SimpleFTP

User's Guide



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Documentation revision: February 12, 2026 (v4.6)

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Table of contents

Chapter 1: Introduction **4**

Conventions in this manual _____4

Chapter 2: Installation **5**

Requirements _____5

Installation _____5

Chapter 3: Using SimpleFTP **6**

Starting SimpleFTP _____6

Adding a Bookmark _____6

Description of the fields 7

Editing and Removing Bookmarks _____10

Creating Bookmark Files _____10

Connecting to the remote server _____11

The Interface _____12

Working with lists _____12

Functions _____13

A word about dot files _____18

Chapter 4: Synchronization **19**

Synchronizing files and folders _____19

Adding a Synchronization Bookmark _____19

The synchronization specific fields are: 20

Editing and Removing Synchronization Bookmarks _____21

Starting Synchronization _____22

First time synchronization _____22

Synchronization conflicts _____23

Chapter 5: Preferences **24**

Transfers Settings _____24

The Transfer options are: 24

Sounds Settings _____25

Miscellaneous Settings_____26

Chapter 6: Quick Connect **27**

Starting a session with Quick Connect_____27

Chapter 7: Troubleshooting **28**

Errors while attempting to connect _____28

Errors while connected to the remote server _____28

Miscellaneous Errors:_____29

Chapter 1: Introduction

Welcome to SimpleFTP, the easy to use FTP & SFTP (Secure FTP) client for the Apple Macintosh®. SimpleFTP runs on Mac OS X® 10.13 or higher. SimpleFTP is a file transfer product, modeled on the RFC 959 File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Internet standard, that emphasizes simplicity and ease of use. SimpleFTP features include:

- 32 and 64 bit compatible.
- Multi-threaded -- you can have an unlimited number of simultaneous connections to different servers.
- File transfer resume of uploads and downloads (if supported by the server).
- Seamless multi file and folder transfers, and deletion.
- Bookmarks for easy access to commonly used servers.
- Drag & Drop support. Transferring files is as easy as dragging a file or folder!
- Supports the most popular UNIX®, Microsoft Windows®, IBM OS/2® and Apple Macintosh® FTP/SFTP servers.
- Supports regular FTP, FTP over TLS and Secure FTP.
- Smart Synchronization, including Upload only or Download only modes.

Conventions in this manual

It is assumed throughout this manual that you are familiar with basic Macintosh® terms such as point, click, drag, the Finder, etc. If you are not, please refer to the Macintosh® User's Guide to learn the basics of your Operating System.

References to an item or menu will be in the Chicago font. When an Action is required it will be in a ***bold italic*** font.

Chapter 2: Installation

Requirements

The recommended system configuration for SimpleFTP is an Apple Macintosh® computer with Mac OS X 10.13 or higher.

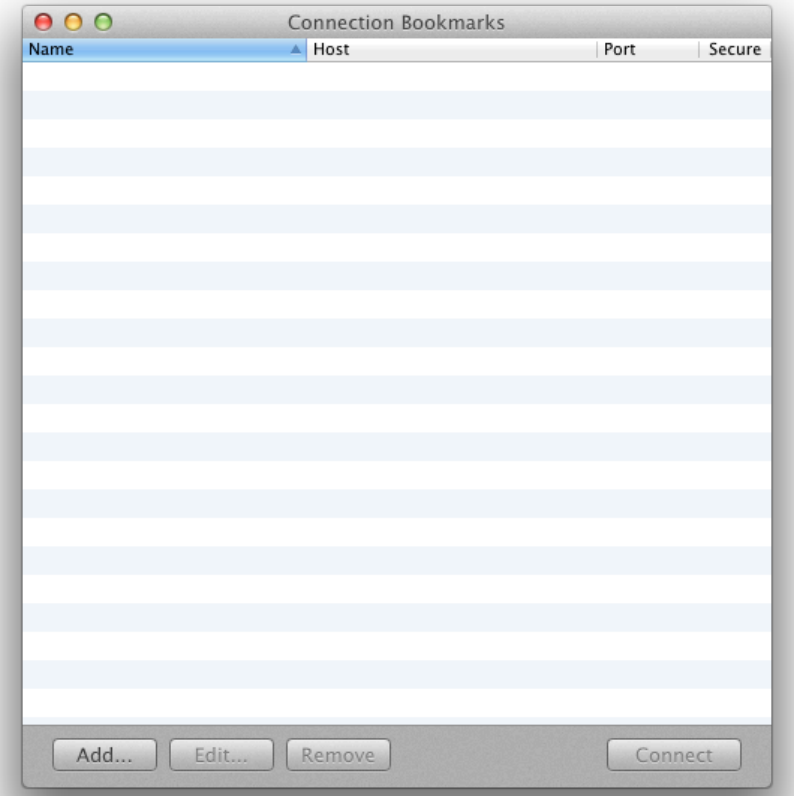
Installation

SimpleFTP is automatically installed by the Mac App Store® into the Applications Folder.

Chapter 3: Using SimpleFTP

Starting SimpleFTP

Launch SimpleFTP and you should be presented with a **Connection Bookmarks** window.

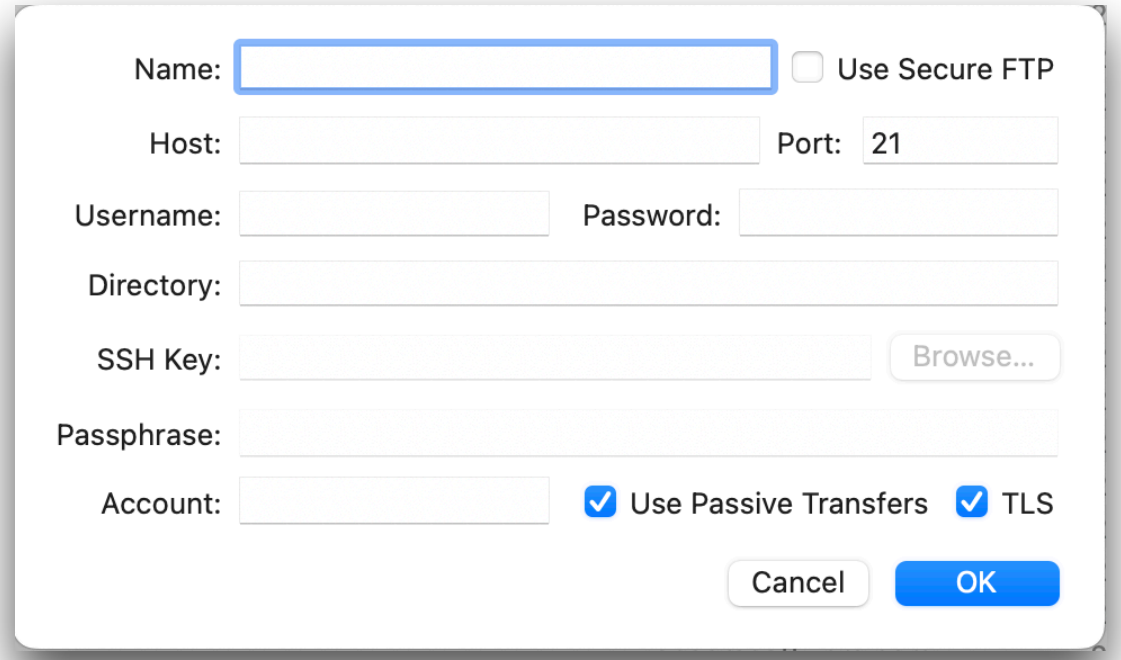


Note: The bookmarks you created with older versions of SimpleFTP will now show in this window.

Note: You can access the Connection Bookmarks window from the **Window** menu.

Adding a Bookmark

Simply click on the **Add...** button and a connection sheet will appear, where you can enter the connection information:



Hint: If you want a one time connection and do not wish to store it as a bookmark, please refer to the **Quick Connect** option.

Description of the fields

Name: The Bookmark name. Use any name you want to describe this bookmark, but make sure it's unique.

Use Secure FTP: Allows you to enable secure FTP transactions. All data is encrypted between the client and server. The destination host must have a secure FTP server running.

Host: The address or URL of the remote server. You can enter an IP address in numeric form (ex: 192.168.1.10), text form (ex: ftp.mynetwork.com), or URL form (ex: ftp://ftp.mynetwork.com).

