



PluginHub for Windows user manual

How the app works on Windows, what each view means, and the day-to-day workflows.

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Installing PluginHub

PluginHub runs on Windows 10 or Windows 11, 64-bit. Run the installer you downloaded, `PluginHub-Setup-1.0.x.exe`. It installs for your Windows account only, so it never asks for administrator permission, and it puts PluginHub in your Start menu. A desktop shortcut is optional.

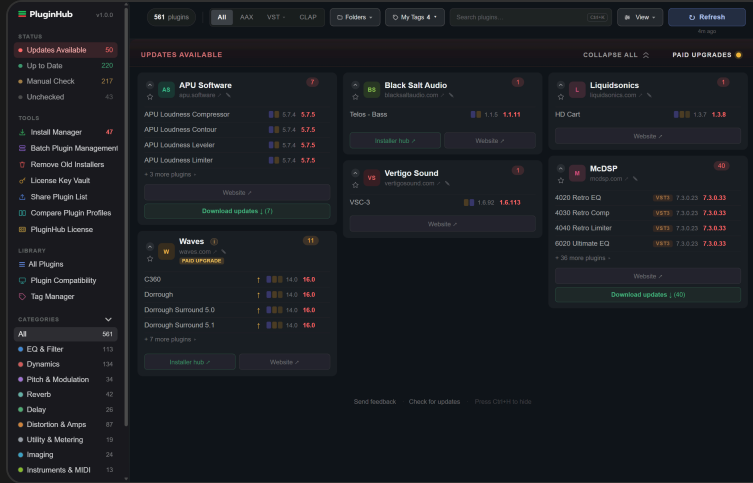
"Windows protected your PC": Windows SmartScreen can show this for software it hasn't seen often yet. Click **More info**; the publisher reads **Halcyon Digital LLC**, the company behind PluginHub. Then click **Run anyway**. Every PluginHub installer and the app itself are code-signed.

On first launch PluginHub scans your plugin folders, then checks every vendor for the latest versions. The first scan takes a minute or two on a large collection; later ones are quicker. Paste your PluginHub license key when asked, or start with the free trial scans. One license covers your Macs and PCs.

What PluginHub does

PluginHub scans your PC for installed audio plugins, checks each vendor's website for the latest version, and tells you which ones have updates available. It supports `AAX` `VST3` `VST2` and `CLAP` plugins. It is a desktop app that lives in the Windows system tray: open the dashboard from the tray icon, the Start menu, or a desktop shortcut.

Closing the dashboard window doesn't quit PluginHub. It keeps running in the [system tray](#), checks for updates on its own schedule, and tells you when something new turns up.



The dashboard: the sidebar down the left, vendor cards in the middle, and the format filter, Folders, My Tags, search, View menu and Refresh across the top.

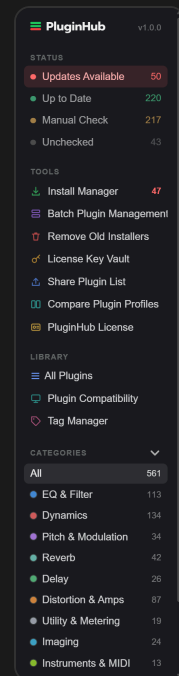
The sidebar

Everything lives down the left side of the window. The sidebar has four sections:

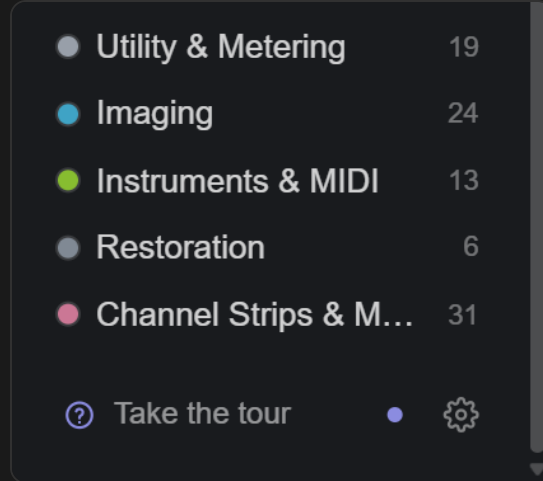
- **Status:** Updates Available, Up to Date, Manual Check and Unchecked. See [Status views](#).
- **Tools:** [Install Manager](#), [Batch Plugin Management](#), [Remove Old Installers](#), [License Key Vault](#), [Share Plugin List](#), [Compare Plugin Profiles](#), and your PluginHub License.
- **Library:** [All Plugins](#), [Plugin Compatibility](#) and the [Tag Manager](#). Rows for [Hidden](#) plugins, recently moved plugins and [duplicates](#) join this section whenever there is something to show.
- **Categories:** all eleven groups with a color dot and a count each. See [Categories](#).

Every count stays live as you work. [Install Manager](#) shows in red how many of your pending updates it can download and install for you.

At the very bottom of the sidebar sit **Take the tour**, which walks you through the dashboard again, and the gear that opens [Settings](#). The version number next to the PluginHub logo at the top opens the About window.



The sidebar: Status, Tools, Library and Categories.

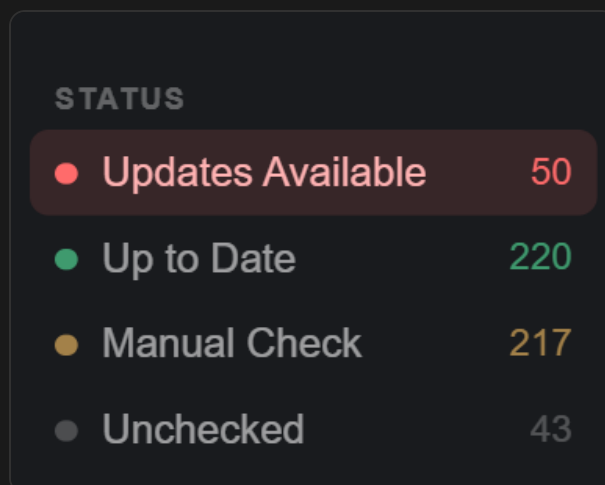


The bottom of the sidebar: Take the tour, and the gear for Settings.

Drag a section heading to put the sections in whatever order suits you. Drag the sidebar's right edge to resize it; double-click that edge to snap it back to the default. Categories collapses with the chevron on its heading if you would rather keep the list short. If you prefer tabs across the top, **View > Navigation** switches to the top tab row. Nothing is lost either way; only the placement changes.

Status views

The **Status** section at the top of the [sidebar](#) splits your installed collection four ways, each row carrying its own count. A fifth *Pinned* row appears first when you have starred at least one vendor or plugin.



The Status section: Updates Available, Up to Date, Manual Check and Unchecked, each with its own count.

Updates Available

Vendors with at least one plugin where your installed version is older than what the vendor currently lists. Each vendor card shows your version and the latest one side by side, the plugin's formats, and the vendor's buttons: **Website**, **Installer hub** when the vendor delivers updates through its own app, and **Download updates** when [Install Manager](#) can fetch them for you. The red number is how many plugins (not vendors) have updates pending.

Up to Date

Everything PluginHub checked and confirmed is current. Green count. The bulk of a normal collection lives here.

Manual Check

Vendors that need a check by hand. Either their site doesn't publish version data PluginHub can read, or they deliver updates only through their own installer app. Use **Website** or **Installer hub** on the card to check.

After you've checked a plugin, right-click it (or open its **:** menu) and choose **Mark up to date**. The row turns green so you can see at a glance what's already handled. If a newer version gets installed later, the row turns blue and the plugin appears in a notice at the top of the view so you can re-check and re-mark it. **Reset marked (N)** in the section header reviews and clears every mark in one pass.

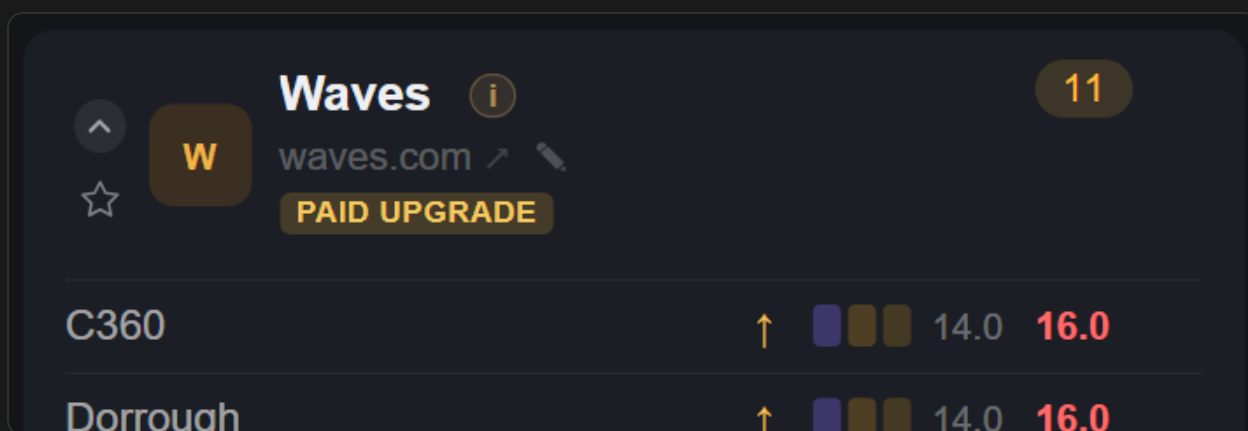
The blue **Export Marked Dates** button (it appears once at least one plugin is marked) opens a review of every mark, grouped by vendor with the oldest checks first, so the top of the list is your re-check queue. Export it as a **PDF**, copy it for **Google Sheets**, or copy it as **CSV**.

