photobooth 4u

Your booth, *no internet* needed.

The photobooth4u app for **Windows**, **Mac** and **Android tablets** (page 9). The same booth as the website, installed on your laptop or tablet: it takes, saves and prints photos with **no internet**, and guests scan a QR to get their photo. **The app can make its own booth Wi-Fi directly** (no router, pocket Wi-Fi, or phone hotspot needed), or use any router or hotspot. **Page 2 is a one-page quick start** for event day.

1

Install once

Windows 10 / 11 or macOS. Activate with your code (internet needed once).

2

Shoot offline

Designs, layouts, frames, guest screen, USB camera, silent printing and vouchers all work offline.

3

Share on Wi-Fi

Photos save on the laptop. Guests on the booth Wi-Fi scan the QR and save their photo.

★ Quick start (page 2)

01 Install the app

02 Activate this laptop

03 Camera

04 Printing

05 Guests' photos over Wi-Fi

06 Updating the app

07 Pop-ups: what to click

08 Your licence

09 Troubleshooting & help

A Android tablet app

Which packages include the app?

- **Monthly Offline**, **Monthly Online + Offline**, **Lifetime Offline**, **Lifetime Online + Offline**, and the **Event Pass** (24 hours) when you ask for the offline app.
- One code can activate more than one laptop: each laptop uses one of the code's **device slots**.

★ EVENT DAY

Quick start

Do these in order. The app must be installed and activated already (pages 3 to 5).

1 Plug everything in

Laptop on its charger. Guest screen by HDMI, set to **Extend** (Windows: `Win + P` → Extend). Camera on a full or dummy battery. Printer on, paper loaded.

2 Start the booth Wi-Fi

Let the laptop make its own Wi-Fi: in **Setup → Share & start**, turn on **"Make this laptop the booth Wi-Fi"** (no router needed; works on Windows & Mac). Or connect to a pocket router or second phone's hotspot (no data needed). **Steps on page 7.**

3 Open photobooth4u

From the Start menu (Windows) or Applications (Mac). It opens straight into the booth.

4 Choose the camera

Setup → 4 Camera (it shows a live view of what the camera sees). Windows: **Nikon / Canon camera over USB**. Mac: **DSLR / mirrorless over USB**, then pick the camera. Or a webcam / HDMI capture card.

5 Check Setup and Share & start

Design, name, layout as usual. In **Share & start**, check the **event name**, **Photos on this laptop** and **Guests' phones** (it shows the address guests use). The **booth Wi-Fi name and password** are filled in for you from the Wi-Fi the laptop is on (if the password can't be read, type it there).

6 Choose the printers

In **Photo Session** tap 🖶 **Print settings** (or **Setup → 4 Camera & printer**), pick each paper size and its printer. Printing is built in: no Print Helper, no pop-up.

7 Test with your phone

Tap **Wi-Fi** in the bottom bar, scan its QR with another phone to join. Take one session, scan the photo QR, tap **Save photo**. Print once.

8 Open the guest screen

In **Setup → 7 Session**, tap **Open guest screen**. You're ready.

Works with no internet

No internet does not mean no Wi-Fi. The laptop can make its own booth Wi-Fi right from the app, or you can use a pocket router or phone hotspot (no data needed). On no network at all, photos still save but there is no QR.

- All designs, layouts, your frames, stickers, filters, retakes, Lock booth
- Guest screen, USB camera, silent printing, **vouchers**

Needs the website (internet)

- GCash / Maya QR payments (vouchers work offline)
- Online gallery & Google Drive, My Events, tablet booths, the print station

01 · ONCE PER LAPTOP

Install the app

We send you the installer link. Pick the one for your laptop.

WINDOWS 10 / 11

1. **Run the installer**
   Double-click **photobooth4u Setup….exe**.
2. **"Windows protected your PC"**
   Click **More info → Run anyway**. (The app isn't signed with a paid certificate yet; this is normal.)
3. **Allow admin once**
   Click **Yes**. It lets guests' phones reach the laptop on the booth Wi-Fi.

