

Replacing Windows Search with the Everything toolbar

by Frank Maher

Everything is a powerful Windows application for searching files and folders that has been extremely popular with Windows users for many years. Known for its speed and efficiency, it significantly outperforms the default Windows Search function. Everything utilizes minimal memory and processor time, making it an ideal choice for quick and efficient file searches. Additionally, Everything can categorize searches, such as limiting results to .jpg files, reducing unnecessary results and improving search accuracy.

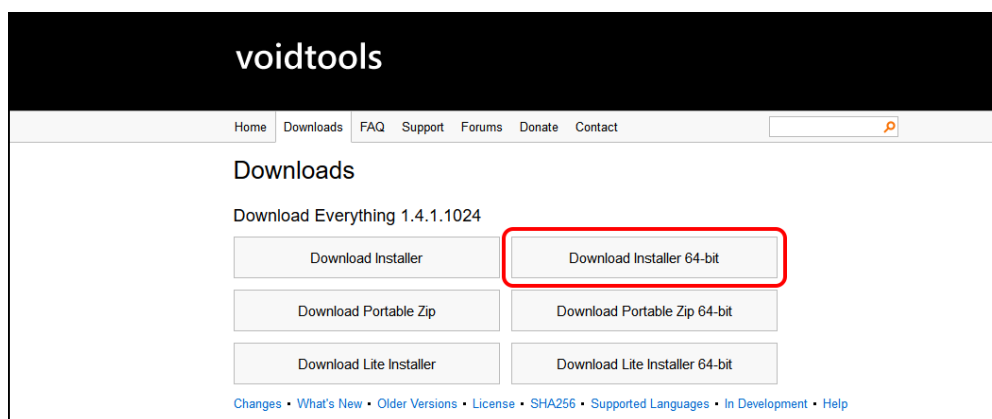


Figure 11 – Everything download website

In contrast, Windows Search runs a resource-intensive background service that can slow down your system. According to Jim Brian from Britec09 on YouTube, "Windows Search is a resource hog and in Windows 11, it's even worse, with many users disabling it." While Windows Search does offer the advantage of searching for text within documents, it only provides a list of files containing the text without indicating their locations, which can be frustrating locating the file.

In his presentation, Frank Maher plays a YouTube video by Brian from YouTube channel Britec09, that explains how to replace Windows Search with the Everything toolbar. This step-by-step guide demonstrates how to set up Everything Search and the Everything Toolbar, with excellent instructions on how to disable Windows Search and remove any associated data.



Figure 12 – Britec YouTube video

The video tutorial by Britec provides instructions on moving the Everything search tool from the system tray to the Windows Search location at the top right of the File Manager window. It also shows how to hide the Windows Search icon and position the Everything Toolbar in its place.

The toolbar installation process shown in the tutorial offers options to hide the Windows Search icon and set Everything to start automatically with the computer. However, for those users wishing to go a step further the video gives precise instructions to stop Windows Search from indexing files and how to disable related services, which helps free up system resources.

However, it is not necessary to uninstall Windows Search, as both programs can coexist without issues as Frank has done. Frank also advises against installing the beta version of Everything with the toolbar, as they are not compatible.

You can download Everything from Voidtools (<https://www.voidtools.com>), with the current version at the time of the video and this report being 1.4.1.1024. The Everything Toolbar, developed by a different author, is available on GitHub (<https://github.com/srwi/EverythingToolbar/releases/tag/1.3.3>). Finding the toolbar download on GitHub can be tricky, so it might be helpful to refer to the video for guidance.

