

www.xinorbis.co.uk

www.maximumoctopus.com

xinorbis@maximumoctopus.com

© Paul Alan Freshney 2026

Last Revision: October 1st 2026

Overview

Welcome to **Xinorbis 10**. This manual is designed to get you started on your Xinorbis journey.

Xinorbis has been designed to be a simple to use, but powerful folder and disk analysis tool.

The software can do a quick analysis of a folder, hard disk, or other storage device. For desktop users and network administrators it should make finding unwanted content much easier. Being able to compare drives or folders (*Folder History*) to how they were many days/weeks/months or even years ago is going to make spotting space wasting material or wasteful users much easier and quicker than conventional means.

Once a scan has been completed Xinorbis will update its tables and graphs. It's then possible to create all manner reports from the gathered data.

Xinorbis is a powerful program so **please** read (and print if possible) the whole of this manual; you'll find lots of interesting information on all of Xinorbis' features that will help you make the most of the application.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve this software or identify any bugs then **please** email me at the address on the *Credits* page.

There are several ways of accessing help from within Xinorbis, should you need it:



Most of Xinorbis' windows have this button located in the bottom left hand corner. Clicking it will open window-specific help.

The Search, File History Search and File History Compare sections have these buttons:



Open the main search parameters help page.



Opens the "search parameters" tool window (or press `F3`)

or from anywhere:

Select the "Help" item from the Help menu (or press `F1`).

Select the "Context Help" item from the Help menu (or press `F2`).

Conventions

Xinorbis uses the following conventions when dealing with file sizes:

1 kilobyte (1KB) = 1024 bytes
1 megabyte (1MB) = 1048576 bytes (1024 x 1024)
1 gigabyte (1GB) = 1073741824 bytes (1024 x 1024 x 1024)
1 terabyte (1TB) = 1099511627776 bytes (1024 x 1024 x 1024 x 1024)

Not all applications follow this convention but as well as being the most commonly used throughout the industry it's also how Windows reports file sizes.

It's worth noting that hard disk manufacturers tend to use a slightly different method when reporting hard disk sizes:

1 megabyte (1MB) = 1000000 (1000 x 1000)
1 gigabyte (1GB) = 1000000000 bytes (1000 x 1000 x 1000)
1 terabyte (1TB) = 1000000000000 bytes (1000 x 1000 x 1000 x 1000)

To avoid this ambiguity the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) established the following units:

1 kibibyte (1KiB) = 1024 bytes
1 mebibyte (1MiB) = 1048576 bytes (1024 x 1024)
1 gibibyte (1GiB) = 1073741824 bytes (1024 x 1024 x 1024)
1 tebibyte (1TiB) = 1099511627776 bytes (1024 x 1024 x 1024 x 1024)

They haven't been broadly adopted by the software industry yet, but more and more applications are making use of them. Future versions of Xinorbis will use the kibibyte (eventually).

Layout

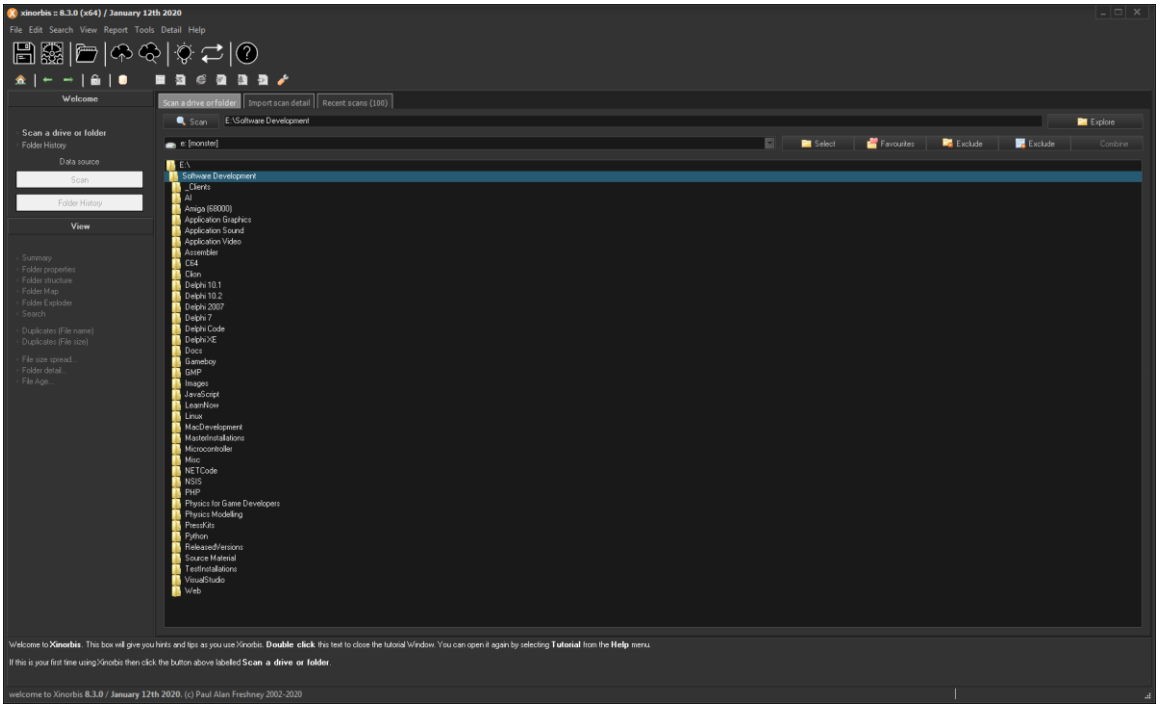
The Xinorbis window is split in to five discrete sections:

Menu bar.

The top two toolbars.

The side panels allow for quick access to the main Xinorbis functions.

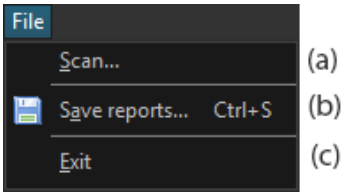
Tutorial text if active



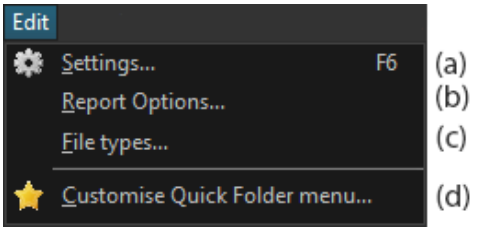
Charts/tables/graphs go here!

Menu bar

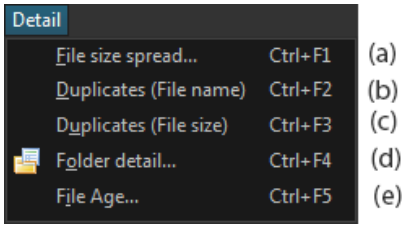
a) Scan a drive or folder
b) Save many reports at once
c) Exit the program :(



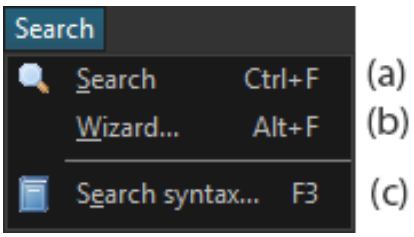
a) Open Xinorbis settings
b) Edit basic report options
c) Configure file types and categories
d) Customise Quick Folder menus. These can be found in many places and are easily identified by the yellow star .



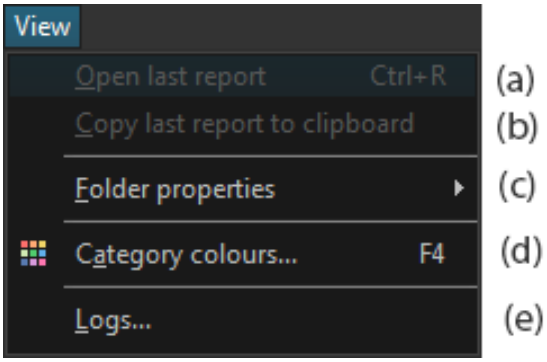
a) Open the *Search Tab*
b) Open the *Search Wizard* (for Search and File History)
c) Opens a pop-up window containing details of every search function. Xinorbis has a very powerful search system, and it's all detailed here.



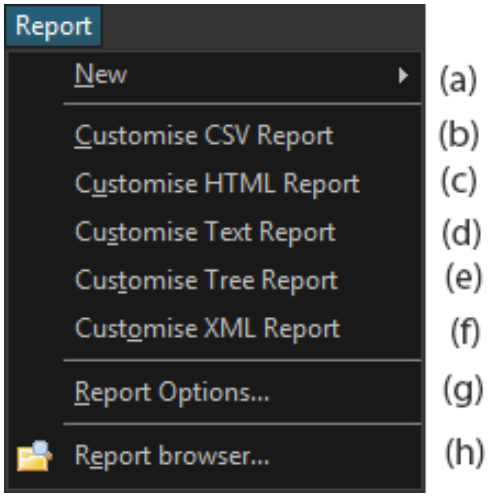
a) View the last report to be generated
b) Copy the last report to the clipboard
c) View one of the information tabs
d) Open the Category Colours window
e) Opens the logs folder



a) Create a new report
b) Customise the contents of CSV reports
c) Customise the contents and colour scheme of HTML reports
d) Customise the contents of text reports
e) Customise the contents of tree reports
f) Customise the contents of XML reports
g) Edit basic report options
h) Open the reports folder in Windows Explorer



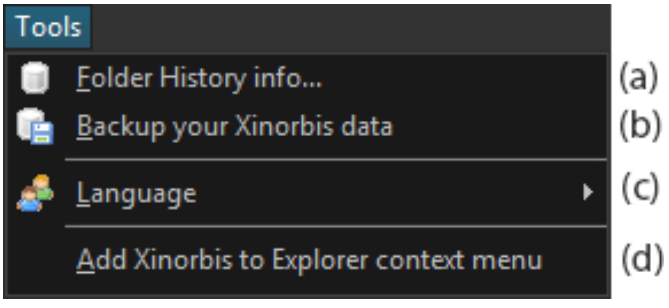
a) Open the Folder History information window
b) Backup the contents of the Xinorbis data folder*
c) Select Xinorbis' language
d) Add Xinorbis to the Windows Explorer context menus

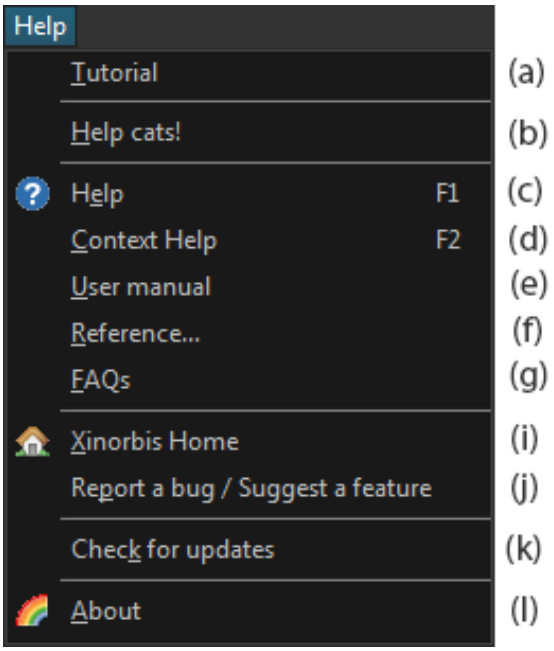


* Default: "C:\documents and settings\<your user name>\xinorbis" for Windows 2000/XP
"C:\users\<your user name>\xinorbis" for Windows Vista/7/8/10

Xinorbis will not backup the database in ODBC mode.

a) Open the File Size Spread panel
b) Open the Duplicate File Name panel
c) Open the Duplicate File Size panel
d) Show detailed folder information
e) Show the File Age panel



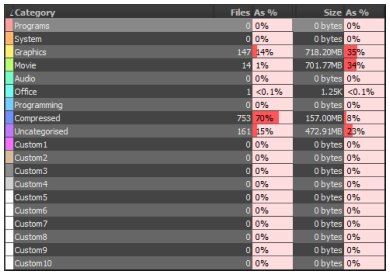


a) Toggle the tutorial panel at the bottom of the main Xinorbis window
b) Xinorbis is free. So instead of donation to me, I ask that you donate to a local cat charity. Cats rule.
c) Open the online help
d) Open a help page specific to the currently opened tab
e) Open this manual
f) Open the file reference display
g) Open the Xinorbis FAQ website
h) Open the Xinorbis.co.uk website
i) Sends an email to me. Please consider sending me any suggestions or feedback you have.
j) Check for an updated version of Xinorbis
k) Show version information and important file and folder paths

Common Functions and Behaviour

Each chart and table in Xinorbis have extra functionality that can be accessed via a popup menu, press the right mouse button over a table, chart, tree, or list to access this menu.

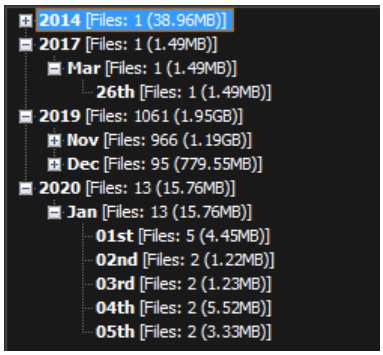
Tables



Double clicking a row of any table will show (in search) the files/folders that are represented by that row. For example, double click the "Graphics" row of the Categories table and you'll be shown all files belonging to the graphics category.

Some tables have a right mouse button menu that contains table-specific functions.

Trees



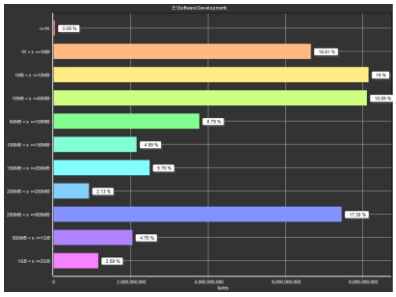
Double clicking a node or entry of the tree will show (in search) the files/folders that are represented by that entry.

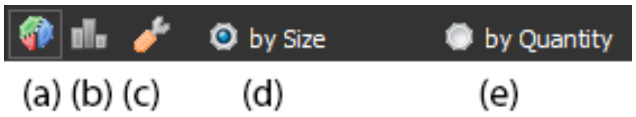
For example, double click the "Graphics" node of the Type tree and you'll be shown all files belonging to the graphics category. Double click the ".jpg" entry to see only those files with the .jpg (JPEG) extension.

Charts

The following controls behave in the same way throughout all of Xinorbis' tabs.

For each tab that contains a graph you'll find the following set of controls:

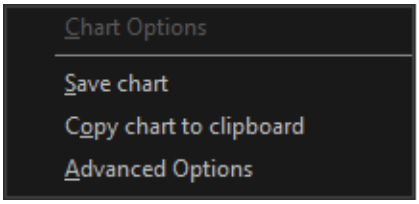




a) Show as pie chart.
b) Show as bar graph.
c) Tab-specific options (not available with every graph)
d) Show by size of files
e) Show by quantity of files

Press the right mouse button over any chart to open the following popup menu:

a) Save the chart as a bitmap image.
b) Copy the chart as a bitmap to the clipboard.
c) Open the Advanced chart options dialog.



Top Toolbars



Top toolbar, from left to right:

- Save multiple reports from the same window.
- Open Xinorbis Settings.
- Open the report folder in Windows Explorer.
  (default: Windows 2000/XP: `c:\documents and settings\<your user name>\Xinorbis`
  Windows Vista/7/8/10: `c:\users\<your user name>\Xinorbis`)
- Open the report browser
- Web Reports
- Search Wizard
- Refresh the displays without rescanning the selected folder
- Show help window

Bottom toolbar, left to right:

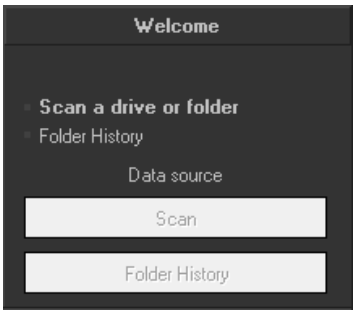
- Previous page
- Next page
- Home page
- Toggle "privacy" mode. When privacy mode is active all reports will have owner, file and folder details removed.
- Temporarily disable Folder History. Useful if you want to scan a folder and don't want its details adding to Folder History.

Bottom toolbar (reports), left to right:

Open report (context based on currently visible display)
Summary, CSV, HTML, Text, Tree, XML, and Xinorbis

Basic report customisation

It's possible to quickly create and open a new HTML or Text report by pressing the right mouse button over the HTML or Text buttons and selecting "Custom…"



Side Panel: Welcome

The "Welcome" panel is the starting point for all of Xinorbis' functionality and power.

From here you can scan a drive, view the contents of previous scan or compare/view the contents of a folder at different dates/times.

Data Source selection

All of the displays, tables, graphs, and reports in Xinorbis are built from data that is collected either via a live scan, imported from a file, or loaded from Folder History.

