

Consumer & wellness apps

Offline-first readiness checklist

From the field note "[Offline-first app architecture: backups that merge, deletes that stick, DST-safe streaks](#)".

The short version

- ◇ With no sync server, make the saved state and the backup file one versioned document, so merging a backup on another device is the sync.
- ◇ Merge backups item by item with newest-edit-wins, and keep deletes as dated tombstones (90 days for us) so old backups cannot revive them.
- ◇ Treat every backup file as untrusted input: validate ranges, migrate old schemas, refuse newer ones.
- ◇ Store days as local calendar keys, not timestamps, and version goal edits, so streaks survive daylight saving time and changed targets.
- ◇ Let paid features work offline for a fixed grace period (7 days for our web license keys), then switch them off until a check succeeds.

The checklist

- ☐ Saved state and backup file share one versioned schema.
- ☐ Every item has a stable id and an updatedAt stamped on each change.
- ☐ Deletes write a dated tombstone with a chosen lifetime.
- ☐ Old files migrate forward, newer ones are refused, and each version's validator checks ranges, not only types.
- ☐ Import never changes premium status, the app lock or the device id.
- ☐ Days are local YYYY-MM-DD keys, and toISOString() never touches day logic.
- ☐ Editing a goal retires the old rule instead of rewriting history.
- ☐ Paid features revalidate daily and switch off after a fixed offline grace.

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