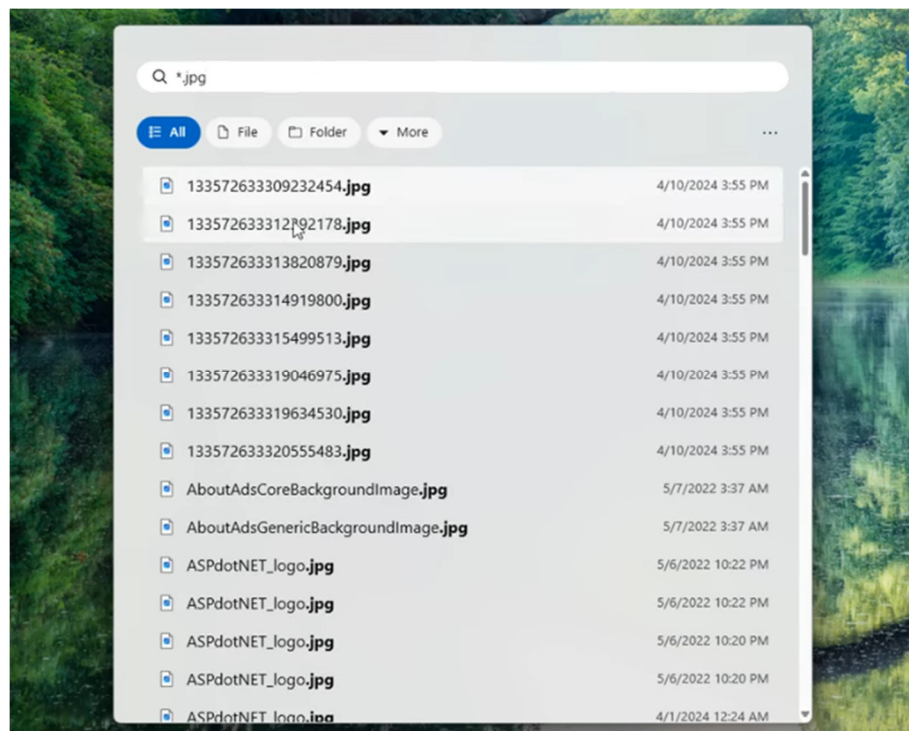


Figure 13 – Everything Toolbar

The full tutorial can be watched on YouTube: “Replacing Windows Search with Everything Toolbar” at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuE3XCU48Bk>).

Patch my PC Home Updater

by Frank Maher

Keeping software up to date is crucial for maintaining online security. Outdated software often contains security vulnerabilities, bugs, and other issues that are typically resolved in the latest versions. Therefore, it's important to keep applications updated or "patched."

Frank Maher recently discovered Patch My PC Home Updater and found it worthy of mention to MelbPC members. Patch My PC Home Updater is a free tool that supports over 300 common applications. It compares these applications with those installed on your computer and provides an easy way to update or install them.



Figure 14 – Patch My PC

When you open Patch My PC Home Updater, it scans your system for outdated programs and categorizes them as follows:

- Outdated programs are shown in **red**.
- Updated programs are shown in **green**.
- Not-installed programs are shown in **black**.

During a demonstration, Patch My PC identified four outdated programs. By selecting the “Perform 4 Updates” button at the bottom right of the screen, the program downloaded and installed the updates automatically, without requiring further user intervention.

