A Quickstart Guide to Stash

~Vive Le Metadata~

Have you ever wanted your own little bespoke "YouTube" esque server for adult content? Tired of trying to sort through your existing library of content via your file explorer?
Welcome to Stash!

Not only is Stash a great tool for viewing your videos, photos and comics, Stash also has the ability to help you *organize* your media with both manual and **automated** methods for adding metadata to your media.

This guide is designed as a supplement to the wiki and technical documentation found in the Stash application itself. While it's designed to take you through your very first experience with Stash, even savvy Stash users should be able to glean words of advice from it.

Enjoy!

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I download files?

Answer: Stash is not a piracy platform. You bring the content, Stash helps you organize it.

How do I get metadata onto my files?

Answer: If your media is from a professional studio, always try StashDB first! For more information, head to **Adding Metadata to your Content**

What is StashBox/StashDB?

Answer: StashDB (stashdb.org) is a community managed source of metadata for any *professionally* distributed adult content. It is an extremely powerful and easy to use method to get metadata on your scenes. See the section on **Using StashDB** for more on this.

I've moved my files! How do I tell Stash where the files have moved to?

Answer: Easy! Just run another **Scan Task.** As long as your files have not physically changed, Stash will auto-magically reassociate the old location to the new one.

Can I save my sort/filter preference and/or set it as a default?

Answer: Yes, <incomplete>

Can I save my search query and/or set it as a default?

Answer: Yes, <incomplete>

Why aren't my videos showing up under Movies?

Answer: All videos added to Stash are considered "Scenes". You can manually add scenes to a Movie if it makes sense for your content, or you can ignore the Movie object altogether.

How do I upgrade Stash?

Answer: Upgrading Stash is simple. First close Stash (it's likely running in your taskbar), then download the new version of Stash from https://github.com/stashapp/stash/releases
Copy the executable to the same location as your current Stash install, overwriting the existing Stash executable. Finally, just start Stash!

Best Practices for File System Management

Stash is a lot more lenient than other media organization platforms out there. Stash does **not** care where your files are– it will find the videos/images and display them to you as long as it's accessible to the application.

There's no "right" way to organize your content, but for your own sake, there are some high level tips you should keep in mind! These tips will help you add metadata to your content and assist greatly in the accuracy of your searches and queries from the start.

Try to avoid having a flat directory for your content

A flat filesystem directory looks like this

```
C:\Linux ISOs\Video1.mp4
C:\Linux ISOs\Video2.mp4
C:\Linux ISOs\Video3.mp4
```

As your Stash gets bigger, this tends not to scale terribly well.
When running a Scan task to add new content to your Stash database, the more files Stash has to scan through, the longer a scan for new files will take. If you have a relatively small amount of files this isn't a huge deal but as you scale, this will become more and more problematic.

Similarly, your operating system's file browser (Windows Explorer, macOS Finder, etc) will progressively open that folder slower and slower as the size of that folder gets bigger and bigger with no subdirectories breaking it up.

We'll talk more about ways to remediate this in a moment. For now, the tip here is, you can speed things up by avoiding having one massive folder of content.

Ideal content management ideas

Like we covered in the previous section, it can be *extremely* beneficial to reduce the number of files Stash has to iterate through in order to check to see if you have new content. Nicer on your hard drives, and faster to boot.

Here's another tip to consider! Take a hint from the photography world and **consider adding high level subfolders based on a high level date.** Not the date the content was made, but the year you acquired it.

Let's go back to our flat filesystem example
`C:\Linux ISOs\Video1.mp4`
`C:\Linux ISOs\Video2.mp4`
`C:\Linux ISOs\Video3.mp4`

Now instead, let's say that in 2021 we downloaded `Video1.mp4` and `Video2.mp4` and in 2022 we downloaded `Video3.mp4`.
We can add those high level folders to our file path and you'll end up with the following

`C:\Linux ISOs\2021\Video1.mp4`
`C:\Linux ISOs\2021\Video2.mp4`
`C:\Linux ISOs\2022\Video3.mp4`

Now you can quickly scan for the content you added in 2022 instead of having your Stash look through every single piece of content you've ever had.

This is really simple stuff that will make scanning your directories a much MUCH faster process as your Stash grows. This isn't an invasive datahoarder amount of work either!
Making a new high level folder once every year/bi-yearly is a great way to speed things up

Best practices for ideal file and folder names

Many folks don't realize that **Stash can reference folder names within the filepath of a video**.
Take full advantage of this!

As an example, if I have a filepath of `C:\Linux ISOs\Video1.mp4` Stash would be provided no real information about that video file based on that path.

However a video with the file path of
`C:\Linux ISOs\2021\YoMomma\Nina H - Video1.mp4` adds quite a bit of context and I can easily find all the content Nina made with YoMomma studios!

Personally, I would focus on these three things as you're initially pulling down your media.

- **Whenever possible, always seek to put the name of the performer of the video somewhere in the filepath of the video**.
  Put it in the file name, in the folder name, wherever it's easiest. This *will* make your life easier.

- **Consider separating certain content into specific folders**.
  For example, my animated content goes in a separate folder so I can just search for "Animations" and make it simple.

  Along the same lines, having a specific "Comics/Manga" folder isn't a bad idea if you plan on viewing comics in Stash. For example

  ```
  C:\Linux ISOs\Historical Videos\2022
  C:\Linux ISOs\Comics\2022
  ```

- While certainly not required, some folks go so far as to **separate their content by their Studio or by the website the content is from**. This may also help later when looking for metadata. Here's an example (where "MuseumHub is the Studio)

  ```
  C:\Linux ISOs\Historical Videos\2022\MuseumHub\video1.mp4
  ```

You really don't need to go crazy here, just keep it organized at a high level and it'll pay off as you organize it in Stash, especially for videos that are harder to get metadata for.

Installing Stash

Alright! Let's install this thing and get started.
Click on the following link and download the latest release for whatever operating system you happen to be running.

https://github.com/stashapp/stash

Windows Installation

Double click on the executable. You will be warned that the binary is not signed. Click "More Info" and run anyway.

A browser window should pop up automatically to http://localhost:9999 but if one does not appear, manually navigate to that address.

macOS/Linux Installation

On macOS and linux, you'll want to run the executable from a terminal prompt (make sure the file is executable if you have issues)

A browser window should pop up automatically to http://localhost:9999 but if one does not appear, manually navigate to that address.

Docker Installation

Two tips here first. First, if you are not familiar with Docker, do not go downloading the Docker install– just run Stash on your computer.

Second, Stash isn't super resource intensive but installing it on an underpowered system like a Synology NAS may cause you some grief in the event a video needs to be transcoded on the fly

