

IBM **Aspera Connect User Guide**

Mac OS X

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Introduction

IBM Aspera Connect is an install-on-demand application that facilitates high-speed uploads and downloads with an Aspera transfer server.

Connect is compatible with most standard Web browsers. It integrates all of Aspera's high-performance transport technology in a small, easy-to-use package that provides unequaled control over transfer parameters. Connect includes the following features:

Feature	Description
FASP file transport	High-performance transport technology.
Browser interface	Uploads and downloads are launched transparently by a Web browser.
Flexible transfer types	Easily transfer single files, multiple files, or entire directories.
Transfer retry and resume	Automatically retries and resumes partial and failed transfers.
Browser-independent transfer	The Web browser can be closed once transfer operations have begun.
Transfer monitor	A built-in transfer monitor for visual rate control and monitoring.
HTTP fallback	HTTP fallback mode for highly restrictive network environments.
Proxy support	HTTP fallback and FASP proxy settings.
Content protection	Password-protect files that are being transferred and stored on the remote server.
Queueing	Allow a fixed number of concurrent transfers, and place the rest in a queue.

Setting Up Connect

Installation

This topic explains how to install IBM Aspera Connect on your system. Connect can be installed on your system from a downloadable DMG image.

System Requirements: For information on the supported operating systems and browsers, see the release notes for this release of IBM Aspera Connect.

Important:

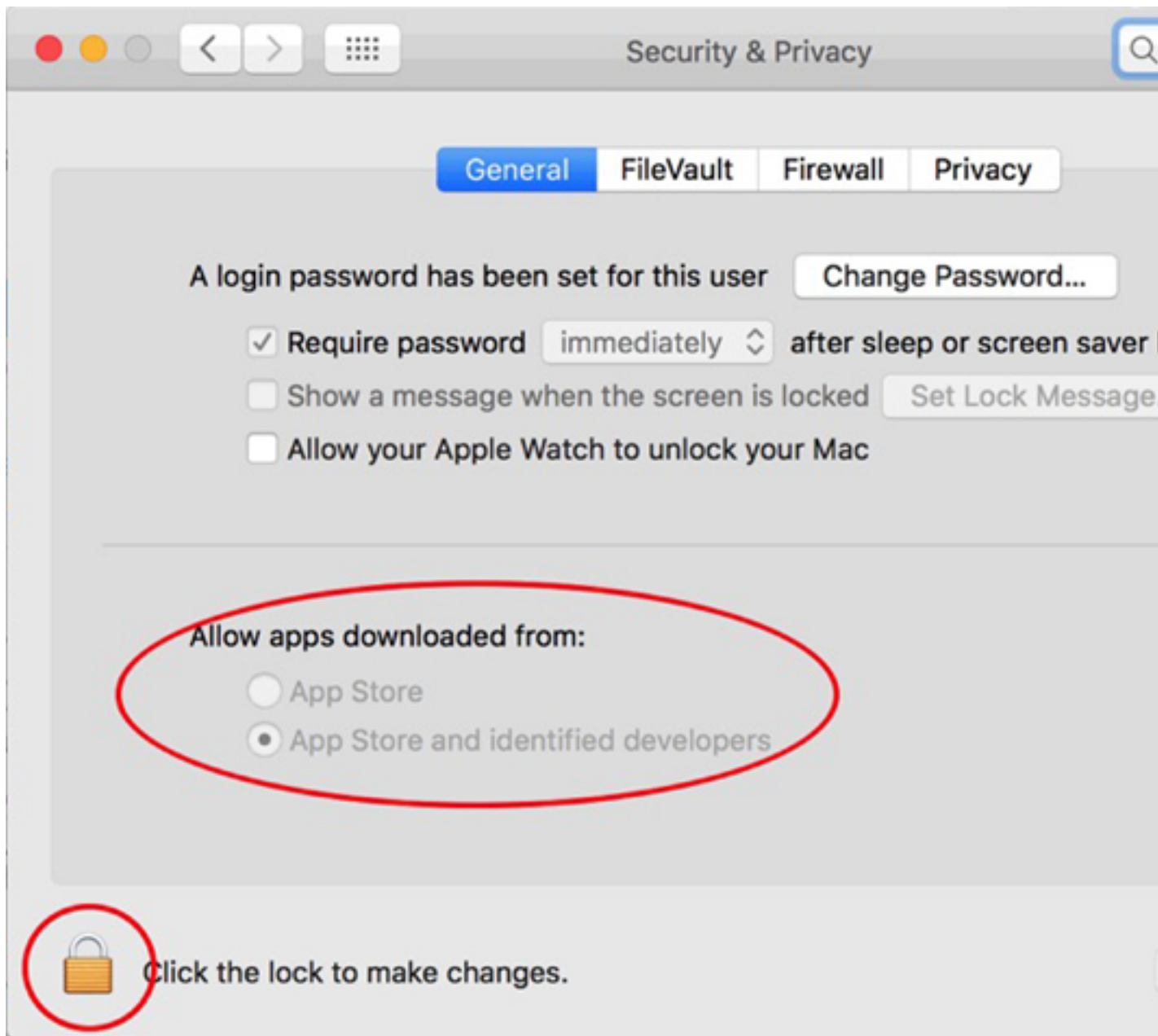
- Before performing a system-wide installation (all users of the machine), uninstall any per-user installations. For details, see [Uninstalling](#) on page 20.
- Remove all previous Connect installers before downloading the new installer.
- Connect now requires your browser's local storage to be enabled.

The Connect Desktop Installer

You can download the Connect DMG directly from <http://downloads.asperasoft.com/connect/>. Once downloaded, close your Web browser and run the installer on your machine. You will need to accept the terms and conditions and click **Install**.

If macOS complains that Connect cannot be installed because the app did not come from the Apple App store, you'll need to enable the installation in your Mac's security settings:

1. Open the **System Preferences > Security & Privacy > General** tab. The Security & Privacy window opens.
2. Unlock the screen to make changes by clicking on the padlock icon in the lower-left corner, circled in the screenshot below.
3. Set **Allow apps downloaded from:** to **App Store and identified developers**.



After Installation

Once Connect is installed, you can open it from one of the following locations:

For a system-wide installation (all users on the machine): **Macintosh HD > Applications > Aspera Connect**

For per-user installations: **Macintosh HD > Users > *home_dir* > Applications > Aspera Connect**

Aspera provides a web-based IBM Aspera Connect Diagnostic Tool that can be useful for identifying connection issues. You can access the tool here:

<https://test-connect.asperasoft.com/>

Network Environment

If you need to configure any network proxies or override network speeds, you can do so through Connect's **Network** option. Before modifying Connect's network configuration, review the network requirements below, which describe ports that may need to be open on your network (such as ports 22 and 33001).

Network Requirements

Your SSH outbound connection may differ based on your organization's network practices. Although TCP/33001 is the default setting, consult your IT department for questions related to which SSH ports are open for file transfer. Also see the help documentation for your particular operating system, for specific instructions on configuring your firewall. If your client host is behind a firewall that does not allow outbound connections, you will need to allow the following:

- Outbound connections for SSH, which is TCP/33001 by default, although the server side may run SSH on another port. Check with your IT department for which SSH ports are open for file transfers.
- Outbound connections for FASP transfers, which is UDP/33001 by default, although the server side may run FASP transfers on one or more other ports. Check with your IT department for which SSH ports are open for FASP transfers.

Limit Transfer Rates


Important: Set values in these fields only if you need to limit the bandwidth that Connect uses. For example, your office may have limited bandwidth to share among its users. **Exception:** For the SaaS products Files and Aspera on Cloud, use this field to set the *default transfer speed*.

