



A New File Browser with Metadata in Mind

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Overview



- **Motivation**
- **Overview of MetaSepia**
- **Predictive Folder Tree for Navigation**
- **Creating a Music Folder**
- **Status and Future**

Motivation



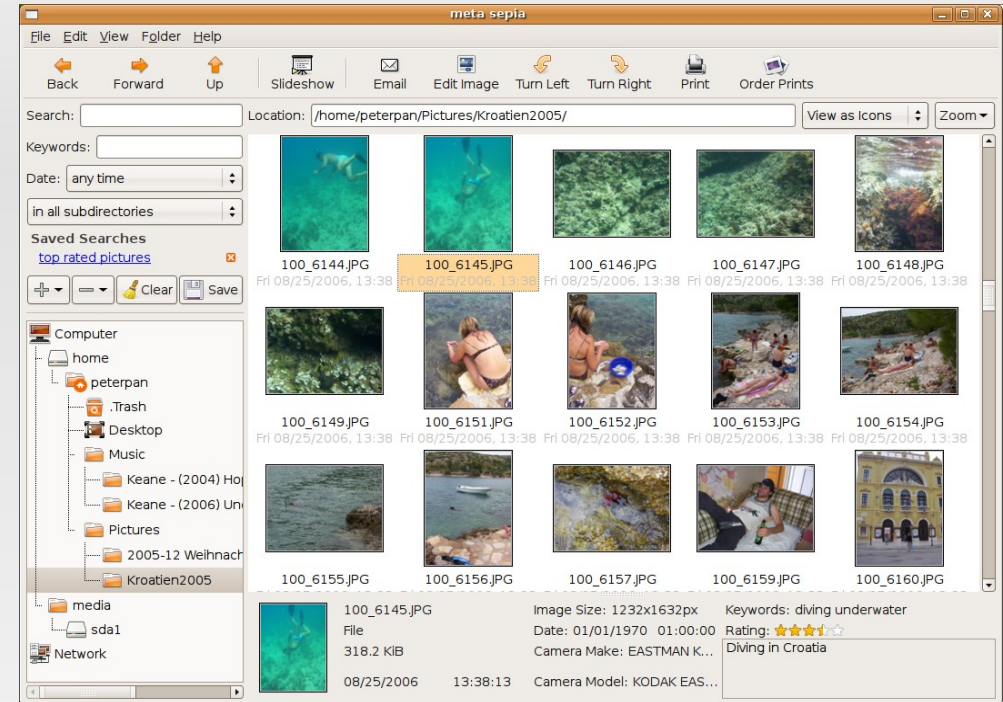
- **Type specific file browsers like F-Spot or Rhythmbox bring us extended concepts:**
 - **tagging, metadata and fast searching**
 - **type specific file actions**
 - **appropriate views for containing files**
- **BUT: only for a limited set of file types**

MetaSepia mixes a universal, hierarchic file browser with the above concepts.

Overview of MetaSepia



- uses **MetaTracker** and **Ruby-GNOME2**
- flexible metadata search facility
- virtual folders
- folder typing
- view and edit file metadata easily
- user-extensible file and folder actions
- predictive folder tree for navigation



Predictive Folder Tree 1



navigation widgets in Nautilus:

toolbars

menus

Go Bookmarks Help

- Open Parent Alt+Up
- Back Alt+Left
- Forward Alt+Right
- Home Folder Alt+Home
- Computer
- Templates
- Trash
- CD/DVD Creator
- Network
- Location... Ctrl+L
- Search for Files... Ctrl+F

Clear History

- sepia
- icons
- bazaar
- filebrowser
- filebrowser
- DA Meta Sepia
- Projekte
- data
- peterpan
- Desktop

Back Forward Up Stop Reload Home Computer Search

- bazaar
- filebrowser
- filebrowser
- filebrowser
- bazaar
- DA Meta Sepia
- Projekte
- data
- peterpan
- Desktop

Bookmarks Help

- Add Bookmark Ctrl+D
- Edit Bookmarks Ctrl+B
- data
- Bilder
- Schriftverkehr
- Projekte
- 2006 - Diplomarbeit
- svn.new
- MP3 2007 mkcard
- peterpan on ikk
- Windows Network: ikk on ikk
- soulseek
- sepia

home peterpan data Projekte DA Meta Sepia FOSDEM img

sidebars

History

- VA
- music
- U
- playlists
- peterpan - Party Rock
- E
- torrent downloads
- VA on ikk
- music on ikk
- Computer
- Privat HDR Experimente
- Projekte
- disk
- VA-TV Hits 2005
- Fatboy Slim - Why Try Harder
- peterpan
- Various Artists from Internet
- old
- Various Artists

