MAX Messages

MAX Messages Manual

Version 1.2

What is MAX Messages?

MAX Messages is your solution for archiving and managing conversations from macOS Messages. It helps you preserve, organize, and search your message history, whether for personal reference or professional documentation.

Why Archive Your Messages

Archiving isn't just about saving space. It's about protecting your conversations and making them easier to access. Some key benefits include:

Keep your conversations safe

Back up your messages so they're preserved even if the original conversation is deleted.

Simplify Messages

Free up space on your hard disk and your iPhone and reduce clutter in the Messages app without losing important history.

Make searching easier

Archived messages can be searched much more efficiently than scrolling through long conversation histories.

Document important exchanges

Whether it's a business agreement, personal memory, or customer interaction, archiving ensures your conversations are securely recorded and easy to retrieve.

No iPhone needed

MAX Messages accesses your messages directly on your Mac. There's no need to connect or sync with your iPhone to archive or view chats.

What You Can Do with MAX Messages

MAX Messages provides a simple yet powerful way to archive and explore your conversations:

Archive with a Plan

Plans let you save frequently used archiving configurations as templates. Whether you're archiving daily, weekly, or by topic or contact, Plans make the process fast and consistent.

Browse conversations

Easily navigate through archived chats, organized by contact or group.

Search by content

Find specific messages using the built-in search: filter by name, keyword, or part of a conversation.

View attachments

See images, videos, and documents shared in your chats with a simple click.

MAX Messages makes it easy to review your message history. It's ideal for quick access, deep searches, or simply finding that one message you need.

This manual will guide you through getting started, setting up your first archive, and using MAX Messages effectively.

Introduction

System Requirements

- Operating System for MAX Messages: macOS 13 Ventura to 26 Tahoe.
- Messages from Messages will be archived.

Installation

Double click the MAX Messages installer in the dmg file.

Price

MAX Messages costs 79.95 $. If applicable, taxes have to be added. For instance in Germany the Mehrwertsteuer of 19% has to be added.

Choosing "Purchase online" leads you to the Fastspring store

https://mothsoftware.onfastspring.com/

where you can buy MAX Messages. After a successful purchase you can download the license file. When selecting "Register" from the application menu navigate to the file to open it.

The price includes 12 months of free updates. There is no subscription. After the 12 months you can continue using the application.

More Information

For more information please go to the website of MAX Messages at:

http://www.mothsoftware.com

or contact me at

mail@beatrixwillius.de

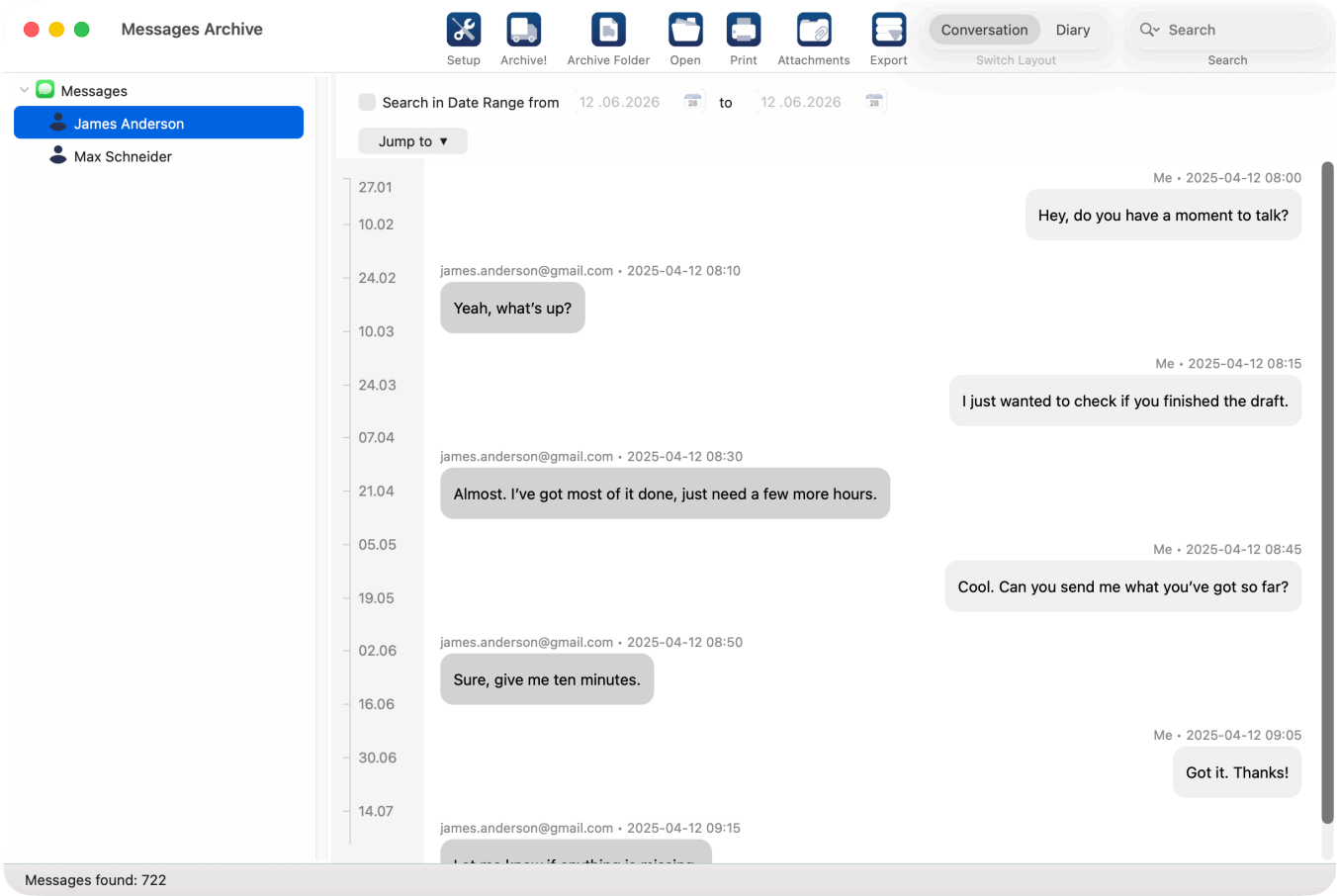
What is new for MAX Messages version 1.2?

> **Warning**
>
> Install MAX Messages 1.2 before using drag and drop on macOS 27.2. Earlier versions may become unresponsive when dragging the application icon to Full Disk Access in System Settings.

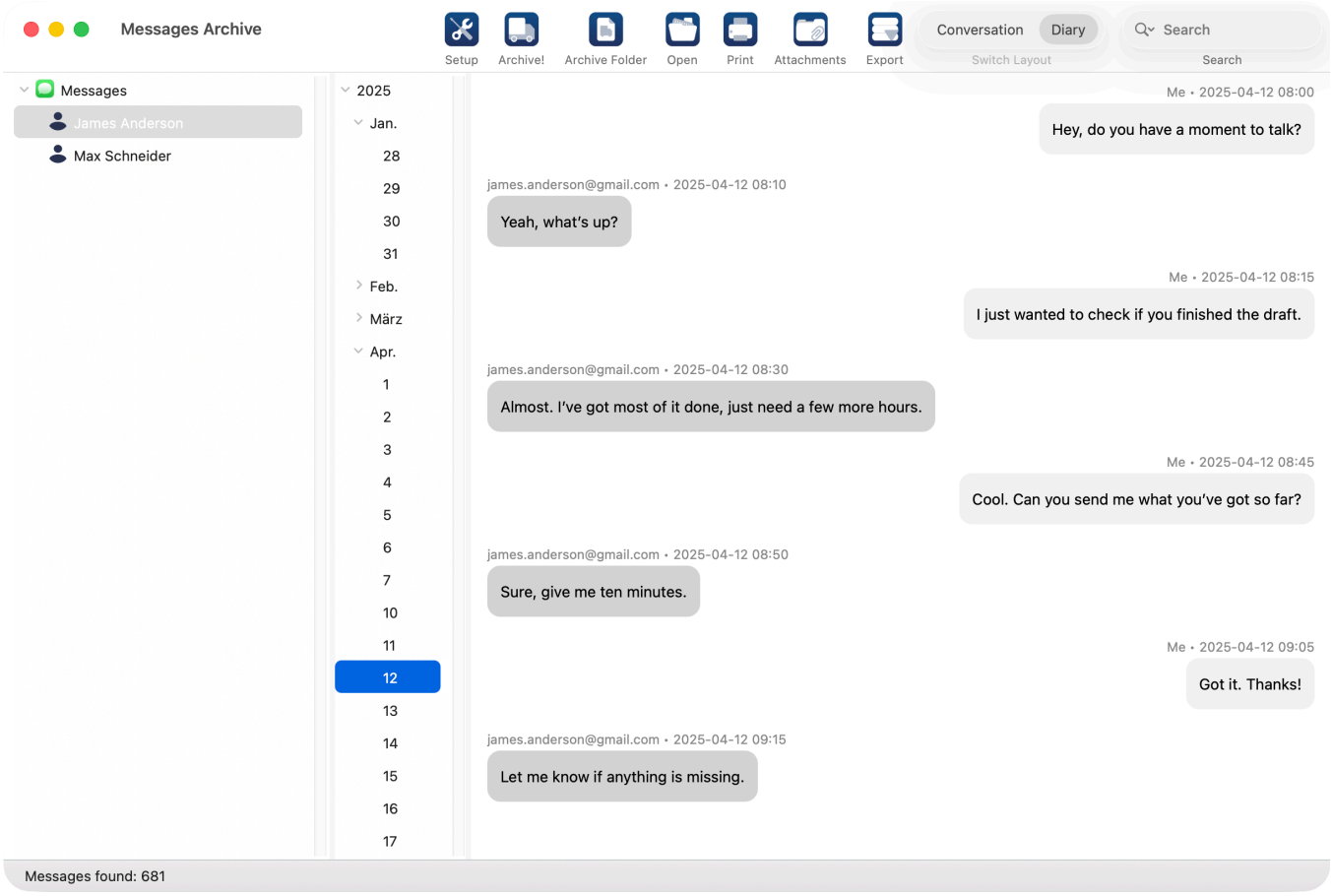
Version 1.2 improves navigation of long conversation by adding a jump to a specific date, a timeline for conversations and a new diary layout. User names have been split into first and last name. It's now possible to archive messages on a schedule.

Navigation improvements

Navigation in a long conversation is now much easier and faster. In addition to the search for a date range it's now possible to use "Jump to" to directly go to a specific date. The timeline to the left side of each conversation allows the direct selection of a date.

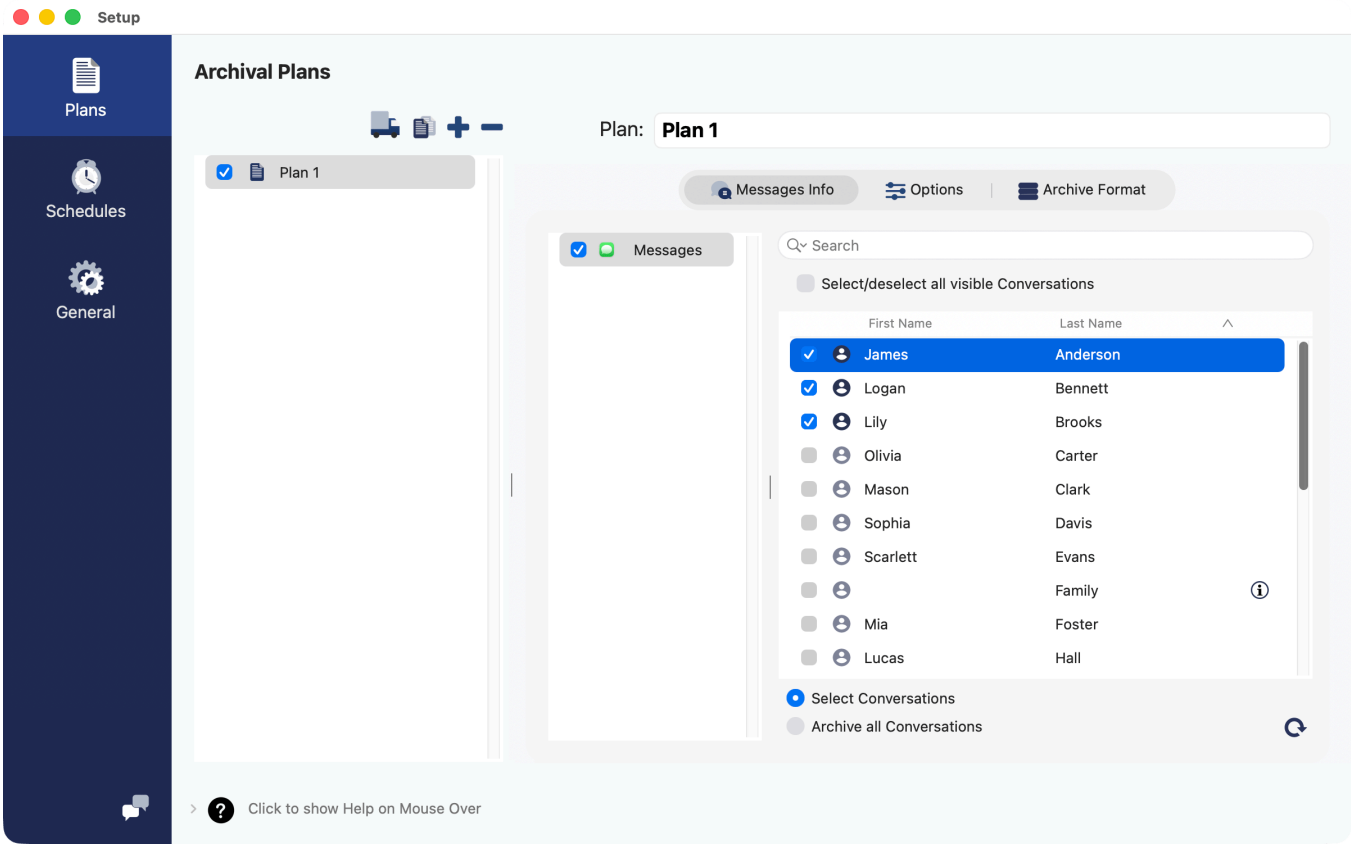


The Diary layout shows the messages by year/month/day. This also allows quick navigation over a long conversation.



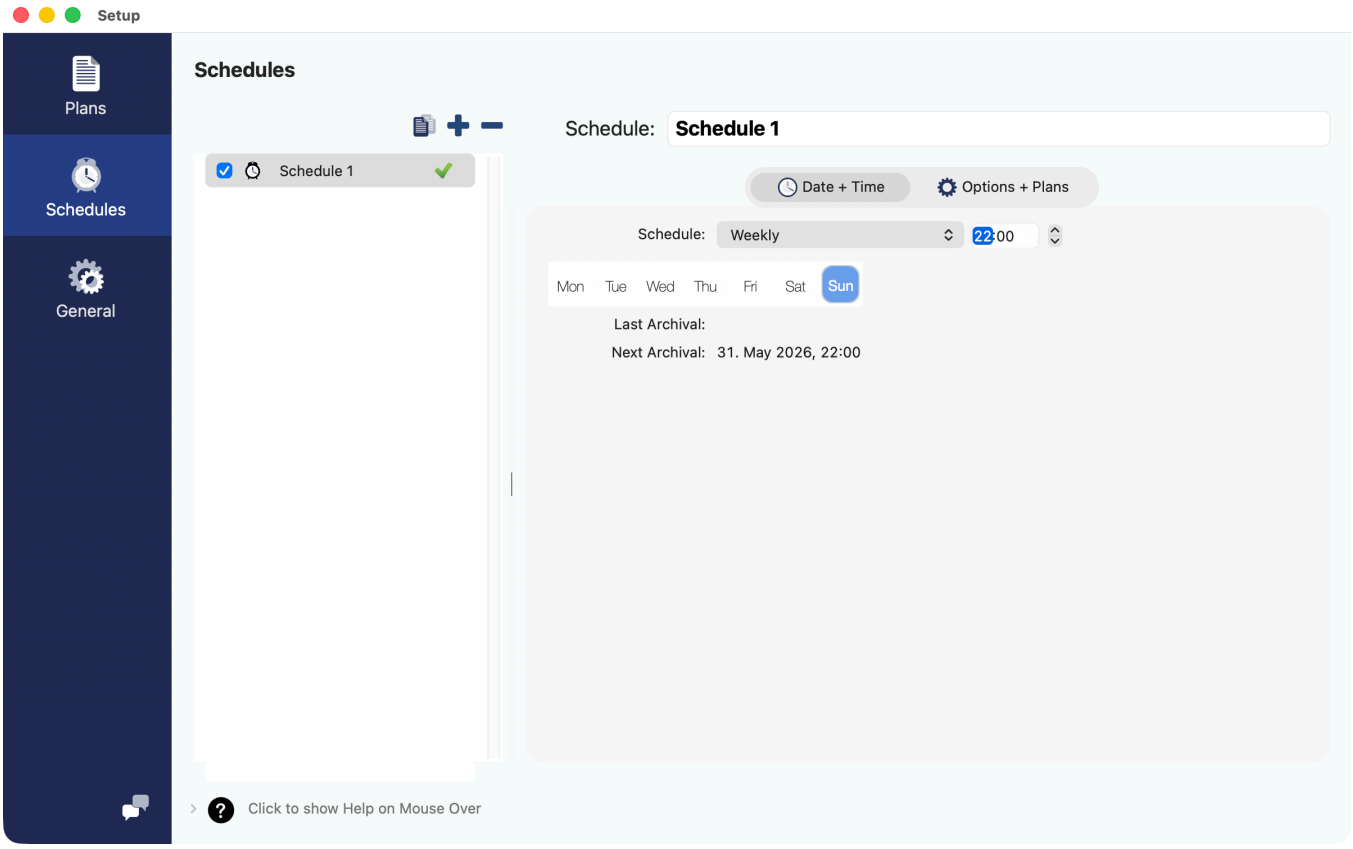
Improvement for user names

In the Plans section of the Setup the user names have been split into first and last name. It's possible to sort by both. The conversations in the Message Viewer are now sorted by last name.



Schedules

Archive on a daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly schedule.



Archive a chat.db folder

If you have made a copy of the chat.db folder it's now possible to archive this folder, too. Click on "Archive folder" in the toolbar and select the chat.db file itself. All messages and attachments will be archived.

Other improvements

Feature 6085: Updated all remaining listboxes to modern macOS listboxes.

Feature 6136: There is now an option to download URL previews if these are missing in Messages. It's also possible to add the previews after archiving.

Feature 6163: If no conversation is selected, date search and other navigation are now disabled.

Feature 6175: Improved the order of the File menu.

Feature 6270: There is now a Help Assistant for MAX Messages.

Feature 6276: The archive buttons in the Setup and the toolbar now have a tooltip when no conversation is selected or the archiving location is missing.

Feature 6325: Scheduler emails can now be sent to multiple recipients.

Feature 6330: After permissions are granted in the Setup, conversations from Messages load without clicking the Reload button.

Feature 6334: Improved handling of minor data corruption. The app now shows an error message instead of crashing.

Feature 6365: Improved opening archives.

Feature 6367: Improved the label describing the information sent with an error report.

Feature 6402: Improved the toolbar.

Feature 6406: The conversation list is now always expanded after a search.

Feature 6421: The Setup now remembers the sort field and direction for conversations.

Feature 6430: Added support for company names.

Bug Fixes

Bug 6087: Fixed an issue with automatic notarization.

Bug 6162: Fixed some issues with PDFs.

Bug 6171: Fixed some issues with PDFs.

Bug 6211: Fixed an issue with the window height.

Bug 6249: Made a better error message when the update file is not available.

Bug 6251: Fixed an IOException when downloading a new version

Bug 6258: Fixed an issue with the scheduler helper app being started twice.

Bug 6265: Fixed an issue with the recent menu items.

Bug 6266: Fixed an issue with the recent items menu.

Bug 6272: Now crash logs in the retired folder are sent in an error report, too.

Bug 6274: Fixed a problem with the card layout for pdf files when archiving/exporting to pdf.

Bug 6275: After exporting the conversation no longer is scrolled to the bottom.

Bug 6284: Improved contrast for buttons on onboarding window.

Bug 6285: Fixed a problem with the search not giving the correct result.

Bug 6293: Improved security for the message viewer for urls.

Bug 6294: Improved installation of the LaunchAgent.

Bug 6295: Improved security for url downloads.

Bug 6296: Improved security when exporting attachments.

Bug 6306: Url in the update information is now opened in the browser.

Bug 6309: Fixed a problem “malformed match expression” when searching.

Bug 6311: Only the first line of pasted text is now kept when doing a search.

Bug 6314: Ignore error messages for CloudFlare when doing an update check.

Bug 6316: Fixed an issue where the last message on a new page wouldn’t be created for PDF.

Bug 6318: Fixed some issues with the schedules.

Bug 6321: Improved speed of large search results.

Bug 6322: The searchfield in the main window is now scrollable.

Bug 6328: Improved the license-expired message.

Bug 6329: Improved handling of attachments in the temporary folder.

Bug 6336: The correct plan is now copied when duplicating a schedule.

Bug 6341: Fixed a problem with sorting.

Bug 6346: Conversations from unknown senders now show the correct messages instead of messages from the first conversation.

Bug 6348: For conversations with unknown senders, the archive now uses the phone number instead of “Unknown Sender”.

Bug 6350: The app now shows an error when a schedule runs but nothing can be archived.

Bug 6354: Fixed a potential hard crash when quitting the app while the Setup window is open.

Bug 6364: Attachment names now use the same special-character checks as Mail Archiver.

Bug 6376: Improved the installer.

Bug 6381: Fixed a permissions problem when checking the registration.

Bug 6386: Improved error logging.

Bug 6405: Slightly improved the speed of archiving to PDF.

Bug 6408: Fixed an issue with emails not being added to the index. A reindex is required.

Bug 6409: Fixed an UnsupportedFormatException when archiving an attachment.

Bug 6411: The app no longer waits for a minute when an archive volume is unavailable while opening or closing the archive.

Bug 6415: Fixed problems with incorrect information in the progress window.

Bug 6416: The progress window now shows the correct labels when importing an archive.

Bug 6417: Imported archives no longer produce an error when opened.

Bug 6419: Fixed a scrolling problem in non-English locales.

Bug 6427: Fixed a regression that hid labels when no archive was open.

Bug 6428: Fixed an issue with the font preferences.

Bug 6434: The “Quit when finished” option for schedules now works again in trial mode.

Bug 6464: A literal & is no longer converted to & in PDFs.

Bug 6465: Certain emojis are no longer shown as squares in PDFs.

Bug 6480: Improved error handling for the index on read-only volumes.

Bug 6481: After an index error, data in the Setup now loads correctly.

Bug 6492: Fixed a hard crash during the update check.

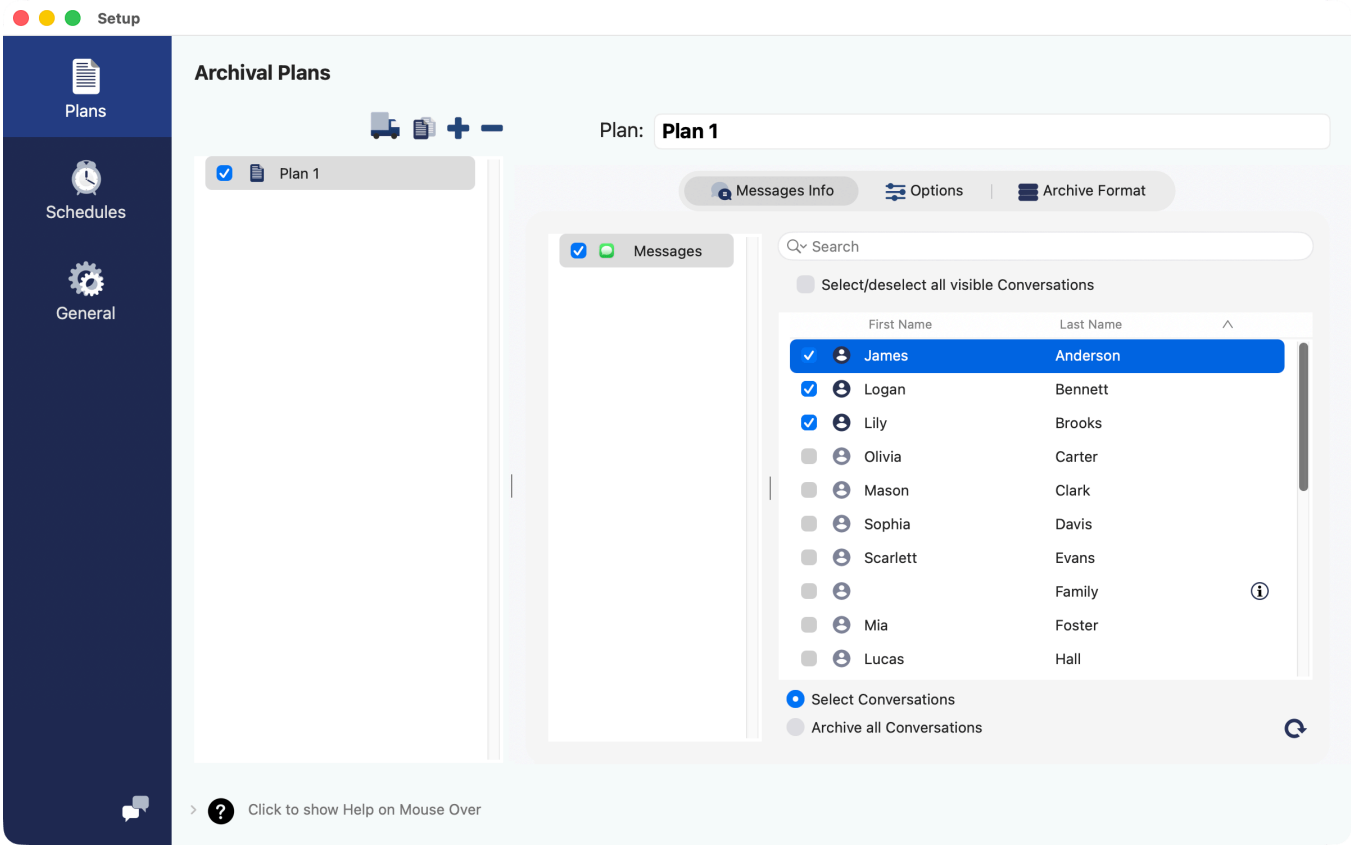
Bug 6500: Fixed an issue with journal-folder preparation when diagnosing an archive.

Bug 6507: Fixed an issue where Setup could display a different next archival date from the date used by the scheduler.

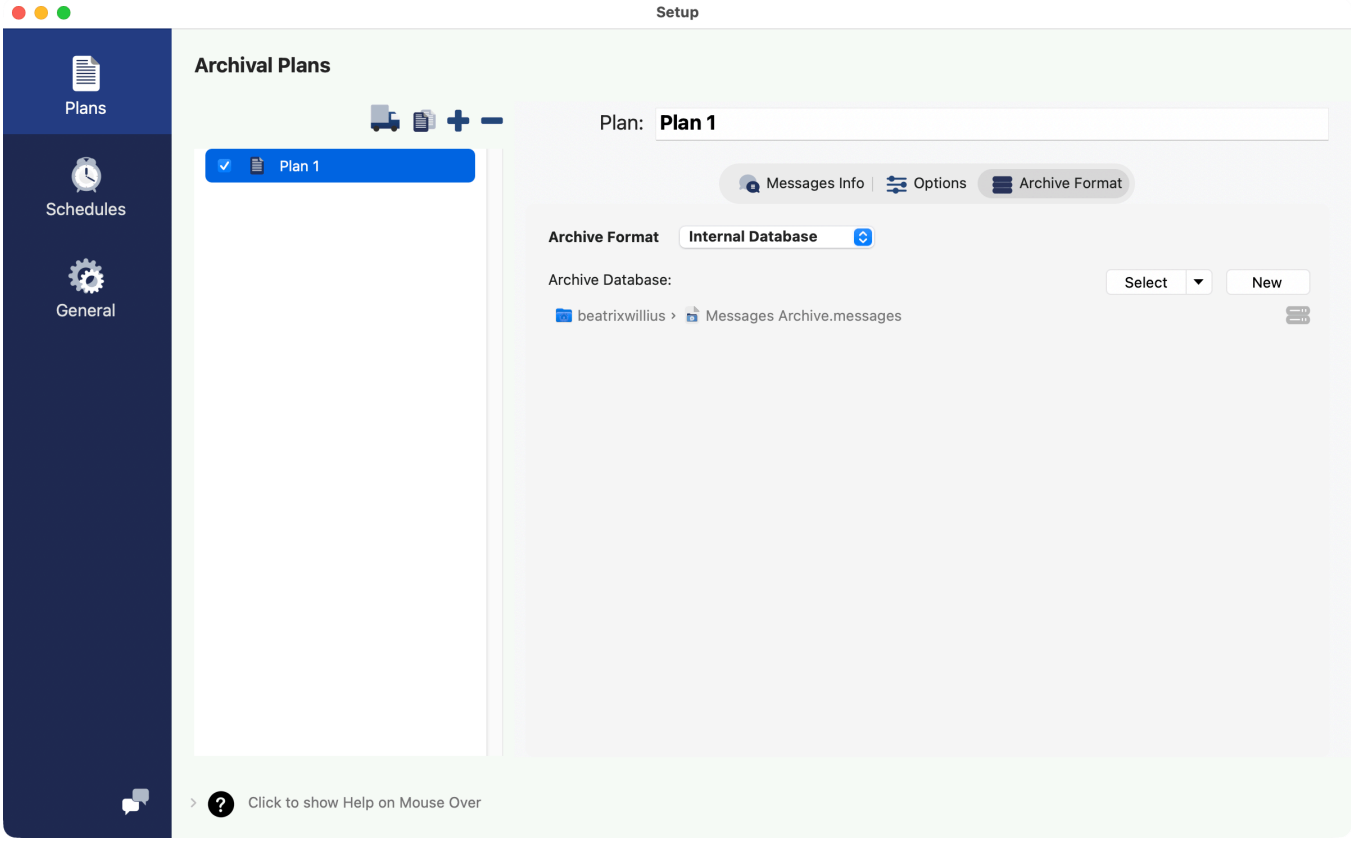
Bug 6515: Fixed a freeze when dragging the application icon to Full Disk Access in System Settings on macOS 27.2. IMPORTANT: Install MAX Messages 1.2 before using drag and drop on macOS 27.2. Earlier versions may become unresponsive.

Introduction: How do I use MAX Messages?

Open the Setup window from the toolbar. There already should be a plan. If there is no plan click on the plus icon to create a plan. Messages and all conversations are already selected for archiving. If you only want to archive individual conversations deselect “Archive all Conversations” and then select the conversations you want to archive.



