

HotFind v.1.2.4

The Manual

HotFind is an application designed to expand on the features of Hotline. HotFind's main functions are to search for files on Hotline servers, and to manage and retrieve tracker lists. This manual will explain in detail the full extent of HotFind, so you can get the most out of the program.

Throughout this manual, **bold, green** text will be used to denote names of windows, menus, buttons, tabs or other parts of HotFind. **Bold, blue** text is used for keystroke commands. *Italicized* text indicates steps to follow. **Bold** text will be used to denote sections of this manual.

Table of Contents

Quick Start	1
Preferences	4
General	
Layout	
Indexing	
Filtering	
Advanced	
The All Hotline Servers Window	8
Buttons	
The Description Search	
The main server list	
The Indexing Window	13
Server Lists	14
Creating and managing server lists	
Using server lists	
Finding Files	16
Indexing	
Finding files	
Browsing files	
Connecting to servers	
Registration	20
Contact Information	21

Quick Start

1. Open HotFind.

When you open up HotFind, you will be presented with the registration window. This window allows you to enter your registration number if you have paid for HotFind, and helps you with your registration if you have not already done so. You are allowed to try out HotFind for up to 30 days without paying. However, in this demo mode, the registration window will always pop up when you launch Hotfind until you register, and the functions of HotFind will be severely limited. These limitations will be described in detail later, once you get to know the program.

2. a. Click **Not Yet** to continue to try out HotFind without a registration number.
- b. Click **Personalize** to enter your registration number and unlock the full features of HotFind.
- c. Click **Launch Register** to launch the registration application that will allow you to send in your registration form for HotFind.
- d. Click **Register Online** to go to the online website where you can register HotFind.

3. Go through the **Setup Wizard**.

The **Setup Wizard** goes through the most important preferences in HotFind. The first window allows you to set your name and your icon, which appear in the user list of a Hotline server when you use HotFind. The second window allows you to change the maximum number of simultaneous connections to Hotline servers HotFind makes. 16 is the default, but if your internet connection is fast enough, you may want to increase this number to make indexing in HotFind faster. The last window prompts you for proxy settings. Proxy settings are usually only on networks at businesses, and people behind proxies cannot access the internet unless the proxy address and port are known. The other preferences are described in the **Preferences** section of this manual.

- a. Set your desired nickname and icon in the first window.
- b. Set the number of connections you want HotFind to make in the second window.
- c. Enter your proxy settings in the third window. If you are not sure whether you are behind a proxy or not, do not enter settings for the proxy.

4. Read the quick start.

After you have gone through the **Setup Wizard**, HotFind will present to you a quick start, much like this one. The other two tabs in the same window present you with the meaning of icons in the server list, and quick tips for making your use of HotFind easier. This quick start can be reaccessed if needed from the **Help** menu.

5. Load the server list.

The window that is presented to you after dismissing the Quick Start is the **All Hotline Servers** window. This window will show the list of all servers that are listed on all known public Hotline trackers, except the ones you have filtered out. HotFind automatically updates its list of trackers using the website at www.tracker-tracker.com, so you don't have to worry about the addresses of each and every tracker. To load the server list, press the **Refresh** button at the top of the window, or press **Cmd-R**. In the top right-hand corner, there will be two moving arrows indicating that the server list is being retrieved. Wait until the arrows go away so you know that the entire list of servers has been retrieved. To interrupt this process, you can press the **Stop** button.

6. Filter out the servers using the description search.

Below the buttons, there is a field called the **Description Search** field. This field allows you to narrow down the list of servers, so indexing of the servers will not take as long. To filter the servers, type in a search string, and only the servers that match your search criteria will appear in the list. The description search will be described in much detail in the **The All Hotline Servers window** section of this manual.

7. Index the servers.

Once you have filtered out the servers, you can begin indexing. Indexing is the process where HotFind logs on to one of the servers on the list, and retrieves the list of files from that server. HotFind can log on to multiple servers at a time, up to the maximum that has been set in the preferences. To index servers, select part of the list of servers, or select all of them, and press the index button at the top of the window. You can also press **Cmd-I**. The **Indexing** window shows two chasing arrows to indicate that indexing is in progress. When the arrows disappear, indexing is finished.

