AI Stripper

WINDOWS PRIVACY UTILITY

User Manual

VERSION 2.3.3

Quick Start

1. **Open files** — Drop images into the queue or use Open files. JPG, JPEG, PNG, and WebP are supported.
2. **Choose output** — Pick a format. Optionally select each file and edit Output name. Naming details are on page 10.
3. **Choose a workflow** — Strip metadata removes embedded data. Strip + write fields removes it first, then writes only the fields you entered.
4. **Find the result** — Outputs use your chosen names, or the source name plus Added text, beside each original. Existing names are numbered from -2.

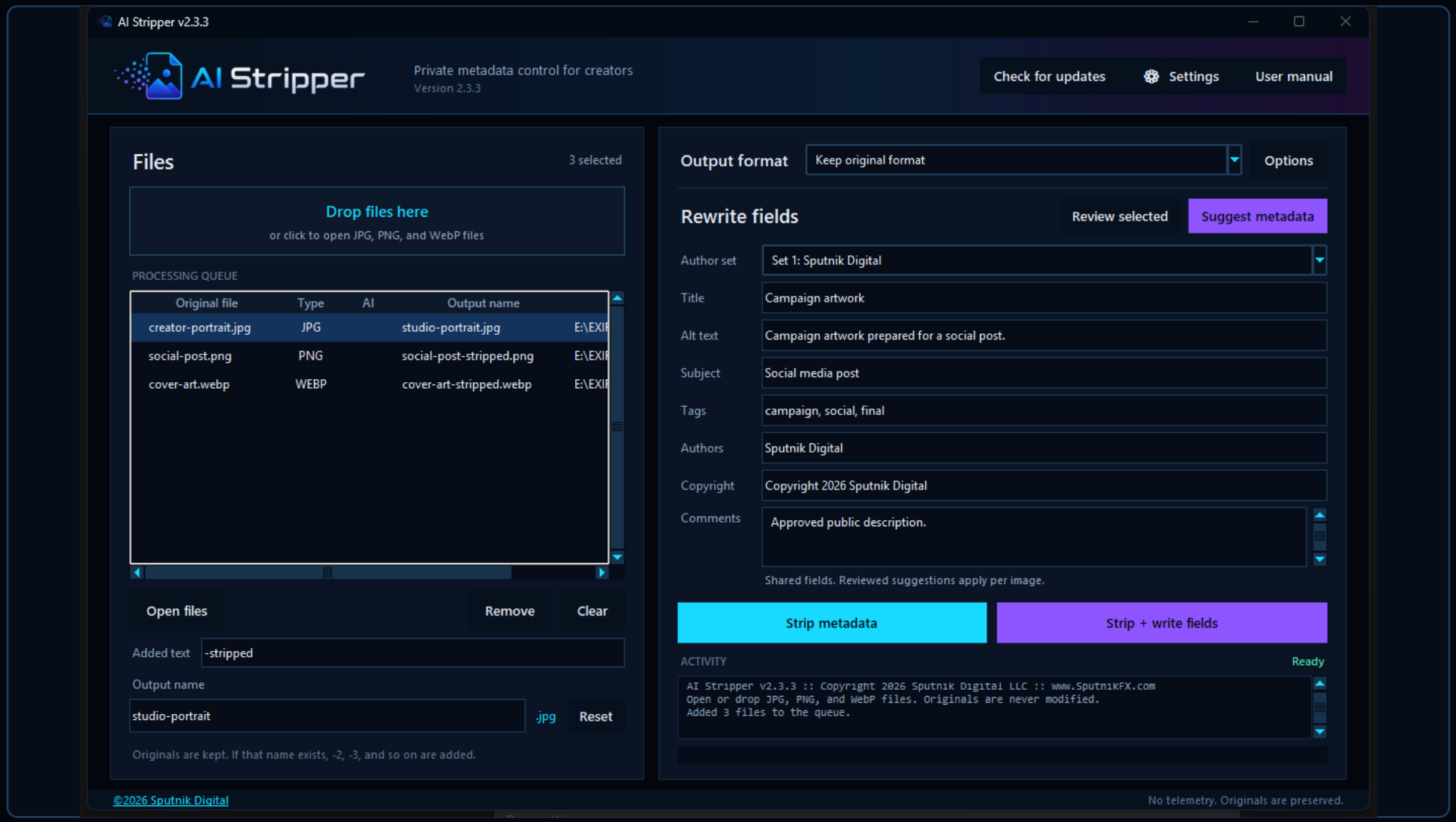
Two operations, two different guarantees

Same-format stripping rewrites only the image container and leaves encoded image data untouched. Format conversion decodes and re-encodes the image. AI Stripper labels that difference before conversion begins.

