

Borg Backup GUI Manager - User Guide

A lightweight, user-friendly graphical interface for [Borg Backup](#). This tool allows you to manage repositories, schedule backups, mount archives for restoration, and monitor storage efficiency—all without touching the command line.

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1. Installation & Requirements

System Requirements

- **OS:** Linux (Recommended), macOS, or Windows (limited support).
- **Python:** 3.8 or higher.
- **Borg Backup:** The `borg` binary must be installed on your system.

Install Dependencies

Run the following commands in your terminal to install the necessary libraries:

```
# 1. Install Borg Backup (Ubuntu/Debian example)
sudo apt update && sudo apt install borgbackup ssh sshpass

# 2. Install Python Dependencies
pip3 install pystray Pillow
```

Launching the App

Simply run the script with Python:

```
python3 borg_gui.py
```

2. Getting Started

Step 1: Dependency Check

On the first run, the app will automatically check if you have everything installed.

- Go to **Tools > Check Dependencies / Install** if you see any errors.
- Use the "Install" buttons provided in that window to fix missing components.

Step 2: Adding a Repository


You cannot perform backups without a repository.

1. Click "**Manage Repos**" in the top right corner.
2. Click "**Add New**".
3. Fill in the details:
 - **Friendly Name:** A label like NAS Backup or USB Drive .
 - **Repo Path:**
 - *Local:* /media/user/ExternalDrive/my-repo
 - *Remote (SSH):* user@192.168.1.50:/srv/backups/my-repo
 - **Passwords:**
 - *Repo Passphrase:* The encryption password for the Borg repo.
 - *SSH Password:* Optional. It is **highly recommended** to use the "**Setup SSH Key**" button instead of saving a text password.
4. Click **Save**.
5. Select the new repo in the list and click "**Select Active**".

3. Creating Backups

The core feature of this tool is the **Job Manager**. It saves your configuration (paths, schedules, retention policy) so you don't have to re-enter them.

Creating a Backup Job

1. Navigate to the "**Scheduler & Jobs**" tab.
2. Click "**+ New Job**" on the bottom left.
3. **Job Name:** Give it a name (e.g., "Daily Documents").
4. **Includes/Excludes:**
 - Click " **Open Interactive Browser**".
 - Browse your file system.
 - **Green:** Include folder.
 - **Red:** Exclude specific subfolders/files.
 - Click **Confirm** to save selection.
5. **Pruning (Retention):**
 - Check "Enable Pruning" to auto-clean old backups.
 - *Example:* Keep 7 daily, 4 weekly, 6 monthly backups.


Scheduling Options

You have two ways to automate backups:

Option A: Internal Timer (Simple)




- **Best for:** Laptops or desktops where the GUI app is always open (minimized to tray).
- **Setup:** Check "**Enable Internal Timer**". Set the frequency and time.
- **Note:** If you close the app completely, the backup will not run.

Option B: System Cron (Advanced/Reliable)

- **Best for:** Servers or ensuring backups happen even if the GUI is closed.
- **Setup:**
 1. Check "**System Cron**".
 2. Set frequency and time.
 3. Click " **Update Cron / Generate Script**".
 4. The app will generate a standalone `.sh` script and register it with your system's crontab.

4. Restoring Files

Borg allows you to "mount" a backup as a virtual folder. This makes restoring files as easy as copy-pasting.

1. Go to the " **Archives**" tab.
2. Select the backup snapshot you want to restore from.
3. Click "**Mount**".
4. Select an empty folder on your computer (e.g., create a folder named `restore_point`).
5. Click " **Open Folder**" to browse your files.
6. Copy the files you need back to your computer.
7. **Important:** When finished, click " **Unmount Selected**" in the **Mounts** tab.

5. Maintenance & Logs

Dashboard

The **Dashboard** tab gives you a health check:

- **Health Status:** Checks connectivity to the repo.
- **Deduplicated Size:** Shows how much actual disk space is used vs. the total size of your data.
- **Active Jobs:** Summary of scheduled tasks.

Maintenance Tab

- **Prune:** Manually clean up old archives.
- **Compact:** Frees up actual disk space from deleted archives (can take time).
- **Check Integrity:** Verifies that your data is not corrupted.
- **Break Lock:** Use this *only* if a previous backup crashed and Borg says the repo is "Locked".

Logs

- **Live Logs:** Watch backup progress in real-time.
- **Log Files:** Logs are saved to the `logs/` folder inside the application directory. You can view them via "**Maintenance > View Logs Folder**".

Pro Tips

- **System Tray:** You can minimize the app to the system tray (taskbar area) to keep the **Internal Timer** running without cluttering your screen.

- **Portable:** This script creates a `config` folder next to itself (or in `~/.config/borg-gui`). You can copy the script and its config folder to a USB stick to manage backups portably.