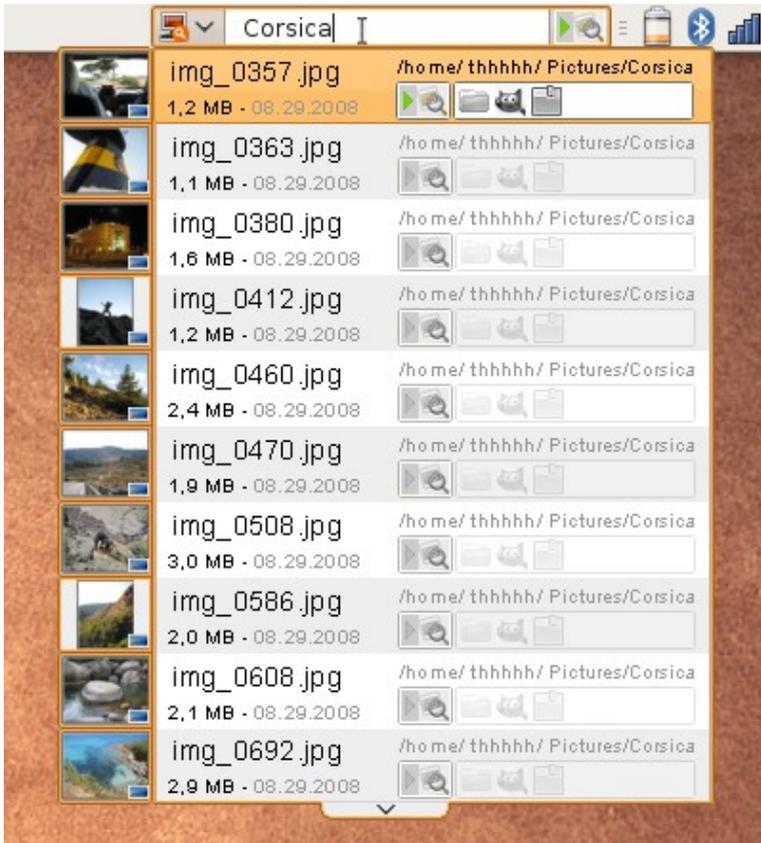# Draft for Ubuntu Gate Search (UGS)

Short introduction:

My idea is to improve the search and treatment of data by taking only a few, easy steps. It consists in connecting several archive files, different search functions and *"open with"*.

How would it work?

