myOrganizer: CURATOR

Administrator Guide

Collection Utility for Retro Archive Tracking, Organization, Repository

November 1, 2026 | v2.5.0-beta.2

Use this guide to configure CURATOR, maintain reference data, investigate problems, recover interrupted processing and perform maintenance.

Use the Quick Start Guide for a first run and the End User Guide for everyday collection operation. Read Me First — Protecting Your Collection contains the consolidated warnings referenced here.

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1. Check the installation

CURATOR requires **PowerShell 7.6.1 or later** and the complete application folder. PowerShell 7 is separate from Windows PowerShell 5.1.

1. Open PowerShell 7.

2. Enter $PSVersionTable.PSVersion and confirm the version is 7.6.1 or later. Press Enter after each command.

3. Change to the folder containing `Curator.ps1`:

```
Set-Location -LiteralPath 'C:\Path\To\CURATOR'
```

Replace the example path with your application folder.

4. Start CURATOR:

```
.\Curator.ps1
```

5. Read the startup README screens. Press Enter to advance through the screens. On the final screen, type uppercase AGREED exactly and press Enter.

At the Command Center, type a displayed key or number and press Enter.

If Setup required appears, select OK. Prepare the missing inputs as described in section 3, then choose U — Restart / Recheck setup. Recheck examines readiness; it does not ingest inputs or reload configuration.

When the full menu is available:

- Use **9 — Check setup** to inspect the application location, configuration-file presence and configured stage scripts.
- Use **10 — Current status** to inspect the effective folders and latest recorded run status.

Check setup is not a complete dependency or database health audit. Startup and requested operations perform their own checks. Retain any reported failure and follow section 6. Continue to section 2 to check the folders CURATOR will use.

2. Configure folders and settings

See sections 1 and 7 of Read Me First for folder protection and configuration precautions.

Change the working folders

Source contains the files to process. Collection (Output) is the output destination. Workspace holds temporary processing files.

1. Enter **F — Manage folders**.

2. Choose **1 — Change source folder**, **2 — Change collection folder**, or **3 — Change workspace folder**.

3. Choose **B — Browse for folder** and confirm your selection, or **T — Type a full path**, enter the path and press Enter.

4. Repeat steps 2–3 for any other folders you want to change, then review all three paths before saving.

5. Enter **S — Save changes**.

6. Confirm that **Folder changes saved** appears, then press Enter to return.

7. Open **10 — Current status** and verify the paths.

If saving reports a folder problem, correct the selection and save again. Changes are applied only after Folder changes saved appears. Cancelling the folder browser leaves that selection unchanged. Choose C — Cancel and return in Manage folders to leave without saving any changes.

Source must exist. Use dedicated, separate folders outside the application folder; do not nest Source, Collection (Output) and Workspace inside one another.

Where practical, place them on separate physical drives to reduce competing disk activity. Different drive letters on the same physical disk do not provide that separation. Allow capacity for extraction, temporary media and final output.

Understand the configuration files

`config\operator_overrides.json` supplies these effective values:

Setting	Purpose
`EnvironmentDefaults.Input`	Source folder
`EnvironmentDefaults.Output`	Collection (Output) folder
`Paths.WorkspaceFolder`	Workspace folder

These values take precedence over the corresponding paths in config.json. The current configuration requires this file. Missing or empty required path values cause validation failure; they do not silently fall back to config.json.

Use Manage folders for routine path changes. Manage folders applies saved path changes immediately for future actions. For manual configuration edits, exit CURATOR before editing, save the file, then start CURATOR again.

`config\config.json` controls application settings, stage definitions, dependency locations and processing policies. Files under `config\policies` supply mapping and classification rules.

For a controlled configuration change:

1. Finish or resolve affected processing first, then exit CURATOR before editing.
2. Preserve the previous configuration and record the intended change.
3. Change only the relevant setting and save the file.
4. Start CURATOR again to load the changed configuration.
5. Run 9 — Check setup and inspect 10 — Current status.
6. Use section 4 to determine where processing must restart.

