

Music Organizer Manual

2008

Résumé

The aim of this document is to describe how to use the Music Organizer music organising and tagging application.

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1 Introduction

Music Organizer is a music files managing application. It can organise music files (arrange and sort them) and edit their tags (ie. informations about them stored inside them, eg. name, artist, album, genre, year, track number, ...).

Music Organizer supports the following formats :

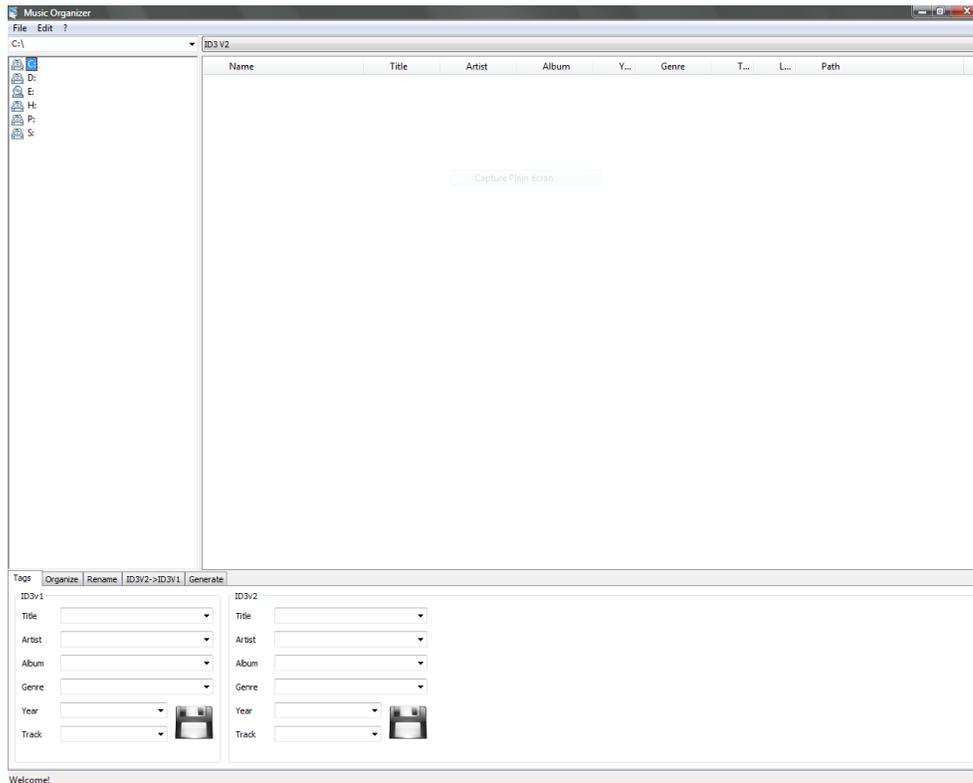
- MP3 (MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3)
- Flac (Free Lossless Audio Codec)
- Ogg Vorbis

2 Features

2.1 Interface presentation



Music Organizer's splash screen



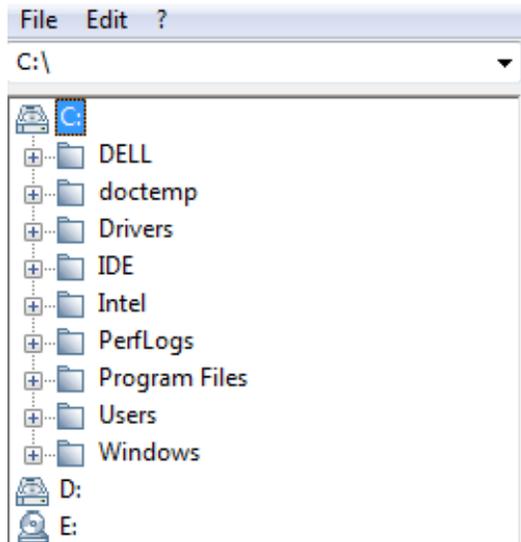
Music Organizer's startup screen

The interface is divided in three parts. On the left is the directory tree browser where the directory to be scanned for music files is selected. On the right is the music files list that displays the files being managed. At the bottom is the action panel where tags are edited and file operations are performed.

