# How I use Total Commander

by Peter Carpenter

In this presentation titled "How I Use Total Commander," Peter Carpenter continues his series on Total Commander by demonstrating the techniques and add-ons he regularly employs. His aim is to showcase the extensive capabilities of this powerful file manager for Windows. Some graphics displayed are replicas of Peter's, as those taken from my Zoom recording were of poor quality.

## Contents of a file

To display the contents of a file in Total Commander, highlight the file in one panel and select Ctrl + Q (Quick-view), and the contents of the file is shown in the other panel. Figure 08. Alternatively press the *F3 View* button on the bottom left of the Total Commander window and the contents opens in an app called *Lister*. Double-clicking invokes the default program for the file that that file is, e.g. Notepad for .txt or XnView (or Irfanview) for .jpg.

L TC_R7BRemoteMelbPCZoom - Total Commander	x64) 11.03 - Decade Systems Pty. Ltd.			
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- m:\Users\Public\Documents\! SN !\*.*				▼ sn-972.txt *
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! SN ! - Fun & Extras		195,506,587	16/09/2023 16:37	SERIES: Security Now!
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Vitamin-D etc and Dogs.txt		422	10/02/2022 03:13	DATE: April 30, 2024
Vitamin-D.mp3		30.222.838	10/02/2022 03:13	TITLE: Passkevs: A Shattered Dream?
Vitamin D Episode, grc.com .url		120	10/02/2022 03:00	HOSTS: Steve Gibson & Leo Laporte
sn-973-notes.pdf		369.080	09/05/2024 04:20	SOURCE: https://media.grc.com/sn/sn-972.mp3
sn-972-notes.pdf		906,714	09/05/2024 04:20	ARCHIVE: https://www.grc.com/securitynow.htm
sn-972.txt		94.885	09/05/2024 04:20	
sn-971-notes.pdf		912,181	09/05/2024 04:19	DESCRIPTION: The choice for this week's main topic received some serious competition from some surprising
an-971.txt		99,071	09/05/2024 04:19	into effect yesterday in the United Kingdom. So we're going to start by taking a close look at what happe
sn-970-notes.pdf		801,389	25/04/2024 17:16	promises to completely change the face of consumer IoT device security. As we'll see, that's not an overs
sn-970.txt		78,368	25/04/2024 17:16	we've known it just changed. While that exploration is going to consume most of the first half of today's
sn-969-notes.pdf		491,470	25/04/2024 17:15	look at what happened last week with Chrome's change of plan regarding third-party cookies, I have a bit o
Isn-969.txt		74,995	25/04/2024 17:16	share, and news of the next installment in a long-running science fiction book series. I also have the we
sn-968-notes.pdf		1.232.304	25/04/2024 17:15	finally working on bringing up GRC's email communications system. Then we'll finish by taking a look at a
sn-968.txt		72.631	25/04/2024 17:15	industry insider that many of our listeners forwarded to me, asking "What do you think about this?"
an-967-notes.pdf		263,290	25/04/2024 17:15	
an-967.txt		86.874	25/04/2024 17:15	SHOW TEASE: It's time for Security Now!. Steve Gibson is here. Last night he was sitting in his armchai
sn-966-notes.pdf		755,749	25/04/2024 17:14	Cabernet Sauvignon, reading the news, when he saw the announcement that the United Kingdom is going to make
sn-966.txt		91,432	25/04/2024 17:15	IoT devices work. He is so excited, he's come here, he leapt to his feet and said "We've got to talk about
sn-965-notes.pdf		437,918	18/03/2024 15:21	So we will. What happened with Chrome dumping its plans to dump third-party cookies? And let's talk a lo
sn-965.txt		104,692	18/03/2024 15:21	was an interesting post Steve read, and a lot of you read, saying it's not working. Are Passkeys over? A
sn-964-notes.pdf		777,138	10/03/2024 17:28 -a-	next on Security Now!.
Isn-964.txt		94,692	10/03/2024 17:28 -a	
sn-963-notes.pdf		340,611	10/03/2024 17:28 -a-	LEO LAPORTE: This is Security Now! with Steve Gibson, Episode 972, recorded April 30th, 2024: Passkeys:
1sn-963.txt		92,721	10/03/2024 17:28 -a	
sn-962-notes.pdf		271,378	22/02/2024 16:28	It's time for Security Now!, the show where we - I know you wait for this all week long; don't you. We co
sn-962.txt		92,789	10/03/2024 17:27 -a	the computer field, every other field, the sci-fi field, with this guy right here, Mr. Steven "Tiberius" G
sn-961-notes.pdf		739,419	22/02/2024 16:28	with you.
an-961.txt		90,343	22/02/2024 16:28	
sn-960-notes.pdf		313,944	22/02/2024 16:27	STEVE GIBSON: And Leo?
sn-960.txt		84,947	22/02/2024 16:28	
sn-959-notes.pdf		1,192,912	12/02/2024 20:43	LEO: Yes.
Isn-959.txt		96,139	12/02/2024 20:43	
sn-958-notes.pdf		452,203	24/01/2024 18:48	STEVE: You are - oh, the Fourth.
sn-958.txt		102,820	28/01/2024 01:33 -a	
sn-957-notes.pdf		713,382	24/01/2024 18:47	LEO: Yeah, it's coming up.
sn-957.txt		71,074	24/01/2024 18:48	
sn-956-notes.pdf		827,675	11/01/2024 01:50	STEVE: You are correct about the breadth of our coverage. I do have a little sci-fi mention, a real quic
sn-956.txt		82,158	24/01/2024 18:47	
sn-955-notes.pdf		301,587	11/01/2024 01:50	LEO: Oh, good. Oh, good.
1sn-955.txt		79,606	11/01/2024 01:50	×
) k / 926,435 k in 0 / 2290 file(s), 0 / 2 d	ir(s)			
	m:\Users\Public\Doc	uments\! SN !>		
F3 View	F4 Edit	F5 Copy		6 Move F7 NewFolder F8 Delete Alt+F4 Exit

