



JSON Files and Data Security in Web Apps

A simple guide to local data storage, saving, loading and privacy

Privacy at a glance

- Your project data stays in your web browser while you use the app.
- When you choose Save JSON, the app creates a file that is downloaded to a location controlled by your browser/device.
- When you choose Load JSON, you select a local JSON file and the app reads it in your browser.
- The JSON workflow itself does not require your project data to be uploaded to SPI or shared with other users.

The web apps use locally stored data rather than server-side databases to allow users to use and share these free resources in a secure manner without sharing any data outside of your organisation.

What is a JSON file?

JSON stands for JavaScript Object Notation. It is a common text-based file format used to save structured information. In an SPI web app, a JSON file can contain the information you have entered into a project, assessment, plan, checklist or other app record.

Think of the JSON file as a portable project file: you can save your work, close the app, and later load the file back into the app to continue. Json files can be inspected in Notepad or similar text editor.

How your data is handled

- 1. You enter information** — Data entered into the app is held and processed by the app in your browser.
- 2. You save your work** — Selecting Save JSON creates a JSON file from the current app data. Your browser then downloads that file to your computer or device, normally to Downloads unless you choose another location.
- 3. You keep control of the file** — The saved JSON file is a normal local file. You decide where it is stored, copied, backed up, renamed or deleted.
- 4. You load it again** — Selecting Load JSON opens a file picker. You choose the appropriate JSON file and the browser loads its contents back into the app.

What does 'local' mean?

Local means the information is handled on the computer, tablet or phone you are using rather than being sent to a central SPI project database. The browser provides the environment in which the app runs, and the JSON file gives you a way to retain the information outside the browser.

Some apps load example Json files or csv files from the SPI server. These contain constructed example data only. Amending example data and saving does not overwrite the original sample data.



What SPI does not need for the JSON workflow

- A user account or sign-in to save a JSON project file.
- A central SPI database containing your saved project data.
- Your JSON file to be uploaded to SPI simply in order to reopen it in the app.
- Your project to be visible to another SPI web app user.

Important distinction: the app page vs. your project data

The web app itself may be downloaded from the SPI website and may use normal website resources such as HTML, JavaScript, stylesheets, images or reference data. That is separate from the project information you enter. A local JSON save/load feature operates entirely in the browser without sending the contents of your project file back to the website.

Good practice for users

- Save JSON files in an appropriate company-approved folder.
- Use sensible filenames and version numbers, for example Supplier_Audit_ABC_v03.json.
- Protect files containing confidential, personal, export-controlled or commercially sensitive information in accordance with your organisation's information-security rules.
- Use approved encrypted storage or access controls where required by your organisation.
- Keep backups where the project record is important.
- Only load JSON files from a source you trust and that were created for the relevant SPI app.

Frequently asked questions

Does saving a JSON file send my project to SPI?

No. With a local Save JSON function, the app creates the file in your browser and the browser saves/downloads it to your device.

Can SPI see the information in my saved JSON file?

No. A file stored on your device remains under your control.

Do I need an internet connection to open a saved JSON file?

The app page itself may require internet access if it is being opened from the SPI website or relies on online resources. Once the app is available, loading a local JSON file does not inherently require the file to be uploaded to a server.

Can I email or share a JSON file with a colleague?

Yes, if your organisation permits it. Treat the JSON file according to the sensitivity of the information it contains. A colleague can normally load it into the compatible app.

Is JSON encrypted?



No. JSON is a readable text format. Security therefore depends on how and where you store and share the file. Use your organisation's approved security controls for sensitive information.

Does closing the browser automatically save my work?

Do not assume so. If the app provides Save JSON, use it before closing or refreshing the page when you need to retain your work.

Simple data-flow summary

You enter data	Browser processes it	You save/load a local JSON file
Forms, checklists, projects, assessments	Data remains in the app/browser during the local workflow	File is stored in a location controlled by you

YOU remain in control of your saved project file.

Privacy statement for web apps

Your project data is processed locally in your browser. Where this app provides JSON save and load functions, the JSON file is saved to and loaded from your own device under your control. The local JSON workflow does not require the contents of your project file to be stored in an SPI project database or shared with other users. JSON files are not encrypted by default, so users remain responsible for storing and sharing them in accordance with their organisation's information-security requirements.