

File Maintenance Tool

A **safe, scheduled file maintenance utility** for Windows that:

- Scans configured paths
- Identifies files older than a given number of days
- Optionally backs them up to a local or network location (per-path setting)
- Deletes the original files
- Cleans up empty directories
- Manages log retention
- Runs with **bounded resource usage** (safe for busy PCs and SMB shares)

Designed for **unattended execution** (Windows Task Scheduler) and **network environments**.

How It Works

The **file-maintenance** tool performs automated cleanup and optional backups of old files based on configurable rules.

The process follows a predictable and safe execution flow:

1. Startup & Configuration

- CLI flags are parsed
- Configuration files are loaded
- Logging is initialized
- Critical paths are validated

2. Safety Checks

- Ensures target paths exist
- Verifies backup destination is accessible (if any paths have backup enabled)
- Displays popup notification if backup location is inaccessible
- Terminates early on fatal misconfiguration

3. Maintenance Worker

- Initializes execution context, queues, and counters
- Captures a run-specific backup date (DDMmmYY)
- Starts:
 - Bounded path walkers (discovery only)
 - A single processor goroutine (file operations)

4. Backup & Cleanup

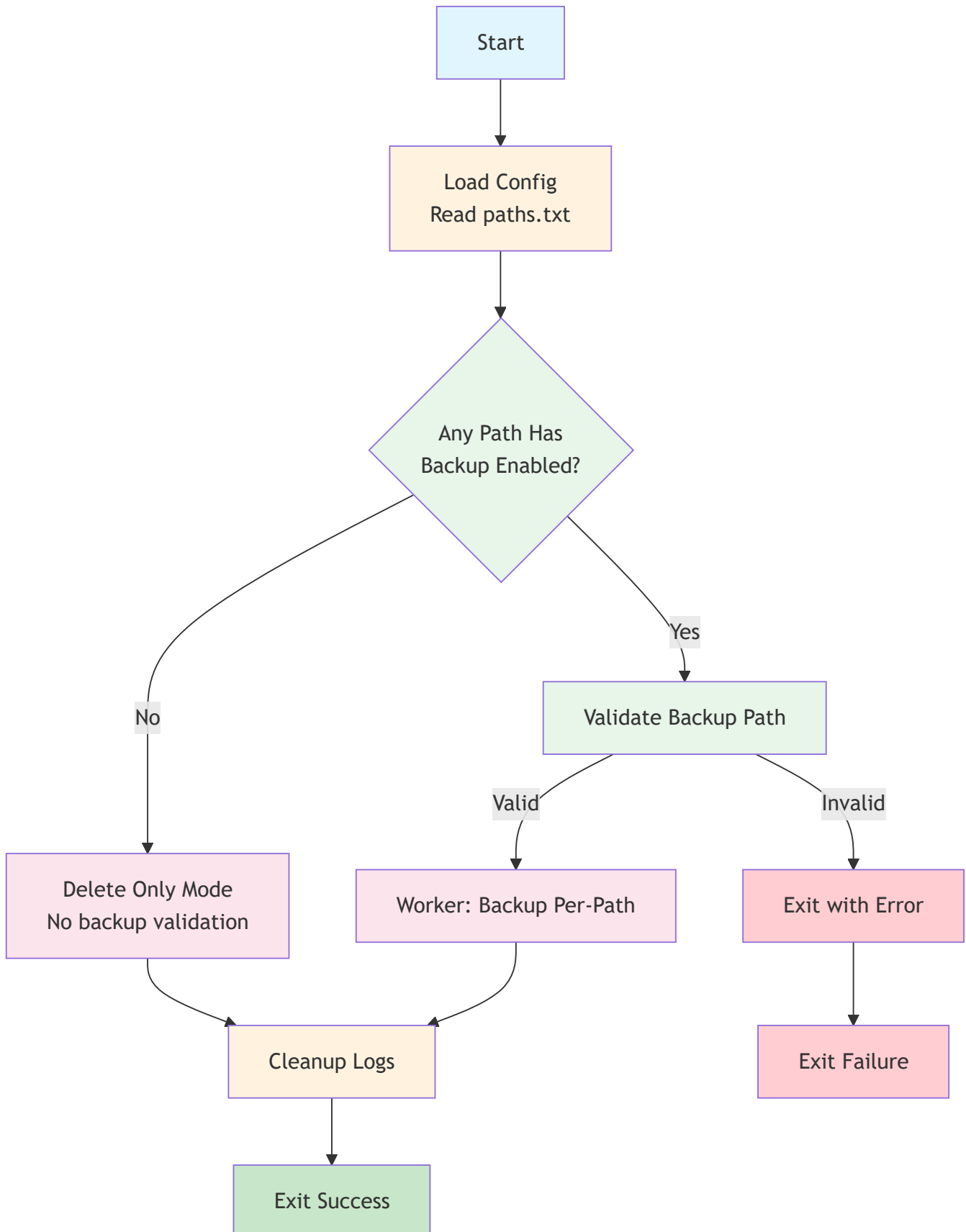
- Eligible files are enqueued for processing
- Backup destination path is built as:

```
backupRoot/DDMmmYY/<folder-name>/relative-path
```

- Files are copied using streaming I/O with retry + backoff
- Original files are deleted only after successful backup (unless backup is disabled for that path)
- Empty directories are cleaned bottom-up

5. Logging & Exit

- All actions are logged (success, warning, error)
 - Logs are flushed before clean exit
-



The execution flow reflects a **single-processor design** for file operations: path scanning may be concurrent, but backup and deletion always occur one file at a time. Backups are grouped under a per-run date folder (`DDMMmYY`).

