

Config.JSON & Command Line

Where Every Setting Lives

This guide answers "where is that stored?" for the whole product: where config.json lives on each operating system, how command-line flags and the file interact, which keys matter for each task, every CLI flag, the Visuals/ layout, and where runtime state (paired phones,...

DjMirror Pulse User Manual Series

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Full key list for advanced users: `docs_tech/docs_parameters/README_CONFIG_PARAMETERS.md`.

Boolean values (in the file and on the command line, case-insensitive): `true|1|yes|y|on` and `false|0|no|n|off`.

Anything else falls back to the built-in default.

Chapter 1: Files And Priority

OS	Shipped template (first-run seed)	Effective file (edited)
Windows	<exe-dir>\config.json	%AppData%\DjMirror\DjMirrorPulse/config.json
macOS	DjMirrorPulse.app/Contents/Resources/config.json	~/Library/Application Support/DjMirror/DjMirrorPulse/config.json

Missing effective file → template copied there on first run. **Rule: CLI flags always override config.json**; missing in both → built-in default. Edit the *effective* file — the template is only re-seed.

Edit config.json safely

1. **Close DjMirror Pulse** (several keys are read once at startup).
2. **Copy** the effective file (for example to `config.json.bak`) so you can roll back.
3. Edit the **effective** file in your user-data folder, not the copy next to the executable.
4. Keep the file valid JSON: double quotes, commas between entries, no trailing comma.
5. Start the app. If it misbehaves, put the backup back — see [Backup & Restore](#).

A minimal example that sets a media folder, a fixed port and an API key (all other keys keep their defaults):

```
{
  "documentsPath": "D:/ShowFiles",
  "port": 8080,
  "apiKey": "change-me",
  "language": "en"
}
```

Chapter 2: Keys By Task

Server and client

Key	Default	Meaning
<code>server</code>	<code>true</code>	Run the HTTP/WebSocket server
<code>port</code>	<code>8080</code>	HTTP port; WebSocket uses port + 1
<code>apiKey</code>	off (open API)	Require this key on every request
<code>client</code>	off	URL of a server to follow (multi-screen)
<code>clientApiKey</code>	off	Key used when connecting to that server
<code>announce</code>	<code>true</code>	UDP broadcast used for phone pairing (config-only)

Paths and language (config-only, read once at startup)

Key	Default	Meaning
<code>documentsPath</code>	OS Documents folder	Root that contains <code>Visuals/</code>
<code>traktorPath</code>	<code><documentsPath>/Native Instruments/Traktor 4.5.0</code>	Traktor data folder (restart needed)
<code>geminiApiKey</code>	off	Key for AI image generation
<code>language</code>	<code>auto</code>	<code>auto</code> <code>en</code> <code>es</code> <code>de</code> <code>fr</code> <code>fi</code> <code>zh_CN</code> ...

Windows, GPU and integrations

Key	Default	Meaning
<code>settingsWindow</code> , <code>mainMaximized</code> , <code>separateMaximized</code>	<code>false</code>	Window layout options
<code>console</code>	<code>false</code>	Show a console window with the log (Windows)
<code>backend</code>	auto	Graphics backend
<code>gpu</code> , <code>gpuName</code>	auto	Pick a specific graphics adapter
<code>gpuInfo</code> , <code>highPerf</code> , <code>lowPower</code>	off	GPU information and power preference
<code>mcp</code>	<code>false</code>	Auto-launch the MCP companion (inherits <code>DJMIRROR_API_TOKEN</code>)

What is *not* in `config.json`

- Audio devices and sample rates are runtime settings of the audio analyzer.

- Live visual state is stored in the operating-system settings (Windows registry `HKCU\Software\DjMirror\DjMirrorPulse`, macOS preferences).
- Ableton Link settings are stored there too, so they survive a `config.json` reset.