8. Find the files you are looking for.

After indexing, you are ready to find files. Finding files is simple: click the **Find File** button at the top of the window or press **Cmd-F**, type in a name and select a type of file, and press the **Find** button. HotFind will find all files that match your search criteria, and will display the results in the **Items Found** window.

9. Connect to the server that has your desired file, and download or view the file, or download it automatically via Pitbull.

In the **Items Found** window, select the file that you think closely matches the one you are looking for. Then, click the **Connect** button at the top of the **Items Found** window, or press **Cmd-K**. HotFind will automatically connect you to the server that has the file on it using the Hotline client or a Hotline clone, and you can begin downloading the file.

Pressing the **Download** button instead will launch Pitbull (a download only Hotline client available at www.tracker-tracker.com/pitbull), automatically connect to the server, and start downloading the file.

Preferences

1. Click the **Preferences** button at the top of the **All Hotline Servers** window, or select **Preferences...** from the **Edit** menu.

The preferences dialog is where settings for various functions throughout HotFind can be set. Preferences control how HotFind behaves, and some preferences should be set differently for people with different internet connections.

2. *Change your identity settings.*

The identity settings tell HotFind how to identify you when you connect to servers through HotFind, and you should have already changed these preferences through the **Setup Wizard**. Your name will appear in the user list of the server, along with the icon you specify. Although you cannot see them directly through HotFind, other users connected to the server using a regular Hotline client can see your name and the icon you are using.

- a. *Specify a name to identify yourself.*
- b. *Scroll through the list of icons and choose one, or choose an icon ID to jump directly to the desired icon.*

The icons that are in the list depend on the icon file that is in the HotFind folder. HotFind comes with a set of icons that is similar to the one used by Hotline 1.2.3.

Although it is possible to customize the icon set you have, be aware that Hotline servers which HotFind connects to only get the icon number. This means that someone else using a different icon list will see a different icon than the one you see for yourself, so if you use a custom icon list, many people will probably not see the same icon you see. By using the icon set of Hotline 1.2.3, anyone with a Hotline client version 1.2.3 or above will see the icon you intended them to see.

3. *Specify where your folder of bookmarks is.*

The Hotline client and Hotline clones usually use bookmarks to store information about a server, and perhaps account login names and passwords. When you specify where your bookmarks folder is, HotFind will automatically add those bookmarks to the server list, and any accounts you have in those bookmarks will be used when indexing that server.

- a. Click the **Browse...** button.
- b. Find your folder of bookmarks.
- c. Select the folder, and click the **Choose** button in the dialog.

4. *Specify the startup settings.*

The last setting in this part of the preferences is the **Load cached main server list**. This option tells HotFind to automatically load the list of servers in the **All Hotline Servers** window when you start up HotFind.

5. *Go to the **Layout** tab.*

At the top of the preferences dialog, you will see four tabs. Each one contains different settings that you can specify to customize HotFind. The **Layout** tab allows you to specify settings related to the layout in the **All Hotline Servers** window.

These three settings allow you to enable or disable three specific columns in the **All Hotline Servers** window. The **Address** column gives you the address of the server, the **Files** column tells you how many files you have indexed that are on the server, and the **Users** column tells you how many users were on at the time that HotFind connected to that server. Other columns cannot be disabled, and will always appear.

5. *Go to the **Indexing** tab.*

The **Indexing** tab specifies settings on how HotFind behaves when indexing.

6. *Specify the indexing settings.*

The **Maximum indexing depth** setting is the number of nested folders that HotFind will browse through to index files. HotFind will stop if it reaches the maximum indexing depth. This is especially useful when servers put little tricks in their files, like linking an alias back to the original folder, making an infinite loop.

The **Maximum number of connections** setting tells HotFind how many servers to connect to at once when indexing. This setting should have been set after going through the **Setup Wizard**. Any changes to the number of connections will require you to restart HotFind before they take effect.

You can also specify the type of indexing HotFind does. **Index all servers** tells HotFind to index any and all servers that were selected to be indexed. With the **Only index servers with “Guest Download”** setting selected, Hotfind will check if guests are allowed to download from a server, index servers that allow guests to download, and skip those that do not. The **Don’t index, only check “Guest Download” state** setting tells HotFind only to check whether the server allows guests to download or not.

