organize Documentation

Release 1.7.0

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Contents

		Contents:		
		Quickstart		
	1.2	Configuration		
	1.3	Filters		
	1.4	Actions	19	
2	Indic	ces and tables	27	
Ру	thon l	Module Index	29	
In	dex		31	

organize is a command line utility to automate file organization tasks.

http://github.com/tfeldmann/organize

Contents 1

2 Contents

CHAPTER 1

Contents:

1.1 Quickstart

1.1.1 Installation

```
Requirements: Python 3.3+

organize is installed via pip:

On macOS / Windows: $ pip3 install organize-tool

On Linux: $ sudo pip3 install organize-tool
```

1.1.2 Creating your first config file

To edit the configuration in your \$EDITOR, run:

```
$ organize config
```

For example your configuration file could look like this:

Listing 1: config.yaml

```
rules:
    # move screenshots into "Screenshots" folder
- folders:
    - ~/Desktop
    filters:
    - filename:
        startswith: Screen Shot
    actions:
    - move: ~/Desktop/Screenshots/
# move incomplete downloads older > 30 days into the trash
```

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```
- folders:
    - ~/Downloads
filters:
    - extension:
    - crdownload
    - part
    - download
    - lastmodified:
    days: 30
actions:
    - trash
```

Note: You can run \$ organize config --path to show the full path to the configuration file.

1.1.3 Simulate and run

After you saved the configuration file, run \$ organize sim to show a simulation of how your files would be organized.

If you like what you see, run \$ organize run to organize your files.

Note: Congrats! You just automated some tedious cleaning tasks! Continue to *Configuration* to see the full potential of organize or skip directly to the *Filters* and *Actions*.

1.2 Configuration

1.2.1 Editing the configuration

All configuration takes place in your config.yaml file.

• To edit your configuration in \$EDITOR run:

```
$ organize config # example: "EDITOR=vim organize config"
```

• To show the full path to your configuration file:

```
$ organize config --path
```

• To open the folder containing the configuration file:

```
$ organize config --open-folder
```

• To debug your configuration run:

```
$ organize config --debug
```

1.2.2 Environment variables

- \$EDITOR The editor used to edit the config file.
- \$ORGANIZE_CONFIG The config file path. Is overridden by --config-file cmd line argument.

1.2.3 Rule syntax

The rule configuration is done in YAML. You need a top-level element rules which contains a list of rules. Each rule defines folders, filters (optional) and actions.

Listing 2: config.yaml

```
rules:
- folders:
      - ~/Desktop
      - /some/folder/
   filters:
      - lastmodified:
          days: 40
          mode: newer
      - extension: pdf
    actions:
      - move: ~/Desktop/Target/
      - trash
- folders:
      - ~/Inbox
    filters:
      - extension: pdf
   actions:
      - move: ~/otherinbox
    # optional settings:
   enabled: true
   subfolders: true
   system_files: false
```

- folders is a list of folders you want to organize.
- filters is a list of filters to apply to the files you can filter by file extension, last modified date, regular expressions and many more. See *Filters*.
- actions is a list of actions to apply to the filtered files. You can put them into the trash, move them into another folder and many more. See *Actions*.

Other optional per rule settings:

- enabled can be used to temporarily disable single rules. Default = true
- subfolders specifies whether subfolders should be included in the search. Default = false. This setting only applies to folders without glob wildcards.
- system_files specifies whether to include system files (desktop.ini, thumbs.db, .DS_Store) in the search. Default = false

1.2. Configuration 5

1.2.4 Folder syntax

Every rule in your configuration file needs to know the folders it applies to. The easiest way is to define the rules like this:

Listing 3: config.yaml

Note:

• You can use environment variables in your folder names. On windows this means you can use %public%/ Desktop, %APPDATA%, %PROGRAMDATA% etc.

Globstrings

You can use globstrings in the folder lists. For example to get all files with filenames ending with _ui and any file extension you can use:

Listing 4: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders:
    - '~/Downloads/*_ui.*'
    actions:
    - echo: '{path}'
```

You can use globstrings to recurse through subdirectories (alternatively you can use the subfolders: true setting as shown below)

Listing 5: config.yaml

The following example recurses through all subdirectories in your downloads folder and finds files with ending in .c and .h.