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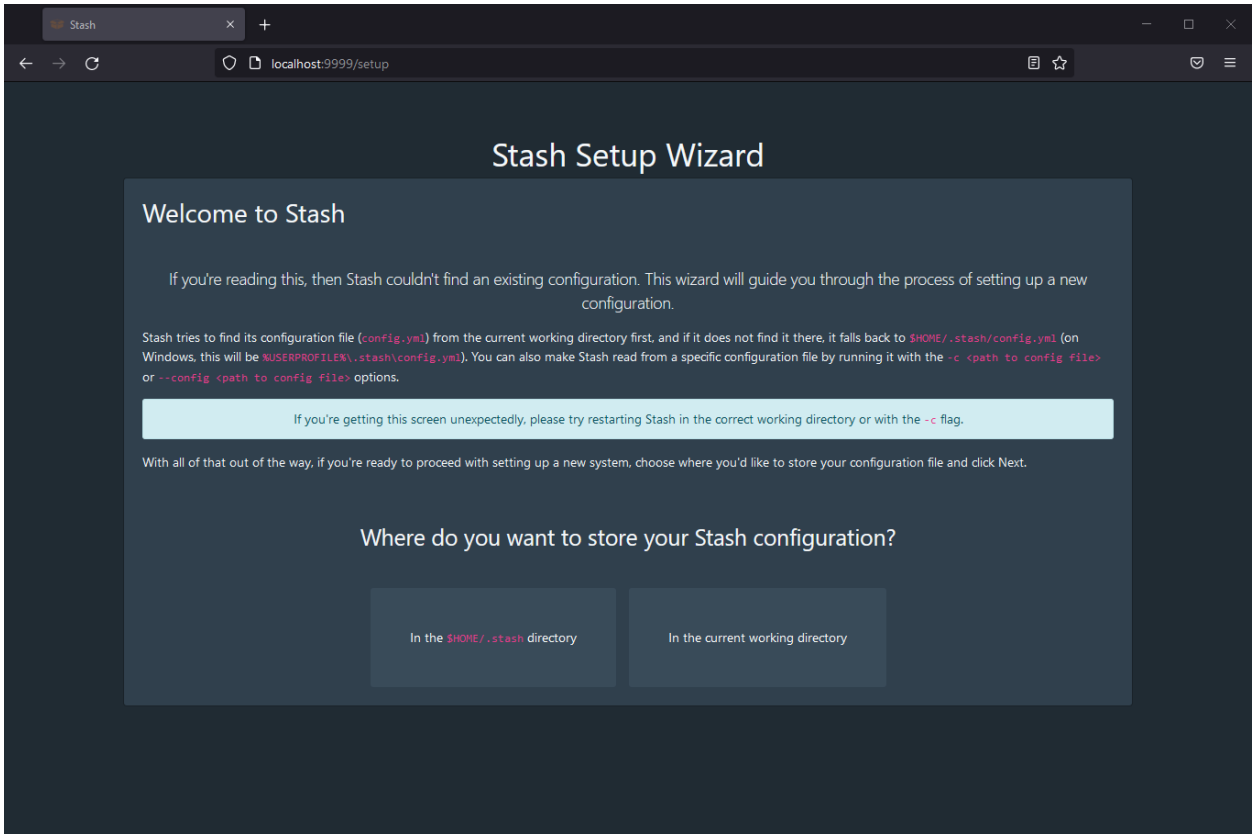
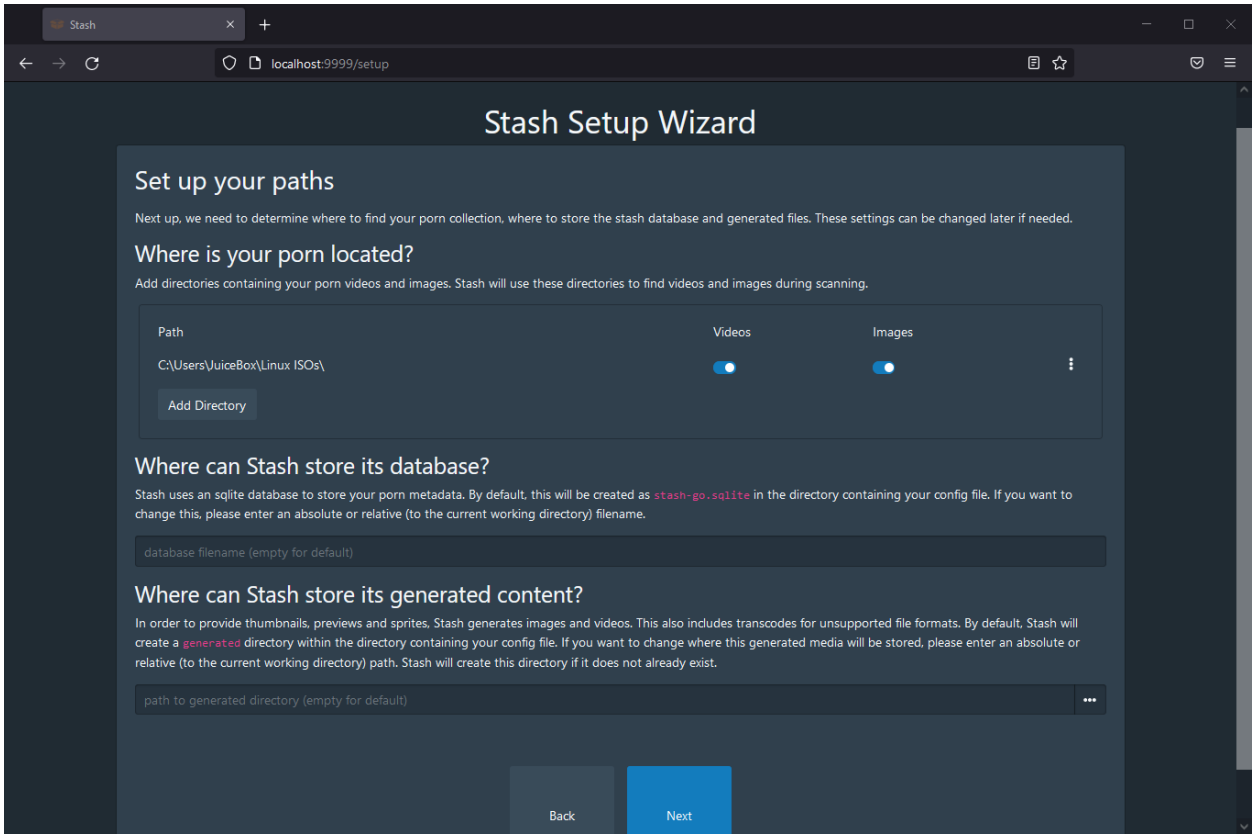
Stash Setup Wizard

Not to worry, this setup wizard is only a few screens long. We'll breeze right through it.



1. First things first, we need to tell Stash where to store its configuration files. This is entirely up to you, but personally I keep it all in the **current working directory**.

