CrossOver 22.0.0 User Guide

Introduction

CrossOver allows you to run Windows software on your Mac. Because CrossOver integrates the applications with macOS, games like Grand Theft Auto V, Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim Special Edition, and The Witcher 3: The Wild Hunt, or productivity apps like Quicken launch like any native program. It's as simple as a double-click.

System requirements

CrossOver system requirements:

- Intel or Apple Silicon (M1 or newer) based Mac running macOS 10.13 or later

- 1 GB disk space (additional space required for Windows applications)

Note: To ensure your macOS is compatible with CrossOver, consult the table near the bottom of our [CrossOver page](#).
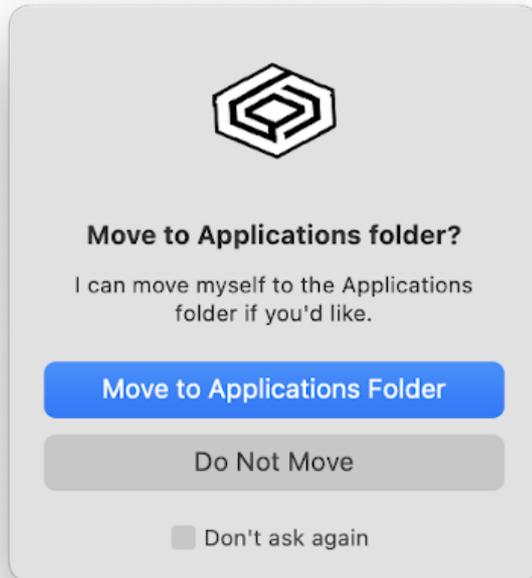
Installing CrossOver

(1) Download the CrossOver installer from the [CodeWeavers website](#).

(2) Locate the file in Finder (usually in your **Downloads** folder).

(3) Double-click to extract the file.

(4) Launch CrossOver and select **Move to Applications Folder**.

Note: If you do not want CrossOver in the **Applications** folder, drag and drop CrossOver to install it anywhere on your system. However, CrossOver is only available to all users on a machine when installed in the **Applications** folder.


Registering CrossOver

The CrossOver trial has all the functionality of the full version; however, after 15 days, installed Windows applications are disabled. (CrossOver periodically prompts you to register before the trial period ends.)
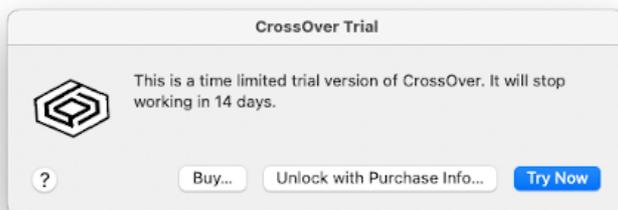

Clicking **Buy** opens the [CodeWeavers store](). The email address and password you use when purchasing CrossOver from codeweavers.com are required to unlock the full version. If you have already purchased your license, click **Unlock with Purchase Info**.

Unlocking with Email and Password

After startup, you can unlock CrossOver by going to **CrossOver > Unlock CrossOver**.
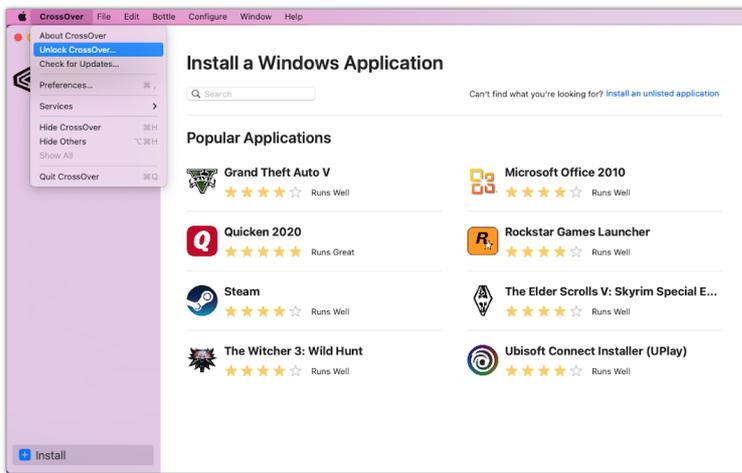
Enter your email address and password in the **CrossOver Trial** dialog box, and click **Unlock**.
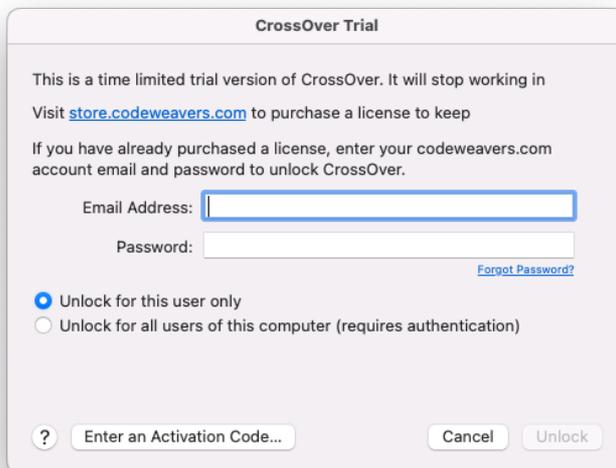
Note: If unlocking for all users, you need your Mac username and password.

Unlocking with Activation Code

When CrossOver is purchased from codeweavers.com, an activation code is not needed to register. However, if you bought CrossOver from a third party and received an activation code, click **Enter an Activation Code** from the Unlock CrossOver dialog box, and complete the **Enter Activation Code** form.

Installing Windows Applications

CrossOver installs Windows applications into bottles. A bottle is a virtual Windows environment (e.g., Windows XP or Windows 10) with its own C: drive, fonts, registry, and software. You can install multiple programs into a bottle, but generally, CrossOver creates a new bottle for each application.