The URL format will parse username, password and initial directory, if included. If not included, you can add them into the other appropriate fields in the window.

Port: The port number to use when opening the connection. The default FTP port number is 21 (22 for Secure FTP).

If the remote server you are trying to connect to uses a different port number, you can enter it here. Please consult the remote server's administrator about the server's FTP/SFTP port number.

Username: The user name passed to the remote server during authentication. If the **Host** field included a username, then the information on this field is ignored.

Hint: You can leave the **Username** field empty if you intend to connect to the remote server as an *anonymous* user.

Password: The password passed to the remote server during authentication. For security reasons, you will only see dots while typing a password. If the **Host** field included a password, then the information on this field is ignored. If the **Username** field was left blank, this is the password passed to the server when attempting an anonymous connection.

Directory: The path of the directory you want to automatically join upon connecting to the remote server. You can leave this field empty if you want to automatically join the default remote directory as specified on the remote server for your account. If the **Host** field included a directory path, the information on this field is ignored.

SSH Key: If you have setup an SSH Key to your sever, you can use that to connect instead of a password. Note if the SSH Key fails, and you have entered a password, it will try the password after trying the SSH Key. When you setup an SSH Key, it will usually be in the /Users/your_username/.ssh/id_rsa. Where the “id_rsa” is your private key.

Passphrase: If you have setup your SSH Key to require a passphrase, you can enter that here so you do not have to enter it on every connection.

Account: This field applies to **FTP only**. Some FTP servers require extra account information, in addition to the username. Use this field to provide the information only if your remote server requires it.

Use Passive Transfers: This field applies to **FTP only**. Depending on your network configuration, the remote server may not be able to initiate connections to your computer. This is mostly common when your computer is part of a VPN network, or the network has a firewall preventing external connections to go through it. If that is the case, you can check this option to enable what is known as *Passive Transfers*, which forces your computer to always initiate the connections to the server. This is the default. You may uncheck it if you prefer to have the server initiate the connections to you. Please consult your network administrator regarding VPN configuration or firewalls in your local network.

TLS: For **FTP only**, if the server supports Transport Layer Security, it will attempt to make a secure FTP connection (not to be confused with SFTP). If it fails, it will initiate a normal FTP connection. Some have reported that their servers have an issue connecting with TLS. Unchecking this box will disable sending TLS.

A few comments about FTP vs. Secure FTP (SFTP): Most public servers that you will encounter will only accept regular (non secure/encrypted) FTP connections. That is perfectly acceptable for connections to public servers, most of which use *anonymous* logins anyway.

A secure connection to a business or private server is preferable when the username, password and data should be encrypted to keep it safe from potential hackers. If you are unsure if the FTP server you are connecting to supports SFTP, try connecting using the Secure FTP option. If you are unable to connect, then that server does not support secure connections.

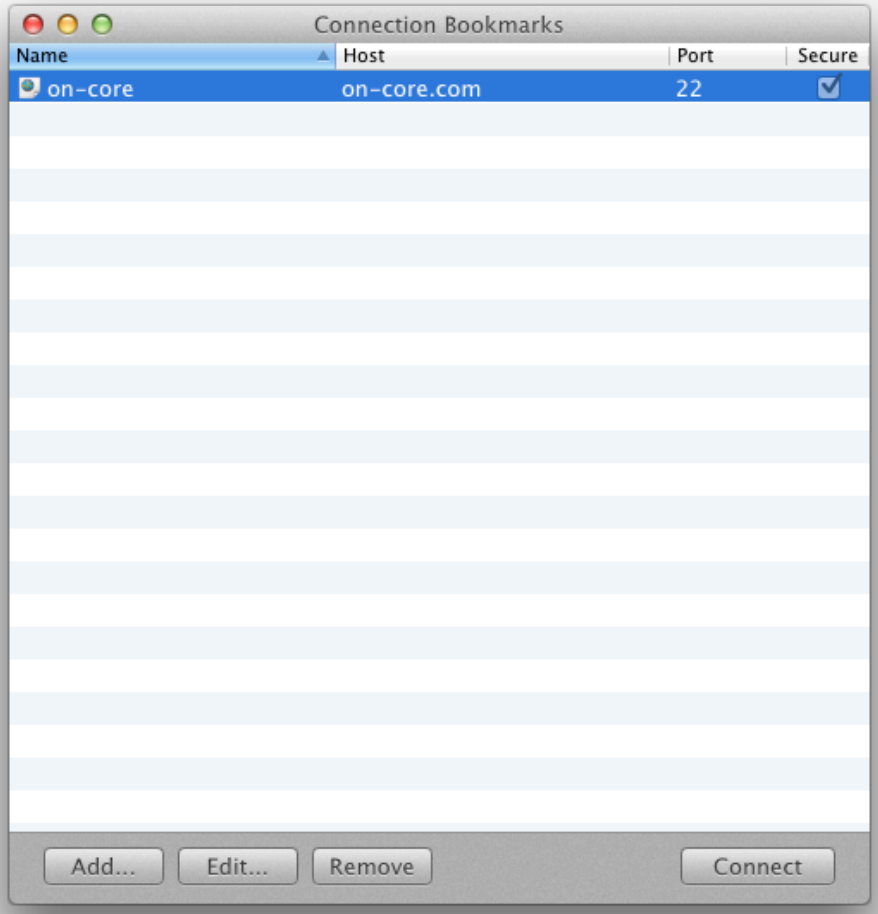
Keep in mind that transferring data via Secure FTP will be slower than FTP. It takes additional overhead to encrypt and decrypt the data on the sending and receiving systems.

In MacOS X, it is possible to remotely access your own computer using SFTP. In the **Sharing** control panel, there is a service named **Remote Logon** that will allow remote connections to your system using Secure FTP connections. The remote user would require a User setup from the **Accounts** control panel in your system with the correct permissions. Also note that you do **not** need to turn on FTP access to enable only Secure FTP connections.

Once you completed the necessary fields, and checked the appropriate options, click the **OK** button to store the bookmark.

Editing and Removing Bookmarks

Select the bookmark from the list, then click the **Edit** button to edit the bookmark information. Click **Remove** to delete the bookmark.



