

Noah Do It List - Owner's Guide

Version 1.1.0 - Playful Refresh | October 19, 2026

1. Release status and requirements

This update includes a Windows installer, portable EXE and complete source. The interface and native Electron workflows were tested on Linux, including actual filesystem saving, restart, backup and restore. A Windows machine was not available: Windows install, launch, upgrade, simultaneous use with Kai, single-instance locking and uninstall still need native verification. Read QA-REPORT.md for the scope of completed tests.

The installer has a fixed Noah-only destination: %LOCALAPPDATA%/Programs/NoahDoItList/App. It does not let a previous installation path or /D argument redirect it into Kai's folder. It refuses linked or unowned nonempty destinations. Noah uses its own app identity, shortcuts, uninstall entry and saved-data folders. The uninstaller removes only files named in its packaging manifest and retains notebook data. It does not uninstall a legacy Noah copy from a different location.

Close older Noah copies before installing or launching this update. An older Noah shortcut may remain if you previously installed it elsewhere; use the new shortcut. Never run an old generic uninstaller from a folder that contains Kai.

Target: Windows 10/11 x64, with a writable user data folder and at least a 900 x 650 application window. There is no internet requirement after download. Installer and portable versions are intended to be alternatives, not two synchronized copies of the same notebook.

The unsigned EXEs may trigger SmartScreen or antivirus review. Verify the source and checksums. The project does not claim a digital signature, established reputation, or a completed antivirus certification.

2. Your paper workspace

The default title is Do It List. Customize > Name on your notebook adds a name, for example Izzy Do It List; leave it blank to remove the name. This is a display preference only and cannot rename or relocate the application.

The refreshed workspace uses a cobalt sidebar, colorful tabs, tactile controls, a small-wins progress strip and brief completion celebrations. The default screen is today's yellow legal pad, with blue rules, a red margin and a stack of paper beneath it. Tasks use the bundled Kalam handwriting font. Work, Personal and Projects are separate sections inside one notebook. All sections shows their tasks together for the selected date. A new task entered in All sections goes to Personal; entering it in a selected section uses that section.

The number at the top of the page shows completed tasks out of all visible tasks. The count beside each section shows its unfinished tasks across all dates. These numbers can differ intentionally.

Today and Tomorrow refer to the computer's local calendar date. The page arrows move one calendar day from the visible page. Calendar supports month navigation and direct date entry from 1900 through 2199. A dot indicates an existing task on that date. Dates are stored as calendar dates, not UTC timestamps, so a task does not shift a day merely because the timezone changes.

3. Capture, edit and organize tasks

Type up to 240 characters and press Enter or Add. Click the task text to edit it in place; valid nonblank text saves as you type. Leaving an empty edit restores the previous text. The new-task line is a draft until you press Enter or Add.

Click the circle to complete or reopen a task. Customize offers checkmark only, strike-through only or both. Priority stars are always available. Completed tasks can stay in their original order or move to the bottom through Customize.

Use a row's up/down buttons to reorder it, or drag the row onto another row. Reordering applies within the visible page. With completed-at-bottom enabled, completed and unfinished groups stay separated; turn that option off to intermix them.

The task's next-day arrow moves that task to the following calendar day. The details button opens the full task text, date, section and repeat rule. Deleting a task asks for confirmation. It removes only that occurrence, and cannot be undone in the interface; restore an earlier backup if necessary. To stop future repeats, change Repeat to none before deleting an occurrence.

Add a section using the plus button. Duplicate section names are rejected. Version 1.1 allows adding sections and reassigning tasks; section renaming and deletion are not provided. The notebook supports up to 100 sections and 50,000 dated tasks. Large notebooks can become slower; keep regular exports.

4. Recurring work and history

Open Task details and choose daily, weekly or monthly. Recurring tasks are created through today on launch and through a future date when you open that date. Nothing has to run in the background while the app is closed. Merely opening a future page can create future occurrences, which are retained as planned work.

Daily means each calendar day. Weekly follows the original weekday. Monthly follows the original day number, clamping to the last day when necessary: January 31 becomes February 28 or 29, then March 31. Completing a task does not stop its series.

Each occurrence has its own identity and completion state. Moving an occurrence keeps its original recurrence identity, so it is not recreated on its old date. Deleting a generated occurrence also keeps it deleted when the series next advances.

Editing Repeat, or saving details on a recurring task, updates the series template for future generation. Previously created tasks keep their text, date and completion state. Changing to none stops new occurrences and leaves existing history. Re-enabling a series continues from its recorded generation point; elapsed occurrences may be generated when a later page is opened. The original anchor is retained. To establish a completely new anchor, stop the old series and create a new recurring task on the desired date.

Moving an unfinished recurring task onto a date with another occurrence keeps both. They represent separate work items, not an accidental duplicate. Decide which work to complete or delete rather than letting the app silently discard it.

5. Carry-forward and Morning Reset

Move unfinished to tomorrow operates only on unfinished tasks in the visible page and section. The confirmation names the destination date. It moves existing tasks rather than copying them and retains the original date in Task details.

Morning Reset works across all sections: it brings every overdue unfinished task onto today. Completed tasks stay on their historical pages. Brain Dump and stickers stay where they are. Repeating Morning Reset without new overdue work does not duplicate tasks.