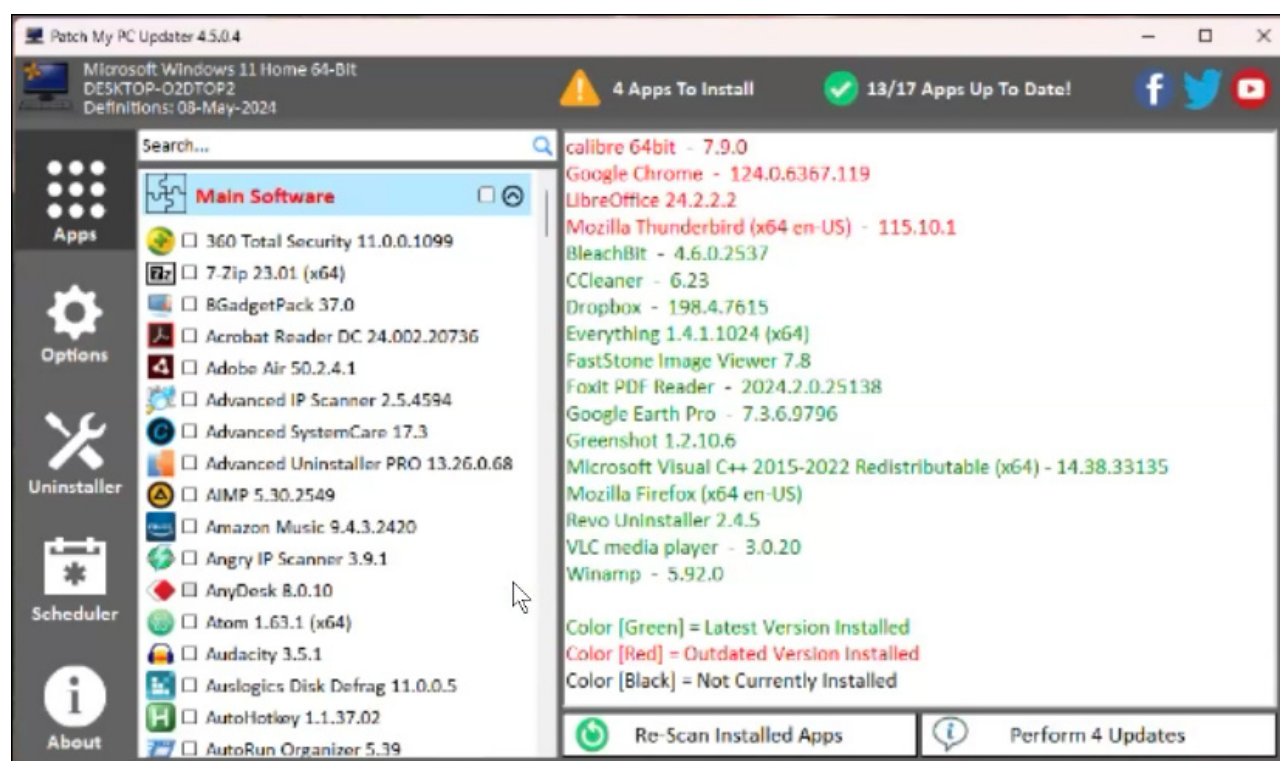


Figure 15 – Patch My PC, Program identification window

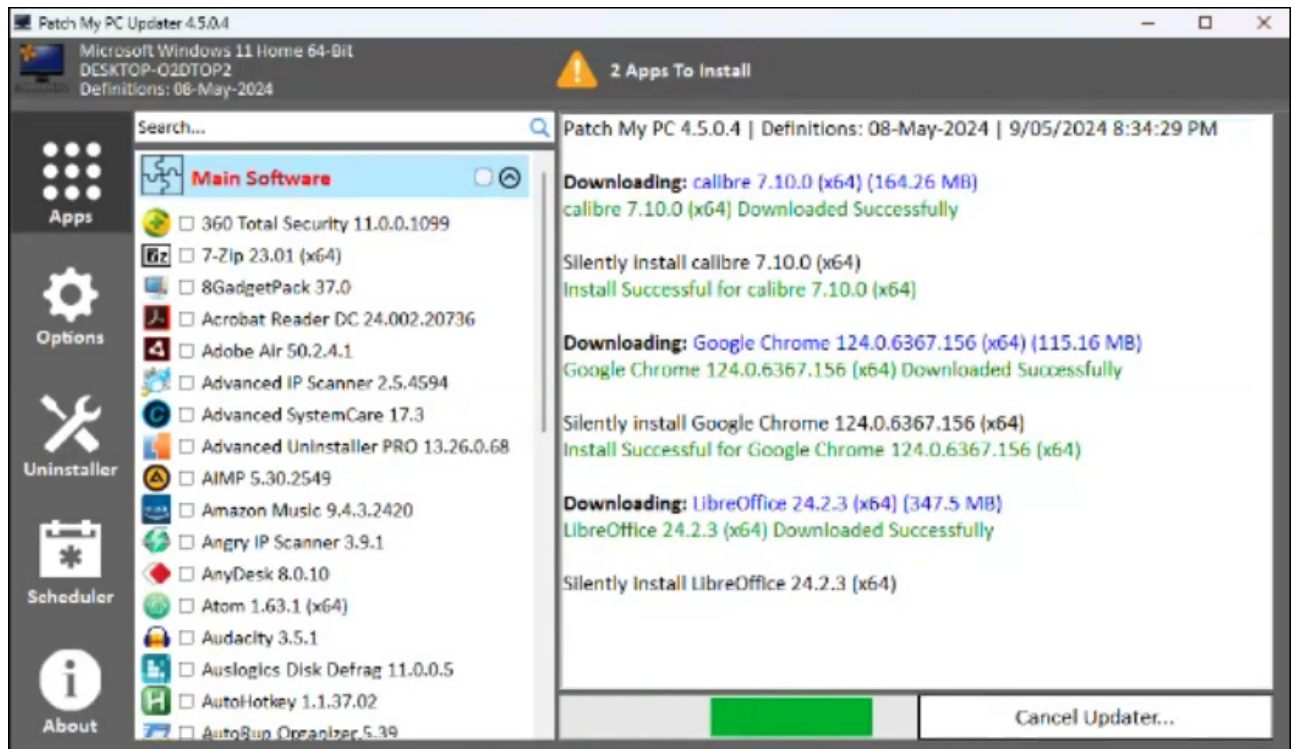


Figure 16 – Patch My PC update & install in progress

Frank also discovered an extra feature in Patch My PC that could be particularly useful for him. Programs listed but not currently installed on your system can be ticked and added to the list for automatic installation and future updates. This functionality is particularly beneficial for adding programs to an existing computer. While Ninite offers a similar service, it is more focused on initial program setup on a new machine.

By default, Patch My PC deletes program installers after the updates are completed. However, this setting can be changed under Options if desired. There are many Portable programs included in the list of over 300 applications available. When a new portable application is selected for installation, it is loaded in a folder on the desktop.

You can download the free version of Patch My PC Home Updater at <https://patchmypc.com/home-updater>

Ninite

Ninite is a package management system that lets users automatically install popular applications for their Windows operating system. It allows users to make a selection from a list of applications and bundles the selection into a single installer executable. [Wikipedia](#)

Basics of Total Commander

by Peter Carpenter

Early History – Norton Commander

Peter Norton was the founder of Peter Norton Computing and well-known in the software industry, for his popular "Norton Utilities" suite of programs, designed to enhance the functionality and usability of computers running MS-DOS.