Keep the active database on local storage. Do not relocate it to a network share.

`Execution.Workspace.CleanOnFinish` must remain **true**.

3. Maintain platform and DAT references

See sections 4 and 5 of Read Me First for catalogue responsibility and format limitations.

Supply and prepare references

Platform XML identifies platforms; DAT/XML catalogues describe the collection contents used for matching and completeness checks.

1. Obtain platform XML and supported DAT/XML catalogues for the intended collection.
2. Record each catalogue's source, version or date.
3. Extract the reference files if supplied in an archive.
4. Place extracted platform XML files in CURATOR's platforms folder and extracted DAT/XML catalogues beneath its DATs folder. Keep these files outside the History subfolders.
5. Enter **P — Prepare DAR**.
6. Review the confirmation, type uppercase `YES` and press Enter.
7. Wait for completion and inspect the summary and reported warnings or errors.

Preparation runs Platform Preparation, DAT Discovery and DAT Authority Resolution. After preparation succeeds, use O — Organize to process the collection. If preparation fails, follow section 6 before continuing.

Accepted inputs are archived under History and removed from intake; removing intake does not remove saved authority. With no new files and valid saved catalogues, Stages 1 and 2 report "No new files to process" and continue. Policy, integrity and pending archive-recovery checks still apply. Stage 3 reuses unchanged DAR and its summary.

Run Prepare DAR after supplying changed platform or DAT inputs. Unchanged input contents are not necessarily parsed again merely because application or mapping files changed; do not assume a mapping edit alone reimports a catalogue.

For No-Intro, make only **one download request at a time**, completed before the next begins.

MAME software-list references

Use the following instructions when supplying MAME software lists or Atari 8-bit Preservation references. MAME software lists are XML files supplied in MAME's hash folder.

1. Obtain the required lists from one identified MAME version.
2. Copy the relevant XML files beneath CURATOR's DATs folder, outside DATs\History.
3. Record the MAME version.
4. Follow the Prepare DAR procedure on the preceding page.
5. Check DAT Discovery and DAT Authority Resolution results.

For Atari 2600 cartridge and cassette references, the relevant lists are a2600.xml and a2600_cass.xml. Copying the relevant XML files is sufficient; CURATOR does not require the accompanying softwarelist.dtd file.

CURATOR's experimental MAME support and split-set limitations are explained in section 5 of Read Me First.

Atari 8-bit Preservation (A8P) references

1. Place the supported machine-readable Atari 8-bit Preservation (A8P) export beneath CURATOR's DATs folder, outside History.
2. Record its source and date.
3. Follow the Prepare DAR procedure on the preceding page.
4. Check that DAT Discovery recognizes the A8P input and that authority preparation completes.

A filename alone does not establish that an export is supported or accepted.

4. Choose where processing must restart

See sections 2, 3 and 7 of Read Me First before changing an existing run. Use this table after changing inputs or settings. If processing was interrupted without changes, follow section 5 first.

What changed	Starting point
Source files or Source selection	Run **O — Organize** against valid prepared references.
Platform XML or DAT inputs	Run **P — Prepare DAR**, then Organize.
Mapping, ranking or other processing policies	Determine which saved references and stage results depend on the change. Do not assume existing results remain valid.
Output destination	Reassess the output plan and saved records of completed output. Do not redirect an interrupted run by changing its folders.
Nothing changed; processing was interrupted	Follow section 5 before starting again.

Organize runs File Discovery through final output using the catalogue references saved by a successful Prepare DAR run.

Selected-stage commands are available for targeted administration:

- **3 or 4: run one selected stage.**
- **5 or 6: run from the selected stage through Stage 10 — Organizer.**
- **7 or 8: run from Stage 1 — Platform Preparation through the selected stage.**

Options 4, 6 and 8 include pauses. Follow **Run selected stages** in section 4 of the End User Guide for stage selection, Clear/Append choices and launch confirmation.

