

Media Catalog 4.1

Reviewer's Guide

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Product Overview

Media Catalog is a cataloging solution for finding files that are on removable media such as CD's, DVD's, but also network volumes or removable hard drives. Media Catalog indexes these media and help you find the files you were looking for.

With an easy-to-use interface and modern features such as Mac OS X 10.5's QuickLook Media Catalog will help you find the files you need.

Case Study

In the summer of 2002 I visited a desktop publishing company that needed a cataloging solution. For years they had stored their archive on CD's and DVD's and added their contents to Iomega's world famous FindIt utility.

Whenever an employee would seek for a file, all they had to do was look it up in FindIt to know which CD or DVD they had to grab from the hundreds of volumes present in the archive.

Once a month all newly gathered data would be burned on a number of CD's or DVD's and inserted into their FindIt catalog. They were fairly happy with their current workflow.

Iomega decided not to port their much used utility to Apple's then newly born Mac OS X so a replacement solution was necessary. So I was asked to build a replacement application and Media Catalog was born not long after that.

Unique Features

Media Catalog is ...

Easy-to-use

Try it, you will not find a better one.

Fast

Tests have shown Media Catalog to be the fastest of all cataloging applications for Mac OS X today.

Smart

Quick Search is smart. When you enter the text "finance 2004" it will look for all items containing the term "finance" *and* "2004", in any order.

Enter "finance 2004 -February" and Media Catalog will show you all items containing the terms "finance" *and* "2004" *and not* "february"

Complex (if want it to be)

Media Catalog can also execute complex queries. Choose “New Search” from the “Search” menu and enter as much criteria as you like. This allows you to search for files created between certain dates and sizes.

Networked

You can share your catalog file like any other file on your network. Every client will automatically recognize when a new volume has been added to or removed from the catalog so your results are always accurate.

Up-to-date

Media Catalog will, when necessary, do a rescan of available volumes every two hours. So if you took your FireWire hard drive home for the weekend to do some overdue work, Media Catalog will pick up on that when you plug it in on Monday morning.

New in This Version

Tags Support

Add arbitrary pieces of text with your volumes such as storage location or originating department.

Stability Increase

A lot of bugs have been killed improving overall stability and reliability, especially for users with large (>1000 volumes) catalogs.

User Interface Update

The user interface has been updated to resemble that of Apple’s own applications such as iTunes to improve user experience.

Example Use

It is Friday afternoon and your boss just asked you to take care of this week’s archiving. You quickly burn the data to a DVD labelled “Week 22, 2008”.

A double click launches Media Catalog, which you’ve set up to automatically scan and eject any disc that is inserted into the computer. You insert the DVD that you had just burned and wait a few seconds for it to pop out again and have it show up in the All Volumes section.

On monday morning your colleague from accounting comes in and tells you she needs some financial data from 2003 for taxing purposes. You launch Media Catalog and ask her when she thinks she last worked on that file.

Your colleague proceeds to tell you that she must have last edited it between January 10, 2004 and February 1, 2004 and has probably named it something like tax return sheet.

You open a complex query sheet by clicking on the '+'-sign at the bottom left of Media Catalog's window and enter the data accordingly. Media Catalog tells you that the file she is looking for is on a DVD labelled "Week 3, 2004".

You dive into the archive to retrieve the DVD and put it in your computer. After a few seconds it shows up and you drag it from the Media Catalog window to a location on your company's server so your colleague can access it.

After you told her where she can find her information she thanks you and goes back to her desk.

Availability and Pricing

Website: <http://halfduplex.net/>

Direct Download: <http://halfduplex.net/MediaCatalog.dmg>

Pricing: USD \$ 24.99 for a single user license.

For volume licenses visit the website. You get discounts on any amount of licenses so see for yourself which suits you best.

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