Companion for Transitioning to TheBrain Version 8.

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Welcome to TheBrain 8, the latest evolution of your ultimate digital memory! TheBrain 8 makes connecting your thinking, visualizing information relationships and fluid brainstorming even easier.

With faster application start up, enhanced multi-threading technology and tons of user interface updates, TheBrain 8 gives you even more powerful desktop visualization and knowledge management without limits.

TheBrain 8 new features include:

- Over 1500 built-in icons for Thoughts
- Quick Start Brains with Prebuilt Tags and Types
- Twitter Search Integration and Thought Creation
- Quick Create Thought
- Timeline View
- And many other enhancements …

For an overview of these features watch TheBrain 8 Feature Tour.
About this Guide

This guide covers the new features and changes in TheBrain 8 that have been made since version 7. It is intended for people who are already familiar with version 7. If you are new to TheBrain, we recommend our complete user guide on our documentation page.

Template Brains

Starting a New Brain from a Template

New template Thoughts, Types and Tags can help jumpstart any new Brain you are creating. When you start a new Brain you now have the option of starting with Template Brains.

Figure 1. Starting a New Brain from a Template

1. Check the Brain or set of Types and Tags you want to use. TheBrain will then begin importing these Thoughts, Types and Tags.

2. You will see the green status at the top of your Brain.
Once the import is complete the template Thoughts in your Brain will appear. From here you can use these Thoughts, change their names or delete the Thoughts you don't want.

Importing Template Thoughts, Types and Tags into an Existing Brain

1. Click on File Import and select Template Brain
Figure 4. A Brain Created from a Template

2. The **Import Template Brain** Menu will appear. From here you can then choose what template you want to import.

Figure 5. A Brain Created from a Template

TheBrain 8 template Brains include:

- **One Brain For It All** – A complete Brain structure that contains Thoughts, Tags and Types on business and personal information organization.

- **Business Brain** – Exclusively the business portion from the “One Brain for It All”. Gain automatic department mappings and useful Thought Types to visualize your business.
• **Business Types and Tags** – This option is designed for users who have an existing Thought structure but want to augment their classification with just new Thought Types and Tags.

• **Education Brain** – A helpful Brain for students to organize projects, courses, career goals and capture their ideas.

• **IT and Helpdesk Management Template** – This Brain includes key Thought Type and Tags for IT management such as database, server, new release as well as fundamental Thought categories for IT asset management, team organization, as well as helpdesk and user support.

• **Brainstorming Brain** – This Brain features Thoughts on goal directed thinking, David Allen’s Getting Things Done (GTD) methodology and Alexander Osborn’s, father of Brainstorming, brainstorming rules.

*Note:* Once a template is imported it cannot be undone. You can, however, mass select to delete or remove branches of Thoughts you do not want. You might also want to create a test Brain and import template Thoughts. Thoughts can always be copied from one Brain to the other. So if there is part of a template you want you can always copy into an existing Brain.

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### TheBrain Icons

TheBrain 8 includes over 1500 built-in icons for your Thoughts. Choose from a wide range of categories like: Technology, Business or Art and Education.

To select a Brain icon to be added to a Thought:

1. Right click on the desired Thought
2. Click **Select Thought Icon**
3. Scroll through the list to select the desired icon or filter the list by selecting a specific category in the **Choose Category** drop down menu.
OR

4. Click on the desired Thought to make it the current Active Thought in your Brain.

5. In the **Thought Tool Tab**, click on the grey plus sign next to the Thought name to open the Icon Tool Menu.

   ![Figure 8. The Icon Tool Menu Button](image)

   **Figure 8. The Icon Tool Menu Button**

6. Scroll through the list to select the desired icon or filter the list by selecting a specific category in the **Choose Category** drop down menu.

   ![Tip: From the Icon Tool Menu, you have several other options for adding an image to a Thought:](image)

   - Click on the camera to take a screen shot for your desired icon.
   - Select an image that you have saved locally by clicking on the folder icon.
   - Click on the paste icon button if you already have an image on your current clipboard.

   ![Figure 9. Additional Icon Options](image)
Twitter Search Integration

Keep track of your favorite threads and searches in Twitter right from your Brain. TheBrain 8 Twitter Search lets you create Thoughts automatically that launch your favorite Twitter searches, hashtags or accounts.

The Twitter Search can be activated from the Options drop down menu.

You have 3 different search options:

- **All** – Searches all content of Twitter posts.
- **Hashtag** – Searches only hashtags in Twitter.
- **Twitter Account** – Enter your favorite accounts to see their specific messages or any messages that have been tweeted @ them.
Twitter Search Integration

![Twitter Search Options](image)

**Figure 12. Twitter Search Options**

**Preview**

Clicking on **Preview** will open [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) with your specified search results in your system's default browser. If you would like to preserve these search results as an attachment to a new Thought in your Brain, click on **Create Thought**.

**Create Thought**

Clicking on **Create Thought** will create a new Child Thought in your under the current Active Thought.

- The Thought name will be the content of the original search criteria.
- The link to the search results will appear on that Thought. When you click on the Twitter icon the content will open in your Web browser.

