



Bookmark Managers

by Scott Holstad

Are you like this? One of my EarthLink colleagues seems to bookmark (or, for you Microsoft Internet Explorer people, save "Favorites") every single Web site she visits -- all 971 per day!!! Seems a little intense, but -- what the heck -- she likes to go back and visit. Do you? Well, if you suffer from this same affliction, perhaps you've thought about alternatives to your browser's bookmarking capabilities. If so, this column's for you. Be prepared to feel overwhelmed with gobs o' bookmarking utilities which you can download and test out (some of these may only be evaluation demos) to your greedy heart's content.

Most of those familiar with my pieces know that while I'm multi-platform literate, I tend to prefer PCs. This, however, is one of the few times I've felt partial to Mac apps. It just seemed as though the Mac bookmark managers were, on the whole, more intuitive and robust. (This is a difficult confession for me to make.)

Windows

Smart Bookmarks 2.0 is one bookmark manager often cited as a top Windows(R) utility. Available for 3.1, 95, and NT, it can be used with a variety of browsers (including Netscape Navigator(TM), Internet Explorer, and Mosaic). WebWatch is another utility, which tracks things such as your last visit to a particular URL. Another application, Surfbot 2.0, isn't really a bookmark manager, so much as a Web page explorer which alerts you to changes made in sites you've already bookmarked. Cool!

NetOrganizer 2.0 is another bookmark manager offering a nice GUI interface. It's password protected, records URLs automatically so you don't need to physically bookmark sites, and it allows off-line use. On the whole, quite nice.

OnBase Technology advertises DragNet as a "drag and drop" tool which optimizes bookmarking. DragNet is also useful in saving FTP sites and email addresses -- not a bad idea with the increased integration of application suites. Meanwhile, Bitlogic's Powermarks is a Win95-specific tool which imports/exports URLs in HTML format, and works with both Netscape and Microsoft's browsers. Best of all, registration of the evaluation version is only \$10!

Macintosh

Okay, I'm done with the PC versions; now I only have about 4,000 Mac utilities to go through. (Boy, this is a switch.) Of the many Mac choices out there, I really like three. (Those of you who don't like to limit your choices can click here for a more complete list.) Alco Blom's URL Manager is almost laughably easy to use, yet it does a great job. You can add URLs from all over the place: not only will it accept URLs from Netscape, Internet Explorer, and Spyglass Mosaic, but you can actually add URLs from Eudora Pro! You can sort, import, export, manage, search, and save ALL hyperlinks on a page. Moreover, there's a nifty control strip which allows you to easily launch Internet apps, such as telnet and finger, via InterNet Config. Cool! Also, at a

\$25 registration fee, it's affordable.

While URL Manager is cool, I like another tool called Web Ninja. You MacUser fans may already be familiar with it, but for those of you who aren't, this isn't really a bookmark manager. It is, however, an incredible WWW history-tracker. It'll tell you how many times you've been to a site, and the last time it was accessed. Further, it'll go as deeply into a site as you go -- it won't list only the top page. This is a great log utility, and while I wouldn't use it instead of a bookmark manager, it works great in conjunction.

My favorite Mac bookmark manager (drum roll please) is Europa Software's Web Quick. **THIS PRODUCT IS A BEAUTY!** It attaches an icon to your browser menu bar. When you pull down, you will find -- at your fingertips -- search engines, computer links, news, and pre-made bookmark folders (to which you can add and customize your own). In addition, there's a handy online help guide. Most impressive, however, is the fact that this baby automatically keeps track of the last 1000 Web pages you visit, so that, irregardless of how long it's been, you can quickly hop back to a page you like! The demo version of Web Quick will expire after a couple of weeks, but 30 bucks is well worth paying to get the registered (non-expiring) version. HELLO ... it's impossible to really surf the Web without this robust beast of a package -- get it today!

Certainly, there's no shame in sticking with Netscape's Bookmark system. However, if you want to make your Web world a little easier to manage, think about snagging a bookmark manager and creating your own URL library.



Daily Home



The Vault



Contest



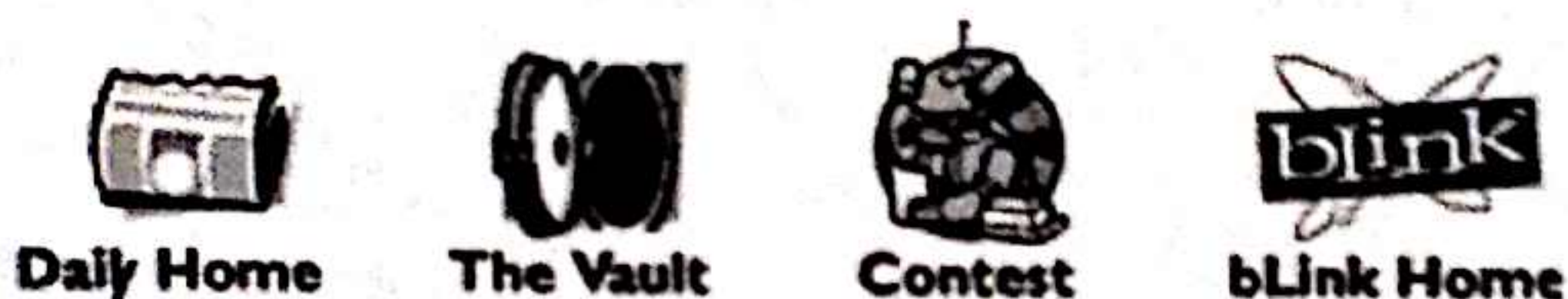
bLink Home

Copyright 1996. EarthLink Network, Inc.

Freeware Friday

Honestly? The following bookmark utilities just don't do a whole lot for me, but you be the judge. Bookmark Organizer 1.1. Yawn. Bookmark Manager 1.521. Ho hum. DropURL 1.4. Yep. WebArranger. Bo-Ring. URL Clerk 1.2. Hmm. Aladdin's CyberFinder 2.0 is, however, actually a product which tends to get decent reviews. It groups URLs into libraries. Not impressed, however. No search tools, and more importantly, it integrates via the Finder, a decidedly inefficient method of organization (and one which inherently limits search capabilities).

A bookmarking tool I do think somewhat impressive is the Mac version of DragNet. Version 1.12 employs a searchable database, easy URL maneuverability, email and FTP support, and extensive customization capacity. A utility I like even more is ForeFront's GrabNet 2.0. It has a very friendly, Microsoft-like interface, allows for easy URL imports, and is customizable. My only complaints -- at this point (I reserve the right...) -- are the fact that it's a Netscape-only app, and it takes about 18 YEARS to open the Preferences folder, even on a loaded PowerMac!



Copyright 1996. EarthLink Network, Inc.