



# Znippetizer-X 1.6.1

The just-until-recently missing manual

Written by: Totte Alm

2004-10-11

*with a little help from Kenneth B. Marcus*



**Powered by Valentina**

Valentina™ licensed from Paradigmasoft.

<http://www.paradigmasoft.com/>



<http://www.realbasic.com/>

# Table of contents

## 1.0 What is Zippetizer?

- 1.1 What Zippetizer do and do not do.
- 1.2 How are things organized?
- 1.3 Some Zippetizer history.

## 2.0 Let's get started.

- 2.1 Zooming.
- 2.2 The Zippetizer window explained.
- 2.3 The Find sheet explained.
- 2.4 Creating new snippets.
- 2.5 Editing and viewing snippets.

## 3.0 Preferences.

- 3.1 The placement panel.
- 3.2 The behaviors panel.
- 3.3 Znip-o-matic hotkey.
- 3.4 ZnipSounds. **\*New\***

## 4.0 The Snippets menu.

- 4.1 New Snippet.
- 4.2 Always First In Group.
- 4.3 First In Every Group. (Global Snippet).
- 4.4 Make Normal.
- 4.5 Make Snippet URL.
- 4.6 Make Snippet Script.
- 4.7 Find.
- 4.8 Align Left.
- 4.9 Overview.
- 4.10 Configure Hot Actions™
- 4.11 The Script Run Window

## **About this manual**

This manual should have been written about one, or maybe even two years ago, but as things have been, there has been neither time nor inspiration to write it. Now, as Znipetizer is newly reinvigorated, I felt that writing this manual is as important as finishing the software itself. I hope you will find it useful, whether you are new to Znipetizer or a long time user.

## **1.0 What is Znipetizer?**

Znipetizer is a fast, drag-drop enabled, searchable and always available text snippet database. The audience for Znipetizer is anyone who needs to organize all that text and information that constantly passes your computer. Whether they be e-mails, web pages, scientific papers, source code or any other text, Znipetizer will be there to help you organize it, and – most important of all – find it when you need it.

Although the Mac OS X version is called Znipetizer-X, in order to make the text more readable in this documentation the program will be referred to as just Znipetizer.

### **What some users use Znipetizer for.**

I have got a lot of user feedback over the years, of what different users use Znipetizer for. Several users in the academic field uses it for keeping track of research results or DNA molecule descriptions among other things. Other users that do technical support use Znipetizer for storing answers to common questions, and for storing templates for email answers to technical questions.

## **1.1 What Znipetizer does and does not do.**

Znipetizer stores text, only text and nothing but text. It does not store any other type of media, like sounds, images or movies, and it does only store plain, non-styled text: no font, face or color, and size does not matter either. Any style information will be cleaned from the text when Znipetizer gets a piece of text to store.

In version 1.5.3, Znipetizer learned how to handle URLs. It now can identify snippets that are of the URL types *http*, *https*, *ftp* & *afp*.

In version 1.5.8 Znipetizer learned how to handle and execute scripts and unix shell commands, and execute them.

In version 1.6.1 Znipetizer got the ability to play Sounds when zipping for better feedback to the user.

### **Important on multi byte text.**

Znipetizer store the text as MacRoman, which means double byte text, as used by many asian texts, won't come in or out correctly.

## 1.2 How are things organized?

In your Zippetizer database you create groups, which are like folders if you use the Mac OS/OS X metaphor. Into those groups you store snippets, which are assigned to one group (although aliases can be placed in other groups so you can find them under all relevant topics). Snippets can be moved between groups, and groups can be created, as many as you like; same with snippets. You can delete snippets or groups, and you can rename snippets or groups, just like folders and files. Snippets can also be edited, saved, and also created directly within Zippetizer, so they doesn't have to come from a another information source.

## 1.3 Some Zippetizer history

Zippetizer was first developed for my own use, as nothing like it the existed, I had my desktop littered with hundreds of text clippings, and I needed to store and organize those clippings. It was developed for Mac OS 8/9 in year 2000, and was released as shareware in June 2000. In January 2002 it was brought to Mac OS X, and was named Zippetizer-X. Zippetizer is a Mac-only product and is developed by Code 66 in Stockholm, Sweden.

For applications that does not support drag-and-drop, there is a wonderful free utility called Cocoa Gestures, which you can download from:

<http://www.bitart.com/CocoaGestures.html>

## 2.0 Let's get started.

When Zippetizer is started, it will show a small *Global floating window* (a window that always will float on top of everything else on your screen) with a yellow **Z** in it.

This window is the active Zippetizer window, to which you can drag-drop any text from any application. You can also drop text files here, which will store the entire text file as a text snippet in Zippetizer.



*The small Zippetizer Z-window.*

## 2.1 Zooming

By clicking in the small **Z**-window, you will zoom to the main Zippetizer view, where you do all you work, and from where you can drag your snippets to almost any application that supports drag and drop. The "almost" is because some applications that do support drag and drop seems to dislike text that do not have any style set to it. You can also use Copy-Paste to move snippets to and from Zippetizer.

Zooming in and out is the way you work with Zippetizer. The normal state is to have Zippetizer zoomed out to the small **Z**-window, and zoom it when you want to find some text snippet.

## 2.2 The Zippetizer window explained.

The picture below shows the main Zippetizer window, or the zoomed Zippetizer state. This is also a *Global floating window*, and you will now learn what all those different widgets are.



*The large Zippetizer window explained.*

The bevelbuttons at the bottom of the window, known as the **Action buttons**, only work if a snippet is selected. Some of these buttons have action menus attached to them.

### (1) The Zoom out area.

By clicking in the yellow **Zippetizer-X** text, you will zoom back to the small **Z**-window again. This way you can easily zoom back and forth between the two different views of Zippetizer.

### (2) The Group popup menu.

Here you select what group will be the active group. The snippets belonging to the active group is shown, and any new snippets will end up in the active group as well.