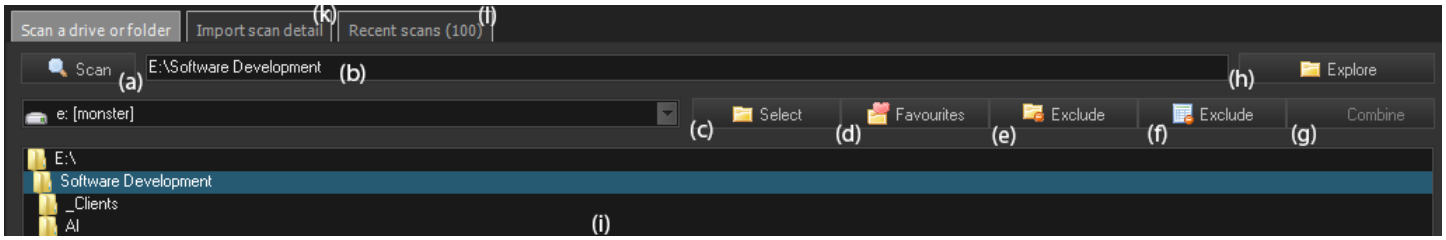
When Xinorbis has data loaded the corresponding button will be illuminated in the Data Source section. Clicking a source will set it as the data to be used, and all tables/graphs etc. will be refreshed to use the selection.

Having two large data sets (one from live/import and one from Folder History) can use a *lot* of RAM.

Occasionally one of the options in the Welcome, Tasks or Reports panel may turn green. This is to show that Xinorbis is currently carrying out some important background task. Xinorbis does certain things in the background to keep it responsive and to help keep performance as high as possible. When the background task has finished the text will turn black.

When Folder History is updating it will not be possible to refresh the *Dates*, *History* or *Top 101* tabs in the *Folder Properties* section. This is because doing so could cause corruption to the Folder History database.

Scan a drive or folder



a) Click to scan the folder specified in (b).
b) The folder to scan.
c) Click to open a folder selector dialog.
d) Favourites, a list of favourite folders
e) Exclude folders from the scan. *
f) Exclude files from the scan. *
g) Combine multiple folders/drives in to the same scan
h) Open the folder at (b) with Windows Explorer.
i) Navigate the folders of the selected drive
k) Instead of scanning live, import scan data from a CSV or Xinorbis-format file (see below)
l) A list of previous scans, with date and time (in reverse order). Items in italics were scanned with excluded files and/or folders.

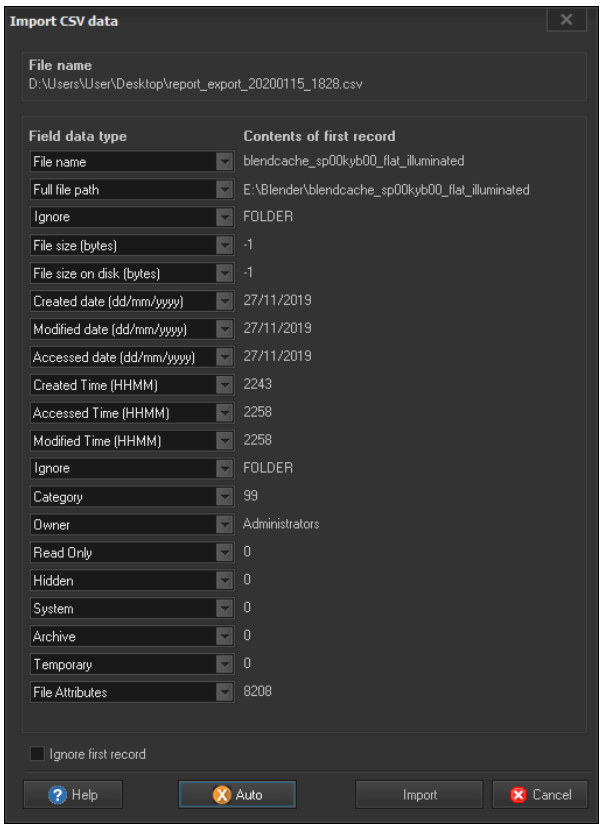
   Pressing the right mouse button on a row of this table will give two options:

   Open with explorer, open the folder in Windows Explorer
   Open in Folder History, open the Folder History section and view this scan.

* Be careful when excluding files/folders from the scan as this will affect all of Xinorbis' displays and reports.

Import Scan detail

From this tab you can import CSV and Xinorbis files.



Selecting a CSV file will open a secondary window where the CSV columns can be mapped to Xinorbis data.

Clicking the *Auto* button will set the mapping automatically based on default Xinorbis CSV output.

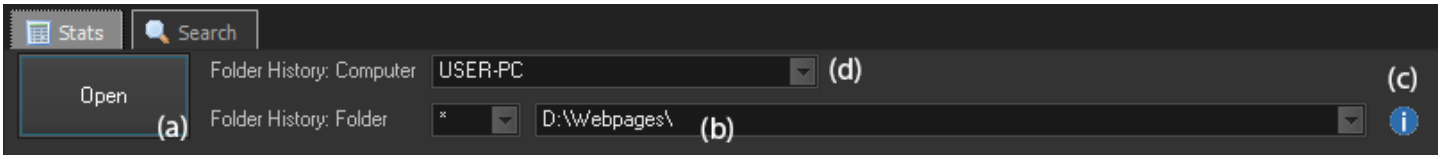
Select *Ignore first record* if your CSV data contains a header/description row as the first item of data.

Available column data types:

Ignore	will ignore selected column
Full file path	e.g. `c:\some directory\somefile.txt`
File size (bytes)	e.g. `10000` (this field must be a number with no other characters in it (only 0-9 are valid)
File size on disk (bytes)	e.g. `10000` (this field must be a number with no other characters in it (only 0-9 are valid)
File date (dd/mm/yyyy)	e.g. `17/04/1975` (MUST be dd/mm/yyyy formatted)
File date (mm/dd/yyyy)	e.g. `04/17/1975` (MUST be mm/dd/yyyy US-style date format)
File path	e.g. `c:\some directory\` (not required if Full file path is present)
File name	e.g. `somefile.txt` (not required if Full file path is present)
Owner	e.g. `administrator` (file owner)
File Category	e.g. `5` (references Xinorbis category designations)
Read only	e.g. `1` (only 1 (yes) or 0 (no) is valid. Not required if File Attributes is present)
Hidden	e.g. `1` (only 1 (yes) or 0 (no) is valid. Not required if File Attributes is present)
System	e.g. `1` (only 1 (yes) or 0 (no) is valid. Not required if File Attributes is present)
Archive	e.g. `1` (only 1 (yes) or 0 (no) is valid. Not required if File Attributes is present)
Temporary	e.g. `1` (only 1 (yes) or 0 (no) is valid. Not required if File Attributes is present)
File Attributes	e.g. `2804` (Windows file attribute value)
Readonly	e.g. `1` (only 1 (yes) or 0 (no) is valid. Not required if File Attributes is present)
Time (HHMM)	e.g. `1005` (must be HHMM formatted)

Folder History

Folder History is where details of previous scans can be analysed and compared.



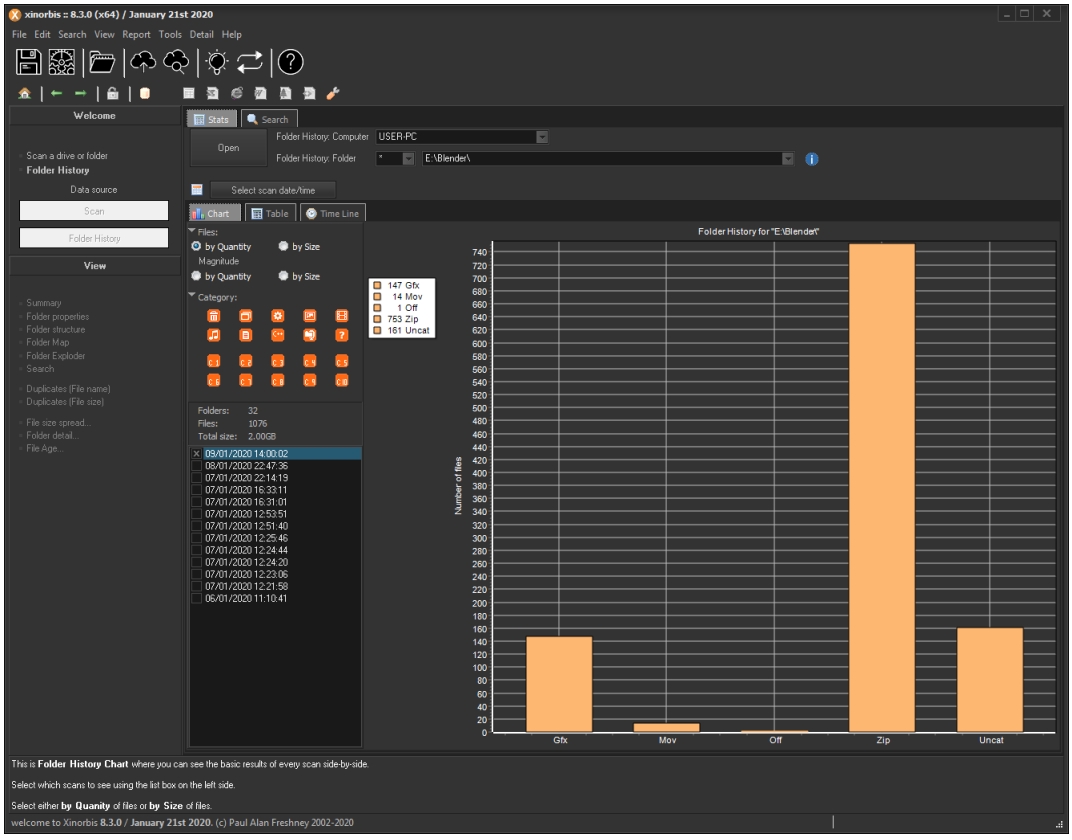
a) Open the selected folder (b) within Folder History.
b) The currently selected folder.
c) View a list of scans for the selected computer/folder combination.
d) The computer where the folder lies (only really useful for portable users).

Folder History is split in to two sections: Stats and Search.

Stats contains basic data and statistics, where the Search tab allows for powerful Folder History specific searching, and the ability to compare between different scan events.

Once a scan has been opened, and a date chosen, this data can be analysed as though it was live data. Click Folder History from the data source option (in the Welcome menu section).

Now all the options in the View menu will use the loaded Folder History data!



The **Chart Tab** allows for the quick comparison of the type, quantity and size of files at previous scan dates.

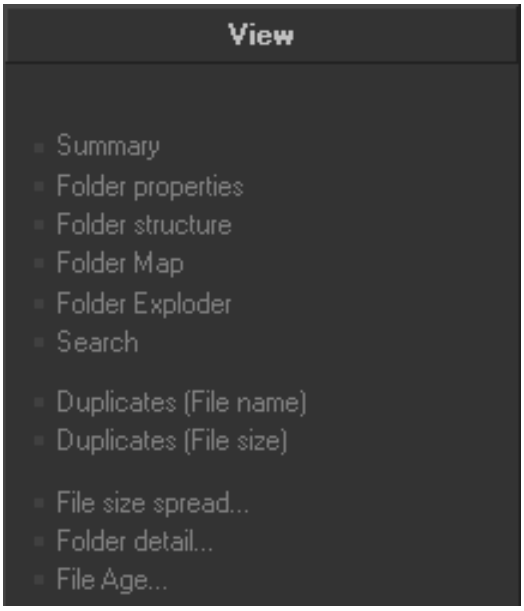
The **Table Tab** is similar to the Chart tab except in table form.

Search for files and folders within any previous scan, selectable from a list on the left.

The **File History Compare Tab** is more sophisticated version of the **Search Tab** that allows for two dates to be scanned, viewed and compared simultaneously.

Side Panels Continued, the View Panel

The gateway to all the information you could ever need!



Clicking on an entry in this panel will open the corresponding view, this could be tables, reports, graphs, or a combination of all three. The source for the data is selected in the Data Source section of the Welcome panel. This is set automatically when a scan has finished, or a Folder History date has been opened.

Summary

The summary shows a synopsis of the information gathered from the latest scan.



Save the contents of the summary to a text file.

The summary panel is split in to two sections: Summary and Drive.

Summary contains selected facts about the scan (largest file, user with the largest share, etc.), and two displays showing the make-up of the scanned data from the position of file size and file quantity.

Clicking on a value will take you to the best location within Xinorbis to see this in context.

Drive contains information regarding the physical drive where the scanned folder is located (if possible, scans across network drives will not be able to populate this information).

Drive type can be: `Unknown`, `Removable`, `Hard Disk`, `Remote Drive`, `CD-ROM` or `RAM Disk`

A cluster is the smallest unit of disk space that can be allocated to a file, which is why clusters are often known as "allocation units".

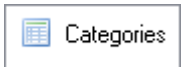
The size of a cluster is calculated by multiplying the number of bytes in a sector by the number of sectors in a cluster. In the example above that would be 512 bytes x 8 = 4096 bytes = 4k. The drive E on the machine in the example can be said to have 4k clusters.

A file of 5k on this drive wouldn't fit in to one cluster; it would need two, and therefore take up 8k of space, wasting 3k.

File System refers to the method in which data is stored on the hard disk. On Windows machines the most common types are `FAT32` and `NTFS`.

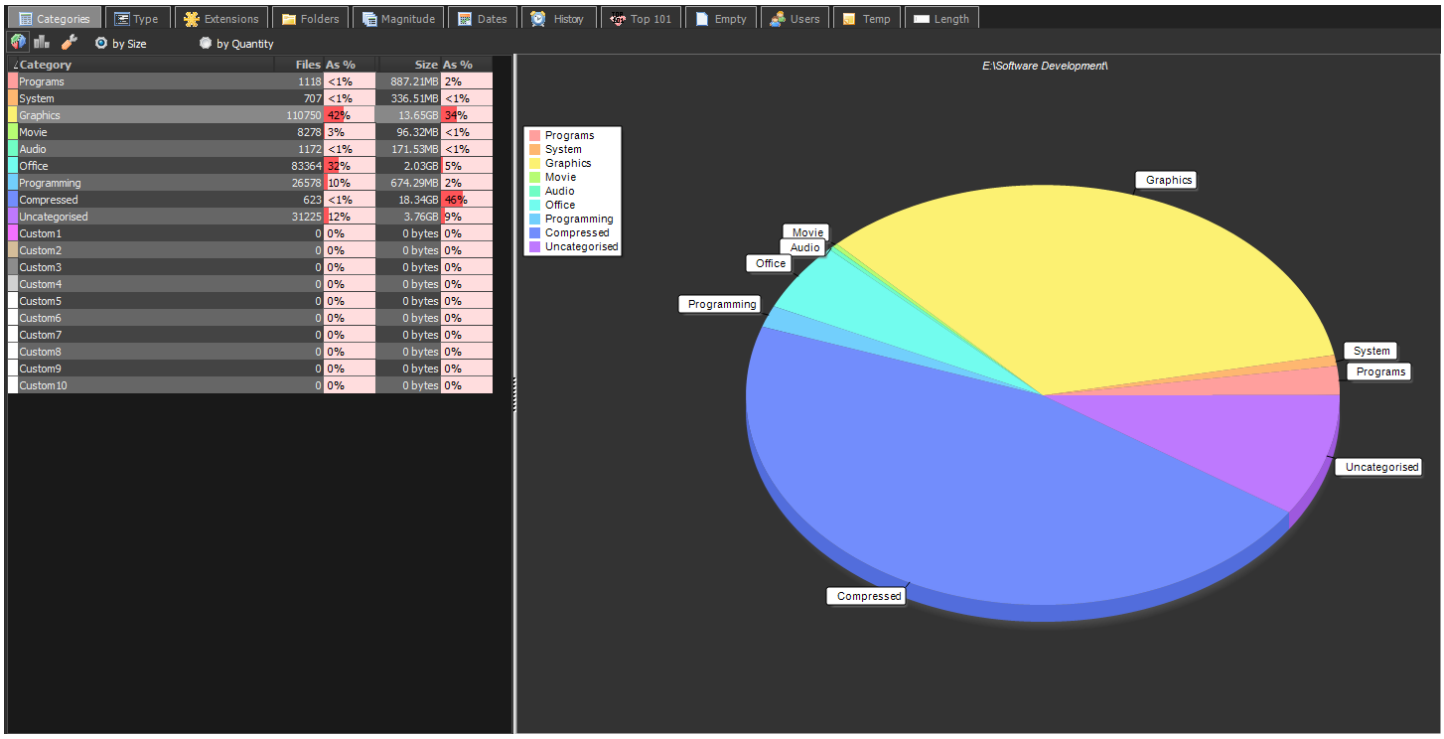
Folder Properties

After a folder or drive has been scanned the twelve tabs that belong to "Folder Properties" will be filled with data and all tables, trees, and charts populated.



Categories Tab

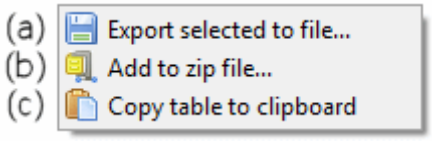
A display of the distribution, within the various Xinorbis categories, of files from the drive or folder being scanned. Displayed by size (how the combined size of the files make-up the drive) and by quantity (how many of the separate files make up the drive).



The second table on the Table Tab displays the number of files that were found to be set as hidden, system, archive, read only, created today, accessed today or modified today and those files of null (zero) length.

Double-clicking on either table will automatically open the *search* section and list all files belonging to the highlighted category or file type.

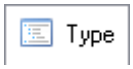
Right-click on the top most table (categories) to open a popup menu with some extra functions:



a) Export the contents of the entire table to a text file.

b) Add all of the files from the selected category OR with the selected file extension to a zip (compressed) file.

