myOrganizer: CURATOR

Read Me First

Collection Utility for Retro Archive Tracking, Organization, Repository

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

Protecting Your Collection

Read this before configuring folders or starting a collection run. Use the Quick Start Guide for your first run, the End User Manual for everyday operation, and the Administrator Guide for maintenance and recovery.

Created, architected and managed by Miguel A. Ortiz.

Development and coding assistance: OpenAI ChatGPT

Third-party tools, authority data, and trademarks remain credited under their respective notices. Third-party rights and licenses remain applicable; see the supplied LICENSE and dependency manifest.

Copyright © 2026 Miguel A. Ortiz. All rights reserved except as granted by the applicable license.

1. Protect your originals and choose safe folders

Use **copies of your collection** as Source/Input. Keep verified backups outside Source, Output and Workspace. Inspect organized output and test relevant games in your emulator before deciding whether to replace originals.

Keep Source/Input, Output and Workspace separate and outside the CURATOR application folder. Never use the same folder for two purposes or place one inside another.

Allow space for extraction, temporary tracks and final output. Keep Source connected and unchanged until processing finishes: some accepted CHDs are copied directly from Source during final output.

Workspace is temporary. A clean Scan Preparation run can clear its contents before processing; Resume preserves the prepared workspace. CURATOR also clears workspace contents after successful output and collection publication. Never store irreplaceable files there.

2. Understand Clear, Append and Resume

Choice	Meaning
Clear	Removes existing contents from the selected Output folder before publishing. Choose it only when those contents can be replaced.
Append	Preserves existing output. Discovery records file metadata; Organizer reuses matching saved evidence without freshly hashing retained files. Same-size external changes need a content audit. Interrupted writes have separate recovery checks.
Resume	Recovery depends on the interrupted stage. Keep the original Source, Workspace and Output locations and the original Clear/Append decision. Follow the recovery instructions offered by CURATOR.

Check the Output path before confirming Clear. Do not change configured folders to redirect an interrupted run.

After manually changing collection files, use **V — Full physical collection audit**. Review findings before approving reconciliation.

3. Keep collection records and incomplete sets intact

Preserve CURATOR's database, saved execution records and the collection manifest at `00_Manifest\CURATOR_Collection_Manifest.json`. Do not manually edit these records.

Keep **Incomplete Sets and its archives in place**. Later Append or Resume processing can stop when a required retained archive is missing. Recreating an empty folder does not restore its contents.

Append can add verified members to eligible incomplete-set ZIPs. An accumulated set is not automatically relocated or converted when all its members become available.

Keep files in **needs_attention** if you want to review them later. Their absence alone does not block later processing, but CURATOR needs the relevant source material to recreate them.

4. Understand what DAT matching proves

Supply current DAT/XML catalogues for the platform and file representation being processed. Record their source and version. After changing authority inputs, run **Prepare DAR** before organizing again.

CURATOR matches content against supplied declarations. A familiar filename does not establish identity, and matching cannot correct an inaccurate catalogue.

A set is complete only against the requirements of its own DAT. A similarly named set from another DAT or release does not establish completeness. A complete result does not guarantee that the entire game is present or playable.

Keep Atari Lynx **LNX and LYX** catalogues separate. For No-Intro, make **one download request at a time, completed before the next begins**.

5. Check format and platform limitations

Content	What to know
MAME	CURATOR support is experimental. Continue using clrmame for MAME collection management. CURATOR uses SPLIT sets, which can require separate parent, BIOS or device sets.
CDI, NRG and MDF/MDS	Successful decoding does not prove a DAT match or emulator compatibility. A decoding failure alone does not prove that the source is corrupt. Preserve the original files and review CURATOR's reported findings.
Legacy Dreamcast CHDs	Recovery applies only to eligible layouts and requires exact agreement with loaded DAT evidence. It cannot recreate missing source data.

Before relying on a particular media output or conversion, read **End User Guide, section 9 — Media and platform reference**. Preserve originals and check final media in the intended emulator.

6. Respond to interruptions and check results

Run CURATOR in an interactive PowerShell window and follow its acknowledgement prompts. Some operations update counts only at phase boundaries; a stationary count alone does not prove that processing has stalled.

While processing is active, do not manually change Source, Workspace, Output, configuration, authority inputs or generated records. Wait until processing finishes or follow its recovery instructions.

Read the completion status:

- **Review items:** inspect the files and catalogue information; review alone does not mean processing failed.
- **NO-GO:** blocking findings prevent Organizer from clearing the destination or writing collection output. Resolve the findings before trying again.
- **Output failures:** retain messages and logs, then follow the documented recovery procedure for unfinished work.

Use Gateway recovery choices when offered. Do not delete workspace or saved state as a troubleshooting shortcut.

Reconciliation can move collection files and update collection records. Preserve anything you need before confirming. Discarding an unfinished reconciliation plan does not undo completed actions.

Standard Reporting calculates missing DAT entries from committed Stage 10 records; it does not rescan collection files. Unchanged reports may be reused. After manual file changes, use V - Full physical collection audit and inspect its findings.

Read a DolphinTool warning before dismissing it. Inspect the reported path, stage logs and security-software history when investigating access errors.

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.

A file-access error alone does not identify the cause. Preserve the exact message, affected path, time and stage logs; check security-software history and other programs using the file. Follow Administrator Guide, section 6, before retrying, and section 5 for interrupted-run recovery. Do not delete saved state or reset the collection to clear a lock.

Keep security protection enabled. If evidence establishes interference, consult the security vendor or your administrator about the narrowest suitable exclusion for a verified trusted file or dedicated working location. Exclusions reduce protection; do not broadly exclude drives or unverified downloads.

7. Before maintenance or configuration changes — administrators

Do not run cleanup while another CURATOR operation is active. Before deleting anything, determine whether interrupted processing still needs those files and preserve the records required for recovery.

Close CURATOR and every other database user before copying or restoring administration data. Preserve the complete database folder, including any remaining journal, WAL and shared-memory files. Restore related collection and recovery records from the same saved state; never mix backup copies.

Action	Consequence
H — Clear histories/temp/workspace	Deletes the reviewed history, temporary and workspace contents.
S — Clear run states	Removes Gateway run-state files, launch contexts and run-state history.
Nuclear historical/runtime cleanup	Removes database files, Reporting artifacts, run-state records, temporary/workspace contents and generated history, including DAT and platform History archives. This removes evidence needed for continuity and recovery.

Read the displayed warnings before confirming. Cleanup permanently deletes the affected files; it does not repair an interrupted run. Follow Administrator Guide, section 5 — Recover interrupted processing before choosing a cleanup action.

Use Manage folders for routine path changes. Keep required tools, dependencies and policy files together. Do not manually alter the database or generated evidence, and keep secrets out of configuration and logs.

Execution.Workspace.CleanOnFinish must remain true.

Every BETA release requires a complete database reset. Backward compatibility between BETA releases is not guaranteed. Preserve original inputs and retained output; follow Administrator Guide, section 8, for the database rebuild procedure.

8. Licensing, attribution and redistribution

Consult the supplied **LICENSE**, third-party notices and dependency records for controlling terms and warranty information.

Preserve copyright, attribution and modified-tool identification. When redistributing CURATOR or its bundled modified tools, satisfy the applicable licensing and corresponding-source requirements for the exact binaries being distributed.