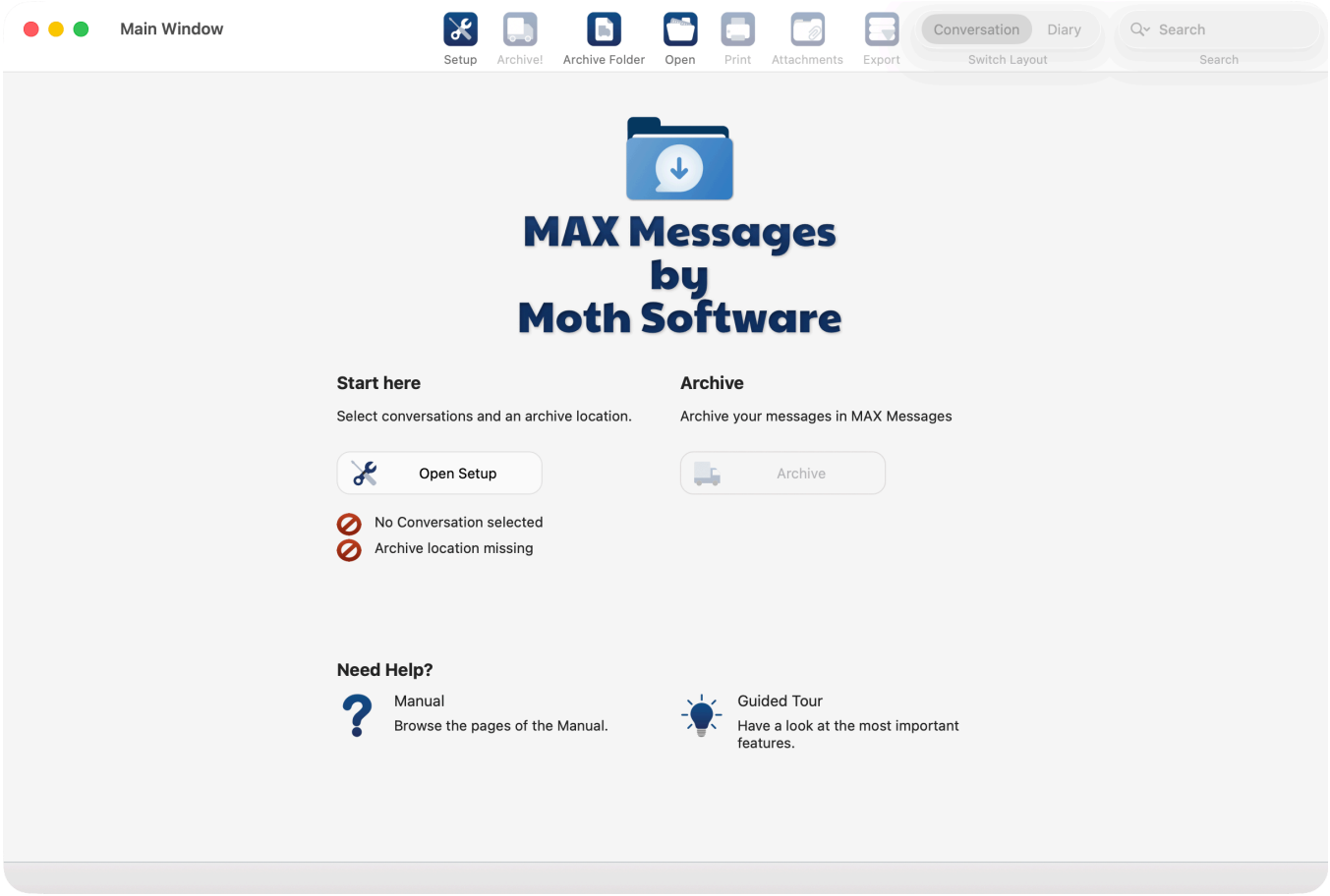
Now go to the Archive Format section and either select Internal Database or PDF as format. For both formats you can select a location for the archive.



The last step is to click on the truck icon to start archiving.

User Reference

Most of the functionality of MAX Messages can be controlled from the main window.



Setup: The Setup controls what, how and when MAX Messages archives.

Archive: Starts the archival for the conversations of the active plans.

Archive Folder: select a chat.db folder to archive.

Open: Select am archive to open.

Print: Print the visible emails.

Attachments: Saves the attachments from the selected conversation or current search result.

Export: Exports all conversations/the selected conversation/the current search result/the current day to the Internal Database, PDF, or HTML.

Conversation/Diary: switch between Conversation and Diary layouts.

Start here: see at one glance if you can start archiving. You need a selected conversation and a location for your archive. Click to open the Setup where you can select both.

Archive: start archiving.

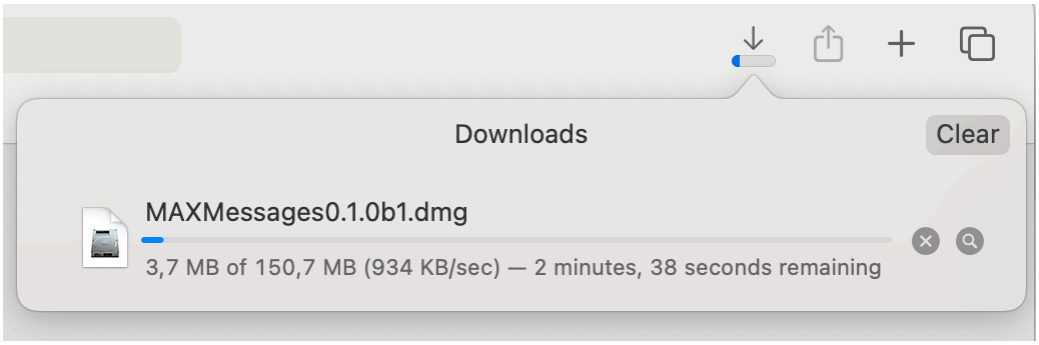
Manual: open the manual website.

Guided tour: have a look at the most important features.

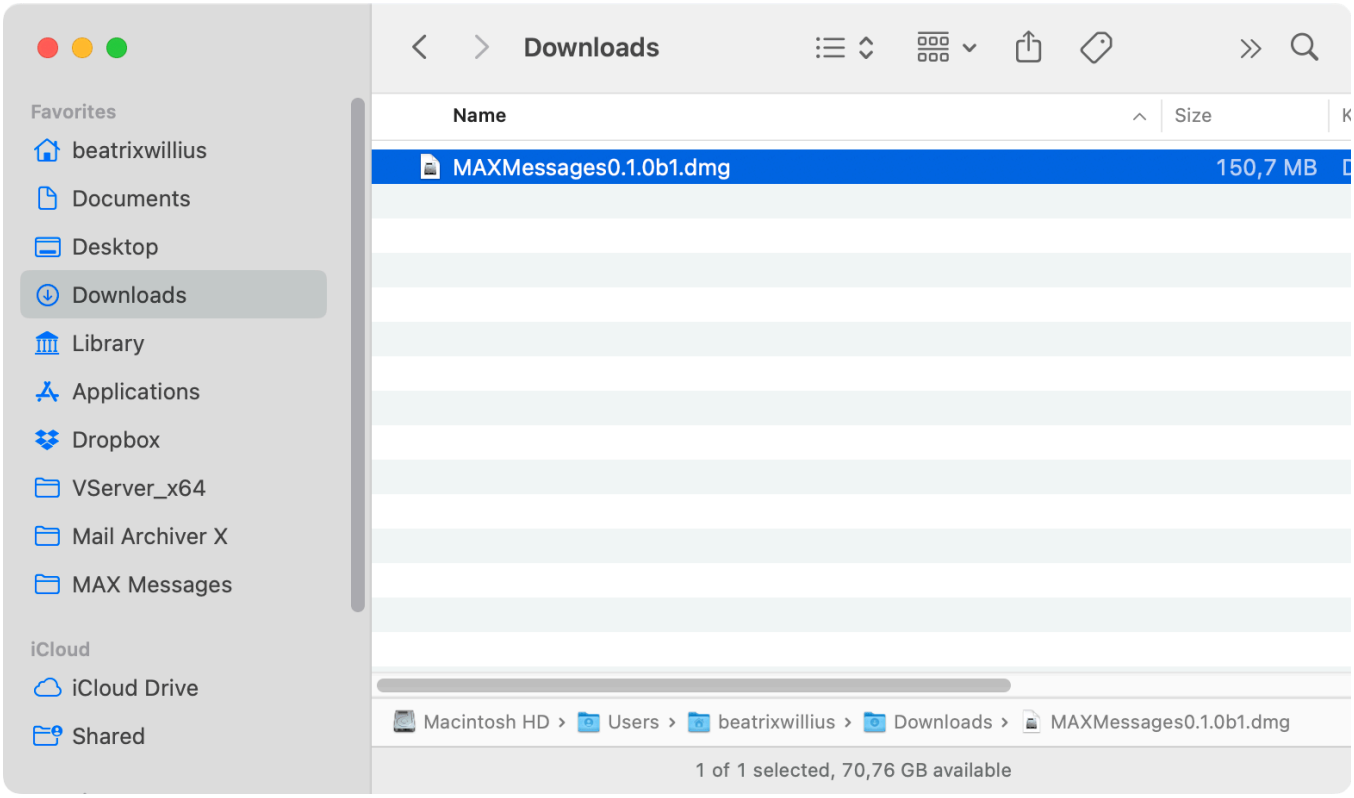
User Reference: Installation

If you haven't installed MAX Messages, yet, follow the instructions below:

1: Wait for your download to complete



2: Locate the dmg in the downloads folder and double click it.



3: Double click on the installer file.



4: Follow the instructions in the installer.



That's it! You are done with the installation of MAX Messages.

The application is now located in the Application folder.

How to un-install MAX Messages:

If you want to get rid of MAX Messages then open "MAX Messages Uninstaller" either in the dmg or in the applications folder. This deletes the main application, the settings and the session logs.

User reference: Uninstallation

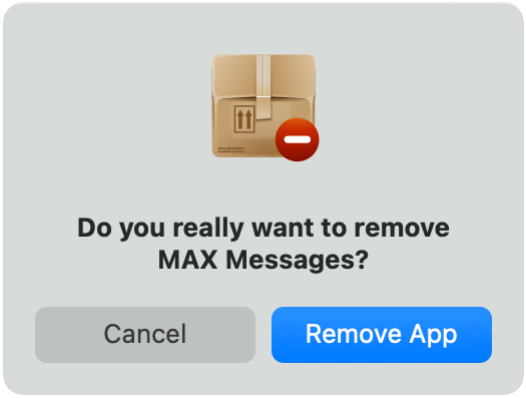
Occasionally it may be necessary to remove MAX Messages from your computer. For this purpose, there is a separate program for uninstallation in the dmg file called MAX Messages Uninstaller:



The interface of the uninstall application is similar to the installation:



To prevent the application from being removed by mistake, there is a dialog:



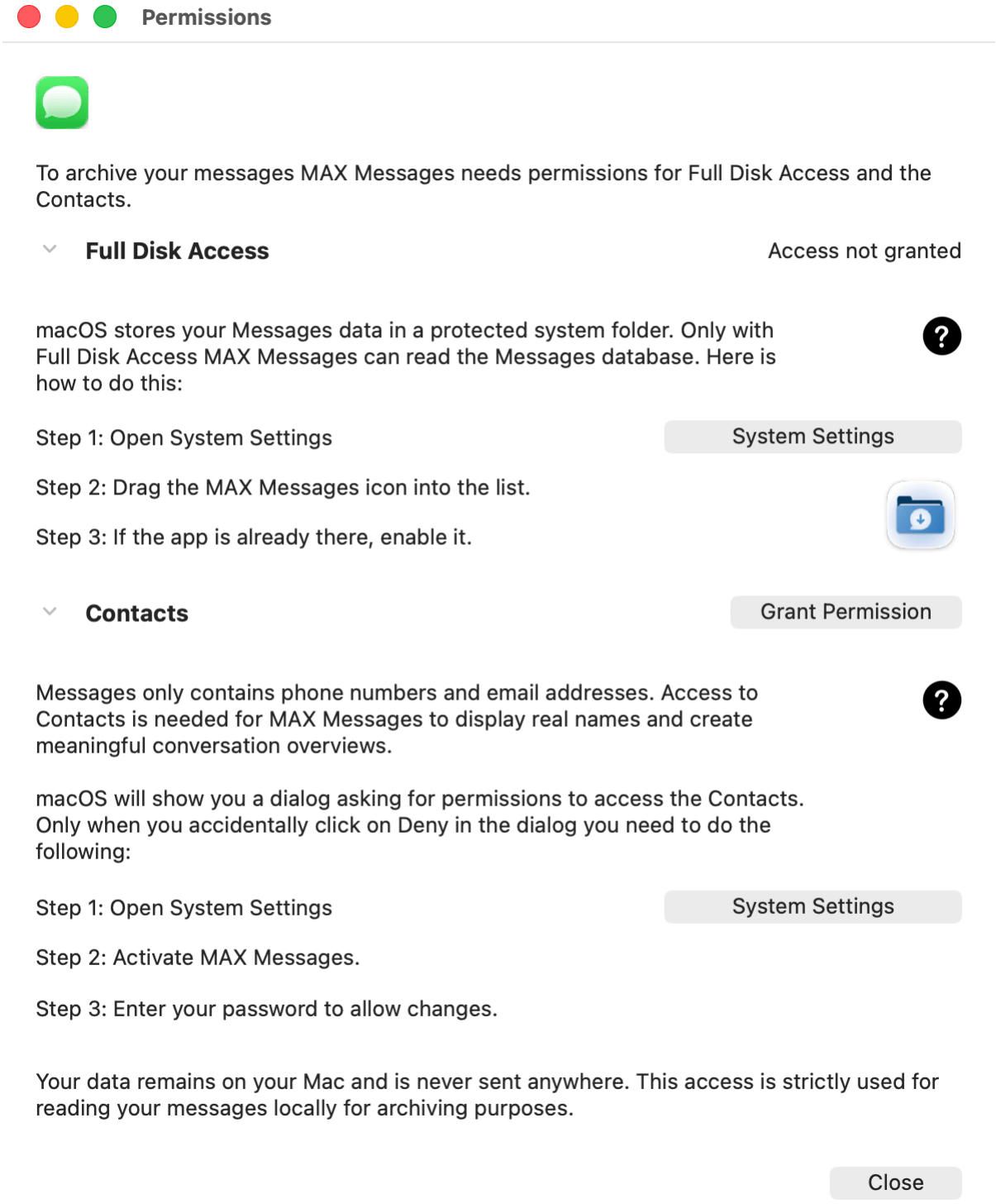
The application, the settings and the MAX Messages files in Application Support are then removed. The archives are retained even after uninstalling!

User Reference: Setup

With the Setup you tell MAX Messages what to archive and into which format.

Important!!!

You can archive messages from Messages in MAX Messages only when the application has full disk access AND access to the contacts. If a permission is missing then you will see the following window:



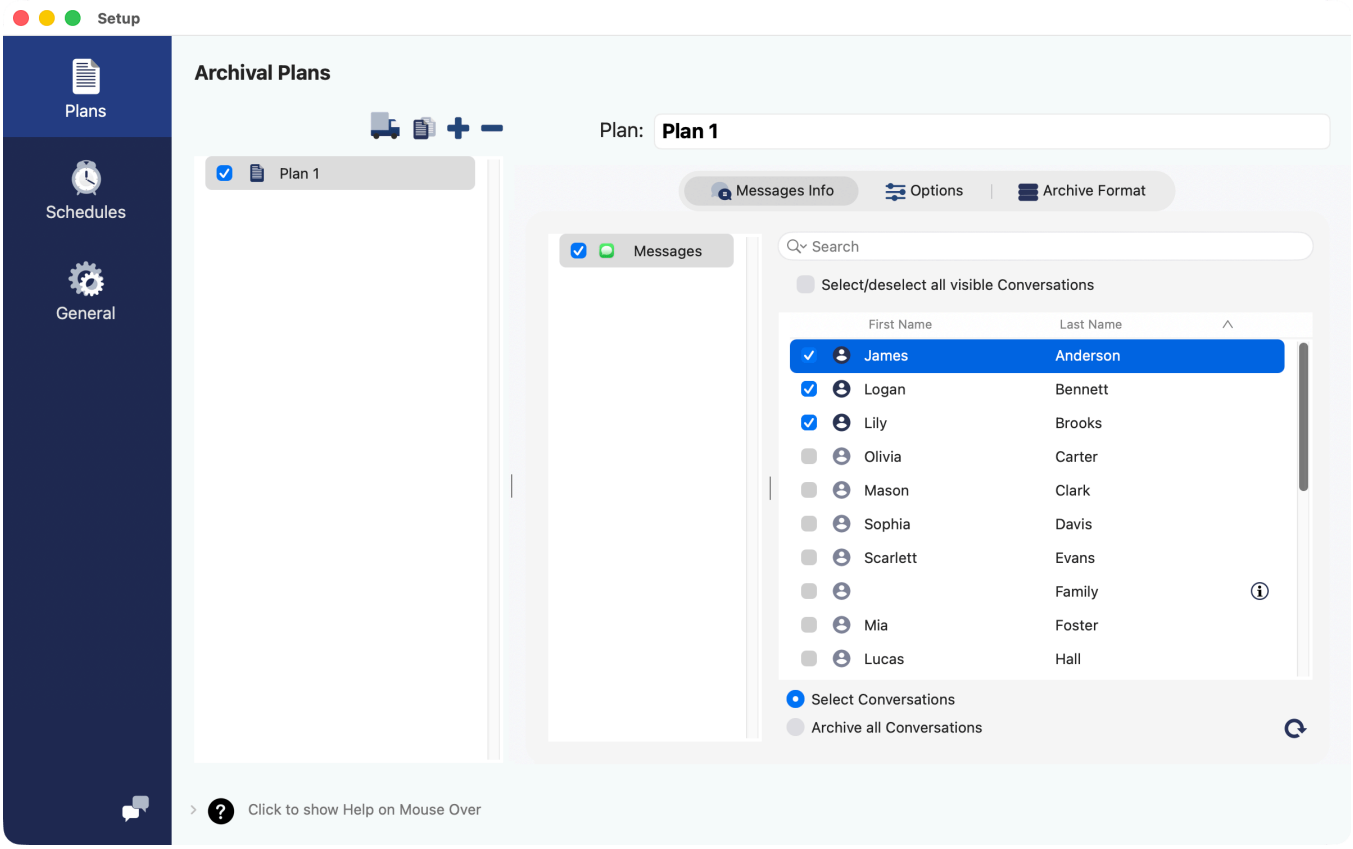
If you have already given a permission then the corresponding button is not active anymore. Click on the button “Grant Permission” to grant the permission. As always you have to restart the application for full disk access. The button with the question mark will show you what to do to give the permission.

The Contacts app allows you to have multiple contacts with the same name. If you have conversations with those persons then MAX Messages will archive the conversations to a single conversation. This can only be fixed by having contacts in Contacts with unique names.

The areas of the Setup

The Setup has several areas.

1. Plans: A plan is the core of your message archiving. It allows you to conveniently save frequently-used templates for later use. You must have at least one plan but you can use multiple plans.
2. Schedule: In the Schedule area you can define when you want to archive automatically (not for the Lite version).
3. General Options: Diagnosis and Data Logging.

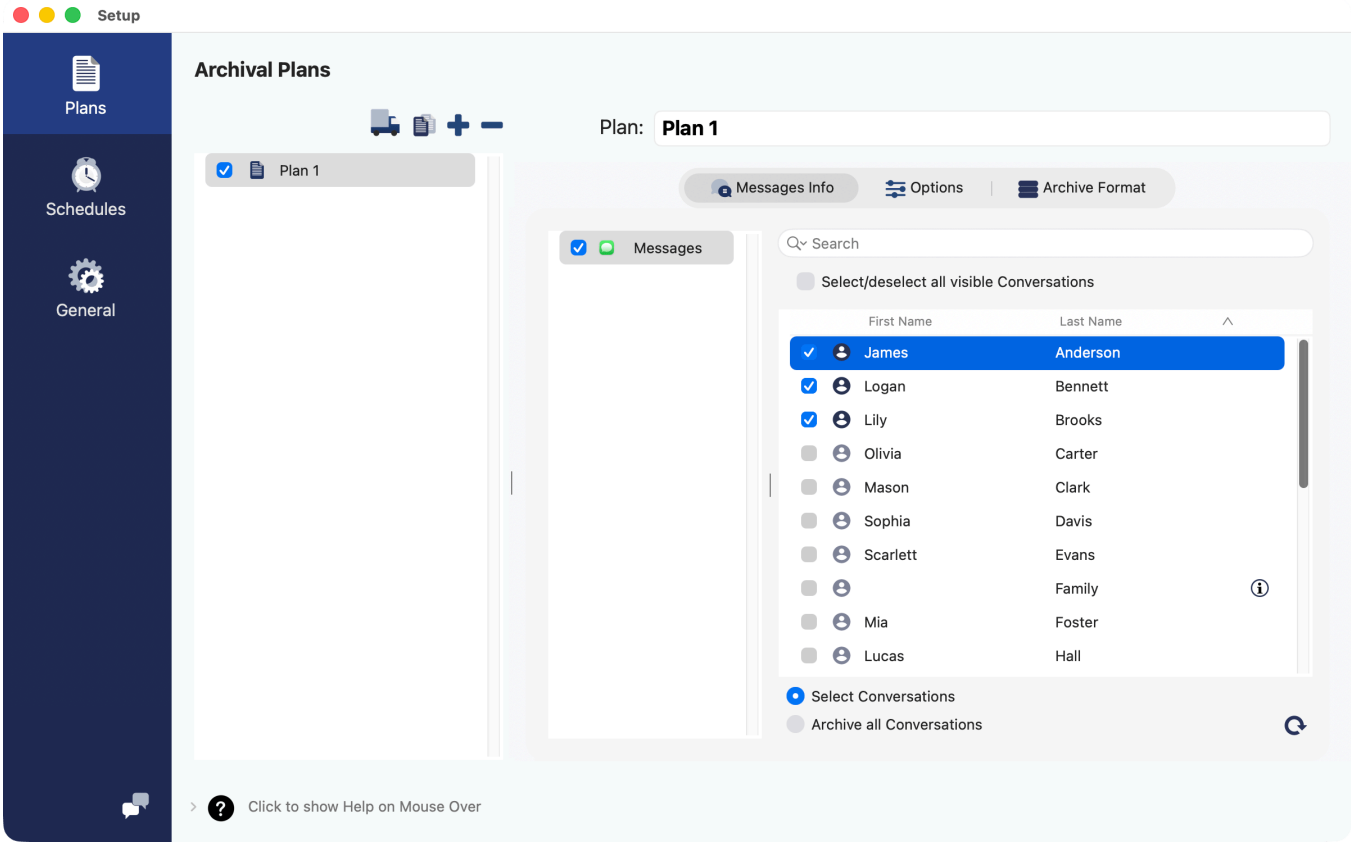


Setup - Plans

A plan allows you to conveniently save frequently-used templates for later use. You must have at least one plan but you can use multiple plans. The list of plans is on the left side of the plan area. Click on the plus icon to create a plan. The minus icon deletes a plan. Each plan has three sub-areas:

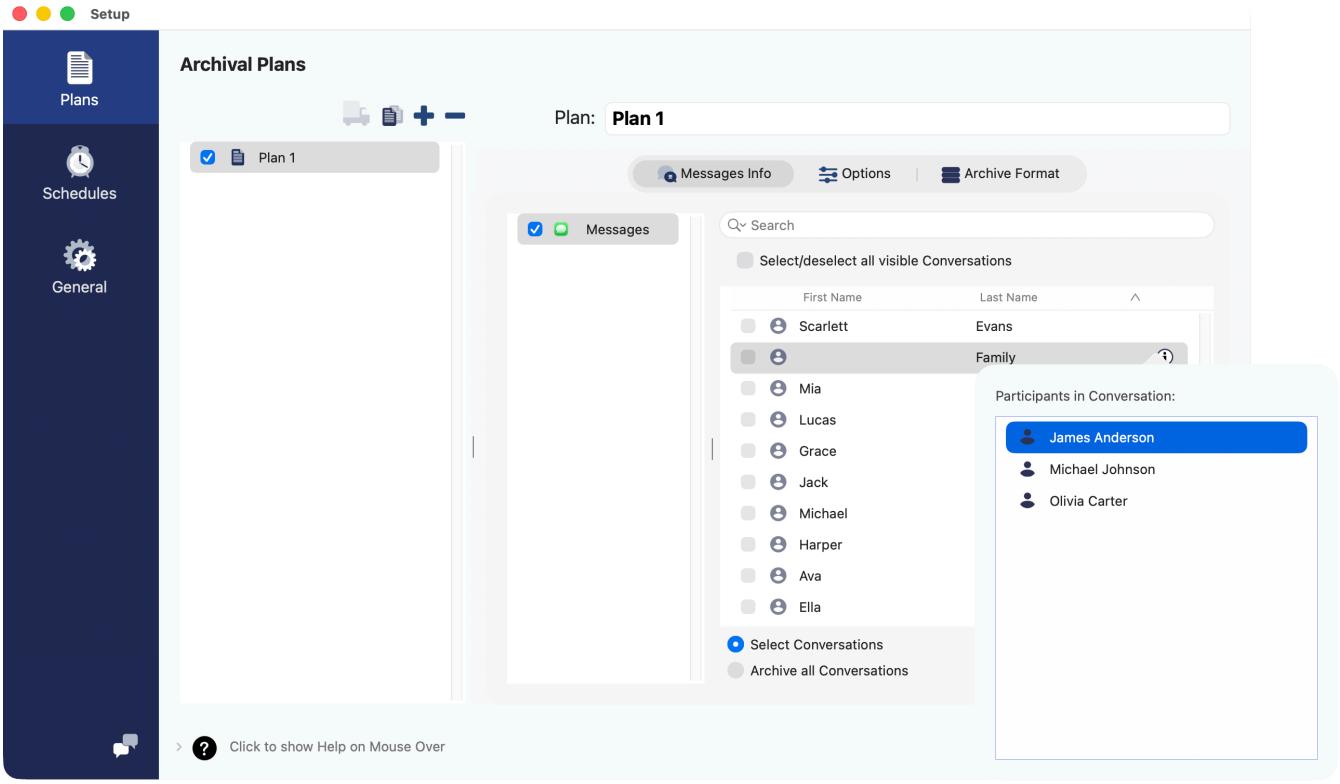
- Message Info: select applications and conversations for archiving.
- Options: restrict archiving by date.
- Archive Format: select how and where your messages will be saved.

Messages Info



By default “Archive all Conversations” is selected. If you want to archive individual conversations, click on “Select Conversations”. It is possible to search for conversation names. It’s also possible to select and deselect all visible conversations.

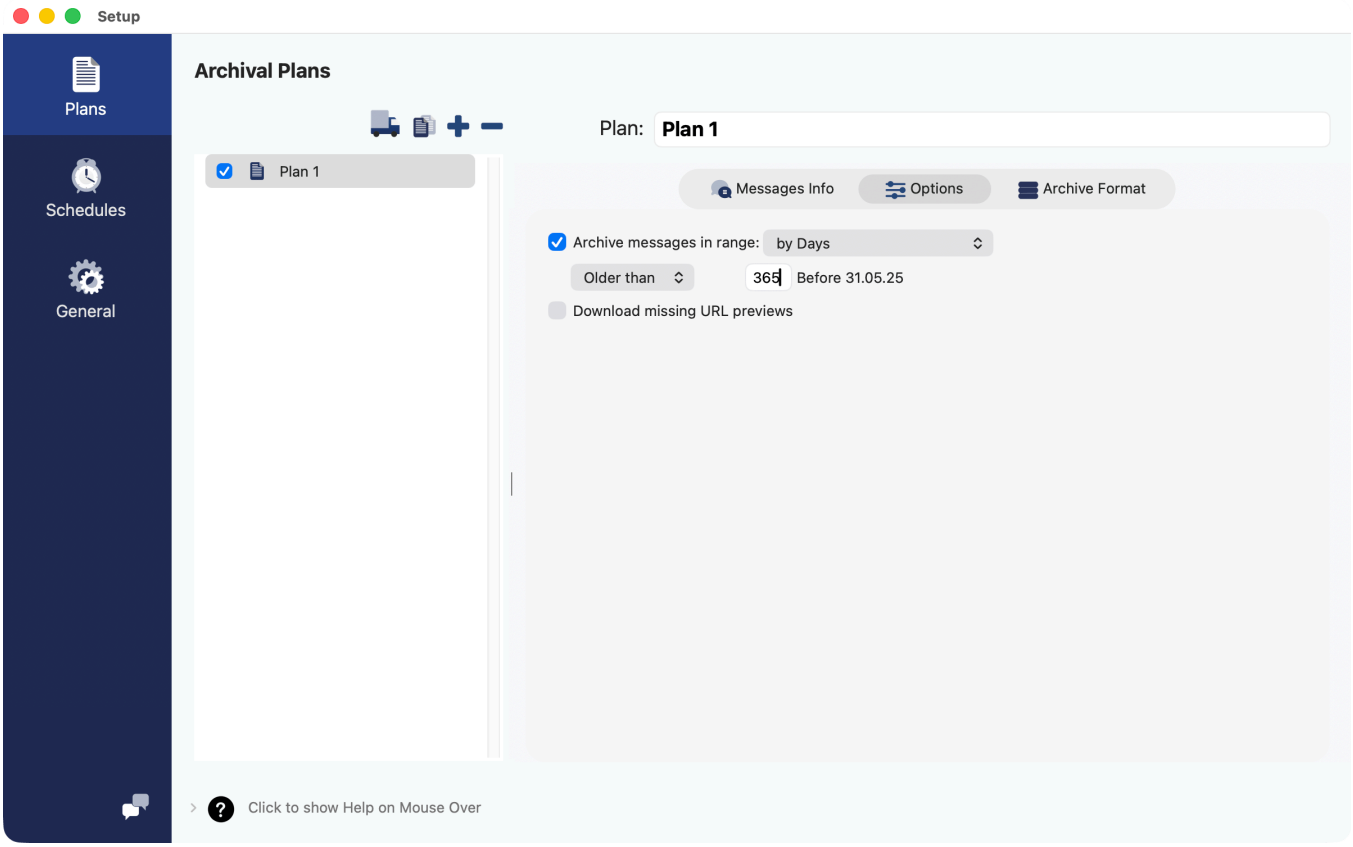
If there is a button with an i then the conversation is a group conversation. Clicking on the i button gives a list of all participants in the group:



You can now start archiving by clicking on the icon with the truck. You can either archive the selected plan or all active plans.