Keeping applications in separate bottles prevents them from interacting with or damaging one another. For instance, you could test out a new version of a particular program in one bottle while keeping your original one in another. Multiple bottles are also helpful whenever a specific application requires otherwise undesirable settings.
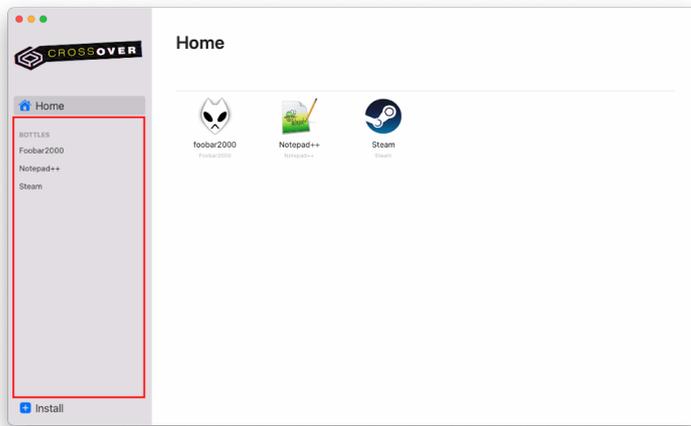
Applications generally fall into two categories:

- **Listed** — A listed application is an application that appears in CrossOver's application database. CrossOver determines as many install details as possible.

- **Unlisted** — An unlisted application is an application that does not appear in CrossOver's application database. CrossOver does not default any install details for unlisted applications.

Listed Applications

(1) Type the application name in the search bar on the **Install** menu. CrossOver populates a list of applications matching the search criteria.
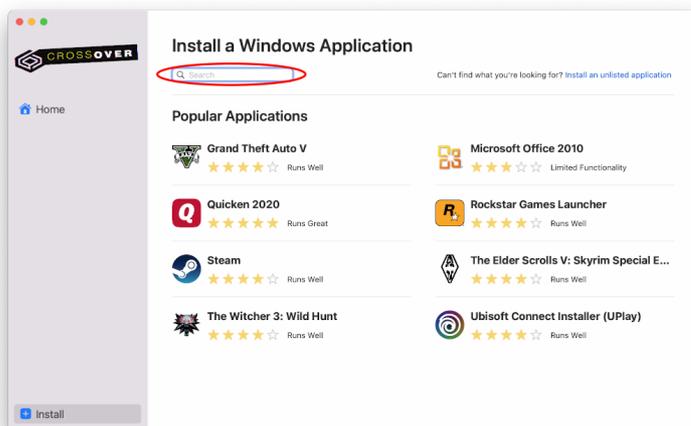

(2) Click the application's tile to proceed to the install details. If the application is not listed, see installing an unlisted application.
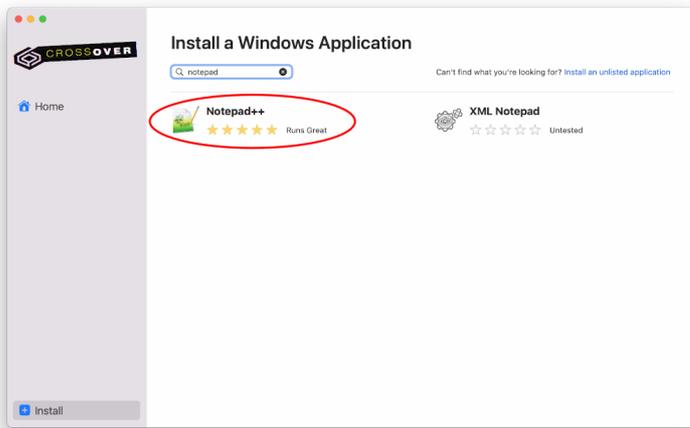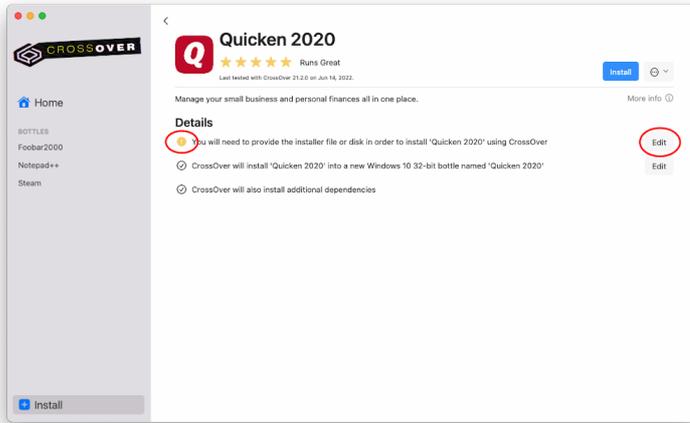
Install Details

CrossOver automatically downloads the installer file and the required dependencies if an application is freely available on the internet. No further action is needed to configure your application once each install detail has a check mark. Click **Install** to proceed.
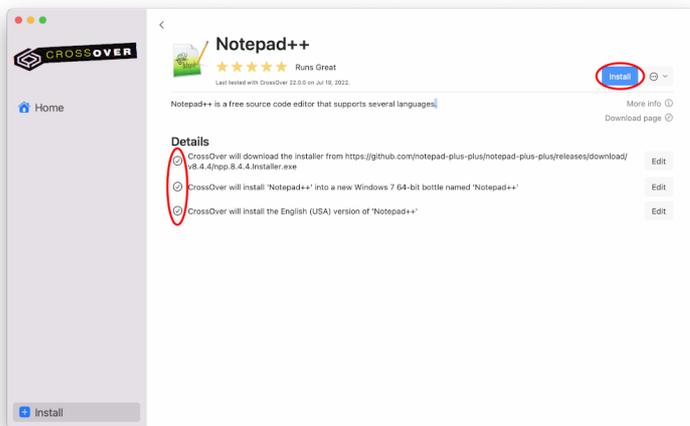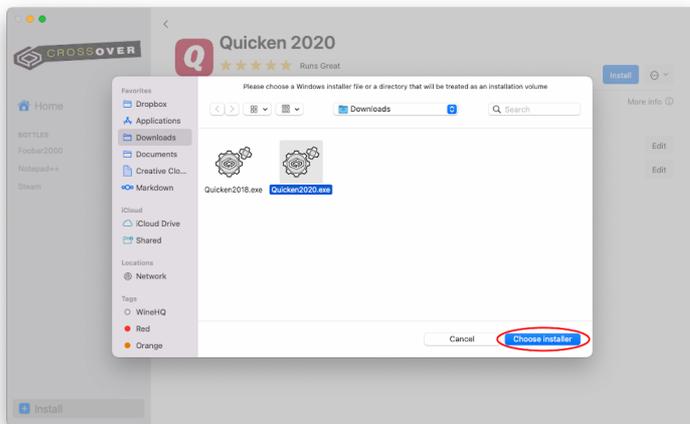

