

PRESS RELEASE

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DEVONAGENT 1.1: »PANTHERIZED« AND EASIER TO USE

Bietigheim-Bissingen (Germany, European Union), 21th of November, 2003 -- DEVONtechnologies updates DEVONagent, its intelligent search agent and alternative browser, to version 1.1. The new version is available as a free download from www.devon-technologies.com and can be used for 60 hours runtime until it must be registered for US\$ 35.

Besides being optimised for Mac OS X 10.3 (»Panther«), DEVONagent 1.1 features »sets« which allow to switch with one click between various self-defined configurations, for example one for searching the Internet in general, one for development-related information and one for pictures. Also, version 1.1 comes with a built-in plug-in manager for enabling and disabling plug-ins. This reduces memory usage, improves startup time and simplifies the user interface. In addition, the plug-in manager displays some basic information about the installed modules.

A new preference excludes certain hosts from being searched, for example sites blocking automatic bots such as DEVONagent (e. g. sciencemag.org or slashdot.org) or sites the user wants to skip (e. g. microsoft.com). Further enhancements include a new menu item for switching between the three browser views (source, plain text, HTML), a simple progress indicator in the integrated web browser, a better export function saving web pages as RTF(D) using the Mac OS X 10.3 WebKit engine, and an updated preferences panel. Finally, the included crawler sets have been revised, and some minor bugs as well as localisation and interface glitches have been solved.

DEVONagent 1.1 runs on any Mac with 256 MB RAM and Mac OS X 10.2 and Safari 1.x, or Mac OS X 10.3. A fast Internet connection is recommended. DEVONagent 1.1 is available as a free download from www.devon-technologies.com and must be registered after a trial period of 60 runtime hours for US\$ 35. DEVONagent is also available as bundle with DEVONthink Personal Edition for US\$ 60 in the DEVONtechnologies Online Shop.

Contact details for your readers:

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DEVONAGENT BACKGROUND

Based on DEVONtechnologies' revolutionary DEVONtechnology, DEVONagent is the information finding tool of the next generation. It simulates the behaviour of a human web surfer scanning the Internet for a specific piece of information. Technically, DEVONagent uses a variety of searching techniques and collects the results from major search engines. Then it visits all the found web sites, downloads, analyses and weights them to find the most relevant pages, eliminating information junk (empty pages, HTTP errors, sites that don't contain the search phrase, similar or duplicate pages, or pages with too little information) automatically on-the-fly.

Especially useful for anyone visiting the same pages over and over again to see if there's something published about a specific topic are crawlers. They scans through lists of interesting pages and reports only those dealing with what the user is looking for. Also, so-called scanner post-process the result list and filter out all pages that don't match certain formal criteria such as »Contains a webcam« or »Features web galleries«.

The final results are presented by DEVONagent in a plain list, sorted by decreasing relevance, together with a first summary of all paragraphs that DEVONagent thinks are the most relevant to the query. A double-click on any link opens the pages directly in an integrated web browser built upon the fast and rock-solid Safari engine (including Java, JavaScript, Plug-Ins and all the rest).

A second, more spectacular view shows a list with the most important topics related to the query and a digest instantly created for selected topics or based on the query. Occurrences of the selected topics words are highlighted, the digest is editable and can be saved as plain text or RTF. Both views, page list and digest, are easily accessible through tabs below the toolbar. Also, selected pages can be exported as HTML, plain text or RTF/RTFD. In almost all cases, the results filtered and weighted by DEVONagent are much better than those returned by the standard search engines. Additionally, DEVONagent stores all or selected results in a searchable archive very similar to DEVONthink, DEVONtechnologies' current flagship freeform database and knowledge manager (commands to store selected pages or links to them in DEVONagent are also available).

Key features:

- Automatically queries multiple search engines
- Collects, analyses, weights and summarises the search results
- Crawler auto-surfs your favourite web pages
- Scanners look specifically for image galleries, wallpapers, webcams, multimedia files or software archives
- Presents the result as a dynamic digest based on an intelligent topic list
- Automatic filter eliminates junk and page-not-found errors
- Integrated web browser based on the Safari engine
- Stores results in a searchable web page archive
- Flexible plug-in and scanner architecture
- Built to seamlessly integrate with Mac OS X and DEVONthink

What's unique?

- Comes with an intuitive user interface and is easy to use
- Searches the web and analyses the results five to ten times faster than the competition)
- Is built exclusively for Mac OS X, no Java application
- Generates an intelligent, useful digest of the found information
- Is affordable
- Is built around industry standards and uses all major features of the operating system

CORPORATE BACKGROUND

DEVONtechnologies, founded in 2002 and headquartered in Germany, European Union, researches in the field of semantic and associative data analysis and synthesis, and develops key applications based on the DEVONtechnology. Named after the Devonian Period, the DEVONtechnology marks the departure into a new age of data processing. The main focus of all activities is clearly on using of the robust, flexible and versatile architecture intelligently to create rock-solid applications for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to databases, intelligent agents, data-mining, information retrieval and human-computer-interfaces. More information: www.devon-technologies.com.

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