BLoc Confluence Workbench — export, group and merge guide

For BLoc Confluence Workbench 2.0.5. This guide covers three workflows: Export pages from Confluence, Group them by category and Merge the groups into one document. The pictures use fictional Northstar sample files; the files are in the Samples folder that comes with these guides.

Practice files

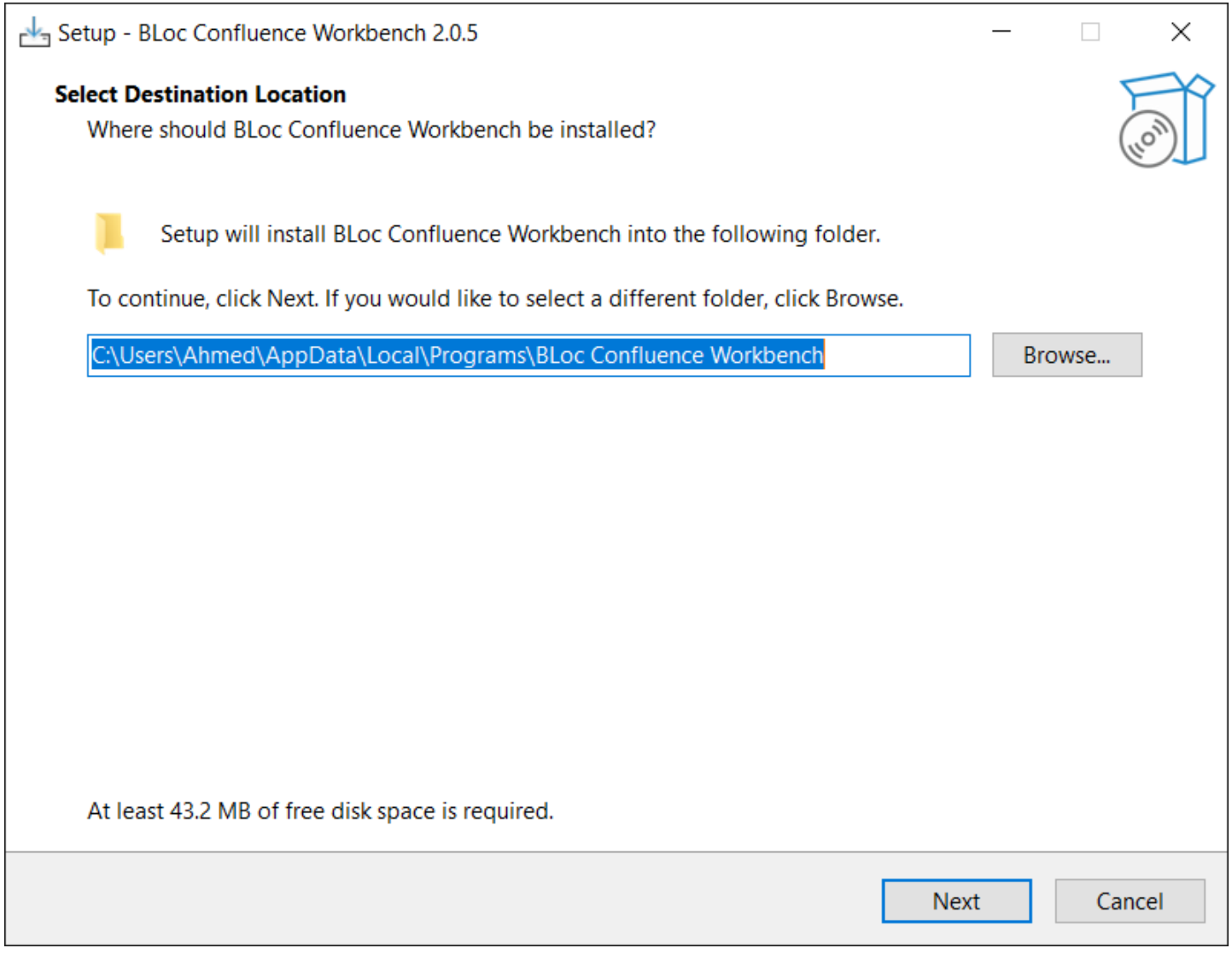
The accompanying Northstar Academy input-export contains eight editable Markdown pages in five spaces. It covers account setup, release checks, terminology, content review, workshop planning, escalation, pilot feedback and personal planning. These are authored fictional inputs, not a downloaded Confluence export.