Editing Install Details

If CrossOver cannot obtain an installer file because it is unavailable for download or requires login credentials, you must provide the installer file location.

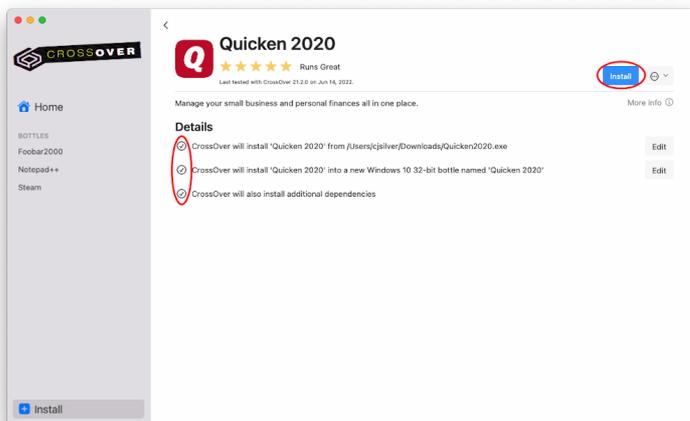**(1)** Click **Edit** to access your file system.

(2) Navigate to the location of the installer file.

**(3)** Select the file and click **Choose Installer**.

(4) When CrossOver displays a check mark for each detail, click **Install**.

Completing the Install

During installation, Windows software may prompt you for input (e.g., language selection, end-user license agreements). If you believe the install has frozen, look for dialog boxes from the Windows program before clicking **Cancel** in CrossOver. Canceling the install can result in an unrecoverable problem that requires you to delete the target bottle.

The program you are installing may require input to complete the setup. For example, when Notepad++ is finished installing, you must click **Finish**.
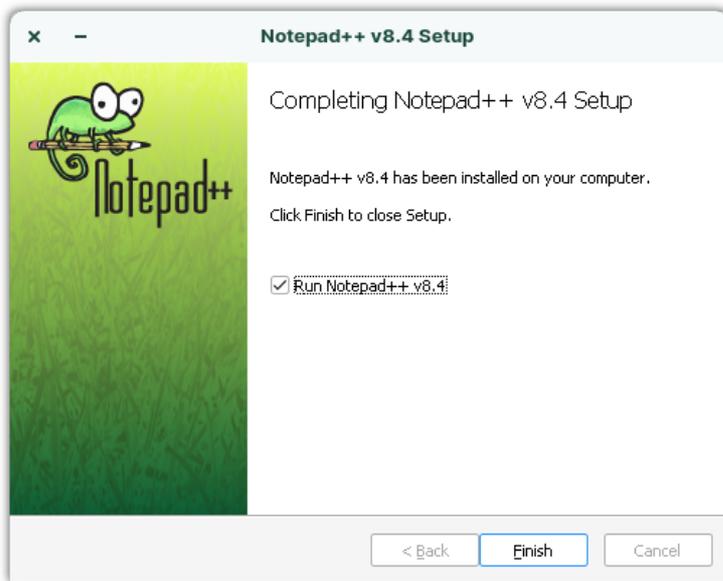
Once the application is installed, CrossOver creates an icon on the **Home** screen and in the bottle made for the application.


Unlisted Applications

Unlisted applications may not run correctly or at all. Therefore we recommend installing unlisted applications in a separate bottle. Installing an unlisted application into an existing bottle may cause other Windows applications in that bottle to behave incorrectly.

To install an unlisted application, from the **Install** screen, do the following:

