ComicBookLover

"Your Mac Superhero"
http://www.comicbooklover.com

1.0 (build 14) - Release Candidate 1 (RC1)

Upgrading from Public Beta to Release Candidate

Please ensure that comics stored on external drives or on network volumes are mounted and accessible by the system.   Please see the note on upgrading below.

About ComicBookLover

Easily view, collect and organise your digital comics!

Unleash your digital comic collection!   Advanced viewing options make reading comics enjoyable, whether on a laptop or external display. Editing information is fast with auto-completion and auto-fill.   Finding comics is a visual delight when browsing cover artwork.   Let ComicBookLover be your Mac Superhero.

Built exclusively for Mac OS X and making use of the latest Tiger technology (CoreData & CoreImage), ComicBookLover costs US $24.95 and may be purchased from the demo or from:
     http://order.kagi.com/?5TV
(During the beta period, ComicBook is available for US $19.95, so fly over to the web store now and save 5 dollars!)

Features

View Comics
   - Auto-sense oversized pages e.g. double-spread
   - Auto-resize facing pages so they fit neatly
   - Read in Single page, Western and Manga page mode

- Full screen mode
  - Supports external displays
- Scale and rotate pages to fit your display
- Remember viewing options per comic book
- See thumbnails of all pages
- View details of all page images including EXIF tags
- Re-order pages
- Adjust colours and sharpen images

Collect & Organise Comics
- Import comic archives into ComicBookLover's library
- View cover artwork for your comics
- Create smart lists of your favourite comics
- Drag pages to Finder to export page data
- Search and find your comics quickly
- Edit comic information easily
  - Title, Series, Publisher, Credits, etc.
  - Quickly edit information for multiple comics with autofill
  - Auto-completion of common names and words means you type less
  - International language support

Original Comic Files Are Unchanged
  - Comic related information is stored in ComicBookLover's internal library.
  - Cover artwork can be set as the icon for the comic file in Finder

Comic Archives supported
  - Supports CBZ, CBR, ZIP, RAR and PDF comic archives
  - Supports a folder of images

System Requirements

- Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger)
- Universal Binary supports both Intel Macs and PowerPC Macs.

Getting Started

Installation

Drag the application icon to your Applications folder, or wherever you like to store your applications.

On the first launch, ComicBookLover will take a few seconds to create its internal library.   The internal library does not contain comics.   It maintains the data that is associated with comics, such as location of the comic file, artwork, credits, etc.

Upgrading

If you are upgrading, simply move the old application icon to the trash, and install the latest version of the software.

Launch ComicBookLover and it will ask your permission to migrate the comic library data for use with the updated software, if it is necessary to do so.

Old comic library data which has been migrated, is found at the following locations:
HOME/Library/Application Support/ComicBookLover/ComicBookLover.sqlstore.old
HOME/Library/Application Support/ComicBookLover/blobs.old
You can backup this data and if you ever wish to restore your old comic library, and migrate again, remove the current comic library data, and rename the above by removing the .old suffix.

When upgrading from the Beta (builds 1-12) to Release Candidate, you should ensure that comics stored on external drives or on network volumes are mounted and accessible by the system.

Otherwise, migrated comics will not be automatically tracked on the file system until they are opened or located from within ComicBookLover.   These comics will be identified by the archive size being reported as 0, and if opened from the Finder will cause a new entry to be created in the Library.

Uninstalling

HOME/Library/Application Support/ComicBookLover/blobs.old
HOME/Library/Application Support/ComicBookLover/ComicBookLover.sqlstore.old

To get rid of all the files related to ComicBookLover, do the following:

1. Drag the ComicBookLover icon to the trash
2. Drag the HOME/Library/Preferences/com.bitcartel.comicbooklover.plist file to the trash
3. Drag the HOME/Library/Application Support/ComicBookLover folder to the trash
4. Drag the HOME/Library/Caches/ComicBookLover folder to the trash

To get rid of old comic library data which has been migrated, do the following:

1. Drag the HOME/Library/Application Support/ComicBookLover/ComicBookLover.sqlstore.old file to the trash
2. Drag the HOME/Library/Application Support/ComicBookLover/blobs.old folder to the trash

To get rid of files related to earlier Beta builds 1-8 of ComicBookLover, when known as ComicBookViewer, do the following:

1. Drag the ComicBookViewer icon to the trash
2. Drag the HOME/Library/Preferences/com.bitcartel.comicbookviewer.plist file to the trash
3. Drag the HOME/Library/Application Support/ComicBookViewer folder to the trash
4. Drag the HOME/Library/Caches/ComicBookViewer folder to the trash

Using ComicBookLover

Opening A Comic

ComicBookLover can read:
- a folder of comic pages as images
- CBZ comic archive (folder of comic images compressed with zip)
- CBR comic archive (folder of comic images compressed with rar)
- PDF comics (may look different than when viewed with Preview)

How to open a comic to read it?

