Lookeen®
The new Generation of Search

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Why desktop search is critical in the face of growing information

With a continual increase in information volume, search is now ubiquitous and essential. Effective search tools are required to cut through the omnipresent information overload. Although search is a familiar tool, widely relied on in web applications and archiving, its underuse in personal information management and organisation knowledge management is responsible for an incomprehensible amount of lost time and money. Desktop search tools offer a search solution to the individual and the enterprise. The Lookeen desktop search product is a simple, flexible and powerful tool to safeguard against inefficient and ineffective searching.
What is desktop search?

The evolution of the desktop search tool

A desktop search is a search tool that focuses on the domain of a single user. The inception of desktop searches aimed to provide users with a means of rapidly locating their files. Initially, this meant searches confined to the local hard drive. As the desktop evolves outside of local hardware, the domain of desktop searches has grown to include external drives, email, networks, public folders and beyond. Although the reach of desktop searches is continually expanding to support and anticipate user requirements, the focus of a desktop search remains a defining characteristic. This flexible definition is necessary when considering cloud storage services and virtual environments. In a virtual desktop, the same mechanics apply, but the “local” user environment resides in the data centre. Moreover, this changing notion of a desktop search sees the emergence of an overlap between modern desktop search tools and the traditional enterprise search applications.

The mechanics of search

Nearly all search engines work by using indexes to locate data. An index is an ordered, consolidated collection of references to the occurrences of an item in the searchable files. Searching using an index has a high performance benefit over searching the entirety of the files and allows for much faster searches. To index files and make them searchable, the files must be parsed, breaking the files down into a standardised form so that entities can be extracted. Indexing is a prerequisite to searching files, so files that are not yet indexed cannot be accessed via search queries. Typically, indexing occurs with a predetermined periodicity, to keep the searchable content up to date. This can result in poor search accuracy. To combat this, real-time indexing updates the index as changes are made, ensuring that searches always return a true representation of the current system.
Why do desktop search tools exist?

The motivation for search

The motivation for search tools is self-evident. Search is necessary to ensure knowledge of what information is available, and for quick retrieval of that information. Conceptually, indexing has been in use for millennia. From an information retrieval perspective, indexes have been identified, since at least the times of Ancient Greece, as the preeminent means for handling large quantities of data. More meaningful motivation comes from analysing the impact that search can have on worker productivity and influence that knowledge management can have on a company’s bottom line.

The cost of time: inefficient search

Retrieving information is become an increasingly pressing issue. The more data available, the greater the obstacle of information retrieval is to productivity. Numerous market research works, including those of IDC and Gartner, consistently highlight the high price paid by companies for time lost to inefficient and ineffective searches.

"Knowledge workers can easily spend around 10 hours of their week on searching for information. Up to half of the searches executed can result in no useful information."

The world is a currently a culture, society and economy of information. The big data era has seen technology facilitate more information capture and storage than we presently know what to do with. Higher volumes of data put strain on personal information management and further emphasise the need for coherent knowledge management policies for organisations. Even with awareness in knowledge management increasing, times spent searching is still on the rise.

Recent studies have shown that the volume of data created is growing at a rate of 200% annually.

This is a dangerous trend, representing a greater and greater resource drain to companies who fail to take a proactive stance on search investment.
The cost of knowledge: ineffective search

Beyond the time lost to inefficient searches, the governance impact of ineffective search can expose companies to even greater risk. Information is a company asset that enables intelligent decisions. To leverage that information, it must be taken into account in decision-making processes. Failing to find information is running the risk of making erroneous decisions. When this occurs for mission-critical data, the consequences can be disastrous. With greater volumes of data, keeping tabs on exactly what is known becomes a difficult task. Expert estimates put the proportion of enterprise knowledge capital stored as unstructured data, such as emails, at up to 90%. Such data is much more difficult to manipulate in relation to structured data, such as databases. But when all data is indexed consistently and in the same place, it can be ensured that all the information is at least accessible to be identified.

The benefits of desktop search can be realised by all users. Habitually adopting search as the first step in information discovery and retrieval can cut significant waste out of any workflow. Search is a necessity as the volume of data becomes large. Moreover, unstructured data makes up a particularly problematic case for information management, for which, search is among the limited solutions. The ability of desktop search to sift through large quantities of information makes any user that is typically reliant on large volumes of data, identifiable as a potential for significant productivity increase. This case envelops the majority of information and knowledge workers, those who work primarily with computers and generally, most professionals. As email correspondence, a form of unstructured data, can regularly be mission critical for a large number of use cases, a dependable, Outlook search should be a top priority for heavy email users.
Lookeen Desktop Search

Lookeen is a powerful and compact desktop search tool that leverages simplicity of design and robust core workings to make it a valuable knowledge management asset.

