



## Cool Tools

### Copernic 2000: The Search Engine's Search Engine

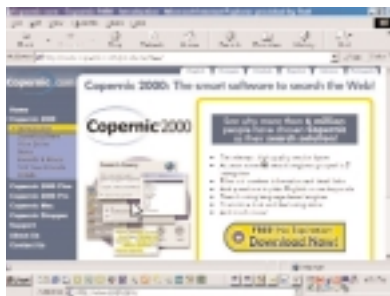
by R. Wayne Pugh, SRPA, CRE

Currently, for the most part, we restrict our searching of the Internet through the use of our favorite search engines like Yahoo, AltaVista, HotBot, Lycos and Excite, among others. Each of these search engines offers advantages over the others for specific types of searches; however, all of them provide limited results to our queries. All of that may change with the advent of the new Copernic 2000 search engine. Since the search engine is the operating system that we use to scour the Internet, it is important to access the Internet with a far-reaching tool. Copernic 2000, an award-winning client-based application developed for PC and Macintosh computers, is just that.

Copernic 2000 allows users to find exactly what they are looking for by simultaneously consulting many Internet search engines and directories. The software combines simplicity and performance with superior results handling. Results returned by engines are stored and organized on disk for better search management and faster browsing.

As a testament to its capabilities, Copernic 2000 already boasts 6,488,369 users as of press time, with around 1,000 copies being downloaded hourly from their site, [www.copernic.com](http://www.copernic.com). While the download is free, it totals 2.61 megabytes, so the download time will not be short. Then again, neither will the list of benefits.

Once downloaded the user can install Copernic 2000 and begin to experience the benefits of using a more intelligent search agent.



#### What Are Intelligent Agents?

Intelligent agents are software entities that assist people and act on their behalf. Much like a private secretary, assistant or personal advisor who learns what you like and can anticipate what you want or need, they make your life easier by saving you time and simplifying your complex world.

**Copernic 2000 makes web searching easy**—Select your search category, type in your question or keywords and Copernic retrieves the information in seconds. (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1

**The best search results from the best search engines**—Copernic 2000 simultaneously consults the best Internet

search engines for you. Each search engine covers only a part of the Web. By combining results from multiple sources, Copernic 2000 will help you get the most out of the Web. (Fig. 2)

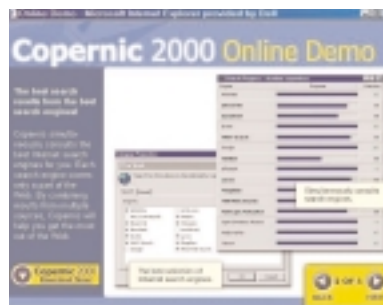


Fig. 2

**Copernic 2000 quickly pinpoints the information you need**—Copernic 2000 brings back great search results ranked by relevancy, automatically removes duplicates and even highlights the keywords you requested. (Fig. 3)

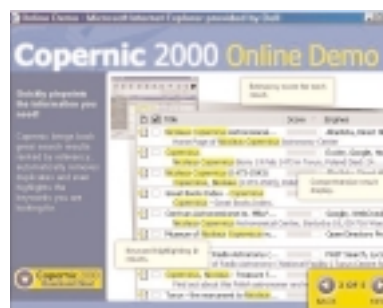


Fig. 3

**Smart functions to get relevant results**—Copernic features many useful management functions to easily filter out bad results, leaving only the good ones. (Fig. 4)



Fig. 4

### Personalize your search experience—

Copernic 2000 offers plenty of customization options that you can change to your liking. These options will satisfy both novice and advanced users. (Fig. 5)



Fig. 5

### Summary of Copernic 2000 Features

The following is a detailed list of features for Copernic 2000. The program's capabilities are broken down into the Search Capabilities, Search Tracking, Internet Explorer Integration and Results Reporting.