Figure 08 – Preview Contents

### **Everything & Search**

The search program *Everything* has recently been integrated into Total Commander to search for file names within Total Commander as it makes Total Commander's file Search function exceptionally fast. Assuming *Everything* is available on your PC, from the main menu it is necessary to select *Configuration*  $\rightarrow$  *Options*  $\rightarrow$  then select *Operation* from the list on the left-hand side panel.

Next tick the *Everything* tick-box to the right. *Everything* will now start with Total Commander. Refer Figure 9.

🖁 Configuration	>								
Layout Display	Operation								
Icons	Main program								
Font	Allow only 1 copy of Total Commander at a time								
Color Tabataga (Data Farmata	Move icon to system tray when minimized								
Tabstops/Data Formats Folder Tabs	Always go to the root of a drive when changing drives								
Custom columns	Open files and directories with a single click								
View Mode Auto Switch Mode	Select only the file name when renaming (not the extension)								
Language	Auto-complete paths								
Operation Edit/View	Check for updates State Later								
Copy/Delete	Mouse selection mode								
Refresh	Use right mouse button (as in NC) - context menu after 1 second								
Quick Search FTP	C Left mouse button (Windows standard)								
Plugins	By clicking on icon Only on touchscreen								
Thumbnails Log file	Selection (with Num + ) Save on exit								
Ignore list	◯ Select files only ☑ Directories								
History	● Also select directories								
Packer Zip packer	NTFS daylight saving correction								
Misc.	Ignore 1 hour time delay Directory history								
	Calculate space occupied by subdirectories								
	when selecting with the space bar								
	Manual: Alt+Shift+Enter V								
	File comments								
	Preferred type: Plain text+UTF16 V DOS charset								
	Copy comments with files								
L]									
	OK Cancel Help Apply								

Figure 9 – Enabling Everything

With Everything assisting in the background for a very fast file search, and using the Search function within Total Commander, Peter demonstrated how he searched for the text string "Sue" in a folder that he knew was a file containing the word.

- From the main menu select Commands → Search (or *Alt* + *F7*) to open the Find Files dialogue box. Figure 10. Peter selected only a few files to make the demo quick. He would search the whole folder tree ordinarily.
- Working within the chosen folder and using the 'Find text' field, the text string "Sue" was entered.
- Next Peter ticked the tick-box for Whole words only, then selected the Start Search button on the top right.

🔡 Find Files						
General Advan	ced Plugins Load/Save					
Search for:					~	Start search
Search in:	m:\Users\Public\Documents\!	SN !			>> Drives	Cancel
□ RegE <u>x</u> ✓ 'Everything'	<ul> <li>Only search in selected dim</li> <li>Search archives (all except</li> </ul>					Help
	Search in subdirectories:	all (unlimited depth)	~			
Find text:	Sue				~	
	Whole words only     Case sensitive     RegEx (2)     Hex     Find files NOT containing the second sec	✓ ANSI charset 	(DOS)			
Search results:			< > F2 Search	in found files/folders		
m:\Users\Public m:\Users\Public m:\Users\Public	lirectories found] NDocuments\! SN \!sn-971.txt NDocuments\! SN \!sn-969.txt NDocuments\! SN \!sn-962.txt NDocuments\! SN \!sn-959.txt					
	F3 View	F4 Edit	New search	Go to file	Feed to listbox	
[4 files and 0 d	irectories found]					

Figure 10 – Find text within files

To open the file viewer app Lister window.

