

Life Hub — User Guide

Life Hub is a **personal, local-first** app for running your daily life — tasks, projects, renewals, finance, family, prayers, references, legal cases, and a secure vault — all in one place, on your own machine, with your data encrypted at rest.

This guide is **safe to read without unlocking** (it contains no personal data). Screenshots use the default **Brand** theme with fictional sample data.

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1. What Life Hub is

- **Local-first & offline.** Everything runs on your machine. There is **no account, no sign-up, and no internet requirement** — your data never leaves your device unless you move it yourself.
- **Single-user.** It's your personal "second brain," not a shared/multi-user app.

- **Encrypted at rest.** The entire database is encrypted (ChaCha20-Poly1305) behind a **master password**, so a lost or copied folder is useless without it.
- **Bilingual.** Full **English and Arabic** with right-to-left (RTL) layout; switch any time from the top bar.
- **Portable.** All your data lives in one folder, so the whole thing moves between devices (or to a server) intact — see [§10](#).
- **Optional modules.** **Prayers** and **Legal cases** are **optional and off by default** — so a fresh install won't show them in the sidebar. Turn either on any time in **Settings** → **Modules** ([§8](#)). Every other module (tasks, projects, renewals, finance, family, knowledge, vault) is always available.

Life Hub

Dashboard

Categories

Tasks

Projects

Renewals

Finance

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Knowledge

Vault

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Dashboard

Search...Ctrl K

Welcome back

What needs your attention across tasks and renewals — overdue, due today, and coming up.

Daily inspiration

Stay consistent

Small steps every day beat big bursts.

Overdue

0

Anything past its date

Due today

3

Due today across all modules

This week

8

Due in the next 7 days

Due today 3

Team sync

Today

Email the quarterly report

Today

Client call

Today

This week 8

Tomorrow 3

Design hero section

Tomorrow

Sara's birthday

Tomorrow

Water the plants

Tomorrow

Fri, 19 Jun 1

Gym membership

Fri, 19 Jun

Sat, 20 Jun 2

Migrate content

Sat, 20 Jun

Mom's birthday

Sat, 20 Jun

Sun, 21 Jun 1

Call the plumber

Sun, 21 Jun

Mon, 22 Jun 1

Laptop installment

Mon, 22 Jun

Renewals approaching 1

Car insurance

Thu, 25 Jun

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2. Getting started

Life Hub ships in **two forms** — pick the one that fits:

- **A) Desktop app (Windows)** — a normal installer; double-click to run, use it on your own PC. No Node.js, no terminal.
- **B) Self-hosted server** — run it on a machine or VPS (Docker, or bare Node) and use it from a browser. Best for always-on access on your own server.

Both are the **same encrypted app** with the same data format, so you can move between them later (§10). Either way, the first run asks you to create a master password (§3).

A) Desktop app (Windows)



1. **Download** the Windows installer, `Life-Hub-Setup-x.x.x.exe`.
 2. **Run it.** It installs **per-user — no administrator / UAC prompt**. It isn't code-signed yet, so Windows SmartScreen may show "*Windows protected your PC*" → click **More info** → **Run anyway**. The wizard adds **Start-Menu + Desktop shortcuts**.
 3. **Launch** from the **Life Hub** shortcut — the app opens in its own window.
 4. **First run** → `/setup` : create a **master password** and **save the one-time recovery key** (§3). Every later launch opens `/unlock`.
- **Where your data lives:** your Windows user profile — `...\AppData\Roaming\life-hub\LifeHub` (the encrypted `app.db` + `keymeta.json` + `uploads/`). It stays there across updates.
 - **Updating:** download the newer `Life-Hub-Setup-x.x.x.exe` and run it — it installs over the old version and **your data is kept**.
 - **No Node.js, no terminal, no npm** — it's a self-contained app.

B) Self-hosted server

Run Life Hub on a machine or VPS and use it from any browser. The server distribution folder (`dist-server/`) contains the built app plus a `Dockerfile` , `docker-compose.yml` , and a `README.md` — **that README is authoritative**; this is the short version.

Docker (recommended). Prerequisite: Docker Engine + the Compose plugin (Linux containers). From the `dist-server` folder:

```
docker compose up -d --build
```

Then browse **`http://<host>:3000`** (e.g. `http://localhost:3000`). **First run** → `/setup` (master password + recovery key); later visits → `/unlock` .

- **Your data persists** in the `lifehub-data` **Docker volume** (`/data` in the container) across `docker compose down / up` and rebuilds.
- **Updating:** replace the `dist-server` bundle with the newer one and re-run `docker compose up -d --build` — the volume (your data) is untouched.
- **TLS:** the container serves plain HTTP; terminate HTTPS at **your own reverse proxy** — see §11.

Bare-Node (fallback, no Docker). Use this only if you can't run Docker, and **run the Node version the bundle's native binaries were built for** — that's why Docker is primary. Install **Node 22.x (Linux x64 / glibc)**, then from the bundle's `app/` folder:

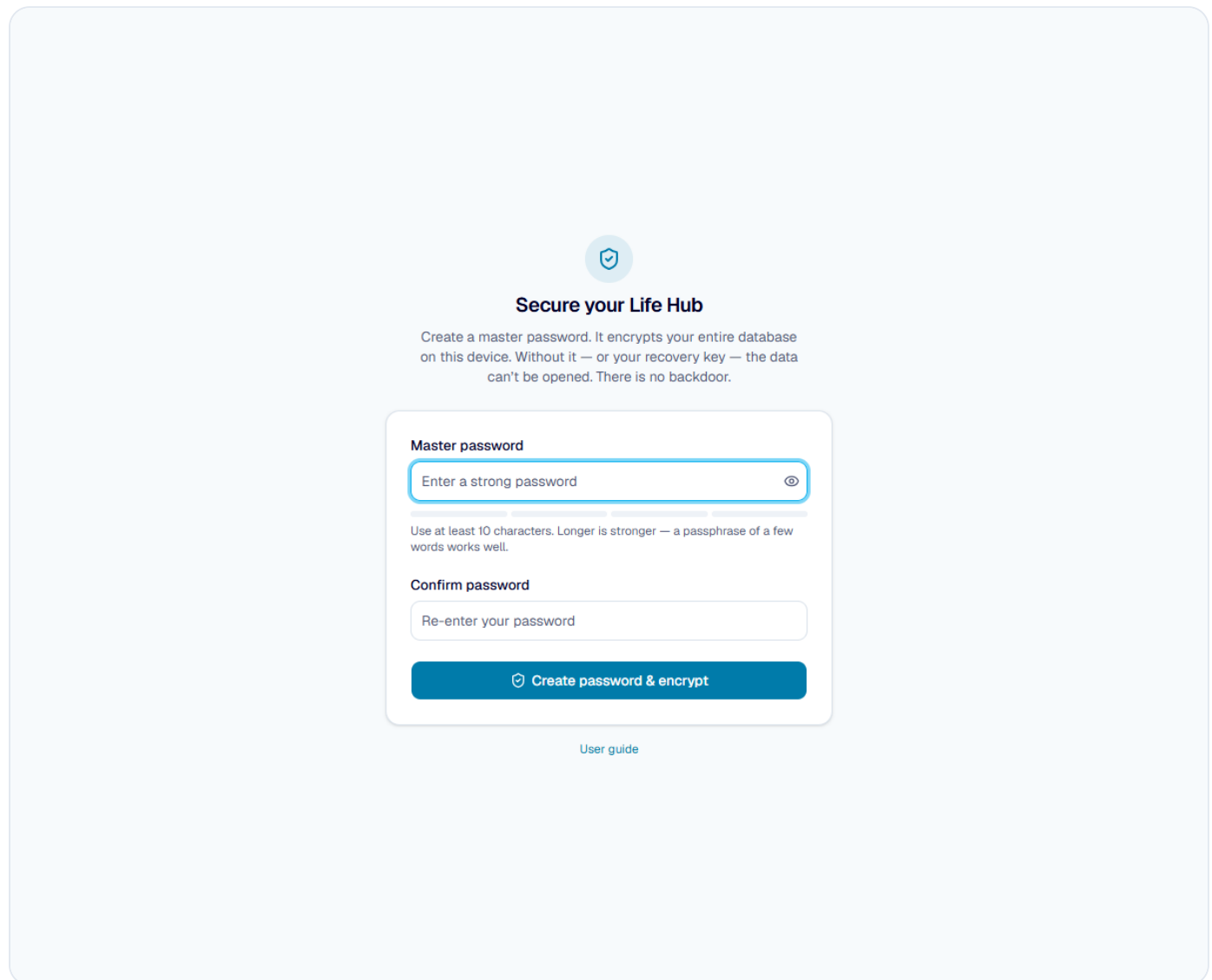
```
export LIFEHUB_DATA_DIR=/srv/lifehub-data    # any persistent folder
export NODE_ENV=production
export HOSTNAME=0.0.0.0                     # or 127.0.0.1 behind a proxy
export PORT=3000
node server-entry.cjs
```

`server-entry.cjs` runs the **first-run migration** (creates the schema on a fresh data dir) and then starts the server.

ABI caveat: the bundled encrypted-SQLite + Argon2 binaries are built for **Node 22 (NODE_MODULE_VERSION 127)**, **linux x64 / glibc**. A different Node **major** (18/20/24) or **musl** (Alpine) won't load them — you'd see *"compiled against a different Node.js version"* or *"invalid ELF header"*. Use Node 22 on linux x64, or just use Docker, which pins all of this for you.

3. First run & security

The first time you open Life Hub, it asks you to **secure it with a master password**. This password encrypts your whole database.





Secure your Life Hub

Create a master password. It encrypts your entire database on this device. Without it — or your recovery key — the data can't be opened. There is no backdoor.

Master password

Use at least 10 characters. Longer is stronger — a passphrase of a few words works well.