The source application grouped seven non-personal pages into four category files and merged those four files into one Markdown document. The ~maya personal page was omitted with Skip personal spaces selected. The outputs are actual results of the recorded application runs.

Start the program

Open the downloaded ZIP (BLoc Confluence Workbench 2.0.5.zip) and double-click BLoc Confluence Workbench Setup 2.0.5.exe. It installs the program for your Windows user only and does not ask for administrator rights. Click Next (keep the suggested folder), choose Create a desktop shortcut if you want one, then Install and Finish. If Windows shows Windows protected your PC, click More info, then Run anyway; the setup is not code-signed yet. Start BLoc Confluence Workbench from the Start menu or the desktop shortcut; no Command Prompt window stays open. To update later, run the setup of the new version: your activation and settings stay. To remove the program, use Windows Settings > Apps > Installed apps, or Uninstall BLoc Confluence Workbench in the Start menu.

Start the program screen detail



Setup 2.0.5: the first window (Select Destination Location) - Original capture.

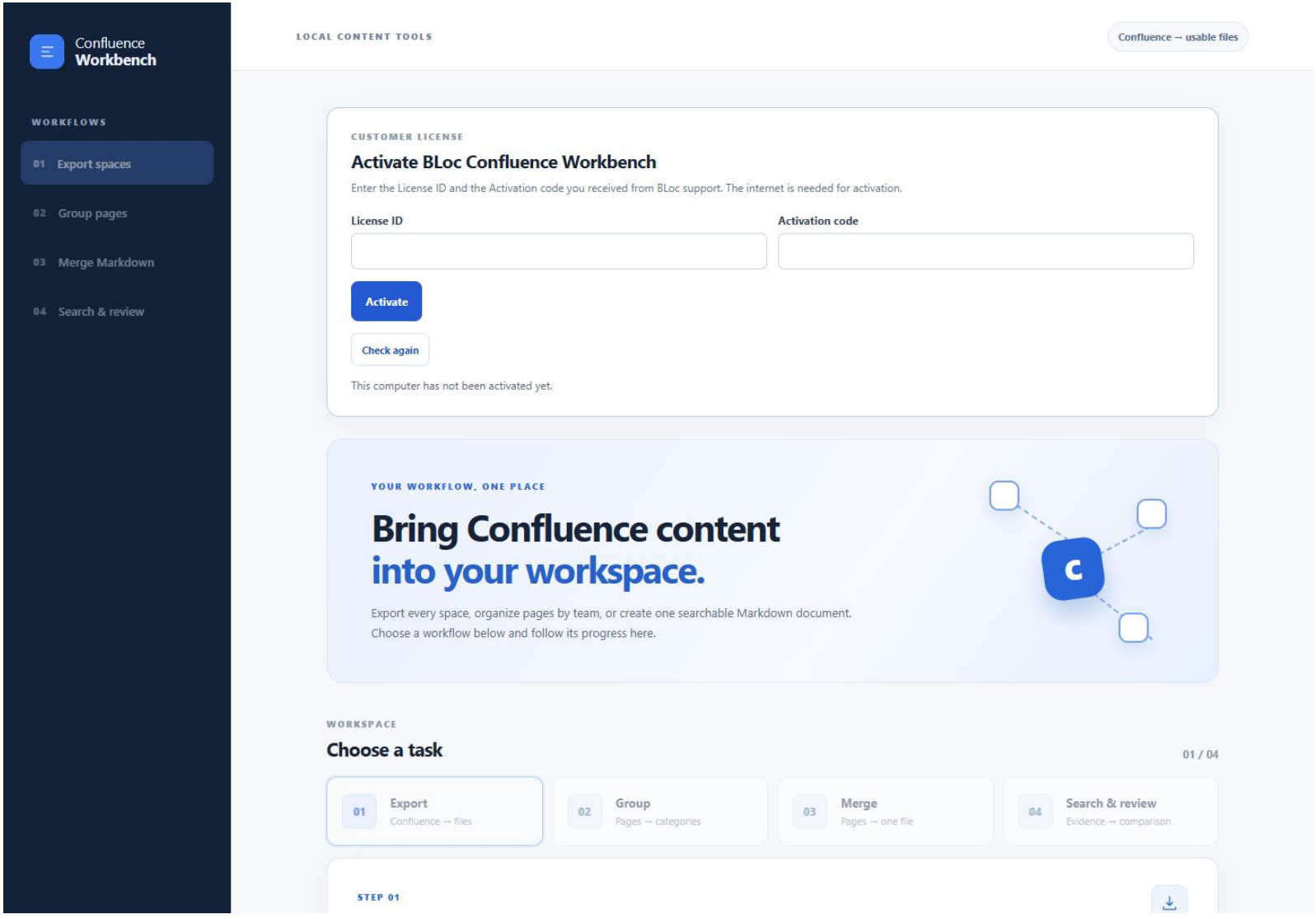
Export, Group and Merge stay locked until this computer is activated.

