



Passware Kit Forensic 2021

Quick Start Guide

This guide covers:

- Detecting encrypted files and containers
- Recovering a file password
- Using the Dictionary Manager tool
- Customizing password recovery settings
- Extracting passwords from a memory image
- Decrypting a Keychain
- Decrypting a VeraCrypt container



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Before You Begin

To get started with this guide, please follow the steps below:

1. Install Passware Kit Forensic 2021

Passware customers can download the software from [Passware Account](#). If you do not own a Passware Kit license yet, please download [Passware Kit Forensic Demo](#) and review the list of limitations below.

2. Check for updates

Select "Check for Updates..." from the Help menu or download the latest version from [Passware Account](#).

3. Get sample files

[Download](#) files.

Passware Kit Forensic Demo version limitations:

- Recovers either the first 3 letters of passwords or passwords containing no more than 3 characters
- Allows each of the attacks to run for up to 1 minute
- 64 MB limitation for VeraCrypt volume size

Passware Tip: Contact [Sales Team](#) to get a fully functional time-limited evaluation version of Passware Kit Forensic (available to Law Enforcement only).

System Requirements

PC platforms: Microsoft Windows Vista, Server 2003/2008/2012/2016/2019, or Windows 7/8.x/10 (64-bit only).

macOS: Mojave, Catalina, Big Sur.

- 1 GHz processor (2.4 GHz recommended)
- 1 GB of RAM (4 GB recommended)
- 1 GB of free hard disk space (more if you use custom dictionaries). For hardware acceleration on some strong file types, it is recommended to have 2 x (RAM + GPUs RAM) of free disk space for paging file.

GPU: GPU (Graphics Processing Unit) cards allow users to accelerate password recovery by up to 400 times compared to CPU-only systems. Passware Kit supports almost all types of NVIDIA (GTX, Tesla) and AMD GPUs.

Follow [the link](#) to get more information on hardware system and GPU recommendations.

Passware Tip: Passware Kit for Mac is a beta version. This beta is [available](#) for free to all Passware Kit Forensic customers with an active SMS subscription.

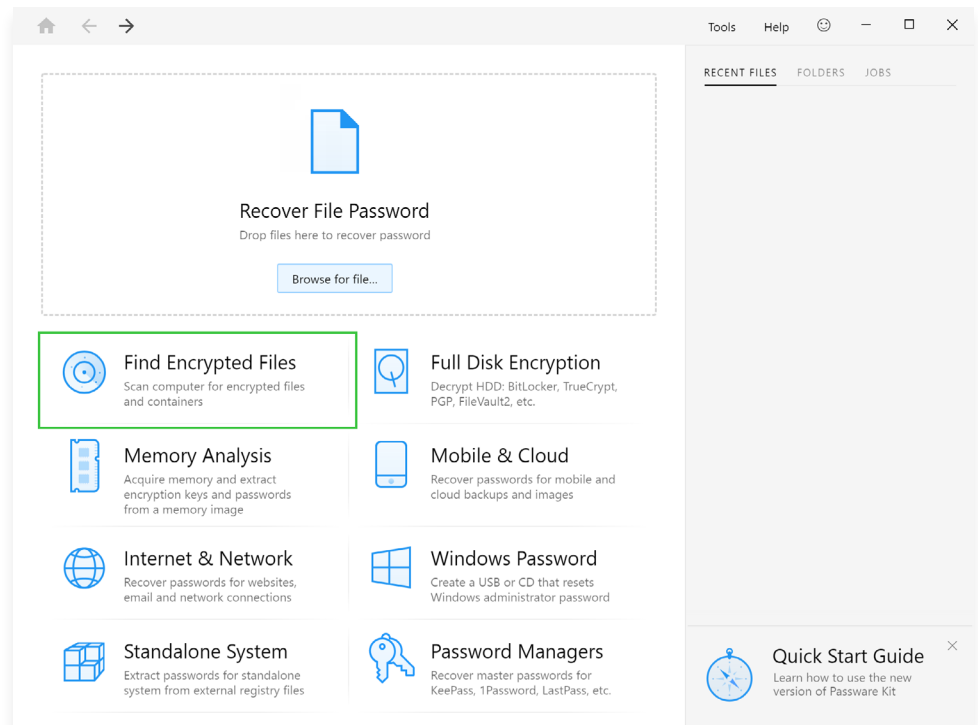
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Task 1

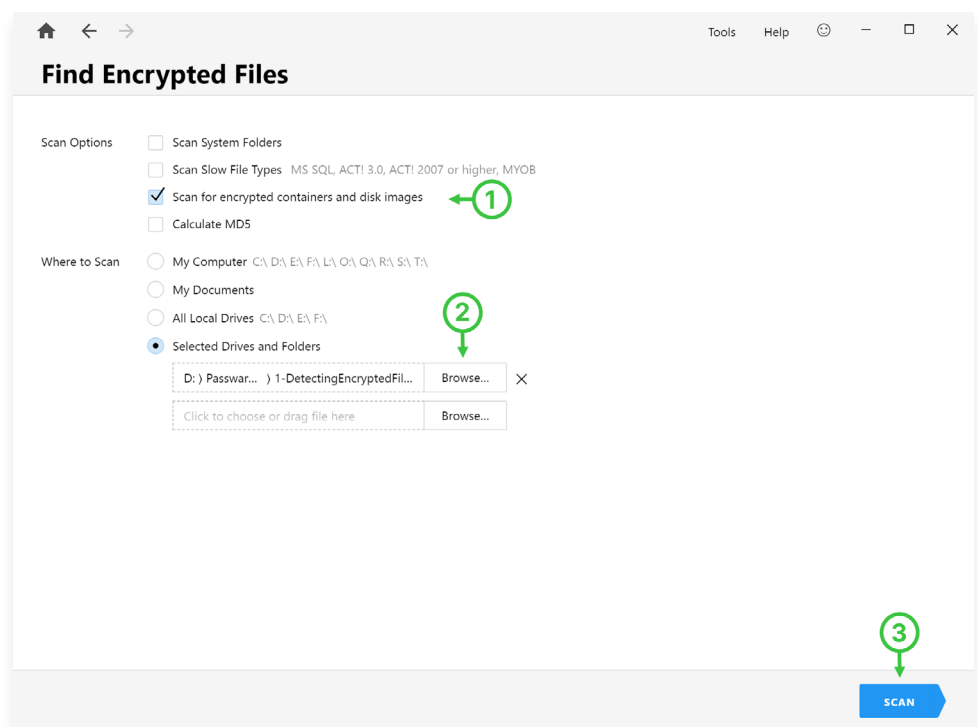
Detecting encrypted files and containers

1. On the Start page, click **Find Encrypted Files**:

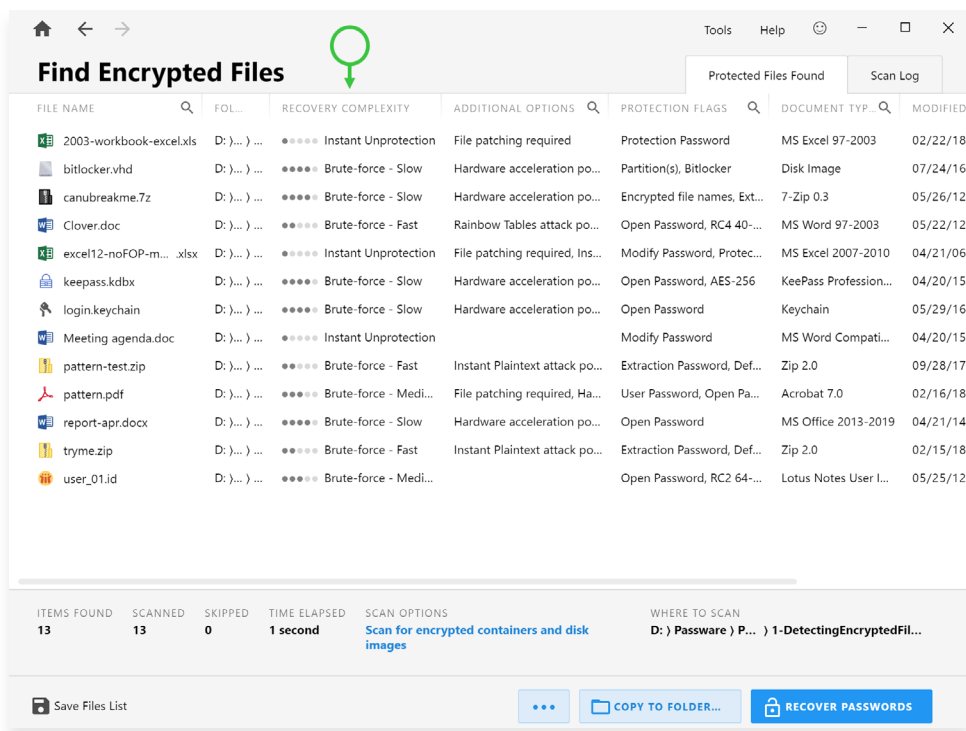


2. Enable the checkbox **Scan for encrypted containers and disk images**, click **Browse** and select the folder **1-DetectingEncryptedFiles** to scan:

Click **Scan**.



3. Passware Kit lists the encrypted files along with the detailed information about them, such as **Recovery Complexity**, **Protection Flags**, **Date Modified**, etc. Click **Recovery Complexity** to sort the files by the encryption strength.



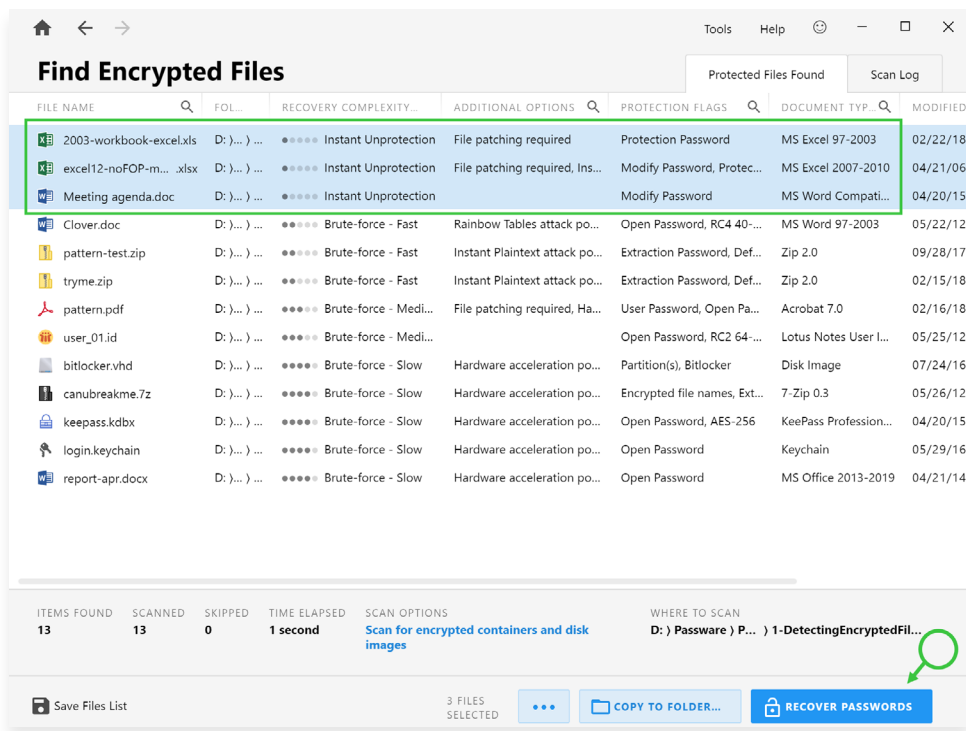
FILE NAME	FOL...	RECOVERY COMPLEXITY	ADDITIONAL OPTIONS	PROTECTION FLAGS	DOCUMENT TYP...	MODIFIED
2003-workbook-excel.xls	D:\... \...	Instant Unprotection	File patching required	Protection Password	MS Excel 97-2003	02/22/18
bitlocker.vhd	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Partition(s), Bitlocker	Disk Image	07/24/16
canubreakme.7z	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Encrypted file names, Ext...	7-Zip 0.3	05/26/12
Clover.doc	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Fast	Rainbow Tables attack po...	Open Password, RC4 40-...	MS Word 97-2003	05/22/12
excel12-noFOP-m... .xlsx	D:\... \...	Instant Unprotection	File patching required, Ins...	Modify Password, Protec...	MS Excel 2007-2010	04/21/06
keepass.kdbx	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Open Password, AES-256	KeePass Profession...	04/20/15
login.keychain	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Open Password	Keychain	05/29/16
Meeting agenda.doc	D:\... \...	Instant Unprotection		Modify Password	MS Word Compati...	04/20/15
pattern-test.zip	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Fast	Instant Plaintext attack po...	Extraction Password, Def...	Zip 2.0	09/28/17
pattern.pdf	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Medi...	File patching required, Ha...	User Password, Open Pa...	Acrobat 7.0	02/16/18
report-apr.docx	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Open Password	MS Office 2013-2019	04/21/14
tryme.zip	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Fast	Instant Plaintext attack po...	Extraction Password, Def...	Zip 2.0	02/15/18
user_01.id	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Medi...		Open Password, RC2 64-...	Lotus Notes User L...	05/25/12

ITEMS FOUND: 13 | SCANNED: 13 | SKIPPED: 0 | TIME ELAPSED: 1 second | SCAN OPTIONS: Scan for encrypted containers and disk images | WHERE TO SCAN: D:\ Passware) P...) 1-DetectingEncryptedFil...

Buttons: Save Files List, COPY TO FOLDER..., RECOVER PASSWORDS

Passware Tip: Do not lose the results of the search. Use the **Save Files List** option to save the list of found encrypted items into **Passware Job File (*.pwjf)**. To load the list back, choose **JOBS** in the right panel on the **Start Page**. Click **Open Job** and browse for the saved **Passware Job File**.

