

ZizaSoft DuplicateHunter

REVIEW

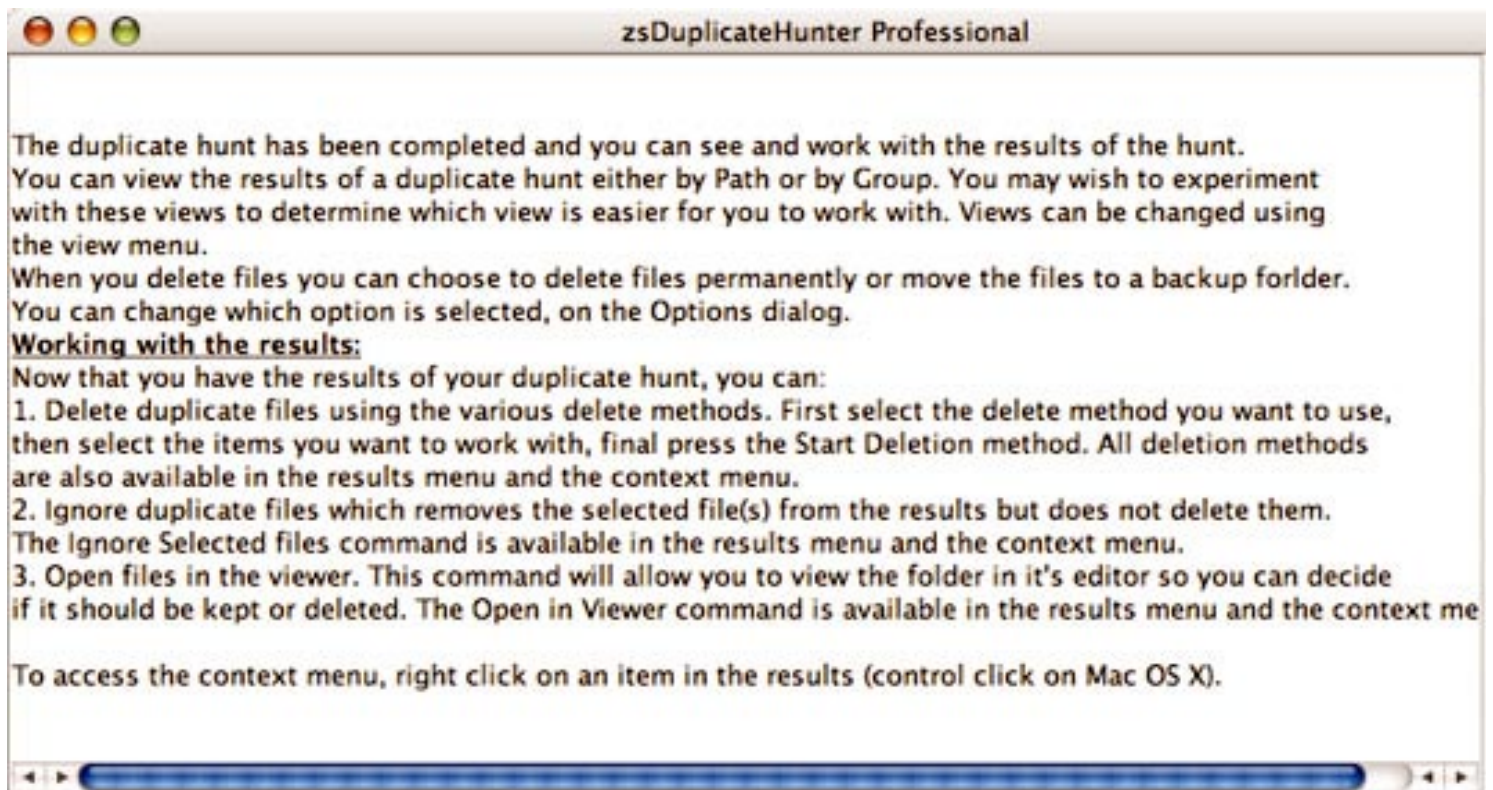
by Jacquelyn Adler

This program comes on a CD. On the label it states "To Install: Insert the CD into CD-ROM drive and follow on-screen instructions." If I had done that, I would still be waiting. I finally double-clicked the icon, called 'Zizasoft Product.' Inside were two icons and three folders. None of the folders had anything that looked like an Application. One had some images. One had a bunch of .exe files. (Aren't those Windoze?) The first icon tried to open Graphic Converter, so I cancelled that. The other icon was called 'index.htm' and since nothing else worked, I double-clicked on it.

A window opened that had the download links for zsCompare, another ZizaSoft product, and zsDuplicateHunter, both Standard and Pro editions. There were version downloads for Windows, with and without Java, for linux, and finally (whew!) for Mac OS X. 10.3 or higher. Since the Serial Number on the back of my CD was for the professional edition, I clicked on the 'install now' button for that one. This took me to a file in the 'installs' folder called 'zsDuplicate_Hunter_Pro_2_20.zip' which then opened into a folder containing a license, a 67 page PDF help file, and the Application.

After I launched the program, I immediately got a message telling me that there was a more current version available and that all Windows users should definitely upgrade at once. I took a pass. I decided to try it out right away. I was asked for my Serial Number and Registration Key and I entered them.

This is the Application's window:



On the left side is a hierarchical listing of the files and folders of your hard drive. You can search your entire user folder as I did, or you can confine your search to select files. The PDF help file recommended grouping the files by size and checksum, so that all files with the same name such as 'read-me' would not be flagged as duplicates. I probably should have picked a smaller sampling of files to start with, since this is going to take a very, very long time.

As I am writing this, the time remaining has gone up from the 1.4 hours you see in my screen shot, to 3.5 hours. I think I'll go to a movie and finish this later.

Just kidding, but I did have dinner and watch about two hours of television. When I got back to my Mac, DuplicateHunter Pro had found the following:

It searched 201,016 files and found 147,302 duplicates in 4.2 hours. I'm not sure how I feel about this. I find it hard to believe that more than 73% of my files are duplicates.

I decided to try this on a smaller scale. I picked the subfolder 'Dogs & Cats' in my Jokes Folder. This search was very quick. It took 3.1 seconds to search 311 files, and it found 70 duplicates. It flagged 13 files

called 'Doggie Advice.' People do tend to eMail the same jokes again and again, but I couldn't understand how I could have saved the same one 13 times. I looked in the folder and realized that this was a single document with thirteen imbedded GIFs. The program was flagging them as duplicates. This was true of each of the other 'duplicates' in this folder.

Maybe I'm missing something here.