7. *Specify the cache folder settings.*

The cache folder is where HotFind stores the list of files that are on specific servers. This folder can accumulate more than 1000 cache files. **Automatically delete old cache files** tells HotFind that this cache folder should be periodically cleared out. You can specify after how many days a cache file should be purged using the box below this setting. To empty the cache folder manually of all indexes, press the **Empty Now** button. You can specify where the cache folder is by clicking the **Browse...** button and locating the folder.

8. *Go to the **Filtering** tab.*

The **Filtering** tab tells HotFind what words to filter out when refreshing the server list.

9. Specify filter settings.

The first field deals with the tracker addresses themselves. To ignore trackers that have a certain word in them, click the first checkbox, and list all the words you want to have ignored, separating each word with commas. The second field is exactly like the first field, except it filters out words in the name and description of servers instead.

*10. Go to the **Advanced** tab.*

The **Advanced** tab deals with other very specific settings with HotFind.

11. Specify your proxy settings.

Proxies are usually only on a network for a business, but if you know you are behind a proxy, click the checkbox for using proxies, and put in the server address and port in the respective fields. If you do not do this and are behind a proxy, HotFind may not be able to function. If you are not sure whether you are behind a proxy, do not click the checkbox.

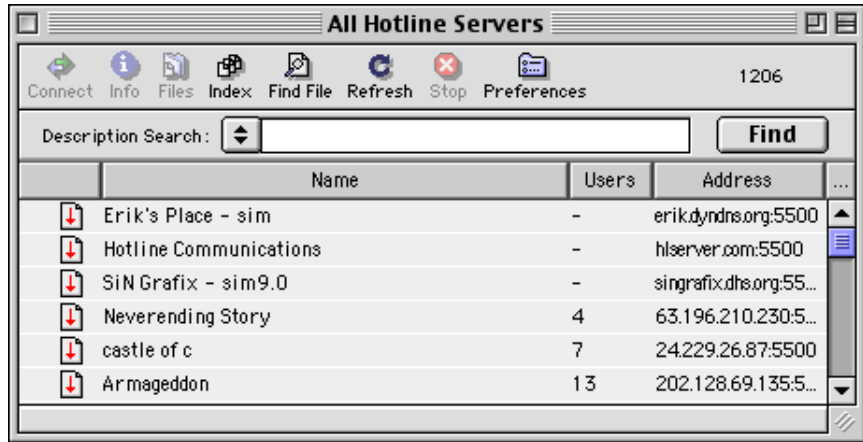
12. Select the application you want HotFind to use when connecting directly to servers to download files.

As a default, HotFind uses the Hotline client to connect to Hotline servers. However, it can be configured to use one of the Hotline clones. A Hotline clone is an application similar to Hotline, using the same connection protocol, but is not made by Hotline Communications Ltd. To specify which application you want to use, click the appropriate radio button. If you select **Other**, click the **Select** button, and browse to find the application. Then select it, and click the **Choose** button.

13. Specify autoresponse settings.

People on servers cannot distinguish you using HotFind from other people using a regular client. Sometimes, people send you a private message. If you turn this option on, the message you supply in the field below will be sent to a person that sends you a private message. This will let people know that you are not able to respond or chat with them.

The **All Hotline Servers** Window



The **All Hotline Servers** window

The **All Hotline Servers** window is the place where most of the functions of HotFind are initiated. This window can be accessed via the **Window** menu, or by pressing **Cmd-0** (zero). At the top of the window are eight buttons which access the main functions of HotFind.

The **Connect** button connects to the selected server using a Hotline client or clone as specified in the preferences. If multiple copies of the same kind of client are open (only if the option **Hotline** or **Hotlyin** is selected in the preferences), HotFind will present you with a list of the clients open, and you can choose the one you want to connect to the server with. This function can also be accessed via the **Server** menu, or by pressing **Cmd-K**.