► Command-Line Flags

Retention & Deletion

Flag	Default	Description
-days	7	Only files older than this many days are eligible for deletion
-log-retention	30	Log retention in days







Paths & Configuration




Flag	Default	Description
-config-dir	<exe>/config	Config directory
-log-dir	<exe>/logs	Log directory
-no-logs	false	Console-only logging

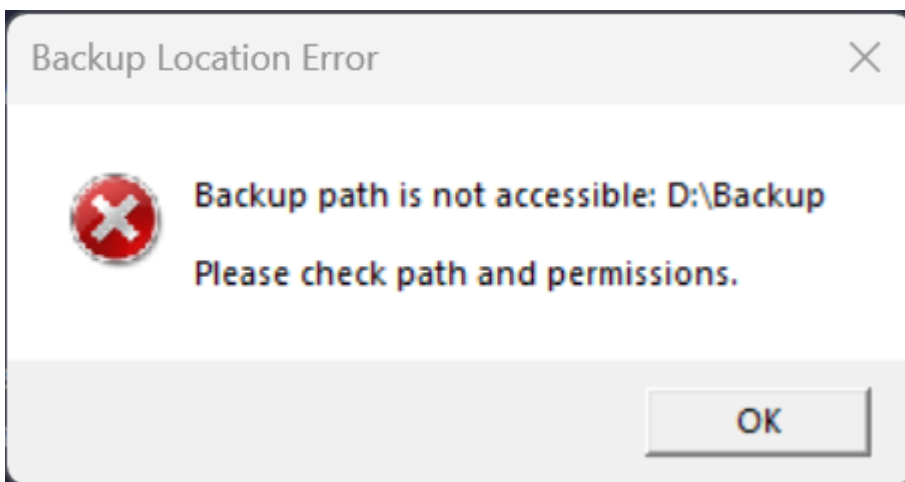
Resource Controls

Flag	Default	Description
-walkers	1	Concurrent path walkers
-queue-size	300	Job queue size
-max-files	0	Max files per run (0 = unlimited)
-max-runtime	30m	Max runtime
-cooldown	0	Cooldown between files
-retries	2	Copy retries

✦ Key Features

-  **Backup before delete** (configurable per-path)
-  **Date-based backups**
 - One folder per run (DDMmmYY)
 - Preserves full relative directory structure
-  **Path-safe backups**
 - prevents directory traversal
 - Rejects paths escaping the source root
-  **Bounded concurrency**
 - Parallel path scanning (configurable)
 - Serialized file operations (copy/delete one file at a time)
-  **Network-friendly**
 - Streaming file copy (low RAM)
 - Retry + backoff for SMB hiccups
 - Optional cooldown between file operations
-  **Automatic cleanup**
 - Deletes empty directories (bottom-up, safe boundary)

- Log retention management
-  **Configurable logging**
 - File logging or console-only (`-no-logs`)
 - Per-level enable/disable via `logging.json`
-  **Per-path backup control**
 - Each path can have backup enabled or disabled independently
 - Controlled via `config.ini` with simple `yes/no` syntax
-  **User notifications**
 - Popup alerts when backup location is inaccessible
 - Critical errors shown even in unattended runs (Task Scheduler)
 - Error icon indicates issues requiring attention



Project Structure

```
.
├── cmd/
│   └── main/                # CLI entry point
├── internal/
│   ├── app/                # High-level application orchestration
│   ├── config/             # Reading config.ini and logging.json
│   ├── logging/            # Thread-safe logger
│   ├── maintenance/       # Core logic (scan, backup, delete, cleanup)
│   ├── types/              # AppConfig definition
│   └── utils/              # Helpers (exe path resolution, etc.)
├── config/
│   ├── config.ini          # All configuration (backup path + paths list)
│   └── logging.json
└── build.ps1               # Helpers (Build, run, smoke, coverage helpers)
```

Configuration Files

These Files are required for the program to run

`config/config.ini`

Single configuration file containing both backup destination and paths list.