4. Optionally: Select the files (use **Ctrl-click** to select dedicated files or **Shift-click** to select multiple items at once) that you want to decrypt, starting from files with **Instant Unprotection** complexity and moving on to files with stronger encryption, such as archives or containers. Click **Recover Passwords** to proceed with password recovery and decryption in [batch mode](#).



FILE NAME	FOL...	RECOVERY COMPLEXITY	ADDITIONAL OPTIONS	PROTECTION FLAGS	DOCUMENT TYP...	MODIFIED
2003-workbook-excel.xls	D:\... \...	Instant Unprotection	File patching required	Protection Password	MS Excel 97-2003	02/22/18
excel12-noFOP-m... .xlsx	D:\... \...	Instant Unprotection	File patching required, Ins...	Modify Password, Protec...	MS Excel 2007-2010	04/21/06
Meeting agenda.doc	D:\... \...	Instant Unprotection	Modify Password	Open Password	MS Word Compati...	04/20/15
Clover.doc	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Fast	Rainbow Tables attack po...	Open Password, RC4 40-...	MS Word 97-2003	05/22/12
pattern-test.zip	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Fast	Instant Plaintext attack po...	Extraction Password, Def...	Zip 2.0	09/28/17
tryme.zip	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Fast	Instant Plaintext attack po...	Extraction Password, Def...	Zip 2.0	02/15/18
pattern.pdf	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Medi...	File patching required, Ha...	User Password, Open Pa...	Acrobat 7.0	02/16/18
user_01.id	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Medi...		Open Password, RC2 64-...	Lotus Notes User L...	05/25/12
bitlocker.vhd	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Partition(s), Bitlocker	Disk Image	07/24/16
canubreakme.7z	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Encrypted file names, Ext...	7-Zip 0.3	05/26/12
keepass.kdbx	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Open Password, AES-256	KeePass Profession...	04/20/15
login.keychain	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Open Password	Keychain	05/29/16
report-apr.docx	D:\... \...	Brute-force - Slow	Hardware acceleration po...	Open Password	MS Office 2013-2019	04/21/14

ITEMS FOUND: 13 | SCANNED: 13 | SKIPPED: 0 | TIME ELAPSED: 1 second | SCAN OPTIONS: Scan for encrypted containers and disk images | WHERE TO SCAN: D:\ Passware) P...) 1-DetectingEncryptedFil...

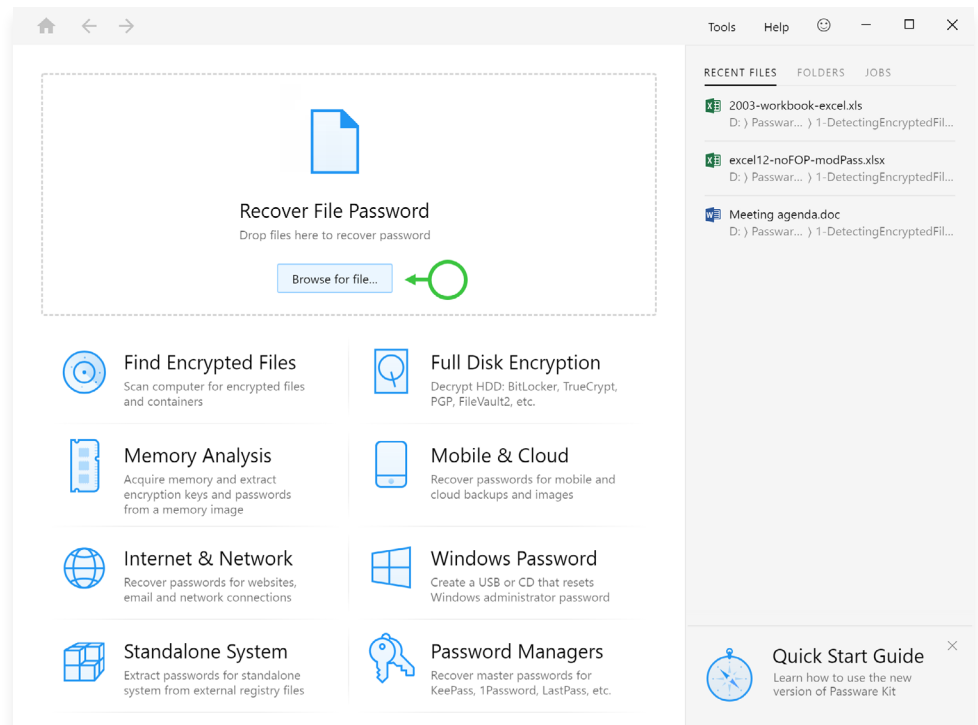
Buttons: Save Files List, 3 FILES SELECTED, COPY TO FOLDER..., RECOVER PASSWORDS

Passware Tip: Check out [5 Tips for Discovering and Analyzing Encrypted Electronic Evidence](#).

Task 2

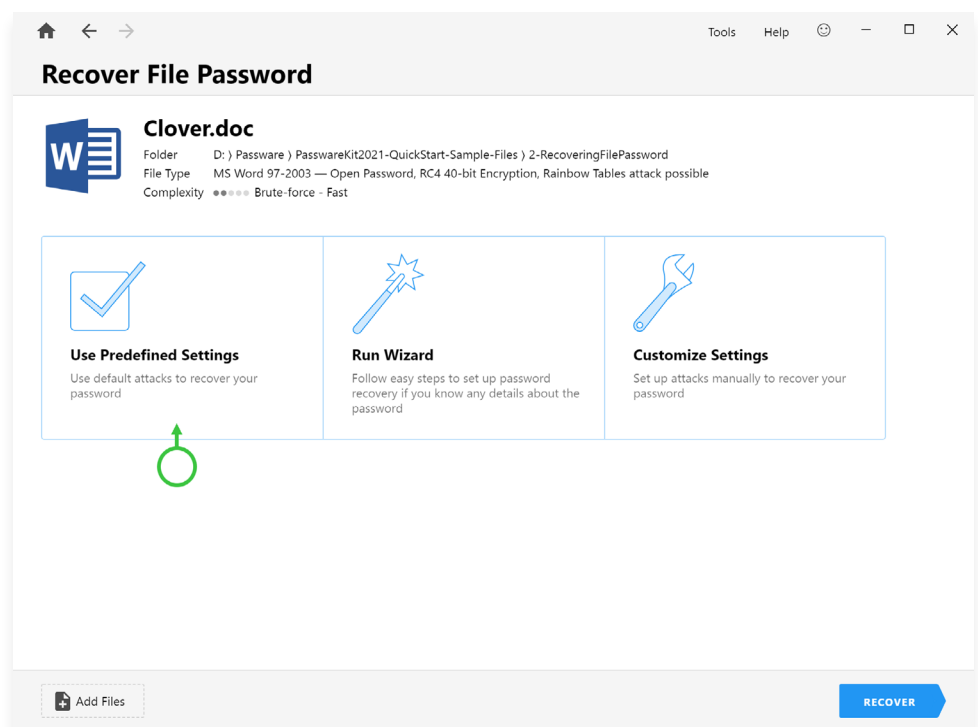
Recovering a file password

1. On the Start page, click **Recover File Password**:

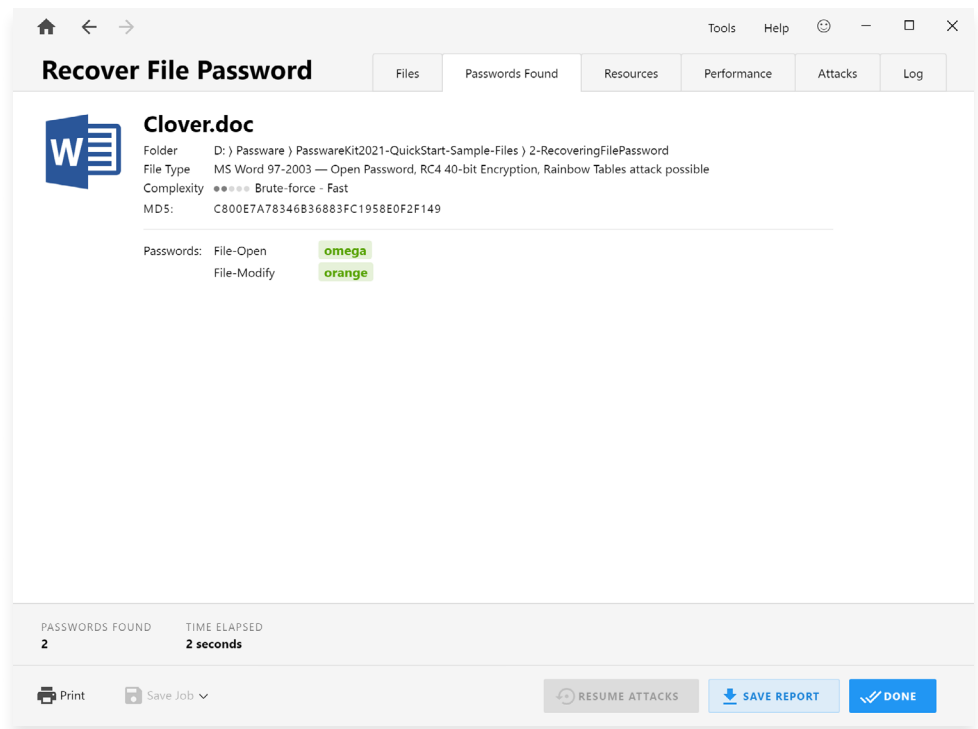


2. Browse for the file **Clover.doc** from the **2-RecoveringFilePassword** folder and click **Open**.

3. Choose **Use Predefined Settings**:



4. Passware Kit applies its built-in English dictionary to the file and recovers the password:



Passware Tip: Passware Kit provides comprehensive details on the recovery process. Check out all available tabs: Files, Resources, Performance, Attacks, and Log.

Task 3

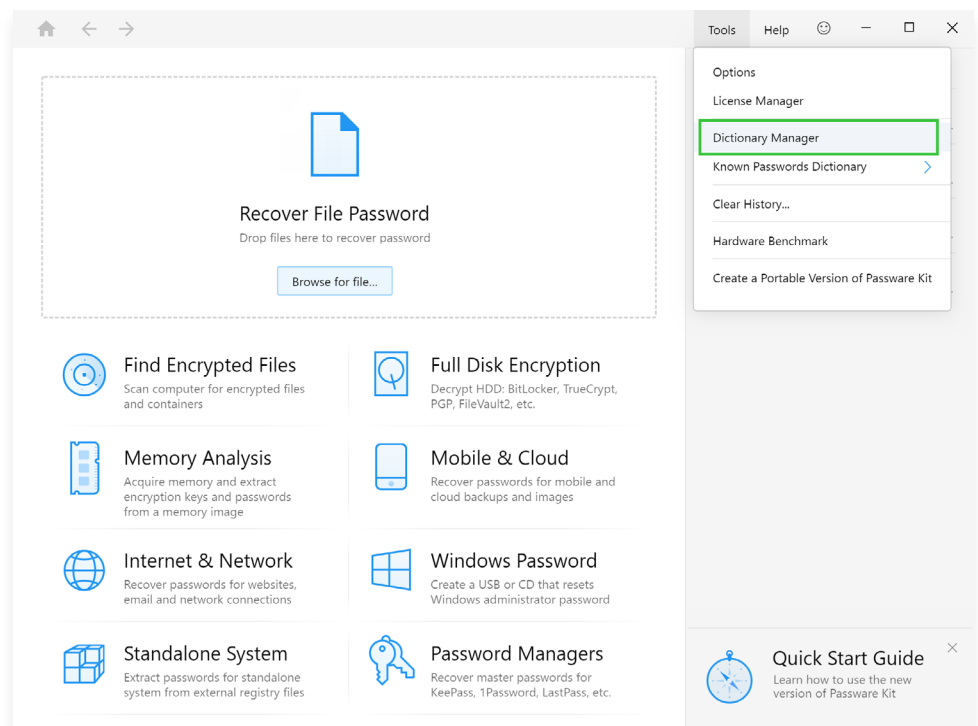
Using the Dictionary Manager tool

Dictionary Manager is a built-in tool for managing dictionaries and wordlists used by the Dictionary attack. The password for the file **Capital.zip** is a capital name. To recover this type of password, use the list of capitals as a custom dictionary file (**capitals-dictionary.txt** from the **3-UsingDictionaryManager** folder).

Such a list could be created manually as a text file or downloaded from wordlist resources. Learn more about dictionaries from [Passware Knowledge Base](#).