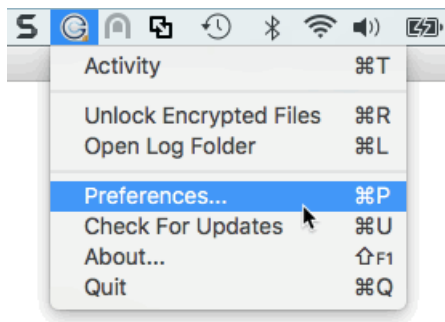
Launch Connect as follows:

For a system-wide installation (all users on the machine): **Macintosh HD > Applications > Aspera Connect**

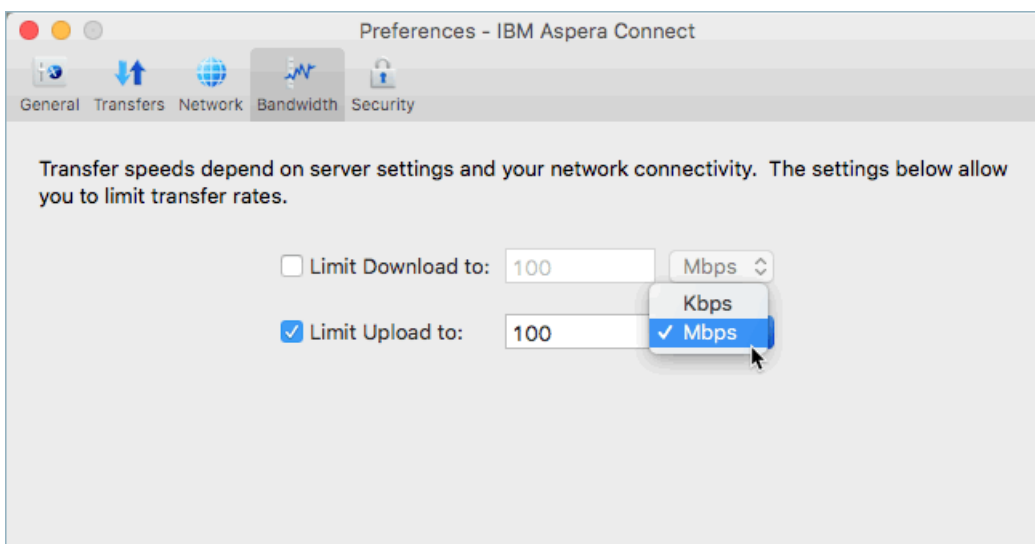
For per-user installations: **Macintosh HD > Users > home_dir > Applications > Aspera Connect**

Open Preferences:

From the menu bar:  > **Preferences**



You can limit Connect transfer rates from the **Bandwidth** tab:



You can limit the download and upload transfer rates by enabling the respective checkboxes and entering a rate in either Mbps or Kbps. Note that setting a maximum speed doesn't guarantee your transfers will ever achieve that speed. Actual performance depends on the following factors:

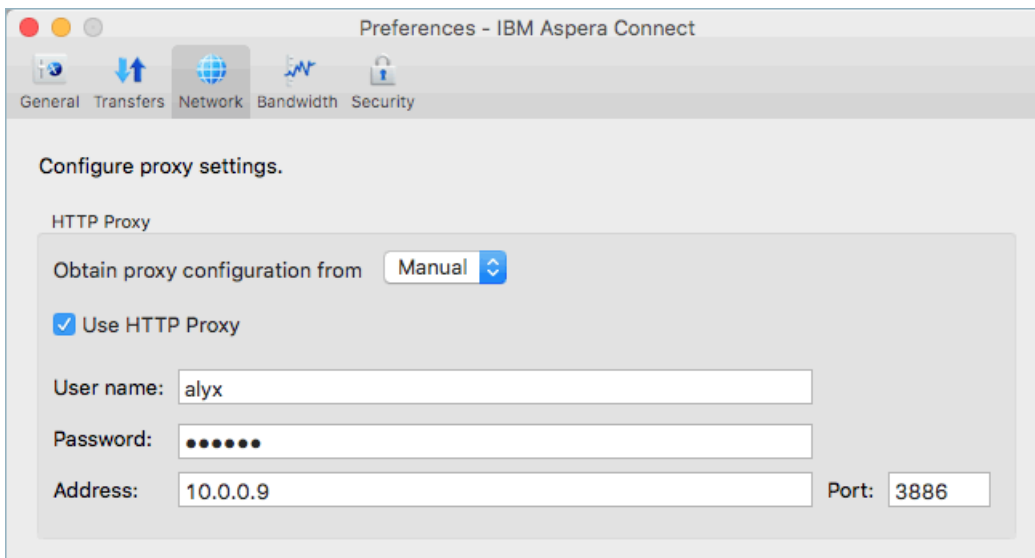
- Your network's bandwidth: Available bandwidth on your network may limit your transfer rate, even if you enter larger numbers into these fields.
- Your Aspera server transfer settings: Settings on your server may limit your transfer rate even if your network bandwidth and the numbers you enter are larger.

HTTP Proxy

HTTP fallback serves as a secondary transfer method when the Internet connectivity required for Aspera accelerated transfers (UDP port 33001, by default) is unavailable. If UDP connectivity is lost or cannot be established, if you have configured an HTTP proxy, the transfer continues over the HTTP protocol based on this proxy configuration.

Note: Although the HTTP proxy is used primarily for the HTTP fallback feature, it can be used for all HTTP-related activities performed by Connect. However, it cannot be used for FASP transfers.

To configure and enable an HTTP proxy server, open **Preferences > Network** in Connect and look for the HTTP Proxy section.



To configure the HTTP proxy, select one of the following configuration methods from the drop-down list:

- **System** – to have Connect use the HTTP proxy settings that are configured for your operating system.
- **Manual** – to enter your HTTP proxy settings manually. (This may require the assistance of your system administrator.)

These settings include username and password authentication credentials, as well as the host name, IP address, and port number.

Note that the Use HTTP Proxy checkbox and fields are enabled only if you select **Manual**.

FASP Proxy

When FASP proxy is enabled, Aspera passes the DNAT or DNATS (secure) username, password, server address, and port to `ascp`.

To set up a FASP proxy, do the following:

1. Go to **Preferences > Network** in Connect and locate the FASP Proxy section in the lower half of the dialog.
2. Select the following checkboxes:
 - **Use FASP Proxy (DNAT)**
 - **Secure (DNATS)**
3. Enter your proxy server username, password, address, and port number.

The screenshot shows the 'FASP Proxy' configuration window. It has a title bar 'FASP Proxy' and a light gray background. Inside, there are two checked checkboxes: 'Use FASP Proxy (DNAT)' and 'Secure (DNATS)'. Below these are four input fields: 'User name' containing 'proxy_user', 'Password' containing ten dots, 'Address' containing '10.0.9.9', and 'Port' containing '7777'. The 'Address' field is highlighted with a blue border.

Note: If you enable FASP proxy, you may need to add `local.connectme.us` as a proxy exception in order for Connect to function.


Basic Configuration

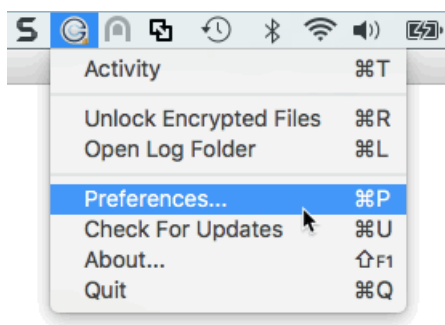
To change the application's default settings, launch Connect as follows:

For a system-wide installation (all users on the machine): **Macintosh HD > Applications > Aspera Connect**

For per-user installations: **Macintosh HD > Users > *home_dir* > Applications > Aspera Connect**

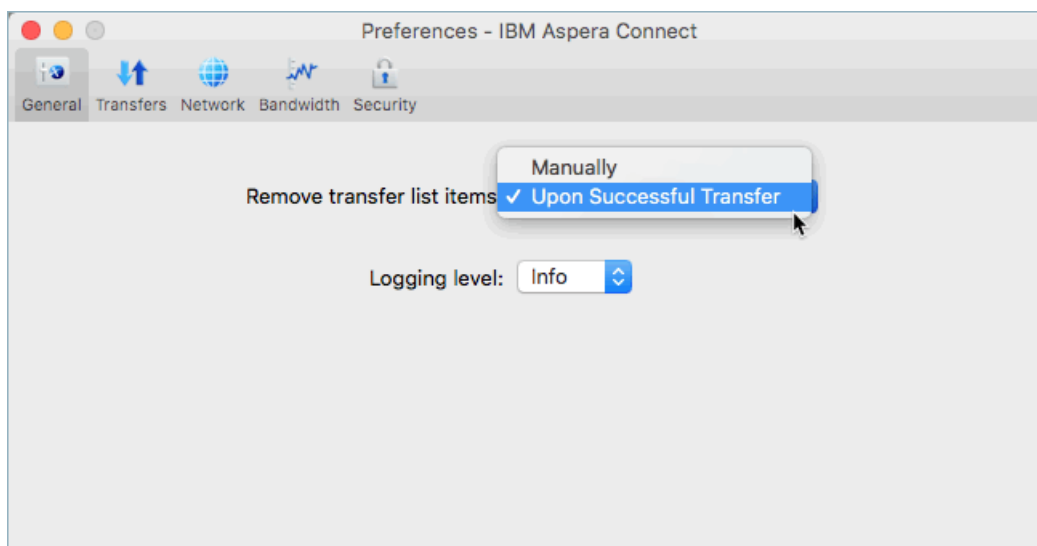
Open Preferences:

From the menu bar:  > **Preferences**



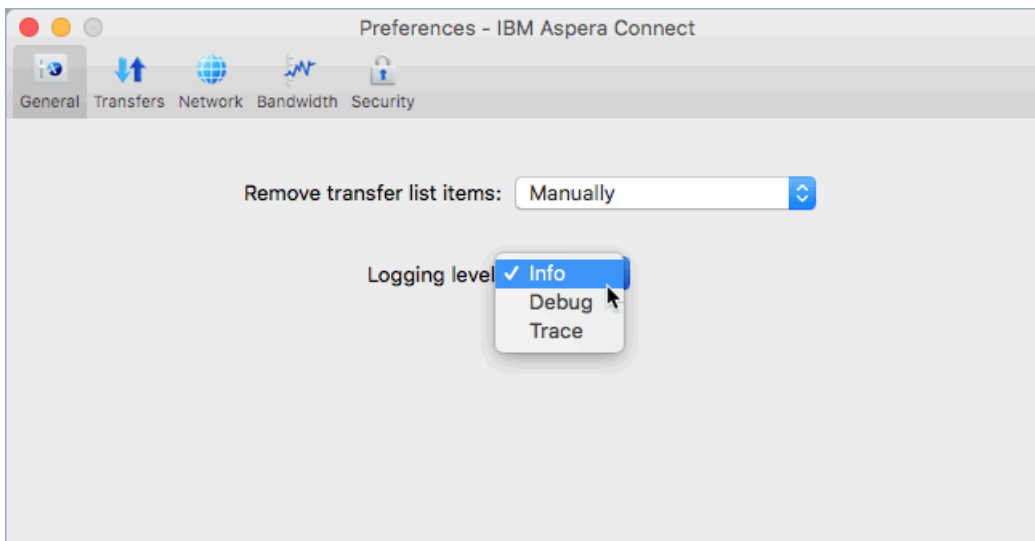
General Preferences

Connect's general application behavior can be configured in the **General** tab.



Under the **General** tab, you can modify the following settings:

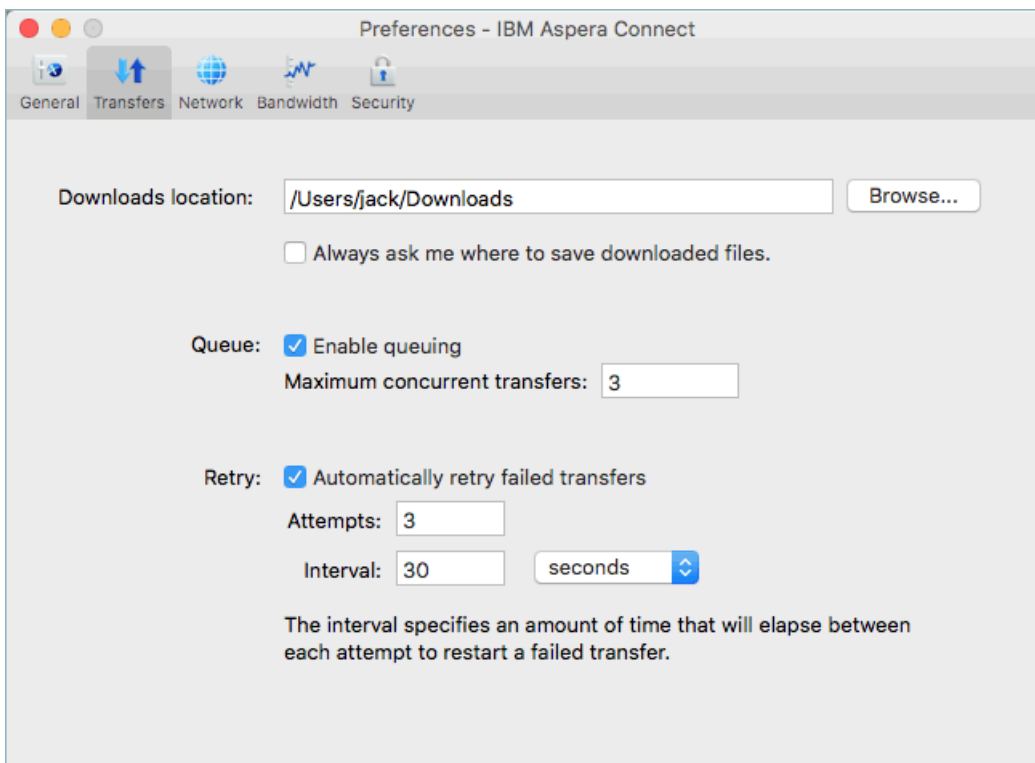
- Specify how to remove transfer sessions from the Activity window: manually, or automatically on successful transfers.
- Specify the level of detail to be logged for transfers:
 - **Info** – Default. Displays general messages about requests, `ascp` spawn options, and transfer status changes.
 - **Debug** – Verbose. Displays validation and FASP management messages, and passes `-D` to `ascp`.
 - **Trace** – Extra verbose. Passes `-DD` to `ascp`. Used only for diagnosing problems.



The logging feature is typically used for troubleshooting and when contacting [Aspera Support](#).

Transfer Preferences

Connect's transfer behavior can be configured under **Preferences > Transfers**.



Downloads

By default, Connect downloads files to the current user's Downloads folder. To change this setting, adjust the following settings:

- **Save downloaded files to** – Specify the path to the location where downloaded files should be saved.
- **Always ask me where to save downloaded files** – Choose this option to select a location for each download.

Queue

- **Enable queuing** – Enable or disable the queuing of transfers.
- **Maximum concurrent transfers** – This allows a specified number of transfers to run concurrently and places the remainder in a queue.

Retry

You can set a retry rule if a transfer fails. Set the retry rule as follows:

- **Automatically retry failed transfers** – enable or disable.
- **Attempts** – specify the number of times Connect should attempt to retry a failed transfer.
- **Interval** – specify the amount of time that Connect should wait before retrying a transfer (in seconds, minutes, or hours).

Security Configuration


IBM Aspera Connect features the following capabilities for minimizing security risks when uploading or downloading files:

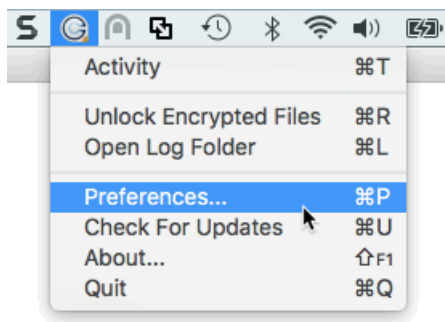
- You can add Aspera servers as **Trusted Hosts** to avoid the recurring security prompt, or add servers to the **Restricted Hosts** list to require confirmation every time you attempt to initiate a transfer with that host.
- You have the option of saving your authentication credentials when you connect to a server, as well as removing them from the **Passwords** tab.
- **Content protection** is a feature that allows uploaded files be encrypted during a transfer for the purpose of protecting them while stored on a remote server. The uploader sets a password while uploading the file, and the password is required to decrypt the protected file.

