

How to configure Spotlight (Mac os X 10.4+) to search within hoc files

Mickey London (May 2006)

If you like Spotlight to index and search through Neuron hoc/mod files you need a custom plugin. As to May 2006, there is none. However as these are text files one can use an existing plugin and cheat Spotlight to use it. In Spotlight terms its looks complicated but it is not really so, just follow the instructions below. They were modified from a related hint at macosxhints.com by **Lazarus Long**.

See:

<http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20050514182520714>

You need to have admin privileges on the machine and “Developer Tools” installed.

Step 1: Find the type used by spotlight

Find the type used by Spotlight of the files you want indexed using this command in the Terminal (substitute 'foo.hoc' with some real 'hoc' file):

```
mdimport -n -d1 foo.hoc
```

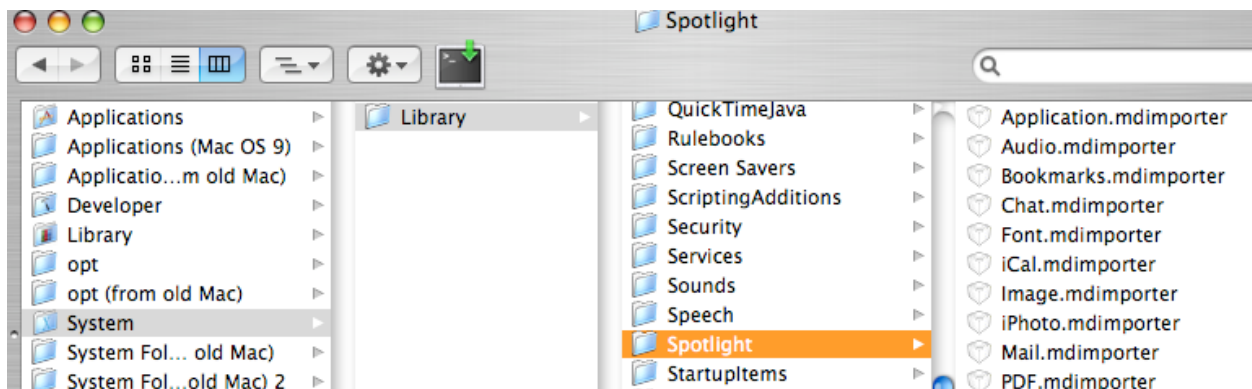
which outputs with a warning that the plugin (mdimporter) is missing:

```
Import 'foo.hoc' type 'dyn.ah62d4rv4ge80u55d' no mdimporter
```

but reveals the type `dyn.ah62d4rv4ge80u55d`

Step 2: Locate the 'RichText' plugin

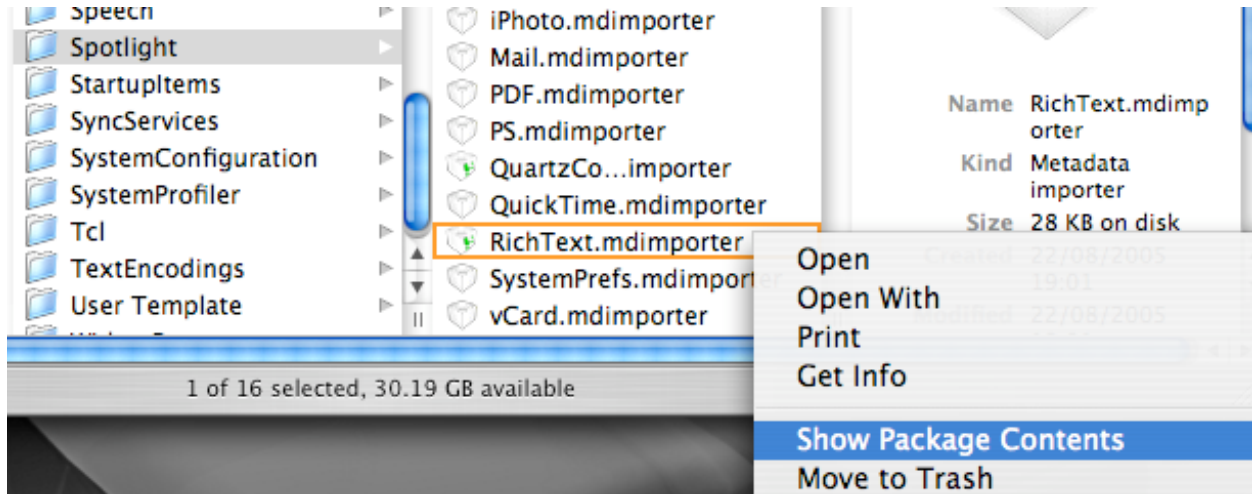
In Finder navigate to `/System/Library/Spotlight/`




