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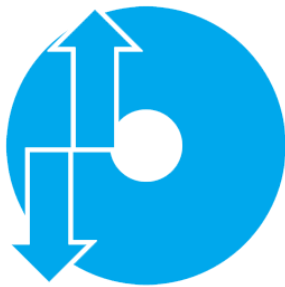
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PLEASE NOTE that the information in this Documentation always refer to the most recent Version of CloneApp, which can be downloaded [here](#).

1. Introducing CloneApp



1.1 What is CloneApp?

CloneApp is a small, **fully portable** utility for computers running Microsoft Windows that is designed to easy backup and restore Application settings and Windows configurations that are stored in Windows directories, profile folders and Registry.

1.2 What can you use it for?

As you can guess from its Name **CloneApp**, it is used to copy and restore configuration files from Applications and Windows components.

E.g. CloneApp can be helpful keeping Windows and program settings when reinstalling Windows or just for Backup purposes for not losing the Configurations, when reinstalling Applications.

1.3 What makes CloneApp different from other Backup Software?

With CloneApp, you can create Application backups of a different kind. Instead of completely backing up all files of a program or even a complete Windows partition etc., CloneApp will Backup ONLY the Configuration files of an Application itself from Windows directories and Registry.

This is done quickly and saves a lot of space.

Info: In many ways, backing up ONLY the Configuration files is also the more secure way. E.g. if your System becomes insecure due to malware or mistake or unstable a fresh install is sometimes the only way to go.

1.4 System requirements

CloneApp will run on any PC running **Microsoft Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows Server 2008-2012, Windows 10** (all editions, including 64-bit)

Since CloneApp is fully portable and has a very low memory usage, there are no minimum memory or hard drive requirements. It is not bonded on 3rd-Party Libraries or has other Dependencies and it does not write anything to the Registry.

1.5 About the Project

The initial release of CloneApp was May/05/2015 and Version 2.0 came on April/05/2018. It is currently not digitally signed. Since this is a one-man Project, it relies on Donations. **If you want to contribute and Support the Development of CloneApp, you can send me a Donation [here](#).**

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If you enjoy CloneApp, please introduce it your beloved and more number of people, write about CloneApp on your Blog and help me grow CloneApp.

Note: CloneApp contains NO spyware or adware.

2. Using CloneApp

2.1 The User Interface

The Main menu of CloneApp is the **Hamburger menu** on top, next to the CloneApp Program name caption. This menu provides additional and advanced settings, which will be discussed in Chapter 4 - CloneApp Settings.

The CloneApp interface is divided into three panes:

1. **Navigation tab:** The first lists main program functions such as backup or restore.
2. **App window:** The second lists all supported programs
3. **Status-, Log window:** The third lists log information

The Main menu of the **Navigation tab** (1.) is captioned with the name **Home**. This is also the first tab you will see, when starting CloneApp.

Next to the Backup and Restore Buttons, you will also see a **Preview** button.

Note: The Preview feature is for Analyzes ONLY. No files are backed up during the Process.

Under the Preview button, you will see also a **Select Installed** button. This function will check which of the Installed Plug-ins belongs to real Applications on your System. Every detected Application will be marked and reported in the **Status-, Log window**.

Tip: Tap on a key on the keyboard to jump to the first program in the list that begins with it. A tap on C jumps to Calibre directly.

Under the Select Installed button, you will the function to **Import Plug-ins**. *Please look into chapter 2.3 – Importing new Applications, to learn more about this feature.*

Next to these Submenus of the Home window, you will find in the Navigation tab also the menu **Control Panel** and **About this App**. *The menu Control Panel is described in detail in Chapter 4, CloneApp – Settings.* The Info resp. **About this App** menu provides versioning information and a function to Check for Software Updates. *See chapter 2.4 Checking for CloneApp updates to learn more about this feature.*

The **App window** (2.) provides information about the Plug-in itself, e.g. Plug-in Name, Author of the Plug-in and lists all Installed Plug-ins.