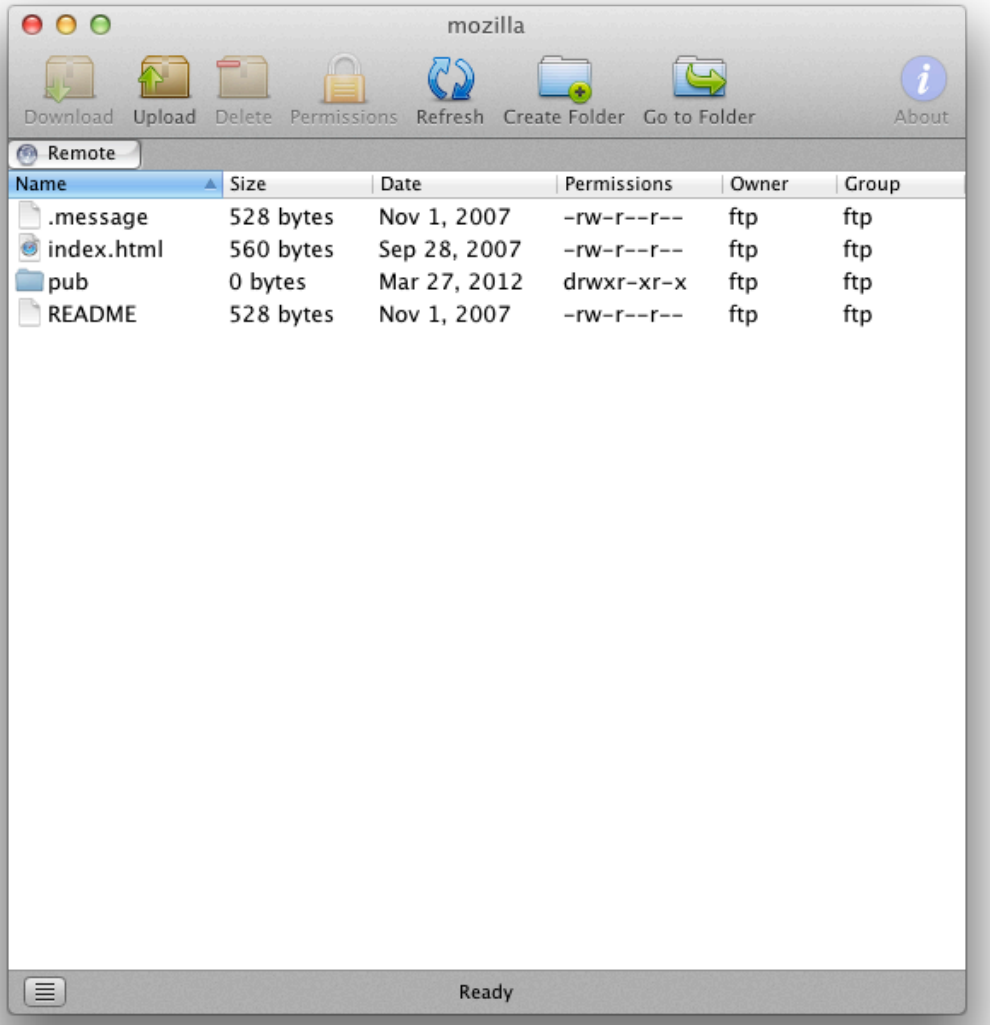
Creating Bookmark Files

Bookmark files allow you to connect quicker to a commonly used remote host(s) from the Finder. In order to create a Bookmark File, grab the bookmark from the icon on the left, and drag it to a folder or the Desktop. You can create Bookmark Files for both Connection and Synchronization.

Important: Please note that the dragged bookmark retains all of the connection information. If you modify the bookmark afterwards, you will need to delete the bookmark file and drag a new copy to your destination.

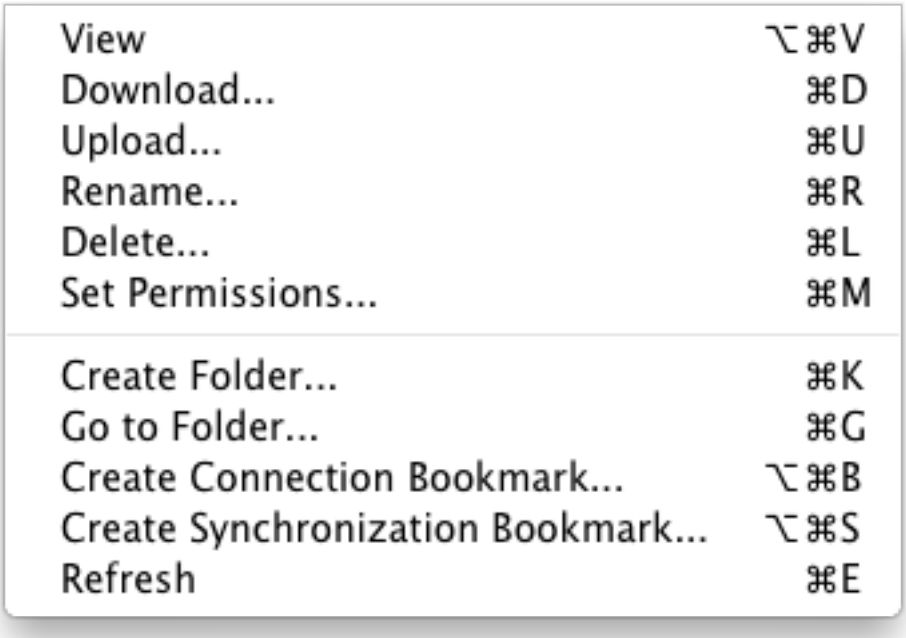
Connecting to the remote server

Select the bookmark from the list, then simply click the **Connect** button to initiate the connection to the remote server. If the connection information you provided is correct, you will be connected to the remote host momentarily. If you are presented with an error, please refer to the **Troubleshooting** section of this manual to diagnose the cause of the problem.



The Interface

SimpleFTP provides a very intuitive interface, and provides different ways to accomplish the same task. For people who prefer Menus, there is the Actions Menu. For users who like shortcuts, all functions are accessible through shortcuts (You can look in the Actions Menu to see what they are).



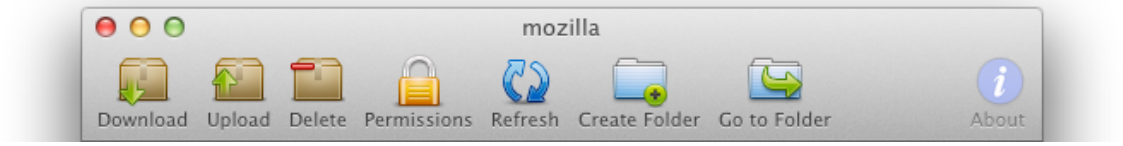
Working with lists

All the lists in SimpleFTP can be customized. For columns that can be sorted, simply click on the column header to sort by that column. An additional click on the selected column header reverses the sort order. You can also reorder columns by clicking and holding on the column header, then dragging the column before or after another column.

Functions can also be accessed through a **Contextual Menu**, by holding down the Control key and clicking on the File List (If you have a multi-button mouse, and you have programmed the right button as a Control-click, you can use the **Right mouse button** to display the menu).

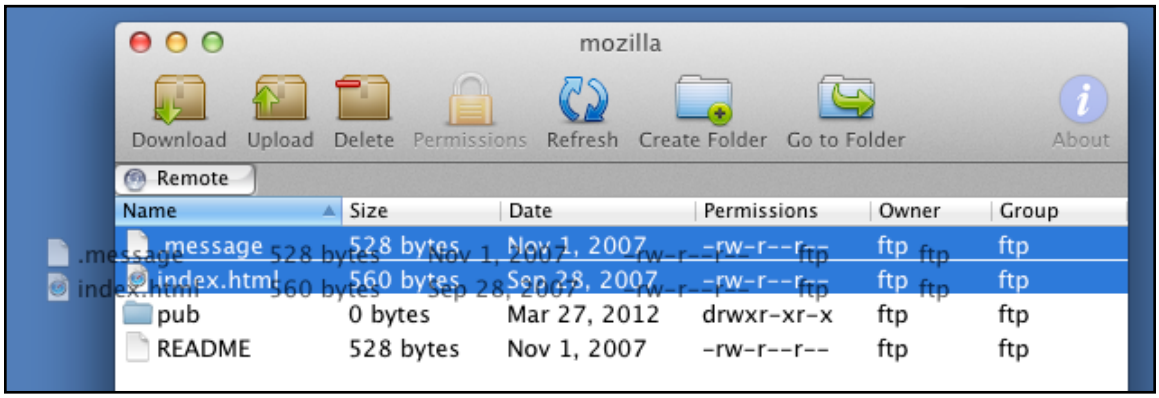
Hint: If you have a mouse that has a *Scroll Wheel*, you can use it to scroll through the File List. Simply position the cursor over the list, then move the wheel to scroll.

Another option is to use the Toolbar, which has the most commonly used functions on it:



Hint: You can hide and show the Toolbar by clicking on the little button at the top-right of the window.

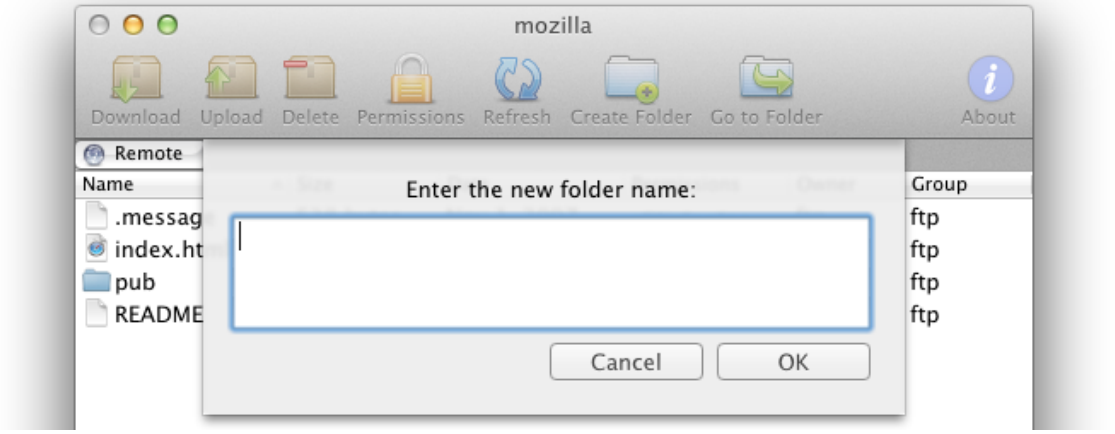
Or you can also use Drag and Drop:



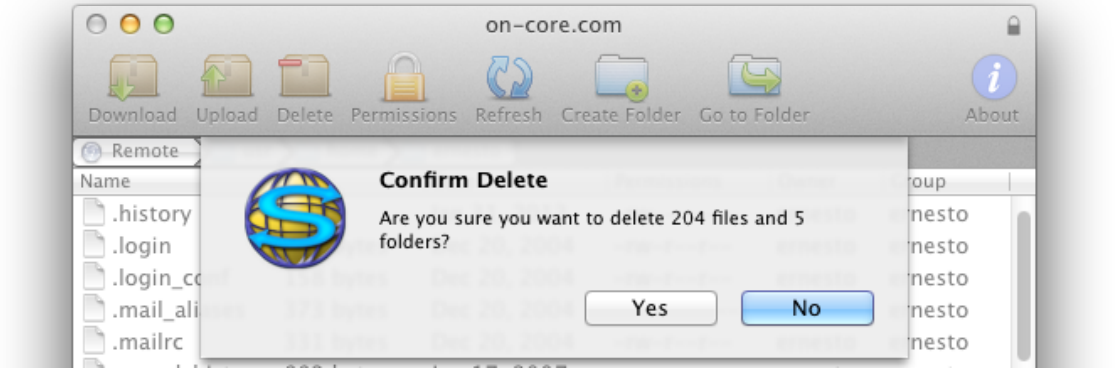
Functions

Here are descriptions of the functions available in SimpleFTP.

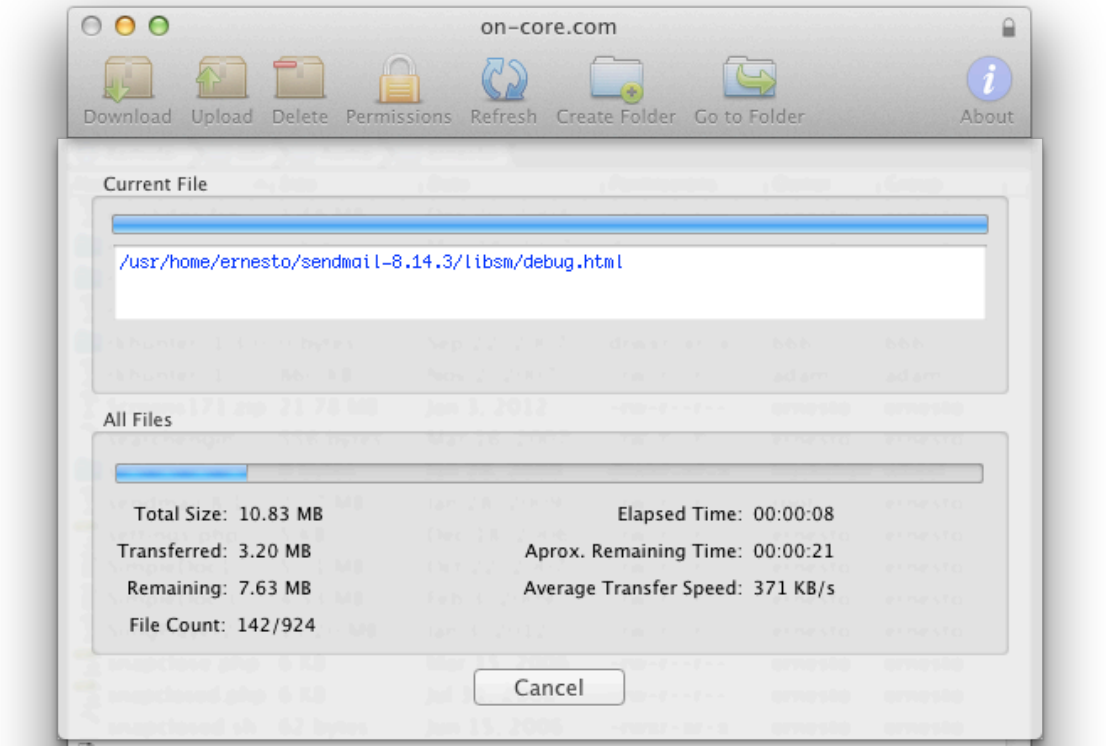
Create Folder: This function creates a folder on the remote server.



Delete: You can delete files and folders using this function. Simply select all the files and folders you want to delete, and SimpleFTP will delete them. In the case of folders, SimpleFTP will recursively go inside every folder within it, deleting the entire hierarchy. You will be prompted to verify you want to proceed before starting the actual deletion.



Download: Retrieves the selected files and folders on the remote server to your computer. You will be asked to select where you want to put them on your local drive, and the file transfer will begin.

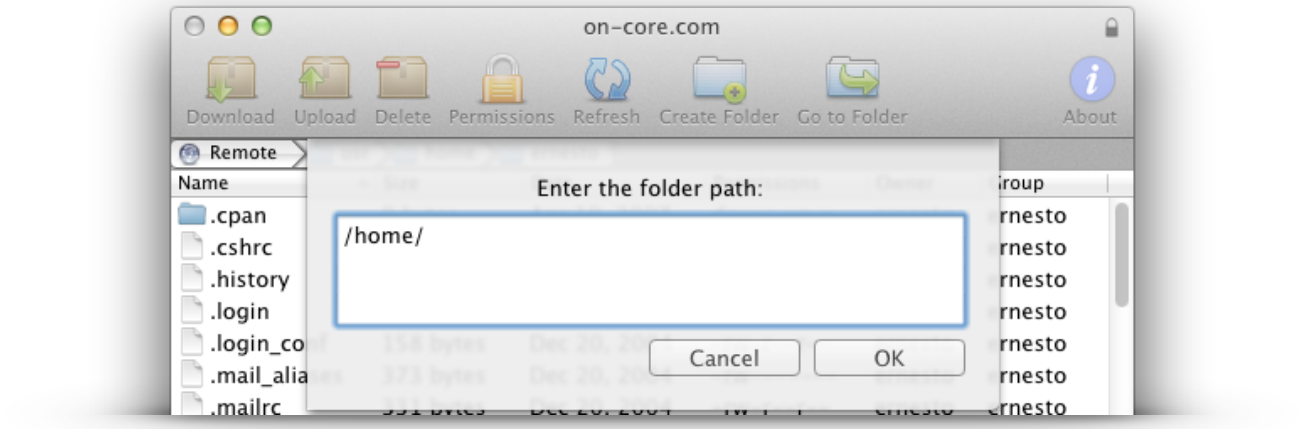


Hint: Remember you can simply drag the files and folders you want to transfer from the File List and drop them into the Finder to start a Download.

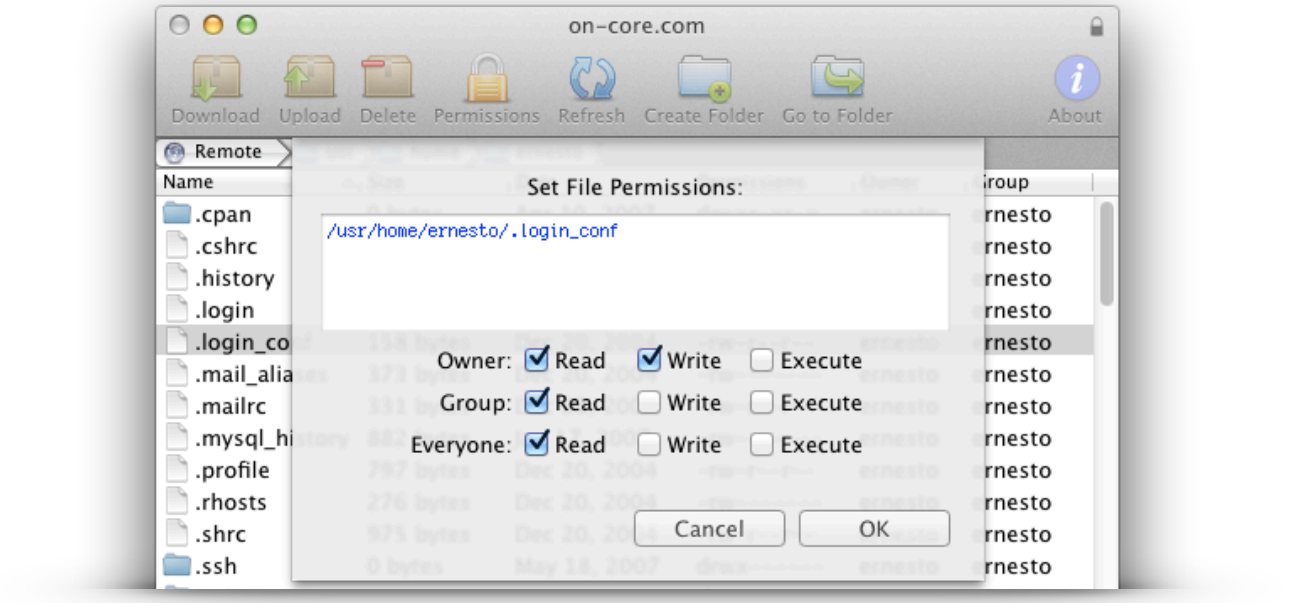
If any of the files you are trying to retrieve already exist on the local destination, SimpleFTP will ask you how you want to proceed: If it is a single file, you can either **overwrite** or **resume** an old transfer. In addition, if it is a multi file transfer, you will also be able to **skip** this file, **overwrite all** or **resume all** the remaining files in the batch.

