

# TopXNotes 1.2

# REVIEW

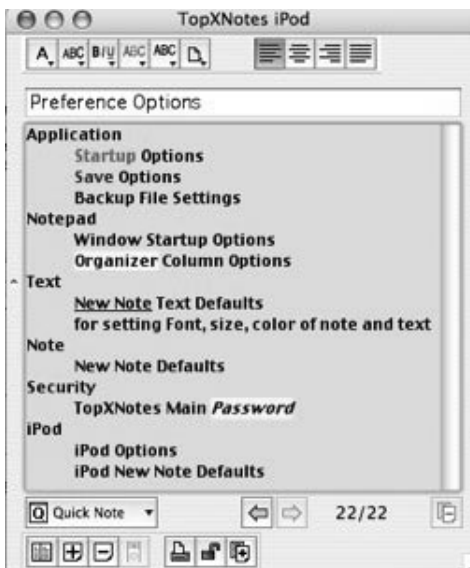
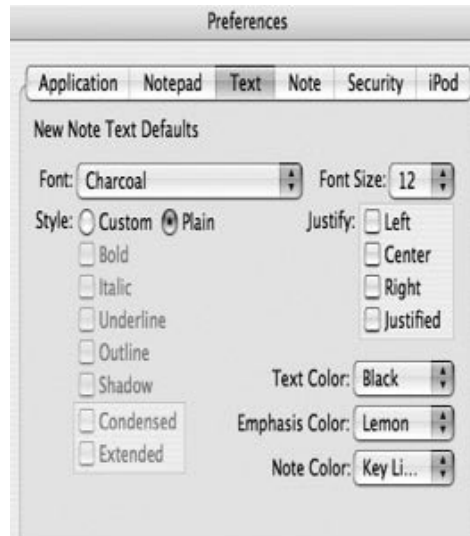
by Joe Tate

Former users of OS 9.x may remember the Note Pad, which I used extensively, for keeping track of phone numbers, general notes & passwords (even though unsecured!), which was eventually replaced with 'Stickies' in OS X. I never got to use Stickies very much, due to their taking up so much real estate on the desktop, even in the 'rolled up or window-shade' format.

So, I started keeping some notes in draft copies of Apple Mail or hints to my passwords in my Address Book, or parts of a web page in a Word document, but there was no way to remember where to look for what I needed. Step up TopXNotes, which takes the old note pad to the ultimate, allowing me to copy and paste most anything from the web, with images, color, text, & style. It has many of the features of a word processor, including Find & Replace (within a given note), text styles (underline, bold, italic, etc.) but, in addition, I can secure any note, or all my notes, with one password. This allows me to put my multiple account numbers and passwords in one secure, easily located place and I only have to remember ONE password to view them all.

Installing TopXNotes is very easy. Just drag n drop the TopXNotes icon onto the alias of your Applications folder, conveniently provided, and installation will be completed. The help menu is also quite informative and lays out all that you need to know on how to use TopXNotes.

After perusing the Help Menu, you may want to check out the Preferences panel as it is quite extensive, with 6 different panels of settings for tailoring the notes to your specifications. The first note screen shown below contains the different options in each of the panels and the Preferences window shows what the Text panel looks like.



After you bring up TopXNotes, you may need to press command+N to see a new note. It will have two tool bars, one toolbar above the note with icons for font style & font size & font color, highlight color & note color and text alignment.

## On the toolbar below the note you have icons for:

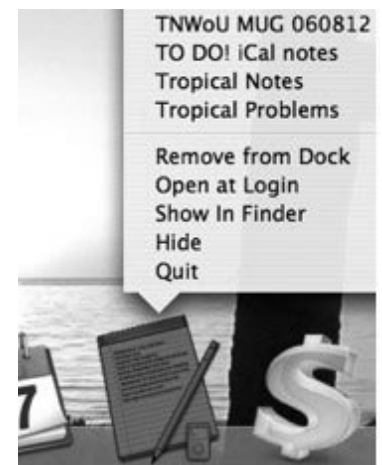
Show Note Organizer (like a table of contents of your notes), Add a New Note, Delete or Print (the current note), Lock (for Read Only purposes), and Add Another Note view (this expands the view, like panel view does in OS X, Finder). It also shows

which note of how many notes you are viewing, which category you have assigned to this note (QuickNote in the above case) as well as navigation arrows to use to view other notes.

You can also copy & paste parts of most any web page as part of your note taking, but you sometimes have to be clever in how you do it. For example, I tried to save a cartoon by using ctrl-click on the image, selecting Copy Image from the virtual menu, and then using command+V to paste it, but doing that only pasted the URL, which did, however, change to a useable link after I added a space after it. However, the command+ctrl+shift+4 DID allow me to copy the image, and using command+V pasted it right below the hyper link!

NoteOrganizer, a menu sidebar for organizing your notes, allows you to organize them: by either name, or group (which folder you put it in), or category (with it's own icon, color and name that you have assigned). You can then sort your notes on any of these, as well as on the note number, or on the date created or on the date modified. Cool! (*see next page*)

QuickNotes is a category as well as a global floating menu that pops open with a list of ALL the notes that you have labeled as QuickNotes. This list is also available from the Dock, via a ctrl+click. (see pictures next page). Choosing one from the list brings up that note.



