

Nottingham 5

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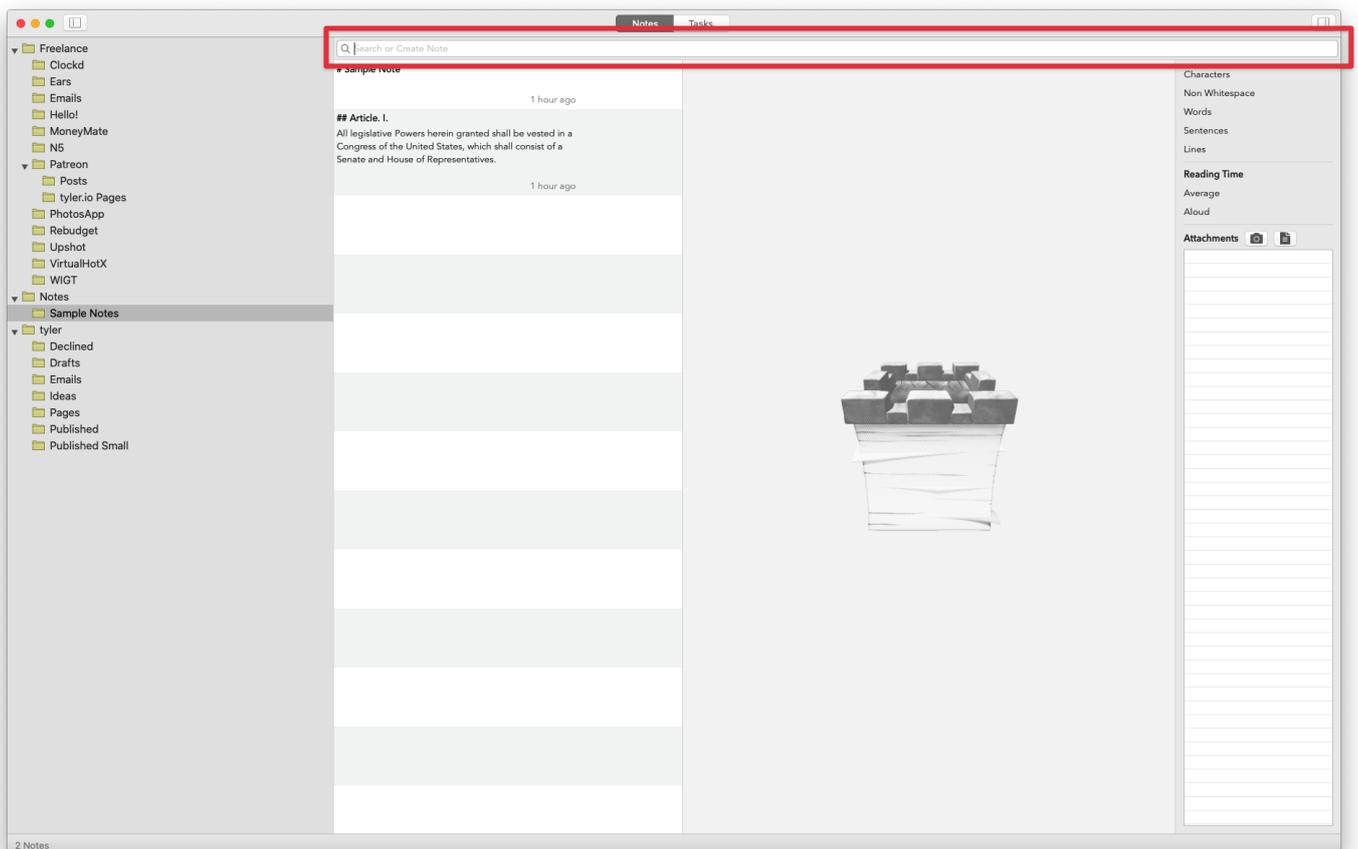
Using Nottingham

Creating and Searching for Notes

Like Nottingham's inspiration [Notational Velocity](#), the primary method of creating notes and finding existing ones is using the search field.

To create a new note, just type your new note's title and press return (↵).

As you're typing your note's title, Nottingham will search for notes that match what you've typed thus far.