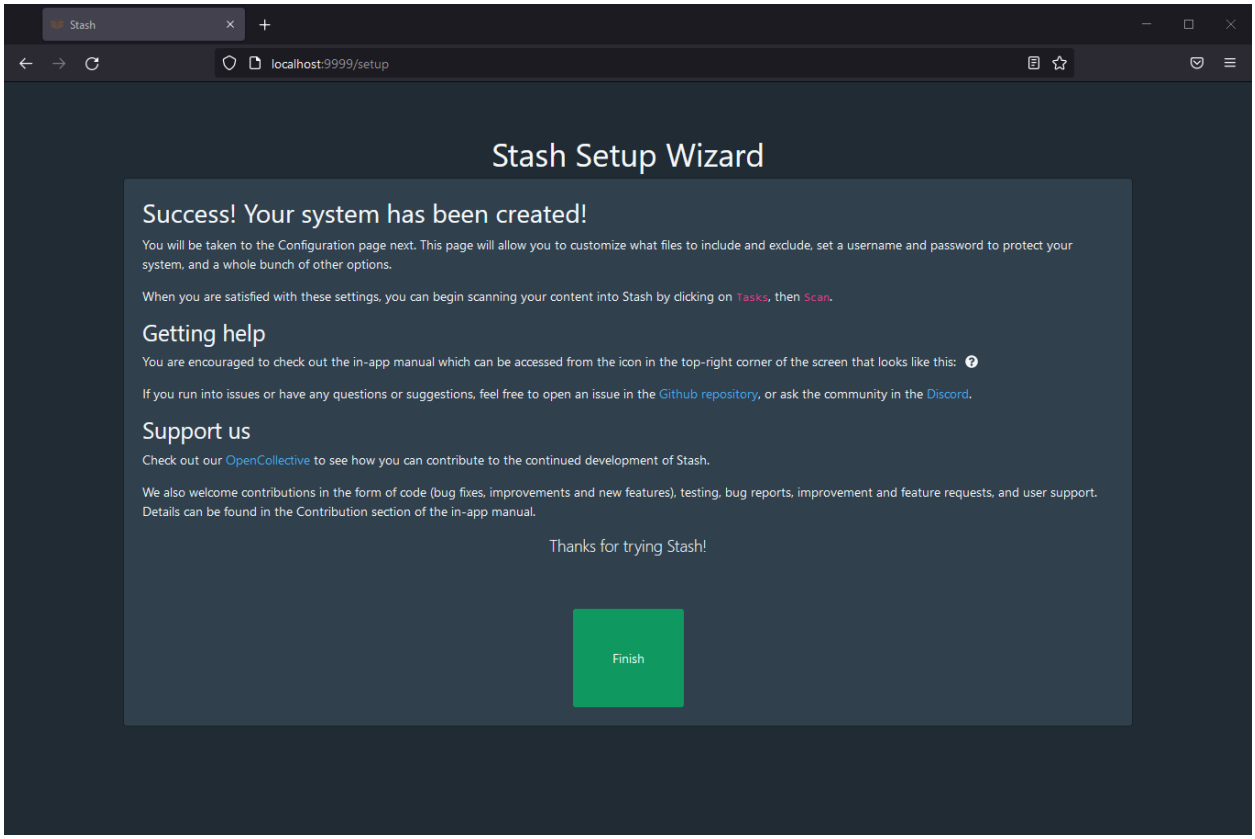
   Click **[Next]** to move on



2. Choose the high level directory that your content is located in. The Videos and Images toggle switches enforce whether or not Stash will pull videos or images from a given directory for some added granularity.

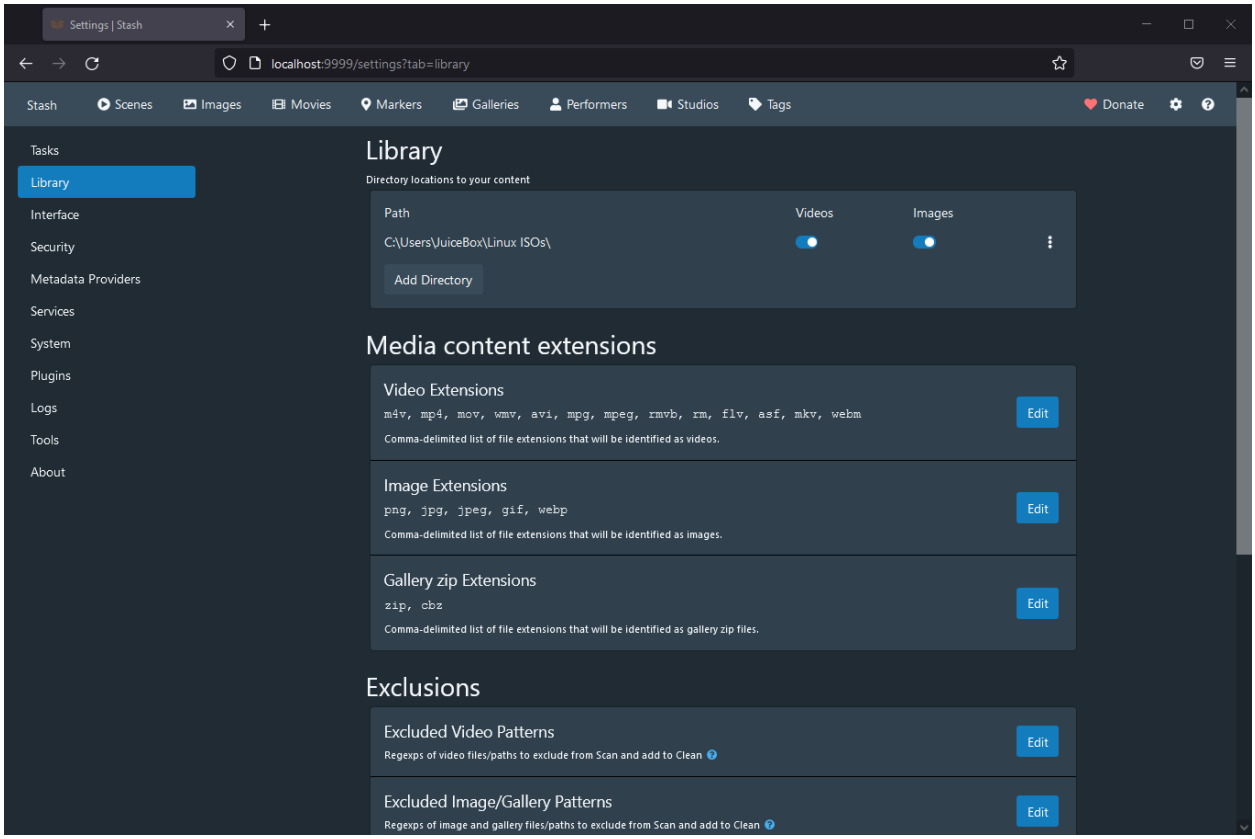
   You may also define where Stash should store its database/generated content. Personally, I recommend that you keep it on your local drive (and definitely not on a network drive) to ensure speed and to minimize the potential for database lock oddities.

   Click **[Next]** when you're ready



3. Click the **[Finish]** button to be brought to Stash's settings page

Setting up your Library

4. 

Adding your Media into Stash

Media is added into Stash via the use of a **Scan** task,

Head back to the **Settings** page (Click the gear icon on the upper right hand side of Stash's navigation bar) and then click on **Tasks**

Using the Scan & Selective Scan Tasks

The **Scan** task will look through every directory you've defined in your Libraries and bring any applicable files into the Stash directory.

This is good for your initial scan and for smaller Stash databases. It's also useful for instances where you've moved your content to another location and you want Stash to remap the information in its database.

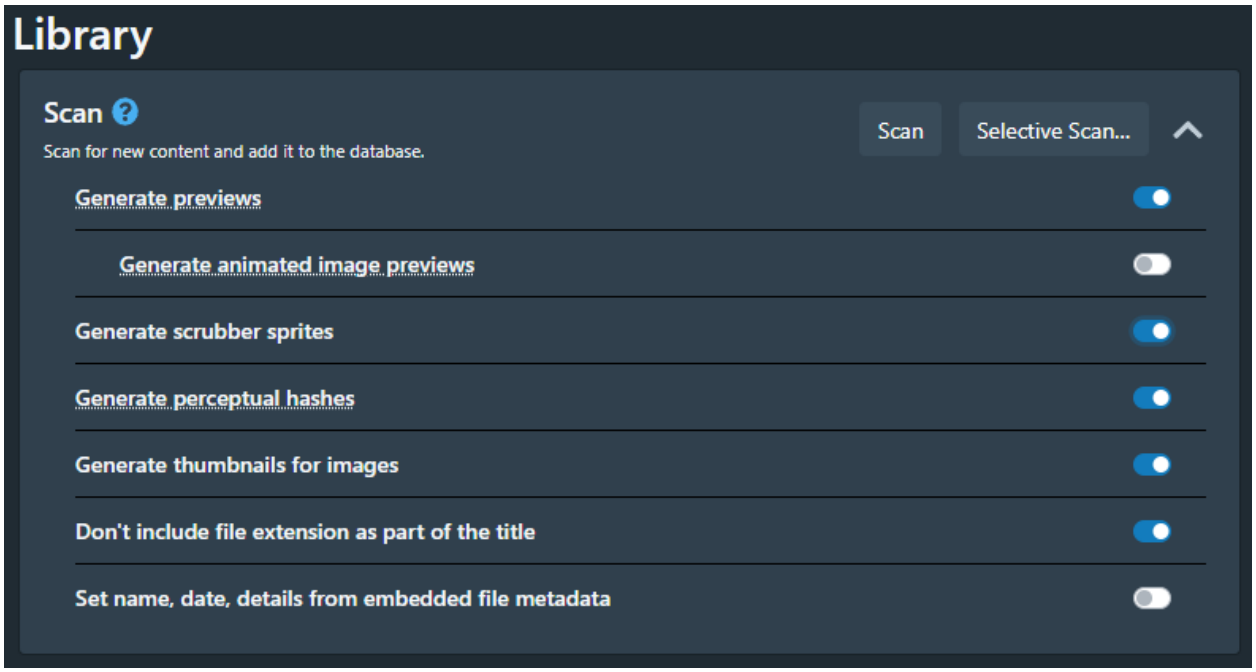
For those of you with larger Stash databases, you *will* want to be more selective with your scans after your initial big scan.

