Move your data from a Windows PC to a Mac

macOS · https://cleversupport.ca/docs/macos/move-your-data-from-a-windows-pc-to-a-mac/

Windows Migration Assistant transfers your contacts, calendars, email accounts, and more from your PC to the appropriate places on your Mac.

Step 1

Get ready

1. Make sure that Windows is up to date. Migration Assistant works with Windows 7 or later.
2. Make sure that you know the name and password of an administrator account on your PC.
3. Connect your Mac and PC to the same network, such as your home Wi-Fi network. Or connect an Ethernet cable between the ports on your Mac and PC to create a direct network connection. Some Mac models require an Ethernet adapter, such as the Belkin USB-C to Gigabit Ethernet Adapter or Apple Thunderbolt to Gigabit Ethernet Adapter.

Step 2

Use Migration Assistant

You're now ready to use Migration Assistant to move your files from your PC to your Mac. (If you're moving content from a Mac instead of a PC, follow the steps to move content from one Mac to another.)

On your PC

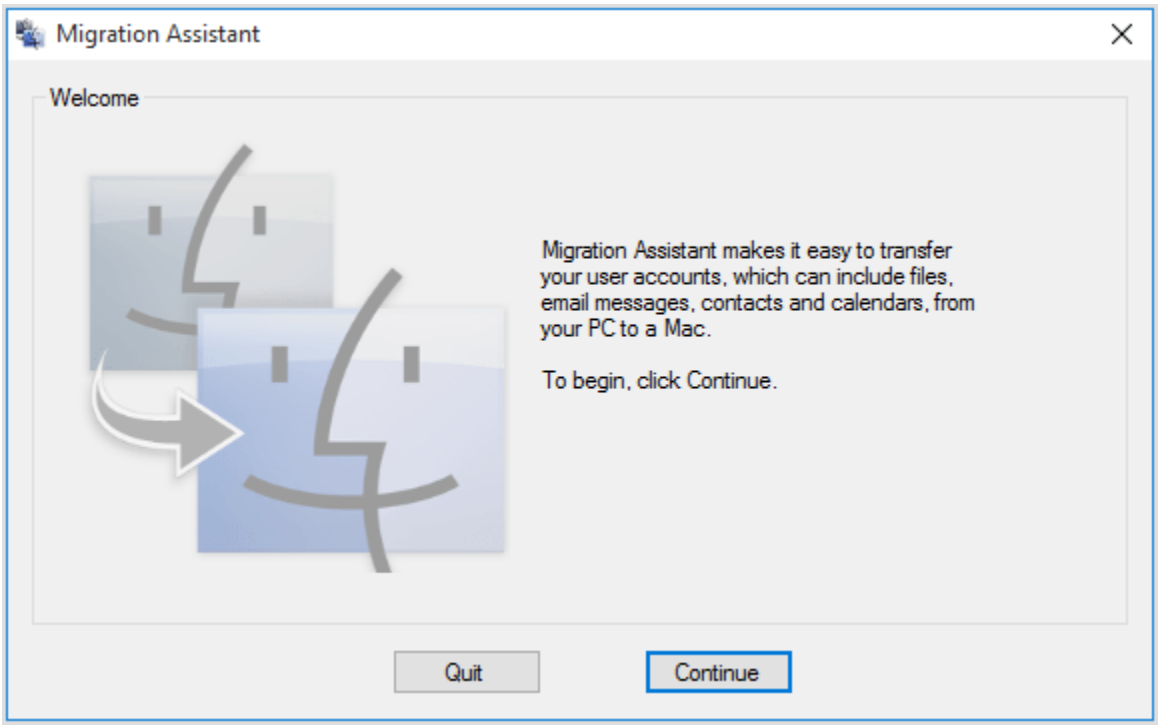
1. Download and install the appropriate Windows Migration Assistant, based on the version of macOS on your Mac:
   - Windows Migration Assistant for macOS Monterey.
   - Windows Migration Assistant for macOS Big Sur.
   - Windows Migration Assistant for macOS Mojave and macOS Catalina.
   - Windows Migration Assistant for macOS Sierra and High Sierra.