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Workspace and Files

The full workflow fits inside the 1280 by 800 window. No input or output folders are required.



Stripping and Conversion

The output selector determines whether AI Stripper edits only the container or creates a newly encoded image.

Keep original format

- JPG scan data, PNG image chunks, and WebP image payloads are copied without decoding or recompression.
- Existing EXIF, XMP, comments, generator data, and unsupported ancillary metadata are removed.
- Animated WebP stays animated when the output format is unchanged.
- Images with display-changing EXIF orientation require format conversion so the visible orientation can be normalized.

Convert to JPG, PNG, or WebP

- The image is decoded and re-encoded using the options you approve.
- JPG uses lossy compression. PNG is lossless. WebP can be either.
- Transparent pixels converted to JPG are flattened onto the chosen color, white by default.
- Animated images are rejected during conversion so frames are never discarded silently.

Output behavior

LOCATION	Outputs are written to the same folder as each source file.
NAME	Choose a name per file, or keep the source name plus Added text. Existing names receive -2, then -3. See page 10.
ORIGINALS	Source files are never moved, renamed, overwritten, or deleted.
BATCHES	One output format applies to the entire queue. A mixed queue can contain JPG, PNG, and WebP sources.
ERRORS	A failed file is reported in Activity. The rest of the queue continues.
VERIFICATION	Completed bytes are checked for unexpected metadata before the final output is written.

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Rewrite Fields

No field is required. Empty fields are omitted, and the source metadata is never copied forward.

Available fields

TITLE	The public title or display name for the image.
ALT	Alternative text. WordPress 7.0 and later copies this into the image alt field.
SUBJECT	A short description or headline.
TAGS	Comma- or semicolon-separated keywords.
AUTHORS	One creator or a comma-separated list.
COPYRIGHT	The rights statement you want embedded.
COMMENTS	A longer note or description.

Workflow rule

Strip metadata ignores the rewrite fields, even when they contain text.

Strip + write fields removes existing metadata first and writes only the non-empty values shown in the form.

Windows File Explorer does not reliably display PNG or WebP metadata. A blank Details panel is not proof that the fields are missing.