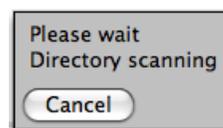
The music files list shows the files being managed. On the top, there is a drop-down menu that allows to sort the files according to their formats and their ID3 tags in case of the mp3 files, either ID3 version 1 (ID3v1) or ID3 version 2 (ID3v2) (Note that these two types of tag must not be confused to avoid unpleasant surprises). Under it is a sorting criterion selector. In the main part, the files are listed with their tags according to the criterion (and their position in the directory tree, with the default setting). Double-clicking on a music file opens it in a music player.

Name	Title	Artist	Album	Year	Genre	Track	Length	Path
game_music.mp3	Space_Mystery	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				2:53	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
lose_music.mp3	lose_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:06	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
win_music.mp3	win_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:07	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
game_music.mp3	Space_Mystery	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				2:53	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
lose_music.mp3	lose_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:06	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
win_music.mp3	win_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:07	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
game_music.mp3	Space_Mystery	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				2:53	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
lose_music.mp3	lose_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:06	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
win_music.mp3	win_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:07	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
game_music.mp3	Space_Mystery	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				2:53	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
lose_music.mp3	lose_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:06	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
win_music.mp3	win_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:07	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
game_music.mp3	Space_Mystery	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				2:53	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...
lose_music.mp3	lose_music	Digital Droo	Big Bang Boar...				0:06	/Applications/Big Bang Board Ga ...

2.2 File searching



Before it can operate on a file, the application must find it. Music Organizer can scan a directory recursively (ie. scan the directory and its subdirectories), searching for music files. Select the directory to be scanned (on Microsoft Windows, double-click on a partition to select it), using the directory tree browser on the left, and double-click on it. Music Organizer starts searching and displays a dialog box proposing to cancel. Note that the root directory on Unix systems (that includes Mac OS X) and partitions on Microsoft Windows are *not* scanned recursively : only their direct content (and not the content of their subdirectories) will be listed.



Note that the bigger the directory, the longer the search will be.

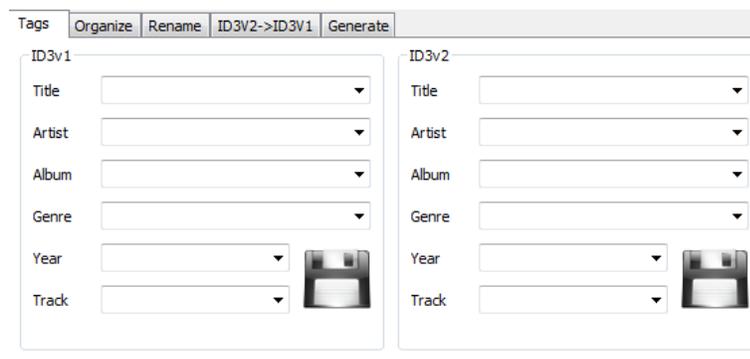
To accelerate directory browsing, there is an address bar at the top left that supports auto-completion (using “tab”) (This feature does not work on Mac OS X).

2.3 File edition

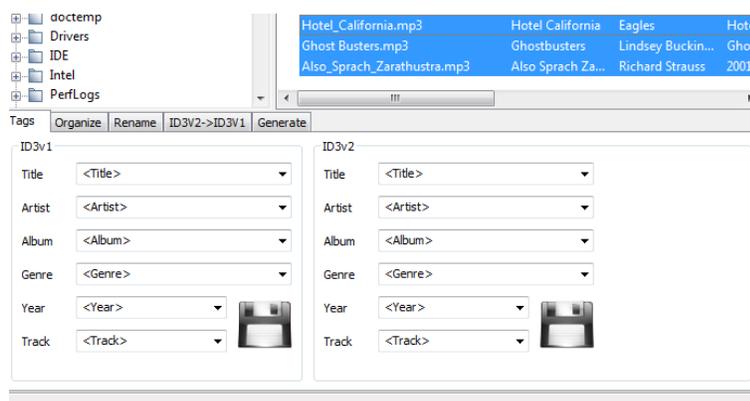
The first purpose of Music Organizer is tag edition.

2.3.1 Single file edition

To edit a file, first select it. In the action panel, select the “tags” tab. On the left are the ID3v1 tags, and on the right the ID3v2 tags.

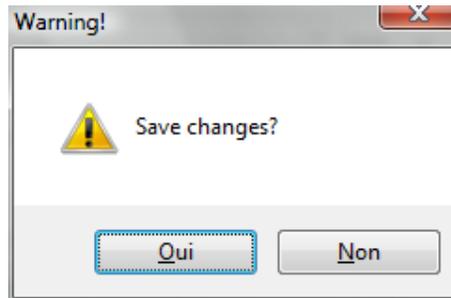


Fill in the tags. Note that the “genre” tag has a drop-down menu that helps you select the tag.