The concept and initial development behind Norton Commander was John Socha, a programmer who had already worked on the "Norton Utilities" suite. Recognizing the potential of Socha's file manager, it was released under the name Norton Commander and released by Peter Norton's company in 1986. It became a widely popular file manager for DOS.



Figure 17 – Norton Commander Versions 1 through to 5 for MS-DOS

Norton Commander Key Features:

- *Dual-Panel Interface*: Norton Commander introduced a dual-panel interface, which allowed users to view two directories simultaneously. This feature made file management tasks like copying, moving, and deleting files much more intuitive and efficient compared to the command-line interface.
- *Keyboard Shortcuts*: The program made extensive use of keyboard shortcuts, enabling users to perform file operations quickly without needing to type out lengthy commands.
- *File Viewer and Editor*: Norton Commander included built-in tools for viewing and editing files, adding to its utility as an all-in-one file management solution.

Norton Commander quickly became a staple tool for DOS users, appreciated for its user-friendly interface and powerful features. It was particularly popular among power users and IT professionals who needed to manage large volumes of files efficiently.

The design and functionality of Norton Commander influenced many subsequent file managers and utilities. Even today, modern file managers like Total Commander pay homage to its dual-panel layout and extensive use of keyboard shortcuts.

In 1989, Symantec Corporation acquired Peter Norton Computing for US\$20m. This acquisition brought Norton Commander under the Symantec umbrella, where it continued to be developed and supported for several years. However, as Windows gradually replaced DOS as the primary operating system for personal computers, the relevance of Norton Commander diminished.