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The **Status-, Log window** (3.) logs all actions during the Backup and Restoration process. *Read more about this feature in the chapter 5.1 Log operations.*

2.2 Backup and Restore Application settings

2.2.1 Backup Application settings

Note: You should be **running CloneApp always with Administrator rights**. You can still use it as a normal or restricted user, but Windows may prevent you from copying certain files.

First, select all Apps you want to be backed up by checking their checkboxes. If you are unsure which Apps to select, you can use the function **Select Installed**.

This feature works very precisely and checks every deposited configuration file in the Plug-in files for their existence, and selects all matches.

For **starting a Backup**, click the **Backup** button in the Home menu. CloneApp starts now immediately the Backup process and exports all files to the Clone Path defined under Options (*Read more about this feature in the chapter 4 - CloneApp Settings*). The Backup process itself is straightforward. It runs the process for each Application that you have selected individually and echos the progress that it makes in the Status-, Log window.

2.2.2 Restore Application settings

The same procedure from the Backup process is used in the Restoration process, but vice versa. To start a Restoration, click on the **Restore** button in the Home menu. **The Basis for the Restoration process is the Plug-in file itself and the Restoration file cloneapp2.ini**, which is being created after each Backup Process and where all relevant Settings are saved, e.g. ClonePath, Clone Mode and the Confirmation Mode (*Read more about this feature in the chapter 4.5 - Clone Modes*).

2.2.3 Background Information about Backup and Restoration Process

CloneApp runs the Backup and Restoration process very careful.

Dialogs may be displayed by default to you during the process, for instance, when a file cannot be copied, because when an application is still running during the process or when folders cannot be copied because the main folders do not exist since the application is not installed.

In the last case, CloneApp will ask you whether the folders should be created. This could also happen, when an Environment Variable does not exist and CloneApp does not know where to copy and/or restore the Files.

Read more about this process in chapter 4. - CloneApp Settings > Clone Modes and how to handle Dialog boxes and Error Messages in CloneApp.

CloneApp will log every action taken in the Status window.

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2.2.4 How can I Restore a Backup to another Computer?

Just copy the CloneApp program folder including the CloneApp Plug-ins and of course, the Backup folder including the **cloneapp2.ini** to the machine you want to restore the configuration.

CloneApp writes the path where the files have been backed up (Clone Path) also to the **clonapp2.ini**

The Username (which is part of the Clone Path) on the target machine you want to restore the configuration could maybe be another as on the source machine where the Backup has been made. In this case, CloneApp will return the Error message **"Restoration Settings could not be loaded. Do you want to select the Restoration file?"** If you see this message, please select the Restoration file manually.

2.3 Importing new Applications

New Plug-ins for CloneApp can be found [here](#).

To import and install a new downloaded Plug-in use the **Import Plug-in** link in the Home menu or **Hamburger menu > Import Plug-in**. (*Read more about this feature in the chapter **CloneApp Rules***)

2.4 Checking for CloneApp updates

The **Check for updates** feature checks whether a more recent version of CloneApp is available to download. To use the feature, your computer must have a connection to the internet. If your internet connection uses a proxy server, make sure your web browser connection settings are configured correctly.

To check for updates, go to the **About this App** tab and click on the **Version information** or use the link Check for updates in the **Hamburger menu**. A message box will popup, if a newer version is available.

3. CloneApp Rules

CloneApp is based on an INI Engine to determine which Applications and Windows configuration files to Backup and/or Restore and how to do that. INI files are simple text files with plain text, so you can edit them with Notepad. CloneApp brings by default already pre-configured Plug-ins for dozen popular Applications. To extend CloneApp's functionality you can create your own Plug-ins.

3.1 Structure of a Plug-in file

[Info]

Title=Name of the Plug-in. Title is showed in the UI > Name field

Version=Shows with which Version a Plug-in is compatible (Optional)

Description=Shows a short Description of what is being backed up

Author=Mirinsoft or <http://www.mirinsoft.com>

AuthorURL=Optional in URL format: <http://www.mirinsoft.com>

Warning=Display Warnings (Optional)

[Files]

File1 = BackupFile | %AppData%\Example App\Configuration\config.ini

The **Execution process of a Plug-in** is done in the **[Files]** section.