Confirm password

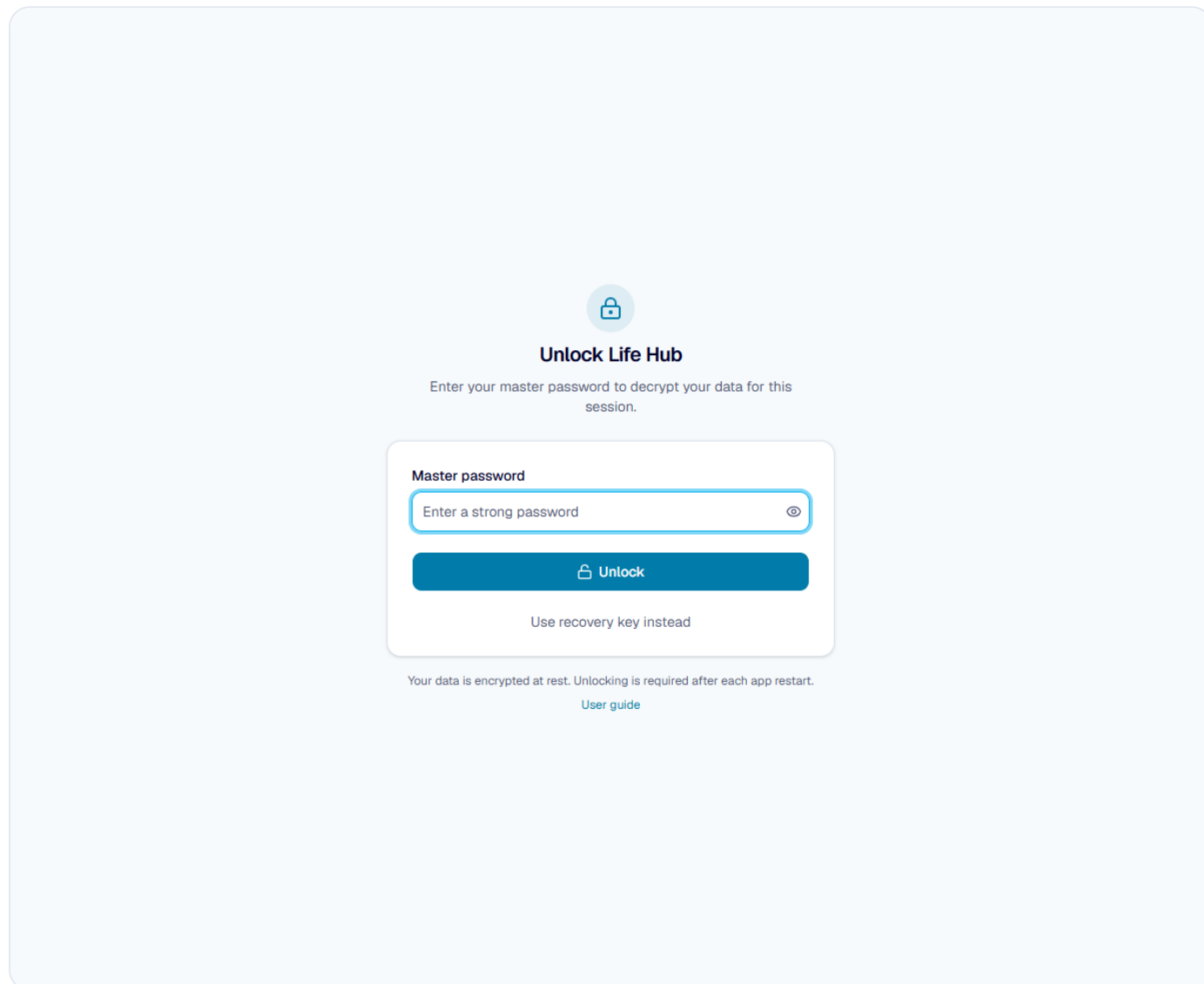
 Create password & encrypt

[User guide](#)

1. Choose a strong **master password** (at least 10 characters — a passphrase of a few words works well) and confirm it.
2. Click **Create password & encrypt**. Life Hub encrypts the database and shows you a one-time **recovery key**.
3. **Save the recovery key somewhere safe** (a password manager, a printed copy). It is the *only* other way to get back in.

⚠️ **There is no backdoor and no reset.** If you lose **both** the master password **and** the recovery key, your data is **permanently unrecoverable** — by design. That's what keeps a stolen folder safe.

Every time the app starts (or after it auto-locks), you'll see the unlock screen. Enter your master password — or click **Use recovery key instead**.





Unlock Life Hub

Enter your master password to decrypt your data for this session.

Master password

Enter a strong password 

 **Unlock**

Use recovery key instead

Your data is encrypted at rest. Unlocking is required after each app restart.
[User guide](#)

- **Idle auto-lock** can clear the key from memory after 15 / 30 / 60 minutes of inactivity (Settings → Security; Off by default).
- **Lock now** is available in the top bar and in Settings to lock immediately.

4. The dashboard

The dashboard is your "what needs attention now" view. It pulls from **every** module:

- **Overdue** — anything past its date and not done.
- **Due today** and **This week** — grouped by day.
- **Renewals approaching** — renewals due within the next 30 days.
- **Prayer times today** (*shown only when the optional Prayers module is on*) — the five prayers, with the next one highlighted and a warning if a scheduled item clashes with a prayer window (see [Prayers](#)).
- **Daily inspiration** — a pinned note, du'a, or tip, chosen fresh each day.

Birthdays, hearings/deadlines, payments due, and tasks all surface here automatically. Click any row to open it.

5. The agenda

The **Agenda** is a single, cross-module view of everything that has a date — tasks, renewals, finance due dates, installment plans, legal hearings, projects, and family birthdays — all in one place. It has two views, switchable at the top (`?view=`):

- **List** (*default*) — items grouped by day (Overdue pinned first), each with a module badge, title, and locale-aware date (and time, when set).
- **Calendar** — a month grid; each day shows its items as chips. Click any item, in either view, to open its detail.

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Agenda

Q Search...

Ctrl K

+

🔍

🔔

Agenda

Everything with a date, across all your modules.