Total Commander

Total Commander was developed by Christian Ghisler and is Peter Carpenters preferred file manager over Windows Explorer. It features a double-pane interface, it supports three possible views (Full, Brief and Tree) and is extremely configurable and has become one of the most popular file managers for Windows.

The double panel interface in Total Commander allows you to perform file management tasks like viewing, editing, copying, moving or deleting files in a much more comfortable way. Total Commander includes extra integrated applications and is extremely configurable, as Peter would later demonstrate.

Background:

- Christian Ghisler, is a Swiss software developer who began working on Total Commander (originally named Windows Commander) in the early 1990's. Ghisler was inspired by the efficiency and utility of Norton Commander and wanted to create a similar tool for the Windows operating system.
- *Early Development*: The first version of Windows Commander was released in 1993. Like Norton Commander, it featured a dual-panel interface, which allowed users to manage files more efficiently than with the standard Windows File Manager.
- Early versions of Windows Commander included features such as file copy, move, delete, and rename, as well as archive handling (ZIP, RAR, etc.), built-in FTP client, and customizable keyboard shortcuts.
- *Renaming to Total Commander*: In 2002, due to a trademark dispute with Microsoft over the use of the name "Windows", Ghisler renamed the program to Total Commander starting with version 5.51. Despite the name change, the functionality and user base of the software continued to grow.

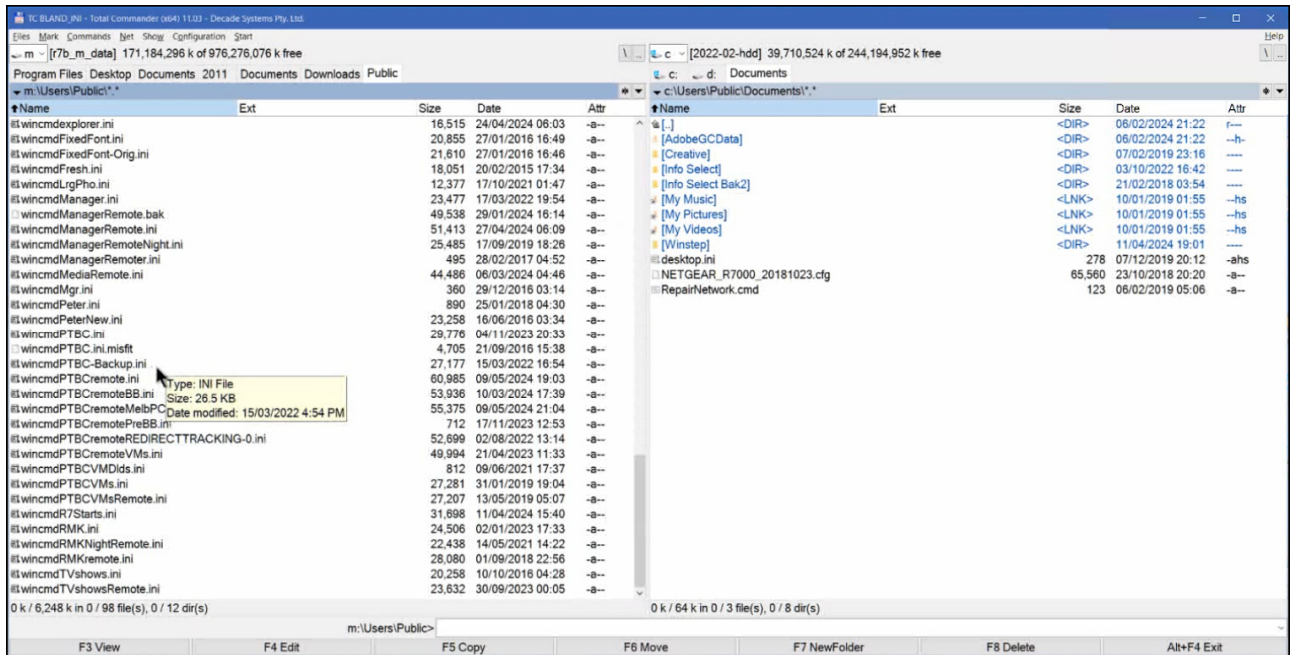


Figure 18 - Total Commander simple view

Development and Enhancements:

- *Users:* Total Commander is intended for medium to advanced users, and especially for those who like working mainly via keyboard shortcuts. It's fully functional using a mouse, but optimized to be keyboard-controlled.
- *Updates:* Over the years, Total Commander has been continuously updated and improved. Key enhancements include support for additional archive formats, advanced file searching, synchronization tools, and a plugin architecture that allows users to extend its functionality.
- *User Interface:* While maintaining its dual-panel interface, Total Commander has also seen updates to its user interface to keep it modern and user-friendly. Features such as customizable toolbars, tabbed browsing, and multi-rename tools have been added.

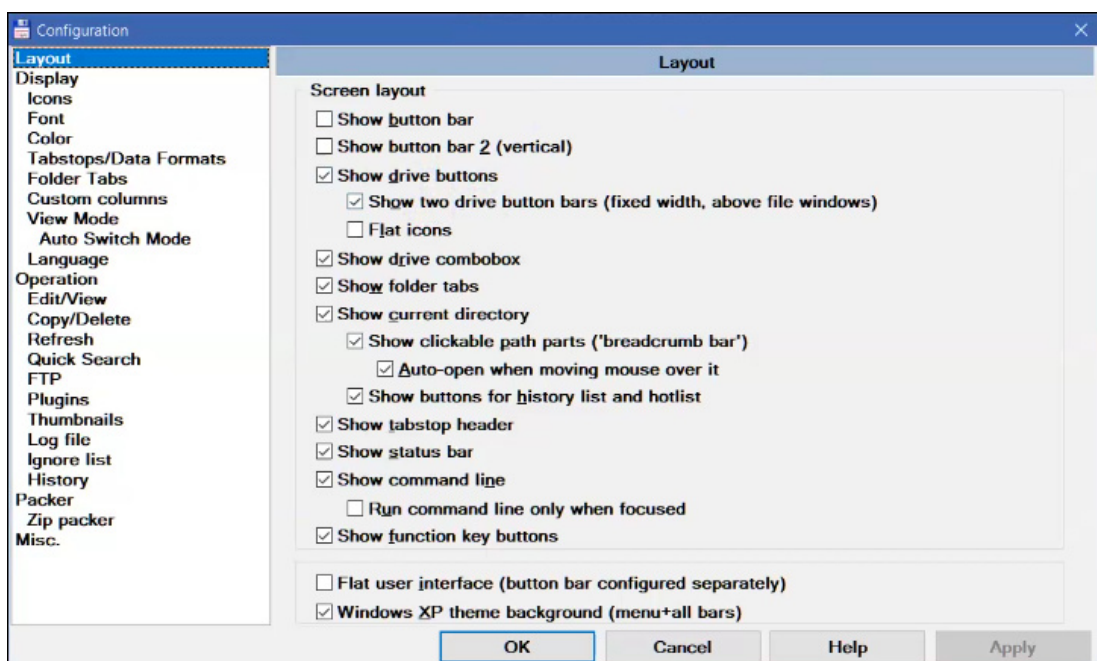


Figure 19 – The power behind Total Commander is its Configuration Window

- *Plugins and Extensions*: One of the major strengths of Total Commander is its support for plugins. These plugins allow users to add a wide range of functionalities, such as viewing different file types, connecting to various cloud services, and enhancing file operations.
- *Active Community*: Total Commander has a vibrant community of users and developers who contribute plugins, themes, and support through forums and other platforms. This community involvement has been crucial to the software's ongoing success and adaptability.
- *Mobile Versions*: The mobile versions of Total Commander maintain many of the features that made the desktop version popular, such as the dual-pane interface, file compression, and built-in FTP client. Recognizing the shift towards mobile computing, Ghisler also developed versions of Total Commander for Android and Windows Phone, bringing the powerful file management capabilities to mobile users.