Note: If the Resume button is disabled, that means the remote server does not support resuming transfers.

Go To Folder: To quickly access a folder on a remote server, select this function and type in the remote folder path.



Set Permissions: This option enables the connected user to change the current read, write, execute or search permissions on the selected file(s) or folder(s). Not all users might have the privileges to use this function. Some servers might not support changing permissions.

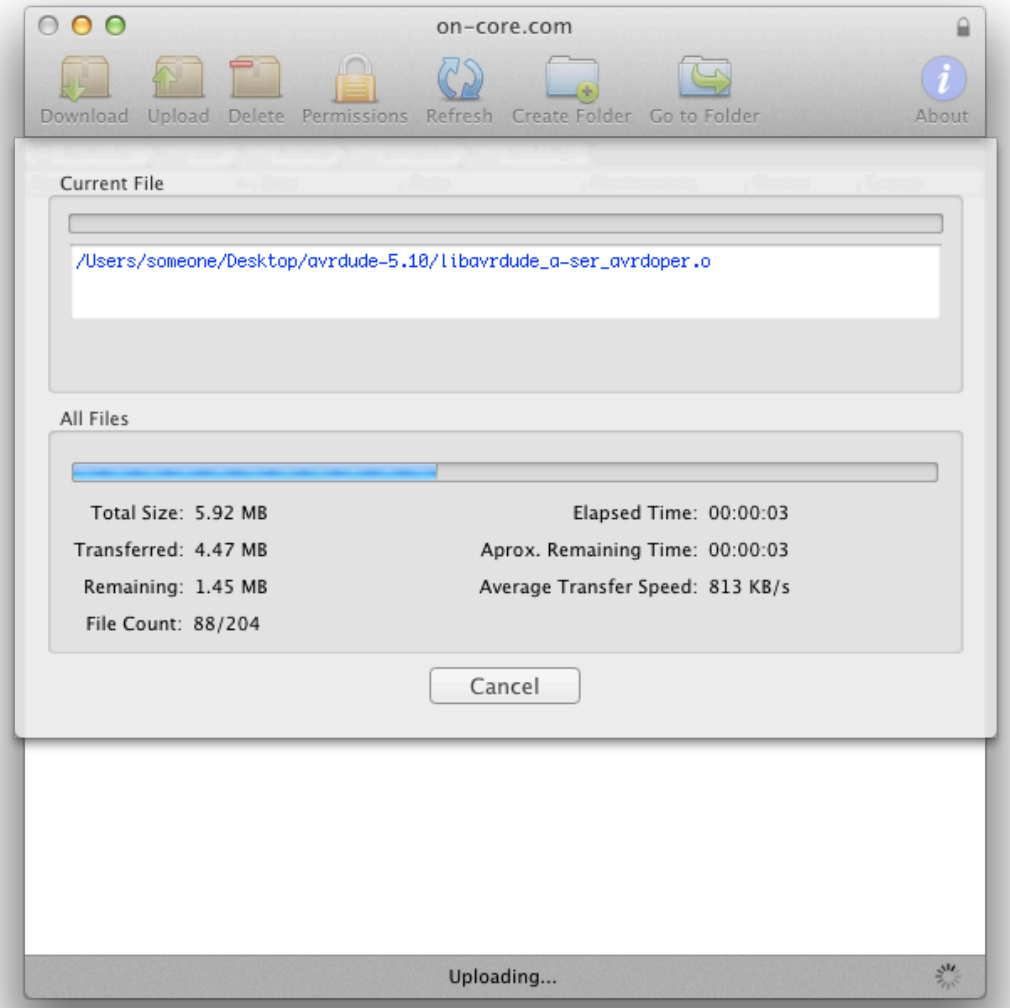


Refresh: Use this function to reload the File List from the remote server.

Rename: Choose this option to change the name of a file or a folder. Note that this option is only available when a single item is selected in the File List.

View: Use this option to preview a document. SimpleFTP will download them on a temporary folder and display it for you.

Upload: Copies local files and folders to the remote server. Select the files and folders you want to send, and the file transfer will begin.



Hint: Remember you can simply drag the files and folders you want to transfer to the remote server and drop them into the File List to start an Upload.

If any of the files you are trying to send already exist on the destination server, SimpleFTP will ask you how you want to proceed: If it is a single file, you can either **overwrite** or **resume** an old transfer. In addition, if it is a multi file transfer, you will also be able to **skip** this file, **overwrite all**, or **resume all** the remaining files in the batch.

Note: If the Resume button is disabled, that means the remote server does not support resuming transfers.

Create Connection Bookmark: You can use this function to create a new Connection Bookmark. All the fields will be pre-filled with the current connection information, including the current directory. You can modify them before adding the bookmark.

Create Synchronize Bookmark: Use this function to create a new Synchronization Bookmark. All the fields will be pre-filled with the current connection information, except for the Local Directory field, which you will need to complete before adding the bookmark.

A word about dot files

On Unix Systems, files that start with a "." (dot) are normally 'hidden' by the operating system. You may have seen the ".DS_Store" file that Mac OSX uses to define the layout of icons within a folder, when browsing the Mac with the Terminal Application or perhaps though a File dialog box. Although most FTP servers show the dot files by default, some do not (such as ProFTPd).

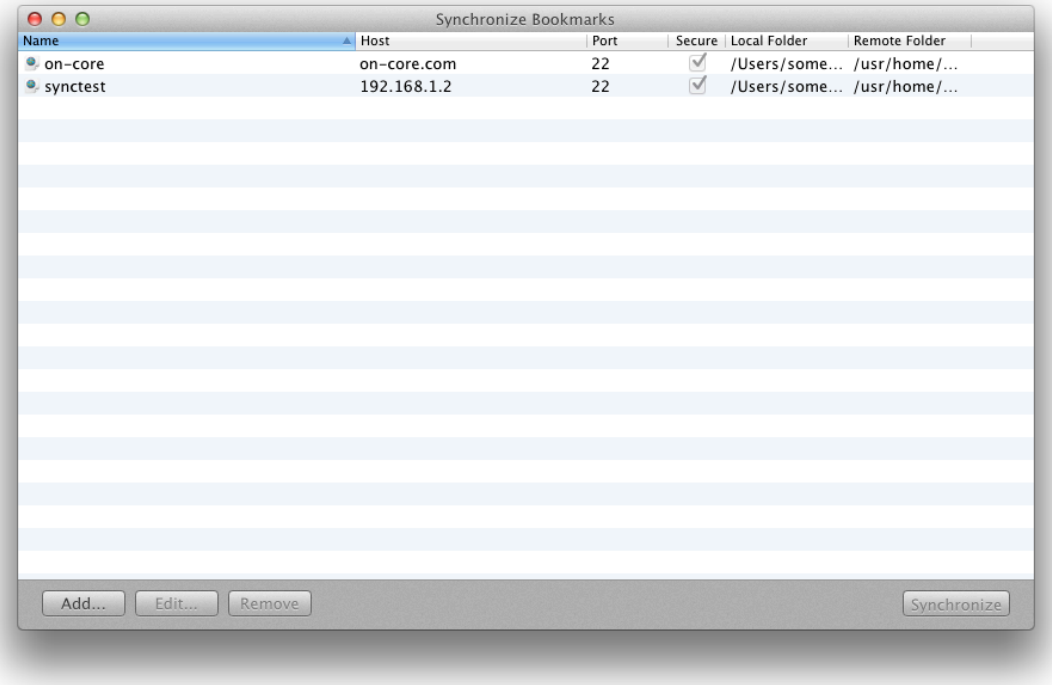
Since it could be a problem when trying to delete a folder on the FTP server, if you cannot see hidden files, we elect not to transfer any dot files from the Mac to the server when you copy a folder or do a Synchronization.