⌘O   "File --> Open" menu option

        Drag'n'drop a comic from Finder onto the ComicBookLover dock

icon.

In Finder, open a comic with a file extension of .CBZ or .CBR and ComicBookLover should launch.   If not, or these files have been set to launch another program, you can change this by selecting the comic in Finder, selecting "Get Info", and then under "Open with:" select ComicBookLover and click the "Change All.." button.   Now when opening these comics in Finder, ComicBookLover should launch.

Importing Comics

⇧⌘O "File --> Import" menu option

Import will scan a folder for comics and add them to the ComicBookLover library.   The comic itself is not copied or moved anyway.   The ComicBookLover library only stores information about the comic.

Subfolders are also optionally searched for valid comic archives (cbz, cbr, pdf) format - folders of images are not added.

You can also drag'n'drop a selection of files and folders from the Finder onto the main window to import comics.

Main Window

The main window is split into three main areas.   The left hand side displays lists or smart lists of comics.   On the right hand side there is a search field and table, listing comics that match certain criteria. Below, is an artwork pane which displays the covers of comics you find.

Searching is similar to searching in iTunes.   Typing text into the search field searches across many fields of comic data.   A search bar will appear which lets you restrict the search to a certain field.   The browser button displays a browser which lets you find comics based on genre, publisher and series.   The search field and search bar selection affects the comics displayed in the browser.

Currently the main table and artwork cover pane only displays 100 comics.   If you have more than 100 comics in your collection, a button

titled 'See All' appears in the bottom right hand corner of the main window.   Pressing this will hide the artwork pane and display your entire comic collection in the table.

(The limit of 100 may change in the future as we continue to test and adjust performance.)

TIP: To improve performance of the artwork covers, make them bigger (not smaller), and reduce the overall size of the artwork pane by dragging the divider.

Access a contextual menus by right clicking or pressing ctrl while clicking the left mouse button.   The contextual menu allow you to get comic info, apply a rating, read a comic, or show where the comic file is located in the Finder.

Info & Inspectors

⌘I   Comic Info (edit a single comic or multiple comics at the same time).

When editing names of publishers, artists and series, auto-completion will take place in the text fields so you don't have to type so much. Text is UTF-8 compliant, so Japanese and other language characters can be entered.

⇧⌘I   Image inspector - provides information about the image for the page

⇧⌘C   Color correction inspector - you can adjust the comic colors and image sharpness.   The original archive is not affected in any way.   The internal library of ComicBookLover will remember your settings.

Thumbnail Drawer and Page Order

The display order of pages in a comic are usually determined by the filename of the page in the comic archive.   For example. page001 will be displayed before page2 (001 is the same as 1).   Sometimes the filenames are incorrect, and the cover of the comic may not be the first

page.   In the thumbnail drawer of a comic you can drag the pages around to the order you want.

If you want to restore the sort order to the default order based on filename, use the contextual menu by right clicking or pressing ctrl while clicking the left mouse button.

The original comic file is not affected in any way.   The internal library of ComicBookLover will remember your custom page order.

You can also drag thumbnails to your Desktop to extract images from the comic archive.