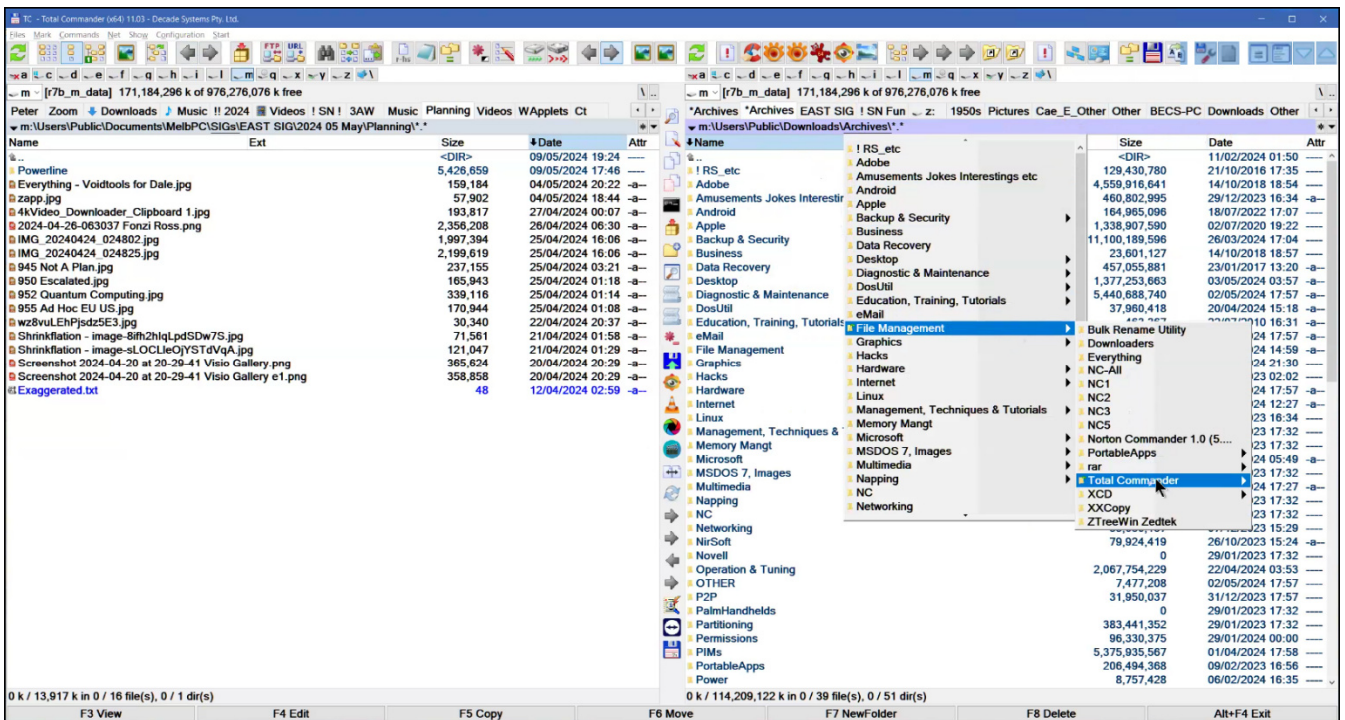


Figure 20– Peter’s Daily setup for Total Commander.

Summary

Christian Ghisler's development of Total Commander has had a significant impact on the file management software landscape. From its inception as Windows Commander in 1993 to its current status as a powerful, feature-rich file manager, Total Commander has remained a favourite among users who need advanced file handling capabilities. Ghisler's continuous updates, attention to user feedback, and support for extensive customization have ensured that Total Commander remains relevant and useful in an ever-evolving technological landscape.

Total Commander offers handy shortcuts for common tasks like viewing, editing, copying, moving or deleting files. For users who prefer a mouse over shortcuts, Peter demonstrated how shortcuts can be applied to icons on Total Commander's toolbar. These shortcuts to your favourite applications are added via the menu, selecting Configuration → Options to the Button bar menu. Total Commander has an exhaustive configuration menu that you'll be able to tweak every single detail of the program.