ListCalendar

Today 8

Fajr

4:08 AM

Team sync

Today, 9:30 AM

Email the quarterly report

Today

Client call

Today, 1:00 PM

Asr

4:32 PM

Maghrib

7:59 PM

Isha

9:32 PM

Tomorrow 7

Fajr

4:08 AM

Design hero section

Tomorrow

Water the plants

Tomorrow

Dhuhr

12:58 PM

Asr

4:32 PM

Maghrib

7:59 PM

Isha

9:33 PM

Sun, 21 Jun 6

Fajr

4:08 AM

Migrate content

Sun, 21 Jun

Dhuhr

12:58 PM

Asr

4:32 PM

Maghrib

7:59 PM

Isha

9:33 PM

Mon, 22 Jun 6

Fajr

4:08 AM

Hearing: Smith v. Jones

Mon, 22 Jun

Dhuhr

12:58 PM

Asr

4:33 PM

Maghrib

8:00 PM

Isha

9:33 PM

Tue, 23 Jun 6

Fajr

4:09 AM

Car insurance

Tue, 23 Jun

Dhuhr

12:58 PM

Asr

4:33 PM

Maghrib

8:00 PM

Isha

9:33 PM

Wed, 24 Jun 6

Fajr

4:09 AM

Rent

Wed, 24 Jun

Dhuhr

12:59 PM

Asr

4:33 PM

Maghrib

8:00 PM

Isha

9:33 PM

Thu, 25 Jun 6

Fajr

4:09 AM

Website redesign

Thu, 25 Jun

Dhuhr

12:59 PM

Asr

4:33 PM

Maghrib

8:00 PM

Isha

9:34 PM

Yesterday 1

Review designs

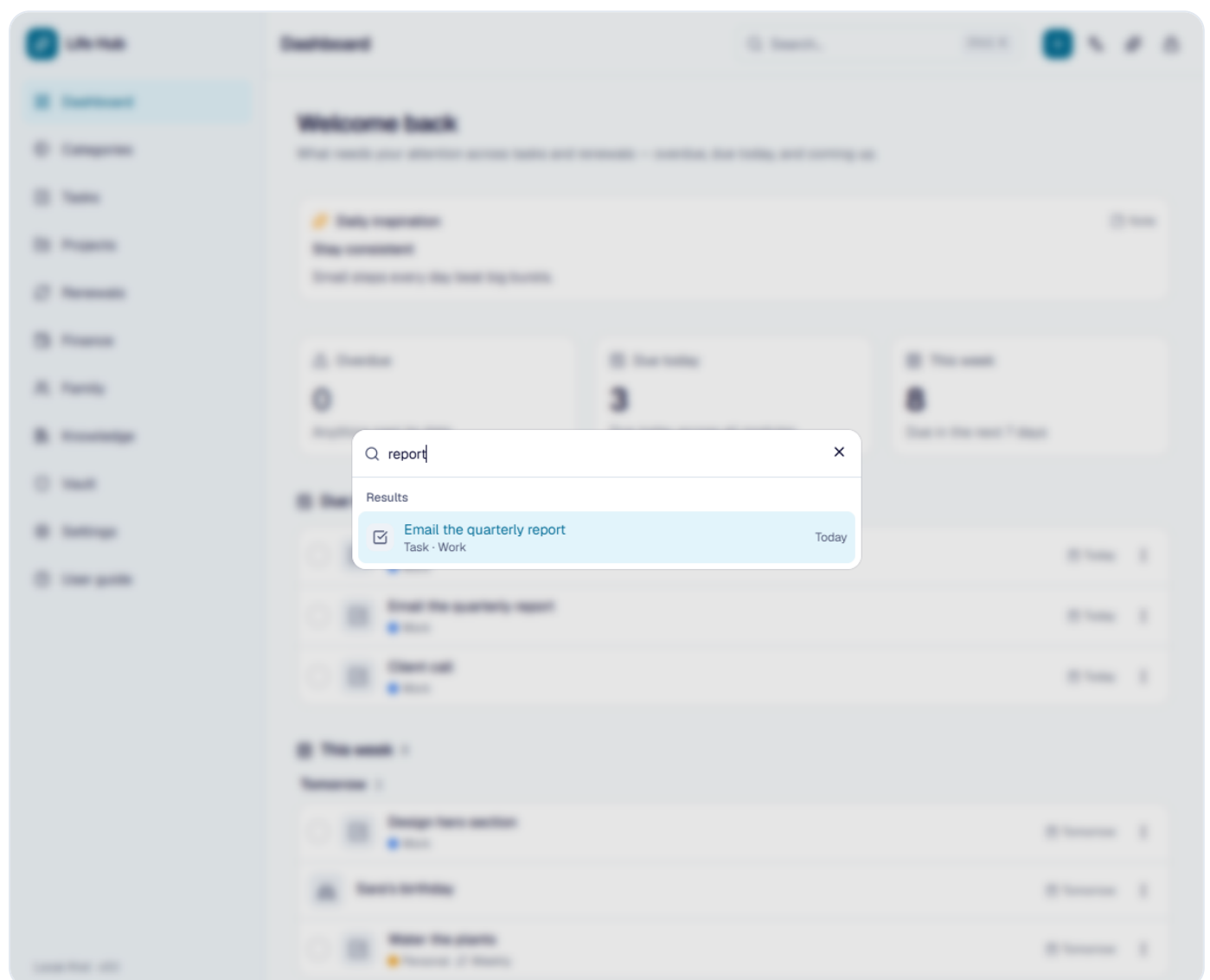
Yesterday

When the optional **Prayers** module is on, the **List** also weaves in the day's five **prayer times** (read-only, not editable) at the right spot by time, and any timed item within the **conflict buffer** — ± 30 minutes by default, configurable in Settings — of a prayer is flagged with a small **conflict**

badge in both the List and the Calendar. Prayer times appear only in the List, never as calendar chips.

6. Global search

Press **Ctrl + K** (or **⌘ K** on macOS), or click the search box in the top bar, to open the command palette. Type to find anything across all modules by title, notes, or category — then press Enter to open it.



Vault entries are findable by their **name only** — your secrets are never included in search results.

7. The modules

The left sidebar lists every module. Most share the same building blocks: **categories** (colored tags per item), **attachments** (files kept inside your data folder), and **notes**.

Tasks

One-off or recurring tasks, viewable three ways — **List**, **Board** (Kanban), and **Calendar** — switchable from the top of the page (`?view=`).

The screenshot displays the 'Life Hub' interface with the 'Tasks' module selected in the sidebar. The main content area shows a list of tasks organized by date. The sidebar on the left includes links to Dashboard, Agenda, Categories, Tasks (highlighted), Projects, Renewals, Finance, Family, Knowledge, Vault, Settings, and User guide. The top of the Tasks module features a search bar, a 'Ctrl K' shortcut, and a '+ New task' button. Below the title 'Tasks', there is a description: 'Everything you need to do — schedule it, repeat it, and check it off.' The view is set to 'List', with options for 'Board' and 'Calendar'. Filter buttons include 'Search tasks...', 'All statuses', 'Grouped by date', 'All categories', and 'All projects'. The tasks are grouped by date: 'Today' (3 tasks), 'Tomorrow' (2 tasks), 'Sun, 21 Jun' (1 task), and 'Yesterday' (1 task). Each task card shows a title, status (To do, In progress, Done), category (Work, Personal), and a due date/time. The 'Review designs' task is marked as 'Done' with a green checkmark.

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- Agenda
- Categories
- Tasks**
- Projects
- Renewals
- Finance
- Family
- Knowledge
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Tasks

Everything you need to do — schedule it, repeat it, and check it off.

+ New task

List Board Calendar

Search tasks... All statuses Grouped by date All categories All projects

Today 3

- Team sync**
To do Work Today, 9:30 AM
- Email the quarterly report**
To do Work Today
- Client call**
To do Work Today, 1:00 PM

Tomorrow 2

- Design hero section**
In progress Work Website redesign Tomorrow
- Water the plants**
To do Personal Weekly Tomorrow

Sun, 21 Jun 1

- Migrate content**
To do Work Website redesign Sun, 21 Jun

Yesterday 1

- Review designs**
Done Work Yesterday

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Tasks

Q Search...

Ctrl K

+ 🔍 ⚙️ 🗂️

Tasks

Everything you need to do — schedule it, repeat it, and check it off.

+ New task

ListBoardCalendar

Q Search tasks...All categoriesAll projects

To do7

In progress2

Done

Email the quarterly report

TodayWork

Team sync

TodayWork

Client call

TodayWork

Water the plants

TomorrowPersonalWeekly

Gym membership

Fri, 19 JunPersonalMonthly

Call the plumber

Sun, 21 JunPersonal

QA pass

Thu, 25 JunWork

Design hero section

TomorrowWork

Migrate content

Sat, 20 JunWork

Wireframes

Mon, 15 JunWork

Review designs

YesterdayWork

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Q Search...

Ctrl K

+

Tasks

Everything you need to do — schedule it, repeat it, and check it off.

+ New task

List

Board

Calendar

Q Search tasks...

All categories

All projects

June 2026

<

>

Today

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

Unscheduled 0

Drag tasks here to unschedule

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Create or edit a task with a **due date** and optional **time of day**, **recurrence** (daily / weekly / monthly / yearly / custom), a **category**, a **project**, notes, and attachments. If a timed task overlaps a prayer window, the dialog shows an inline warning.

New task

Give it a title, optionally schedule it, repeat it, and file it under a category.

Title

e.g. Renew car insurance

Category

No category

Due date

yyyy-mm-dd

Time (optional)

--:-- --

Project

No project

Repeat

Does not repeat

Notes

Optional details...

Attachments

Drop files or click to upload

Images or PDF · up to 10.0 MB

Cancel

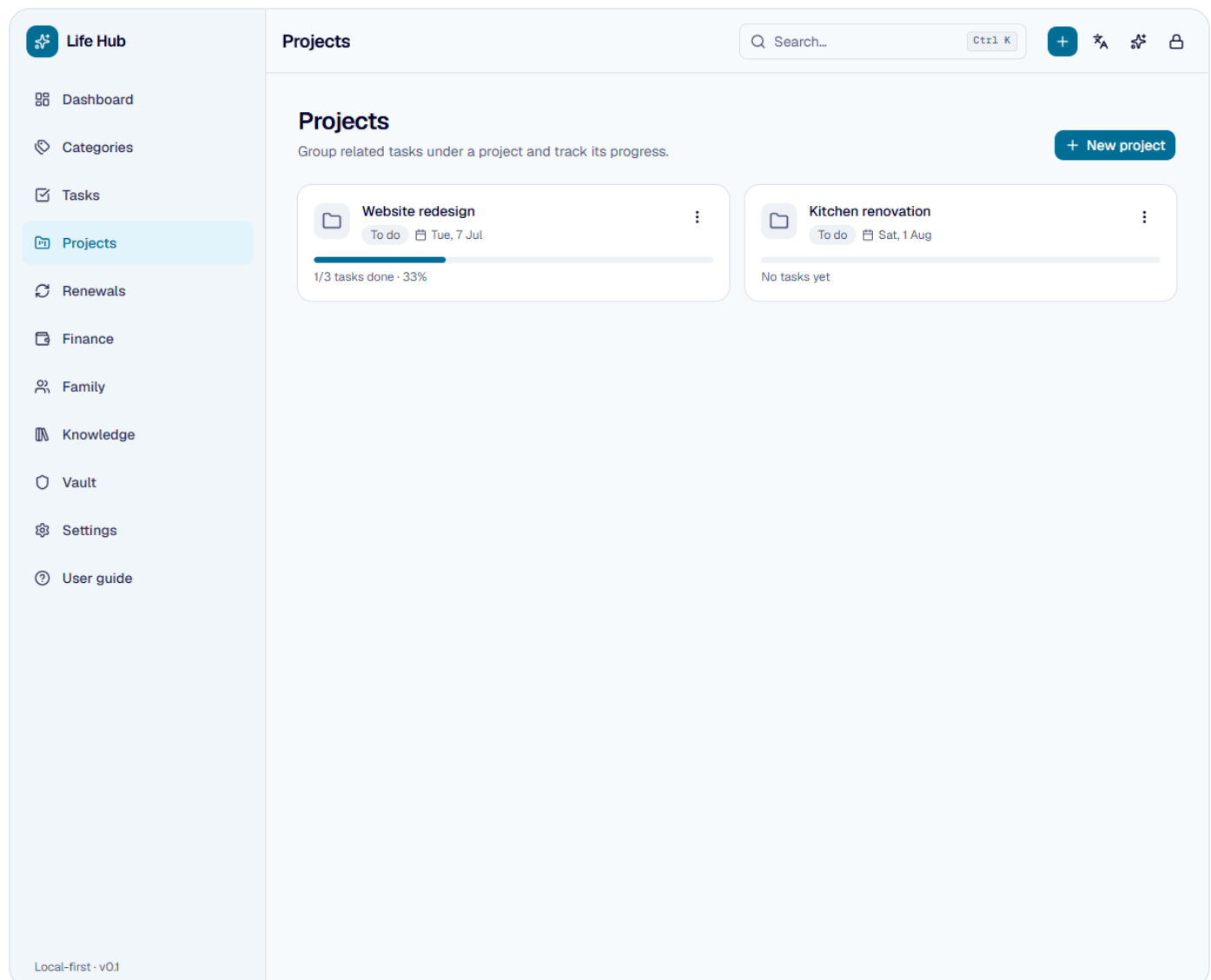
Add task

A task's **time of day**, when set, now shows everywhere the task appears — List, Board, Calendar, the dashboard, and the agenda.

Completing a recurring task keeps a history. When you complete a repeating task, the finished occurrence is saved as a **Done** item — so it stays in your Done views and in global search — while the task itself rolls forward to its next date. The completion toast offers **Undo** to reverse it.