Viewing Controls

Page Mode
⌘1	Single page
⌘2	Western facing pages
⌘3	Manga facing pages

Scale Mode
⌘4	Actual size of page
⌘5	Fit page to window
⌘6	Fit page width to window width

Scrolling
        Mouse   Drag scroll the page
        ␣ (Spacebar)   Scroll Page down (jumps to next page if at end of page)
        ⇧␣ (Spacebar)   Scroll Page up (jumps to previous page if at start of page)
        ↑ ↓ ← →   Scroll
        ⇧ ↑ ↓ ← → (Shift) Scroll Faster
        ^ ↑ ↓ ← →   (Control) Page up, down, left, right

Page Movement
        Mouse   Click left mouse button in left or right side of window to move to previous or next page
        ⌘→   Next Page
        ⌘←   Previous Page
        ↖   First Page in comic

     ↘   Last Page in comic

Zoom when in Actual Size mode
     ⌘+   Zoom In
     ⌘-   Zoom Out

Rotate
     ⌘0   No Rotation
     ⌘[Rotate left 90º
     ⌘]   Rotate left 270º
     ⌘\   Rotate left 180º

Full Screen Mode
     Mouse   Double-click left mouse button on image to toggle full screen mode
     ⇧⌘F   Enter full screen mode (on whichever display the comic window is on)
     ⃠ Escape Exit full screen mode (you can still ⌘⇥ to switch applications, and ⌥⌘⃠ to force quit)

Other Controls
     ⌘,   Open Preferences window
     ⌥⌘E   Empty Cache
     ⇧⌘D Hide / Show thumbnail drawer
     ⌘B   Hide / Show toolbar

Smart Viewing (Auto Sense)

ComicBookLover is smart about comics.   It can:
- adjust the size of facing pages so they are the same, if the images differ by upto 10%.   Often images of pages differ by a few pixels in each dimension and can look uneven when shown on screen.
- identify over-sized pages such as double spreads, so that when viewing in facing page mode, these pages are shown on their own.

Preferences

The cache is an area of the computer's memory and hard disk which the application will temporarily use to speed up comic viewing.   You can adjust the cache settings - the more the better - to suit your

requirements and your computer specification.   There is a menu option "File -> Empty Cache..." which will delete the contents of the cache.

More information, and feedback

To find out more about ComicBookLover, visit the web-site:
http://www.comicbooklover.com

We welcome your inquiries and feedback at:
support@comicbooklover.com

History of Changes

1.0 Build 14 (24 Feb 06) - Release Candidate 1
- Fixed migration bug which caused some information to not be migrated.   Refer to the upgrading section in the release notes on restoring data prior to build 13 (RC1) and migrating again.

1.0 Build 13 (23 Feb 06) - Release Candidate 1
+ Added lists and smart lists to help manage comics
+ Added a sliding pane which shows the cover artwork of the selected comic
+ Added ability to track the location of comics added to the library
+ Added support for reading PDF comics.
+ Added handling of partially corrupt or damaged comic book Zip archives, so that as much of the comic book is displayed as possible.
+ Improved speed and lowered memory usage when migrating a large comic library.
+ Improved speed of opening existing comic archives in a large comic library.
+ When locating a comic file which has moved, the software will automatically discover other comics which have also moved from the old to new location.
+ Internal data model updated
- Tidied up user interface and widgets
- Fixed a bug where the arrow keys and Mighty Mouse could not move around a comic page properly.
- Fixed bug so that when in two page mode, page numbers are displayed correctly in the document window title.
- Fixed a bug where deleting existing credits and tags did not work.
- Fixed a bug where cancelling an import would not remove cover images from disk.
- Fixed bug so that clicking in the left and right hand side of the viewing area works correctly in Manga mode.
- Fixed an issue where sorting by size was slow and not numerically sorted.
- Fixed a bug where the delete credits and tags checkbox of the multiple comics info

window was not cleared each time the window was displayed.
- Fixed an issue where when a document was closed, the status column in the main table was not updated.

1.0 Build 12 (11 Jan 06)
+ Universal version of ComicBookLover runs on both PowerPC and Intel Macs.
+ Page up and page down when viewing comics will scroll up and down through the page. Now it will also move to the previous and next page when the start or end of a page has been reached.
+ Added ability to toggle full screen mode by double-clicking on the page image being displayed.
- Fixed a bug where mouse cursor hiding was not working in the full screen window mode.