• Within Lister, press F3. It's not necessary to enter the search term "Sue" as Total Commander remembers that setting.

- When the search term is found it is shown in bold text. Press F3 again for the next instance of Sue in that file.
- If it's not the place you're looking for "Sue" you want, go to the next file by pressing N (N for Next, P for Previous), (>> in the Title Bar for next, << in reverse).
- When you're finished, use Ctrl + R to refresh the panel (or Ctrl + PgUp).

### Copy and move

Peter demonstrated the three techniques available for copying or moving files from Total Commander's left panel to the right panel.

• Mouse only option.

Hold down the right mouse button and drag down the list of files to highlight the list. Once the files are highlighted, to copy use the mouse to drag the list to the right panel. As the file is dragged the dialogue box shown in Figure 11 appears and needs to be confirmed before the process is completed.

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SN Fun		22,462,906	25/04/2024 15:31		BeyondWin10			316,826	13/06/2024 19:18	3
Vitamin-D_etc_and_Dogs.txt		422	10/02/2022 03:13		Planning			8,830,662	13/06/2024 17:19	
▲ Vitamin-D.mp3		30,222,838	10/02/2022 03:13		SE Revisit - Wires			137,098,434	13/06/2024 17:22	2 2
Vitamin D Episode, grc.com .url		120	10/02/2022 03:00		XnViewSort			231	13/06/2024 21:27	-ah-
sn-973-notes.pdf		369,080	09/05/2024 04:20		100 2024 04 21 12 50 a	am Dell U2711 ing		881,202	25/04/2024 16:10	
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1 sn-970-notes.pdf								2.009.230	13/06/2024 03:02	
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sn-969-notes.pdf							Report June 2024-1.pdf	4,318,905	29/06/2024 16:45	
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sn-968.txt		Copy NTES permise	ions (may need admini	strator right	-	Verify		170,861	30/06/2024 04:32	-a
sn-967-notes.pdf					,	-				
El sn-967.txt		ОК	F2 Queue	D	ree Cancel	Options >>				
sn-966-notes.pdf										
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sn-965-notes.pdf		437,918	18/03/2024 15:21							
Isn-965.txt		104,692	18/03/2024 15:21							
sn-964-notes.pdf		777,138	10/03/2024 17:28							
Isn-964.txt		94,692	10/03/2024 17:28							
sn-963-notes.pdf		340,611	10/03/2024 17:28							
Isn-963.txt		92,721	10/03/2024 17:28							
sn-962-notes.pdf		271,378	22/02/2024 16:28							
1 sn-962.txt		92,789	10/03/2024 17:27	-8 ~						
5,269 k / 926,435 k in 12 / 2290 file(s), 0	/ 2 dir(s)				0 k / 275,682 k in 0 / 12 file	e(s), 0 / 4 dir(s)				
	m:\Users\Public\E	Documents\! SN !> oo								
E3 View	F4 Edit	F5 Copy	1	F6 M	ove	F7 NewFolder	F8 Dele		Alt+F4 Exit	

Figure 11 – Copy between panels

• Mouse and Keyboard

Using the standard Windows method, select the first file in the list with a mouse. Hold down Shift and select the last file in the list. Use Ctrl + click to deselect any file. Using the mouse, drag the selection to the other panel. This results in a dialogue box appearing where you confirm the copy. Figures 11 & 12.

• Function Commands

Use the F5 Copy or F6 Move key at the bottom of the Total Commander window.

When files are copied or moved the dialogue box shown in Figure 12 appears and needs to be confirmed before the process can be completed.

Copy 12 file(s) to				
m:\Users\Public\Docu	uments\MelbPC\SIGs\EAS	T SIG\2024 06 June	>\*.*	~ + F
Only files of this type		5.14 M	12	0
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	sions (may need administr	rator rights)	Ε	<u>V</u> erify
Copy NIFS permise				

Figure 12 – Confirm copy dialogue box

### **Button Bars**

Total Commander allows users to create custom button bar buttons that can point to folders, internal commands, and applications. This feature enables users to add buttons and assign actions or shortcuts to them on the button bar. Additionally, a second toolbar is available, which Peter has linked to the main toolbar to use when the first toolbar is full.