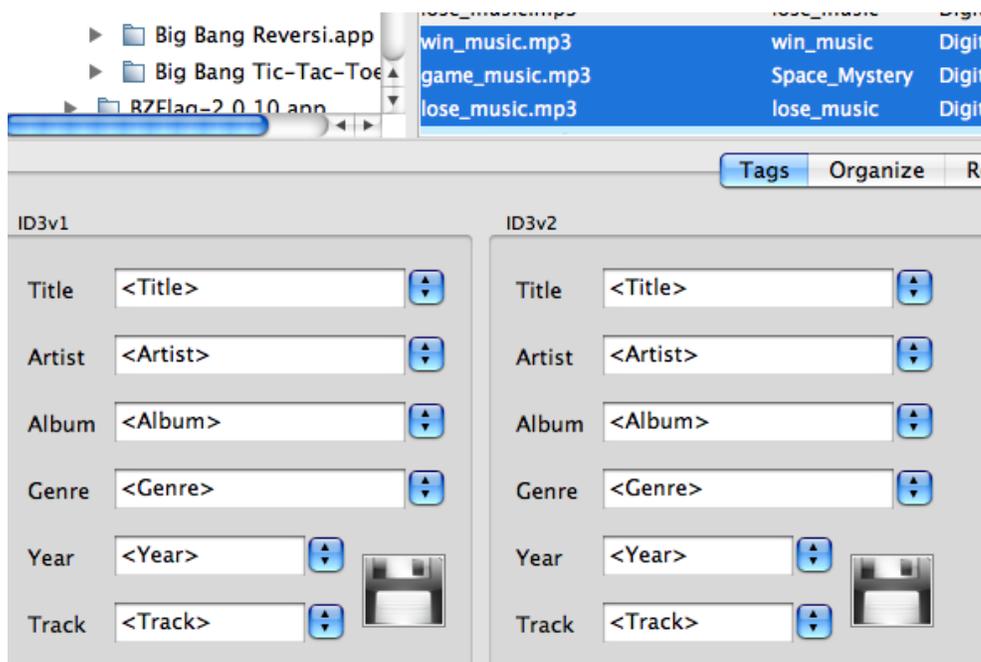
Warning : If none of the two mp3 lists are selected only one column is visible.

When done with the modifications, click on the floppy to save the changes. A dialog box asks confirmation (the action is irreversible!).

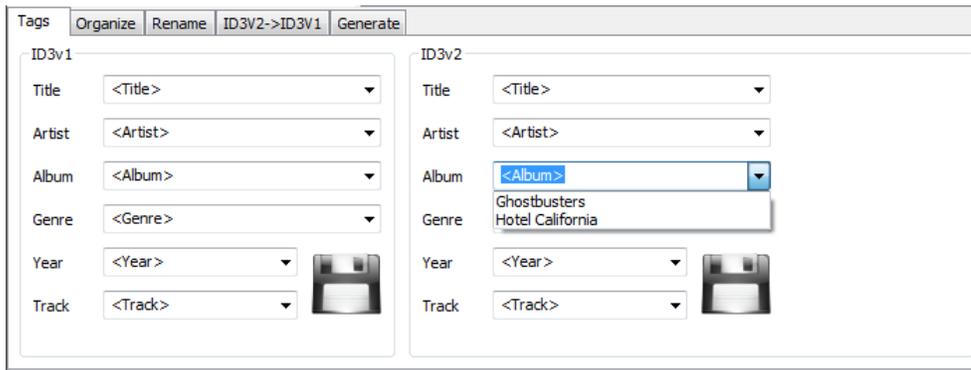


2.3.2 Multiple file edition

To edit several files at the same time, select them in the files list (shift-click). Note that the appearance of the action panel changes to reflect the mode change.