The File entries must start at 1 and proceed sequentially upwards **File1** (File2, File3 etc.) followed by the **equality sign (=)**

Then the **Command** has to be added e.g. **RunFile** followed by the Path to the File/Folder/Registry Keys or Command.

Info: The Path entries are NOT case-insensitive.

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3.2 Supported Variables

CloneApp works with the Environment Variables of Windows. The most common Variables like `%ProgramFiles%`, `%AppData%` etc. are defined on every Windows version. To see all Environment Variables configured on your System do the following.

*Start > Run > cmd > Type the command **set***

The "%" (**percent sign**) defines **Windows Environment Variables**.

Here is a list of the most common Variables on **Windows Vista and later** systems.

| Variable | Place |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <code>%ALLUSERSPROFILE%</code> | C:\ProgramData |
| <code>%APPDATA%</code> | C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming |
| <code>%LOCALAPPDATA%</code> | C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Local |
| <code>%PROGRAMDATA%</code> | C:\ProgramData |
| <code>%PROGRAMFILES%</code> | C:\Program Files |
| <code>%PROGRAMFILES(X86)%</code> | C:\Program Files (x86) (only in 64-bit version) |
| <code>%ProgramW6432%</code> | C:\Program Files (only in 64-bit version) |
| <code>%PUBLIC%</code> | C:\Users\Public |
| <code>%SystemDrive%</code> | C: |
| <code>%SystemRoot%</code> | C:\Windows |
| <code>%USERPROFILE%</code> | C:\Users\{username} |
| <code>%WINDIR%</code> | C:\Windows |

The "\$" (**dollar sign**) defines **Custom/Internal Variables of CloneApp** based on Windows API.

| Variable | Place |
|---|--|
| <code>\$AppClonePath\$</code> | Clone/Backup/Output folder of CloneApp |
| <code>\$Date\$</code> | Date stamp e.g. in Clone Path |
| <code>\$Documents\$</code> | C:\Users\{username}\Documents |
| <code>\$AppData\$</code> | C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Roaming |
| <code>\$LocalAppData\$</code> | C:\Users\{username}\AppData\Local\Roaming |
| <code>\$ProgramFiles\$ (only 32-bit version)</code> | C:\Program Files (x86) |
| <code>\$FirefoxProfile\$</code> | Default Firefox Profile in AppData\Roaming |

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You can also define **Custom Variables** in a CloneApp Plug-in file e.g.

[Variables]

```
MyDocuments=%UserProfile%\Documents
```

The **Execution process of Custom Variables** is also done in the **[Files]** section.

[Files]

```
File1=BackupFile|%MyDocuments%\config.ini
```

3.3 Supported Commands

CloneApp's core is the customizable Plug-in engine. This supports several Commands, which will be explained in this chapter.

Note: All below used **Commands are case-insensitive.**

3.3.1 Backup Files

BackupFile or BackupFile64

```
File1=BackupFile|%AppData%\Example App\Configuration\config.ini
```

```
File2=BackupFile|%AppData%\Example App\Configuration\*.*
```

```
File3=BackupFile|%AppData%\Example App\Configuration\*.ini
```

```
File4=BackupFile|%AppData%\Example App\Configuration\*config*
```

The command used is **BackupFile**, which exports the File **config.ini** to the **Clone Path defined under the Options tab** in CloneApp. (Read more about this feature in the chapter **CloneApp Settings**). It supports also Filetypes/Wildcards, here ***.***

In the second example **File2** it would export all Files in the Configuration folder. You can also specify the Wildcard e.g. **File3 *.ini** to export ONLY .INI-Files.

Note: The x64-bit Variant of the BackupFile Command, has to be used when working with x64-bit Environment Variables e.g. **%ProgramW6432%**.

Info: This command supports the Attributes write-only and hidden.

3.3.2 Backup Folders

BackupFolder or BackupFolder64

```
File1=BackupFolder|%AppData%\Example App\Configuration
```

This command is used to backup ONLY **complete** folders.

