

BackTrack Multi-Computer Setup

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Setting Up BackTrack on a New Computer

This guide explains how to get BackTrack running on a new/additional computer when you already have an existing installation with patient data.

Scenarios

Scenario A: Adding a Second Computer to Your Practice

You have BackTrack running on Computer A and want to add Computer B with automatic syncing.

Scenario B: Replacing/Upgrading a Computer

You're moving from an old computer to a new one and want to transfer everything.

Scenario C: Disaster Recovery

Your computer crashed and you need to restore from a backup.

Prerequisites

You will need: 1. **Database Password** - The password you use to open the database 2. **Database File** (optional) - backtrack.db from your existing installation 3. **Support Code** (optional) - Only if you forgot your password 4. **Sync Password** (for multi-computer) - Shared secret for sync security

Network Requirements for Sync: - Both computers on the same local network (or VPN) - Port 8090 accessible (default sync port) - Firewalls configured to allow local connections

Method 1: New Computer with Automatic Sync (Recommended)

Use this when: You want two computers to stay synchronized automatically.

On Computer A (Existing Installation)

Step 1: Note Your Computer's IP Address macOS:

```
ifconfig | grep "inet " | grep -v 127.0.0.1
```

Windows:

```
ipconfig  
# Look for "IPv4 Address" under your network adapter
```

Linux:

```
ip addr show | grep "inet " | grep -v 127.0.0.1
```

Example result: 192.168.1.100

Step 2: Enable Sync Server

1. Open BackTrack
2. Log in with admin account
3. Go to **Settings** □ **Database Sync**
4. Check **“Enable Database Sync”**
5. **Sync Mode**: Select **“Act as sync server (peer)”**
6. **Set Sync Password**: Create a strong password (e.g., MySync2025!)
7. **Port**: Leave as 8090 (or change if needed)
8. Click **Save Settings**

□ Computer A is now acting as the sync server!

On Computer B (New Computer)

Step 1: Install BackTrack

- **macOS**: Open .app or install .pkg
- **Windows**: Run installer .exe
- **Linux**: Install .deb or .rpm package

Step 2: Initial Empty Setup

1. Launch BackTrack
2. Click **“Initial Setup”**
3. **Create Database Password**: Use a **different password** than Computer A
(Each computer can have its own database password)
4. Create your first admin user (can be same as Computer A)
5. Save the support code (will be different from Computer A)

You now have an **empty database** on Computer B.

Step 3: Enable Sync Client

1. Go to **Settings** □ **Database Sync**
2. Check **“Enable Database Sync”**
3. **Sync Mode**: Select **“Connect to peer to get updates”**
4. **Peer Address**: Enter Computer A's IP + port (e.g., 192.168.1.100:8090)
5. **Sync Password**: Enter the SAME password you set on Computer A
6. **Sync Interval**: 15-30 minutes recommended
7. Click **Save Settings**

Step 4: Perform First Sync

1. Click “**Manual Sync Now**” button
2. You’ll see: “Sync successful!”
3. **Close BackTrack completely** (File □ Quit)
4. **Reopen BackTrack**
5. **Log in** - Your patients and appointments are now here!

□ Computer B is now synchronized with Computer A!

Verification

Check Sync Status: - Look at top-right corner of window - Should show: □ **Sync: Active (1 syncs)** | Last: Just now

If you see: - □ Yellow = Configured but peer offline - □ Red = Sync error (check logs) - □ Gray = Sync disabled

Method 2: Manual Database Copy (No Sync)

Use this when: You just want to copy your data once, no ongoing sync needed.

Step 1: Locate Your Database File

On your existing computer, find:

macOS:

`/Users/[YourUsername]/[BackTrackApp]/data/backtrack.db`

Windows:

`C:\Users\[YourUsername]\BackTrack\data\backtrack.db`

Linux:

`/home/[username]/BackTrack/data/backtrack.db`

Or look in the application directory where you run backtrack from: `./data/backtrack.db`

Step 2: Copy the Database File

Copy to USB drive, cloud storage, or network share: - `backtrack.db` (main database file) - `config.json` (optional - contains practice settings)

Important: If copying `config.json`, be aware it contains: - Practice NPI, Tax ID - Sync passwords (encrypted) - SMTP credentials (encrypted)

Step 3: Install BackTrack on New Computer

Follow installation steps for your operating system.

Step 4: Replace the Empty Database

1. **Install BackTrack** on new computer
2. **Do NOT run Initial Setup yet**
3. Locate the application's `./data/` directory
4. **Copy your** `backtrack.db` file to `./data/backtrack.db`
5. **Copy your** `config.json` (optional) to `./data/config.json`
6. Set file permissions (important!):
 - **macOS/Linux:** `chmod 600 ./data/backtrack.db ./data/config.json`
 - **Windows:** Right-click □ Properties □ Security □ Edit (ensure only your user has access)

Step 5: Launch and Login

1. Launch BackTrack
 2. **Click “Login”** (NOT “Initial Setup”)
 3. Enter your **database password** from the original computer
 4. You're in! All your data is here.
-

Method 3: Disaster Recovery (Restoring from Backup)

Use this when: Your computer crashed or you need to restore from a backup.