The settings above can be configured in the Connect **Preferences** dialog. To open it, first launch Connect:

For a system-wide installation (all users on the machine): **Macintosh HD > Applications > Aspera Connect**

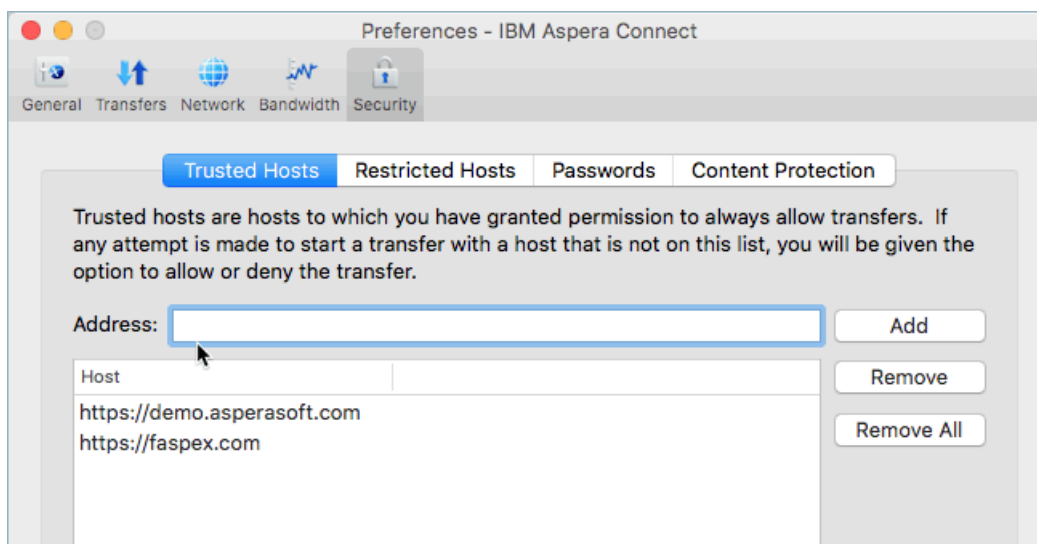
For per-user installations: **Macintosh HD > Users > home_dir > Applications > Aspera Connect**

Then, from the menu bar:  > **Preferences**

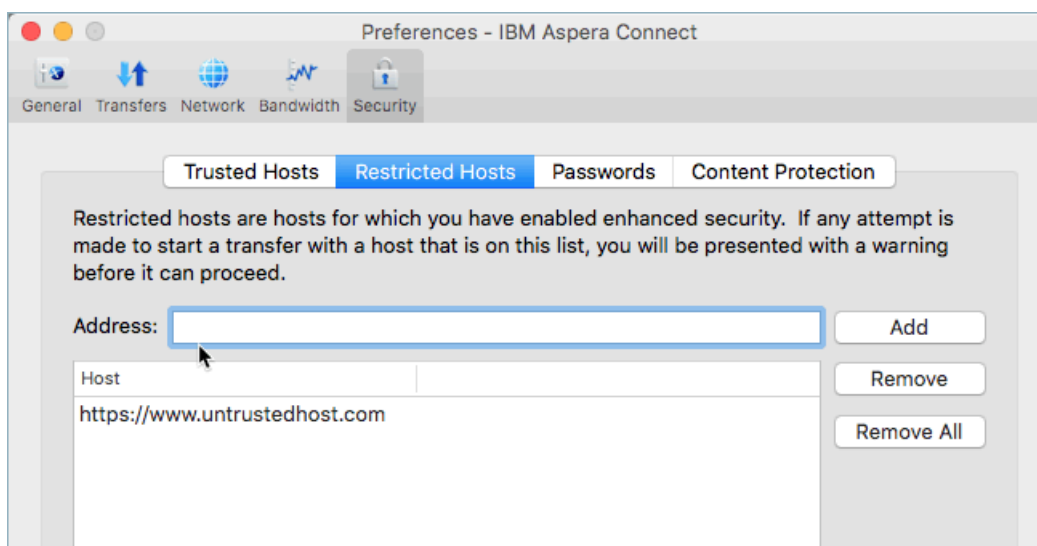


Managing Hosts

When a transfer is initiated and the **Use my choice for all transfers with this host** option is enabled in the confirmation dialog, the server that you are allowing or denying will be added to the **Trusted Hosts** or **Restricted Hosts** list, respectively. To view, add or remove additional trusted hosts, go to **Security > Trusted Hosts**. Enter the host's address in the specified text field and click **Add**.

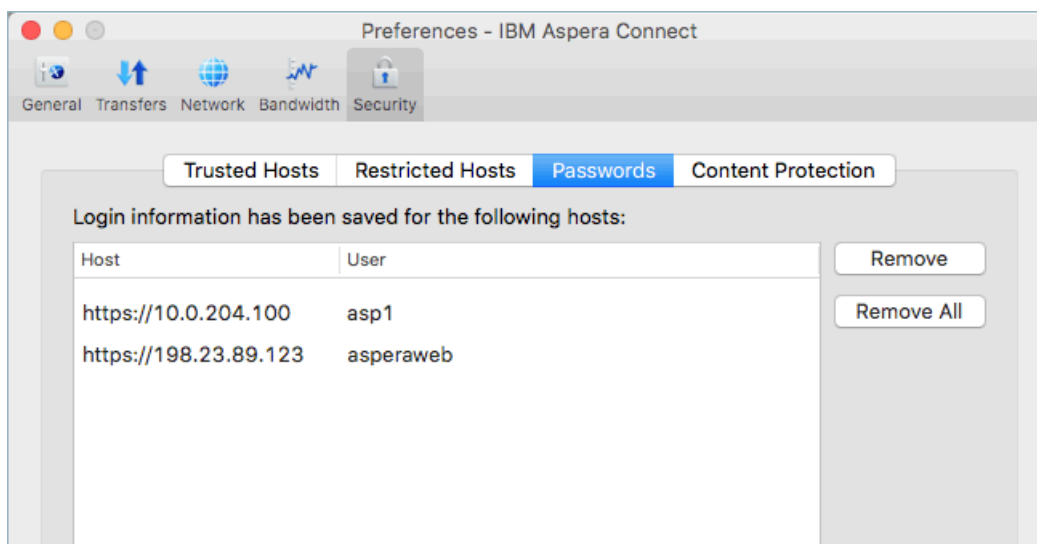


To view, add or remove restricted hosts, go to **Security > Restricted Hosts**. Here, enter the host's address in the specified text field and click **Add**.



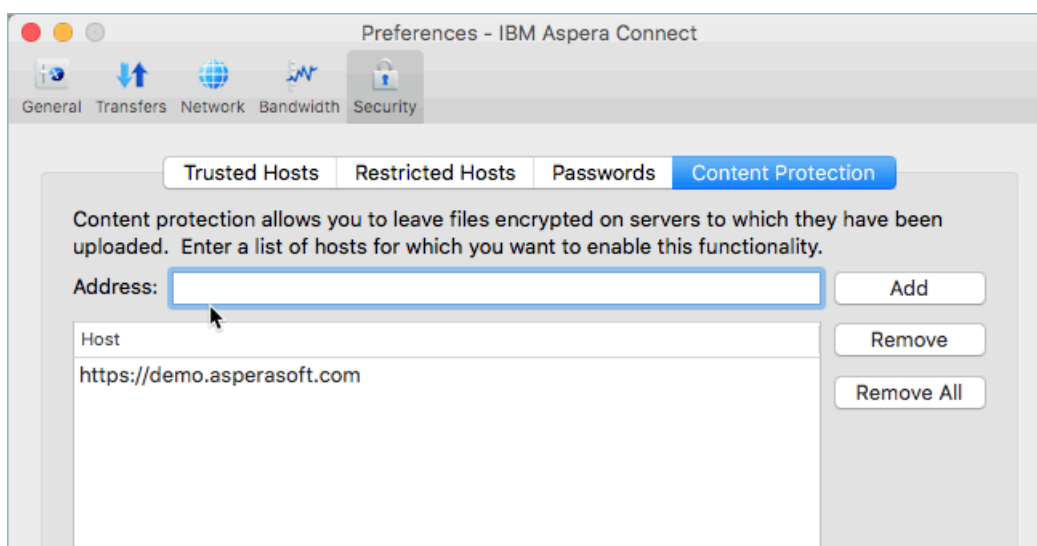
Important: By adding a host to the restricted list, you will be required to provide confirmation every time you attempt to initiate a transfer with that host.

To view, add, or remove saved password information for a host, go to **Security > Passwords**. Here, you can remove saved login credentials; however, you cannot add credentials to this list directly. Whenever you attempt a transfer with a server where your credentials are not saved, you are prompted with an authentication dialog and offered a **Remember this password** checkbox. Marking the checkbox causes your login credentials to be saved and appear in this tab.