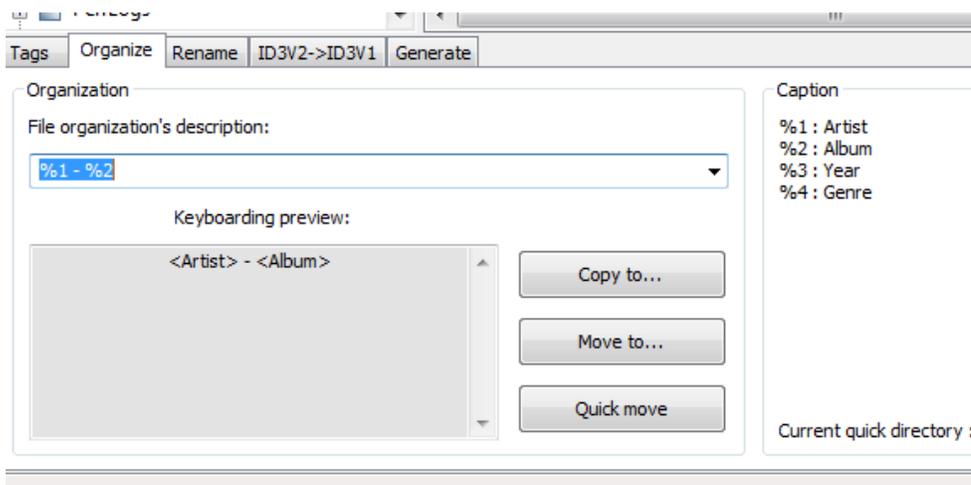


The drop-down menus of the tags proposes to tag all the selected files with the tag of one of the files.



2.4 File organisation

The second purpose of Music Organizer is file organisation and its automation. Music Organizer can arrange music files in directories according to their tags, putting for example tags of the same album in the same directory. Select one or more files, and open the “organise” tab in the action panel.

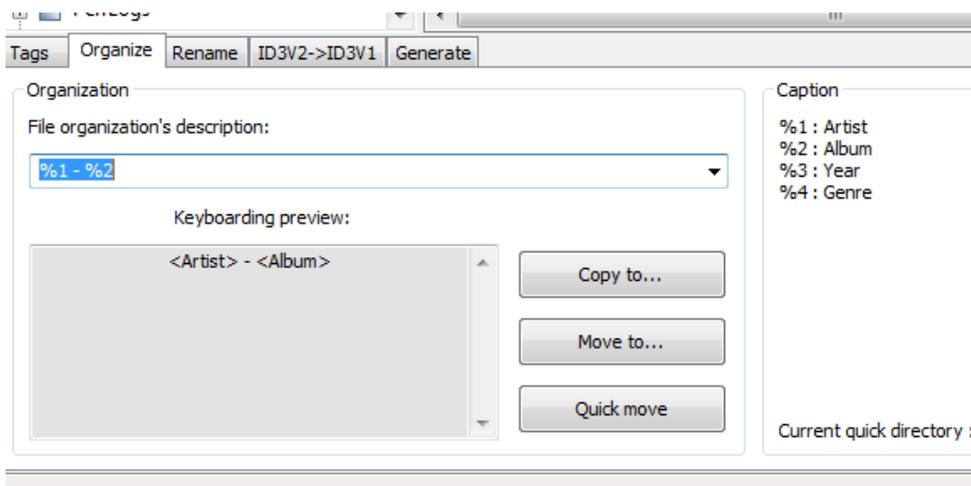


There are two kinds of organisation mode available : “copy to” organisation, which leaves the files in place and modifies the tags of copies, and “move to” organisation, which moves the files and modifies their tags. Note that “copy to” organisation is safer than “move to” organisation (only the copies can suffer “damage”) but takes up much more space.

In the action panel, select the desired arrangement. The drop-down menu proposes standard arrangement schemes (cf. the legend on the right), and customized arrangements can be obtained by typing the directory format directly.

The directory format is a file path format with “special” character sequences composed of a ‘%’ character followed by a digit (the meaning of these character sequences is explained in the legend on the right); the ‘/’ character represents a directory (eg. “Party/Disco” represents the “Disco” directory contained in the “Party” directory).

The box at the bottom presents a human-readable preview of the format (except on Mac OS X). For example, the “%1-%2” format will cause Music Organizer to arrange the music files in directories with names beginning with the name of the artist, followed by an hyphen, and ending with the name of the album (eg. Pink Floyd’s “The Dark Side of the Moon” tracks will be stored in “Pink Floyd-The Dark Side of the Moon”). Note that while most characters are allowed, some (eg. ‘\’) will be stripped out of the path.



Note that drag’n drop is available : dragging a file from the files list and dropping it in a directory in the directory tree browser (on the left) (after having asked for confirmation) copies the dragged files in the directory (Note : this does not work on Mac OS X.).