(1) Click **Install an unlisted application**.
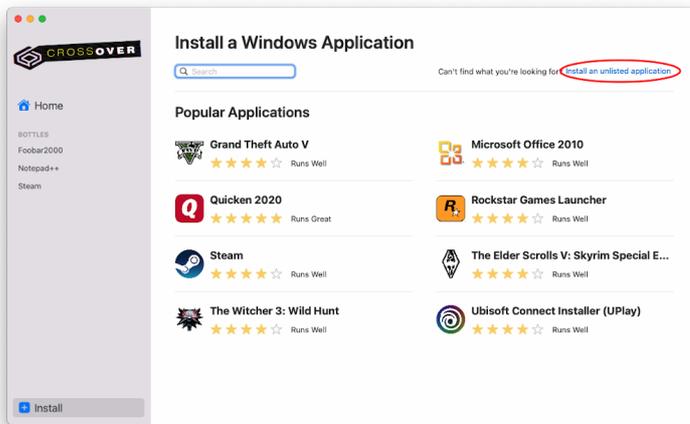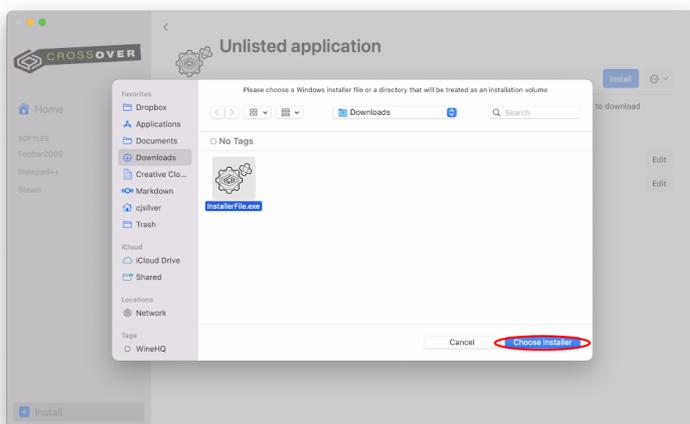
(2) Click **Edit** for installer file detail.
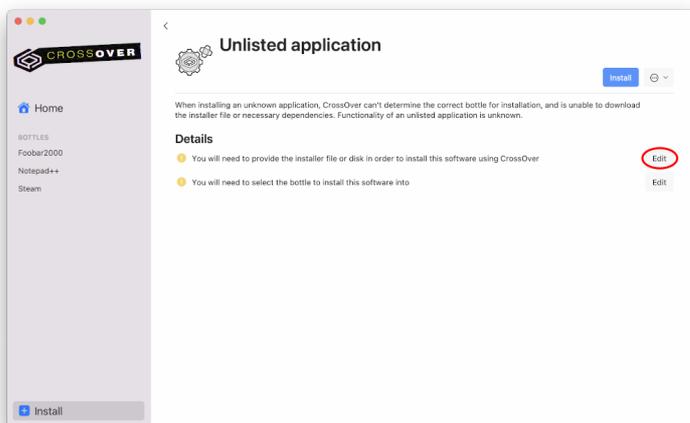
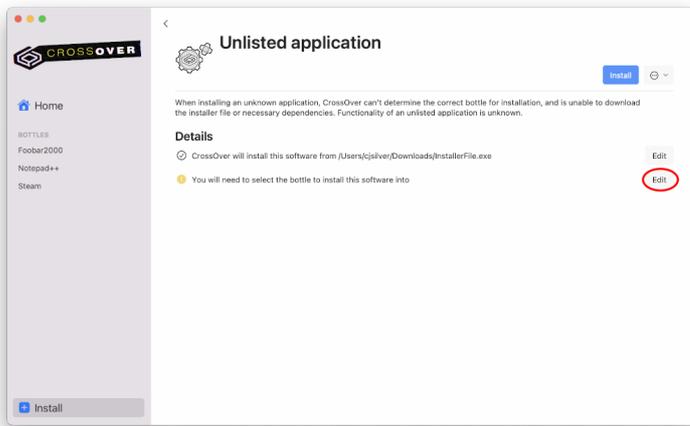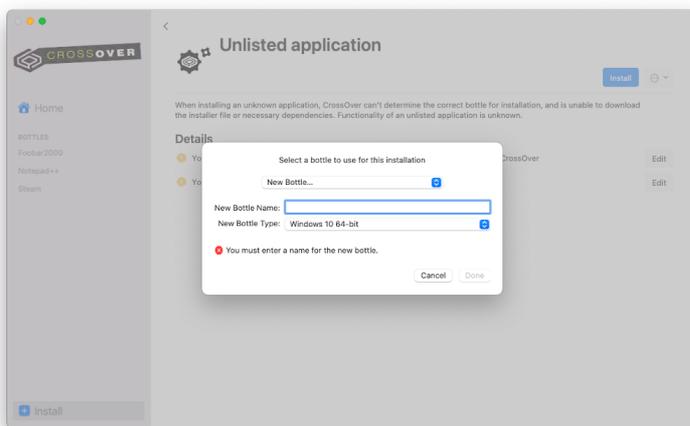**(3)** Navigate to the installer file location.

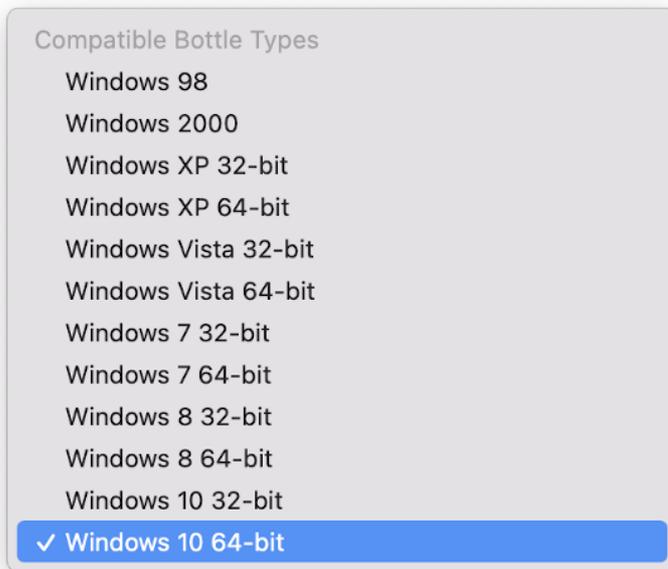**(4)** Select the installer file and click **Choose Installer**.

(5) Click **Edit** for the bottle install detail.

(6) Enter a name for the bottle in **New Bottle Name**.

(7) Select a bottle type from the **New Bottle Type** menu.

Note: If you have difficulty installing an unlisted application, check the CrossOver Compatibility Center.

Running Windows Applications
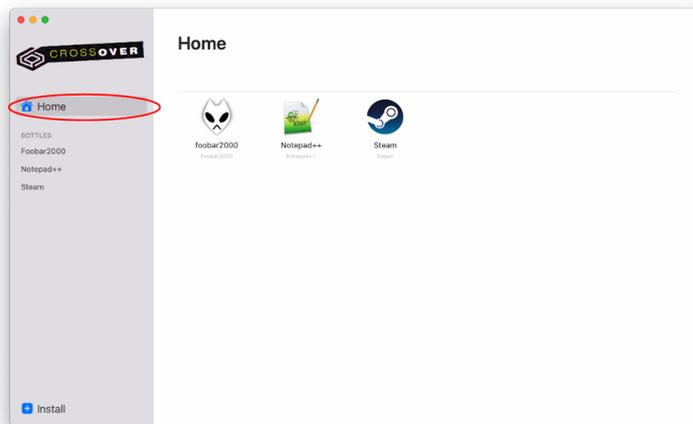
Double-click an icon to run a Windows application, or drag an icon from CrossOver's main window to the macOS Dock and launch the application from there.