Content Protection

To specify hosts to which you want all uploads to be encrypted, open the **Content Protection** tab under **Security**. In the Address field enter the Aspera server address and click **Add**. The server is then added to the list.



When uploading files to a server on the list, or one that is configured as a content-protected host, you are prompted for a passphrase to encrypt the files. You can also choose not to encrypt files if the server allows it.

For details on encryption and decryption, see [File Encryption](#).

Connect Functionality

Initiating a Transfer

The steps below describe how to use Connect to initiate a file transfer, and shows how to perform a download from Aspera's demo server.

Important: In order for Connect to function correctly, your browser *must have cookies enabled*. For instructions on verifying this setting, see the help documentation for your browser.

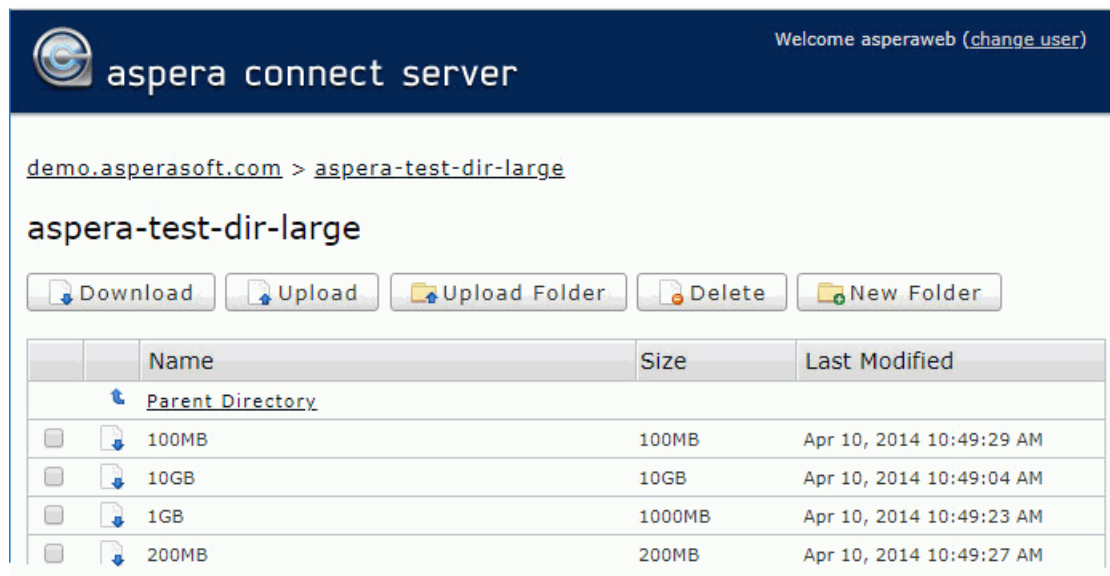
1. Open your web browser and log in to Aspera's demo transfer server at <http://demo.asperasoft.com/aspera/user>.

Enter the following credentials when prompted:

- **User:** asperaweb
- **Password:** demoaspera

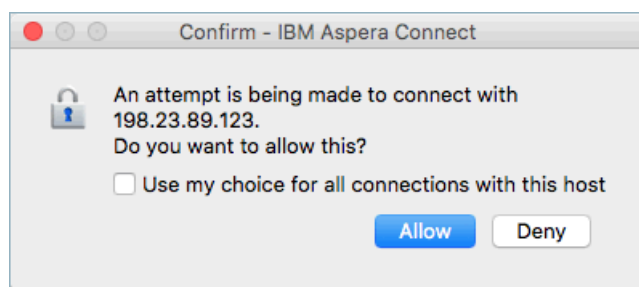
2. In Connect Server, open the folder `aspera-test-dir-large`.

To select a file or folder you want to download, click the checkbox next to it. You can also click multiple boxes to select more than one file or folder to download at a time. Once you've made your selections, click the **Download** button.



3. Confirm the download.

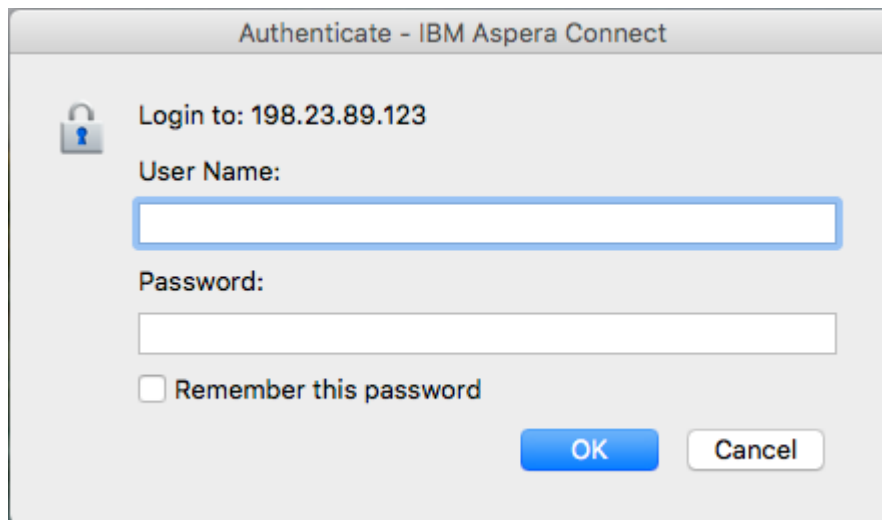
A dialog appears asking you to confirm whether the transfer should proceed. Select **Allow** to begin. To skip this dialog in the future, enable the checkbox **Use my choice for all connections with this host**.



4. Enter credentials to authenticate the transfer.

The following dialog appears asking for a username and password. Fill in the server account name and password.

Note: If the server OS is Windows and the you are using a domain account, all characters in the domain name must be uppercase.



You can also use the Aspera demo server to upload files. When you log in to the server, open the `Upload` folder. Click the **Upload** button to select files from your system to upload to the demo server. You can use the checkboxes to select multiple files to upload at once. To select folders to upload, click **Upload Folder**.

Note: When uploading, do not transfer files whose names contain the following characters:

/ \ " : ' ? > < & * |

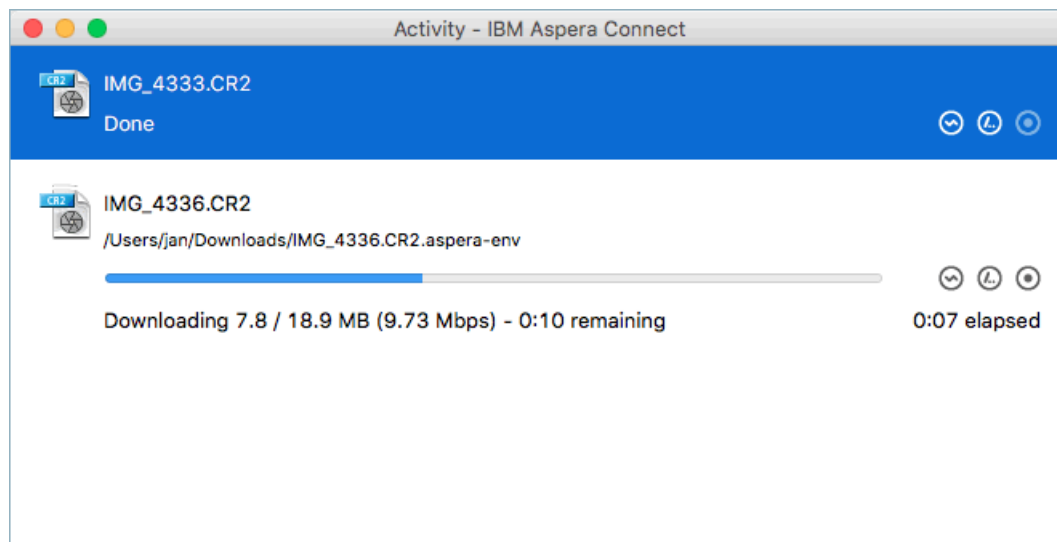
Once you confirm that the configuration settings are correct and that Connect is working properly, you can begin transferring with your organization's Aspera server. To get started, simply point your browser to your server's host name. For example, if the server is running IBM Aspera Connect Server:

`http://server_host_name/aspera/user`





Note that the URL format of the address can be different, depending on your server product.