**Search Capabilities**—Copernic 2000 groups the best Internet search engines and directories under categories such as *The Web* (plus seven language or country-based categories), *Newsgroups*, *E-mail Addresses*, *Buy Books*, *Buy Hardware*, *Buy Software*, *Antiques & Collectibles*, *Auctions*, *Business & Finance*, *Buy Music*, *Buy Videos*, *Cars*, *Computer Security*, *Desktop Themes*, *Discussion Sources*, *Encyclopedias*, *File Search*, *Games*, *Gardening*, *Health*, *Humor*, *Images*, *Jobs*, *Kids*, *Life*, *Movies*, *MP3*, *Multimedia*, *Music*, *News* (seven language or country-based categories),

*Newspapers*, *Newswire*, *Programming*, *Recipes*, *Sciences*, *Software Download*, *Sport News*, *Tech News*, *Tech Reviews*, *Top News*, *Travel*, and *Yellow Pages*.

The free version, Copernic 2000, offers the first six categories mentioned previously, plus one of the seven language or country-based categories that allow users to seek information on the Web. Some 80 information sources are accessible with this version. On the other hand, the commercial versions, Copernic 2000 Plus (\$39.95) and Copernic 2000 Pro (\$79.95), offer some 55 categories, providing access to some 600 search engines and directories.

Copernic 2000 allows the user to choose from among multiple categories with specialized search engines to handle queries. For the commercial versions, additional search engines and categories can be added from the Copernic Web site.

Copernic 2000 provides up to 32 search engines of a given category that may be contacted simultaneously. The speed is limited mainly by the computer's capabilities and the Internet connection while connection management options control the number of simultaneous connections and timeout delays.

Copernic 2000 includes a search wizard to ease in the search creation. Copernic 2000 Pro also includes the ability to check the spelling of keywords where invalid words are underlined with a wavy red line. The user can then view a list of replacement words and add words to the dictionary.

Copernic search responses are limited to 300 results per engine and 1,000 results per query. Any of the default search engines can be disabled to allow the user to customize Copernic 2000's searching capabilities. Each default search scheme can also be customized for each search category.

Copernic 2000 allows the user to customize search schemes by search and category in order to choose the maximum numbers of results to be

retrieved for each search engine and the entire search. In addition, the user can customize the search presentation including multiple sorting by column in ascending or descending order, column shift, hiding, and adding and resizing columns. (Fig. 6)

Search and historical results are displayed in two windows: one for queries and one for detailed results. Searches also support logical operators including AND/OR for all search keywords. Copernic 2000 can even search using a question or a sentence instead of just keywords. Reports may be exported in various file types such as HTML, Text, XML, comma separated or dBase. Reports and results may also be e-mailed in an HTML or a text format.

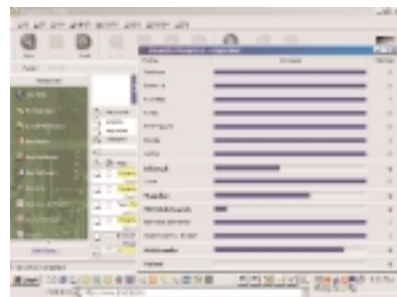


Fig. 6

**Search Tracking** (with Copernic 2000 Pro, \$79.95)—Copernic 2000 Pro includes a search tracking wizard to ease schedule programming for automatic updating of targeted searches, based on a periodic basis (once only, once or several times a day, specific days of the week or month, etc.).

Copernic 2000 Pro can automatically log onto and off of the Internet through the modem at the beginning and end of a programmed tracking schedule, and tracking reports can be forwarded automatically by e-mail to one or more particular addresses. Copernic 2000 Pro also allows the user to combine search tracking with another automated task such as downloading, validation or refining.

The user is provided with access to a window listing tracking schedules



(name, tracking frequency) and searches targeted by each schedule (keywords, search category, search folder) and featuring several commands (shortcuts, search ranking, etc.).

Copernic 2000 Pro also provides the user with access to a window indicating schedule execution progress and listing tasks completed for each search (updating, downloading, validating, refining, e-mailing of tracking reports) as each task is being completed. Through this the user can create a tracking schedule featuring several searches in one simple operation.