Use the **Selective Scan** task to specifically choose which directory you want Stash to scan. This is a much faster method that will introduce less wear/tear on your drives.

If you read through the **Best Practices - File System Management** section of this guide and are actively making use of a "photographer's" style of file management, Selective Scans come in extremely handy here.

A Scan task will also cause a hash will be stored of the file so as to prevent duplicate files from being imported into your Stash. This hash also makes it so that if you move your files to a different location, the only thing you need to do in order to teach Stash where the new location of those files is, is to run a Scan task.

Scan Task Options



When you perform a Scan, you may also generate several things as well.
Most of these are beneficial to have, though you should make sure **Generate animated image previews** is left unchecked. The normal **Generate Previews** option which generates small MP4 based images is far superior.

- **Generate previews** - Previews are the videos that play when you hover over a scene
- **Generate animated image previews**: These are identical to previews, but use GIFs instead
- **Generate scrubber sprites** - These are the sprites that appear when you hover over the seekbar on a video
- **Generate perceptual hashes** - This is a value that helps services like Stash's dupe checker accurately match duplicate videos to each other and StashDB's metadata metadata service match your scenes to metadata. Very important to generate.

Tip: If speed is important, you can uncheck the various generation options and just run a **Generate Task** later on. It is advised that you at *least* generate perceptual hashes.

Automating your Scan Tasks

As of Version 0.15 of Stash, the application does not have any built-in methods of setting a Scan task to a timer. Still, with an easy to use script you can accomplish the same thing if you wish.

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Using the Generate Task

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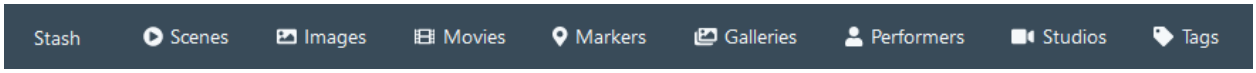
A Brief Introduction to the Stash Interface

Now that you have your content scanned, take a look at the top of the page at the **Navigation bar**. This section will also serve as a quick terminology lesson while we walk you through the main areas of Stash.

Stash Terminology



Stash - This link will take you to your Stash homepage and will show you various recommended content

Scenes - In Stash, ***all videos are Scenes***. All your scanned videos will be found here.

Movies - Movies are composed of one or more *manually* associated Scenes. Kinda like how a book is made up of several chapters.

Images - All scanned images can be found here on this page

Galleries - Galleries are either composed of Zip files (by default), or they are composed of folders that are composed of images (something that must first be enabled for use)
Galleries are especially useful for viewing comics/manga.

Markers - Markers are *manually* created timestamps on a scene denoting a tag.
For example, you may define a Marker on a Scene to denote where certain actions occur throughout the scene.

Performers - Performers are the folks who appear in a given scene or image.

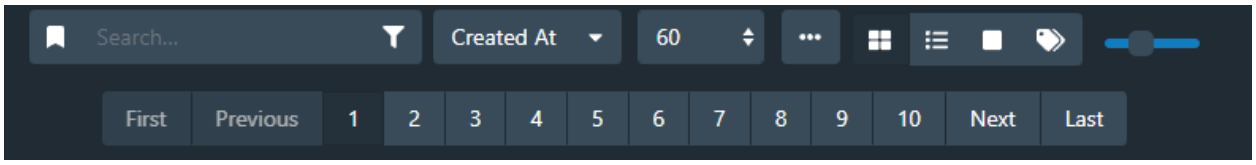
Studios - Studios are the producers of the Scene/Image

Tags - Tags are a metadata concept used to describe what's in the content.

We'll be exploring each of these major concepts further down in the guide, but it's good to familiarize yourself with the basic ideas.

Tip: If there's a particular page *<cough>Movies<cough>* that you don't find yourself using that often, you can hide that page from the navigation bar using a toggle switch found under **Settings > Interface**

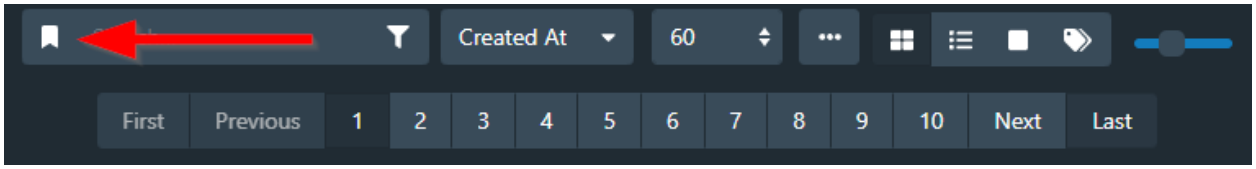
All about Searching and Filtering



Of all the UI interfaces you'll work with in Stash, the basic search/filter at the top of each page is by far the most common.

Admittedly though, there is a **lot** of iconography here, so let's go through each of these from left to right.

Saved Filters



If you have a query you find yourself searching for quite often, you can save that query (as well as any filters or sort preferences) in the Saved Filters dropdown.

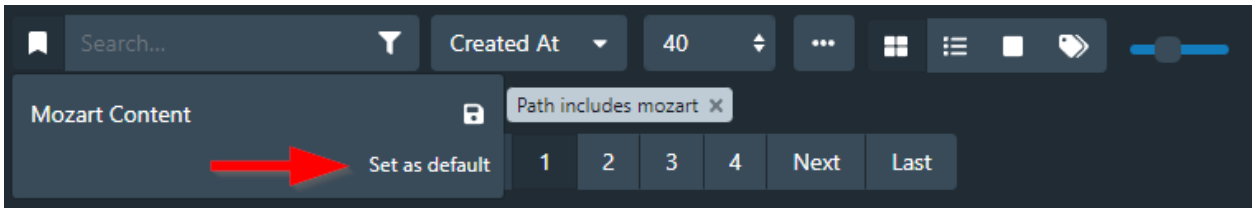
You can ***also*** define a Saved Filter to be your Default query!

Let's give this example a try.
Let's say I want my Default query for the Scenes page to give me all my Scenes from a folder called Mozart and I want Stash to return 40 thumbnails a page.

I would accomplish this by first creating a Filter (specifically a "Path includes…" filter), then I would change the number of Thumbnails to 40.

Next, I would click on the Saved Filters icon and click on the **Filter Name…** form area. I would then name my new filter and click on the Save icon to the immediate right of the form.

Note the "Set as Default" link at the bottom of the dropdown! Give that a click to set your query to be the default.



Filters

Filters can be used to narrow down your queries. All types of Filters are available to you, however the filter I perhaps use the most is the Tag filter, which (if your Stash is well tagged) lets you find a particular scene that contains the tag(s) you're looking for.

Tip: The more organized your Stash becomes, the more powerful and useful Filters will be for you.

Sort

For the most part, many of these are straightforward but there are a few that can cause some confusion (or are notable to reference here)

- **Created At** - This is not the file's actual creation date but instead, this sorts by when the file was added to the Stash database. Very important distinction there.
  This is often the default sort that I have my Stash set to.
- **Date** - Again, not the file's creation date either. This sorts by the Date entered as metadata on the scene itself.
- **Organized** - You can mark Scenes that you think you have all your metadata collected for as "Organized". Scenes marked as such will be passed over by the Auto-Tag task.
- **Random** - If you've ever wondered if it's possible to get Stash to show you your scenes in random order, this is the Sort option for you!
- **Updated At** - This has nothing to do with a file's File Modification Date. It is in reference to the last time you made a modification to the Scene in Stash.

