

THE COMPUTER CORNER

No. 292: I'm Searching for ...

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You'd think it would be easy to find a good search tool. I had a heck of a time, and it took many months before I found what I wanted.

I wanted a tool that would find words in documents or document titles, but just on my computer, not throughout the world. Where did I put that file where I, or someone else, described in the title a thingamabob using the word *scary* or *Scary* or *SCARY*? Where did I or the ORC Secretary talk about a *tuner* being sold in the auction? I went through a number of purported search tools that I could install on my machine and forget about until needed, and one that would not use megabytes of memory or space on the hard drive or be in my face when I did not need it. I found one, and would like to share.

Its called EVERYTHING, and it has been around for quite awhile. The first public release was in Mar 2005. Since that time it has been updated regularly, and the last recorded update I could find was in mid-Dec 2021. Copyright 2021 by Voidtools, it is free (without restriction) software so long as the copyright notice and permissions are furnished with the software. So we are dealing with the best kind of freeware that exists – really free.

The easiest place to get EVERYTHING is from the website of the company that provides it. Going there also lets you select just what you want, as well as help files and other goodies. You can also read about the company's position on a freeware offering and such, and they note that the software has won many awards. The company URL is: <https://www.voidtools.com>, and the author is David Carpenter. You probably want to download the 64-bit file, which will be (after you download it):

Everything-1.4.1.1015.x64-Setup.exe (1.72 MB)

It would also be useful if you downloaded the offline help file, Everything.chm.zip, only 1183 KB in size. Unzip it and a double click should show you the interior of the file, which explains all you might want to know.

Basically, EVERYTHING does an index of all files and folders on your machine, which it uses then to search for what you want. It indexes 120,000 items (roughly the size of a new Windows 10 installation) in about a single second, and does 1 million files/folders in a minute. It does not do a new index each time you use it, just an update, so that helps to make it incredibly fast. It does the index updates when you are not using it or anything else (like between each keystroke if you are typing a document!). It does not

drag on your memory or other resources. And yes, it can also do a content search of your files and folders, but that will take longer since it is a slower process.

So, to summarize, EVERYTHING has useful attributes that make it a winner:

- A small installation file.
- A clean, simple user interface.
- Quick file indexing and quick searching.
- Quick startup (practically instantaneous after you click the icon).
- Minimal resource usage and a small database on disk.
- Real-time updating.

If you have a better search tool, let me know, and perhaps I will use it and write about it! Happy Computing!