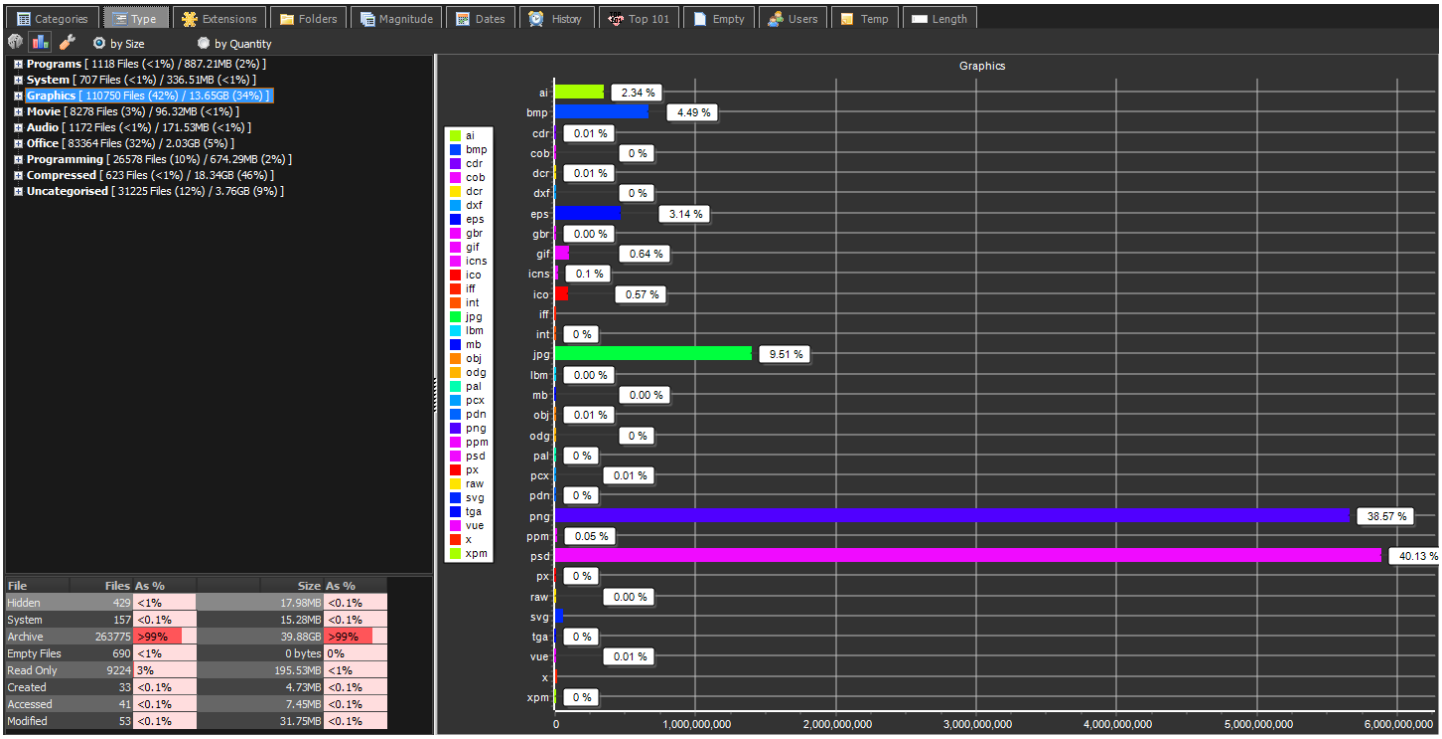
c) Copy the entire tree, in text format, to the clipboard.



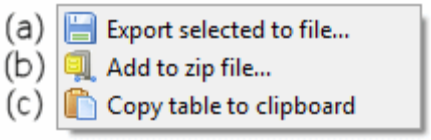
Type Tab

See how the individual file type categories are broken up in to each extension. The user can see how many graphic type files exist and how many of each type of graphic exist; i.e. how many .gif, .jpg etc. are present. Press the left mouse button on a category to toggle a graphic representation of the contents of the category.

Double click on any extension in the tree to see a list of files matching the selected extension.



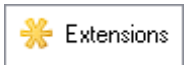
Right-click on the tree to open a popup menu with some extra functions:



a) Export the contents of the entire "tree" to a text file.

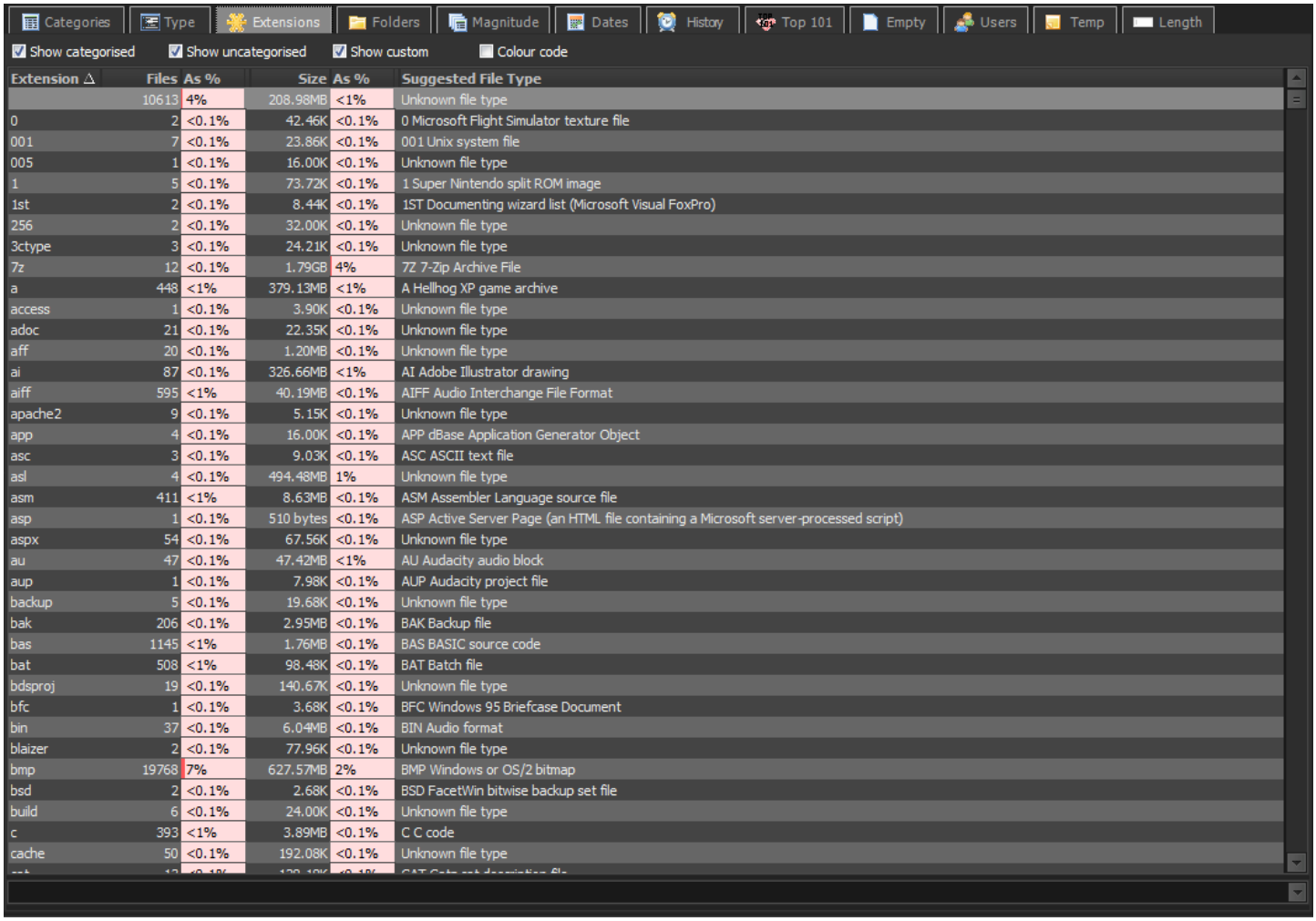
b) Add all of the files from the selected category OR with the selected file extension to a zip (compressed) file.

c) Copy the entire tree, in text format, to the clipboard.



Extensions Tab

The file extensions (the part of the file name after the ".", that are used to identify what kind of information the file contains) found in the current scan are listed here, along with the number of files with each extension and the size of those files.

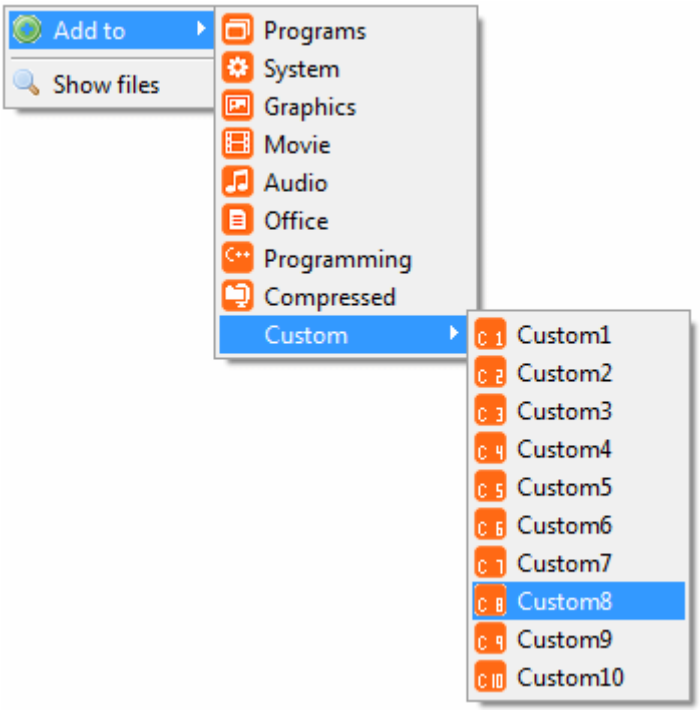


Extension	Files	As %	Size	As %	Suggested File Type
	10613	4%	208.98MB	<1%	Unknown file type
0	2	<0.1%	42.46K	<0.1%	0 Microsoft Flight Simulator texture file
001	7	<0.1%	23.86K	<0.1%	001 Unix system file
005	1	<0.1%	16.00K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
1	5	<0.1%	73.72K	<0.1%	1 Super Nintendo split ROM image
1st	2	<0.1%	8.44K	<0.1%	1ST Documenting wizard list (Microsoft Visual FoxPro)
256	2	<0.1%	32.00K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
3ctype	3	<0.1%	24.21K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
7z	12	<0.1%	1.79GB	4%	7Z 7-Zip Archive File
a	448	<1%	379.13MB	<1%	A Hellhog XP game archive
access	1	<0.1%	3.90K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
adoc	21	<0.1%	22.35K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
aff	20	<0.1%	1.20MB	<0.1%	Unknown file type
ai	87	<0.1%	326.66MB	<1%	AI Adobe Illustrator drawing
aiff	595	<1%	40.19MB	<0.1%	AIFF Audio Interchange File Format
apache2	9	<0.1%	5.15K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
app	4	<0.1%	16.00K	<0.1%	APP dBase Application Generator Object
asc	3	<0.1%	9.03K	<0.1%	ASC ASCII text file
asl	4	<0.1%	494.48MB	1%	Unknown file type
asm	411	<1%	8.63MB	<0.1%	ASM Assembler Language source file
asp	1	<0.1%	510 bytes	<0.1%	ASP Active Server Page (an HTML file containing a Microsoft server-processed script)
aspx	54	<0.1%	67.56K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
au	47	<0.1%	47.42MB	<1%	AU Audacity audio block
aup	1	<0.1%	7.98K	<0.1%	AUP Audacity project file
backup	5	<0.1%	19.68K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
bak	206	<0.1%	2.95MB	<0.1%	BAK Backup file
bas	1145	<1%	1.76MB	<0.1%	BAS BASIC source code
bat	508	<1%	98.48K	<0.1%	BAT Batch file
bdsproj	19	<0.1%	140.67K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
bfc	1	<0.1%	3.68K	<0.1%	BFC Windows 95 Briefcase Document
bin	37	<0.1%	6.04MB	<0.1%	BIN Audio format
blaizer	2	<0.1%	77.96K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
bmp	19768	7%	627.57MB	2%	BMP Windows or OS/2 bitmap
bsd	2	<0.1%	2.68K	<0.1%	BSD FacetWin bitwise backup set file
build	6	<0.1%	24.00K	<0.1%	Unknown file type
c	393	<1%	3.89MB	<0.1%	C C code
cache	50	<0.1%	192.08K	<0.1%	Unknown file type

Clicking an extension will bring up list of possible file types; e.g. in the example above, Xinorbis suggests that this is a file from Microsoft's Visual Source Safe. Xinorbis can identify over 3000 file extensions.

Double-clicking on an extension will list *all* the files with the selected extension.

Use the Right Mouse Button on an extension to bring up a menu allowing you to fast-track an extension to the correct category, without the need to go through Settings. It's possible to fast-track more than one extension at a time to the same category. Select multiple rows using `SHIFT+CLICK` or `CONTROL+CLICK`.

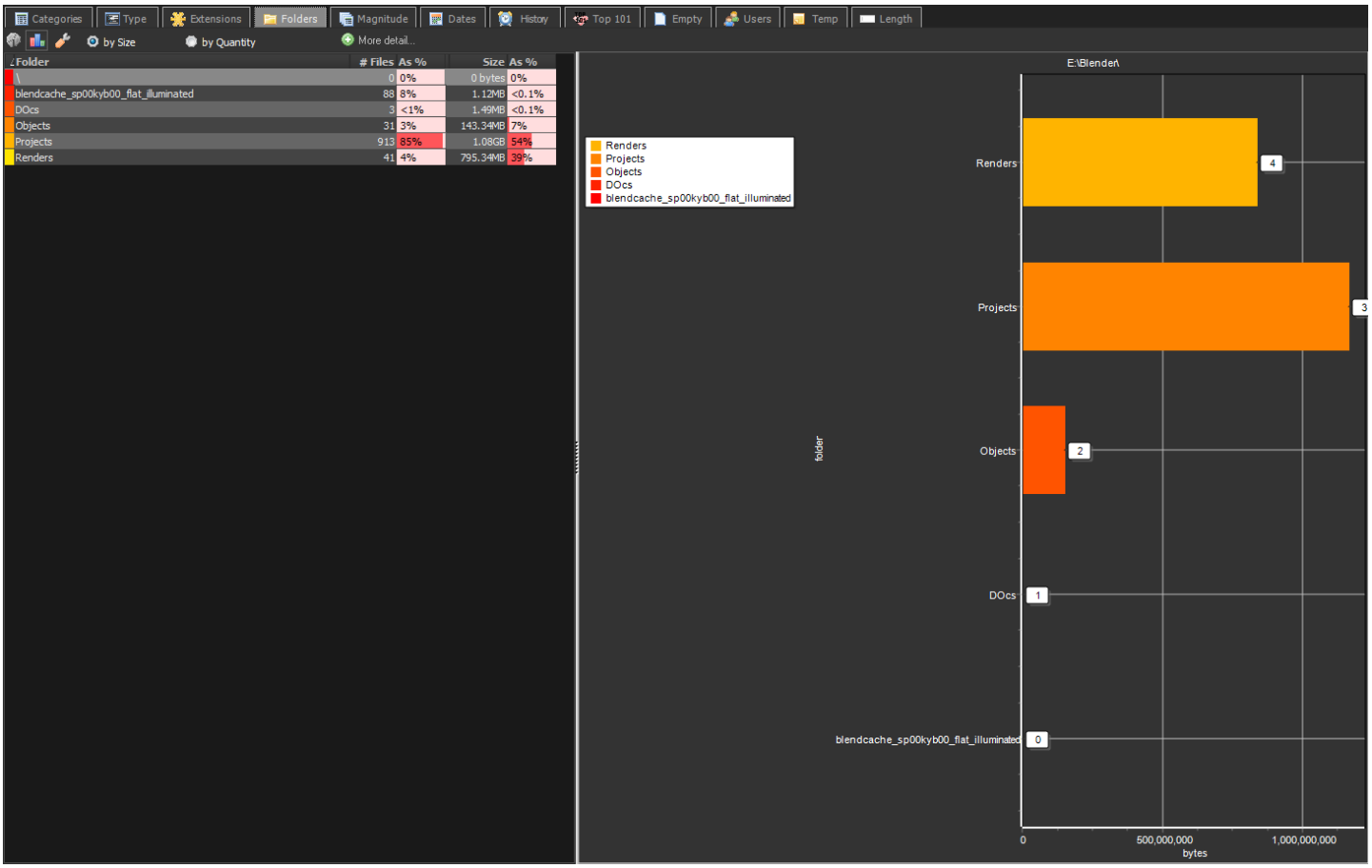


Clicking the "Show files" menu item will open the **Search** and list all files that have the selected extension.



Folders Tab

Similar to the Table view it shows how each of the folders with the search path constitutes the given search. The graph below the table gives this information in an easy-to-read form.

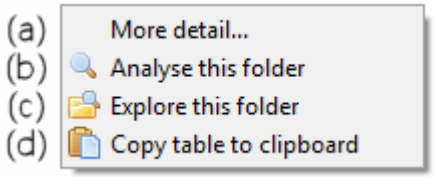


Click the "more detail" button (or double click a row in the table) to get a detailed view of the contents of the highlighted folder. Selecting the root folder '\' will show a detailed view of the analysed folder.

The "More detail" functionality is discussed in more detail on the next page.

 Use the Filter drop down list to limit the amount of information that is shown on the graph. Add only those results where the percentage of files (either by size or quantity) in each folder is greater than `1%`, `2%`, `3%`, `4%`, `5%`, `10%` or `15%`. This can be very useful for making the graph easier to read if you have many folders listed that only contain a small amount of files.