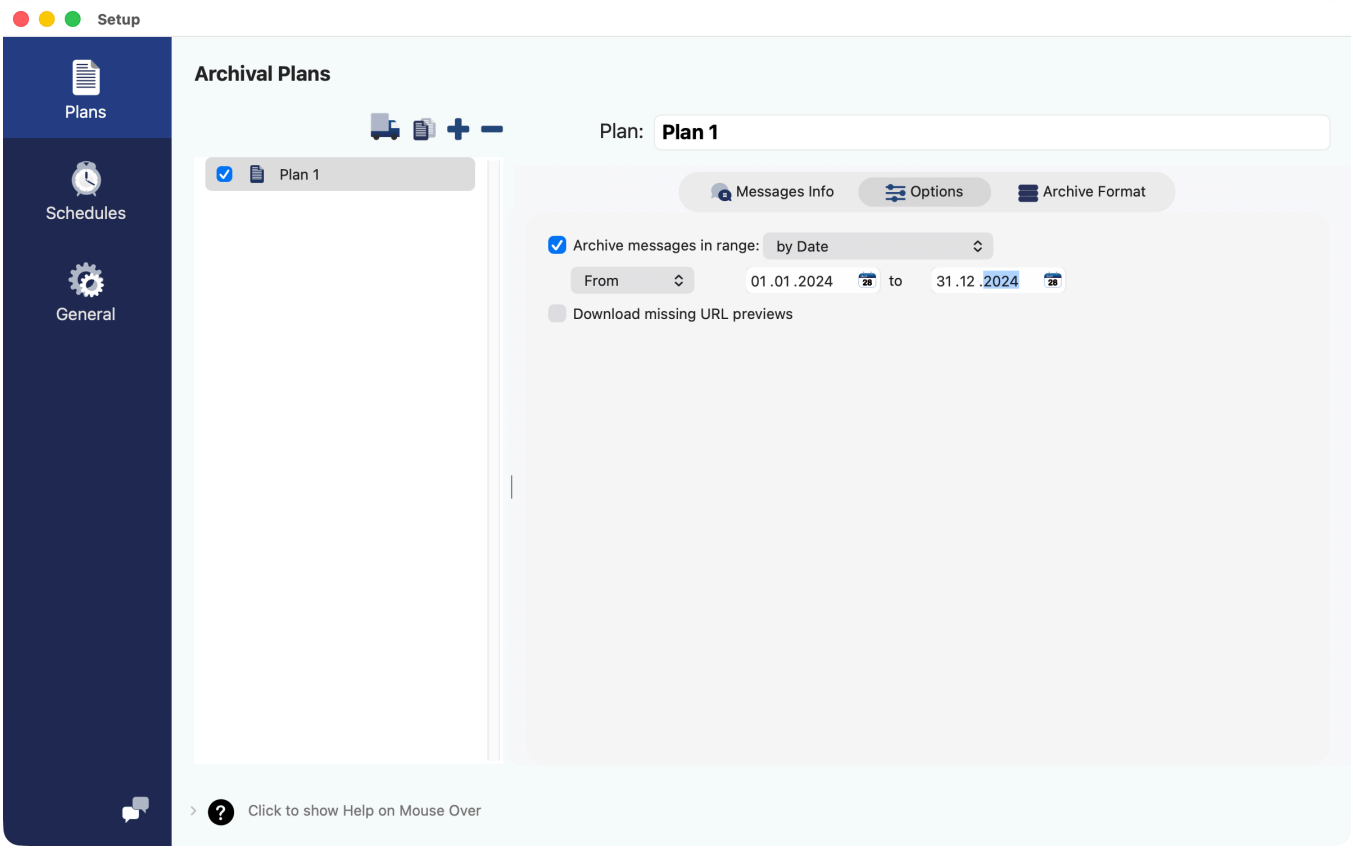
Options

The sub area Options gives you options to restrict the archival of messages by date. You can also download url previews if these are missing.

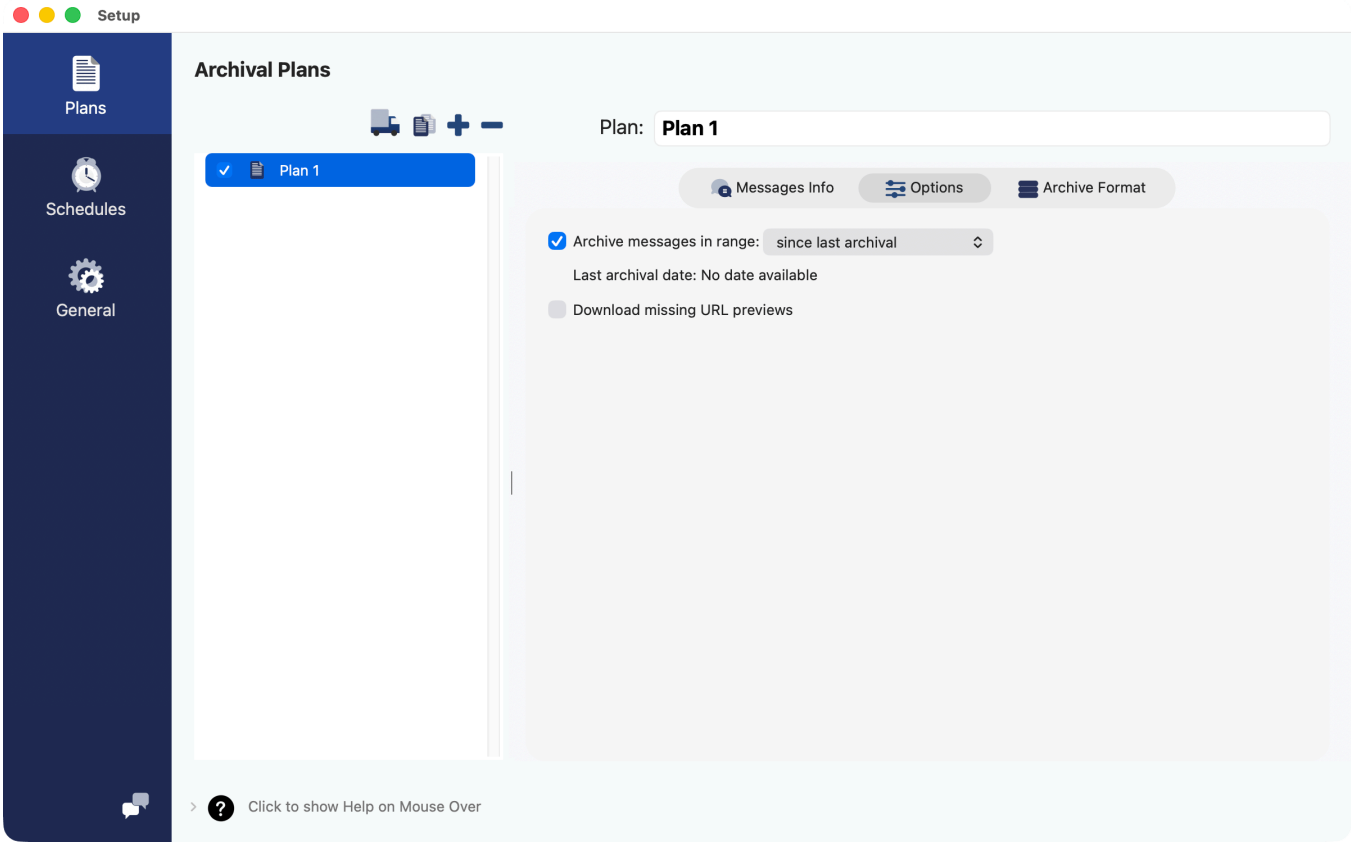


With “Archive in Range” the archival of messages can be restricted to a range of dates or ages. In the above screenshot you will archive every message between 01-Jan-2024 and 31-Jan-2024.

You can select if you want to have an upper/lower date or a date range for archival. You can either edit the date directly or with the date picker. For a range of days the interface is similar:



Here you enter an age range. The date belonging to the age is shown next to the age. If you want to archive all messages older than a year you would select Older than and then 365.



You can also select to archive only new messages with “since last archival date”. Newly selected conversations will be archived completely. Afterwards only new messages will be added. The date of the last archival date will be shown.

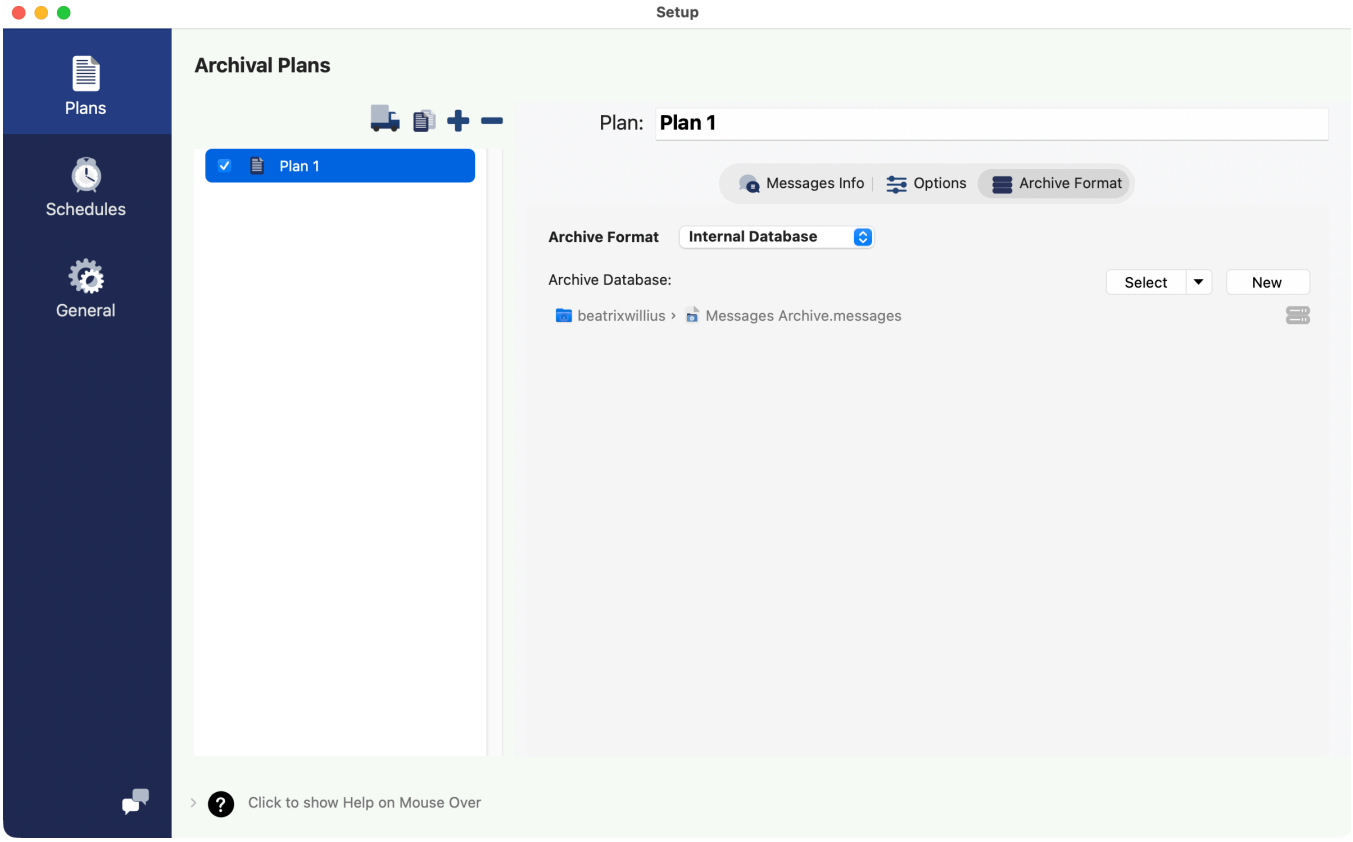
If you have sent/received an url without an url preview the option “Download missing URL previews” can try to fetch those.

Archive Format

With Archive Format you can select your main format: Internal Database (Valentina - a fast database by Paradigma Software), PDF or Html. For each format click on the grey button to show the archive location in Finder.

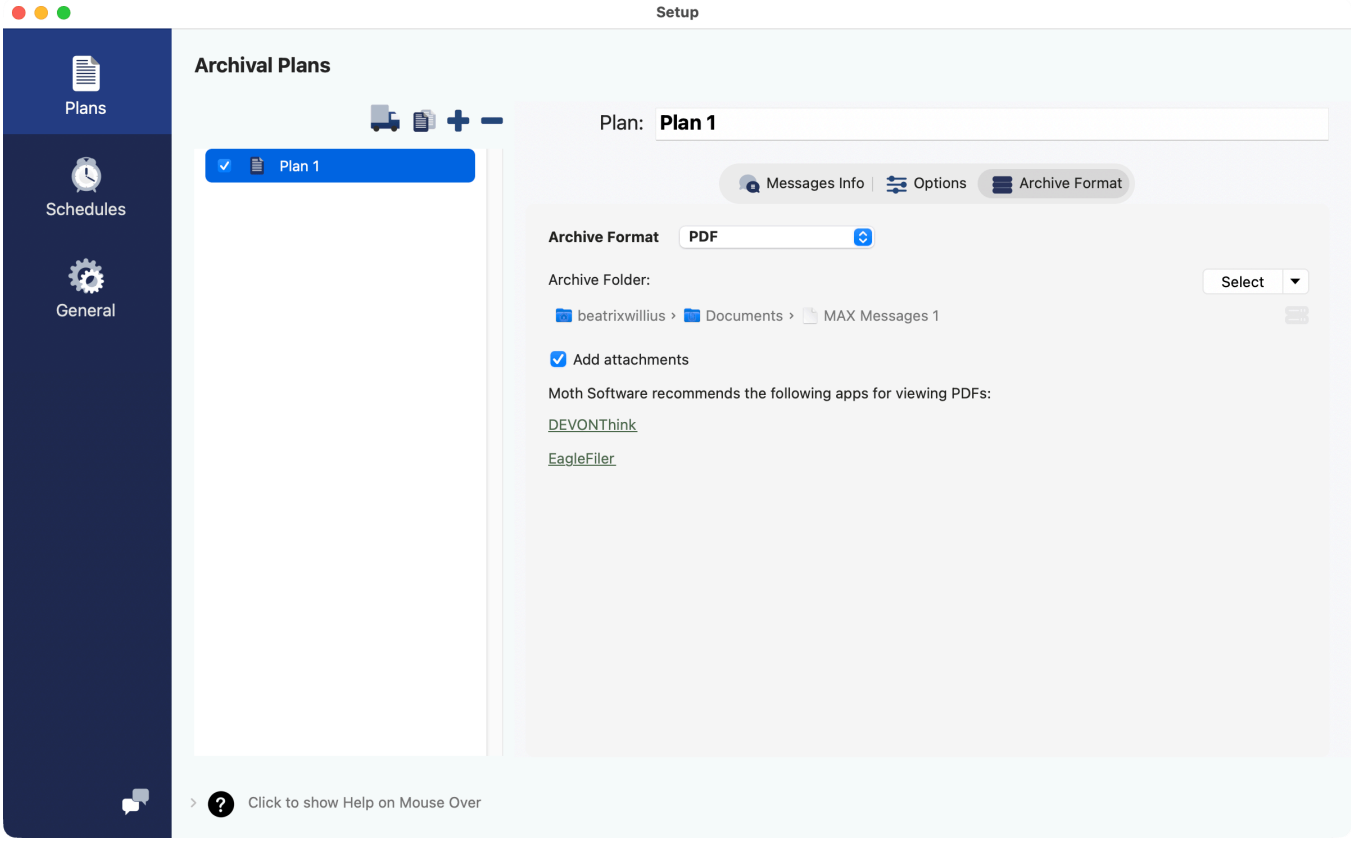
Options for Internal Database

The Internal Database is the default storage option for MAX Messages. The database saves all your messages in 2 files (an additional file is opened when the database is open).



With the Select button you can select an existing archive. The dropdown menu selects from predefined locations like the User or User Documents folder. With the New button you can create a new archive. The archive then will be created as soon as archival starts.

Options for PDF



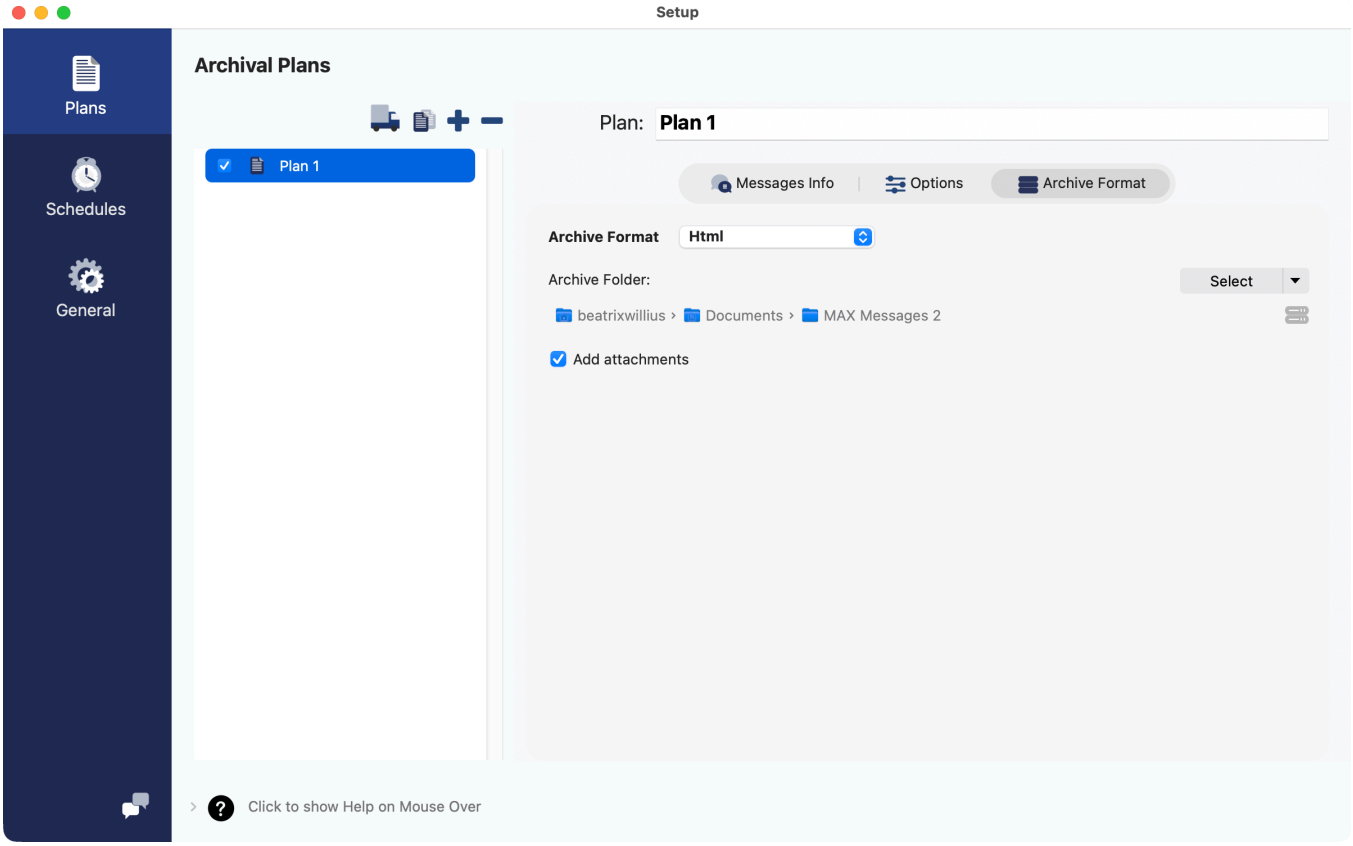
PDF is a mostly read-only format from Adobe. The PDF export creates one PDF file for the messages of a single day. With “Select,” you can specify the folder for the PDF files. With the dropdown menu, you can select a subfolder of the Documents folder, the User folder, or the Desktop with a single click. “Add attachments” to archive attachments is selected by default.

MAX Messages does not have the capability to view or search PDFs. But there are enough apps available which can do this. For instance:

- DEVONThink from Devon Technologies
- EagleFiler from C-Command

If you want to learn more about how to use the app with MAX Messages check out the blog and search for the app name.

Options for Html

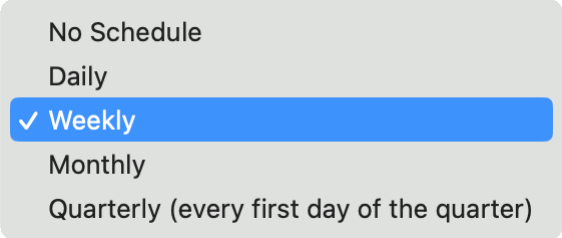


The options for Html are identical to the ones for PDF: The Html export creates one Html file for the messages of a single day. With “Select,” you can specify the folder for the Html files. With the dropdown menu, you can select a subfolder of the Documents folder, the User folder, or the Desktop with a single click. “Add attachments” to archive attachments is selected by default.

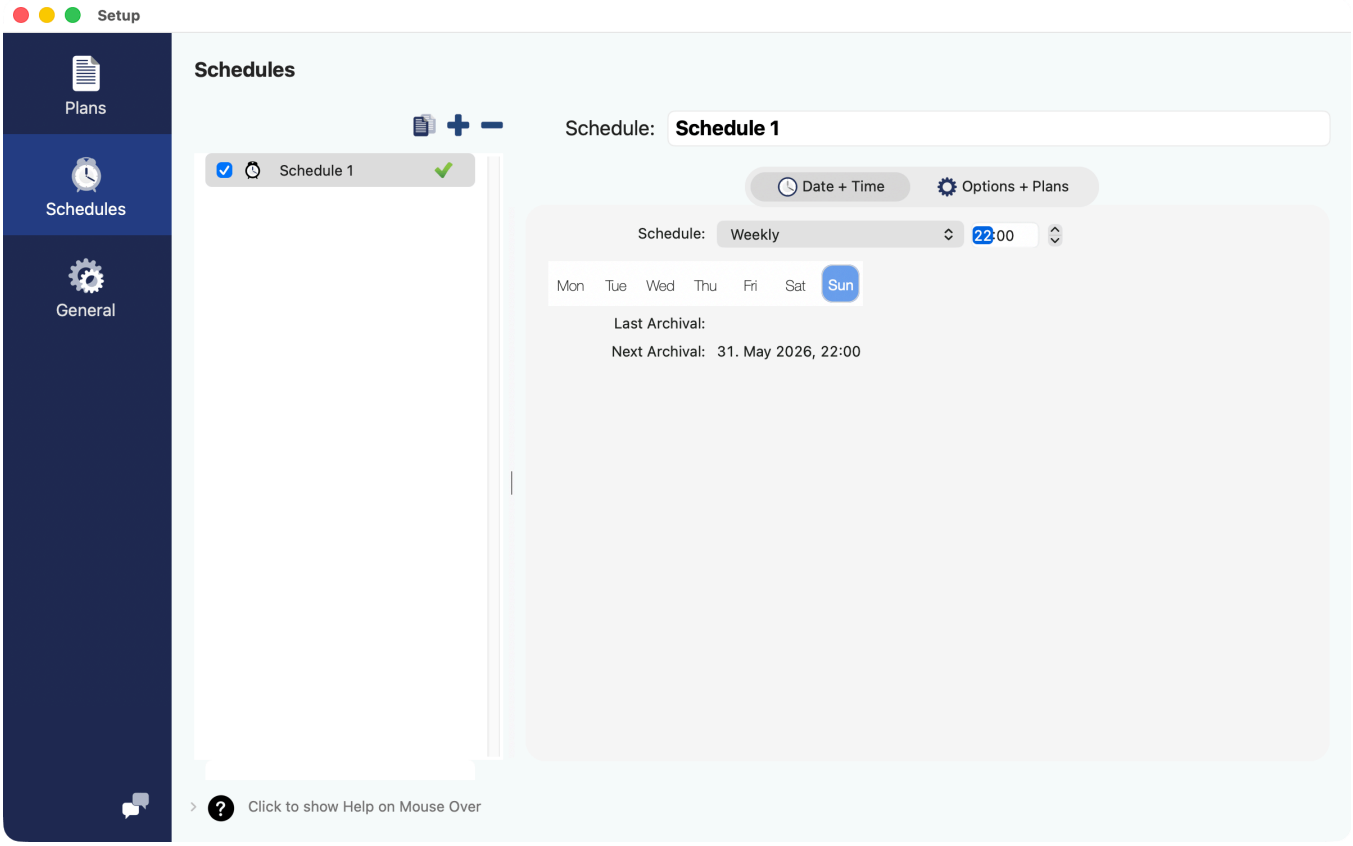
User Reference: Setup - Schedule

The schedule allows you to set up automatic archiving. Click on the plus icon to add a new schedule.

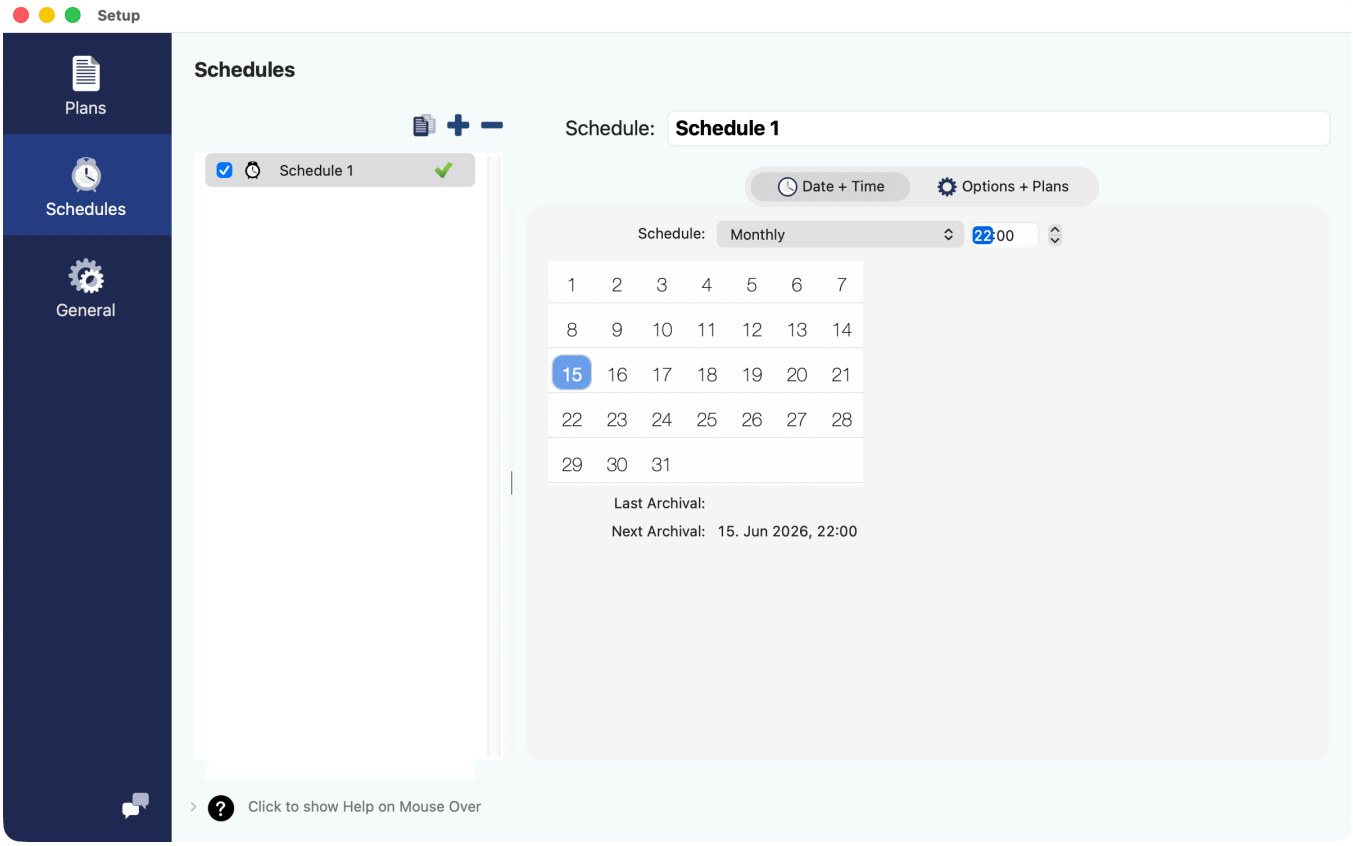
The schedule period can be one of the following options:



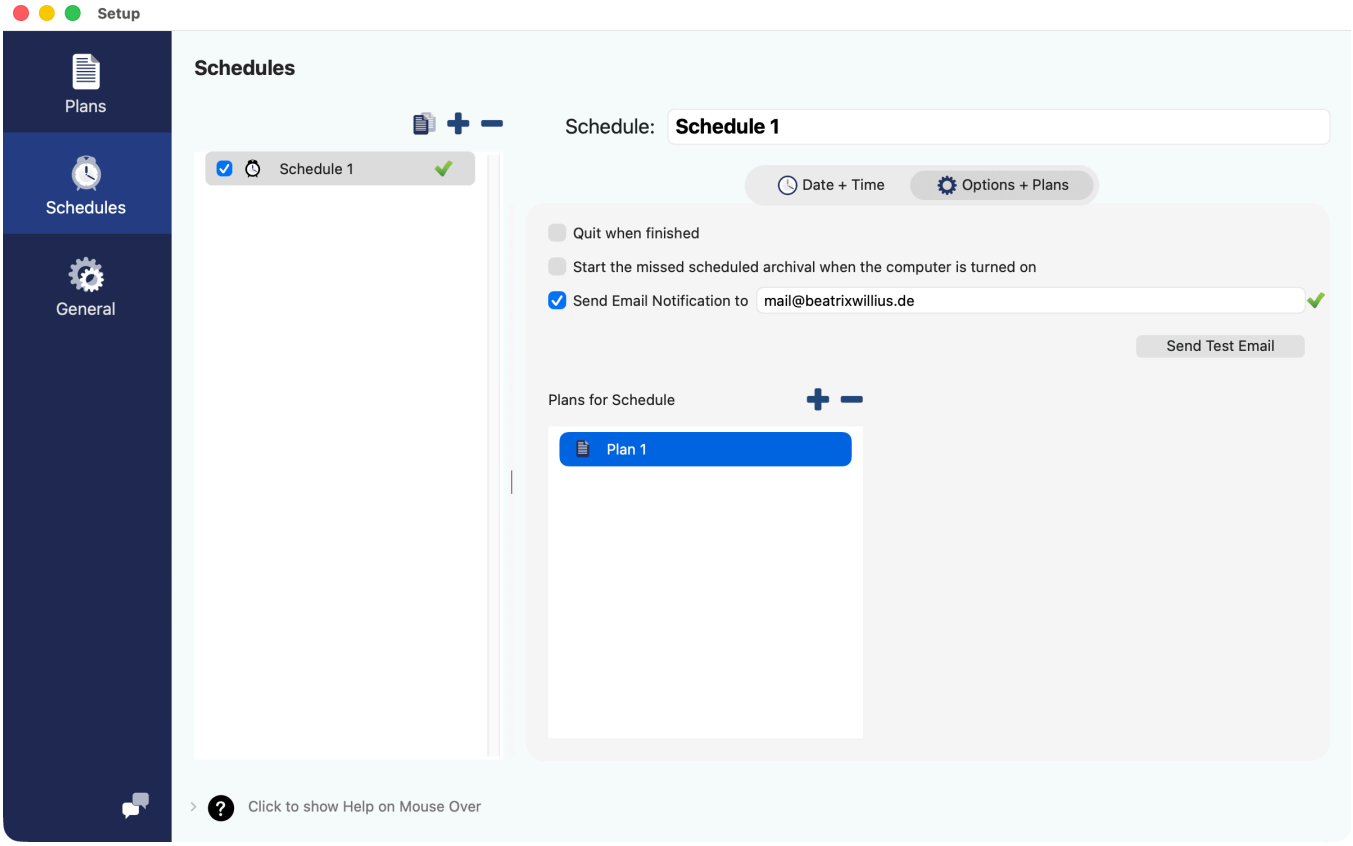
For daily archiving you can only set the time. If you want to archive weekly you can also select the day of the week:



For monthly archiving you can select the day of the month:



Additionally, there are some options for each schedule.



