CAMP News

Capital Apple, Mac Performa User Group

☼

Gardiner, Maine

March 2007

On March 14...

It's Devon at 7:00

DEVONthink Professional 1.3
Document and Idea Organizer
DEVONtechnologies
www.devon-technologies.com
Publisher's Price: $80 (personal version $40; office version, $150)
Reviewed by Sue Westlake

CAMPers may remember I did a review of Aquaminds' NoteTaker a few years ago and raved about how I could take notes, copy documents, import any kind of file and the program would index my pages and keep the information in a database, called a Notebook. The interface was a familiar style notebook page into which I could drag anything I wanted to save.

Devon Technologies' DEVONthink Pro ("DTP") is a similar product. The interface is not a notebook page but rather a screen into which I can drag anything I want to save and organize into a database for quick and easy retrieval. There is one important difference from NoteTaker, apart from the interface: DTP boasts an underpinning of artificial intelligence. Rather than

---

Come to the meeting and watch Adam Tomash demonstrate Devon Agent and Sue Westlake demonstrate DevonThink Pro. **Win** a free license for either product. **Read** the reviews here!

DEVONagent 2.0.3
Internet Search Tool
DEVONtechnologies
www.devon-technologies.com
Publisher's Price: $50
Reviewed by Adam Tomash

What is it? DEVONagent ("DA") is a powerful assistant for doing re search on the Internet. It allows prescripted searches targeting specific types of search engines. One can: 1) search groups of search engines OR specific search engines, 2) view results as a post-processed results page, 3) extract specific file types from individual web pages, 4) automate searches by building "search sets" which are pre-built search queries available in the search pop up **(Fig. 1)**, 5) schedule searches to occur unattended, 6) use advanced "operators" (AND, OR, NEAR, etc.) to refine results and 7) save the results in an archive or transfer them to DEVONthink.
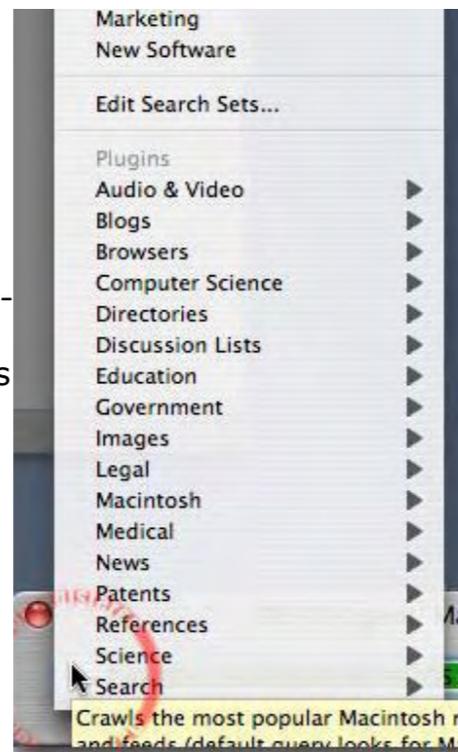
Fig. 1. DA Search Sets

Who needs it? This is a tool for the person who does a lot of internet research and wants results that are somewhat refined with a minimum of extraneous material (ads, pop ups, etc.). It would be invaluable for someone who had an ongoing, long-term interest in a specific topic and did repeated searches with a given query. Because DA saves a cache for a given query or search set, it will only return new results on subsequent searches if the preferences are set correctly. It is more search tool than the casual user would need.

From the excellent DA Help file:

> There are many different ways to use DEVONagent and to integrate it into your workflow. Some examples are:
>
> ◊ Journalists use DEVONagent to collect hot news and use copy-and-paste to transfer the summary to Word or their editorial system, and the intelligent filters help them to eliminate junk information and duplicate or irrelevant pages on-the-fly.

◇ Analysts need to stay up-to-date with everything that happens in their industry. In DEVONagent they define their own search sets that return exactly what they're interested in, storing the key information in the integrated archive.