### (3) The sort order switch for the Group popup menu.

As all your snippets are organized into groups, this little arrow widget will set how the Group popup entries will be ordered. As the arrow in the picture points upwards, the sort order is descending. Sorting is always done alphabetically.

#### (4) The snippet list.

This is where your snippets of the currently selected group is shown. In the first column is the title of the snippet shown, and in the second column is the date and time when that snippet was created.

##### (4a) Sorting.

You can change the sorting of the snippets list by clicking in the list headers. As you can see, this list is currently sorted alphabetically, by snippet name

##### (4b) Dragging / Copy-Paste.

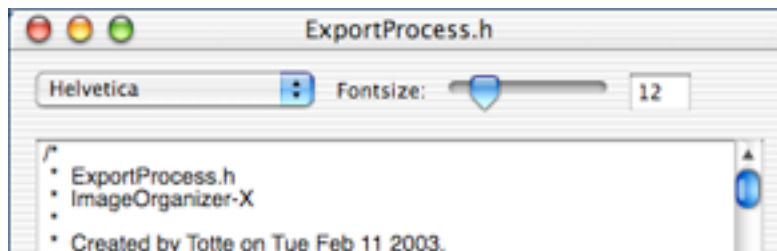
You can drag a snippet from the list to other applications, or use Copy-Paste if the target application doesn't accept the drop from Zippetizer. To Copy/Paste, use the Copy/Paste action buttons, described under (7).

##### (4c) Inline editing. \* Important tip \*

If you Option-Click on a snippets header in the list, it will enable you to edit that snippets header right in the list.

##### (4d) Browsing/editing.

By double clicking on an entry in the snippets list, Zippetizer will bring up a snippet edit window, in which you can edit the snippet. Below is a screenshot of the snippet edit window, and as you can see, the windows title is the name of the snippet.



*Top of the snippet edit window.*

You can edit the snippet here as a normal text editor. You can also set the default font and font size for viewing your snippets. Changing those values automatically updates the preferences so that the next time you open a snippet, you will have your favorite settings. For more information, see section **2.5 Editing and viewing snippets**.

##### (4e) Specially-marked snippets

An underlined snippet represents an URL; doubleclicking that snippet will launch that URL in your browser.

An *italicized snippet* is one for which you have set "Always First in Group" (see section **4.2 Always First in Group**).

A **boldfaced snippet** is one for which you have set "First in Every Group" (see section **4.3 First in Every Group**).

A snippet with an **X** appearing before it is capable of being run as a Script Action (see section **4.10.1 The Script Run Window**).

### (5) The snippet counter.

This is where you can see how many snippets you have in the current group. Zippetizer doesn't have any physical limitations (*within reasonable limits - there is a limit of 4 billion snippets*) of how many snippets you have within the same group, but the limitation is in how fast the list will be populated. If you have too many items in the same group, showing that group will take some time. The time it takes to populate the snippet list is about 1 second per thousand snippets in that particular group.

### (6) The currently open database.

Here Zippetizer shows the name of the database that is currently in use. Zippetizer only has one database open at a time, but you can have many different databases on your hard drive.

### (7) The action buttons.

These action buttons replace some of the functionality of other widgets removed from earlier versions, plus they add a lot of easily accessed functions, like copy/paste, that were not accessible while Zippetizer was not the front-most application.

[Copy] Copies the selected snippet.

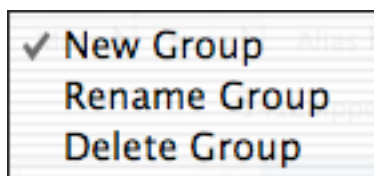
[Paste] Paste current clipboard as a new snippet.

[Find] Brings down the Find sheet, see section 1.1.3 for information on Find.

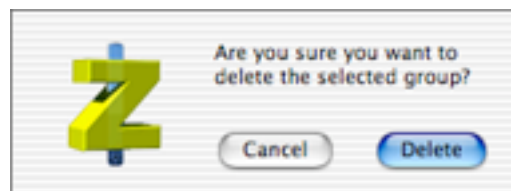
[New] Create a new snippet.

[Save] Save the current snippet as a textfile.

[Group] Shows the Group action menu.



*The Group action menu.*



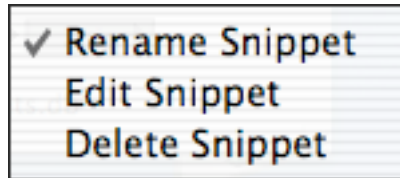
*Delete snippet group warning sheet.*

[Move] Move the current snippet to another group.

[State] Sets the snippet state. For more info, see section **4.0 The Snippets menu**.

[Alias] Create an alias to the snippet and place that alias in another group.

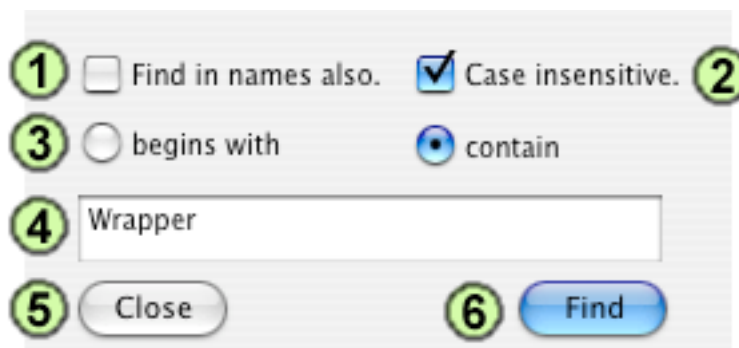
[Znip] Shows the snippet action menu.



*The snippets action menu.*

### 2.3 The find sheet explained.

This section will interest both old and new users of Znipetizer. The Find sheet has been greatly improved in Version 1.6.



*First section of the Find sheet.*

#### (1) Find in names also.

This option let Znipetizer search not only the text snippets, but also their headers/names.