If you need to move a dot file to the server, you will need to specifically select the file and do an upload or download.

Chapter 4: Synchronization

Synchronizing files and folders

SimpleFTP makes it easy to keep your remote and local folders up to date. To start synchronizing files, bring up the **Synchronize Bookmarks** window from the **Window** menu.



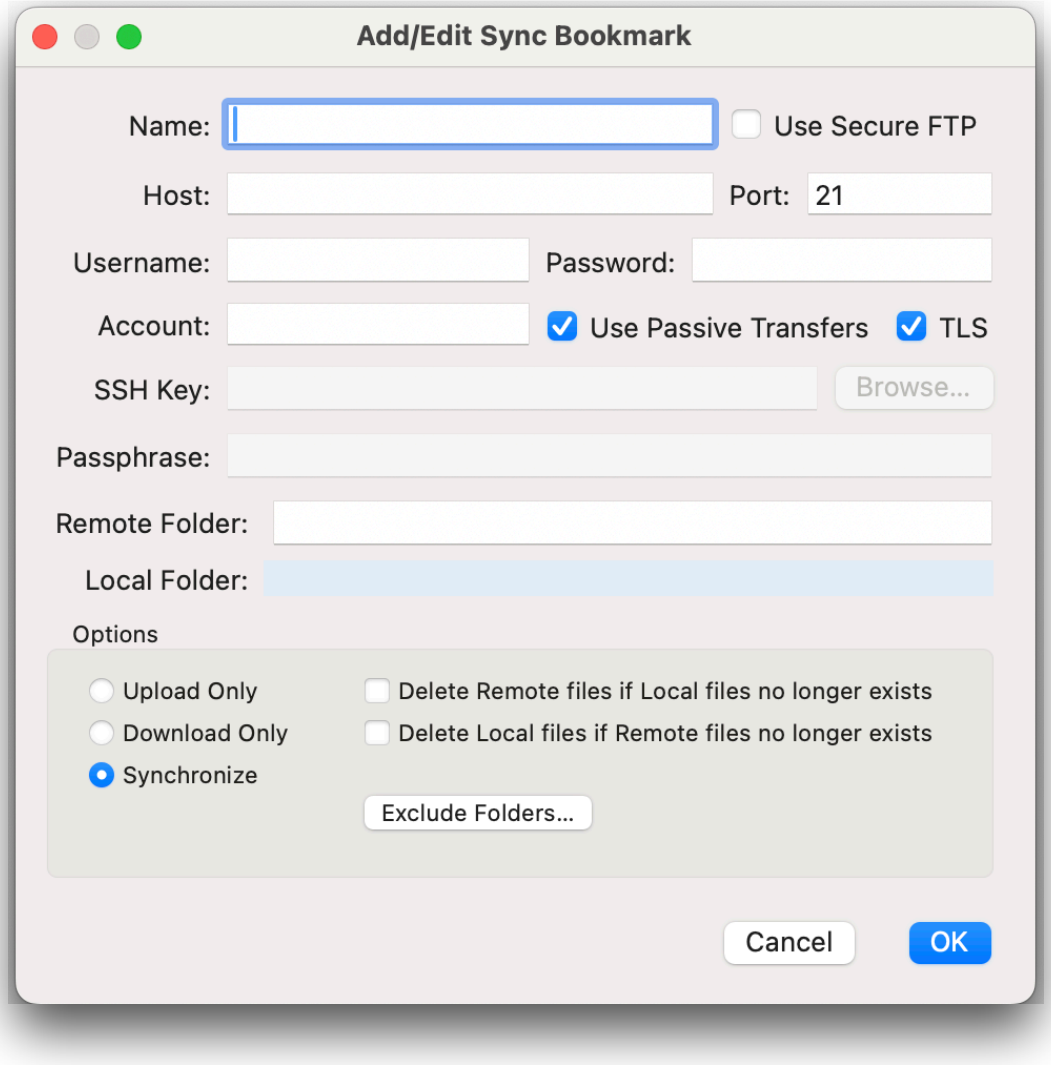
Adding a Synchronization Bookmark

Simply click on the **Add...** button and a connection sheet will appear, where you can enter the information.

Most of the fields were already described in ***Chapter 3: Using SimpleFTP***, on the **Add Bookmark** paragraph. Please refer to that text to get a description of the fields.

The synchronization specific fields are:

Local Directory: Click on the **box** (to the right of the label) to select a local directory to be used for synchronization.



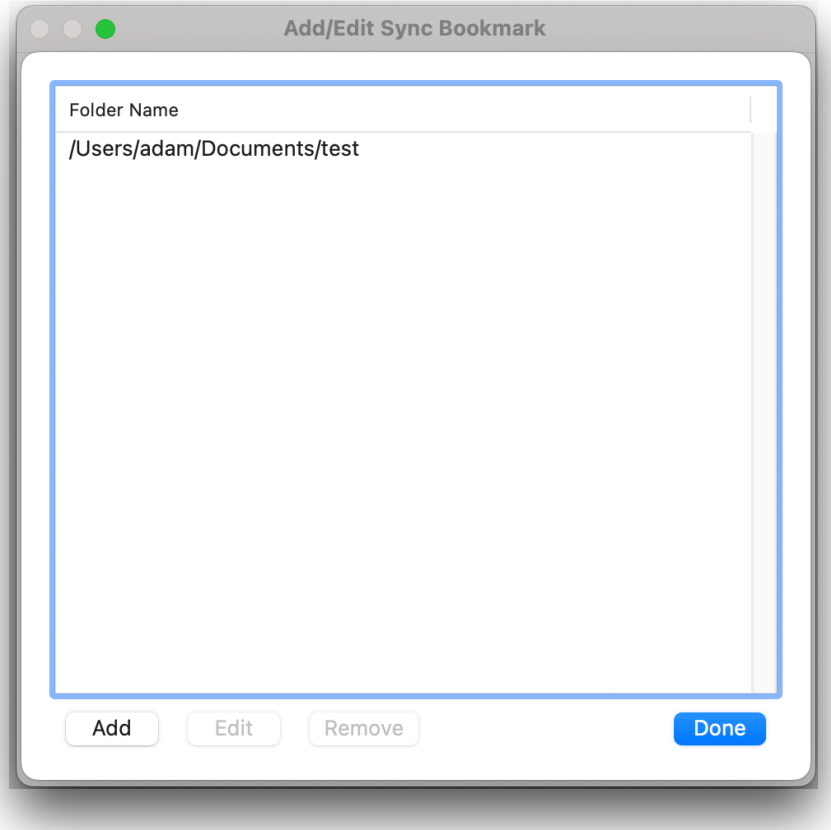
Synchronization Options: SimpleFTP is capable of doing synchronization in 3 different modes:

- **Upload Only**: In this mode, SimpleFTP will upload local files that do not exist on the remote server. It will also compare dates on existing files. If there are any files locally that are newer than the ones on the remote server, it will upload those, overwriting the older ones on the remote with the newer files. Optionally, if the Delete option is checked, it will remove all remote files in the remote folder that do not have a counterpart on the local folder.

- **Download Only**: Selecting this mode makes SimpleFTP download remote files that do not exist on the local folder. It will also compare dates on the files. If there are any files on the remote that are newer than the files stored locally, it will download those, overwriting the local files with the newer remote files. Optionally, if the Delete option is checked, it will remove all local files in the local folder that do not have a counterpart on the remote folder.

- **Synchronize**: When SimpleFTP operates in this mode, files missing locally are downloaded from the remote, and files missing on the remote are uploaded from the local copies. Also, a date and size comparison takes place among the files existing on both systems, and the newer copy gets transferred to the other side.