Thumbnails per Page

Allows you to define how many thumbnails you see on either the Card view or the Wall view.

Additional Options

Select All
Select None
Play Random

Export All…

Card View, List View, Wall View, Tagger View

Stash can display your content one of four ways.

Card View - Provides thumbnails of your content. The default and most popular view you will use.

List View - Provides information about your content in a more detailed form. I almost never use this view, personally.

Wall View - I use this view all the time when viewing comics on the Gallery page. Not so much for Scenes.

Tagger View - This view is explicitly for acquiring metadata from StashDB, which we will discuss in the next chapter.

Additional Tips

You can select multiple videos from the Scenes page by first checking the box on one of the thumbnails, then clicking and dragging your mouse through the other scenes you want to select.

Additionally, be aware that when you want to select multiple scenes, after you click on the first check box, you can click anywhere on a different scene and it will select that video. You don't need to do the precision checkbox checking for subsequent clicks.

Adding Metadata to your content

There are effectively **four different methods** of adding metadata to your content in Stash.

- Pulling metadata from StashDB.org
- Manually entering the Metadata
- Associating Metadata based on a scene's filepath using the Auto-Tag task
- Pulling metadata from a website using a Scraper

Of these options, **using StashDB is the recommended method**, especially if you are new to Stash. Generally speaking, you'll want to try and get your Metadata from StashDB **first**.

Still, it's important to understand the differences between these options, (Yes, Identify and Auto-Tag are different!) and what option makes the most sense for your content.

Using StashDB

StashDB (stashdb.org) is a **community managed** source of metadata for any *professionally* distributed adult content.

The major benefit of using StashDB is that it relies on something called **Perceptual Hashes** (or PHashes for short) to match your content to metadata on the website. By using these PHashes, StashDB can easily match metadata for videos files of both identical ***and*** different encoding, filesize, and resolution with a single click.

StashDB is the future, however there are two potential downsides depending on what kind of content you manage.

1.) StashDB is fairly new. While the community has done a fantastic job of adding content, there's a chance not all of your files will have metadata available.

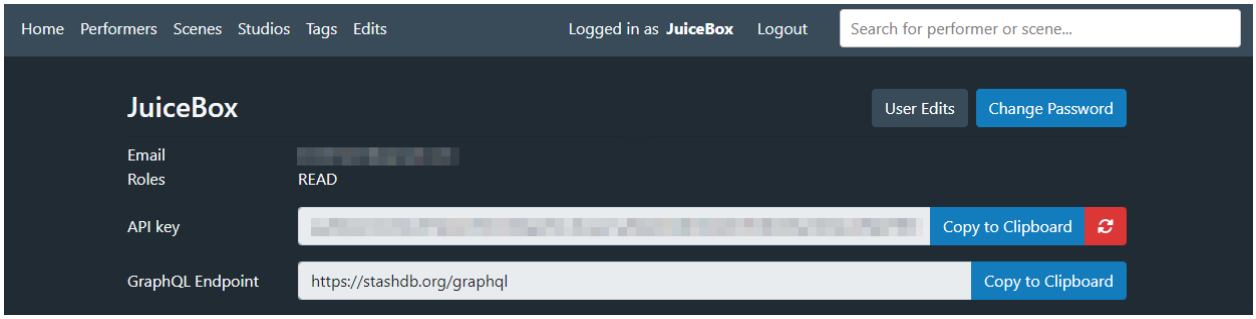
2.) StashDB.org was made *specifically* for professionally produced adult content. If your scene was made by a complete amateur and uploaded on a streaming service, it's probably not going to be on StashDB, nor will you be allowed to upload metadata for that amateur performer.

Again, StashDB generally **isn't** the tool for amateur content, but there are other ways of getting metadata for those files which we will explore later.
For now, let's assume you have some professionally produced media in your Stash and let's walk through the process of using StashDB for pulling down that metadata..

Getting an API Key for StashDB

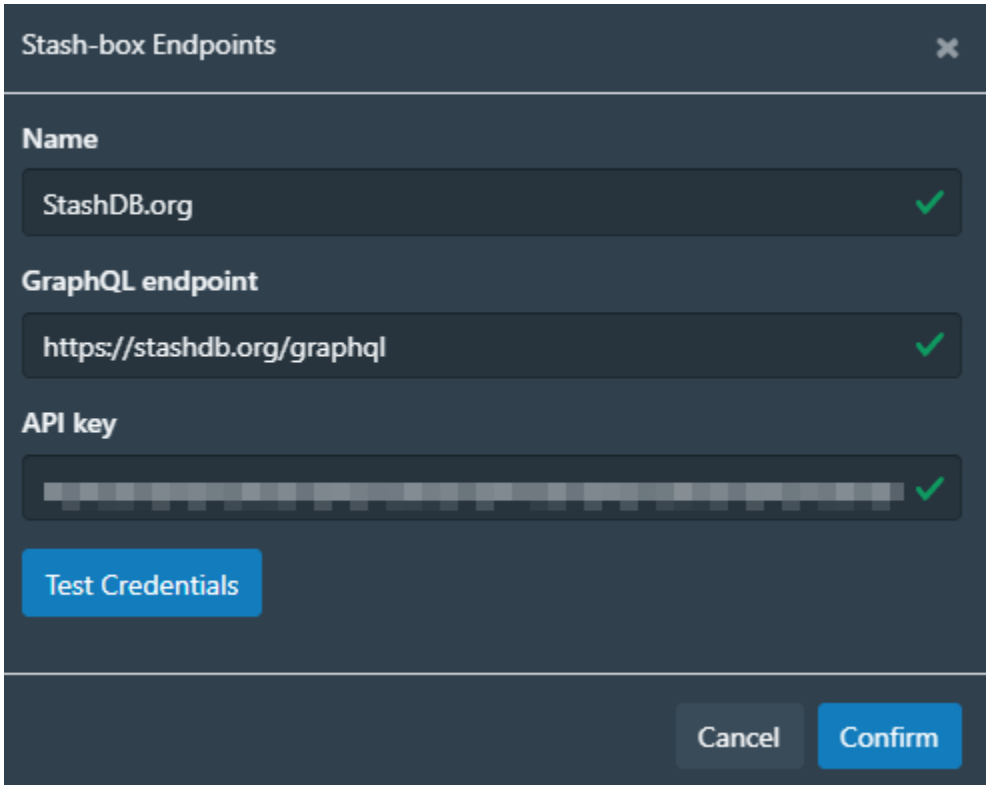
In order to use StashDB as a source of metadata, you'll need to acquire your own unique API key. Treat this key as something fairly sensitive as it is unique to your Stash.

1.) Head to Stash's Discord chat (https://discord.com/channels/559159668438728723)
2.) Open the **#stashbox-invites** channel and click on the Pinned Messages icon
3.) Grab an invite code from the list
4.) Head to https://stashdb.org/register and register an account
5.) Once logged in, click on your username at the top right corner
6.) Copy your API key to your clipboard



7.) Head back to your local Stash instance and go to **Settings** and click on **Metadata Providers** in the left hand navigation bar

8.) Click **Add** to add a new Stash-box instance.