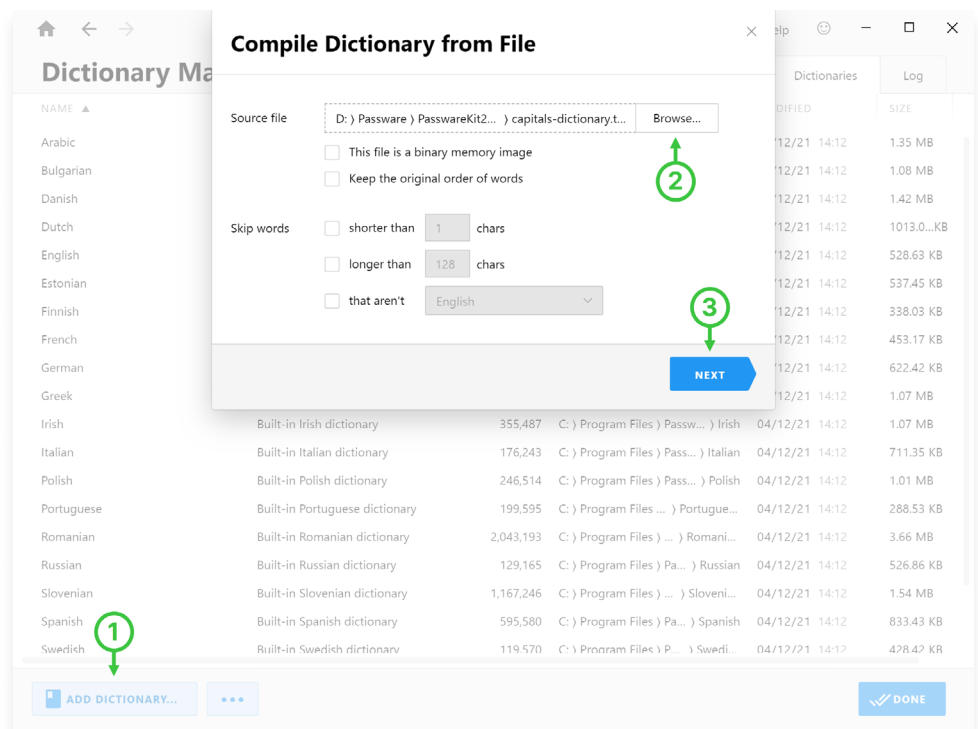
Passware Tip: All Passware Kit Forensic customers have access to a selection of proprietary Passware dictionaries available at [Passware Account](#) on the “Free Dictionaries” tab.

1. On the Start page, click **Tools** and select **Dictionary Manager**:



2. In the **Dictionary Manager** window, click **Add Dictionary** and choose **Compile from File....** Locate the file **capitals.txt** (a custom list of capitals, which is supposed to be used as a dictionary) and click **Next**.

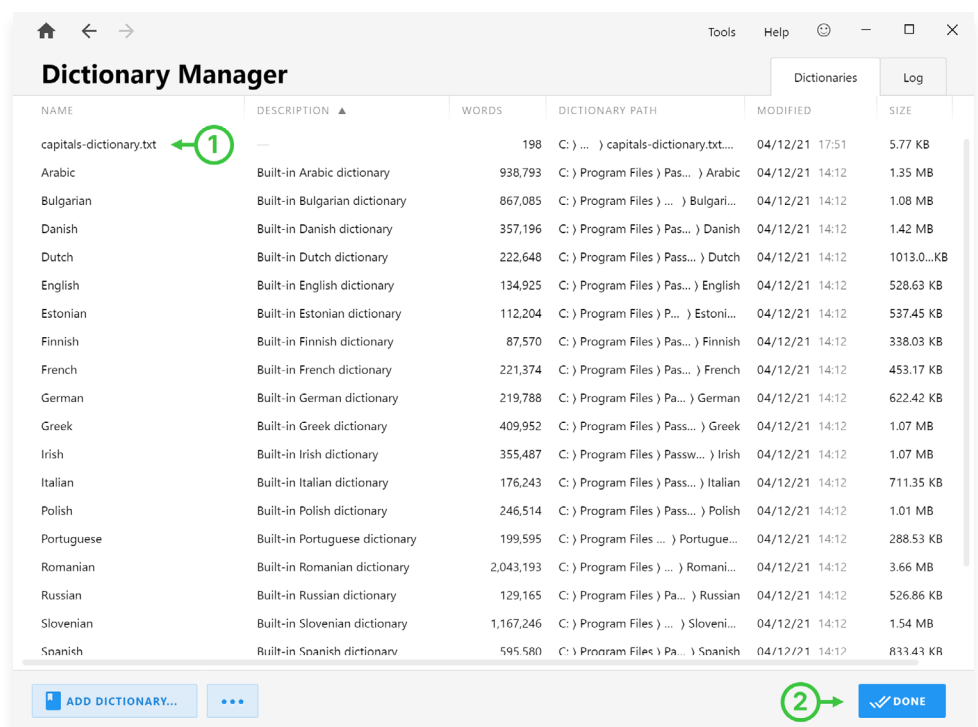
Click **Compile** to proceed:



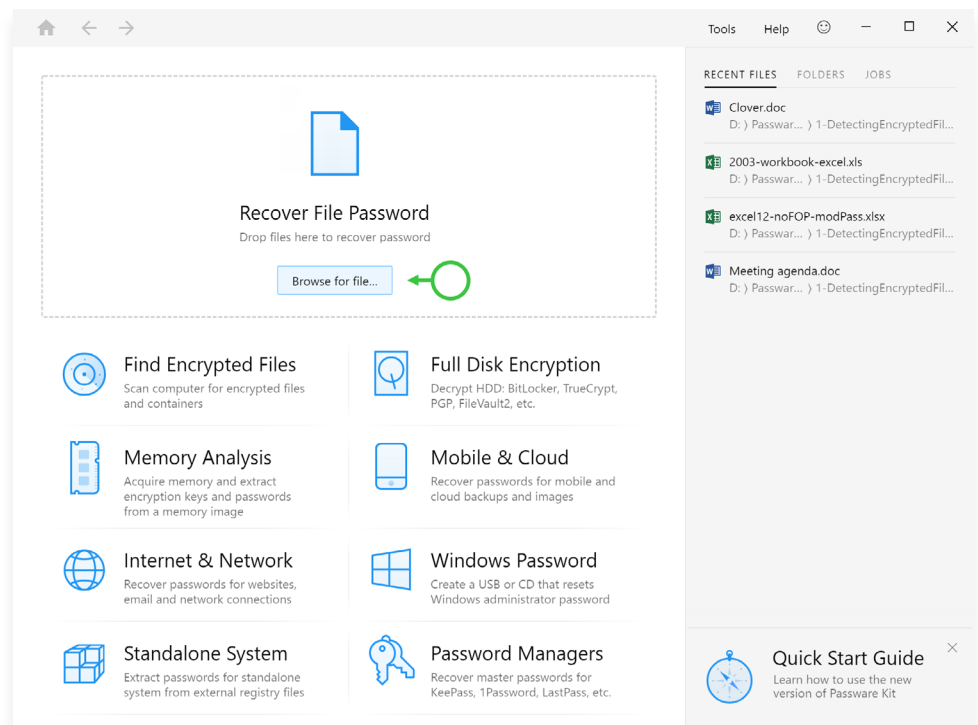
Passware Tip: Use the **Keep the original order of words** option to import password lists sorted by the frequency of use and length, not alphabetically.

3. Passware Kit compiles the text file into a dictionary named **capitals-dictionary.txt**.

Click **Done**.

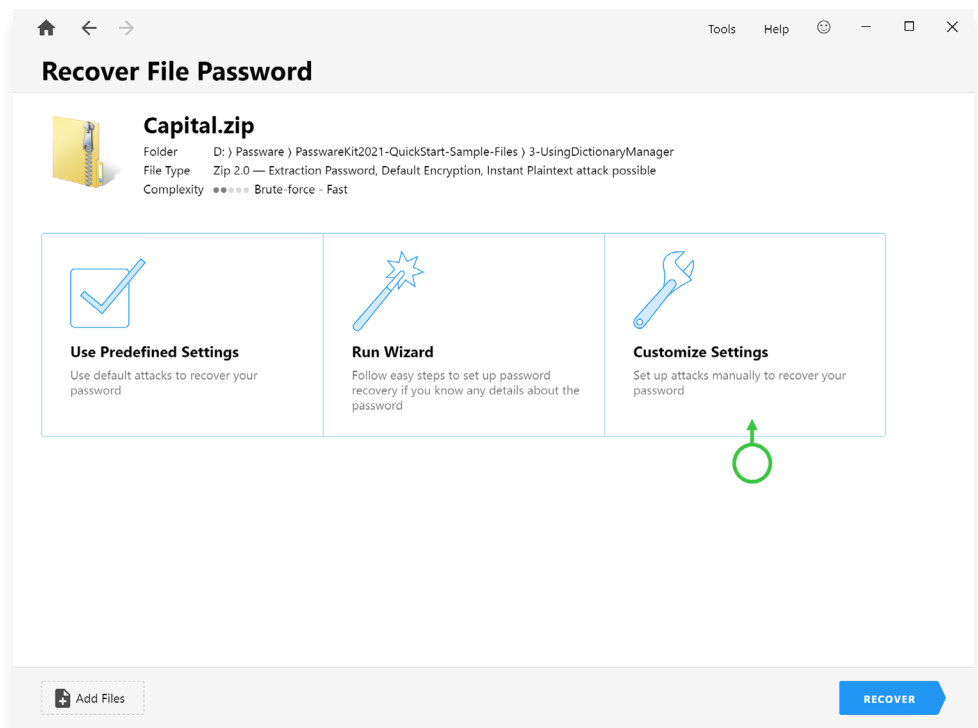


4. On the Start page, click **Recover File Password**:

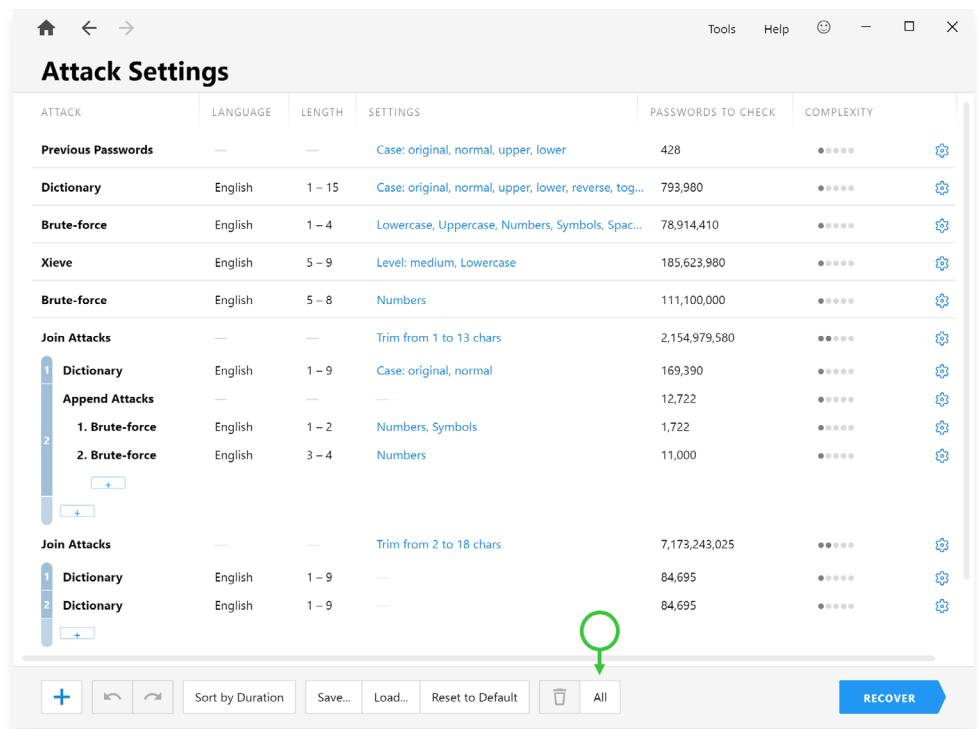


5. Locate the file **Capital.zip** from the **3-UsingDictionaryManager** folder and click **Open**.

6. Click **Customize Settings**:



7. Passware Kit displays the settings of the default [password recovery attacks](#). Click **All** to clear the list and start with your own settings:

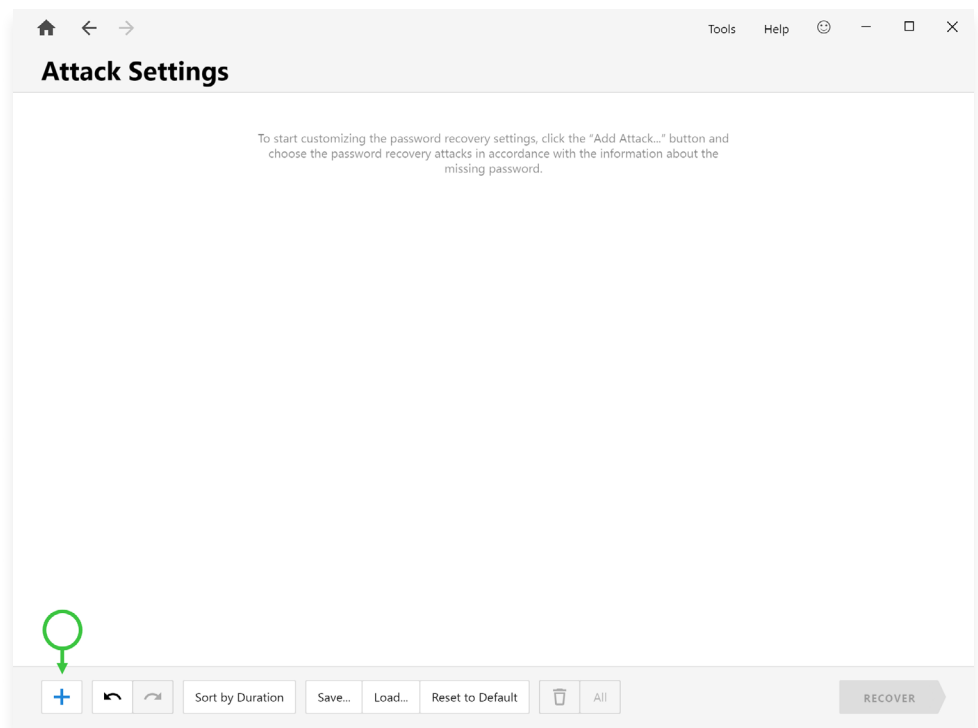


Attack Settings

ATTACK	LANGUAGE	LENGTH	SETTINGS	PASSWORDS TO CHECK	COMPLEXITY
Previous Passwords	—	—	Case: original, normal, upper, lower	428	•••••
Dictionary	English	1 – 15	Case: original, normal, upper, lower, reverse, tog...	793,980	•••••
Brute-force	English	1 – 4	Lowercase, Uppercase, Numbers, Symbols, Spac...	78,914,410	•••••
Xieve	English	5 – 9	Level: medium, Lowercase	185,623,980	•••••
Brute-force	English	5 – 8	Numbers	111,100,000	•••••
Join Attacks	—	—	Trim from 1 to 13 chars	2,154,979,580	•••••
1 Dictionary	English	1 – 9	Case: original, normal	169,390	•••••
Append Attacks	—	—	—	12,722	•••••
2 1. Brute-force	English	1 – 2	Numbers, Symbols	1,722	•••••
2 2. Brute-force	English	3 – 4	Numbers	11,000	•••••
Join Attacks	—	—	Trim from 2 to 18 chars	7,173,243,025	•••••
1 Dictionary	English	1 – 9	—	84,695	•••••
2 Dictionary	English	1 – 9	—	84,695	•••••