Unchecked

Plugins from vendors PluginHub doesn't have a checker for yet. PluginHub still shows them, with the installed version, format badges and a **Website** button so you can check by hand. New vendors are added all the time, and your list updates without a new version of PluginHub.

Paid upgrades

Some "updates" are actually paid major-version upgrades: Waves V14 to V16, FabFilter Pro-Q 3 to Pro-Q 4, iZotope Ozone 10 to Ozone 11. PluginHub flags these so they don't get mixed in with free updates. A plugin whose new version is a paid jump gets an amber arrow, and a vendor card whose *entire* upgrade list is paid gets a single **PAID UPGRADE** badge instead.



A vendor card whose whole upgrade list is paid carries one card-level badge.

The **Paid Upgrades** switch on the right of the *Updates Available* header controls whether paid items are listed at all:



The Updates Available header: Collapse all, and the Paid Upgrades switch.

- **On** (default): paid upgrades carry their amber arrow and badge.

- **Off:** the arrows and badges are hidden. The plugins themselves stay listed; to take one off the list, [snooze](#) it or [mark it as up to date](#).

The switch works in place: the dashboard doesn't redraw or move. It only appears when you have at least one paid upgrade or newer major version waiting.

Mark a plugin as up to date

Sometimes PluginHub is right that a newer version exists, but the row shouldn't be on your to-do list. Two common cases: you're happy on your current version, or a vendor's installer stamps a slightly different version number inside the plugin file than the release it came from, so the row can never clear on its own.

Right-click any plugin row on *Updates Available*, or click the **:** button at the end of the row, and choose **Mark as up to date**. The plugin moves to *Up to Date* immediately and its row carries a *Marked up to date* note with the date and the version the checker reported. This works everywhere update rows appear, including All Plugins.

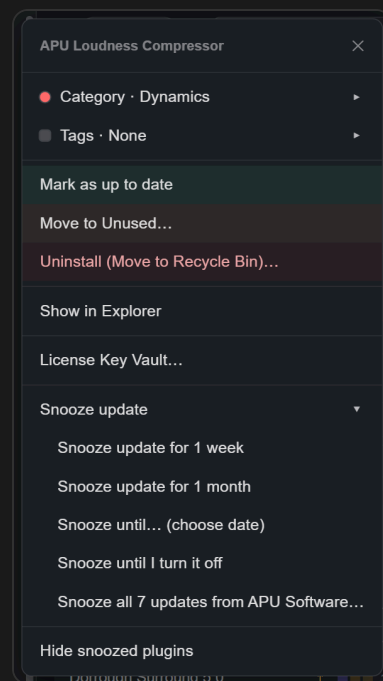
The mark is version-aware, not permanent. The moment the vendor ships a version *newer* than the one you marked, the plugin returns to *Updates Available* on its own. To undo a mark early, open the same menu and choose **Unmark up to date**. Marking and snoozing never stack: marking a plugin clears any snooze on it, and snoozing clears its mark.

Snooze updates

Sometimes an update is real but not for right now: you're mid-project and don't want to change anything, or you'd rather let a fresh release settle. Right-click any plugin row on *Updates Available*, or click its **:** button, open **Snooze update** and pick:

- **Snooze update for 1 week / 1 month:** timed snoozes that wake on their own.
- **Snooze until... (choose date):** pick the exact date the update comes back.
- **Snooze until I turn it off:** for updates you've decided to sit out.
- **Snooze all N updates from** the vendor: the same choices for the whole card at once.

A snoozed update drops out of the *Updates Available* count. The row stays in its vendor card, greyed out with a snooze label, so nothing silently disappears. To wake one early, open the same menu and choose **Stop snoozing (show update)**.



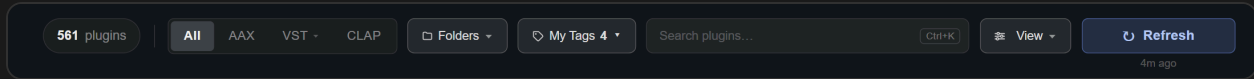
The row menu with **Snooze update** open.

Showing or hiding snoozed plugins

If you'd rather snoozed rows disappear entirely instead of sitting there dimmed, choose **Hide snoozed plugins** at the bottom of any row menu, or turn off **Show snoozed plugins** in [Settings](#). Any card that's hiding some shows a "*N snoozed plugins hidden*" line in its footer. Turn the setting back on to bring the dimmed rows back exactly as they were.

Format filter, search & sort

The segmented control in the top bar filters every view by format: **All**, **AAX**, **VST** (VST3 and VST2 together, or either one from its dropdown) and **CLAP**, which appears once you have a CLAP plugin. The selection is sticky until you change it.



The top bar, left to right: the plugin count, the format segments, Folders, My Tags, search, the View menu, and Refresh.

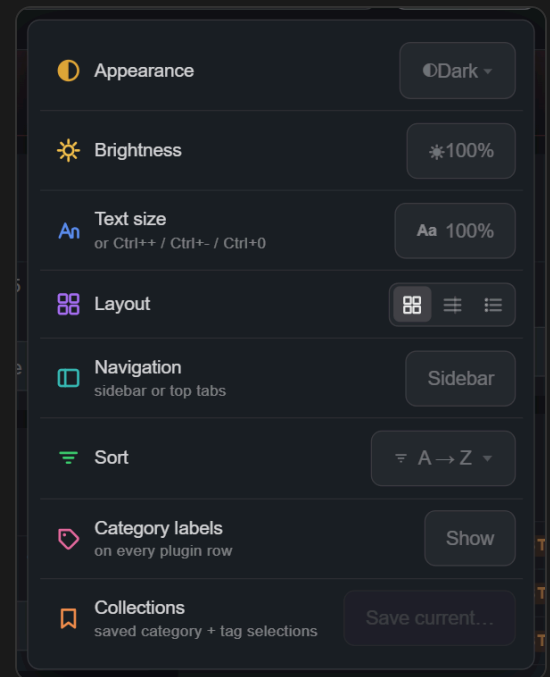
Next to the format segments sit two dropdowns: **Folders**, which opens your plugin folders in File Explorer (see [Plugin folders](#)), and **My Tags**, which filters the dashboard by your own tags (see [Tags & the Tag Manager](#)). Search matches vendor names, plugin names and categories. **Refresh** rescans your plugins and checks every vendor again; the time under it says when the last check ran.

Sorting lives in the [View menu](#): A to Z, newest install or update first, oldest install or update first, by vendor, or grouped by status. The sort you pick is remembered.

The View menu & layouts

The **View** menu in the top bar collects every display setting in one place.

- **Appearance:** Light, Dark or System.
- **Brightness:** dim or brighten the whole dashboard for your room.
- **Text size:** preset sizes, or **Ctrl** + **+** / **Ctrl** + **-** / **Ctrl** + **0** from anywhere.
- **Layout:** cards, ledger or list, covered below.
- **Navigation:** the [sidebar](#) or the top tab row.
- **Sort:** the vendor sort modes.
- **Category labels:** show or hide the category name on every plugin row.
- **Collections:** save the category and tag selection you are looking at, and bring it back later in one click.



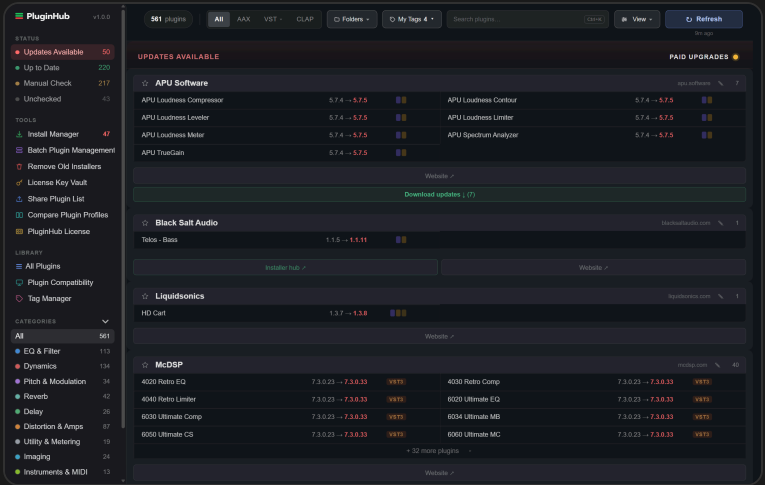
The View menu.

Cards

The default. One card per vendor, each only as tall as its own plugin list, laid out in columns so more fits on screen.

