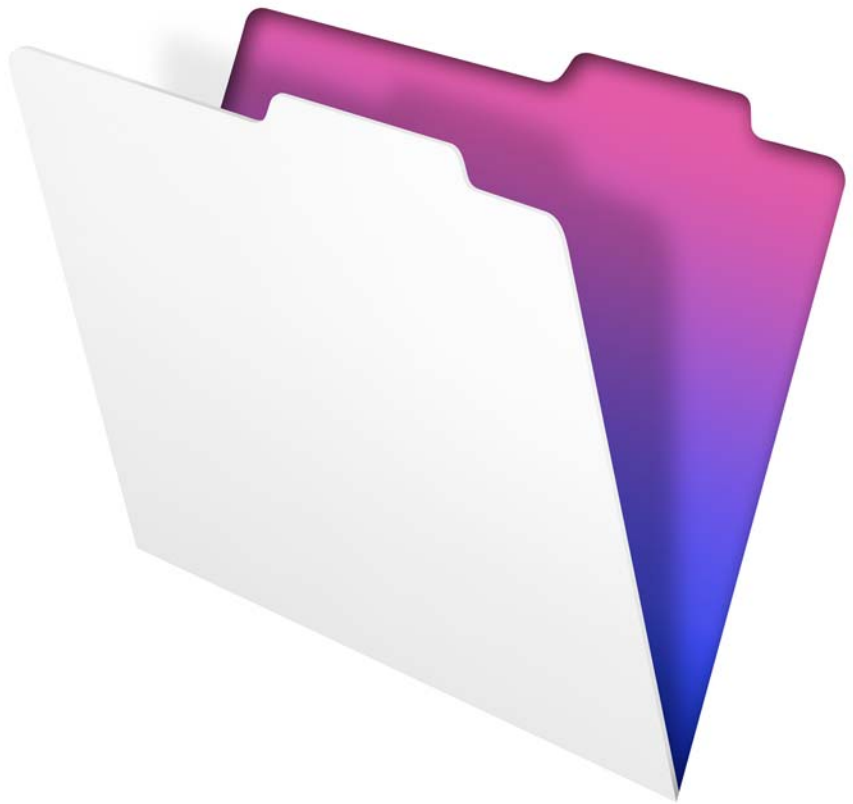


# FileMaker® Pro 12

Guide to the Standalone Database  
Converter FP7 to FMP12



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# Guide to the Standalone Database Converter FP7 to FMP12

## About this guide

This guide explains how to prepare and use the Standalone Database Converter FP7 to FMP12. For information about converting databases with FileMaker Pro, see FileMaker Pro Help.

## What is the Standalone Database Converter FP7 to FMP12

The Standalone Database Converter FP7 to FMP12 is designed to convert large .fp7 databases to the .fmp12 format. The database converter preserves the contents of your original files and creates new, converted files in FileMaker Pro 12 format.

For differences between original and converted databases, see the FileMaker File Conversion Checklist.

### Who should use this tool

If your database is larger than 400MB, has 4 or more tables, and has a large number of indexed fields and value lists, then your database is a good candidate for use with the Standalone Database Converter FP7 to FMP12. It is still possible to convert databases of this size with FileMaker Pro.

If your database does not meet these criteria, convert your database using, at a minimum, FileMaker Pro 12.0v2 or FileMaker Pro 12.0v2 Advanced.

**Important** Due to an issue involving certain Unicode characters, it is highly recommended that you update applications from the FileMaker product line to the latest available versions.

Databases converted by the database converter will be functionally identical to databases converted with FileMaker Pro.

## System requirements

Operating system	Recommended hardware
Windows 7 64-bit Professional, Ultimate, Enterprise	CPU: 8 physical cores RAM: 16GB
Mac OS X 10.6 or OS X 10.7 Lion	CPU: 8 physical cores RAM: 16GB

## Preparing for conversion

Before converting a database, you must set up the Standalone Database Converter FP7 to FMP12 and prepare the original database.

### Extracting the .zip file

The database converter must be extracted from the .zip file to run properly.

1. In your Documents folder, create a new folder.

2. Name the folder `Standalone_Converter`.
3. Extract the contents of the downloaded .zip file to the `Standalone_Converter` folder.

## Verifying database consistency

**Important** If a database is corrupt or damaged, the database converter is unable to convert it to the .fmp12 format.

Before conversion, check the consistency of your database with one of the following:

- FileMaker Pro 10
- FileMaker Pro 10 Advanced
- FileMaker Pro 11
- FileMaker Pro 11 Advanced

If you do not have this software, you can download a trial at <http://www.filemaker.com/downloads>.

