

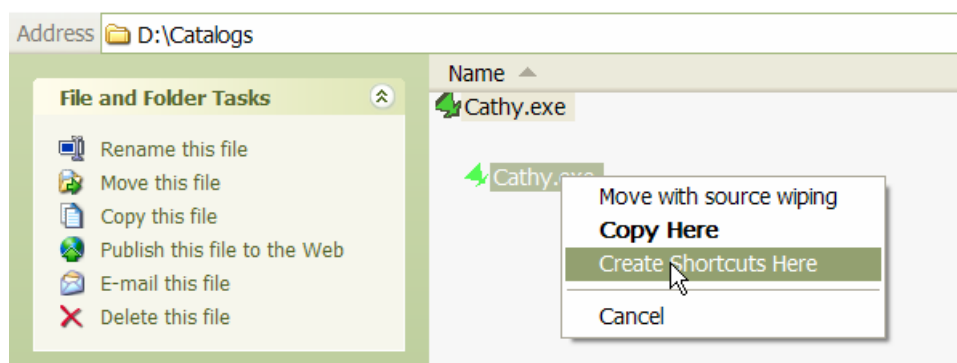
# Cathy (v2.24)

## User's guide

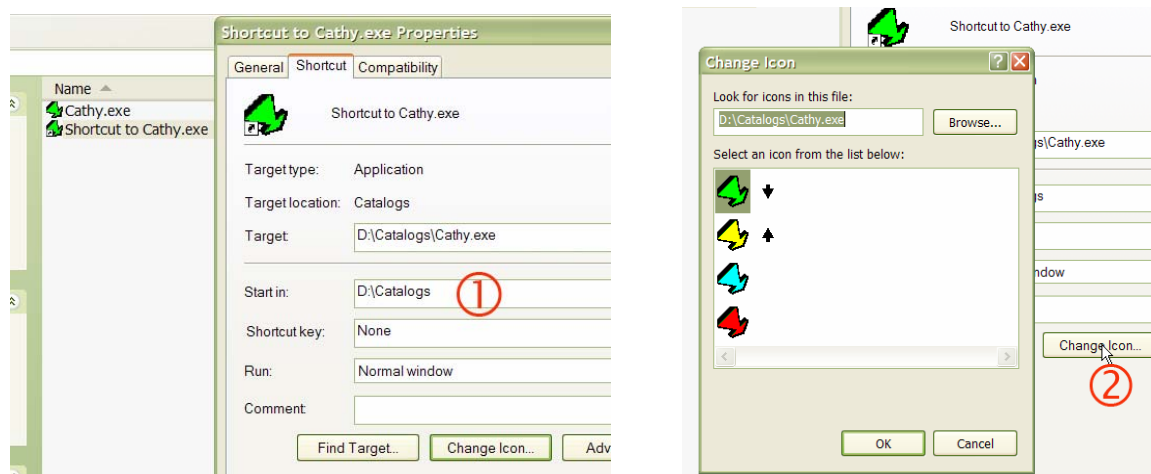
### 1. Installation

**Cathy** is a simple and fast cataloging program. If you want to know what is in your offline CD's and DVD's (currently lying in boxes on the shelf), you will benefit from using it. You may catalog your hard-disk drives, your network drives or only parts of them – finding a file in the catalog is several orders of magnitude faster than doing it directly on the hard disk.

**Cathy** is distributed as a single executable file. The size of the current version 2.23 is 58 kilobytes. There is no installation program bundled with the executable. Create a folder with a suitable name (e.g. *Catalogs*), where you want to save the catalog files, copy the **Cathy** executable there and create a shortcut to it on the desktop or anywhere else you like.



Shortcuts have some advantages – you may run the same executable file, but set a different default directory ① for every shortcut, and assign them different icons ②. You only need to open the shortcut Properties, set the **Start in** directory and/or choose a different icon.



Currently I use four shortcuts to the same Cathy program, and four folders to save the created catalog files. I use the second shortcut to catalog hard drives, the third one for MP3 archives, the fourth one for DVD archives, and the first one to load all the catalogs at the same time. On the desktop it looks like this:

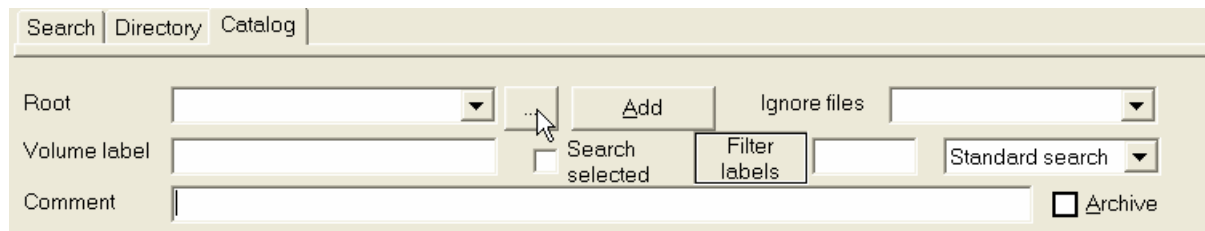


## 2. Creating a catalog

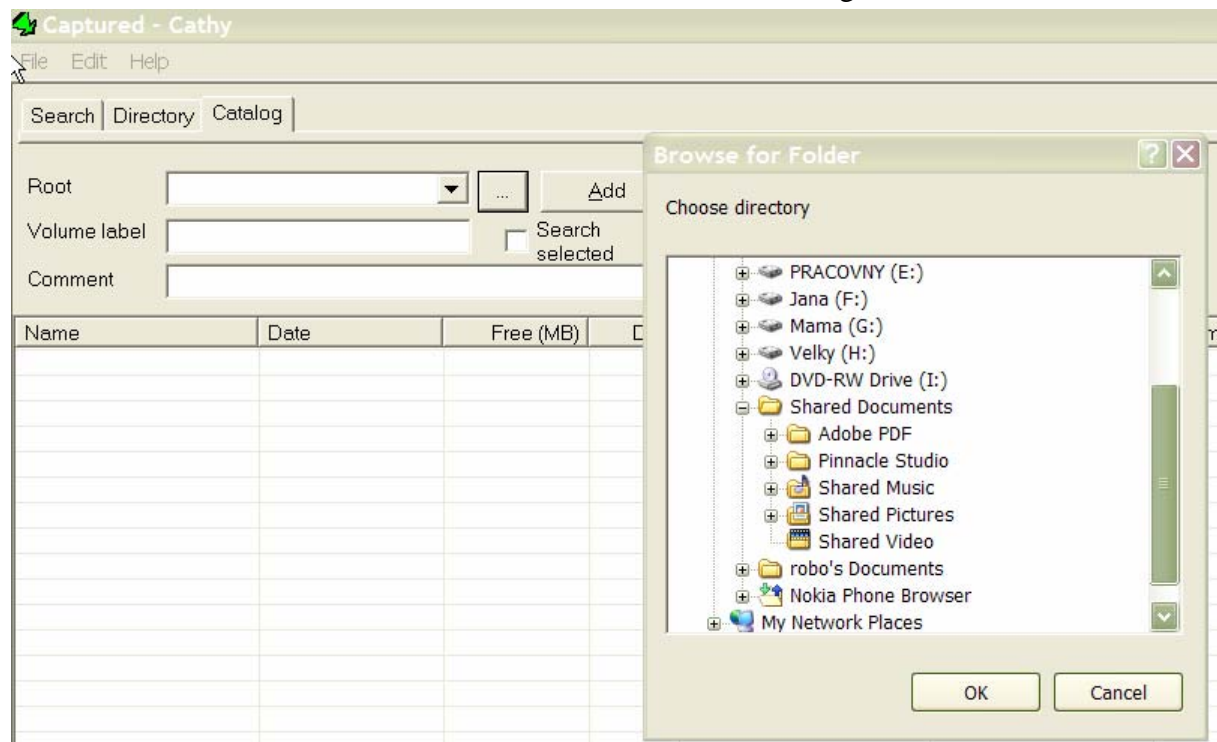
When **Cathy** is running, click on the **Catalog** Tab.