The **Info** button supplies info about the selected server in a dialog. The server name, address, number of users, and description can all be seen in the **All Hotline Servers** window if all columns are turned on. Additionally, the info dialog supplies account info. Here you enter your login and password for a specific server, so when HotFind accesses that server, it uses your account and not the guest one. This is particularly useful if you want to access a server that is locked to guests. This function can also be accessed via the **Server** menu, by selecting **Server Info**.

The **Files** button brings up the browsing window, where you can browse through a server's file list. You can find a detailed explanation of this window in the **Finding Files** section of this manual.

The **Index** button tells HotFind to start indexing the server according to the type of indexing set in the preferences. The server or set of servers that is selected when pressing this button will be added to the Indexing window and will be indexed. If no servers are selected when this button is pressed, all servers in the topmost list will be added to the Indexing window. Any partial index of a specific server will be deleted if the server is set to be indexed. Indexing can also be initiated through the **Server** menu, or by pressing **Cmd-I**.

The **Find File** button allows you to find files in all the directories of servers you have indexed, including partially indexed servers. Select the type of name search you want to invoke, and enter a word or phrase you want to search for. Additionally, you can select a certain type you want to look for. At this time, HotFind can only search for specific types, it cannot omit certain types. You may also specify if you want to only search the top list of servers, or if you want to search servers with guest download only. Once you have set your search parameters, press **Find** to tell HotFind to start searching. To abort a search in progress, you can press the **Stop** button. The **Items Found** window will appear and will display all files or folders meeting your search parameters. This procedure will be described in more detail in the section **Finding Files**.

The **Refresh** button refreshes the server list, and gets the current list of servers from all known trackers at www.tracker-tracker.com. This can be accessed through the **Server** menu, or by pressing **Cmd-R**.

The **Preferences** button brings up the dialog to change your preferences. You can access the preferences using the **Edit** menu.

The **Description Search** is a very useful function in HotFind, but it is also complicated. The description search is a complete Boolean search, and it allows you to filter out the servers in a server list. Each search string is a single Boolean expression made up of one or more arguments together with any number of Boolean operators. The simplest search is a single word without any operators (i.e.: the search for “hotline” will return all servers that have the word “hotline” in their name or description). HotFind supports the following Boolean operators:

AND or +:

both the argument preceding and following the AND operator or + sign will be required in the name or description of the server

NOT or -:

the argument preceding the NOT operator or - sign will be required, and the argument after the minus sign will be required not to be in the name or description of the server

OR or a space:

either the argument before or the argument following the OR operator or the space will be required in the name or description of the server, or both can be included

If you are looking for a specific phrase or group of words in a specific order, you can put them between quotes “”, so they are treated as a single argument.

Simple expressions are evaluated from left to right. More complex Boolean expressions can be formed using parentheses. Any arguments and operators between parentheses () will be evaluated first starting with the innermost set of parentheses.

Here are some examples:

hi -private +“erik’s hangout”

This example will return all servers that have “hi”, do not have “private”, and have the exact phrase “erik’s hangout” in their name or description.

hi -private +(sim server)

This example will return all servers that have “hi”, do not have “private”, and have either the word “sim” or the word “server” in their name or description. Let’s take a closer look at how this expression is dealt with.

In this case, the Boolean expression between the parentheses (“sim” OR “server”) is evaluated before the rest of the expression, so first it is determined if the server name or description contains either the word “sim” or the word “server”. The result of this evaluation is substituted into the expression giving two possible expressions after the substitution:

1. If the word “sim” or the word “server” is in the name or description:

hi - private + TRUE

This expression will return true if the word “hi” is in the name or description, but not the word “private”.

2. If neither the word “sim” nor the word “server” is in the name or description:

hi - private + FALSE

This expression will always return false.

hi -“X X X” -(win pc)

