

Quick Tips

Important tips for getting the most out of Rumpus.

While Rumpus is designed to be installed and started with a minimum of configuration, it does, in fact, offer an extensive feature set. After you've had success preparing the server, transferring a few files, and perhaps creating a user account or two, you may want to dig deeper into maximizing your server. Presented below are several tips that cover common topics to be considered for long-term management of a Rumpus file transfer server.

Find Answers Fast

Rumpus documentation can be found in two different places. Explanations of specific configuration options available within the Rumpus control application are provided by the Help pages in the control application itself. At any time, choose "Rumpus Help" from the "Help" menu in the Rumpus application to review details about all of the options presented on any window within Rumpus. For detailed information on a variety of topics, ranging from the basic functioning of FTP through advanced customization of the Web File Manager, see the PDF articles in the "Helpful Info" folder of the Rumpus package.

Quit The Control Application

Macintosh users expect programs to display a pleasing and comprehensive interface, and of course, the Rumpus control application provides one. However, the control application does not need to be running for Rumpus to provide service, since the server engine is actually a Unix daemon process. In most cases, you'll want to have Rumpus started when the Mac itself is booted, so be sure to check the "Launch Rumpus Service At System Startup" checkbox on the "Install Server" window. With the server daemon running, there is no need to run the control application unless you need to make configuration changes or monitor activity. Running your server with the control application off not only reduces screen clutter, but allows the server engine to run more efficiently, since it doesn't have to report server activity to the control application.

Experiment With Web File Manager Options

There are numerous Web File Manager options that are disabled by default, and others that allow you to easily customize the WFM appearance. Open a Web browser on the Rumpus server or another nearby computer and log in to the Rumpus Web interface. Then open the "Web Settings" window in Rumpus and experiment with the options available on the "WFM

Appearance” and “WFM Options” tabs. Be sure to click “Apply Changes” to tell the Rumpus server to accept your changes, and press reload or take other action in the browser to see the result.

Of course, to test various upload/download features, you may need to transfer a file or two, but be sure to always reload the file listing page first, as that page controls much of what happens in the WFM interface. Another good way to experience your Rumpus server as a remote user would is to set upload and download rate restrictions on your test account. Open the Define Users window and set the “Maximum Upload Rate” and “Maximum Download Rate” to 16 KBps or so to simulate a low to moderate speed Internet connection.

Back Up Your Settings and User Accounts

Maxum strongly recommends that you maintain an up-to-date backup of your Rumpus configuration files, particularly the user accounts database. Fortunately, making a backup copy is quick and easy.

All Rumpus configuration files are stored in the Rumpus config folder at “/usr/local/Rumpus”. While this folder is not normally visible in the Finder, it can be opened by clicking the “Open Config Folder” button on the “Backup Settings” window in Rumpus. Alternatively, the folder can be opened via the Terminal with the command “open /usr/local/Rumpus”.

The settings files in the configuration folder are normal files which can be copied to another location on a hard drive, tape, CD-ROM or other storage medium. In most cases, the most critical file is the user accounts database file (“Rumpus.users”), but when you have defined an extensive list of Upload Notices (“Rumpus.notices”), Folder Sets (“Rumpus.fsets”), Blocked Clients (“Rumpus.rips”) or File Types (“Rumpus.types”), you’ll want to be sure to keep a recent backup of these files as well. For a full description of the important files in the Rumpus configuration folder, see the “Technical Details” article in the Helpful Info folder of the Rumpus package. Use the “Make Backup” function on the “Backup Settings” window in Rumpus to automatically copy all of these files to a selected folder on your hard drive.

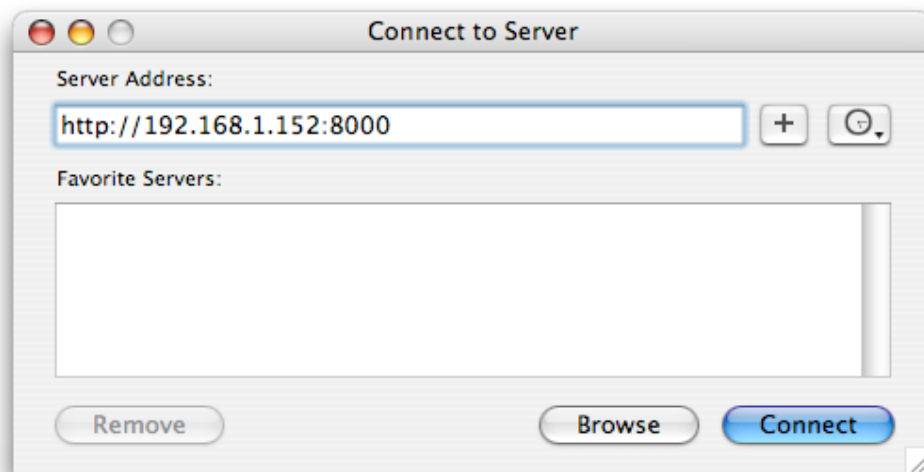
To restore from backup, stop the server, quit the Rumpus control application, and copy the backup file into the configuration folder. In the case of a complete server loss or replacement, we recommend downloading a fresh copy of Rumpus from the Maxum Web site, then launching the control application and working through the setup assistant to install a basic setup. With the server restored to a basic setup, you can replace the needed files from backup (with the Rumpus server stopped and the control application not running, of course).

Improve Access To Log Files

By default, Rumpus keeps its log files localized in the “/usr/local/Rumpus/” directory along with the Rumpus configuration and support files, but this is easy to change. On the “FTP Settings” window, flip to the “Logs” tab to specify which log files should be maintained and where they should be kept. One good option is to set the Log Folder to “/Library/Logs/Rumpus/” and to set the Archive Folder to “/Library/Logs/Rumpus/Archives/”. (“/Library/Logs/” is the standard OS X folder for system service log files.) With this change made, the Rumpus log files will become visible in the Console application on the “Logs” window. Open the folder “/Applications/Utilities/” and drag the Console icon into the dock to make the System Console, and your Rumpus log files, easily accessible.

Use WebDAV To Connect As A Desktop Volume

With WebDAV enabled, it’s easy to mount a Rumpus server as a volume on your desktop from anywhere on the Internet. Just choose “Connect To Server...” from the Finder’s “Go” menu. When asked for the server address, enter “http://” followed by the server address and port number. (The port number isn’t required if it is set to the Web default of 80.)



The address entered is exactly the same as that used to connect via Web browser, but be sure to include “http://”, as the Finder will attempt to make the connection via AFP by default.

After entering the connection URL and clicking Connect, you will be prompted to enter a name and password. Any Rumpus user account can be used to access that user’s Home Folder. Uploading, downloading and managing files is then done as if the Rumpus server were a hard drive or any other standard volume mounted on your Mac desktop