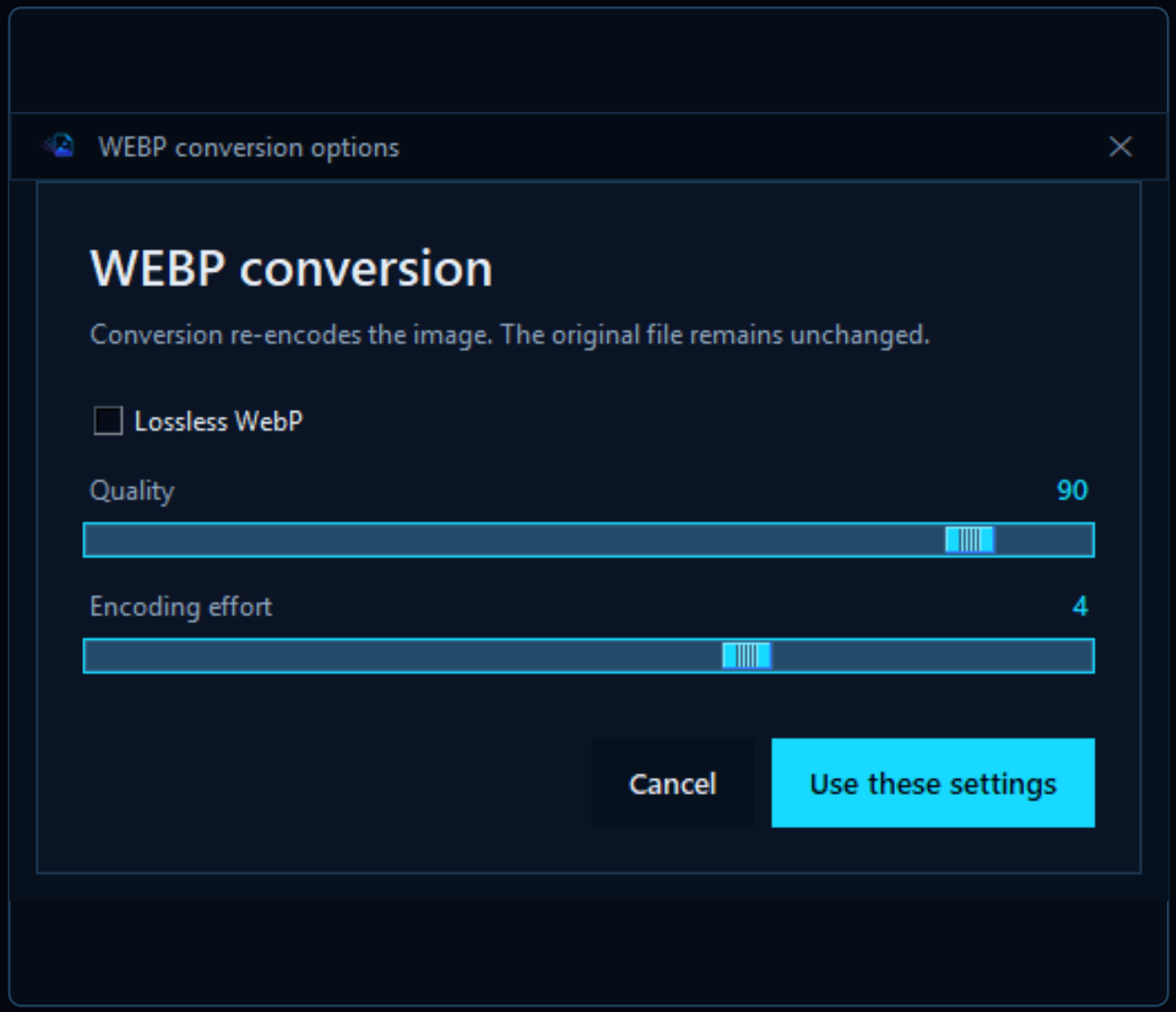
How fields are stored

JPG	Writes EXIF, XMP, and an IPTC headline taken from Title.
PNG	Writes EXIF, XMP, UTF-8 iTXt, and legacy tEXt fields. Encoded PNG image data is not recompressed during same-format stripping.
WEBP	Writes EXIF and XMP chunks and updates the WebP feature flags without touching the visual payload.
UNICODE	Titles, alt text, comments, authors, and subjects support Unicode through EXIF XP fields and XMP.

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Format Options

A conversion options window appears before any file is re-encoded. Settings apply only to files that need conversion.



JPG

QUALITY	1 through 100. The default is 92.
COLOR	4:4:4, 4:2:2, or 4:2:0 chroma sampling.
PROGRESSIVE	Enabled by default.
BACKGROUND	Color used when transparency must be flattened.

PNG

Compression ranges from 0 through 9. It changes encoding effort and file size, not image quality.