### Teracopy

One of a number of programs Peter has assigned as a button on the toolbar is *Teracopy*. It's a free program for personal use

Peter uses to copy and verify, when copying files between 2 panels. He uses *TeraCopy* to avoid the intervening dialogue box shown in Figure 12 when copying, thus avoiding the additional step required using the dialogue box.

When copying files using *TeraCopy*, Peter highlights the files to be copied, then clicks on the *TeraCopy* button on the toolbar. The files then immediately appear on the other panel.



Figure 13 – TeraCopy <u>https://www.codesector.com/teracopy</u>

### Change / View file attributes

The attributes of a file can be viewed or easily changed in Total Commander from the main menu by selecting *Files*  $\rightarrow$  *Change Attribute*. Figure 14.

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F3 View	F4 Edit	F5 Copy	F6 Mov	e	F7 NewFolder	F8 Delete		Alt+F4 Exit	

Figure 14 – Change file attributes dialogue

Although available from the main menu, Peter has added the *Change Attribute* command to a button on the toolbar for quicker access to the feature. He demonstrated how to change the date on a file in the window that opens when the *Change Attribute* button is selected. In Figure 14 Peter has selected the *Current* button to change to the files date to the current date and time.

## **ReDate files**

On a second linked toolbar Peter has assigned a button for another small app called ReDate. Peter demonstrated how this app can conveniently change the date of a series of files by increasing the file's date by say, one day at a time. Figure 15.

Peter finds this app particularly useful for copying files for presentations or cloud storage, such as Google Drive or OneDrive. It maintains the list order, which is more convenient than the default setting where uploaded files are stored by date order, regardless of their names.

Ro date	ReDate Addon 1.1.3 x64 — 🗖 🗙								
	Start from:	Increment by:	Previe <u>w</u> :	Previe <u>w</u> :					
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<u>H</u> ours:	17 🖨	1							
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Creation D	ate/Time								
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LastAcces	s Date/Time								
Stert		Clos <u>e</u>							

Figure 15 – ReDate dialogue box

## ExifTool

Another app Peter has assigned to a button on the toolbar in Total Commander is ExifTool. Exif or Exchangeable Image File Format files, store important data about photographs. Almost all digital cameras create these data files each time you take a new picture. An Exif file holds all the information about the image itself, such as the camera model, exposure level, where you took the photo, and any settings you used.

There are times when a user needs to list photographs in the time and date order that they were taken. To display the Exif date of files, Peter first has to right click on the title bar and select an Exif set of columns previously set up. This adds an Exif column to the file properties displayed. Clicking the Exif date heading will reorder the files in descending or ascending order.

To view or change any Exif data, Peter selected his toolbar button for *ExifTool* GUI from Total Commander's Addons website page to open the app. In the apps right hand side panel, one of the options is a button labelled Exif. Selecting the arrow head below the labelled button opens another window, where a host of Exif information is available. Any changes or additions to the images Exif data can be done from that window. Refer Figure 16.

Export/Import Modify Various	1						
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Figure 16 – ExifTool dialogue box

#### Multi Rename Tool

The Multi Rename Tool is available within Total Commander from the main menu, by selecting *Files*  $\rightarrow$  *Multi Rename Tool* or by its shortcut *Ctrl* + *M*. This is a tool Peter uses to add a date to the start of a file name to maintain the order of files in a folder. This feature is also useful to adjust dates by time if you moved to a different time zone or forgot to adjust your camera for a daylight savings time. Figure 17.

Total Commander ()         Files       Mark         Commar         Phile       Anage Attributes         Pack       Pack         Unpack Specific File         Compare By Conter         Associate With         Internal Association         Properties         Calculate Occupied         Kulti-Rename Tool         Edit Comment	nds Net Show		Start Alt+F5 Alt+F9 Alt+Shift+F9 Alt+Enter Ctrl+L Ctrl+M Ctrl+Z	)				-			
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	vac-sick-leave requ				ick-leave request form 10-16-07.xls		28,160	10/26/2007 15:13:00	c:\Temp\beerpl		
	vac-sick-leave required vac-si				ick-leave request form 11-22-07.xls ick-leave request form 12-19-07.xls		28,160 28,160	10/26/2007 15:31:52 12/28/2007 09:56:54	c:\Temp\beerpl c:\Temp\beerpl		
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	Please press 'Start!'	to start renaming!						○ <u>Start!</u>	<u>U</u> ndo	Result list	Close

Figure 17 – Multi Rename dialogue box

### Folder Branch View

Often Peter needs to find a file that might be buried deep within a folder branch. Total Commander has a menu option that will display a list of all files under a folder branch, including all files in sub folders. From the main menu select *Commands*  $\rightarrow$  *Branch View (With Subdirs)* or *Ctrl* + *B*, to list all files that are under the whole folder branch. This command removes the sub folders and displays every file under the main folder. Figure 18.

