

FCP Versioner 1.2.9



User Manual

FCP Versioner is a backup and versioning utility for Final Cut Pro. It automatically backs up Final Cut Pro projects in XML format and generates changelogs to show exactly what has changed between revisions.

Key Features

- Automatically creates a backup every time you save your Final Cut Pro project
- Each backup has a changelog listing exactly what changed between revisions
- Backups are in XML format which has durability and compatibility advantages over FCP project files
- Flexible backup management options to fully customize how older backups are purged

What's new in this version (1.2.9)

- General bug fixes, tweaks and optimizations

Installation

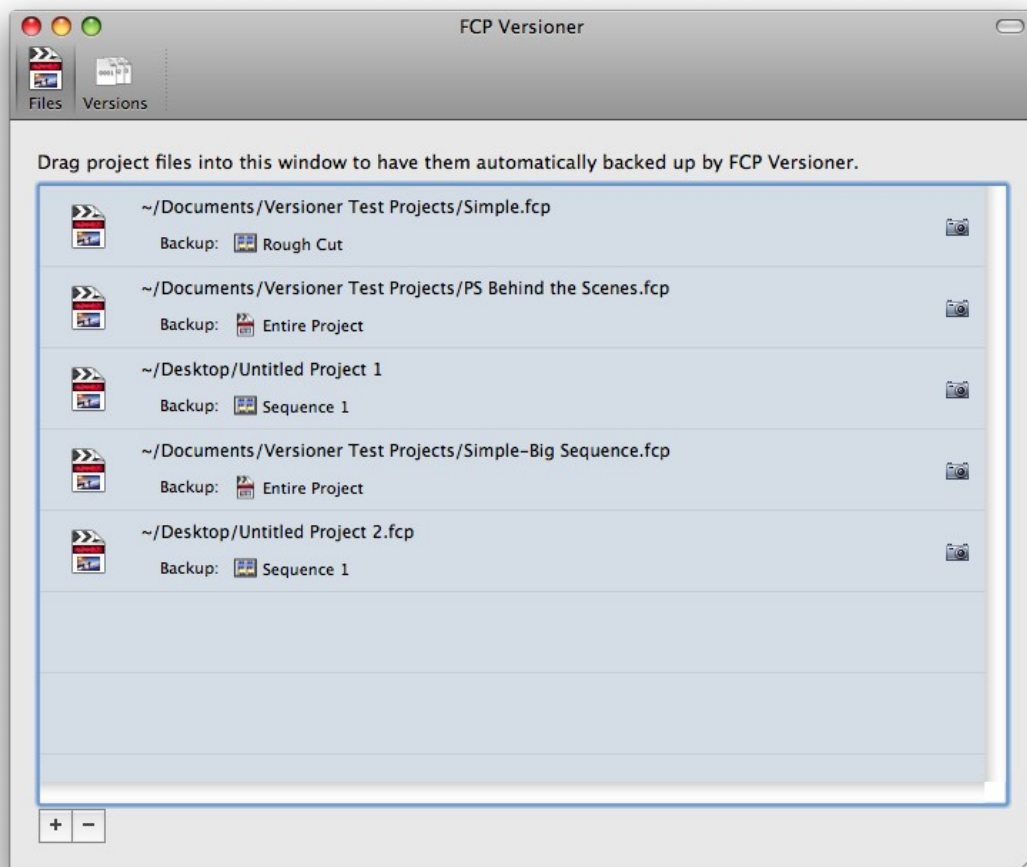
If you downloaded the disk image (.DMG) version of FCP Versioner, be sure to copy the application to your hard drive (preferably the /Applications folder) before using it. This is because the application needs to run in the background on demand and this will not be possible if the disk image is unmounted, ejected or deleted.

If you forget to do this, FCP Versioner will ask you if you would like to install the application before running it. Click **Install** and the application will install and restart.



Quick Start

1. Before FCP Versioner will backup a particular project you must first add it to the watch list. To do this either click the **+** button to browse to a project or drag a project file into the window.