Select “Quit when finished” when you want MAX Messages to quit after the scheduled archival is finished.

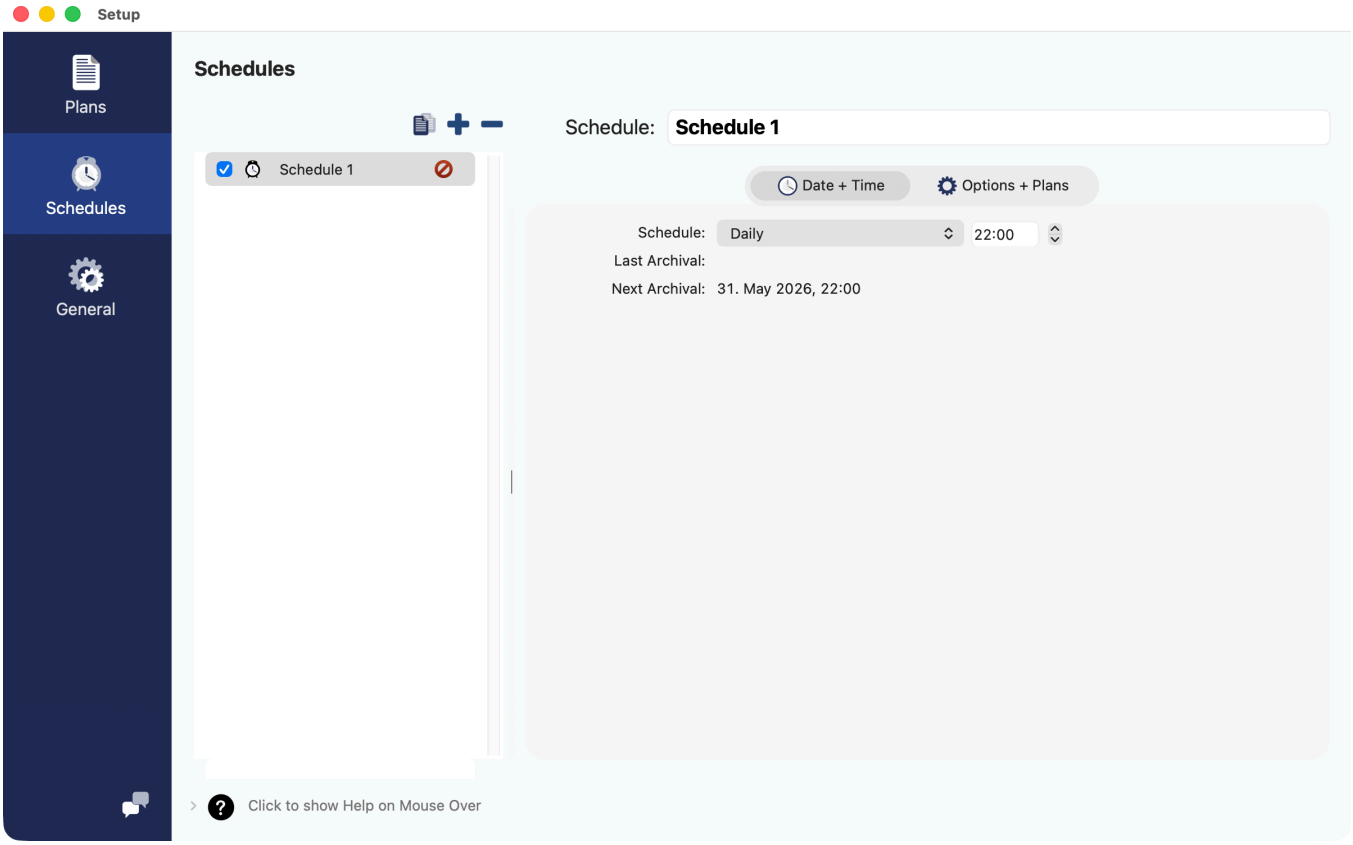
When your computer was turned off when an archival was scheduled you can catch up with the schedule with the last option “Start the missed schedule”.

With “Email Notification” you can send yourself an email after the schedule has finished. To do this you enter one or more valid email addresses. Use Send Test Email to send yourself a test email.

Click on the plus button next to “Plans for Schedule” to add one or more plans to the schedule. Only active plans can be added to a schedule.

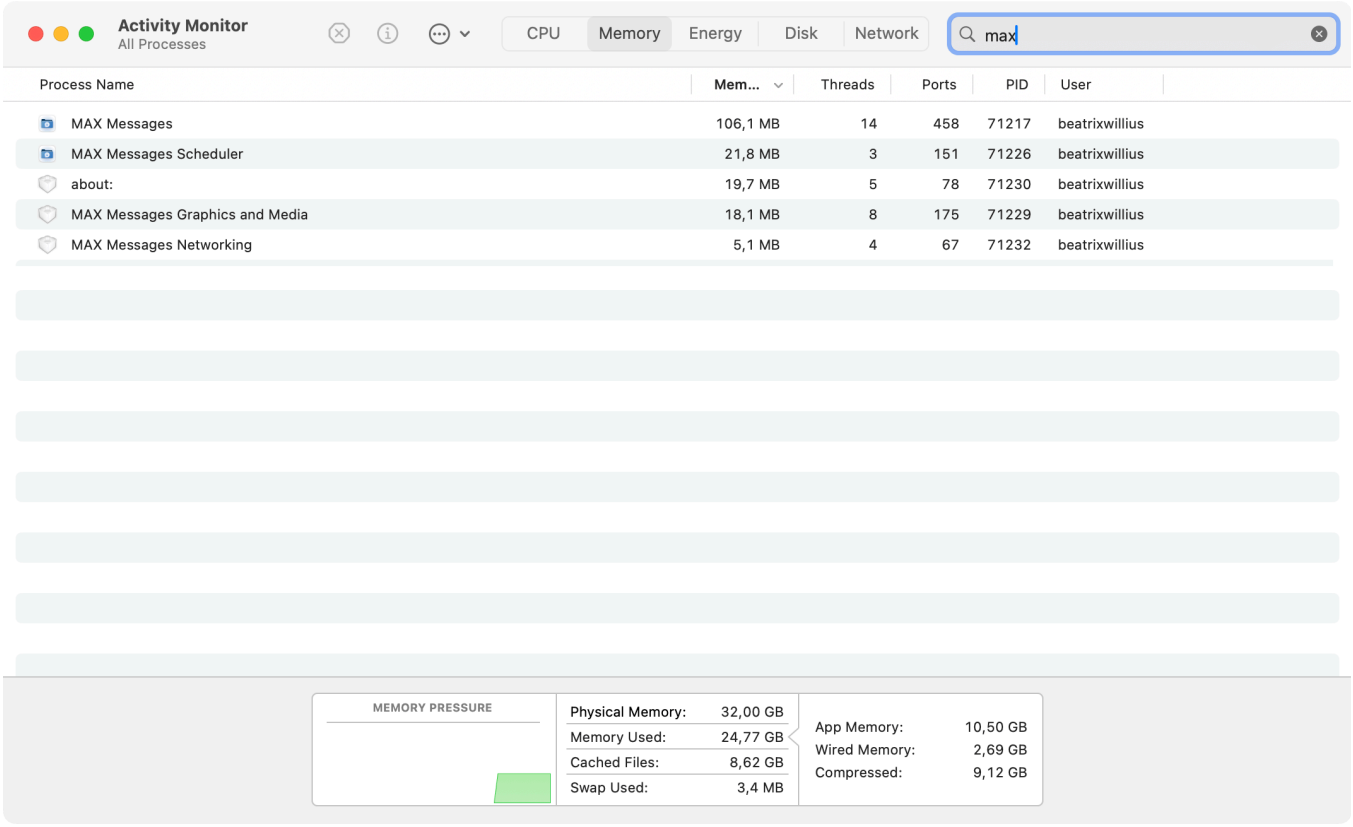
Schedule fully set up

The first thing to check is if the schedule is fully set up. If you see a red icon then something is missing. In the screenshot below the plan for the schedule needs to be added. A green icon shows that the schedule has all necessary information.



Activity Monitor

You can check in Activity Monitor if an app “MAX Messages Scheduler” is running:



This app will be started in the background after you have set up a schedule and you have closed the Setup window. Without this app the schedule cannot be started.

Reset the schedules

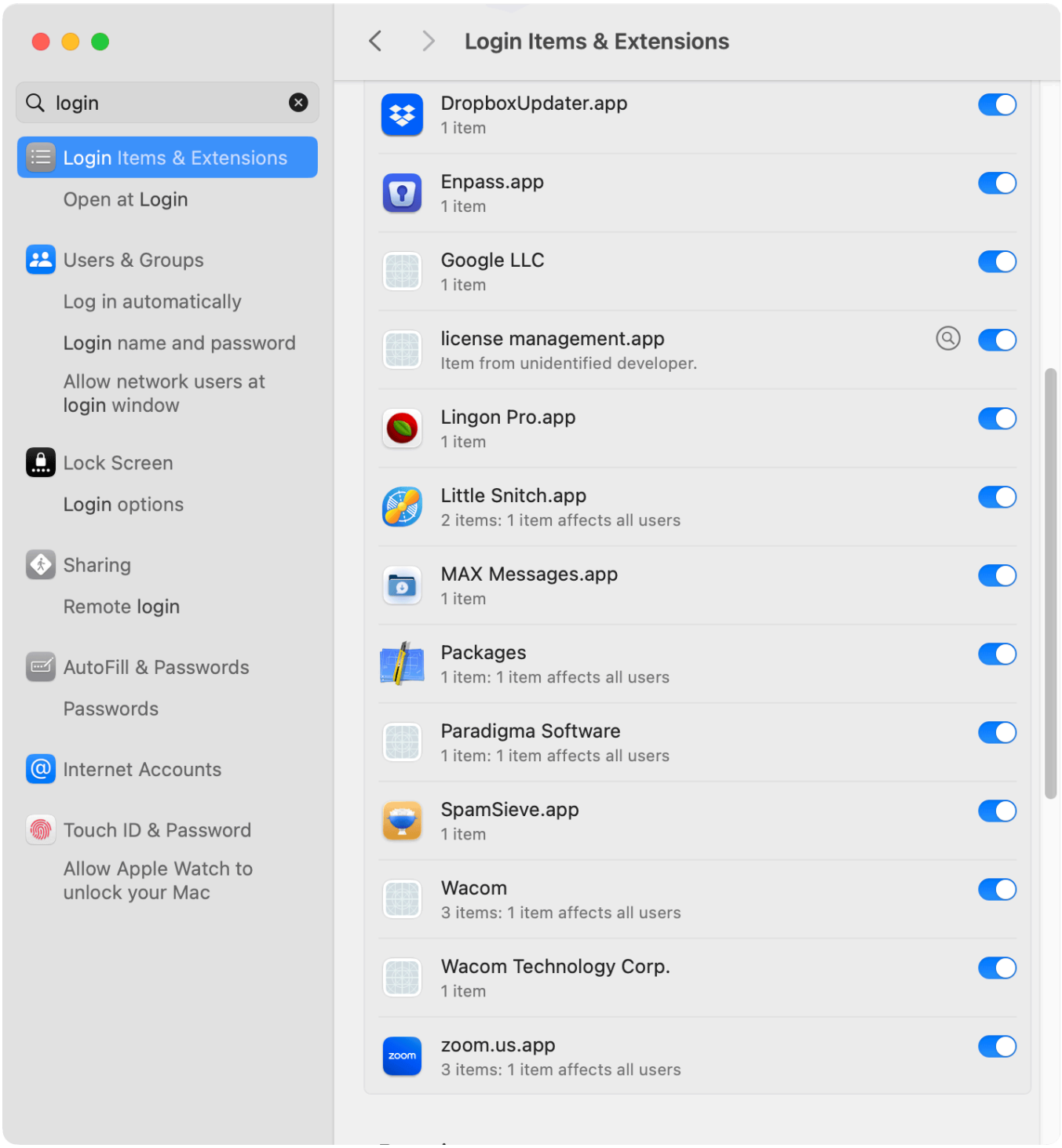
If the schedule doesn't want to do what you want then you can try to reset the schedules.

1. Deactivate all schedules.
2. Important: close the Setup window.
3. Activate the schedules again.

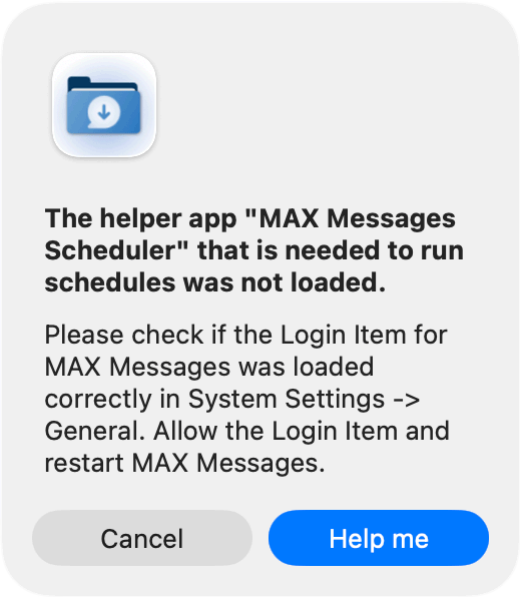
Now make sure in Activity Monitor that MAX Messages Scheduler is running.

macOS Security

Since macOS Sequoia it's possible to block an application from loading login items. In System Settings -> General -> Login Items & Extensions make sure that the login item for Mail Archiver is active and not blocked. The information is in the lower part of the System Settings and not in the upper part!



MAX Messages checks if the helper app is running. If the helper app can't be loaded then you will see this error message:

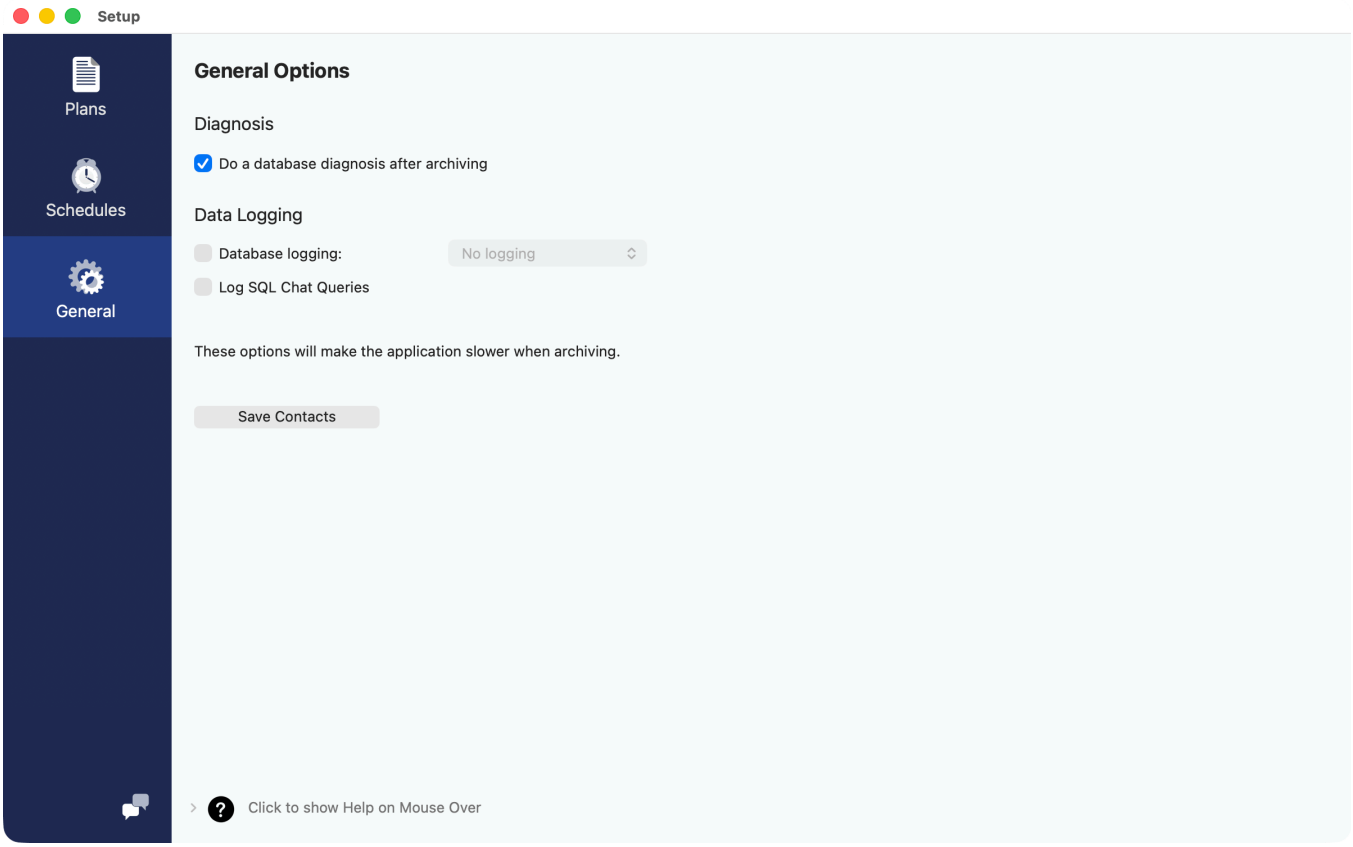


If you click on the Help Me button MAX Messages will open the System Settings for the Login Items & Extensions so that you can unblock the login item.

User Reference: Setup - General Options

Diagnosis

You can set if the archive database is to be diagnosed after archival. This may take a while, but then you can be absolutely sure that the database is okay.



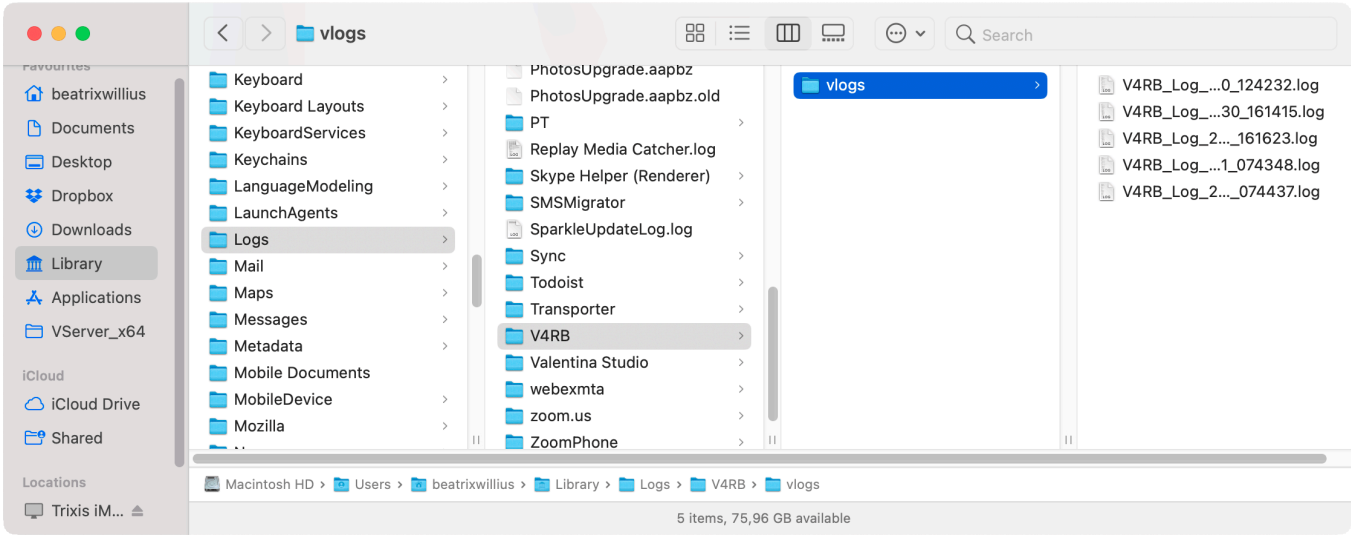
Data Logging

The following options are available for the database log:

- No logging
- Only Error Messages
- Error Messages and Warnings
- Errors, Warnings and Debug Messages

The higher the level, the more data is written. If the level is changed, a restart of the application is required.

Valentina-Logs will be created in the folder user/username/Library/Logs/V4RB/vlogs:



The option “Log SQL Chat Queries” logs some queries and their result from Messages. Message data is NOT logged.

The button “Export Contacts” can export your the names of your contacts, the phone numbers and email addresses into an SQLite database. This should only be done on request of support. Because the data is private the file needs to be sent by you and will not be automatically sent to Moth Software.

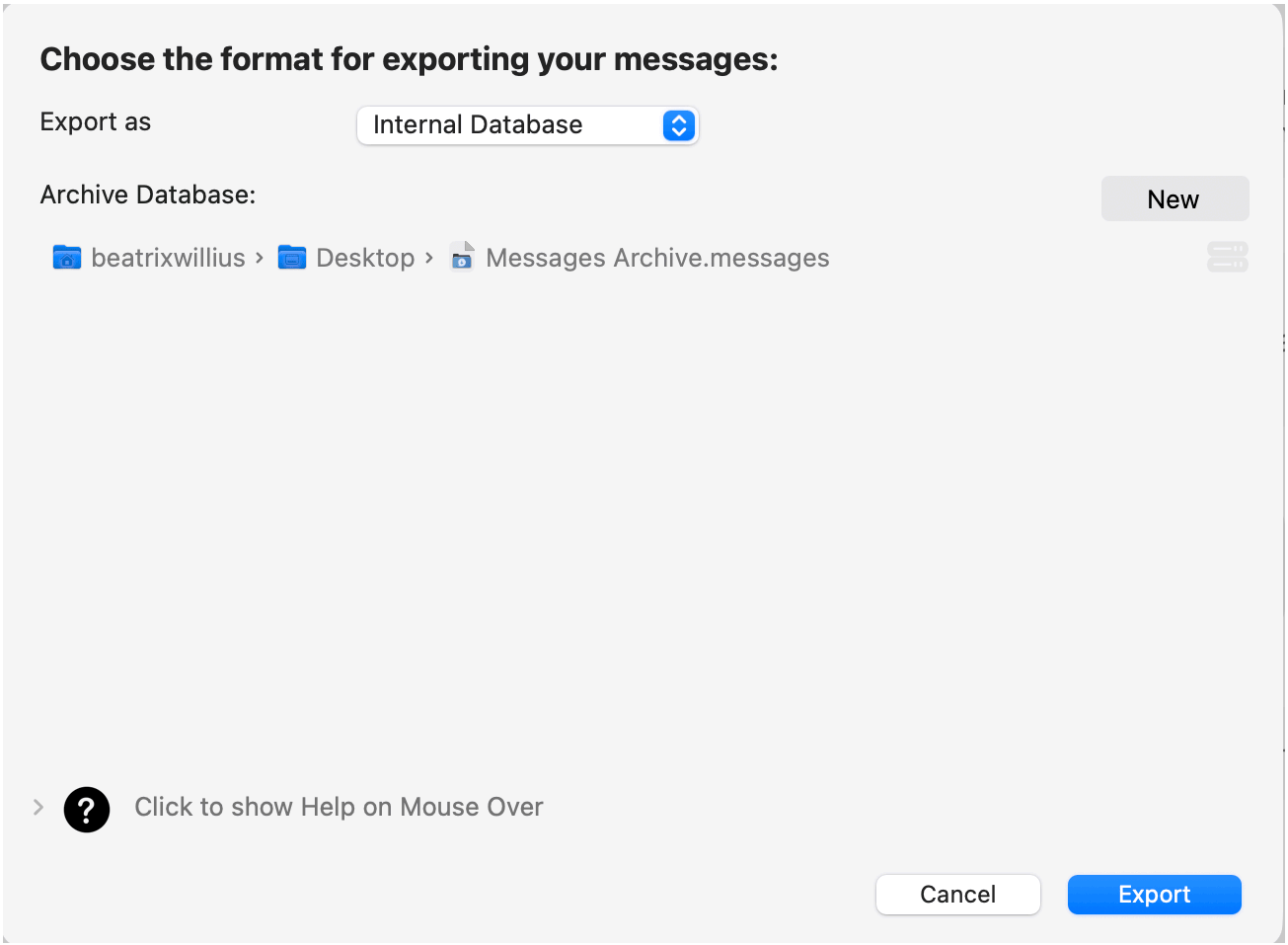
User Reference: Export

MAX Messages can export existing archives to the following formats: Internal Database, PDF and Html. The different options for the archival formats are described below.

Click on the Export button. Then select if you want to export all conversations from Messages, the current conversation or the currently visible messages.

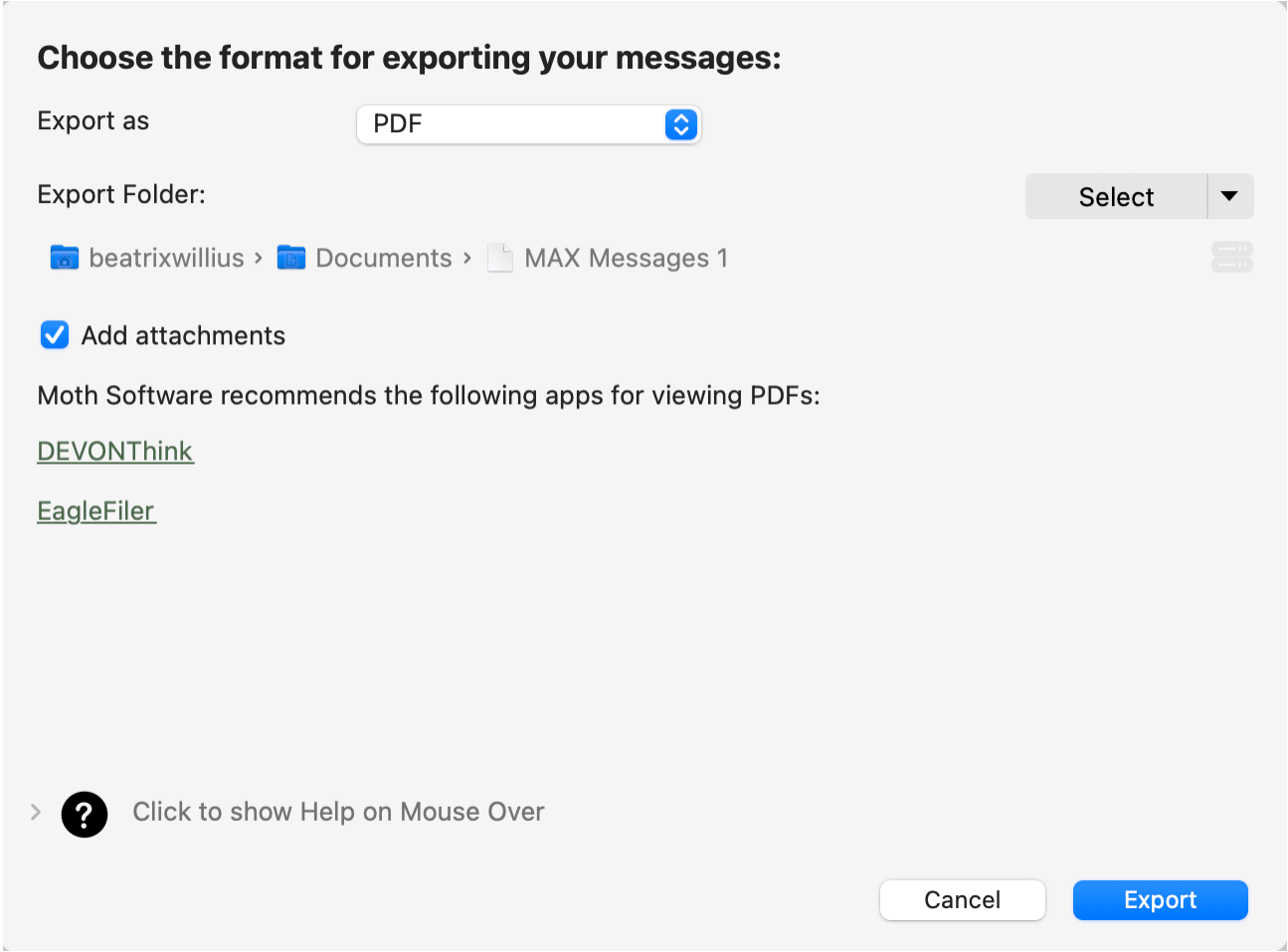
Options for Internal Database:

If your archive has become too large you may want to divide the archive into 2 parts. You have to duplicate the archive and then delete some conversations from each archive. With the export to Internal Database this process is much easier. Select a conversations and export it to a new Internal Database.