◇ Scientists and students directly access specialized databases, scan important web sites and pick relevant news via RSS. They transfer the most interesting articles with just one click as web archive, plain text, RTF or PDF into DEVONthink.

◇ Lawyers use DEVONagent to stay up-to-date with new laws, precedence setting cases and interpretations, as well as their main clients. The scheduler does this automatically and lets them concentrate on their work.

◇ Home users do genealogic research, find desktop pictures, search for long-lost friends or simply use DEVONagent as a high-end interface to Google and MSN Search.

How does it work? At it's simplest, DA presents a query box. **(Fig. 2)** It is a floating window with a text box and a magnifying glass icon. It breaks out

Fig. 2. DA query box

of Apple's human interface guidelines a little by having dimmed out text in the box under some circumstances. You can't select or delete it but this text will go away when you start to type.

The magnifying glass is a pop up that displays two types of choices. The top is for search sets and an "Edit Search Sets" choice. You can use this to create a Custom Search Set which will then be added to those available in the pop-up**. (Fig. 3**) This box is the key to DA's power to schedule unattended searches by clicking the "Schedule" tab. Below the "Search Sets" are the "Plugins" which are interfaces for specific search engines that aid in the finding and querying of the search site.
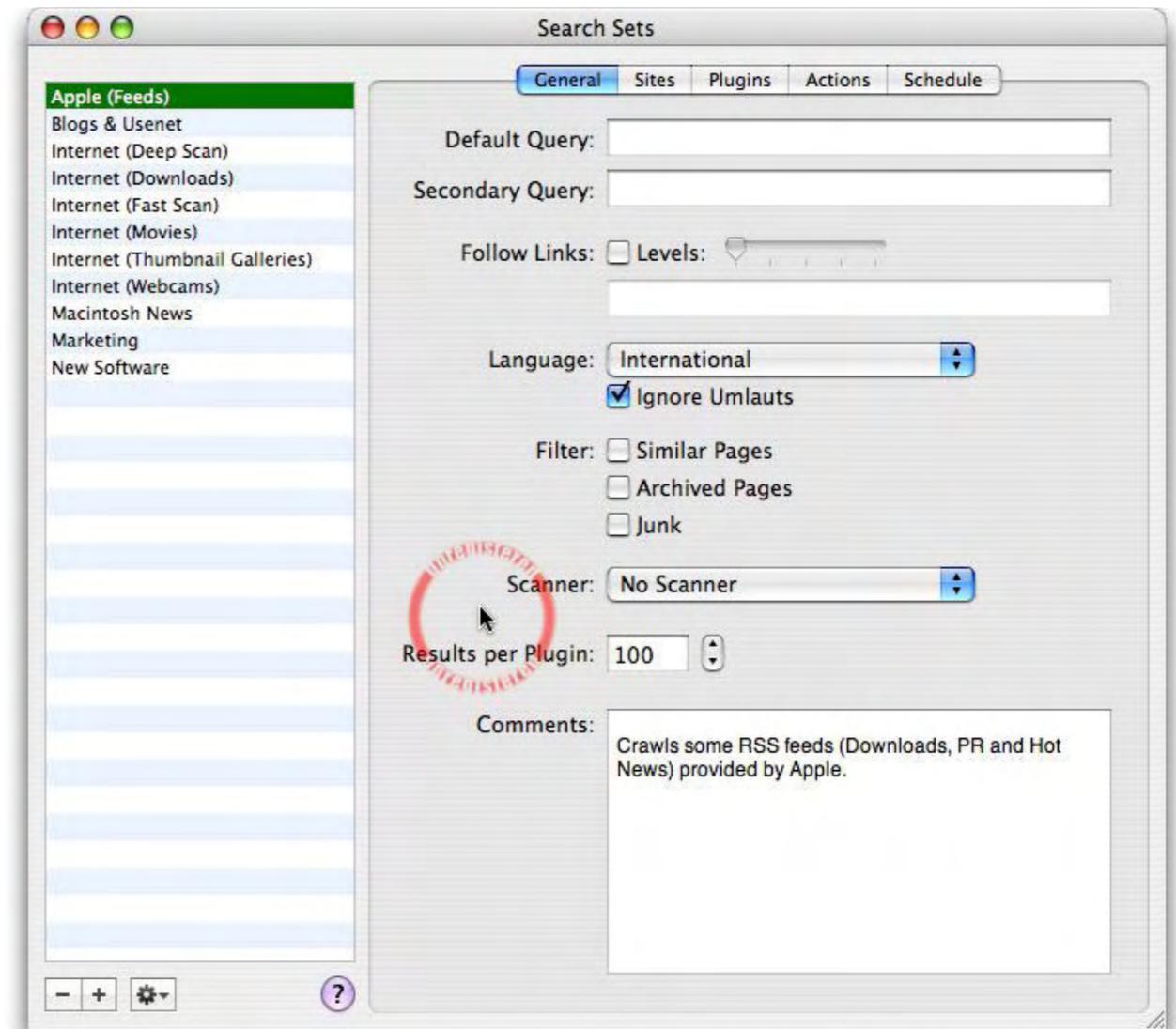