The app notices a change of local date while it remains open. If you were viewing the old current day, it opens the new day. It does not automatically move unfinished work. Use Morning Reset when you are ready.

6. Brain Dump and search

Brain Dump holds unscheduled ideas. Capture an idea with Enter or Capture idea; edit it in place. Schedule idea today transfers it into today's page and removes the unscheduled copy as one saved change. The currently selected section is used, or Personal when All sections is selected. Deleting an idea asks first.

Find searches task text across all dates, including completed tasks, and also searches Brain Dump. Open jumps to the dated page or the Brain Dump dialog. Up to 100 results are shown; refine the search for larger result sets.

7. Make the notebook yours

Paper colors: yellow, white, cream, pink, mint and lavender. Pen colors: blue, black, red, green, purple or a custom color. Ink and paper are notebook-wide preferences. Choose colors with sufficient contrast for your eyesight.

Positive affirmations can be turned off. Add your own in Customize, one per line, then click Save affirmations. Up to 100 custom affirmations of 200 characters each are supported. The page-footer refresh button advances the affirmation; date changes also advance it.

Choose one of 16 bundled stickers. Click or focus a sticker to select it, then use the side-panel Size and Rotation sliders. Drag it to move it, or use arrow keys. Double-click or press Delete to remove it. Stickers are attached to dates and shared across sections on that date. Their placement, size and rotation persist. They do not move with tasks during carry-forward.

Kalam is bundled under the SIL Open Font License. Sticker graphics are bundled Twemoji assets, credited to Twitter, Inc. and contributors under CC BY 4.0. License files are included. No font or sticker download is required at runtime.

8. Local saving, data folders and backups

A valid edit is queued immediately for local saving. Saved locally means the latest queued state reached storage. The desktop app writes a temporary file, flushes it and atomically renames it into place. It maintains a previous-valid-copy backup. This protects against many interrupted-write cases; it does not replace backups on another drive.

The installed app explicitly uses %APPDATA%/noah-do-it-list, retaining the original Noah data location. Hover over Saved locally to see the actual path. The main notebook is noah-data.json; its previous valid copy is noah-data.json.bak. A temporary file may exist after an interrupted save.

The portable app keeps its data in Noah-Do-It-List-Data beside the portable EXE. Use a writable folder. When moving between computers, close the app and copy both the EXE and this data folder. Running from a read-only folder is unsupported; the app must not silently save in a different location. Portable and installed notebooks are independent. Use export/restore to transfer between them.

Backup notebook writes a complete JSON export, including task history, recurrence rules, ideas, sections, appearance settings and stickers. Use a dated filename and store a copy outside the app's folder. The export is plain text and not encrypted; protect it like any other personal document.

Restore backup checks the schema, dates, task IDs, references and settings before asking you to replace data. Cancel leaves the current notebook intact. Confirmation preserves the current file as before-restore-TIMESTAMP-SEQUENCE.json, then writes the restored data. Pre-restore copies are kept until you remove them manually; the app does not automatically prune them.

Version 1 backups from the original source can be migrated to schema version 2. Newer unsupported versions and malformed files are rejected. Maximum JSON file size is 20 MB. Import is replacement, not merging; export the current notebook first when unsure.

9. Recovery and troubleshooting

If the main file is invalid, the app tries a valid interrupted-write temporary file and then its previous backup. A damaged main file is preserved separately. A recovery notice tells you when an older copy has been used; the newest edit may not be present in that older copy.

If no valid copy exists, the app locks editing and displays a recovery message. It does not overwrite the files with an empty notebook. Use Restore a backup to select a valid export. Keep the damaged files for investigation before any manual changes.

If saving fails, leave the app open and export the current in-memory notebook. Check available disk space, folder permissions and whether a security tool has locked the file. Click the save-status message to retry. Closing is paused until saving succeeds. Force-quitting can lose unsaved changes.

If the app will not launch, record the Windows version, exact message and the file's SHA-256 checksum. Windows runtime behavior still requires native QA; include the details when reporting a launch issue. Do not delete your notebook while troubleshooting.

10. Accessibility, updates and privacy

Tab moves through controls. Ctrl+N focuses the new-task line; Ctrl+F opens Find. Enter commits a new task or idea. Escape closes a dialog or side panel. Dialog focus stays inside the dialog. Use row up/down buttons instead of dragging, and sticker arrow keys instead of pointer movement.

Reduced-motion preferences are honored automatically; Customize > Reduce page motion also disables all interface animations. Customize > Little celebrations turns off completion confetti while retaining other motion. Animations are brief responses to actions, with no continuous loops. The minimum window is 900 x 650; side panels overlay the page on narrower windows and can be closed with their close button or Escape.

There are no login screens, subscriptions, advertising, telemetry, remote content, update checks, Google Calendar integration or background reminders. Network requests are blocked in the desktop session. Optional offline reminders were deferred because reliable native behavior could not be verified here.

Export before updating. The Noah-only installer is designed to retain user data on uninstall and updates; native Windows install/uninstall behavior still needs verification. For the portable version, replace the closed EXE while retaining its data folder. To erase a notebook permanently, export anything you need, close the app and manually remove its data folder. Do not do this as a routine update step.