- Windows Migration Assistant for OS X El Capitan or earlier.

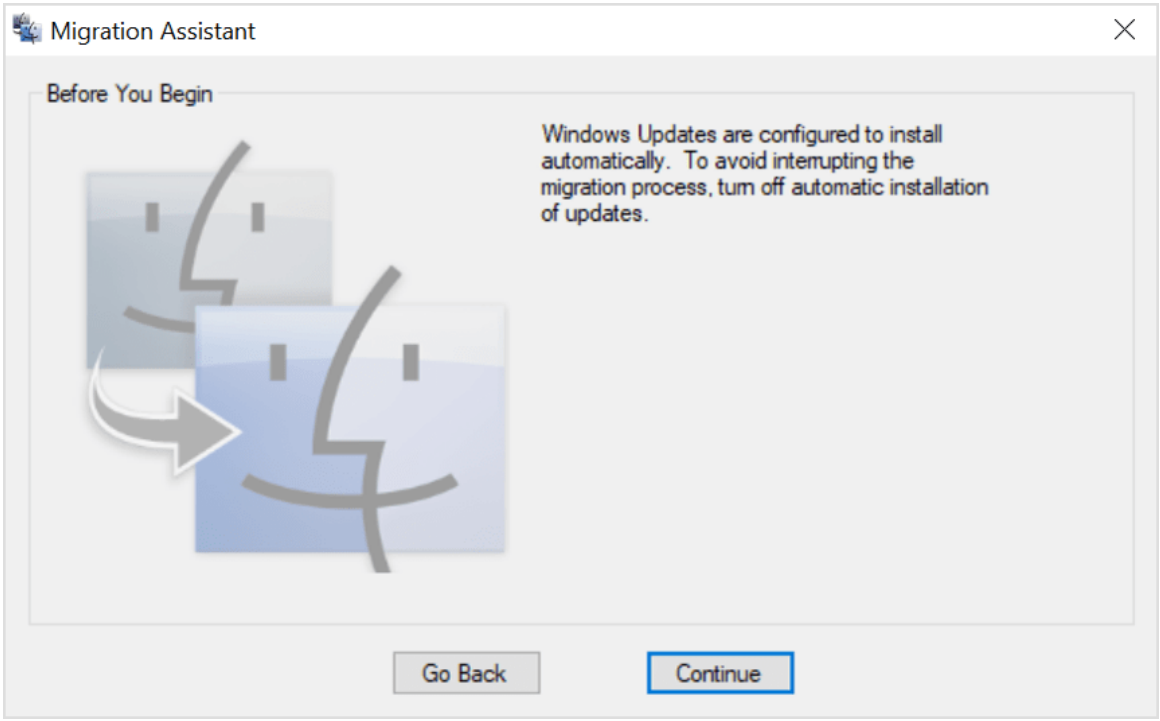
2. Click **Next>**

3. Accept the terms of the license agreement and select **Install**.

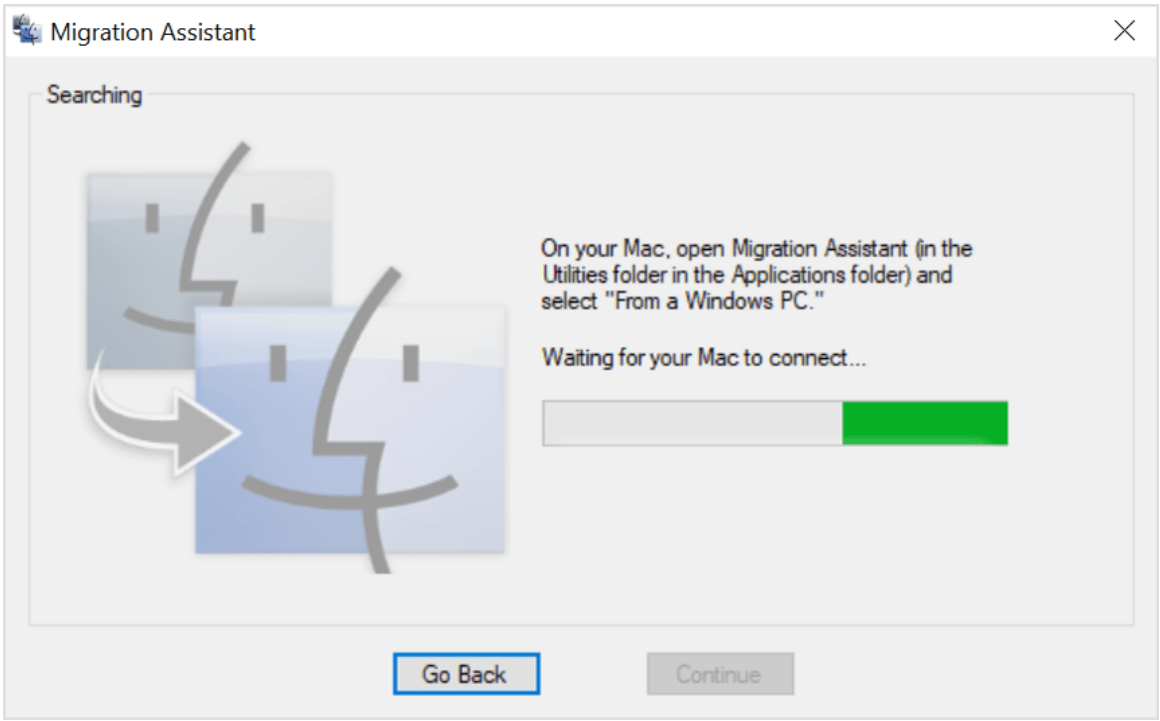
4. Click **Finish** to quit the Installer.
5. Open Windows Migration Assistant, then click **Next >**



