Advanced usage: General

this is non-comprehensive

I am always changing and adding little things. The best way to learn is just to look around. If you think a shortcut should probably do something, try it out! If you can't find something, let me know and I'll try to add it!

advanced mode

To avoid confusing clutter, several advanced menu items and buttons are hidden by default. When you are comfortable with the program, hit *help->advanced mode* to reveal them!
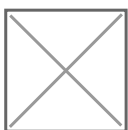
searching with wildcards

The autocomplete tag dropdown supports wildcard searching with '*'.

The '*' will match any number of characters. Every normal autocomplete search has a secret '*' on the end that you don't see, which is how full words get matched from you only typing in a few letters.

This is useful when you can only remember part of a word, or can't spell part of it. You can put '*' characters anywhere, but you should experiment to get used to the exact way these searches work. Some results can be surprising!

You can select the special predicate inserted at the top of your autocomplete results (the highlighted '*gelion' and '*va*ge*' above). **It will return all files that match that wildcard,** i.e. every file for every other tag in the dropdown list.

This is particularly useful if you have a number of files with commonly structured over-informationed tags, like this:

In this case, selecting the 'title:cool pic*' predicate will return all three images in the same search, where you can conveniently give them some more-easily searched tags like 'series:cool pic' and 'page:1', 'page:2', 'page:3'.

exclude deleted files

In the client's options is a checkbox to exclude deleted files. It recurs pretty much anywhere you can import, under 'import file options'. If you select this, any file you ever deleted will be excluded from all future remote searches and import operations. This can stop you from importing/downloading and filtering out the same bad files several times over. The default is off. You may wish to have it set one way most of the time, but switch it the other just for one specific import or search.

inputting non-english lanuages

If you typically use an IME to input Japanese or another non-english language, you may have encountered problems entering into the autocomplete tag entry control in that you need Up/Down/Enter to navigate the IME, but the autocomplete steals those key presses away to navigate the list of results. To fix this, press Insert to temporarily disable the autocomplete's key event capture. The autocomplete text box will change colour to let you know it has released its normal key capture. Use your IME to get the text you want, then hit Insert again to restore the autocomplete to normal behaviour.

tag display

If you do not like a particular tag or namespace, you can easily hide it with *services->manage tag display*:

This image is out of date, sorry!

You can exclude single tags, like as shown above, or entire namespaces (enter the colon, like 'species:'), or all namespaced tags (use ':'), or all unnamespaced tags (''). 'all known tags' will be applied to everything, as well as any repository-specific rules you set.

A blacklist excludes whatever is listed; a whitelist excludes whatever is *not* listed.

This censorship is local to your client. No one else will experience your changes or know what you have censored.
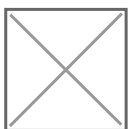
importing and adding tags at the same time

Add tags before importing on *file->import files* lets you give tags to the files you import *en masse*, and intelligently, using regexes that parse filename:
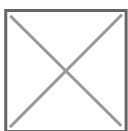

This should be somewhat self-explanatory to anyone familiar with regexes. I hate them, personally, but I recognise they are powerful and exactly the right tool to use in this case. This is a good introduction.

Once you are done, you'll get something neat like this:

Which you can more easily manage by collecting:

Collections have a small icon in the bottom left corner. Selecting them actually selects many files (see the status bar), and performing an action on them (like archiving, uploading) will do so to every file in the collection. Viewing collections fullscreen pages through their contents just like an uncollected search.

Here is a particularly zoomed out view, after importing volume 2:

Importing with tags is great for long-running series with well-formatted filenames, and will save you literally hours' finicky tagging.

tag migration

At *some* point I will write some better help for this system, which is powerful. Be careful with it!

Sometimes, you may wish to move thousands or millions of tags from one place to another. These actions are now collected in one place: *services->tag migration*.

It proceeds from left to right, reading data from the source and applying it to the destination with the certain action. There are multiple filters available to select which sorts of tag mappings or siblings or parents will be selected from the source. The source and destination can be the same, for instance if you wanted to delete all 'clothing:' tags from a service, you would pull all those tags and then apply the 'delete' action on the same service.

You can import from and export to Hydrus Tag Archives (HTAs), which are external, portable .db files. In this way, you can move millions of tags between two hydrus clients, or share with a friend, or import from an HTA put together from a website scrape.

Tag Migration is a powerful system. Be very careful with it. Do small experiments before starting large jobs, and if you intend to migrate millions of tags, make a backup of your db beforehand, just in case it goes wrong.

This system was once much more simple, but it still had HTA support. If you wish to play around with some HTAs, there are some old user-created ones [here](#).

custom shortcuts

Once you are comfortable with manually setting tags and ratings, you may be interested in setting some shortcuts to do it quicker. Try hitting *file->shortcuts* or clicking the keyboard icon on any media viewer window's top hover window.

There are two kinds of shortcuts in the program--*reserved*, which have fixed names, are undeletable, and are always active in certain contexts (related to their name), and *custom*, which you create and name and edit and are only active in a media viewer when you want them to. You can redefine some simple shortcut commands, but most importantly, you can create shortcuts for adding/removing a tag or setting/unsetting a rating.

Use the same 'keyboard' icon to set the current and default custom shortcuts.

finding duplicates

system:similar_to lets you run the duplicates processing page's searches manually. You can either insert the hash and hamming distance manually, or you can launch these searches automatically from the thumbnail *right-click->find similar files* menu. For example:

truncated/malformed file import errors

Some files, even though they seem ok in another program, will not import to hydrus. This is usually because they file has some 'truncated' or broken data, probably due to a bad upload or storage at some point in its internet history. While sophisticated external programs can usually patch the error (often rendering the bottom lines of a jpeg as grey, for instance), hydrus is not so clever. Please feel free to send or link me, hydrus developer, to these files, so I can check them out on my end and try to fix support.

If the file is one you particularly care about, the easiest solution is to open it in photoshop or gimp and save it again. Those programs should be clever enough to parse the file's weirdness, and then make a nice clean saved file when it exports. That new file should be importable to hydrus.

setting a password

the client offers a very simple password system, enough to keep out noobs. You can set it at *database->set a password*. It will thereafter ask for the password every time you start the program, and will not open without it. However none of the database is encrypted, and someone with enough enthusiasm or a tool and access to your computer can still very easily see what files you have. The password is mainly to stop idle snoops checking your images if you are away from your machine.

Revision #1
Created 12 March 2021 16:42:44 by CuddleBear