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Checksum entire folders

Generate checksum

To generate/calculate MD5 checksums for an entire folder, we can do this recursively with find.

find -type f -exec md5sum "{}" + > checksums.txt

This will generate the checksum for every file in the folder and save it to a text file.

Technically, MD5 sums aren't the best anymore but it's fast and nothing we're doing needs security anyways, so it's a good quick sanity check.

NOTE: I recommend using SHA-256 or SHA-512 over MD5 for anything important. I have found that SHA-512 is actually faster then SHA-256, so if you have the space, you might as well use it.

find -type f -exec sha512sum "{}" + > checksums.txt

Verify checksum

To verify that all the files are intact, just make sure it matches.

```
md5sum -c checksums.txt
```

This will run through and verify everything is good.

Alternatively, if you used SHA-512, then just replace md5sum with sha512sum.

sha512sum -c checksums.txt

Note on hash functions

MD5 is not secure anymore, but I was curious if the speed is a worthwhile tradeoff.

To find out which method is faster, you can use OpenSSL:

openssl speed sha256 sha512 md5

For me, the results are as follows: MD5 > SHA-512 > SHA-256

The 'numbers' are in 1000s of bytes per second processed. type 16 bytes 64 bytes 256 bytes 1024 bytes 8192 bytes 16384 bytes

2025-05-31 13:55		3/3		С	hecksum entire folders
md5 495352.10k	84098.48k	196370.90k	361047.62k	459072.69k	496273.01k
sha256 212728.10k	42210.06k	94892.37k	165544.29k	200256.39k	211776.94k
sha512 296808.81k	29820.25k	121823.76k	181359.94k	252842.09k	289037.40k

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