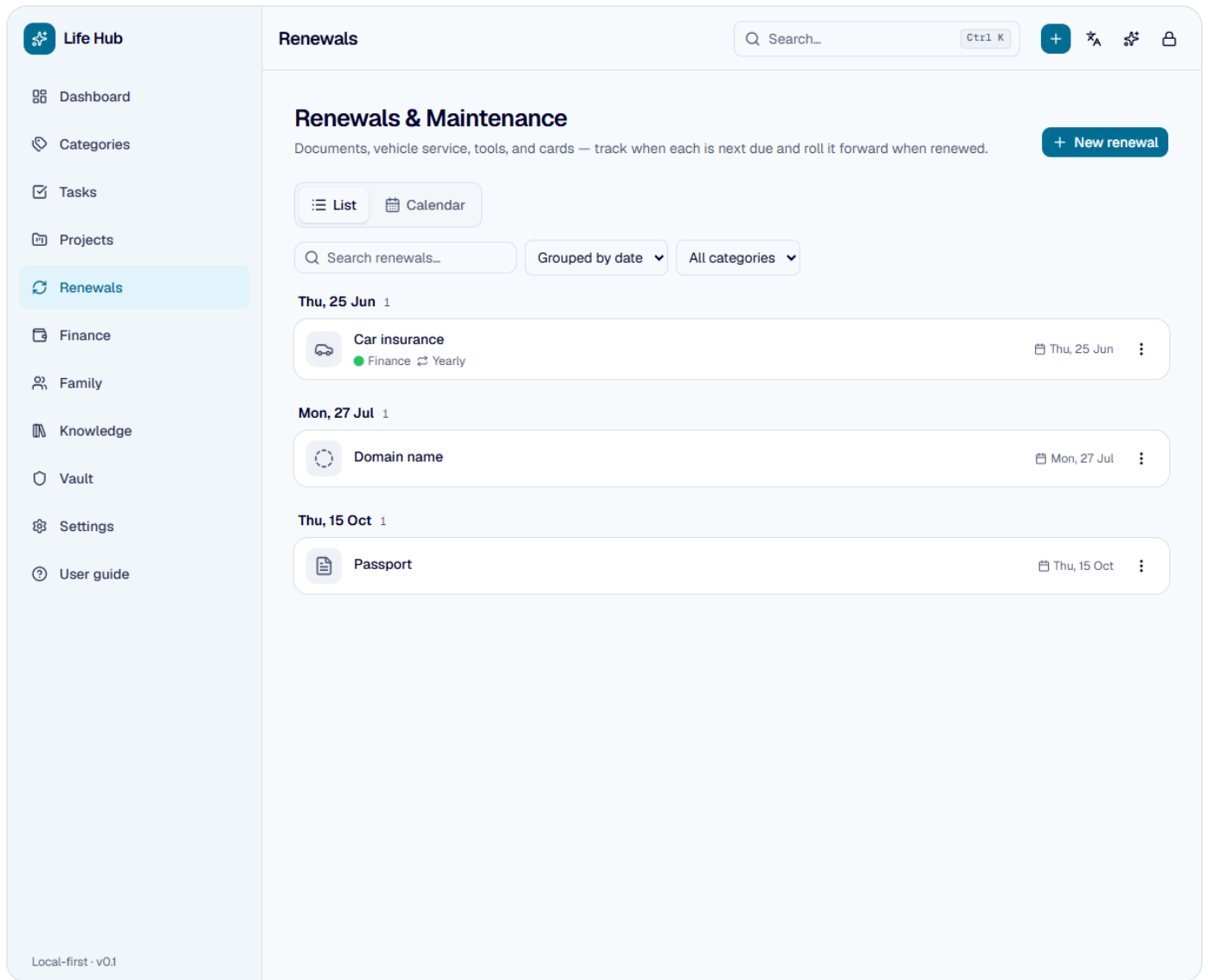
Projects

A project **groups tasks**; its progress percentage is computed automatically from how many of its tasks are done. Open a project to see its tasks and add new ones straight to it.



Renewals

Track things that expire — documents, vehicles, tools, cards. Each has a next-due date and a kind; **mark it renewed** to roll the date forward.



Renewing a **recurring** renewal works the same way: the renewed occurrence is kept as a completed record (a history you can find later), and the toast offers **Undo**.

Finance

Track money in three kinds: **debts you owe** (payable, عليك), **money owed to you** (receivable, لك), and recurring **commitments**. Log **payments** against a debt — Life Hub derives paid/remaining and marks it settled when fully paid. A per-currency **summary** shows what you owe and what you are owed. **Multiple currencies are first-class** — each record keeps its own currency and there is no automatic conversion. Finance has three tabs at the top: **Records**, **Budget**, and **Plans** (installments).

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Records

Budget

Installments

Finance

Debts, money owed to you, and recurring commitments — each in its own currency. Plan your income split under Budget.

+ New entry

You owe

Owed to you

\$1,100.00

\$500.00

List

Calendar

Q Search finance...

All types

Grouped by date

All categories

Mon, 29 Jun 1

Car loan

Bank

\$800.00

of \$1,200.00

Mon, 29 Jun

Fri, 3 Jul 1

Charity sponsorship

\$300.00

Fri, 3 Jul

Mon, 13 Jul 1

Loan to a friend

\$500.00

Mon, 13 Jul

N

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A **Budget** planner (Finance → Budget) splits your monthly income into envelopes (fixed amounts or percentages), one budget per currency. You **enter your monthly income manually** for each currency, then add allocations.

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Finance

Records

Budget

Installments

Budget

Plan how your monthly income is distributed — one budget per currency, no conversion.

Currency

USD

Monthly income

Enter your monthly income for this currency.