6. If Windows updates are configured to install automatically on your PC, you might see a message recommending that you turn off automatic installation of Windows updates. When you're ready to proceed, click Continue.



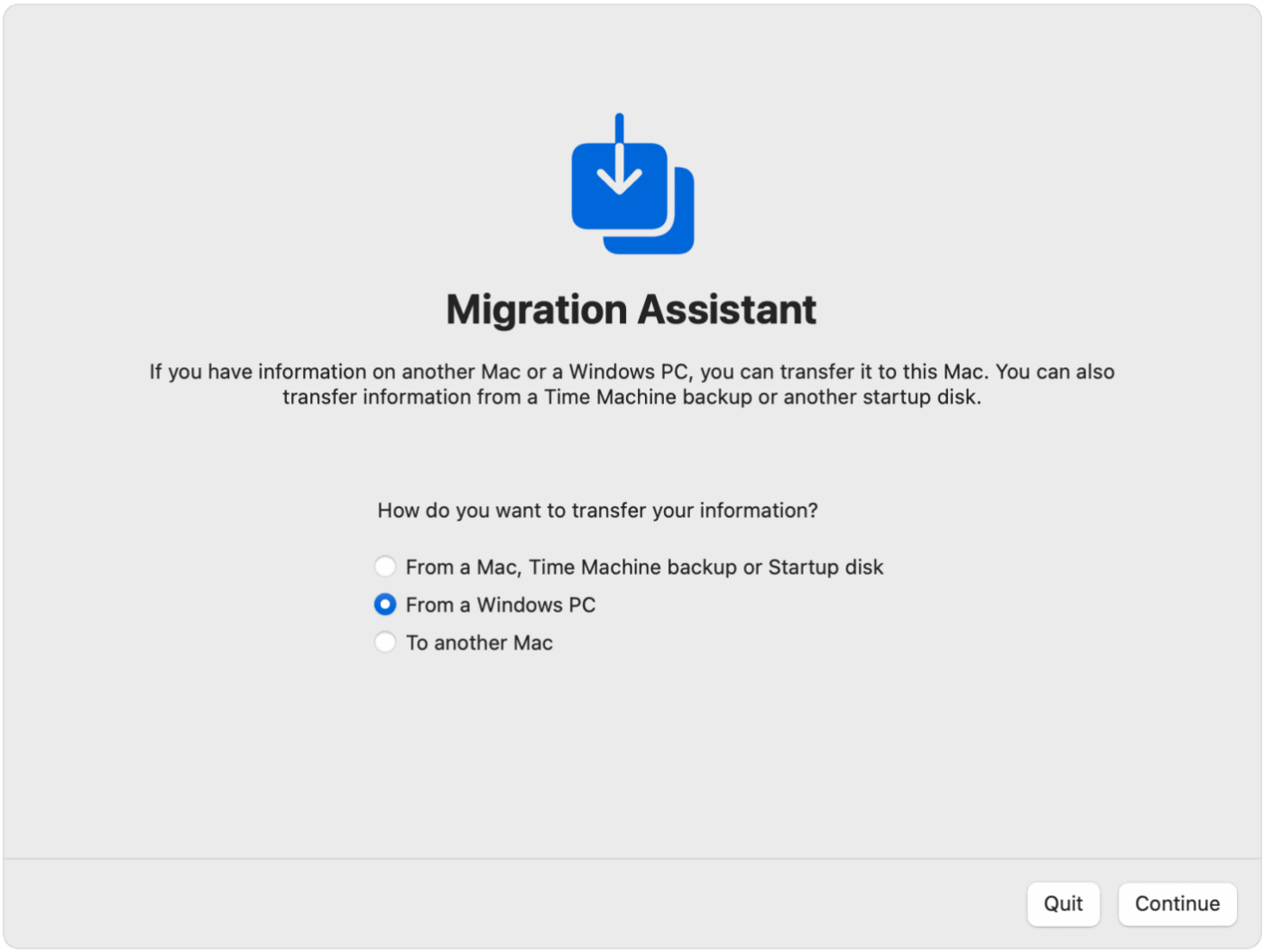
7. When Migration Assistant says that it's waiting for your Mac to connect, complete the next steps on your Mac.