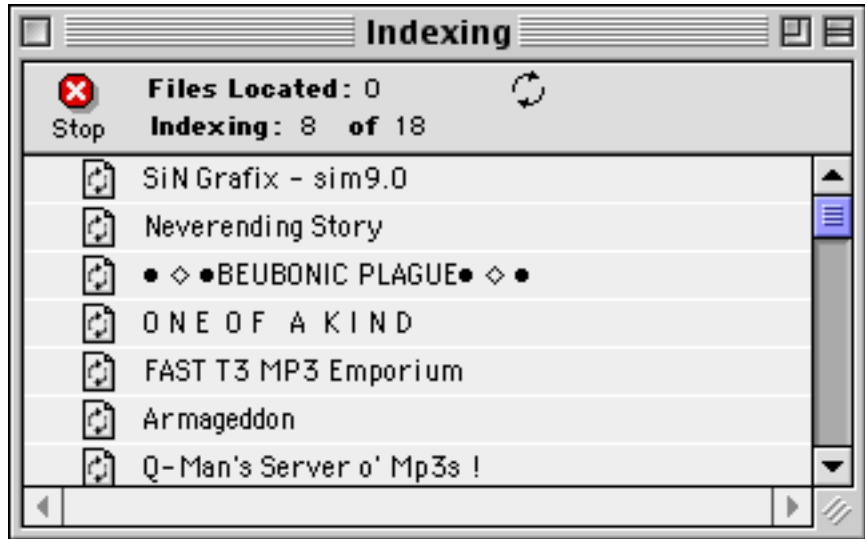
This example will return all servers that have “hi”, do not have the exact phrase “X X X”, and do not have either the word “win” or the word “pc” in their name or description (equivalent to: hi - “X X X” -win -pc).

Below the description search is a listbox. This is the main server list, where you can select servers and do certain functions with them. There are up to six columns in the list part of the **All Hotline Servers** window. The icon column gives you information about the state of the server. This column is the leftmost column, and is not named. The icons column has eight different states of icons: one of them being blank to indicate that nothing has been done with this server, and seven icons. The meaning of each icon can be retrieved by selecting **Status Icons** from the **Help** menu. The **Name** column gives you the name of the server. The **Users** column gives you the number of users that were on the server at the time HotFind retrieved the tracker lists. The **Address** column gives you the address of the server, including the port in the address. The **Files** column gives you the number of files on the server that you have indexed. The **Description** column gives you the description of the server as provided by the server's host.

The window may be too small to show all of these columns. If desired, the **Address**, **Files**, and **Users** columns can be disabled via the **Layout** section in the preferences of HotFind.

The main server list can be sorted by clicking the title of each column. If there are a lot of servers in the list, it may take a few seconds for HotFind to sort them all.

The Indexing Window



The indexing window

The indexing window tells information about servers currently being indexed, and can be accessed by pressing **Cmd-1** (one).

Files Located tells you how many files HotFind has found on any server in that session.

Indexing tells you how many servers are currently being indexed out of how many servers total will be indexed.

The list in the Indexing window shows the name of each server that is going to be indexed. If a little icon appears next to a server, that means it is currently being indexed. To index a server, a list of servers, or a set of selected servers, use the **Index** button on the top of the window of any server list. Any partial index will be deleted and written over. Servers that have already been indexed will be skipped if you try to reindex them, unless you delete their index file first. You can do this by selecting a server or group of servers, and then choosing **Delete Index** from the **Server** menu, or by pressing **Cmd-D**.

Server Lists

1. Create a new server list.

Server lists are a great way to organize lists of servers that you want to access frequently. To create a new server list, select **New** from the **File** menu, or by pressing **Cmd-N**. This will create a blank server list, where you can add servers to it. You can also use existing server lists and save them later.

2. Add servers to your server list.

There are a number of to add servers to your list. The first way and most simplest is to refresh the server list. This will add all servers on all known trackers to your server list. When you reload the server list, all servers from your bookmark folder will automatically be added also. Another way to add servers to your list is to drag bookmarks from the Finder into the server list. You can also drop folders onto the server list, and HotFind will automatically search for bookmarks in nested folders and add them to the server list. You can also drag servers from other server lists onto the window.

3. Add account information to your server list.

Account information is used when connecting to a server. Accounts can contain different sets of files, and can even simply allow someone access to a server. The **Load passwords...** function can load account information into a server list by importing from a special password file containing the login information for a set of servers. This feature is currently used to store and retrieve any account information you enter into HotFind so that it will “remember” that information when you refresh the server list. Downloadable password files may become available from websites and Hotline servers in the future as a means of storing multiple accounts in a single file. Another way is to drag bookmarks or folders containing bookmarks, and any account information will be transferred along with the server information. Dragging servers with account information from other server lists will also preserve account information. Additionally, you can use the **Info** button on the top of the window while selecting a server to add logins and passwords. The same can be achieved by invoking the **Login/Password...** command from the **Server** menu.