![Twitter Search New Thought and Web Link](image)

**Figure 13. Twitter Search New Thought and Web Link**
Timeline View

Your Thought modifications are now logged and instantly viewable by time. TheBrain 8 Timeline View gives you a chronological display of the previous 1000 created and modified Thoughts for maximum insight.

Modifications can include:

- Renaming
- Editing, adding or deleting attachments
- Any edit to the Thought notes
- Renaming
- Linking or unlinking to another Thought

To view your Thought Timeline, simply click on the clock icon next to the search box. Modified Thoughts will be displayed chronologically starting with the current date.

Figure 14. Timeline View
Quick Create Thought

Now you can create Thoughts and capture your ideas even faster. TheBrain 8 lets you create a Thought with zero clicks right from TheBrain search box.

Simply type a new Thought name into the search box. If the Thought name exists, you can click on it in the Instant Search results. If you would like to search for this content in the Thought Attachments or Notes, click the Search button. If you want to quickly create a new Thought with this name, click the Brain’s new Create button.

![Image of TheBrain search box with Quick Create button highlighted]

*Figure 15. Quick Create Thought*

Your Thought will be created as an Orphan Thought. From here you can link it to any desired, existing Thought in your Brain.

Output Brain Image

Looking to include a screenshot of your Brain creation in a PowerPoint, proposal document, web page or newsletter? TheBrain 8 allows you to capture screen shots of your Thoughts, right from the software.

1. Create or navigate to the area of a Brain where you would like to capture the screenshot.

2. Click on File > Export > Image.

3. Select the location where you would like to save the new .png file.
Figure 16. Exporting a Thought Network Image

Figure 17. Use Your Thoughts Image in Documents, Presentations or Sharing Online.
Online Menu Options

TheBrain 8 has a new **Online** menu in your toolbar. Now you can access your Cloud Services settings easier from your desktop client and share Thoughts quicker.

![Online Menu Options](image)

**Figure 18. Online Menu Options**

Click the **Online** menu in TheBrain’s toolbar to access the following features:

**Synchronization with TheBrain Cloud Services**… – Synchronizes the current opened Brain to your Cloud account.

**Copy Web Thought URL** – Copies the current active Thought’s online URL to your system clipboard. This saves you the hassle of launching a new browser window to log into your Brain Cloud account and navigating to a specific Thought in order to acquire it’s URL.

**Copy Web Thought URL** and **View in Browser** will only work if you have synchronized your Brain to TheBrain Cloud.

**View in Browser** – Launches a Browser window and automatically loads the current Brain from TheBrain Cloud.

**Brain Settings** – Launches your default web browser and loads the Settings page for the current active Brain. This is a quick way to switch a Brain’s Access Control Level or grant a new TeamBrain member access.

**Open Account Page** – Easy access to your Brain Cloud Account Page.
Find Brains by Name

Logout from TheBrain Cloud Services – This will log you out of the software and take you back to the Login screen.

Find Brains by Name

TheBrain 8 has a new **Open Brain** menu featuring easy access to all your Brains and a variety of sorting options.

- Type the first few letters of the Brain you are searching for in the **Brains Named** field to filter your list.
- Sort the order of your Brains alphabetically by **Name** or chronologically by **Last Accessed** date.
- Click on **Browse Local Files** to open a file selection dialog box.

![Open Brain](image)

**Figure 19. Open Brain**
Thought Type Tool Tab

Thought Types are now conveniently located in their own tab in the Tools area below the plex, where they can be activated, modified, created and deleted.

Figure 21. Thought Types Tab
New Preferences

Setting Other Preferences

TheBrain’s Preferences dialog box is where you’ll find many of the settings for adjusting how your Brain works, both mechanically and visually.

To open the Preferences dialog box:

1. Click the Options menu, then click the Preferences command (under Mac OS, the Preferences command is located in the Brain menu), or

2. Right-click a blank area of the Plex, then click the Preferences command on the context menu.

There is now a Brain Specific Settings preference that lets you specify font, Thought and link colors.

![Brain Preferences dialog box](image)

Figure 22. Brain Preferences
New Calendar Event Sorting

TheBrain lets you set reminders and create events for all your key deadlines. TheBrain 8 features new sorting of all events. Now you can sort your daily calendar events by Date/Time, Event Name, Thought Name, or Priority.

Figure 23. Calendar Sorting

Additional Enhancements

Improved Application Performance

TheBrain 8 offers improved data synchronization including:

- Animation and display is optimized for speed.
- Database storage is optimized for speed and scalability.
- Calendar performance is optimized.
Mac OS X Enhancements

There are several Mac OSX enhancements that enable improved information visualization on your Mac including:

- Retina display support
- Icons for Apple iWork document types
- Added support for JDK 7
- Code Signing for easy installation on any Mac OS

Synchronization Improvements with TheBrain Cloud Services

- More efficient syncs – Thoughts are no longer unnecessarily synced when the link between them is modified.
- Streamlined Brainzip creation.

UI Enhancements

- A more compact Custom Reports dialog.
- Improved Favicon Management – Favicons are now centrally stored and managed for better performance.
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