Your files are saved under Documents\BLoc Confluence Workbench (exports, groups and merged) unless you choose other folders. The Confluence URL in the form is only an example: replace it with your own site; Confluence Cloud addresses normally end in /wiki.

Activate this computer

On the first start the page shows Activate BLoc Confluence Workbench. Enter the License ID and the Activation code you received, then choose Activate. The internet is needed for activation. Check again checks the license at once.

Activate this computer screen detail

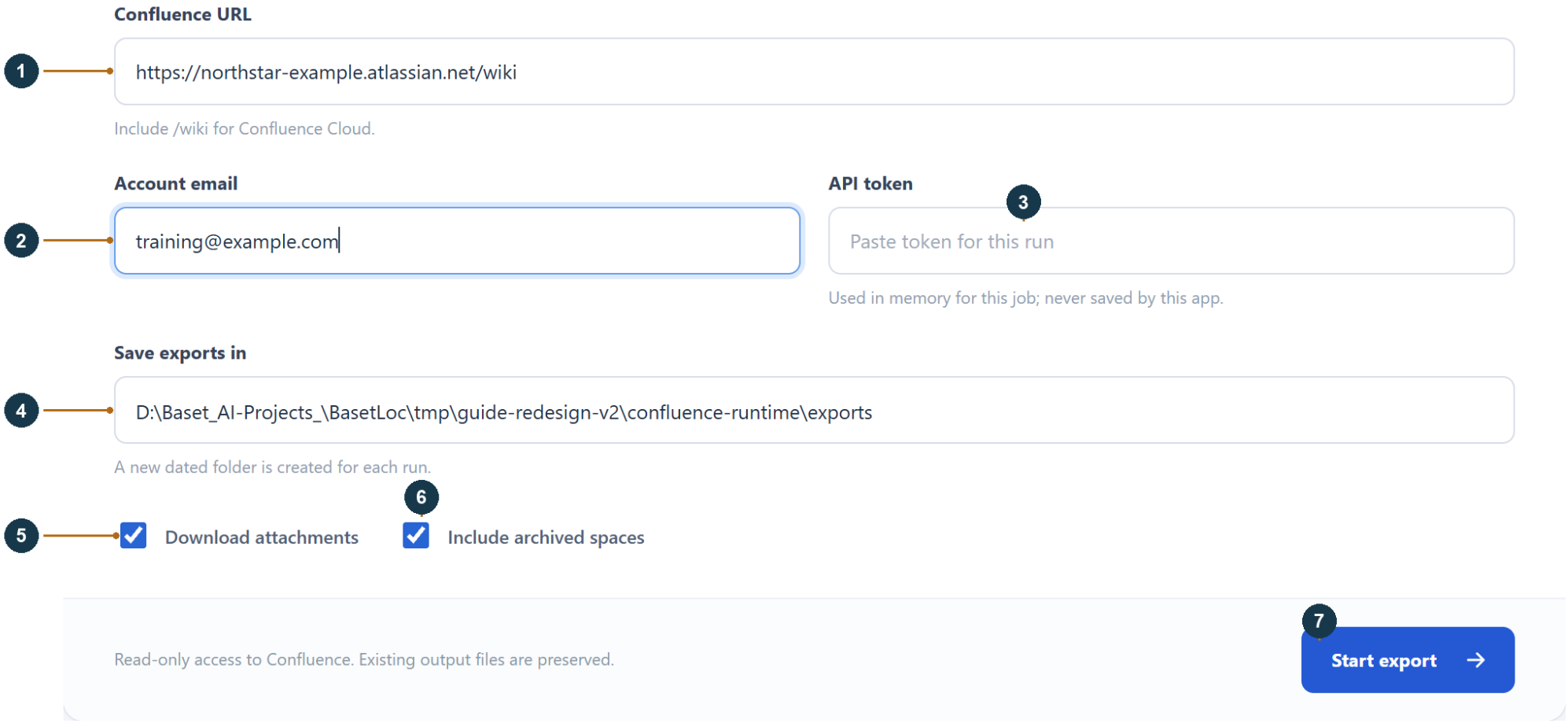


Activation on a computer that is not activated yet (version 2.0.2) - Original capture.

