

Akeeba Remote Control 4

Quick Start Guide for Version 4.0.3

Welcome to Remote Control 4

Akeeba Remote Control 4 is a cross-platform desktop application to remotely backup your Joomla!-powered web sites. This short guide will get you up to speed with setting it up and operating it.

Preparing your site for use with Remote Control

In order to set up a site for use in Remote Control, you have to make sure that the following pre-requisites are met:

- Your site must be running Akeeba Backup 3.2.b4 or any later version. You can check the latest version of Akeeba Backup at <https://www.akeebabackup.com/latest>. Akeeba Remote Control 4.0.3 will refuse to work with a site running Akeeba Backup 3.2.b3 or any earlier version.
- You must enable remote and front-end backups in your Akeeba Backup installation. Go to your site's back-end and click on Components → Akeeba Backup. Then click on Component Parameters. In that page set “Enable front-end and remote backup” to Yes and enter a “Secret word” below. Note down that secret word. Save your changes using the button on the top.

For users of previous version of the software, please note that you do no longer need to enable Web Services or install a separate plugin on your site.

Getting Akeeba Remote Control

Installation

Akeeba Remote Control is available free of charge from the Downloads area at AkeebaBackup.com. For a quick glance at the latest releases, please visit <https://www.AkeebaBackup.com/latest>

Since Akeeba Remote Control is based on the Titanium development platform, there are four different versions of Akeeba Remote Control based on which Operating System you're using:

- **Windows 32-bit.** Suitable for all 32-bit and 64-bit versions of Windows XP, Vista, 7, Server 2003, Server 2008. This is an EXE installer. Run to install. You may have to disable NOD32 Antivirus or ESET Smart Security in order for the installation to complete.
- **Linux 32-bit.** Suitable for all 32-bit Linux distributions. You have to extract the archive to a directory of your liking in order to launch the software. The installation procedure will take place the first time you launch the application.
- **Linux 64-bit.** Suitable for all 64-bit Linux distributions. It will not work on 32-bit distributions. You have to extract the archive to a directory of your liking in order to launch the software. The installation procedure will take place the first time you launch the application.
- **Mac OS X.** Suitable for all Intel macs running Mac OS X Leopard or newer. PowerPC-based Macs are not supported. Just double click the DMG file upon downloading and drag the icon to your Applications folder.

Required post-installation actions on Linux machines

Akeeba Remote Control is based on the Appcelerator Titanium runtime, which requires Python

2.5 to work. However, most modern Linux distributions come with Python 2.6 or 2.7. This creates a major issue in Remote Control: it is no longer able to download backup archives. The following workaround was tested on Ubuntu 10.10, but should work on other Linux distributions as well:

1. Start the application for the first time and choose "Install to my home directory". When it finishes, close the application.
2. Make sure Python 2.6 is installed. On Ubuntu 10.10 you can use the following command on a Terminal:

```
sudo apt-get install python2.6
```

3. Create the necessary symlinks by typing the following command on a Terminal (do note that there is no line break):

```
ln -s /usr/lib/libpython2.6.so.1.0  
~/ .titanium/runtime/linux/1.1.0/libpython2.5.so.1.0
```

4. Relaunch the application

Using as a portable application

All computers running Akeeba Remote Control (hereby noted as ARC) must have the Titanium runtime installed. The easiest way to do that is by installing any Titanium application, such as Akeeba Remote Control itself or Akeeba eXtract Wizard 3.0.x.

You will have to first copy all of ARC's files into your USB flash drive. Then, create a blank (empty) text file named `application.properties` and place it on the same location as the ARC executable file. From now on, ARC will save its settings to that file instead of the system-wide default directory.

Please note that Akeeba Remote Control is not a truly portable application. It may leave cookie traces behind it on the machines you run it. These do not pose a direct security threat, but may expose the domain names of the sites you used Akeeba Remote Control on.

Backing up Akeeba Remote Control's settings

All of the application settings are saved in the `application.properties` file. The exact location of this file depends on your Operating System:

- **Windows (XP, Vista, 7, Server 2003, Server 2008).** The files are saved in the `%APPDATA%\Titanium\appdata\com.akeebabackup.remotecontrol` directory.
- **Linux.** The files are saved in the `.titanium/appdata/com.akeebabackup.remotecontrol` directory under your home directory, if you chose to install the application inside your home directory.
- **Mac OS X (Leopard, Snow Leopard).** The files are saved in the `Library/Application Support/Titanium/appdata/com.akeebabackup.remotecontrol` directory inside your user account directory.

