

Valu-Basic – USB Stick Installation Guide

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What is the USB stick edition?

Valu-Basic runs straight from a USB stick. Nothing is installed on the computer, and you need neither a server of your own nor administrator rights. All data – database, photos, receipts and backups – stays on the stick. Valu-Basic opens in your usual browser, but it can only be reached on the computer the stick is plugged into.

Requirements

- **Windows 10 or 11:** no further software needed – PHP is included on the stick.
- **macOS:** PHP 8 must be installed on the Mac (see “First start – Mac”).
- An up-to-date browser (Edge, Chrome, Firefox or Safari).
- No internet connection is needed.

Copying to the stick

1. Unzip the downloaded file `ValuBasic_USB.zip`.
2. Copy the **entire contents** to the USB stick – the start files and the folders `valu-basic` and `php` must sit side by side.

First start – Windows

1. On the stick, double-click “**Windows - starten.bat**”.
2. If Windows warns you (“Windows protected your PC”): click “**More info**” and then “**Run anyway**”. The warning appears because the start script is not digitally signed.
3. A console window opens, and shortly afterwards the browser starts with the setup.

First start – Mac

1. The very first time: right-click “**Mac - starten.command**”, choose “**Open**” and confirm the security prompt with “Open”. From the second start on, a double-click is enough.
2. Terminal opens and checks whether PHP is available. If it is missing, the window shows the commands you need: first install Homebrew, then type `brew install php` in Terminal. Then start Valu-Basic again.
3. The browser opens with the setup.

Setup in the browser

On first start the setup page opens – in the language of your browser; you can switch it at the bottom of the page. There you choose a user name and a password (at least 8 characters) for your administrator account. Valu-Basic then creates:

- the database on the stick,
- your account,
- a few rooms (living room, bedroom, kitchen, basement, garage) and categories (electronics, furniture, jewellery ...),
- if you wish, three sample items with pictures (tick box “Sample data”, selected by default). The sample pictures are AI-generated; you can delete the items at any time.

As soon as an account exists, the setup page locks itself and redirects to the sign-in page. You do not need to delete any file.

Everyday use

- **Starting:** double-click “Windows - starten.bat” (Windows) or “Mac - starten.command” (Mac). The browser opens the sign-in page.
- Valu-Basic is available at `http://localhost:8080`.
- The console or Terminal window must **stay open** while you work – it is the small server that Valu-Basic runs on.
- After five wrong passwords within 15 minutes, signing in is blocked for a while. After that you can try again.

Quitting

System	How to quit Valu-Basic
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Windows	Double-click "Windows - beenden.bat" – or close the console window.
Mac	Double-click "Mac - beenden.command" (the first time also right-click → "Open") – or press control + C in the Terminal window (the control key, not cmd) – or close the Terminal window.

Important: Only unplug or eject the stick once Valu-Basic has been quit. Otherwise the database may be damaged.

Data and backup

All data lives in the folder `valu-basic` on the stick: the database in `data/`, photos and receipts in `upload/`.

- **Automatic backup:** every time it starts, Valu-Basic backs up the database – once a day – to `valu-basic/backups/auto/`. The last 7 backups are kept. New pictures and receipts are backed up at every start as well.
- **Restoring:** gear icon (Admin) → **Backup** → **Restore**. Choose an automatic backup there or upload a downloaded `.sqlite` file. Valu-Basic first makes a copy of the current state.
- **For emergencies:** the automatic backups are on the same stick. If the stick is lost or broken, they are gone too. So now and then download the database and the pictures under Admin → **Backup** and keep them somewhere else.

Common problems

Problem	Solution
Windows warns about an unknown publisher	Normal for unsigned scripts: "More info" → "Run anyway".
The Mac refuses to start it with a security warning	Right-click the file → "Open" instead of double-clicking.
"PHP not found" (Windows)	The stick was not copied completely – copy the entire contents of the ZIP file to the stick again.
"PHP not found" (Mac)	Install Homebrew, then run <code>brew install php</code> in Terminal. The start window shows the exact commands.
"Port 8080 is already in use"	Usually Valu-Basic is already running – the browser then opens the running session. If another program is using the port, quit that program and start Valu-Basic again.
The browser does not open	Open <code>http://localhost:8080</code> in the browser yourself.
The stick cannot be ejected	Valu-Basic is still running: quit it with "Windows - beenden" or "Mac - beenden", then eject again.
Data seems to be missing	Check that it is the same stick – the data only lives there. Otherwise restore the latest automatic backup under Admin → Backup → Restore.
Forgotten password	On the stick, double-click "Windows - Passwort vergessen" or "Mac - Passwort vergessen" and enter the new password twice. A lock after failed attempts is lifted as well.

Good to know

Valu-Basic is meant for a private inventory with one user; there is no limit on the number of items. ValuSafe is the bigger edition for your own server with several users and permissions, also free:
palindrom.de/valusafe

Further help

- User manual and FAQ: in Valu-Basic via the help icon, and at palindrom.de/valusafe under Documents.
- Quick guide: LIESMICH – README.txt on the stick (German and English).
- Questions and error reports: valusafe@palindrom.de – please state your operating system (e.g. Windows 11 or macOS 15) and Valu-Basic version (shown at the bottom of the admin area).