#### (2) Case insensitive.

This option will do case insensitive search, i.e. the search in the example about would find *class*, *Class* and *CLASS* and any other combination of upper and lowercase

#### (3) begin with / contain radio buttons.

This sets whether Znipetizer should look for the word(s) or characters entered in the find field only if they appear at the beginning of the text (and the header/name, if that option is checked), or anywhere within the entire text (and header/name, if that option is checked).

#### (4) The search key edit field.

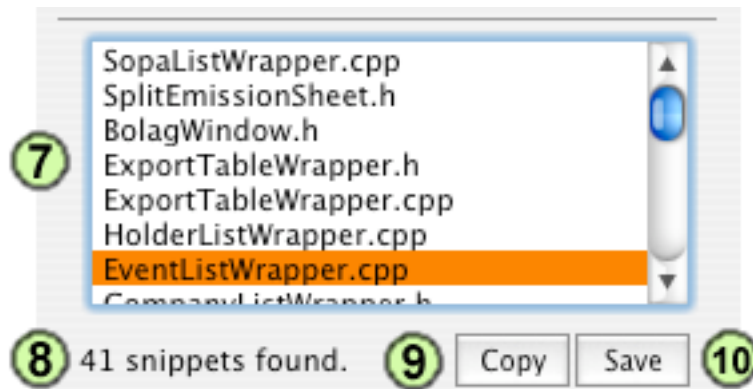
This is where you enter the word or phrase you are looking for.

### (5) Close button.

This button will close the Find sheet. Use this button when you are done finding snippets.

### (6) Find button.

This is the button that does the actual Find operation. When you have entered what you are looking for in the search key edit field (4), click this button.



*Middle section of the **Find sheet**.*

### (7) The found snippets list.

This list will show all the snippets that matched your search keywords entered in the search key edit field (4). You can drag a snippet from this list to drop it at some other application using drag and drop. When you select a snippet, its text will show up in the snippet text field (14).

### (8) Found counter.

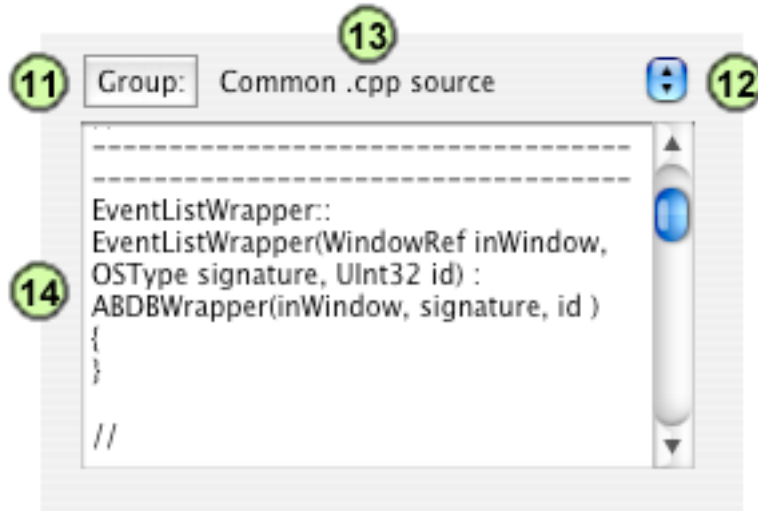
Here you will see how many snippets were found meeting your search criteria.

### (9) Copy button.

Puts the text of the currently selected snippet into the clipboard, so that it can be pasted into another application.

### (10) Save button.

Saves the edited snippet back to the database.



*Lower section of the **Find sheet**.*

**(11) Group sticky button.**

If you click this button into active state, the Zippetizer window will select and show the group that this snippet belongs to when the Find sheet is closed.

**(12) Move to Group popup.**

Using this popup menu, you can move a snippet to another group right here within the Find sheet.

**(13) Group info text.**

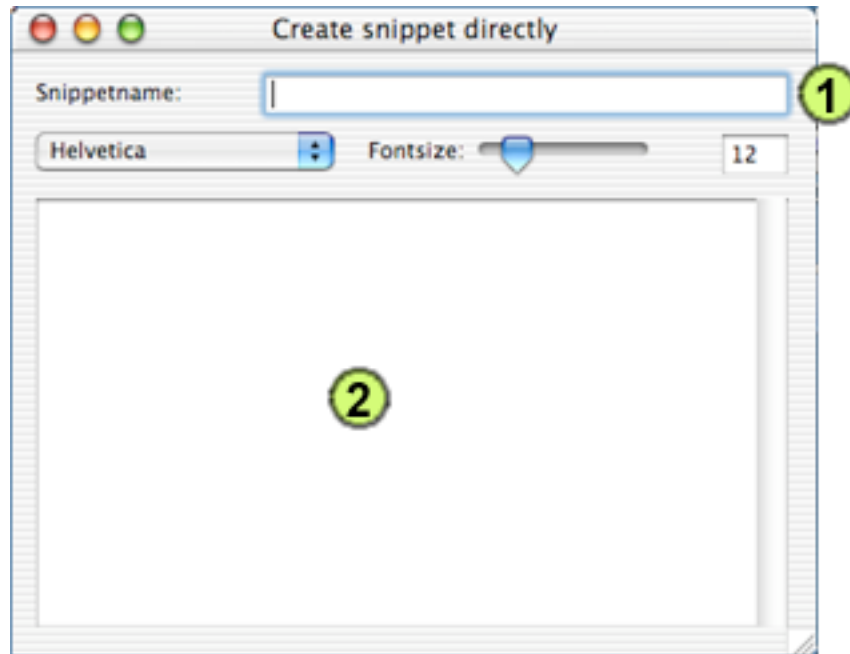
This text shows what group the selected snippet belongs to.

**(14) The snippet text field.**

Here you will see the text related to the snippet selected in the list, so can review individual snippets found and determine the snippet you were looking for.

