Fondation Mérieux

Lab|Book

LabBook v3.6

Backup and restore V1

January 2026

General

Since LabBook 3, LabBook backups and restores are managed directly from the application under the "root" account. LabBook Config, which was previously used, is no longer part of the LabBook installation. When logged in as "root", a "Backup management" icon appears on the home page.

Gestion sauvegarde

LabBook backups are encrypted using a backup key. This key is copied to the backup medium, enabling you to restore your backups on a machine other than the one on which they were created. Naturally, to ensure that your backups are protected, the backup key is itself protected by a backup password, which you must keep carefully and which will be indispensable for restoring your data.

LabBook 3 restoration supports backups of earlier LabBook versions 2.5 and 2.9. Please note, however, that in order to restore a LabBook 2.9 backup, the backup medium must not contain a LabBook 2.5 backup. Please refer to the paragraph on restoration if you wish to restore your LabBook data after system installation.

LabBook saves to removable media connected to your server. For this media to be accessible, you must log in with the user 'user_labbook' on your system console. Please note that you must insert the media after logging in.

Before you can back up or restore LabBook, you need to set the password for the user "user_labbook".

Then, to make your backups operational, you must :

→   Generate a backup key,

→   if necessary, record the time of automatic backups,→   if

 necessary, initialize new backup media.

Change "user_labbook" password

When LabBook was installed, a user "user_labbook" was created. This user is required to access the backup media you connect to the LabBook server. You need to log in under "user_labbook" from your server console. During installation, a trivial password "user_labbook" was assigned to "user_labbook". This password must be changed the first time you connect.

You will be prompted to enter the current password (user_labbook):

Then enter and confirm the new password:
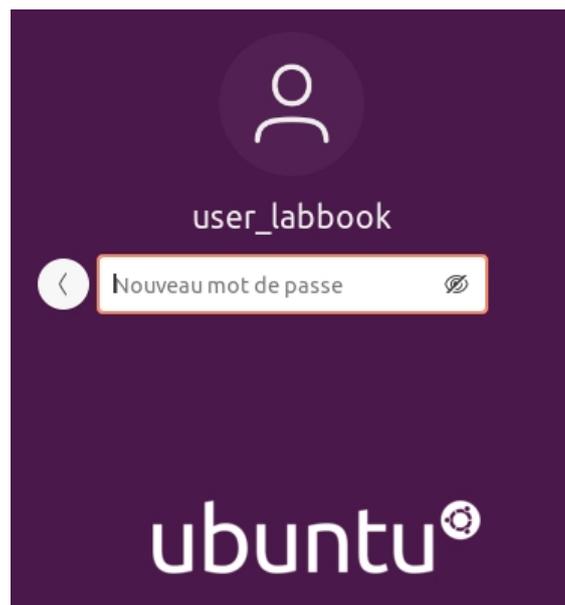
Backup management page

The "Backup management" icon or the "Settings > Backup management" menu choice will take you to this page:

On the left you'll find the buttons corresponding to the various actions available:

→   **MODIFY BACKUP TIME** lets you set the time for automatic backups.

→   **INITIALIZE MEDIA** is required before you can use new media to back up LabBook.

→   **GENERATE BACKUP KEY** is required before LabBook can be backed up.

→   **SAVE** launches an immediate backup.

→   **RESTORE** restores data.

These actions are described in detail in the following paragraphs.

The right-hand side of the screen provides information on the status of backups:

→   Backup time shows the time of automatic backups,

→   Last backup shows the status (OK/ERR) and time of the last backup, whether it was started manually or automatically,

→   Last backup OK shows the time of the last successful backup. This allows you to check that automatic backups have been carried out correctly.

Save automatic backup time

The button allows you to save the automatic backup at the time indicated on the right of the screen. If you wish to change the time, you must first change it on the right-hand side and then use the button to activate programming at the indicated time.

You will be prompted for confirmation:

You will need to provide the user's password "user_labbook" to perform this action.

NB: You must use this function once to activate automatic backups after installing LabBook 3. The default time is 12:00, but automatic backups are not active by default.

NB: Initialized media must be connected when automatic backup starts. There's no reminder in the application, so it's probably best to leave media permanently connected. If possible, we advise you to use a rotation principle between several media stored in separate locations.

NB: In the event of a server restart, remember to reconnect the backup media by logging in as "user_labbook" on the server console.

Initialize media

INITIALISER LE MEDIA

LabBook places backups in a "SIGL_sauvegardes" folder at the root of the media. This prevents automatic backups from accidentally writing to media connected at the time.

Media initialization consists in creating this folder.

You will need to provide the user password "user_labbook" to perform this action.

