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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 than 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
```

md5	84098.48k	196370.90k	361047.62k	459072.69k	496273.01k
495352.10k					
sha256	42210.06k	94892.37k	165544.29k	200256.39k	211776.94k
212728.10k					
sha512	29820.25k	121823.76k	181359.94k	252842.09k	289037.40k
296808.81k					

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