If you ever need to make a new note right away and don't want to worry about thinking of a title first, you can press `^⌘N` to instantly create a blank, untitled note.

Notes and Tasks

The philosophy behind this new version of Nottingham is that I've been keeping track of tasks for me and my coworkers as well as meeting notes in my, well, notes. I do this using my own special syntax for note taking. And I decided to rebuild Nottingham from a pure note taking app into a hybrid notes and task management app that lets you move between the two modes of work:

- Looking at your notes
- Working on the tasks contained in those notes

When you select a folder in the Library, you can switch to Tasks mode using the picker at the top of the window.

Nottingham will parse all of the notes in that folder for tasks and then let you sort, filter, and work with them in a dedicated task view.

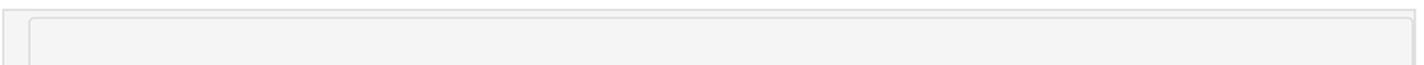
While the task viewer is (for now) primarily meant for viewing your tasks and the note interface for editing them, you can do some basic edits on your tasks. For example, marking a task as complete or incomplete will update the underlying note on disk for you. In future releases, I plan on allowing editing of a task's due date, defer date, tags, etc.

Here's a quick video demonstrating how tasks can be filtered by status, by date, and the person they're assigned to.

For now, tasks are parsed using my own, odd shorthand for taking notes. Nottingham will eventually support more mainstream plain-text task syntaxes like [Taskpaper](#) and/or [todo.txt](#).

But, for now, you can play with tasks using my own syntax.

Every task in your note lives on a separate line of text and must be assigned to someone (including yourself). Otherwise, that line in your note is ignored. To assign a task to someone, just write `@name`. For example:

A screenshot of a text input field, likely demonstrating the task assignment syntax. The field is empty and has a light gray border.

```
This is a task that @tyler is assigned to
```

You can mark a task complete by beginning the line with an `x` or by including `xxx` anywhere on the line.

```
x This task for @liz has been completed  
Another task for @harper is finished xxx  
@tyler is lazy and still hasn't finished this one
```

A task can include tags using `#tag` `#names` .

```
Buy milk #errand  
@tyler to call Mike #vacation
```

You can signify that a task is dropped or no longer being worked on by inserting `---` anywhere on the line.

```
@tyler --- Write the great American novel
```

(Think of that syntax as striking-thru a line of text on paper.)

If a task includes a date formatted like `YYYY-MM-DD` , that will be used as a due date.

If a task includes a date formatted like `+YYYY-MM-DD` (with a `+` in front of the date), that will be used as a defer date.

Priority can be assigned to tasks with a `!` character followed by a single letter or number such as `!1` or `!a` . Currently, Nottingham places no emphasis or meaning on the letters or numbers you use. That's up to you to decide.

A task can be flagged with `!#` . (That's an exclamation mark followed by a single hash character.)

I have other syntax options available for doing advanced things like recording time spent on a task and the estimated time to complete. Even assigned locations / geofences. But these features are in-flux and on-hold while I decide on how to support them alongside TaskPaper and/or todo.txt syntax.

Keyboard Navigation

Nottingham is meant to be primarily used with a *keyboard*. I've gone to great lengths to make (almost) every aspect of the app accessible quickly - without needing to reach for a mouse or trackpad.

You can navigate between the folders in your Library, your note list, and around the note editor with just a few keystrokes. You can also jump to folders, search for notes, and insert links to other notes easily, too.

Here's a demo video with my keystrokes highlighted. A summary of keyboard shortcuts will follow.

What might not be obvious in the video is that in addition to using "normal" keyboard shortcuts like ⌘J or ⌘K to move up and down, you can *also* use your keyboard's standard arrow keys to navigate around the UI. For example, → and ← can be used to move between the Library and Note list. And when at the top of the note list, ↑ will move to the search field.

And here's how to insert an in-app link to another note.