Buttons: +, ↶, ↷, Sort by Duration, Save..., Load..., Reset to Default, All, RECOVER

8. Click +:



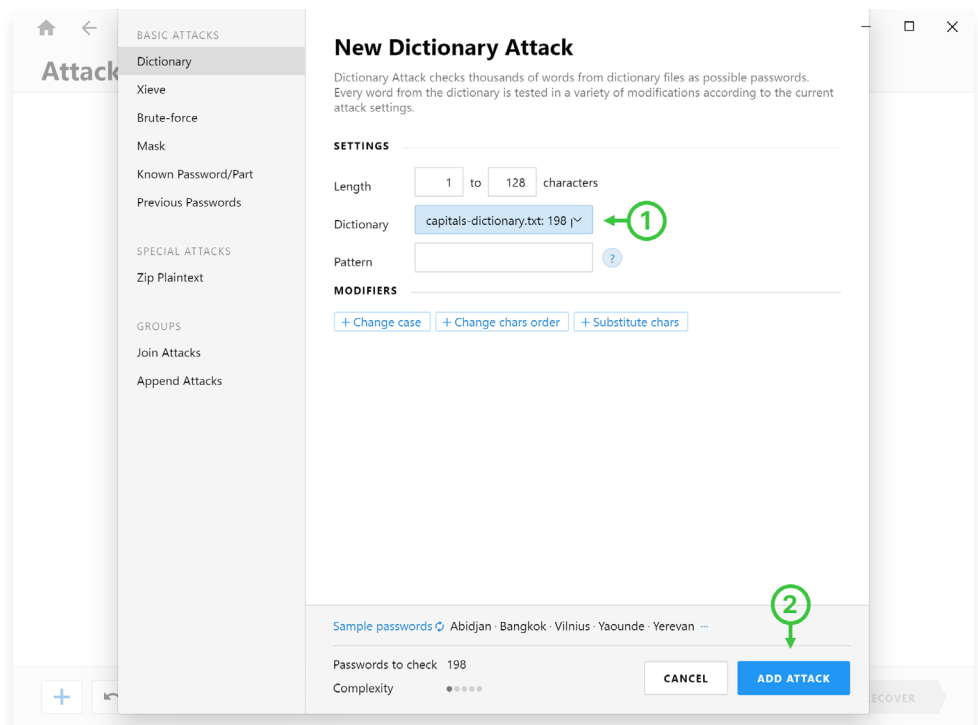
Attack Settings

To start customizing the password recovery settings, click the "Add Attack..." button and choose the password recovery attacks in accordance with the information about the missing password.

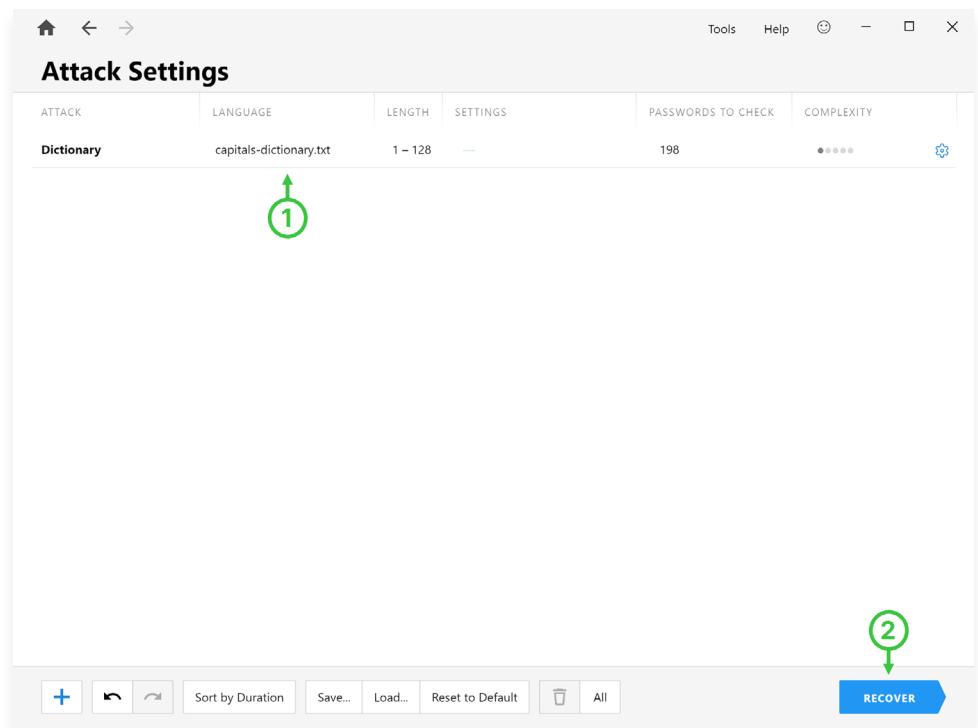
Buttons: +, ↶, ↷, Sort by Duration, Save..., Load..., Reset to Default, All, RECOVER

9. In the **New Dictionary Attack** settings, choose **capitals-dictionary.txt** from the **Dictionary** pull-down menu:

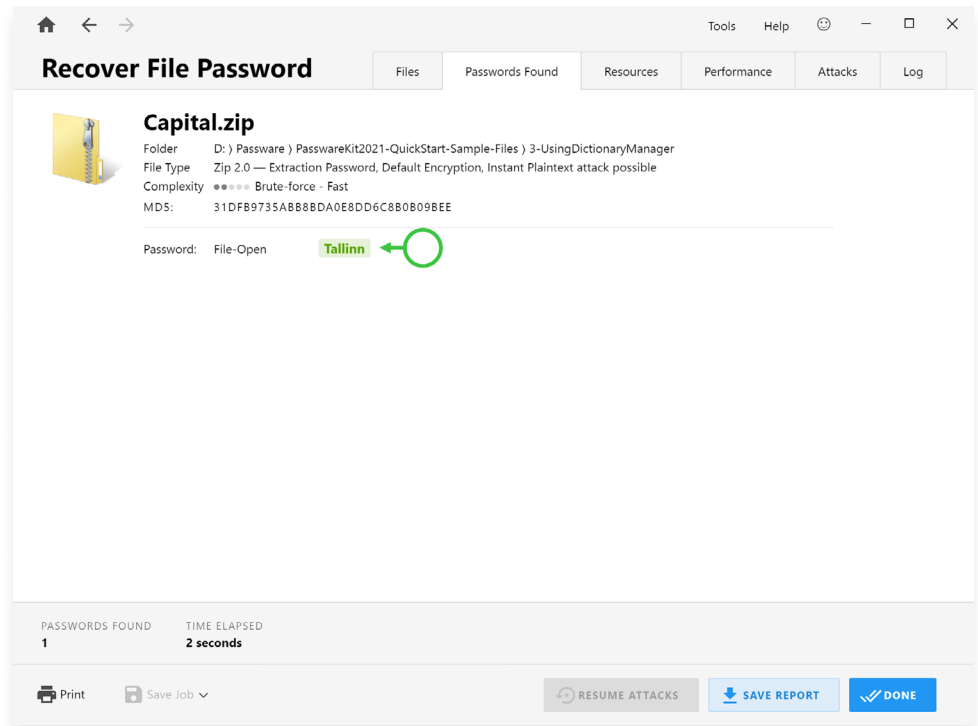
Click **Add Attack**.



10. Click **Recover** to proceed with the custom settings:



11. Passware Kit recovers the password for the file using the custom dictionary:

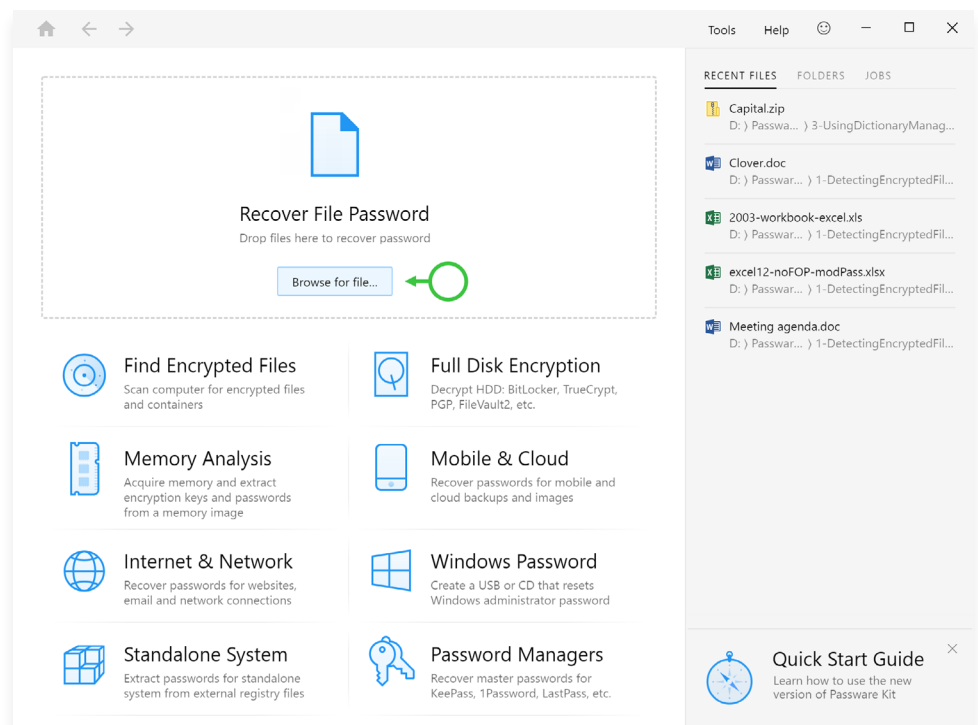


Task 4

Customizing password recovery settings

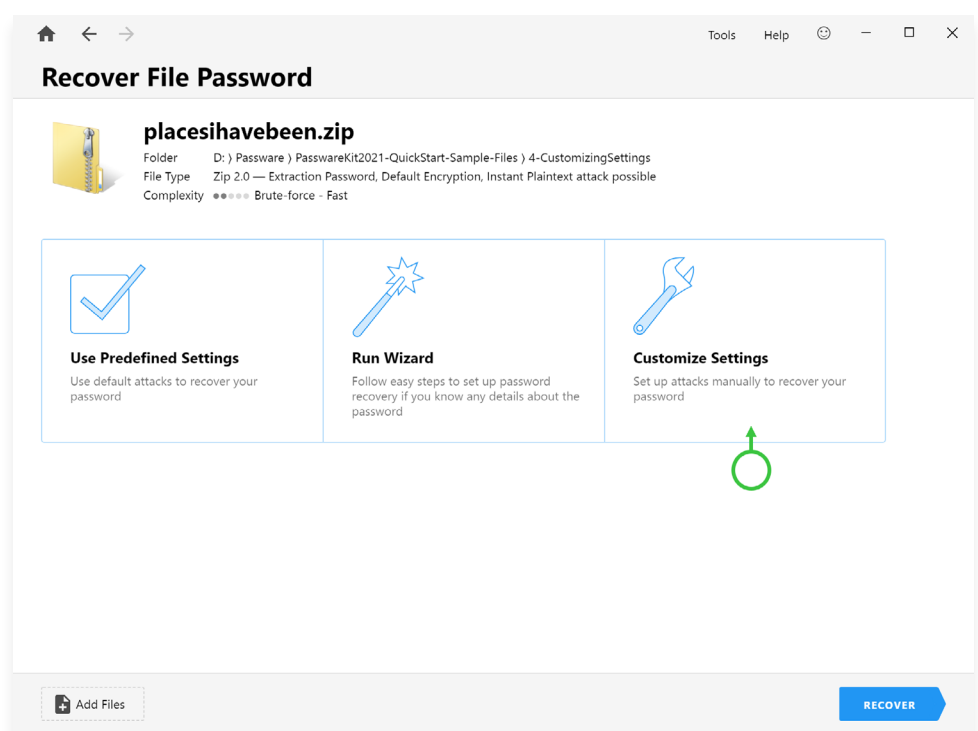
If a pattern for a password is known, it can be specified in Passware Kit settings. For example, the password for the file **placesihavebeen.zip** is a city name followed by a year, i.e. "London2015", "Amsterdam2000", etc. To recover this type of password, use a custom dictionary file from [Task 3](#).

