Software files and User settings files

There are two groups of files for running Ancestris.

- The **software files** run the application,
- The **user settings files** store user preferences.

> You may lose the software files because you can always get them from the Ancestris website;
> but **you should backup you user settings files** as they are specific to you.

Software files

Ancestris software files will be inside the `ancestris` folder used during the installation.

You can type `whereis ancestris` on a terminal on **Linux**, or `locate ancestris` on **macOS**, or `dir ancestris /s /p` on **Windows** to find out what that folder is.

This `ancestris` folder contains the following sub-folders.

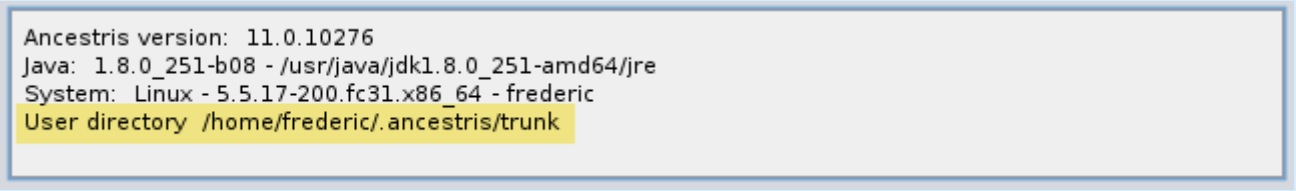
- `ancestris`
- `bin`
  - `ancestris` : executable file to start Ancestris under **macOS** and **Linux**
  - `ancestris.exe` : executable file to start Ancestris under **Windows**
  - `ancestris64.exe` : executable file to start Ancestris under **Windows** with Java 64-bit architecture (recommended)
  - `ancestris.gif` : Ancestris icon to use when creating an application launcher shortcut
  - other Ancestris icons
- `etc`
  - ancestris.conf : **application configuration file**
- `harness`
- `platform`

When you reinstall Ancestris, you simply replace those software files.

User settings files

The **User directory**

Ancestris user settings files are in the **user directory**.

> You can see the location of the **user directory** on the About dialogue.
> This dialogue can be accessed from the main menu / Help / About Ancestris or else by clicking on the About button .
>
> Example :
>
> 
>

This **user directory** depends on your operating system.

- Windows : `C:\Users\[your name]\...\.ancestris\<version>`
- macOS : `${HOME}/Library/Application Support/ancestris/<version>`
- Linux : `~/.ancestris/<version>`

Where `<version>` is the installed version number.

- `13` : in this case, the stable version number. Check the **Versions compatibility page** to know which number is the Stable version.
- `trunk` : in this case, the daily version.

So the user directory, where the personalisation of Ancestris is located, is, according to your system:

- Windows :
  - Stable version: `C:\Users\[your name]\...\.ancestris\13`
  - Daily version: `C:\Users\[your name]\...\.ancestris\trunk`
- macOS :
  - Stable version: `${HOME}/Library/Application Support/ancestris/13`
  - Daily version: `${HOME}/Library/Application Support/ancestris/trunk`
- Linux :
  - Stable version: `~/.ancestris/13`
  - Daily version: `~/.ancestris/trunk`

In case your have reinstalled Ancestris from a previous version, and if you want to continue using your previous personalisation, you just have to copy the user directory of the previous version to the user directory of the new version.

The **User Configuration file** and the **log file**

There are two especially important files in the user's folder for startup and diagnostic of eventual bugs.

- **The configuration file** : `<user's folder>/etc/ancestris.conf` defines the launch settings.
- **The log file** : `<user's folder>/ancestris/ancestris.log` stores all warnings and error messages occurring while you use Ancestris.

Here are also located your preferences and customised templates.

- Your **preferences** : `<user's folder>/ancestris/config`
- Your personal **templates** : `<user's folder>/ancestris/blueprints`
- Your **almanacs** : `<user's folder>/ancestris/almanac`
- Your **individual and family record** templates : `<user's folder>/ancestris/gedart`
- Your **history of modifications** : `<user's folder>/var/cache/ModificationsHistory`

Please check the user guide to learn what these templates are for.

> **Ancestris uses two configuration files, both named ancestris.conf**
> 1/ The first one is the Application Configuration file, which is part of the Application directory and it is created during the installation of Ancestris.
> 2/ The other one is the User Configuration file, which is part of your User directory, and created when you change some Preferences when using Ancestris.
>
> **The User Configuration file takes precedence over the Application Configuration file**
>
> So the configuration file to check and update is the User Configuration file if it exists, the Application Configuration file otherwise.
> - If you are installing Ancestris, you will probably need to update the Application Configuration file.
> - If you have already used Ancestris and want to change the java version, you will probably need to update the User Configuration file.

Detailed description

~/.ancestris/13 or ~/.ancestris/trunk	**User directory**
• ancestris	• User defined templates
◦ almanac	◦ Almanacs for the chronology view and for chronology reporting.

◦ blueprints	◦ Blueprints available for displaying genealogy information in dynamic tree view, Gedcom editor, etc.
◦ gedart	◦ Standard models and user-defined models for the individual and family record / Gedart report.
◦ **ancestris.log**	◦ **Ancestris log file.** ◦ This is the file Ancestris support might need in case you submit an error. ◦ You can define the size of the log file in the Preferences.
• config	• User defined preferences
◦ Modules	◦ User preferences of installed extensions
◦ Preferences	◦ User preferences of all views and tools except those of the installed extensions
◦ Toolbars	◦ Main toolbar settings
◦ Windows2Local	◦ Position of windows
◦ shortcuts.html	◦ Shortcuts
• etc	
◦ **ancestris.conf**	◦ **Ancestris configuration file for Launch settings** ◦ This configuration file complements the Ancestris application configuration file placed in the **software files described above.**
• modules	• Installed extensions

• update_tracking	• Installed extensions update information
• var	
◦ cache	
◦ ModificationsHistory	◦ Modification history of Gedcom files opened by Ancestris
◦ ...	◦ Temporary information stored by Ancestris
◦ log	◦ Temporary log files

When you reinstall Ancestris, user settings files are not modified and you should be able to run the updated version with all your previous settings.

> However, there could be some changes in the way the new version uses some of the settings.
> - If this is the case, we recommend you to only keep the **ancestris**, **config**, **etc** and **ModificationsHistory** folders.
> - If you have trouble with the windows, we recommend you to remove the **Windows2Local** folder.

Uninstall Ancestris

To uninstall Ancestris, just delete the 2 folders of the software files and the user settings files.

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