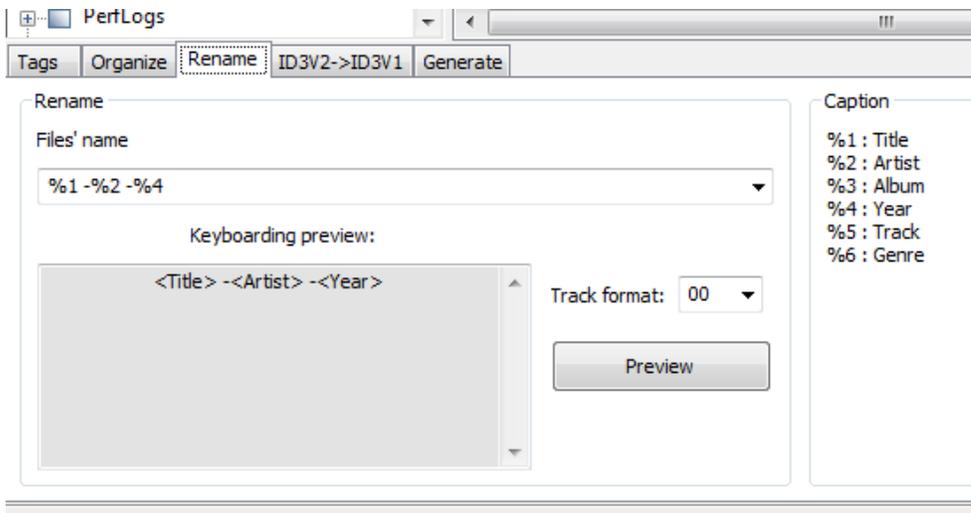
Once satisfied with the settings, click on “copy to” or “move to” to make Music Organizer arrange the selected files.

2.5 Renaming

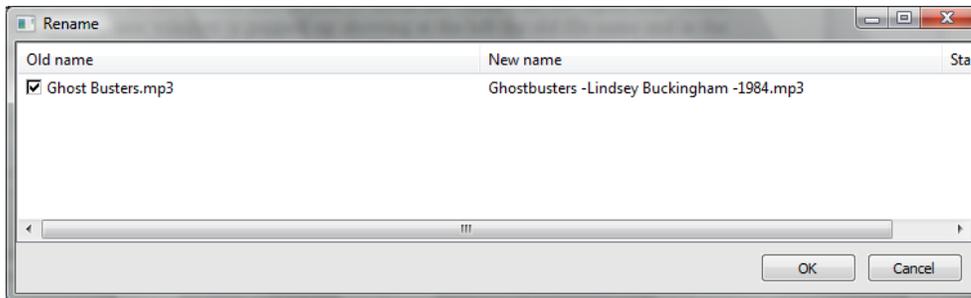
The renaming function of Music Organizer allows to rename music files according to their tags, giving them “smart” names that describe them clearly. (“Richard Strauss - Also Sprach Zarathustra.mp3” is better than “rstraussalsosprach.mp3”).

Select the files to be renamed and open the action panel “rename” tab. Select a file format from the drop-down menu or write one. The file format is the same

as the directory format used for organising.



Once satisfied with the file format, click on the preview button. It opens a window showing a table of correspondence between the current names (on the left) and the names the files will be given (on the right).



Check for problems in the new file names, marked by “<ERROR>” written in red. If there are no problems, click “Ok” to start renaming; “Cancel” brings you back to the “rename” tab.

2.6 Tag copy

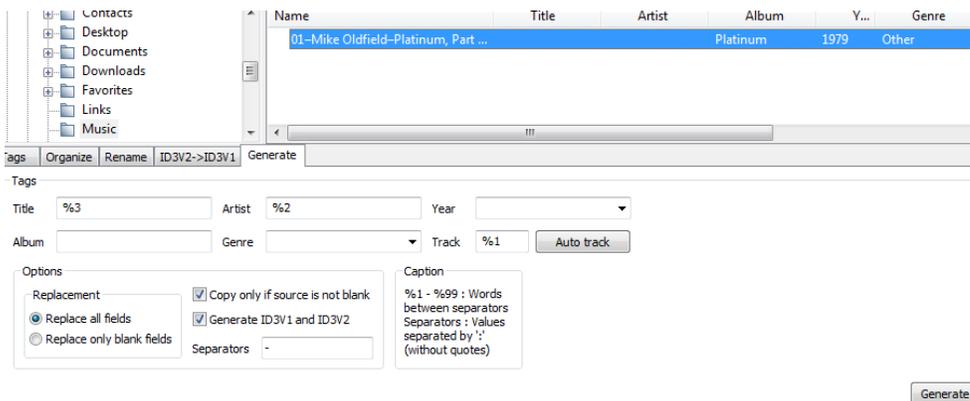
The “ID3v2->ID3v1” tab allows to overwrite ID3v1 tags with their ID3v2 counterparts. In the “tags to copy” subpanel, check the tags that you want to overwrite. In the replacement subpanel, precise whether you want to add a tag only if it is void (replace only blank fields) or unconditionally (replace all fields). The case subpanel proposes the change the case of the tags. The “copy only if source is not blank” checkbox will allow the overwriting of the tags only if one of the tags contains some information. *Warning* : this tab is only activated for the mp3 files.