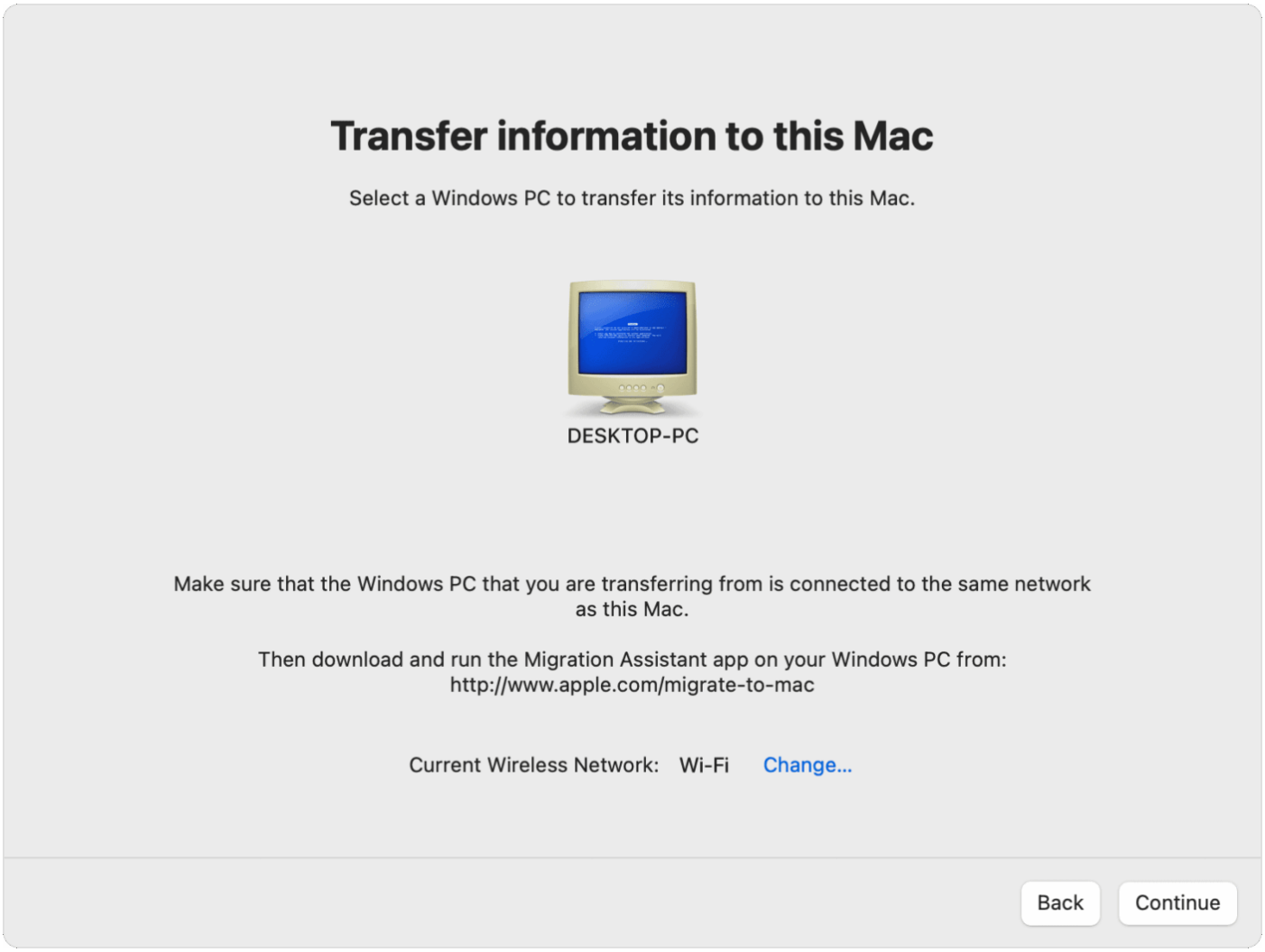
On your Mac

1. Open Migration Assistant, which is in the Utilities folder of your Applications folder.

2. Follow the onscreen prompts until you're asked how you want to transfer your information. Select the option to transfer from a Windows PC, then click Continue.