You can also define custom Output folders of your Choice, when working with this Command. E.g.

```
File2=BackupFolder|%AppData%\Example App\Configuration|OutputFolderNew
```

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To eliminate redundancies, when backing up an Application which has different locations but same folder name, this command splits the absolute path of each backed up folder e.g.

Windows Themes

```
%LocalAppData%\Microsoft\Windows\Themes
```

The created Output folder **Windows Themes** creates five other Subfolders beginning with **%LocalAppData% \ Microsoft \ Windows \ Themes \ Themes**

Here the same, where instead of **%LocalAppData%**, the folder **%AppData%** will be created.
%AppData% \ Microsoft \ Windows \ Themes \ Themes

Note: The x64-bit Variant of the BackupFolder Command, has to be used when working with x64-bit Environment Variables e.g. **%ProgramW6432%**.

Info: This command supports the Attributes write-only and hidden.

3.3.3 Backup Registry Keys

BackupRegKey

```
File1=BackupRegKey|HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\ExampleApp
```

The short out RegKey format is also supported, i.e.

```
File2=BackupRegKey|HKCU\Software\ExampleApp
```

This Command creates also for each part of the Registry Key a separate subfolder to eliminate redundancies when backing up Registry Keys with identical Filenames e.g.

7-Zip

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\SOFTWARE\7-Zip
```

The created Output folder **7-Zip** creates three other Subfolders beginning with **HKEY_CURRENT_USER \ Software \ 7-Zip**

Here the same, where instead of **HKEY_CURRENT_USER** the folder **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE** will be created.

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE \ Software \ 7-Zip
```

This Command supports also the **creation of Custom Output folders**

```
File1=BackupRegKey|HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\ExampleApp|HKEY_CURRENT_CustomFolder
```

3.3.4 Run Files

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RunFile

```
File1=RunFile|%AppData%\Example App\Configuration\My Software.exe?
```

Don't forget the "?" sign, which **executes the RunFile** command.

3.3.5 Run Commands

RunCommand

```
File1=RunCommand|netsh advfirewall export $AppClonePath$\WindowsFirewallSettings.wfw"
```

This Command executes the command-line `netsh advfirewall` and exports the Windows Firewall Settings to the Backup directory of CloneApp.

The **RunCommand** supports the internal Variable **\$AppClonePath\$**. If enabled, it uses the default Clone Path directory of CloneApp.

3.3.6 Kill Tasks

TaskKill

```
File1=TaskKill|firefox.exe|WARNING
```

This Command is used to terminate tasks by process id (PID) or image name. Optional a hint can be showed by registering the **WARNING** command.

3.3.7 Detect

Detect

```
File1=Detect|HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\14.0\Word
```

OR (ONLY one **Detect** Command is allowed)

```
File2=Detect|%AppData%\Microsoft\Word
```

By default, the Detection routine checks every deposited File, Folder and Registry Key in a Plug-in file for their existence. Optional you can use the **Detect** Command, which is been preferred if added, and check only the File, Folder and Registry Key existence in this Command.

3.4 External Plug-ins

CloneApp supports command-line options for external Applications.

External Plug-ins are based on the default Plug-in file and the external Application itself, which has both to be imported to the Plug-in directory of CloneApp.

3.4.1 Example of an External Plug-in

Info: This Command has been updated with v2.00 to *PlugEx*. In versions below, the Command works under the name *ExternalPlug*

PlugEx

```
File1= PlugEx|Plug-ins\ProduKey\ProduKey.exe /stext $AppClonePath$\Product keys.txt
```

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The Command used is **PlugEx**, which executes **NirSoft ProduKey** and exports the Product keys in a Text File. As destination path, the internal **\$AppClonePath\$** Variable is used.

3.4.2 Supported External Plug-ins

- ✓ [Nirsoft ProduKey](#), which save a list of Product keys for Applications and Windows e.g. Windows, Office, Adobe products etc. into a text file.
- ✓ [Nirsoft MyUninstaller](#), which save a list of Installed Applications into a text file.