Format

```
[backup]
path=<backup-destination>

[paths]
path1, yes|no
path2, yes|no
```

Sections

Section	Key	Description
[backup]	path	Backup destination root path
[paths]	(standalone lines)	Paths to process with per-path backup control

Paths Format

```
path, yes|no
```

- path: the file or folder to process
- yes: enable backup before deletion
- no: delete without backup

Path Types Supported

Type	Description	Example
Folder	All files inside the folder (recursively) are evaluated	C:\Temp\OldFiles, yes
File	The specific file is evaluated directly	C:\Data\Images\old-photo.jpg, no

Examples

```
[backup]
path=D:\backups

[paths]
# Folders with backup enabled - delete all old files after backing up
C:\Temp\OldFiles, yes
\\server\share\incoming, yes

# Folders without backup - delete files directly (use with caution)
```

```
C:\Temp\ToDelete, no

# Specific files with backup
C:\Data\Images\old-photo.jpg, yes

# Specific files without backup
C:\Logs\debug.log, no
```

- Empty lines are ignored
- Lines starting with `;` or `#` are treated as comments
- Individual files must meet the age criteria (unless `-days 0` is used)
- Backup is enabled by default if not specified

config/logging.json

Enable/disable log levels.

```
{
  "DEBUG": false,
  "COUNT": true,
  "INFO": true,
  "WARN": true,
  "ERROR": true,
  "SUCCESS": true,
  "FATAL": true
}
```

- `COUNT` is used for summary metrics (ex: deleted files per folder)
- Unknown levels default to enabled (fail-open policy)

Backup Layout (Important)

Backups are written using a date-based folder structure that preserves the original directory hierarchy.

Destination format:

```
<backupRoot>/<DDMMYY>/<folder-name>/<relative folder structure>/<filename>
```

Example:

```
Source file:
C:\Data\Images\2024\Camera\IMG001.jpg

Backup destination:
\\server\share\backups\30Jan26\Camera\IMG001.jpg
```

Why this design: - Keeps backups grouped per run/day - Includes folder name for clear logging and easy restore - Preserves original folder structure for easy restore - Prevents filename collisions - Makes auditing and cleanup straightforward - The backup date folder is determined per run. All files processed in the same run share the same DDMmmYY folder.

Usage

Basic run

```
fileMaintenance.exe -days 7
```

Deletes files older than 7 days (after backing them up).

Per-path backup control

```
fileMaintenance.exe -days 7
```

Configure backup behavior in `config.ini`:

```
[paths]
C:\Temp\OldFiles, yes      # Backup enabled
C:\Temp\ToDelete, no      # Backup disabled
```

Resource-controlled run (recommended)

```
fileMaintenance.exe -days 7 -walkers 1 -queue-size 300 -max-files 2500 -max-
runtime 30m -cooldown 50ms -retries 2
```

Ideal for:

- busy workstations
- large image sets
- network (SMB) destinations

Console-only logging

```
fileMaintenance.exe -days 0 -no-logs
```

Concurrency Model (Important)

- Path scanning Parallel, bounded by `-walkers` (default: 1)
- File operations (copy + delete) **always serialized** (one file at a time)

Why: - Prevents SMB saturation - Keeps CPU + disk usage predictable - Safer for large files (images, media)

Empty Directory Cleanup

After a file is deleted:

- Parent directories are removed **only if empty**
- Cleanup proceeds bottom-up
- Deletion never crosses the configured path root
- Path comparisons are Windows-safe (case-insensitive)

This keeps folder trees tidy without risk

Logging

File mode (default)

- logs/maintenance_YYYY-MM-DD.log - all levels
- logs/errors_YYYY-MM-DD.log - ERROR only
- logs/count_YYYY-MM-DD.log - COUNT only — (summary totals)

[NOTE] Per-path delete counts are logged after the run finishes, so totals remain accurate.

Console mode

- Enabled with `-no-logs`
- Useful for development and smoke tests

Log retention

```
log-retention 30
```

Deletes log files older than N days (best-effort, non-fatal).

Windows Task Scheduler (Recommended Setup)

Suggested schedule

- Twice daily (e.g., 6:30 AM / 6:30 PM)

Example launch command:

```
powershell.exe -NoProfile -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -Command ^  
Start-Process -FilePath "C:\path\fileMaintenance.exe" `   
-ArgumentList "-days 7 -walkers 1 -max-runtime 30m -cooldown 50ms" `   
-Priority BelowNormal -WindowStyle Hidden -Wait
```

Task options:

- ☒ Run whether user is logged on or not
- ☒ Run as soon as possible after a missed start
- ☒ Stop task if running longer than 1 hour

Safety Guarantees

This tool is designed to fail safe:

- ☒ No deletion if backup root is inaccessible (when backup is enabled)
- ☒ No deletion if backup copy fails
- ☒ No path traversal outside backup root
- ☒ No directory deletion above configured path root
- ☒ No unbounded goroutines or memory growth
- ☒ Network hiccups handled with retries + backoff
- ☒ Per-path backup control prevents accidental deletion without backup
- ☒ Popup notification alerts user when backup path is inaccessible

Development & Testing

Smoke test

```
.\build.ps1 smoke
```

- Builds the binary
- Runs with `-no-logs`
- Verifies config exist

License

Internal / private use.