

Simple File Annotator

Application intended for creating annotations of files within a single directory

1 Introduction


The main purpose of this application is to assign user-created annotations to any files. This association applies within single, user selected directory. Files' descriptions data are written into dedicated file created in this directory too. Additionally, the file can be opened in a web browser, which then displays tabular report of files in the directory. Descriptions are linked to files by either file names, or by their contents¹. This helps preserve the link, even if the file name changes.

2 Example use cases

Simple File Annotator, *SFA* effectively assists user in:






- Creating notes describing image files.
- Creating a to-do list while working on a document.
- Deleting files, whose name or description matches search criteria.
- Writing an abstract of a document, article, book etc.
- Assigning key words to document and make it be easily found among other files.


3 Program features

- The upper panel of the application window comprises:
 1. Text box displaying **path to the selected directory**. It is possible to type the path with keyboard and confirm with . If the background of the text box turns red, then the typed directory path does not exist.
 2. **Directory up** button, switches the current directory view to the one, that is higher in the tree.
 3. **Reload** current directory button.
 4. Button displaying **directory choose** dialog box.
 5. **Save all descriptions data** into file named `!sfaindex.xhtml` in the selected directory.
 6. Button **switching search** mode: display files that contain or do not contain the text entered into search text box.
 7. **Search box**. Any part of displayed file names or their descriptions are searched for text entered here.

File annotations are typed into text boxes in the appropriate column. The directory contents can also be sorted according to file names or last modification date. Clicking the column header enables sorting or reverses the order if the sorting is already enabled.

- **Keyboard navigation**. It is possible to navigate through window elements with keyboard only.

The  key allows you to navigate through consecutive window elements. Combinations of:   and   are equivalent to Save button and to focusing on search text box accordingly. Having saved descriptions, the save button gains focus to visually confirm the action. When there are unsaved changes made to file descriptions, asterisk (*) character is appended to the main window's title.

- **Dragging and dropping folder icons**. The application accepts commandline arguments. An argument could be either absolute directory path, or absolute path to file `!sfaindex.xhtml`. Consequently, that means, it is possible to drag any folder's (or `!sfaindex.html`'s) icon from Windows Explorer onto the program's icon (or shortcut to the program) to have it opened. Similarly, it is possible to drag and drop straight onto the program's main window. The program is also accessible from right-click Windows Explorer's context menu.
- **Adjusting font size**. It is possible to set the font size of displayed folder contents. This can be done with mouse wheel rolling while the  key is being pressed. Adjusting is enabled only, when one of the file descriptions text boxes is focused.
- **Language**. The application's interface is available in two languages: Polish and English. The language is selected automatically on program startup and is based on the operating system's regional settings². If any culture other than Polish is set in the system, then the English interface translation of SFA is selected.
- **Data file** – `!sfaindex.xhtml` could be:

1. Opened and edited with **any text editor** that supports UTF-8 encoding.
2. **Opened with web browser** (except for Internet Explorer)³. In the web report, directories are marked with [] characters, and for

²This does not mean English version of the operating system is required for the English translation to be used. It depends on, so called, *culture* settings, which are accessed from Control Panel

³This web browser does not support, so called, embedded XSL transformations, which are necessary for user friendly, tabular report view. Creating an additional file with transformation, solely for Internet Explorer is unacceptable from the author's point of view.

¹Technically: by the MD5 hash of their contents.

image files a hyper-link is created, so that it is possible to view them directly in a browser.

- **Instant image preview.** The application supports generating quick preview of image files with the following extensions: .jpg, .gif, .png, .bmp. It is displayed automatically after dragging mouse pointer at the file's icon (on the right side of the file name).
- **Open selected file with double clicking on its name.** The file is opened with the default application, just like double clicking in Windows Explorer. Similarly, double clicking current directory path text box opens Windows Explorer displaying selected folder.
- **Deleting displayed files.** The button in the bottom right corner of the application's window deletes all files and directories in the current view. When used with search feature, this can serve as a precise cleaning tool for files matching given criteria. To avoid any mistakes, the application displays confirmation dialog twice.

4 Advanced configuration options

Information in this section can be skipped by majority of users. For experienced users it is possible to modify the application's configuration file. It is created automatically as XML text document. Depending on the operating system version, the file is stored in one of the following locations:

1. In XP version of Windows:

```
C:\Documents and Settings\  
(user_name)\  
Local Settings\  
Application Data\  
Przemyslaw_Seneczko\  
SimpleFileAnnotator2.exe_(characters)\  
2.0.1.0\  
user.config
```

2. In the newer version of Windows:

```
C:\Users\  
(user_name)\  
AppData\  
Local\  
Przemyslaw_Seneczko\  
SimpleFileAnnotator2.exe_(characters)\  
2.0.1.0\  
user.config
```

- **HTML report view customization.** The user can provide custom CSS sheet to be embedded within `!sfaindex.xhtml` file. The appearance of the whole document can be fully customized. To make the application use custom CSS code instead of built in one, please

insert the following XML code snippet between `<SimpleFileAnnotator2.Properties.Settings>` tags:

```
<setting name="CssSheet" serializeAs="String">  
<value>  
CSS code goes here  
</value>  
</setting>
```

5 Software and hardware requirements

- The application requires NET Framework version at least 4.0 to be installed. [Link to .NET Framework version 4.5 download web page, the latest one at the time of publication of this document.](#)
- The application does not have any extra requirements beyond those applicable for the .NET Framework version 4.0. Consequently, it runs on Microsoft Windows operating system version XP SP3 or any newer one. However, version 4.0 of .NET Framework is the last one supported by Windows XP SP3. Starting with 4.5 .NET Framework, the minimum required version of the Windows operating system is Vista SP2.
- It should be considered, that the application's interface is rendered with the advantage of the computer's graphics hardware ([Microsoft Windows Presentation Foundation technology](#)). Therefore, the proper configuration of graphics drivers, as well as DirectX software is highly recommended.

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