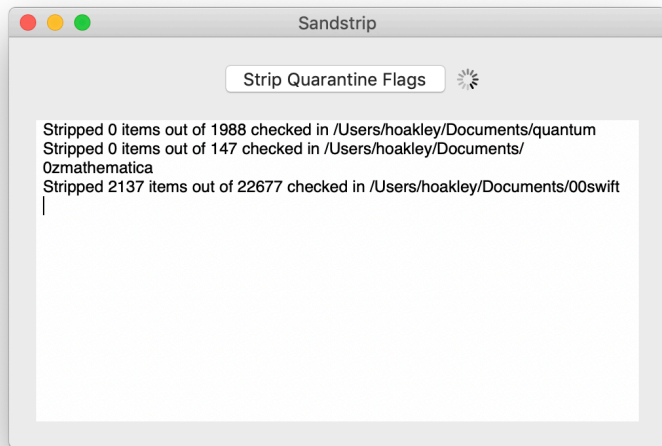


→ [Start](#)

Start



Sandstrip is a simple utility which removes one specific class of quarantine flag which can become attached to files, those set when the file is opened by an App Store or other app which runs in a sandbox.

Apple introduced this behaviour some time ago, since when some users have reported that these can make it impossible to open certain files once the flag has been attached, or to run them as shell scripts.

To strip these spurious flags from files or folders, click on the **Strip Quarantine Flags** button and select the items to have those flags removed. Once complete the results will be displayed in the text view below.

→ [Details](#) → [Technical Information](#)

Details

Possible reasons for wanting to strip these quarantine flags include:

- when flagged files cause problems, such as security alerts, when you try to use them;
- you want to run a flagged text file as a shell script;
- you don't want others to know when that file was last opened by a sandboxed app;
- you want to reclaim the space which they occupy.

macOS uses these flags in conjunction with the OpenWith extended attribute which you set if you change the default app with which to open that particular document. If that app differs from the general default app for that document type and the quarantine flag is set, any attempt to open that document using LaunchServices, such as double-clicking the document or dropping it on an app, will be blocked by XProtect and you will see a security alert.

Sandstrip lets you set multiple files and folders in its Open File dialog, then checks files carefully, and *won't* strip normal quarantine flags, which have been added to indicate that apps and other items that have been downloaded from the Internet should be given a thorough 'first run' check by macOS.

It doesn't support drag and drop, and has only a single window. Closing its window quits the app. If you want to keep a record of its activity, select all the text in its text view and copy it, for pasting into another app. You can select all the text there and change its font and size if you wish. Errors are detailed in red in the text view.

In Mojave, if you wish Sandstrip to have access to files in folder whose privacy is protected, add the Sandstrip app to the **Full Disk Access** list in the **Privacy** tab of the **Security & Privacy** pane, or macOS will block it from doing so.

Further information about and support for Sandstrip is available from its product page, which is easily accessed through the **Sandstrip Support** command in the **Help** menu, which opens that page in your default browser.

→ [Technical information](#)

Technical Information

Sandstrip uses FileManager to iterate through folders and the files within them, testing whether have a quarantine flag using

```
try theNSURL.getResourceValue(&theQuarFlag, forKey: kCFURLQuarantinePropertiesKey as URLResourceKey)
```

If it finds that flag, it searches within its contents for the value LSQuarantineTypeSandboxed. If it finds that, it presumes that the flag is not a 'true' quarantine flag, but one added by the sandbox, so removes it using

```
try theNSURL.setResourceValue(nil, forKey: kCFURLQuarantinePropertiesKey as URLResourceKey)
```

Change list

1.0:

- added multiple file and folder selection.

1.0b1:

- initial release.

4 May 2019.