You can make a copy of this file and keep it in a safe place. If you want to restore the application's settings you can simply replace the existing file, if any, with your backup copy. You can also use this file in order to turn ARC into a portable application, following the advice of the previous section. Instead of creating a blank file, use your backup copy of ARC's application properties file.

Updates

Updates are semi-automated. If there is a new version available, about one minute upon launching Akeeba Remote Control you will be presented with a dialog box which allows you to automatically update to the new release. If you discard the dialog box, shut down and restart the application.

Do not close the application when a backup or a download is in progress. Doing so will cause the backup or download to fail.

Upgrades

If you are upgrading from a previous version of Remote Control be advised that there is no upgrade or migration path. The data stored by each version is radically different and there was no point trying to directly upgrade between those two versions.

Using Akeeba Remote Control

Setting up or editing a site

Click the Add Site button on the top left corner to add a site. Click the site's name on the left and then click on the Edit button to edit an existing site. The site editor pops up. It has three tabs.

In the Basic tab all settings are mandatory. Fill in a **Site Name** of your liking. This will appear on the left hand list in the main page. Type in the full **URL** to your site, i.e. <http://www.example.com> or <https://www.example.com>. Key in the **Secret Key** you defined in Akeeba Backup's Component Configuration page. Finally, click on the **Get Profiles** button to validate your settings and fetch a list of backup profiles. If your settings are correct the drop-down box is populated with the backup profiles. Select the one you want to use.

The Downloads tab allows you to download the backup archives after the backup operation is complete. Check the **Download after backup** checkbox to enable this feature. Click the **Browse...** button next to the **Downloads Directory** edit box to pick the location of your downloads. Users of previous versions should note that Akeeba Remote Control no longer requires FTP settings. All downloads are securely handled through Akeeba Backup's API. You can also check the **Delete files from server after download** to have Akeeba Remote Control remove the backup archives from your site's server upon downloading them to your local computer. This is highly recommended for security reasons.

Finally, should you want to automate your site's backup, visit the Automation tab. In order to enable scheduled downloads, tick the **Enable scheduling** checkbox. The **Backup frequency** allow you to determine how often to backup your site (daily, weekly, monthly or yearly). The **Base date and time** acts as the base for calculating the scheduling options on your site:

- With *daily* backups, your site will be backed up on the *time* specified in this field. The date is ignored.
- With *weekly* backups, your site will be backed up on the same *day of the week* as the selected date and on the *time* specified.
- With *monthly* backups, your site will be backed up on the same *day of the month* as the selected date. The time is ignored.
- With *yearly* backups, your site will be backed up on the same *day of the month* and *month* as the selected date. The time is ignored.

Starting a backup

In order to backup a single site, first click on its name on the left hand side. Then click on the **Backup Now** button on the right hand pane.

In order to backup multiple sites you will have to select them first. In order to make a contiguous selection, drag your mouse from the first to the last site you want to backup. In order to make a non-contiguous selection, CTRL-click (Mac users: CMD-Click) the individual site names. Then click the **Start Backup** button on the right hand pane.

Canceling a backup or download

In order to cancel the process on a single site, first click on its name on the left hand side. Then click on the **Cancel Backup** or **Cancel Download** button on the right hand pane.

In order to cancel the backup and/or download of multiple sites you will have to select them first. In order to make a contiguous selection, drag your mouse from the first to the last site you want to backup. In order to make a non-contiguous selection, CTRL-click (Mac users: CMD-Click)

the individual site names. Then click the **Cancel Backup** button on the right hand pane.

Do note that the cancellation may take anywhere from 1-60 seconds. Clicking the cancellation buttons repeatedly wont make the process any faster.

Reordering sites

Akeeba Remote Control allows changing the display order of the sites. Just click the up-down arrow icon on the left of each site name and drag the site to the desired location. Changes are automatically saved upon quitting the application.

Deleting a site

In order to delete a site, first click on its name on the left hand side. Then click on the **Delete** button on the right hand pane.

Viewing and saving the log

If you want to ask for support it is imperative that you download the Remote Control log file and attach it to your post. Support requests without a log will be ignored. In order to view the log of a site, first click on its name on the left hand side. Then click on the **View Log** button on the right hand pane. The Log Viewer pops up. Click on the **Save** button to save your log. We suggest naming your saved log files remote-log.txt and ZIP them, or our support forum may reject them.

Questions, support and suggestions

Make sure that you read this document first. It's deliberately short to make it easier to read it through. If you have a support request, question or suggestion, feel free to stop by our support forum at <https://www.akeebabackup.com/forum.html>. Use the Support is available free of charge to everyone. The typical response time is 12-48 hours.

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