1. On the Start page, click **Recover File Password:**

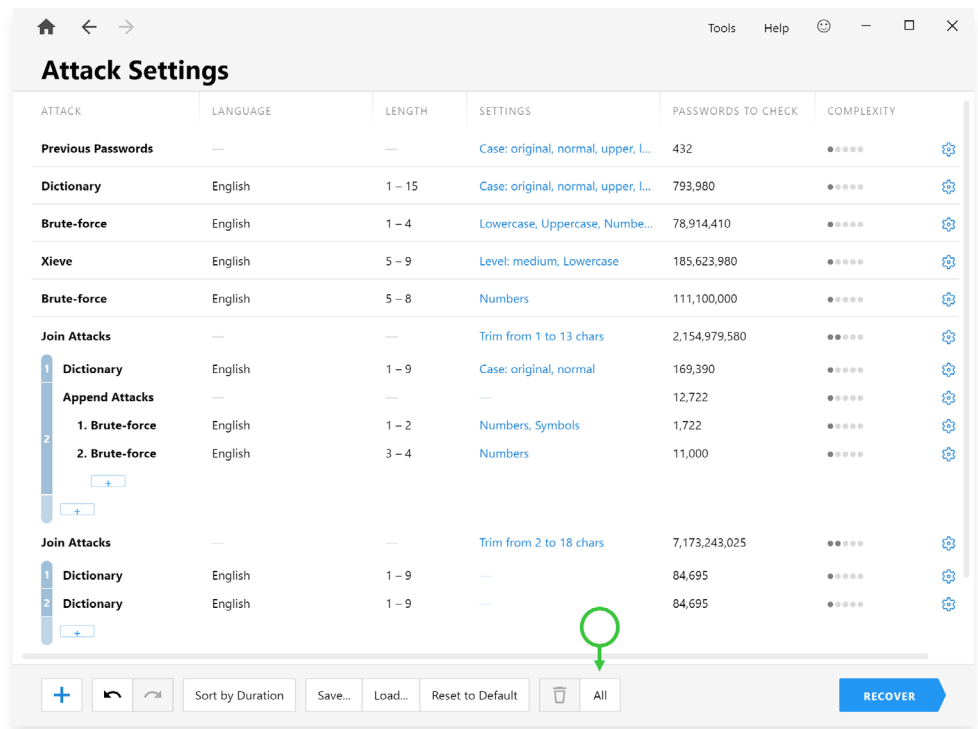


2. Select the **placesihavebeen.zip** file from the **4-CustomizingSettings** folder and click Open.

Click **Customize Settings**:



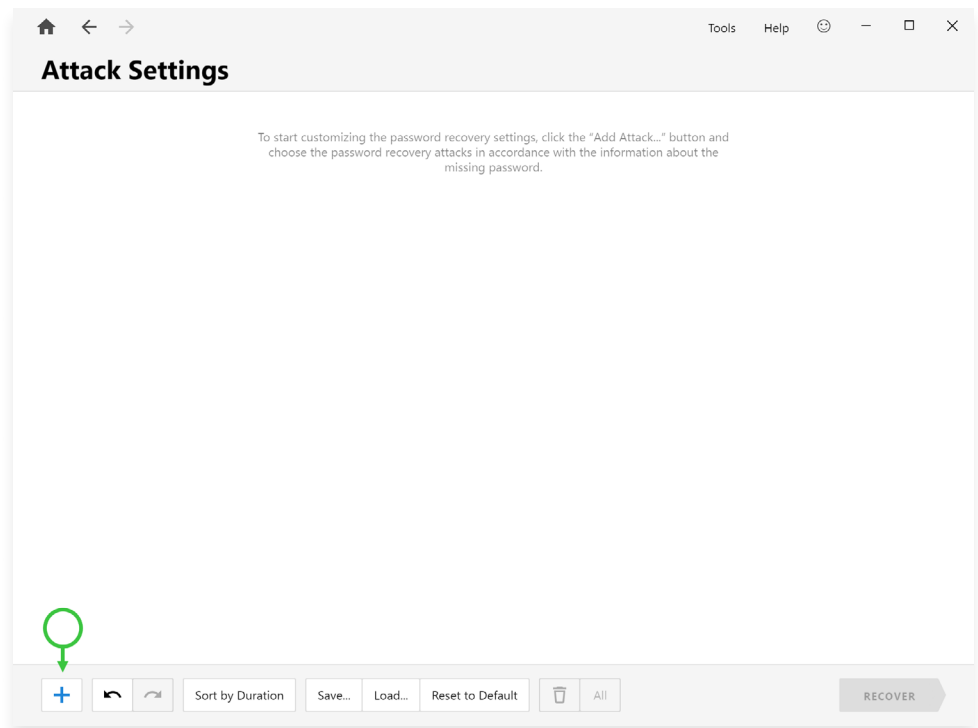
3. Passware Kit displays the settings of the default [password recovery attacks](#). Click **All** to clear the list and start with your own settings:



ATTACK	LANGUAGE	LENGTH	SETTINGS	PASSWORDS TO CHECK	COMPLEXITY
Previous Passwords	—	—	Case: original, normal, upper, l...	432	•••••
Dictionary	English	1 – 15	Case: original, normal, upper, l...	793,980	•••••
Brute-force	English	1 – 4	Lowercase, Uppercase, Numbe...	78,914,410	•••••
Xieve	English	5 – 9	Level: medium, Lowercase	185,623,980	•••••
Brute-force	English	5 – 8	Numbers	111,100,000	•••••
Join Attacks	—	—	Trim from 1 to 13 chars	2,154,979,580	•••••
1 Dictionary	English	1 – 9	Case: original, normal	169,390	•••••
Append Attacks	—	—	—	12,722	•••••
1. Brute-force	English	1 – 2	Numbers, Symbols	1,722	•••••
2. Brute-force	English	3 – 4	Numbers	11,000	•••••
Join Attacks	—	—	Trim from 2 to 18 chars	7,173,243,025	•••••
1 Dictionary	English	1 – 9	—	84,695	•••••
2 Dictionary	English	1 – 9	—	84,695	•••••

Buttons: +, ↶, ↷, Sort by Duration, Save..., Load..., Reset to Default, All, RECOVER

4. Click +:

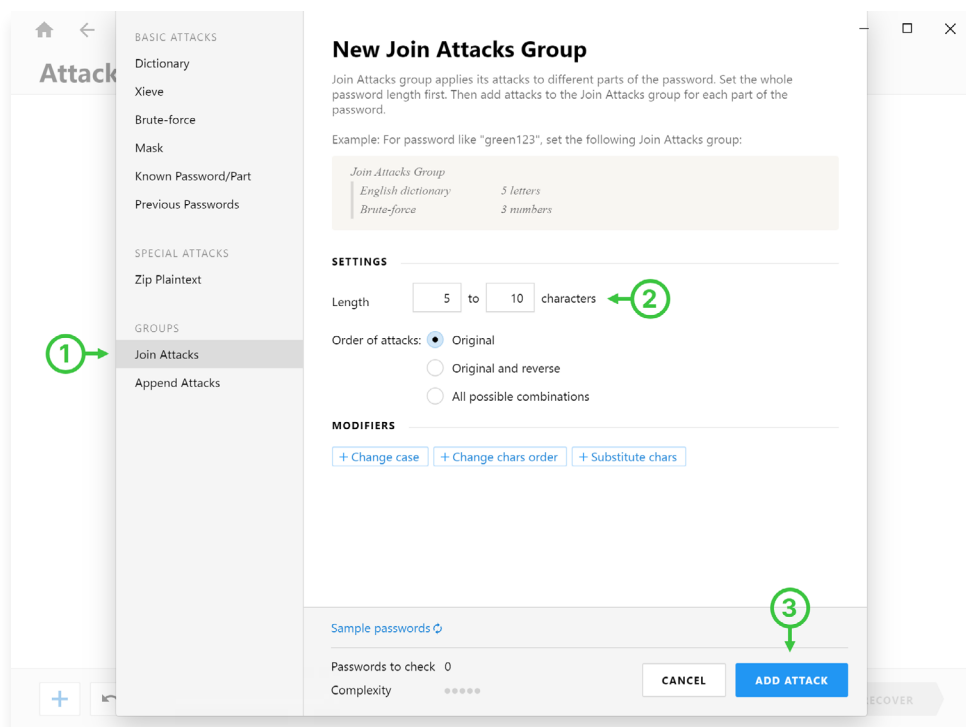


To start customizing the password recovery settings, click the "Add Attack..." button and choose the password recovery attacks in accordance with the information about the missing password.

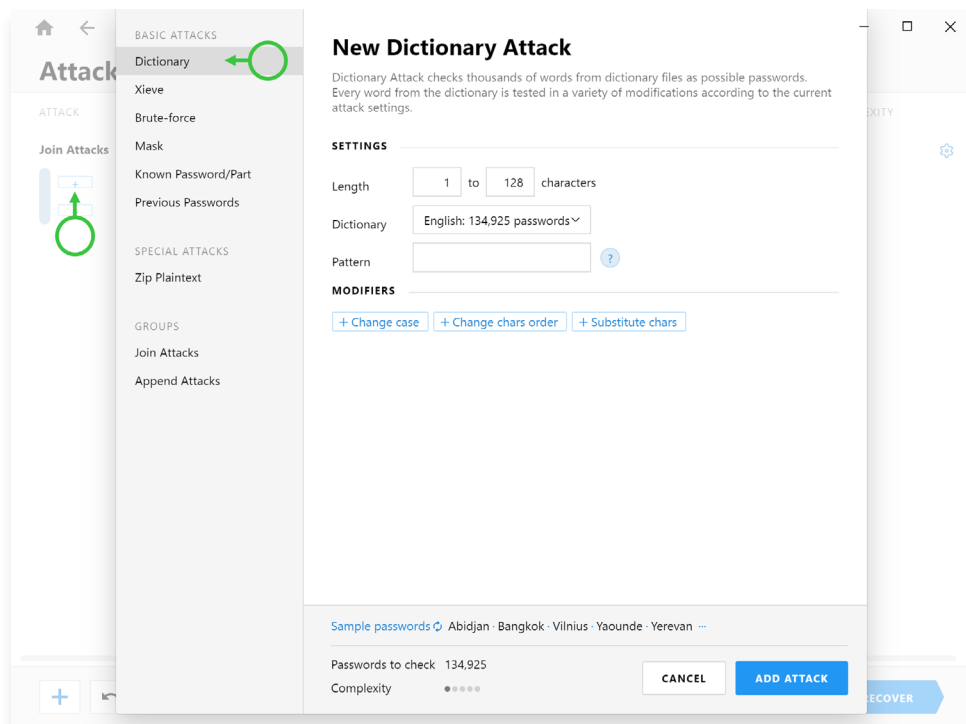
Buttons: +, ↶, ↷, Sort by Duration, Save..., Load..., Reset to Default, All, RECOVER

5. To specify the pattern **city + year**, click [Join Attacks](#). You will need to join a **Dictionary** (city names) attack and a **Brute-force** attack (numbers) together. Specify the overall range of password **Length**, if known. In this example, the length is from 5 to 10 characters.

Click **Add Attack**:

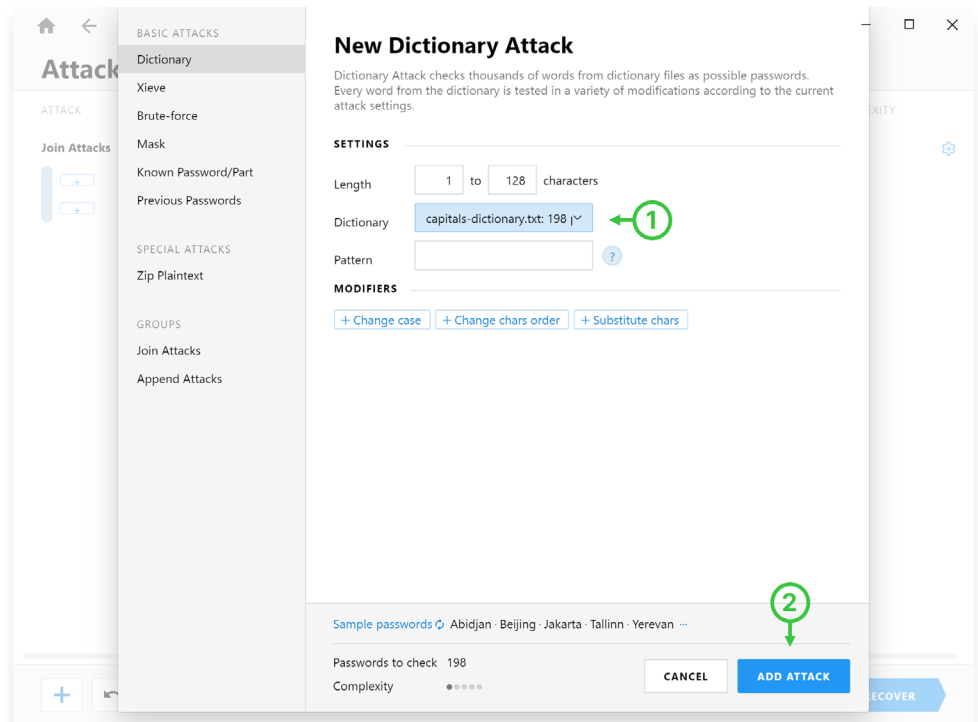


6. Click **+** and choose a **Dictionary** attack:

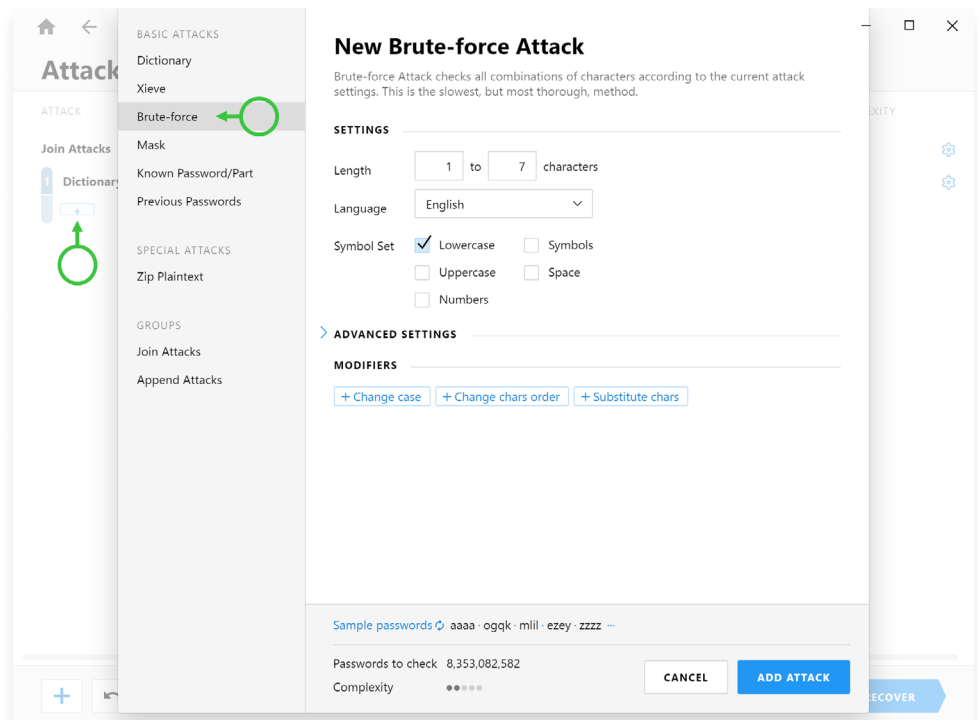


7. From the **Dictionary** pull-down menu, choose **capitals-dictionary.txt**, which was previously compiled in [Task 3](#).