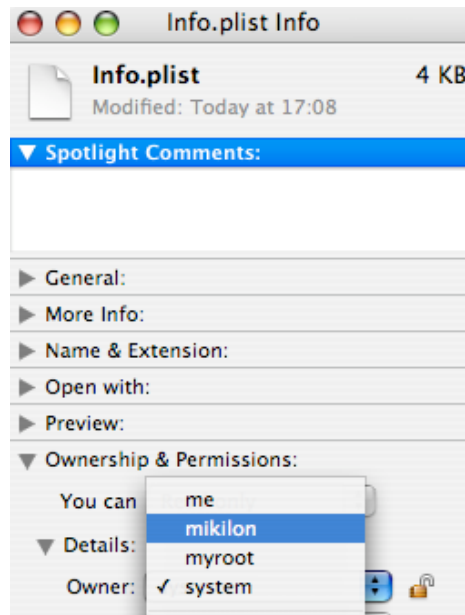
Spotlight & Hoc

and use right mouse button (CTRL-CLICK)-> "show package content" to open the

`RichText.mdimporter/Contents/`

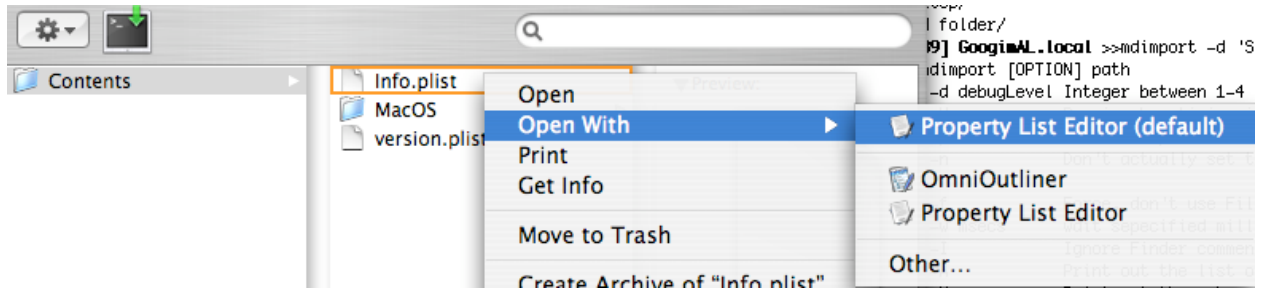


navigate into the 'Content folder' so you can see the file 'Info.plist'. We would like to change it, but it belongs to the system, so use: 'Get info (CMD-I) on the file, go to 'ownership', unlock the  and change the owner to yourself. (You'll be prompt for admin password).



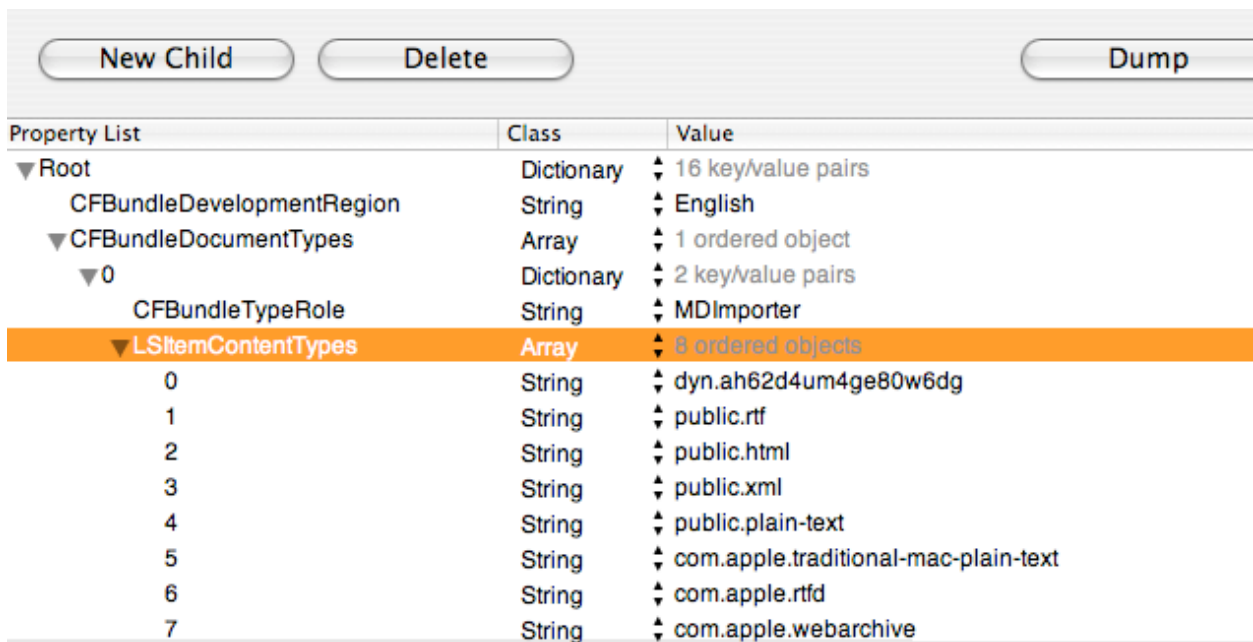
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Now you can open the file (use open with->property list editor)