Press the right mouse button on any folder listed in the table to bring up the following popup menu:



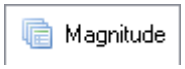
(a) Show more detail on the selected folder (same as clicking on the "more detail" button).
(b) Analyses the highlighted drive (you can't analyse the root '\' folder!).
(c) Open the selected folder in Windows Explorer.
(d) Copy the table, as text, to the clipboard

More Detail

Double click any folder in the More Detail window to show more detail for the selected folder and its subfolders.



a) Filter the results in the table using one or more of these.
b) Go up a level of folder hierarchy.
c) Number of files and folders being shown. Size of included files is also shown.
d) Folders with size and quantity of files.
e) Filter the contents of the folder display.

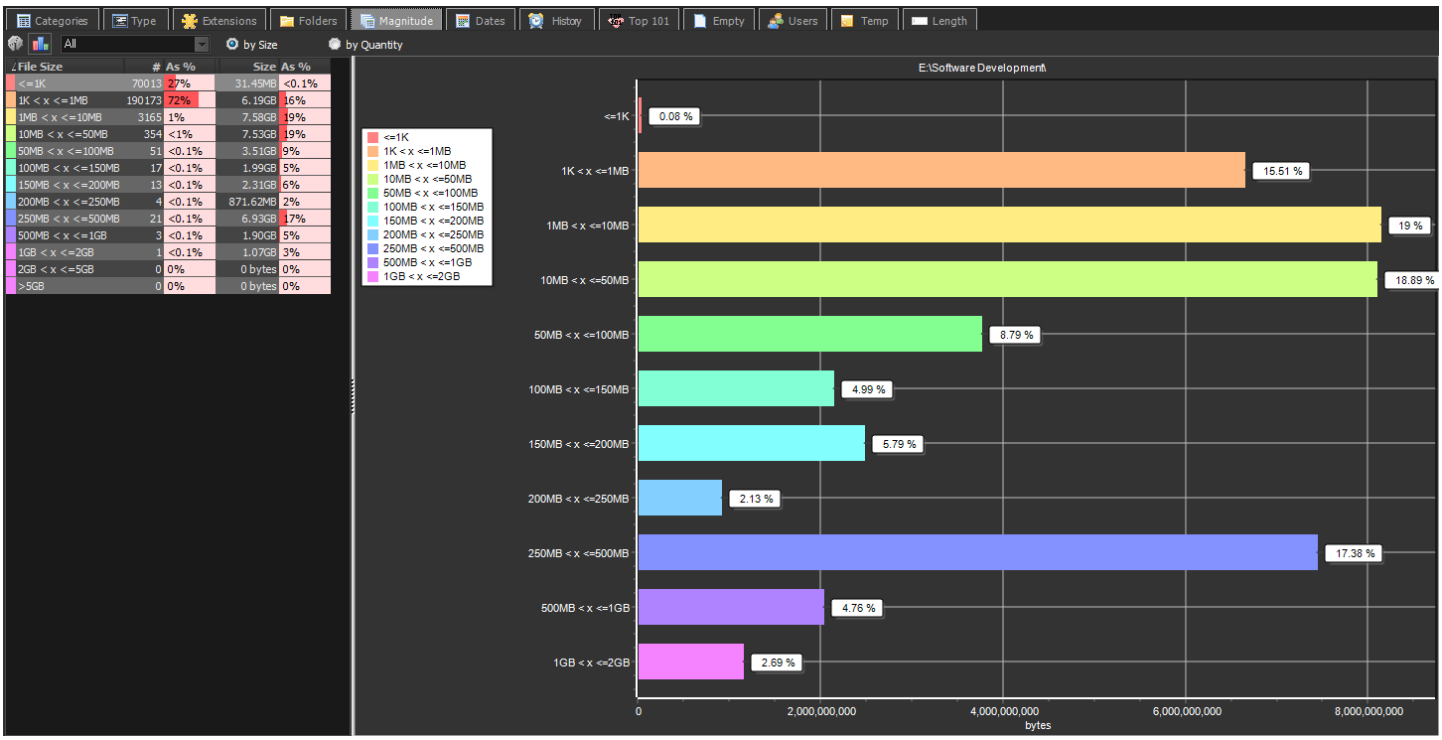


Magnitude Tab

The Magnitude tab shows how the files from the scanned folder are distributed by size. There are eleven ranges that are displayed in the table and graph:

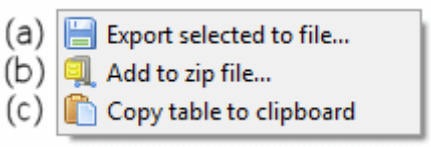
<=1k	Files less than or equal to 1K (1024 bytes)
1K < x <=1MB	Files greater than 1K but less than or equal to 1MB
1MB < x <=10MB	Files greater than 1MB but less than or equal to 10MB
10MB < x <=50MB	Files greater than 10MB but less than or equal to 50MB
50MB < x <=100MB	Files greater than 50MB but less than or equal to 100MB
100MB < x <=150MB	Files greater than 100MB but less than or equal to 150MB
150MB < x <=200MB	Files greater than 150MB but less than or equal to 200MB
200MB < x <=250MB	Files greater than 200MB but less than or equal to 250MB
250MB < x <=500MB	Files greater than 250MB but less than or equal to 500MB
500MB < x <=1GB	Files greater than 500MB but less than or equal to 1GB
1GB < x <=2GB	Files greater than 1GB but less than or equal to 2GB
2GB < x <=5GB	Files greater than 1GB but less than or equal to 5GB
>5GB	Files greater than 5GB

Use the *File Size Spread* display (from the Details menu) for a more detailed look at the distribution of files by size.

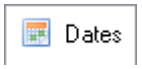


Double click on any row to see a list of all files within the selected range.

Click the right mouse button to open a popup menu which has the following options:



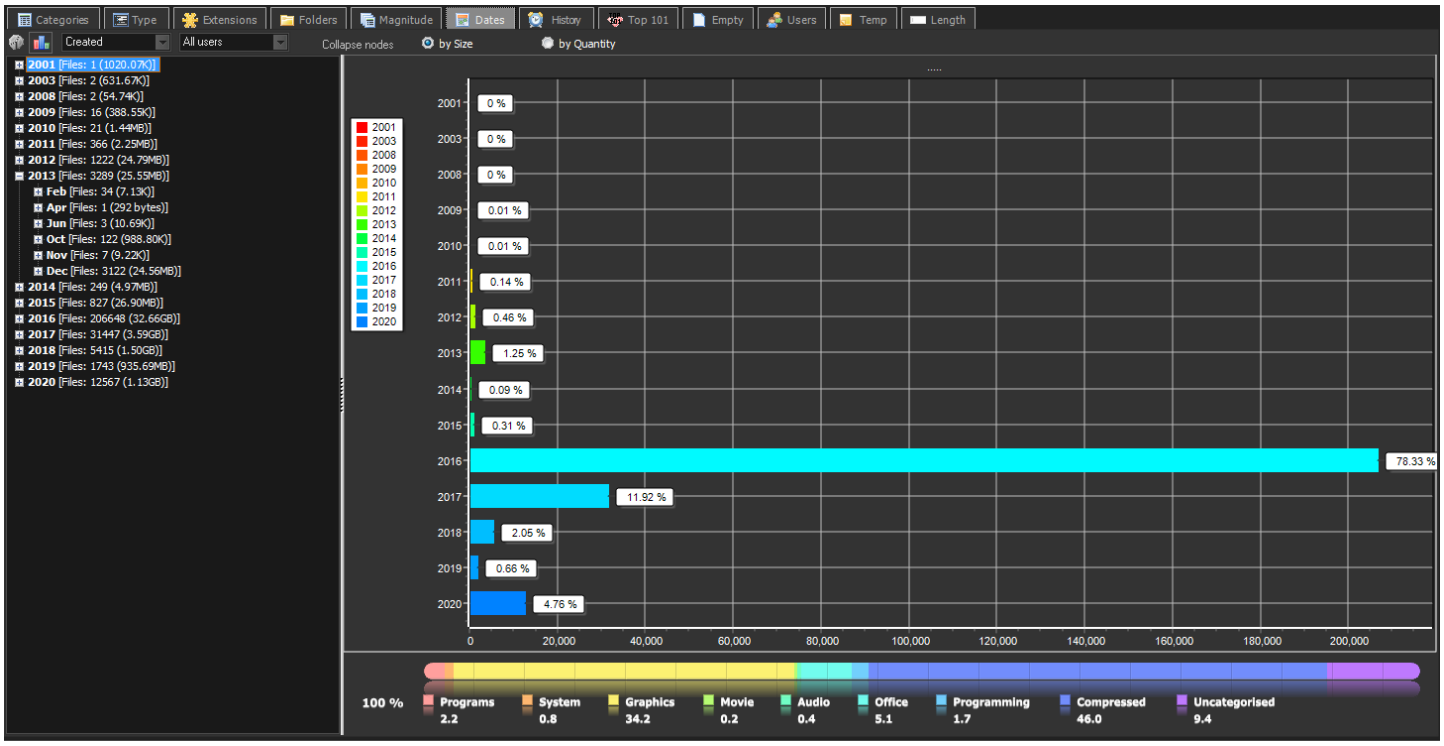
(a) Export the contents of the table to a text file.
(b) Add all the files from the selected size range to a zip (compressed) file.
(c) Copy the entire table, in text format, to the clipboard.



File Dates Tab

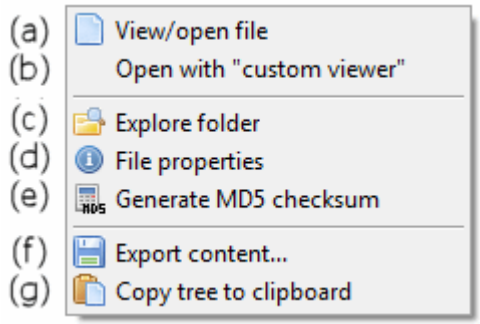
The displays on this tab show the distribution of files by year, month and date. It shows the number of files (and size of those files) that belong to each day, month and year.

The "tree view" is shown here without file names listed beneath each date; this feature can be enabled in *Settings*.



Display according to created, last accessed or last modified date.

The table has a popup menu (available by clicking the right mouse button) that has the following options:



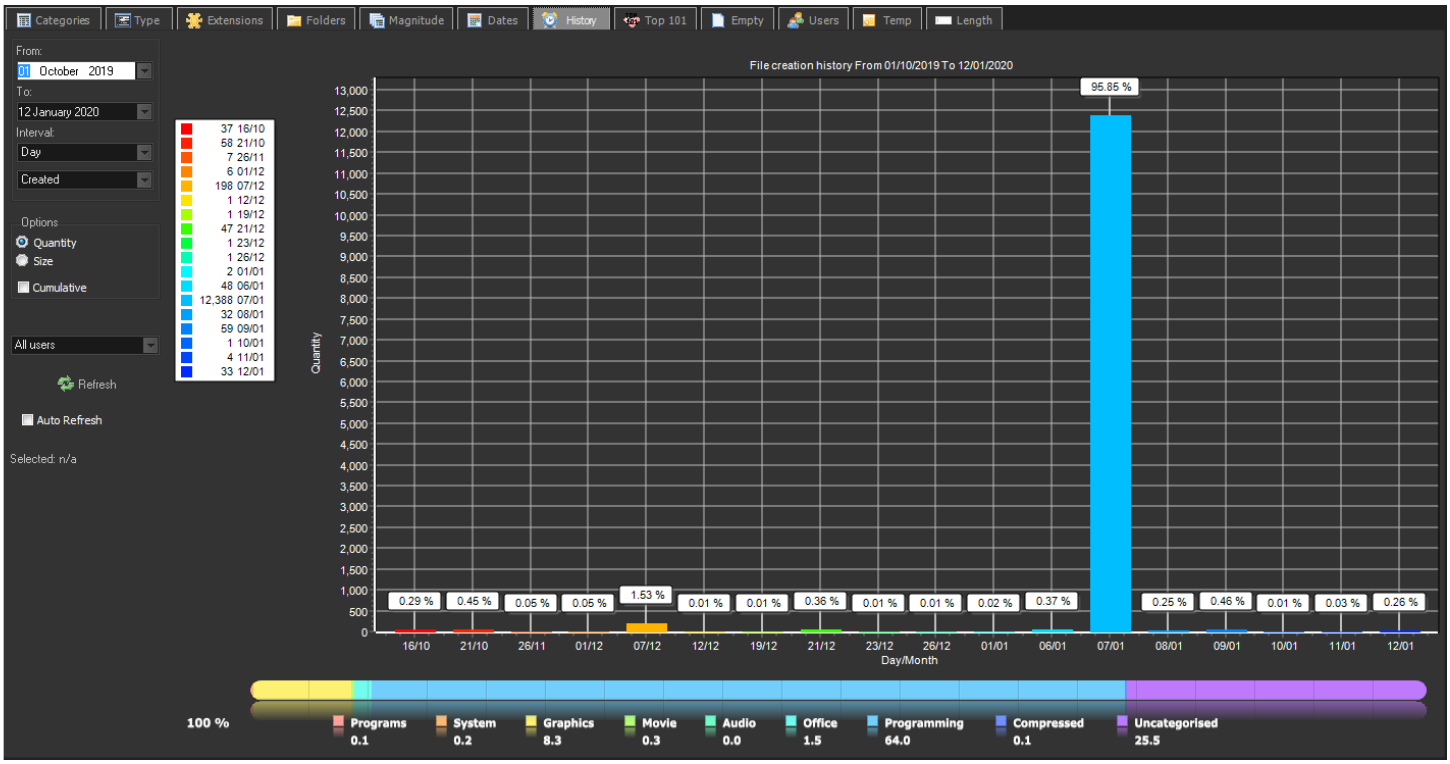
a) Open the selected file with the Windows' default viewer.
b) Open the selected file with the "custom viewer" as specified in Settings.
c) Open the folder of the selected file in Explorer.
d) Show the Windows File Properties dialog for the selected file.
e) Generate and MD5 checksum for the selected file.
f) Export the entire contents of the "tree" to a text file.
g) Copy the contents of the “tree” to the clipboard.

History

History Tab

Not to be confused with *File History*. Xinorbis uses the created, last modified and last accessed dates of each file to create trends of file usage.

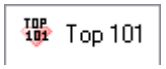
The graph below is showing the quantity of files created over a period of one month (1st February 2011 to 1st March 2011). Over that period files were only created on five of those days, 100 on the 2nd February, 1 on the 9th February etc.



The graph shows the number, or size, of files created within the selected date range.

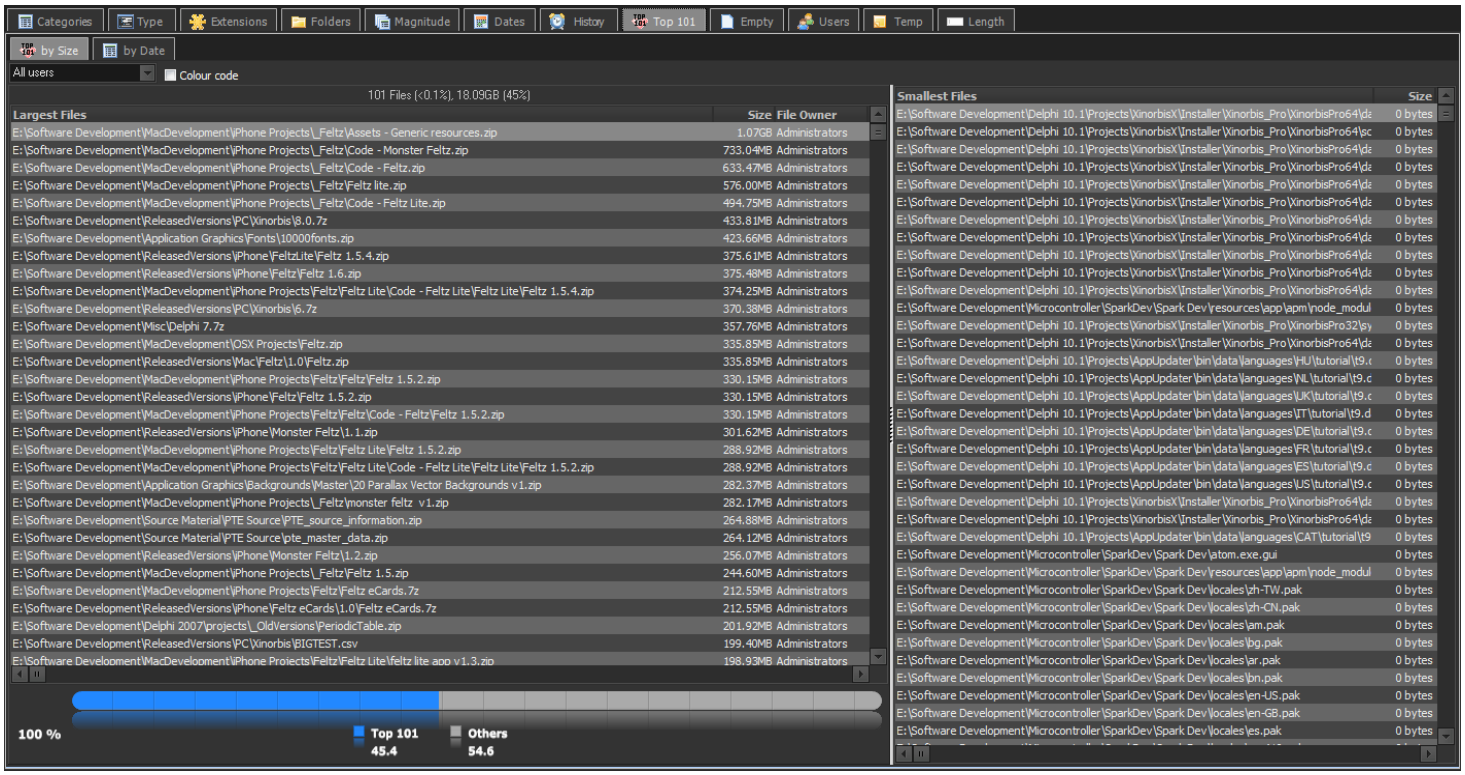
a) Select the start of date range you wish to see
b) Select the end of date range you wish to see
c) Select the interval for the data: day, week, month, year or hour
d) Show based on created, modified or accessed dates.
e) Show the number of files created or the size of the files
f) Cumulative graph, each bar is equivalent to its value plus all previous values.
g) Select either a single user, or show for all users
h) Rebuild the graph.
i) When selected, the graph will refresh whenever a setting (above) is changed

When the interval (c) is set to Hour the display shows the rate of usage over each hour of a *single* 24-hour period, not for *each* hour between the two selected dates!