QuickNotes icon

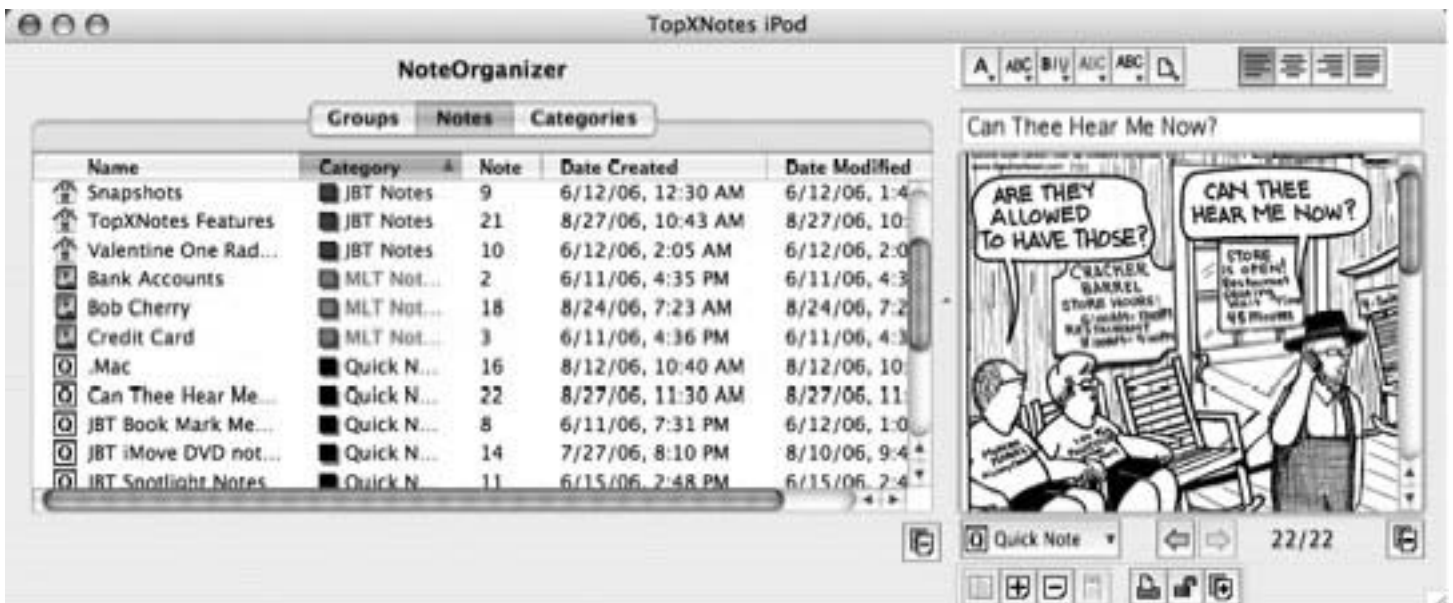
# TopXNotes 1.2 continued

# REVIEW



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*NoteOrganizer*

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# REVIEW

If you'd like to change the icon or the color associated with a category, or add another category you can get to Edit Categories by clicking on the last item in the Category menu (bottom left of the Organizer). This brings up the Edit Categories with options of New or Delete. Clicking on the color brings up the color picker and clicking on the icon brings up icon options with a choice of icons to assign to each category from OS 9 icons, or OS X icons or even some additional ones listed under General Icons (*see below*).

Other features include: ToolTips (where the tool purpose is displayed when my cursor rolls over the icon), and Moveable Tools (in Multiview they are always under the active note) as illustrated in the middle note below; also, Multiview (displays more than one note at a time that may also include the Organizer), and Templates which illustrate how I might set up a note with specific



information such as Bank Accounts or Credit Card Information or even my Favorite Websites (illustrated below)

Any note can be renamed, modified, edited, deleted, printed, or even exported as Rich Text Format (.rtf) or as plain Text (.txt) either of which can then be read using Text Edit or any word processor.

TopXNotes requires a Mac computer with OS 10.2 or higher and is priced at \$25 for the Basic Version or \$30 for the Basic Version with iPod export capability. See their website at <http://www.tropic4.com/>.

I should also mention that after I won the Basic Version at the NWoU MUG meeting, I contacted our presenter, and the President of Tropical Software, James Lee, by email and asked him several questions about the software, including mentioning a few of the problems that I had encountered. He responded immediately, answering each question and recommended that I wait on my review until version 1.2 came out as it would take care of some of the problems I had mentioned and it would include some of my suggestions. So I got permission to do so from the NWoU MUG raffle committee and this is the result. I liked it so well that I bought the iPod version so we could have the capability of downloading notes to our iPod as well.

*This review was done on in Word 2004 for Mac (version 11) on a PowerBook G4 with 1 GB of RAM, 1.33 GHz PowerPC G4 processor & 80 Gb hard drive but the program only uses about 20 Mb RAM (for just the QuickNotes floating Menu) and about 30 Mb of disk space (for 20 notes), but of course both would depend on how many notes you have open and how many saved and how long each note was.*