Step 3: Add the file type to the plugin

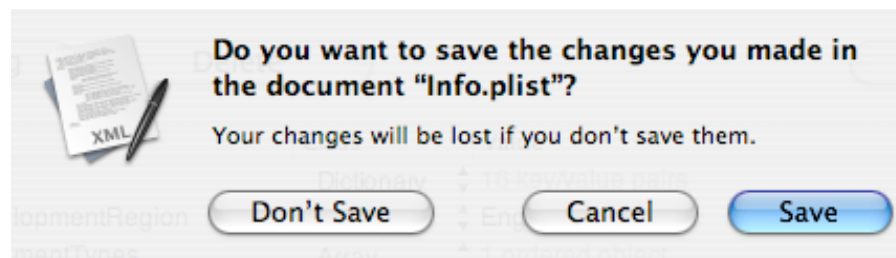
In property list editor expand the `root->CFBundleDocumentTypes->0->LSItemContentTypes` path and choose `LSItemContentTypes` see picture below.



Press the "add new child" button such that you'll get a new entry. in the property value field paste the `someSpotLightType` you copied in Step 1.

Property List	Class	Value
▼ Root	Dictionary	▲ 16 key/value pairs
CFBundleDevelopmentRegion	String	▲ English
▼ CFBundleDocumentTypes	Array	▲ 1 ordered object
▼ 0	Dictionary	▲ 2 key/value pairs
CFBundleTypeRole	String	▲ MDImporter
▼ LSItemContentTypes	Array	▲ 9 ordered objects
0	String	▲ dyn.ah62d4rv4ge80u55d
1	String	▲ dyn.ah62d4um4ge80w6dg
2	String	▲ public.rtf
3	String	▲ public.html
4	String	▲ public.xml
-	-	-

Quit the property list editor (and remember to save it).



Change the owner of the file back to "system" and lock it !!!

Step 4: Import all your Hoc files

Now that spotlight is told to use the RichText in order to import hoc files, we can import all the hoc files.

First test it. Go back to the Terminal and import the file you tried before. (`mdimport -n -d1 foo.hoc`)

If everything went well, you should now get the following output, showing that the RichText importer was used.

```
mdimport[8250] Import '/Users/mikilon/Neuron/foo.hoc' type
'dyn.ah62d4rv4ge80u55d' using
'file:///localhost/System/Library/Spotlight/RichText.mdimporter/'
```

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So now what is left is to import all your hoc files (future files will be indexed automatically).

In the terminal move to your home folder, find all the hoc files and import them:

```
cd  
find . -name "*.hoc" -exec mdimport {} \;
```

Do the same in Applications:

```
cd /Applications  
find . -name "*.hoc" -exec mdimport {} \;
```

Enjoy
Mickey

Mickey London
Wolfson Institute for
Biomedical Research
Cruciform Building
University College London
Gower Street
London WC1E 6BT, UK

m.london@ucl.ac.uk
W: 44-(0)20-76796897
F: 44 (0)20 7813 2846
M: 44 (0)77 6670 7512
www.dendrite.org/~mikilon/