To remove an icon from the main menu, right-click it and select **Hide from Home**.
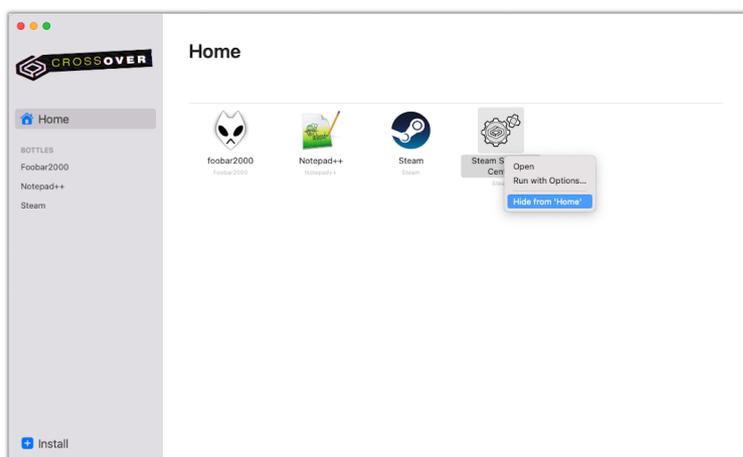
Hiding an icon from the main menu does not delete the application from your disk or impact desktop integration.

To restore a hidden icon to your **Home**, select the bottle, right-click the icon and choose **Show in Home**.
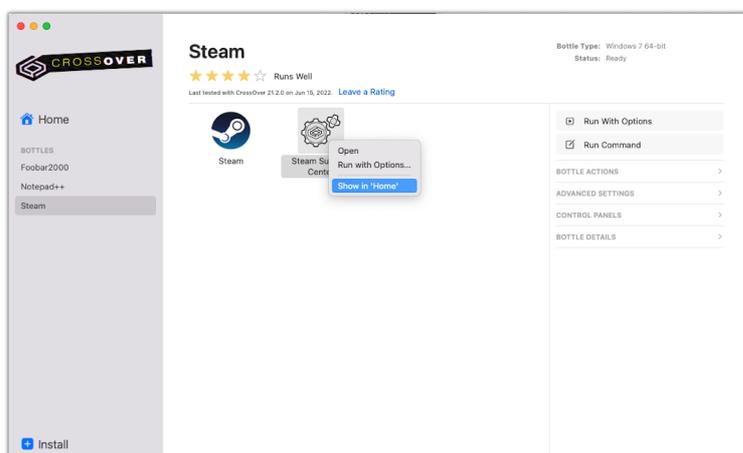
Launchpad

When you install a Windows application, CrossOver creates an application icon in your Launchpad. Locate the icon in Launchpad and launch the program by double-clicking, or drag the icon to your dock for easier access in the future.
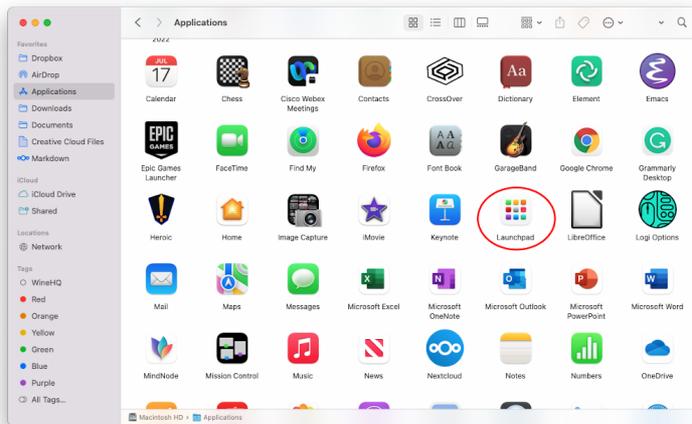
Working with Bottles
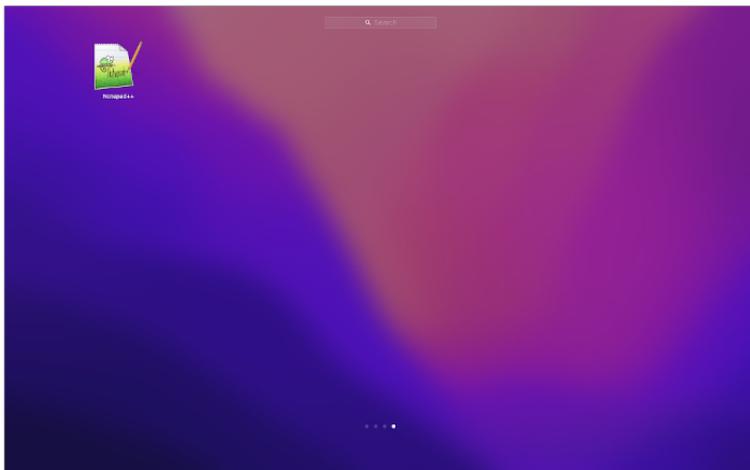
CrossOver installs Windows applications into bottles. A bottle contains a C: drive and all its standard folders (e.g., Windows and Program Files), as well as:

- A Windows registry.

- CrossOver settings.

- One or more Windows applications.

- Saved user data.

Unless you specify otherwise, CrossOver installs each application into a new bottle.

Multiple bottles are helpful when a particular application requires otherwise undesirable system settings. It is also possible to maintain bottles that emulate different Windows versions. For instance, an older application may run best in a Windows XP bottle, while a more modern one requires a Windows 10 bottle.