Monthly income - USD

5000.00

Save

Distribution

Monthly income

\$5,000.00

Allocated

\$3,300.00

Left to allocate

\$1,700.00

Rent

\$1,500.00

Savings

20%

\$1,000.00

Food

\$800.00

Allocations

+ Add allocation

^ Rent

Fixed amount

\$1,500.00

^ Savings

20%

\$1,000.00

^ Food

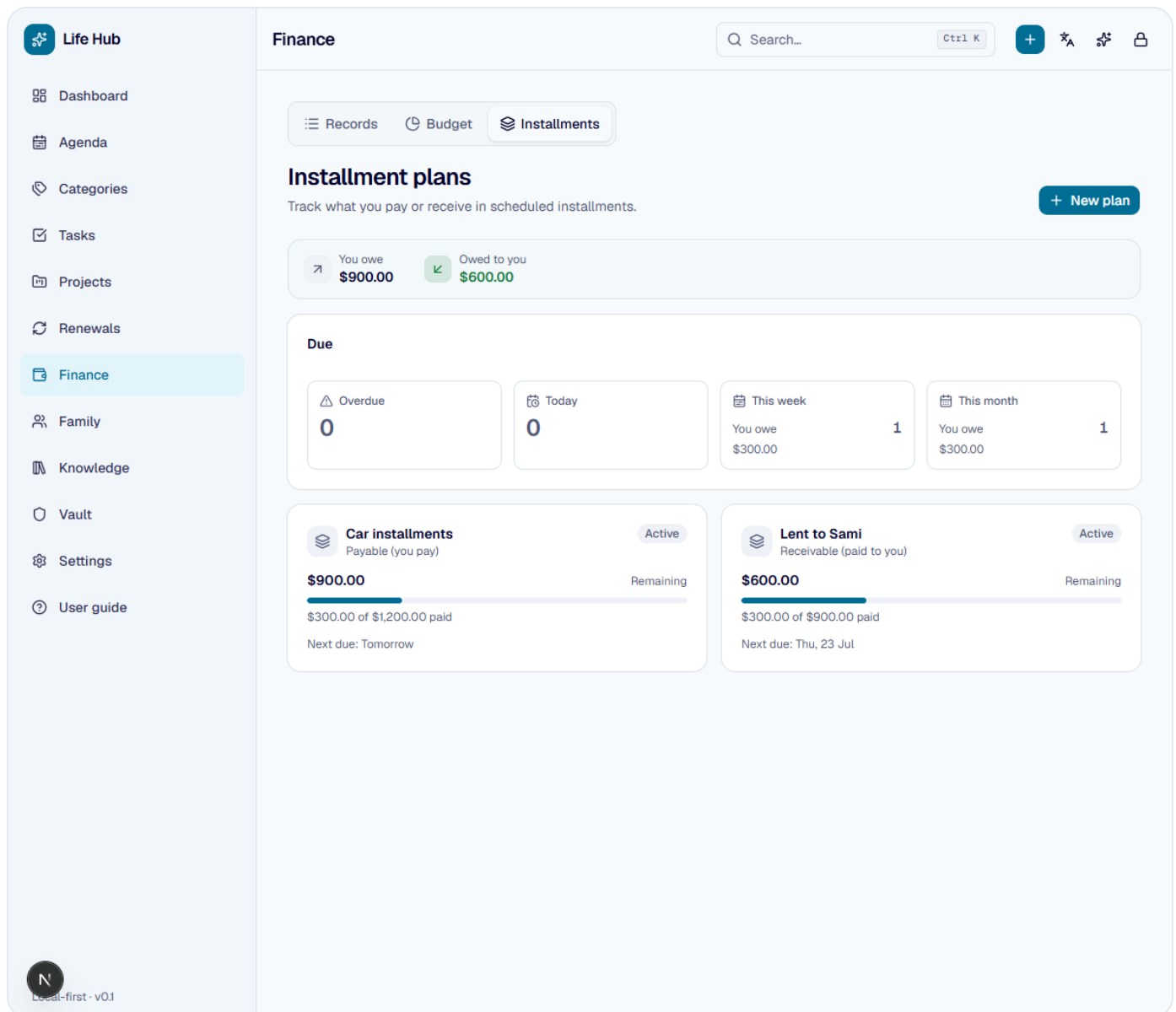
Fixed amount

\$800.00

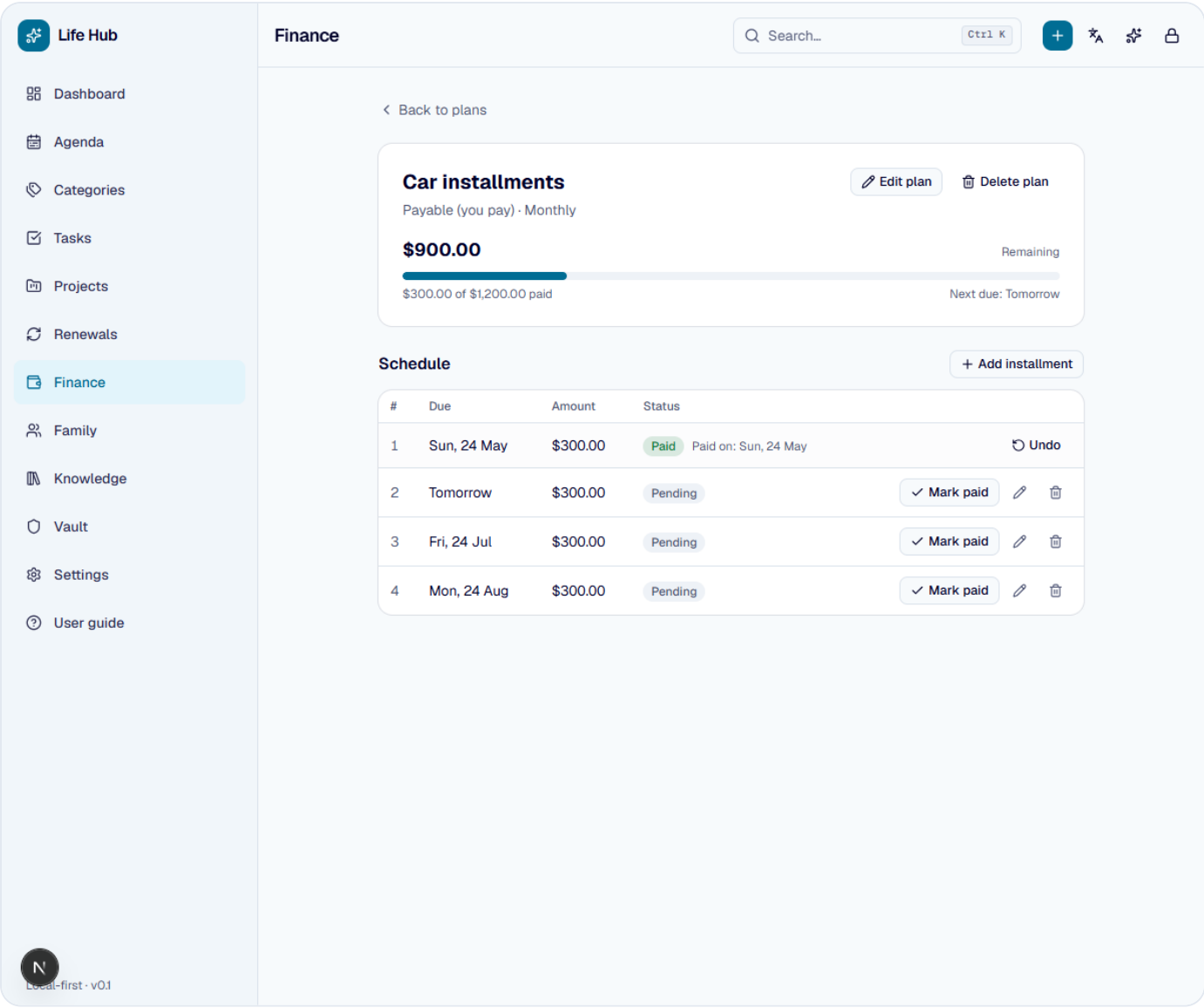
This is a plan — it doesn't move money. Each currency has its own budget.

Installment plans (الأقساط)

Open **Finance** → **Plans** to track anything paid in scheduled parts — in **both directions**: money **you owe** in instalments (payable, عليك) and money **owed to you** (receivable, لك). Create a plan with a **total**, a **per-installment amount**, a **first due date**, and a **recurrence** (e.g. monthly); Life Hub auto-generates the schedule, with the **last installment absorbing any remainder** so the parts always sum to the total. Month-end dates are handled correctly (e.g. Jan 31 → Feb 28/29).

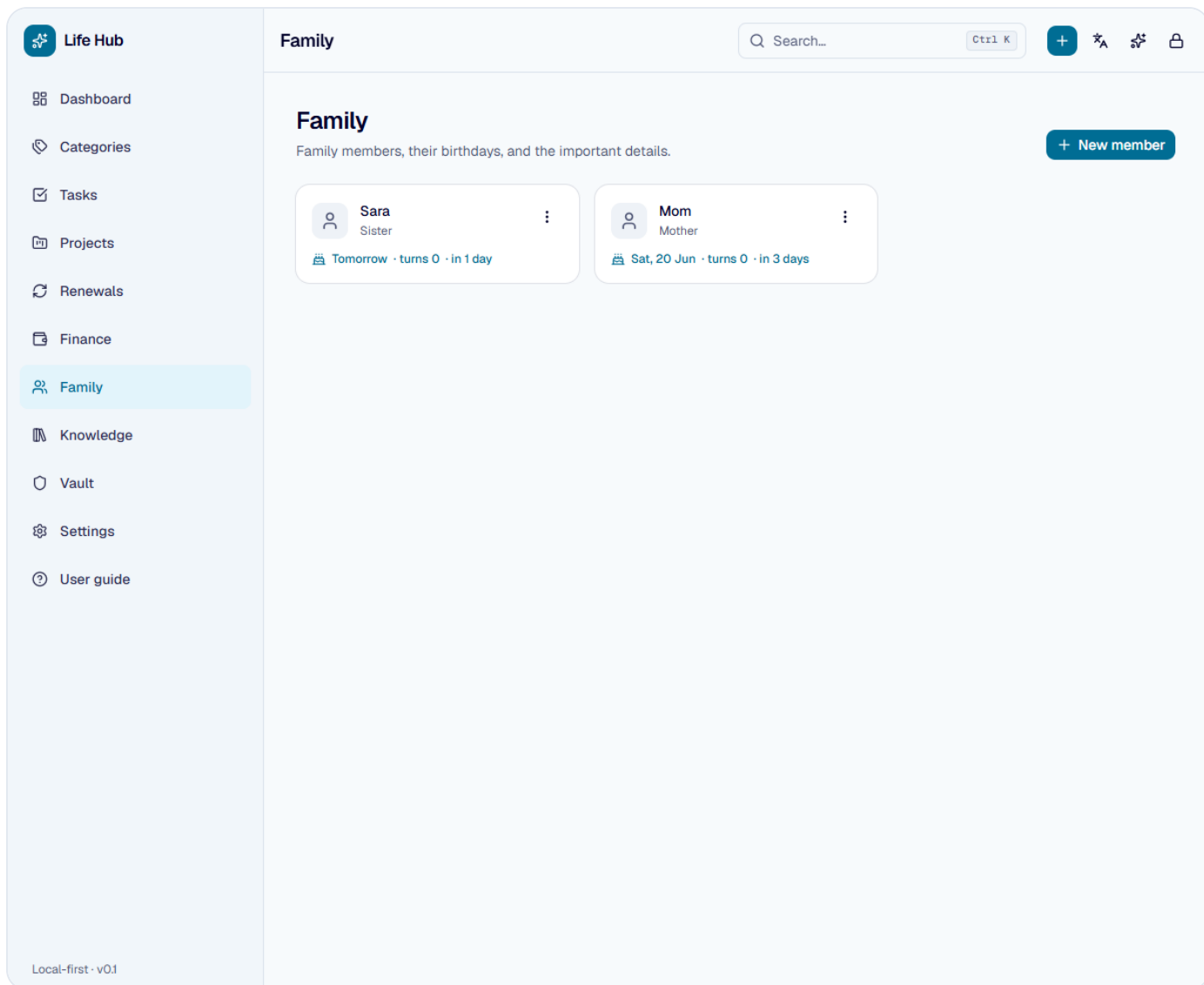


Open a plan to see its **schedule**; mark each installment **paid** (or **received** for a receivable) as it's settled — the remaining balance and the plan's next due date update automatically, and a fully-paid plan drops out of your due lists. The Plans tab shows its **own per-currency عليك/لك summary** plus a **"Due" card** that splits what's coming up by direction across **today / this week / this month / overdue**. Each plan also appears in the **dashboard** and the **agenda** at its next due date, showing that installment's amount and direction.