## 2.4 Creating new snippets.

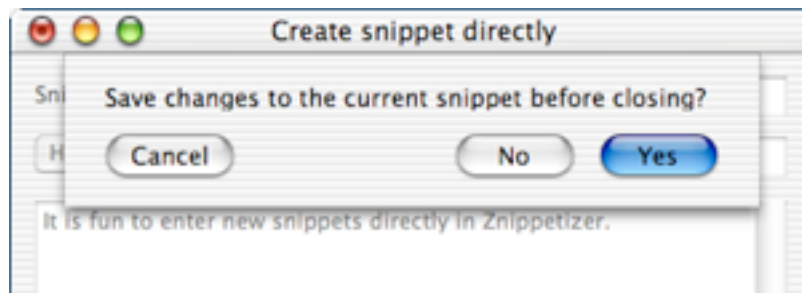
You can very easy create new snippets within Zippetizer. Just choose **New Snippet...** From the **Snippets** menu, or press **Command-N**.



*The new snippet window.*

- (1) Here you give the snippet a name, which is what will show up in the snippet list,
- (2) Here you may simply type in the text for the snippet.

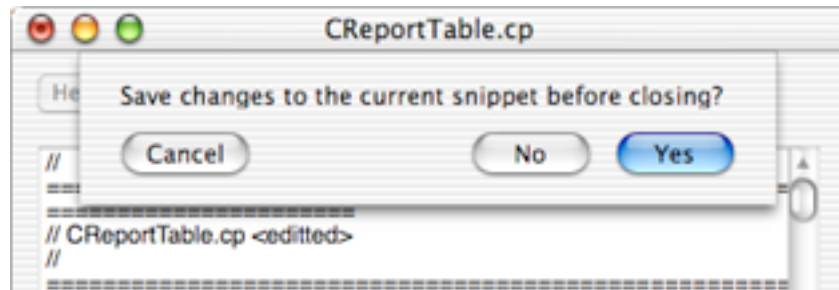
You save the snippet by choosing **Save** from the file menu, or by pressing **Command-S**. If you close an unsaved snippet, a *Save changes..* sheet will be shown, as below.



*The Save changes sheet shown. Please note the not saved dot in the red close button in the window.*

## 2.5 Editing and viewing snippets.

When you doubleclick on a snippet in the snippet list, the snippet view window will open. Depending on settings in the preferences panel, you will either open a new window for each snippet doubleclicked, or reuse the same window. You edit the snippet text as you edit any text, and you can save the changes using either **Save** from the **File**-menu, or by pressing **Command-S**. If you close an unsaved edited snippet, a *Save changes..* sheet will be shown, as below.



*Save changes sheet shown in the snippet view window.*

### Related menu items.

In the file menu are three menu items related to snippet viewing and editing.

Close	⌘W
Revert snippet	
Save	⌘S

*Snippet editing and viewing related menu items from the file menu.*

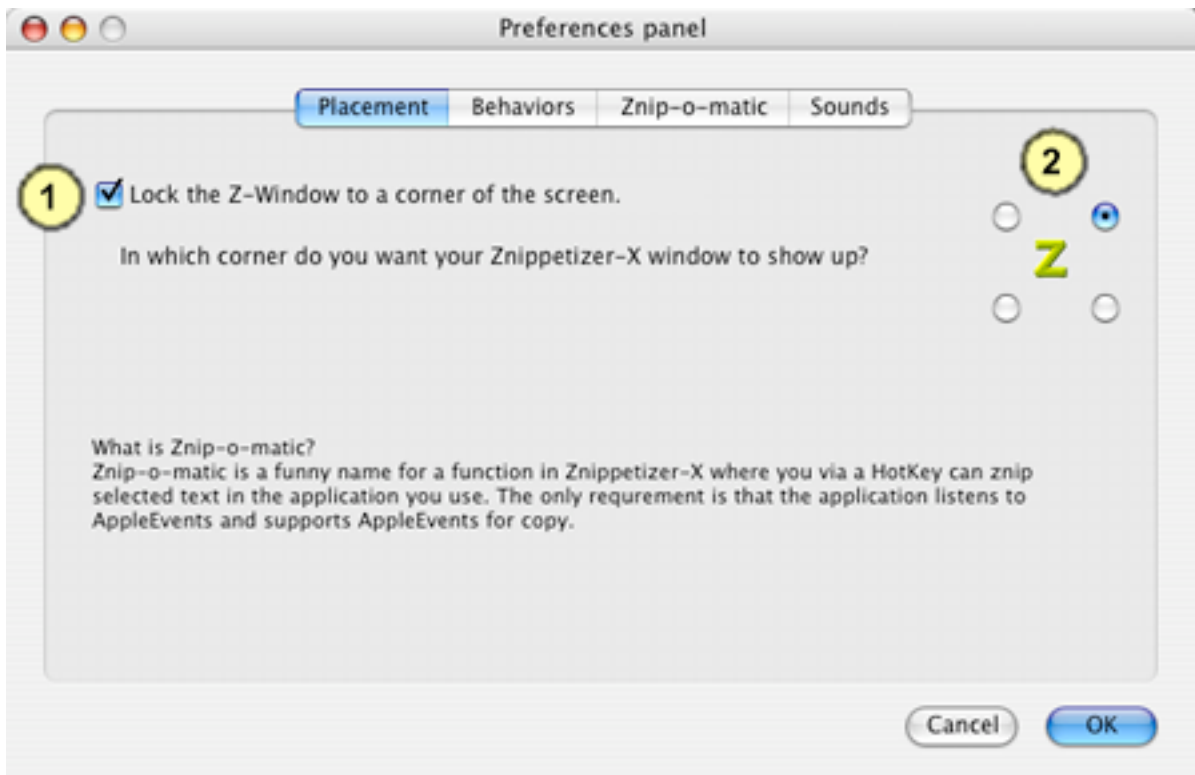
**Close** - Close the snippet view window.