Veuillez saisir le mot de passe de l'utilisateur user_labbook	X

Mot de passe système [   ]

Valider   Annuler

Select the media to be initialized:

Veuillez sélectionner le média	X

Liste des médias disponibles   [USB ▾]

Valider   Annuler

NB: for automatic backup to work, only one initialized media must be connected.

Generate backup key

Before backups can be made, a custom encryption key must be generated.
generated. This key is copied to the backup medium, enabling you to restore your
backups on a machine other than the one on which they were created.

The backup key is protected by a password, which you will be asked to enter:

Backups can only be restored with the key used when they were created. Unless you lose
the password for your backup key, you should not need to generate a new key. If you do
generate a new key, you will be prompted for confirmation:

WARNING: There is no way to recover a lost encryption key password. If this is the case,
you must generate a new backup key.

Save

SAUVEGARDER

The LabBook data backup process creates an archive containing your database and all generated and downloaded documents on your system. This archive is encrypted using your backup key and placed on USB media.

LabBook 3 backups appear on USB media as files named :

backup_v30_SIGL_horodatage.tar.gz.gpg

The timestamp indicates the time at which the backup was made;

You will need to provide the user's password "user_labbook" to perform this action:

Veuillez saisir le mot de passe de l'utilisateur user_labbook   X

Mot de passe système [   ]

Valider Annuler

Then choose the media:

Veuillez sélectionner le média   X

Liste des médias disponibles [USB ▾]

Valider Annuler

A patience message is displayed during backup. It contains an indication of the operation in progress with its start date and time, which is refreshed periodically:
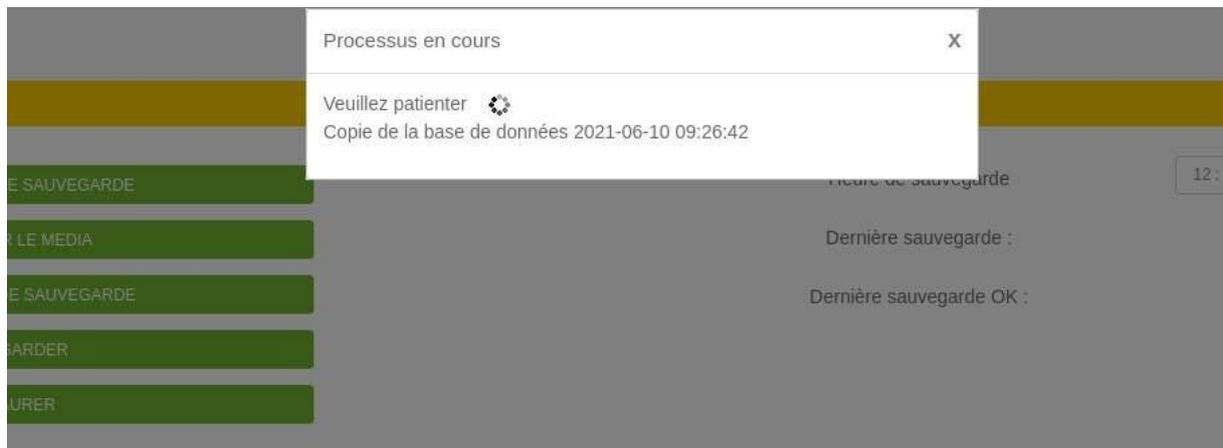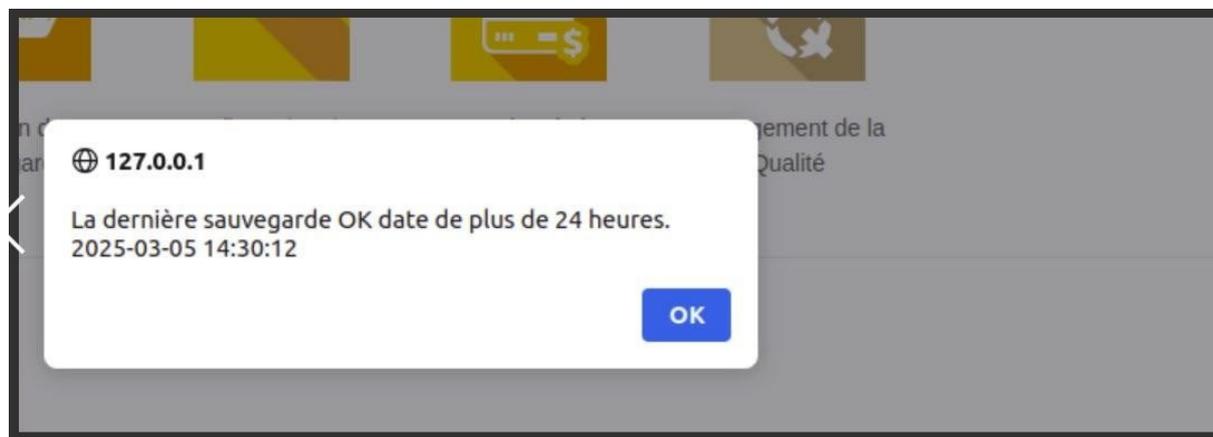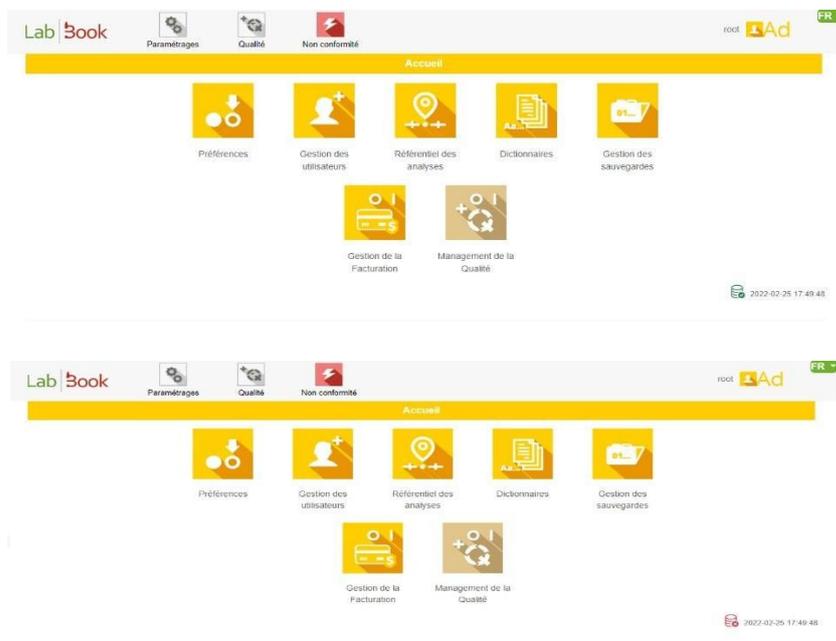

