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## Google Wants a Place on Your Desktop

By John Calder

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Some time ago, Microsoft announced that desktop based search was going to be integrated into future releases of their Windows operating system.

Knowing this, search-engine mover & shaker Google has released a beta version of their Google Desktop Search software. It's available for download now, and with it, you will be able to search files on your computer, including your email, web pages viewed, saved chat sessions, Excel, Powerpoint, and Word documents, and text and HTML files. The application runs continuously in your computer's memory, scanning and indexing new documents as they arrive through email or as they are created or copied on to your system. It's available only for Windows 2000 SP 3 and Windows XP systems right now, and requires 500MB of disk space.

There are some big limitations. Hopefully Google will improve in this area as they continue development of this software. For example, Desktop Search can only read email in Outlook or Outlook Express. Though Outlook does indeed have a large market share among email clients, surely Google realizes that a large number of people are moving towards other email clients that may not be as susceptible to email-borne security flaws. The same applies to cached web pages – right now, you can only search those viewed with Internet Explorer 5 or greater, while growing numbers of surfers are moving to maturing alternative browsers such as Mozilla and Opera.

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Perhaps an even more curious omission is that this software can't index PDF documents. Google can do this online, and it's not like PDF documents are rare. Maybe they're saving it for a future release.

For now, if you're still riding the Microsoft train all the way on your PC, and plan to stay that way, Google Desktop Search is probably worth checking out, as it probably closely mirrors Microsoft's planned capabilities. Otherwise, you may want to hold off to see how this tool evolves.

John Calder is the owner/editor of The Ezine Dot Net. Subscribe Today and get real information YOU can use to help build your online business today! <http://www.TheEzine.Net>

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### **Is desktop search deserving?**

**By Jakob Jelling**

#### **Is desktop search deserving? by Jakob Jelling**

By Jakob Jelling  
<http://www.sitetube.com>

Google, in their march to stay ahead of the pack of competition, has released Google Desktop Search. With Microsoft's MSN in the lead position and nipping at Google's heels, and Google's new shareholders to please, Google has more incentive than ever to deploy technology both better than the other guy's, and sooner. After all, the first to get loaded to the desktop is more likely to build and retain user loyalty.

Google Desktop Search allows you to search within various types of files on your computer. It's still in beta, but is available for download by anyone. It requires Windows XP or Windows 2000 with at least Service Pack 3. It runs as a memory-resident application, with a system tray icon, so that it can index new documents as they are created.

For example, if you know a certain word or phrase was in a Word document, but you don't remember which one, you can easily locate all documents on your computer that contain that word. Desktop Search can search through email, text, and HTML files, your cached web pages, and MS Office Documents (Word, Excel, and Powerpoint only).

By way of comparison, there is a competing application, also free, from Copernic, not surprisingly called Copernic Desktop Search. At the moment, it is perhaps more advanced than Google's. For example, Copernic's software scans the same type of files as does Google's, but also scans music and

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video files and PDF documents, while Google does not. Both products can only scan Outlook or Outlook Express email at present.

But don't count Google out. Webmasters know it's never wise to do that! After all, they're still in beta with Desktop Search, and they are as surely aware of Copernic's product as they are of MSN. Google has both the resources and motivation to not only keep but expand their market leadership.

Jakob Jelling is the founder of <http://www.sitetube.com>. Visit his website for the latest on planning, building, promoting and maintaining websites.

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