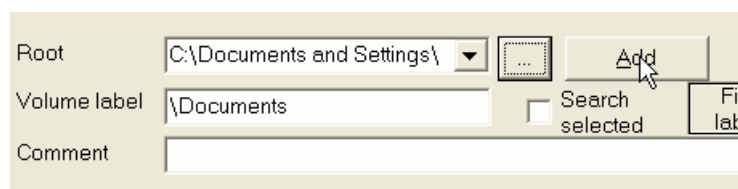
Next click on the button marked with three dots (...)



and select a device or a folder from the **Browse for Folder** dialog:



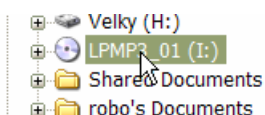
I chose the folder *Shared Documents* (as an example for this guide). The path to the chosen device/folder and its short name now will appear in two entry fields of this tab. (In case of devices, the volume label of the media is used. If a folder is chosen, a short name is derived.) The content of the **Volume label** text field may be overwritten. I prefer to give the catalog the name I used to label the CD or DVD medium – mostly it is identical to the volume label. It helps me to find the media on the shelf quickly. The **Comment** field may be left empty, or can contain any text. Now click on the **Add** button



wait for a while, and the first catalog is ready to use:

Name	Date	Free (MB)	D+F	Volume	Serial number	Comment
\Documents	2005/09/17 10:13	6960.461	58	\Documents and Settin...	5436-2EEF	

In order to have at least 2 catalogs in this guide, I shall create a catalog of a CD containing digitized records of some of my vinyl LP's. I select the device where I put this CD:



The **Archive** box was automatically ticked because this is a CD. **Cathy** automatically ticks the "Archive" box for media in CD/DVD drive, and leaves it unticked for hard disks and floppy disks. You may change it – you may mark some folders on a hard disk as archive, or unmark the CD or DVD – as you want. (Note: you need to press the **Enter** key if you want your change to the Archive box to be remembered.) This information may help you later to find which files have already been archived and which have not.

Then I fill the comment field with some information about the media

and click on the **Add** button. Almost immediately a new line in the list of catalogs will appear:

Name	Date	Free (MB)	D+F	Volume	Serial number	Comment
\Documents	2005/09/17 10:13	6960.461	58	\Documents and Settin...	5436-2EEF	
LPMP3_01	2005/09/17 10:19	N/A	63	LPMP3_01	C912-60DD	The first set of my old vinyls

What information is shown in the columns?

- Name** - the content of **Volume label** (sometimes I even call it **Alias**). It may be changed by simply clicking on it and rewriting it.
- Date** - the date when the catalog was created (It's also possible to change the display format)
- Free (MB)** - free space on the media. This is not available for read-only media.
- D+F** - the number of folders (directories) and files on the media
- Volume** - the original **Volume label** of the cataloged media, or full path of the cataloged folder
- Serial number** - the serial number of the cataloged media (or the media from where the folder was cataloged)
- Comment** - comment (may be changed at any time)
- Catalog file name** - the full name of the catalog file. Each catalog is saved to a separate file. This file can be copied, moved, archived, sent to friends etc. These files are created in **Start in** folder of the running **Cathy**.

To add a comment to a catalog (or change it, or remove it), select the catalog from the list. Its comment and the value of the archive flag are copied to the corresponding fields above the listbox.

Name	Date	Free (MB)	D+F	Volume	Serial number	Comment
\Documents	2005/09/17 10:13	6960.461	58	\Documents and Settin...	5436-2EEF	
LPMP3_01	2005/09/17 10:19	—N/A—	63	LPMP3_01	C912-60DD	The first set of my old vinyls

If you make a change (I wrote the text “My shared files”), press the **Enter** key and then the **Yes** button:

Name	Date	Free (MB)	D+F	Volume	Serial number	Comment
\Documents	2005/09/17 10:13	6960.461	58	\Documents and Settin...	5436-2EEF	
LPMP3_01	2005/09/17 10:19	—N/A—	63	LPMP3_01	C912-60DD	The first set of my old vinyls

The comment I have added is now saved to the file and visible in the listbox.

Name	Date	Free (MB)	D+F	Volume	Serial number	Comment
\Documents	2005/09/17 10:13	6960.461	58	\Documents and Settin...	5436-2EEF	My shared files
LPMP3_01	2005/09/17 10:19	—N/A—	63	LPMP3_01	C912-60DD	The first set of my old vinyls

The **Comment** field may be used for many purposes – enter the name of the person who has borrowed the CD or DVD, or some general characteristics of the media content, etc.

### 3. Browsing the catalog

When exactly one catalog is highlighted from the list,

Name	Date	Free (MB)	D
\Documents	2005/09/17 10:13	6960.461	
LPMP3_01	2005/09/17 10:19	—N/A—	

click the **Directory** Tab. You will see the contents of the selected catalog:

Name	Date	Length	Files
Adobe PDF	05-05-25 23:28:45	0.231	12
My Music	04-08-29 11:53:00	4.675	22
My Pictures	04-07-02 21:38:50	0.283	7
My Videos	04-07-02 21:36:09	0.000	1
Pinnacle Studio	04-08-29 15:55:32	13.050	2
desktop.ini	04-07-03 10:34:01	129	

On the left there is a tree of folders. Click on any node, and on the right the content of the selected folder will be displayed as a list of folders and/or files. For the folders, a blue font is used to distinguish them from the files; the size of a folder is shown in **megabytes**. For the files, a black font is used and the size of the file is shown in **bytes**. The right list may be sorted by clicking on any column header (the second click reverses the sort order). Folders and files are sorted independently, folders always **before** files. For example, when we click (for the first time) on the header of the **Length** column, the list will be sorted in descending order of size.

\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents			
Name	Date	Length	Files	
Pinnacle Studio	04-08-29 15:55:32	3.050	2	
My Music	04-08-29 11:53:00	4.675	22	
My Pictures	04-07-02 21:38:50	0.283	7	
Adobe PDF	05-05-25 23:28:45	0.231	12	
My Videos	04-07-02 21:36:09	0.000	1	
desktop.ini	04-07-03 10:34:01	129		

Double-clicking on a blue row shows the contents of the selected folder. The **Backspace** key or the **Parent** button may be used to return one level higher.

## 4. Search

The **Search** tab is opened by default, when **Cathy** starts. The focus is on the **Pattern** entry field – we can immediately write in the name of the file (or only a part of it) we are looking for (I entered ‘*music*’). Then I pressed **Enter** (the same as clicking the **Search** button):

Search | Directory | Catalog

Pattern  YYMMDD  Length

Search

☐ Search selected

Standard search

Name	Date	Length	Volume	Path	Comment
My Music	04-08-29	4.675	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User...	My shared files
Sample Music	04-07-02	1.311	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User...	My shared files
music.asx	03-03-31	768	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User...	My shared files
music.bmp	03-03-31	18 488	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User...	My shared files
music.wma	03-03-31	3 492 199	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User...	My shared files

Cathy creates a list of all files and folders whose names contain the text ‘music’. The search is case-insensitive. A better defined pattern will result in fewer matches.

The bottom right corner of the **Cathy** window contains information about the catalog and the search results:

S:5	C:2 F:121
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**C:2** means there are 2 catalogs already created by **Cathy**

**F:121** means there are 121 file and folder names saved in these catalogs

**S:5** means 5 matches were found – this many folders and files contained the search pattern as part of their names

Select a row from the search results list and click the **Directory** tab (or double-click the selected row to get the same effect).

Search | Directory | Catalog

Pattern: music    YYYYMMDD    Length    Search    ☐ Search selected    Standard search

Name	Date	Length	Volume	Path
My Music	04-08-29	4.675	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User..
Sample Music	04-07-02	1.311	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User..
music.asx	03-03-31	768	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User..
music.bmp	03-03-31	18 488	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User..
music.wma	03-03-31	3 492 199	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All User..

The ‘content’ of the corresponding catalog will be opened (of course, ‘content’ means the folder and file names only, not the actual content of files). On the left, there is a tree of folders expanded deeply enough that the folder containing the selected row can be selected, and on the right there is the list of folders and files of this selected folder. The file (or folder) selected in **Search** tab will be highlighted here as well.

Search | Directory | Catalog    My shared files

Parent: \Documents    \Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Music

- \Documents
  - Adobe PDF
  - My Music
  - My Pictures
  - My Videos
  - Pinnacle Studio

Name	Date	Length	Files
Sample Music	04-07-02 21:39:45	1.311	3
Sample Playlists	04-08-29 11:53:00	0.016	15
My Playlists	04-08-29 11:53:00	0.000	0
music.wma	03-03-31 14:00:00	3 492 199	
music.bmp	03-03-31 14:00:00	18 488	
music.asx	03-03-31 14:00:00	768	
Desktop.ini	04-07-02 21:39:45	151	

Now we have enough information to find the real file. Other features of **Cathy** were added to make life more convenient and pleasant. Let’s visit the tabs again to familiarize ourselves with the rest of **Cathy’s** features.

## 5. Catalog Tab

There are a lot of temporary files on hard disks which we don’t want to have in the catalog. Sometimes we want to exclude even whole folders (for example „*Temporary Internet Files*“) or some temporary files (like those named “~\$.…” of MS Word). The field ① “Ignore files” contains a list of such files or folders, separated by a semicolon. The string “\*.tmp; \tmp; \Temp\*” means the files with extension “.tmp”, the folders named “tmp” and folders whose name start with “Temp” will be ignored when the catalog is created.