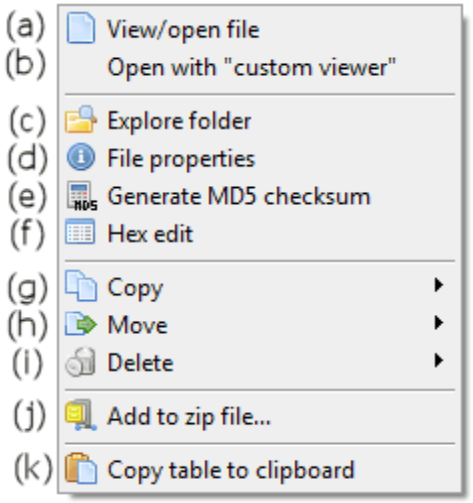


Top 101 Tab

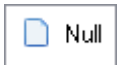
The Top 101 tab shows the top 101 largest and smallest files, and the top 101 files listed by created, last modified, and last accessed date.



Clicking the right mouse button on a selected entry in the table will bring up the following menu:

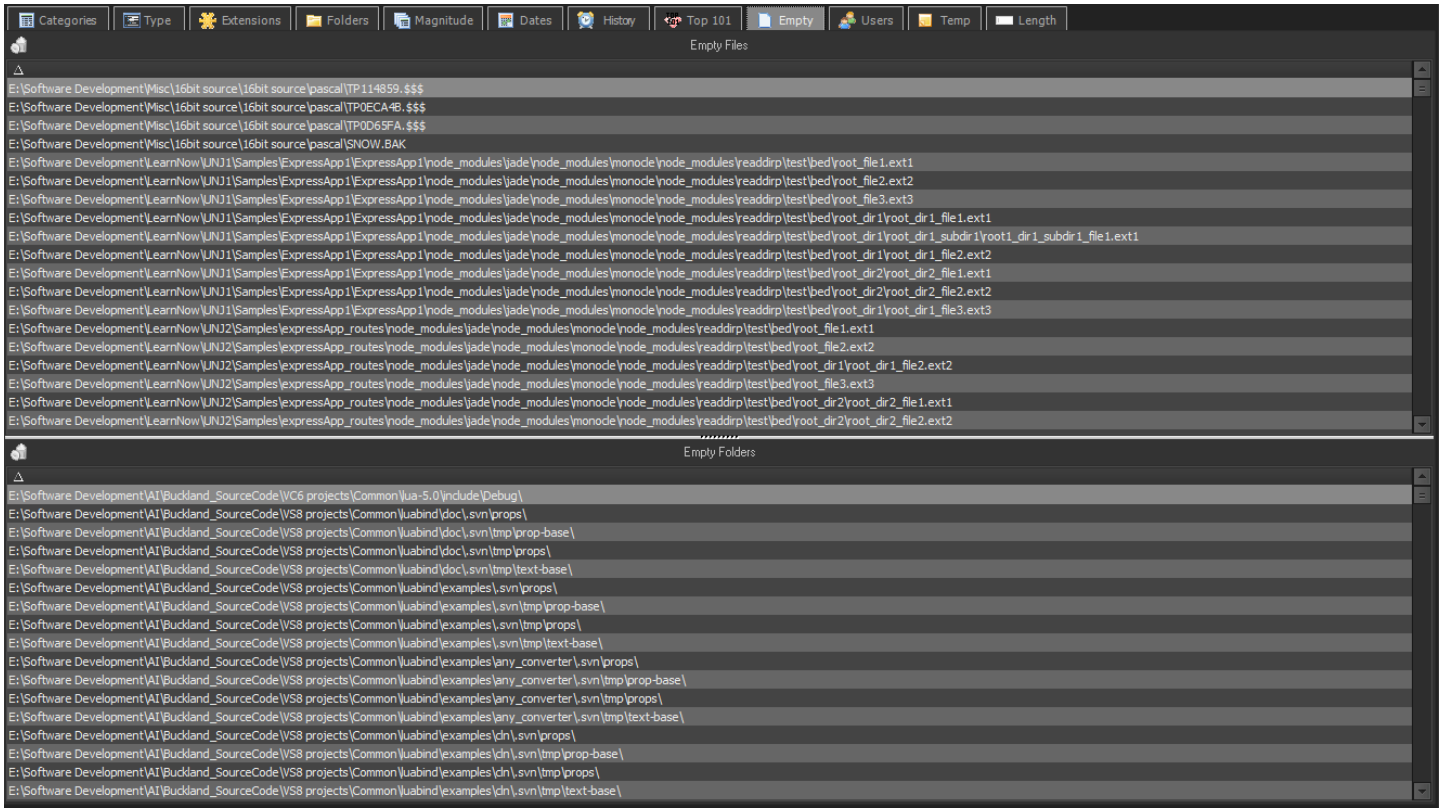


a) Open the selected file with the Windows' default viewer.
b) Open the selected file with the "custom viewer" as specified in Settings.
c) Open the folder of the selected file in Explorer.
d) Show the Windows File Properties dialog for the selected file.
e) Generate and MD5 checksum for the selected file.
f) Open the file in the default hex editor.
g) Copy the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to another location.
h) Move the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to another location.
i) Delete the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to the Recycle Bin.
j) Add all of the files from the selected table to a zip (compressed) file.
k) Copy the table, as text, to the clipboard.



Empty Files and Folders Tab

Shows empty files (those with zero size) and empty folders (those that contain no other files or folders).

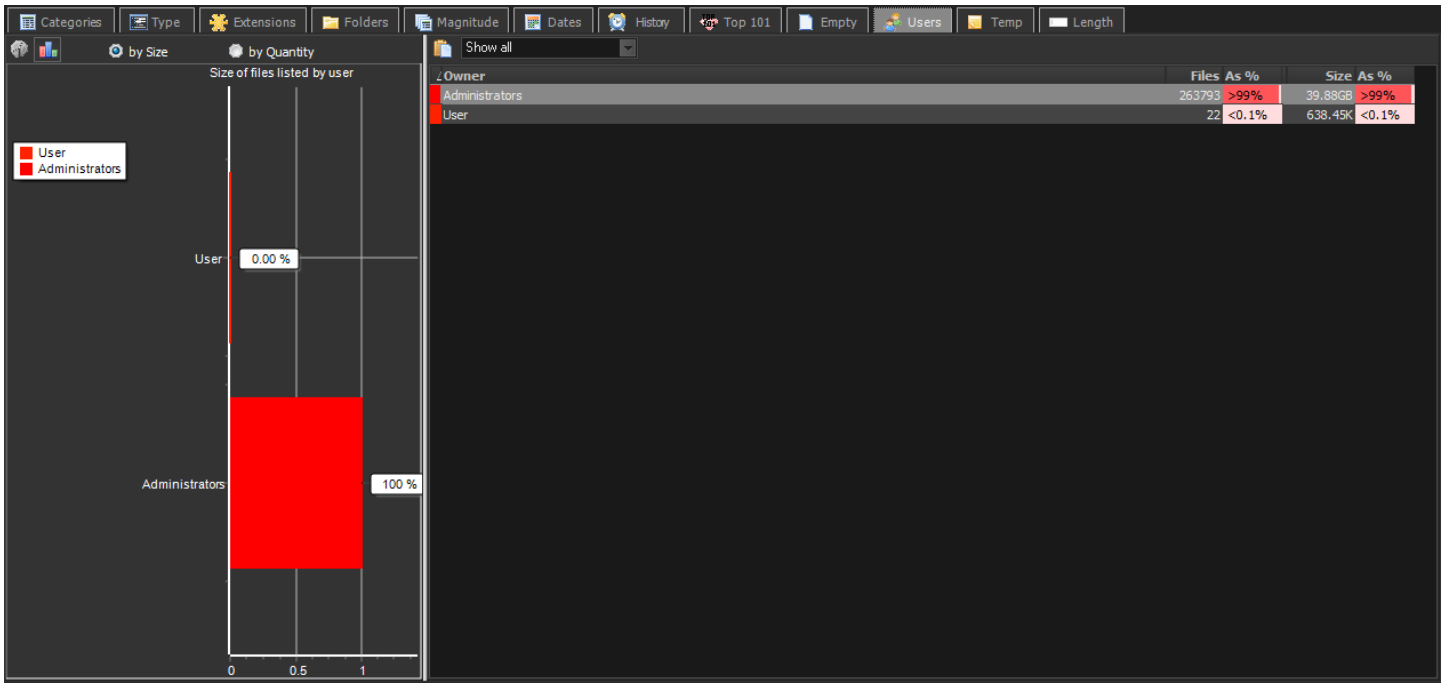


Double-click any folder to open it within Windows Explorer.



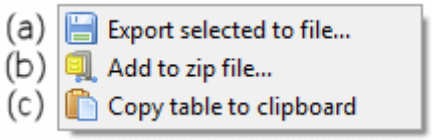
Users Tab

The users tab displays a list of users (of the system) that were identified during the scan along with the amount of files that "belong" to them and the space those files are take-up within the scanned folder.



Double-click within the list on the right to see all the files belonging to the selected user, in the *Search View*.

Right-click on the table to open a pop-up menu with some extra functions:



a) Export all of the file details belonging to the selected user to a CSV file.

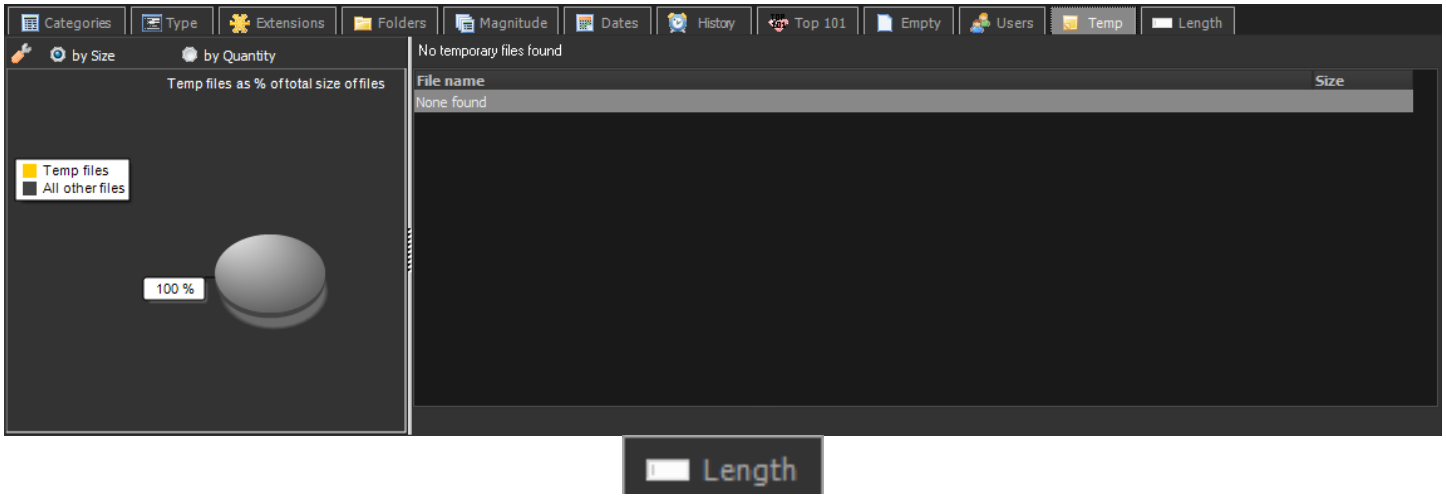
b) Add all of the files belonging to the selected user to a zip (compressed) file.

c) Copy the table, as text, to the clipboard.

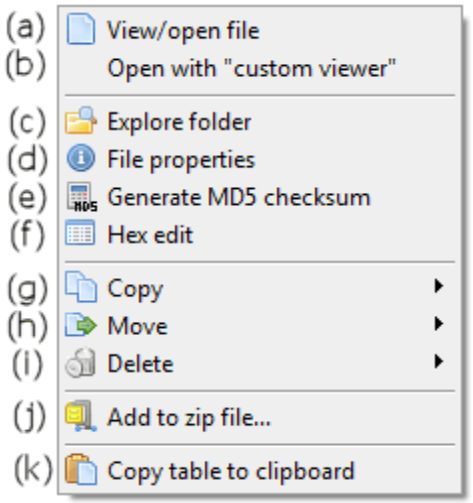


Temporary Files Tab

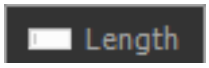
The temp tab shows all of the files that have been identified as temp (from Settings).



Right mouse button on a selected file in the table to bring up the following menu:

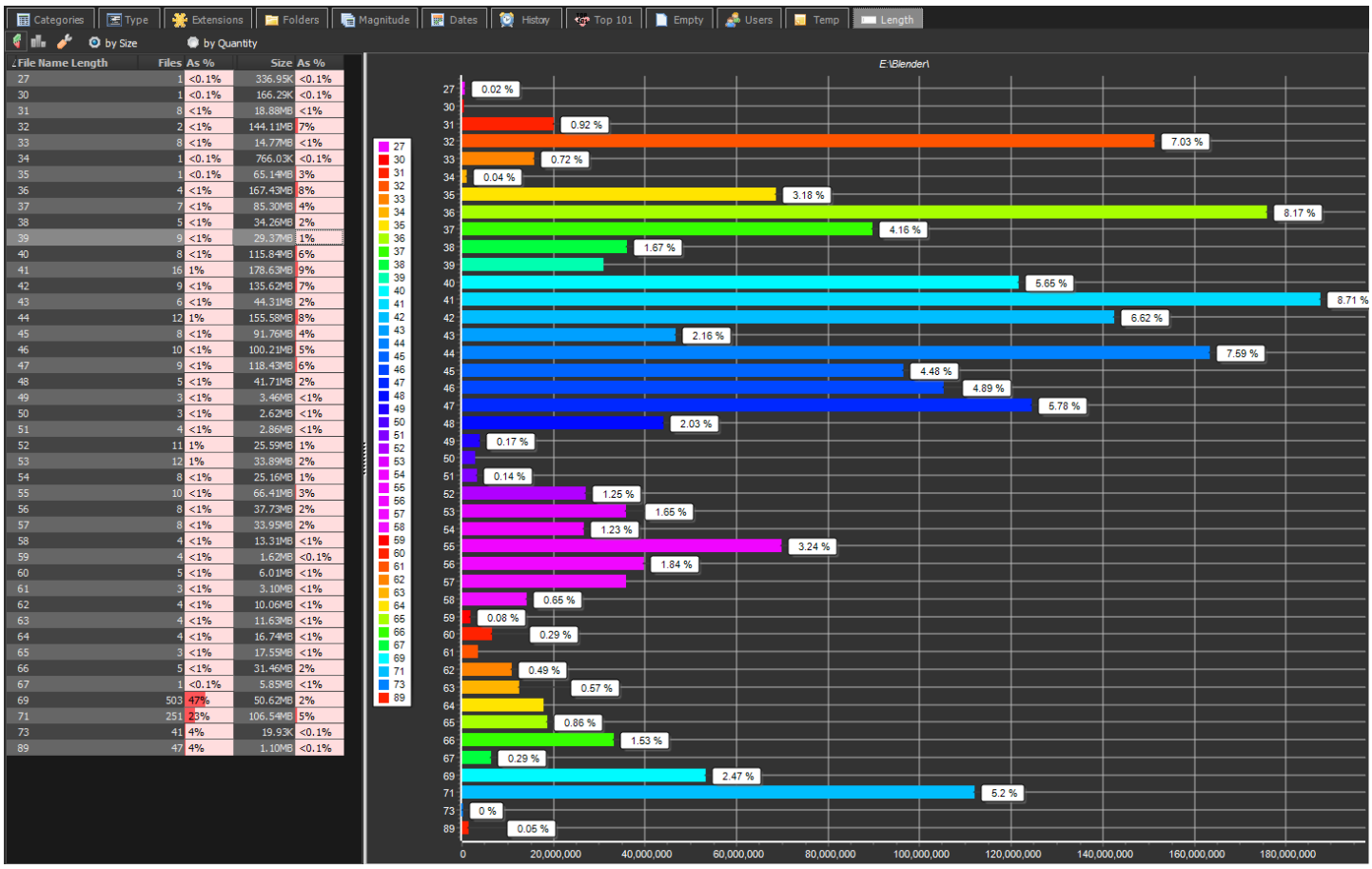


a) Open the selected file with the Windows' default viewer.
b) Open the selected file with the "custom viewer" as specified in Settings.
c) Open the folder of the selected file in Explorer.
d) Show the Windows File Properties dialog for the selected file.
e) Generate and MD5 checksum for the selected file.
f) Open the file in the default hex editor.
g) Copy the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to another location.
h) Move the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to another location.
i) Delete the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to the Recycle Bin.
j) Add all of the files from the selected table to a zip (compressed) file.
k) Copy the table, as text, to the clipboard.