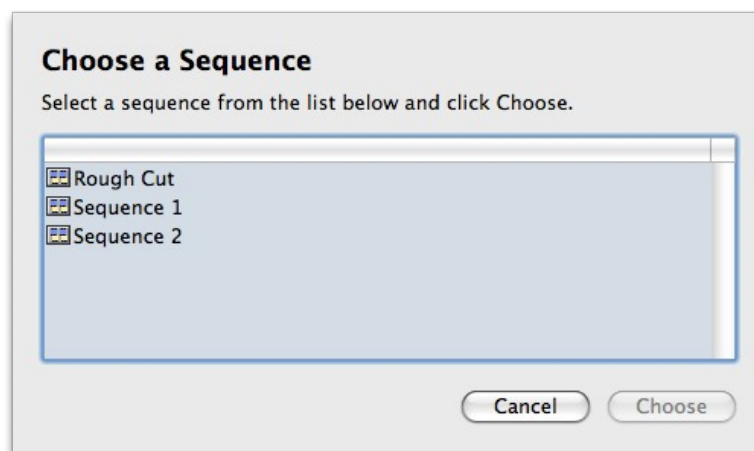


2. If you only want to backup a specific sequence rather than the whole project, click the Backup dropdown menu under the project name and select **Choose Sequence**. This is recommended if the project is large as it will be faster to export and process and will also reduce memory usage. Memory usage is an important consideration as FCP Versioner is a

32-bit application that needs to open two copies of the project simultaneously in order to compare them.

2a. Final Cut Pro will launch if it is not already running and Versioner will open the project and request data from it. This may take several minutes if you are running Final Cut Pro 6; it is considerably faster with Final Cut Pro 7.

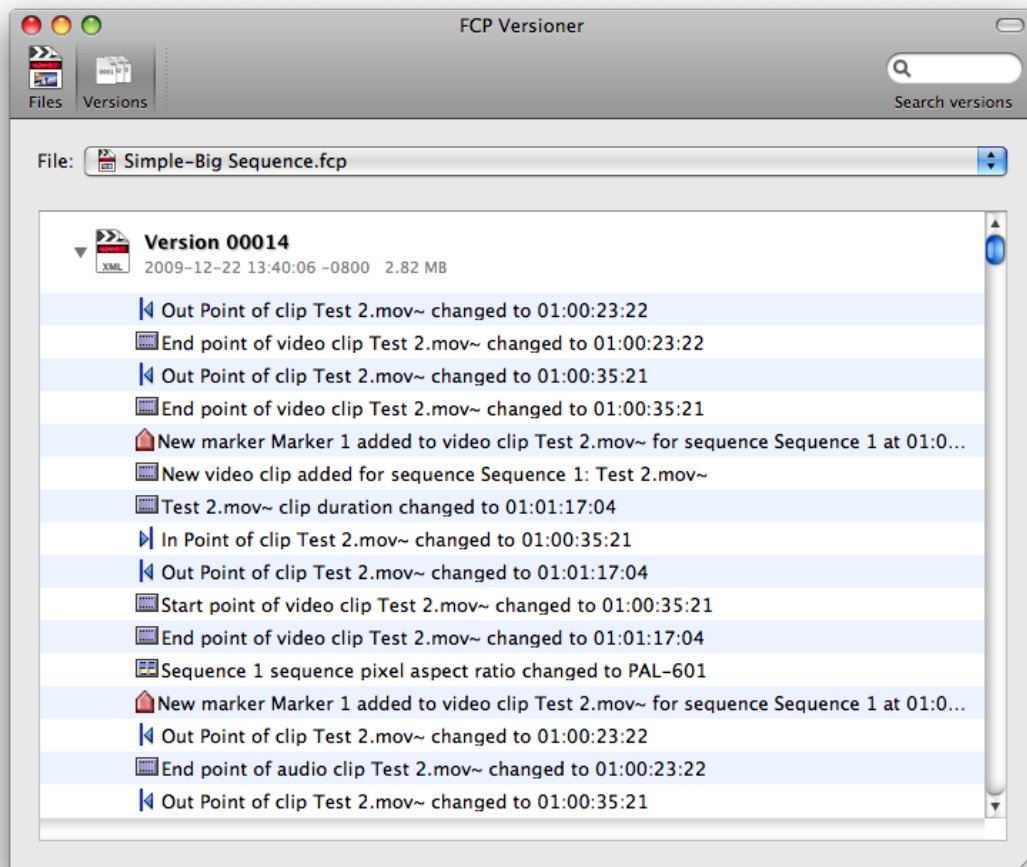
2b. When the sequence list has loaded, select the desired sequence and hit **Choose**.



3. Continue working in Final Cut Pro as usual. FCP Versioner will create an XML backup of the project file whenever you save it.

4. When you wish to restore an old version or simply view the changes made in a single revision, click the **Versions** tab. This presents you with a list of changes that is fully searchable and printable.