4. Save your server list.

Choose **Save**, press **Cmd-S**, or choose **Save as...** from the **File** menu, and select a name and location for it to be saved. If you want to close a server list without saving, select **Close** from the file menu. When you want to open your saved server list again, simply choose **Open** from the file menu, find the saved list, and double click it.

5. Use your server list to find files, or to index, bookmark, or connect to specific servers.

You can now use your server list to index or find files. To bookmark a server, simply option double click on a server and save the bookmark somewhere, or select **Bookmark...** from the **Server** menu.

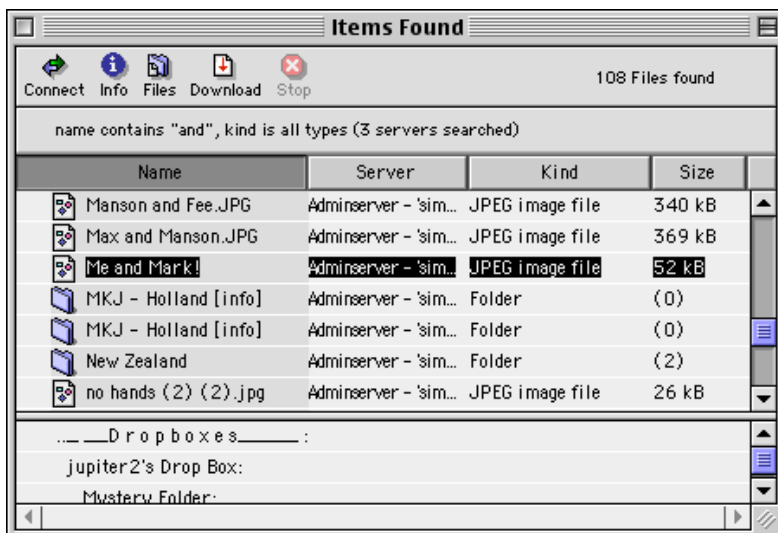
Finding Files

1. *Using a server list, or a selected set of servers, index the servers.*

Before you can find any file, you must index the servers. Select a group of servers or one server, and select the **Index** button. If no servers are selected, all servers on the topmost list will be indexed. If you want to delete an index or reindex a server or group of servers, select a server or group of servers, and then select **Delete Index** from the **Server** menu, or press **Cmd-D**. A partial index will be overwritten when reindexing the same server.

2. *Find files.*

When you have finished indexing the servers you want to index, select the **Find File** button. Enter your search criteria, and press **Find**. HotFind will bring up a window called **Items Found** in which it will display all files or folders that meet your criteria.



The **Items Found** window

3. Find the specific file you are looking for.

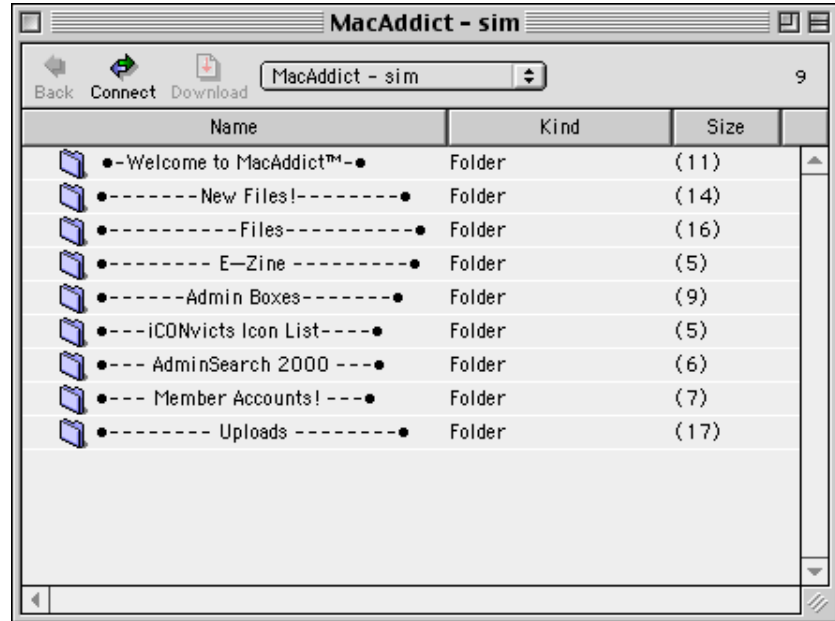
In the top section, the **Items Found** displays all files or folders meeting the criteria you specified in the **File Search** dialog. Scroll through this list to find the file or folder that most closely relates to what you are searching for. To assist you in finding the file you want, you can sort the list in the **Items Found** window by clicking the column headers. Once you have found the file you want, select this item.