Export screen

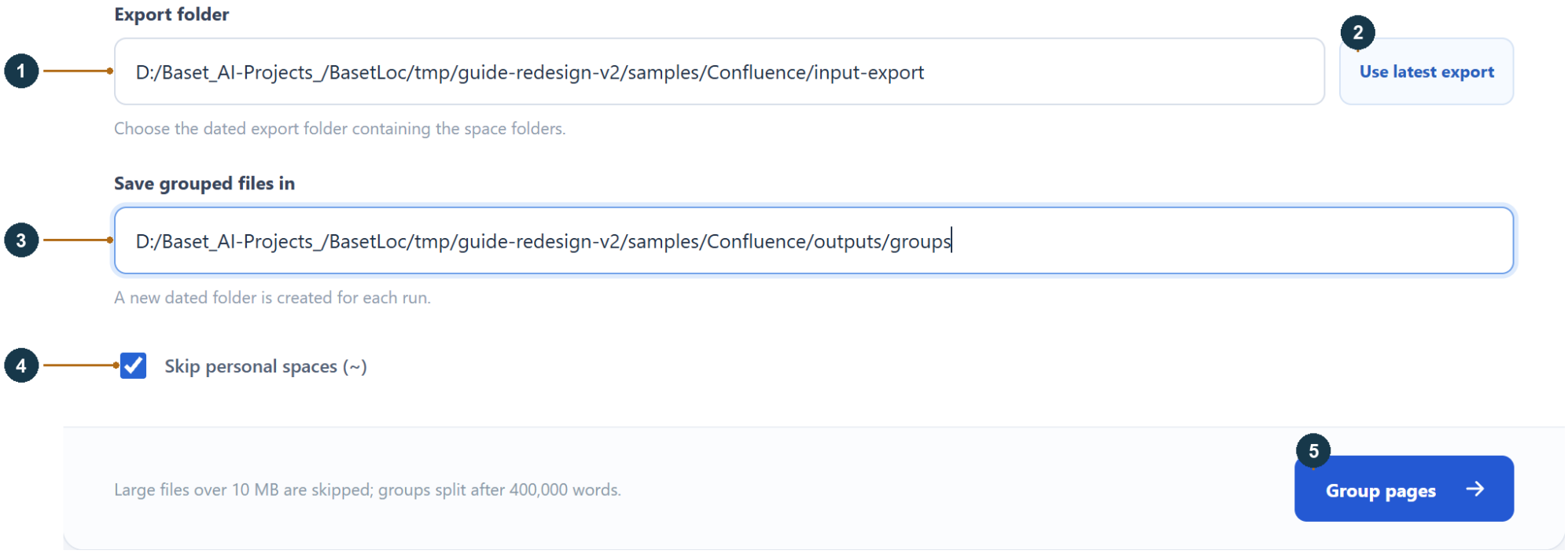
- Export, Group and Merge tabs choose a workflow. The numbered left navigation provides the same destinations. The fourth tab, Search & review, is not covered in this guide.
- 1. Confluence URL: enter the HTTPS site address, normally ending in /wiki. The fictional sample URL is illustrative and was not contacted.
- 2. Account email: the account that can read the desired spaces. Use its API token in the next field.
- 3. API token: a credential for this run. The application clears the field when export begins. Never include an actual token in a guide screenshot.
- 4. Save exports in: a base folder; the application creates a new dated export subfolder.
- 5. Download attachments: include accessible attachments with the exported pages. Clear it for a text-only exercise.
- 6. Include archived spaces: include archived spaces accessible to the account. Clear it to focus on active spaces.
- 7. Start export: submit the configured export. A valid test site is required to demonstrate live export; this preview does not claim that operation was tested.

Export screen screen detail



Export controls - Original capture.

