

FSum Frontend Evaluation

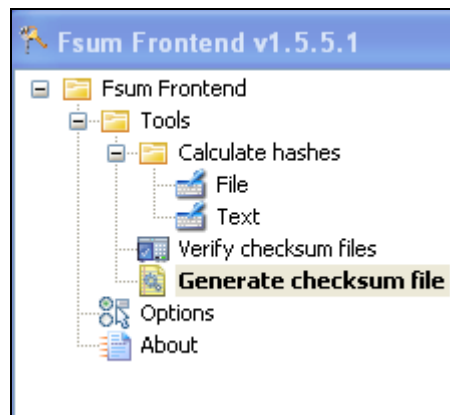
**This is one of a series of reviews of available programs for computing and verifying checksums. The information documented below is an account of my experience and contains my own comments and opinions. Your experience may be different depending on your needs and use of the program.*

Overview

To begin, this program was downloaded from FSum Frontend home page and installed by our company IT department onto my computer.

I began by briefly reviewing the materials available on FSum's website which provides its own instructions and tutorials for navigating the program:

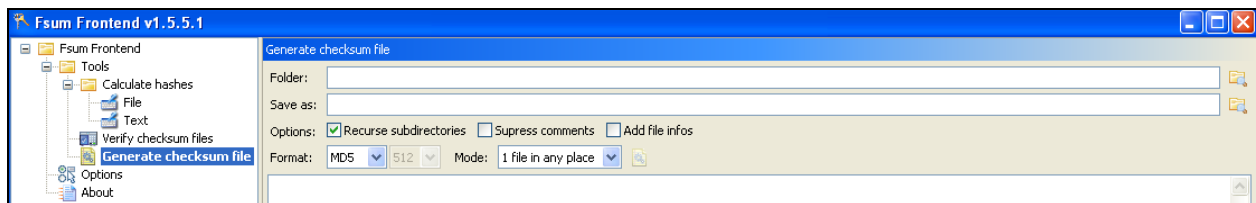
<http://fsumfe.sourceforge.net/index.php?page=home>



Options Menu

Note: Only the Verify checksum files and Generate checksum file options were reviewed.

Generate Checksums



Use this to generate a checksum log of a folder of files or for files within a set of nested folders.

First select the folder that contains the files of interest by clicking on the file icon at the end of the Folder box. Navigate to the file, click OK.

Choose your options for saving the log file.

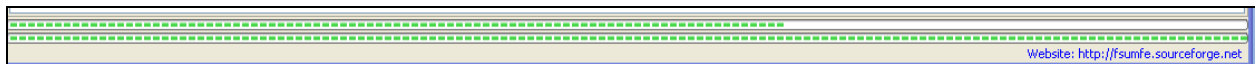
Format: Select a checksum hash method (md5, sha1...) from the drop down list. If multiple versions of the chosen method are available, a second drop down will need to be completed.

Mode: Select how you would like to save the file. If you choose "One file in tree root" the program will name the file for you – the same as the top level folder. If you choose "one file in any place" you will have to type in the location that you want to save the file in and choose a file name in the Save As: window above.

Other options: Select "recurse subdirectories" if you have nested folders. Select "Add file info" if you want the reports to include the file size, created date, and last modified date of the individual files. There is also an option to "Supress comments" (but when testing, this didn't change any of my results so I am not sure what it does).

Run the program by clicking the gears icon next to the Modes selection.