List

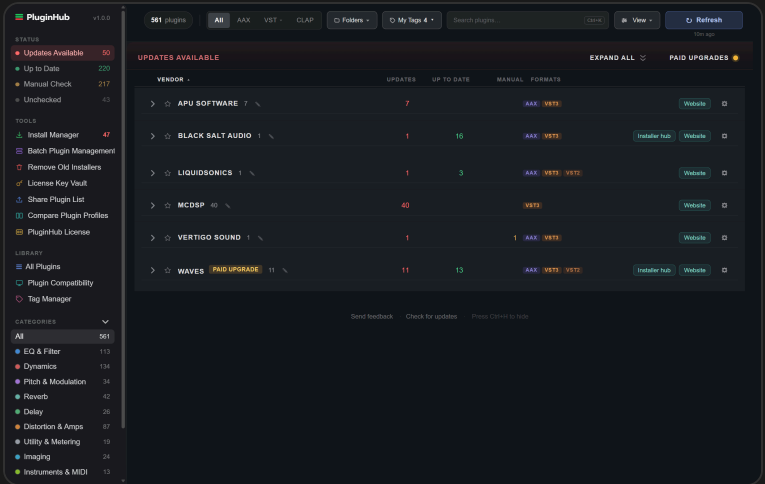
Vendors stacked full width with several plugins to a line. Better when you want to read a lot of version numbers at once.



List layout: full-width vendor blocks, several plugins to a line.

Ledger

One line per vendor with the numbers in columns: updates, up to date, manual check, and the formats you own from them. Click a column heading to sort by it, and click a vendor to open its plugins underneath.



Ledger layout: one row per vendor, counts in columns.

Keyboard shortcuts

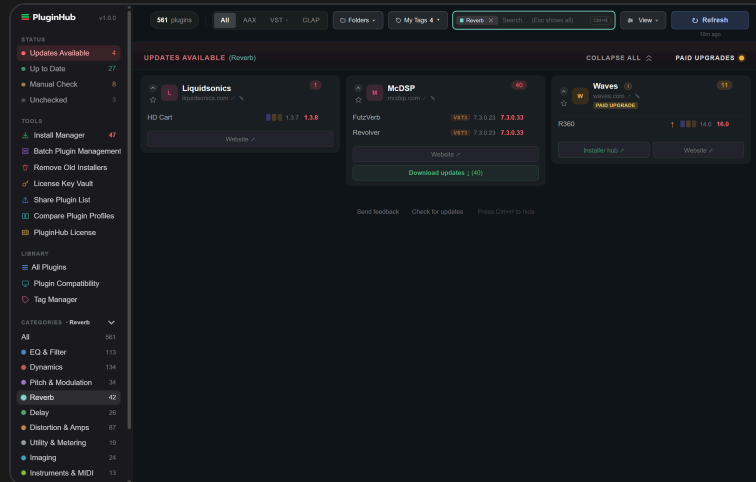
- **Ctrl** + **K** jumps into search from anywhere. **Enter** keeps your results and leaves the field; **Esc** clears the search.
- **~** cycles the format filter the way it switches modes in Pro Tools: All, AAX, VST, VST3, VST2, and CLAP when you have CLAP plugins.
- **Tab** moves between the status views; **Shift** + **Tab** goes backwards.
- **Ctrl** + **R** runs a refresh.
- **Ctrl** + **+**, **Ctrl** + **-** and **Ctrl** + **0** change the text size.

- **Ctrl + H** hides the dashboard to the [system tray](#).

If you switch to **top tabs** under **View > Navigation**, the sidebar is replaced by a tab row and a **Tools** button, which opens a window listing every tool, plus *Check for Duplicates*, *What's new* and this manual. In the sidebar layout every tool is in the sidebar instead.

Categories

Every plugin you own is sorted into one of eleven groups: EQ & Filter, Dynamics, Pitch & Modulation, Reverb, Delay, Distortion & Amps, Utility & Metering, Imaging, Instruments & MIDI, Restoration, and Channel Strips & More. The **Categories** section of the [sidebar](#) lists all eleven with a color dot and a count.



Reverb selected: the sidebar row lights up, a chip appears in the search field, and every view narrows to reverbs until you clear it.

Click a category to filter the whole dashboard. **Shift**-click to add another category to the selection, and click a selected category again to go back to All. The chip in the search field clears the filter from its X. The filter carries through to [All Plugins](#) and [Batch Plugin Management](#), so you can act on a whole category at once.

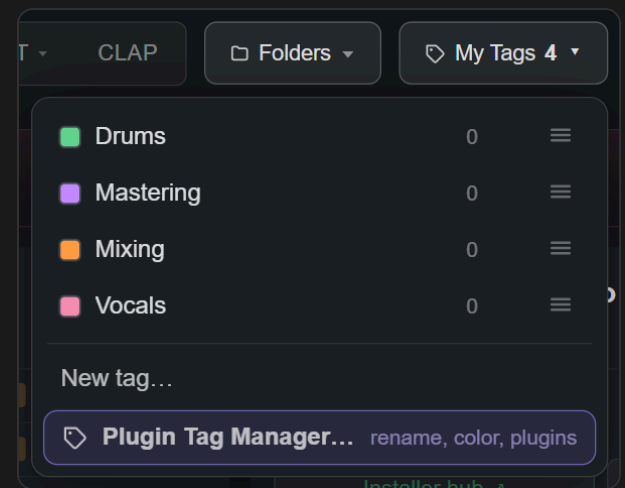
If you disagree with where a plugin landed, open its **:** menu and pick a different category; the change sticks on this PC. Click a category's dot in the sidebar to change its color. **View > Category labels** puts the category name on every plugin row, and **View > Collections** saves a category and tag selection you use often.

Tags & the Tag Manager

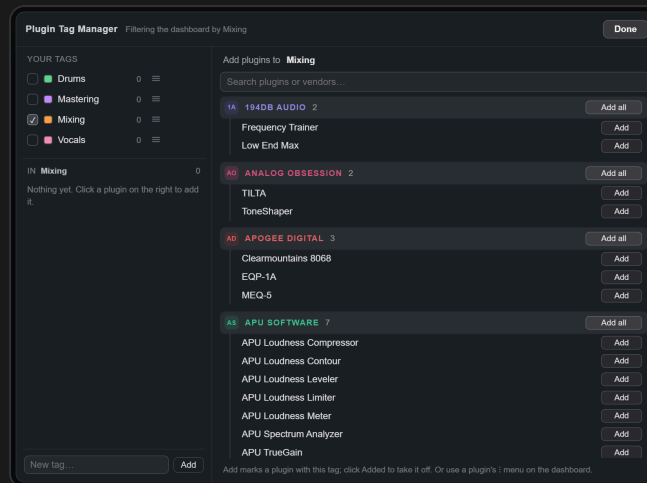
Categories are ours. Tags are yours: any group of plugins you want to keep together, from any vendors, in any combination. A mix session, a mastering chain, a client's rig, the twelve things you actually reach for.

My Tags in the top bar filters the dashboard the way a category does, and **Shift**-click combines tags the same way. The same dropdown creates a new tag and opens the Tag Manager.

The **Tag Manager**, in the sidebar under Library, is where tags get built. Check a tag on the left and the right side fills with every plugin you own, grouped by vendor. Click **Add** on a plugin, or **Add all** for a whole vendor. Tags can be renamed, recolored, and dragged into the order you want. You can also tag a plugin from its **:** menu on the dashboard.



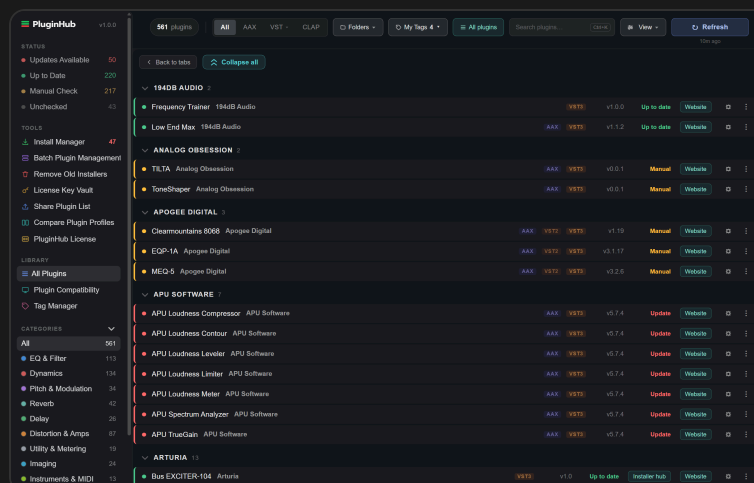
The My Tags dropdown filters the dashboard by one of your tags.



The Tag Manager with a tag checked: your tags on the left, the plugin picker on the right.

All Plugins

All Plugins, in the sidebar under Library, drops the vendor cards and lists every plugin on your PC in one table: name, vendor, formats, installed version, status, and the same actions you get everywhere else.