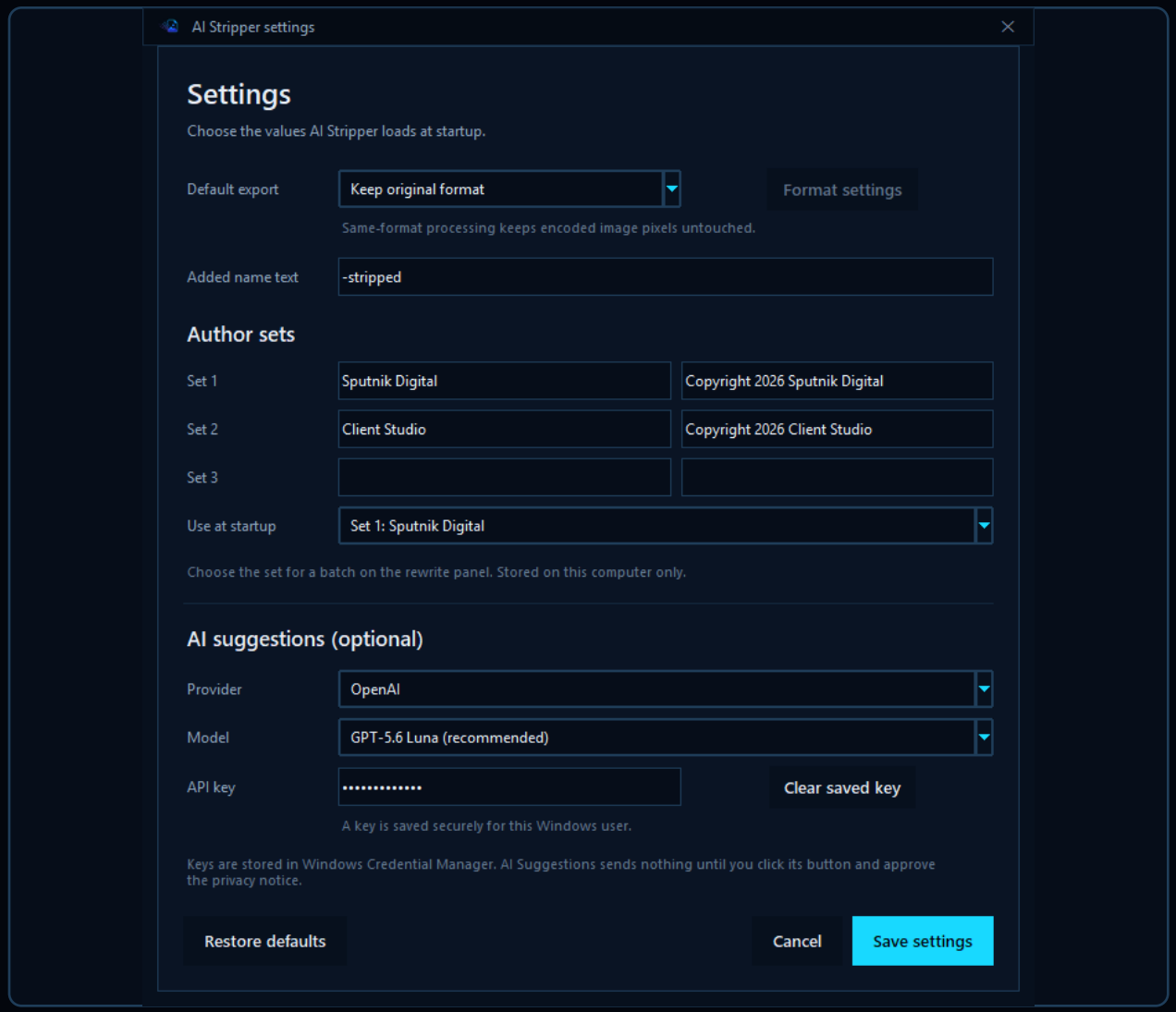
WebP

Choose lossless or lossy output, quality from 0 through 100, and encoding effort from 0 through 6.

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Saved Defaults

The Settings button controls what AI Stripper loads when a new session starts.



Export defaults

FORMAT Choose source format, JPG, PNG, or WebP.

OPTIONS Format settings opens the same conversion controls used by the batch workspace.

SCOPE Changing batch controls does not overwrite the saved defaults.

Rewrite defaults

Save up to three author and copyright pairs. The rewrite panel chooses the pair for the current batch.

AI Suggestions

PROVIDER Choose OpenAI or Google Gemini and a supported vision model.