Use a selected-stage run only when its earlier results, reference data, Source and Workspace remain appropriate. A NO-GO result must be resolved before final output can proceed.

5. Recover interrupted processing

See sections 2, 3 and 6 of Read Me First for recovery precautions.

1. Keep the interrupted run's Source, Workspace and Output locations.

2. In the Command Center, select the workflow that was interrupted.

3. If asked, choose the same Clear or Append option used for that run.

4. At the recovery prompt, inspect **V — View details**.

5. Select R — Resume when offered and appropriate. If CURATOR tells you to start a particular stage, return to the Command Center and start that stage using the stage controls in section 4.

6. Follow the prompts and inspect the completion results.

Read the stage named in the recovery prompt. Some recovery resumes completed work recorded by CURATOR; other recovery restarts the identified stage. Resume checks saved state and its prerequisites while preserving completed output.

Choice	Meaning
R – Resume	Continue eligible saved work or restart the identified stage, as stated in the prompt.
D – Discard	Abandon saved recovery and start the stage named in the prompt; later stages may need to run again.
V – View details	Inspect the saved run and recovery reason.
L – Leave for later (when offered)	Retain recovery without proceeding, when offered.
C – Cancel	Leave without starting the requested work.

If File Discovery finds interrupted Scan Preparation work, choosing Resume preserves that recovery. Follow CURATOR's instruction to start Stage 5 – Scan Preparation; File Discovery is not repeated.

If Resume is unavailable, retain the stated reason. Do not clear Workspace or run state to make the prompt disappear.

Reconciliation has separate recovery choices; see section 7.

6. Investigate failed or unexpected results

See sections 4–6 of Read Me First before changing files in response to a finding.

1. Record the exact message, affected path and stage name.

2. In the application folder, open that stage's numbered folder—for example, 05_ScanPreparation—and read RUN.log.

3. Use DETAIL.log for additional information and DEBUG.log for diagnostics.

4. If startup fails before a stage begins, retain the displayed error and any displayed startup-evidence path.

5. Identify the cause before changing files. After correcting it, use section 4 to choose where processing must restart. For interrupted processing, follow section 5 first.

Gateway records are under 00_Curator in the application folder.

Finding	Administrative response
Missing application file or dependency	Restore the matching files from a known-good complete application copy. Do not substitute an arbitrary tool or library version.
Invalid configuration or overrides	Correct the named configuration problem. Use Manage folders for routine path changes once startup is available.
DAT parsing or mapping failure	Review the named input and mapping error; preserve source provenance before correcting and preparing again.
NO-GO	Stage 9 — Completeness found blocking issues, so Stage 10 — Organizer did not start. Review the blocking findings. If inputs and settings remain unchanged, correct the findings and rerun Stage 9 using section 4. If Source changed, repeat Organize; if platform or DAT inputs changed, run Prepare DAR first.
Output failures	Inspect Organizer failures and recovery details before retrying unfinished work.
Unexpected review items	Compare the exact content and required catalogue members. Review alone does not prove corruption.
Unchanged progress count	Check activity messages and logs; some operations report progress at phase boundaries.
Access or tool error	Check the reported path and named tool. If Microsoft Defender is in use, review Windows Security → Virus & threat protection → Protection history for a matching event; otherwise, check your security software's history. An access or tool error alone does not establish the cause.

Do not manually edit the database or generated records to bypass a failure.

Antivirus performance and file access

Warning: Antivirus and other real-time security scanning can slow CURATOR's file-heavy operations, especially when processing large collections or archives. Scanning can also temporarily hold files open and cause file-lock or sharing-violation errors that interrupt processing, including writes to logs or working files.

Record the error time and affected path. Review the stage's RUN.log, DETAIL.log and DEBUG.log, plus Windows Security → Virus & threat protection → Protection history when Microsoft Defender is used, or the equivalent vendor history. No matching alert does not rule out scan-related contention. A sharing violation does not by itself prove antivirus involvement; other programs or concurrent access can cause the same symptom.