Bottle View

When a bottle is selected, CrossOver displays the **Run with Options** and **Run Command** buttons, and the **Bottle Actions**, **Advanced Settings**, **Control Panels**, and **Bottle Details** menus in the right sidebar.
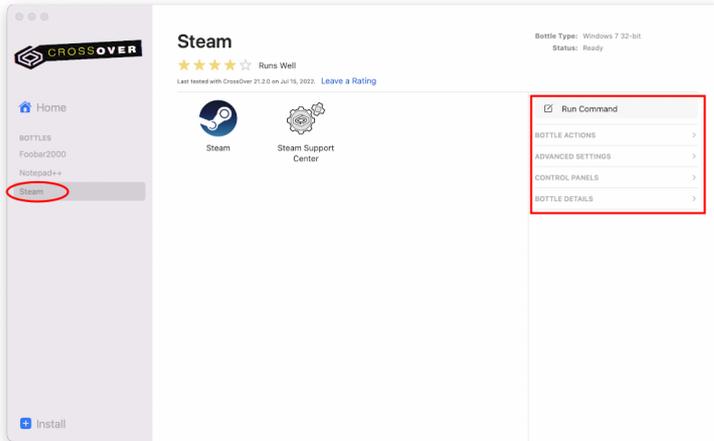
- **Run Command** — Access a Windows command prompt in CrossOver to run standard Wine tools (e.g., regedit or notepad) or applications without icons or shortcuts. **Note:** If you need to run the same command regularly, create a shortcut for it by clicking **Save Command as Launcher**.
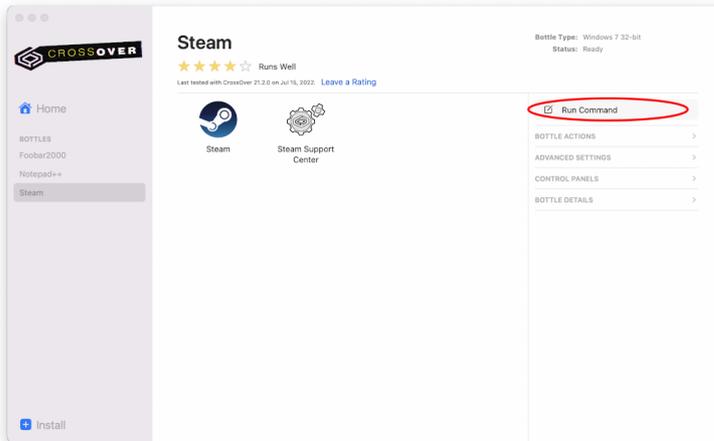

- **Run with Options** — When an application's icon is selected from a bottle, CrossOver displays **Run with Options** in the sidebar. Running an application with options is for collecting debug logs, and adding command-line options or environment variables.
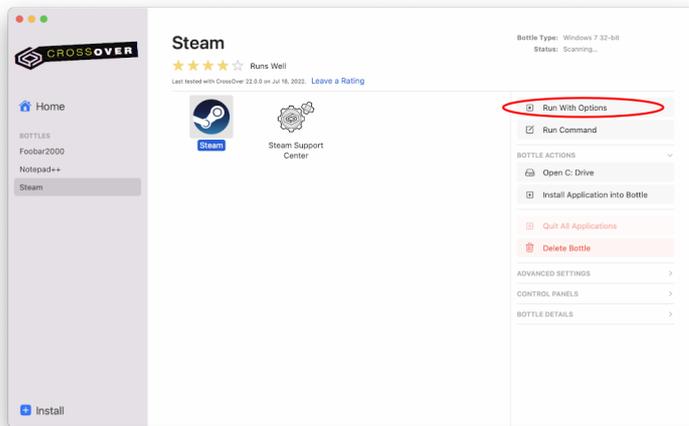
Bottle Actions

- **Open C: Drive** — Open the contents of the selected bottle's C: drive in the file manager.

- **Install Applications Into Bottle** — Install an application into the selected bottle.

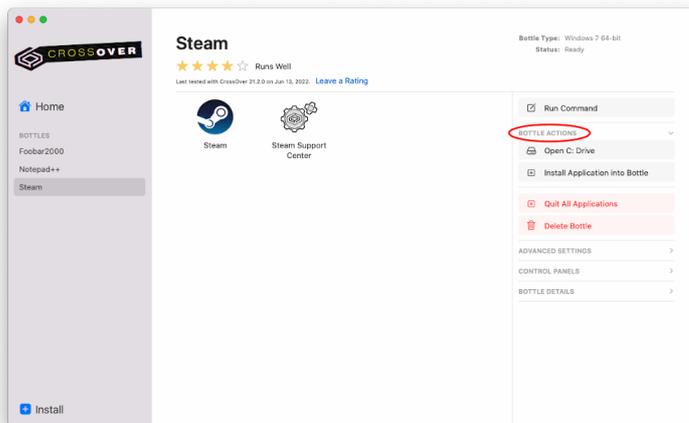- **Quit All Applications** — Close all applications in the selected bottle. If an application is unstable or not responding and quitting the bottle fails, selecting **Quit All Applications** stops all processes still running inside the bottle. This may result in lost work if you have unsaved changes.

- **Delete Bottle** — Delete the selected bottle.

Advanced Settings

- **DXVK** — DXVK switch. DXVK is a Vulkan-based translation layer for Direct3D 10 and 11.

- **CSMT** — Command stream multi-threaded (CSMT) switch. CSMT enables multi-threaded Direct3D processing.

