.Lab — Media offload for macOS

KOTETSU Corp., Tokyo · dotlab.kotetsu.work

.Lab copies camera media and proves the copy is intact by reading it back off the destination. It is built and maintained by a working DIT, and used daily on commercial productions in Tokyo.

What "verified" means here

Many tools report "copy complete" once the write call returns. At that point the data may still be in the OS page cache, not on the disk. .Lab does not call a file done until it has come back off the destination and matched.

- Each file is hashed (xxHash64) while being read from the card, written to a `.partial` file, and flushed with `F_FULLFSYNC` — which forces the drive to commit, not merely acknowledge.
- The file is then **read back from the destination** with the page cache bypassed (`F_NOCACHE`), so the bytes come off the physical disk, and compared against the source hash.
- Only a matching file is renamed into its final name. A file that fails stays as `.partial` and is reported.
- **Paranoid mode** reads the source a second time and compares. This catches a bad read off the card itself — something a tool that only compares what it holds in memory cannot detect.
- The source is opened read-only. .Lab never writes to or deletes from the camera media.

The free version has no limits on any of that

Verification and safety are not where the paid line is drawn. The free version is not a trial and does not expire.

Free	Pro — US$69, one-time
Copy with read-back verification, unlimited data	Everything in Free, plus:
Paranoid mode (source re-read)	Several destinations written in one pass
Resume after interruption	Chain copy (destination → archive drive)
Camera media detection (ARRI, Sony, RED, Blackmagic, Canon, DJI …)	**Sync** — keep a backup drive up to date over time
One destination at a time, one project	**ASC MHL v2** output and PDF reports
	Multiple projects, job queue, automatic card detection

One-time purchase, including one year of updates. The application keeps working after that year whether or not the licence is renewed.

What .Lab does not do

> **.Lab is not a replacement for a full asset manager.** There are no bins, no clip libraries, no editorial metadata, no transcoding, no look management. If a production needs those, .Lab is not the tool.

What it does instead is one thing, completely: get the data off the card, prove it arrived intact, and leave a record that can be checked later. On a production without the budget for a full asset manager, that is usually the part that must not be compromised.

What it leaves behind

- **ASC MHL v2** (`ascmhl/`) in each destination — the industry-standard manifest, readable by Silverstack, Pomfort tools, and the ASC's own reference implementation.
- **PDF report** per reel or per project: clip counts, sizes, durations, hashes, and a breakdown by file type.
- A local journal of every job, so an interrupted offload can be resumed and any past copy can be re-verified.

Requirements

Operating system	macOS 14 (Sonoma) or later
Hardware	Apple Silicon or Intel (universal binary)
Distribution	Notarized DMG, signed with a Developer ID. No installer, no background agent, no account required.
Network	Not required. .Lab works entirely offline; it contacts the network only to check for updates.

Availability

- Download and full feature list: https://dotlab.kotetsu.work/en/
- The free version can be downloaded and used immediately, with no account and no time limit.
- Questions from productions are welcome and answered directly by the developer.

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