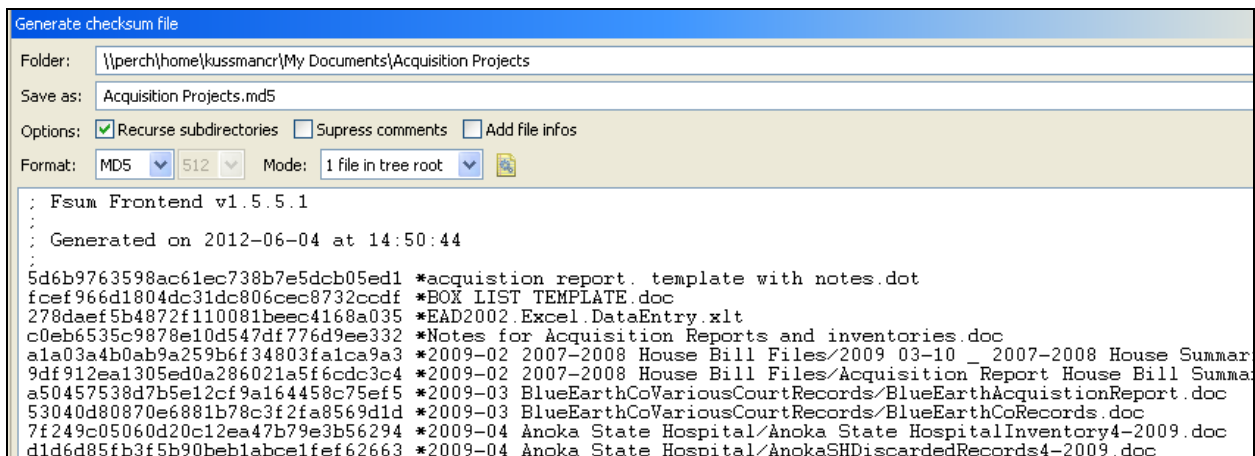
The program will begin to process your request. The bottom of the window will have two green lines that change as the checksums are generated.



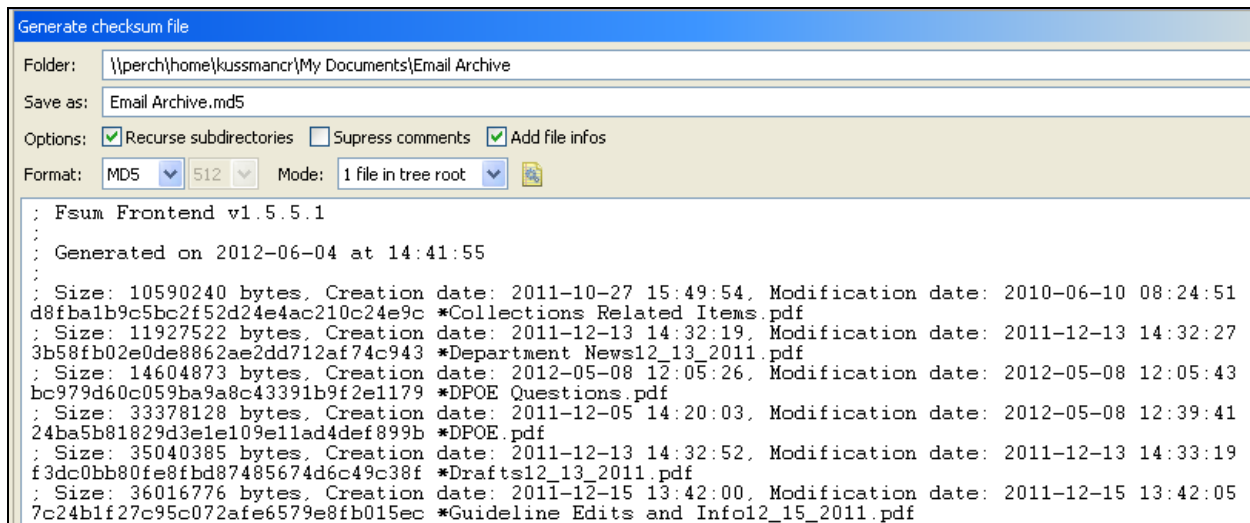
The top line is the progress of running the checksums on the entire request, while the bottom line shows the progress for an individual file and will change over time. The top of the screen also tells you the overall progress.



A log will be generated in the open window below that will look something like the following images.



This report does *not* include the file information.



This report includes the file information.