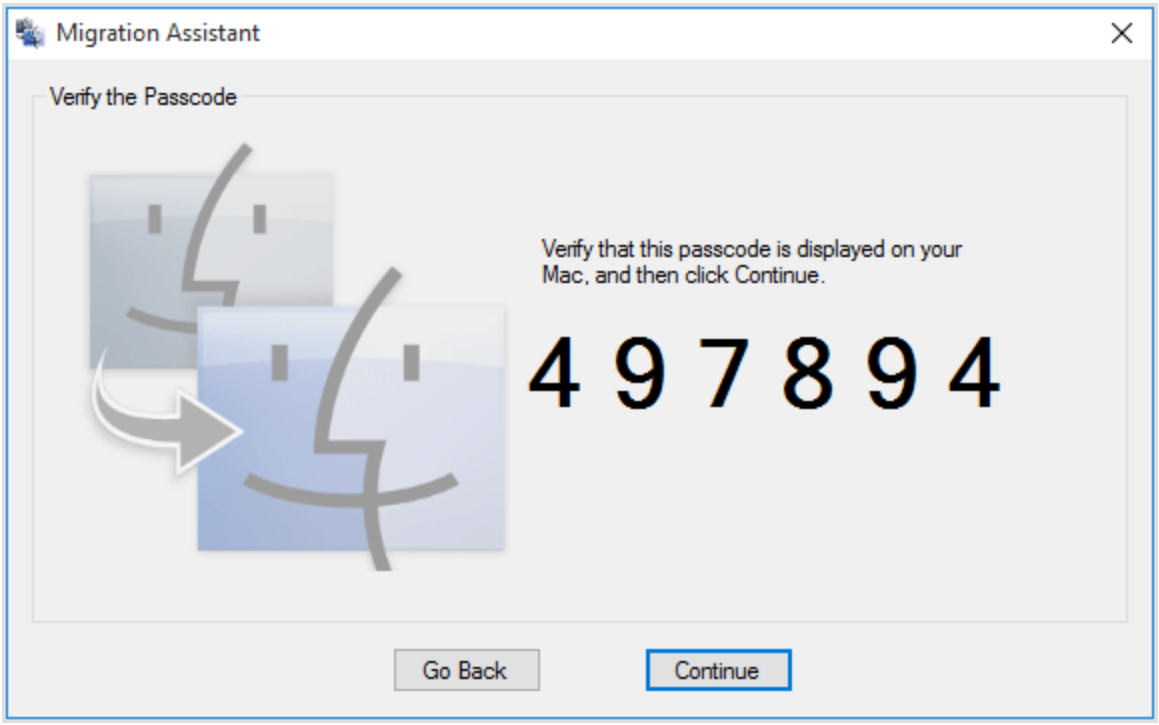


3. Select the icon representing your PC, then click Continue.



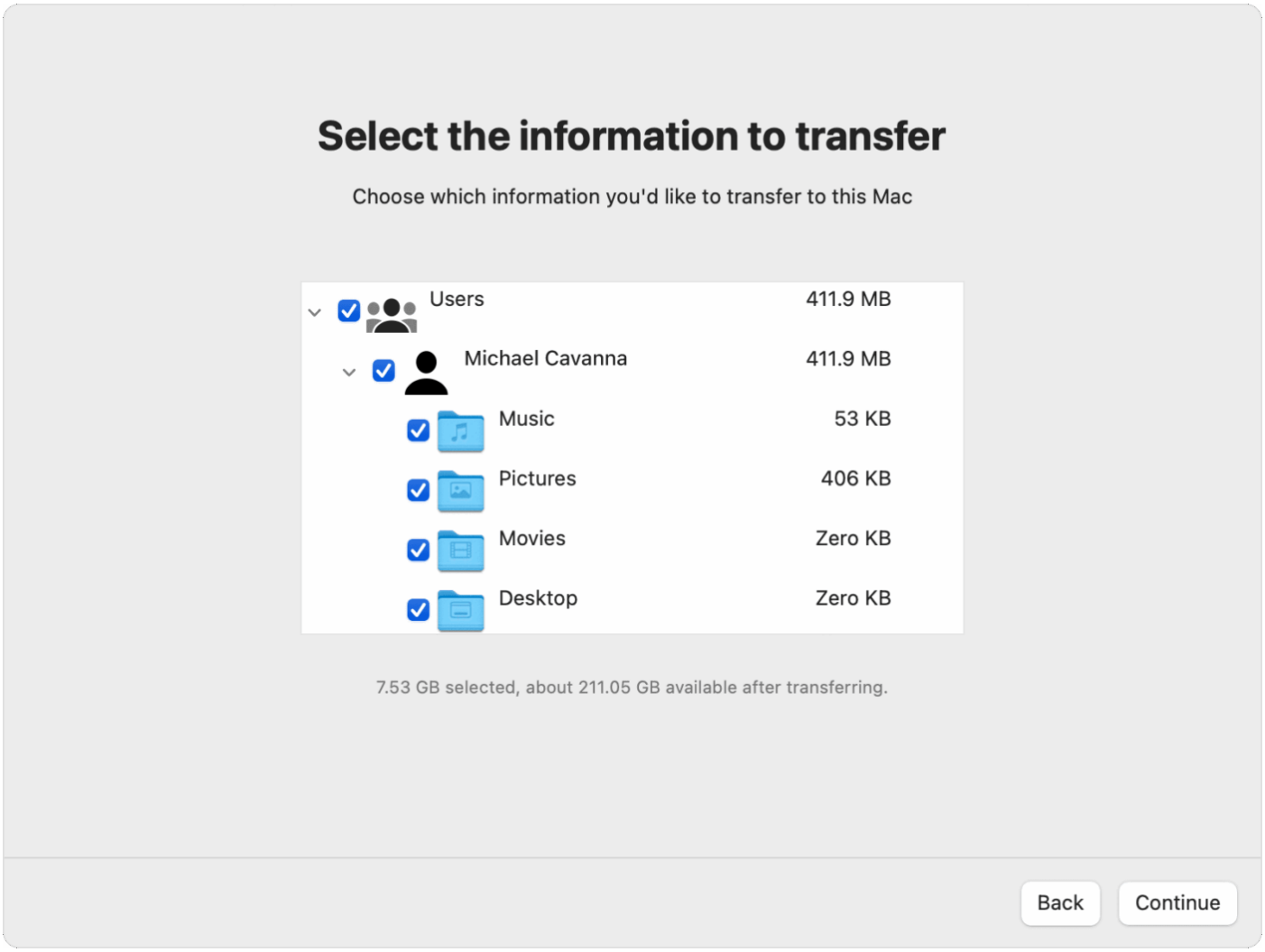
On your PC

Make sure that your PC and Mac show the same passcode, then click Continue.



On your Mac

1. When your Mac is done scanning the files on your PC, select the information that you want to transfer to your Mac. Learn more about the data that you can transfer.



2. Click Continue to start the transfer. Large transfers might need several hours to complete.
3. When done, log in to the new user account on your Mac.
4. Authorize your Mac for iTunes Store purchases. It's important to do this before you sync or play content downloaded from the iTunes Store.

If you have issues moving your data

If your PC is using any firewall software or antivirus software, turn it off. After migration completes, you can turn that software on again.

Use the check disk (chkdsk) utility on your PC:

1. Right-click the Start button, then click Run.
2. Type `cmd` and press Enter. Command Prompt opens.
3. At the prompt, type `chkdsk` and press Enter.

4. If the utility reports that it found problems, type the following, where *drive* is the letter that represents your Windows startup disk, such as D:
   chkdsk *drive*: /F
5. Press Enter.
6. At the prompt, type `Y`, then restart your PC.