**Revert snippet** - Reverts the snippet to current saved version.

**Save** - Saves the changes made to the snippet to the database,

### 3.0 Preferences.

The preferences panel is located in the **Zippetizer-X** menu, under **Preferences....**



*The **Placement** tab in the preferences dialog.*

#### 3.1 The Placement Panel

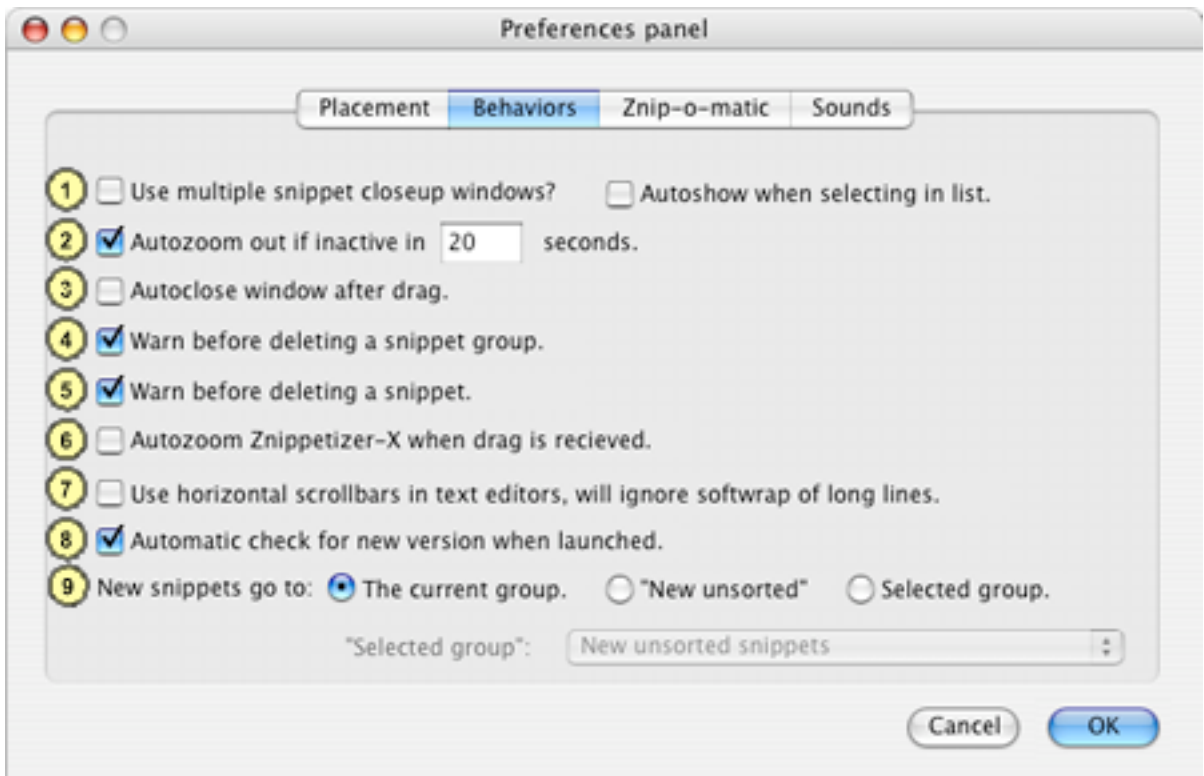
##### (1) Lock Z-window to corner of screen.

By checking this checkbox, you lock the small **Z**-window to corner of your screen selected by the selector in (2).

##### (2) Zippetizer corner.

Here you set what corner you want to be the home of the small Zippetizer **Z**-window. Whenever you zoom out from the large Zippetizer window, the small **Z**-window will snap to the corner you have selected.

## 3.2 The Behaviors Panel.



*The **Behaviors** tab in the preferences dialog.*

### **(1) Use multiple closeup windows.**

This option tells Znipetizer that you want to be able to have multiple snippets opened for viewing/editing at once. When the **Autoshow when selecting in list** checkbox is checked, clicking in the snippets list when a snippet already is viewed in the edit window, will view the clicked snippet in the same window, replacing the previous snippets data for viewing.

### **(2) Autozoom out.**

This option will activate the autozoom out functionality of Znipetizer. Autozoom out will automatically close the large Znipetizer window whenever Znipetizer have been idle for the number of seconds you specify in the blank (the default is 20 seconds).

### **(3) Autoclose after drag.**

This option will activate the autoclose function, which causes the Znipetizer window to close itself to its small size when the drag from it is done in order to preserve screen estate.

#### **(4) Warning before group deletion.**

When this option is selected a warning sheet will be shown when you attempt to delete a group. Recommendations are to have this option active, to avoid unintended loss of data.

#### **(5) Warning before snippet deletion.**

Same as (4), but for snippets.

#### **(6) Autozoom on drag receive.**

When this option is selected, Zippetizer will zoom to the large Zippetizer window when it receives a new text snippet via drap and drop. This can be useful if you want to arrange the newly-created snippet into a group other than the group selected to receive new snippets by default (see number 9 below).

#### **(7) Use horizontal scrollbars for text editors.**

This option will set wether the snippet view and edit text fields will have an optional horizontal scrollbar to scroll the text horizontally. This is a question of "personal taste", some like it, some do not. This also depends on what kind of snippets you have. Experiment and see what you like. When this option is not selected, all snippettext is wrapped at the edge of the Window.