For quick display of the search results, it is necessary to index and order the data. A program runs all the time in the background carrying out this task, and resumes work when work load is low. It only checks certain folders and takes into account certain file endings (path, size, name and further information recorded e.g. ID3 tags, GPS information within picture) and creates mini-pictures. At the end of the search, data selection could look like this in the home directory:
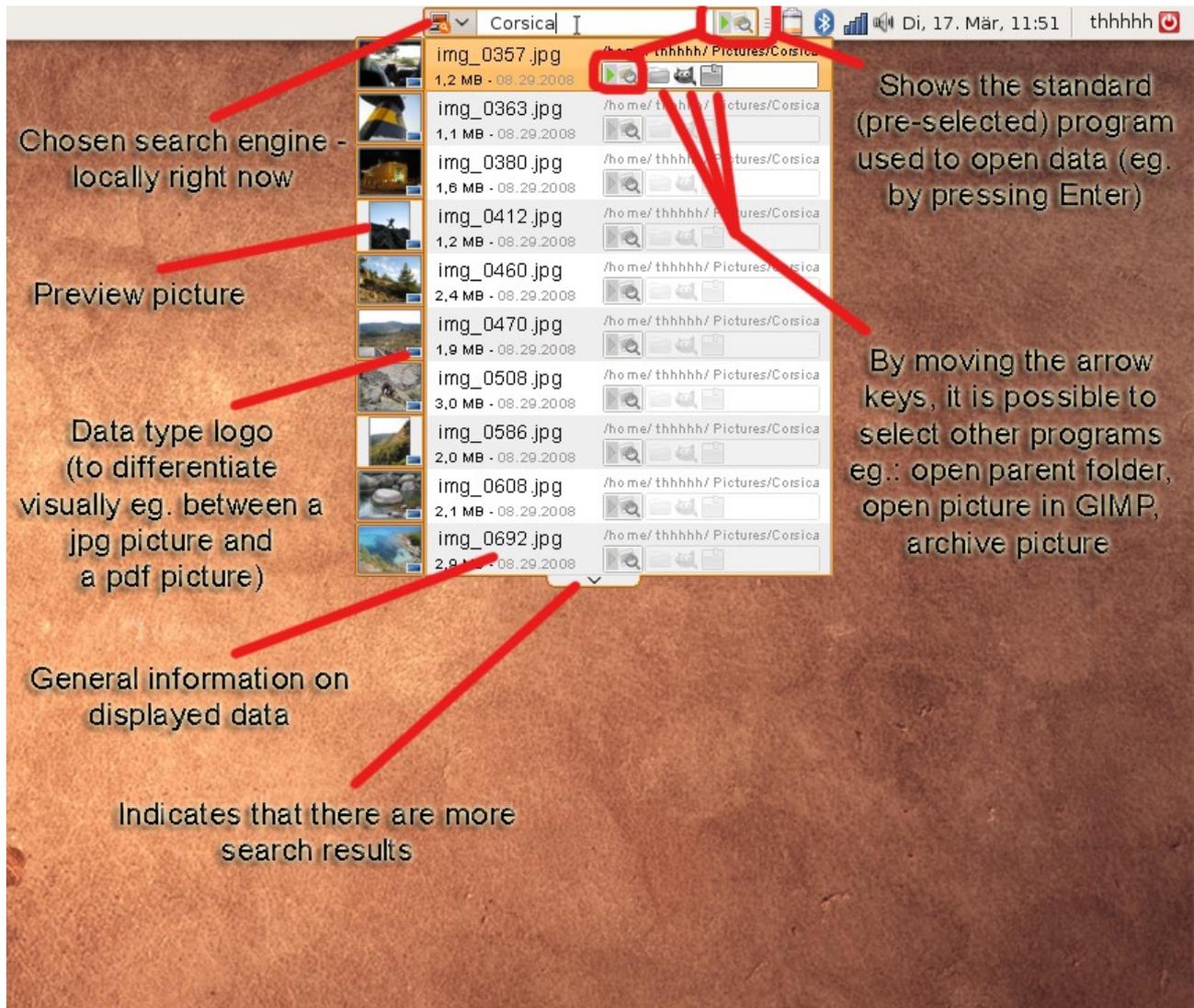odt, doc, pdf, mp3, ogg, jpg

The program shouldn't stop at that, but should also list the address book and the emails received if the user wishes to.
It should also be possible to switch the search function from local to Internet, to have access to the browser bookmarks in the search window and to the various search engines.

The search window is there to give quick access to the data the user is looking for and to ignore the rest.

GUI

Chosen search engine - locally right now

Preview picture

Data type logo (to differentiate visually eg. between a jpg picture and a pdf picture)

General information on displayed data

Indicates that there are more search results

Shows the standard (pre-selected) program used to open data (eg. by pressing Enter)

By moving the arrow keys, it is possible to select other programs eg.: open parent folder, open picture in GIMP, archive picture

The search function can be implemented by mouse click or key combination. I suggest using Ctrl+Alt+F as a shortcut. It should be possible to drag and drop the search results (e.g. to copy them on a USB key).

The table below illustrates the search mode per key shortcut. It shows how easy it would be, and the resulting possibilities. I use the word Start to avoid writing Ctrl+Alt+F each time. The blue color is for the Internet mode.