The Activity Window

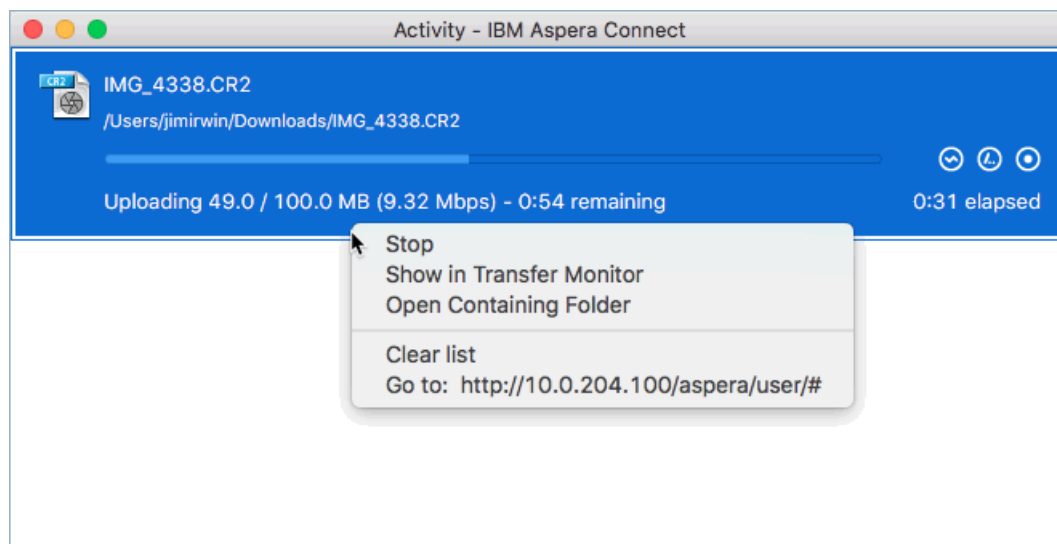
In the Activity window, you can view and manage all transfer sessions.




The Activity window contains the following controls:

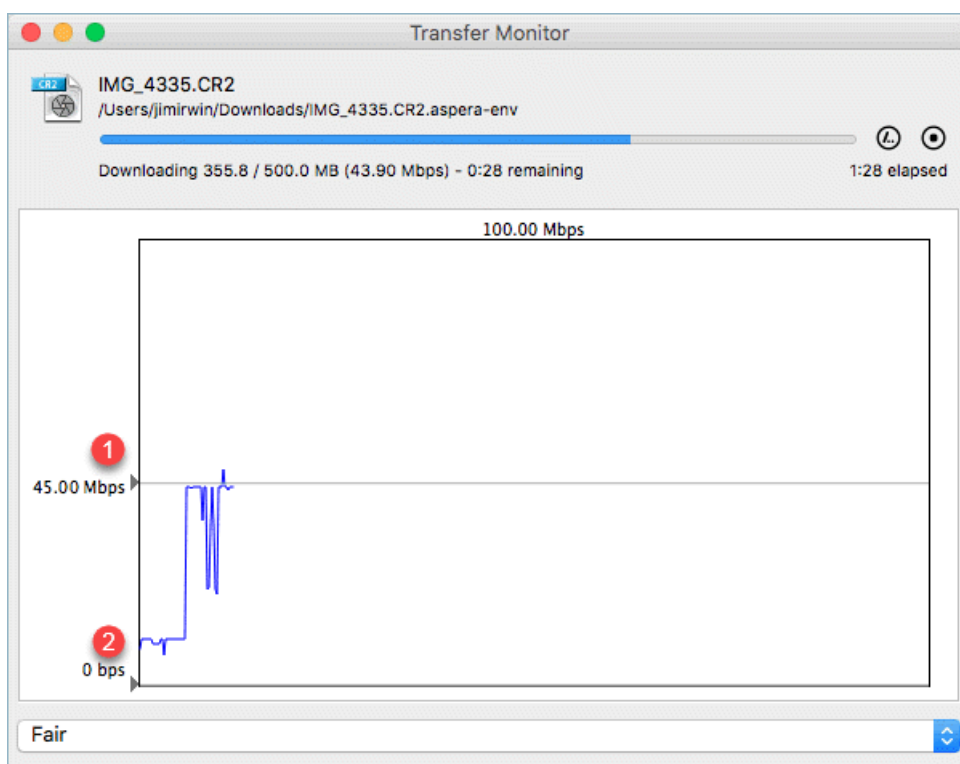
-  Open the Transfer Monitor. For more information on this feature, see [Monitoring Transfers](#).
-  Open the folder on your computer that contains this content.
-  Stop the transfer.
-  Resume a stopped transfer, or retry a failed transfer.

When the queuing option is enabled, the number of concurrent transfers is limited. The additional transfers are queued in the Activity window and initiated when a transfer is finished. You can manually start a queued transfer by clicking the  button. You can also right-click on a started or stopped transfer to access various controls. The example below shows the right-click options for a stopped transfer.



Monitoring Transfers

Connect lets you monitor and adjust file transfer speed from the Transfer Monitor window. To monitor a transfer session shown in the Activity window, click the  icon shown with the session. The Transfer Monitor opens:



The following controls are available in this window:

- Open the folder on your computer that contains this content.
- Stop the transfer.
- Resume a stopped transfer, or retry a failed transfer.

If you have sufficient server privileges and your transfer server is configured to allow it, you can adjust or set your desired transfer rate, minimum transfer rate, and rate policy. However, actual performance is subject to the available bandwidth on your network as well as the transfer settings on your server:

- Target transfer rate – To adjust the transfer rate, locate and select the upper slider **1** on the left side of the graph and move it up or down to change the desired rate. Note that the actual rate depends on several factors.
- Minimum transfer rate – To set the minimum transfer speed, locate and select the bottom slider **2** on the left side of the graph and move it up or down to set the desired rate. The actual minimum rate depends on several factors.
- Transfer policy – Select the transfer policy from the drop-down list at the bottom of the window. Note that your specified rate policy may be subject to external limitations:

Fixed

The transfer transmits data at a rate equal to the target rate, although this may impact the performance of other traffic present on the network.

High

The transfer rate is adjusted to use the available bandwidth up to the maximum rate.

Fair

The transfer attempts to transmit data at a rate equal to the target rate. If network conditions do not permit that, it transfers at a rate lower than the target rate, but no less than the minimum rate.

Low

The transfer rate is less aggressive than Fair when sharing bandwidth with other network traffic. When congestion occurs, the transfer rate is decreased to the minimum rate, until other traffic retreats.

- Additional options – Right-clicking in the area above the graph opens the same menu as doing so in the Activity window, giving options such as stop or remove transfers, and open the transfer's containing folder.

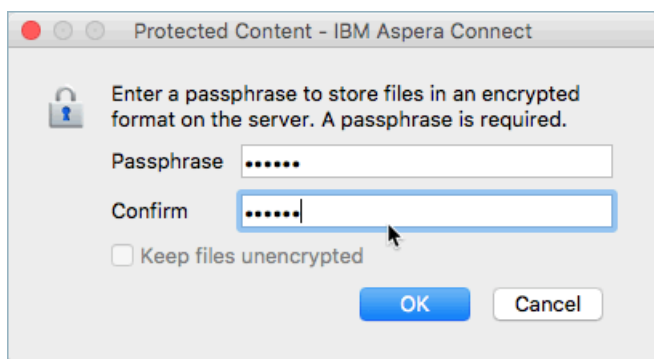
File Encryption

When you upload files to a server configured as a content-protected host, you are prompted for a passphrase to protect the files with Aspera encryption. When you download those files, access to the files' contents requires that you provide the passphrase to decrypt them. Files can be decrypted during the download transfer, or decrypted after the download has completed. Files can be decrypted from within Connect, or by using the utility IBM Aspera Crypt, which is included in the Connect installation.

Encrypting Files

Servers to which you want to upload encrypted files must be enabled for content protection. For more information, see [Content Protection](#).

When uploading files to a content-protected server, you are prompted for a passphrase to encrypt the files. You can either enter the passphrase in the text field, or check **Keep files unencrypted** to proceed without using this feature (if allowed by the server). To start the transfer, click **OK**.