- **Exclude Folders:** There may be some folder on either your local machine, or on the server, that you may want to exclude from Synchronization. For example, you may want to exclude syncing log files. Clicking on the *Exclude Folders* button will pop-up the Add/Edit Sync Bookmarks window to exclude files. You can drag-and-drop a folder from your local computer to add it into the list, or you can type it manually. NOTE: it does require a Full Path to the file, so make sure that you enter it correctly.



Once you have completed the necessary fields, and checked the appropriate options, click the **OK** button to store the bookmark.

Editing and Removing Synchronization Bookmarks

Select the bookmark from the list, then click the **Edit** button to edit the bookmark information. Click **Remove** to delete the bookmark.

Starting Synchronization

Select the bookmark from the list, then simply click the **Synchronize** button to initiate the synchronization process.

First time synchronization

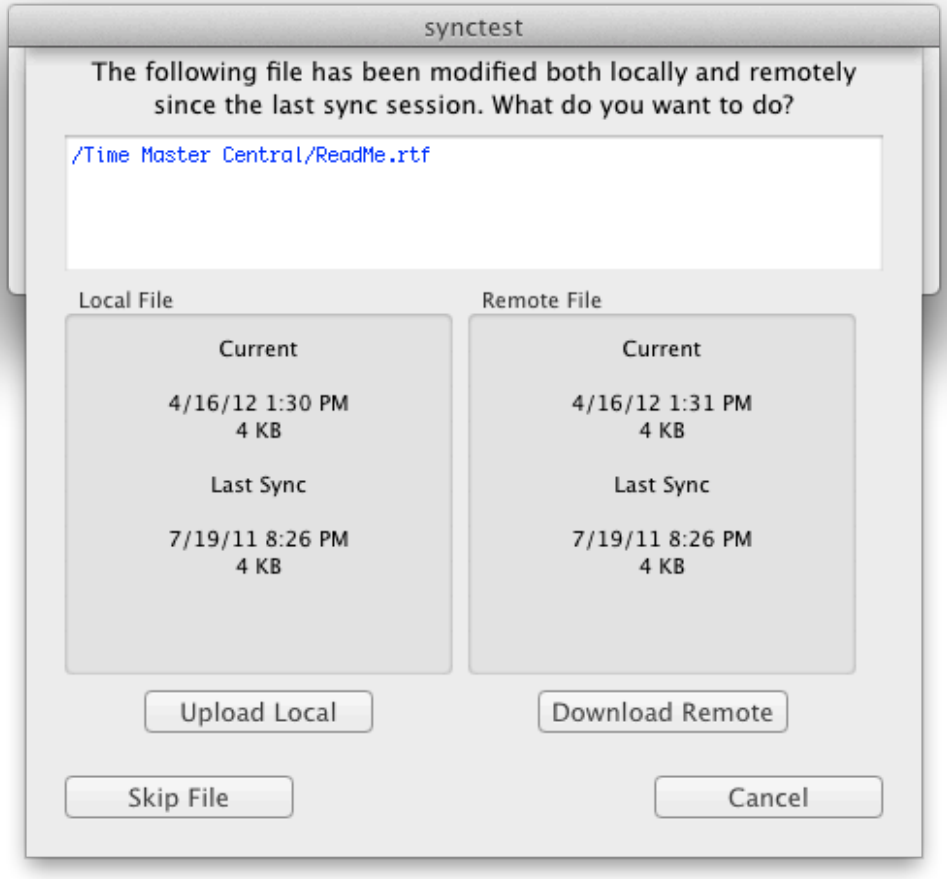
The first time a synchronization is done, SimpleFTP will ask you whether the existing files are already synchronized. If you know they are already synchronized, click **Yes**, and SimpleFTP will create a snapshot of both the local and remote folders, without transferring any files, and store it for future synchronizations . If you don't know if they are synchronized, or know they are not, then click **No**. SimpleFTP will synchronize the folders and then create the snapshot. If you think you can accelerate the process by synchronizing the folders manually, you can select **Cancel**, manually synchronize the folders, then start the synchronization again.



Note: If the synchronization mode is **Synchronize**, SimpleFTP will detect if there are missing files on either end, and if there are, it will not prompt you about **First time synchronization**. It will proceed to do the synchronization instead.

Synchronization conflicts

In the event that both remote and local files have changed since the last synchronization took place, a conflict window will appear, allowing you to select what action to take.



Hint: To create a quick list of bookmarks and/or synchronize bookmarks accessible from the Finder, create a folder, drag your most commonly used bookmarks into the folder, then drag the folder itself to the right side of the Dock. When you Control-click the folder on the Dock, a list of the bookmarks will appear. Selecting one will launch SimpleFTP and immediately either connect to the remote server or start synchronizing, depending on the type of bookmark you selected.

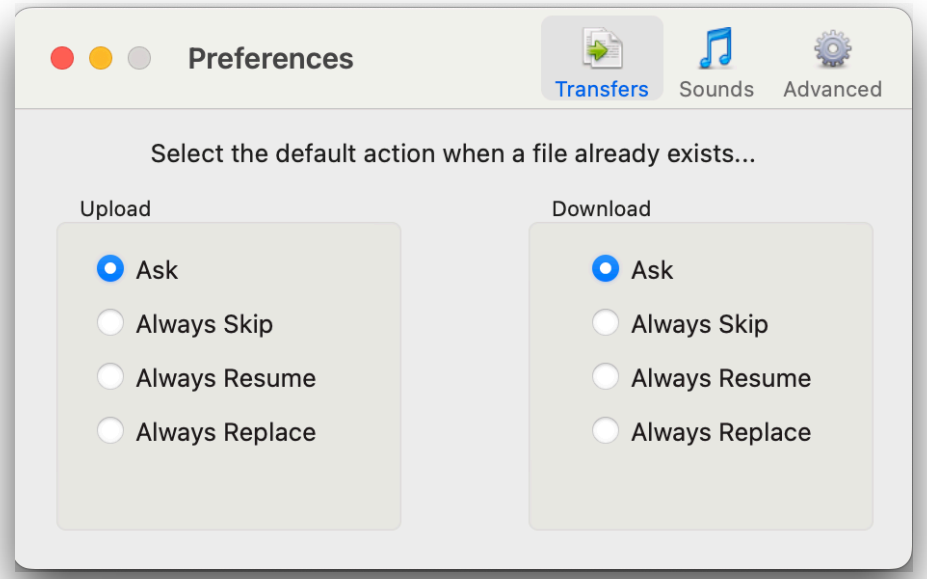
Important: Please note that the dragged bookmark retains all of the connection information. If you modify the bookmark afterwards, you will need to delete the bookmark file and drag a new copy to your destination.

Chapter 5: Preferences

In order to access the Preferences window, select **Preferences...** from the SimpleFTP menu.

Transfers Settings

This dialog lets you choose what action should be taken if a file already exists during an Upload or Download operation.



The Transfer options are:

- **Ask**: The user will be asked what action to take.
- **Always Skip**: Files already existing will be skipped.
- **Always Resume**: Files already existing will be resumed only if the destination file is smaller than the source file.
- **Always Overwrite**: If a file with the same name already exists, it will be deleted and replaced with a new copy.

Resume vs. Overwrite: You would want to use **Resume** for an upload or download process that has been interrupted so you can resume the transfer from where it stopped instead of starting over from scratch. This is especially handy when transferring large files, thus saving

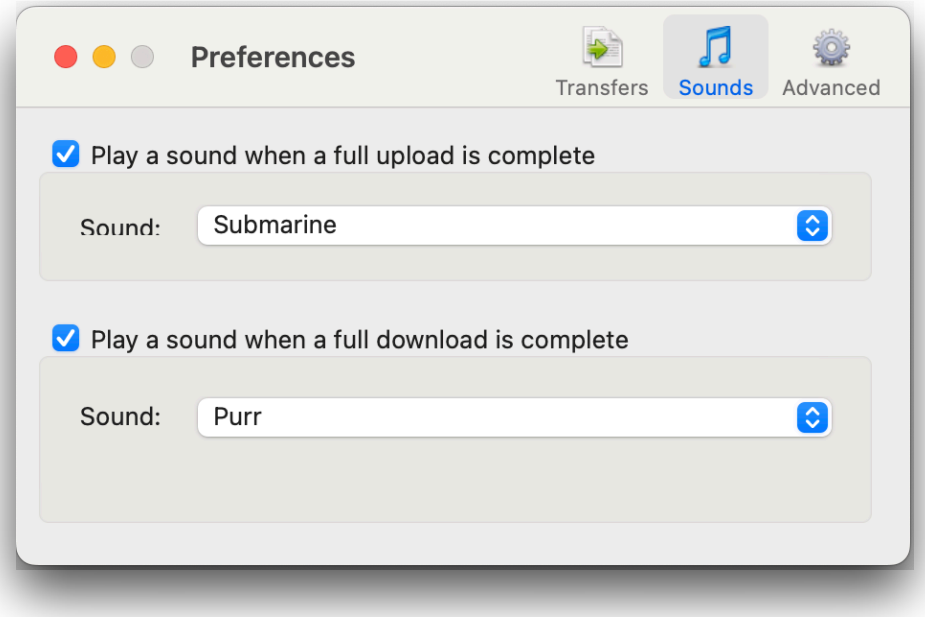
time if you lose the connection. SimpleFTP checks the destination file's current size and compares it to the length of the source file. If the destination file is smaller than the source file, the transfer will continue from that point onward.