4. CloneApp Settings

In the **Control Panel** tab, you will find several customizing settings for CloneApp.

4.1 Clone Path

The most important setting is the Backup destination path, called **Clone Path** where the backed up files are going to be copied and restored. **CloneApp automatically creates the Output/Backup directories.**

You can also use an **Variable/Dynamic Clone Path** e.g. `%UserProfile%\Desktop\CloneApp (Backup)-%Date%`

As you see, the Clone Path supports also the Variable **%Date%**, in the Format YYYY-MM-DD.

4.2 Log Path

In the Control Panel tab, you will be also able to define a **Log Path** for CloneApp, where all actions performed during a Backup and/or Restoration process, are going to be saved. These logs can be saved into a text file **Right-click Status window > Save** or **Save as ...**

Note: You can also use a **Variable/Dynamic Log Path** e.g. `%UserProfile%\Desktop\`

4.3 Editor Path

This option allows you to define a custom Plug-in Editor e.g. Notepad or Notepad++
By default, the internal CloneApp editor **\$AppEditor\$** (*read more about this feature in the next chapter 4.3.1 – Internal Editor*) is preconfigured.

Note: You can also use a **Variable/Dynamic Editor Path** e.g. `%ProgramFiles%\Notepad++\notepad++.exe`

4.3.1 Internal Editor

CloneApp brings also a small and fast built-in Plug-in Editor, which is enabled by default.

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To make sure that it is enabled, please check for the Variable **\$AppEditor\$** entered in the Editor path. The internal AppEditor allows you to easily edit available Plug-in files and to save new Plug-in files based on your editing.

4.4 7z Compression

7-Zip is an effective compression program. The 7z.exe program is used to compress, extract and update files through the command line. It provides superior compression. It is open-source. This makes it easy to obtain and use it in CloneApp.

If Installed CloneApp will automatically detect the Installation path and recommend command line options by clicking the **Browse** Button, otherwise a Dialog will be displayed for entering a Custom path.

Use the **Compress** and **Decompress** Textboxes to edit the command line options for compression and decompression.

4.5 Clone Modes

4.5.1 Clone Mode: Clone Apps in same or separate folder:

This option is set by default and let CloneApp **export all backed up files into one and same directory** which is defined under the Clone Path.

If you make a second click on this option, you will enable the second mode **Clone Apps in separate folder**. When using this option, CloneApp will create for each backed up Application a separate directory. The naming of the folders will be on basis of each Plug-in file.

Note: This option is with newer Versions of CloneApp enabled by default.

If the Plug-in file is called **Windows Favorites** but the Application being backed up carries the name **Favorites**, then CloneApp will create a folder with the Name Windows Favorites and export the Favorites folder itself as a sub folder of Windows Favorites

4.5.2 Confirmation Mode: Display or Hide Clone conflicts

The option **displays confirmation dialogs** shows these information dialogs, if a file/folder already exists and should be overwritten, e.g. if a folder does not exist and should be created or if the Application being backed up is running and the files cannot be copied. This and such other "normal" Windows file conflicts will always be displayed if an error occurs.

If you make a second click on this option, you will enable the second mode, **Respond silent to all Clone conflicts**. While this option is enabled, CloneApp will respond to all Clone and Windows conflicts automatically with "Yes" and hide all User Interface and dialog boxes if an error occurs. In this case, file/folders will be automatically overwritten, folders will be created if they do not exist and running Applications/Processes will be ignored.

Note: This option is with newer Versions of CloneApp enabled by default.

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Note: By enabling this option, you will have to try NOT to evocate Windows conflicts e.g. a running Application such as Mozilla Firefox will not be backed up and/or restored completely while it is opened, because CloneApp (*and also every other Application/Process*) cannot copy and/or replace files in use.

4.6 Configuration files

Since CloneApp is a fully Portable Application, it saves its own settings in .INI files, which will be stored in the CloneApp Installation/Program **Data** folder.