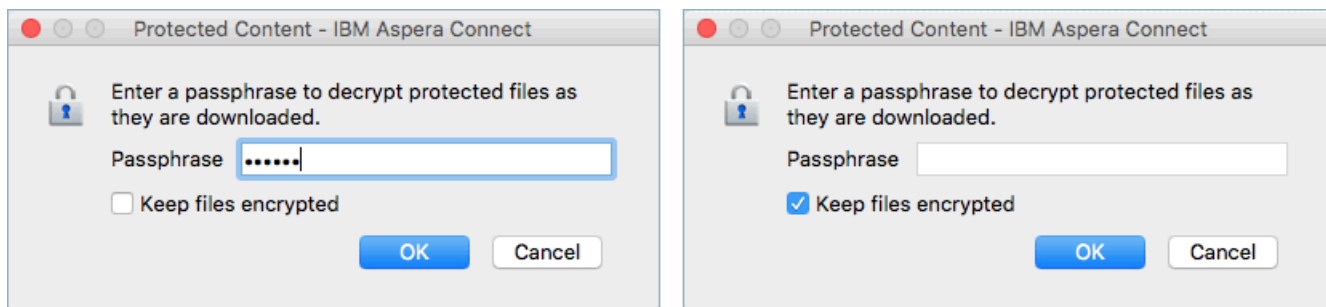


Once Aspera-encrypted files have been uploaded to your server, they can be identified by an additional file extension, `.aspera-env` (Aspera Security Envelope).

	Name	Size	Last Modified
<input type="checkbox"/>	IMG_4333.CR2.aspera-env	18MB	Apr 3, 2018 9:03:00 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	IMG_4336.CR2.aspera-env	18MB	Apr 2, 2018 4:15:03 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	10MB.3	10MB	Nov 16, 2017 10:11:34 AM
<input type="checkbox"/>	14601890.gif.aspera-env	480B	Mar 19, 2018 3:13:33 PM

Decrypting Files During Download

When you use Connect to download a content-protected file, a window opens prompting you for a decryption passphrase:



You have two options:

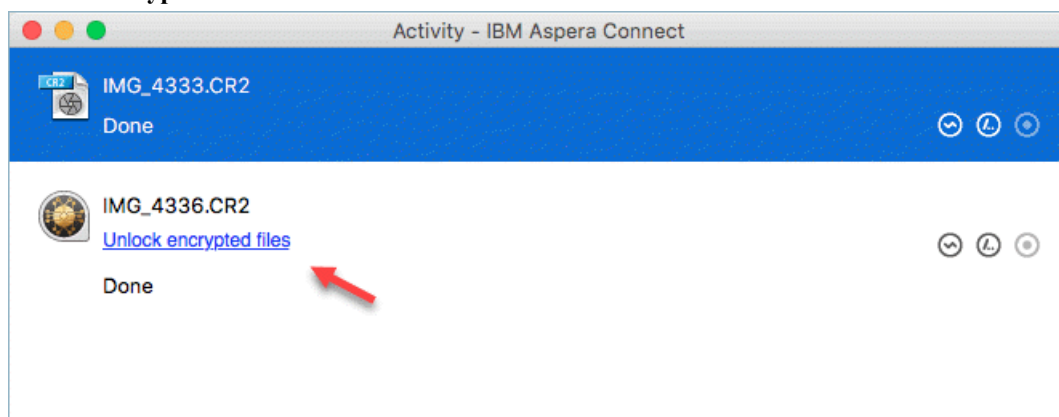
- Enter the passphrase. In this case, Connect decrypts the files *during* the download. When the files arrive at their destination, they are no longer encrypted, and no further steps are necessary.
- Check the **Keep files encrypted** box. In this case, Connect transfers the files to the destination in the encrypted state. You don't need to enter a passphrase (if you do, it is ignored). With this option, the files retain the `.aspera-env` extension on your disk. You can decrypt the files any time after the download has completed.

To proceed with the download, click **OK**. The Connect Activity window appears and shows the progress of the transfer. When finished, the progress bar disappears, indicating the files are now at their destination.

Decrypting Files after Download

To decrypt downloaded files you have chosen to keep encrypted, run the IBM Aspera Crypt utility. You can launch Crypt using any of the following methods:

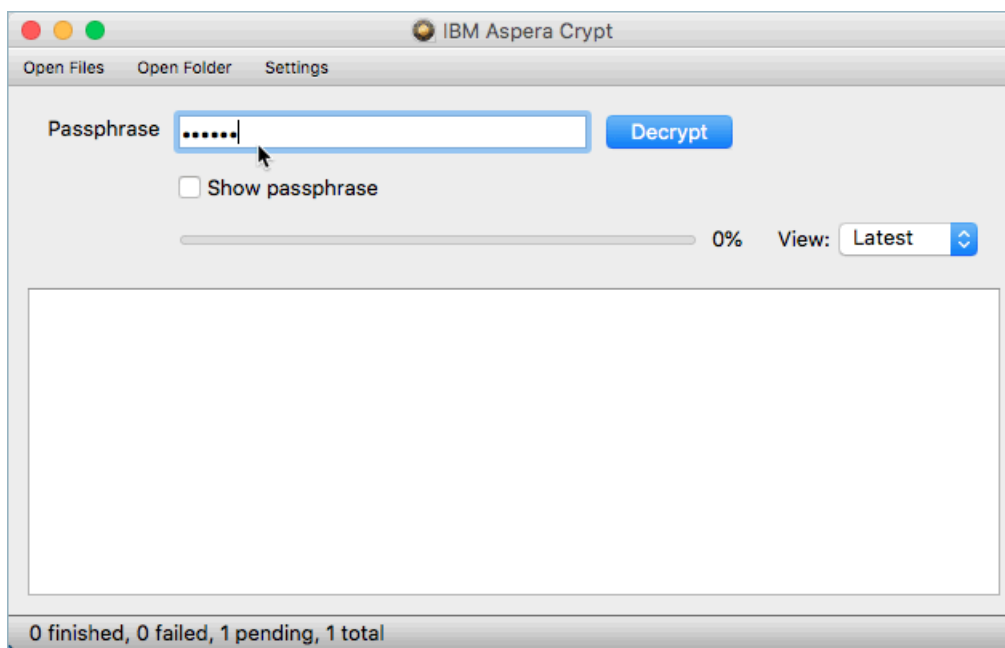
- From the Connect Activity window: Once the transfer is complete, the Connect Activity window displays the link **Unlock encrypted files**:



To launch Crypt, click **Unlock encrypted files**. This is the most convenient method for unlocking protected files once they've been transferred. Depending on your preferences settings, you can also decrypt your files from here later, as the transfer records remain in the Connect Activity window until you remove them by clicking **Clear List**. However, the files remain only if under the **Preferences > General** you chose to remove transfer list items **Manually** instead of automatically after transfer.

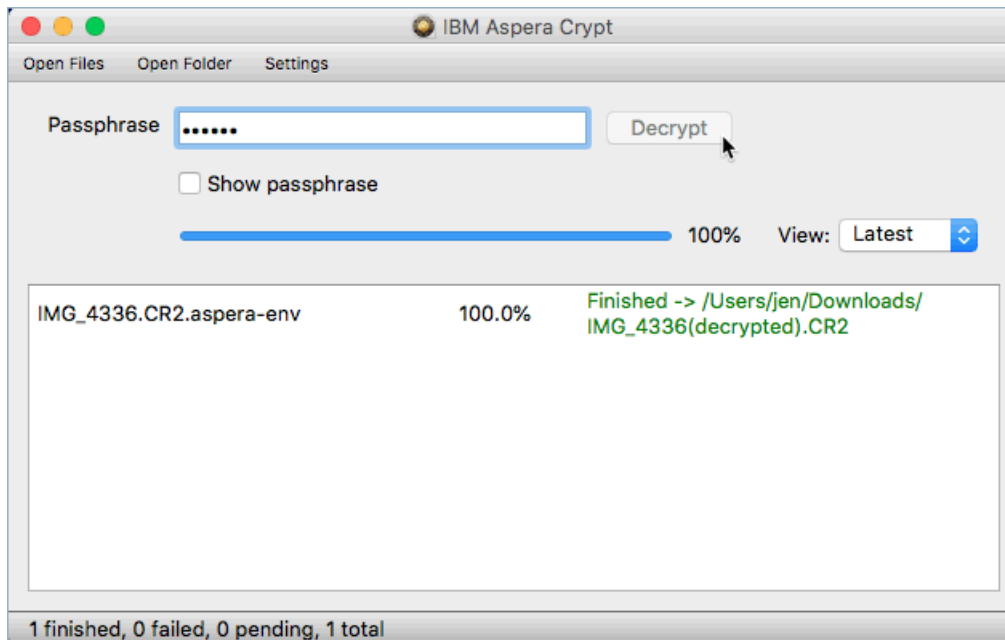
- By opening an Aspera-encrypted file: You can launch Crypt by opening an `.aspera-env` file from the context menu or by double-clicking the file.
- From the Connect application menu: To open the application menu, click the Connect icon in the menu bar. To launch Crypt, select **Unlock encrypted files**.
- You can launch Crypt directly from the macOS Applications menu.