Warning: Do not use **Resume** when there may be an old version(s) of the destination file(s). **Resume** will append bytes from the new file starting from the size of the older file. This will cause the file to become invalid. Example: If an old text file named "myfile" contained the text "ABC" and a newer version of the "myfile" contained "DEFGH", the resulting destination file would now contain "ABCGH".

Overwrite means that the file transfer will first delete the destination file, then transfer the file starting at the beginning. This ensures that the destination file is always the same as the source file.

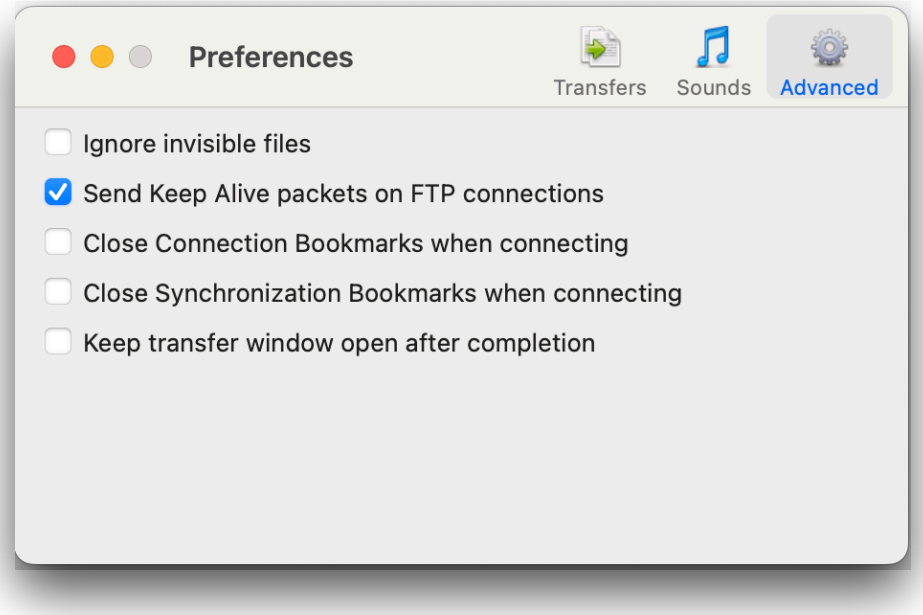
Sounds Settings

SimpleFTP can play a sound to alert you that a Download or Upload is complete. It can also play a sound when a Redial attempt is finally successful connecting to a remote site.



Miscellaneous Settings

The miscellaneous tab contains several special functions for configuring SimpleFTP.



Ignore invisible files: Check this box if you want to ignore invisible files (including files that start with a period) during upload, download and sync.

Send Keep Alive packets on FTP connections: Check this box if your FTP connection suffers from intermittent disconnects. Some servers might not support or honor these packets. This option has no effect on Secure FTP connections.

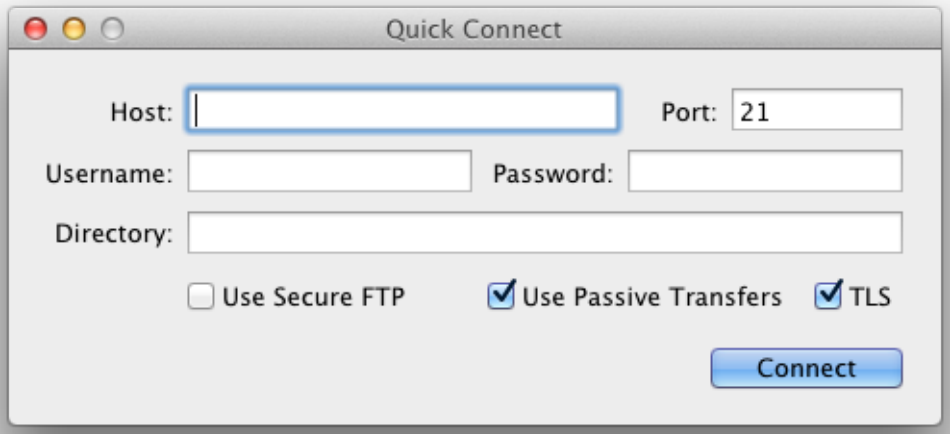
Close Connection Bookmarks when connecting and **Close Synchronization Bookmarks when connecting:** With these checkboxes, you can hide the bookmarks window after the connection is established. If you prefer to leave the window open, leave this box unchecked.

Keep transfer window open after completion: Check this box if you want to keep the file transfer sheet open after the transfer has finished. This will allow you to view the results of the transfer after it has completed.

Chapter 6: Quick Connect

Starting a session with Quick Connect

For those cases when you don't want to store a bookmark, and you just want to connect quickly, you can select **New Quick Connect...** from the File menu to open a new quick connection window.



All the fields are described in ***Chapter 3: Using SimpleFTP***, on the **Add Bookmark** paragraph. Please refer to that text to get a description of the fields.

Click **Connect** to connect to the remote server.

Chapter 7: Troubleshooting

Errors while attempting to connect

There are too many possible errors that can occur when attempting to connect to a remote server to list them all here. As a general rule, always double check that the information you entered is correct, and if the problem persists, contact the remote server administrator for further assistance. Here is a list of the most common errors, and their explanations:

Error: User authentication failed.

Explanation: The remote server could not verify your username or password. Make sure you entered the information correctly in the New Connection window.

Error: The server address or name is incorrect.

Explanation: The remote server address or name was typed incorrectly. You will also get this error if you tried to connect using a remote server name, and your name server (DNS) is unavailable. Check the Host field, and make sure it is correct.

Error: Network is down.

Explanation: Your current network settings are invalid or there is a problem with your network that is preventing the Operating System to access it. Check the Macintosh® User's Guide to see how you can properly configure your network settings and fix this problem.

Error: Max Users reached. Please try again later.

Explanation: The remote server has a limit on the number of users that can be connected at the same time, and that limit has been reached. Try connecting again later.

Errors while connected to the remote server

You might come across different error messages during your connection to a remote server. Since every server implements different functions and has unique error strings, it is difficult to list all the possibilities. Always contact the remote system administrator when in doubt. A list of the most common errors and their explanation follows:

Error: Access Denied.

Explanation: You don't have access privileges to perform the last operation. Contact your remote system administrator regarding access privileges and operations you can perform with your access level.

Error: The last operation timed out.

Explanation: The remote server did not respond in time to the last operation the client sent. If the operation involved aborting an ongoing file transfer, the client will attempt to reestablish a connection to the server. Bad connection conditions are the normal cause for this problem.

Error: The connection to the server was lost.

Explanation: The connection to the remote server was interrupted. Verify that your network is in working condition, and try connecting again.

Error: The Operating System returned error <number>

Explanation: MacOS X returned an error while attempting to process the last operation. Check the Macintosh® User's Guide for further information about error codes and solutions to the problem.

Miscellaneous Errors:

These are some error that you may encounter.

Error: Couldn't get handle: Permission denied.

Explanation: When you are trying to Upload, if the folder you are trying to upload to does not allow you to put a files there (no 'write' permission) and it is a Unix server. If you own the folder you can change the permission to 'write' for owner. Otherwise you will have to contact your system administrator for help to change the permissions.

If you are trying to Download a file and you receive this error, you don't have the correct permissions to 'read' this file.