Click **Add Attack**:

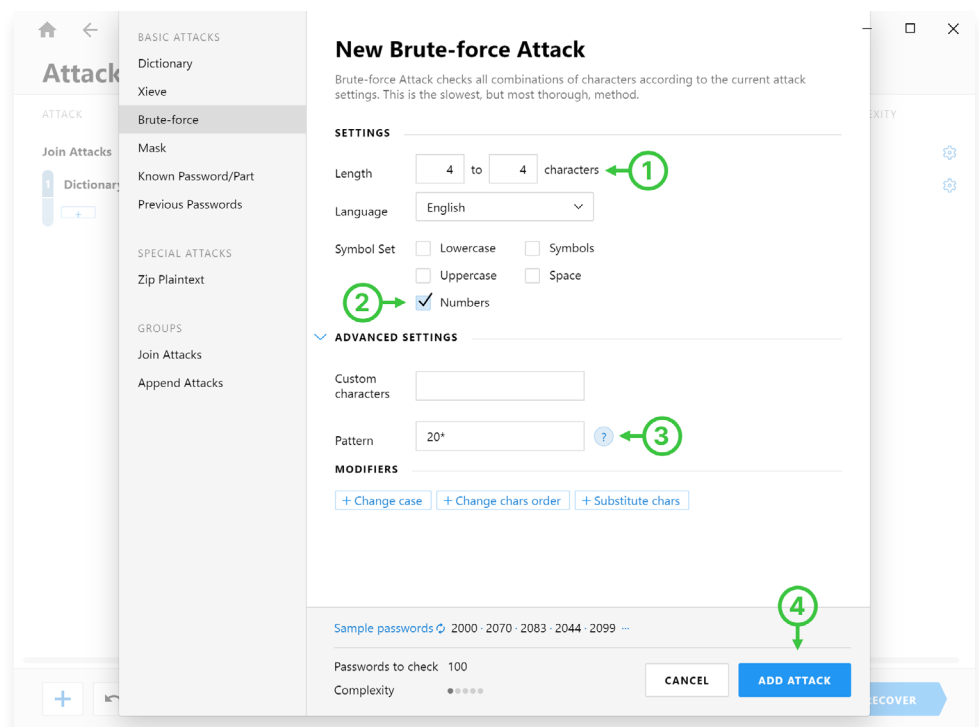


8. Click **+** and choose a **Brute-force** attack:



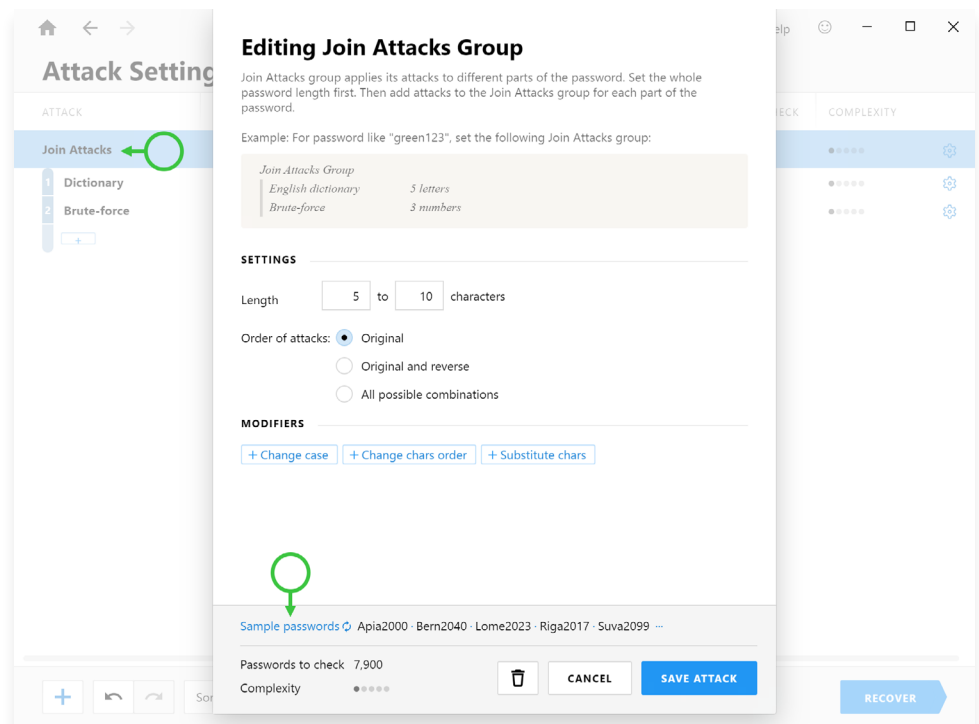
9. In the **Brute-force** Attack settings, specify the length of the password part: For a year number, **Length** should be set from 4 to 4 characters. Specify the **Symbol Set**: enable the checkbox **Numbers** and disable all other checkboxes. In the **Advanced Settings** section, specify the **Pattern** of the password part: If it is a year of the current century, set the pattern to 20* (the password part will look like 2000, 2001, ..., 2099).

Click **Add Attack**:

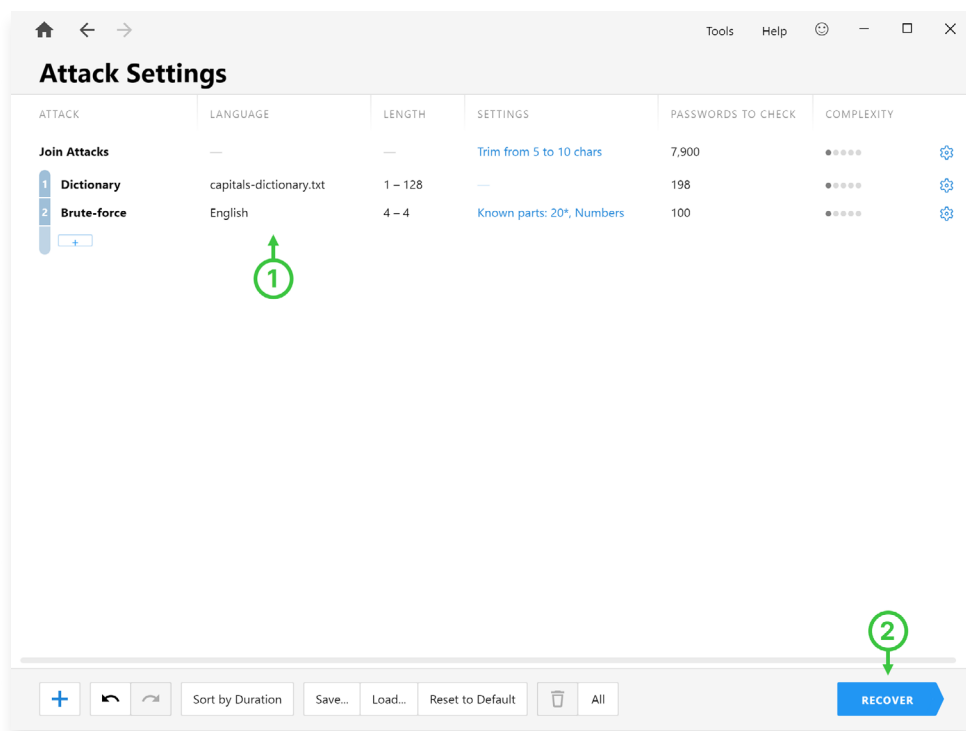


10. In the **Join Attacks** settings, click the **Sample passwords** link to see the passwords that are generated by the attack (a city name followed by a year):

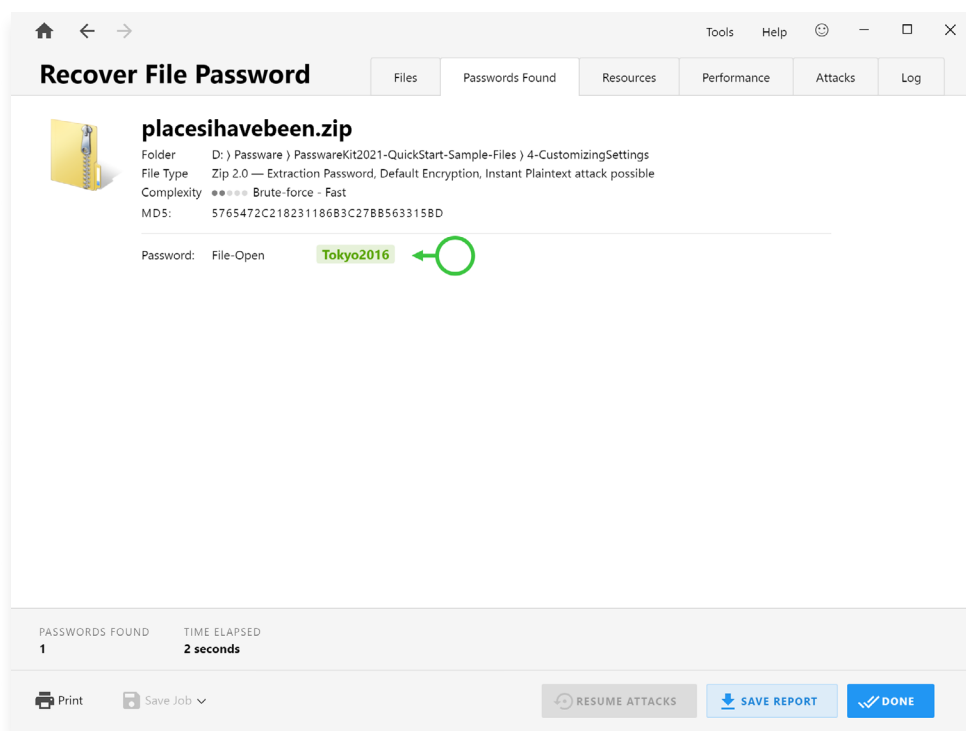
Click **Save Attack**.



11. Click **Recover** to proceed with the custom settings:



12. Passware Kit recovers the password for the file using the custom settings:

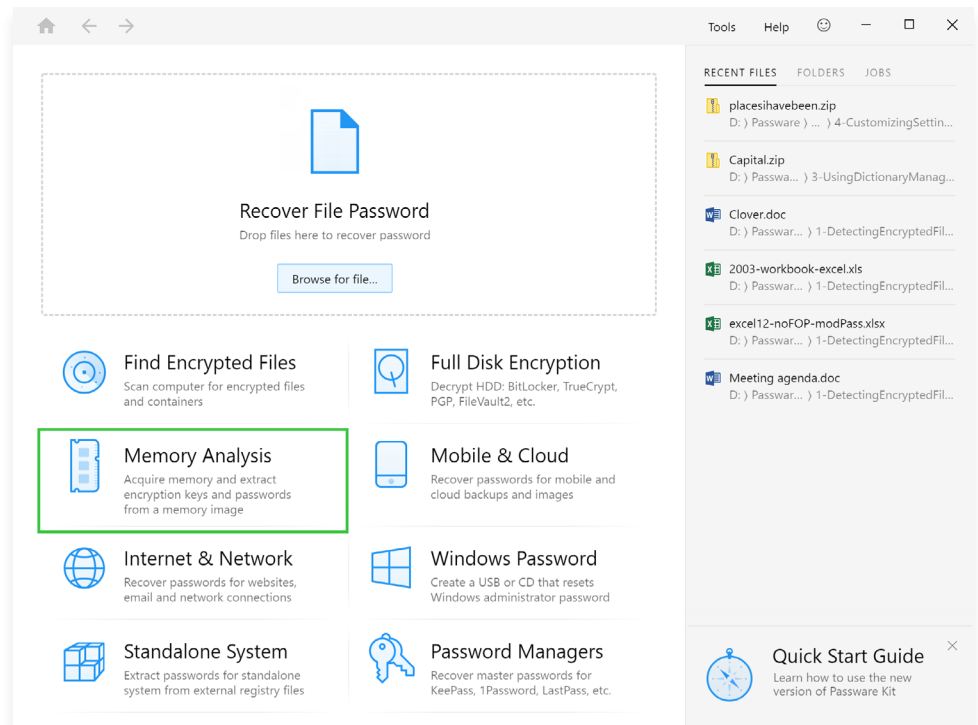


Passware Tip: Follow the [link](#) for more information about Passware Kit password recovery settings to configure password candidates.