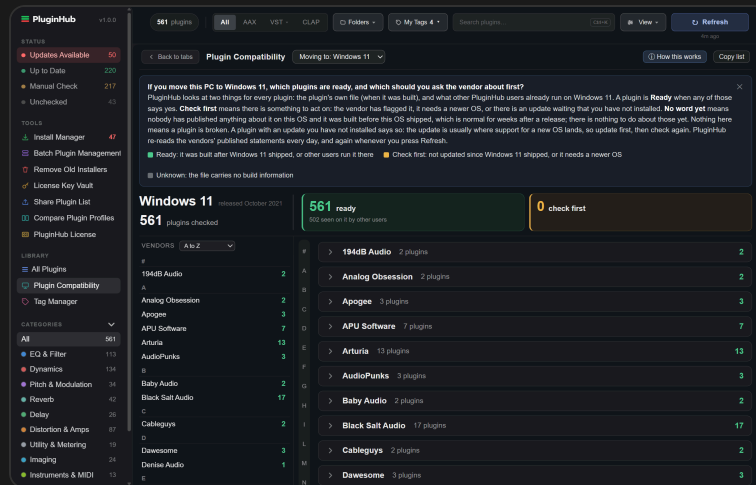


All Plugins: every plugin in one list, grouped by vendor.

Everything that works on the dashboard works here: the format filter, search, [categories](#), [tags](#), favorites, and the [: menu](#). **Back to tabs** returns you to the vendor cards.

Plugin Compatibility

Plugin Compatibility, in the sidebar under Library, answers one question before you move a PC to a newer version of Windows: which of your plugins are ready for it, and which should you ask the vendor about first. Pick the version in **Moving to** at the top.



Plugin Compatibility, looking at Windows 11.

PluginHub looks at two things for every plugin: when the plugin's own file was built, and what other PluginHub users already run on that version of Windows.

- **Ready:** built after that Windows version shipped, or other users run it there.
- **Check first:** there is something to act on. It hasn't been updated since that version shipped, it needs a newer Windows, or an update is waiting that you haven't installed. Updates are usually where support for a new Windows lands, so update first, then check again.
- **Unknown:** the file carries no build information.

Nothing here means a plugin is broken. **How this works** explains the sources in the app, and **Copy list** puts the list on your clipboard to send to a vendor or keep.

Favorites & pinning

Click the star on any vendor card to pin the whole vendor. Click the star next to an individual plugin to pin just that plugin. Pinned items get their own **Pinned** row at the top of the sidebar's Status list, and the Pinned view keeps them grouped by status, so a short list of the things you actually use reads the same way the full dashboard does. The **Clear pinned** chip, visible only when something is pinned, empties the set in one click.

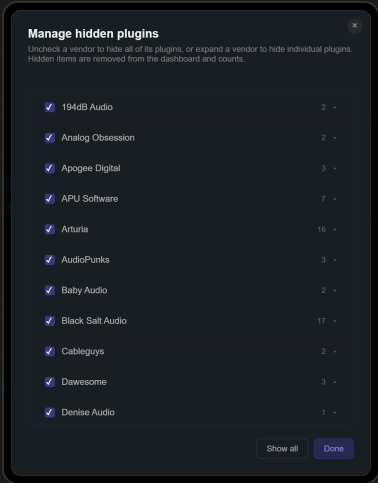
Managing a vendor

Every vendor has a gear: on its card in the ledger and list layouts, and on each row in All Plugins. It opens that vendor's panel, which shows how many of its plugins you have and offers:

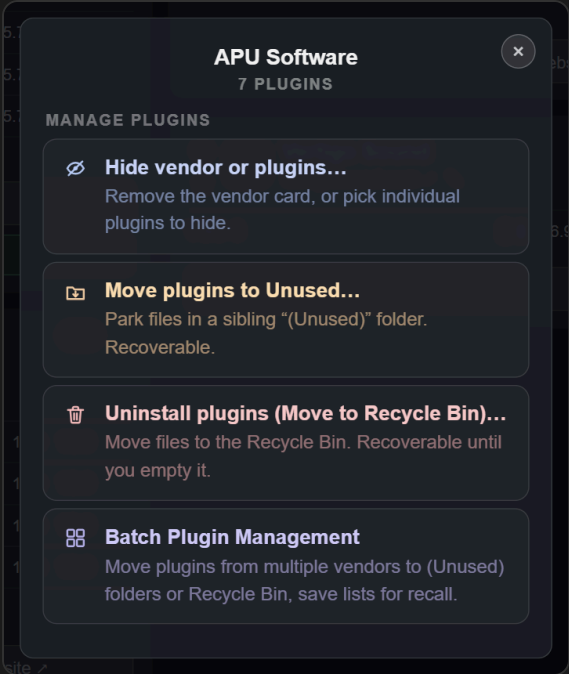
- **Hide vendor or plugins...:** remove the vendor card from the dashboard and the update count, or pick individual plugins to hide. Nothing on disk changes.
- **Move plugins to Unused...:** park the vendor's plugin files in a sibling (*Unused*) folder so your DAW stops loading them, while the files stay on disk. See [Move to Unused](#).

- **Uninstall plugins (Move to Recycle Bin)...**: send the vendor's plugin files to the Recycle Bin, recoverable until you empty it.
- **Batch Plugin Management**: a shortcut into the [multi-vendor batch tool](#).

Hidden vendors and plugins are listed under **Hidden (N)** in the sidebar's Library section. When you hide a vendor, the card stays for a few seconds with an **Undo** button before it goes.



Manage hidden plugins: uncheck a vendor to hide it, or expand it to hide individual plugins.



The manage panel, opened from the gear on a vendor.

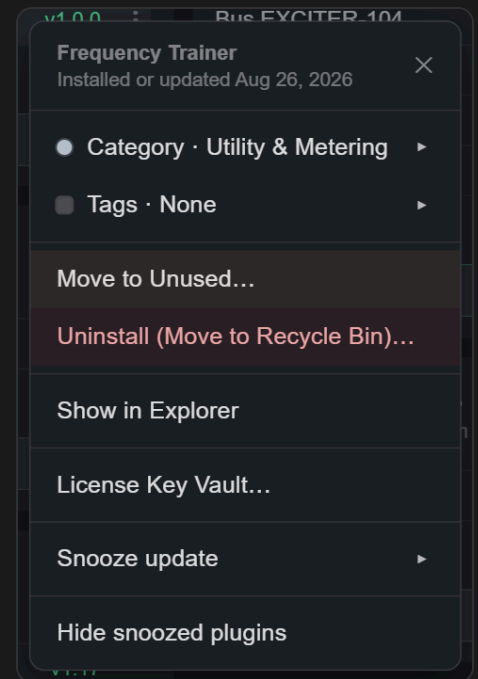
Plugin row actions

Every plugin row, in every view, has its own menu. Right-click the row or click the `:` at the end of it. The top of the menu names the plugin and, under it, when it was installed or last updated (from its files on disk; plugins PluginHub knows only from a vendor's app have no date).

- **Category** and **Tags**: move the plugin to another category, or add it to your tags.
- **Mark as up to date** (on update rows): see [Mark a plugin as up to date](#).
- **Move to Unused...**: park just this plugin in the sibling (*Unused*) folder.
- **Uninstall (Move to Recycle Bin)...**: a confirmation lists every installed file for this plugin (AAX, VST3, VST2, CLAP), each with its own checkbox. Tick what you want gone and confirm. Files go to the Recycle Bin, recoverable until you empty it. PluginHub never permanently deletes anything.
- **Show in Explorer**: opens File Explorer with the plugin's file selected.
- **License Key Vault...**: jumps to this vendor's keys in the [vault](#).
- **Snooze update**: see [Snooze updates](#).

Most plugin folders live under `C:\Program Files`, which Windows protects, so moving or uninstalling there shows one Windows permission prompt (User Account Control) for the whole action. Click **Yes** to continue; **No** leaves every file where it was.

Uninstalling here removes the plugin files. The vendor's own entry in Windows' *Installed apps* list stays until you remove it there, and PluginHub says so in the confirmation.



Right-click a plugin row, or click its `:` button.

A plugin your DAW has open can't be moved. If a DAW or plugin host still has the plugin loaded, PluginHub tells you which program has it open, for example "*ThingsFold.aaxplugin is open in Pro Tools. Close it and try again.*" Close that program, or remove the plugin from your session, and try again.

Waves note: Waves plugins run through a shared WaveShell rather than individual plugin files, so per-plugin uninstall isn't available for them. Use Waves Central to remove individual Waves plugins.