Keys used	Resulting action
 Start (empty search window) + Enter	Opens home directory.
	Opens standard website (according to browser pre-settings)
Start (empty search window) + "arrow down"	Displays the last 10 documents used
	Displays the last 10 websites browsed
Start (empty search window) + "arrow up"	Displays the 10 programs used most frequently (displays the search list from bottom to top – the bottom hit is automatically highlighted)
	Displays the 10 bookmarks used most frequently (same principle as in local mode)
Start (empty search window) + "arrow to the right/the left"	Changes search mode from local to Internet
	Changes search mode from local to Internet (in Internet mode, you can also choose the search engine by hitting the "arrow to the right"). After search completion, you alternate between search modes by pressing just <u>one</u> key
Start + "any text"	Search engine displays first 10 hits
	Displays website selection and possible bookmarks
Start + "any text" + Enter	Standard program opens marked hit (first hit is automatically highlighted)
	Program processes first hit (opens selected website/bookmark)
Start + "any text" + arrow down/up	Mark switches between search hits
	Mark switches between search hits
Start + "any text" + 2 quick hits "arrow down"	Jumps to the next 10 hits
	Jumps to the next 10 hits (if it works)
Start + "any text" + "arrow to the right" + Enter	Secondary program opens highlighted hit (by pressing again "arrow to the right" user selects another alternative program)
	-

The search window should "understand" the following:

- It puts the files last or often retrieved higher up in the list.

- If the user writes for instance "*Musician's name*" and "*Music*" in the search window, the results should be mostly music files.

- If the user selects a music title and presses the Enter key, and a music program has already started, the new title should appear in the play list.

- The search engine should be able to carry out simple instructions, as long as there is no other file with the same name ("*new mail*", "*odt new*", "*start gimp*", etc.)

- It should be possible to choose index terms for certain folders like "*m*" for Music....

- Depending on the data displayed, the search should deliver differing information (e.g. with a big difference between a picture file and an address entry).

- The search system should cope to a certain extent with spelling mistakes!

- If the user selects "Archive file" for the second time (when an archive file is already open), the program will ask him whether to put the file into the existing archive.

- When surfing the Internet, user should be able to drag & drop all possible Internet search engines into the Ubuntu search window to add them to the search engine list.

- If there is no entry in the search index, the program suggests a "complete standard search" for the term requested.

Possible search configurations

A right mouse click in the search bar gives access to the options. The user can then configure the folders/data and the order in which they appear (you could explicitly exclude folders/data – possibly directly through the "*standard folder option*" as well). Among other things, it should be possible to select whether to have "*mini preview images*" and whether the Internet search engine is allowed to submit suggestions for search.
It would be wise to encrypt files because the internal archiving and the structured treatment of personal data may disclose many details about the computer's owner. Access to the encrypted search index should be possible only with root rights.

Conclusion

It is clear to me that it will probably be impossible to develop all the functionalities I am suggesting, yet I find it necessary to think about them and describe them as well. They may feed other people's inventiveness and help us tread new paths together. The search method I have described would be a very powerful tool functioning on a rather intuitive basis. Computer use would become faster and more efficient. It could certainly be used in cell phones as well.

To make it short, I would be delighted to run my computer and other devices with the help of such a search window. I truly hope that some developer will be as enthusiastic about it as I am, and that he will turn this wonderful idea into reality.

Addition – Further ideas

Actually, I feel that two buttons should be added to the archiving program – *"downsize pictures"* and *"email archive"*. The last one would open a new email and attach the corresponding archive file.

The first one would offer the option to alter certain (previously selected) pictures. In a second step, the user could alter picture size and compression level to save disc space.

Several options should be available:

- high/average/low compression/downsizing
- the selected pictures could be downsized in such a way that all the archive data do not exceed a certain data size (this function would make it much easier to send pictures via email, as there would be no more manual downsizing – e.g. > 4 MB).

A picture preview would be very handy, too – to check picture quality after downsizing.

Dear readers, thank you for your interest. I hope that you will carry my ideas further into the world.

Greetings – to you and the world!

Paradiesstaub