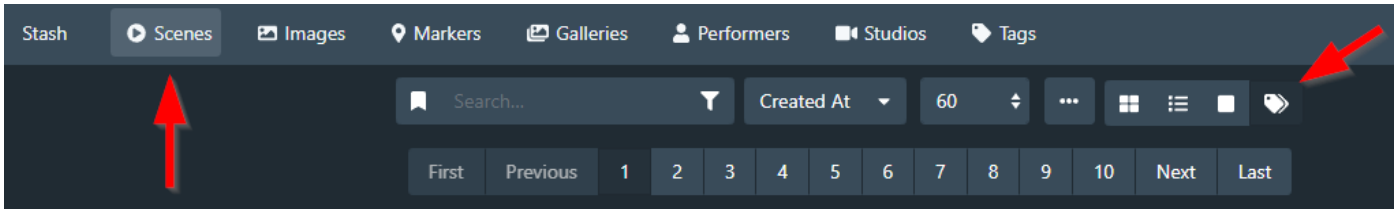


9.) **Enter "StashDB.org"** as your Name,
10.) **Enter** https://stashdb.org/graphql as your GraphQL endpoint
11.) **Paste the API key** you copied in step 6 to the API Key field.
12.) Click **Confirm** to finish

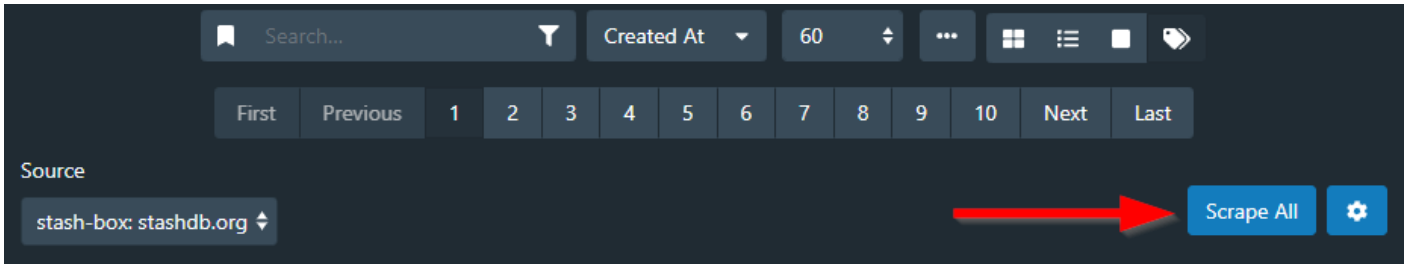
Using Stash's Tagger View to add Metadata to your Scenes

The most common method of adding metadata to your Scenes using StashDB is to use the **Tagger View** found on the Scenes page.

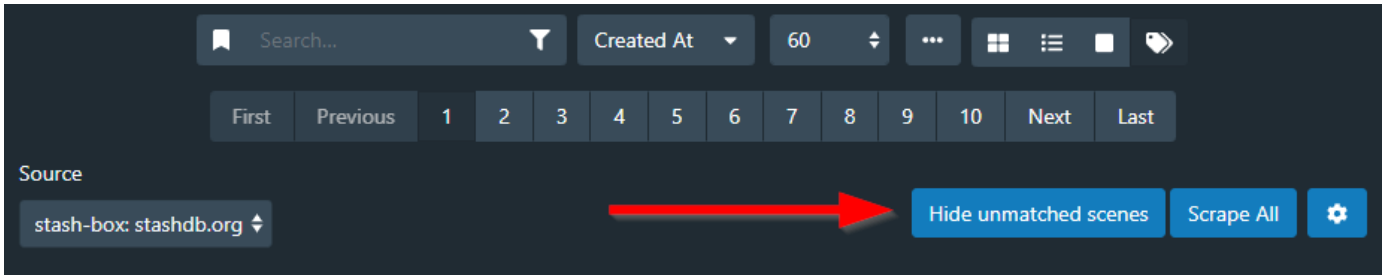
Click on Scenes, then click on the Tagger View icon as shown in the screenshot below



Next, click on the **Scrape All** button as shown. This will scrape StashDB for all the Scenes currently on screen. For example, on this page, I am displaying 60 videos, therefore the **Scrape All** command will look for those 60 videos on StashDB's website.

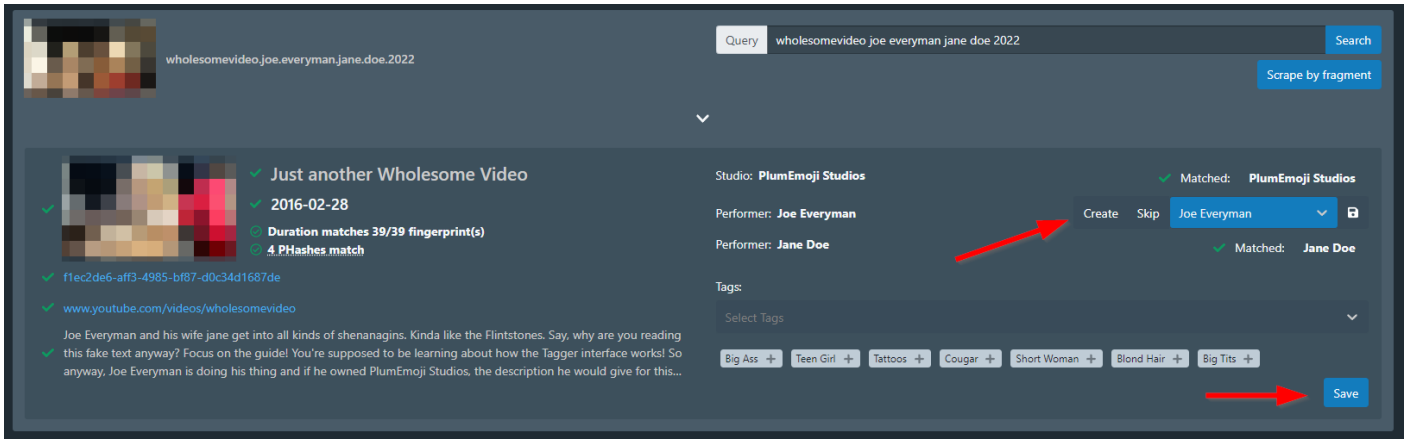


You'll notice that after clicking on **Scrape All** you'll see a button to **Hide unmatched scenes.** I highly recommend you give it a click as all you *really* care about when scraping for metadata are the Scenes that have metadata available to be added.

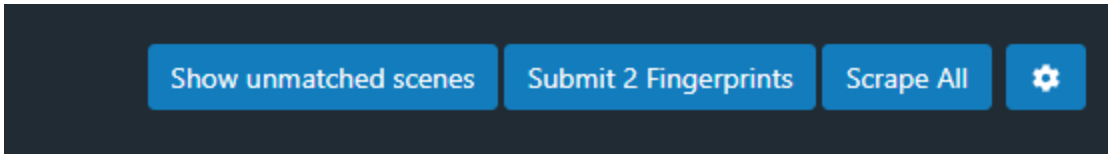


Now you can scroll down through the discovered Scenes where metadata is available from StashDB.

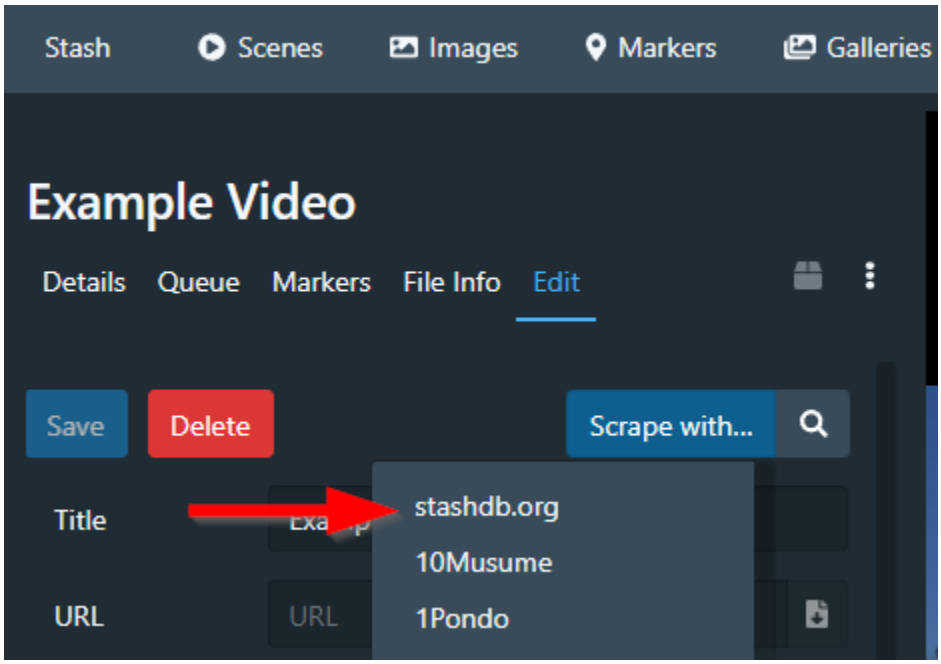
By default, any Studio or Performer that you don't have in your Stash will be skipped, so if you do want those performers, be sure to click on the **Create** button by their name before clicking on Save.