Move to Unused

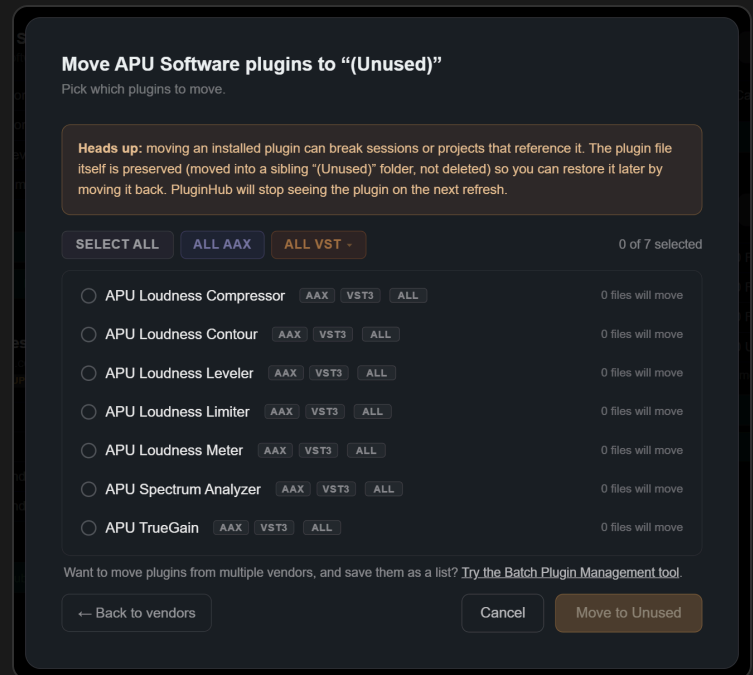
Sometimes you want plugins out of your DAW's way without uninstalling them. **Move to Unused** moves the plugin files into a sibling folder named after the original with **(Unused)** on the end, for example `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3 (Unused)`. Your DAW stops seeing the plugin on its next scan, but the files are kept, ready to come back.

Open it from a vendor's gear (**Move plugins to Unused...**), from a plugin row (**Move to Unused...**), or from the **Folders** menu's *(Unused)* tab. Pills at the top select in bulk:

- **SELECT ALL**: every plugin in every format on disk.
- **ALL AAX** / **ALL VST** (VST3 and VST2, or either one from its dropdown) / **ALL CLAP**: every plugin in that format. **Shift**-click adds a second format instead of replacing the first.

Plugins in protected folders need one Windows permission prompt for the whole move, never one per plugin.

Heads up: moving a plugin your sessions use can cause "missing plugin" errors when you reopen them. If you're mid-mix, finish the session first.

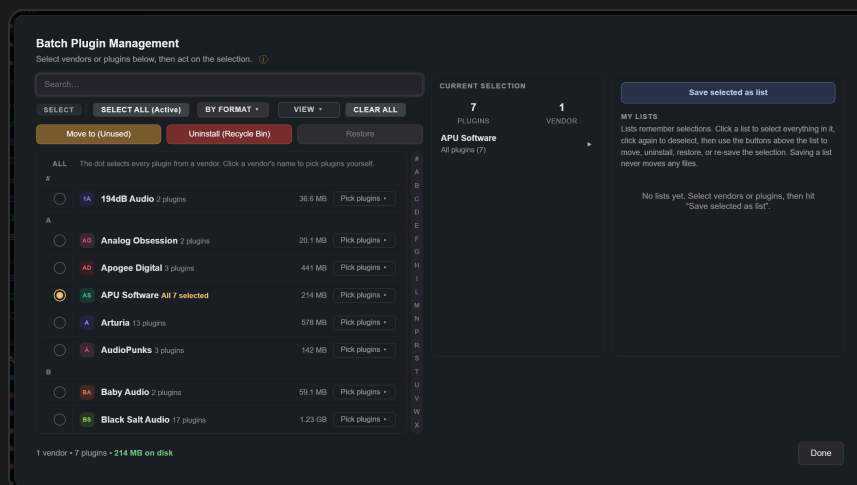


Moving one vendor's plugins to (Unused).

Restore

Right after you use **Move to Unused...** on a plugin or a vendor, a **Recently moved** row appears in the sidebar's Library section with **Restore** for everything you just moved. (A move from the Duplicates window doesn't add one; use the Folders menu instead.) Any time later, the **Folders** menu's *(Unused)* tab has **Restore plugins...**, which lists everything in every *(Unused)* folder and moves what you pick back to its main folder. [Batch Plugin Management](#) restores whole lists at once.

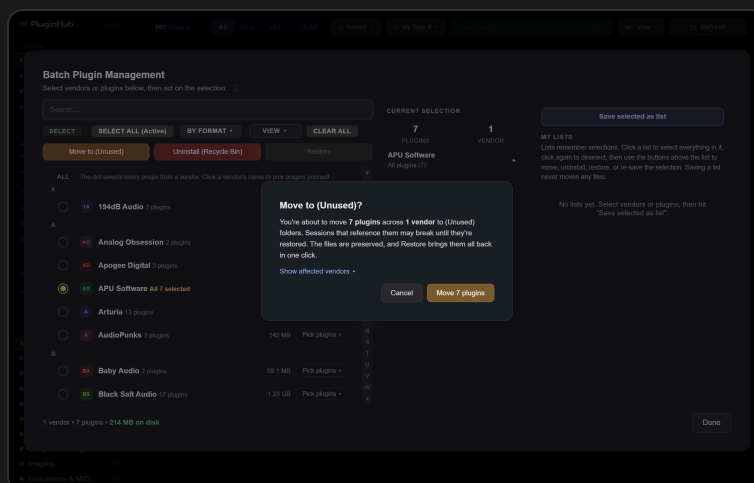
Batch Plugin Management



Batch Plugin Management: action buttons on top, vendors on the left, the current selection in the middle, saved lists on the right.

The per-vendor Move and Uninstall windows work one vendor at a time. **Batch Plugin Management** works across your whole collection: pick plugins from as many vendors as you like, then move them to their (*Unused*) folders, uninstall them, or restore them in one pass. Great for studios where different engineers use different plugin sets, or for slimming your DAW down to a core set before a session. Open it from the sidebar under Tools.

- **Picking:** click a vendor's name, or **Pick plugins** ►, to open its plugins and choose the ones and the formats you want; nothing is selected until you pick it (**Alt** -click opens it with every plugin already selected). The dot at the start of each row, under **ALL**, selects every plugin from that vendor in one click, and the row then reads *All 7 selected*, or *3 of 7 selected* for a partial pick. The letters down the right jump through the list; the size next to each vendor is what its plugins take on disk.
- **SELECT ALL (Active)** grabs every active plugin, **BY FORMAT** selects one format across every vendor, and **VIEW** changes what the list shows and how it is sorted, including by size.
- **Move to (Unused) / Uninstall (Recycle Bin) / Restore:** every action shows exactly what it is about to touch before anything happens, and uninstall names every plugin. One Windows permission prompt covers the whole batch.



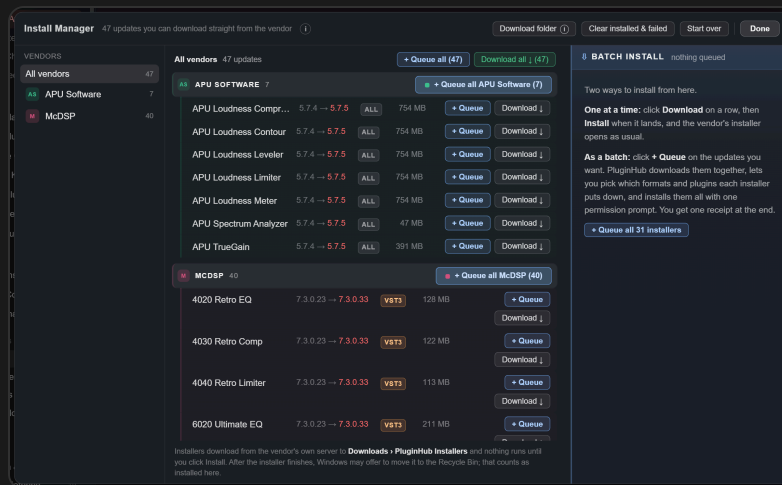
Every batch action confirms first.

Save selected as list keeps the current selection for later. Click a list to select everything in it, then move, uninstall, restore, or re-save. A list whose plugins have been moved shows under **MOVED TO (UNUSED)**; check it and hit **Restore** to bring the whole set back. Rename a list by double-clicking its name, drag the ≡ handle to reorder, and deleting a list never touches any files.

Big batches show a progress window with a live bar and a **Stop** button, which finishes the file in hand and leaves the rest untouched. If anything can't be moved, PluginHub says which file and why.

Install Manager

Install Manager downloads updates straight from the vendor's own server and runs their installers for you, one at a time or several together. It sits in the sidebar under Tools with a count of how many of your pending updates it can handle.



Install Manager: vendors on the left, one row per available download, the batch queue on the right.

- **One at a time.** Click **Download** on a row, then **Install** when it lands. The vendor's own installer opens exactly as if you had downloaded it yourself.
- **As a batch.** Click **+ Queue** on as many rows as you like, then **Install**. PluginHub downloads them all, asks for Windows permission once, then runs each vendor's installer in turn. Click through each vendor's setup as it comes up; a receipt at the end lists what installed and anything that didn't.

A few vendors' installers refuse to install over a version that is already there. For those, PluginHub offers to run the vendor's own uninstaller first and tells you what that removes. Choose **Cancel** to run the installer without removing anything.