For a persistent lock, identify the process using the exact affected file with a read-only handle inspection, such as Microsoft Sysinternals Handle or Process Explorer. Close an identified owner normally when safe; do not force-close handles or terminate an unknown process. A lock that has already disappeared may not be attributable after the event.

For suspected scanning overhead, use the vendor's performance diagnostics; Microsoft Defender provides a performance analyzer for affected paths, files and processes. Prefer a small representative workload or evidence captured during a planned run. Do not repeat a large collection solely to reproduce one unexplained event.

Keep antivirus protection enabled. When evidence supports a change, follow vendor guidance and local policy to select the narrowest exclusion for verified trusted material or a dedicated working location. Exclusions reduce protection. Do not exclude whole drives or unverified downloaded collections. Defender file/folder exclusions apply to real-time scanning; scheduled scans or other security products may still scan that material. Review and remove an exclusion when it is no longer required.

After resolving the conflict, follow section 5 for interrupted processing and section 4 for the correct restart point. Preserve Source, Workspace, Output and saved recovery evidence. A log-write failure does not establish that preceding work was rolled back; do not reset or clean up as a troubleshooting shortcut.

References: Microsoft Defender Antivirus performance analyzer — https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/defender-endpoint/tune-performance-defender-antivirus ; Microsoft virus-scanning guidance (KB822158) — https://support.microsoft.com/help/822158 ; Handle — https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/handle ; Windows Security exclusions — https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/threat-malware-protection/virus-and-threat-protection-in-the-windows-security-app

7. Audit and reconcile the collection

See sections 3, 6 and 7 of Read Me First before auditing or reconciling the collection.

Check coverage or physical contents

At the Command Center, enter R, V or E and press Enter. Wait for completion and review the displayed results.

Command	Use
R — Standard collection report	Calculate missing DAT entries per type from the committed Stage 10 collection inventory.
V — Full physical collection audit	Check recorded files for presence, size and SHA-256 differences against saved records.
E — Detailed reporting export	Export saved reporting results without rescanning the collection.

Standard Reporting performs no physical rescan. Valid unchanged reports are reused. Collection records, DAT authority, relevant policies, implementation or destination changes invalidate reuse. Missing saved reports or changed report sizes or modification times trigger rebuilding. Authority, integrity and pending-recovery checks still apply.

V records differences without applying reconciliation file actions. Use C separately when you intend to apply changes.

After manual collection changes, run the full physical audit and inspect its findings. Reporting coverage comes from the recorded permanent collection; `needs_attention` is a separate review queue.

After completed reporting, Detailed reporting export writes `CURATOR_Detailed_Reporting_Export.json` in the configured Reporting folder. Note the displayed path.

Apply reconciliation

Reconciliation can move changed files or files not recorded in the permanent collection under needs_attention\Reporting_Reconciliation, restore eligible recorded files and publish updated collection records. It is not a general-purpose repair of arbitrary damaged content.

1. Enter **C — Reconcile collection**.

2. If an unfinished plan is reported, type uppercase RESUME to continue it or DISCARD to abandon its remaining actions and reassess the collection. Completed actions remain in effect. Press Enter to leave the saved plan unchanged.

3. Review the reported action count.

4. Type uppercase RECONCILE only when ready to apply the plan. The prompt shows an action count, not an itemized list. If you cannot establish what will change, press Enter to retain the plan without applying its file actions.

5. Read the completion message and any failures. If reconciliation fails, follow section 6 before retrying. Completed actions are not automatically undone.

8. Preserve and restore administration data

See sections 3, 6 and 7 of Read Me First before copying or restoring administration data.

Preserve related records together:

- The application's database folder, containing CURATOR.db and any remaining CURATOR.db-wal and CURATOR.db-shm files.
- The configured Collection (Output) folder, including its 00_Manifest\CURATOR_Collection_Manifest.json.
- The config folder, including operator_overrides.json.
- Platform/DAT reference files and their retained History archives.
- Relevant numbered stage folders, 00_Curator, run_state, reporting records and Workspace needed for unfinished processing.