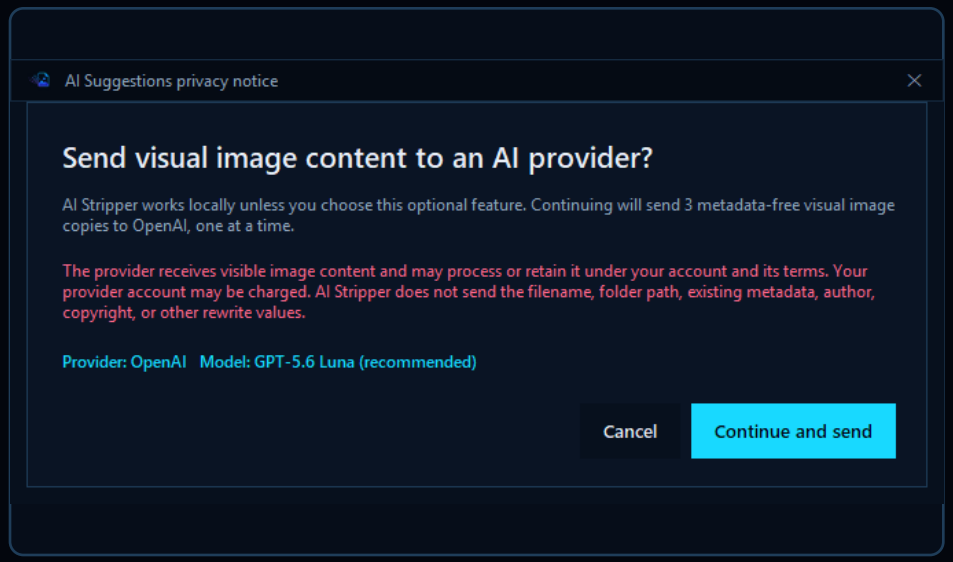
KEY Stored as a Generic Credential for the current Windows user, never in settings.json.

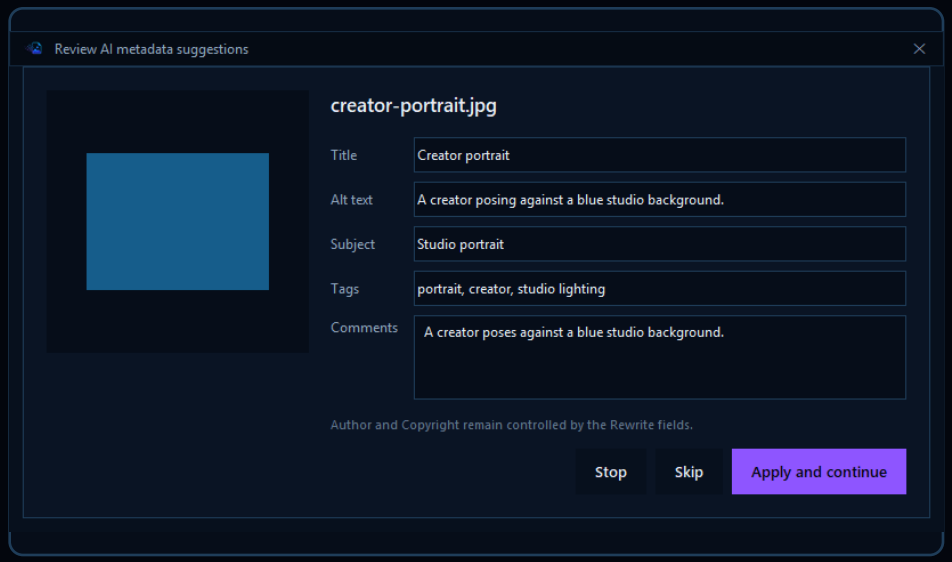
DISPLAY A saved key appears as masked dots. Click the field to enter a replacement key.

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Optional AI Suggestions

This feature is off until you configure a provider key, click Suggest metadata, and approve the privacy notice for that run.





One image at a time

SELECTION	Selected queue files are analyzed. With no selection, the full queue is used.
DISCLOSURE	Every invocation identifies the provider, model, image count, possible provider retention, and possible charges.
REQUEST	A metadata-free JPEG rendering is resized to at most 1600 pixels. Filename, path, source metadata, and rewrite values are omitted.
REVIEW	Edit and apply the response, skip it, or stop before the next image is sent.
FIELDS	AI can suggest Title, Alt text, Subject, Tags, and Comments. Author and Copyright stay under direct user control.
MODELS	OpenAI: GPT-5.6 Luna, GPT-5.4 mini, or GPT-5.4 nano. Google: Gemini 3.8 Flash, Gemini 3.6 Flash, or Gemini 3.5 Flash-Lite.
RETRIES	An interrupted OpenAI connection is retried twice with one idempotency key before the request stops.
USE	Accepted values fill the rewrite fields and remain editable per image. Use Strip + write fields to save metadata.

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Updates and Privacy

Stripping, rewriting, conversion, verification, and output creation stay local. Optional AI Suggestions is the only image-provider path.