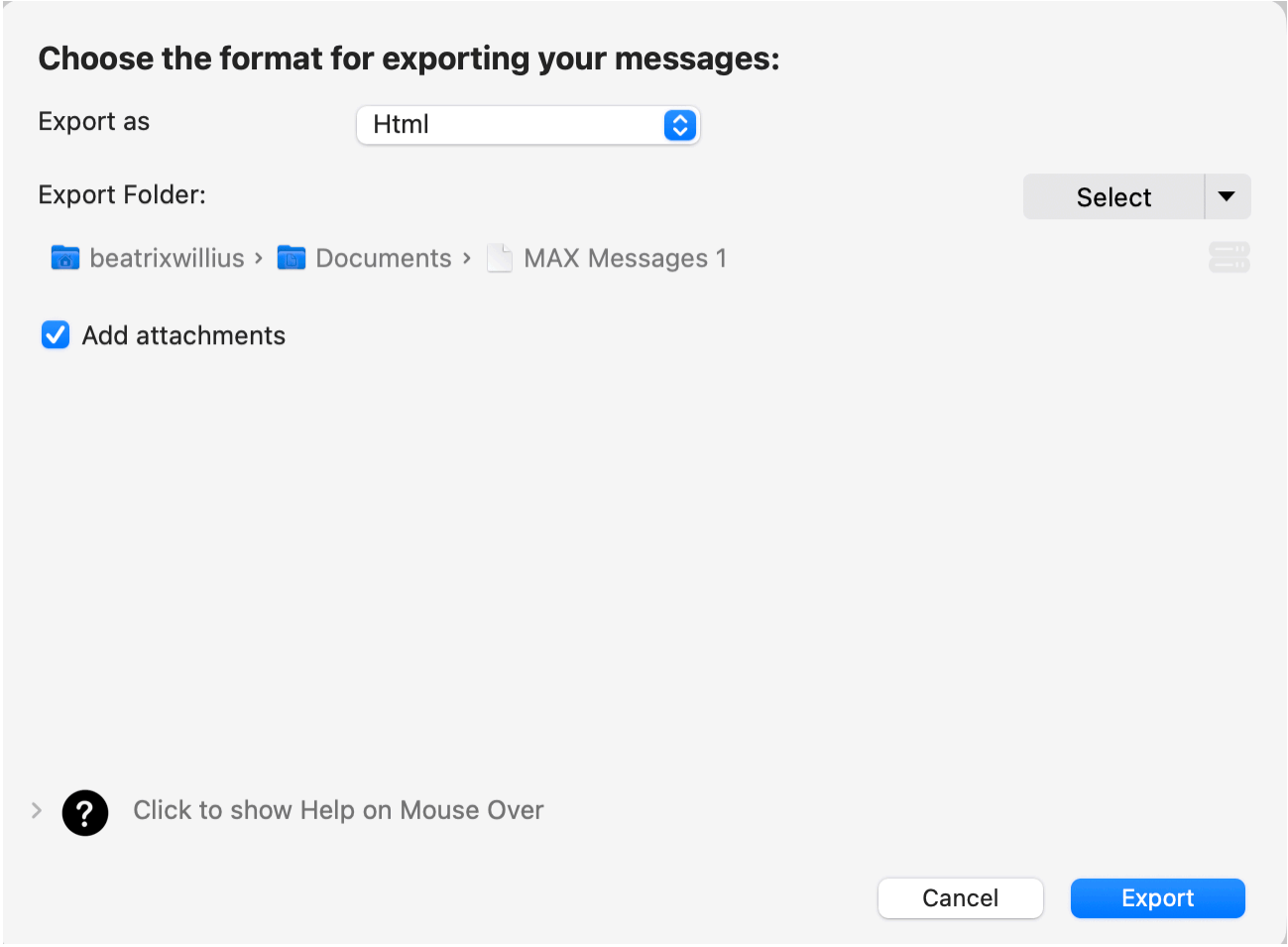
Click on the button to create a new archive. This location is not saved because every export makes a new archive.

Options for PDF:



For PDF you can select the export folder and if you want to export attachments.

Options for Html:



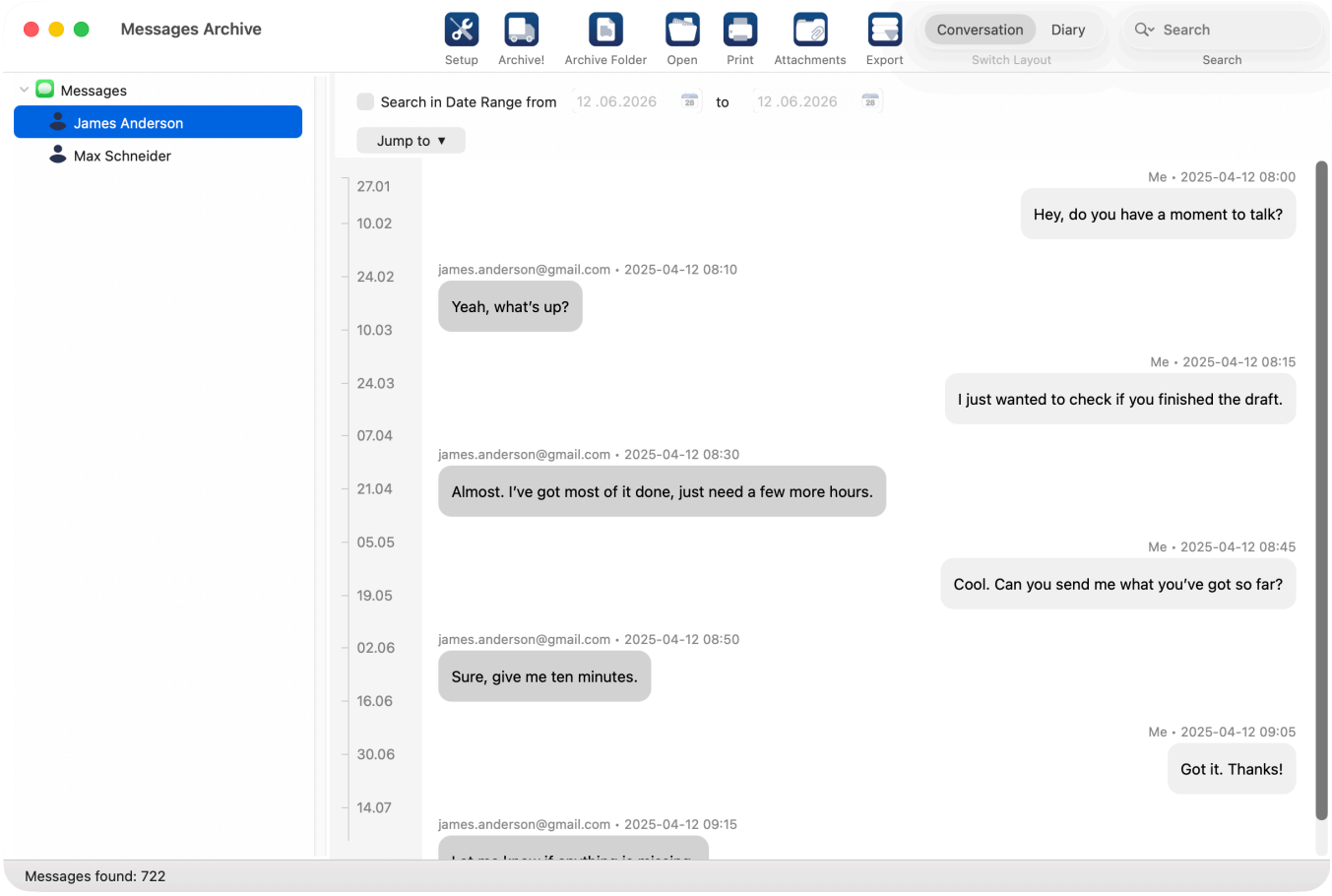
Like for PDF you can only select the export folder for Html and if you want to export attachments.

User Reference: Message Viewer

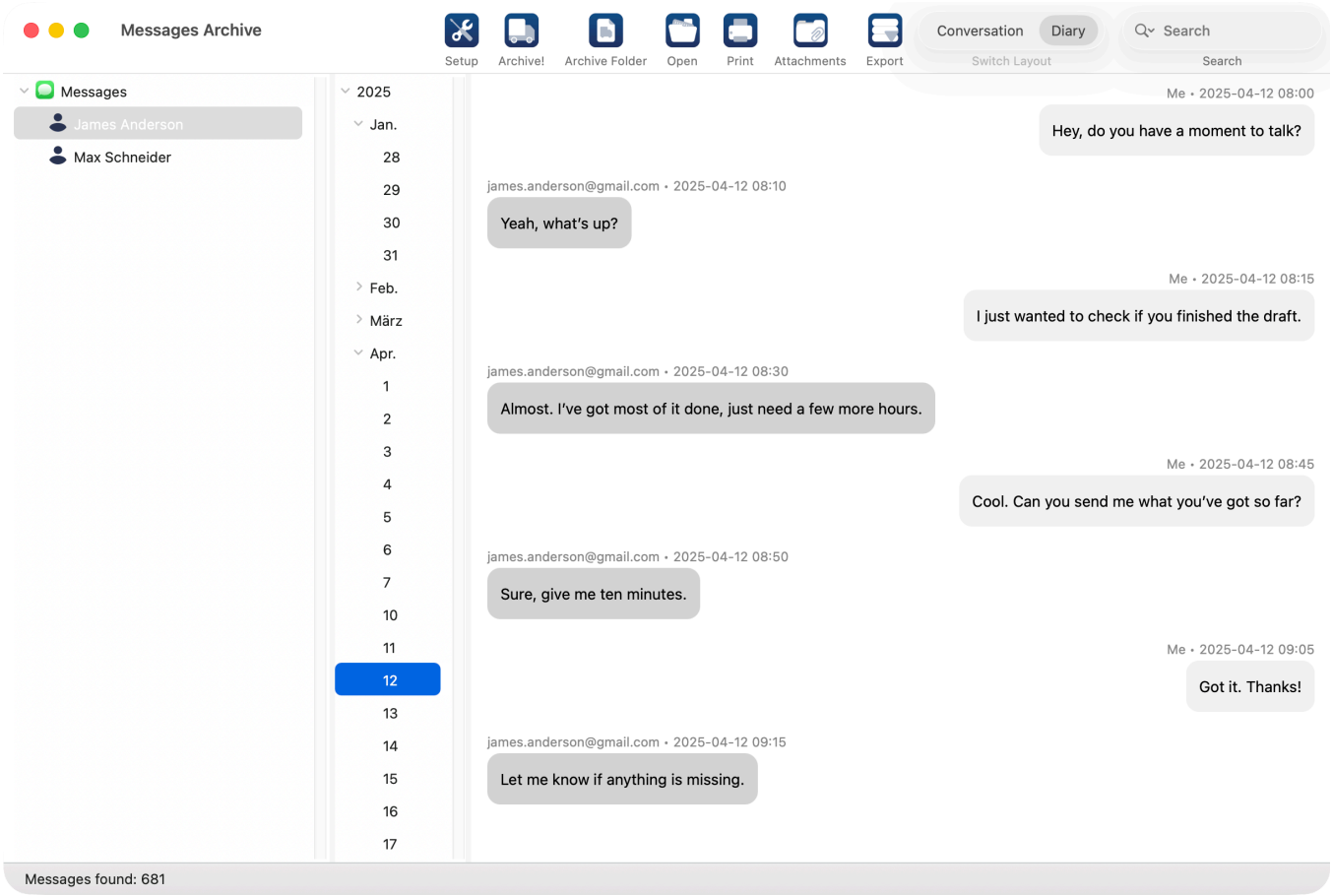
The Message Viewer looks like every message app. But it has a couple of features for navigating long conversations.

On the left side you see your conversations. The right side has the messages. You can switch between the standard Conversation layout and a Diary layout. The Conversation layout is what you know from the Messages app. Even there are 2 additional features:

- Use Jump to to jump the conversation to select and jump to a specific date.
- Use the timeline for the currently shown messages to directly go to a specific date.

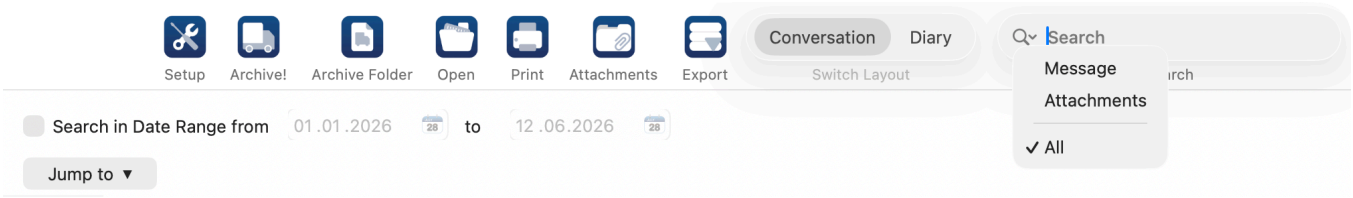


The Diary layout shows the messages by year/month/day. This also allows quick navigation over a long conversation.

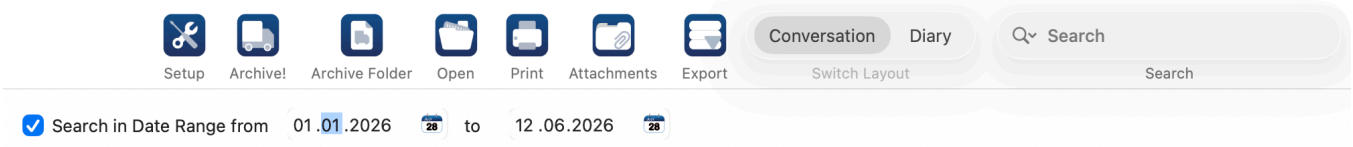


Search

With the searchbox in the toolbar you can search messages, the attachments of the messages or both.



Above the messages you can search in a date range between a lower and an upper date.



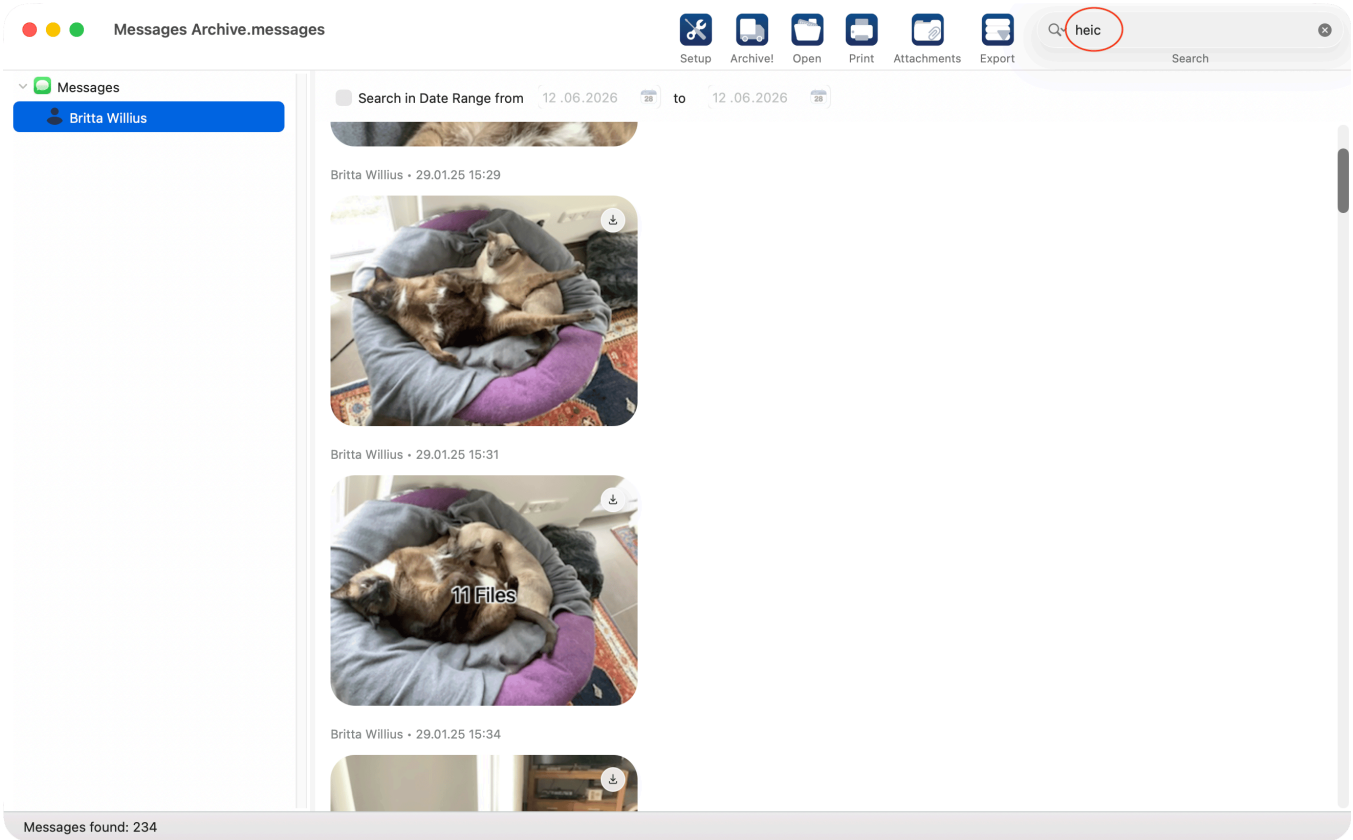
Archive a chat.db folder

If you have made a copy of the chat.db folder it's possible to archive this folder, too. Click on "Archive folder" in the toolbar and select the chat.db file itself. All messages and attachments will be archived.

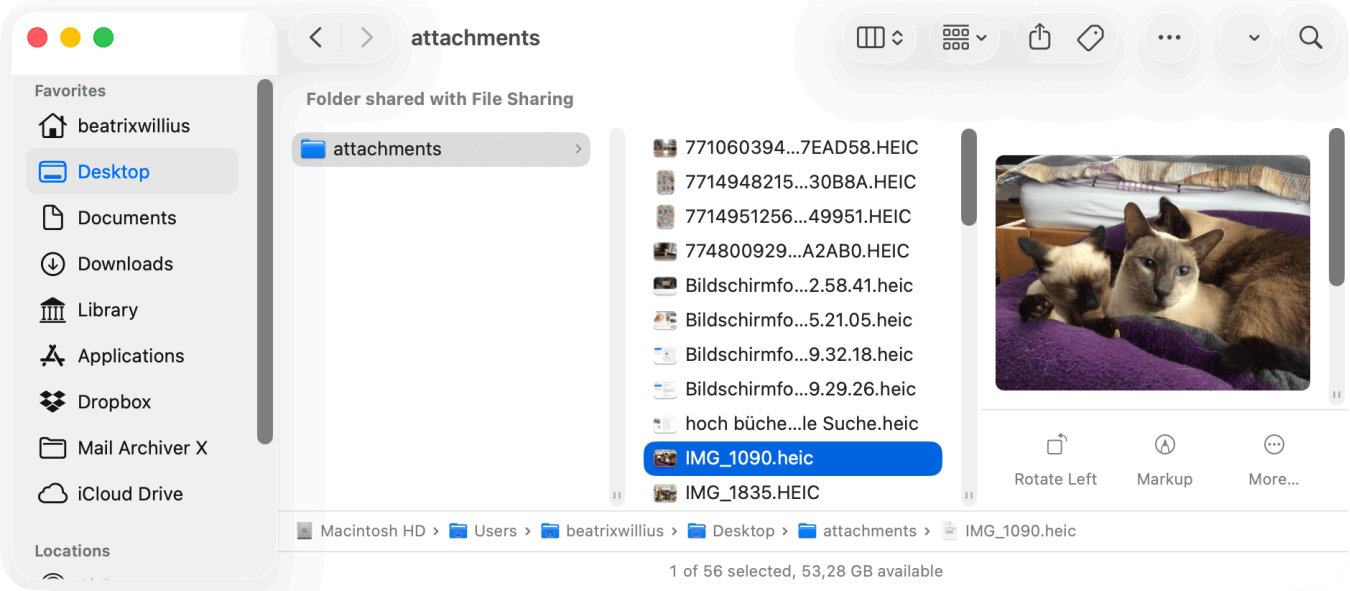
Export attachments

With the Attachments button in the toolbar you can export all attachments of the selected conversation/search result/day at once.

Here I've done a search for heic images in a conversation:

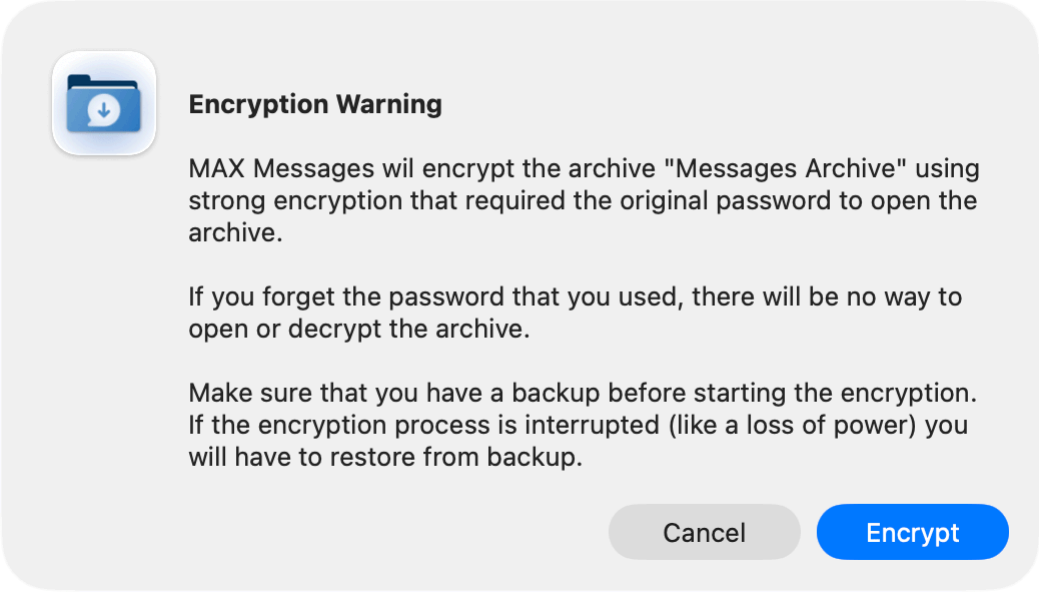


After clicking on Attachments in the toolbar and selecting Search Result I then need to select a folder and get all heic attachments exported to the folder:

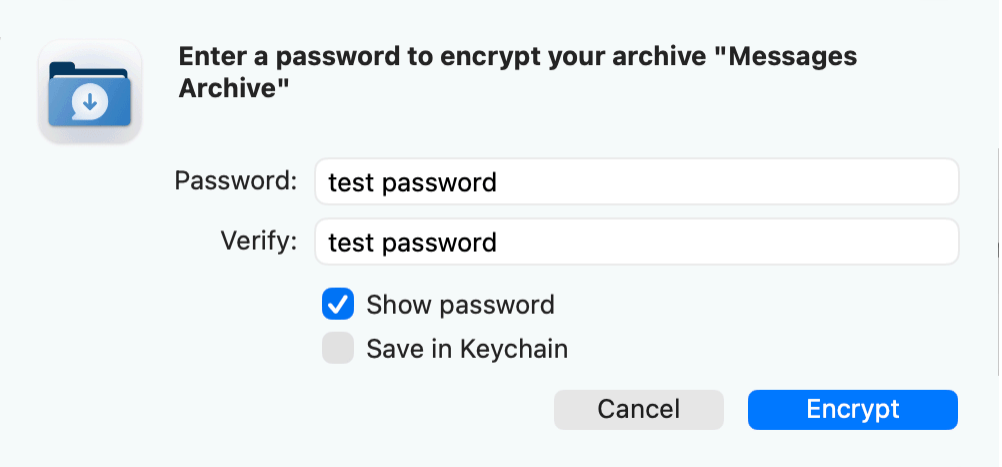


Encryption

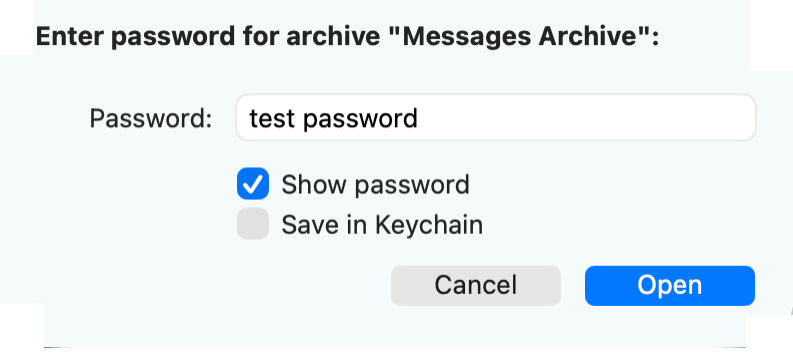
You can encrypt your archives with a password. Select Encrypt from the Database menu and you will see the following window:



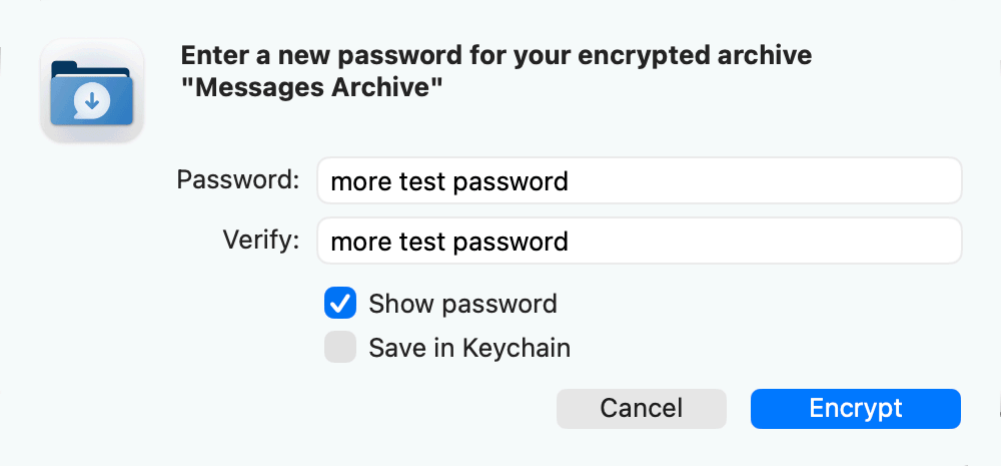
which is followed by:



Enter a password that has at least 8 characters. You can show the password and save the password to the Keychain. Click on Encrypt to encrypt the archive. If the password is in the Keychain you won't notice anything when you open the archive again. In case the password is not in the Keychain you will have to enter the password:



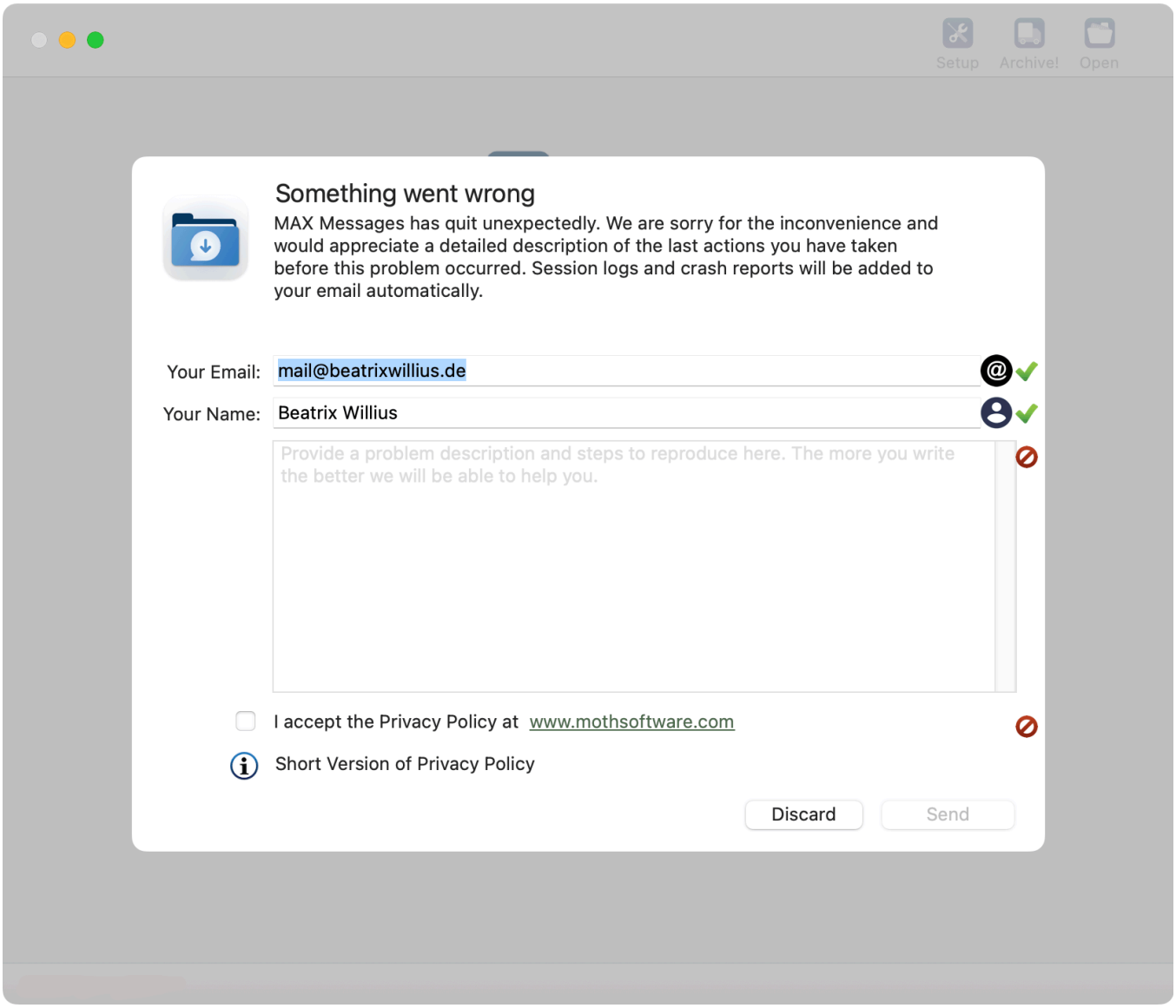
Of course, you can decrypt your archive after encrypting it. Or you can change the encryption password:



User Reference: Troubleshooting

Send an Error Report

If you have a crash MAX Messages will show you this window:

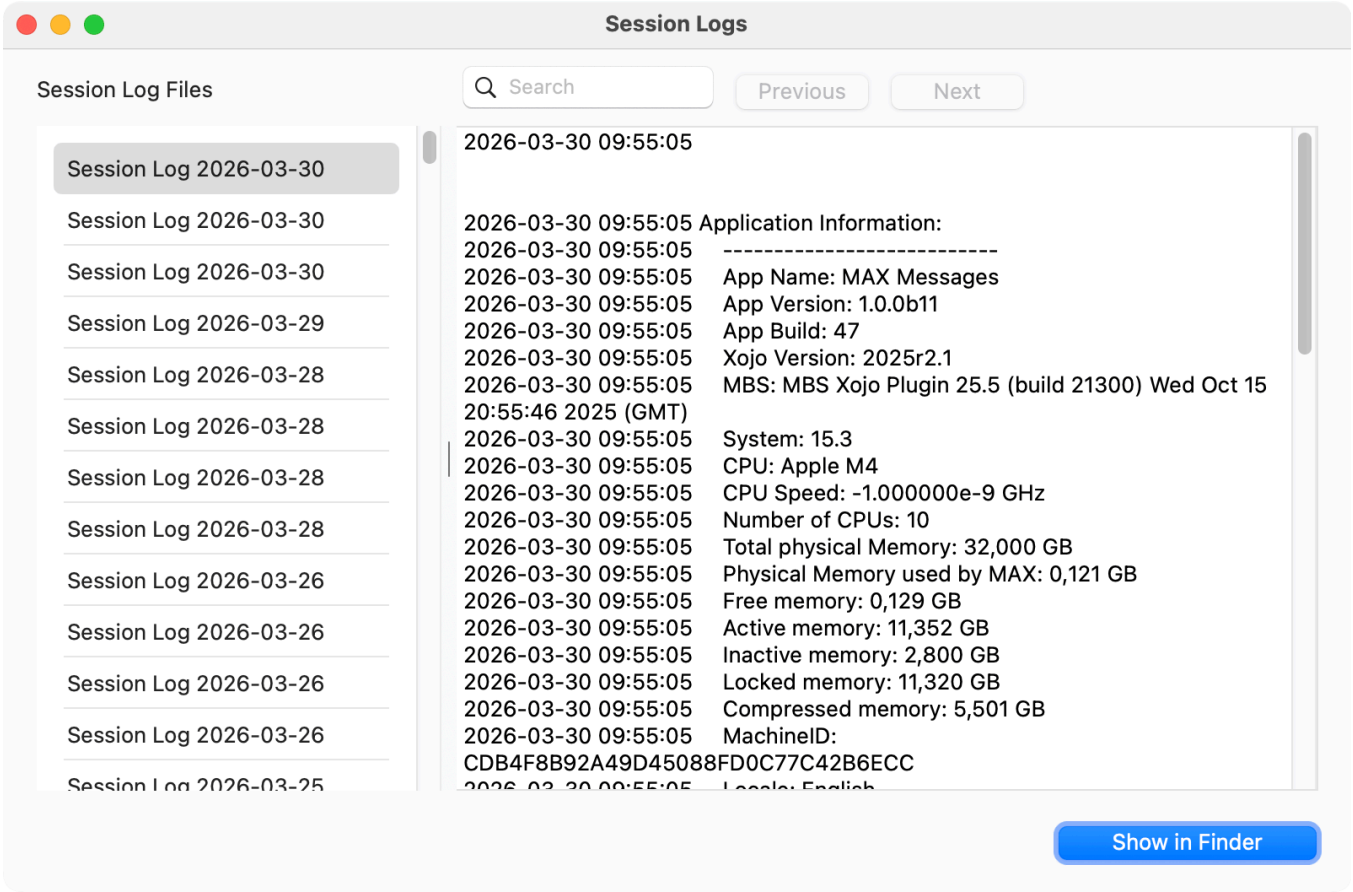


Add a description what the problem is about and what you did before. Don't forget to accept the Privacy Policy. Moth Software may request you to send an error report without a having a crash. In this case select Help -> Send Error Report from the menu.