Search | Directory | Catalog

Root: C:\    Add    Ignore files ①: \*.tmp; \tmp; \Temp\*    Search selected ②    Filter labels ③    Standard search ④    Archive ☒

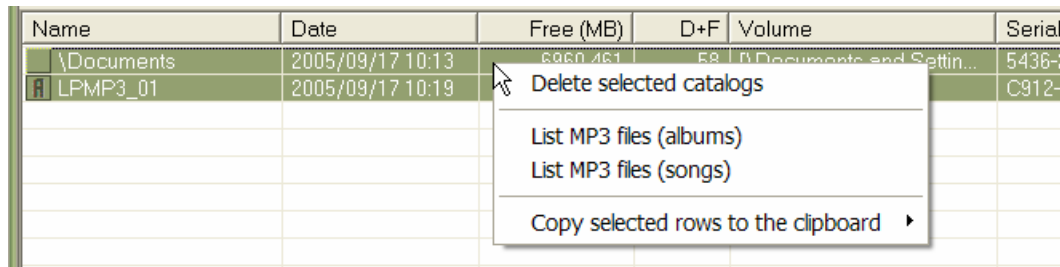
Volume label: System disk    Comment: The first set of my old vinyls

Name	Date	Free (MB)	D+F	Volume	Serial number	Comment
\Documents	2005/09/17 10:13	6960.461	58	\Documents and Settin...	5436-2EEF	My sharec
LPMP3_01	2005/09/17 10:19	—N/A—	63	LPMP3_01	C912-60DD	The first s

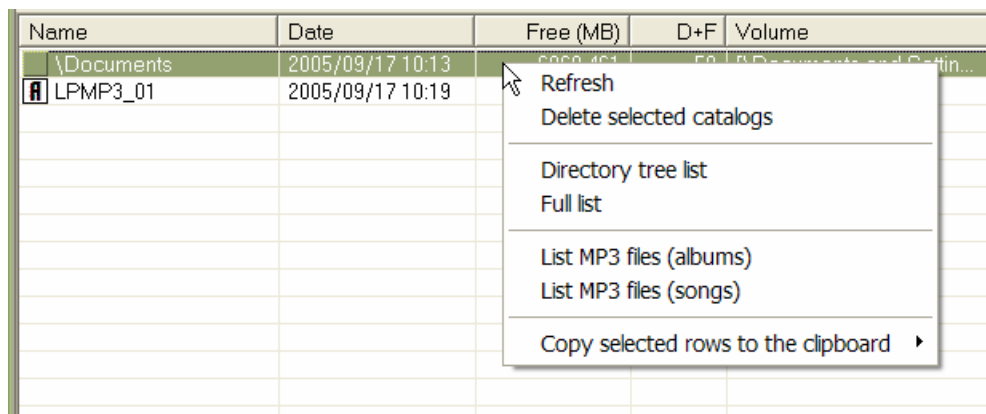
The button “**Filter labels**” when pressed changes into “**Filter comments**” (and changes back when pressed again). The list below will be filtered according to the text on this button and the string typed in the field ③.

When looking for files in the **Search** tab, **Cathy** uses only the catalogs which match the filter (the others will be hidden). This option will be appreciated by the people who have created hundreds of catalogs (or even over a thousand). The second way to limit the number of catalogs used for search is to select some of them (in the usual Windows manner, using the **SHIFT** or **CTRL** keys to extend/reduce the selection), and check the ② “**Search selected**” box. The combo box ④ selects one of the different search types. You can set the search type in the **Search** tab or in the **Catalog** tab where the selection/filtering of the catalogs is done.

Further options are available from a right mouse-click on the selected catalog(s). When a single selected catalog is clicked, the whole menu pops-up. When more than one catalog is selected, the menu of available options is restricted a bit:



The full menu when a single catalog is selected:



**Refresh** - refreshes the catalog. It is used for hard disk or network drive catalogs – these media are always available. It does not make sense to use it for non-rewritable CD/DVD media – if the content was changed at all, a new session was added to the media. Unfortunately, when a new session is added, a new serial number is assigned to the media and Cathy will not find the corresponding one in the existing catalogs. It means that it must be cataloged as a new media.

**Delete selected catalogs** - deletes the selected catalog files that were created by Cathy

**Directory tree list** - creates a tree-form list of directories of the selected catalog in plain-text, and displays a “**Save As**” dialog box for you to save it as a **.txt** file. It will look like this:

```
\Documents
  Documents
    Adobe PDF
    Extras
    Settings
  My Music
    My Playlists
    Sample Music
    Sample Playlists
    000D4D55
  My Pictures
    Sample Pictures
  My Videos
```



**Full list** - creates output as the command **DIR** does for the original media (of course, excluding the files and folders specified as ignored when the catalog was created).

**List MP3 files, List MP3 albums** - specially formatted list; shows only files with extension **.mp3**, **.mpc** or **.ogg**

**Copy selected rows to clipboard** - it copies some of the chosen information about the selected catalogs to the clipboard. The standard option contains all information. Moreover, the submenu may be extended adding user-defined options. The content of the clipboard may be pasted to an Excel spreadsheet (for example) – the values may be delimited by tab characters, and Excel then pastes them into separate columns. Example:

```
\Documents          6960.461          58  2005/09/17 10:13  5436-2EEF My shared files  E:\Captured\~-Documents.caf
LPMP3_01  --N/A--          63  2005/09/17 10:19  C912-60DD The first set of my old vinyls  E:\Captured\LPMP3_01.caf
```

## 6. Search Tab

Chapter 3 shows the simplest way to find a file – write part of its name in the **Pattern** field and click **Search**. You can also restrict the search by defining constraints for the creation date and/or the file length. Fields ① allow defining some date and relation to the creation date of the searched file(s). The relation is chosen from the combobox; the possibilities are >, >=, =, <=, <. The date is defined according to the displayed hint in the form YYMMDD, i.e. 2 digits for the year, 2 digits for the month and two digits for the day. If the day is omitted it is assumed to be 01, the same if the month is also omitted - 0101 is appended to the year. Some special meanings: -1 is yesterday, -2 day before yesterday, etc. If EVERY entry field is left empty, pressing **Enter** or the **Search** button looks for files/folders created today.

The second pair of fields ② restricts the file length in a similar manner. The length may be defined in bytes (as number), or in kilo- and megabytes (as number followed by a character K/k for the coefficient 1000 and M/m for the coefficient 1000000). For example, 320M means exactly the value 320000000. If the value is 0 and the relation operator is '<', **Cathy** searches folder names only. Example (<=0310 means *before* 1st October 2003):

Name	Date	Length	Volume	Path
music.asx	03-03-31	768	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All Use
music.bmp	03-03-31	18 488	\Documents	\Documents and Settings\All Use

The **Pattern** string may contain characters with special-meanings:

' - at the beginning or end of the pattern means the pattern starts at the beginning or ends at the end of the filename, respectively. For example, when the pattern starts as "|my", only files whose name starts with **my** or **MY** or **My** or **mY** will be found.

\* - may be used only once inside the pattern, and means any number of any characters.

So 's\*doc' finds files like 'Solution.DOC' or 'StringDOC'

's\*doc' finds - in addition to this - also files like 'SolDOCUMENT.txt'

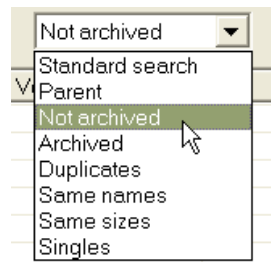
's\*doc' finds - in addition to these - also files like 'unSolDOCUMENT.txt'



If the pattern contains no special-meaning characters, **Cathy** finds all filenames that contain the pattern.

If the box **Search selected** is ticked, only the catalogs currently selected in the **Catalog** tab will be searched for files.

The combobox on the right has **Standard search** as the default mode. It offers some rare – but sometimes useful – search modes:



The **Duplicates** mode finds every file which occurs more than once in the searched catalogs. The files must have identical names and sizes to be found as duplicates.

The **Same names** mode works the same as **Duplicates** but without checking the file sizes.

The **Same sizes** mode is again similar – but it does not check the file names, only the file sizes.

The **Singles** mode finds every file which has no duplicate in the searched catalogs. It is useful when we search through the hard disk folder and CD or DVD media to which the hard disk content has already been copied. A list of singles helps to find which files are only on the hard disk. One of the disadvantages of this mode is that it also finds, for example, files on CD/DVD which have been already deleted from the hard disk.

The **Not archived** mode is the improved **Singles** mode. The program finds every file in the catalogs not marked as **Archive**, which cannot be found in the catalogs marked as **Archive**. This is a very convenient way to find files not archived yet.

The **Archived** mode is complementary search to **Not archived** mode.