Next to .INI files, also, some other Configuration files are created in the program folder of CloneApp and which one, you will find out here:

cloneapp.ini

This is the main Configuration file, where all internal Settings from the **Options** tab of Clone App are stored.

cloneapp2.ini

This file is not available, until you run a Backup Process with CloneApp. After a Backup Process has been runned, this file will be automatically created, where all Settings are saved with which the Backup process has been taken. A copy of this file is also available in the folder where the files have been backed up. When starting a Restoration process, CloneApp will copy the **cloneapp2.ini** from the Clone Path to the **Data** folder of CloneApp and load the Configuration from it, which will be the basis for the Restoration process.

plug-ins.ini

This file stores the Status of the Apps/Plug-ins in CloneApp. The Boolean values tells whether a Plug-in is selected/enabled (1=True) or disabled (0=False).

update.ini

This file stores versioning information and provides Website News in the Statusbar of CloneApp.

theme.ini (customization file and NOT shipped with CloneApp)

This file overrides the UI and provides Advanced tweaks for CloneApp. Custom Theme files can be found [here](#).

4.7 Advanced settings

The Hamburger menu provides some **Advanced Settings**, like Theme customizations, Localization file import and shows the available command-line options.

5. Advanced Usage

5.1 Log operations

CloneApp is logging every File, Folder, Registry and Command operation in the Status- and Log window. The Log output is quite restrained and marked only with an **<OK>** or **<Error>**

Successful operations are marked with <OK>

Faulty operations are marked with <Error>

There are **three scenarios** where you can get an **<Error>**

1. File, Folder or Registry Key does not exist (for Backup and Restoration purposes)
2. You do not have Administrator rights to access the File, Folder or Registry Key
The Application being backed up is running or an associated process.

5.2 Command-line parameters

You can use command-line parameters to change how CloneApp runs.

There are six parameters you can use when running CloneApp, as follows.

You can use them in batch files, scripting, shortcuts, or the Task Scheduler to automate CloneApp operations.

| Parameter | Explanation |
|--|---|
| CloneApp.exe /AUTO | Detect installed Apps automatically and run Backup |
| CloneApp.exe /B | Run automatically Backup of selected Applications while showing CloneApp UI |
| CloneApp.exe /SB | Run silently Backup of selected Applications without showing CloneApp UI and ONLY an Status window on the bottom right corner of Windows |
| CloneApp.exe /CB "path_to_backup_folder" | Run silently Backup of selected Applications to Custom folder e.g. /CB "%UserProfile%\Dropbox\CloneApp-Backup" |
| CloneApp.exe /R | Run automatically Restoration of selected Applications while showing CloneApp UI |
| CloneApp.exe /SR | Run silently Restoration of selected Applications without showing CloneApp UI and ONLY an Status window on the bottom right corner of Windows |
| CloneApp.exe /CR "path_to_backup_folder" | Run silently Restoration of selected Applications from Custom folder e.g. /CB "%UserProfile%\Dropbox\CloneApp- |

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| | |
|-----------------|---|
| | Backup\” |
| CloneApp.exe /P | Run Preview of selected Applications for Backup and Export them as a Text-File to the directory defined under the Log Path > Options menu |

5.3 Working with Custom/Personal Plug-ins folder

CloneApp offers numerous Plug-ins files for numerous Windows Applications. You will certainly not need every of those Plug-in files, because you do not have installed every Windows Application supported by CloneApp.

CloneApp brings the function to **Select Installed** Applications. This does not mean that only Installed Applications will be shown in the **Apps** window, when enabled.

To get a better Overview and to show only certain or your own Installed Applications, you can do the following.

1. Goto **Hamburger/Main menu**
2. Select **Advanced Settings**
3. Enable option **Enable Personal Plug-ins folder**
4. Restart CloneApp

CloneApp will copy now all your selected Applications to the custom **My Apps** directory.

Note: CloneApp will always load the **My Apps** folder first.

To load the default Plug-ins directory, you just have to remove the **My Apps** folder.

6. Troubleshooting

Currently there are NO issues known while running CloneApp.

If you have Problems and need support, just visit the CloneApp [Support Section](#), follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

7. Documentation Info

Last Update on 05/11/2018