After selecting the item you want, notice how a path to the file appears in the bottom section of the **Items Found** window. This is useful when you connect to the Hotline server when manually downloading the file, because it tells you exactly where the file is on the server. Each name on each separate line tells which folder to open next. The item on the last line is the actual file you are looking for. You can expand either section of the **Items Found** window by clicking and holding on the separator bar between the top and bottom lists, and then dragging in the desired direction.

Once you select the file you want, you can also invoke different commands similar to the ones the **All Hotline Servers** window can. The **Connect** button connects you to the server with the selected file or folder on it. Like the connect button in the **All Hotline Servers** window, if multiple copies of the same client are open, HotFind will prompt you for the one you want to connect with. The **Info** button shows you info about the server the selected file is on, and allows you to change account settings for that server. The **Files** button allows you to browse the files of the specific server, and the folder enclosing the selected file or folder will automatically be shown in the browsing window, not the root folder. The **Download** button tells Pitbull (a download only Hotline client available at www.tracker-tracker.com/pitbull) to automatically connect to the server and download the file. The **Stop** button allows you to abort a file search that is in progress: useful if you have already found the file you want to download.

4. Browse through or get info on a server with the selected file.

Clicking the **Files** button in the **Items Found** window will bring up another window that looks like this:



The browsing window

This window is the browsing window, which can be accessed by selecting **Browse Server** under the **Server** menu. The browsing window behaves much like a list view in the Hotline client: double click to open folders, and use the **Back** button to go back one level. To see the path to the current folder, click on the pop-up menu at the top of the browsing window. The **Connect** button tells HotFind to connect you to the Hotline server that is being browsed through the selected client. You can also click the **Download** button to have Pitbull (available at <http://www.tracker-tracker.com/pitbull>) automatically connect to the server and download the selected file. If you double click on a file, the **Download** button will be invoked.

Occasionally, some servers will have tons of files in each listing. To make it easier to find which file you want, you can sort the file list in the browsing window by clicking on the column headers. Additionally, if you have already found the file you want, and do not wish to wait for the other files to be listed, you can press **Cmd-.** (period), and HotFind will stop listing the files.

5. *Connect to the server containing the file, or download it automatically using Pitbull.*

Connect to the server using the **Connect** button. You can also press the **Download** button to have Pitbull (<http://www.tracker-tracker.com/pitbull>) automatically download the selected file. If Pitbull is not installed, HotFind will present you with a dialog that allows you to go straight to the Pitbull website.

Registration

1. *Launch the register application, or go to the registration website.*

If you want to send in an order for HotFind by mail, select **Launch Register Application** from the **Help** menu. If you want to order online, select **Register HotFind Online** from the **Help** menu.

2. *Send in the order form, or register online.*
3. *Wait for your registration code.*

You will receive your registration code by e-mail, as soon as your payment has been processed and approved.

4. *Enter your registration code into HotFind.*

Select **Personalize** from the **Help** menu. Enter your name and registration number exactly as you received them. Registering HotFind is only \$10 U.S., and will unlock the full features of HotFind. Without registering, only a few trackers will be loaded into the server list, and only 50 servers will be displayed, maximum. Additionally, the registration window will keep appearing at startup until you register HotFind.

Contact Information

If you would like to submit bug reports, comments, or suggestions for HotFind, contact either Ben Vandeveld or Simone Manganelli.

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