

Your Possible Home

Building Meaningful, Enduring Family Bonds in the Age of AI


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Protecting What You're Building

A short guide to making sure the work survives.

There's a particular kind of loss that happens when someone spends years building something digital and then loses access to it overnight. A Google account gets locked. A phone dies and the cloud backup turned out not to be running. A subscription lapses and the service deletes the data. The Legacy Project is the wrong place to find out that your storage strategy was thinner than you thought, because what you're building here is meant to outlive you, and digital systems often don't.

This page is short on purpose. You don't need a complicated backup plan. You just need one that actually works.

The three-place rule

Anything you'd genuinely grieve losing should live in at least three places. One you use daily. One that backs up automatically. One that's physical and would survive if every account you have got locked tomorrow.

For most families, that looks like this. The working copy lives in Google Drive, iCloud, or whatever cloud service you already use. A second copy lives in a different cloud service or on an external hard drive that gets updated once or twice a year. A printed or burned copy of the most important pieces lives in a fireproof box, a safety deposit box, or with a trusted family member.

You don't need all three places to hold everything. The daily working copy can be the full archive. The backup can be the full archive too. The physical copy only needs to hold the irreplaceable pieces — the letters, the autobiography canvas, the most important interview recordings, the photos that exist nowhere else.

What to actually print

Most of the Legacy Project will live digitally, and that's fine. But some pieces deserve to exist on paper, because paper has outlasted every digital format in the history of digital formats so far.

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Print the Letters to the Future. All of them. Put them in an envelope with names on the front. Tell someone where they are.

Print the most important pages of the Autobiography Canvas, even if it's not finished. Print whatever version exists at the end of each year. The unfinished version is still the version your kids would want if something happened to you tomorrow.

Print a list of where everything else lives. Which cloud account holds the photos. Which drive holds the recordings. The login your spouse or oldest child would need to access any of it. This list is one of the most valuable documents in the entire archive, and almost nobody writes it.

What to do with recordings

Audio and video files are the most fragile part of most family archives, because they're large, format-dependent, and easy to lose track of. A few simple practices help.

Save recordings as common formats. MP3 for audio. MP4 for video. These are likely to remain readable for decades. Proprietary formats from specific apps may not be.

Label files clearly with names and dates. *Grandpa Bob interview, March 2025* is something a grandchild can find in forty years. *Voice Memo 47* is not.

Keep a master folder structure that makes sense to someone who didn't build it. A new family member should be able to open the drive and figure out what's there without help.

The account access question

If something happened to you tomorrow, could your spouse or oldest child access the Legacy Project archive? For most people, the honest answer is no, because the accounts are protected by passwords nobody else knows.

The fix is simple but easy to put off. Use a password manager and share the vault with your spouse, or write the master credentials down and put them with the printed letters in the fireproof box. Most password managers also have a *legacy contact* or *trusted access* feature that lets a designated person request access if you can't be reached. Set that up once and it stays in place.

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A note on AI tools and continuity

If you've been using AI to help draft, organize, or transcribe parts of the project, the conversations themselves usually don't persist long-term. The output does. Save the actual paragraphs, summaries, and transcripts into your own files. Don't rely on the chat history to be there next year, because in most cases it won't be.

Once a year, check on it

Pick one day a year — whatever rhythm you're already using for Annual Reflection works well — and spend twenty minutes verifying that the system still functions. Open the cloud backup and confirm it's running. Open the external drive and confirm the files are still readable. Make sure the printed pieces are still where you left them. Update the access list if anything has changed.

Twenty minutes a year is the difference between an archive your grandchildren will actually inherit and one that quietly disappeared a decade before anyone noticed.

The point

The Legacy Project is meant to outlive the person who built it. Treat the storage with the same care as the writing, and the work will still be there when someone goes looking for it in fifty years. That's the whole goal.