The end of the backup is also indicated:

Current backup status

LabBook's main screen shows the status of the last backup, with a green or red indication, depending on whether the last backup was successful or not. And you'll get an alert message if yesterday's backup didn't take place.

Restore

WARNING: this operation replaces current data.

Restoring LabBook 3 supports backups of earlier LabBook versions 2.5 and 2.9. However, to restore a LabBook 2.9 backup, the backup medium must not contain a LabBook 2.5 backup.

NB: LabBook 2.5 backups do not contain generated and downloaded documents.

You will need to provide the password of the user "user_labbook" to perform this action:

Then enter the password of the backup key used for the backup:

NB: this password is not used when restoring a LabBook 2.5 backup.

Then choose the media:

Veuillez sélectionner le média   X

Liste des médias disponibles   USB

Valider   Annuler

Finally, select the backup to restore:

Veuillez sélectionner la sauvegarde à restaurer   X

Liste des sauvegardes disponibles

backup_v30_SIGL_2021-04-02_12h00m34s.tar.gz.gpg

Valider   Annuler

The restore operation deletes the current data. You will then be asked to confirm:

Merci de confirmer le lancement immédiat de la restauration.

Annuler   OK

A patience message is displayed during restoration. It contains an indication of the operation in progress with its start date and time, which is refreshed periodically:


Warning: in some cases, restoration may take several tens of minutes. Please be patient while the above message is displayed.

When restoration is complete, the LabBook application must be restarted. You will be asked to confirm this, but in all but the most exceptional cases, you must confirm the restart:

After a few moments, you'll need to reload the page to continue using the application. You will be prompted to do so, but please note that you may have to wait a few more moments for the reload to work:
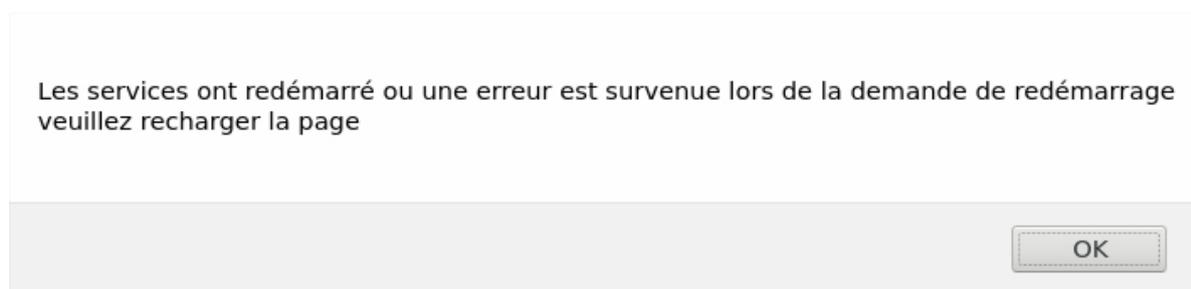
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