1.0 Build 11 (6 Jan 06)
+ Importing via the menu option or drag'n'drop from the Finder will import all selected files and allow searching of subfolders for comics.   Dragging a comic onto the main application window will import it rather than opening it.
+ Improved UI dialog so when cancelling an import.   User can continue importing, or stop importing and optionally keep imported comics so far.
+ Locate dialog now askes user whether they want to cancel opening, delete the entry, or locate the correct file.
+ Sorting by series table column also sorts results by volume and issue number.
+ Locating a file will now open the file as well as update the URL.
+ Browse button made smaller to match 'see all' button.
- Fixed a bug which caused covers to be deleted when cancelling an import and discarding comics already import.
- Sorting of title and series names are case insensitive and numerical (groups of numbers are interpreted as numbers rather than plain text)
- Fixed an issue when importing or other modal panels appeared, some of the menu options were still enabled and accepting key commands.
- Fixed bug so that contextual menu option 'Show comic file' now works correctly.
- Fixed an issue where a user could locate the incorrect comic for a library entry causing the comic to open with empty pages.

1.0 build 10 (22 Dec 05)
- Fixed bug which caused crashing with large collections on OS X 10.4.3
- Browser only displays comics with genre, publisher and series information set
- Software license is displayed properly

1.0 build 9 (20 Dec 05)
+ Improved performance with large collections (e.g. 10,000 comics).
+ New data model with migration of data from previous betas.
+ Added search bar with roll over fields to restrict search.
+ Adjusted search field so that it executes search while user is typing text. Removed pull down search menu with fields to restrict search.
+ Added See All button to display all comics in the table, otherwise table and artwork covers only show 100.
+ Added new column 'Date Added'.
+ Improved importing speed.

- Fixed bug so that pressing Next or Prev in Info editor now saves any changes before moving to a different comic.
- Other minor fixes.

1.0 build 8 (29 Nov 05)
+ Added an iTunes style browser to allow easy navigation of large comic collections.
- Fixed a bug so that zooming in, when in actual size mode, in full screen mode now works.

1.0 build 7 (25 Nov 05)
+ Click in the left or right hand side of the open document view, to move back or forward by a page
+ Shift-scrollbar will scroll the page up
- Fixed a bug where some archives created on Windows with non-utf8 character sets would not open and be treated as empty.

1.0 build 6 (22 Nov 05)
+ Importing speed is now twice as fast, especially when a large collection already exists in the library
+ Cover thumbnails are now higher quality (re-import comics, or open the comic file for reading again)
- Internal bug fixes

1.0 build 5 (21 Nov 05)
+ Added detection of covers based on filename
+ Added tracking of comic files when the comic is open, so if the file is moved the URL is updated automatically.
+ Improved import performance by reducing the memory footprint during long imports
+ Improved over-sized page detection
+ Corrected behaviour so that if a comic is open, it cannot be cleared.
- Fixed a bug where the image detail inspector would not refresh to display details if the page was not yet loaded.
- Fixed a bug where selected covers were not redrawn as selected when cover artwork size slider changed.

1.0 build 4 (18 Nov 05)
+ Added option to hide pages (in contextual menu in thumbnail drawer)
+ Added previous and next buttons to Comic Info panel so user can edit other comic books in list (iTunes style behaviour)
+ Improved table interface.   Double-clicking on an entry opens it.   A single-click in the Title, Volume and Issue columns starts editing of those fields. (iTunes style behaviour)
- Fixed a bug with OS X created zip files.   Flattened resource files no longer appear as an empty page.

1.0 build 3 (18 Nov 05)
+ Cover artwork speed improved. Removed limit on number of covers shown.
+ Search field only starts a search when return is pressed.
+ When dragging a folder onto the CBV window for importing, continuous dock icon

bouncing is cancelled.
- Fixed a bug which caused a crash when importing an empty file.
- Fixed an issue where drag'n'drop of thumbnails from one document to another was visually possible even though it wasn't actually possible.

1.0 build 2 (17 Nov 05)
+ Drag and drop a folder into the main window to trigger an import.
+ Drag and drop a comic file into the main window to open it for viewing.
+ Drag thumbnails to Finder, to copy the page image (e.g. jpg) to a file
+ Drag thumbnails to TextEdit to paste the underlying filename for the page image in the archive
+ Added option for cover art to be used as the comic file's icon in Finder.   It is set whenever opening or importing comics, and whenever the cover page is updated.
+ Added option to keep imported comics when cancelling an import.
+ Added daily, weekly or monthly autoversion checking to preferences.
- Fixed bug : preference option for default viewing page mode now works for imported comics.
- Fixed bug : when quitting the application, window frame of comic document is saved (previously it was only being saved when clicking the window close button)