Tree

- Home Folder
 - album_check.rb
 - asdasd
 - bakup
 - bin
 - DA EC v4.4 Kap 1.doc
 - data
 - deadjoe
 - Desktop
 - (1999) Judith Holofernes - Kamikazefliege
 - 001_.pdf
 - 001_(2).pdf
 - 001_(2)(2).pdf
 - 001_(3).pdf
 - 001_(4).pdf
 - 002_.pdf
 - 2Technical4Women
 - 4.12.2006-145778:
 - 004 .pdf

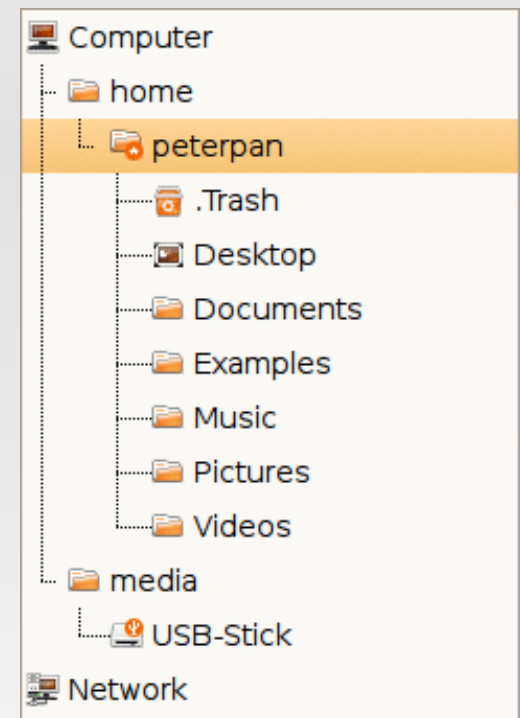
Places

- peterpan
- Desktop
- File System
- sda3
- sda1
- data
- avalon
- Trash
- data
- Bilder
- Schriftverkehr
- Projekte
- 2006 - Diplomarbeit
- svn.new
- MP3 2007 mkcard
- peterpan on ikk
- Windows Network: ikk on ikk
- soulseek
- sepia

Predictive Folder Tree 2



- **goal: show all places I may want to go to next in one context**
- **solution: sparse tree displaying places from the following sets:**
 - **current directory***
 - **mount points***
 - **important places (home, trash,..)***
 - **last visited places (history)***
 - **places that I often visit from the current folder***
 - **places I often visit (if space is left in widget)***



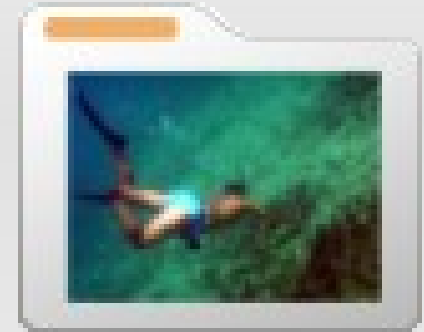
***(incl. all its ancestors)**

Creating Folder Types 1



folder types consist of:

- **a name, mime-type and icon**
- **a default view configuration**
- **optionally some saved searches/virtual folders, each with own view configuration**
- **optionally some folder actions with icon (command line will be executed by bash)**
- **optionally some file and folder templates for the "New" menu**



Creating Folder Types 2



The screenshot displays a Linux desktop environment with a file manager window titled "meta sepia" and a "Folder Type Manager" dialog box open over it.

File Manager Window (meta sepia):

- Menu: File Edit View Folder Help
- Navigation: Back, Forward, Up
- Actions: Burn CD, Play Album
- Search: [Empty]
- Location: /home/peterpan/Music/
- View as List [Dropdown]
- Zoom [Dropdown]
- Artist: Keane
- Folder List: Keane - (2004) Hopes And Fears, Keane - (2006) Under The Iron Sea
- Left Panel: Computer (data, home, peterpan, .Trash, Desktop, Music), media (sda1, sda3), Network
- Bottom Status Bar: 02/15/2008 14:48:57

Folder Type Manager Dialog Box:

- Title: Folder Type Manager
- Folder Type: Music Album [Dropdown]
- General Settings tab selected
- Name: Music Album
- Mime Type: folder/x-music-album
- Image File(s) to be shown in Folder Icon: cover.jpg front.jpg folder.jpg
- Fallback Icon to be shown in Folder Icon: [CD Icon]
- Icon Preview: [Album Cover Icon]
- Close button



What does work:

- browse filesystem
- three configurable folder views
- predictive nav-tree
- view/edit metadata
- full-text searching
- build complex metadata queries

What doesn't work:

- metadata search (Tracker yet lacks Xesam support)
- menu and toolbar actions do nothing
- opening files
- type manager

Future



- **MetaSepia brings extended concepts to general file management.**
- **It can bridge the way towards hierarchy-less, tag-and-search file management.**
- **It can serve as a GUI for the ^{Meta}Tracker metadata database.**
- **I hope the community will help to extend the typesystem with useful folder types.**

End



Thanks for your attention!

Project URL: <https://launchpad.net/sepia>