Length

This section shows the distribution of file name lengths within the scanned folder.

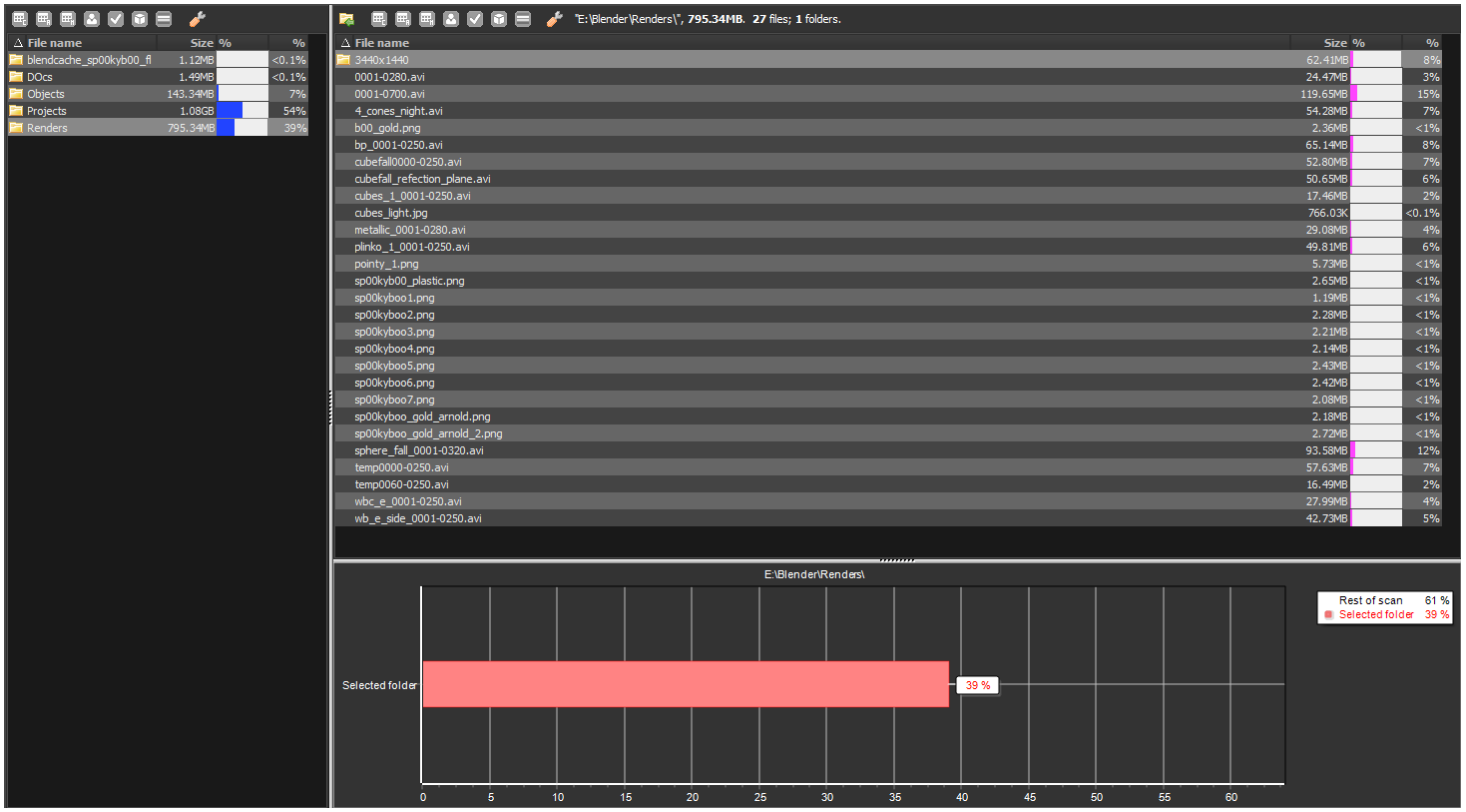


Double-clicking on an entry in the table will activate a search for all file names of the selected length.

Folder Structure

Easily navigate the files and folders of the current scan.

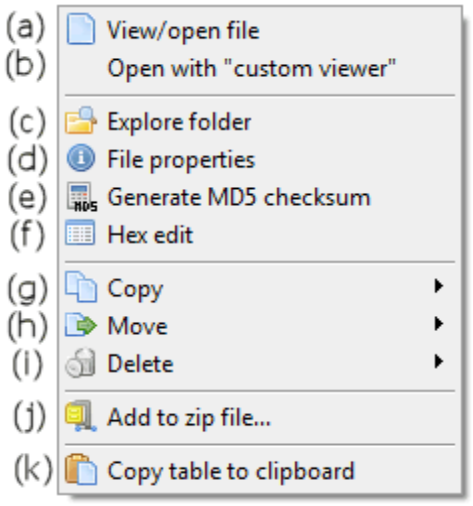
The navigation tab is split in to two sections. Double-clicking on a folder on the left-hand side will show all of the files and folders belonging to it in the right-hand side.





a) Toggle the "created date" column
b) Toggle the "accessed date" column
c) Toggle the "modified date" column
d) Toggle the file owner column
e) Toggle the file attributes column
f) Toggle the "size on disk" column
g) Colour codes each file (not folders)

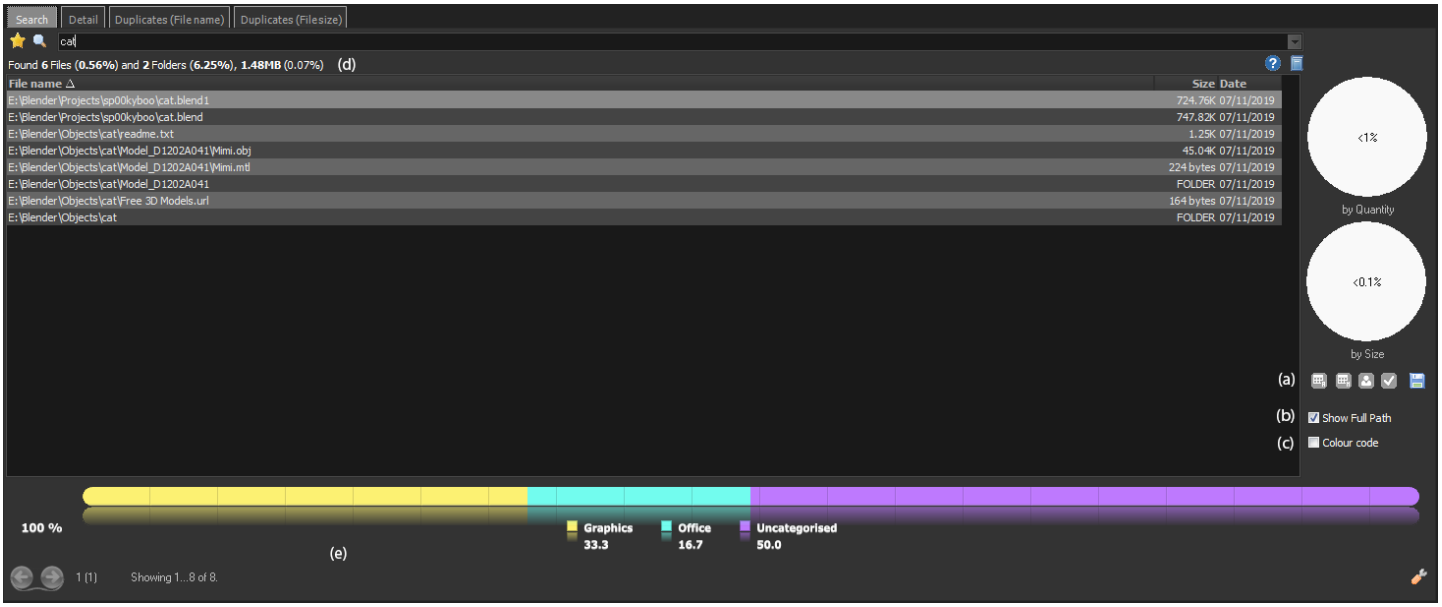
Right mouse button on a selected file or folder in the table to bring up the following menu:



a) Open the selected file with the Windows' default viewer.
b) Open the selected file with the "custom viewer" as specified in Settings.
c) Open the folder of the selected file in Explorer.
d) Show the Windows File Properties dialog for the selected file.
e) Generate and MD5 checksum for the selected file.
f) Open the file in the default hex editor.
g) Copy the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to another location.
h) Move the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to another location.
i) Delete the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to the Recycle Bin.
j) Add all of the files from the selected table to a zip (compressed) file.
k) Copy the table, as text, to the clipboard.

Select multiple rows by selecting with `CLICK + CTRL` or `CLICK + SHIFT`.

Search



a) Toggle accessed date, modified date, owner and attributes respectively.
b) Show the full file path in the search results (shown) or just the file name.
c) Colour-code each entry in the table according to the type (category) of file (shown below).
d) Information on search results.
e) A break-down of the search results by category.

Click ⭐ to access many default searches, and quick access to category and attribute specific searches. The quick search menu can be customised, see the "Information for Advanced Users" section towards the end of this manual.

Execute the search.

Open the search documentation.

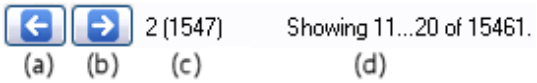
Open the floating search syntax window (F3).

Save the search results as a text file or CSV file.

Show information for the selected file or folder.

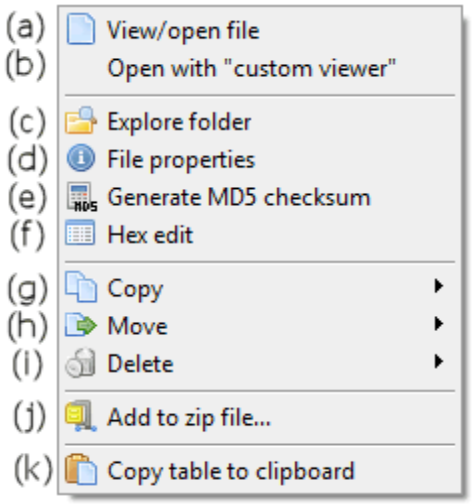
The two pie charts on the left hand side show the quantity of files in the search results versus the full scan (top), and size of files in the search results versus the full scan (bottom).

When the number of matching search hits is greater than the maximum number of hits that can be displayed at one time then the following toolbar will appear at the bottom of the search tab:



a) Previous page of results
b) Next page of results
c) Current page (total pages)
d) The results currently being displayed

Clicking the right mouse button on a selected entry in the table will bring up the following menu:



a) Open the selected file with the Windows' default viewer.
b) Open the selected file with the "custom viewer" as specified in Settings.
c) Open the folder of the selected file in Explorer.
d) Show the Windows File Properties dialog for the selected file.
e) Generate and MD5 checksum for the selected file.
f) Open the file in the default hex editor.
g) Copy the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to another location.
h) Move the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to another location.
i) Delete the selected file OR all of the files from the selected table to the Recycle Bin.
j) Add all of the files from the selected table to a zip (compressed) file.
k) Copy the table, as text, to the clipboard.

The **Detail** tab contains a copy of the Folder Properties panel. Each section is fully functional and displays its data based only on the search results.

Folder History

When enabled, the Folder History feature of Xinorbis allows you to track the changes of drives and folders on your PC or network.

Every time a folder, drive or network share is scanned the details of every file and folder are recorded so that they can be referenced again and compared against the same location on other dates and times.

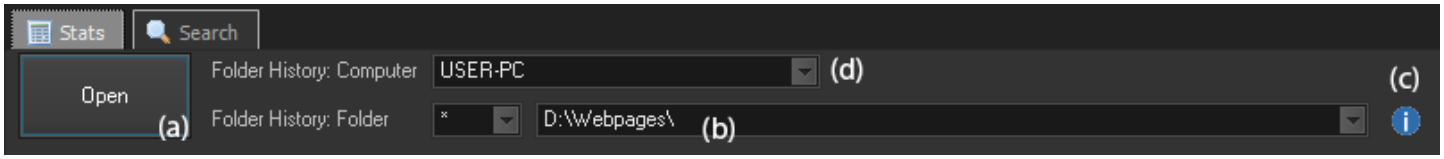
For each scan Xinorbis stores: Number of files, number of folders, combined size of files, magnitude details and the quantity / size of each of the fifteen categories (programs, graphics etc.).

Xinorbis stores the properties of every file that's scanned so that a detailed analysis of the folder or drive is possible.

When Xinorbis is updating the Folder History database (after a scan) the colour of the Folder History link on the left hand side will change to green. When Xinorbis has finished updating the colour will change back to black.

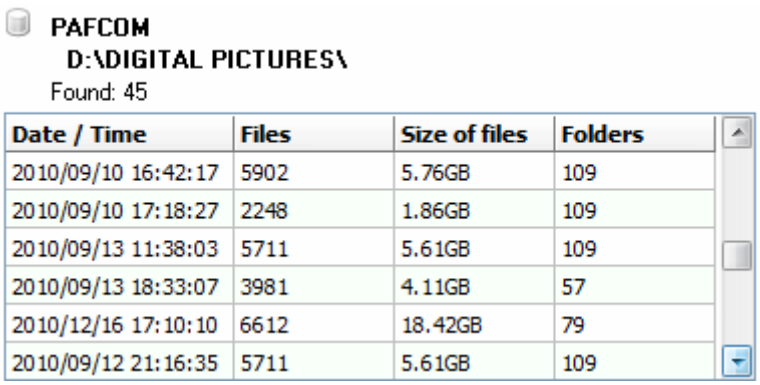
When Folder History is updating it will not be possible to refresh the *Dates*, *History* or *Top 101* tabs in the *Folder Properties* section. This is because doing so could cause corruption to the Folder History database.

The Folder History Tab is controlled by the Folder History controls at the top of the display:



(b) shows the currently selected folder, all the following tabs work with it. To work with a different folder; select the Computer where the folder is located with (d), select the folder from the drop down list (b) and press (a) to select. Press (c) to see a list of scans (and basic information) for the selected computer and folder [(b) and (d)].

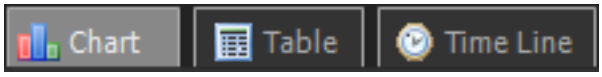
Clicking on (c) will open the following window showing details of scans performed on the selected Folder History folder (b):



Date / Time	Files	Size of files	Folders
2010/09/10 16:42:17	5902	5.76GB	109
2010/09/10 17:18:27	2248	1.86GB	109
2010/09/13 11:38:03	5711	5.61GB	109
2010/09/13 18:33:07	3981	4.11GB	57
2010/12/16 17:10:10	6612	18.42GB	79
2010/09/12 21:16:35	5711	5.61GB	109

For each scan the following details are shown:

Time and date of the scan
The number of files found
The total size of the files within the folder
The number of folders found



Chart

Use the chart to compare the size or quantity of files at any of the scan dates for the selected folder.

At the top of the Chart section is a toolbar that is used to customise the chart's content.

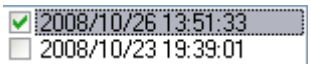


From top to bottom:

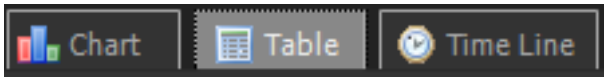
Show by the quantity or size of the files belonging to each category.

The magnitude buttons have the same effect as the equivalent Files buttons, in that they show the size and quantity of files displayed according to the magnitude of the file's size.

The top ten orange buttons toggle the relevant categories from the chart display and the bottom ten orange buttons toggle the custom categories.



Below the above toolbar is a list of available scan dates with times. Clicking an entry will show the number of files, folders and total size for that scan in the area below the toolbar. Selecting the entry (tick the check box on the left) will add that scan's data to the chart.

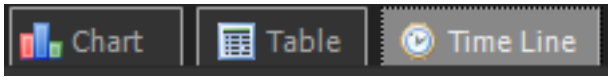


Table

The Table view shows all the scan events that are available for the selected folder.

Date	Files	delta	Folders	delta	Total size	delta	Used space	delta
2008/10/26 13:51:33	3765	0	88	0	2.28GB	0	2.29GB	0
2008/10/23 19:39:01	3765	0	87	-1	2.28GB	0	2.29GB	0

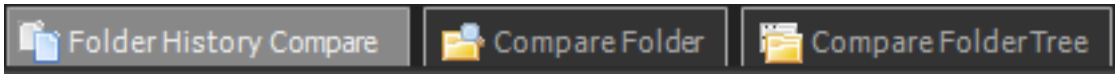
The delta column represents the difference between the row and the current (the top) data.



