

Synchronizing the Zyzzyva Data Directory Between NASPA Zyzzyva (Desktop/ Laptop) and a New NASPA Zyzzyva Mobile Installation

This document provides step-by-step instructions on how to set up data synchronization between **NASPA Zyzzyva** on your desktop / laptop computer and **NASPA Zyzzyva Mobile** on your phone or tablet.

Data synchronization lets you preserve your study results across multiple devices and use quizzes created in NASPA Zyzzyva on your mobile device where NASPA Zyzzyva Mobile where the search conditions are more limited.

In most cases, users have a desktop / laptop installation with valuable data before installing the mobile app. In this scenario, it is important to synchronize the desktop / laptop side before the mobile side as outlined in the instructions.

1. If you do not have a personal Dropbox account, create one at www.dropbox.com - then skip to Step 4.
2. Visit your Dropbox cloud storage by browsing to www.dropbox.com. Look for a folder named **Apps** and a subfolder **Apps/Zyzzyva** in your personal Dropbox storage. If no such folder exists, you have no “old” Dropbox data directory. Skip to Step 4.
3. Your existing data directory on Dropbox was probably created by the old (pre-2021) Zyzzyva iOS app. Peruse the files under **lexicons** and **quiz/data** for old, large files that you no longer need, and delete them; you probably have newer data in your Windows / macOS / Unix computer’s data directory that you will want to sync here, and syncing these old data will waste space on all devices after it is synced.
4. Open the **NASPA Zyzzyva Mobile (NZM)** app on your mobile device. In the Settings tab, under Data Synchronization, touch Link to Provider, touch Dropbox, and then follow the instructions to link your mobile app to a new **Apps/Zyzzyva** app folder in your Dropbox cloud storage, using the same Dropbox account identity. Do not sync at this time. This step ensures that you have an app folder at that exact location that Dropbox knows belongs to the NZM app.

Note: The Sign in with Google button does not work in this specific situation, due to Google restrictions.

*Creating an **Apps/Zyzyva** folder manually will not work, as Dropbox will reject it for ownership reasons and create a separate one when NZM tries to link to it. If this step has created a folder named **Apps/Zyzyva (1)**, then Dropbox has rejected the existing folder; delete both folders, then repeat this step.*

5. On your desktop or laptop computer, make sure that you have installed the Dropbox application, that it is running, and that it has synced the **Apps/Zyzyva** folder to wherever you have configured that application to sync its files - usually a folder named **Dropbox** in your user account's home directory, i.e., **~/Dropbox** or **%UserProfile%\Dropbox**). That folder may be empty, or it may contain old data as described in Step 3.
6. On your desktop or laptop computer, open the NASPA Zyzyva (NZ) application. In its Preferences dialog, in the General section, under Data Directory, find the current location of your NASPA Zyzyva data directory, where your cardbox/quiz-statistics database(s) and other data live. If that already shows as the **Apps/Zyzyva** folder location described in Step 5, skip to Step 9.

Note: Do not use the Move data after saving preferences checkbox.

7. Use your file explorer to copy or move that data directory so that it lands at the **Apps/Zyzyva** folder location described in Step 5; when you are prompted about replacing like-named files, you should probably say yes, unless you think that some file previously stored in Dropbox is more worth keeping. Dropbox will then sync these changes back to your Dropbox cloud storage.
8. While waiting for Dropbox to sync those changes, open the NZ application. Back in its Preferences dialog, use the Browse... button under Data Directory to tell it that its data directory now lives at the **Apps/Zyzyva** folder location described in Step 5, then click OK, and then quit and reopen NZ. NZ should operate as before with all saved quizzes, cardbox data, etc., intact.

9. Once the Dropbox sync of Step 7 is complete, on your mobile device, open NZM. Make sure it's still linked to Dropbox as described in Step 4 and then touch Sync Now to begin syncing your "good" data from your Dropbox cloud storage to your mobile device. You will see alerts about data synchronization conflicts, because some files exist both on Dropbox ("remote") and on your mobile device ("local"). Touch Yes at the first prompt (to say that remote data is valid for syncing where there is conflict), then No at the second prompt (to say that local data is not valid for syncing in those cases), and then Yes to proceed with the sync. This will take a few minutes; touch Yes if asked to continue waiting and keep the app in the foreground (active) until you see the count of items to sync count down to zero.

If the sync is cut off, perhaps because the app was unloaded, you can restart it and it will pick up where it left off.

You have now synced your data across all three locations (desktop/laptop, mobile, and Dropbox).

10. From here on, be sure to "sync down" when starting the mobile app and "sync up" when you are done, so that all data changes are synced "up" to the Dropbox cloud (and then back "down" to your desktop / laptop through the automatic sync function of the Dropbox application).

There are options in the Settings tab you can enable to make this happen automatically when you start or quit the mobile app. On the desktop / laptop side, changes will passively sync up to Dropbox without manual action, but it's best not to change data there while the mobile app is open, as sync conflicts can result.

Adding another desktop installation to the same sync set is generally straightforward - after installing NZ, just do Step 5 and Step 8. To add another mobile installation, just do Step 9.