The **Parent** mode doesn't look for files matching the pattern – it looks for files where the file's parent folder matches it. It will be useful for you if you archive your music files as I do – the *Author* folder contains the *Album1*, *Album2*, ... *AlbumN* subfolders. When I look for the **Parent** '*Author*', **Cathy** lists every cataloged album of the '*Author*'.

Other constraints are considered as well when looking for matching files/folders. Have a look at how many duplicates of dynamic libraries are saved to your hard disks. Select the catalogs of hard disks, choose **Duplicates**, write the **Pattern** **'.dll'** and click **Search**. 3950 is the number of records in my case – it means that at least 1925 .dll files on my hard disks are unnecessary :-). When I looked for the commonly used **mfc42.dll**, I found (of course) fewer duplicates:

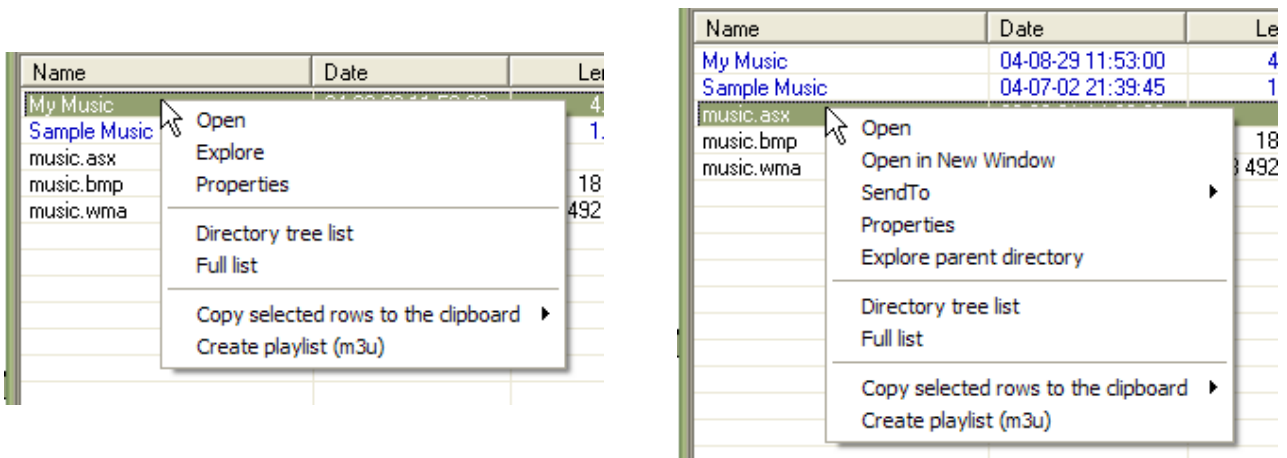
Name	Date	Length
mfc42.dll	04-08-04 00:56:44	1 028 096
mfc42.dll	04-08-04 00:56:44	1 028 096
mfc42.dll	04-08-29 19:20:28	995 383
mfc42.dll	02-08-29 14:00:00	995 383
mfc42.dll	02-04-12 16:19:20	995 383
MFC42.DLL	00-07-14 21:21:22	995 383
mfc42.dll	00-02-11 16:58:40	995 383

When a number of rows (files or folders) are selected from the search results, the status row of the window shows how many files have been selected, and also their total length (in case of the folder all of its files are included in the sum). It is useful, for example, when we try to pick a set of files to fill optimally 700 megabytes of the CD-R medium:

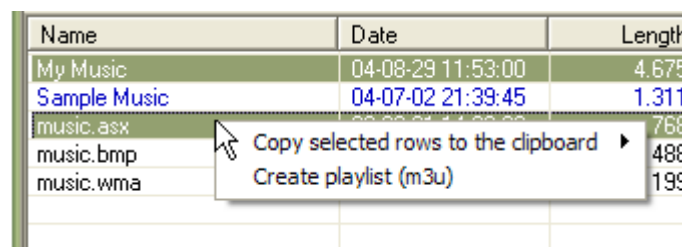
Name	Date	Length	Volume
My Music	04-08-29 11:53:00	4.675	\Docu
Sample Music	04-07-02 21:39:45	1.311	\Docu
music.asx	03-03-31 14:00:00	768	\Docu
music.bmp	03-03-31 14:00:00	18 488	\Docu
music.wma	03-03-31 14:00:00	3 492 199	\Docu
Selected 22 files, 4.675 MB			

Name	Date	Length	Volume
My Music	04-08-29 11:53:00	4.675	\Docu
Sample Music	04-07-02 21:39:45	1.311	\Docu
music.asx	03-03-31 14:00:00	768	\Docu
music.bmp	03-03-31 14:00:00	18 488	\Docu
music.wma	03-03-31 14:00:00	3 492 199	\Docu
Selected 24 files, 4.694 MB			

A single right mouse click on the selected rows pops up a menu. The options of this menu depend on how many rows are selected. When a single one is selected, the menu shows more options (for example, the **Properties** option is available for the single selected file/folder only). The menu for the selected folder is a bit different from the menu for the single file:



For multiple selected rows the menu is quite short and simple:



What functions are covered by menu options? The first set of options is usable only for files actually available in the system:

### Open

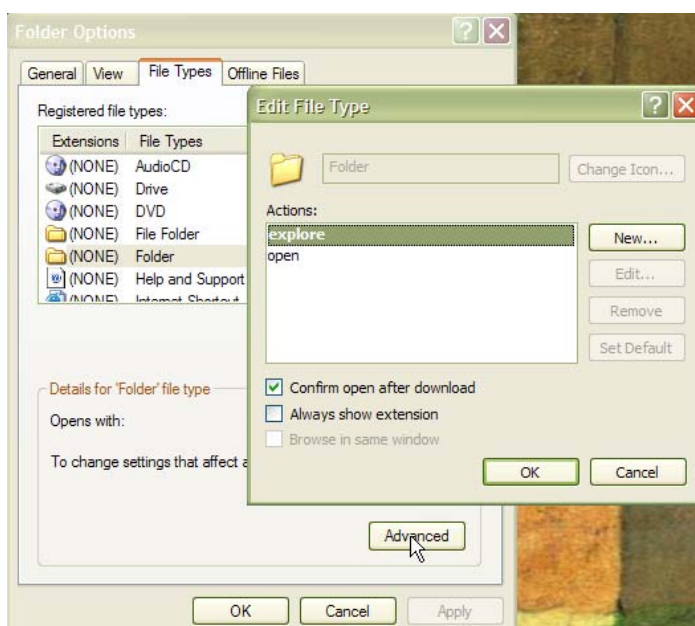
- opens the file/folder in the associated application. For example, a folder is typically opened by Windows Explorer, and a file with .txt extension is opened by Notepad (or some other text editor, if you have customized the standard system setting to your favorite text editor).

### Open in New Window

- like Open (for files may start a new instance of the associated application)

### Explore

- like Open for folders



The operating system allows you to define (or redefine) these actions in Windows Explorer dialog under **Tools/ Folder options/ Advanced**.

**Explore parent directory** - for files only: opens the parent folder of the file

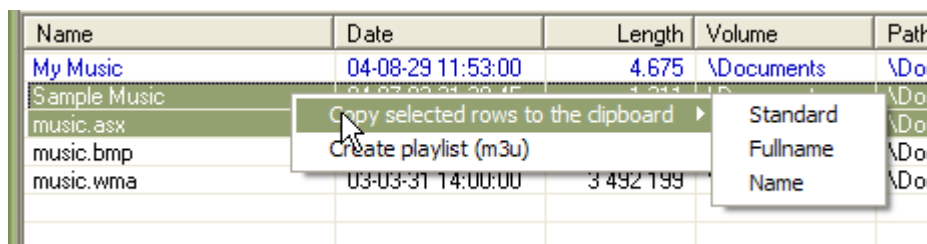
**Properties** - Properties of the file or the folder (the same way the Windows Explorer shows them)

**Directory tree list** - described in chapter 5 (**Catalog Tab**)

**Full list** - described in chapter 5 (**Catalog Tab**)

**Create playlist (m3u)** - Creates a simple playlist of the selected .mp3 files

**Copy selected rows to the clipboard** - shows a submenu of options. The predefined options may be extended by user defined ones.