#### **(8) Automatic check for new versions when launched.**

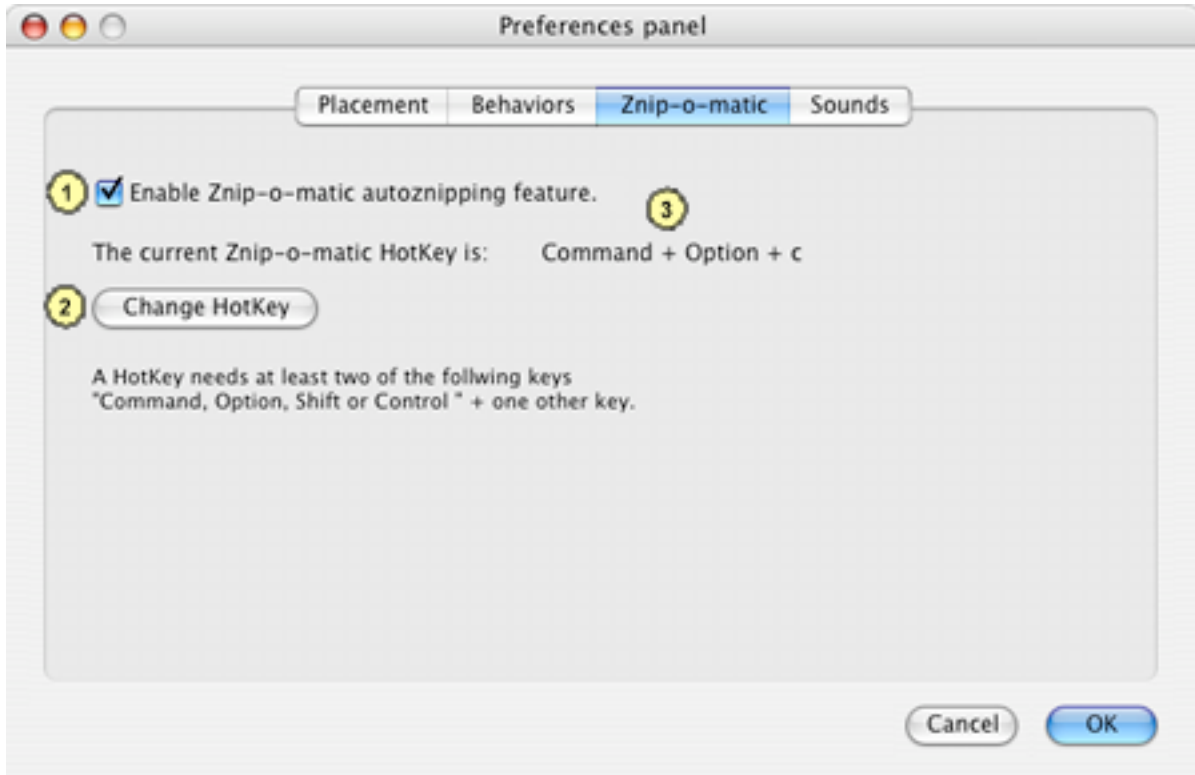
If this option is enabled, Zippetizer will check with the code66.se website to see if there is a newer version of Zippetizer available. If there is, Zippetizer will ask if you want to be taken to the website.

#### **(9) New snippets to go:**

Here you select the default group in which you want new snippets to be stored when you either drag, paste or use Znip-o-matic to snip some new text.

### 3.3 Znip-o-matic hotkey.

**Znip-o-matic** is a cool feature of Zippetizer, where you can znip (make a text snippet) from selected text in another application by holding down a special, **HotKey** key combination.



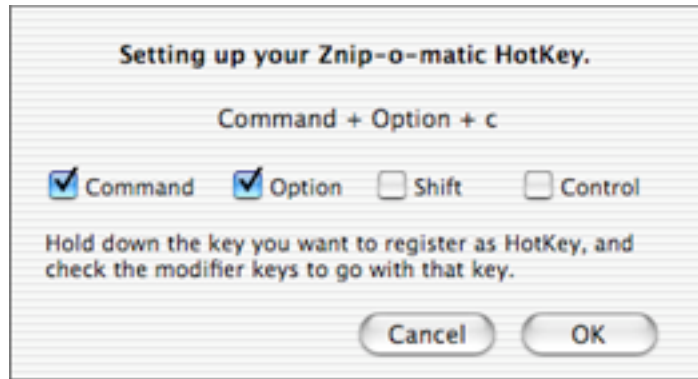
*The **Znip-o-matic** tab in the preferences dialog.*

#### **(1) Enable znip-o-matic.**

This option is only available if there is a configured **Znip-o-matic** hotkey key combination. If you have made a hotkey configuration, then enable this option to activate **Znip-o-matic**.

#### **(2) Change HotKey.**

This button will bring down the HotKey configuration sheet, which is shown below.

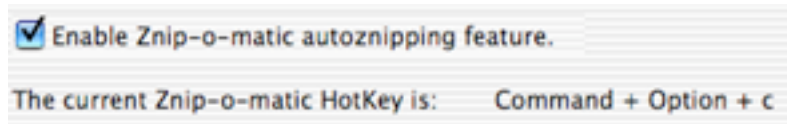


Setup **Znip-o-matic** hotkey sheet.

To configure a hotkey, first click at least two modifier key checkboxes (*Command*, *Option*, *Shift* & *Control*), then type the key you want as hotkey together with the selected modifiers. In the example above, *Command* & *Option* are selected as modifiers, and **c** is the hotkey. Click OK when you have configured the hotkey.

### (3) The choosen hotkey.

Here is the current hotkey shown, or if no hotkey is present, it says **no hotkey set**. Below is how it looks when a hotkey is set. The Enable **Znip-o-matic** option is also enabled in the sample below.



After hotkey is set.

### 3.4 ZnipSounds **\*New\***

ZnipSounds is a new addition to Znipppetizer i version 1.6.1. This enables you to assign sounds to be played whenever Znipppetizer recieves a znipplet by dropping it on Znipppetizer and when you znip something using **Znip-o-matic**.



#### (1) Enable ZnipSounds.

With this option, you tell Znipppetizer to use sounds or not. Sounds can be very annoying in office environments.

#### (2) Zipping Sound.

Here you select what sound you want to play when a normal snipping takes place. The popup menu will first contain the System sounds, and after them, any personal sounds added to **/Library/ApplicationSupport/Znipppetizer**. The little ?-button will play the selected sound.