Fig. 3. DA search sets dialog box

My query was "Sherry Baby." This might return results about the new movie, the old song or a breed of orchid. You could use operators like "Sherry Baby NEAR orchid" if you were interested in the flower. You could use "Sherry Baby AND movie" to find only references to the movie. Use Sherry Baby along with Frankie Valli or Four Seasons to find the song.

Use the Internet Fast Scan to return results fast with no analysis. Use Internet Deep Scan to get more analysis and actual page visits for more thorough research. I had trouble with DA crashing on extended Internet Deep Searches.

When DA has finished its scan it presens a results page with three tabs. In Digest View (**Fig. 4**), the page is divided into three main sections. On the left are topics with a colored bar. The more color the higher the relevance. On the right top is some kind of interrelationship chart (Topic Map) which I don't really understand, but there is an explanation of how to use this in DA Help.
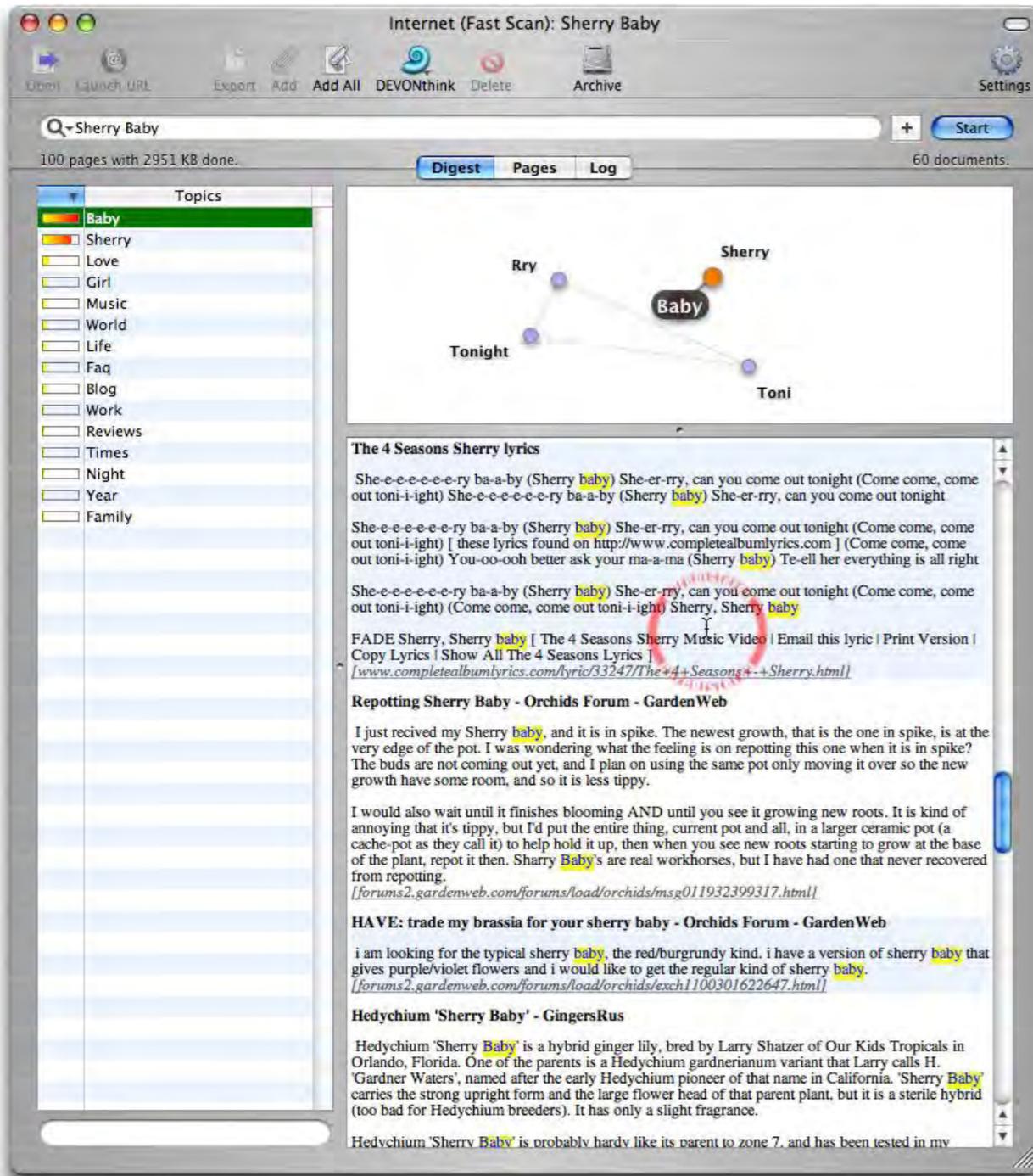
Fig. 4. DA Internet Search Results: Digest View