The options **Standard**, **Fullname** and **Name** define which attributes of the selected file/folder will be copied to the clipboard

**Standard:**

\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Music\Sample Music 04-07-02 21:39:45 \Documents My shared files  
\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Music\music.asx 768 03-03-31 14:00:00 \Documents My shared files

**Fullname:**

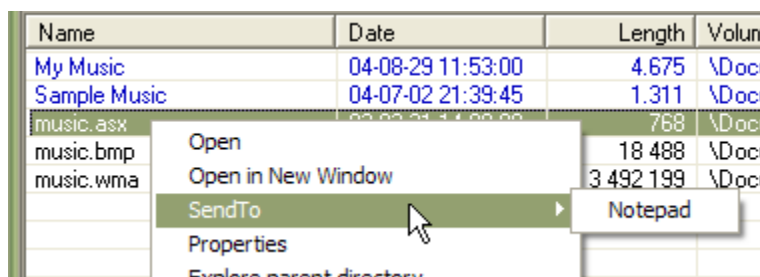
C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Music\Sample Music  
C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents\My Music\music.asx

**Name:**

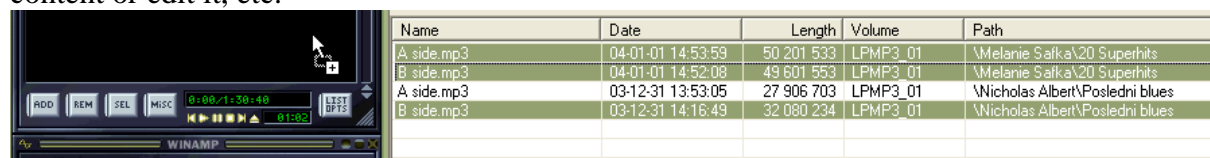
Sample Music  
music.asx

The next option of the menu is

**SendTo** - similar to Windows Explorer, but only executables from the SendTo folder are available (I have got only a shortcut to Notepad there):



Selected files and/or folders may be Dragged&Dropped. For example, when some music player program is already opened, we may select some music files, hold the mouse button down, drag the selected files over the music program window and drop them there. Similarly, we may drag a text file over the Notepad window and drop it there if we want to see its content or edit it, etc.

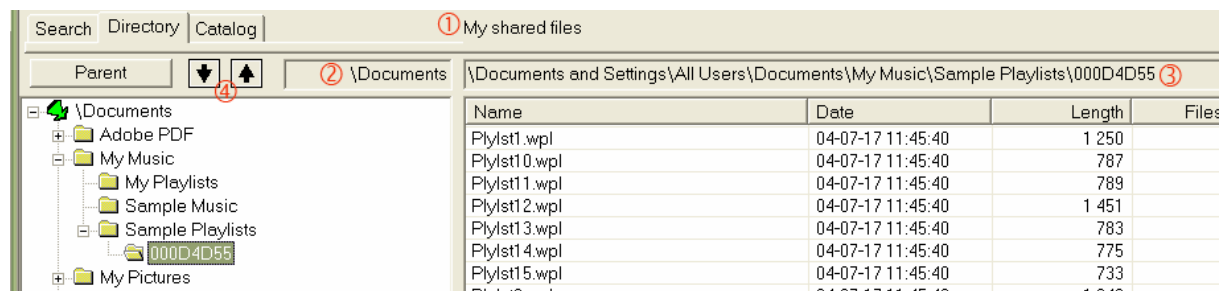


There is a **necessary condition** for Drag&Drop to be usable: the dragged file/folder must be physically present on the same device where it was when the catalog was created. This condition is mandatory for some other menu options too - **Open**, **Open in New Window**, **Explore**, **Properties**, **Explore parent directory**. If the file is not present, an error message is displayed.

## 7. Directory Tab

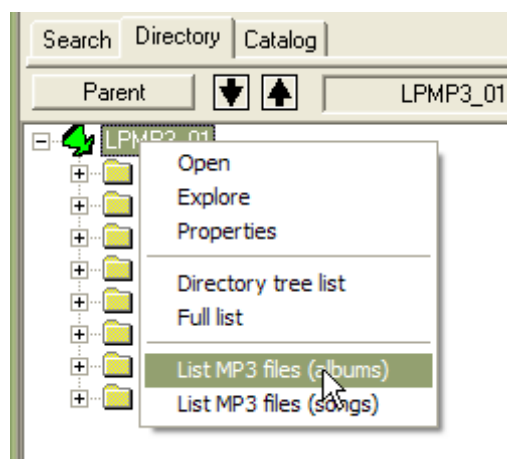
The **Directory** Tab is accessible from the other two tabs by double-clicking the selected catalog or file (or selecting a single catalog/file and clicking the **Directory** Tab). It shows the whole selected catalog (or the catalog containing the selected file/folder).

The comment entered for this catalog is in position ①, ② shows its name, ③ is the path to the folder whose content is listed below it (you may select it and copy to the clipboard). The arrows ④ allow a quick transition to the previous/next catalog (according to the sort order at the **Catalog** Tab). The **Parent** button returns to the parent folder ( the **Backspace** key has the same function ).



A single node may be selected from the tree shown in the pane on the left. It is a folder, and the content of this folder is listed in the pane on the right. There we may select more files/folders – the status row always shows the count of the selected files and their total length (as was described for the **Search** Tab).

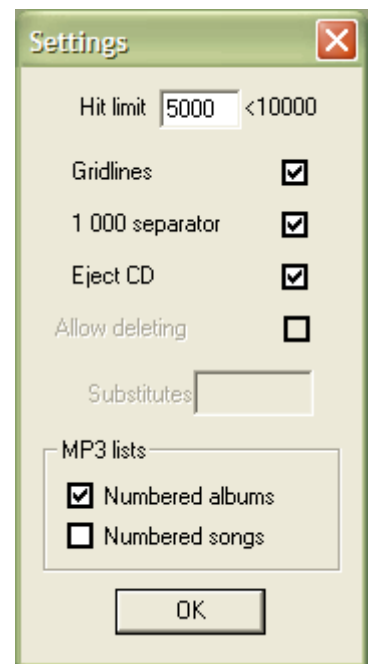
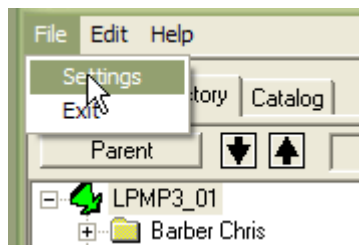
A right mouse click on the selected row/rows drops down a menu again, as for the **Search** Tab, and it works the same way. Clicking the root of the tree of folders makes two more menu options available - something that is useful for MP3 collectors. They allow creating a simple list of albums and songs, respectively, omitting all other files in the catalog:



Drag&Drop is available for tree nodes as well as for the files listed in the right window.

## 8. The Settings Dialog

The **File/Settings** dialog allows changing some simple settings of the program.



**Hit limit** defines the maximum number of files that **Cathy** may find. Every hit adds a row to the listbox. Too many rows in the listbox means it will work slowly. When the search criteria are not restrictive enough, the **Search** may find tens of thousands of files. When the hit limit is reached, Cathy stops the search. This case is indicated by message S:> 5000 in the status row. (Here, 5000 is the hit limit.) The hit limit may be increased up to the second number (10000 by default). The second limit may be set to some other value in the command line.

**Gridlines** - checked (as default) means listbox rows are separated by thin lines.

**1 000 separator** check means big numbers in some lists will be shown with blank separators between groups of 3 numbers (for example 3 533 678 when checked, 3533678 when not).

**Eject CD** - when checked, the CD/DVD medium is automatically ejected when the catalog is created.

**Allow deleting** and **Substitutes** show the setting available from the command line parameters.

**Allow deleting** – checked means deleting the selected files will be allowed. The right-click dropdown menu is extended by a new option **Delete selected files**. When chosen, the selected files (they must be present, of course) are deleted – moved to the Recycle Bin. They will not be shown in the list until **Cathy** is restarted, but the records are not actually removed from the current catalog - therefore the medium must be cataloged again. This option, for example, offers a very easy way to delete a large number of temporary files. Search for them, select them and choose the **Delete selected files** option.

**Substitutes** shows the list of pairs of device names, where the first one may substitute the second one. **Cathy** remembers the device name of the catalog, and when it tries to access the actual file (to show its properties, to drag it, etc.), it uses the name of this device. Nowadays there is often more than one CD/DVD drive available in ordinary computers. Maybe you have created the catalog from the first drive, for example K:, but the medium is present in the second one, for example I:. **Cathy** finds the actual file even if it is there, if this substitution was defined in the command line.

The next two options concern the creation of lists of MP3 songs and albums. When checked, **Cathy** adds a sequence number for every song and/or album. It is very practical when your (older) mp3 player doesn't show ID3 tags, only the album number and the song number.

## 8. Command line options

Chapter 1 describes how to prepare **Cathy** for use. In the **Shortcut properties** dialog it is possible to define some values, so called ‘command line parameters’, read by the program when it starts. Cathy reads these parameters:

**-dir "dir1,dir2,...,dirn"** additional folders in which to read the catalog (\*.caf) files. When started, **Cathy** looks for the catalog files saved in its **Start in** folder. New catalogs are always created just there. When the parameter **-dir** is present, Cathy reads the catalog files from all directories listed as parameter (and delimited by comma). The example above corresponds to the structure

```
...\Start in\dir1
...\Start in\dir2
...\Start in\dir3
...
...\Start in\dirn
```

When any of the catalogs is **Refreshed** from the menu, the refreshed catalog overwrites the old one (where it was created originally). This parameter allows the user to organize catalogs in folders with meaningful names – for example MP3 archive, DVD archive, shareware archive etc., and – if necessary – load all these catalogs at once to the program.