CURATOR has no backup command in the Command Center.

Make an offline preservation copy

1. Finish processing or preserve the interrupted state using section 5.

2. Exit CURATOR and close every other session or tool using its database.

3. Copy the listed folders to a separate, clearly dated backup location. Keep CURATOR closed until copying and verification are complete.

4. Preserve filenames and relative paths.

5. Compare the original and copied file lists, file sizes and SHA-256 values. Every copied file must match; investigate missing files or mismatches before relying on the backup.

6. Record the application version, copy date and original locations, including the original Source, Collection (Output) and Workspace paths.

Copy the complete database folder without removing any remaining companion files. See sections 3, 6 and 7 of Read Me First for database-copy and recovery precautions.

Keep the preserved copy unchanged.

Restore a consistent copy

Use a verified backup made using the preceding page's procedure. Restore the database and related collection/recovery files from the same saved state. Keep the backup unchanged and copy from it.

1. Close CURATOR and all other database users.

2. Preserve and move aside the existing database folder and related state being replaced.

3. Restore a known-good, consistent copy appropriate to the application and collection, preserving its paths and filenames.

4. Keep database files and their companion files from the same saved state together. Do not mix a restored database with WAL files from another state.

5. Start CURATOR and inspect startup messages. If startup fails or rejects the restored database, follow section 6 before continuing.

6. When the Command Center is available, open 10 — Current status and confirm the three working paths. When reporting is available, run V — Full physical collection audit.

7. Review the audit findings using section 7 before considering reconciliation or relying on coverage.

Restoring the database alone does not reconstruct missing output or Workspace. Database state, retained output and unfinished-run evidence must agree.

Rebuild for a BETA release or incompatible database

Use this procedure for every BETA release and when CURATOR requires rebuilding an incompatible database. For access, locking or integrity errors within the same installation, investigate using section 6 first.

1. Record the intended BETA release and retain any incompatibility message.

2. Close CURATOR and other database users.

3. Preserve the previous database and generated runtime state outside their active locations.

4. Keep original inputs and retained output safe.

5. Ensure the required platform XML and DAT/XML files are available. Recover copies from retained intake archives or obtain the intended references again.

6. Place those reference files in their intake folders, outside History.

7. Start CURATOR with the previous database and affected runtime state preserved outside their active locations. Follow section 3 to run P — Prepare DAR, then section 4 to restart collection processing. Confirm the intended output destination before running Organize.

A new database does not contain the old database's records of completed output or interrupted work. Existing output is not automatically reusable merely because its files remain present.

Every BETA release requires a complete database reset. Backward compatibility between BETA releases is not guaranteed.

9. Perform maintenance deliberately

See section 7 of Read Me First before either maintenance procedure. Finish or resolve interrupted processing using section 5. Preserve any records you still need using section 8. Confirm that no other CURATOR processing is active.

Clear histories, temporary files and Workspace

Use **H — Clear histories/temp/workspace** when the listed material is no longer needed.

H deletes files inside numbered stage History folders, Gateway History, temporary storage and the configured Workspace. The cleanup root folders remain.

1. Confirm that no required recovery depends on the cleanup targets.

2. At the Command Center, enter H and press Enter.

3. Review the listed areas and item counts.

4. Type uppercase YES and press Enter to proceed, or uppercase N or NO and press Enter to cancel. Other responses repeat the prompt.

5. Read the completion message and deleted-item count. If CURATOR reports that the folders are already clean, no deletion confirmation is needed. If cleanup fails, retain the exact message and follow section 6 before retrying; some earlier deletions may already have completed.

Clear Gateway run-state files

Use **S — Clear run states** only when those files are no longer needed.

S clears files under run_state, including Gateway status, launch-context and history files. It does not remove recovery records stored in the database. The run_state folder remains.

1. At the Command Center, enter S and press Enter.

2. Review the scope and item counts.

3. Type uppercase YES and press Enter to proceed, or uppercase N or NO and press Enter to cancel. Other responses repeat the prompt.

