



Take Control of Scrivener 2

Kirk McElhearn

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In this ebook, you'll take a creative voyage with Scrivener, a unique and popular content-generation tool. Scrivener supports wordsmiths of all types, and it's designed especially for long-form writing projects - scripts, novels, academic works, and more. Author Kirk McElhearn walks you through using Scrivener to create and manage a writing project on your Mac. You'll learn how to use Scrivener's Binder, Outliner, and Corkboard to develop characters and settings, collect and organize research materials, and arrange your scenes. Kirk even explains how to keep yourself on track by switching to Full Screen (Compose) mode and by setting daily progress targets, all on the way to helping you produce a polished, submission-ready manuscript.

Which Scrivener versions? This ebook was last updated when Scrivener for the Mac was at version 2.4. The developers of Scrivener are putting a lot of effort into bringing the Windows version into feature parity with the Mac version. This ebook has info for Windows users so they can tell which features will work for them, with the ebook last updated for version 1.2.5. You'll learn how to handle each aspect of the flexible Scrivener manuscript-generation process:

Set up: Add reference materials to your project for easy access -- •videos, audio files, PDFs, Web resources, and more. And, if you've already written bits of text, you can import those items too, including OPML outline files (such as from OmniOutliner Pro). Beyond importing from the Finder, you can use Mac OS X Services or Scrivener's handy Scratch Pad panel. Or, you can use the Import and Split feature to import a long document into multiple chapters or segments in Scrivener.

BONUS! The ebook has inspirational testimonials about Scrivener from published authors who have embraced Scrivener, including James Fallows, Jason Snell, Jeff Abbott, and Michael Marshall Smith. Who knows, maybe you'll be next!

Organize: Use the Outliner, Corkboard, Collections, and Binder to mix and match your content into the perfect final arrangement. For example, you can:

- Ignore the concept of a traditional file and break your manuscript into sections based on character, theme, topic, scene, or whatever you like.
- Organize your manuscript linearly in the Outliner.
- Use search Collections to search for a character, location, or phrase and see just those texts.
- Organize ideas by dragging and pinning index cards on the Corkboard.

Write: Learn how to hide distractions so you can wordsmith in peace, whether in Full Screen mode in Windows or the Mac, or Compose mode on the Mac; set up Typewriter Scrolling to keep your writing focus at the center of the screen, not the bottom; and view more than one part of your project at once, so you can write in one section while referring to another. Also, use Scrivenings view to write one thread of a story all at once in a single view, even if it is broken up in multiple scenes or chapters in the final manuscript.

Format: Optimize the formatting you see when you work in Scrivener for your eyes and your screen, and understand how this can differ from the formatting in a "compiled" version of your manuscript.

Revise: Use revision marking and the useful Snapshot capability to experiment with and compare the effect of different revision strategies, while still being able to roll back to a previous version.

Be Mobile: Work on your project using more than one computer, or on an iPad.

Compile: Don't worry if the term "compile" is unfamiliar; it enables you to assemble your manuscript into linear order, in a form that can be printed or converted to common file formats. Scrivener supports RTF, Microsoft Word, OpenOffice, Final Draft, PDF, MOBI, and EPUB.

Should you buy this book? If you are already using or intend to use Scrivener then absolutely. It's utterly worth buying and reading to discover how best to use the software. -Miraz Jordan

MacTips book review

Specific questions answered in the ebook include:

- What's the difference between a Scrivener...

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Linda Meier:

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