2.7 Tag generator

The tag generator extracts information contained in the file name to fill the tags, performing the inverse operation of renaming. The tag generator uses the fact that the files are named according to a certain convention (eg. “02-Fatboy Slim-The Rockafeller Skank.mp3”), where tags (here, “02”, “Fatboy Slim”, and “The Rockafeller Skank”) are separated by special characters or sequences of characters called separators (here, “-”).

In the option panel, type the list of separators (separated by colons (“:”)) in the “separators” field. For example, the list of separators for “01 - Mike Oldfield - Platinum, Part 3 Airborne”, the separators are “ - ” (space hyphen space) and “ , ” (coma space), so the separator field should read “ - :, ” (space hyphen space colon coma space).

The first extracted information (here “01”) is designated by “%1”, the second (here “Mike Oldfield”) by “%2”, . . . , up to the 99th field, by “%99”. Fill in the tags fields with the corresponding information formats (here, the “Title” field should read “%3”, the “Artist” field “%2”, and the “Track” field “%1”).



The option subpanel presents a replacement panel similar to the ID3v2->ID3v1 replacement panel and a similar “copy only if source is not blank” checkbox. The “Generate ID3v1 and ID3v2” checkbox enables or disables the generation of the tags in both versions, usable only if mp3s are selected.

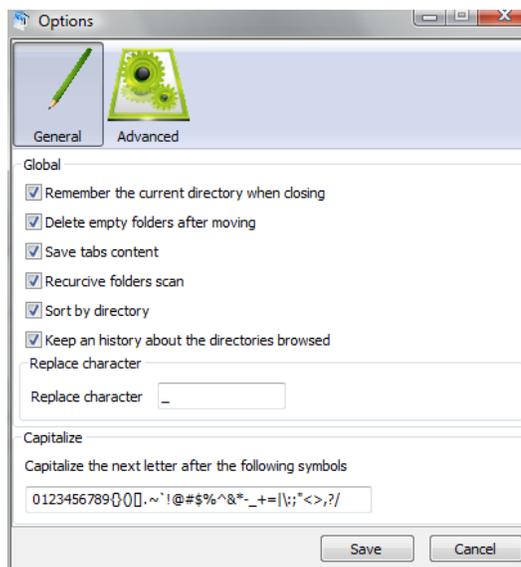
When satisfied with the tags generation settings, click on the “Generate” button. It will display a window showing the new tags. Click “Ok” to perform the tag generation ; “Cancel” brings you back to the “tag generation” tab.

3 Options

3.1 General options

The available options are

- *Remember the current directory when closing* so that the next time Music Organizer is launched it will open this directory. Note that you will still need to scan the directory (double-click on it).
- *Save tabs content* so that the settings will be restored the next time.
- *Recursive folder scan* so that when a directory is scanned, its subdirectories are also scanned; disable it if scanning entire directory trees is too long.
- *Sort by directory* so that the directories will be stored first by directory, then by the given criterion.
- *Keep a browsed directories history* so that the last ten browsed directories are listed in File > History.
- *Replace character* setting designates the character that replaces invalid characters typed in the fields; note that you can enter a replacement character sequence.
- *Uppercase* setting designates the characters that you want to be followed by a capital letter when the “First letter in uppercase” option in the “Rename” tab is selected.



3.2 Advanced options

This tab groups two options : the language and the music player used when a file is double-clicked in the files list. To use a non default music player, check the corresponding box and write the full path in the path field or select the

application with the file browser. On Unix systems (that includes Mac OS X), writing the application's name is enough if it is in the path.

