

Syncing

Some tips for syncing your projects

Syncing Tips

A Curio project file is actually saved as an macOS package file. On the Mac this appears as a single file, however it's actually a special kind of folder containing files (such as project assets) and other folders. Package files are natively supported by macOS and is a technique used by many other applications as well. In the Finder, right-click on a Curio project file and choose Show Package Contents to see what's inside.

By far the most popular sync service used by Curio customers seems to be Dropbox. Thus the tips presented here will primarily be for Dropbox users, however, these guidelines apply to any of the 3rd party sync services such as iCloud Drive, Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, Resilio, Box Sync, etc.

iCloud Drive Warning

At the time of this writing Apple's iCloud Drive feature doesn't have a method to know that it's actively syncing. With Dropbox, for example, you can see its tiny icon animating in the menu bar area so you know when files are being synced up (which means you should wait before closing your laptop) or synced down (which means you should wait before opening Curio). With iCloud you don't know this information so you could close/open before the sync completes which could lead to problems.

Microsoft OneDrive Warning

At the time of this writing Microsoft OneDrive won't sync any files with full paths greater than 255 characters. Note this isn't just the file name but the full path including the file name. Customers that store their Curio projects in deeply nested folder hierarchies or use very long file and folder names may encounter this sync limitation. For this reason please use caution when syncing Curio projects with OneDrive.

Issues with Syncing

In the past, when customers have had errors with Curio and Dropbox, it was generally due to an incomplete sync where only a portion of the files within the project package were completely downloaded or uploaded to the sync service. If this occurs then Curio may not be able to reconstruct the parent-child ownership that's key to constructing and rendering your Curio project notebook.

The guidelines presented here should be followed to minimize the chance of a project corruption due to partial sync.

Dropbox Guidelines

Here are some very important guidelines to follow when storing your Curio files to Dropbox:

1. **Make sure you're running the latest Dropbox Mac client!**

It should update itself automatically but it doesn't hurt to check. To find out what version you have simply hover your mouse over the Dropbox menu icon and the version number should appear in a tooltip. You can grab the latest Dropbox client at <https://www.dropbox.com/install>. Their latest release notes are listed at https://www.dropbox.com/release_notes.

2. **Never, ever open the same Curio project on more than one computer at a time!**

Curio can detect if you're storing to the standard ~/Dropbox location and automatically use a lock file to make sure only one person at a time has the project open. If you use another sync service then you may want to enable the Lock File feature in the project inspector.

3. **Completely quit Curio on one machine before opening it on another!**

This will guarantee that all file changes have been committed to disk.

4. **Make sure Dropbox has an opportunity to completely sync the changes up to the cloud!**

If you made lots of changes, added large assets, or have a huge project then this can take a while. The Dropbox icon in the menu bar will show an incredibly tiny animating graphic when it is syncing changes to the cloud. Wait for it to finish animating before putting your machine to sleep or shutting it down.

5. **Do not open the project before your Dropbox folder is fully synced!**

When you start your machine or wake it from sleep make sure Dropbox is done syncing the changes back down from the cloud. Once again, just watch their little animating menu icon before launching Curio and opening your projects.