

Dedicated to my father (1922-1997)

In memory of the Space Shuttle Columbia, who boldly went where no one had gone before.

Welcome to CDFinder 4.6.1!

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1. What is CDFinder for Macintosh?

CDFinder for Macintosh is a powerful and easy-to-use software that helps you to keep track of your digital data assets on disks, CD-ROMs, DVDs, network volumes, and any other kind of digital volume, even Audio-CDs.

Every disk has to be "catalogued" once, which means that CDFinder will quickly read information about every item on that disk and store it in a catalog file inside the CDFinder Database Folder. Besides the names of all files and folders of the catalogued disk, CDFinder also stores a huge amount of additional valuable data, such as sizes, creation and modification dates, version information, comments, and also meta data such as MP3 file information, contents of several archive types (TAR, ZIP, StuffIt...), durations of audio tracks, and much much more.

To help you catalogue a larger amount of disks at once, the "Batch Create" feature will simply catalogue every disk once it is inserted, and eject it

afterwards.

Once you have catalogued your digital data with CDFinder, you can browse the contents of all disks without any of the disks actually inserted in your computer!

But of course CDFinder also offers powerful Find tools to quickly locate your data.

As the whole user interface of CDFinder is carefully designed to help you with your work, it is easy to learn how to use CDFinder efficiently.

For professional users, CDFinder even allows to share your catalog data in a network! And with the help of the additional product "CDWinder for Windows", that even works across the platform boundaries.

As CDFinder can handle up to 4 billion catalog files (every one representing one volume or disk) with about 4 billion items each, CDFinder is perfectly suited for a really large archive.

This short introduction can only give you a first small glimpse of the possibilities that CDFinder offers you to organize and manage your valuable media archive.

For more information, please read the full CDFinder Users Guide that comes with CDFinder.

2. System requirements

CDFinder requires Mac OS X 10.2 or newer, and is fully Tiger compatible, and a Universal Binary for PowerPC and Intel-Macs

2a. Is there a Windows version?

Yes! On December 18, 2000, CDWinder for Windows was released.

- CDWinder can read all CDFinder catalog files.
- All catalog files created by CDWinder can of course be used by CDFinder as well.

- CDWinder can run in a network, allowing you to put the catalog files on a common file server.
- CDWinder requires Windows 98, ME, NT 4, XP, or Windows 2000.
- Together, CDFinder and CDWinder are the premiere cross-platform solution powerful enough to catalog really large amounts of data in a network!

More infos: <http://www.cdwinder.de>

3. What does it cost and how to contact the CDFinder team?

A lot of different purchase options and payment methods are available, including cash, credit cards, and others.

Please check out <http://www.cdfinder.de/order.html> for all details!

Updates are usually free and can be downloaded from the CDFinder web site:

<http://www.cdfinder.de>

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CDWinder for Windows!

<http://www.cdwinder.de>

4. Limitations

The Demo License of CDFinder will annoy you at every launch with a little dialog reminding you of the benefits of purchasing CDFinder. The number of catalogs is also reduced to 25, which is surely enough to evaluate the application and its functions.

5. Legal stuff

The application "CDFinder" and all included materials are protected by copyright law. You may not disassemble it or modify it with similar tools.

You may copy the program together with all additional documents, except your license keys, as often as you want, as long as you don't modify any part of it. You may not sell it or use it commercially in any other way without my written consent.

If you want to distribute CDFinder on a shareware collection CD-ROM or something similar, you must inform me by e-mail or a written letter. I'd also like to have a copy of the CD-ROM, if possible...

You may freely use the program for a trial period of 30 days. After that, you must purchase a license.

I am in no way responsible for any damage occurring as a result of the use of the software. As cataloguing disks is a time consuming process, it is necessary and required to regularly backup your catalog files to allow you a quick disaster recovery.

CDFinder can use a shared CDFinder Database Folder on a file server only with a Business License.

6. The story

The whole thing started back in 1995 on one of those days that found me frantically searching my zillions of floppies and CD-ROMs for one particular file. Of course, I just found it on the last possible volume.

After this enlightening event I decided to search my huge software collection for a suitable cataloging tool. Most unfortunately, my search

turned out empty.

Some of the tools I found required system extensions - which I did not like very much. One even created alias files of the contents of the CD-ROMs, an unfortunate behavior if you have some million files on hundreds of disks (the Mac OS does not like that!). Some programs were simply too slow or did puke at large CD-ROMs. Some expensive commercial applications were not native or would not run in the background. None of the tools would even use drag&drop!

So I made up my mind and started my own little project. Since some of my friends were quite positive about my ideas, I decided to put the results into a program called "CDFinder". The application should be easy to use, very fast, support drag&drop, work in the background and include powerful search tools.

And here it is!!

7. What's new in CDFinder 4.6.1?

The most current version is available at the CDFinder web site:

<http://www.cdfinder.de>

You can also use the menu item "Visit CDFinder web site..." in the "Help" menu of CDFinder, or use the "Check for new version" feature at the same location to get there quickly!

4.6.1 (July 10, 2006)

- Printing CD Covers now prints a list of files and folders of the disk, even for Audio-CDs
- AppleScript improvements, such as the ability to catalogue just folders, or improve Find speed by not showing the results window
- The "Ignore Package Contents" setting can now again be turned off
- The automatic updating of the Database Folder now works again
- Printing of catalogs now works better for medium and large icon display
- CDFinder and also the CDFinder CMM 1.2 now properly detect the "can eject" status of FireWire and USB disks in Mac OS X 10.4 again
- The "Update & Eject" helper tool is now also a Universal Binary
- Quite a lot of issues have been solved, so make sure you update quickly!