Backups

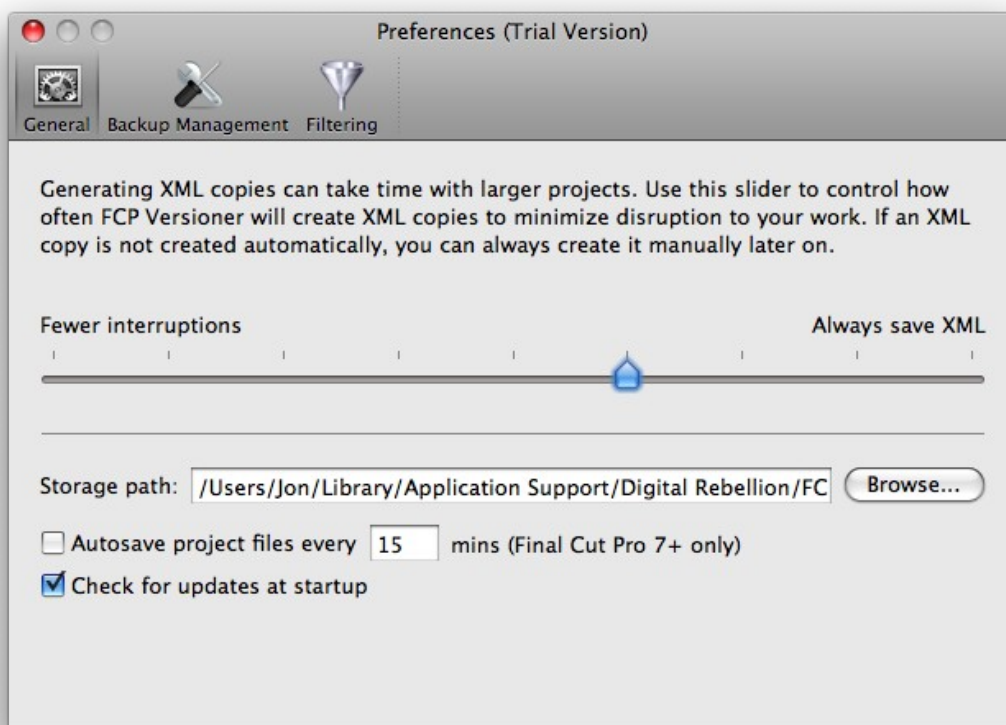


To stop the creation of backups for a particular project, remove the project from the watch list by selecting it in the **Files** tab and pressing the – button or pressing Delete. No further changes will be backed up but existing backups will remain in the **Versions** tab until removed.

By default, FCP Versioner monitors the projects in your watch list and requests an XML copy of the project or sequence from Final Cut Pro whenever the project file is saved. XML files carry many benefits including backwards-compatibility with previous versions of Final Cut Pro and lower susceptibility to corruption, so FCP Versioner is useful for generating XML backups even if you never use the versioning features of the application.

The amount of time it takes for Final Cut Pro to generate an XML copy of the project varies according to the size of the project file and the speed of your computer. If you feel an XML copy of the project is taking too long to generate, you can go to the **Files** tab of FCP Versioner and select a specific sequence to backup instead of the entire file.

The **General** tab of the Preferences window has a slider that allows you to customize how often FCP Versioner will generate XML copies of projects.



Sliding the slider all the way to the left completely switches off XML generation; sliding it all the way to the right ensures that an XML copy will be generated every single time you save. If you feel FCP Versioner is interrupting your work, slide the slider closer to the left. If it is not interrupting your work but it is not generating as many XML copies as you would like, slide it closer to the right.

Note: Values close to the left may not generate XML for every single save – depending on which setting you choose, XML may only be generated for every second or third save of the

project file.

If an XML copy has not been saved and you wish to view the changelog for that particular item, simply click the **Generate XML** button next to the revision in question or click the **Generate XML** button on the toolbar to generate XML copies for every revision that does not have an XML copy.

