

I don't have a huge volume of email, but I do like to keep old emails for a year or two for reference (yes, I'm a pack rat). I found that just leaving them in my mailboxes wasn't a very convenient solution. The contents got too big, and Apple Mail's simple search capabilities often resulted in too many hits which I had to wade through to find what I wanted.

MailSteward is a very useful application for archiving email, *including attachments*, in a searchable database. It has multiple field "and/or" searching which is fast and quite easy to use. It comes in two versions, MailSteward Lite and the full version, MailSteward. The major features and differences between the versions are summarized below.

	\$24.95*	\$49.95
	MS Lite	MS Full
Archiving		
Select by Date Range	✓	✓
Select by Mailbox(es)	✓	✓
Archive raw source Y/N	✓	✓
Archive HTML or Rich Text Y/N	✓	✓
Archive Attachments Y/N	✓	✓
Include Trash & Junk mailboxes Y/N	✓	✓
Multiple Databases	✓	✓
Merge Databases		✓
Schedule automatic archiving		✓
Backup and Restore database (manual)	✓	✓
Database statistics report		✓
Sort & Search		
Browse all	✓	✓
Sort by From, To, Date, Subject, Mailbox, # of Attachments	✓	✓
"Find" in text of selected email	✓	✓
And/Or Search Fields: Date, From, To, Subject, Body Text, Attachment Name, Attachment Text	✓	✓
Add Tags: Category, Keyword, Notes, Priority		✓
Include added Tags in Search		✓
Archived Email Actions		
Reply to selected email	✓	✓
Delete selected: mail from list, mail from DB, attachments	✓	✓
Save or Print: email list, selected emails, all emails in list	✓	✓
Launch/Open or Save attachments	✓	✓
Export to mbox file, SQL file, Tab-delim text, separate DB file		✓
<i>*MailSteward Lite is not entitled to free upgrades, Full version is.</i>		

A fully functional demo version (limited to 3,000 emails) can be downloaded from www.mailsteward.com.

There are some screen shots, performance data and more information on the other side.

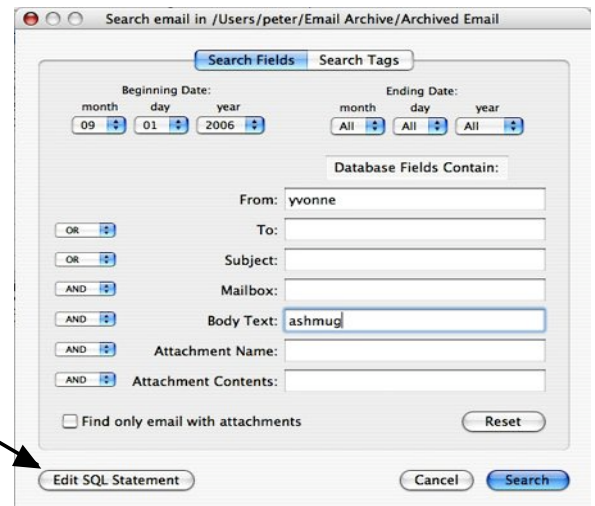
Performance

for 618 emails, about 200 with attachments

Archive: 14 min 5 sec

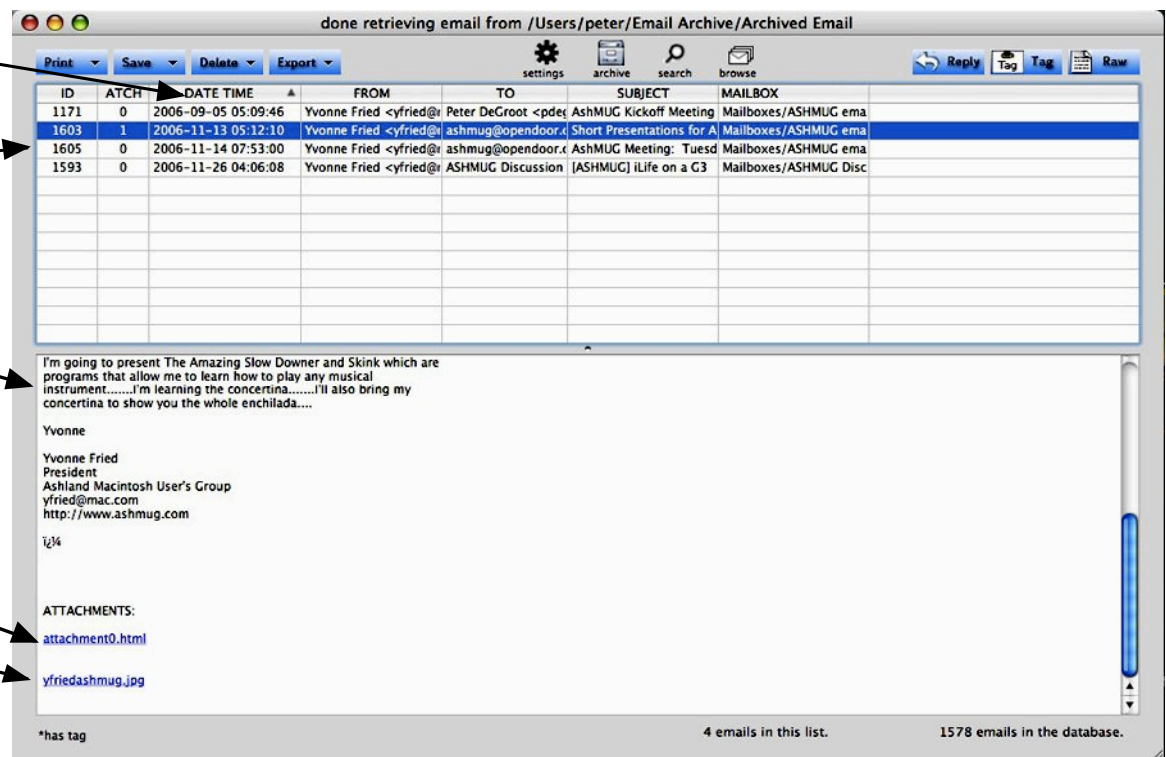
Retrieve: 1.5 sec

Search Window



For SQL Database gurus to format their own queries

Results Window



Click-to-sort columns

Found emails & attachments

Plain text or raw source

HTML or Rich Text version

Attachment(s)

In my opinion, these are the most important Pros and Cons of MailSteward

<p>Pro:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast search & browse Multi-field "and/or" search Archives email <i>and</i> attachments Selective archiving Scheduled archiving (full version) Compact database Multiple databases 	<p>Con:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slow Archiving No automatic delete of archived emails from mailboxes Price
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