Update notification

- The app makes one HTTPS request shortly after startup.
- The endpoint is www.sputnikfx.com/software/ai-stripper/update.
- A newer semantic version displays an in-app banner.
- Open update page launches the trusted SputnikFX download URL in the default browser.
- AI Stripper never downloads or installs an update automatically.

Optional provider request

- Nothing is sent until the user clicks Suggest metadata and approves the notice shown for that run.
- The selected OpenAI or Google Gemini account receives visible image content and may charge for the request.
- Provider processing and retention are governed by that account and the provider's terms.
- Canceling the notice makes no provider request.
- Provider API keys remain in Windows Credential Manager.

Data boundaries

LOCAL	Original images, output files, rewrite values, Activity text, and processing history are not transmitted by core operations.
UPDATE	The version check sends no image data, filenames, folder paths, rewrite values, or device identifier.
AI COPY	The provider receives a newly rendered metadata-free image copy only after approval. The copy exists in memory for the request.
SETTINGS	settings.json contains export defaults, added name text, up to three author and copyright sets, provider, and model. It contains no provider keys or usage history.
TELEMETRY	AI Stripper has no analytics or advertising SDK. Provider requests are user-initiated features, not telemetry.

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Installation and Support

The signed installer requests administrator permission and installs the application, manual, notices, and shortcuts for the computer.

Run and verify

DOWNLOAD	Download AI Stripper Setup 2.3.3.exe from SputnikFX.com.
PUBLISHER	Windows should identify the signed publisher as Sputnik Digital LLC.
INSTALL	Run the installer and approve the Windows administrator prompt.
UPGRADE	Setup closes detected AI Stripper processes before replacing the installed application.
LOCATION	The default location is the system Program Files directory.
MANUAL	The PDF is installed with the app and opens from the header or Start menu.
UPDATE	Use the version button in the header to check again.

Troubleshooting

- If an upgrade reports a locked application, close AI Stripper and run Setup again. Current Setup builds can force-close a hidden stuck process.
- If an animated image must change formats, export the animation with a dedicated animation editor first.
- If a converted JPG has the wrong background, choose JPG Options and select the correct transparency color.
- If metadata fields are blank in Windows Explorer, inspect PNG and WebP files with a metadata-aware tool.
- If AI Suggestions reports an interrupted connection after three attempts, check internet access and try again.
- If a pin created by v2.2.3 or v2.2.4 stays separate after updating, unpin it once and pin the new running window.
- If update checking fails, the processing features continue to work offline.

Release details

PRODUCT	AI Stripper v2.3.3
SUPPORTED	Windows 10 and Windows 11, 64-bit.
INPUTS	JPG, JPEG, PNG, and WebP.
OUTPUTS	Keep source format, JPG, PNG, or WebP.
SIGNATURE	The installer, application, and uninstaller carry Sputnik Digital LLC Authenticode signatures.
PUBLISHER	Sputnik Digital LLC
WEBSITE	www.SputnikFX.com

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Choose a Name for Each Output

Naming works with both strip actions. The source file is never renamed.

Per-file naming

- Select one file in the queue and edit Output name below the list. Each file keeps its own name.
- The queue previews the requested output filename. Use the horizontal scrollbar for long names and folders.
- The output selector supplies the extension. A pasted JPG, JPEG, PNG, or WebP extension is replaced with the selected type.
- Reset or an empty Output name restores the source name plus Added text. Added text defaults to -stripped and is saved. Custom names last only for the current queue.

File safety

- Every output stays beside its original, including files from different source folders.
- Existing names receive -2, -3, and so on. There is no -1. Choosing the source's own name produces a numbered output, never an overwrite.
- Paths, reserved Windows names, invalid characters, and names ending in a space or period are rejected before the batch starts.
- The name editor is disabled for multiple selections and while the app is working. AI suggestions do not rename files.

Examples

DEFAULT	IMG_8136.JPG becomes IMG_8136-stripped.jpg. Change Added text to rename that ending for the batch.
CUSTOM	Set Output name to studio-portrait and choose WebP: studio-portrait.webp.
COLLISION	If studio-portrait.webp exists, the new file is studio-portrait-2.webp.
EXTENSION	Paste studio-portrait.png and choose JPG: studio-portrait.jpg.

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