Listing 6: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders:
        - '~/Downloads/**/*.[c|h]'
    actions:
        - echo: '{path}'
```

Note:

• You have to target files with the globstring, not folders. So to scan through all folders starting with *log_* you would write yourpath/log_*/*

Excluding files and folders

Files and folders can be excluded by prepending an exclamation mark. The following example selects all files in ~/Downloads and its subfolders - excluding the folder Software:

Listing 7: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders:
    - '~/Downloads/**/*'
    - '! ~/Downloads/Software'
    actions:
    - echo: '{path}'
```

Globstrings can be used to exclude only specific files / folders. This example:

- adds all files in ~/Downloads
- exludes files from that list whose name contains the word system ending in .bak
- adds all files from ~/Documents
- excludes the file ~/Documents/important.txt.

Listing 8: config.yaml

Note:

- Files and folders are included and excluded in the order you specify them!
- Please make sure your are putting the exclamation mark within quotation marks.

1.2. Configuration 7

Aliases

Instead of repeating the same folders in each and every rule you can use an alias for multiple folders which you can then reference in each rule. Aliases are a standard feature of the YAML syntax.

Listing 9: config.yaml

You can even use multiple folder lists:

Listing 10: config.yaml

```
private_folders: &private
 - '/path/private'
  - '~/path/private'
work_folders: &work
 - '/path/work'
  - '~/My work folder'
all_folders: &all
  - *private
  - *work
rules:
  - folders: *private
   filters: ...
   actions: ...
  - folders: *work
   filters: ...
   actions: ...
  - folders: *all
   filters: ...
    actions: ...
  # same as *all
  - folders:
     - *work
      - *private
    filters: ...
    actions: ...
```

1.2.5 Filter syntax

filters is a list of *Filters*. Filters are defined like this:

Listing 11: config.yaml

```
rules:
  - folders: ...
   actions: ...
   filters:
      # filter without parameters
      - FilterName
      # filter with a single parameter
      - FilterName: parameter
      # filter expecting a list as parameter
      - FilterName:
        - first
       - second
        - third
      # filter with multiple parameters
      - FilterName:
          parameter1: true
          option2: 10.51
          third_argument: test string
```

Note: Every filter comes with multiple usage examples which should be easy to adapt for your use case!

1.2.6 Action syntax

actions is a list of Actions. Actions can be defined like this:

Listing 12: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: ...
    actions:
    # action without parameters
    - ActionName

# action with a single parameter
    - ActionName: parameter

# filter with multiple parameters
- ActionName:
    parameter1: true
    option2: 10.51
    third_argument: test string
```

Note: Every action comes with multiple usage examples which should be easy to adapt for your use case!

1.2. Configuration 9

Variable substitution (placeholders)

You can use placeholder variables in your actions.

Placeholder variables are used with curly braces {var}. You always have access to the variables {path}, {basedir} and {relative_path}:

- {path} is the full path to the current file
- {basedir} the current base folder (the base folder is the folder you specify in your configuration).
- {relative_path} the relative path from {basedir} to {path}

Use the dot notation to access properties of {path}, {basedir} and {relative_path}:

- {path} the full path to the current file
- {path.name} the full filename including extension
- {path.stem} just the file name without extension
- {path.suffix} the file extension
- {path.parent} the parent folder of the current file
- {path.parent.parent} parent calls are chainable...
- {basedir} the full path to the current base folder
- {basedir.parent} the full path to the base folder's parent

and any other property of the python pathlib.Path (official documentation) object.

Additionally *Filters* may emit placeholder variables when applied to a path. Check the documentation and examples of the filter to see available placeholder variables and usage examples.

Some examples include:

- {lastmodified.year} the year the file was last modified
- {regex.yournamedgroup} anything you can extract via regular expressions
- $\{ \texttt{extension.upper} \} \text{the file extension in uppercase}$
- ... and many more.

1.3 Filters

1.3.1 Created

class Created (days=0, hours=0, minutes=0, seconds=0, mode='older') Matches files by created date

Parameters

- days (int) specify number of days
- hours (int) specify number of hours
- minutes (int) specify number of minutes
- mode (str) either 'older' or 'newer'. 'older' matches all files created before the given time, 'newer' matches all files created within the given time. (default = 'older')

Returns

- {created.year} the year the file was created
- {created.month} the month the file was created
- {created.day} the day the file was created
- {created.hour} the hour the file was created
- {created.minute} the minute the file was created
- {created.second} the second the file was created

Examples:

• Show all files on your desktop created at least 10 days ago:

Listing 13: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - created:
            days: 10
    actions:
        - echo: 'Was created at least 10 days ago'
```