Fig. 5. DA Internet Search Results: Pages View

On the right bottom are synopses of the web page. More than enough info to judge whether to visit the page directly, and at the bottom of each section is an URL that will take you directly there.

Click the "Pages" tab and you get a different view (**Fig. 5)** with short descriptions of each page and colored coded relevance bars. Double click the entry and DA launches its own built in browser (looks just like Safari) to visit the page.
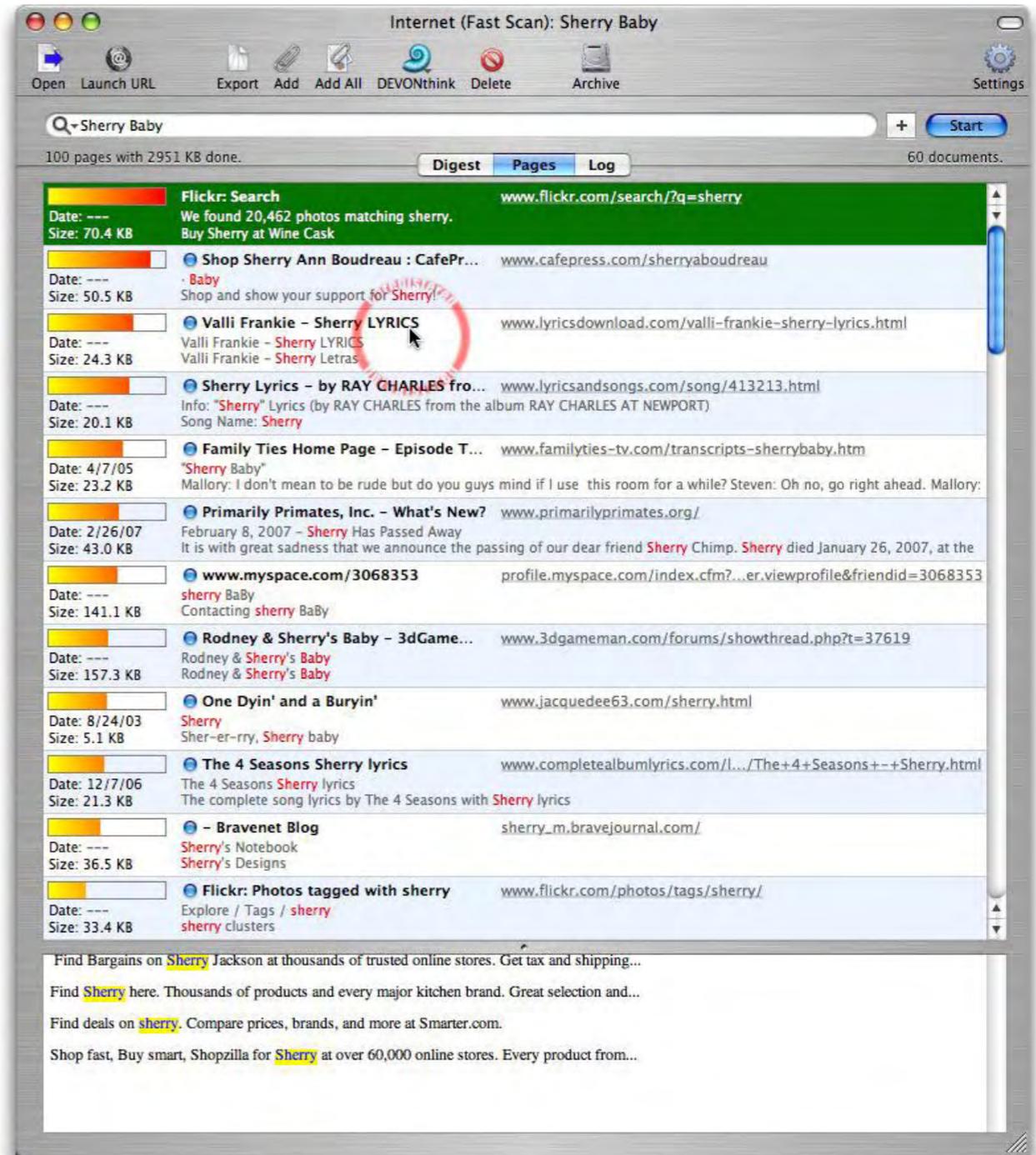
Click the "Log" tab and you see a list of all the web sites that were visited using your query with a description of any errors encountered. Click an entry in the log and a small version of the web page is displayed in the lower half of the window. (**Fig. 6)**

When you visit a web page in DA's browser there is a small icon on the left side of the tool bar that opens a drawer with a "Scanner" pop-up with a variety of file types. Pick the file type and all the files of that type will appear in

Internet (Fast Scan): Sherry Baby

Open Launch URL Export Add Add All DEVONthink Delete Archive Settings

Q▾ Sherry Baby   + Start

100 pages with 2951 KB done.   Digest Pages Log   60 documents.

Date	Address	Error
15:42:08	www.edfilmfest.org.uk/movies/show/sherrybaby/	No match
15:42:08	sherrybaby.mydeardiary.com/	No match
15:42:09	forums2.gardenweb.com/forums/load/orchids/msg1017542919232.html?6	Similar
15:42:09	www-personal.umich.edu/%7egbross/listen.htm	No match
15:42:12	www.answers.com/baby	No match
15:42:12	www.just-oldies.com/1962/sherry.htm	Similar
15:42:13	www.premiere.com/features/2519/sundance-film-festival-sherry-baby.html	No match
15:42:13	www.blackfilm.com/20060818/features/sherrybaby.shtml	No match
15:42:14	filmfresh.com/?film/sherrybaby	No match
15:42:14	www.wmich.edu/mus-gened/mus152/lyrics/sherry.html	Similar