File

- **⌘N** Create new note without needing to give a title right away
- **⌘V** Create a new note using the text contents of the clipboard
- **⌘N** Clear the search field and focus it
- **⌘T** Create new tab (not working)
- **⇧⌘T** Create new window
- **⌘O** Open a new folder and add it to the Library
- **⇧⌘W** Remove the selected folder from the Library (leaves files on disk)
- **⌘E** Focus the note editor
- **⇧⌘E** Focus the note editor and move the text cursor to the end of the note
- **⇧⌘⌘** Delete the selected note from disk
- **⇧⌘R** Reveal the selected note in Finder

- **⌘S** Preview the selected note in [Marked.app](#)

Edit

- **⌘C** Copy the full path and filename of the selected note to the clipboard
- **⌘L** Insert an in-app wiki link to another note
- **⌘R** Enter / Exit rearrange text mode

Shortcuts for editing tasks will be available soon.

View

- **⌘1** Show your notes
- **⌘2** Show your tasks
- **⌘1** Show / Hide the Library
- **⌘2** Show / Hide the Info Panel
- **⌘L** Focus the search field, but do not clear its contents
- **⌘O** Quickly open another folder
- **⌘J** Select the next folder in the library
- **⌘K** Select the previous folder in the library
- **⌘J** Select the next note in the current folder
- **⌘K** Select the previous note in the current folder

Advanced Features

Attaching Files to Notes

By default (and for now), all notes are in the `.textbundle` format, which means you can include arbitrary file attachments with each note.

I have a branch that supports displaying attached files inline in your note, but that's not ready for testing yet.

For now, you can drag and drop files from other apps and the Finder into the **Attachments** list in the Info panel and then preview them or export them when you need them again.

Capturing Images from iOS

You can attach a photo directly from your iOS device's camera by clicking the Camera button at the top of the **Attachments** panel.

Related: You can also [extract text from images you import](#).

Scanning Text from iOS

In addition to [capturing photos](#) from iOS, Nottingham can import any text content it finds in those images.

After capturing the image from the phone and recognizing the embedded text, you'll have the option to preview the new text and accept or reject it or make edits.

Advanced Features

Rearranging Text Content

Nottingham has a special "Rearrange Text" mode that lets you quickly reorder your note's contents just by dragging - almost like a half-assed, simple outlining tool.

Streaming Markdown Preview to Marked.app

[Brett Terpstra](#) makes a wonderful Markdown previewing app called [Marked](#). (In addition to the excellent [nvUltra](#) app.)

You can "stream" a preview of your current note to Marked using Nottingham. This lets you see a full-fidelity render of your Markdown content.

Known Bugs and Limitations

Nottingham's current focus is on taking notes using Markdown contained inside a `.textbundle` document. This format is open-source, documented, and future-proof.

Support for editing raw plain-text and Markdown files will happen later.

Main Interface

- Open new Windows and Tabs can be problematic and cause erratic behavior.
- The widths of the split panes (Library, Notes, Editor, Info panel) are not correctly saved between app launches.
- The last selected folder and/or note is not remembered between app launches.

Library

- Cannot yet reorder library folders.
- Cannot drag and drop notes between folders.
- Folders do not remember their expansion state between app launches.

Note List

- The information, style, and layout of each note's tableview cell is still in flux.
- The note cell's contents may not stretch to the full width of the split view until manually resized.

Note Editor

- Not all features of Markdown are currently being parsed yet. Notably: lists, inline code, code blocks, block quotes, and Markdown links. (However, web URLs and in-app wiki links *do* work.)
- Syntax highlight can occasionally go wonky. Selecting a different note and then reselecting the previous note will force a refresh.
- Only one color theme (in light and dark mode) is currently supported.
- Attachments do not display in-line in the note yet.

Tasks

- Tasks are currently denoted and parsed using my own, strange note taking style. My goal is so switching to using a subset of [Taskpaper](#) and/or [todo.txt](#) syntax in the future.
- The Tasks view is primarily a proof of concept at this point. While functional, the UI is likely going to drastically change once I begin focusing on those features.
- Marking tasks complete / incomplete in the Tasks view may not immediately update the underlying note file on disk yet.

Download

If you'd like to download an early release of Nottingham 5, feel free to reach out to help@clickontyler.com.