MACOS

1. **Open the .dmg**
   Use the **arm64** file for Apple Silicon (M1–M4), **x64** for Intel. Drag **photobooth4u** into **Applications**.
2. **First open: right-click → Open**
   If macOS still refuses: System Settings → Privacy & Security → **Open Anyway**.
3. **Allow connections**
   When macOS asks to accept incoming network connections, click **Allow**. That's the guests' QR.

New version? The app tells you when one is out. Your activation, designs and photos stay. See **Updating the app** (page 8) and **Pop-ups** (page 10).

02 · ONCE PER LAPTOP

Activate this laptop

1. **Connect to the internet (just this once)**
   Any Wi-Fi or phone hotspot.
2. **Type your code**
   The app opens on **Activate this laptop**. Type your `PB-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX` code and tap **Activate**.
3. **Done**
   The booth opens. From now on it works with no internet. The licence is tied to **this laptop**, so copying the app to another one doesn't work: activate each laptop with your code.

No internet at all?

Tap **No internet? Activate without internet**. The app shows a **Machine ID** (`WIN-…` / `MAC-…`).

Send us your code and that Machine ID (e.g. by text from your phone). We send back an **activation key**.

Paste it in the box and tap **Activate**.

03 · CAMERA

Use your DSLR / mirrorless camera

Over USB the app presses the **real shutter**, so your camera's settings, focus and flash all work. Nothing extra to install.

WINDOWS

- **Nikon**, **Canon EOS** (DSLR, M and R) and **Sony Alpha**. Built into the app.
- Plug the camera straight into the laptop with a **data** USB cable, switch it on, and pick **Nikon / Canon / Sony camera over USB**. After that it reconnects by itself.
- **Canon:** close **EOS Utility**. Older models (60D, 70D, 600D, 7D…): Menu → **Live View shoot: Enable**. Newer: **Choose USB connection app** → **Photo Import / Remote Control**. Wi-Fi off.
- **Sony:** on the camera set **USB Connection** → **PC Remote** (MENU → Setup → USB) and close Imaging Edge. If it won't connect, use its webcam mode (USB Streaming) or an HDMI capture card.

MAC

- **Canon, Nikon, Sony, Fujifilm** and most others.
- Canon: **Photo Import / Remote Control** USB mode. Nikon: nothing to set.
- Quit **Photos**, **Image Capture** and **EOS Utility** if they open.
- Pick **DSLR / mirrorless over USB**, choose the camera, **Connect**.

ANDROID TABLET APP

- **Nikon**, **Canon EOS** and **Sony Alpha**, built into the app (version 1.0.29 or newer).
- Plug the camera into the tablet's USB port with a **data** cable (USB-C or an OTG adapter), switch it on and tap **OK** when Android asks to allow it. In the booth pick **Nikon / Canon / Sony camera over USB cable** in the Camera list. After that it reconnects by itself.
- **Canon:** Live View shoot: Enable, or **Photo Import / Remote Control** USB mode. **Sony: USB Connection** → **PC Remote**. **Nikon:** PTP / MTP. Use a data cable, not charge-only.
- Another make (Fujifilm, Panasonic, Olympus…)? Use its USB webcam mode or an HDMI capture card: it shows up in the Camera list.

For every camera

- Mode dial on **P, A/Av, S/Tv or M**; save as **JPEG** (or RAW + JPEG).
- SD card in the camera.
- **Auto power off**: disable. Use a **dummy battery** for long events.
- USB webcams (Insta360 Ace Pro, Logitech Brio/C920 with auto-priority & low-light cleanup) and HDMI capture cards work too.

Printing

1 Set up the printer once

Install its driver and do one test print from the laptop. In the printer's own preferences set the **paper size**, **borderless** and, for 2×6 strips, **cut**.

2 Choose a printer per paper size

In **Photo Session** → 🖶 **Print settings** (or **Setup** → **4 Camera & printer**), pick a printer for each size (e.g. 4R on one, 2×6 strips on another). The app remembers it.

3 Auto-print

Print once to test, then tick **Auto-print every session**. Prints go straight to the printer, no pop-up.

4 Print an earlier photo

On the booth laptop, open **All photos** (bottom bar), tap a photo, then **Print photo**. It prints at once on the printer, paper size and copies from Print settings, with no pop-up. This works on the booth laptop only; guests' phones keep their own print.

