

How Do I Keep Track of All These People???

by Kathy Foggia

Now that you have gathered what you have about your family, recorded what you know and interviewed relatives, maybe even started to research a little, you probably have a list of names, dates, and some documents. Now how do you keep all the information organized and easily found when you want it? That is what a family tree does, storing it either online or on a genealogy software program.

In the past, traditional software had the best tools for family trees and creating charts, but technology has made it more difficult to pick between online trees and software. We will go over the options to help you choose what will work best for you. You can pick either one for essential tasks, and a combination of the two adds flexibility.

Genealogy Software -

While you must determine which is the best family tree software for you, this chart will provide you with the details on the most popular programs.

These programs make it easy to navigate in your family tree, create reports and wall charts. You can print or share as PDF files. Most of these programs are inexpensive and don't require any ongoing fees, except for optional upgrades. And your files reside on your hard drive, where you have complete control over them. Now, almost all software offers online features, such as searches on FamilySearch, that give you hints to records or other family trees that may match your ancestors.

Name	Manufacturer	Cost	Mac	Windows	Mobile app	Syncs with	Hints from
Family Tree Maker 2017 <www.familytreemaker.com>	MacKiev	\$79.95	X	X		Ancestry	Ancestry, FamilySearch
Legacy Family Tree 9 <www.legacyfamilytree.com>	MyHeritage	\$34.95 Deluxe Edition		X	Families for IOS and Android (\$14.99)	FamilySearch, Family Tree	FamilySearch, Findmypast, GenealogyBank, and MyHeritage
RootsMagic 8 with TreeShare <www.rootsmagic.com>	RootsMagic	\$29.95 (\$19.95 upgrade)	X	X	RootsMagic for IOS and Android (free; no editing capabilities)	Ancestry, FamilySearch, Family Tree	Ancestry, FamilySearch

Online Trees -

Most family tree websites let you build your tree from scratch or start it with a GEDCOM file generated from your genealogy software.

Online trees offer several advantages over traditional software: You never have to pay for a software update. You can access your tree from any computer or mobile device, and you don't have to worry about backing it up. You may be able to make your tree public or private and, either way, invite relatives to collaborate on it with you.

	Cost	Mobile app	Syncs with software	Hints from
Ancestry <www.ancestry.com>	Free tree; US (\$19.99/month or \$99/six months) or world (\$34.99/month or \$149/six months) subscription required for most records access	Ancestry, IOS and Android (free)	Family Tree Maker 2017, RootsMagic 7 with TreeShare	Ancestry.com
FamilySearch Family Tree <www.familysearch.com>	Free	FamilySearch Tree and FamilySearch memories; both IOS and Android (free)	Legacy Family Tree 9, RootsMagic 7 with TreeShare	FamilySearch
Findmypast <www.findmypast.com>	Free trees; Starter (\$9.95/month or \$34.95/year) or Premium (\$19.95/month or \$239.50/year) subscription required for most records access			Findmypast
MyHeritage <www.myheritage.com>	Free basic tree; annual Premium (\$110) or Premium Plus (\$175.12) subscription required for larger trees; Data subscription required	MyHeritage, IOS and Android (free)	Family Tree Builder (MyHeritage has announced syding in the next version of Legacy Family Tree)	MyHeritage