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How to Migrate Braille2000 Work to a New Computer

From time to time, you may wish to move Braille2000 and your work files to a new computer. Your old computer may conk out, or perhaps you are changing from Windows 10 to Windows 11, switching computers at the same time, or re-initializing the old computer (wiping all the old files and applications). This guide tells you all you need to know.

Licenses

Braille2000 licenses are portable: the license is not tied down to a particular computer. If you have a flash drive Key type of license, just plug it in to the new computer. If you have an Internet logon type of license, just use the license number (and password, if one is assigned) at the new computer (the new computer must have Internet access).

If you have an Internet logon license but have forgotten what it is (because of the auto-launch feature by which you don't type in the license), do this: launch Braille2000 on the old computer and then (in Braille2000) click Menu / Help / About. Your license number will be shown. Write it down. If you have never been assigned a password, anything will do. If you have been assigned a password but have forgotten it, you will need assistance to reset it. Some larger organizations have an administrator (for Braille2000 licenses) who has a tool to reset Internet passwords. Otherwise, contact us for assistance.

Software

When you move to a new computer, you should install the contemporary release of Braille2000, obtained from www.braille2000.com. Even if you have a flash drive Key containing Setup.Exe (the installation mechanism), it may be out of date and you should ignore it, fetching the contemporary release from the web site.

Nearly all Braille2000 licenses are honored by all releases of the software. (You can update to a contemporary release without paying a fee.)

Speedbraille™ Key Definitions

(Referring to optional keyboard macros you may have defined at the system availability level.) Your system Speedbraille key definitions on your old computer are copied into every .b2k file you Save. Any contemporary .b2k file will hold what you want. After installing Braille2000 on the new computer, open a recent .b2k file (saved on the old computer) and do the following.

Click View / Speedbraille Keys to get the Speedbraille list. Enter ctrl+a (for select all) to highlight all entries. Then click the button Set Availability To System. This copies the definitions in the file to the system (meaning they get copied to your personal data area in the Windows Registry). The definitions will then be available for new braille files.

Note: in the following section, the folder names Desktop, Documents, AppData refer to Windows user-specific locations on the hard drive. In File Explorer (left panel), look for your login name. These standard folders (and others) will be subordinate to it. The actual path to such places is C:\Users\loginname\Desktop and similarly for the others.

Braille Files

The typical/suggested location for braille files is in subfolders of “My Braille” (a shortcut icon on the Desktop). The actual location of this folder is Documents\My Braille. You will want to copy all folders and files in this location to the same location on the new computer.

Of course you can Save braille files anywhere you wish, and thus if you have been saving your work to various locations on the old computer, you will want to copy those files to the new computer.

History

Braille2000 automatically maintains a history of your work: it captures separately the content of each braille file each time you Save it. Thus, over time, you will have dozens of (slightly different) versions of every file you have done. The collection of such files is called the History and it is the folder stored at AppData\Roaming\BRL2000\History. You may decide that older work will never be needed and you might thus choose not to copy the History to the new computer. But you are reminded that today’s hard drives hold vast amounts of data, such that the data volume for History is usually insignificant. If you want continuity of historical file access, you should copy the History folder to the new computer.

Children.ini

The “relaxation profiles” you have used with the Children’s Braille Grade Relaxer are all stored in one file by this name, located at AppData\Roaming\BRL2000. If you never used this feature, there will be no such file. Otherwise, you may want to copy it to the new computer.

Substitutions.ini

The on-the-fly input print substitutions definitions are all stored in this file. If you have not created or edited substitutions schemes, you won’t have this file. Otherwise, you may want to copy it to the new computer.

Personal Settings

Your personalization settings (such as display sizes and colors and behaviors) are stored in the Windows Registry, per your Windows login. For most users, the best approach is to use Braille2000 on the new computer and re-establish the personal choices, taking into account differences (e.g., screen differences) between the old and new computers. The bulk transfer of personalization settings, described below, is normally not done, and presumes familiarity with the Windows Registry.

The Braille2000 personalization settings are stored in the Windows Registry under the key: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\Braille2000\BRL2000B\Profile. Different categories of personalization settings are stored in subkeys, one of which (“Macros”) holds all the Speedbraille definitions (a simpler way to transfer them was presented above). Note that the given registry location is for Version 2. For Version 3, replace BRL2000B with BRL2000C (yes, versions 2 and 3 do NOT share personalizations or Speedbraille keys). Version 1 personalizations are at a different path entirely.

Using the Registry Editor, you must navigate to the path above, then right-click the Profile node and select Export and then create a .reg file holding the exported data. Take the .reg file to the new computer and run it (e.g., double-click it) to copy that data into the Registry of the new computer. (Look out for unintended side effects, this is a power play that presumes you know a bit about the Windows Registry.)