• Show all files on your desktop which were created within the last 5 hours:

Listing 14: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
     - created:
        hours: 5
        mode: newer
    actions:
     - echo: 'Was created within the last 5 hours'
```

• Sort pdfs by year of creation:

Listing 15: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Documents'
    filters:
        - extension: pdf
        - created
    actions:
        - move: '~/Documents/PDF/{created.year}/'
```

1.3.2 Exif

```
class Exif (*required_tags, **tag_filters)
Filter by image EXIF data
```

The exif filter can be used as a filter as well as a way to get exif information into your actions.

Returns

1.3. Filters 11

 $\{exif\}$ – a dict of all the collected exif inforantion available in the file. Typically it consists of the following tags (if present in the file):

- {exif.image} information related to the main image
- {exif.exif} Exif information
- {exif.gps} GPS information
- {exif.interoperability} Interoperability information

Examples:

12

• Show available EXIF data of your pictures:

Listing 16: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: ~/Pictures
    subfolders: true
    filters:
        - exif
    actions:
        - echo: "{exif}"
```

· Copy all images which contain GPS information while keeping subfolder structure:

Listing 17: config.yaml

• Filter by camera manufacturer:

Listing 18: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: ~/Pictures
    subfolders: true
    filters:
        - exif:
            image.model: Nikon D3200
    actions:
            - move: '~/Pictures/My old Nikon/'
```

• Sort images by camera manufacturer. This will create folders for each camera model (for example "Nikon D3200", "iPhone 6s", "iPhone 5s", "DMC-GX80") and move the pictures accordingly:

Listing 19: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: ~/Pictures
    subfolders: true
```

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```
filters:
    - extension: jpg
    - exif:
        image.model
actions:
    - move: '~/Pictures/{exif.image.model}/'
```

1.3.3 Extension

class Extension(*extensions)

Filter by file extension

Parameters extensions – The file extensions to match (does not need to start with a colon).

Returns

- {extension} the original file extension (without colon)
- {extension.lower} the file extension in lowercase
- {extension.upper} the file extension in UPPERCASE

Examples:

• Match a single file extension:

Listing 20: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - extension: png
    actions:
        - echo: 'Found PNG file: {path}'
```

• Match multiple file extensions:

Listing 21: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - extension:
        - .jpg
        - jpeg
        actions:
        - echo: 'Found JPG file: {path}'
```

• Make all file extensions lowercase:

Listing 22: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
          - Extension
```

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1.3. Filters 13

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```
actions:
    - rename: '{path.stem}.{extension.lower}'
```

• Using extension lists:

Listing 23: config.yaml

```
img_ext: &img
  - png
  - jpg
  - tiff
audio_ext: &audio
  - mp3
  - wav
  - ogg
rules:
  - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
      - extension:
        -*imq
        - *audio
    actions:
      - echo: 'Found media file: {path}'
```

1.3.4 Filename

class Filename (startswith=", contains=", endswith=", case_sensitive=True) Match files by filename

Parameters

- **startswith** (str) The filename must begin with the given string
- contains (str) The filename must contain the given string
- endswith (str) The filename (without extension) must end with the given string
- **case_sensitive = True** (bool) By default, the matching is case sensitive. Change this to False to use case insensitive matching.

