Data Retention and Disposal Policy

Budget App — Personal Finance Application

Document Owner:	Sean Lewis
Application:	Budget App (Personal Finance Tracker)
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1. Purpose

This policy defines the data retention and disposal practices for the Budget App, a personal finance desktop application. The application retrieves financial transaction data from bank accounts via the Plaid API and stores it locally for budgeting and expense tracking purposes. This policy ensures that data is managed responsibly and in compliance with applicable data privacy regulations.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all consumer financial data collected, processed, and stored by the Budget App, including:

- Bank account transaction history retrieved via Plaid API

- Account balance information

- Plaid API access tokens and authentication credentials

- Merchant names, transaction descriptions, and categorization data

- User-configured budgets and category mappings

3. Data Storage

All financial data is stored exclusively on the user's local computer in a SQLite database file located at ~/BudgetApp/budget.db. No data is transmitted to, stored on, or processed by external servers or cloud services. The application runs entirely on the local machine as an Electron desktop application with a FastAPI backend.

4. Data Retention Schedule

Data Type	Retention Period	Justification
Transaction history	Indefinite (user-controlled)	Required for long-term budget analysis and trend tracking

Account balances	Current snapshot only	Overwritten on each balance refresh
Plaid access tokens	Until account is disconnected	Required for ongoing transaction sync
Plaid sync cursors	Until account is disconnected	Required for incremental transaction sync
Merchant mappings	Indefinite (user-controlled)	Improves categorization accuracy over time
Budget configurations	Indefinite (user-controlled)	Active budgeting data

5. Data Disposal Procedures

The following disposal methods are available and enforced:

• **Individual transaction deletion:** Users can delete specific transactions from the application interface at any time.

• **Account disconnection:** When a bank account is disconnected, the associated Plaid access token is deleted from the local database. The Plaid item can also be revoked via the Plaid Dashboard, which invalidates the token on Plaid's servers.

• **Full data deletion:** The user can delete the entire SQLite database file (~/BudgetApp/budget.db) to permanently remove all stored financial data.

• **Application uninstall:** Uninstalling the Budget App and deleting the ~/BudgetApp directory removes all application data from the system.

6. Encryption and Security Controls

Plaid API access tokens are encrypted at rest using Fernet symmetric encryption (from the Python cryptography library) before storage in the SQLite database. The host machine employs macOS FileVault full-disk encryption, providing an additional layer of protection for all stored data. All communication with the Plaid API occurs over HTTPS (TLS 1.2+).

7. Compliance

As a personal-use application with a single user, the Budget App operates within the scope of personal data management. The data retention practices described in this policy are designed to be consistent with general data minimization principles and applicable consumer data privacy standards.

8. Policy Review

This policy is reviewed annually or whenever significant changes are made to the application's data handling practices, third-party integrations, or applicable regulatory requirements.