Chapter 3: CLI Flags

Flag	Overrides	Default
<code>--d3d11\ --d3d12\ --opengl\ --vulkan\ --software</code> , <code>--backend <n></code>	<code>backend</code>	auto
<code>--gpu <i> / --no-gpu</code> <code>--gpu-name <n> / --no-gpu-name</code> , <code>--gpu-info</code> <code>--high-perf</code> <code>--low-power</code> (+ <code>--no-...</code>)	GPU keys	auto/off
<code>--console</code> / <code>--no-console</code> (Windows)	<code>console</code>	off
<code>-s,--settings-window <bool></code> , <code>--main-maximized</code> , <code>-separate-maximized</code>	window keys	off
<code>--server</code> / <code>--no-server</code>	<code>server</code>	on
<code>--port <n></code>	<code>port</code>	<code>8080</code> (<code>0</code> → <code>8080</code>)
<code>--client <url></code> / <code>--no-client</code>	<code>client</code>	off
<code>--client-key <key></code>	<code>clientApiKey</code> (falls back to own <code>apiKey</code> / <code>DJMIRROR_API_TOKEN</code>)	—
<code>--spout</code> / <code>--spout-layout</code> (Windows)	per-run start, no config change	—
<code>--mcp-stdin</code>	MCP over stdio	—
<code>--help</code> , <code>--version</code> , <code>--help-all</code>	—	—

Launch examples (Windows PowerShell)

```
# Show a console window with the log (useful when something does not start)
.\DjMirrorPulse.exe --console

# Run as the server for a second screen, on port 9000, and require a key
$env:DJMIRROR_API_TOKEN = "choose-a-long-key"
.\DjMirrorPulse.exe --server --port 9000

# Run as a client that follows that server (no server of its own)
.\DjMirrorPulse.exe --no-server --client http://192.168.1.50:9000 --client-key choose-a-long-k

# List the graphics adapters, then force one
.\DjMirrorPulse.exe --gpu-info
.\DjMirrorPulse.exe --gpu 1 --d3d11
```

`--help` lists every flag. A flag is applied only for that run; to make it permanent, set the matching key in the effective `config.json` (see §1 and §2).

`DJMIRROR_API_TOKEN` env beats `apiKey` in file. Prefer `config.json` over `--client-key` on shared machines (process lists leak arguments).

Chapter 4: Layouts And Other State

- `Visuals/` under `documentsPath`: `Videos|Images|Avatars|Logos|Styles` (seeded from `Visuals.zip` next to the exe when empty). Styles: `Visuals/Styles/*.json`; playlists: `*.txt` beside media.
- DMX fixture profiles file: `dmx_fixtures_profiles/dmx_fixture_profiles.json` (CWD/appDir-resolved).
- NDI saved path: OS-settings group `DMX` / `savedNdiConfigPath`.
- Paired phones: `<AppDataLocation>/mobile_devices.json`. License key: OS-settings `License/ActivationKey`.
- MCP proxy config: `%AppData%/DjMirror/DjMirrorPulse/config_mcp.json` (see [MCP guide](#)).

Chapter 5: Quick Recipe Card

- Edit the **effective** `config.json` (AppData, not exe dir). CLI wins over file over default.
- Server: `--server --port 8080`; client: `--client URL [--client-key]`; debug: `--console`.
- `documentsPath` = media root; audio/visual live state = OS settings, not the file.
- Secrets via env (`DJMIRROR_API_TOKEN`), never on shared command lines.

Chapter 6: Troubleshooting

Symptom	Likely cause	Fix
My edit has no effect	Edited the template next to the exe, not the effective file	Edit the file under AppData / Application Support
Edit has no effect (path keys)	<code>documentsPath</code> / <code>traktorPath</code> are read once	Restart the app
App starts with default settings	<code>config.json</code> is invalid JSON	Restore your copy, or fix commas and quotes
Port flag ignored	Another instance already holds the port	Use a different <code>--port</code> or start with <code>--no-server</code>
Phone or client rejected after setting <code>apiKey</code>	Clients still send no key	Send <code>X-API-Key</code> ; see HTTP API
Want to see what the app logs	No console	Start with <code>--console</code> (Windows)

More: [Troubleshooting](#).