An icon is provided in the Windows taskbar to indicate a tracking operation is underway. Clicking on this icon opens the tracking progress window.

### Internet Explorer Integration—

Copernic 2000 Pro provides an ergonomic Result Explorer window that allows users to browse found documents in an integrated browser window using features akin to Internet Explorer.

The replacement of the Internet Explorer search bar by the Copernic Active Search component in Internet Explorer allows the user to choose to search Copernic 2000 when the search button of the Internet Explorer toolbar is clicked. This component can be launched for a selected word or group of words directly from any Web page displayed in Internet Explorer.

Copernic 2000 adds an additional button on the Internet Explorer toolbar and a command to the Internet Explorer Tools menu to enable the user to launch Copernic 2000 directly from Internet Explorer. An additional button on the Internet Explorer toolbar

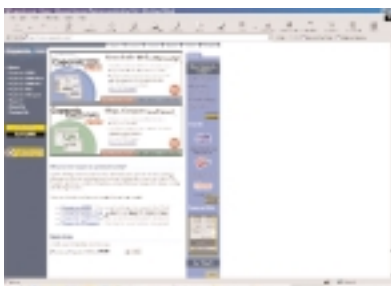


Fig. 7

and command option on the Tools menu provides the user with the ability of translate web pages from one language to another using the Gist-In-Time language converter. This allows the user to read web pages and newsgroup responses from almost anywhere in the world. (Fig. 7)

**Results Reporting**—Copernic 2000's found documents are scored and displayed according to their relevancy to the search criteria. After duplicate documents are automatically eliminated, extensive information concerning each search is listed in the results listing including: flag state, keywords, search mode, creation date, last update, number of matches, category, schedule name and notes.

Information concerning each document is also displayed on screen including: state (reachable, unreachable, new, refined, downloaded, visited, skipped), title, summary, address, local page, score (graphically or numerically), hit count, date found and which search engine(s) found the information.

Copernic 2000 allows the user to further search for text in the results shown on screen. In addition to highlighting keywords in titles and the addresses and summaries of found documents within the main window and the HTML result page, the program also highlights keywords in downloaded documents.

Search results can be refined using logical operators such as AND, OR, EXCEPT, and NEAR.

Documents may be downloaded, up to 32 pages simultaneously, for offline browsing. Up to 32 pages may also be validated simultaneously, depending on the computer's performance and the Internet connection.

Copernic 2000 provides a quick selector to facilitate navigation and consultation of results using the browser. In addition to the ergonomically designed Result Explorer window, which serves to browse, filter and sort found documents, instead of the classic

search result toolbar, various downloadable skins provide the user with the ability of changing the graphical appearance of toolbars. (Fig. 8)

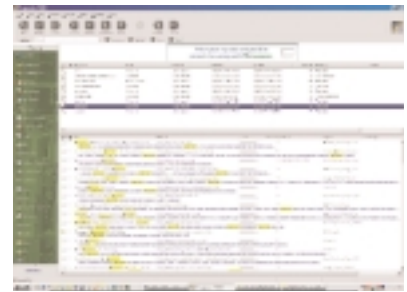


Fig. 8

### Conclusion

Copernic 2000 can save a significant amount of time by allowing the appraiser to define searches more accurately.

The results of the queries are also stored in Copernic 2000, which allows the appraiser to refer back to them without having to run through the process again and again. Plus, Copernic 2000 provides automatic engine and software updates via the Internet.

### Site Rating ★★★★★

Copernic 2000 receives four-and-a-half stars out of a possible five stars.

### Cool Tools Referrals

Send your Cool Tools suggestions to R. Wayne Pugh at [cooltools@email.appraisalinstitute.org](mailto:cooltools@email.appraisalinstitute.org).

R. Wayne Pugh, SRPA, CRE, heads a real estate consulting and appraisal firm in Baton Rouge, La. For the past 25 years he has been involved in the development of technology for the real estate industry, and has played a major role in the founding of several software publishing entities. He currently serves as vice chair of the Appraisal Institute's Finance Committee and Technology Subcommittee.