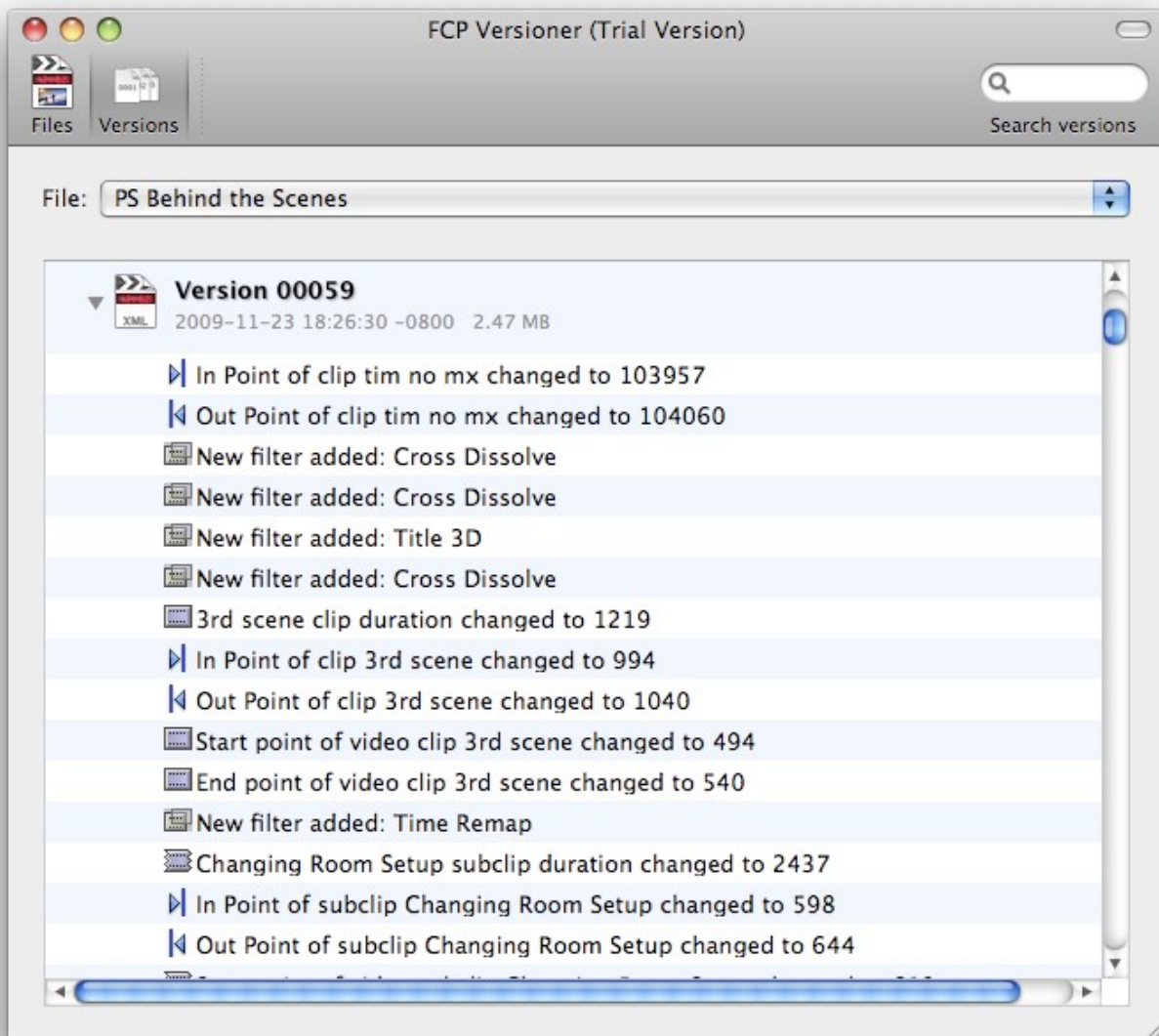
Another option is to use the **snapshot button** (the camera icon) next to each project in the **Files** tab of FCP Versioner to manually initiate a backup.



If you have been waiting for a while for an XML export to complete, just hit cancel on the XML progress dialog in Final Cut Pro and FCP Versioner will backup the original Final Cut Pro project file instead of creating an XML copy. This will lack many of the benefits of an XML version of the project but it is still useful for the purposes of redundancy. You can generate the XML copy on demand at a later date by clicking the **Generate XML** button next to the item or on the toolbar.

Versions

Changes are organized in reverse chronological order with a version number assigned to each revision.



Each version has an icon indicating the type of backup. Backups with an XML icon are able to display changelogs and are generally safer from corruption than regular Final Cut Pro

projects. FCP projects are shown when an XML version couldn't be created, either because the XML export was canceled in Final Cut Pro, the project's file size was large or the slider in the **General** pane of Preferences is set towards the left-hand side. Click the **Generate XML** button next to the item or in the toolbar to generate an XML copy.