Good to know

- The **Print Helper** isn't needed: it's built into the app.
- **Per-layout paper switching:** pick different printers/sizes for 4R, 2×6 strips, **XL strips**, and **2.5×7.5" keychains** (or add the same printer twice).
- **Borderless & Instax:** Epson L8050/L3210/L805 & Canon SELPHY borderless support, plus **Fujifilm Instax Link Wide** and 58/80 mm thermal receipt printers (see `/how-to-print-thermal/`).
- **More guides:** Roving DSLR (`/photobooth4u-roving-dslr-guide.pdf`) & 360 Booth (`/photobooth4u-360-guide.pdf`).

05 · SHARING WITHOUT INTERNET

Guests' photos over Wi-Fi

Every photo is saved on the laptop. The laptop also serves a small photo page on the booth Wi-Fi, so guests save their photo straight to their phone. Nothing is uploaded.

Guest joins the booth Wi-Fi → Scans their photo QR → Taps Save photo

1 One Wi-Fi for laptop and guests

The laptop can host its own booth Wi-Fi directly: in **Setup → Share & start**, switch on **"Make this laptop the booth Wi-Fi"** (Windows & Mac). Or connect the laptop to a small router at the booth (no SIM or internet needed) or a second phone's hotspot. The laptop must be on the booth Wi-Fi, or there is no photo QR.

2 Check Share & start

Guests' phones shows the address guests open, with a ✓. If it says the laptop isn't on a Wi-Fi network, switch on the booth Wi-Fi or join one first.

3 Join Wi-Fi QR

Under **Booth Wi-Fi for guests** the app fills in the name and password automatically (when hosting the booth Wi-Fi, or from the network the laptop joined). The **Wi-Fi** button in the bottom bar, beside **Extras** and **Lock booth**, shows the same QR on the booth screen: guests scan it to join, then scan their photo QR.

4 Print the Wi-Fi sign & gallery tabs

Tap **Download WIFI QR Sign** and print it for the booth table. After each session guests get their **photo** and **GIF** QR codes. The local gallery also has **Solo Photos** and **Guestbook** tabs, and you can tick **Let guests ask for a print from their phone** in Print settings (**Print requests** dock).

Photos on this laptop

Saved in `Pictures/photobooth4u/<event name>/`, one file per session.

Open photos folder and **Change folder** are in **Share & start**. Copy the folder to a USB drive or upload it for your client after the event.

Guests can't open the photo?

Their phone must be on the **same Wi-Fi** as the laptop (phones sometimes switch back to mobile data: turn data off, or join the Wi-Fi again). The guests' page works until the app is closed.

GUEST PAYMENTS OFFLINE

Vouchers

QR payments (GCash, Maya) need the internet. **Vouchers** work offline: set **Guest payment** to **Vouchers** in **Setup → 7 Session**, sell the printed codes at the table, and each code works once.

05 · SHARING WITHOUT INTERNET

Booth Wi-Fi for guests (no router needed)

Guests don't download their photos from the internet. Their phone opens a photo page that **your laptop** serves, so the laptop and the guest's phone must be on the **same Wi-Fi**. That Wi-Fi does **not need internet**: it only has to connect the two.

Laptop hosts or joins Wi-Fi → **Guest joins the same Wi-Fi** → **Guest scans the QR and saves the photo**

Option A: laptop makes the Wi-Fi (recommended)

1. **Turn it on**

   In **Setup → Share & start**, switch on **"Make this laptop the booth Wi-Fi"** (Windows & Mac). The name and password are made for you.

2. **Set up once (if asked)**

   If the laptop has no network at all, tap **Set up (one time)**: **Windows** asks permission once to add the loopback adapter; **Mac** asks for your password / Touch ID once to configure the offline service.

3. **Guests join directly**

   Guests scan the **Join Wi-Fi QR** on screen or printed sign, then scan their photo QR. No router or second phone needed!

Option B: pocket router or phone hotspot

1. **Pocket Wi-Fi router**

   Switch it on (charge it first; no SIM or internet plan needed). Pick it from the laptop's Wi-Fi list and type the password.

2. **Or a second phone's hotspot**

   On a spare phone open **Settings → Mobile hotspot** (iPhone: **Personal Hotspot**). Mobile data can be off. Join it on the laptop.