#### (3) Znip-o-matic Sound.

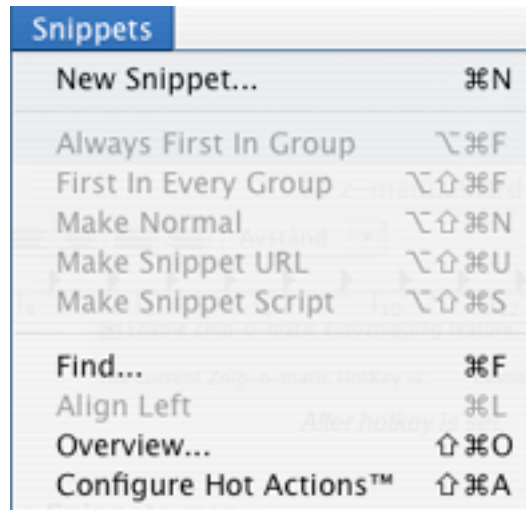
Here you select what sound you want to play when a **znip-o-matic** zipping action si done. The popup menu will first contain the System sounds, and after them, any personal sounds added to **/Library/ApplicationSupport/Znipppetizer**. The little ?-button will play the selected sound.

#### (4) Adding your own sounds.

To add your own, personal sounds to Zippetizer, you can either use the **Finder** and copy the soundfiles to the **/Library/ApplicationSupport/Zippetizer**. An easier and simpler way is to drop the soundfile on the loudspeaker in this window. This will copy the soundfile to the **/Library/ApplicationSupport/Zippetizer** folder, and it will show up in the sound selector popup menus,

Supported sound formats are all sound formats that can be played with QuickTime™.

#### 4.0 The Snippets menu.



The **Snippets** menu.

#### 4.1 New Snippet.

This is what you select when you want to create a new text snippet from scratch. See 1.1.4 for more information.

#### 4.2 Always First In Group.

This menu item will set a special state in the snippet, which will make it come first in the group list, no matter what sorting is used. First in group snippets are shown in *italic* in the list.

#### 4.3 First In Every Group. (Global Snippet).

This menu item will force the selected snippet to be visible in all groups, and at the top. Snippets with this option on will show up in **bold**.

#### 4.4 Make Normal.

This menu item resets any snippet options for the selected snippet (that is, it removes any setting to make it first in group or in every group).

#### 4.5 Make Snippet URL.

This menu item will try to set the URL option on the snippet. This will only work if the snippet text is a URL beginning with *http*, *https*, *ftp* or *afp*. If this is a valid URL according to Znipetizer, the URL option will be set. URL snippets show up underlined.

#### 4.6 Make Snippet Script.

This menu item will make the selected snippet a script, which can be executed directly from Znipetizer by doubleclicking it in the list.

#### 4.7 Find.

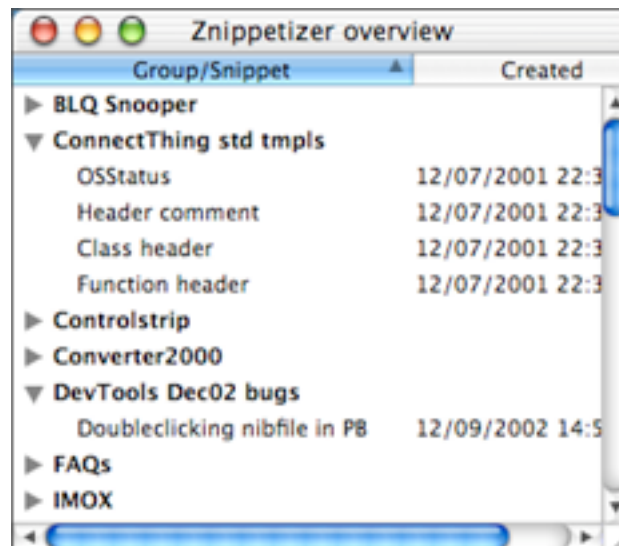
This is where you can activate the **Find** sheet. See section 2.3 for more information.

#### 4.8 Align Left.

Align left is a very handy little feature, and especially useful if, for example, you znip something from a web page. Many times texts on webpages have alot of white space (spaces) before every line of text. Those spaces make the text look ugly when you drop it from Znipetizer to another application. With the option, Znipetizer will remove all spaces at the beginning of lines.

#### 4.9 Overview.

The overview window shows the presently open Znipetizer database in one list, and looks like this:



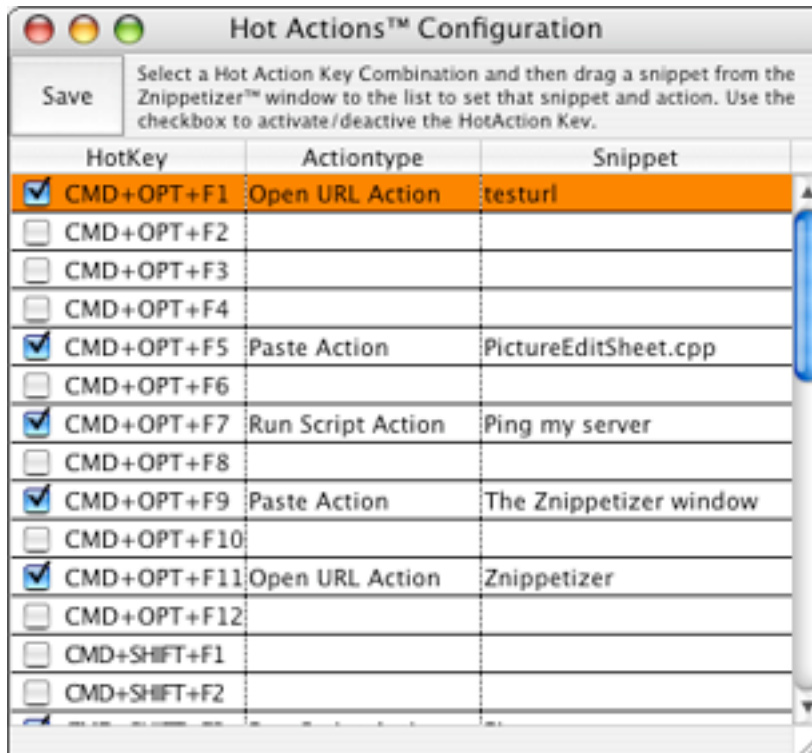
The **Overview** window.