When you launch Crypt, the following window opens:

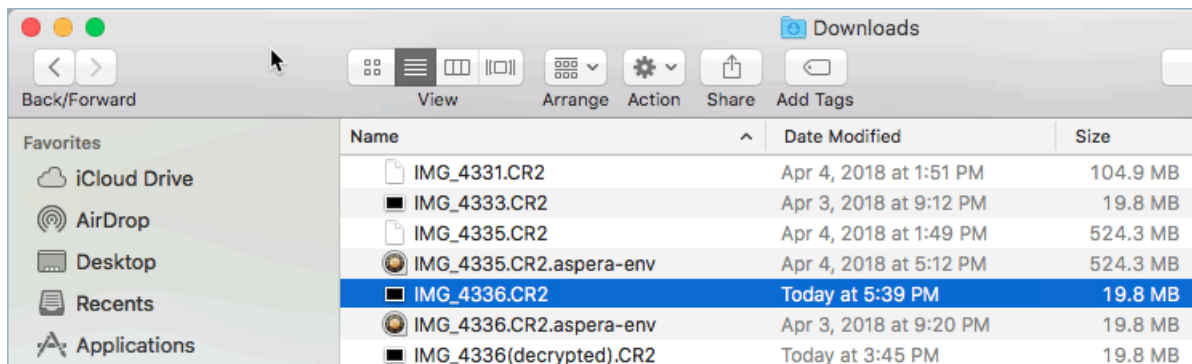


If you launched Crypt from the Connect Activity window or by opening an `aspera-env` file, Crypt decrypts the files that were selected. From the Crypt window, you can also select **Open Files** or **Open Folder** and browse for files or folders to decrypt. When your encrypted contents are loaded into Crypt, a status message appears at the bottom of the application, displaying the number of items ready for decryption.

To unlock protected content, fill in the encryption passphrase and click **Decrypt**. The files are unlocked and the results displayed in the window:



The decrypted files are placed in the same directory as the original encrypted files:



If you choose to decrypt a file and there is already an unencrypted file of the same name in that folder, the newly decrypted version appears in the Crypt window and the folder listing with "(decrypted)" added to the filename, as in the above example. However, note that if you decrypt the file yet again, the "(decrypted)" file is overwritten without notice.

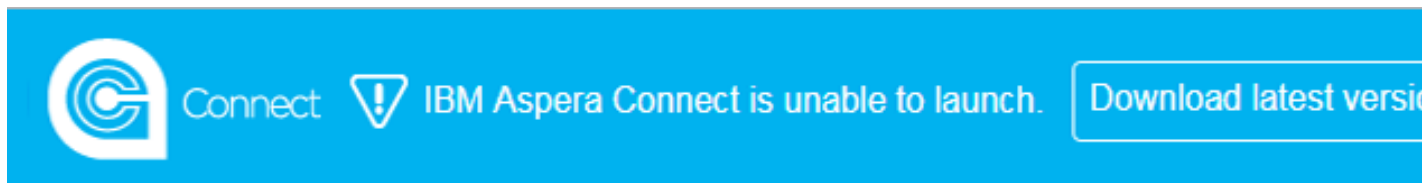
Maintaining Your Connect Installation

Upgrading

When a new version becomes available, Connect prompts you to confirm whether to upgrade.

If Connect does not prompt you to upgrade (for example, because the system has no Internet access), you can obtain an upgrade from the Aspera download site. To download the latest version of Connect, go to <http://downloads.asperasoft.com/connect>. Click **Download Now** and follow the on-screen instructions. This downloads the latest installer.

You are also prompted to upgrade if you attempt a download and Connect is not found or otherwise unable to launch:



If Connect is not installed, or is out of date, you can download it from here by clicking **Download latest version**. If Connect is already installed, you can click **Troubleshoot** to open the IBM Aspera Connect Diagnostic Tool. You can also access the tool here:

<https://test-connect.asperasoft.com/>

Uninstalling

Important: You must quit Connect before uninstalling it.

To uninstall Connect, quit both the Connect application and any open Web browsers. Then, run the corresponding uninstall script below (based on how you installed Connect on your system).

Installation Method	Path
System-wide installation (all users)	/Library/Application Support/Aspera/Aspera Connect/uninstall_connect.sh
Per-user installation	~/Library/Application Support/Aspera/Aspera Connect/uninstall_connect.sh

File Cleanup

Old Connect files can be safely removed from your system.

Log Files

Log files are found in the following location. Log files can be removed at any time.

```
~/Library/Logs/Aspera_Connect
```

Database File

If you previously installed Connect for all users (that is, system-wide), then when *uninstalling*, you will only be able to remove the Connect database for the current user. To remove the database file for all users, you must locate and remove the database file for each user account:

```
/Users/username/.aspera/connect/connectdb.data
```

Alternatively, you can delete the entire `.aspera` directory after uninstalling Connect, if desired.

Appendices

Log Files


Log Files

- aspera-connect.log
- aspera-connect-browser-plugin.log
- aspera-scp-transfer.log

Log File Location

Log files are located in the following directory:

```
~/Library/Logs/Aspera_Connect/
```

You can also access the log folder from the Connect menu in the menu bar:  > **Open log folder**



For information on removing old log files, see [File Cleanup](#).

Troubleshooting

Connectivity Issues

SSH Connectivity Errors: "Timeout establishing connection"

If you receive the error "Timeout establishing connection," the TCP connection between the IBM Aspera Connect and the server is blocked (error codes 13, 15, or 40 in the log files). To determine the cause, open a Terminal or a Command prompt on the client machine (the machine that Connect is installed on). Use `telnet` to test the connection to the server:

```
$ telnet server-ip-address 33001
```

where *server-ip-address* is the IP address of the Aspera server (ex. 10.0.1.1) on TCP port 33001 (or the configured TCP port, if other than 33001).

You will receive one of the following errors and can take the appropriate action:

- **"Connection refused"**: The Aspera server is not running the SSHD service. Have your server administrator review the server's SSH service status.
- **"Timeout"**: The client-side firewall is disallowing outbound TCP traffic. Ensure that the client-side firewall allows outbound TCP traffic on port 33001 (or the configured TCP port).

UDP Connectivity Errors: "Data transfer timeout"

If Connect appears to successfully connect to the server but:

- The transfer progress reads 0%.
- Files appear to be transferred to the destination but are 0 bytes.
- You eventually receive the error "Data transfer timeout."

UDP connectivity is blocked, likely by the firewall configuration (error codes 14, 15, and 18 in the log files). Ensure that the client-side firewall allows outbound traffic on the FASP UDP port (33001, by default) and the server firewall allows inbound traffic on UDP port 33001.

IBM Aspera Connect Diagnostic Tool

Aspera provides a web-based diagnostic tool that can be useful for identifying connection issues. You can access the tool here:

```
https://test-connect.asperasoft.com/
```

Technical Support

Support Websites

For an overview of IBM Aspera Support services, go to <https://asperasoft.com/company/support/>.

To view product announcements, webinars, and knowledgebase articles, as well as access the Aspera Support Community Forum, sign into the IBM Aspera Support site at <https://www.ibm.com/mysupport/> using your IBMid (not your company Aspera credentials), or set up a new account. Search for Aspera and select the product. Click **Follow** to receive notifications when new knowledgebase articles are available.

Personalized Support

You may contact an Aspera support technician 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, through the following methods, with a guaranteed 4-hour response time.

Email	aspera-support@ibm.com
Phone (North America)	+1 (510) 849-2386, option 2
Phone (Europe)	+44 (0) 207-993-6653 option 2
Phone (Singapore)	+81 (0) 3-4578-9357 option 2

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