**-dd** adds the **Delete selected files** option to some of **Cathy’s** dropdown menus (see the previous chapter).

**-hits nnnn** sets the maximum limiting value for hits (used in **Settings**).

**-subs JI** defines substitutes (see the previous chapter). You can define more than one pair of drive names, for example **-subs JIHI**

**-icon N** sets icon No.0-3 (0=default=green, 1=yellow, 2=blue, 3=red) to the title bar of Cathy.



## 9. Files created by Cathy

When **Add** in the **Catalog Tab** is pressed, the snapshot of file/folder names of the selected media is created and saved as a single file. Catalogs are primarily identified by the serial number of the cataloged medium, and additionally by the path to the cataloged folder, when more than one is selected. For an older media, when no serial number is available, the catalog is identified by the volume label. The name of the catalog file is derived from the volume label and extended by ‘.CAF’. It is simple to distribute the content information to somebody else – simply send the corresponding ‘.CAF’ file (and the **Cathy** program to open it).

When it is necessary to compare an older snapshot to the new one, rename the old snapshot before you **Refresh** or create the new one. The best way is to copy it to some other folder, and load it together with the new one (using the **-dir** option described in the previous paragraph). It may help you to find which files were added or/and which files have been deleted or changed.

When the medium is re-cataloged, the existing ‘.CAF’ file is renamed/backed up – a second extension is added to its name (‘.BAK’). It means the SOMECATALOG.CAF is renamed to SOMECATALOG.CAF.BAK. If such a file already exists, it is deleted before the current catalog file is renamed.



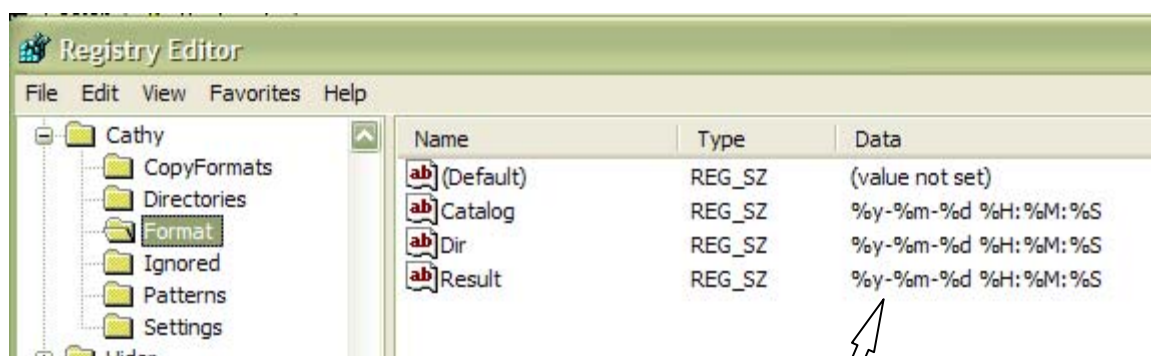
## 9. Customization

Cathy may be customized to some extent when necessary.

### Date and time format

There is a Date/Time column in all three tabs to show the creation date of the file/folder. The way this value is displayed is saved to the registry, and it can be changed using the standard REGEDIT.EXE system program. The format is exactly the same as used in the **strftime** system function. Don't worry if you're unfamiliar with this – there is simply a string of characters, where each % character is followed by a value according to the following table. All the other characters in this string are displayed unchanged.

%a	Abbreviated weekday name
%A	Full weekday name
%b	Abbreviated month name
%B	Full month name
%c	Date and time representation appropriate for locale
%d	Day of month as decimal number (01 – 31)
%H	Hour in 24-hour format (00 – 23)
%I	Hour in 12-hour format (01 – 12)
%j	Day of year as decimal number (001 – 366)
%m	Month as decimal number (01 – 12)
%M	Minute as decimal number (00 – 59)
%p	Current locale's A.M./P.M. indicator for 12-hour clock
%S	Second as decimal number (00 – 59)
%U	Week of year as decimal number, with Sunday as first day of week (00 – 53)
%w	Weekday as decimal number (0 – 6; Sunday is 0)
%W	Week of year as decimal number, with Monday as first day of week (00 – 53)
%x	Date representation for current locale
%X	Time representation for current locale
%y	Year without century, as decimal number (00 – 99)
%Y	Year with century, as decimal number
%z, %Z	Time-zone name or abbreviation; no characters if time zone is unknown
%%	Percent sign



(The format string named **Result** is used in the **Search Tab**.) According to its definition, the date and time is displayed thus:

Name	Date
My Music	04-08-29 11:53:00
Sample Music	04-07-02 21:39:45
music.asx	03-03-31 14:00:00
music.bmp	03-03-31 14:00:00
music.wma	03-03-31 14:00:00



When redefined to "%d.%b.%Y %H:%M", the displayed string is changed:

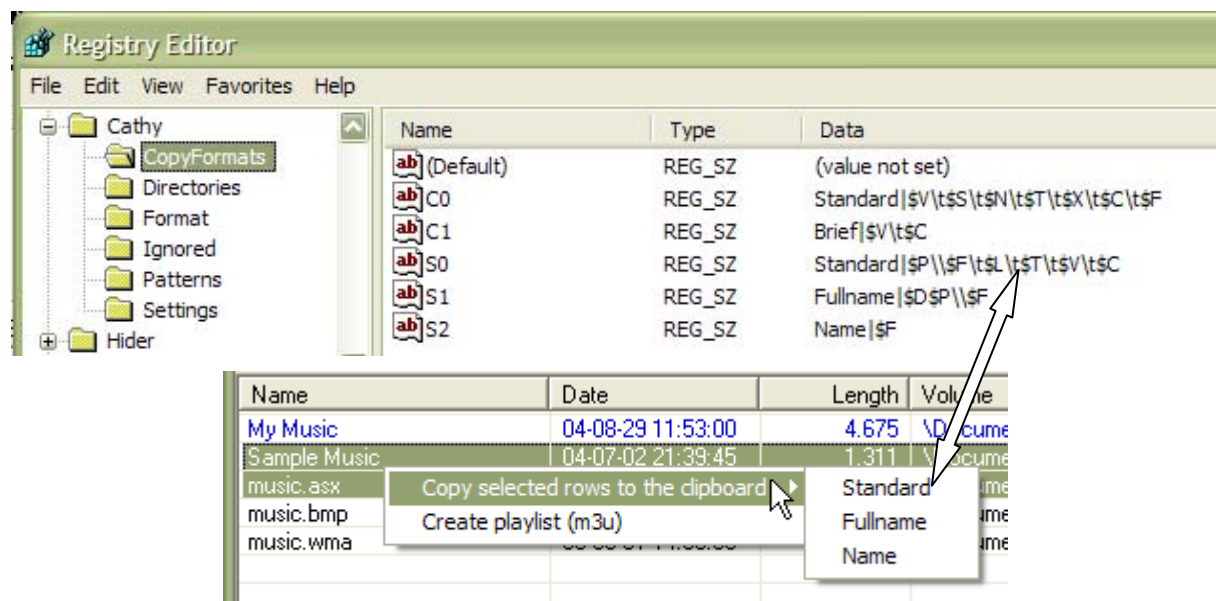
Name	Date
My Music	29.Aug.2004 11:53
Sample Music	02.Jul.2004 21:39
music.asx	31.Mar.2003 14:00
music.bmp	31.Mar.2003 14:00
music.wma	31.Mar.2003 14:00

## Copy information about files to the clipboard

The menu option **Copy selected rows to clipboard** has one or more submenu options to copy different parts of information about the selected files/folders to the clipboard. Some options are already defined; more may be added by the user if necessary, or the defined ones may be changed as well. The following symbolic names are used for file/folder description:

\$V	volume name
\$N	count of files in volume
\$L	total size of the volume or file length
\$T	date & time
\$X	(hexadecimal) serial number
\$C	volume comment
\$F	filename
\$G	name of the parent directory of the file
\$P	path
\$D	device
\$S	free size on device

Submenu options are defined in the **Registry**. The first picture shows a set of descriptions, the second picture shows the resulting appearance in a **Cathy** list. The **Name** column defines the sort sequence of the menu options and the Tab where they occur. '**Cn**' is the **n<sup>th</sup>** option in the **Catalog Tab**, '**Sn**' is the **n<sup>th</sup>** option in the **Search** or **Directory Tab**, respectively. The **Data** column defines the name of the option delimited by '|' and followed by the description what to copy to the clipboard.