4. Read the completion message and deleted-item count. If CURATOR reports that the folder is already clean, no deletion confirmation is needed. If cleanup fails, retain the exact message and follow section 6 before retrying; some earlier deletions may already have completed.

Remove database and generated runtime history

Use **X — Advanced options**, then **N — Nuclear historical/runtime cleanup**, only for a deliberate rebuild.

This removes database files and configured generated stage, Reporting, run-state, temporary and Workspace contents. It also removes retained platform and DAT History archives.

1. See section 7 of Read Me First. Confirm that no other CURATOR processing is active. Preserve and verify the material you need using section 8 of this Administrator Guide before continuing.

2. Keep the platform XML and DAT/XML files needed for rebuilding outside the folders this command clears. If required files exist only in platforms\History or DATs\History, recover copies before continuing. Intake files outside History are preserved.

3. At the Command Center, enter X and press Enter. In Advanced Options, enter N and press Enter.

4. Read the warning and cleanup-item count.

5. Type NUCLEAR RESET exactly, including capitalization, and press Enter.

6. At the final confirmation, type I UNDERSTAND THIS CANNOT BE UNDONE exactly, including capitalization, and press Enter.

7. Confirm that Nuclear cleanup complete appears and review the deleted-item count. If cleanup fails, follow the failure instructions below.

Any different response to either nuclear confirmation cancels. Cleanup begins after the final exact confirmation.

Application files, documentation and required root folders are preserved.

After returning to the Command Center, follow section 3 to supply references and run P — Prepare DAR before organizing a collection. Previous recovery and receipt continuity are no longer available. Retained collection output is not a substitute for those records.

If cleanup fails, retain the reported path, phase and deleted count, and follow section 6 before retrying. Earlier deletions may already have completed; do not assume complete deletion or a complete rollback.

10. Replace application files and verify readiness

See sections 3 and 7 of Read Me First.

1. Resolve interrupted processing using section 5. Before replacing files, follow section 8 to preserve and verify the existing records, and retain the existing application and configuration.

2. Close CURATOR and every other session or tool using its database.

3. Replace the application files with the complete, matching application and dependency set. Preserve the collection, database, reference intake and retained processing records; review configuration separately in the next step.

4. Preserve the intended Source, Collection (Output) and Workspace values in config\operator_overrides.json. Review other configuration changes using section 2; do not blindly overwrite the replacement configuration with an older copy.

5. For every BETA release, complete the database rebuild in section 8 before processing. Start CURATOR using section 1 and inspect startup messages. For other startup failures, follow section 6.

6. When the Command Center is available, run 9 — Check setup, then 10 — Current status, and verify all three working paths.

7. Use section 4 to determine which references and processing stages must run again. Do not assume saved results remain appropriate after changing application files or processing policies.

Do not mix tool binaries, libraries or policy files from unrelated application copies.

For developer API reference, **D — Generate API document** regenerates the configured Core API handbook. It does not replace review of operator guides or establish that collection processing succeeded.

Administration reference

Records and locations

Unless stated otherwise, these folders are inside the CURATOR application folder. Workspace and Collection (Output) use your configured locations. See section 2 for working paths and section 8 before copying administration data.

Location	Purpose
`config`	Configuration, policies, dependency records and templates
`platforms` and `DATs`	Reference intake
platforms\History and DATs\History	Retained accepted intake archives
`database`	Saved platform and catalogue references, processing, recovery and collection records
`run_state`	Gateway status, launch contexts and history
Configured Workspace and application _temp folder	Processing material
01_PlatformPreparation through 10_Organizer	Stage summaries, logs and history
11_Reporting	Reporting results and audit evidence
00_Manifest inside Collection (Output)	Exported collection manifest

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Read the supplied LICENSE and third-party licence notices for applicable terms. Use config\dependency-manifest.json to identify bundled components and their recorded versions, hashes and sources.

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