**Note** FileMaker Pro 12 and FileMaker Pro 12 Advanced cannot check the consistency of .fp7 databases.

1. Open one of the FileMaker Pro or FileMaker Pro Advanced versions listed above.
2. Choose **File** menu > **Recover**.  
The Select Damaged File dialog box opens.
3. Select the .fp7 database you want to convert.
4. Click **Check Consistency**.  
A consistency check report appears.
5. If the consistency check report displays any bad blocks in the database, return to the Select Damaged File dialog box and click **Select** to attempt to recover the database.

## Disabling sleep mode

By default, many computers put themselves to sleep after a set time to conserve energy. This process may interfere with database conversion because a computer's hard drive is inaccessible when the computer is asleep. To prevent lengthening conversion times, disable sleep mode on your computer.

### Windows:

1. Select **Start** menu > **Control Panel** > **System and Security** > **Power Options**.
2. Click **Balanced**.
3. Click **Change Plan Settings**.
4. Set the **Put the computer to sleep** drop-down menu to **Never**.
5. Click **Save changes**.

**Mac OS:**

1. Select **Apple menu > System Preferences > Energy Saver.**
2. Set **Computer sleep to Never.**

**Note** If you cannot edit the settings, click the lock in the bottom-left corner of the window and enter your password.

3. Uncheck **Put the hard disk(s) to sleep when possible.**

**Avoiding other hardware-intensive tasks**

When converting a database, do not perform tasks that tax your computer's hard drive or memory. Such tasks include but are not limited to:

- running a virus scan
- defragmenting a hard drive
- editing multimedia
- refreshing web browsers
- downloading or transferring files

**Using the Standalone Database Converter FP7 to FMP12**

The Standalone Database Converter FP7 to FMP12 runs in Windows PowerShell ISE (Windows) or Terminal (Mac OS) with the following command:

```
.\fmdbconverter.ps1 [Options] Source_file [Destination_folder] (Windows)
./fmdbconverter.sh [Options] Source_file [Destination_folder] (Mac OS)
```

Items in brackets are optional.

**Using optional settings**

The database converter has options that can change its behavior and performance.

**Options**

Type options after `.\fmdbconverter.ps1` (Windows) or `./fmdbconverter.sh` (Mac OS) but before the source file path. These options can be typed in any order within their section.

Type	To
-t	Print detailed information to the text interface as the database is converted.
-n	Skip database verification checks. <b>Note</b> If the database will be hosted on FileMaker Server, do not use this option.
-c #	Specify the database converter's memory cache in GB. # can be any whole number between 1 and 12. Default cache size is 2GB.

**Destination folder**

By default, the database converter saves a converted database to the same folder as the original database.

Alternatively, you can change the destination folder by typing its fully qualified path after the path of the source database.

### Examples

On Mac OS, `./fmdbconverter.sh ~/Documents/Invoices.fp7` converts the Invoices.fp7 database.

On Windows, `.\fmdbconverter.ps1 C:\Databases\Stock.fp7 ~\Desktop` converts the Stock.fp7 database and saves Stock.fmp12 to the Desktop.

On Windows, `.\fmdbconverter.ps1 -t -c 6 C:\Contacts.fp7 C:\Converted_Databases` displays detailed status information as Contacts.fp7 is converted with a 6GB cache and saved to a different folder.

## Converting on Windows

1. Open Windows PowerShell ISE as an administrator.  
Choose **Start menu > All Programs > Accessories > Windows PowerShell**, then right-click **Windows PowerShell ISE** and select **Run as Administrator**.
2. Type `Set-ExecutionPolicy allSigned`, then press Enter.
3. If a warning about changing the Execution Policy appears, click **Yes**.
4. Type `cd ~\Documents\Standalone_Converter`, then press Enter.
5. Type `.\fmdbconverter.ps1` and add a space.
6. Type any options you want to use. Add a space after each option. See “Options” on page 6.
7. Type the file path and name of the .fp7 database you want to convert.  
**Note** If a file or folder path has any spaces, surround the path in quotation marks.
8. If you want to specify an alternative destination folder, type a space, then the folder path.
9. Press Enter.
10. If a dialog box appears and asks if you want to run the software, click **Always run**.

## Converting on Mac OS

1. Open Terminal.  
From the Finder, choose **Go menu > Applications > Utilities > Terminal**.
2. Type `cd ~/Documents/Standalone_Converter`, then press Return.
3. Type `./fmdbconverter.sh` and add a space.
4. Type any options you want to use. Add a space after each option. See “Options” on page 6.
5. Type the file path and name of the .fp7 database you want to convert.
6. If you want to specify an alternative destination folder, type a space, then the folder path.
7. Press Return.