

Guide: back up and restore DjMirror Pulse show data

Use this guide before moving to another computer, reinstalling the app, or preparing a backup before a show. It identifies the main user data to preserve and explains what does not move with a simple copy of `Visuals/`.

DjMirror Pulse does not provide one universal export that captures every preference, credential, license and external device setting. Use the app's export functions where available, then back up the remaining data files. For activation on another computer, follow [License & Activation](#).

1. Know what you need to preserve

Data	Where to find or export it	Notes
Images, videos, avatars, logos, styles and playlists	<documentsPath>/Visuals/ (default: Documents/Visuals/)	Includes media files, .txt playlists and Styles/. Check the active documentsPath in config.json.
Application configuration	Effective config.json in the per-user app-data folder	The executable's nearby config.json is a template, not necessarily the active file. See Config & CLI .
Programming schedules	Use the Schedule editor's Export action	Save the exported JSON with the show backup; import it on the target computer.
Timecode cues	Use Timecode Cues → Save or Save as	Cue data can be moved as JSON. Select the MIDI/audio devices again on the destination computer.
DMX fixtures, profiles, scenes and patterns	Preserve the relevant dmx_fixtures/, dmx_fixtures_profiles/, dmx_scenes/ and dmx_movement_patterns/ (movement + laser patterns) data if used	These paths can depend on the working or application directory; do not assume they are under Documents. Verify the destination in the app and rehearse the patch.

Data	Where to find or export it	Notes
Controller mappings	Preserve the applicable files under controllers/, if used	Reconnect and verify the device, protocol and mappings on the target computer.
Recordings and snapshots	<documentsPath>/Visuals/Recordings/ and Snapshots/	Include these only if you need to retain the output media.

Other settings are stored separately in operating-system settings, and paired-phone data is stored in app data (on Windows, `mobile_devices.json` next to the effective `config.json` in `%AppData%\DjMirror\DjMirrorPulse\`). Those items are not included by copying `config.json` alone. Re-pair phones on the new installation.

2. Prepare a backup

1. Finish or stop any active recording, then close DjMirror Pulse so it cannot change files while they are being copied.
2. Locate the **effective** `config.json` using [Config & CLI](#). If you use a custom `documentsPath`, note the path before copying.
3. Export the schedule and timecode cues from their editors, and save the exported files with the backup.
4. Copy the user data listed in the table into a dated backup folder or archive. Keep original filenames and subfolder structure, especially under `Visuals/`.
5. If you use DMX or controller data stored outside Documents, locate the active files from the app's existing settings/project layout before copying them. Avoid backing up the whole installation directory as a substitute for identifying user data.
6. Protect the backup. Service API keys (Pixabay/Pexels/Gemini, **Settings** → **API Keys**) live in OS-level settings, not in `config.json` — they do not transfer with a file copy, so re-enter them on the new machine. Do not upload an unprotected archive or share it in a support conversation.
7. Keep at least one separate copy on another drive or trusted storage location, then verify that the archive opens and contains the expected files.

Example: back up on Windows

With DjMirror Pulse closed, this PowerShell example copies the media folder and the effective `config.json` into a dated folder. Adjust the source paths to your own `documentsPath` and user-data folder (see [Config & CLI](#)).

```
$dest = "D:\Backups\DjMirrorPulse_$(Get-Date -Format yyyy-MM-dd)"
New-Item -ItemType Directory -Force $dest | Out-Null
robocopy "$env:USERPROFILE\Documents\Visuals" "$dest\Visuals" /E /R:1 /W:1
Copy-Item "$env:APPDATA\DjMirror\DjMirrorPulse\config.json" "$dest\config.json"
```

robocopy reports exit codes below 8 as success. On macOS, copy the same folders with Finder or `rsync -a`, and take `config.json` from `~/Library/Application Support/DjMirror/DjMirrorPulse/`.

Backup checklist

- ☐ App closed, no recording active.
- ☐ `Visuals/` copied (media, playlists, `Styles/`).
- ☐ Effective `config.json` copied.
- ☐ Schedule and timecode cues exported.
- ☐ DMX and controller files copied if used.
- ☐ Service API keys noted in a safe place (they do not travel with files).
- ☐ Archive opens and a second copy exists elsewhere.

3. Restore or move to another computer

1. Install DjMirror Pulse on the target computer and launch it once so its user folders are created.
2. Close the app before restoring files.
3. Restore media and styles under the destination computer's configured `Visuals/` folder. If the `documentsPath` differs, either restore to that configured folder or deliberately configure the intended path before launching.
4. Restore only the `config.json` values you need. A configuration copied from another machine may contain machine-specific paths, network settings, or secrets; review it before replacing the target computer's file.
5. Import schedules and timecode cues using their editor controls. Re-select runtime audio, MIDI, DMX and network devices on the new machine.
6. Restore DMX profiles, scenes and controller mappings only where the destination app expects them. Verify fixture addresses, universe/output-port assignments and hardware before enabling live output.
7. Start the app and check the active style, playlists, artist profiles, schedule, cues and connected devices. Rehearse with the simulator or a safe test setup before a live show.

4. Important items that do not transfer by copying `Visuals/`

- **License:** activation is machine-bound. Ask the distributor for a key for the new machine ID; do not copy license settings as a substitute. See [License & Activation](#).
- **Audio and device selection:** audio, MIDI and hardware devices may have different names or identifiers on the destination. Select and test them again.
- **Operating-system preferences:** some live settings are stored in Windows registry or macOS preferences, not in `config.json`. This guide does not prescribe copying those settings between systems.
- **Paired phones:** pair the Android remote again with the destination desktop. Do not assume the old pairing record is portable.
- **Secrets:** service API keys live in OS-level settings, not in `config.json` — re-enter them under **Settings** → **API Keys** after a move. If a backup was exposed, rotate the affected keys.

5. Before an application upgrade or reinstall

There is no in-app update procedure documented here. Before installing a newer release or reinstalling:

1. Export schedule and timecode data, and back up the active user data you need.
2. Close DjMirror Pulse and make sure no recording is still active.
3. Follow the installation instructions supplied with the release for your operating system; do not assume that uninstalling preserves every user-data folder.
4. After installation, confirm the version in the app's **About** section, open the intended Visuals/ folder, and test audio and output before the event.

If the release instructions do not say whether user data is preserved, keep the backup until the new installation has been fully checked.

6. Troubleshooting

Symptom	Likely cause	Fix
Media missing after restore	Visuals/ restored to a different folder than documentsPath	Restore into the configured folder, or set documentsPath before launching
Settings look like defaults	The template next to the exe was restored instead of the effective file	Put config.json in the per-user folder, with the app closed
API keys are empty	Keys live in OS settings, not in files	Re-enter them under Settings → API Keys
Pro features locked on the new PC	License is bound to the old machine	Request a key for the new machine ID — see License & Activation
Phones no longer control the app	Pairings are not portable	Pair them again — see Mobile Remote
DMX fixtures do not light	Patch or interface differs on the new machine	Re-select the interface and verify addresses with the simulator first

More: [Troubleshooting](#).