

# HoudahSpot

## A search utility for Mac OS

HoudahSpot is a customizable search tool built upon the Spotlight engine. The filtering ability ensures that you're able to track a misplaced file, or a file you can't remember the name of that's somewhere in the drive. You can search local volumes, the user Home Folder, remote volumes, and Apple Mail (through a plugin) all at the same time.

**Graham Fawcett / Feb 26, 2024**

# HoudahSpot

- “Houdah” + Spot(light) search utility

- A **howdah**, or **houdah**, derived from the Arabic هودج, which means "bed carried by a camel" ..... is a carriage which is positioned on the back of an elephant, or occasionally some other animal such as a camel, used most often in the past to carry wealthy people during progresses or processions, hunting or in warfare.
- Current version of HoudahSpot is 6.5.1. It has been around since 2005 or so.
- Mac OS 10.14 Mojave is required; once purchased, updates and upgrades are free. The single-user licence costs \$50.00 CDN and may be installed on any number of devices. If you have an older version of HoudahSpot, their website says:
  - HoudahSpot 6 is a paid upgrade from previous versions. The single user upgrade license is priced at \$28.00 CDN, The family upgrade license is priced at \$42.00 CDN. Install the latest version and load your current license. You will be offered the option to purchase an upgrade.
  - Licenses purchased on or after June 1, 2020 apply to both HoudahSpot 5 and 6.



Use HoudahSpot to find important documents, correspondence, photos, image or audio files, and MUCH more. The user can:

- Start with a simple search.
- Refine it by adding and combining criteria. There is a host of custom metadata that can be used to perform searches.
- Search several folders at once. Exclude others.
- Add and sort by any of the dozens of columns available.
- Preview files and text matches.
- Save search results for recurring searches with the same criteria.



Search Any Text

**Refine**

Text Content contains words

Attachment Names is

Text Content contains prefixes

File Extension is

Content Kind is - Any

**Locations**

User home folder

Local volumes + user home

Exclude locations

**Tags**

Red Orange Yellow Green Blue

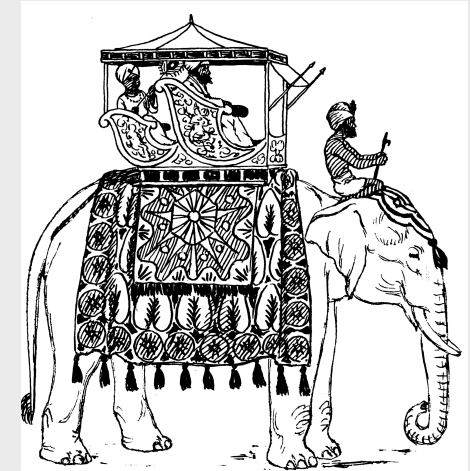
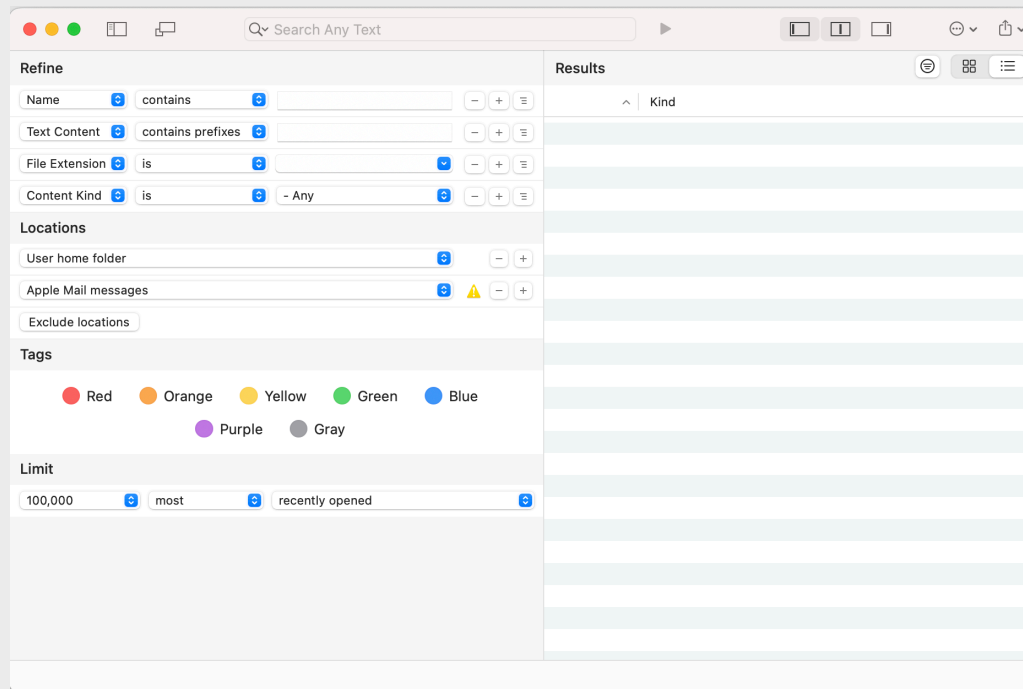
Purple Gray

**Limit**

100,000 most recently opened

HoudahSpot takes all the tedium out of file search. Use HoudahSpot to locate hard-to-find files and keep frequently used files within reach.

- Word processing files containing “invoice” or “estimate”
- Image files named “logo” that are 512 pixels wide
- Files created, modified, or opened in the last 7 days
- Any file - source code, invoice, letter - mentioning a particular client.



## Alternatives to HoudahSpot

- **Alfred** (App Store - \$40.00)
- **‘Find any file’** (App Store - \$10.00)
- **Launchbar** (MacUpdate - “Launchbar” - \$35.00)
- **Raycast** (a launcher utility from developer)
- **DEVONagent** (free - performs web searches only)

