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Take note of these organizers

GLOBE AND MAIL UPDATE-By Jack Kapica

**Reviewed on:** Windows XP; Intel Pentium D dual-core 3.46 GHz with 4GB DDR2 SDRAM (Corsair), ATI Radeon x1300 All-In-Wonder

Information organizers have been around for a while, but have not been a very popular tool. So it is a little surprising that the landscape for marshalling data has recently undergone a major repopulation with much more sophisticated applications.

A quick look at some of the applications suggests a strange process. Packages like Microsoft's OneNote, Corel's new Lightning and OrganizeMY Electronic Filing Cabinet tend to present themselves as religions, offering users an all-encompassing framework designed to guide everything you do online. Once you sell your soul to one, it becomes difficult for you to convert. Sorry — I mean switch.

Microsoft's OneNote has developed an evangelical following since it was introduced four years ago, evincing devotion from its users, who say things like "I use it all the time," "I love it," or "I swear by it." The Electronic Filing Cabinet, the first piece of software in the For Dummies series of tech guides, and Lightning, from Corel, are both too new to have developed messianic complexes....

OrganizeMY Electronic Filing Cabinet for Dummies

*Org-Matters Solutions Inc.*

\$59.99 for Professional version (includes both Personal and Small Business)

It feels a little slim as a package next to OrganizeMY and Microsoft's OneNote — and this is not a negative observation. In an ideal world, the latter two programs would demonstrate a similar lightness of touch.

The Electronic Filing Cabinet is the first software package produced for the OrganizeMY brand under the "For Dummies" banner — you know, those books published by *John Wiley & Sons* featuring that fellow with the isosceles head and exophthalmic eyes...

This software was created by a Canadian company called *Org-Matters Solutions Inc.* It's based on the principle that sooner or later, we will live in a totally paperless society, and this is the program that will help get us there. It can contain everything from *birth certificates to funeral details* in digital form, and all analogue stragglers who insist on using paper-based documents will have those documents scanned in by Electronic Filing Cabinet users (scanner not included).

Two key partners with *Org-Matters* are *Carbonite*, an online backup service, which offers a free three-month encrypted online backup for the program's users- files can also remain stored on the local computer, protected by a password), and the Bank of Montreal, which is offering the software free to all its *Mosaik MasterCard* customers.

The idea, its makers say, is to "turn chaos into sanity" for people bewildered by complex organizational software, usually in databases. It offers a kind of everextensible folder with a pre-loaded file structure so that all information can be stored in it: Start with net worth and move on to investments, home inventories, personal identification numbers, weddings, business plans, financial dealings, car loans

and then funeral arrangements. In keeping with the For Dummies style, the program has been painstakingly simplified...

Although the Electronic Filing Cabinet can import data from Outlook and Outlook Express, the program involves initial data entry, what has been gently called "finger bashing." This doesn't let up much as you use it; every time there is a new activity in your life, a suitable folder gets opened — buy that pool table for the recreation room and you'll have to sit down at the computer to update your household inventory, your bank balance and your personal accounts...

You can scan in an automobile purchase agreement, a mortgage agreement or a tax bill, for instance, but (be aware) you may still (want) to keep the paper versions at the risk of annoying government mandarins and other fussy functionaries. Yes, it is easy — very easy... even a cursory glance at (it) suggests (it) should command as much passion as Microsoft's OneNote.

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