Family

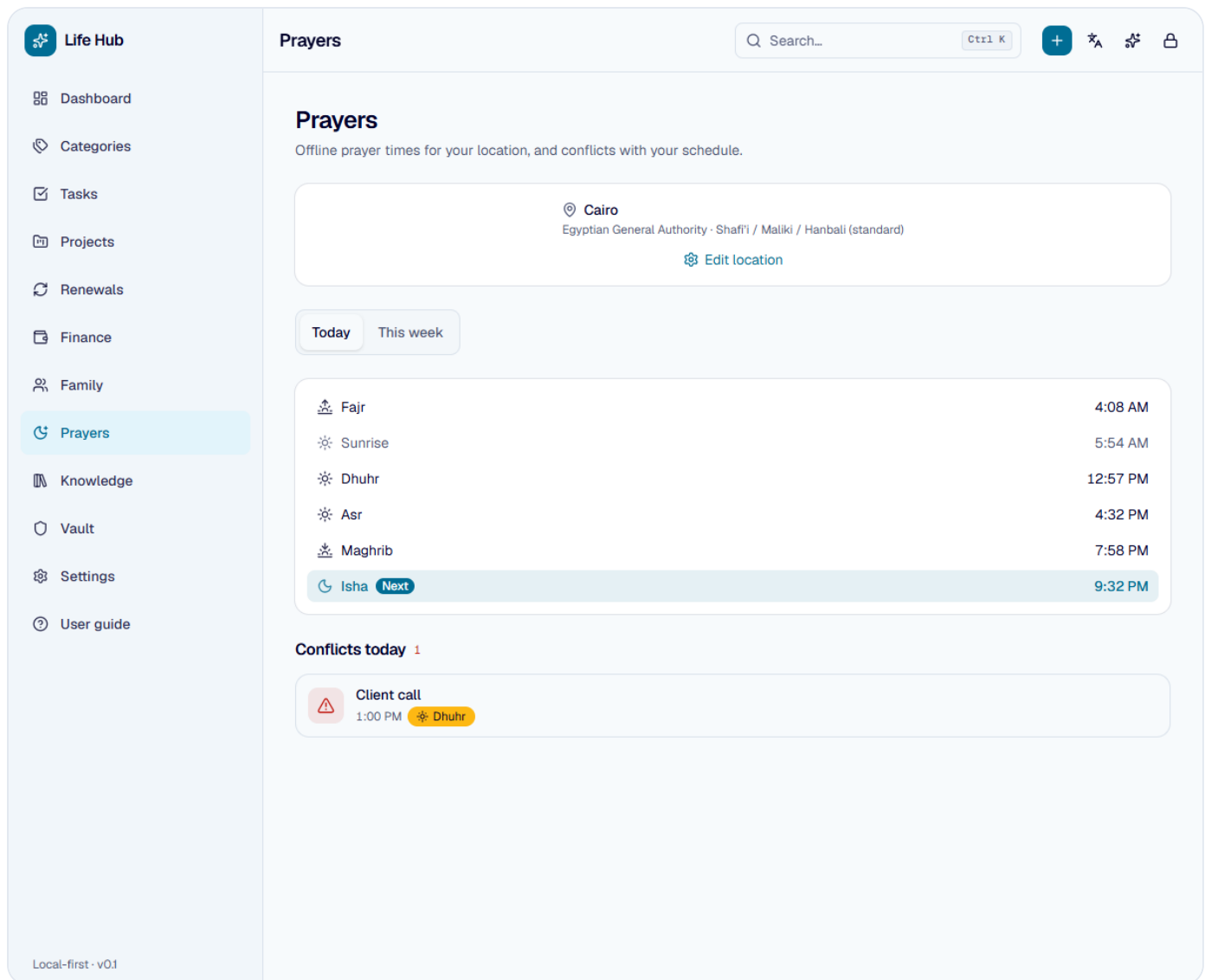
Keep family members and their **birthdays**. Each birthday becomes a yearly reminder that surfaces on the dashboard as it approaches.



Prayers

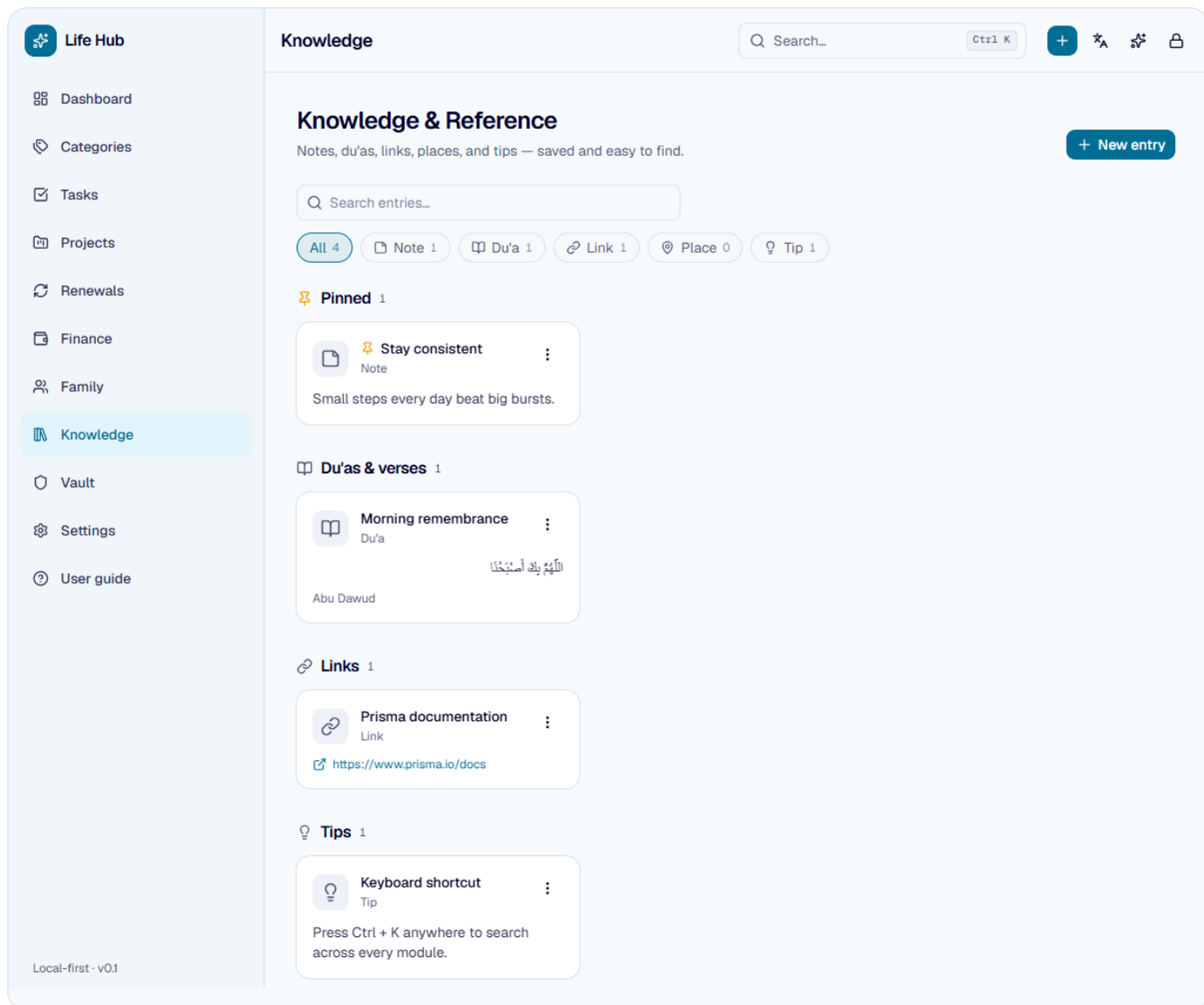
Optional module — off by default. Enable it first in **Settings** → **Modules** (§8); it then appears in the sidebar and on the dashboard. The screenshot below was taken with it enabled.

Life Hub computes **prayer times offline** from your coordinates. Set your **location**, **calculation method**, **Asr madhab**, and a **conflict buffer** in Settings. The page shows **today** and the **week**, highlights the next prayer, and flags any scheduled item that **clashes** with a prayer window.



Knowledge & Reference

A place for the things you look up: five kinds — **Notes**, **Du'as** (verses / hadith), **Links**, **Places**, and **Tips**. Filter by kind, **pin** the important ones to the top, and a pinned note/du'a/tip feeds the dashboard's **Daily inspiration**. These entries are undated, so they never clutter your reminders.



Legal cases

Optional module — off by default. Enable it first in **Settings** → **Modules** (§8); it then appears in the sidebar. The screenshot below was taken with it enabled.

Track cases with their metadata (case number, court, parties, type) and a chronological list of **hearings and deadlines**. The case surfaces by its **next upcoming event**. A built-in **deadline calculator** adds N days to a base date and can save the result as a deadline. Cases are **Open** or **Closed**.

Property boundary dispute

[Open](#)[Hearing](#)[Fri, 19 Jun](#)[Edit](#)[Delete](#)

Case number 2026/1042

Court Civil Court

Parties Khan vs. Patel

Case type Civil

Category No category

HEARINGS & DEADLINES

[+ Add event](#)

Sat, 30 May [Hearing](#)



First hearing

Outcome: Adjourned for documents



Fri, 19 Jun [Hearing](#) [Next](#)



Evidence hearing



Wed, 1 Jul [Deadline](#)



File written submission

DEADLINE CALCULATOR

Base date

Days

Deadline

2026-06-13



30



Mon, 13 Jul

[+ Save as deadline](#)