Sherry, Sherry baby
Sherry, Sherry baby

She - e - e-e-e-e-ry baby
She - e - rry, can you come out tonight
She - e - e-e-e-e-ry baby
She - e - rry, can you come out tonight

(Why don't you come out) to my twist party
(Come out) Where the bright moon shines
(Come out) We'll dance the night away
I'm gonna make-a you mi-yi-yi-yine

She - e - e-e-e-e-ry baby
She - e - rry, can you come out tonigh
(Come, come, come out tonight)
(Come, come, come out tonight)

the drawer. Control click on the icons and you can download them. The group of three icons together in that same tool bar alter the view. The first gives the user a view of the HTML code or source code. The second gives just raw unformatted text and the third gives the page view as intended by the web designer.

Does it work? Yea, mostly. I had a few glitches. It crashed a time or two. It was unresponsive with the pizza wheel of death until I reinstalled it and I never got it to export to an open DEVONthink database. Perhaps Sue can help me with that one. ☼

John Davulis and Pat Groleau presenting at the Feb '07 CAMP meeting

DEVONagent Pro

indexing pages, DTP analyzes my entries and ranks them as if I were searching my hard drive using a search engine. It helps with filing and finding information in your database.

From the DevonThinkPro web site: "All our commercial applications are based on a proprietary AI technology, named DEVONtechnology, which is unique to us. This technology together a with rock-solid database foundation allow our applications to manage large numbers of documents or knowledge bits while analyzing them at the same time."

You can truly get to a paperless office and save all your text files, scanned documents, notes, images, multimedia files, chat logs, and bookmarks in one place. What an incredible tool for people who must keep track of project details!
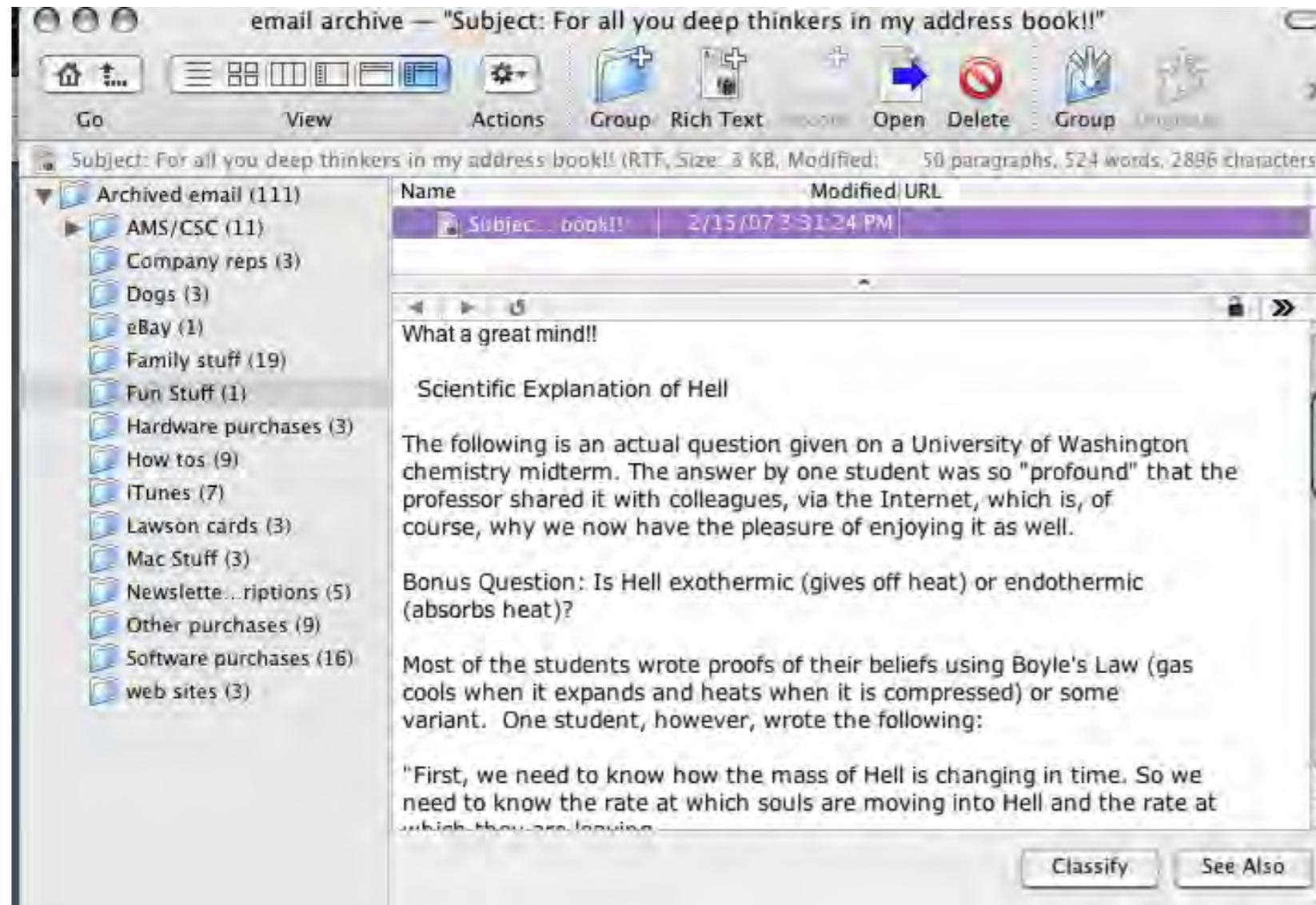
There are two ways of keeping information in the database. One is to import the file directly and keep a copy there; the other is to index the information

