

FrameVault User Guide

Version 1.0

A safe, automated photo backup system for photographers

1. What FrameVault Is (and Isn't)

What FrameVault Is

FrameVault is an automated photo backup application designed for photographers and image professionals.

Once installed and configured, FrameVault runs quietly in the background and protects your photos by backing them up to secure cloud storage whenever new files appear or existing files change.

FrameVault is built around three ideas:

Automation – backups happen without manual steps

Safety – your original files are never altered or deleted

Predictability – nothing happens silently or unexpectedly

Your existing folder structure is preserved exactly, making restores simple and familiar.

What FrameVault Is Not

FrameVault is not:

- A photo editor
- A catalog or DAM system
- A cloud sync service
- A tool that mirrors deletions

FrameVault's only job is to protect your photos, not organize or modify them.

2. How FrameVault Protects Your Photos

FrameVault works by monitoring specific folders on your computer.

Folder Monitoring

You choose which folders FrameVault should watch. These typically include folders where you store:

- RAW files
- JPEG exports
- Finished images

Subfolders can be included automatically.

Automatic Detection

When FrameVault is running, it automatically detects:

- New files added to monitored folders
- Existing files that have been modified

Detected files are added to an internal backup queue.

Safe Cloud Backups

Files are uploaded to private, encrypted cloud storage associated only with your account.

FrameVault never removes or changes files on your computer.

Version Protection

If a file changes after being backed up, FrameVault uploads the new version without replacing earlier versions.

This ensures older copies remain available if needed.

3. Supported File Types

FrameVault does not enforce a fixed list of file extensions.

By default, it is commonly used with photography formats such as RAW, JPEG, TIFF, PNG, and DNG. However, you may define your own file types to include in backups.

Only files matching your configured file types are backed up.

4. Installation

FrameVault provides native installers for Windows and macOS.

Windows Installation

- Download the FrameVault installer from the official website.
- Run the installer.
- Follow the on-screen instructions.
- Launch FrameVault after installation completes.

FrameVault installs as a background application and appears in the system tray.

macOS Installation

- Download the FrameVault .dmg file.
- Open the disk image.

- Drag FrameVault into your Applications folder.
- Launch FrameVault from Applications or Spotlight.

FrameVault will request permission to run in the background.

5. First-Time Setup

FrameVault does not use a guided setup wizard. Setup is explicit and under your control.

Step 1: Register and Choose a Subscription

When you first open FrameVault, you will be brought to the Registration screen.

On this screen you will:

- Create your FrameVault account
- Choose a subscription

Backup functionality is not available until registration is complete.

Step 2: Add Folders to Monitor

After registration, navigate to the Watched Folders screen.

From here you can:

- Add one or more folders
- Enable or disable recursive scanning (subfolders)
- Remove folders at any time

Only folders listed here are monitored.

Step 3: Choose Watched File Types

To control which file extensions FrameVault backs up, open Settings and go to Watched File Types.

Add or remove file extensions to match your workflow.

Files that do not match these extensions are ignored.

Step 4: Initial Scan

Once folders are added, FrameVault scans them and builds an internal backup queue.

Uploads begin automatically.

6. Everyday Operation

Once configured, FrameVault requires little interaction.

Background Operation

As long as FrameVault is running:

- New photos are detected automatically
- Changes are backed up automatically

You can safely edit, export, move, or rename files inside monitored folders.

System Tray / Menu Bar Access

FrameVault provides quick access via:

- Windows: system tray icon
- macOS: menu bar icon

From this menu you can:

- Open the FrameVault application
- Quit FrameVault

FrameVault does not currently support pausing or resuming backups. Quitting the app stops monitoring until it is reopened.

7. How FrameVault Handles Your Photos

(Everyday situations explained plainly)

Adding New Photos

New files placed in monitored folders are detected and backed up automatically.

No manual action is required.

Editing Photos

When an existing file changes:

- The updated version is backed up
- Earlier versions are preserved

Nothing is overwritten.

Exporting Multiple Versions

Each exported file is backed up independently.

FrameVault does not try to choose a “best” version.

Renaming Files

Renamed files are treated as new files.

Both old and new versions remain available.

Moving Files

Moving files within monitored folders is safe.

Moving files out of monitored folders does not remove backups.

Backups are never deleted automatically.

Deleting Files

Deleting a file on your computer does not delete its backup.

FrameVault is not a sync service.

When FrameVault Is Closed

No monitoring occurs while FrameVault is not running.

When reopened, changes made during that time are detected.

Sleep or Shutdown

If your computer sleeps or shuts down:

- Uploads pause automatically
- Uploads resume when the computer is back on

What FrameVault Never Does

- Deletes local files
- Deletes backups automatically
- Overwrites existing backups
- Modifies photos
- Syncs deletions

8. Restoring Photos

(Plain-language restore behavior)

FrameVault allows you to restore individual files or entire folders from your backup.

How Restores Work

When you start a restore:

- You choose what to restore
- You choose where restored files are placed
- Existing files are never deleted

Restores are always additive.

File Name Conflicts (When a File Already Exists)

If a file being restored already exists in the folder you selected, FrameVault lets you choose how to handle the conflict:

- Auto-rename – restores the file using a new name so nothing is overwritten
- Skip – does not restore that file
- Overwrite – replaces the existing file with the restored file

Choose the option that best fits your situation before starting the restore.

Restore Limits

Restore limits may apply based on your subscription plan.

FrameVault indicates current restore usage and provides warnings before limits are reached.

What Restores Never Do

- Delete existing files
- Change your folder structure

9. Settings

Settings allow you to control how FrameVault behaves, including:

- Startup behavior
- Watched folders
- Watched file types
- Restore behavior preferences

10. Troubleshooting

Photos aren't backing up

- Confirm FrameVault is running
- Check that folders are still listed in Watched Folders
- Verify internet connectivity

Files appear twice

This is expected behavior when files are edited, renamed, or re-exported.

FrameVault preserves versions for safety.

FrameVault didn't start automatically

Launch FrameVault manually. Startup behavior depends on system permissions.

11. Support & Contact

For support, questions, or feedback:

contact@cameratrician.com

12. Document Versioning

Version 1.0 – Initial professional user guide (content draft)