Task 5

Extracting passwords from a memory image

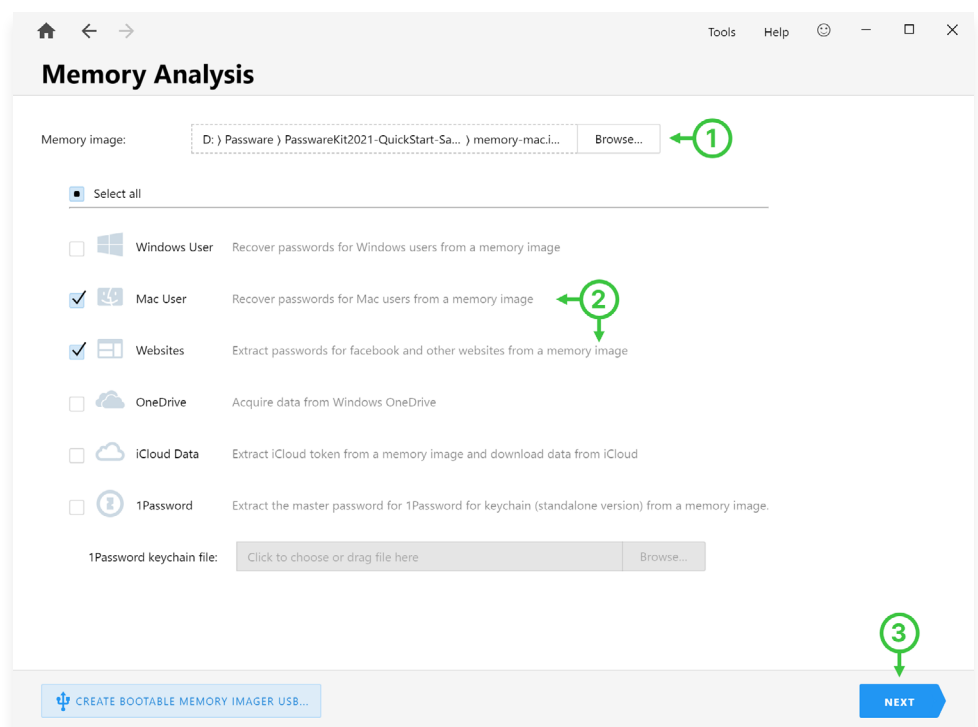
1. On the Start page, click **Memory Analysis**:



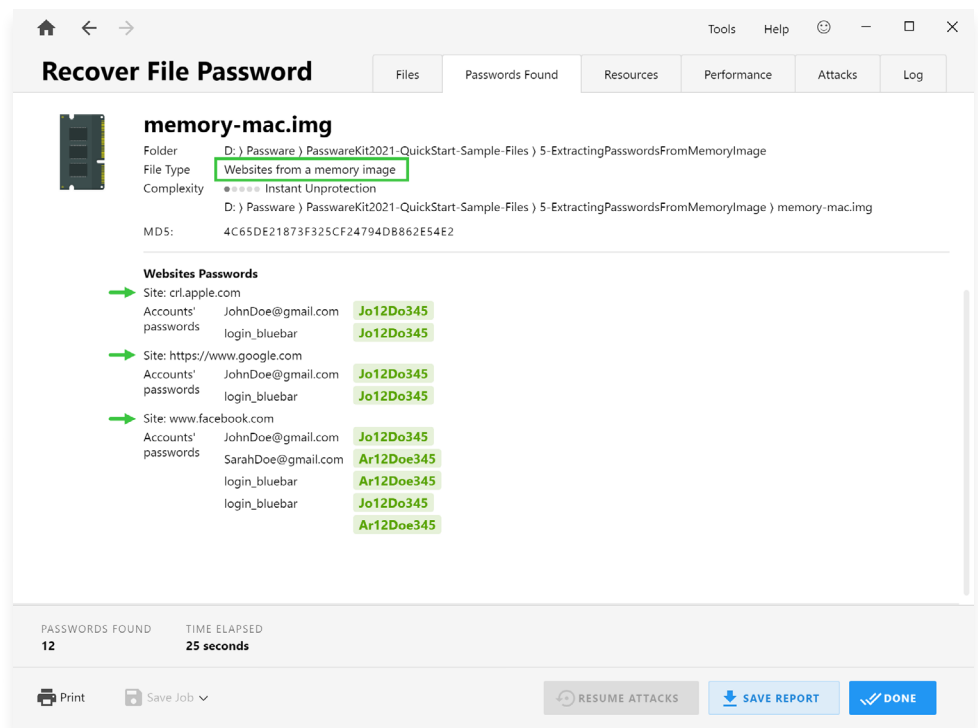
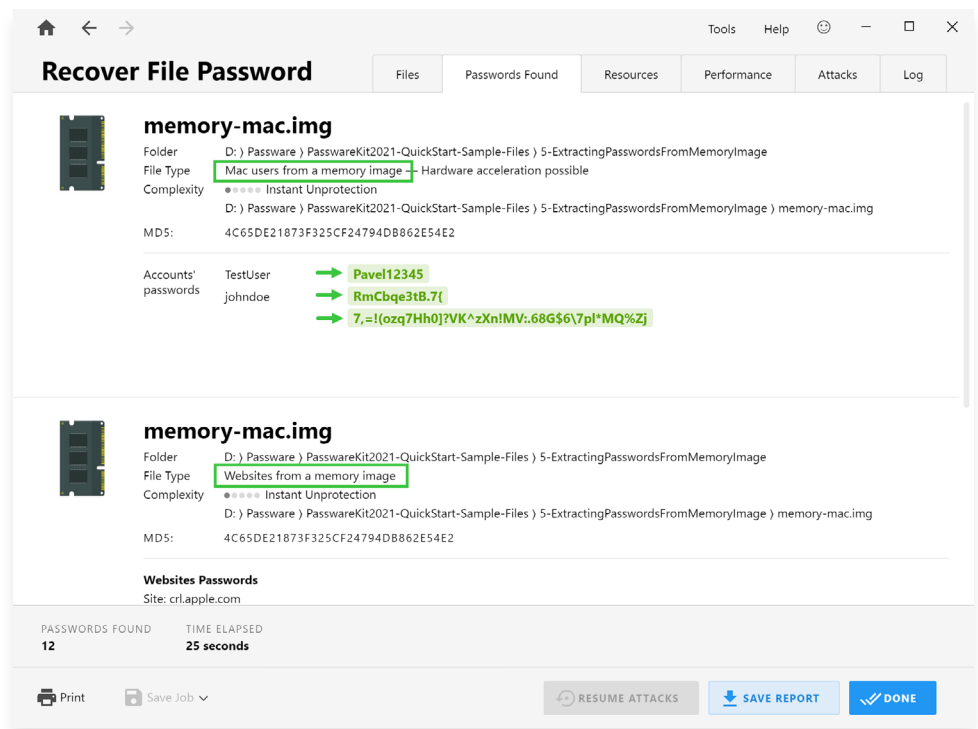
2. Click **Browse...** and locate the **memory-mac.img** file from the **5-ExtractingPasswordsFrom-MemoryImage** folder. Click **Open**.

3. Enable checkboxes **Mac User** and **Websites**.

Click **Next**:



4. Passware Kit extracts passwords for Mac users, as well as the list of open websites along with their login credentials:



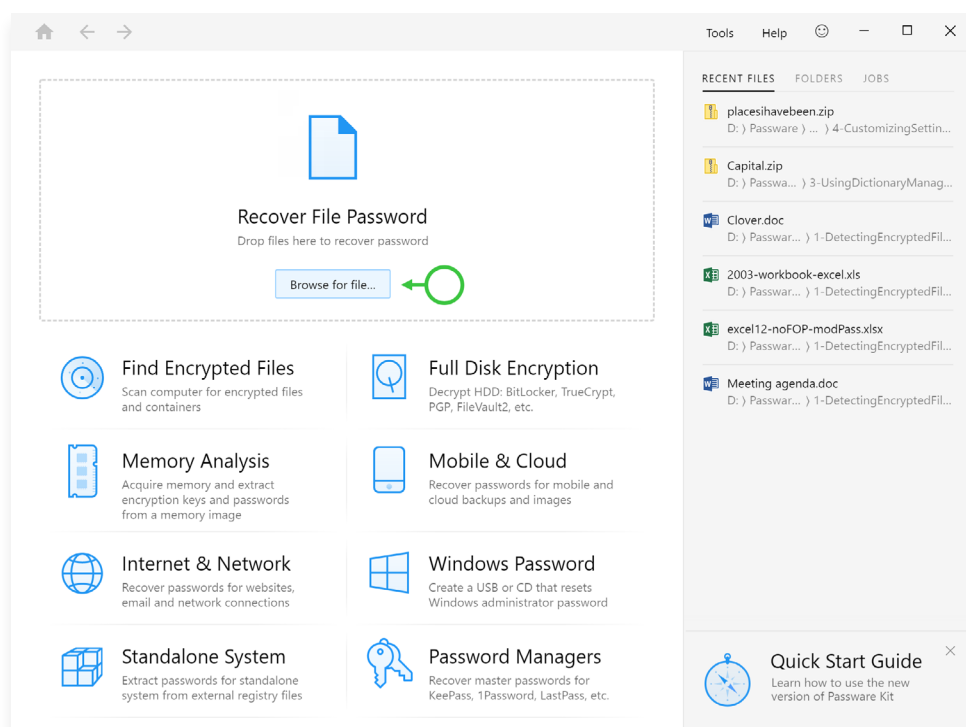
Passware Tip: Check out [3 Steps to Acquire Memory and Bypass Encryption](#).

Task 6

Decrypting a Keychain

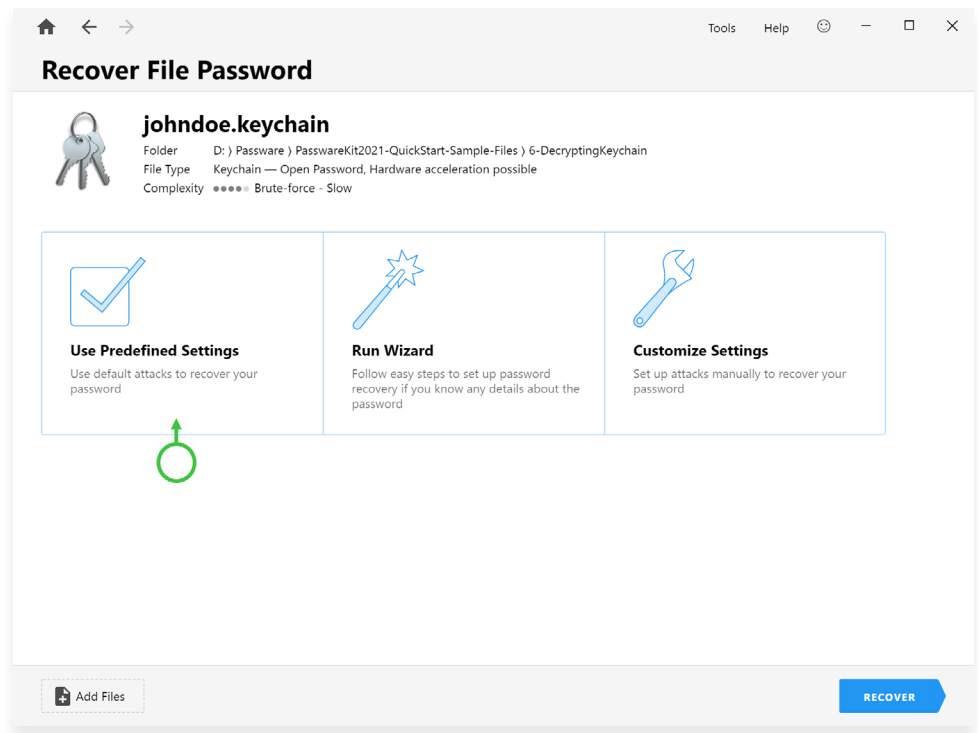
By default, a Keychain password is the same as a Mac user password. Passware Kit leverages this feature to recover Keychain passwords with a **Previous Passwords** attack, which includes previously recovered passwords for Mac users (in [Task 5](#)). The previously recovered passwords are added automatically to the “Previous Passwords” dictionary to be reused for subsequent files.

1. On the Start page, click
Recover File Password:



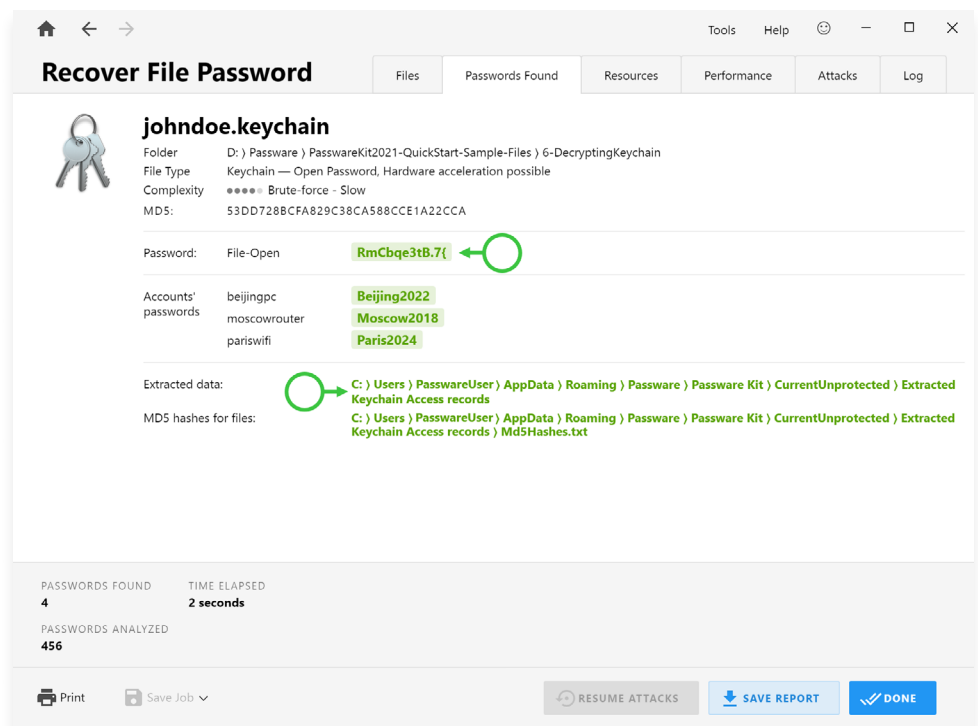
2. Locate the **johndoe.keychain** file from the **6-DecryptingKeychain** folder and click **Open**.