If You Have a Backup File

BackTrack automatically creates backups: - Location: `./data/backtrack.db.backup.[timestamp]`
- Also: `./Backups/` directory (if manual backups enabled)

Restore Process: 1. Install BackTrack on new computer 2. Locate your backup file (`.db` or `.backup.*`) 3. Copy backup to `./data/backtrack.db` 4. Launch BackTrack and login with your database password

If You Only Have the Support Code

If you have your **support code** but **forgot your password**:

1. Install BackTrack on new computer
 2. Copy your `backtrack.db` to `./data/`
 3. Launch BackTrack
 4. Click **“Password Recovery”**
 5. Enter your **Support Code**
 6. Set a **new database password**
 7. Login with your new password
-

Sync Best Practices

Choosing Primary vs. Secondary

While both computers are “equal” in technical terms, designate one as **primary** for workflow:

Computer A (Primary - Reception Desk) - Acts as sync server - Most appointment scheduling happens here - Always powered on during office hours

Computer B (Secondary - Doctor’s Office) - Connects as sync client - Mainly for viewing patients, adding notes - Syncs regularly to stay updated

Sync Interval Recommendations

- **Small office (1-3 staff)**: 15-30 minutes
- **Busy office (4+ staff)**: 10-15 minutes
- **Light usage (remote/home office)**: 30-60 minutes

Handling Conflicts

Conflict Scenario: Both computers make changes during the same interval before syncing.

What Happens: - System detects conflict automatically - Newer changes are preserved - Sync is blocked with clear error message

Resolution: 1. Check sync status (will show red ☐) 2. Review which computer has the most recent changes 3. On the “older” computer, manually accept the sync 4. Use “**Manual Sync Now**” to pull latest data

Prevention: - Designate one computer as primary for scheduling - Sync frequently (shorter intervals) - Check sync status indicator regularly

Troubleshooting

“Peer Unavailable” Message

Causes: - Computer A is turned off - Firewall blocking port 8090 - Wrong IP address entered - Network connectivity issue

Solutions:

Test connectivity (from Computer B)

`ping 192.168.1.100`

Test port (Linux/Mac)

`nc -zv 192.168.1.100 8090`

Test port (Windows)

`Test-NetConnection -ComputerName 192.168.1.100 -Port 8090`

“Sync Conflict Detected”

Message: “Local database is 2 hours newer than remote”

Solution: 1. Review both computers to see which has latest data 2. On the computer with **older** data: - Settings □ Database Sync - Click “Manual Sync Now” - Confirm overwrite when prompted

“Wrong Password” on Sync

Causes: - Sync passwords don’t match between computers - Typo in peer address

Solution: 1. On **both computers**, go to Settings □ Database Sync 2. **Re-enter sync password** (must match exactly) 3. Click Save Settings 4. Try Manual Sync Now

Files Not Found After Copy

macOS users: Application may be sandboxed

Solution:

Find actual data location

```
sqlite3 ~/Library/Containers/com.kranky.backtrack/Data/backtrack.db ".schema"
```

Copy to correct location

```
cp backtrack.db ~/Library/Containers/com.kranky.backtrack/Data/
```

Security Considerations

Different Database Passwords

You can use different database passwords on each computer!

- Computer A: Password “SecurePass2024”
- Computer B: Password “MyOtherPass2025”

The sync password is separate and must match.

Sync Password vs. Database Password

Password Type	Purpose	Must Match?
Database Password	Decrypts the database file	No (can be different per computer)
Sync Password	Authorizes data transfer	Yes (must be identical on all computers)

Network Security

For local network sync: - ☐ Safe on trusted office network - ☐ Use strong sync password - ☐
Don't expose port 8090 to the internet (only local network)

For remote/internet sync: - ☐ Use VPN for secure connection - ☐ Or use SSH tunnel - ☐
Don't open port 8090 directly to internet

Backup Strategy

Automatic Backups

BackTrack creates automatic backups before every sync: - Location: `./data/backtrack.db.backup.[timestamp]`
- Retention: Keeps recent backups (manual cleanup needed)

Manual Backup Process

Recommended: Weekly Manual Backup

Copy database file to external drive

```
cp ./data/backtrack.db /Volumes/USBDrive/backtrack_backup_$(date +%Y%m%d).db
```

Compress for storage

```
zip backtrack_backup_$(date +%Y%m%d).zip ./data/backtrack.db
```

Store backups: - External USB drive - Network-attached storage (NAS) - Encrypted cloud storage (Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.)

Testing Restores

Once a month, test your backup: 1. Install BackTrack on a spare computer or VM 2. Copy backup file to `./data/backtrack.db` 3. Launch and verify you can login 4. Check that data is intact

Quick Reference

Sync Setup Checklist

Computer A (Server): - ☐ Note IP address - ☐ Settings ☐ Database Sync ☐ Enable - ☐ Mode: Act as sync server - ☐ Set sync password - ☐ Save settings

Computer B (Client): - ☐ Install BackTrack - ☐ Initial setup (empty database) - ☐ Settings ☐ Database Sync ☐ Enable - ☐ Mode: Connect to peer - ☐ Enter peer address (A's IP:8090) - ☐ Enter sync password (match A) - ☐ Manual Sync Now - ☐ Restart application - ☐ Verify data appeared

File Locations Quick Reference

OS	Database	Config	Logs
macOS	./data/backtrack.db	./data/config.json	./Logs/
Windows	.\data\backtrack.db	.\data\config.json	.\Logs\
Linux	./data/backtrack.db	./data/config.json	./Logs/

Getting Help

Before Contacting Support: 1. Check sync status indicator (□ /□ /□ /□) 2. Review log files in ./Logs/ directory 3. Test network connectivity (ping, port test) 4. Verify passwords match exactly

Log Files: - Current log: ./Logs/backtrack_[today].log - Sync events: Search for “sync” or “conflict” - Error details: Search for “error” or “failed”

□ **You're all set! Your multi-computer practice is ready to go.**

Questions? Review the main **README.md** for additional features and troubleshooting.