**Standard** has default definition **\$P\\\$F\\t\$L\\t\$T\\t\$V\\t\$C**. '\\' means the backslash character, 't' means the tab character. Every **\$character** will be replaced according to the list of definitions (see above), and – when chosen – the clipboard will contain these two lines of information:

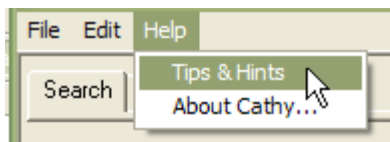
When the **Name** option is chosen, the clipboard will not contain so much text:

```
Sample Music  
music.asx
```

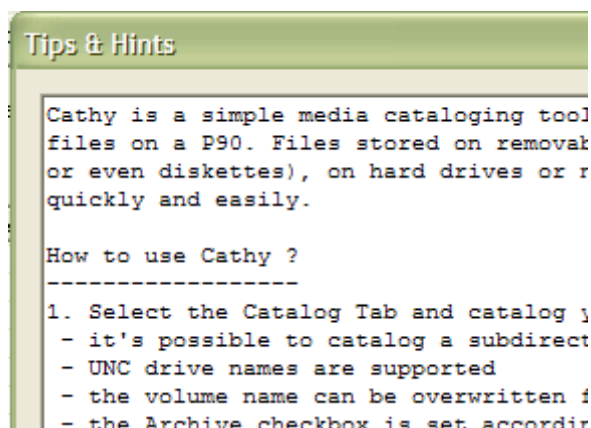
The **Registry** settings are read by **Cathy** when it starts. When this setting is changed, **Cathy** must be restarted to re-read it.

## 10. Help

**Cathy** contains a brief built-in help. It may be displayed pressing the key **F1** or using **Tips & Hints** in the **Help** menu:



A small window describing the use of **Cathy** appears on the screen:



This window is displayed when **Cathy** runs for the very first time (to show the user there is some help available), and pops up every **500<sup>th</sup>** run of the program.

## 11. Creating a list of albums and songs (mp3/ogg files)

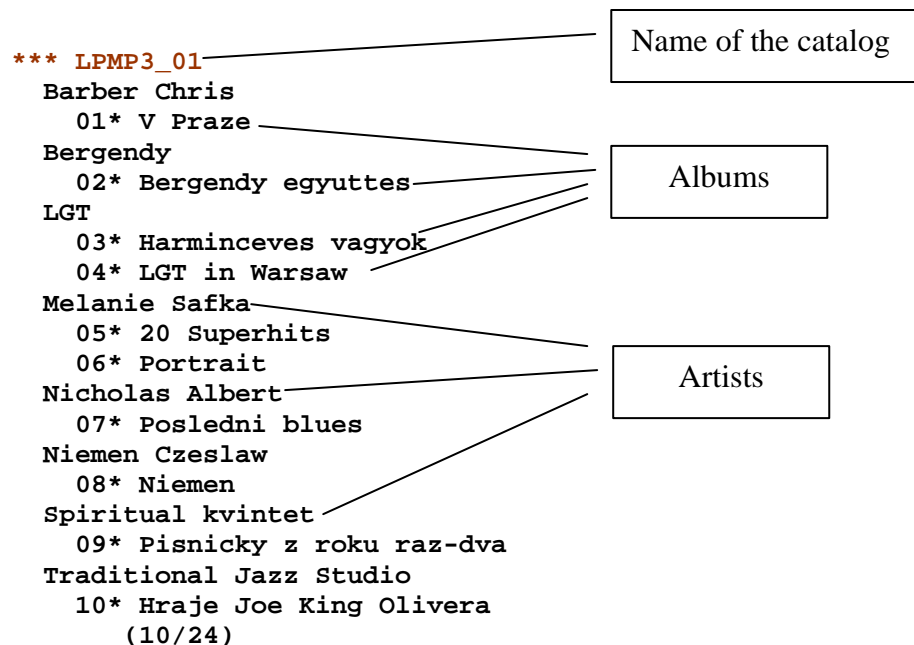
A very common need of owners of music files is to have a well managed list of albums and/or songs. **Cathy** doesn't read the content of cataloged files and hence it cannot use the information written to **ID3** tags. Anyway, when the files have well chosen titles and the folders are well organized, **Cathy** can create a really useful list of available music files.

**Cathy** assumes the folder structure of music files is similar to this one:

```
... \Artist\Album\Song1.mp3  
... \Artist\Album\Song2.mp3  
...  
... \Artist\Album\SongN.mp3  
... \Other Artist\Other Album\OtherSong1.mp3  
... \Other Artist\Other Album\OtherSong 2.mp3  
etc.
```

The **mp3** (or **ogg**) extension is removed from the file name when it is added to the list. Albums (=folders) and songs are listed exactly in the order in which they are saved to the medium. It means they are not always ordered alphabetically. Albums and/or songs may be numbered by **Cathy**. Numbering helps navigation when an older player is used (when **ID3**

tags are not displayed, mostly the **EDA** (*Easy Directory Access*) navigation is used and only the sequence numbers of albums and songs are displayed). For example, when albums and songs of LPMP3\_01 catalog are listed, it looks like this:



Albums: 10 Songs: 24

The same list when song titles are also included:

*** LPMP3_01	Melanie Safka	02 LP I - B
Barber Chris	05* 20 Superhits	03 LP II - A
01* V Praze	A side	04 LP II - B
A strana	B side	Spiritual kvintet
B strana	06* Portrait	09* Pisnicky z roku
Bergendy	Melanie-1-A	raz-dva
02* Bergendy egyuttas	Melanie-1-B	01 A strana
A oldal	Melanie-2-A	02 B strana
B oldal	Melanie-2-B	Traditional Jazz Studio
LGT	Nicholas Albert	10* Hraje Joe King
03* Harminceves vagyok	07* Posledni blues	Olivera
01 A oldal	A side	A strana
02 B oldal	B side	B strana
04* LGT in Warsaw	Niemen Czeslaw	(10/24)
01 A oldal	08* Niemen	
02 B oldal	01 LP I - A	Albums: 10 Songs: 24

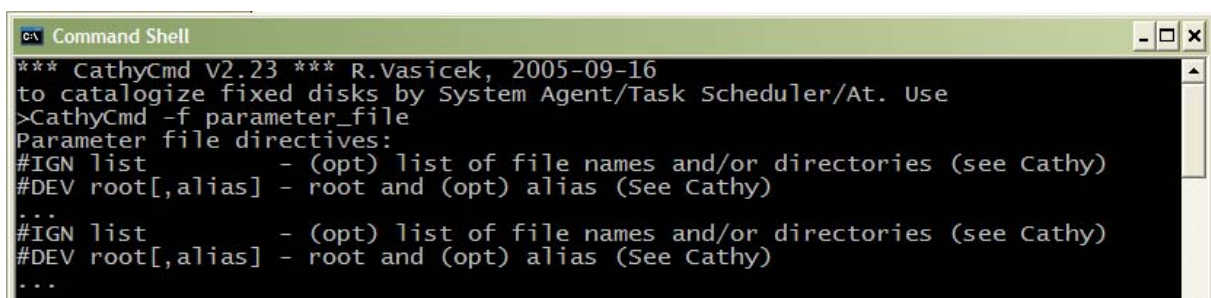
(My archive contains digitized vinyls, so every album consists of 2 ‘songs’ only, the A-side and the B-side.) **Numbered albums** was checked in **Settings** dialog, but **Numbered songs** remained unchecked. When song numbering is checked too, some more numbering occurs in the list. **Cathy** numbers in a so called ‘intelligent way’ - only those songs which do not have a number in the first position. Numbering added by **Cathy** is marked with an apostrophe character (compare the colored rows to see the difference).

*** LPMP3_01	02'B oldal	Melanie Safka
Barber Chris	LGT	05* 20 Superhits
01* V Praze	03* Harminceves vagyok	01'A side
01'A strana	01 A oldal	02'B side
02'B strana	02 B oldal	06* Portrait
Bergendy	04* LGT in Warsaw	01'Melanie-1-A
02* Bergendy egyuttas	01 A oldal	02'Melanie-1-B
01'A oldal	02 B oldal	03'Melanie-2-A

04'Melanie-2-B	02 LP I - B	Traditional Jazz Studio
Nicholas Albert	03 LP II - A	10* Hraje Joe King
07* Posledni blues	04 LP II - B	Olivera
01'A side	Spiritual kvintet	01'A strana
02'B side	09* Pisnický z roku	02'B strana
Niemen Czeslaw	raz-dva	(10/24)
08* Niemen	01 A strana	
01 LP I - A	02 B strana	
		Albums: 10 Songs: 24

## 12. CathyCmd

**CathyCmd** is the restricted version of **Cathy**, without the GUI, simply to create a catalog. It must be started from the command line, and it can be started by the **Task Scheduler** at a defined time according to the needs of the user. It is a so called console application, runnable in a **DOS** window (W95, W98 etc.) or a **CMD** (command shell) window (W2000, XP). When started without parameters, it presents a simple usage guide.



```

*** CathyCmd v2.23 *** R.Vasicek, 2005-09-16
to catalogize fixed disks by System Agent/Task Scheduler/At. Use
>CathyCmd -f parameter_file
Parameter file directives:
#IGN list - (opt) list of file names and/or directories (see Cathy)
#DEV root[,alias] - root and (opt) alias (See Cathy)
...
#IGN list - (opt) list of file names and/or directories (see Cathy)
#DEV root[,alias] - root and (opt) alias (See Cathy)
...