In the snippet list in the **Overview** window, you can doubleclick a snippet to bring up the snippet editor window.

From Znipetizer 1.5.7, there is now support for drag reordering of snippets using the **Overview** window.

#### 4.10 Configure Hot Actions™

With this menu item, you will bring up the **Hot Actions™ Configuration Dialog**, in which you configure your **Hot Actions™**.



*The Hot Actions™ Configuration Dialog.*

#### Configure a Hot Action™

To configure a **Hot Action™**, just follow these simple steps.

(1) Locate the snippet would like to have connected to a **Hot Action™** in the Znipetizer Window. It can not be done directly from the FindSheet due to a conceptual collision in how Znipetizer works and the Aqua Human Interface Guidelines.

(2) Select the key-combination you would like to have from the list of combinations in the *Hot Actions™ Configuration Dialog*. The keys are as follows: CMD=Commandkey, OPT=Optionkey & SHIFT = Shiftkey. The F1-F12 is the associated Functionkey on your keyboard.

Be advised that not all F-keys are available on all versions of the keyboards, and some key may be already taken by other functions. So, with this in mind, pick a **Hot Action™** combination you like, but selecting that row in the list by clicking on it.

(3) Now, drag the snippet you want to the *Hot Actions™ Configuration Dialog* and drop it there, and you will see that the line you had selected now contains the information you just dropped. If the snippet is either an URL snippet or a Script snippet, the correct action will be set.

(4) Now, check the checkbox on the line you just added a snippet to, to activate it.

(5) Save the settings by either **Save (Commando-S)** or click in the Save-button.

(6) Close the **Hot Actions™** Configuration Dialog. You are now ready to go.

If the **Hot Action™** was a *Paste Action*, you can start any application that has text input in a textfield that supports Paste, for example TextEdit, create a new document, and then hit your **Hot Action™** key combination. The actual action is done when you release your keys, all of them, as otherwise will the keys sent to the application you want to paste in. be corrupted and the result not something you want.

If the **Hot Action™** was a *Open URL Action*, Znipetizer will launch your preferred webbrowser with the URL.

If the **Hot Action™** was a *Run Script Action* Znipetizer will open a Scriprun-window and execute the script.

## 4.11 The Script Run Window

If you have a Snippet that is set as a Script Action, which is shown in the Znipetizer Window as a little blue X before the snippet name in the list, this snippet, when doubleclicked, will execute as a script.

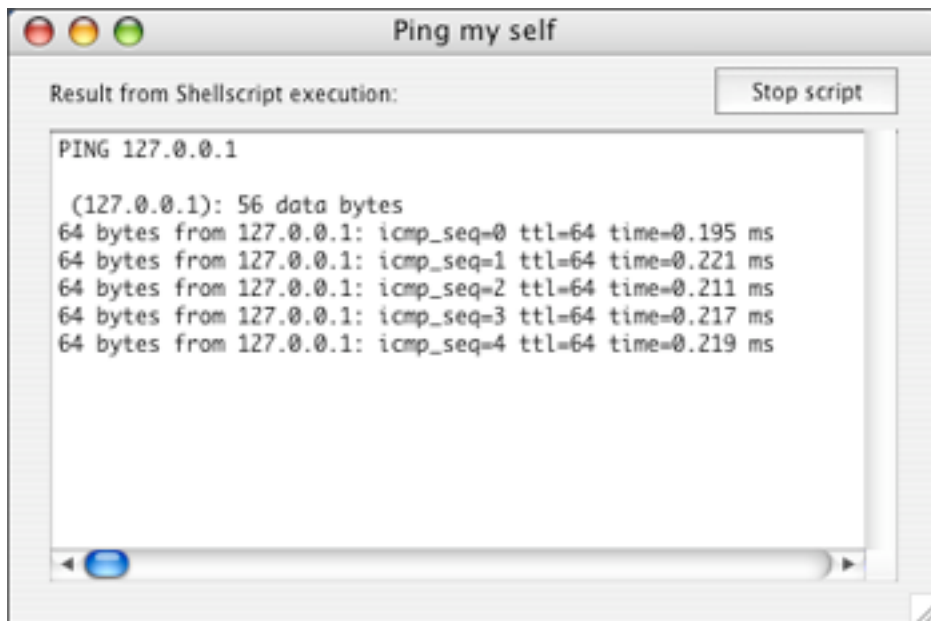
For example, we create a snippet with the following text: *ping 127.0.0.1*, and name it *Ping my self*, and store it in Znipetizer and the group *New unsorted snippets*.

Now, we can selected that snippet, and use the **State Actionbutton** menu to set it to be a Script Action by selecting **Make Snippet Shellscript** from the menu. The Snippet will look like this in the Znipetizer window:



X Ping my self 02/26/2004 11:3

If you doubleclick this snippet, it will bring up the Script Run Window, and execute the script with shell (sh) in the unix environment in Mac OS X. For this sample, the Script Run Window will look like this:



*The Script Run Window running ping 127.0.0.1*

For command line tool that runs and keeps making output, the Script Run Window keeps showing that output as long as the tool keeps running. To stop a tool, click in the **Stop script** button.

## THE END

I sincerely hope that this, **the just-until-recently missing manual**, has helped you understand what Znipetizer can and can not do. For longtime users, most of what was said in here was old information, but I hope even the long time users have learned one or two new things.

Totte Alm  
Code 66