3. **Join Wi-Fi QR**

   Under **Booth Wi-Fi for guests** the app fills in the name and password so guests scan the same network.

The laptop or phone says "No internet"? That is fine and expected. Stay connected. The laptop only needs to be **on** the Wi-Fi, so guests can reach the photos on it. If a phone asks *"Stay connected?"*, say **yes**.

Then, in the app

Open **Setup → Share & start**: **Guests' phones** shows the address with a ✓. Tap **Wi-Fi** in the bottom bar so guests scan it to join, then scan their **photo QR** after each session and tap **Save photo** (details on page 6).

IF THIS HAPPENS	DO THIS
Guests' phones shows no address, or says the laptop isn't on a Wi-Fi	Turn on **Make this laptop the booth Wi-Fi**, or join your pocket router from the Wi-Fi list.
The guest scans the photo QR but the page doesn't open	Their phone is on mobile data or another Wi-Fi. Turn mobile data off and join the booth Wi-Fi again.
The laptop jumped to another Wi-Fi by itself	Pick the booth hotspot again, and **forget** the other saved Wi-Fi so it doesn't switch back.

06 · NEW VERSIONS

Updating the app

When a new version is out, a bar appears at the top of the booth. It needs **internet**, so update **before the event** at home or on any Wi-Fi, never on event day. Your activation, designs and photos stay.

WINDOWS

1. **The bar says "Version … is ready"**
   The app downloads it by itself in the background. You can keep using the booth.
2. **Tap Restart now**
   Later is fine too: it then installs when you close the app.
3. **Click Yes when Windows asks**
   "Do you want to allow this app to make changes?" is normal. Click **Yes**.
4. **Done**
   The app closes and opens again by itself on the new version.

MACOS

1. **The bar says "Version … is out"**
   Tap **Download**. It shows the progress; keep using the booth meanwhile.
2. **A window opens by itself**
   The new version arrives in your **Downloads** folder as a disk image. **Show it again** reopens the window.
3. **Drag it into Applications**
   Drag **photobooth4u** onto **Applications** and choose **Replace**.
4. **Quit the app and open it again**
   The bar is gone and you're on the new version.

Laptop with no internet? It keeps working as it is. To update, connect it to any Wi-Fi or phone hotspot once, open the app, and the bar appears within a few hours (or straight away after you close and reopen the app).

A · ANDROID TABLET

The Android tablet app

The same offline booth as a tablet app (Android 7.0 or newer). Photos save on the tablet and guests get theirs over the booth Wi-Fi. Your code must include the **offline app** (Offline or Online + Offline packages).

1 Download the app

On the tablet open **photobooth4u.netlify.app/downloads** and tap **Download APK**. Open the file; when Android asks, allow **Install unknown apps** for your browser, then **Install**.

2 Activate with your code

Open photobooth4u and type your access code on the **Activate this tablet** screen. It needs internet this one time.

3 Tablet makes its own booth Wi-Fi

In **Setup → Share & start**, turn on **"Make this tablet the booth Wi-Fi"** (no router needed). The tablet creates its own Wi-Fi network directly. Android 13+ asks for "Nearby devices"; older Android asks for Location. Guests scan the Join QR and download their photos offline!

4 Print: Wi-Fi, USB or Bluetooth

In **Print settings → Wi-Fi printer** tap **Find Wi-Fi printers** (or plug in via USB OTG), then **Test print**. Prints directly without pop-ups to **DNP dye-sub (DS-RX1, DS620, DS40 over USB)**, **Epson L8050/L805/L3210/L120 borderless (Wi-Fi & USB)**, **Canon SELPHY (Wi-Fi)**, **AirPrint/Mopria** printers, **Fujifilm Instax Link Wide**, and **Bluetooth 58/80 mm thermal receipt printers**. Any other printer uses **Android print dialog**; only HiTi & Windows-only USB inkjets need a laptop.

New versions

When you open the app with internet, it can show **New version available**. Tap **Update** between events: the new file downloads, then Android asks to install it over the old app. Your activation stays.

"App not installed"?

Android only installs an update signed by the same key. If it refuses, **copy your photos off the tablet first**, uninstall photobooth4u, install the new file and enter your code again.