Session Logs

MAX Messages records some data what it has been doing. This is written into "Session Log" files in the Application Support Folder. The files are deleted after 30 days. These files are sent with the Error Report feedback automatically.

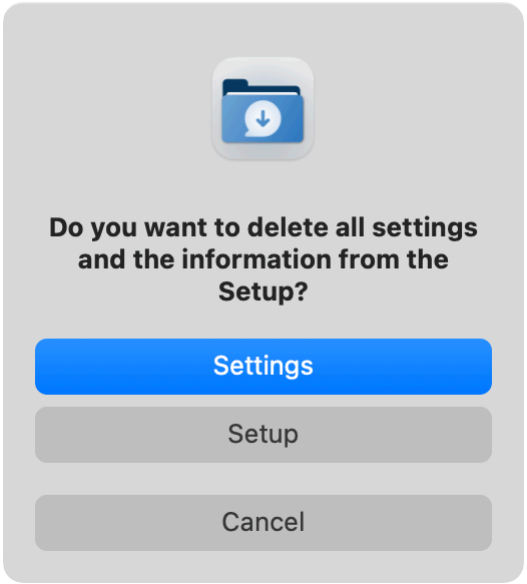
You can view the session logs when you select the menu item Help ->View Session Logs:



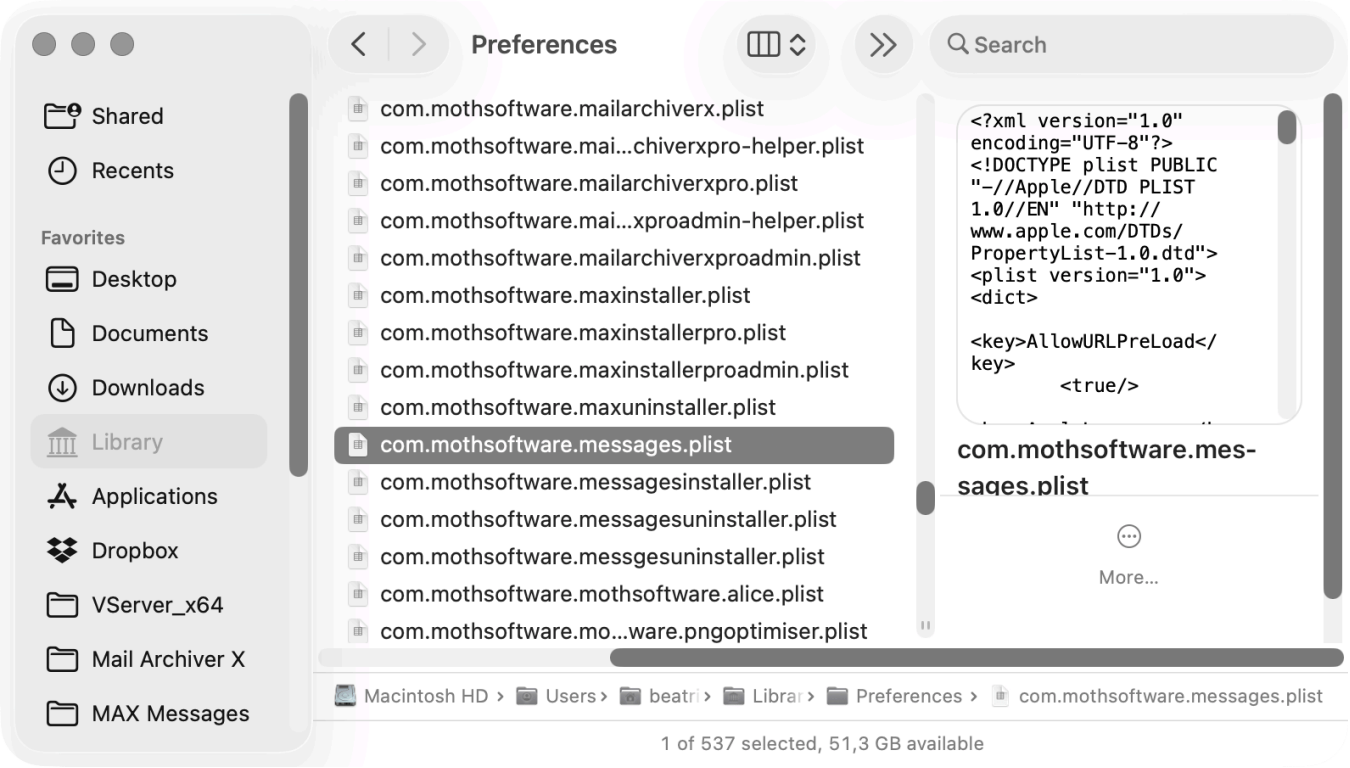
If you can't send an email for some reason you can get to the session logs in Finder with the menu item Help -> View Session Logs in Finder.

Deleting the Settings

In rare cases an archive may crash when it is opened. To troubleshoot such an archive it's necessary to delete the settings. Without the settings MAX Messages doesn't open the last opened archive. Start MAX Messages with Shift ⇧ and Control ^ keys pressed. Then you will see the following dialog:



Click on Settings and MAX Messages should now show no archive. If this doesn't work for some reason you can delete the preferences file from here:



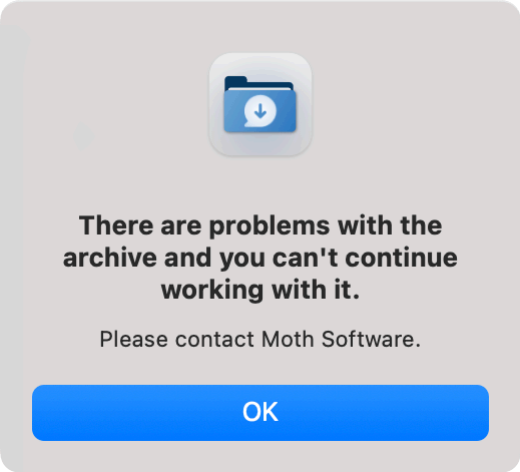
Troubleshooting the Database

The Database menu gives you the possiblity to get information about your database and its problems.

- Information: Gives information for the currently open database like the version of Valentina used.
- Diagnose: Runs a report on the currently open database. If any problems are found they are written to the error log.
- Open to Diagnose: Diagnoses a database, which hasn't been opened.
- Rebuild Index: Deletes the index and creates it new.
- Clone: Creates a copy of the database file. The resulting database usually is smaller.
- Open to Clone: Create a clone of a database, which hasn't been opened.
- Dump: If the database is corrupt it's possible to use the combination Dump/Load Dump to try to fix the problems. Use Dump to save the data of the archive somewhere.
- Open to Dump: Select a database to create a Dump, which hasn't been opened.
- Load Dump: After using Dump use Load Dump to locate the dumped data and load it into a fresh database.

Handling Database Corruption

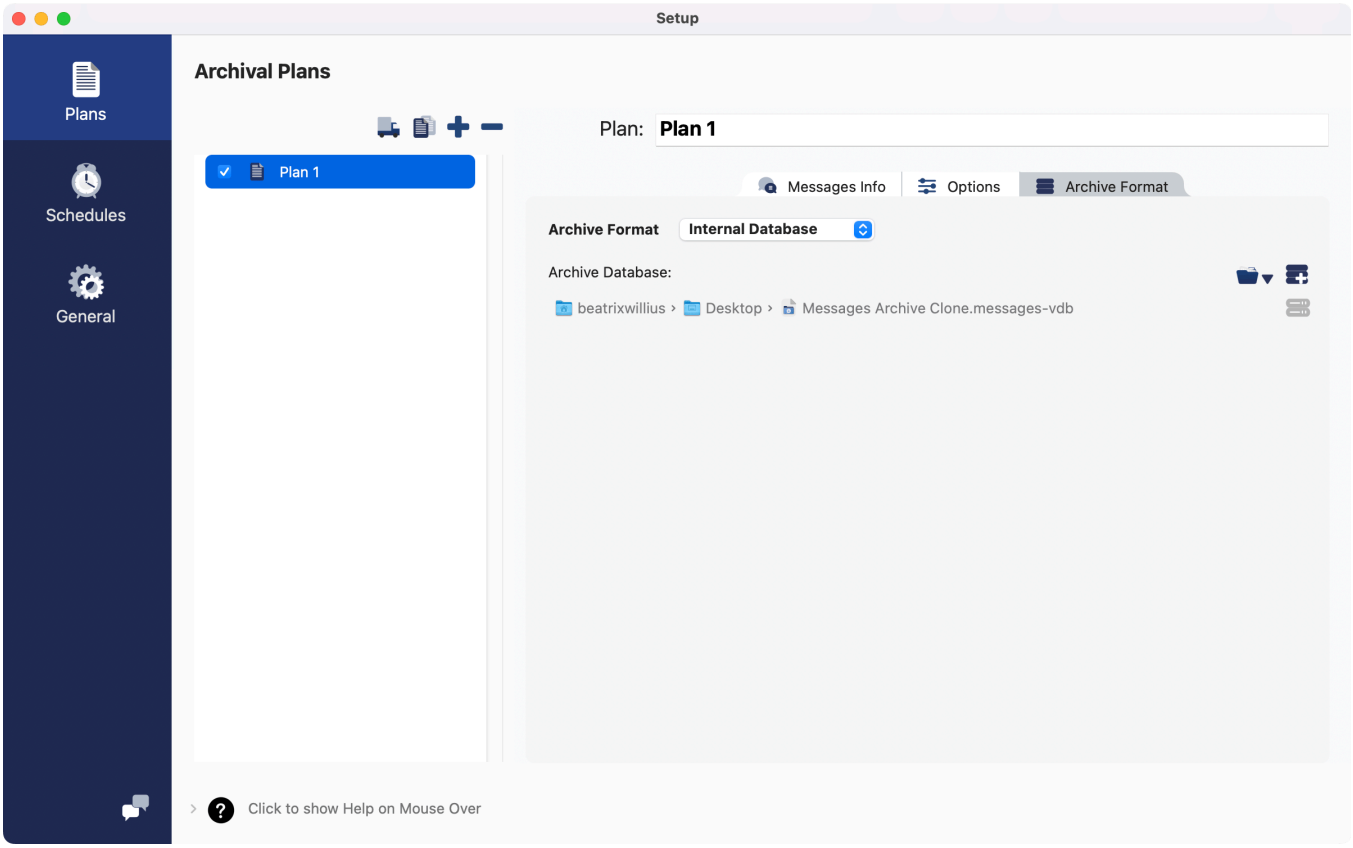
Whenever the application crashes when accessing the database there is a risk that the database is damaged. When you restart MAX Messages and it takes a while to open the last access archive then MAX Messages tries to restore the data. But this doesn't work in 100% of all cases. What can you do if you get an error message after archival? This is how the error message looks:



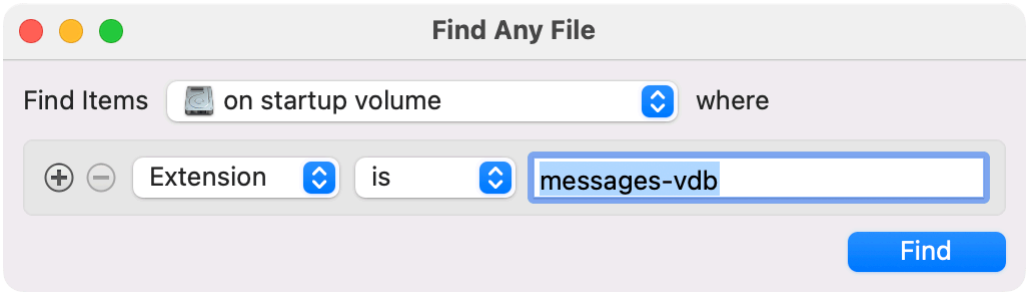
If you ignore this message it's very likely that you are going to lose data! There are 3 methods to eliminate the database corruption. But first you need to locate the archive.

Locate the Archive

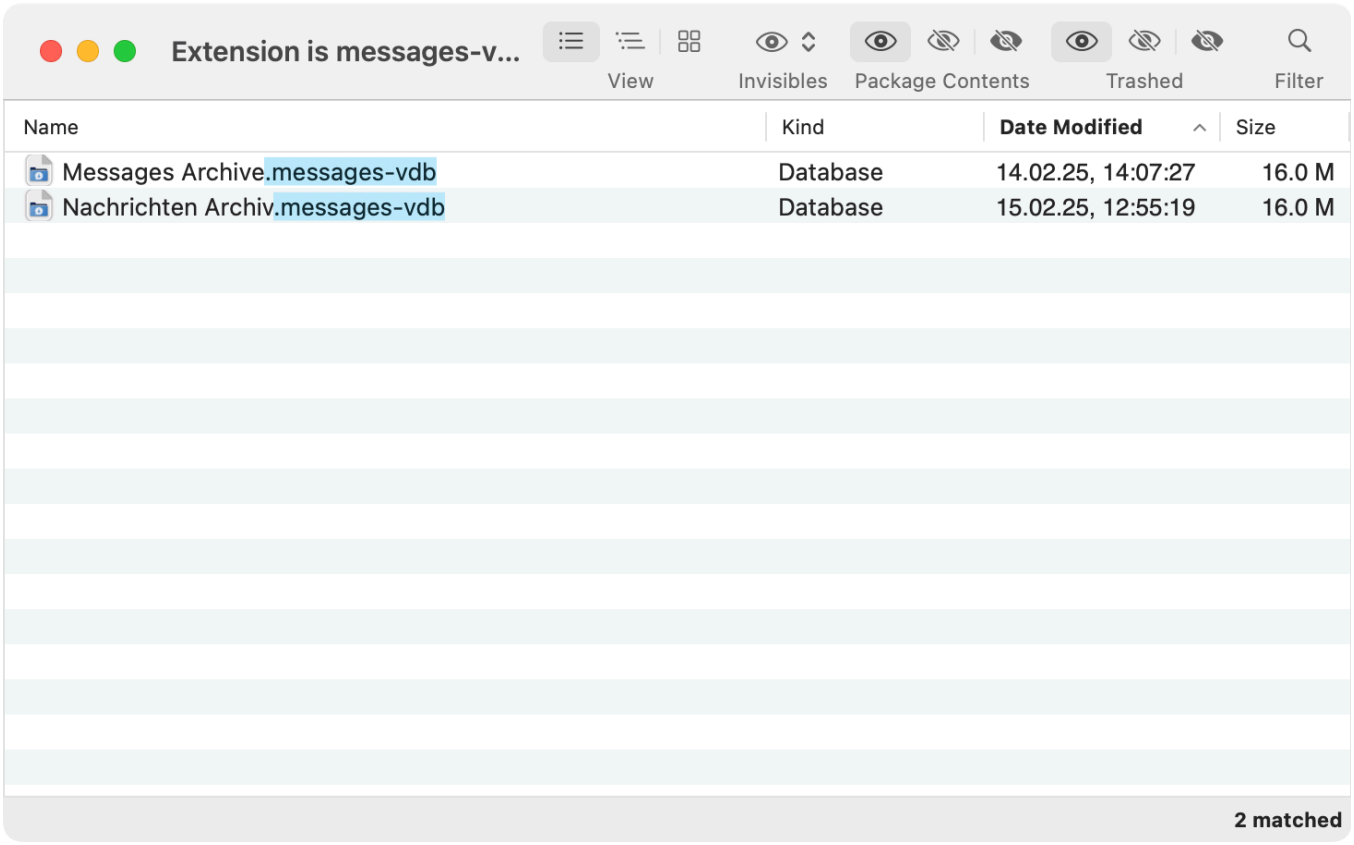
If you don't know where your archive is, then you can check the location in the Setup:



If you can't access the app anymore then the easiest way to locate any files from MAX Messages is to use Find Any File from Thomas Tempelmann. The search criteria are files whose extension is messages-vdb:

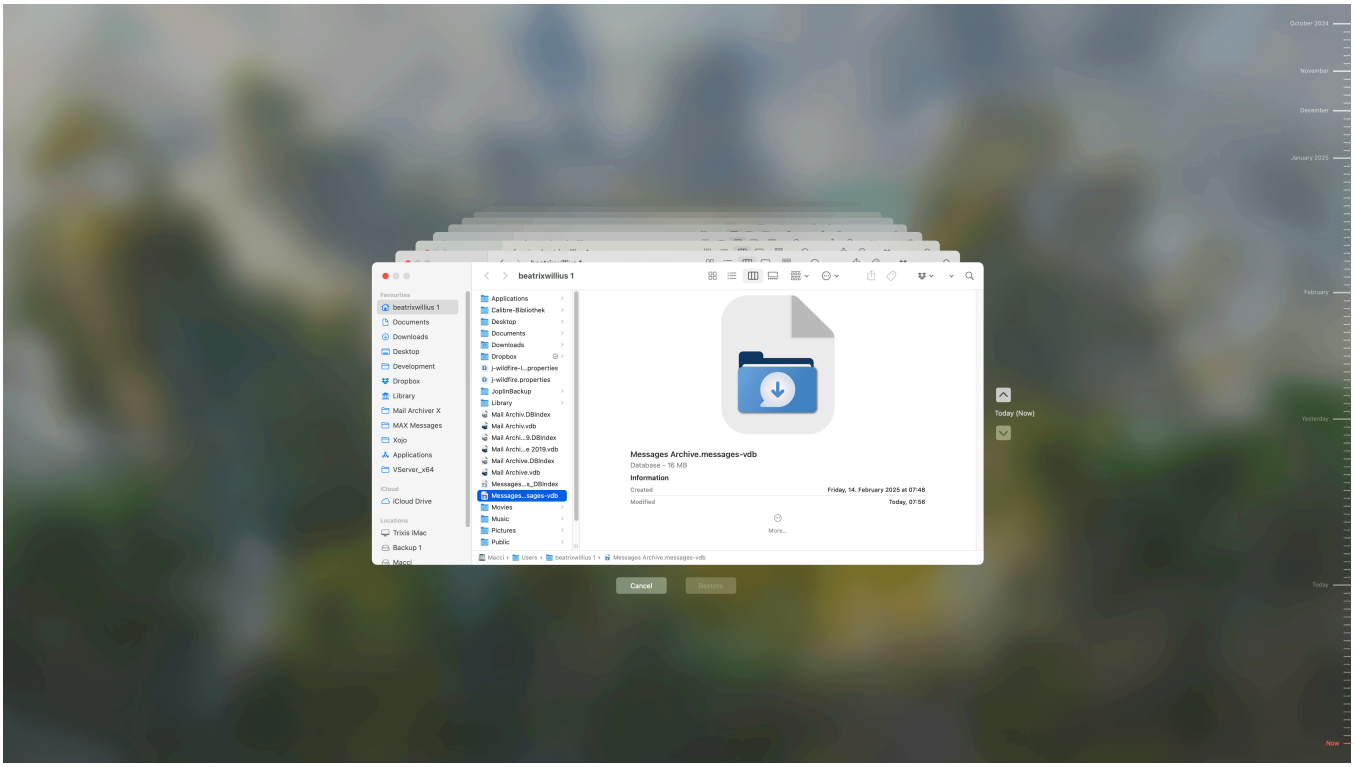


As result I get all my archives:



Restore Archive from TimeMachine

The easiest way to fix corruption is to restore the archive from your TimeMachine. Select the archive in Finder and enter TimeMachine. Go back in the timeline on the right side.



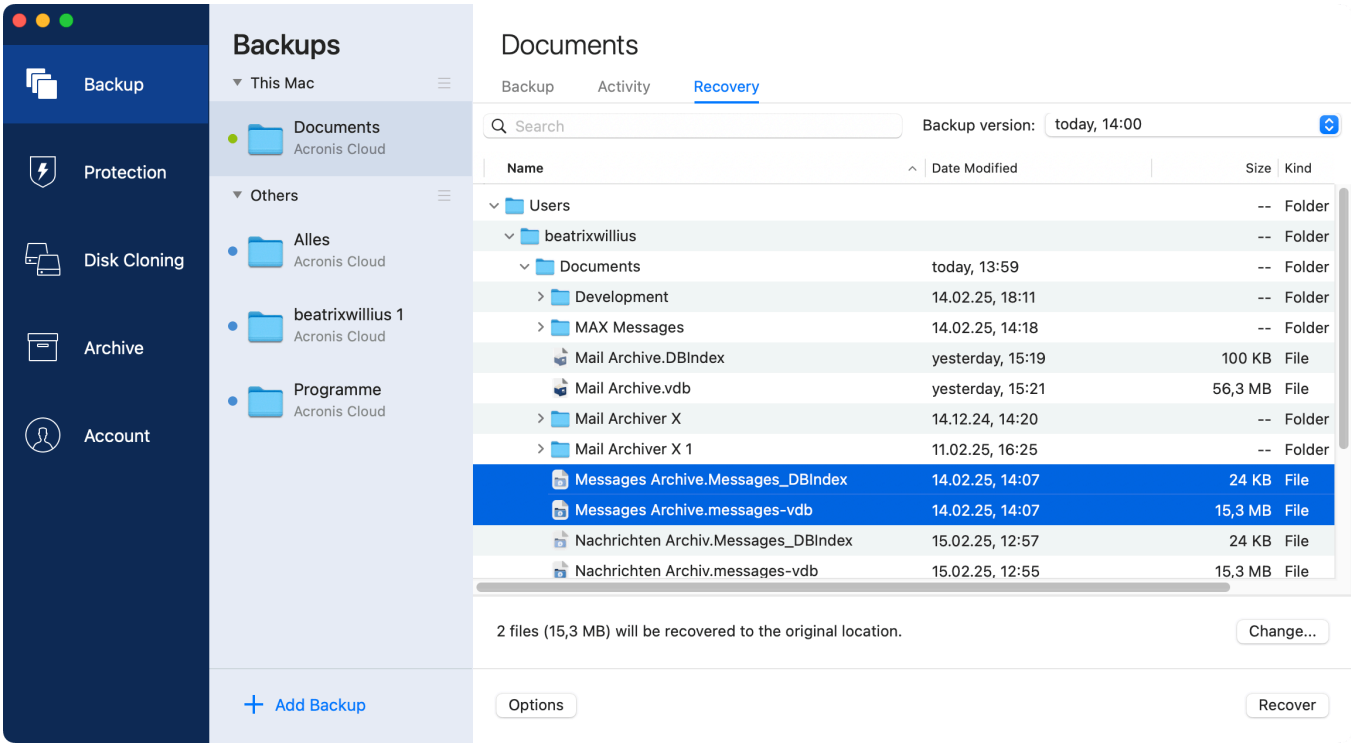
Select the version you want and click restore.

TimeMachine will ask you want to overwrite the original archive. Don't do that! Open the older archive, do a diagnosis. If the diagnosis is okay THEN you can get rid of the corrupt archive and replace it with the version from the backup.

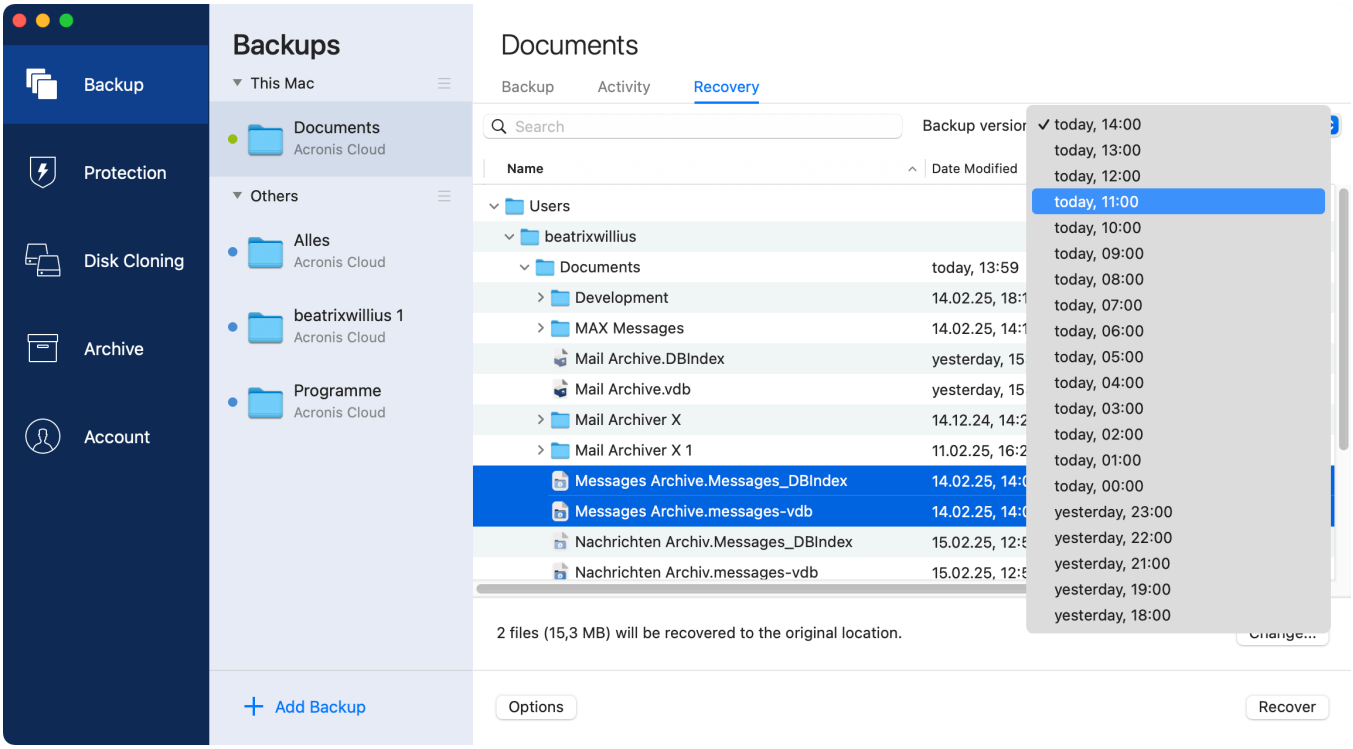
Restore from Online Backup

If you have an online backup then you can also restore your archive from this type of backup. I'm using Acronis so I'll show you how to use this app. If you use a different online backup then the procedure might be slightly different.