- **High-Resolution Mode** — High-resolution mode switch. When enabled in CrossOver Mac, pixel doubling is turned off, and CrossOver reports a high-resolution (192 DPI) to the application. If the application handles this correctly, graphics display in more detail. Not all applications render correctly in high-resolution mode.
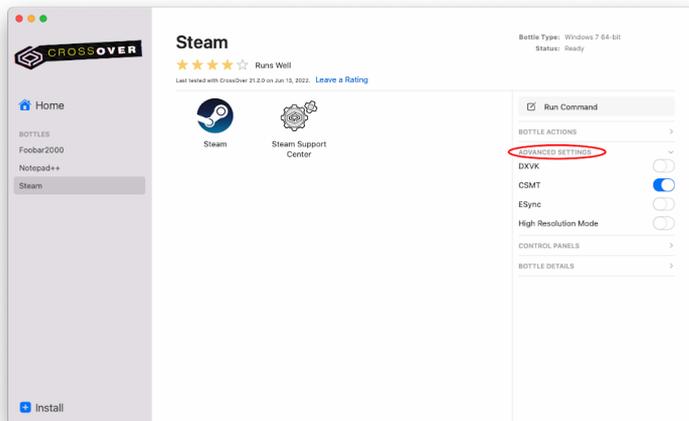

Control Panels

In addition to the tools installed along with Windows applications, CrossOver provides several built-in control panel tools.

System settings should be changed using the configuration tools available on your system because most Windows control panels are unsupported and often don't work as designed.

- **Wine Configuration** — Access a range of bottle configuration settings applicable when troubleshooting system integration issues.

- **Game Controllers** — Game controller or joystick configuration.

- **Simulate Reboot** — Replicates a Windows reboot for the selected bottle.

- **Task Manager** — Display a list of processes running in the selected bottle. The task manager is helpful when you need to stop specific unresponsive processes.

- **Internet Settings** — Network configuration.
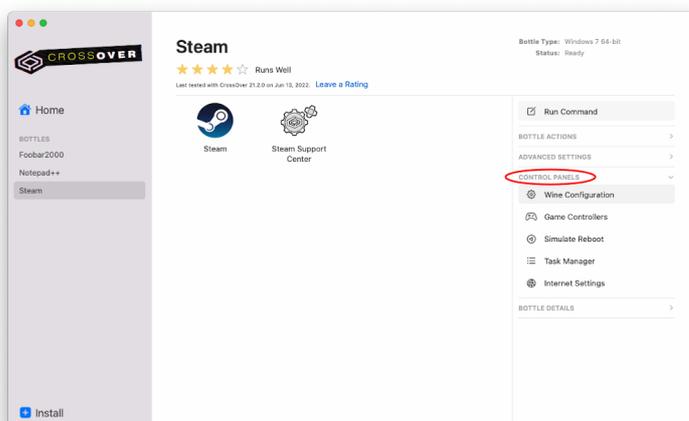
Bottle Details

List of software installed in the selected bottle and bottle description.
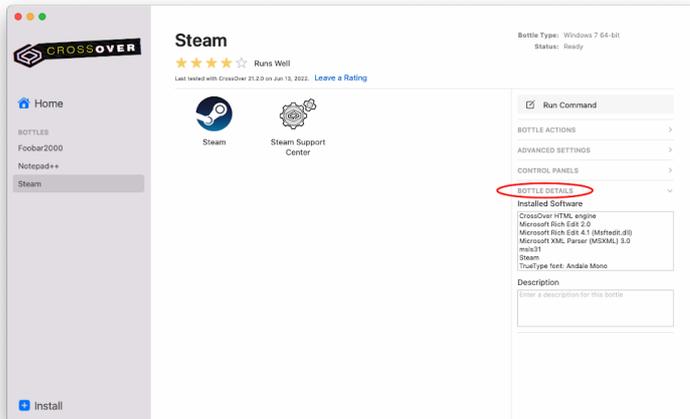
Bottle Commands via Main Menu

Additional bottle commands are available in the **Bottle** submenu via CrossOver's menu bar.

- **New Bottle** — Create an empty bottle.

- **Export Bottle to Archive** — Create a compressed copy of the selected bottle. Before installing new software or modifying bottle settings, we recommend creating a bottle archive in case you need to revert the bottle to a previous state. Bottle archives can also be used to move a bottle to a new machine.

- **Import Bottle Archive** — Restores an archived bottle.

- **Publish Bottle** — Publish a copy of the selected bottle. Bottles are private when first created. A private bottle is accessible only to the user who installed it and is in that user's home folder. Once published, all the users of your system have access to the bottle's applications and data. **Note:** CrossOver stores published bottles in a public directory (~/CrossOver.app/Contents/SharedSupport/CrossOver).

- **Update Published Bottle** Update a published bottle. Changes made to a published bottle are unavailable to other users until the published bottle is updated.
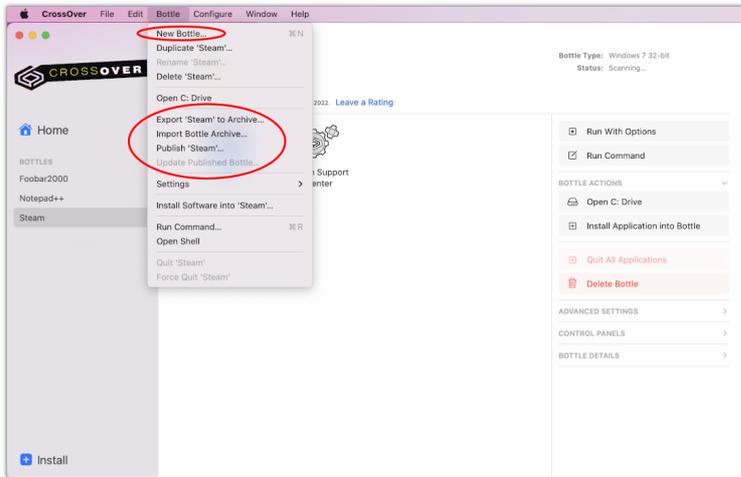
Preferences

CrossOver preferences are available from the **CrossOver > Preferences** menu. These settings modify the behavior of CrossOver as a whole, affecting all bottles uniformly.

Preferences are stored separately for each user. Therefore, changing your preferences does not impact other users on your Mac.

Online Integration

- **Check for CrossOver Updates** — Occasionally, between major releases, CrossOver is updated. Select this option and CrossOver automatically checks for updates.