```

Using **CathyCmd** and **Task Scheduler**, catalogs of hard drives or network drives may be created/refreshed automatically at the given time. Using the up-to-date catalog, every file it contains will be found in a fraction of the second, much faster than using standard system tools.

When we want to use **CathyCmd** for this purpose, it is appropriate to catalog the drives for the first time using **Cathy**. We can name it, set comments and set the **Archive** flag the way we want. When the catalogs have already been created, create a plain text file (using a plain text editor such as **Notepad** is) using the hint shown above. I use **CathyCmd** to catalog hard disks C: and D: in my laptop, and the corresponding file (I named it **cathy.cmd**) is as simple as this:

```

#IGN *.tmp; \tmp; \Temp*; \debug; \result;
#DEV C:\
#DEV D:\
#DEV \\Fileserver01\projects\vss\VSSdata

```

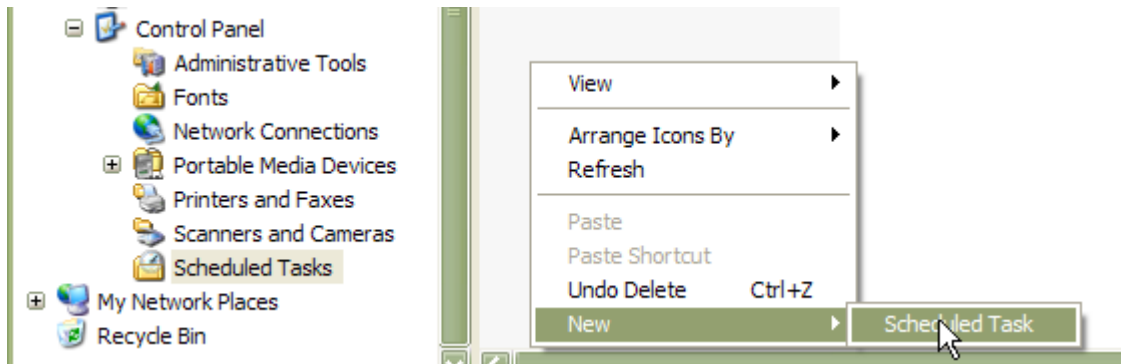
(The third device in the command file shows how to use UNC path.) Every line of the file except those starting **#IGN** or **#DEV** is skipped by **CathyCmd** (they may be used as comments). The line marked as **#IGN** defines which files/folders to skip when the catalog is created (see chapter 5). When a new **#IGN** line is read, the old 'ignore' setting is replaced by this new one. The **#DEV** line defines the device (folder) to be cataloged. It is possible to define the catalog name (separated by a comma from the device name). If a network device/folder will be cataloged that may not be mapped at the time **CathyCmd** runs, it's a good idea to use the **UNC** name (see my example above).

At first, **CathyCmd** reads every catalog file available in its **Start in** folder, remembers some basic information saved there and starts to create catalogs according to the definition file (its name was passed as the command line option **-f parameter\_file**). If the catalog file already exists, **CathyCmd** makes a backup of it and creates a new one with the same name. The

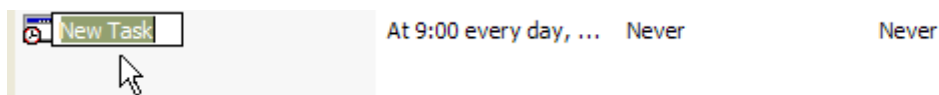
additional information (comment, etc.) from the existing catalog file will be copied into the newly created one.

## Running CathyCmd using Task scheduler

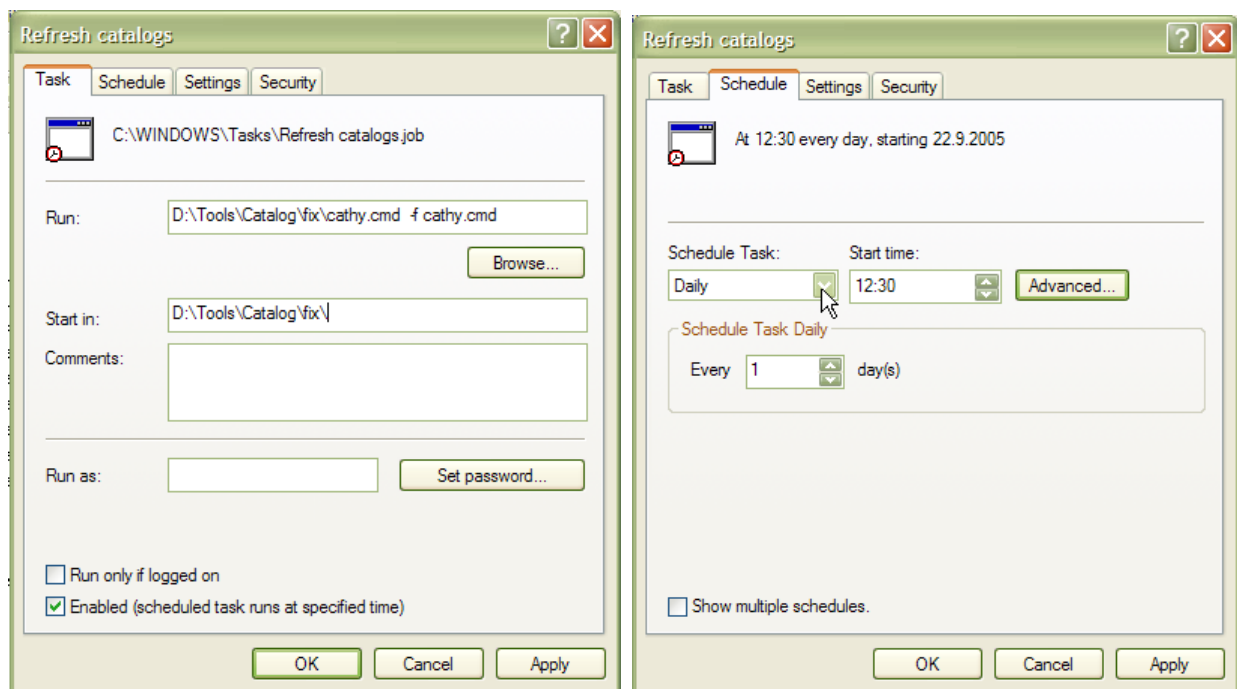
Create a new job for the **Task scheduler**. Open the **Control Panel**, double-click **Scheduled Tasks**, right-click in the empty part of the right window pane, choose **New** and **Scheduled Task** as you can see below:



Set the job name:



(I called it **Refresh catalogs**). Fill the other necessary fields:



It's advantageous to run such jobs when the computer is not in use for work (at night, during lunch time, etc.).

### 13. Remarks

**Cathy** is a program which I created initially in 1998, when I was not satisfied with the functionality and the speed of the available freeware cataloging programs. I found it useful, and after I had written it, I decided I would let everybody use it. It doesn't mean I'm a freeware author. ☺ In most cases I did not add improvements wanted by the users. The program was improved during those years, but the basic concept remained. It is a tool which helps to find a single file among hundreds of thousand of others very quickly. Initially, **Cathy** was designed to work with only a couple of catalogs (at the time of the first version, I had 4 or 5 archive CD's). At present some of the users have cataloged even more than 1000 CD/DVD's, and **Cathy** still works. (Having a large number of catalogs was the reason why I have added an additional feature – filtering catalogs by label or comment). One more disadvantage of this program was extensive use of RAM – all catalogs are read to the memory when **Cathy** is started; it's not a problem any more because current computers have enough RAM.

There are some restrictions not mentioned at all:

- The maximum length of a file in a catalog is limited to 2 GB. It means, if the file is longer, in the catalog you will find its length shows as exactly 2 GB.
- The number of folders in a single catalog file – **Cathy** can't save more than 65535.

If you are satisfied with this program, I invite you to send a postcard to my daughter. To find the address look at the end of the built-in help window (F1).

*Robert Vašíček, 2005-12-31*

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