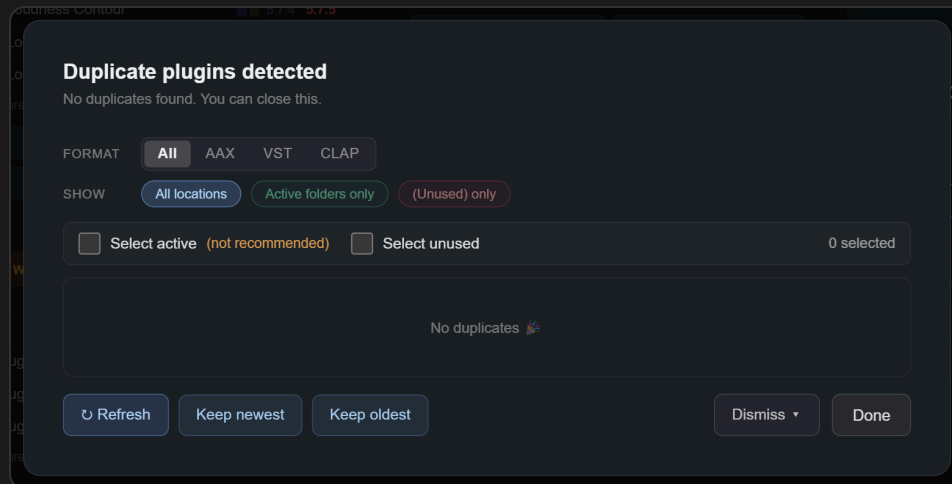
What it will and will not download

Only files a vendor publishes openly on their own site. Anything behind a login, an account, or the vendor's own installer app is left alone, and those plugins keep their **Website** and **Installer hub** buttons instead. Demo and trial builds are never offered. PluginHub never signs in anywhere on your behalf, and it never hosts or modifies a vendor's files. The ⓘ beside the window title says all of this inside the app too.

Downloads land in `Downloads\PluginHub Installers` and stay there until you remove them, so nothing installs behind your back and you keep the original files. To keep them somewhere else, another drive for example, click **Download folder** in the window's header and choose a folder. When an installer finishes, Windows may offer to move it to the Recycle Bin; that's fine. [Remove Old Installers](#) clears the rest out when you're done.

Check for Duplicates

When the same plugin (same name, same format) is installed in more than one folder, PluginHub flags it. A **duplicates** row appears in the sidebar's Library section with the count; click it to open *Duplicate plugins detected*. A 32-bit and a 64-bit copy of the same plugin are not duplicates.



The duplicates window, here with nothing to report.

Each group lists every copy with its location, size, install date, and an **ACTIVE** or **UNUSED** badge, and each copy has **Reveal**, **Move to Unused** and **Move to Recycle Bin**. **Keep newest** and **Keep oldest** select the other copies for you. The filters narrow the list by **Format** and by location (*All locations*, *Active folders only*, *(Unused) only*). The **Dismiss** menu pauses the alert for a week, a month, or until you ask.

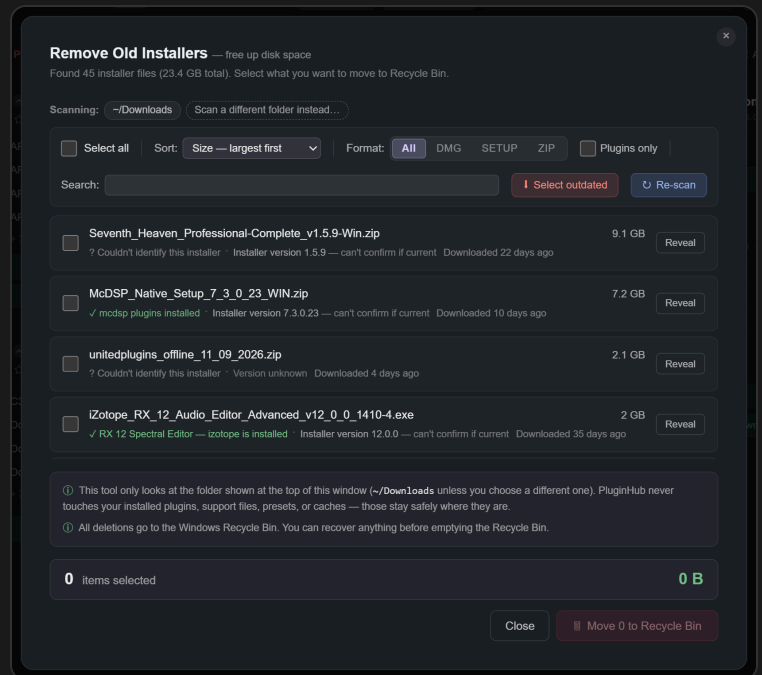
Remove Old Installers

Plugin installers add up. Once a plugin is installed, the original `.exe`, `.msi` or `.zip` usually just sits in Downloads forever, and over a year of buying plugins that's often many gigabytes.

Open **Remove Old Installers** from the sidebar under Tools. It lists the installers in your Downloads folder, including the one [Install Manager](#) downloads into, with each file's size, age and, when PluginHub recognises it, which plugin or vendor it belongs to and whether you already have that version installed.

- **Select outdated** ticks every installer PluginHub can tell is older than what you already have installed.
- **Select all**, **Sort** (size, date or name), the format chips, **Plugins only** and **Search** narrow the list.
- **Reveal** shows the file in File Explorer so you can check before deciding.
- **Scan a different folder instead...** looks somewhere other than Downloads, and **Re-scan** picks up new files.
- **Move N to Recycle Bin** sweeps every checked file in one pass.

The tool only looks at the folder named at the top. It never touches your installed plugins, presets or caches, and everything goes to the Recycle Bin, so you can restore any file before you empty it.

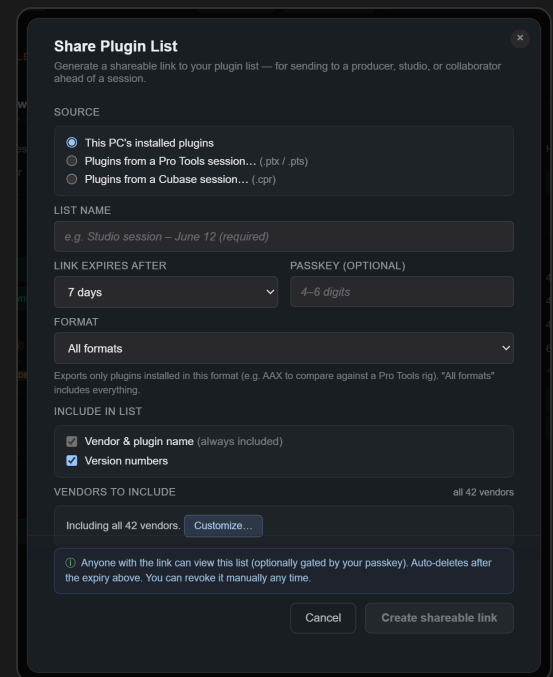


Remove Old Installers: installers in your Downloads folder, biggest first.

Share Plugin List

Send a complete list of your installed plugins to anyone: a collaborator, a producer, a studio you're booked into. Open **Share Plugin List** from the sidebar under Tools.

- **Source:** this PC's installed plugins, or just the plugins a **Pro Tools** session (`.ptx` / `.pts`) or a **Cubase** project (`.cpr`) actually uses, so a collaborator can see exactly what they need to open it.
- **List name:** what the recipient sees ("Studio B", "Road rig"). Required.
- **Link expires after:** 1 day, 7 days (default), 30 days, or never. After that the link stops working and the list is deleted.
- **Passkey:** an optional 4 to 6 digit code the recipient must enter.
- **Format:** send everything, or one format, for example the AAX cut for a Pro Tools room.
- **Include in list** and **Vendors to include:** leave out version numbers, or any vendor you'd rather keep private.



Share Plugin List.

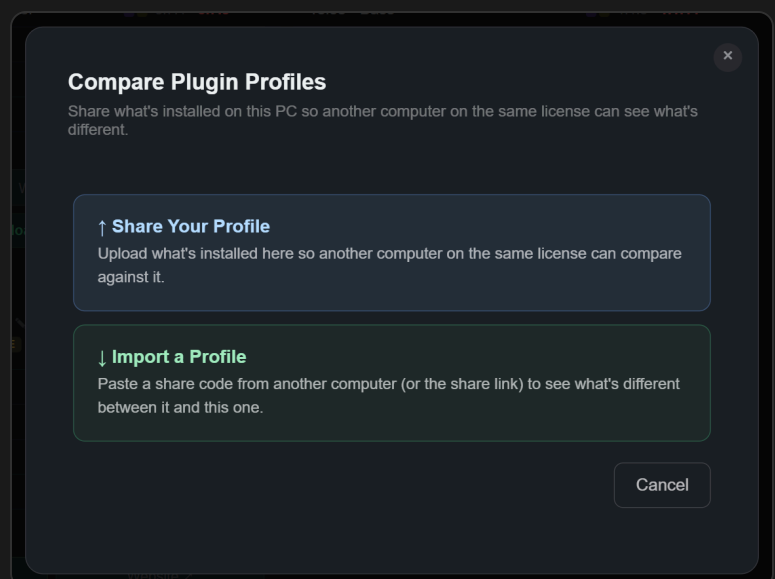
Create shareable link returns a short code and a full link; copy either. The recipient opens it in any browser, no PluginHub needed. The same list can be exported as **CSV**, a **Google Sheet** or a printable **PDF**.

