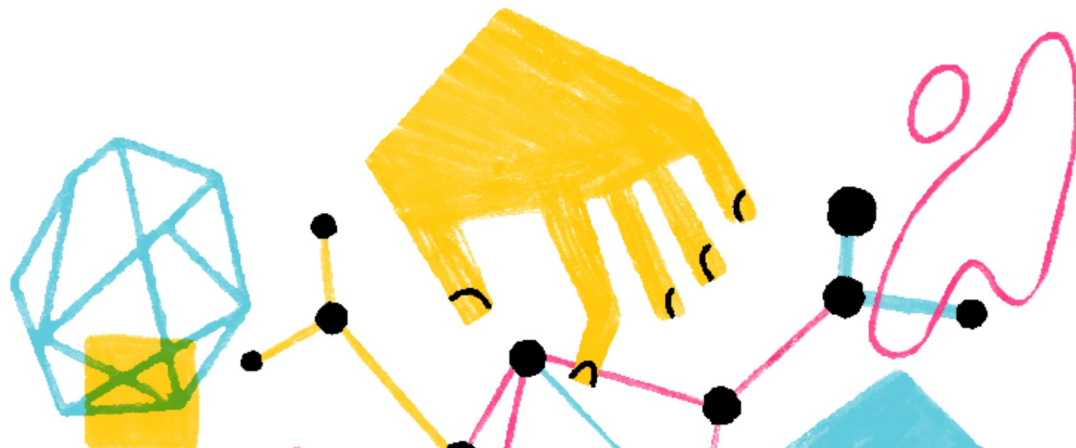
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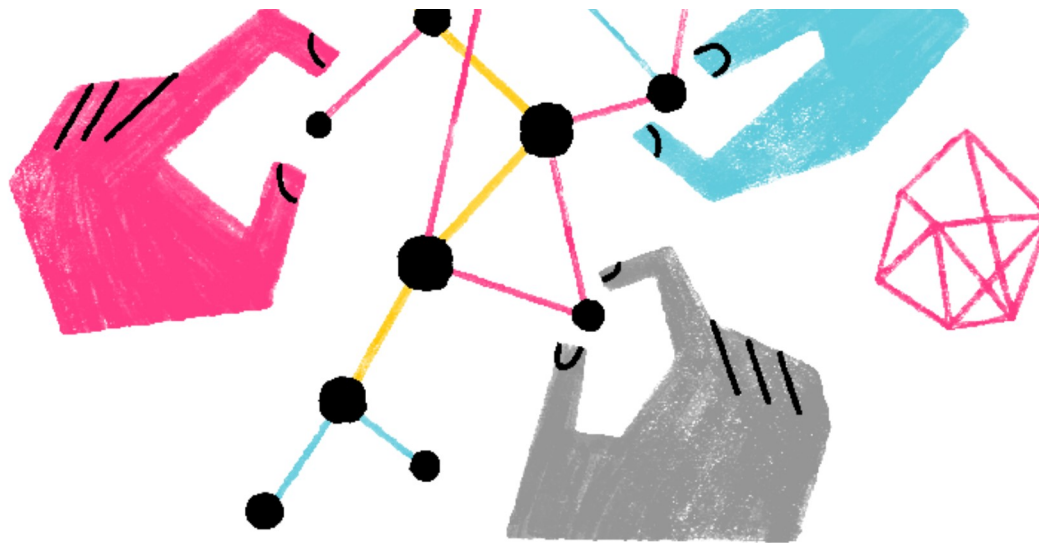
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