To assist the community, you can **submit Fingerprint data** (Scene duration and the PHash of the file) when you successfully match metadata to your Scenes. This helps others track down content.

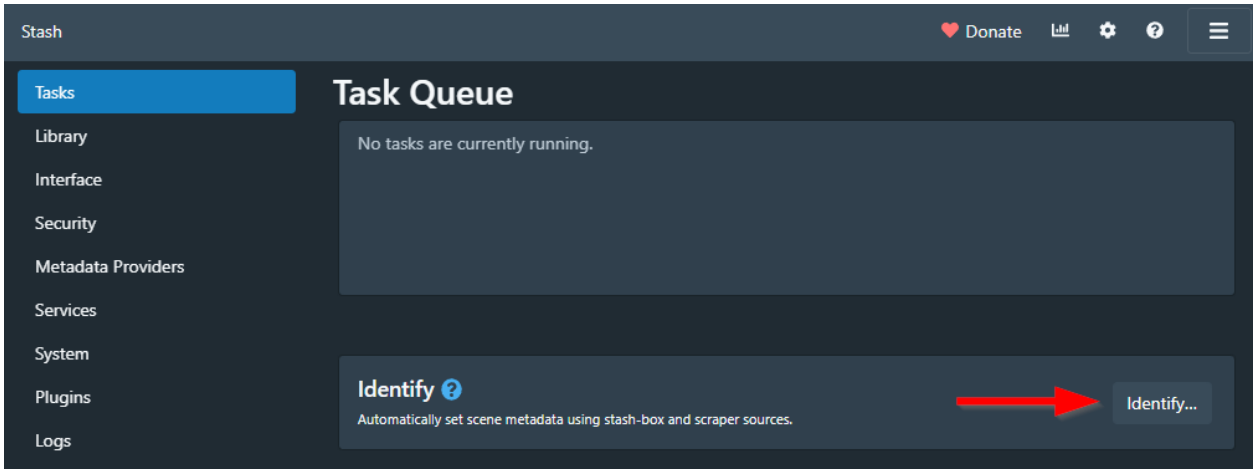


Scraping StashDB from an Individual Scene



You can search StashDB for metadata on individual Scenes as well. Open the Scene in question, click on the **Edit** tab, then click on the **Scrape with…** button. You should see an option at the very top to select **stashdb.org**.

Using the Identify Task



The **Identity** Task can be used to attempt to get metadata for *all* the scenes in your Stash database all at once using the StashDB metadata database.

There are some downsides however.

1. While it seems like it would be a massive timesaver compared to the Tagger view, be aware that PHash identification *isn't* perfect. You may end up with a big metadata mess you didn't intend on.
2. Performers generated during the Identify Task (as of Stash Version 0.15) will not have any Performer Image saved for them.

If your goal is general accuracy, I would advise you to stick to using the Tagger View and semi-manually checking to make sure the metadata you're downloading matches the scene.. Otherwise, using the Identify Task isn't a bad way to go, with some compromises as mentioned.

Tip: As with any Task that can cause widespread changes, it might not be a bad idea to copy the Stash SQLite database before running the task in case you want to go back.

Using Stash Scrapers

Stash has the ability to use community authored **Scrapers**– scripts that look for metadata on a given page (or other method) and associate it to your scene(s).

Generally speaking, this tool isn't for Stash newbs.
You should really **treat scrapers more as an advanced tool.**
If all you want is an easy way to get metadata onto your Stash, you're looking for the StashDB section.

Most, but not all, scrapers require you to fill in the URL of the studio page you downloaded the video from into the URL section of a scene for it to work.

For many of you, this requirement is a pretty rough showstopper, which is fair.

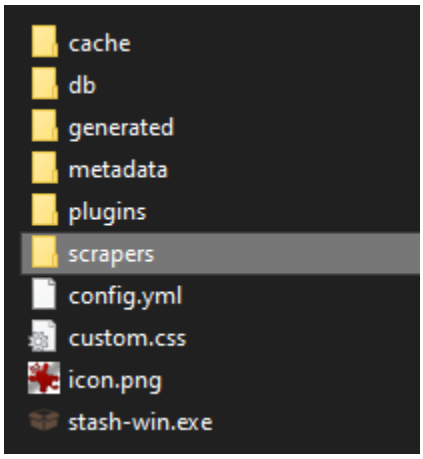
Further, many of these scrapers don't exactly elaborate terribly well on how to get them up and running. You may need to specifically look at .YML files or python scripts or a readme file to properly get a full understanding of how a particular scraper is intended to work.

Still, in the right hands, scrapers are **incredibly** powerful and can assist in getting as much Metadata into your Stash as possible.

If you're technically savvy and willing to potentially do some reading through Python scripts, read on! Scrapers just might be for you!

Installing Scrapers

First make sure you actually have a place to put the scrapers themselves.
Open up Stash's **Settings** page, then navigate to **System/Application Paths** and make sure there's a valid folder there for **Scrapers Path**. I typically put my Scrapers directory in the same path as my Stash executable.



Navigate to https://github.com/stashapp/CommunityScrapers/tree/master/scrapers to view the scrapers themselves.

Tip: Make sure you copy the "py_common" directory into your Scrapers folder as well as some scrapers make use of it.

Less is more. (Seriously!)

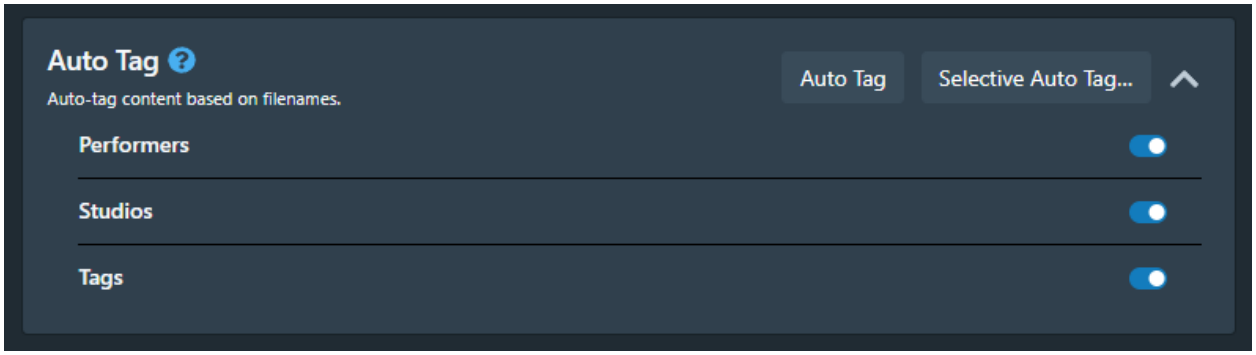
OK now that you know how to install scrapers, I cannot emphasize enough that you should have a "less is more" approach when it comes to scrapers. You do **not** want all 900+ scrapers in your Stash– it's a pain to deal with in the drop down and it's completely unnecessary.

Just grab the ones you think will work best for you.

Using an URL based Scraper

Using other Scrapers

Using the Auto-Tag Task



The Auto-Tag Task looks at the filepath of a given scene or image and looks for keywords that match the name of an existing tag, performer, or studio. If a match is found, Auto Tag will add that Tag/Performer/Studio to that scene or image.