Group screen

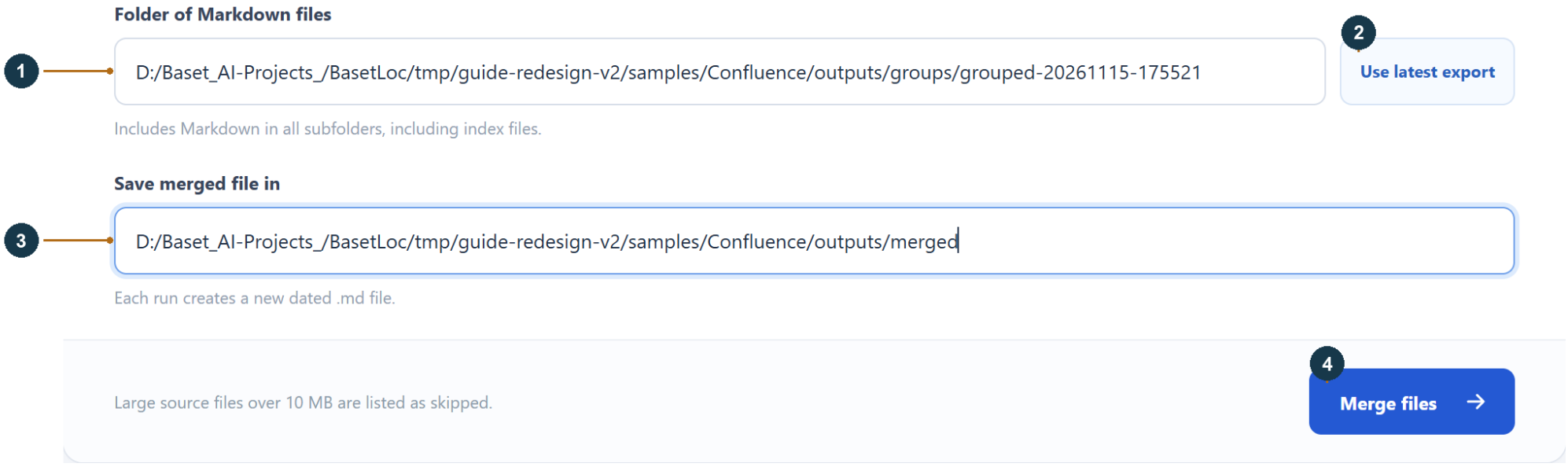


Group controls - Original capture.

- 1. Export folder: select the folder containing the individual space folders. For this exercise, use Samples/Confluence/input-export.
- 2. Use latest export: fill the input from the most recent successful export in the current session. It is unnecessary for the supplied local fixture.
- 3. Save grouped files in: choose a separate output base outside the input folder. Each run creates a dated grouped subfolder.
- 4. Skip personal spaces (~): checked in this run. It excludes the ~maya folder. Clear it only when the personal-page content is intended to be included.
- 5. Group pages: start grouping. Space-key prefixes determine the categories; this screen does not offer editable category rules.
- Large-file note: files over 10 MB are skipped. A large group splits into part files after approximately 400,000 words.

Expected and observed: ENG → 01_Engineering.md (2 pages); OP → 11_People_and_Ops.md (2); DOC → 14_Design_and_Docs.md (2); ZZZ → 99_Uncategorized.md (1). Seven pages total. The actual generated folder is under Samples/Confluence/outputs/groups.

Merge screen



Merge controls - Original capture.

- 1. Folder of Markdown files: choose the dated grouped output folder. Merge reads Markdown recursively, including index files.
- 2. Use latest export: fills an export folder, not the grouped folder. For this exercise, paste the grouped path directly.
- 3. Save merged file in: the base folder for the new dated Markdown file. Keep it outside the selected input so a future run does not accidentally include prior merged output.
- 4. Merge files: combine source files and create linked contents with source-path references.
- Large-file note: source files over 10 MB are listed as skipped.

Observed result: four grouped files merged, zero skipped. Inspect the actual merged file under Samples/Confluence/outputs/merged; confirm that all seven page titles remain and Personal planning notes does not appear.