Time Line

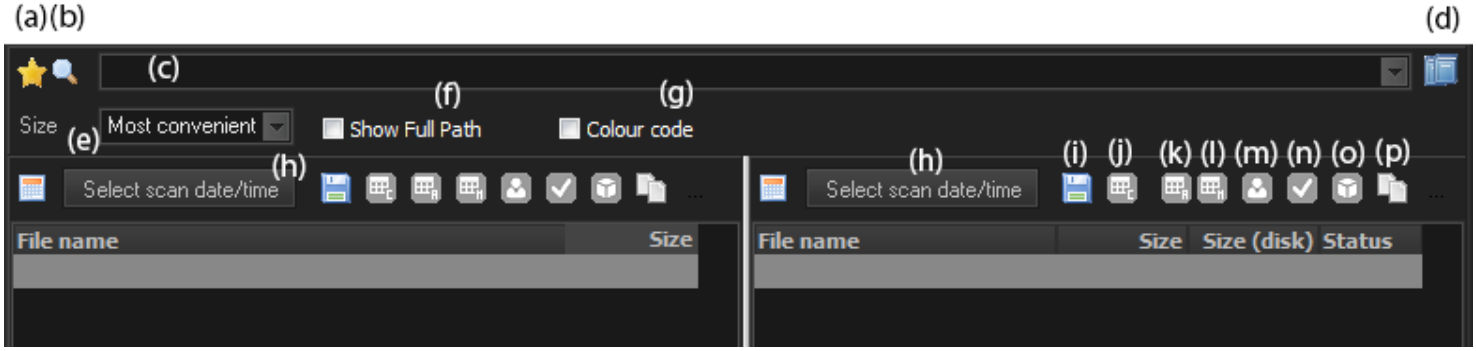
Shows all of the scan events for the selected folder on a time line. Earliest scans on the left, newer scans on the right.

Searching Folder History via the Search tab options



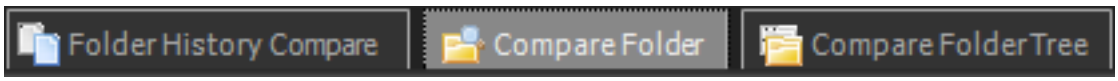
File History Compare

Use the Folder History Compare tab to compare the contents of a folder at two specific dates/times, it will show the search results for any two scan dates (selected via (b) and (h) below).



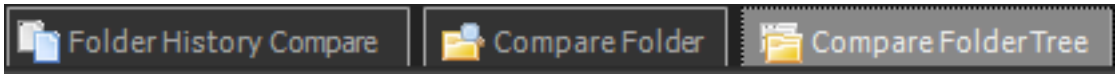
a) Select from a set of predefined searches.
b) Run the search.
c) Enter the search commands in here, see here for more information.
d) Open the floating search command syntax window.
e) Select from three different file size formats.
f) Toggle the full path of the file, when unselected only the file name will be shown.
g) Colour the files according to the category they belong to.
h) Select which scan (date and time) to search.

i) Save the search results.
j) Toggle the "created date" column.
k) Toggle the "accessed date" column.
l) Toggle the "modified date" column.
m) Toggle the "user name" column.
n) Toggle the "file attributes" column.
o) Toggle the "size on disk" column.
p) Highlights the items on the selected side that aren't present on the other side.



Compare Folder

Compare the scan folder on two separate dates.

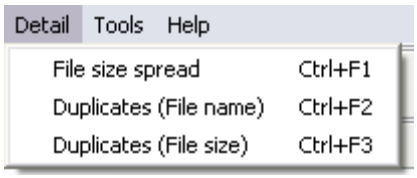


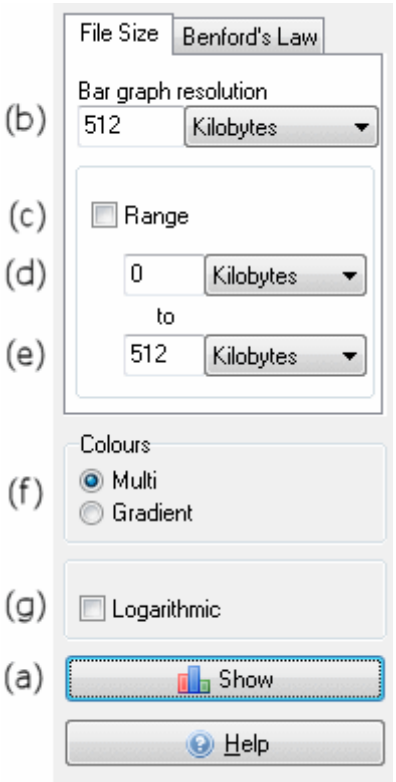
Compare Folder Tree

Compare the scan folder on two separate dates, and see the result within a tree structure.

File Size Spread

The File Size Spread display is a more powerful, and customisable, version of the magnitude display.



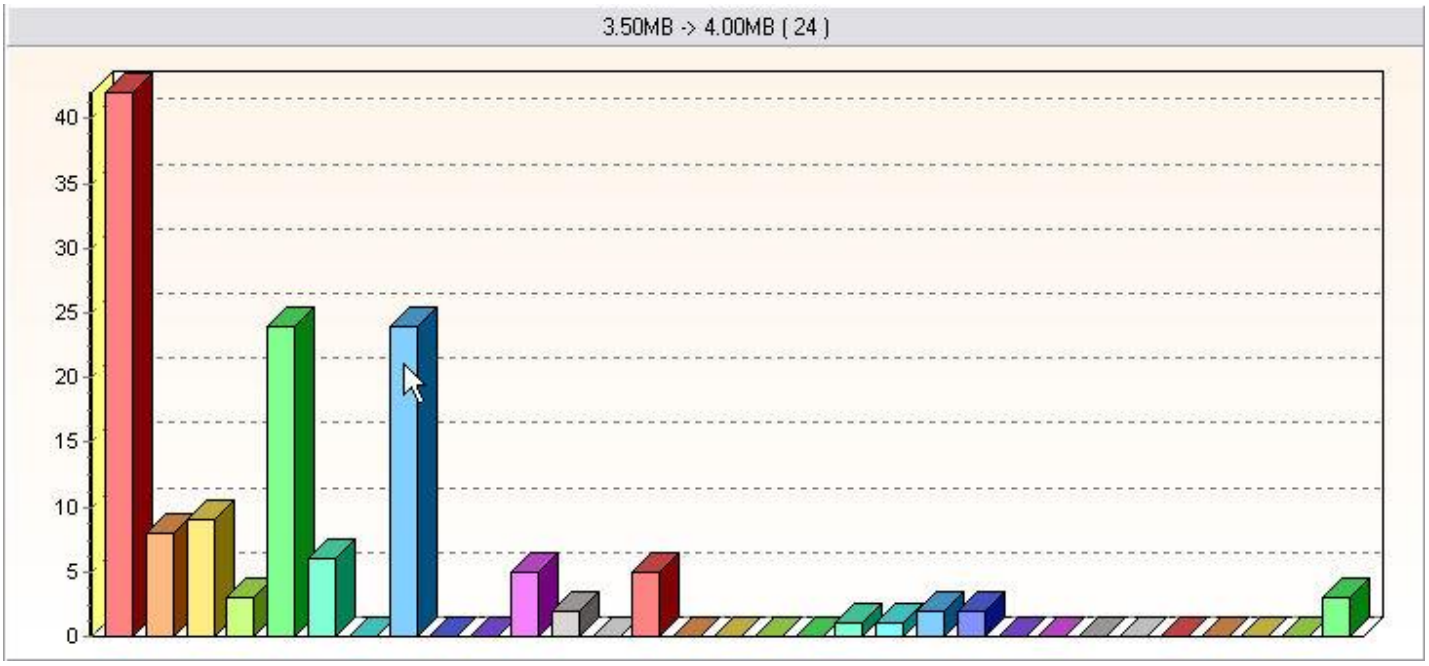


a) Build the graph.
b) Select the resolution of the graph. Small numbers make for more detailed graphs but at the expense of build time and memory usage. The default is 512K so they first bar of the graph will show the number of files between 0 bytes up to (but not including) 512k, the second bar for files of 512k up to (1MB and so on in intervals of 512K. *
c) Build the graph from only a selected range of file sizes form (d) to (e) inclusive.
d) Start size for the range.
e) End size for the range.
f) Use a multi-coloured graph or colour based on y-axis value (darker colour for larger values).
g) Use a logarithmic Y-axis.

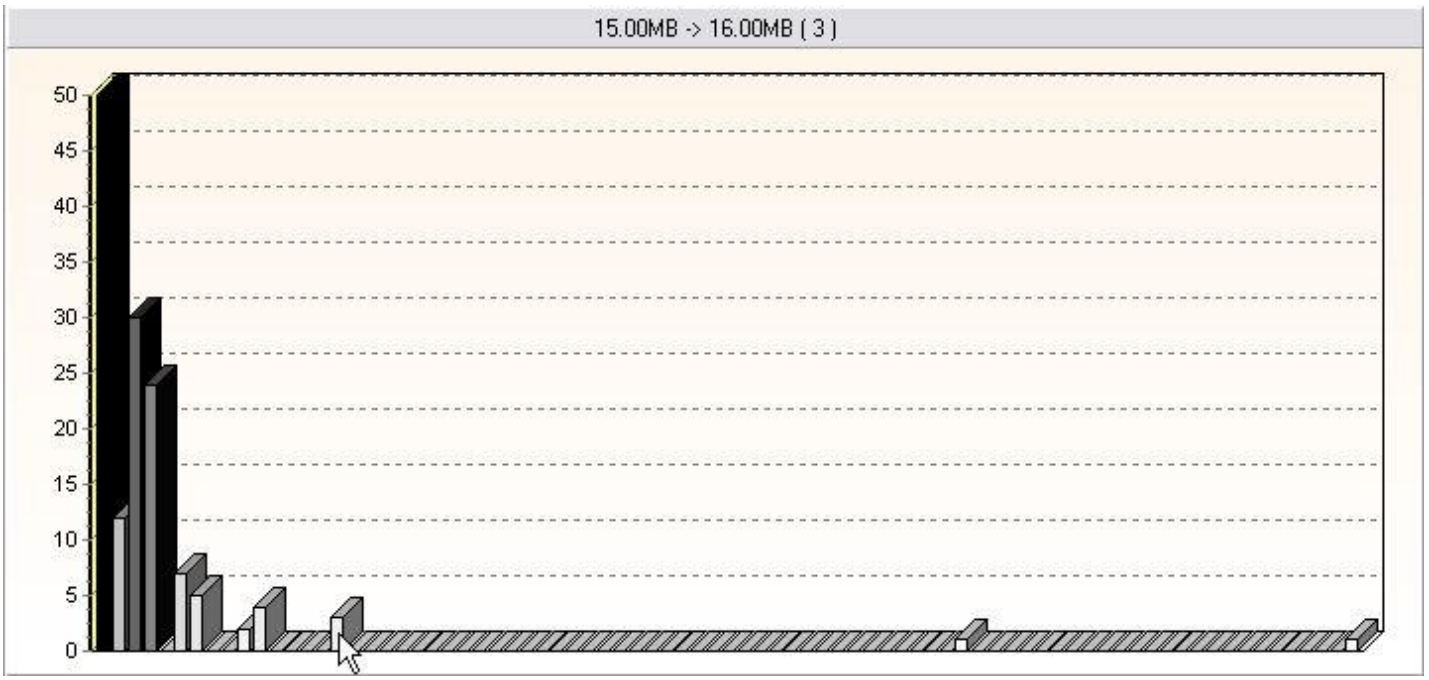
* smaller intervals will result in longer refresh times.

In the example below the "multi" colour mode is shown. There is too much information to show on the X-axis so the information is available by moving the mouse over a bar. In this example the mouse is located over the "blue" bar towards the left side, the top part of the example shows that this bar represents files of 3.50MB up to (but not including) 4.00MB of which there are 24.

The interval in this example is 0.5MB or 512KB. Each bar represents a spread of this amount.



In the example below the "gradient" colour mode is shown. The mouse is located over the bar that represents files of 15MB up to (but not including) 16MB of which there are 3.



Benford's Law

Benford's Law describes how the distribution of a set of numbers should vary with the leading digit of each number.

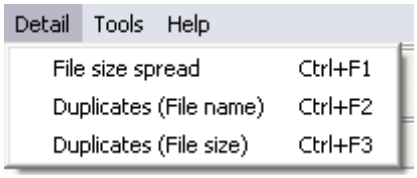
Numbers beginning with '1' should be around 30.1%, '2' 17.61%, '3' 12.49%, '4' 9.69%, '5' 7.92%, '6' 6.69%, '7' 5.80%, '8' 5.12% and those beginning with '9' would only be expected to account for 4.58% of the total.

The Benford's Law display will show you the distribution of the file sizes according to this law.

For more information on Benford's Law see this great website: `http://testingbenfordslaw.com/`

Duplicate Files (by Name)

A list of files that all share the same name is available from the Detail menu, the View panel, and the Search panel.



The display lists all files with the same file name that exist within the current scan folder.

Icons, left to right:

a) Start looking for duplicates
b) Open help
c) Save the list of duplicates to a text file
d) Save the table as a CSV file (for Excel)
e) Copy the table to the clipboard

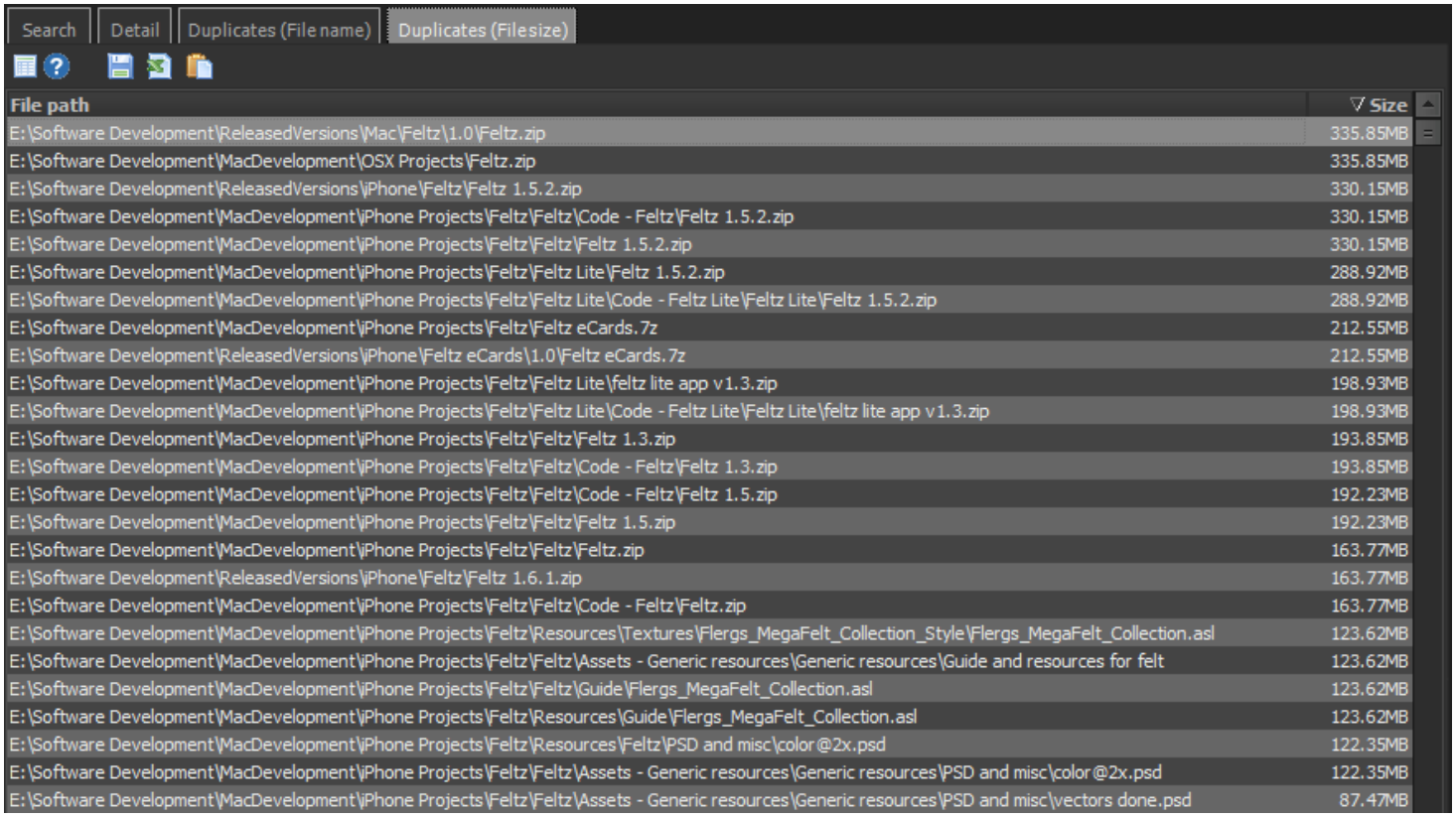


Duplicate Files (by Size)

A list of files that all share the exact file size is available from the Detail menu, the View panel, and the Search panel.