and store pointers to and a picture of the document.

It doesn't matter where your information comes from, your hard drive or the web, DTP can keep that information together for you in one place. You can read RSS news feeds and clip the information to your database. You can use scripts and Automator with DTP. You can even produce web pages of your database if you choose and publish to the web. It's that powerful an application.

To get started using DTP, you create a database by selecting New Database from the File menu. Give it a name, choose where you want it to reside on your system and click OK.
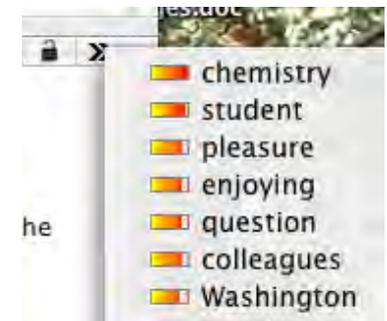
You can display an individual document in the "selection" part of the window.

Note that there is a paragraph, word, and character count of what is displayed. This can be a very useful thing for writers. Just click on your selection and you instantly know how many words and characters are in your document.

By clicking on the keywords icon(double chevrons), you can begin to see the power of this application. DTP automatically gives you a list of keywords it has found in the selection and ranks them accordingly. This list shows the keywords you can use to search for this and similar documents.

DTP Keywords

At the bottom of the window are the Classify and See Also buttons. Clicking on the Classify button displays a drawer with groups you've already identified in your database. Choose another group and click on the "Move To" button at the bottom of the drawer and your item is instantly moved to a new location.
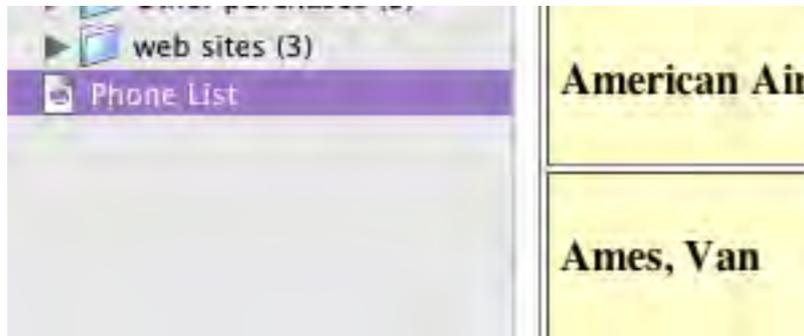
The See Also button allows you to set up cross-linking of items. In other words, if you'd like your particular item to appear in two places, See Also allows you to set that up. In fact, you can set up many cross-links. You're not limited to two.