Verify Checksum Files

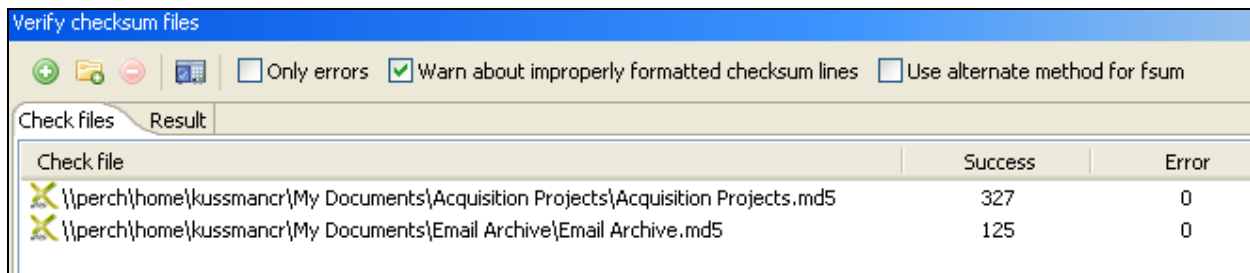
To verify checksums you need to have generated a checksum file and make sure it is located within the same folder as the files.

Go to the Verify Checksum Files option in the left sidebar.

To add a file, use the green plus or the folder with the green plus to navigate to the file or folder that contains the checksum file. (Note: This file must be located in the same place as the files.) You can add multiple files at one time by repeating this process.

To run the report, click the blue icon with a check mark on it to verify the checksums. (There are some options to the right of this icon that can be selected – but during testing I could not tell any difference from when these were checked or not.)

There are two tabs to review for the results of the checksum verification. A Check Files Tab and a Result Tab. The Check Files tab is a summary, while the Result tab shows more details.



Check Files Tab – Overview of Verification Results

File	Status	Type
\\perch\home\kussmanr\My Documents\Acquisition Projects\Acquisition Projects.md5	OK	MD5
acquisition report. template with notes.dot	OK	MD5
BOX LIST TEMPLATE.doc	OK	MD5
EAD2002.Excel.DataEntry.xlt	OK	MD5
Notes for Acquisition Reports and inventories.doc	OK	MD5
2009-02 2007-2008 House Bill Files/2009 03-10 _ 2007-2008 House Summaries Files BOX LIST.doc	OK	MD5
2009-02 2007-2008 House Bill Files/Acquisition Report House Bill Summaries 2007-2008.doc	OK	MD5
2009-03 BlueEarthCoVariousCourtRecords/BlueEarthAcquisitionReport.doc	OK	MD5
2009-03 BlueEarthCoVariousCourtRecords/BlueEarthCoRecords.doc	OK	MD5
2009-04 Anoka State Hospital/Anoka State HospitalInventory4-2009.doc	OK	MD5

Result Tab – Detailed Verification Report

File	Status	Type
2012-05 Johnson Marine on St...	OK	MD5
2012-05 Johnson Marine on St...	OK	MD5
2012-05 Johnson Marine on St...	OK	MD5
2012-05 Northrup King Co - Se...	OK	MD5
C:\Documents and Settings\k...		
Acquisition Projects.md5	NOT FOUND	
acquisition report. template wit...	NOT FOUND	
BOX LIST TEMPLATE.doc	NOT FOUND	
EAD2002.Excel.DataEntry.xlt	NOT FOUND	

A Report with Errors (checksum file was not with files)

Other Notes

- When generating checksum reports, there is no button to clear the previous entry. Because of this you must be careful and always double check the file names for reports. For example, if you generate one report and have the computer put the file in the root directory, and then select a new folder to run another checksum report on, the file name remains the same as the previous folder, not the new one.
- The checksum report does not tell you in the report how many files were hashed – it does when it is running and checking, but that number is not included in the report.
- A command line utility is available here: <http://www.slavasoft.com/fsum/> (not tested)