- **Remind About Submitting Ratings** — When enabled, CrossOver reminds you to submit ratings for installed applications. Ratings help us improve future versions of CrossOver and inform other users how well applications work with CrossOver.
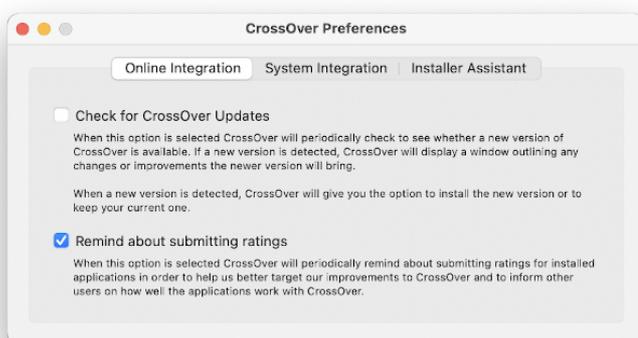

System Integration

CrossOver creates icons for installed applications in the folder shown here. To change the folder, click the folder and choose a new location.
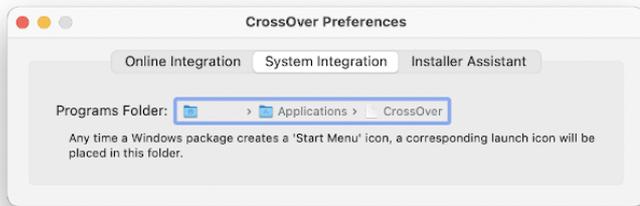

Installer Assistant

- **Automatically Download New Installation Recipes** — CodeWeavers staff and volunteers are constantly updating, refining, and adding to the list of community-supported applications via the CodeWeavers CrossOver Compatibility Center. When enabled, CrossOver periodically synchronizes itself with that list of applications. Disabling this feature does not prevent you from installing applications via the website.

- **Hide Entries for Untested and Known-not-to-work Software** — We keep track of many applications that do not yet work with CrossOver. If you do not want these applications to appear as suggestions when installing applications, check this box.

- **Launch Installer Assistant When CrossOver Opens a .exe File** — When this option is selected, CrossOver opens the Installer Assistant whenever CrossOver opens a Windows executable (.exe) file. Otherwise, CrossOver runs the Windows executable.

- **Cache of Downloaded Installers** — When CrossOver obtains an installer file during the install process, it keeps a copy of that file for future installs. If you need free disk space or are experiencing issues reinstalling software, click **Clear** to remove cached files.
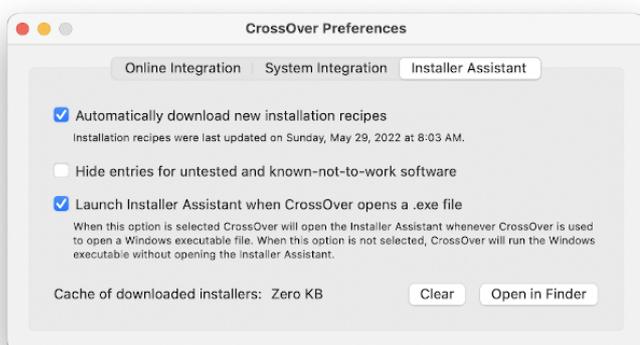

CodeWeavers Support Page

For additional assistance with CrossOver, go to our Support page. It is accessible from the menu on the CodeWeavers website. In the upper right corner of the CodeWeavers website, expand the menu and click **Support**.
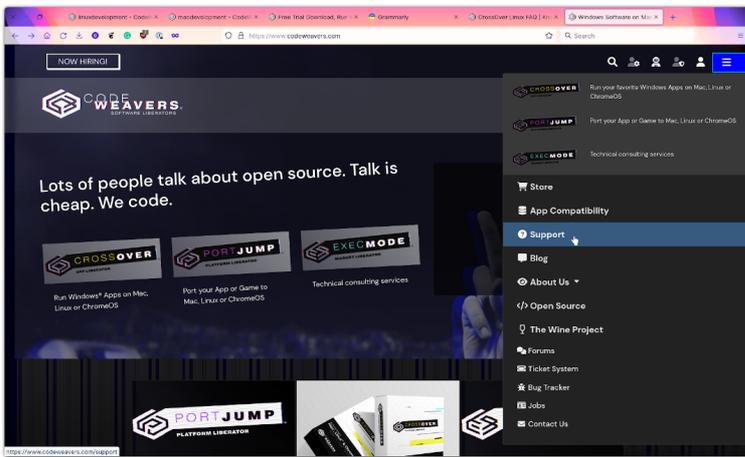
The support page contains tutorials and solutions to common questions for Mac (1), Linux (2), and ChromeOS (3), as well as a compatibility database (4) with application ratings and other relevant information.
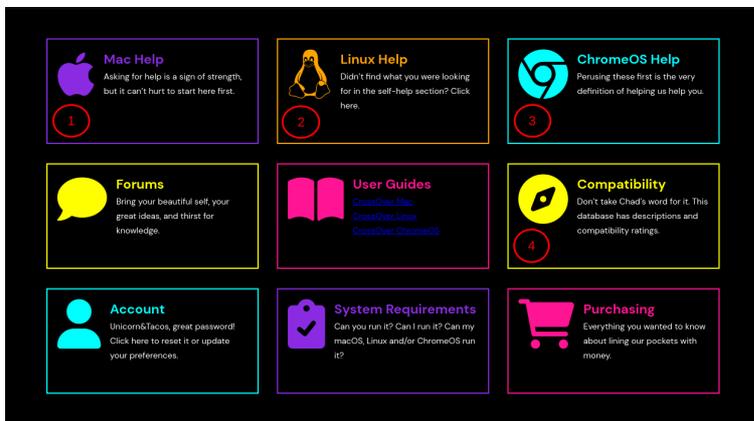
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