Completed run

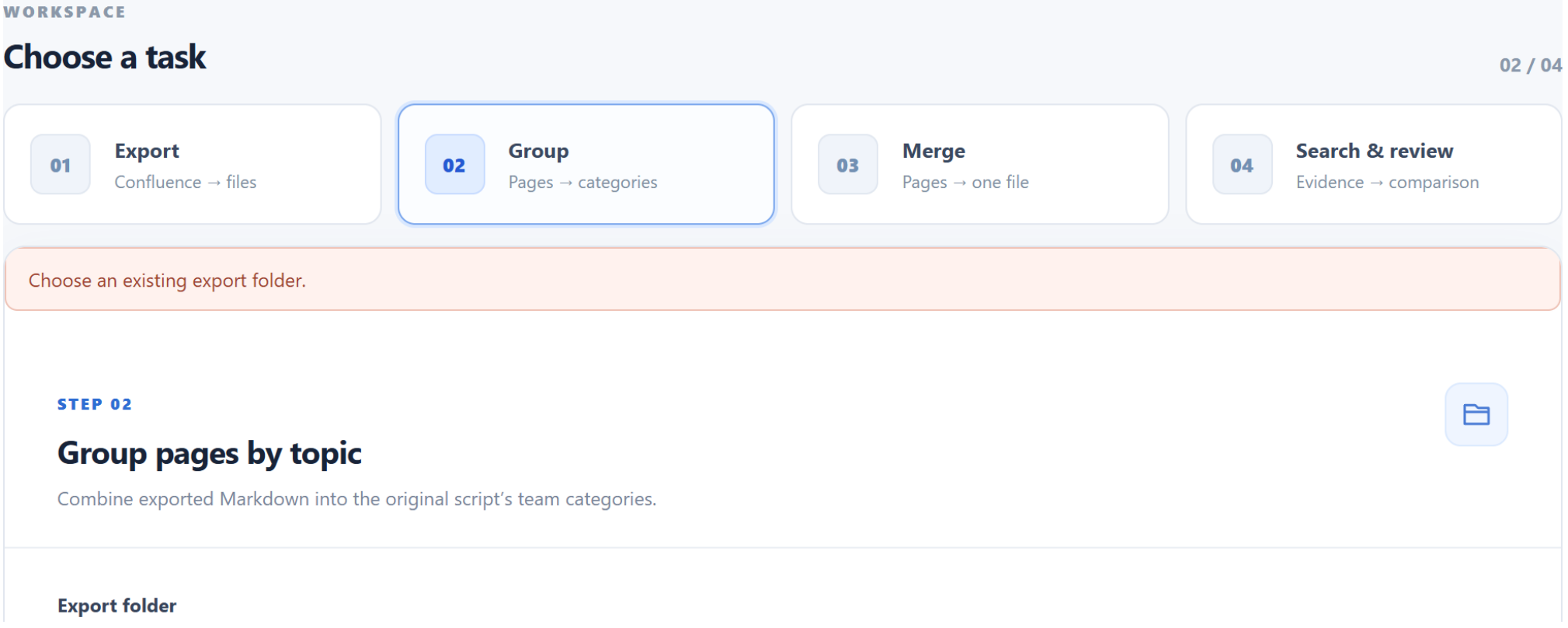


Run status - Original capture.

- Run name and status identify the latest operation and whether it completed.
- Saved to shows the actual output path, including the generated timestamp.
- Summary reports counts; a completed run with skipped files still needs review.
- Copy output path copies the location for File Explorer or the next workflow.
- Download Markdown appears for a completed merge and downloads that result.
- During a run, Cancel run requests cancellation. Partial export/group files may remain; check the output folder before running again.
- A failed run displays an error. Read it before retrying. The two examples below show common recovery situations.