This is a free update and very recommended!

4.6 (May 16, 2006)

- CDFinder is now a Universal Binary for PowerPC- and Intel-Macs!
- The Find function has been extended dramatically. You can now enter up to 16 search parameters, up from only two, and more
- Five new extra fields for catalogs allow you to extend the CDFinder database very flexibly
- Two additional fields can contain a "location" and a "serial number" value, that latter is automatically created by CDFinder
- All seven new fields and the comment can now be edited directly in the list window!
- CDFinder can now catalogue the contents of .sitx files (requires Mac OS X 10.4 and StuffIt Deluxe)
- A new "link" button in the header section of the Found Items and the Catalog windows improves navigation. It quickly reveals the catalog in the main window
- The "New Folder" command will now just quickly create a new folder, and start an editing session for it. Previously, a modal window would appear where you had to type in the name
- All printing functions have been rewritten for Quartz imaging. That produces very crisp results
- The Disk Tracker 1.x and 2.x importer now both read the serial number and write it into the new field in CDFinder
- Several windows have been re-designed for better Aqua appearance
- Saving new catalogs on non HFS+ volumes now works better, and prevents the errors -48 and -1704
- Resizing column widths is now live
- Quite a lot of issues have been solved, so make sure you update quickly!
- For the adventurous ones: There is a cool new hidden feature to be found in the Scripts menu. Enjoy, and send me feedback about it! Hint: It has to do with printing...

This is a free update and very recommended!

4.5.1 (November 30, 2005)

- Adds support to read the Lyrics data from iTunes 6 for both MP3 and AAC (.m4a, .m4b, .m4p) formats

- Adds the ability to directly import Disk Tracker 2.x catalog files
- Adds support for the Apple Mighty Mouse: Scrolling by the mouse ball is now possible in both directions. The same is true for Logitech mice with a tilt-able scroll wheel
- Improves visuals, more controls are now fully Aqua compliant, and most messages now use the standard message window of Mac OS X
- Deletion of catalog items is up to three times faster than before
- Adds "Flash-Drive" as a possible volume type in the catalogs Get Info window
- Much improved French translation by Hervé Bismuth!
- Fixes a problem when cataloging Audio-CDs. Sometimes, one or a few tracks of any given CD were not detected properly as music tracks, but as data tracks
- Fixes a problem with some Contextual Menus inside CDFinder that failed to work while the Inspector window was open
- Fixes a problem of iTunes 6, where the CD titles were stored incorrectly in the old "Remote Database"
- Fixes a little quirk where the date of catalogs was shown incorrectly in the Inspector
- Fixes a little problem with shrinking window sizes of catalog windows
- Fixes a problem where CDFinder could hang if the Inspector window was partially outside the main screen
- Fixes a problem where CDFinder would never shrink the size of a catalog file, even after items were deleted from it
- Fixes a potential crash when CDFinder failed to locate a catalog file
- Fixes a problem where the main window could partially disappear underneath the menu bar. That was due to the toolbar, and the way that CDFinder calculated positions
- As always, a couple of other minor issues has been solved

This is a free update and very recommended!

4.5 (September 1, 2005)

- CDFinder now reads numerous photo meta data, such as EXIF and IPTC, and also JPG, TIFF, BMP and PICT sizes and color depths. This is not using Spotlight, so it will work even in Mac OS X 10.2 and 10.3
- Of course, a number of new Find parameters are available to quickly find photos by the new meta data
- In Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger, CDFinder can now use Spotlight to search the

local disks while a normal catalog search is in progress

- To display the new meta data, CDFinder has a new Inspector window where all know information to any selected file will appear
- CDFinder now requires Mac OS X 10.2 or newer. This allowed us to remove a lot of old code, and increase the speed of most operations
- It is now possible to read the file and folder comments of the Mac OS X Finder. Previous versions could only read the old comments from Classic. This new features is quite slow, though, because the official way to obtain that data according to Apple is simply really slow
- The User Interface of CDFinder has been improved and looks a lot better now
- Copying the Found Items into the Finder is a lot faster and more efficient now, as all items of one volume are copied in a single step
- When cataloging audio CD's, CDFinder will now make better use of iTunes data
- As always, a couple of other minor issues has been solved

This is a free update.

If you want to know more about the other older versions of CDFinder, be sure to visit the CDFinder-Homepage.

8. The undiscovered country

This is a short list of some items that are high on the really long To-Do list of future features of CDFinder.

- read photo previews
 - full Unicode support
 - even better AppleScript support
 - Scanning of Disk Copy image files
 - Find duplicates
- and a lot more

9. Acknowledgements

First of all I would like to thank my wonderful wife Silvia. Without her patience, the development process would have been impossible.

Also I would like to thank my friend and partner Andy. He not only is the developer of CDWinder, the Windows counterpart of CDFinder, but he also has a lot of other good ideas...

freedb.org access code written and updated by Stephane Madrau!

New default Label names by Jeff MacArthur from commandN.tv

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Thanks for the much improved French translation to Hervé Bismuth!

Of course, without all of your registrations, I might have ceased development long ago! Thank you very much!

The comments and notes of all registered users also helped a lot.

Please send me ideas, comments, notes and Cocoa Puffs or Star Trek books!

By Norbert M. Doerner 1995-2006
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