Examples:

• Match all files starting with 'Invoice':

Listing 24: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
     - filename:
          startswith: Invoice
    actions:
     - echo: 'This is an invoice'
```

• Match all files starting with 'A' end containing the string 'hole' (case insensitive)

Listing 25: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - filename:
            startswith: A
            contains: hole
            case_sensitive: false
        actions:
        - echo: 'Found a match.'
```

• Match all files starting with 'A' or 'B' containing '5' or '6' and ending with '_end'

Listing 26: config.yaml

1.3.5 FileSize

class FileSize(*conditions)

Matches files by file size

Parameters conditions (str)-

Accepts file size conditions, e.g: '>= 500 MB', '< 20k', '>0', '= 10 KiB'.

It is possible to define both lower and upper conditions like this: '>20k, <1 TB', '>=20 Mb, <25 Mb'. The filter will match if all given conditions are satisfied.

- · Accepts all units from KB to YB.
- If no unit is given, kilobytes are assumend.
- If binary prefix is given (KiB, GiB) the size is calculated using base 1024.

Returns

• {filesize.bytes} - File size in bytes

Examples:

• Trash big downloads:

1.3. Filters 15

Listing 27: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Downloads'
    filters:
     - filesize: '> 0.5 GB'
    actions:
     - trash
```

• Move all JPEGS bigger > 1MB and <10 MB. Search all subfolders and keep the original relative path.

Listing 28: config.yaml

1.3.6 LastModified

class LastModified (days=0, hours=0, minutes=0, seconds=0, mode='older') Matches files by last modified date

Parameters

- **days** (*int*) specify number of days
- hours (int) specify number of hours
- minutes (int) specify number of minutes
- **mode** (str) either 'older' or 'newer'. 'older' matches all files last modified before the given time, 'newer' matches all files last modified within the given time. (default = 'older')

Returns

- {lastmodified.year} the year the file was last modified
- {lastmodified.month} the month the file was last modified
- {lastmodified.day} the day the file was last modified
- {lastmodified.hour} the hour the file was last modified
- {lastmodified.minute} the minute the file was last modified
- {lastmodified.second} the second the file was last modified

Examples:

• Show all files on your desktop last modified at least 10 days ago:

Listing 29: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - lastmodified:
            days: 10
    actions:
        - echo: 'Was modified at least 10 days ago'
```

• Show all files on your desktop which were modified within the last 5 hours:

Listing 30: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - lastmodified:
            hours: 5
            mode: newer
        actions:
        - echo: 'Was modified within the last 5 hours'
```

• Sort pdfs by year of last modification

Listing 31: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Documents'
    filters:
        - extension: pdf
        - LastModified
    actions:
        - move: '~/Documents/PDF/{lastmodified.year}/'
```

1.3.7 Python

class Python(code)

Use python code to filter files.

Parameters code (str) – The python code to execute. The code must contain a return statement.

Returns

- If your code returns False or None the file is filtered out, otherwise the file is passed on to the next filters.
- {python} contains the returned value. If you return a dictionary (for example return {"some_key": some_value, "nested": {"k": 2}}) it will be accessible via dot syntax in your actions: {python.some_key}, {python.nested.k}.

Examples:

• A file name reverser.

1.3. Filters 17

Listing 32: config.yaml

```
rules:
- folders: ~/Documents
  filters:
- extension
- python: |
    return {"reversed_name": path.stem[::-1]}
  actions:
- rename: '{python.reversed_name}.{extension}'
```

• A filter for odd student numbers. Assuming the folder ~/Students contains the files student-01.jpg, student-01.txt, student-02.txt and student-03.txt this rule will print "Odd student numbers: student-01.txt" and "Odd student numbers: student-03.txt"

Listing 33: config.yaml

```
rules:
- folders: ~/Students/
  filters:
- python: |
    return int(path.stem.split('-')[1]) % 2 == 1
  actions:
- echo: 'Odd student numbers: {path.name}'
```

Advanced usecase. You can access data from previous filters in your python code. This can be used to
match files and capturing names with a regular expression and then renaming the files with the output
of your python script.