Icons, left to right:

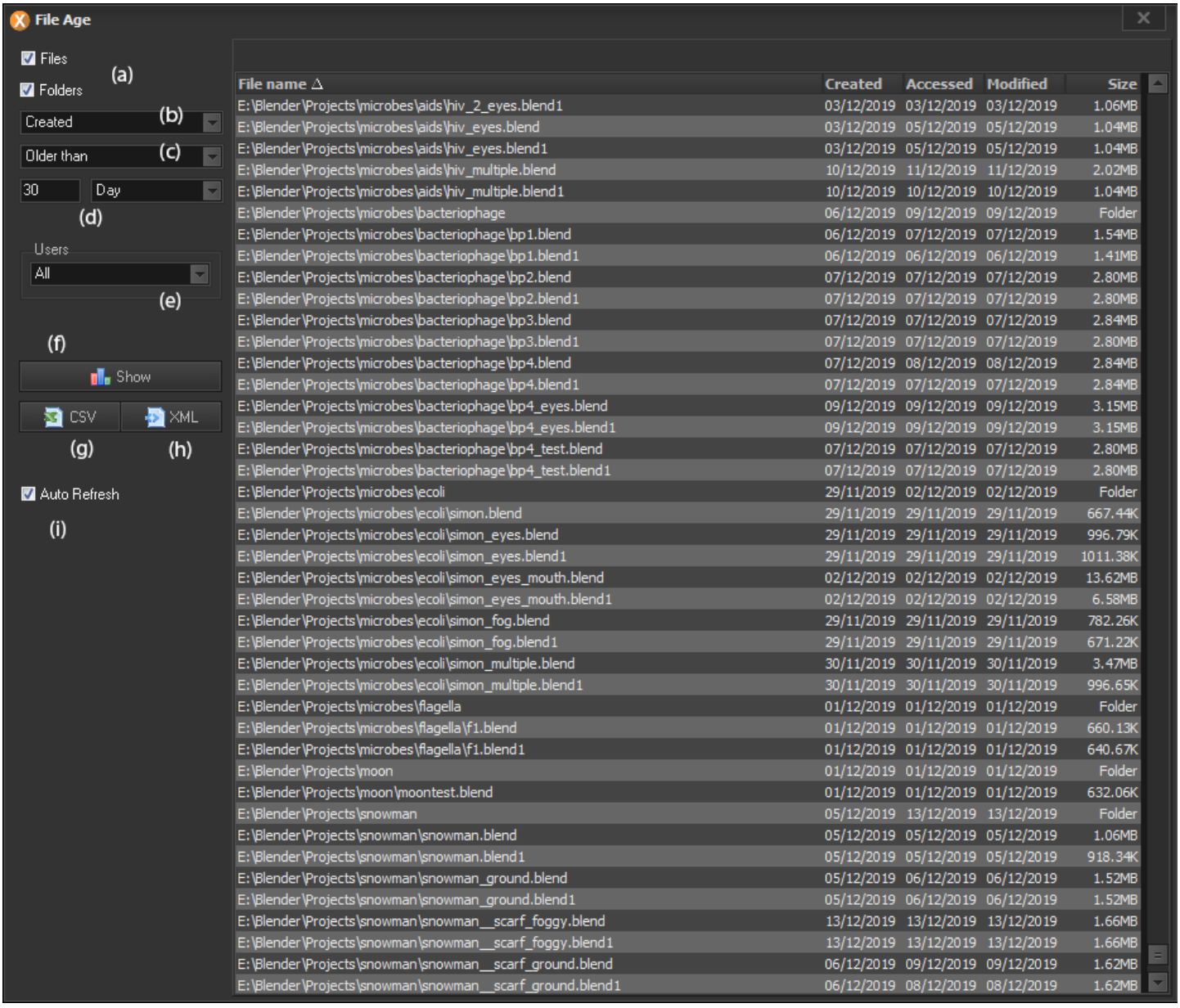
a) Start looking for duplicates
b) Help
c) Save the list of duplicates to a text file
d) Save the list to a CSV file (for Excel)
e) Copy the table to the clipboard



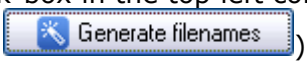
File Ages

Find files based on their age. List files based on created, last accessed or last modified dates.

a) Choose from modified or accessed dates
b) Choose from created, modified, or last accessed dates
c) "Older than" or "within the last"
d) Choose from any number of days, weeks, months, or years.
e) Select data from a specific user or all users
f) Build the table (only the top 1000 items are shown)
g) Export the full list to CSV
h) Export the full list to XML
i) If selected, the table will refresh after any setting above is altered



Saving Reports

Select which report(s) to create by clicking the check-box in the top left corner of a report type. Enter a file name (or use the automatic file name generator 

).

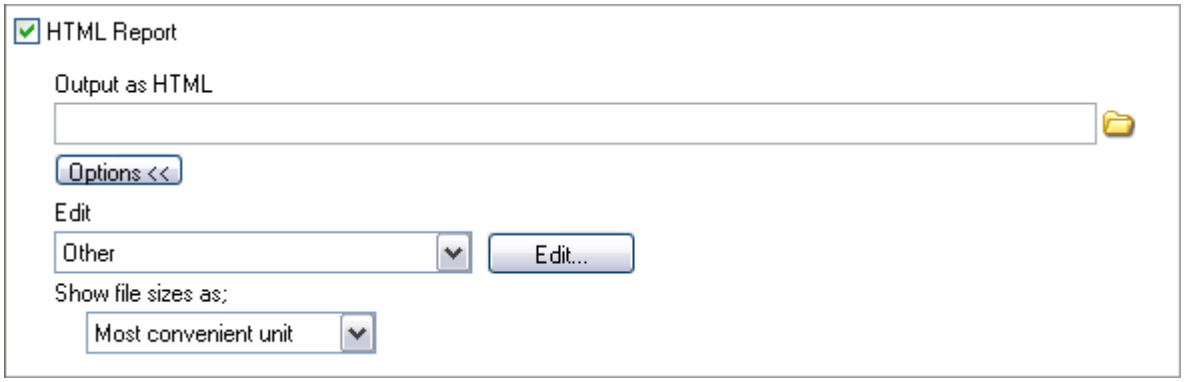
For each report type Xinorbis stores five presets: **Autosave**, **Quick**, **Other**, **Custom1** and **Custom2**. These come with default settings but can be edited either from *Settings* (press F6) or from within the individual report sections, below.

Clicking the "Options >>" button will open the full range of options for the selected report. For those reports that use the presets select from the drop-down box labelled "Edit" and click the "Edit" button to edit them. The Quick reports (F7 to F12) always use the Quick report settings so it's best not to edit and use that particular preset here.

The selected preset will be the one used when the "Save" button is pressed to create and save the reports.



A CSV report can contain either the list of categories (audio, video, system, etc.) along with the relevant data or a complete list of files with details; size, date, file attributes etc.

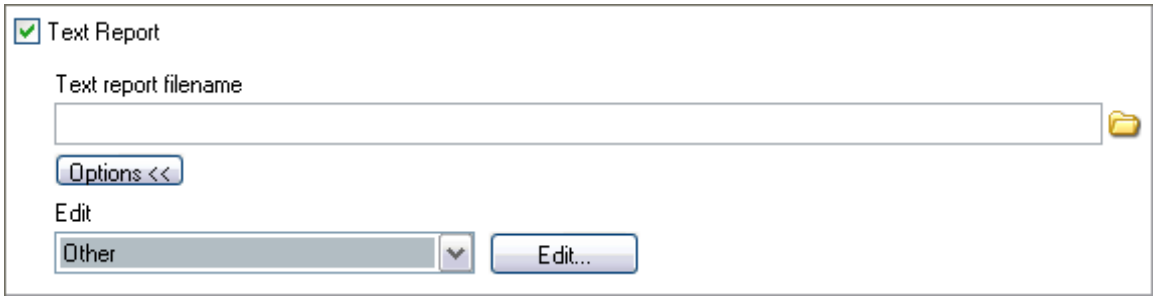


The HTML report options are shown here along with the option of selecting how file sizes should be shown.

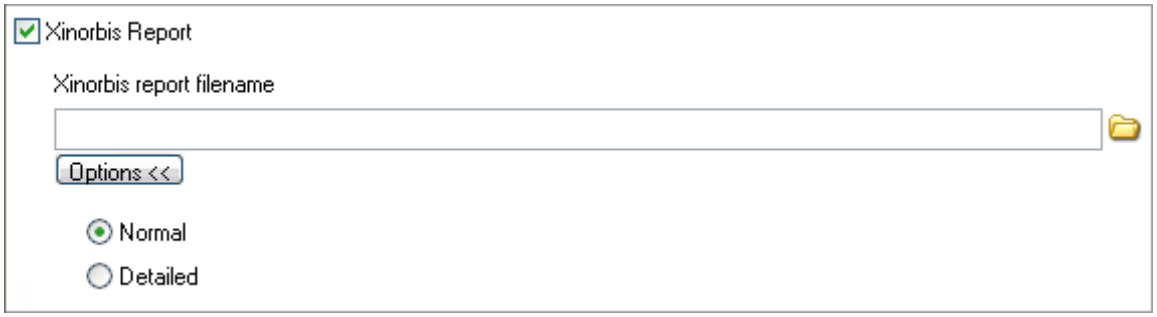
For example, a file of *exactly* 1MB would be shown as;

Most convenient unit;	1MB*
As bytes;	1048576*
As kilobytes;	1024*

* This is not always the case with all applications, but Xinorbis uses the most commonly recognised convention.

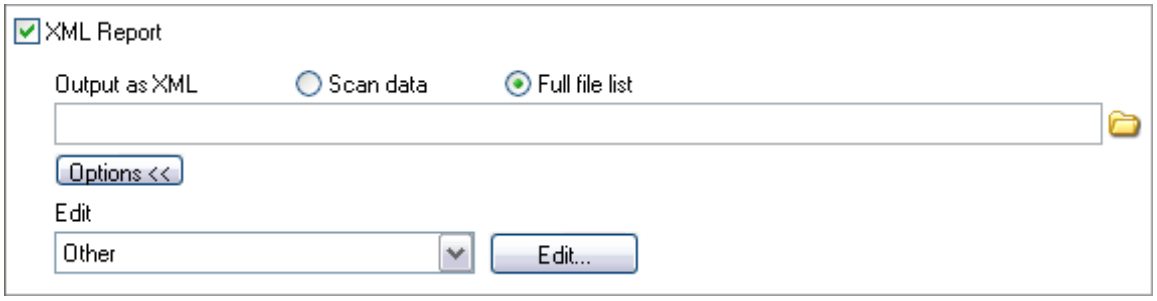


The Text report options are shown here. Any of the five presets can be selected and/or edited.



The Xinorbis report type always saves in full detail mode.

Stores *all* file and folder information, it's much more detailed and produces much larger files that a corresponding CSV.



A XML report can contain either the scan data or a complete list of files along with size, date, type etc. The selected presets are not used when "Full file list" is selected.

Using Xinorbis as a “portable application”

Xinorbis will store user preferences to the Windows’ registry.

To stop all registry access and to force Xinorbis to store user preferences locally to the application, create a file called custom.ini and place it in the same folder as the x5.exe file. An example file is included in the same folder as the Xinorbis executable and is named "_custom.ini".

The custom.ini should be a text file with the following structure;

[main]

`portablemode=1`	This will tell Xinorbis to operate in "portable mode", disabling all registry access. All user preferences are saved to the custom.ini file.
`copyprefs=1`	When **not** running in "portable mode" this option will tell Xinorbis to save a copy of settings to the custom.ini file in addition to the registry.
`datapath=`	The location to use for all reports and saved files.

The path specified in *datapath* will be created if it doesn't exist. There are two special variables that can be used within the *datapath* entry;

`$xdrive`	the drive where Xinorbis is being run from.
`$xfolder`	the folder where Xinorbis is being run from.
`<???>`	Where “???” is any environmental variable.

If your copy of Xinorbis is installed to `"P:\utils\xinorbis5\"` then:

`$xdrive` would be equal to `"P:"`
`$xfolder` would be equal to `"P:\utils\xinorbis5"` .

Any user additions to the file extension categories will be stored in `"<install folder>\data"`. The following files are used;

`audio.txt`	Sound, music or other audio files
`compressed.txt`	Compressed archives of files
`graphics.txt`	Graphics, 3D objects etc.
`movie.txt`	Movie or animation files
`office.txt`	Text file, spreadsheets etc.
`programming.txt`	Project files, includes, source code etc.
`programs.txt`	Executable files
`system.txt`	Operating system files

`custom1.txt`
`custom2.txt`
`custom3.txt`
`custom4.txt`
`custom5.txt`
`custom6.txt`
`custom7.txt`
`custom8.txt`
`custom9.txt`
`custom10.txt`
	Create these as necessary as they aren't defined by default.

These can be edited if required. Each file is a standard ASCII text file and contains one file extension per line. No need to add the leading '.' .

Please email me if you would like more options and customisations added to Xinorbis' "portable mode".

Using ODBC

By default Xinorbis uses an excellent database engine called **SQlite** to store the *Folder History* data archive. SQlite is part of the Xinorbis installer and is included in the ZIP archive, it does not need to be installed separately.

For many users SQlite will be more than adequate, but for power or enterprise users it probably isn't going to be powerful enough.

That's why versions 5.2 and above of Xinorbis come with ODBC connectivity. ODBC allows Xinorbis to talk to a wide range of different databases including Microsoft SQL Server, mySQL and Oracle.

How to configure Xinorbis to use ODBC:

(1) Install your database engine of choice and ensure that all of the necessary ODBC plugins for the database are installed too.

(2) Create a database called XINORBIS. (choose something else if you *really* want to)

(3) Edit the `custom.ini`* file that's located in the root of the Xinorbis install and edit the two ODBC parameters:

```
useodbc=1
connectionstring=<enter the connection string here>
```

For example, the connection string I use to connect to SQLServer Express 2008 on my development PC is:

```
connectionstring=Provider=SQLOLEDB.1;Integrated Security=SSPI;Persist
Security Info=False;Initial Catalog=XINORBIS;Data Source=PAFCOM\SQLEXPRESS
```

Please see your database administrator for information on creating the ODBC connection string.

(4) That's it!

The underlying operation will not be affected by using ODBC instead of SQlite, all functions and features will work as normal.

The "Backup your Xinorbis data" option is available in ODBC mode but only the contents of the Xinorbis data folder will be archived, the ODBC database will not!

* The `custom.ini` file is installed as `_custom.ini`, rename to `custom.ini` to enable.

Chart options

Customise Xinorbis' charts using these options. All charts share the same properties.



a) Example chart
b) Set the zoom level of the chart (*Pie charts only*).
c) Make the largest slice "explode" away from the rest of the pie (*Pie charts only)*.
d) Toggle the legend
e) Select the label and axes background colour
f) Select the contents of the label:
    1 Value of the pie slice or bar
    2 Percentage
    3 The label
    4 Label + percentage
    5 Label + value
    6 Legend
    7 Percentage + total
    8 Label + percentage + total
    9 X/Y value
g) Select units for file sizes
h) Select a colour for the chart's title
i) Enable/disable a background gradient for the chart, and set the gradient colours.

Making Xinorbis faster!

If you're scanning large folders or drives, then Xinorbis may seem to take a long time to produce its reports and graphs.

There are a few things you can do to speed things up:

(1) Avoid scanning the `Windows` or `Program Files` folders unless you really need to.

These tend to be large folders; the contents of which will be of little use to most users.

Use the `Exclude Folders` and `Exclude Files` options to speed things up.

(2) Only scan what you really need to. Don't scan a whole drive when you're only interested in a small part of it.

Use the `Exclude Folders` and `Exclude Files` options to speed things up.

(3) Disable the gathering of file owner details.

If you're scanning a PC that's only ever used by one user, or you aren't interested in the owner (creator) of the files on the PC, then disabling this feature will improve scan times considerably.

`Settings->General->Optimisations->Don't get file owner details.`

(4) Change the update speed of the application.

By changing the update speed of the application your scan times will drop but Xinorbis will *appear* to not respond to mouse or key commands (while scanning).

`Settings->General->Optimisations->Scanning progress update/refresh speed`

(5) Enable Just-in-time processing

With this option enabled some graphs and tables will be built only when they need to be, e.g. when they are needed for a report or when they are viewed for the first time. Under normal circumstances Xinorbis will build all tables and graphs after the scan process has finished which could mean it wasting time building a table that won't ever be seen.

`Settings->General-Optimisations->Just-in-time processing`

(6) Disable Folder History

After every scan Xinorbis records the name and attributes of every file and folder contained in the scan. This can be very useful for seeing how the contents of a folder/drive change over time. If you aren't interested in comparing the contents of scans at different dates then you can safely disable this feature.

From versions 6.0.5 onward this option won't make as much difference to performance, this is because updating of the Folder History is now done in the background.

`Settings->General->Enable Folder History`

Credits

Programming	Paul Alan Freshney
Development Cats	Rutherford, Freeman, and Maxwell (maximumoctopus.com/developmentcats.htm)
Application Icon/Logo	Sören Bockhoop
Database Engine	SQLite (www.sqlite.org)
16x16 Icons	Mark James (www.famfamfam.com/lab/icons/silk/)
French Translation	Christian Perronnet
German Translation	Marcus Barkhahn
Hungarian Translation	Zsolt Brechler
Russian Translation	kopejkin
Italian Translation	Victor
Thanks to	Perry, Monpelaud, Dave Mahadevan, Vit, Damiaan Peeters, Mike Dutch, Robert Pallot, Peter Garrety, Fred de Vries, Glyn Selwyn, Tom Grimes, Fredie Botha and Rod. And *everyone* who has sent me feedback. Please keep it coming!
Lines of source code	45520

Xinorbis is *Catware*

Xinorbis is completely free (for all commercial and non-commercial use), but it's also released as *catware*. Instead of donating to me, I ask that you donate to your **local cat shelter** or **charity** instead. There are lots of cats that need our help. Thank you.

Cats rule!

www.xinorbis.co.uk

www.maximumoctopus.com

xinorbis@maximumoctopus.com

(c) Paul Alan Freshney 2026