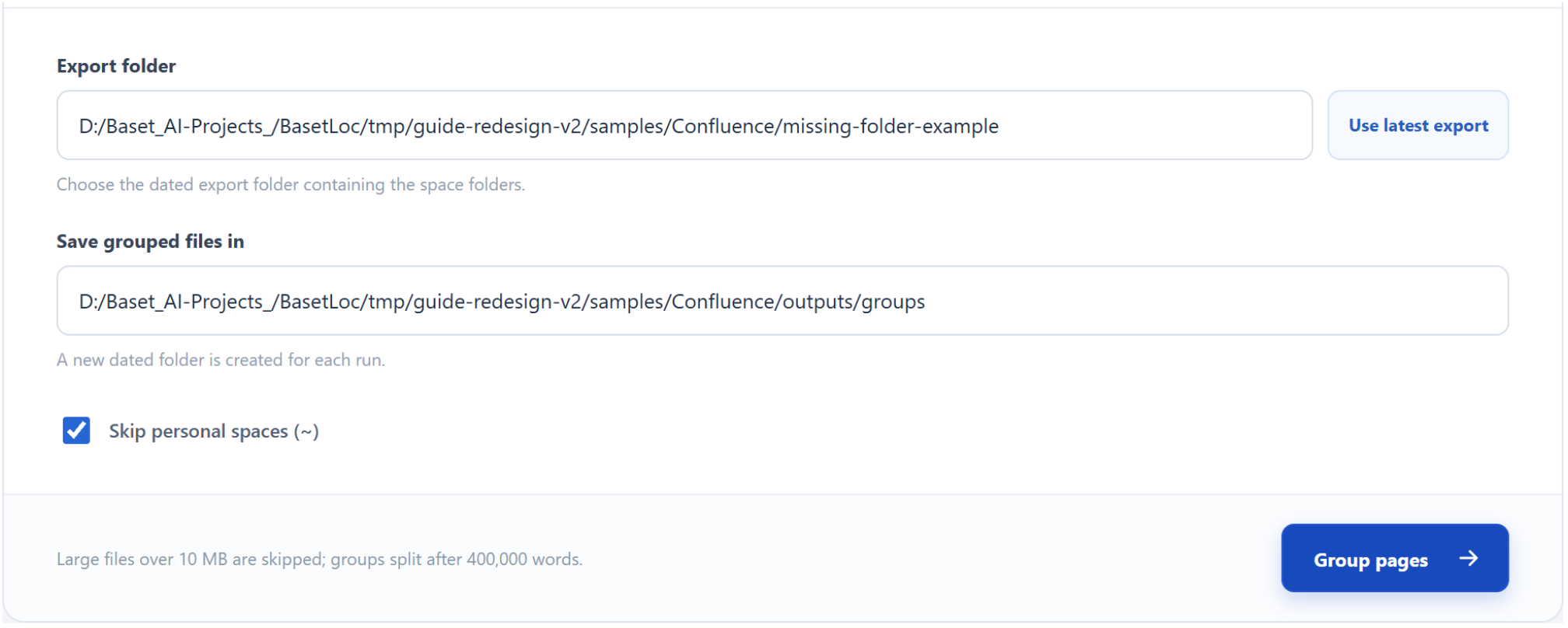
Recover from an invalid input folder

A nonexistent local input path produces Choose an existing export folder before a grouping job starts. The Run status panel can still show its previous or idle state because this validation did not create a new job. Correct Export folder to the supplied input-export folder and submit again. This is local input validation, not a failed live Confluence connection.



Input folder validation - Original capture.

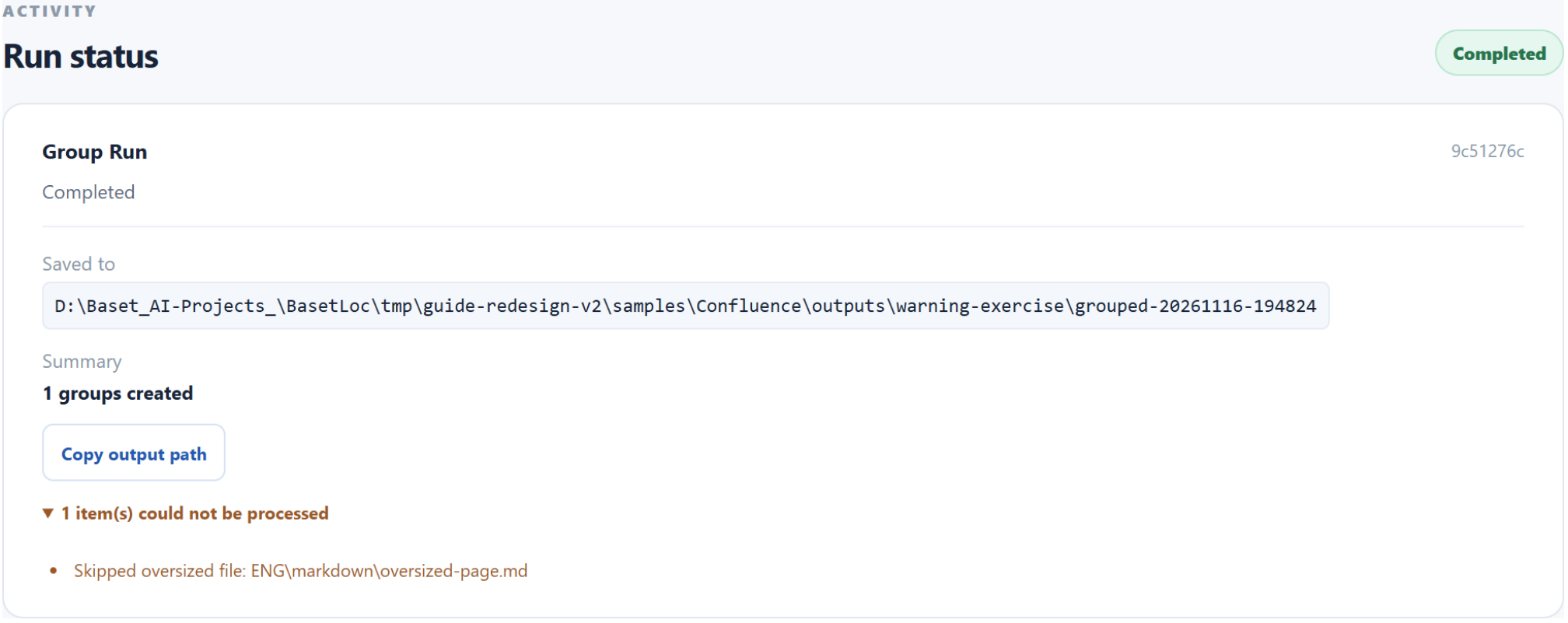
Recover from an invalid input folder screen detail



