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# FileChest

A zero-configuration file browser for local directories and Amazon S3, built with Python/Django.

```
uvx filechest /path/to/directory
uvx filechest s3://bucket-name/prefix
```

No setup required. Just run the command and start browsing.

## Features

- Browse local directories and S3 buckets
- Upload files (drag & drop supported)
- Download files
- Create, rename, delete files and folders
- Copy and move files between directories
- Preview images, videos, audio, PDF, and text files
- List/Grid view toggle

## Installation

We recommend using [uv](#) for the best experience. See [Installing uv](#) for setup instructions.

```
# Using uvx (recommended, no installat:
uvx filechest /path/to/directory
```

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```
pipx install filechest
```

## Usage

Browse a local directory:

```
filechest /path/to/directory
```



Browse an S3 bucket:

```
filechest s3://bucket-name/prefix
```



List all accessible S3 buckets:

```
filechest s3://
```



The command starts a web server and opens your browser automatically.

## Command Line Options

```
usage: filechest [-h] [-p PORT] [--no-browser] [-g] [-a AWS_PROFILE] [--max-buckets MAX_BUCKETS] [--max-entries MAX_ENTRIES] path

Start a file manager for a directory or S3 bucket

positional arguments:
  path                  Path to directory, S3 URL (s3://bucket/prefix), or "s3://" to list all buckets

options:
  -h, --help            show this help message and exit
  -p, --port PORT      Port to run the server on (default: 8000)
  --no-browser         Do not open browser automatically
  -g, --gui             Open GUI window (Experimental)
  -a, --aws-profile AWS_PROFILE AWS profile name to use (sets AWS_PROFILE environment variable)
  --max-buckets MAX_BUCKETS Maximum number of S3 buckets to load (default: 100)
```

```
--max-entries MAX_ENTRIES
    Maximum
    number of files/directories to list
    (default: 1000)
```

## S3 Configuration

FileChest uses your existing AWS credentials.

Configure them using the AWS CLI:

```
# Standard credentials
aws configure

# SSO authentication
aws sso configure
```

Or set environment variables directly:

```
export AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID=your-access-ke□
export AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY=your-secre□
export AWS_DEFAULT_REGION=us-east-1□
```

Use the `-a` option to specify a named profile:

```
filechest -a my-profile s3://bucket-na□
```

## GUI Mode (Experimental)

FileChest can run as a standalone GUI

application using [pywebview](#).

```
filechest -g /path/to/directory□
```

### Installation for GUI

Install the appropriate variant for your platform:

```
# Windows / macOS
uv tool install filechest[gui]□

# Linux (GTK)
uv tool install filechest[gtk]□

# Linux (Qt)
uv tool install filechest[qt]□
```

## System Dependencies

pywebview may require additional system libraries depending on your platform. See the [pywebview installation guide](#) for details.

For example, on **WSL2 Ubuntu 24.04**, the following packages are required:

- for GTK:

```
sudo apt install pkg-config cmake libcurl4-openssl-dev
```

- for Qt:

```
sudo apt install -y qt6-base-dev qt6-wi
```

## Using as a Django Application

FileChest can also be run as a standard Django web application, enabling multi-user file management with access control.

## Setup

```
git clone https://github.com/atsuoishi/django-filechest
cd django-filechest
uv sync
uv run python manage.py migrate
uv run python manage.py createsuperuser
uv run python manage.py runserver
```

Open <http://127.0.0.1:8000/admin/> to configure volumes and permissions.

## Key Concepts

**Volume:** A storage location (local directory or S3 bucket) that users can browse.

**Role:** Access level granted to a user for a volume

- **Editor** – Full access: browse, upload, download, create, rename, delete, copy, move
- **Viewer** – Read-only: browse and download only

## Creating a Volume

In Django Admin, go to **Filechest > Volumes** and add a new volume:

Field	Description
name	URL-safe identifier used in the URL path
verbose_name	Human-readable name shown in UI
path	Local path ( /data/files ) or S3 URL ( s3://bucket/prefix )
public_read	If checked, anyone can view without logging in
max_file_size	Maximum upload size in bytes (default: 10MB)
is_active	Uncheck to disable the volume

## Access Control

Access is determined by the following rules, evaluated in order:

1. **Superusers** always have **Editor** access to all volumes.
2. **Users with VolumePermission** get the assigned role:
  - o Go to **Filechest > Volume permissions** in Django Admin
  - o Select a user and volume, then assign **editor** or **viewer** role
3. **Public volumes** ( `public_read=True` ): Anyone without explicit permission gets **Viewer** access, including anonymous users.
4. **Private volumes** ( `public_read=False` ): Users without permission cannot access the volume at all.

## Examples

**Team shared drive:** Create a volume, add `VolumePermission` for each team member with `editor` role.

**Public file hosting:** Create a volume with `public_read=True`. Anyone can browse and download. Add specific users as `editor` to allow uploads.

**Personal storage:** Create a volume per user with `VolumePermission ( editor )`. Leave `public_read=False` so only that user can access it.

## License

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MIT License

## Links

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- GitHub:  
<https://github.com/atsuoishimoto/filechest>
- Issues:  
<https://github.com/atsuoishimoto/filechest/issues>