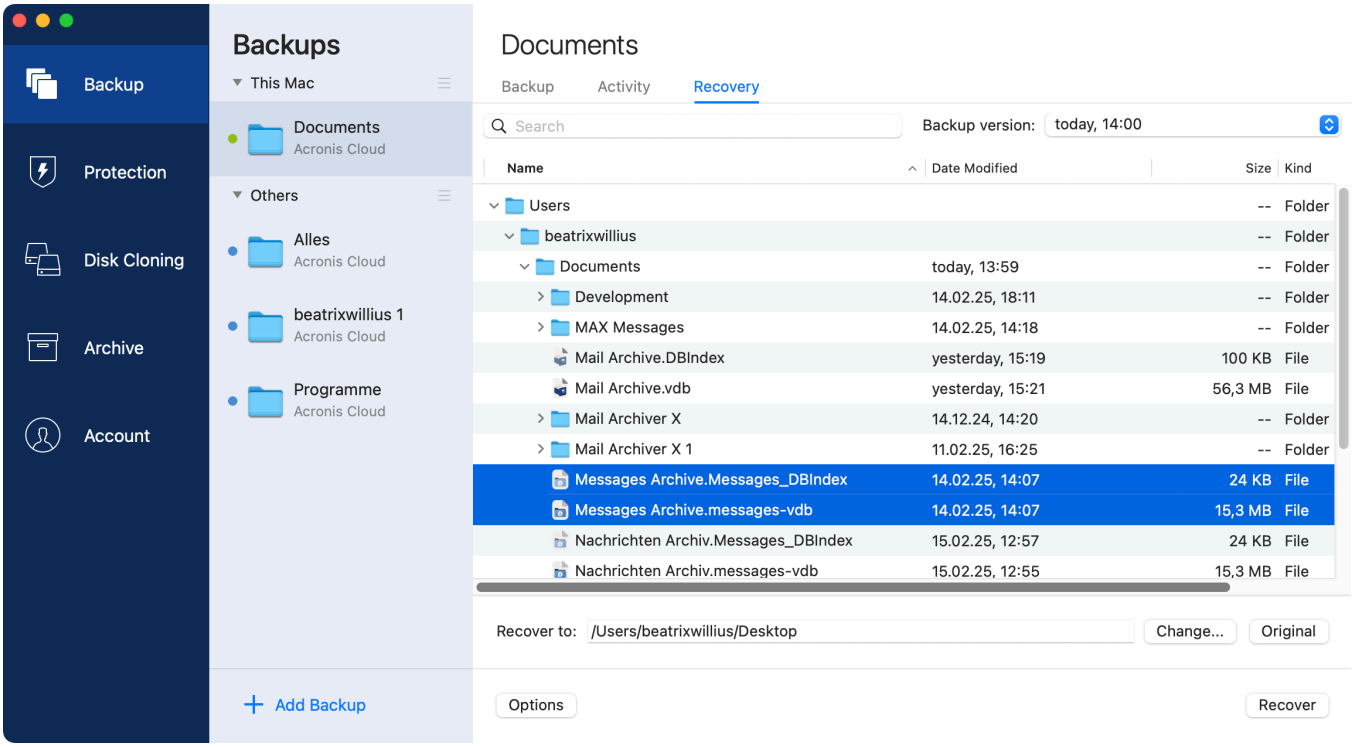
Open Acronis, select the correct backup and locate the archive:



In the upper right side select the backup version that you want to recover:



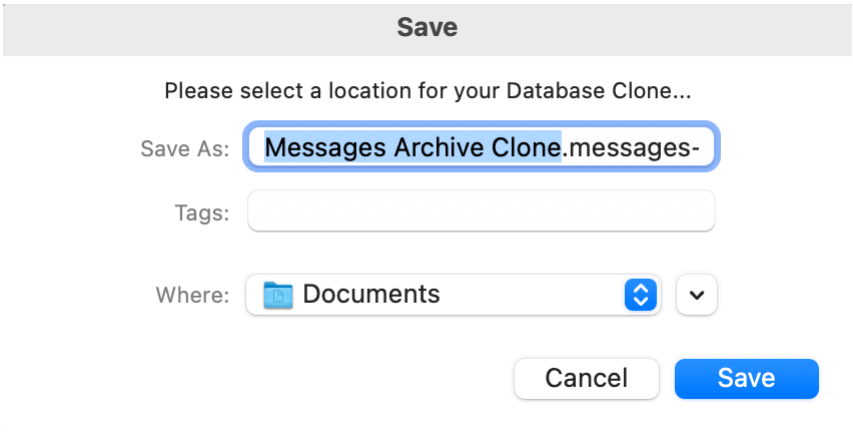
Like for the TimeMachine backup you don't want to overwrite the existing archive. Therefore, you need to click on the Change button to change the location of the recovered file. I changed the location to the Desktop:



Open the older archive, do a diagnosis. If the diagnosis is okay THEN you can get rid of the corrupt archive and replace it with the version from the backup.

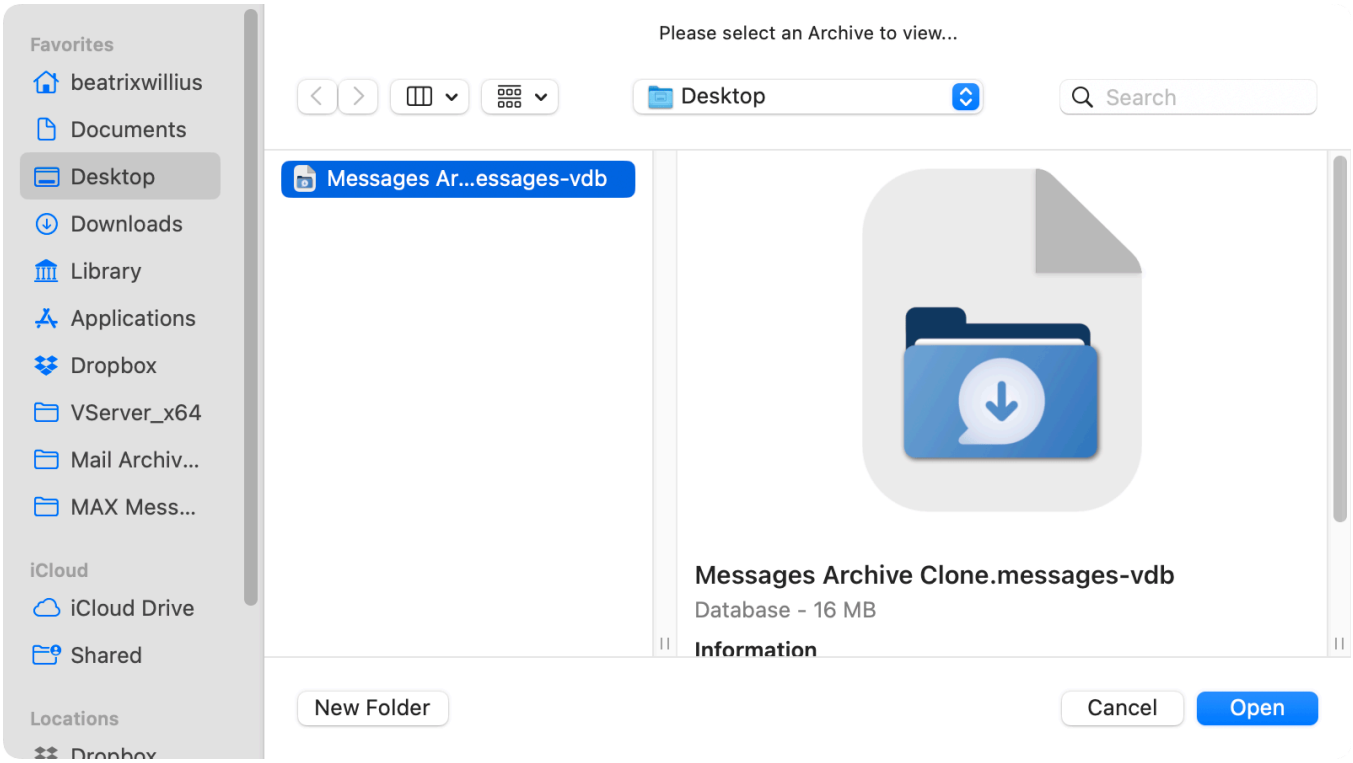
Fix Database Corruption: Cloning

Select the menu item Database ->Clone. A dialog will then appear in which you can save your database clone somewhere:

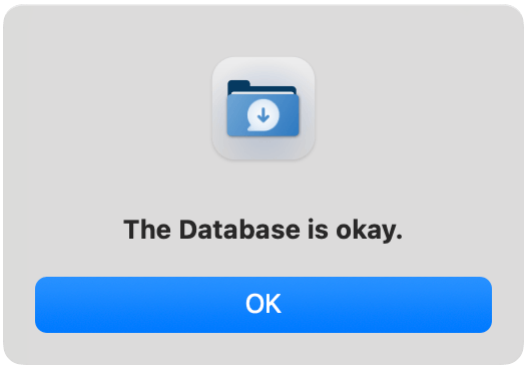


Depending on the size of the archive, it may take a while before you receive the notification that the clone is ready.

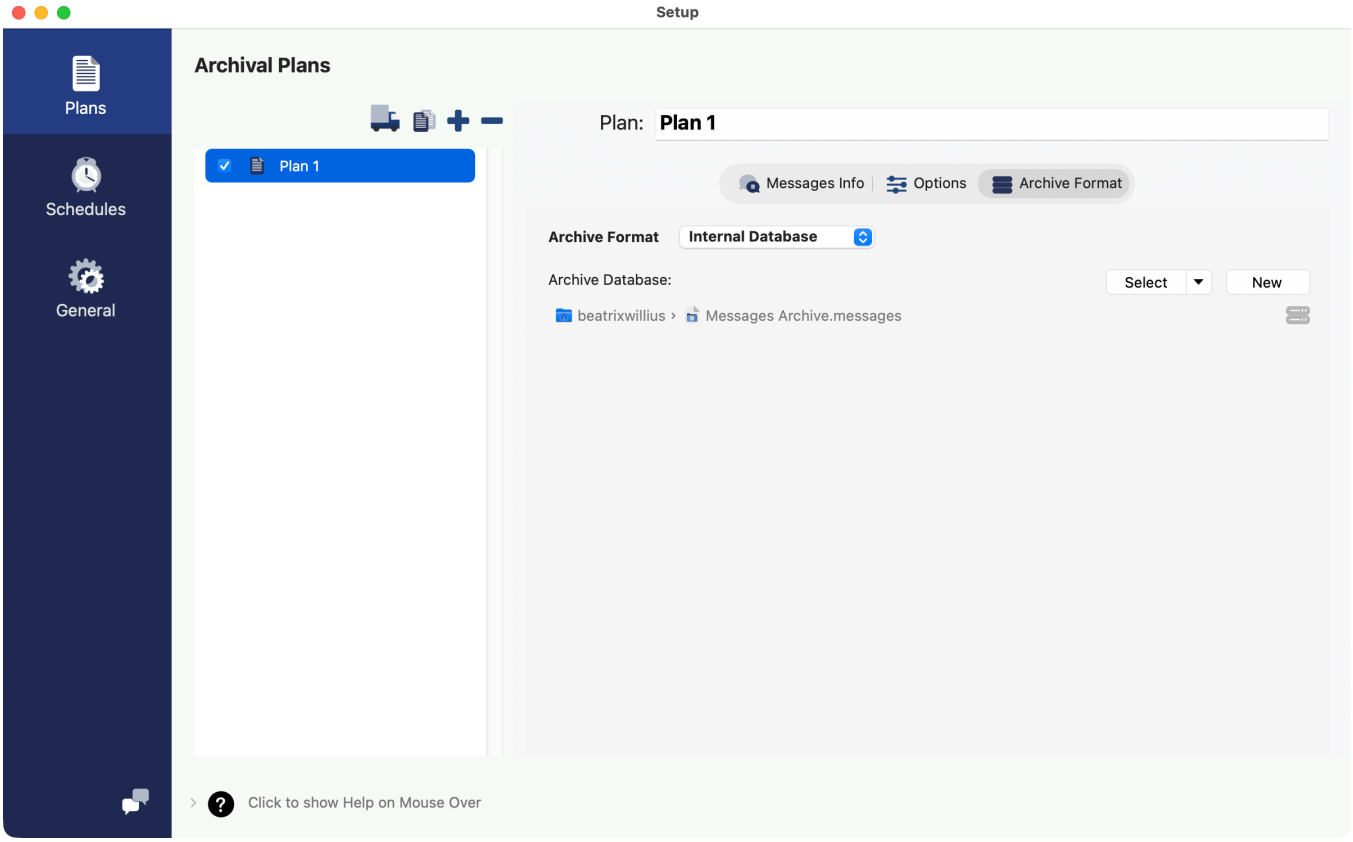
You can then open the new archive:



The next step is very important! You must perform a new diagnosis via Database -> Diagnosis. Otherwise you cannot be sure that the new archive is OK. The result of the diagnosis should look like this:

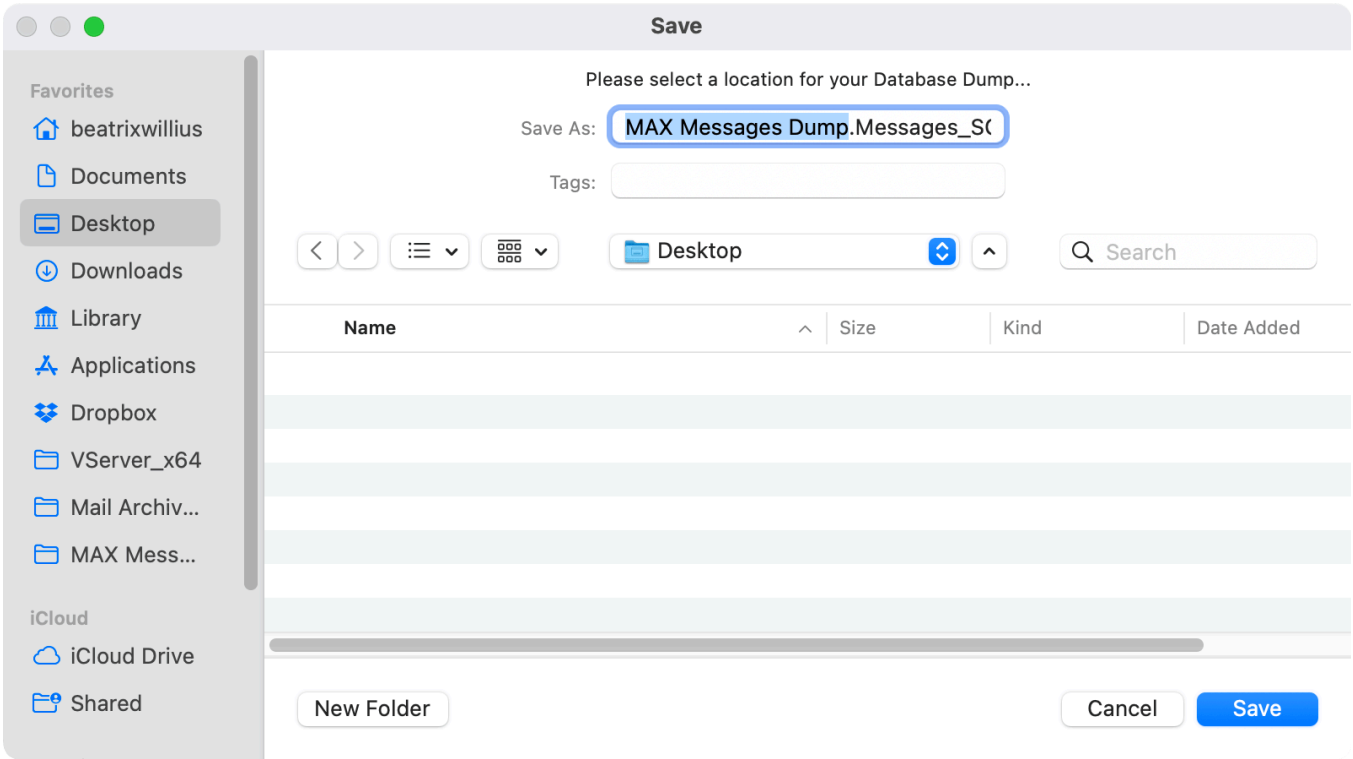


The old archive can now be placed in the trash. And the setup can be changed to the new file:

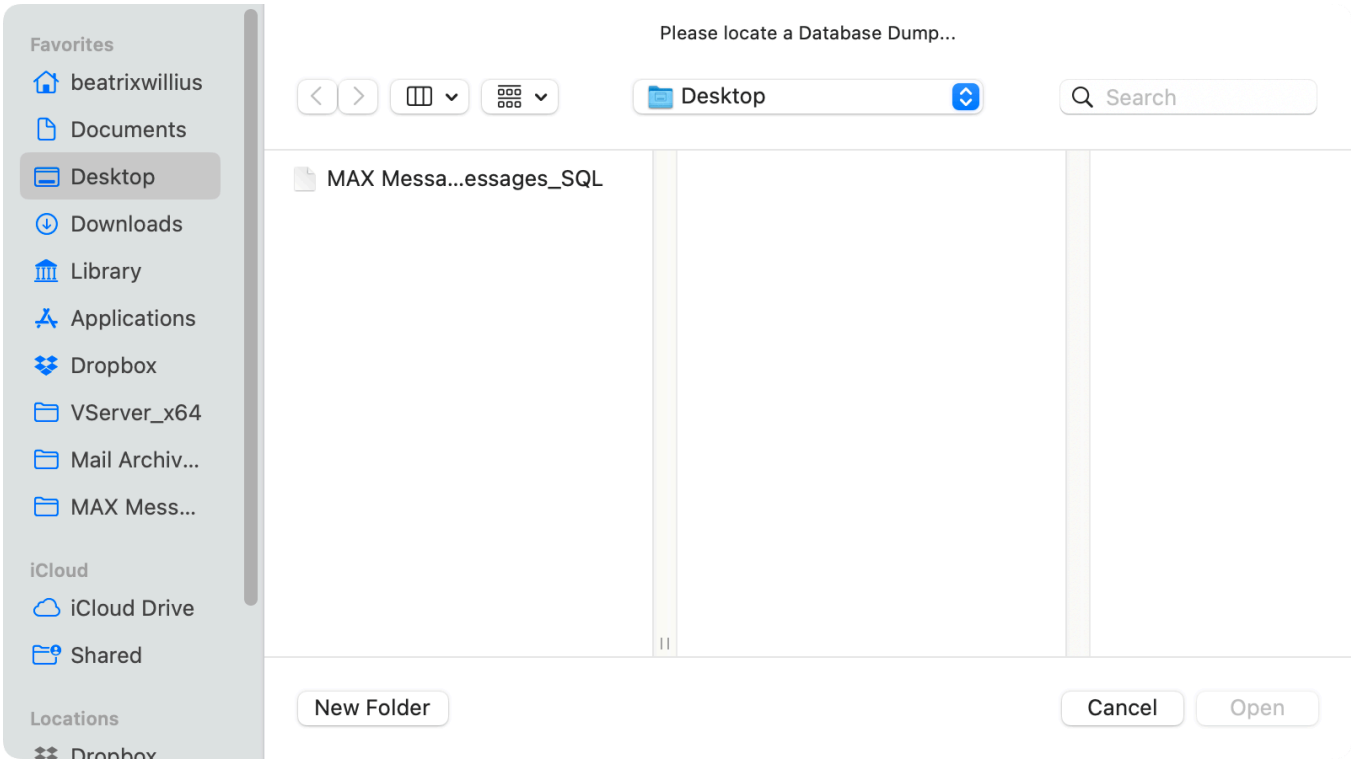


Fix Database Corruption: Dump/Load Dump

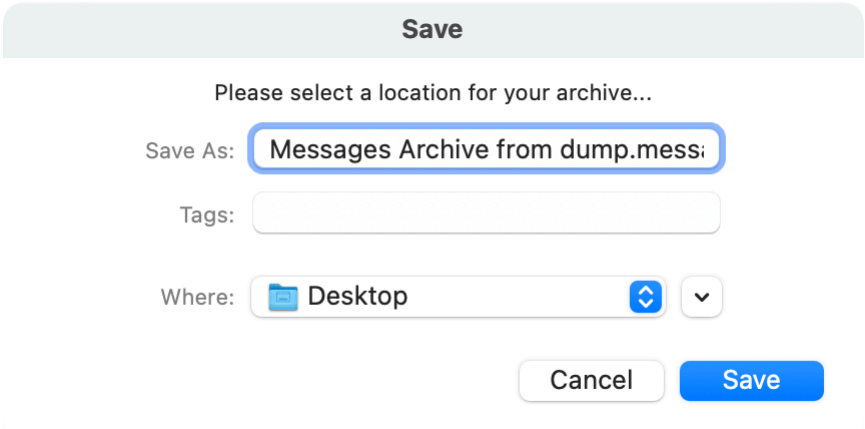
Go to the menu item Database/Dump. Next you will see a dialog to save your dump data somewhere:



You will need to wait a while. Also, you need to know that resulting file will be HUGE so select a location that has lots and lots of free space. Afterwards the archive closes itself. Then go to the Database menu again and select Database/Load Dump. You need to select your file that was just created.



Create a new database so that the dump can be loaded:



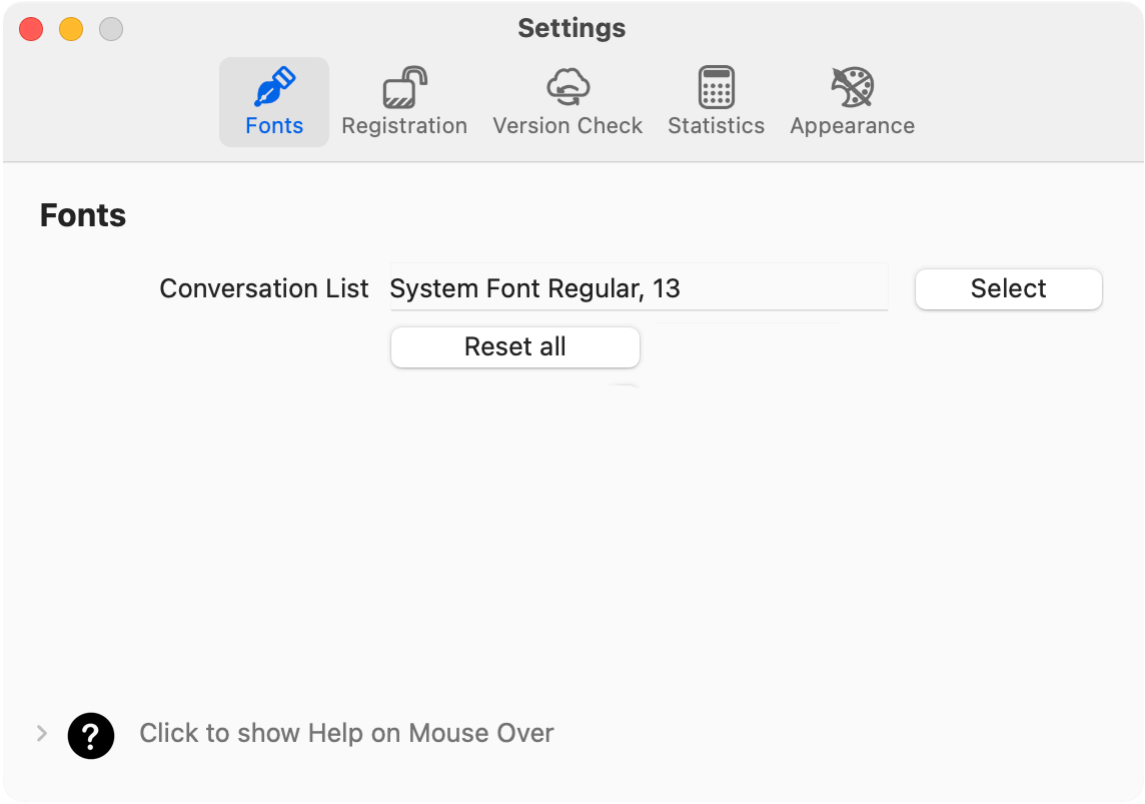
The messages will now be loaded from the dump into the new database.

User Reference: Settings

In the section you can set some settings for the application. Settings for archiving are in the Setup.

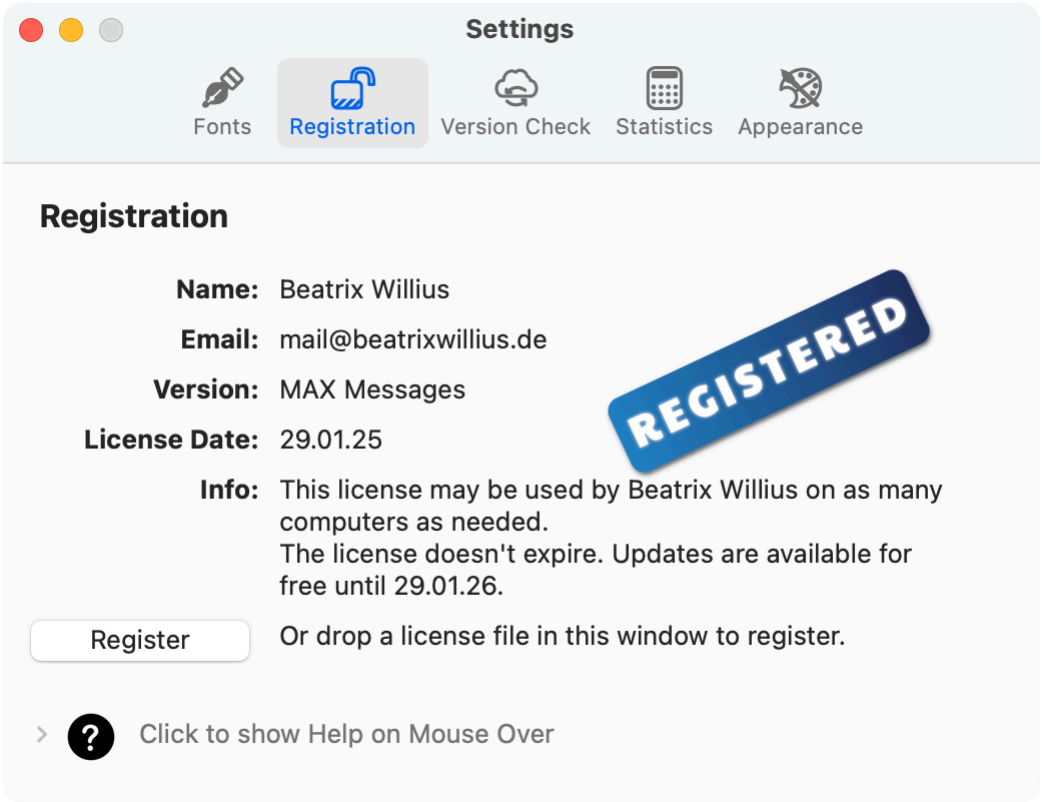
Fonts

For the conversation list the font and the font size can be customized. Click on the Select button.



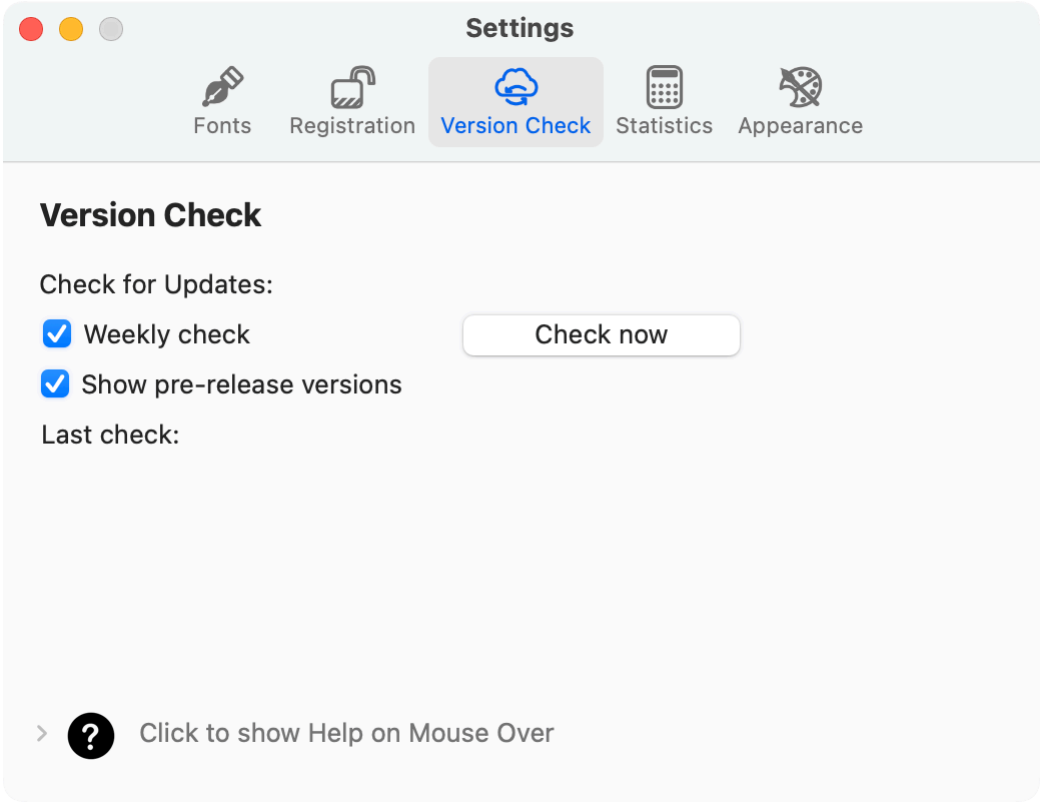
Registration

You can register with the menu or in this section. Either click on the Register button to locate the registration file or drop it into the window. After registration you will get a confirmation dialog and the window will show the registration info.



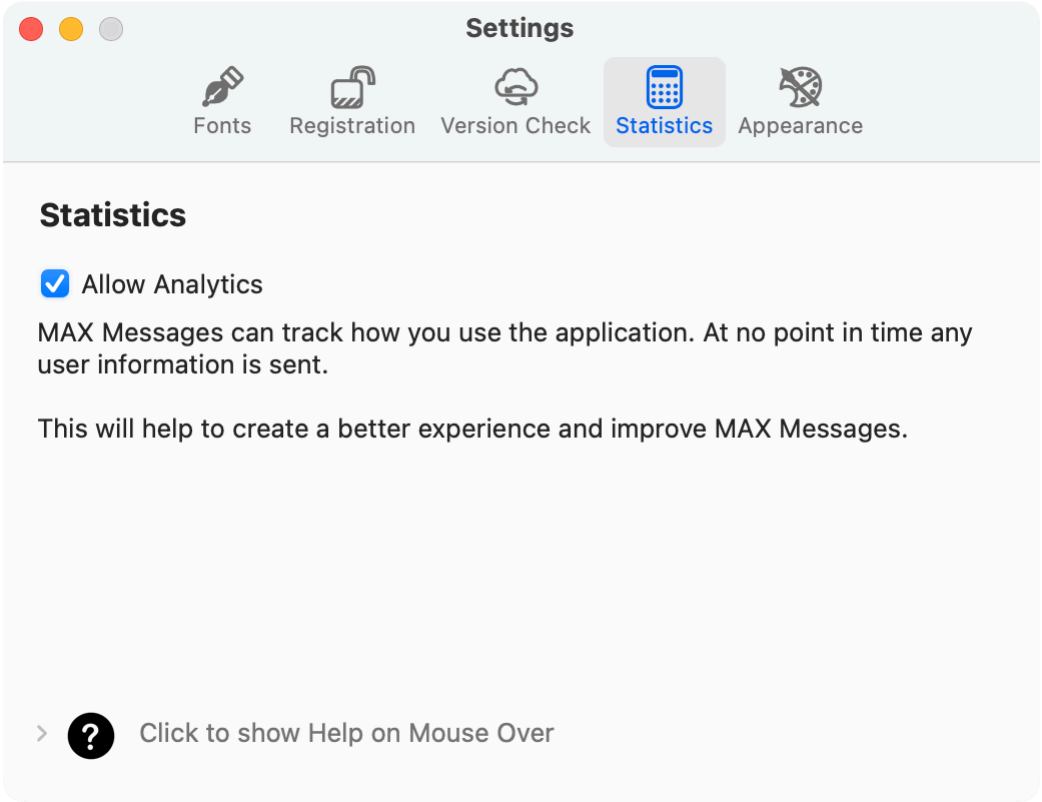
Version Check

MAX Messages can check if a new version is available.