Listing 34: config.yaml

Result:

- Devonte-Betts.txt becomes dbetts@mail.de.txt
- Alaina-Cornish.txt becomes acornish@google.com.txt
- Dimitri-Bean.txt becomes dbean@aol.com.txt
- Lowri-Frey.txt becomes l-frey@frey.org.txt

- Someunknown-User.txt remains unchanged because the email is not found

1.3.8 Regex

class Regex(expr)

Matches filenames with the given regular expression

Parameters expr(str) – The regular expression to be matched.

Any named groups in your regular expression will be returned like this:

Returns

• {regex.yourgroupname} - The text matched with the named group (? P<yourgroupname>)

Examples:

• Match an invoice with a regular expression:

Listing 35: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - regex: '^RG(\d{12})-sig\.pdf$'
    actions:
        - move: '~/Documents/Invoices/lund1/'
```

• Match and extract data from filenames with regex named groups: This is just like the previous example but we rename the invoice using the invoice number extracted via the regular expression and the named group the number.

Listing 36: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: ~/Desktop
    filters:
        - regex: '^RG(?P<the_number>\d{12})-sig\.pdf$'
    actions:
        - move: ~/Documents/Invoices/1und1/{regex.the_number}.pdf
```

1.4 Actions

1.4.1 Copy

```
class Copy (dest[, overwrite=False][, counter_separator=''])
```

Copy a file to a new location. If the specified path does not exist it will be created.

Parameters

• **dest** (*str*) – The destination where the file should be copied to. If *dest* ends with a slash / backslash, the file will be copied into this folder and keep its original name.

1.4. Actions 19

- **overwrite** (bool) specifies whether existing files should be overwritten. Otherwise it will start enumerating files (append a counter to the filename) to resolve naming conflicts. [Default: False]
- **counter_separator** (*str*) specifies the separator between filename and the appended counter. Only relevant if **overwrite** is disabled. [Default: ' ']

Examples:

• Copy all pdfs into ~/Desktop/somefolder/ and keep filenames

Listing 37: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: ~/Desktop
    filters:
        - extension: pdf
    actions:
        - copy: '~/Desktop/somefolder/'
```

• Use a placeholder to copy all .pdf files into a "PDF" folder and all .jpg files into a "JPG" folder. Existing files will be overwritten.

Listing 38: config.yaml

• Copy into the folder *Invoices*. Keep the filename but do not overwrite existing files. To prevent overwriting files, an index is added to the filename, so *somefile.jpg* becomes *somefile 2.jpg*. The counter separator is 'by default, but can be changed using the *counter_separator* property.

Listing 39: config.yaml

1.4.2 Echo

class Echo (msg)

Prints the given (formatted) message. This can be useful to test your rules, especially if you use formatted

messages.

Parameters msg(str) – The message to print (can be formatted)

Example:

• Prints "Found old file" for each file older than one year:

Listing 40: config.yaml

• Prints "Hello World!" and filepath for each file on the desktop:

Listing 41: config.yaml

• This will print something like Found a PNG: "test.png" for each file on your desktop:

Listing 42: config.yaml

• Show the {basedir} and {path} of all files in '~/Downloads', '~/Desktop' and their subfolders:

Listing 43: config.yaml

1.4.3 Move

```
class Move (dest[, overwrite=False][, counter_separator=''])