3. Click **Use Predefined Settings**:



Passware Tip: The *Login.keychain* file is located at "*~/<User>/Library/Keychains/*" by default.

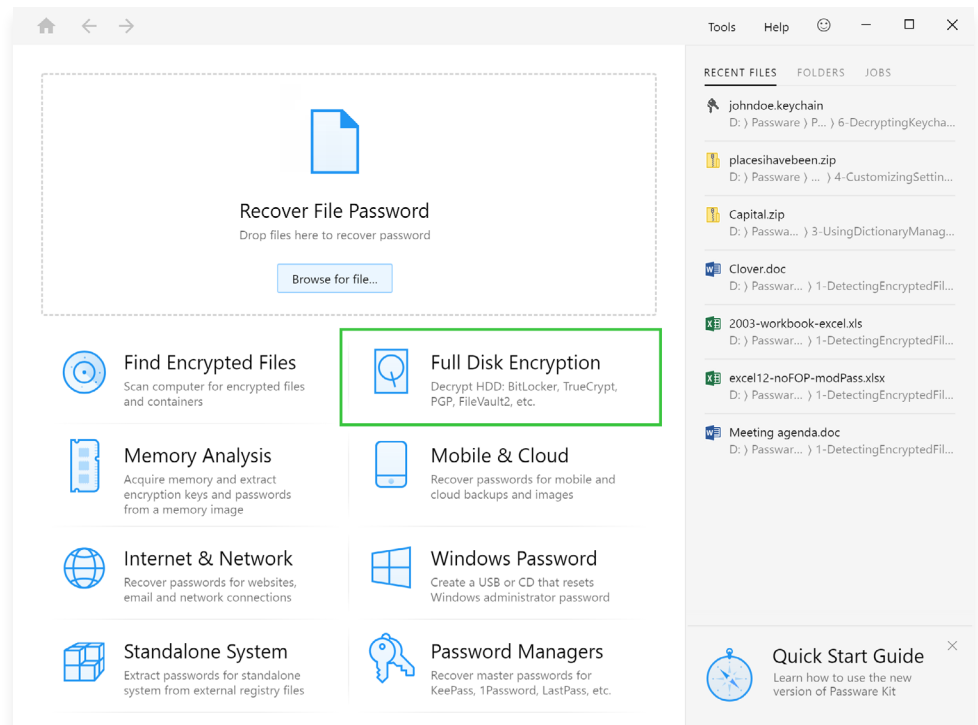
4. Passware Kit runs [default password recovery attacks](#), which include a **Previous Passwords** attack. The File-Open password is recovered in seconds and Passware Kit extracts all the login credentials and other data from the Keychain. It saves the records to a separate folder:



Task 7

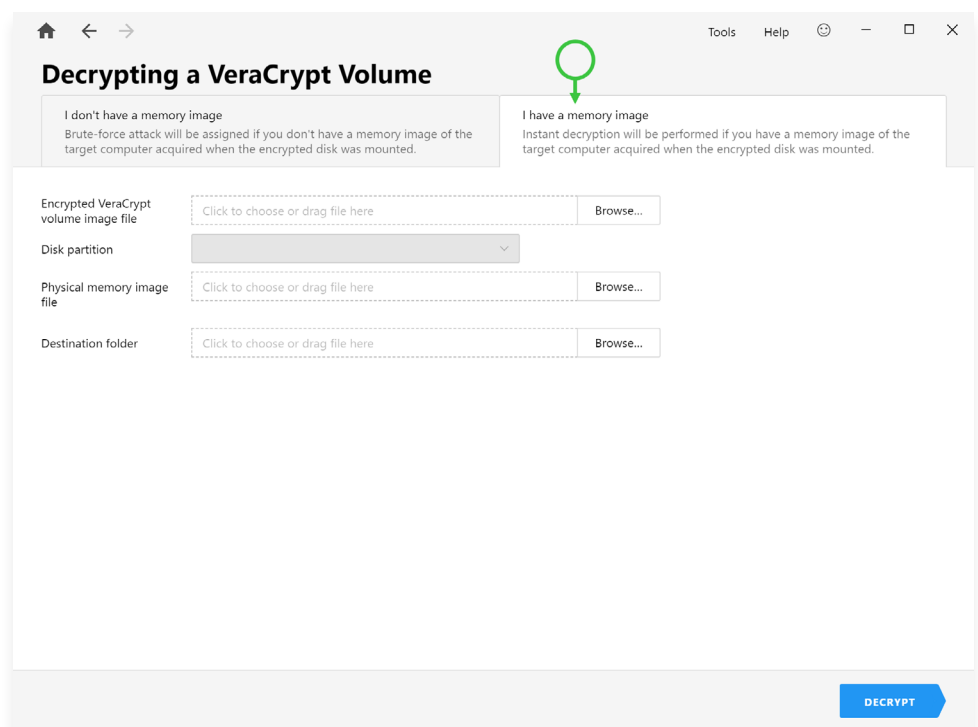
Decrypting a VeraCrypt container

1. On the Start page, click [Full Disk Encryption](#):



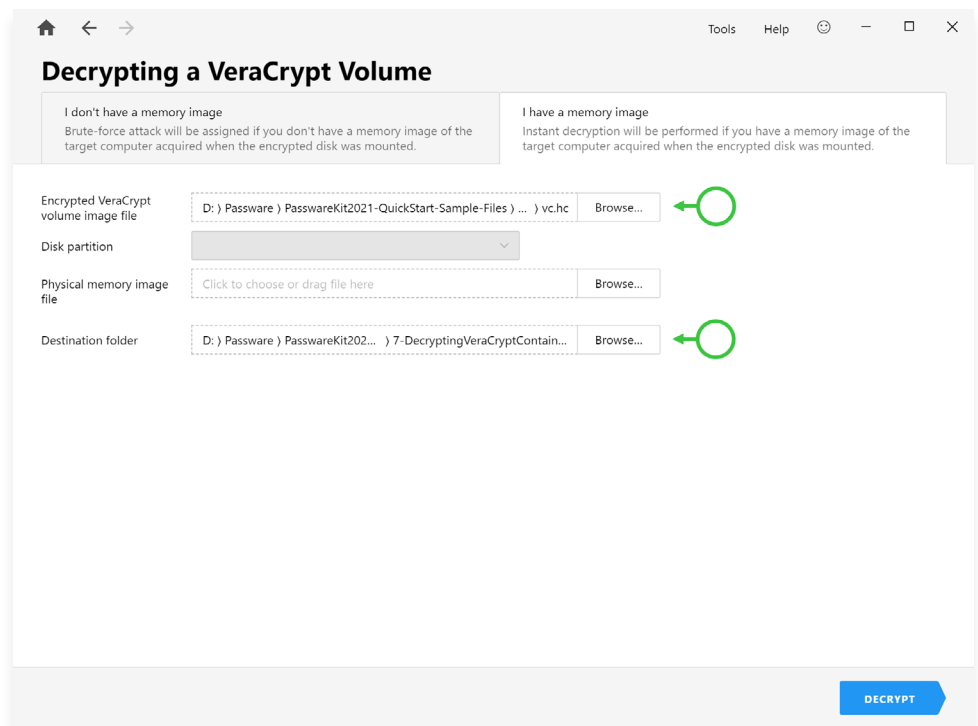
2. Choose **VeraCrypt**.

3. Click the **I have a memory image** tab:



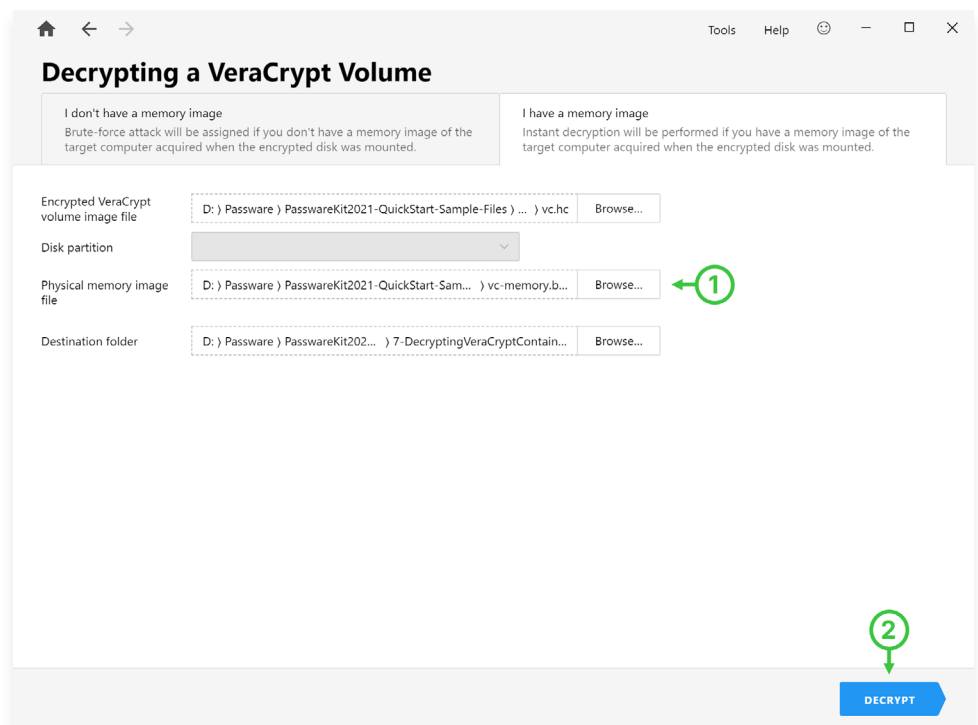
3. In the **Encrypted VeraCrypt volume image file** field, click **Browse...**, set **All files (*.*)** from the pull-down menu of the **File name** field, and locate file **vc.hc** from the **7-DecryptingVeraCryptContainer** folder:

The decrypted volume image will be saved in the **Destination folder** location.



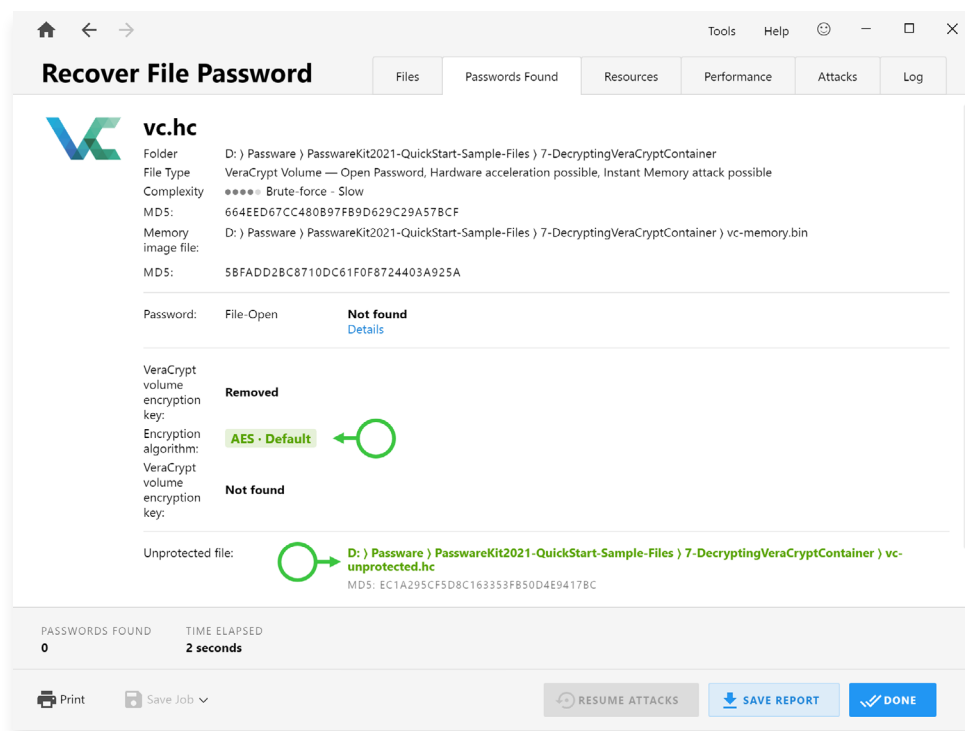
4. In the **Physical memory image file** field, click **Browse...** and locate the **vc-memory.bin** file.

Click **Decrypt**:



5. Passware Kit extracts the VeraCrypt volume encryption key and uses it to decrypt the volume:

It also displays the encryption algorithm used to protect the container.



Passware Tip: More related articles [Tips for Efficient TrueCrypt/VeraCrypt Decryption](#) and [BitLocker Decryption Explained](#) from our blog.

Congratulations!

**You have successfully
completed all the tasks!**

Enroll on [Passware Certified Examiner \(PCE\) Training](#)
now to become a certified decryption expert.

Questions?

[Contact us](#) for assistance.