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Lookeen extends the tried and tested Apache Lucene core, making use of its scalability and flexibility. The extensive search functionality provided by Lookeen to search shared folders, run in virtual infrastructures and scalable implementation make it a suitable candidate for many enterprise search applications. One of the keys to Lookeen’s successes is its simplicity. The user interface Lookeen reflects the philosophy of its conception: an approachable interface with straightforward design that integrates effortlessly into the workflow.

Too much time is lost to the inefficient and ineffectual search for information. A good search tool should provide a quality user experience that is naturally intuitive, and does not detract from the task at hand. With an increasing reliance on information, there is a growing area of application for which effective search tools hold the key to drastic productivity increases. Therefore, it is essential that everyone embrace search. Universal acceptance hinges on a low barrier to tool usage and demonstrable quality of results. Lookeen’s ease of use and dependable output have secured its implementation by more than 25,000 companies and individuals across the world.

The streamlined unified interface of Lookeen makes search results clear and accessible.

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The Capabilities of the Lookeen Technology

As a cutting edge incarnation of a desktop search tool, Lookeen enables effortless location of information across a large search domain with advanced search functionality. The wide range of file formats covered by Lookeen ensures that nearly all files potentially containing knowledge are part of the search scope. Furthermore, the real-time indexing feature means that searches always return accurate results and include the most current information. Even with this functionality, Lookeen puts very little strain on system resources.

"Strong Outlook search capabilities make Lookeen a must for power email users."

Strong Outlook search capabilities make Lookeen a must for power email users, with dedicated Outlook add-ons available. Despite its simplicity of use, Lookeen supports advanced search queries, using various filters, Boolean and proximity searches. Search results can be analysed in context with a multi-line preview pane, which even allows for edits to be saved without exiting the search.

For enterprise cases, Lookeen offers a range of benefits. Lookeen is secure, keeping all of the enterprise data on secure company servers. Group policies allow user access privileges to be easily set up and controlled. Lookeen is designed to work effectively in virtual infrastructures and is compatible with Citrix, VMware and Terminal Servers. One key benefit of Lookeen from an enterprise perspective is the minimal setup required. Enterprise search implementations regularly run over schedule and over budget, resulting in poor customer satisfaction. Lookeen's portability and straightforward implementation means that the entire installation process could be reduced to hours.

Lookeen Product Information

- Compatible with Windows 10, 8, 7 and Vista
- Automatic indexing of all files on the hard drive, network, file servers, Outlook PST/OST- archives, Public Folders and the Exchange Server in both cached and uncached modes
- Easy access via desktop shortcut, system tray or ctrl + ctrl shortcut
- Multiple file formats supported: .pdf, .docx, .xlsx, .pptx and many more
- All Outlook data supported: emails, email attachments, appointments, tasks, notes and contacts
- Advanced search queries using filters, wildcards and more (i.e. date ranges/From:/To:/~/~*/AND)
- Boolean and proximity search supported
- Powerful search in virtual environments like Citrix and VMware
- Simple, user-friendly interface gives users a unified view over multiple data sources
- Clear presentation of search results Full fidelity preview option Highlighting of key words
- Multi row preview
- All data stored on your safe and secure company servers
- Lucene 3.0 engine integration Easy on system resources
- Easy installation & ready to use in a few hours
- Available in English and German

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Conclusion and Recommendation

In an information economy, knowledge management is now, more than ever, a make or break for organisations. Search tools are one of the essentials of knowledge management, simultaneously offering a solution to consolidate what is known and providing quick access to that information. Breaking down the barriers that prevent knowledge from flowing in an organisation is high on the agenda of many organisations, and should be a priority for many more. To ensuring that knowledge flows though an organisation, we must first ensure that the necessary information is available, on-demand, to individuals.

The development of desktop search has seen the domain of search extend outside of the hardware desktop, but its focus on the individual remains. This user-centric approach allows each individual to increase their productivity and reduce resource waste by providing the information they need, when they need it.

Lookeen is a powerful and dependable desktop search tool, with the capability to scale as an enterprise search implementation. Lookeen's simple but effective user interface makes it a low-barrier tool with a high quality user experience for all users. Furthermore, its advanced search functionality enables quick creation of even the most tailored queries. Real-time indexing and a wide range of file format and data repository compatibility allow Lookeen to provide consistently accurate results and maximise the search scope. When information is such a valuable asset, the ability to manage your knowledge effectively is the key to success. Lookeen search technology ensures that all available knowledge is consolidated, unified and accessible. The consequences of missing information are severe. Protect against productivity drains and uninformed decisions with Lookeen.

Get your free 14-day trial at www.lookeen.com

Lookeen System Requirements

- IBM or a compatible Pentium® Processor (700 MHz or higher)
- 512 MB RAM or higher
- 100 MB hard disk space for installation
- SVGA 800×600 with 256 colours (1024×768 with 16-Bit is recommended)
- Windows 10, Windows 8, Windows 7 or Microsoft Windows® Vista
- .NET Framework 4.0 or higher

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