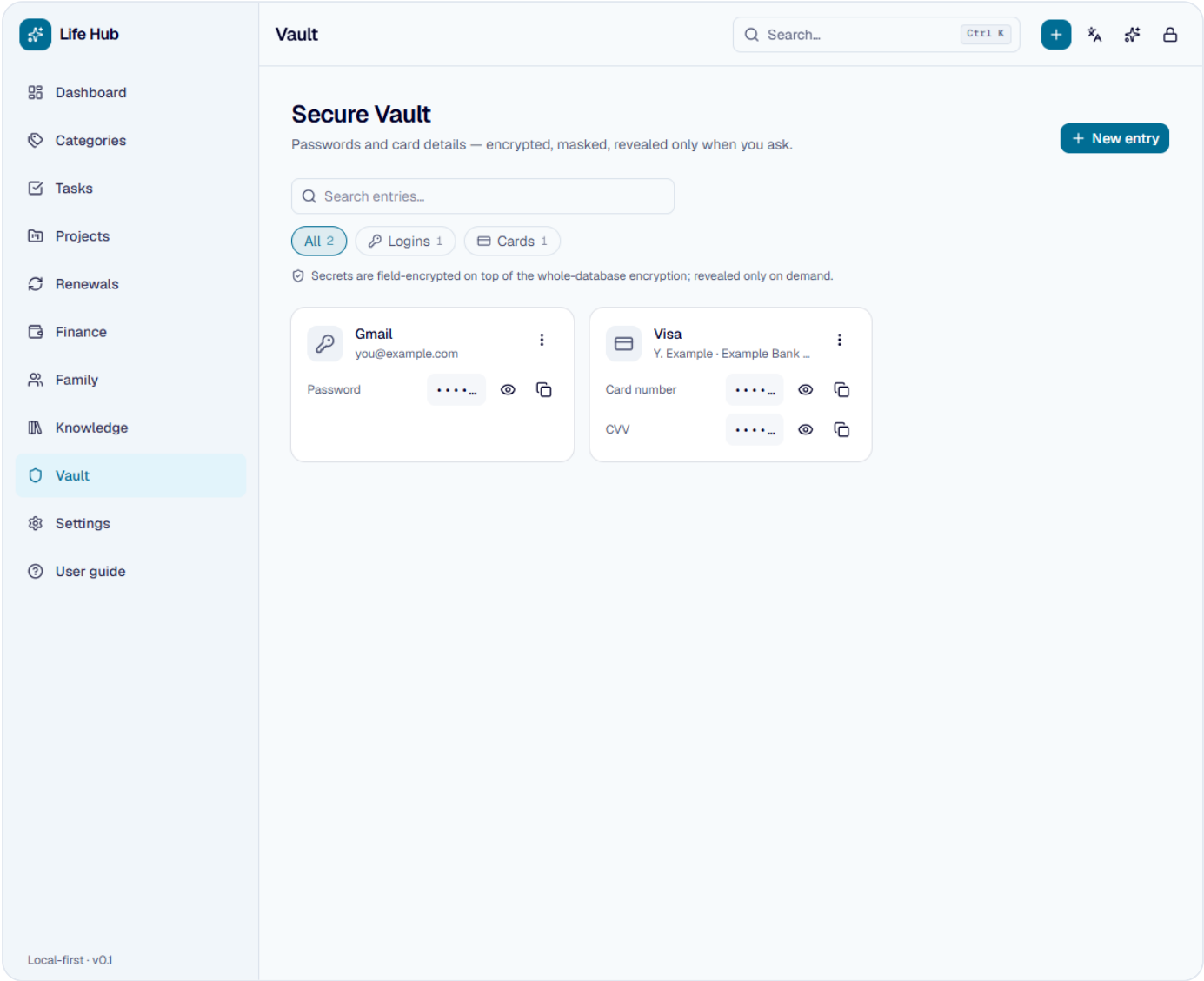
NOTES

Neighbour fence-line disagreement

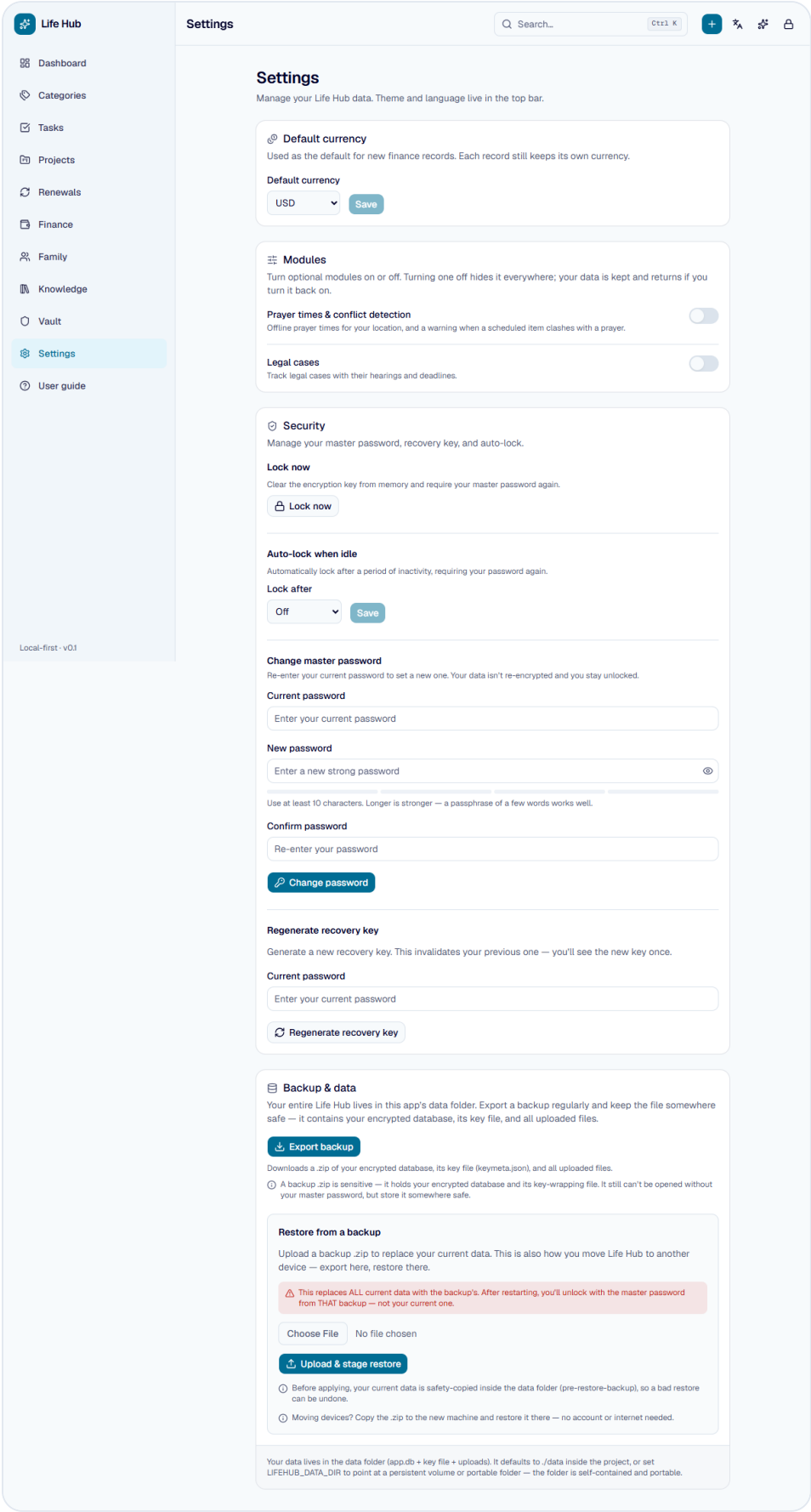
Created 13 Jun 2026, 1:22 PM Updated 13 Jun 2026, 1:25 PM

Secure Vault

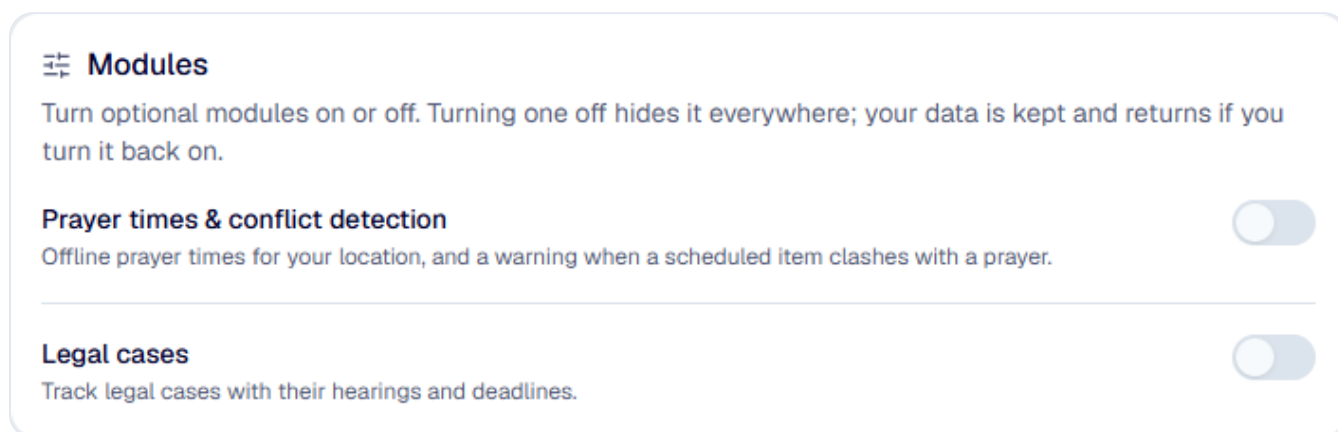
Store **logins** (passwords) and **card** details. On top of the whole-database encryption, each secret is **field-encrypted** — so it's never in plain text in query results, logs, search, or backups, even while you're unlocked. Secrets show as **••••** by default; click the **eye** to reveal or the **copy** button to copy (the clipboard is auto-cleared after about 20 seconds). Attachments here are protected by the database encryption but are *not* individually field-encrypted.