Compare Plugin Profiles

Compare the plugins on this PC with another computer activated on the same PluginHub license. Open **Compare Plugin Profiles** from the sidebar under Tools on both machines.

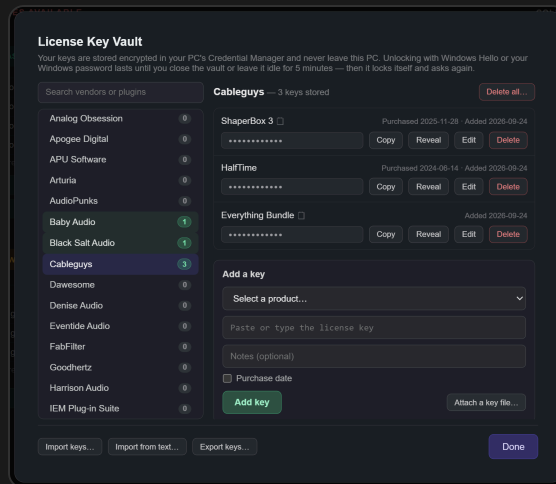
- On one, click **Share Your Profile** to publish a short-lived profile and get its code.
- On the other, click **Import a Profile** and paste that code (or the link).

PluginHub then shows five groups: **In sync**, **Version diverged** (the newer version in green), **Only on this PC**, **Only on the other computer**, and **Format mismatch** (same plugin and version, different formats). Filter by format or sort by the biggest gaps. When the other computer is ahead, **Update mine** links to the right download or installer hub. Profiles are scoped to your license: a code from a different license returns "share not found".



Compare Plugin Profiles.

License Key Vault



The License Key Vault: vendors with key counts on the left, masked keys on the right, Import and Export in the footer. (Example entries.)

Some vendors deliver plugins with their own license key, and that key is always buried in an email exactly when you need it. The License Key Vault gives those keys one place to live. Open it from the sidebar under Tools, or from any plugin row's : menu (**License Key Vault...**) to jump straight to that vendor.

Opening the vault takes **Windows Hello**: the PIN, fingerprint or face you use to sign in to Windows. If Hello isn't set up on your PC, the first click explains how to add a PIN (Start > Settings > Accounts > Sign-in options). Click **License Key Vault** again within two minutes to use your Windows account password instead. For a Microsoft account that is the password you use at microsoft.com, not your PIN. The vault stays unlocked while you use it, and locks itself when you close it or leave it idle for five minutes.

- **Add a key.** Pick the product, or choose Other... and type your own name ("Everything Bundle" works for bundle and account keys). Paste the key. Notes and a purchase date are optional. Click **Add key** or press **Enter**. If you click **Done** with a key you haven't added yet, the vault asks before it closes.
- **Attach a key file.** For vendors that send a license file instead of a text key. The file is stored encrypted, and its row gets **Save a copy...** to write it back out.
- **Copy** puts a key on your clipboard without showing it, and clears the clipboard a minute later.
- **Reveal** shows a key in place; it hides itself again after 20 seconds.
- **Delete** and **Delete all...** remove keys after a confirmation. There's no undo.
- **Import from text...** reads a text file of serial numbers and lets you review what it found before anything is saved.

Built private from the start:

- Keys are stored encrypted in **Windows Credential Manager** under your Windows account, and never leave this PC.
- Only what you type in goes in. PluginHub never reads license keys off your system.
- Keys never appear in shared plugin lists, exports, logs or feedback.
- Your keys survive reinstalling PluginHub, and [Reset PluginHub](#) leaves the vault untouched.

iLok note: the vault is for keys vendors send you directly. iLok-licensed plugins keep their licenses in iLok License Manager; PluginHub never touches them.

Moving keys to another computer

Click **Export keys...** and choose a passphrase. PluginHub writes one encrypted `.phvault` file. Move it however you like (a USB stick, a cloud folder), then click **Import keys...** in the vault on the other computer, Mac or PC, and enter the passphrase. Nothing lands until you review what's inside and pick which vendors to bring in; keys you already have are marked "already here", so repeating the trip is always safe. There's no way to recover a forgotten passphrase.

A vault file exported on a Mac with its *license* option (rather than a passphrase) doesn't open on Windows. Export it again on the Mac with a passphrase.

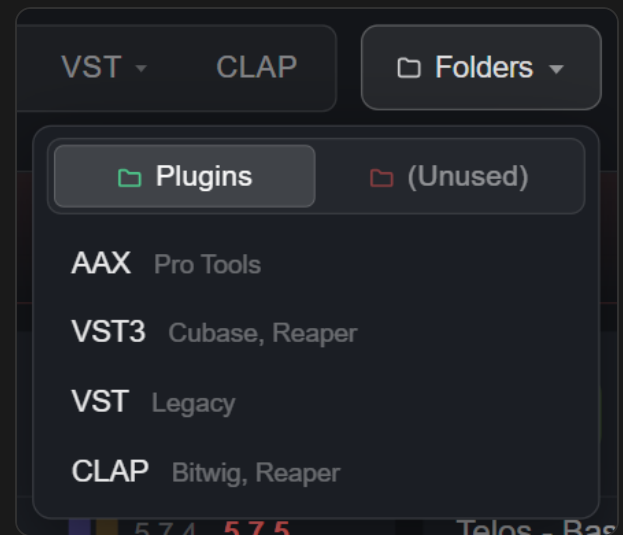
Plugin folders

The **Folders** dropdown in the top bar has two tabs:

- **Plugins**: opens your plugin folders in File Explorer, one per format.
- **(Unused)**: the matching (*Unused*) folders, plus **Move plugins to (Unused)...** and **Restore plugins...**

PluginHub scans the standard Windows plugin folders:

- **AAX** `C:\Program Files\Common Files\Avid\Audio\Plug-Ins`
- **VST3** `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST3`, and the per-user `%LOCALAPPDATA%\Programs\Common\VST3`
- **VST2** `C:\Program Files\VSTPlugins`, `C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VstPlugins`, `C:\Program Files\Common Files\VST2`, and the VST folder your DAW registered with Windows
- **CLAP** `C:\Program Files\Common Files\CLAP`, and the per-user `%LOCALAPPDATA%\Programs\Common\CLAP`



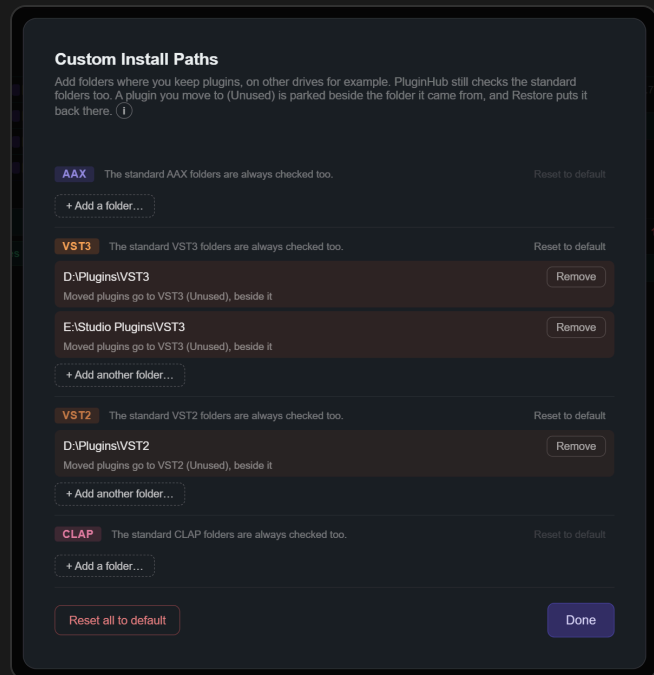
The Folders menu, Plugins tab.

The same folders under `C:\Program Files (x86)` are scanned too. Keep plugins somewhere else? Add the folder under [Custom Install Paths](#).

Custom Install Paths

If you also keep plugins somewhere PluginHub doesn't scan by default, on other drives for example, open [Settings](#) > **Custom install paths** and add those folders. Each format takes as many as you need.

- **Added, never instead.** The standard folders are still scanned, so nothing you already have stops showing up, and a folder that goes missing (an unplugged drive) never makes plugins disappear. A missing folder shows *Not found*.
- **+ Add a folder...** (then **+ Add another folder...**) picks a folder, including one under Program Files. PluginHub checks it can look inside, refuses a whole drive or a whole user folder (the scan would walk your entire PC), a folder that's already in the list, or an (*Unused*) folder, and warns if the folder overlaps another one.
- **(Unused) beside each folder.** A plugin you move to (*Unused*) goes into an (*Unused*) folder next to the folder it came from, and **Restore** puts it back there. PluginHub creates that folder the first time you move a plugin there, so adding a folder never leaves an empty one behind.
- **Remove** stops PluginHub checking a folder; nothing on disk is moved or deleted. If its (*Unused*) folder still holds plugins, PluginHub tells you first, so you can restore them.
- **Reset to default** per format, or **Reset all to default**, clears your folders from the list. It only changes where PluginHub looks; it never moves your files.
- Each folder you add also gets its own row in the **Folders** menu.



