

NoteBook 1.2

Do you have lots of little bits of information lost somewhere on your computer? Most of us do, including myself. I have recently come across a program which provides a simple to use and powerful solution to managing all those miscellaneous bits and pieces - or even your more organised data. The program is NoteBook from a company in San Francisco called Circus Ponies Software.

So what does the program do?

Consider buying a little notebook to jot down your thoughts, quotes, jokes, meeting notes, and so on. Add in the capability to re-arrange your notes, add titles, and highlight selected bits. Drag in clippings from other documents. Slip in a few photos or even movie and sound clips.

You will soon see how quickly your NoteBook starts filling up. When you look at your NoteBook, you will find that Contents have automatically been added to the first page, with clickable links to your different notes. Tabs are attached to the edge of pages to quickly find major sections. Perhaps most useful is a whole section automatically maintained at the end of your NoteBook containing Indices of words, capitalized words, numbers, web references, creation or changed dates, highlighting, etc. Each index entry shows a usage count, and when you click it, the actual context of the use is displayed. Click again, and you are taken to the original page with the usage context highlighte.

It is so easy to overlook some really useful feature, so lets have a quick look at what Circus Ponies have to say on their website:

Note-Taking & Organizing

Organize your information with pages and tabs. Arrange notes hierarchically in each page's outline. Collapse or expand hierarchies to hide or show detail.

Annotation

Keywords, stickers and highlighting. Add an action item checkbox, set a due date, or assign a priority.

Clipping

Copy and paste, or just drag from wherever.

Searching

View all of the words in your Notebook and where they appear. Or all of the keywords, stickers, highlighting and other attributes. Use NoteBook's Super-Find panel to perform complex searches involving multiple words and attributes.

Importing

Transfer photos, images, film clips, and sound files directly into a Notebook. Enhance your images with special borders, drop shadows, rotation, and scaling.

HTML Publishing

Export your Notebooks to the web to share with non-NoteBook users. Use the default export options, or customize the look and structure of the exported pages to fit your project.

Surprisingly, what is not there is just as important:

Clipping Service

You can add a Clipping Service to pages you frequently clip stuff to. This adds it to the Services menu of other applications in OS X. That means you can select something in, say, Safari and choose Safari -> Services -> NoteBook -> Clip to [Your Page] from the main menu and the selection is added to your page 'magically'. The selection will be there when you next open your notebook.

Super-Clipping

This allows you to select some content in a Services-enabled application and Control-click it. The Contextual Menu, under 'NoteBook', will provide a new "Clip and Annotate" feature. If you use this feature with Safari, it will even add a link to the web-page you are clipping when it appends the selection to your Notebook page!

Discussion Forums

A free online bulletin board service to discuss information with other users and to get information about updates, etc.

User Group Support

This company offers great support to User Groups, including donations and discounts. They offer 40% discount for orders of 11 or more copies, giving a n excellent price of \$us29.95, and have donated a copy of this software to AUGC to raffle.

For the past month, I have been using a trial copy of the program to organise notes, emails, web data and so on related to Committee meetings, and I have found it is great to be able to quickly put my finger on a bit of information when it is actually needed during meetings. This is one program to go on my wanted list.

Summary:

Program NoteBook version 1.2
Company: Circus Ponies Software, Inc
Web Site <http://www.circusponies.com>