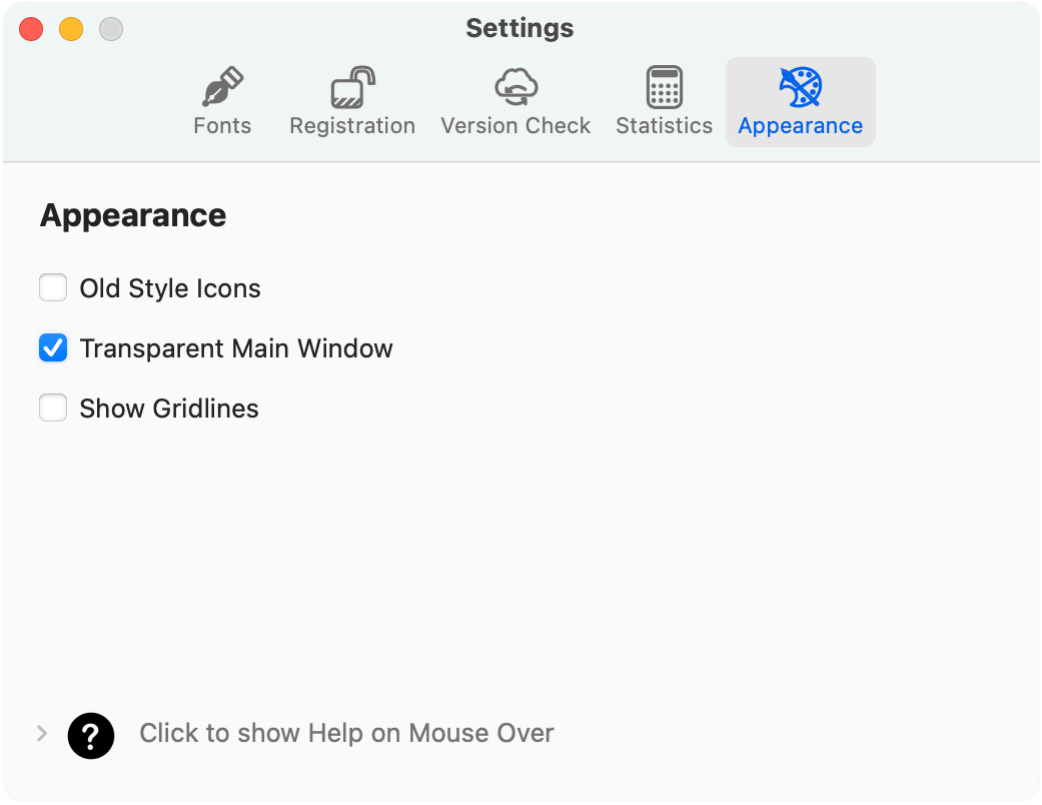
Statistics

MAX Messages does a very lightweight statistics. By default this is active but can be deactivated at any time.



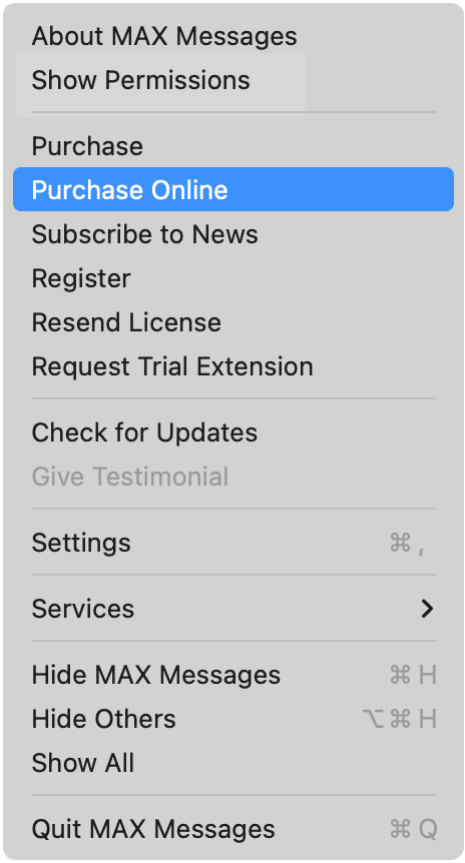
Appearance

You can customize the appearance of the application. By default new style icons are used but the old style icons work on any version of macOS. “Transparent main window” makes the main window transparent when no archive is open. Gridlines can be shown or hidden.



User Reference: Menus

Application Menu:



About MAX Messages: Shows the about screen.

Show Permissions: MAX Messages needs permissions for Full Disk Access and the Contacts.

Purchase: purchase MAX Messages within the application.

Purchase online: Goes to the Fastspring store to start the purchase from there.

Subscribe to News: subscribe to the newsletter that is sent out a couple of times per year.

Register: Opens the register section of the Settings.

Resend License: recover your license with the email address or the order number.

Request Trial Extension: extends the trial time. This can be done once within 180 days.

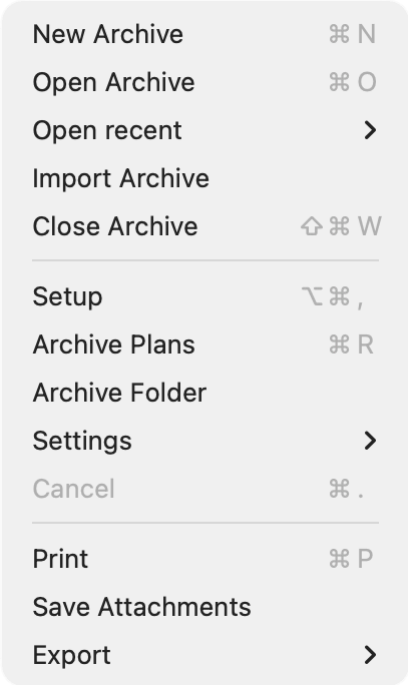
Version Check: Opens the Version Check area of the Settings.

Give Testimonial: Tell Moth Software what you like in MAX Messages and what can be improved.

Settings: Opens the Settings.

Quit MAX Messages: Quits the application.

File menu:



New Archive: Closes the open archive and creates a new one.

Open Archive: Opens an archive.

Open Recent: Has a submenu with the last 5 opened archives.

Close Archive: Closes the currently open archive.

Import Archive: Imports an Internal Database archive.

Close Archive: Closes the open archive.

Setup: Shows the archiving options.

Archive Plans: Starts archiving the active plans.

Archiver Folder: Select a folder with chat.db and archive the folder.

Settings/Export + Import: Exports and imports the archiving settings.

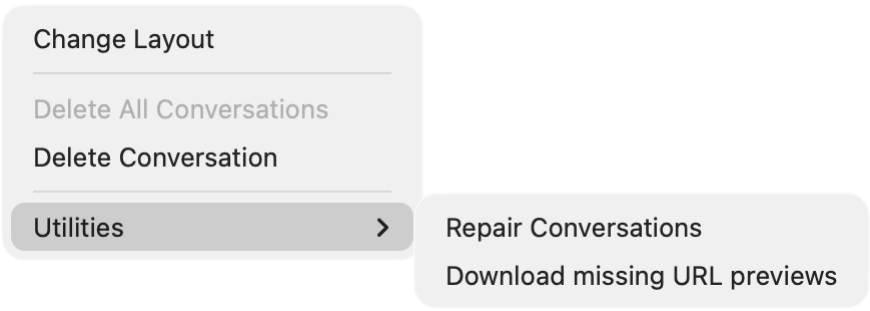
Cancel: Cancels archiving.

Print: Prints the loaded messages. Use PDF export to print the complete conversation.

Save Attachments: Saves all attachments of the selected conversation.

Export: Exports all conversations/the selected conversation/the current search result/the current day to the Internal Database, PDF, or HTML.

Conversation Menu:



Change Layout: switches between Conversation and Diary Layout.

Delete All Conversations: If an application is selected then this menu item deletes all conversation from the application.

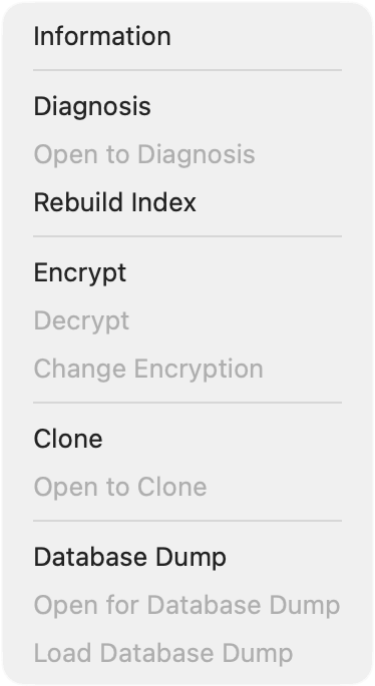
Delete Conversation: Deletes the selected conversation.

Utilities -> Repair Conversations: Separates user names into first name and last name.

Utilities -> Download missing URL previews: downloads URL previews for messages in the current conversation or search result where URL previews were missing.

Database Menu:

Usefull for troubleshooting.



Information: Give information for the currently open database like the version of Valentina used.

Diagnosis: Runs a report on the currently open database. If any problems are found they are written to the error log.

Open to Diagnosis: Diagnoses a database, which hasn't been opened.

Rebuild Index: Deletes the index and creates it new.

Encrypt: Encrypts an archive with a password.

Decrypt: Decrypt an encrypted archive.

Change Encryption: Change the encryption password of an encrypted archive.

Clone: Creates a copy of the database file.

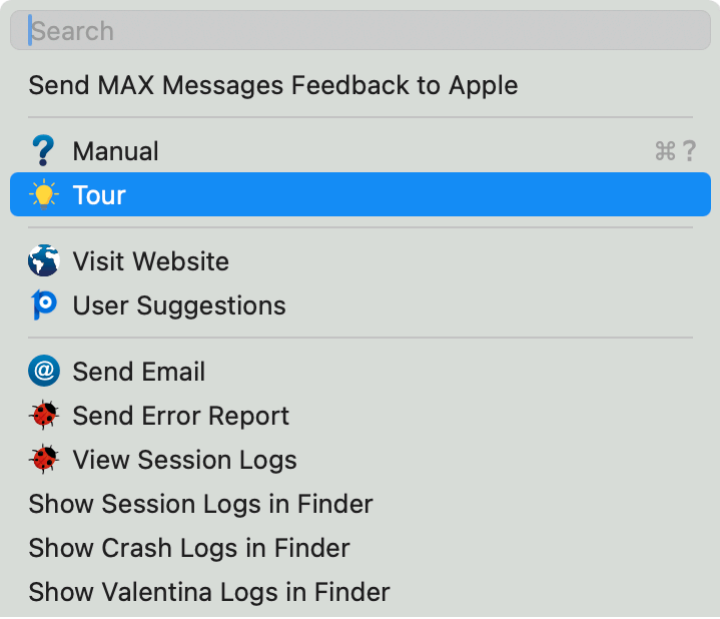
Open to Clone: Create a clone of a database, which hasn't been opened.

Dump: If the database is corrupt it's possible to use the combination Dump/Load Dump to try to fix the problems. Use Dump to save the data of the archive somewhere.

Open to Dump: create a database dump of a database which hasn't been opened.

Load Dump: After using Dump use Load Dump to locate the dumped data and load it into a fresh database.

Help Menu:



Manual: Opens the english manual.

Tour: Opens the tour.

Visit Website: Opens the website.

User Suggestions: Make a new feature request or vote for an existing feature request.

Send Email: Creates a blank email in the default email client.

Send Error Report: Can either directly report an error report or when the application crashes.

View Session Logs: The session logs can be viewed here.

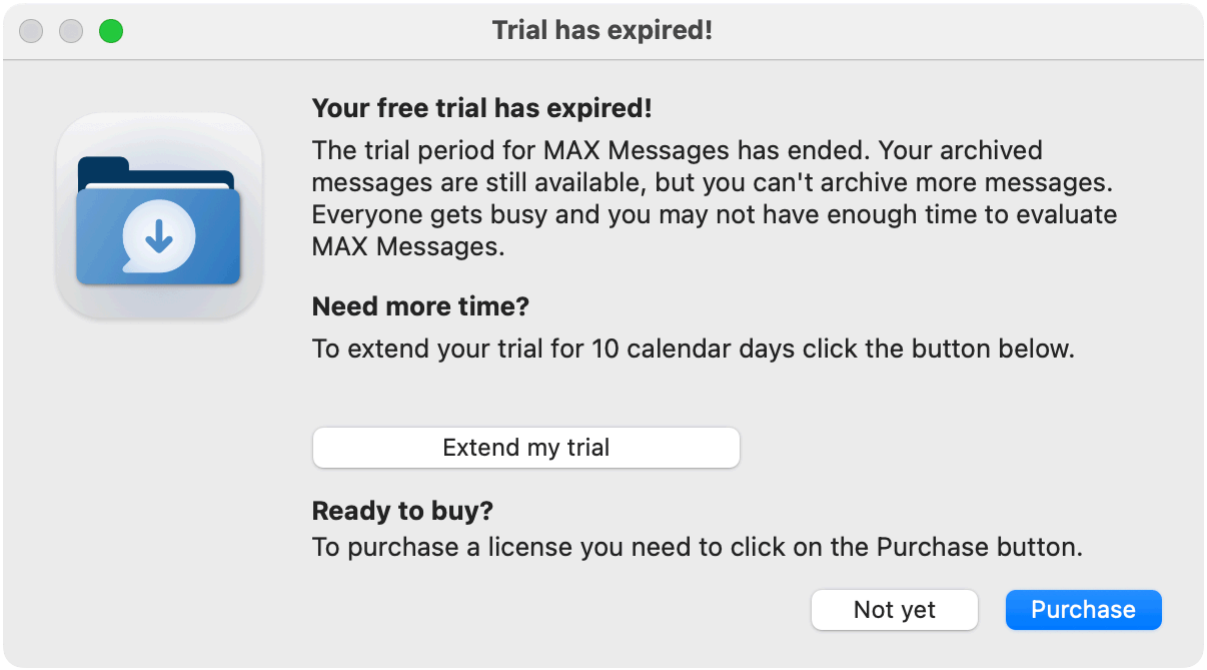
Show session logs in Finder: Opens the folder of the session logs.

Show crash logs in Finder: Opens the folder of the crash logs.

Show Valentina logs in Finder: Opens the folder of the Valentina logs.

Registration

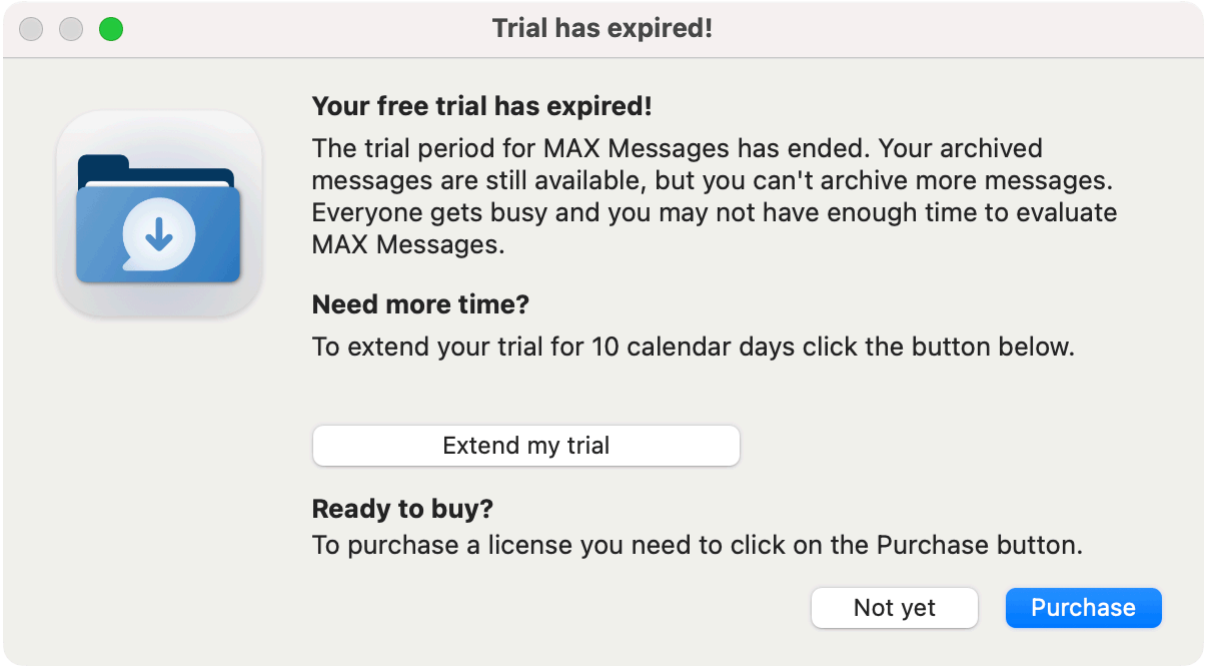
When MAX Messages is not registered, you will see the following dialog when quitting:



The unregistered version is limited to 10 calendar days after the first start-up. There is one limitation:

- Only 10,000 messages for the Internal Database and 100 messages for PDF can be archived.

Afterwards MAX Messages can view the archives, but archival is only possible again after registration and you will see the following window.



Click on “Not Yet” to dismiss the dialog without action.

Registration: Payment

Fastspring handles the ecommerce for Moth Software.

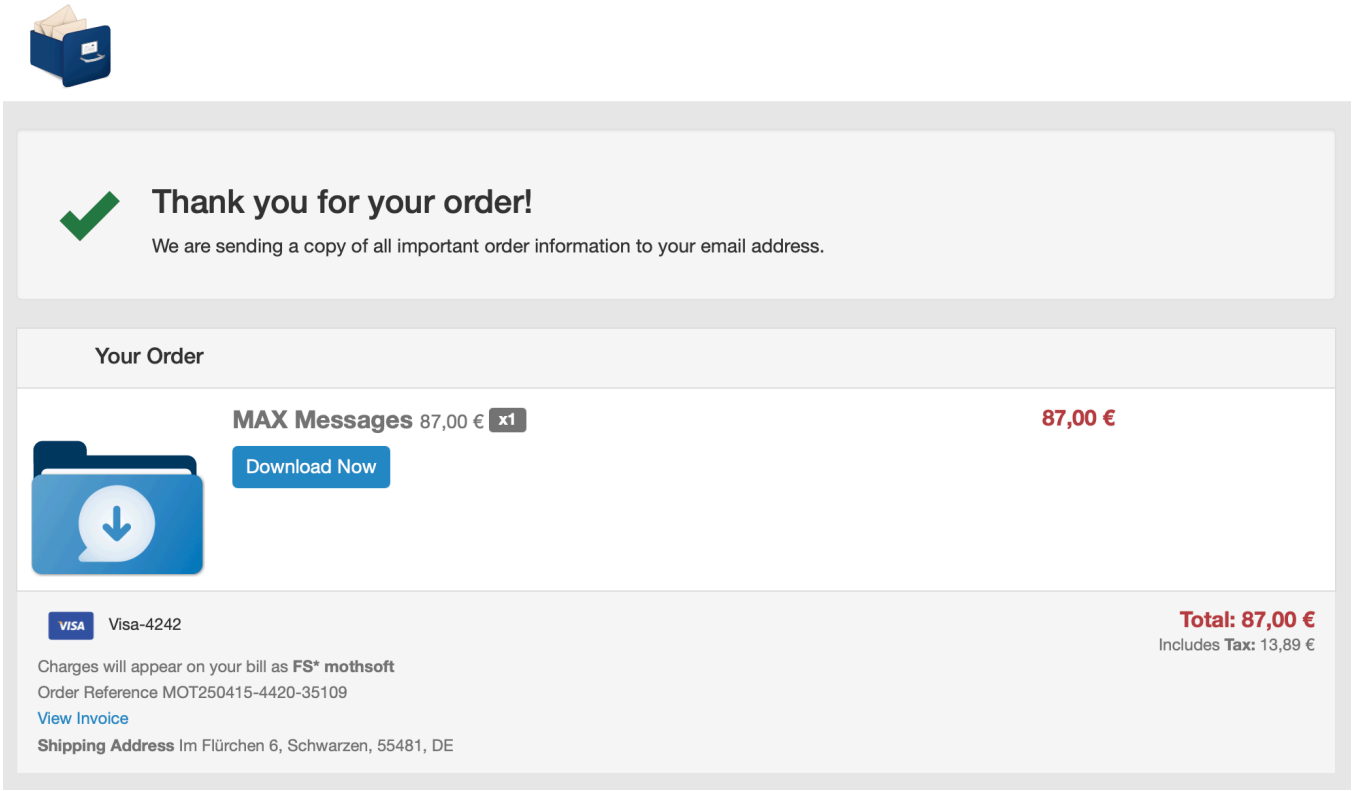
Store

The credit card section of the order form is secure.

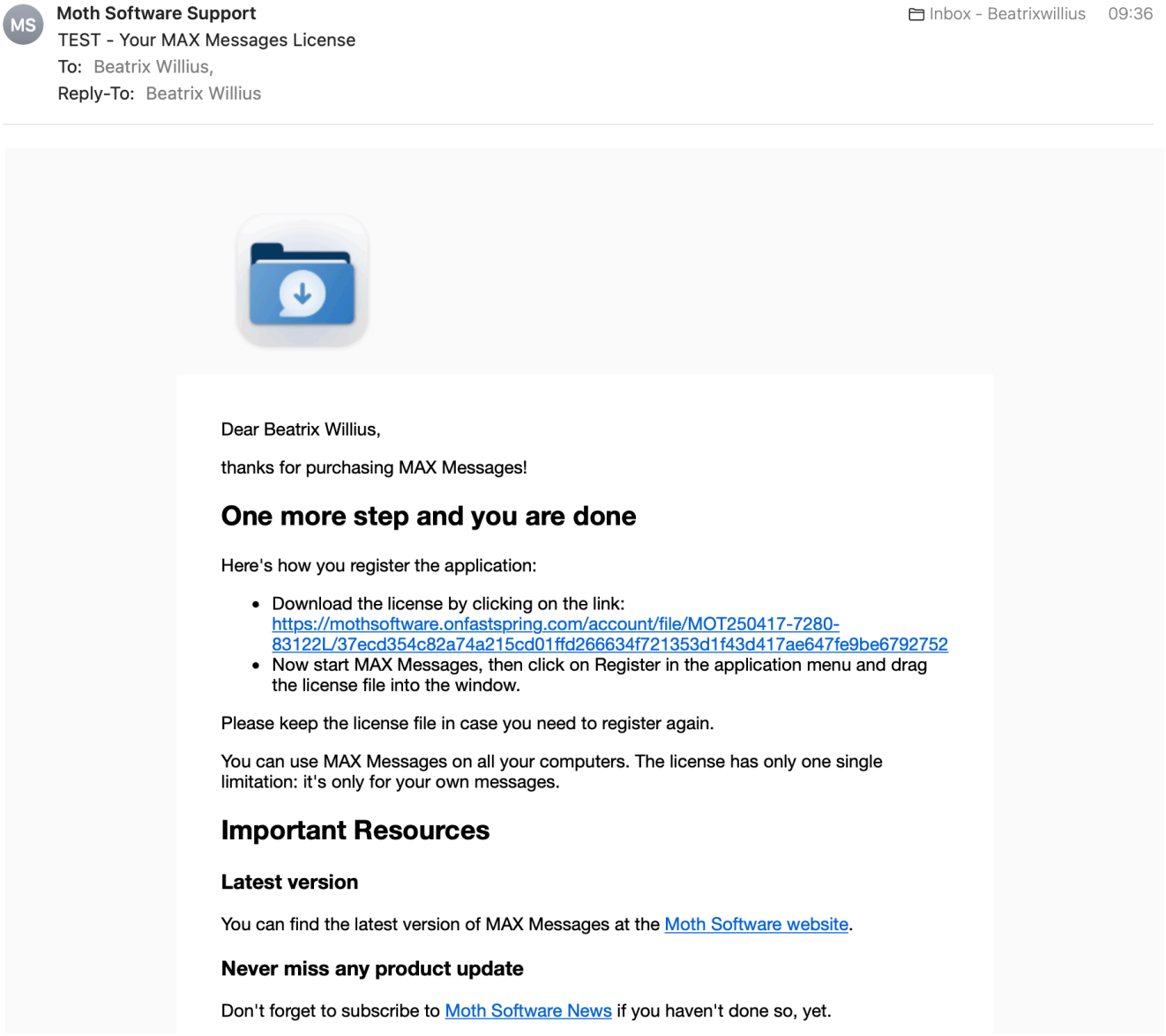
Registration

How to register the main application for all versions.

After a successful purchase you can download the license file:

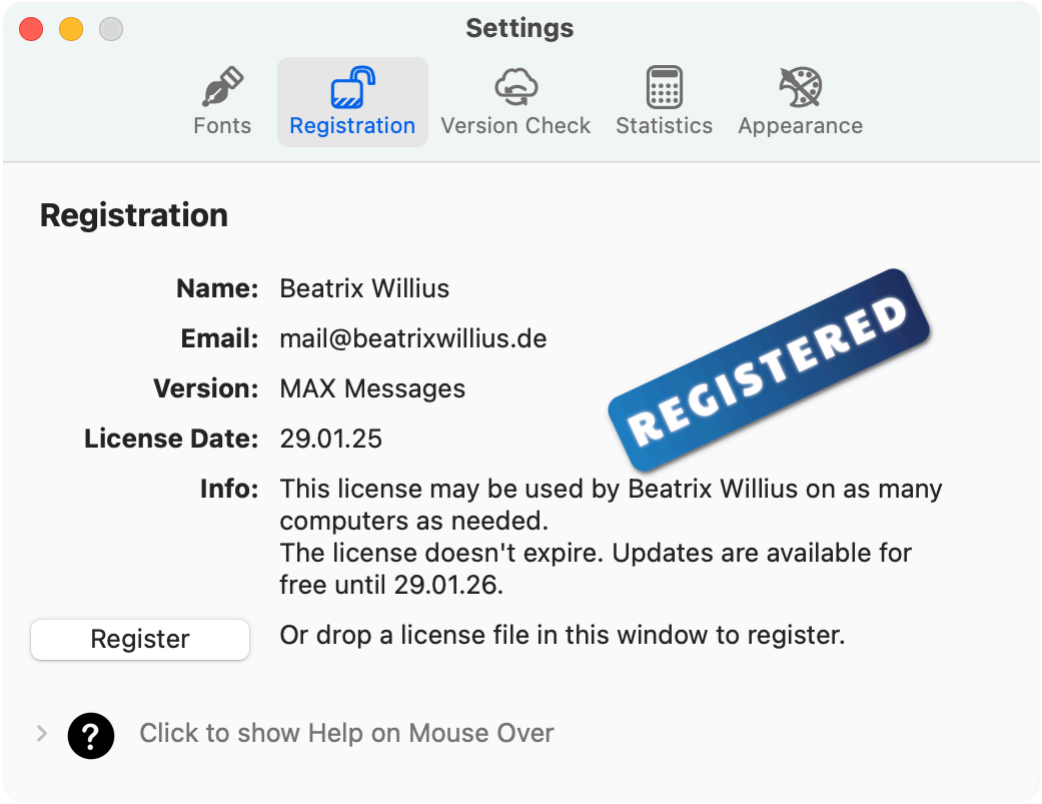


You can also download the license file when you get the order confirmation. The email of the standard version looks like this:

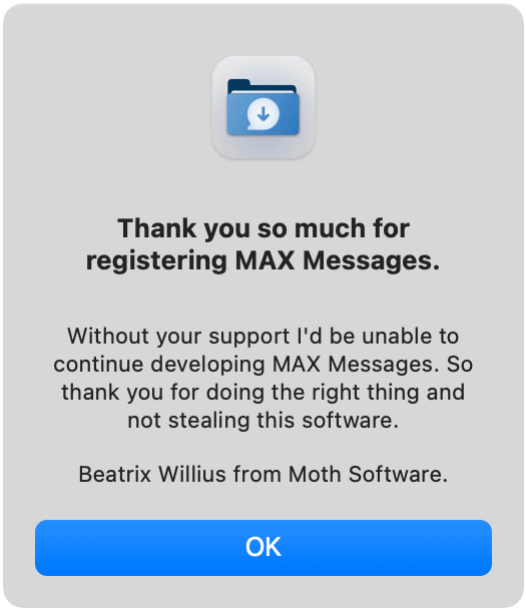


Select “Register” from the application menu. Select the license file to open it.

Alternatively, you can do this from the Registration tabsheet of the Settings. Drag the registration file to the window or click the Register button and select the file. You will be able to see the information of the registration file in the window.

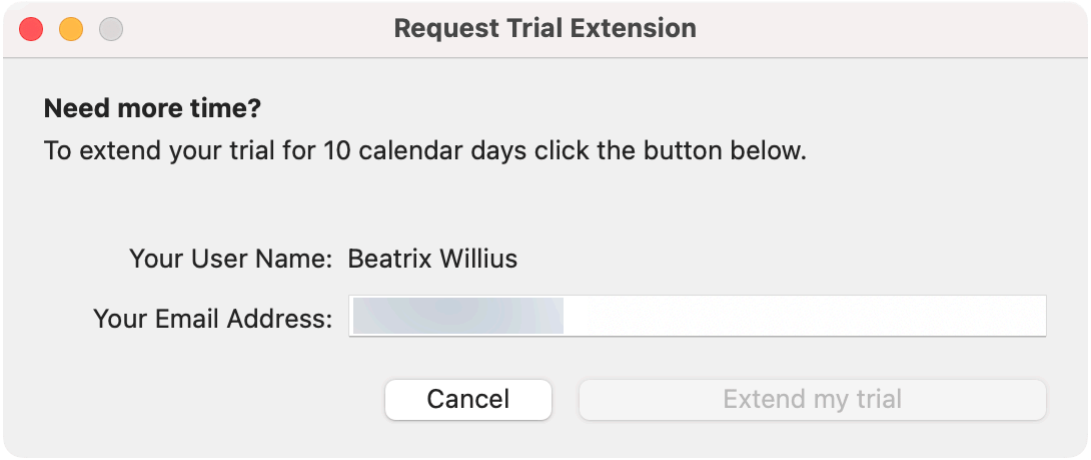


If the license file is valid, you will see the following dialog.



Registration: Extend the Trial Time

If you missed the Trial Time and would like to extend it, then select the menu item “Request Trial Extension” from the Application menu. You will see the following dialog:



The user name of the computer is entered automatically and can't be changed. After clicking on the button "Extend Trial" the trial time will be reset. This can be done once every 180 days.

Feedback

We have worked very hard to make MAX Messages as useful and as user-friendly as possible. We appreciate our users' feedback and would love to hear your ideas on how to make this program better for your needs. If you have a suggestion, please send an email to:

mail@beatrixwillius.de

Updates are released several times a year. Please visit our website at

https://www.mothsoftware.com

to check if you have the latest version.

Feedback: Support

Support is available via email at

mail@beatrixwillius.de

When contacting us, please remember to include the serial number, your hardware configuration and which operating system you're using. We will respond using your inquiry's email address generally within 2 business days. Nowadays, it can always happen that your inquiry or our answer lands in a spam mailbox. Therefore, if you don't get an answer from Moth Software, please try again.

Feedback: Distribution

MAX Messages may not be redistributed for profit by anyone. This software may be included on any CD-ROM or other software collection without the prior consent of the author. It may also be uploaded to online services or distributed to your friends as long as no profit is made through such transactions. If distributed, the application must include all documentation and supplementary files included with the original package.

Feedback: Disclaimer

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