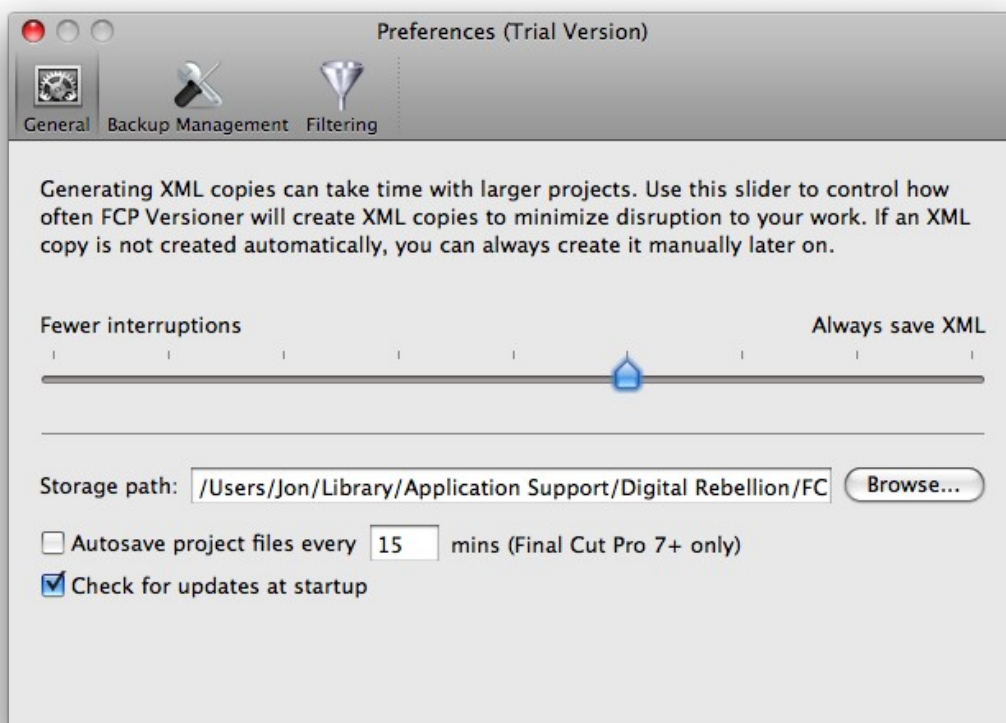
To delete a single backup, select the backup and press **Delete**. To delete a project and all of its backups select a backup and press **Cmd+Delete**.

To restore a backup, double-click on the backup title and the XML import dialog will pop up in Final Cut Pro.

Preferences

General

The **General** tab of the Preferences window has a slider that allows you to customize how often FCP Versioner will generate XML copies of projects.



Sliding the slider all the way to the left completely switches off XML generation; sliding it all the way to the right ensures that an XML copy will be generated every single time you save. If you feel FCP Versioner is interrupting your work, slide the slider closer to the left. If it is not interrupting your work but it is not generating as many XML copies as you would like, slide it closer to the right.

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project file.

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Storage Path – The location on disk where backups will be stored.

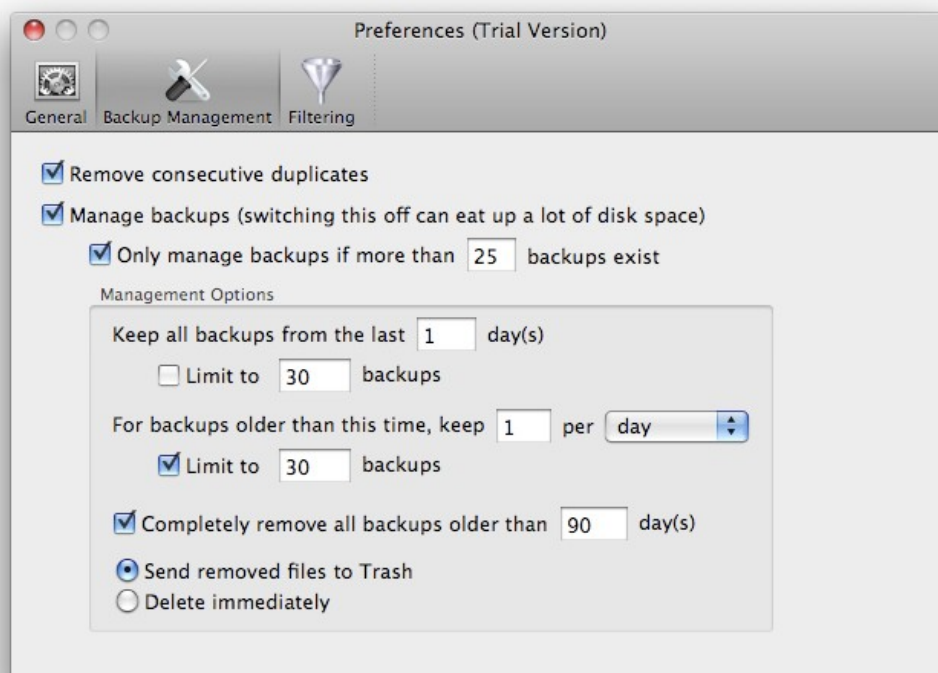
Autosave project files every ____ mins – Automatically saves your project file periodically. This is different from the default autosave in Final Cut Pro because it saves your main project file rather than creating a new file. The file is then converted to XML and backed up. This is equivalent to pressing Cmd+S in Final Cut Pro.