You can also group items together. In my case, I created a database of archived emails that I wanted to keep. Some of the emails had serial numbers of software or receipts of hardware that I had purchased. Rather than have a separate folder for software purchases and another for hardware purchases, I grouped them together into computer stuff. Select each folder and then click on the group icon, name your new group, and you're done! What could be simpler?

Of course, the power of this application is in the Find capability. As shown on page 6, you can simply type what you're looking for in the search box or click on the down arrow for further possibilities to narrow your search. You certainly don't lack for choices!

You can even create RTF documents right in the application. Clicking on the Rich Text icon in the toolbar displays a blank window with the capability of a word processor. From there you can change to plain text

Display of Email Archive Item in DTP. Note the other view options in the toolbar.

Phone List as a Database Document

DTP Search Options

or use some of the features to spruce up your document. Note that scripts are available in this window just like in the application itself. For instance, I used the script to import phone numbers from my address book into this new document. So now I have a separate entry in my database with my phone list.

I created yet another page for my database, which executes a script from the Rich Text icon to get Apple Hot News, the Apple site's RSS feed. Automatically, the page is added to my database Now it's completely searchable for keywords. And, once created, this page gets updated daily.

Under Tools --> Concordance, you can get a window of all the keywords in your entire database sorted any way you like. You can change the view from a list to a graph showing the frequency of usage. You can also search for a particular word and have it show as the first term in the Concordance.

DTP also works seamlessly with DEVONagent to make Web searches faster and easier. You must have the license to use it and once installed, you can access it under Tools --> DEVONAgent.

There are two widgets you can install as well. One is DEVONjot Pro and the other is DEVONsearch. DEVONjot Pro is essentially a sticky note with the added convenience of allowing you to click on "Add Note" to automagically post the sticky note to your database. You can set it up to choose which database and have several "jots" running at once. The DEVONsearch widget allows you to do a quick search of your database for any keyword or term. It gives you the same output as a search from within the notebook.

As with any database, routine maintenance is a good thing. You have two options available to you. One option is Tools --> Backup and Optimize, which

tunes the database and creates a backup copy on your local drive. The other option is Scripts -->Export --> Backup Archive, which saves your database to removable media for storage off-site.

DEVON also has a wonderful online tutorial called DEVONacademy. I spent some time using the tutorial as an introduction on the application's features. There is also a user forum and, of course, support from the company.

DEVONthink is invaluable for researchers and those with lots of documents to keep track of. There are downloadable "try before you buy" versions available at the company's web site. The DTP version is good for 120 hours, which should give you ample time to try it out and see for yourself how truly powerful this application really is. You need to make sure that you're running OS X 10.3.9 or better and that you have 512 MB RAM on your machine. There is an online help menu available from within the application, but you can also download to a screen OR download a printable version of the user manual. It's quite detailed and easy to use. ☼

Upcoming Programs

March 14	Duo from DEVONtechnologies. Adam Tomash demonstrating DEVONagent. Sue Westlake demonstrating DEVONthink Pro.
April 11	Meeting to be held at Lawrence Jr. HS in Fairfield; see below
May 9	Rob Darby: Reprise of camera RAW, with special attention to sharpening.

Our April meeting will be held at Lawrence Junior High School in Fairfield, where Lawrence JHS teacher and CAMP member Patrick Groleau will present an overview of MARVEL!, an outstanding research service of the Maine State Library available at no charge to all Mainers. Plus, Dianna Mullins, a teacher at Lawrence, will present a brief introduction to the use of the Smart Board.

Additional information and directions to Lawrence will appear in the April issue of CAMP News. ☼