*Custom Install Paths: as many folders per format as you need.
(Example folders.)*

AAX note: Pro Tools only loads AAX plugins from the standard Avid folder. PluginHub warns you before you pick a custom AAX folder: fine for storage or staging, but AAX plugins there won't show up in Pro Tools.

The system tray

PluginHub lives in the Windows system tray, at the right end of the taskbar. The icon's tooltip shows how many updates are waiting, and a red dot appears on it when there are some.

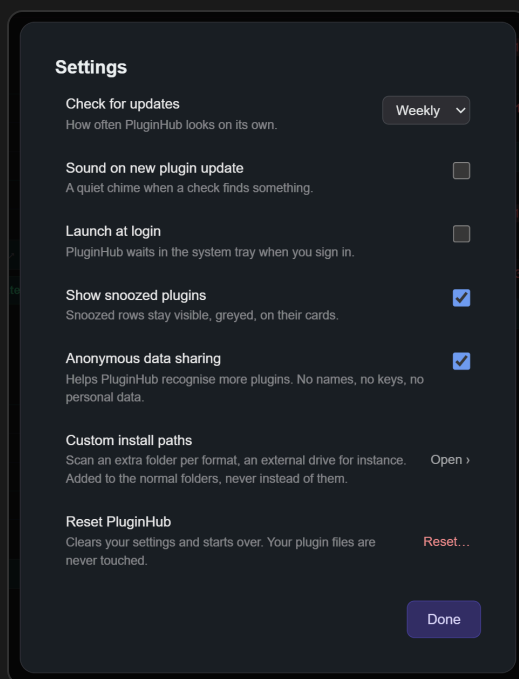
- **Click** the icon to open the dashboard.
- **Right-click** it for the menu: **Open PluginHub**, **Keep on top**, **Check for updates now** (checks your plugins right away, the same as Refresh), **User manual** (this manual), and **Quit PluginHub**.

- **Keep on top** keeps the dashboard in front of other windows, so it stays in view when you open a plugin's website. A checkmark shows when it's on; choose it again to turn it off. Other windows, including installers and File Explorer, open behind it while it's on.
- **Closing the dashboard** with its X, or **Ctrl+H**, hides it; PluginHub keeps running and keeps watching for updates. **Quit PluginHub** is the only thing that closes it.
- When a background check finds new updates, Windows shows a notification naming a couple of them.

Can't see the icon? Windows 11 tucks new tray icons behind the ^ arrow on the taskbar. Drag the PluginHub icon from there onto the taskbar to keep it in view, or turn it on under Settings > Personalization > Taskbar > *Other system tray icons*.

Settings

Open Settings from the gear at the bottom of the [sidebar](#).



Settings, from the gear at the bottom of the sidebar.

Check for updates

Daily, Weekly or Monthly: how often PluginHub checks your plugins on its own, in the background from the tray.

Sound on new plugin update

Plays the Windows notification sound when a background check finds new updates. Off by default.

Launch at login

Starts PluginHub quietly in the system tray when you sign in to Windows, so the background checks keep running without you opening it.

Show snoozed plugins

On by default. Keeps snoozed plugins visible, dimmed, on their cards. See [Snooze updates](#).

Anonymous data sharing

Helps PluginHub recognise more plugins. See [Privacy](#) for exactly what is shared and what never is.

Custom install paths

An extra plugin folder per format. See [Custom Install Paths](#).

Reset PluginHub

Clears your scan results, vendor cache and settings, then quits so you can start fresh from the Start menu. It never touches your plugin files, your [License Key Vault](#), your PluginHub license, or launch at login. Windows asks you to confirm first, and it can't be undone.

Updating PluginHub

PluginHub checks for new versions of itself automatically. When one is available, a window shows what's new; click **Install update**. PluginHub closes, installs the new version and opens again on its own, with no administrator prompt. To check right away, click **Check for updates** at the bottom of the dashboard.

Your settings, scan data, vault and license carry over between versions.

Privacy

What PluginHub reads on your PC

To identify which plugins you have and which versions are current, PluginHub reads:

- The version information inside each plugin file in the plugin folders: product name, version and company.
- Catalog files written by vendors' installer apps, for example Waves Central, Native Instruments, Arturia Software Center and Universal Audio. These tell PluginHub what's installed from vendors that ship through their own apps.
- Windows' list of installed programs, to find vendors' installer hubs and their versions.
- File names in your Downloads folder, only when you open [Remove Old Installers](#).

PluginHub **never** reads:

- License keys, serial numbers or authorization tokens of any kind. (Keys in the [License Key Vault](#) are only ever typed in by you.)
- Vendor account credentials stored by other apps.

- Anything from your Documents, Desktop or other personal folders.

What PluginHub shares when anonymous data sharing is on

Anonymous data sharing is opt-in. When it's on, PluginHub sends plugin names, vendor names, installed version numbers, format counts, and your Windows and PluginHub versions. It **never** shares personal information, file paths, license keys, serial numbers, vendor logins, or anything from your projects.

Your [License Key Vault](#) keys are stored encrypted in Windows Credential Manager and never leave your PC. They are never included in shared plugin lists, exports, logs, feedback or anonymous data.

Troubleshooting

"PluginHub doesn't see a plugin I just installed"

Click **Refresh** or press **Ctrl** + **R**. If it still doesn't appear, check where the plugin was installed: a plugin outside the standard folders needs its folder added under [Custom Install Paths](#).

"I closed PluginHub and can't find it"

It's still running in the [system tray](#), possibly behind the ^ arrow. Click the icon, or open PluginHub from the Start menu.

"It says a plugin is open in another program"

A DAW or plugin host still has that plugin loaded, and Windows won't let anyone move a file that's in use. Close the program PluginHub names (or remove the plugin from your session) and try again.

"Windows asked for permission"

Plugins under **C:\Program Files** are protected by Windows, so moving or uninstalling them, and batch installs, need one User Account Control prompt. Click **Yes** to go ahead; **No** changes nothing.

"The vault says Windows Hello isn't set up"

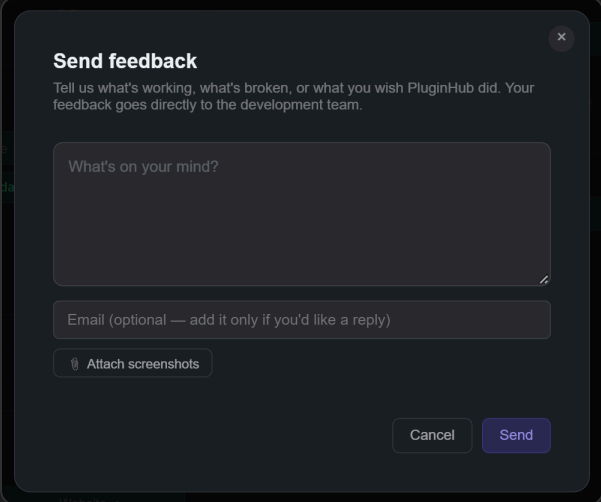
Add a PIN under Start > Settings > Accounts > Sign-in options, or click **License Key Vault** again within two minutes to use your Windows password instead.

"A vendor's check keeps failing"

The vendor's website may have changed how it publishes versions, or it may be blocking automated requests. PluginHub falls back to its central catalog when this happens. If it persists across refreshes, send feedback.

Send feedback

Click **Send feedback** at the bottom of the dashboard. Say what happened, attach screenshots if you can, and add your email if you'd like a reply. If you close the window before sending, your message and screenshots are still there when you open it again. PluginHub attaches the most recent lines of its log automatically, which is usually enough to find the cause. You can also email support@pluginhubapp.com. The log file itself is `%APPDATA%\PluginHub\shell_win.log`.

A screenshot of a 'Send feedback' dialog box. The dialog has a title bar with a close button (X). The main content area has a title 'Send feedback' and a subtitle 'Tell us what's working, what's broken, or what you wish PluginHub did. Your feedback goes directly to the development team.' Below this is a large text input field with the placeholder 'What's on your mind?'. Underneath the text field is an email input field with the placeholder 'Email (optional — add it only if you'd like a reply)'. Below the email field is a button labeled 'Attach screenshots' with a paperclip icon. At the bottom right of the dialog are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Send'.

Send feedback.

Uninstalling PluginHub

Open Start > Settings > Apps > Installed apps, find **PluginHub**, and choose **Uninstall**. Quit PluginHub from the tray first.

Uninstalling removes the app. It leaves your PluginHub data in `%APPDATA%\PluginHub`, and your license and vault keys in Windows Credential Manager, so reinstalling picks up where you left off. To remove everything, delete your keys in the vault before uninstalling, then delete that folder afterwards. Your plugins are never touched either way.