Kiosk Home & Auto-Open

Long-press the locked screen (2s) to open the **Operator Menu**: set **Kiosk Home App: Always** and **Auto-Open on Boot**.

Not in the Android app

GCash / Maya QR payments (vouchers work), online gallery & My Events (use website for those).

07 · POP-UPS YOU MAY SEE

Pop-ups: what to click

The app isn't signed with a paid certificate yet, so Windows and macOS ask a few extra questions the first time. These are normal. Here is what to answer.

WINDOWS POP-UP	WHAT TO DO
"Windows protected your PC"	Click **More info**, then **Run anyway**. Seen when you first run the installer.
"Do you want to allow this app to make changes to your device?"	Click **Yes**. Seen when installing, updating, or tapping **Set up (one time)** for the offline booth Wi-Fi.
Windows Defender Firewall asks to allow photobooth4u	Tick **Private networks** and click **Allow access**, so guests' phones can open their photo.

MAC POP-UP	WHAT TO DO
"photobooth4u can't be opened" / "Apple cannot check it"	Right-click the app and choose **Open**, then **Open** again. Or System Settings → Privacy & Security → **Open Anyway**.
"photobooth4u wants to make changes"	Type your **Mac login password** or use Touch ID. Seen when tapping **Set up (one time)** to prepare your Mac for offline booth Wi-Fi.
"photobooth4u wants to use your confidential information stored in 'photobooth4u Safe Storage' in your keychain"	It's the app's own saved settings. Type your **Mac login password** and click **Always Allow** (it won't ask again). It may ask again after an update.
"Do you want the application to accept incoming network connections?"	Click **Allow**. That is what lets guests scan the QR and open their photo.
"An item named photobooth4u already exists"	Click **Replace** (while updating).

A pop-up that isn't here? Don't guess: take a photo or screenshot of it and message us (Facebook Messenger, **m.me/roktetnachi**). Never type your code or password into a window that appeared from a website or a message.

08 · YOUR LICENCE

Your licence

How long it works

- **Lifetime:** renews by itself whenever the laptop has internet. With no internet it keeps working for **75 days + 30 days' grace**, then asks to connect once.
- **6-Month Pass / per-event:** works until the code's end date, with or without internet.
- Changes we make for your code (print sizes, vouchers, retakes…) arrive when the app starts with internet, or tap **Check for changes** in Share & start.

New laptop or reinstalling?

- On the old laptop: **Share & start → Deactivate this laptop**. That frees its device slot.
- Activate the new laptop with the same code.
- Old laptop lost or broken? Message us and we free its slot.
- **Don't set the laptop's clock back:** the booth locks until the clock is right again.

09 · TROUBLESHOOTING

If something goes wrong

PROBLEM	TRY THIS
"Windows protected your PC" / Mac won't open it	Windows: **More info → Run anyway**. Mac: right-click the app → **Open**, or Privacy & Security → **Open Anyway**.
Activation says no free device slot	Deactivate an old laptop (Share & start), or message us to free one.
Camera not found (Windows)	Data USB cable straight into the laptop, camera on. Close EOS Utility / NX Studio and any "Import photos" window. Unplug, replug.
Android: camera not in the list	Use a data USB cable or OTG adapter, camera on, tap **OK** on Android's USB prompt, and set the camera's USB mode (Sony: PC Remote). Unplug, replug.
Canon: no live view	Menu → **Live View shoot: Enable**, close the menu, mode dial on P, Tv, Av or M.
Camera "couldn't focus"	Point it at something with detail, add light, or set the lens to **MF**.
Guests' QR doesn't open	Phone and laptop on the same Wi-Fi; phone's mobile data off. Mac: allow incoming connections (System Settings → Network → Firewall).
Prints show a pop-up or go to the wrong printer	Print settings (or Setup → 4 Camera & printer) → choose the printer for that size again.
"Connect to the internet to continue"	Lifetime check-in is due: connect once to any internet and reopen the app.
The booth is locked	The code ended, the laptop was removed, or the clock was changed. Check the date and time, then message us.

Need help? Message us.

We're on Facebook Messenger: **m.me/roktetnachi**

Message us