Move a file to a new location. The file can also be renamed. If the specified path does not exist it will be created.
```

1.4. Actions 21

If you only want to rename the file and keep the folder, it is easier to use the Rename-Action.

Parameters

- **dest** (str) The destination folder or path. If *dest* ends with a slash / backslash, the file will be moved into this folder and not renamed.
- **overwrite** (bool) specifies whether existing files should be overwritten. Otherwise it will start enumerating files (append a counter to the filename) to resolve naming conflicts. [Default: False]
- **counter_separator** (*str*) specifies the separator between filename and the appended counter. Only relevant if **overwrite** is disabled. [Default: ' ']

Examples:

• Move all pdfs and jpgs from the desktop into the folder "~/Desktop/media/". Filenames are not changed.

Listing 44: config.yaml

• Use a placeholder to move all .pdf files into a "PDF" folder and all .jpg files into a "JPG" folder. Existing files will be overwritten.

Listing 45: config.yaml

• Move pdfs into the folder *Invoices*. Keep the filename but do not overwrite existing files. To prevent overwriting files, an index is added to the filename, so somefile.jpg becomes somefile 2.jpg.

Listing 46: config.yaml

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```
dest: '~/Documents/Invoices/'
  overwrite: false
  counter_separator: '_'
```

1.4.4 Python

class Python(code)

Execute python code in your config file.

Parameters code (str) – The python code to execute

Examples:

• A basic example that shows how to get the current file path and do some printing in a for loop. The is yaml syntax for defining a string literal spanning multiple lines.

Listing 47: config.yaml

```
rules:
- folders: '~/Desktop'
actions:
    - python: |
        print('The path of the current file is %s' % path)
        for _ in range(5):
            print('Heyho, its me from the loop')
```

• You can access filter data:

Listing 48: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: ~/Desktop
    filters:
        - regex: '^(?P<name>.*)\.(?P<extension>.*)$'
    actions:
        - python: |
            print('Name: %s' % regex.name)
            print('Extension: %s' % regex.extension)
```

• You have access to all the python magic – do a google search for each filename starting with an underscore:

Listing 49: config.yaml

```
rules:
- folders: ~/Desktop
  filters:
- filename:
     startswith: '_'
  actions:
- python: |
     import webbrowser
     webbrowser.open('https://www.google.com/search?q=%s' % path.stem)
```

1.4. Actions 23

1.4.5 Rename

class Rename (dest[, overwrite=False][, counter_separator=''])
Renames a file.

Parameters

- name (str) The new filename. Can be a format string which uses file attributes from a filter.
- **overwrite** (bool) specifies whether existing files should be overwritten. Otherwise it will start enumerating files (append a counter to the filename) to resolve naming conflicts. [Default: False]
- **counter_separator** (*str*) specifies the separator between filename and the appended counter. Only relevant if **overwrite** is disabled. [Default: ' ']

Examples:

• Convert all .PDF file extensions to lowercase (.pdf):

Listing 50: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - extension: PDF
    actions:
        - rename: "{path.stem}.pdf"
```

• Convert all file extensions to lowercase:

Listing 51: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
        - Extension
    actions:
        - rename: "{path.stem}.{extension.lower}"
```

1.4.6 Shell

class Shell(cmd: str)

Executes a shell command

Parameters cmd(str) – The command to execute.

Example:

• (macOS) Open all pdfs on your desktop:

Listing 52: config.yaml

```
rules:
    - folders: '~/Desktop'
    filters:
```

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```
- extension: pdf
actions:
    - shell: 'open "{path}"'
```

1.4.7 Trash

class Trash

Move a file into the trash.

Example:

• Move all JPGs and PNGs on the desktop which are older than one year into the trash:

Listing 53: config.yaml

If you find any bugs or have an idea for a new feature please don't hesitate to open an issue on GitHub.

1.4. Actions 25

CHAPTER 2

Indices and tables

- genindex
- modindex
- search

Python Module Index

```
a
actions, 19
f
filters, 10
```

30 Python Module Index

Index

A
actions (module), 19
С
Copy (class in actions), 19 Created (class in filters), 10
Е
Echo (class in actions), 20 Exif (class in filters), 11 Extension (class in filters), 13
F
Filename (class in filters), 14 FileSize (class in filters), 15 filters (module), 10
L
LastModified (class in filters), 16
M
Move (class in actions), 21
Р
Python (class in actions), 23 Python (class in filters), 17
R
Regex (class in filters), 19 Rename (class in actions), 24
S
Shell (class in actions), 24
Т
Trash (class in actions), 25