Input folder validation - Original capture.

Review a completed run with skipped input

A separate local exercise contained one short page and one fictional page larger than 10 MB. The actual run completed and created one group, while the warning reported Skipped oversized file: ENG\markdown\oversized-page.md. Expand the warning summary to see the path. Completed describes the job status; it does not mean every input was processed. Review the missing material before accepting the result. The small actual output is under Samples/Confluence/outputs/warning-exercise; warning-exercise.md explains the generated input fixture.



Completed run with expanded warning - Original capture.

Reference: what each workflow writes

- Export reads Confluence through the API and saves each page as Markdown, HTML and JSON. Attachments and archived spaces are included by default. The app creates a new folder export-YYYYMMDD-HHMMSS; each space folder holds markdown, html, json, attachments and space_index.md, and the export root has index.md.
- The Confluence URL must be HTTPS, with no user name, password, query or fragment. Paste the account email and API token only for this run: the token stays in memory for the job, is not written to a file or to the browser, and the token box is cleared when the export starts.
- Group reads the Markdown of an export and writes one file per team category (for example 01_Engineering.md, 02_Product.md ... 15_Other.md). Spaces that match no category go to 99_Uncategorized.md. Personal spaces (folder names starting with ~) are skipped unless you clear Skip personal spaces. The output folder must be outside the export folder; the app creates grouped-YYYYMMDD-HHMMSS. A category splits into part files after about 400,000 words.
- Merge walks a folder (an export or a grouped folder) and writes one merged-YYYYMMDD-HHMMSS.md with a linked table of contents and the source path of each section.
- Files over 10 MB are skipped and listed in the activity panel or in the merged file.
- The activity list is kept only while the app is open; files already written stay on disk. Warning details show up to 50 items.
- Run status: Ready (no run), Queued or Running (wait, or Cancel run; partial files can remain), Completed (copy the output path; a merge also offers Download Markdown), Cancelled (keep or delete the partial folder), Failed (read the message; check the URL, token, network or folder).

Troubleshooting

- Export says the URL was not found: use the HTTPS Confluence Cloud address ending in /wiki.
- Export rejects the email or token: the account or token cannot read the site. Create a new Atlassian API token and try again.
- A job is already running: wait for it to finish or cancel it.
- Group refuses the output folder: choose a folder outside the export folder.
- Choose an existing export folder: pick the dated export folder, or run Export first.
- The Activation code is refused: check the License ID and the code, or ask BLoc support for a new code. Each code works once, on one computer and Windows user.
- This computer was removed from the license, or the license has expired or was turned off: contact BLoc support.
- Connect to the internet so the license can be checked: connect this PC and choose Check again. Without internet the app keeps working for a while.
- Merged file skips pages: those files are over 10 MB or could not be read; open the warning details and handle them separately.
- Security: the app listens only on this computer (127.0.0.1). Never put the API token in a project file.