8. Settings

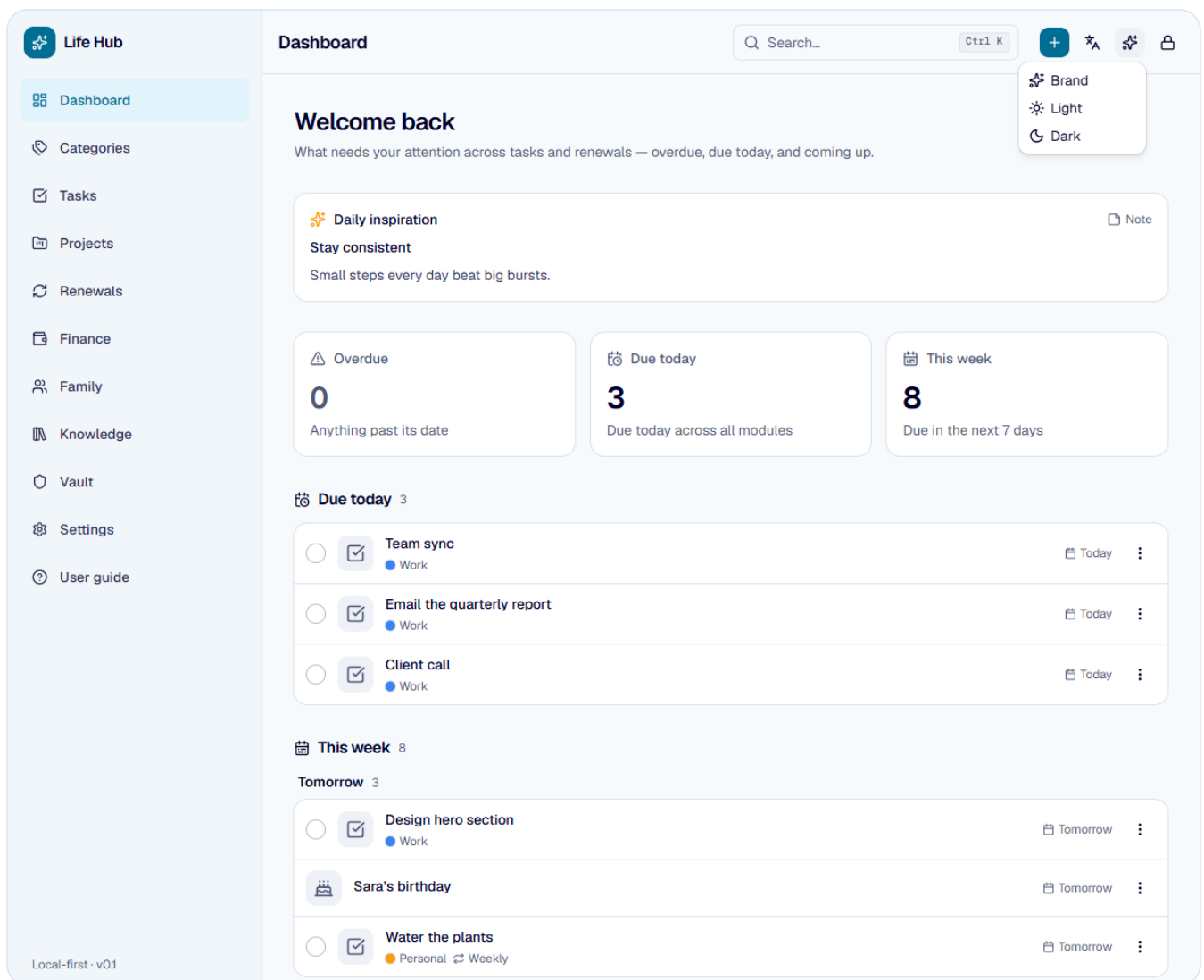


- **Language & RTL** — switch between English and Arabic from the top bar; the whole layout mirrors for Arabic.
- **Default currency** — used for new finance records (each record still keeps its own).
- **Optional modules** — turn **Prayers** and **Legal cases** on or off. Both are **off by default**. Turning a module **off hides it everywhere** — the sidebar, the dashboard, global search, and quick-add — but **never deletes your data**: re-enabling **Legal** brings all its cases back intact. **Prayers stores no data of its own** (it only computes times from your prayer settings), so there's nothing to keep or lose when you toggle it.



- **Prayer settings** (*shown only when Prayers is enabled*) — location (city presets or manual lat/long), calculation method, Asr madhab, and conflict-buffer minutes.

- **Theme** — choose **Brand** (the default), **Light**, or **Dark** from the top-bar theme menu. Your choice is remembered.



- **Security** —
 - **Lock now** and **idle auto-lock** (Off / 15 / 30 / 60 min).
 - **Change master password** — re-authenticates and re-wraps the same key, so there's no database re-encryption and no re-unlock.
 - **Regenerate recovery key** — issues a fresh recovery key (and invalidates the old one); shown once — save it.

9. Backup & restore

Backup & data

Your entire Life Hub lives in this app's data folder. Export a backup regularly and keep the file somewhere safe — it contains your encrypted database, its key file, and all uploaded files.

Export backup

Downloads a .zip of your encrypted database, its key file (keymeta.json), and all uploaded files.

- ⓘ A backup .zip is sensitive — it holds your encrypted database and its key-wrapping file. It still can't be opened without your master password, but store it somewhere safe.

Restore from a backup

Upload a backup .zip to replace your current data. This is also how you move Life Hub to another device — export here, restore there.

⚠ This replaces ALL current data with the backup's. After restarting, you'll unlock with the master password from THAT backup — not your current one.

Choose File No file chosen

Upload & stage restore

- ⓘ Before applying, your current data is safety-copied inside the data folder (pre-restore-backup), so a bad restore can be undone.
- ⓘ Moving devices? Copy the .zip to the new machine and restore it there — no account or internet needed.

Your data lives in the data folder (app.db + key file + uploads). It defaults to ./data inside the project, or set LIFEHUB_DATA_DIR to point at a persistent volume or portable folder — the folder is self-contained and portable.

Export (Settings → Backup & data → **Export backup**) downloads a single `.zip` containing your **encrypted** database, its key file (`keymeta.json`), and all uploaded files. It's self-contained and restorable on any device.

A backup `.zip` is **sensitive** — it holds your encrypted database and its key-wrapping file. It still can't be opened without your master password, but store it somewhere safe.

Restore (same card → **Restore from a backup**):

1. Choose a backup `.zip` and click **Upload & stage restore**. Life Hub checks it's a valid backup and *stages* it — nothing live is swapped yet.

2. **Restart the app.** The restore is applied at startup, *before* the database opens (so it never hits a file lock). Your current data is first safety-copied to `pre-restore-backup/<timestamp>/` inside the data folder.
3. **Unlock with the master password from THAT backup** — not your current one.

⚠ Restore **replaces all current data** with the backup's.

10. Moving / migrating Life Hub

The principle: all of Life Hub's state is one **data folder** — `app.db` (the encrypted database) + `keymeta.json` (the key-wrapping file) + `uploads/`. Encryption is **password-based**, not tied to any device or server. So the same data moves **anywhere** and you unlock it with the **same master password**.

Where that folder is:

- **Desktop (Windows):** `...\AppData\Roaming\life-hub\LifeHub`.
- **Self-hosted:** the `lifehub-data` **Docker volume** (mounted at `/data`), or wherever `LIFEHUB_DATA_DIR` points (bare-Node).

Make the source consistent first: either **Export** a backup, or **stop the app / container** before copying the folder. Never copy a *live* data folder mid-write.

The easiest, edition-agnostic move is **Export** → **Restore** (the in-app guided backup, §9): it produces one self-contained `.zip` you restore on the destination, then unlock with **that backup's** master password.

- **(a) Desktop ↔ desktop.** **Export** on the old PC, copy the `.zip`, **Restore** on the new one. Or quit the app and copy the whole `...\life-hub\LifeHub` folder across. Unlock with the same password.
- **(b) Server ↔ server.** Export/Restore, **or** move the `lifehub-data` volume — e.g. on the old host `docker run --rm -v lifehub-data:/data -v "$PWD":/b busybox tar czf /b/data.tgz -C /data .`, then restore that tarball into the volume on the new host — **or** `scp / rsync` the `LIFEHUB_DATA_DIR` folder. Bring the app up there and unlock.

- **(c) Desktop ↔ server (either direction).** It's the **same encrypted data** either way: **Export** from one and **Restore** on the other (or copy the data folder into the target's data location), then unlock with the same master password.
-

11. Running live (on a server)

Production notes for the **self-hosted** edition (the quickstart is in [§2 B](#); the bundled `dist-server/README.md` has the full detail):

- **Always-on.** Under Docker, `docker compose up -d --build` runs detached with `restart: unless-stopped`, so it comes back after a reboot. (Bare-Node: manage `node server-entry.cjs` with a process manager such as systemd or pm2.)
- **Encryption is always on.** With `NODE_ENV=production`, encryption + the unlock gate are enforced; the dev-only no-encryption mode is ignored.
- **TLS / reverse proxy.** The container (and the server) speaks plain **HTTP** on `PORT` (default 3000). Terminate **HTTPS at your own reverse proxy** (Nginx / Caddy / Traefik) and map the container to a loopback port (e.g. `127.0.0.1:3000:3000`) so it isn't exposed directly. The app already sends security headers, including **HSTS**.

```
# Caddy example
lifehub.example.com {
    reverse_proxy 127.0.0.1:3000
}
```

- **Persistence + backup.** Keep your data on the `lifehub-data` volume (or the `LIFEHUB_DATA_DIR` folder) and back it up regularly — the in-app **Export** ([§9](#)) or a volume snapshot.
 - **Updates.** Replace the bundle and recreate the container (`docker compose up -d --build`); the data volume carries over.
-

12. Maintenance & troubleshooting

- **Updating. Desktop:** run the newer `Life-Hub-Setup-x.x.x.exe` — it installs over the old version and your data is kept. **Self-hosted:** replace the `dist-server` bundle and `docker compose up -d --build` — the data volume is kept.
- **Where your data lives.** Desktop: `...\AppData\Roaming\life-hub\LifeHub`. Self-hosted: the `lifehub-data` volume, or the `LIFEHUB_DATA_DIR` folder. Back it up regularly (§9).

FAQ

- **I forgot my master password.** Use your **recovery key** on the unlock screen (*Use recovery key instead*). If you've lost **both**, the data is **unrecoverable** — there is no reset, by design.
- **SmartScreen says the desktop installer is unrecognized.** It isn't code-signed yet — click **More info** → **Run anyway**. (It installs per-user and needs no administrator.)
- **The desktop app won't open / shows a blank window.** Fully quit it (check the Task Manager) and relaunch from the shortcut — only one copy runs at a time.
- **Self-hosted: the page won't load.** Confirm the container is up (`docker compose ps` , `docker compose logs -f`) and that your reverse proxy points at the right port. For bare-Node, see the ABI note below.
- **Self-hosted (bare-Node): a native-module / ABI error** ("*compiled against a different Node.js version*", "*invalid ELF header*"). Your Node version or platform doesn't match the bundled binaries — use **Node 22.x on linux x64 (glibc)**, or just use the Docker image (recommended), which pins this.
- **My restore didn't apply.** A staged restore is applied on the **next start** — fully **restart** the app (or recreate the container).

Life Hub — your life, in one place, on your own terms.