7. Repeat this process until the check disk utility reports no issues. If the utility can't fix every issue that it finds, you might need to have your PC serviced.

If you still can't transfer your information successfully, you can use an external drive or file sharing to manually copy important data to your Mac.

What data can I transfer?

Migration Assistant lets you choose the data to move to your Mac. Here’s what moves over for specific apps and data types:

Email, contacts, and calendar information

Email messages, email-account settings, contacts, and appointments move based on which version of Windows you're using and which accounts you have.

Outlook[1]Data from 32-bit versions of Outlook in Windows 7 and later move as follows:

- People move to Contacts[2]
- Appointments move to the Calendar app
- IMAP and Exchange settings and messages move to the Mail app
- POP settings and messages move to Mail[2]

Windows Live Mail

Data from Windows Live Mail in Windows 7 and later moves as follows:

- IMAP settings and messages move to Mail
- POP settings and messages move to Mail[2]

Windows Mail

Data from Windows Mail in Windows 7 and later (excluding Windows 8) move as follows:

- IMAP settings and messages move to Mail

- POP settings and messages move to Mail[2]
- People move to Contacts

Bookmarks

Bookmarks from Internet Explorer, Safari for Windows, and Firefox move to Safari.

System settings

Language and location settings, and custom desktop pictures move to System Preferences. Your web browser homepage moves to Safari preferences.

Pictures

Photos and other images move to your home folder. You can then add them to Photos, or open Photos and let it search your Mac for photos to import.

iTunes content

Migration Assistant transfers your iTunes media as follows: music to the Apple Music app, videos to the Apple TV app, podcasts to the Apple Podcasts app, and audiobooks to the Apple Books app.

Other files

Migration Assistant also moves these files:

- Files from the top-level folder of the currently logged-in user’s home directory
- Non-system files located in the Windows or Program Files folders
- Top-level folders located on the Windows system disk and other attached disks

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1. Migration Assistant for macOS Big Sur or earlier doesn’t support 64-bit versions of Outlook. You can manually migrate Mail, Contacts, or Calendars from Outlook 2013 or Outlook 2016 by signing in and entering the content on your Mac manually.

2. Migration Assistant transfers only the Mail or Contacts data that belongs to the logged-in Windows user. To transfer data from another user account, use Migration Assistant again while you’re logged in to another Windows account. Each time you migrate, your Mac creates a new user account.