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	System Information		er (x64) 11.03			
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	+ Target=Source	curro	Update]	2011_08 - Aug PCUpdate	pdf	21,248,82
		12016 0	Update]	2011_09 - Sept PCUpdate	pdf	31,934,21
			Update]	2011_10 - Oct PCUpdate	pdf	21,713,12
			CUpdate] CUpdate]	2011_11 - Nov PCUpdate 2011_12 - Dec PCUpdate	pdf pdf	14,982,09 31,231,57
			CUpdate]	2011_12 - Dec PCOpdate	pdf	6,242,43
			CUpdate]	2012-09 - PC0pdate Sept 2012	pdf	8,945,12
			CUpdate]	2012-11 - PCUpdate Nov 2012	pdf	29,200,80
			CUpdate]	2012-12 - PCUpdate Dec 2012	pdf	14,948,33
			Update]	2012_02 - Feb PCUpdate	pdf	35,234,37
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Figure 18 - Branch View command

## Pack files

Total Commander also incorporates an option to compress files into zip or a number of other compression formats. Highlight the files to be compressed and from the main menu select *Files*  $\rightarrow$  *Pack*. The Pack Files dialogue box opens where selections are made. Figure 19.



Figure 19 – Pack files

### Folder Tabs

Total Commander supports tabbed browsing, similar to the Clover app demonstrated at last month's meeting to add tabbed browsing to Windows File Explorer.

To add a folder as a tab, simply drag the folder onto the toolbar, or use the shortcut Ctrl + Up *Arrow.* If there is an overflow of folders on the toolbar, you can use the mouse's scroll wheel to scroll sideways and view all entries. Right-clicking on a tab provides the option to lock it in place.

🖥 Total Commander (x64) 11.03				
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Figure 20 – Folder tabs

# **Beyond Windows 10**

### by Peter Carpenter

Beyond Windows 10 is a website forum available at <u>https://beyondwindows10.com/</u>. After joining, members periodically receive newsletters featuring offers for software at significantly reduced prices. Be aware that the prices shown in the newsletter are in US dollars. According to Peter, the site operator breaks up volume licences for software. After payment, you receive codes to load and run the purchased programs.



Figure 21 - Beyond Windows 10 website

Both Dave Botherway and Peter have purchased software from the site without any issues and believe it to be legitimate. To buy software, you send an email indicating your desired purchase, such as Office 2019, and confirm that you've made the payment. Within a day, you receive a reply with the necessary serial numbers and details of how to download the software.

https://beyondwindows10.com/index.php?/messenger/compose/&to=193859 Please note this is a break even service for our VIPS and doesn't help with our server costs. Specials are valid thru 6/16/24 ****Special Combos Windows 10 Pro or windows 11Pro & office 2019 Pro Plus -\$45.00** ***Special combo Windows 10 Pro or windows 11 Pro & Office 2021 Pro Plus-\$40.00*** ***Special combo windows 10 Enterprise or Windows 11 Enterprise & office 2021 Pro Plus- \$40.00*** ***Special Combo Windows 10 Enterprise 2021 LTSC and office 2021 Pro plus Note end of life is 2027 windows 10 End of life is 2025 bare bones no crap ware the operating system runs fast. \$40.00 #1- Windows 10 Pro \$15.00 each can be used to upgrade from home to pro. #2 Windows 11 Pro \$15.00 each. can be used to upgrade from home to pro. #3 Office 2019 Pro plus \$43.00 each. #4-Office 2021 Pro plus \$35.00 each. #5-Microsoft Visio Pro 2021-\$30.00 each. # 6-Microsoft Project Pro 2022-\$40.00 each. # 7- Windows Enterprise LTSC 2021-15.00 each Windows 10-11 Enterprise- 15.00 each Windows Server Standard or Data center 2022- \$17.00 Windows Server 2016 Standard-17.00 each Windows Server Standard 2019 \$17.00 each	
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	Windows Server Standard 2019 \$17.00 each
Windows Server Data center 2019-\$27.00	Windows Server Data center 2019-\$27.00

Figure 22 - Beyond Windows 10 Newsletter & sample prices