This feature only works with Final Cut Pro 7.0 and above.

Check for updates at startup – Automatically check for software updates to FCP Versioner whenever the application is launched.

Backup Management

This allows you to specify how old backups should be dealt with. A common backup policy is to create a daily backup of the project, archive the old files and then periodically delete old backups manually. This process can be automated in FCP Versioner.



Remove consecutive duplicates – Automatically removes a new backup if it is identical to the one before it. This prevents unnecessary disk usage.

Manage backups – This tells FCP Versioner to periodically delete old backups. Switching this off ensures that no backups will ever be removed and could result in backup files taking up a significant amount of disk space.

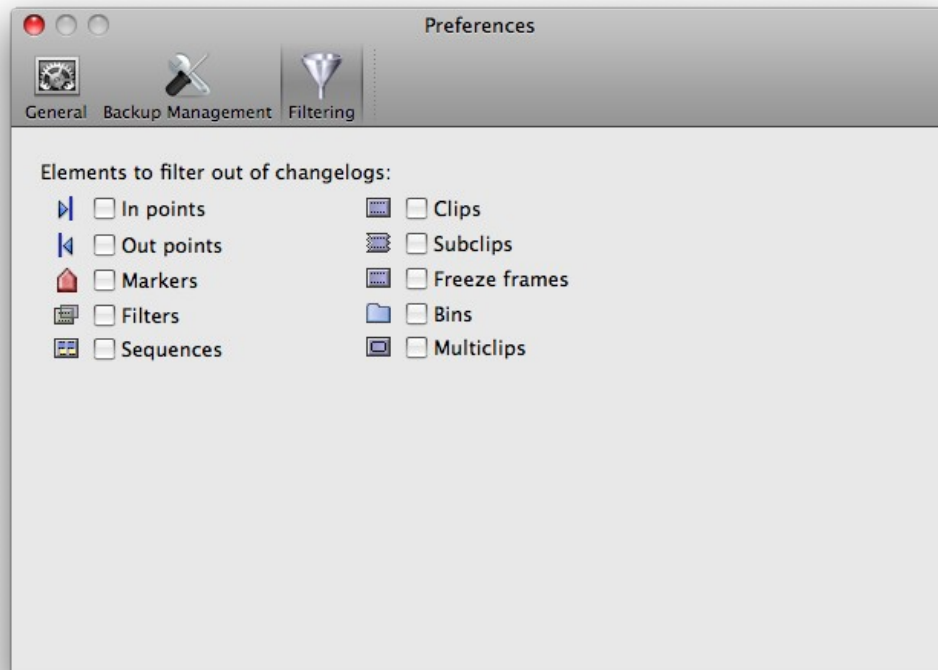
Only manage backups if more than _____ backups exist – This ensures a minimum number of backups before backup management can take place. This is so that you are not left with only a small number of backups if you leave a project for a long time before coming back to it.

Keep all backups from the last _____ day(s) – Keeps all backups from the last x days (this is calculated from the latest day the project was saved and not from today's date) up to the optional backup limit. If the backup limit is hit, the oldest files are deleted first.

For backups older than this time, keep ____ per day/week/month – Any backups older than the x day limit set in the previous option will be considered to be old and FCP Versioner will begin removing these backups according to the limits set.

Completely remove all backups after _____ days – This provides a cut-off date; anything older than this date will be removed completely. This is optional.

Filtering



Allows you to specify which elements you would not like to see in changelogs. For instance, if you were not interested in details about In Point changes you could just tick the **In Points** check box to hide them when viewing changelogs.

Support

Email support can be accessed directly within FCP Versioner.

- To report a bug or any other issue, go to **Help > Report a Bug**.
- To request a new feature, go to **Help > Suggest a Feature**.