For Auto-Tag to be useful, **your Stash and Filename game needs to be in great shape.**
For any Studios,Tags and the Performer(s) you want to match against, they will need to already be in Stash and your files need to have those names in there.

The Auto-Tag task is absolutely reliant on you having your filesystem game together.

You kinda need to be careful with this Task– It's certainly not one of my go-to methods for adding metadata but it can certainly be helpful in certain situations where I might want to auto tag performer names, for example.

The Auto-Tag task can be run from **Settings / Tasks** as well as under the **[Scrape With…]** button on the Edit tab of a Scene or Image.

Tip: I *highly* recommend using Selective Auto-Tag and really filtering down which files this powerful task will affect.

Tip: As with any Task that can cause widespread changes, it might not be a bad idea to copy the Stash SQLite database before running the task in case you want to go back.

Adding Metadata Manually

If you're like me and you primarily store amateur content that won't be ever found on StashDB, **manually** adding metadata is the method you'll end up using the most.

Without a plan of action, this would ordinarily be a fairly daunting task.
Not to worry! Let's talk about ways to streamline your flow.

Get your Tags in order

We'll talk about this more in the next section covering Tags, but it's important to get the Tags you want into your Stash as it is a crucial part of developing your tagging process.

Come up with a Tagging Process

Everyone has their own process and everyone has different things they like to capture in terms of tags and markers.

Grouping your Tags together (read more on that in the **All About Tags** section of this guide) helps *significantly* and helps to ensure you don't forget certain Tags.

Here's what my process looks like.

1. Click on the **Scene**
2. Click on the **Markers** tab
3. Hovering my mouse over the seek bar and moving from left to right, create a **Marker** for each major action (Ex. Oral Sex, Missionary Sex) that occurs in the scene, setting the **Primary Tag** and the **Time** that the action starts.
4. Click on the **Edit** tab
5. Check to see if I included **Performer** or **Studio** information in the filename (title).
6. If I have Performer/Studio information, add that information to those forms
7. Open the dropdown form for **Tags**
8. Using the **Tag Groups** concept , go through each group while combing through chunks of the video at a time.
9. Now that I've reviewed the Scene in the process of tagging, give it a **Rating**
10. Hit **Save**
11. Move onto the next Scene

Put Metadata in your filenames

One thing manual tagging will quickly teach you is that putting information into your filenames as you are downloading them will save you oodles of time later.

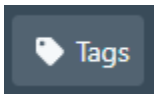
CSS Modifications for the Scene Edit page

Hide the Movies input form from the Scene Edit tab
Movies in Stash are rarely used. To hide this feature from the edit page, use the following CSS

```
/*Hide Movies/Scene content from the Edit tab of a scene */
#scene-edit-details label[for="moviesScenes"],
#scene-edit-details label[for="moviesScenes"] + div {
```

```
  display: none;
}
```

All about Tags



Tags are likely the most important metadata objects in Stash. You can use Tags to describe all kinds of details about a scene, performer, image, etc.

Where to get Tags

Tags can either be added manually, they can be automatically added as you scrape sources like StashDB for metadata for your content in the Tagger view, or as a more advanced option, they can be added programmatically to the StashDB (using GraphQL or SQL)

The Tags you decide to maintain in your Stash is a bit of a personal decision.
After all, it's all about what information **you** want to gather about your content.

Personally, I'm *very* picky about the tags that are added to my Stash.
I always want to know what tags I can/should use on a given scene if I'm tagging manually or searching based on a particular tag, and I'm picky about what metadata I want to tag onto my scenes.

I also don't want hundreds or thousands of tags that capture information that I don't really care much about.

For example, I do care about the sexual positions that take place in a scene like "Missionary" however I don't care about more unique tags like "Arms behind back" or "hair bun".

Tag Aliases

Put simply, **Tag Aliases** allow you to define a synonym for a given Tag.

For example, you may prefer the word **Skinny** but you want to make sure that your Stash can match against Tags called **Thin**, you may want to make sure you add a Tag Alias named “Thin” to your Tag.

Tip: If you have multiple aliases, be sure to comma-separate your aliases!

Tag Inheritance: Parent Tags and Sub-Tags

Tags may also have Parent Tags and Sub-Tags.
A general rule of thumb here is that Sub-Tags should be a **more specific** version of their Parent tag.

For example, **Twerking** and **Salsa Dancing** might be Sub-Tags of a parent tag called **Dancing**
This allows you to search for a parent tag like Dancing and have all the sub-tags of Dancing returned to you as well. This saves time while tagging manually and when creating your search queries!

Tip: While this is a personal preference, it might be beneficial for you to include the name of the parent tag in with the name of the subtag. This will make it easier to find certain tags, especially as the number of Tags you have in your Stash grows.

For example:

- Dancing (Twerking)
- Dancing (Salsa)

Grouping Tags

While Stash does not currently have a built-in method for grouping tags together, it can be beneficial to put your tags in some sort of grouping in order to more readily find what you’re looking for at a glance, especially as you are manually adding tags to your media.

For example, this is what your tag list might look like without any grouping

…And this is what your tag list might look like with grouping.

Regardless of the method, you first need to sort out what your groups are going to be.
Here’s a personal example of how I split my tags.

Group 1 - Overview Tags
Tags that describe a scene at a high level. Effectively, this is a shortlist of tags that all my scenes should have at least ONE of.

Example: Amateur Produced, Professionally Produced, Cam Recording

Group 2 - Actor Count Tags
Tags that describe how many performers are in a scene while also describing the gender of those performers

Example, “Male/Female”, FFM, MMF

Group 3 – Performer Description Tags
Tags that describe the performers themselves. Ethnicity, physical features and outfit

Example - Black Woman, Tall, Sundress

Group 4 - Scene Description Tags
Tags that describe aspects of the scene itself.

Example: JOI, No Sound, English Subtitles

Group 5 - Action Tags
Tags that describe the actions that performers are taking.

Example: Making Out, Dancing, Flashing

You, of course, can personalize your groups as you see fit!

Once you know what groups you want, you can then group your tags together by adding some sort of prefix prior to the Tag name itself. Let’s give you some examples here.

Using Numbers

Out of the options, using a number is the easiest way to group your tags together.

There’s really only one major downside.
You’re going to need to memorize what number aligns with what group. Compared to an emoji

or a word, this is a *bit* more vague at a glance. It's also not nearly as visually appealing as using an Emoji.

Still, it's simple to accomplish.
First, decide which Numbers are going to correlate to each Tag group.

Example:
1 - Overview Tags
2 - Actor Count Tags
3 - Performer Descriptor Tags
4 - Scene Description Tags
5 - Action Tags

Then when you add a new Tag, you just have to remember to add the number prior to the name of the Tag, placing that tag in the appropriate Tag Group.

Example:

Using Emojis

Of your available options, Emojis are perhaps one the most visually pleasing methods of grouping your tags together.

There is one caveat here. You'll need to cleverly use spaces in order to dictate the order of the groups. These spaces will be invisible to the UI, but you'll need to remember to add them every time.

First, decide which Emojis are going to correlate to each Tag group.

Example:

🎬 - Overview Tags
👫 - Actor Count Tags
💃 - Performer Descriptor Tags
🧧 - Scene Description Tags
📌 - Action Tags

Next, we want to influence Stash's sort by using spaces.
The group you want to go last in the sort should have **one** space, and the Tag group that should go first, should have the **most** amount of spaces.

I'll illustrate this for you here first with numbers (instead of spaces)

12345🎬 -

1234👭 -
123 💃 -
12 🧧 -
1📌 -

And now with just spaces
🎬 -
👭 -
💃 -
🧧 -
📌 -

Now that we have our Tag group schema here, you would add your Tag names, making sure to preserve the spaces and emojis exactly as you've defined for yourself.
Done properly, you'll end up with a Tag list that looks like this example.
Example:

Using Words

With your group prefix being a word, the word should just succinctly identify the group your tags are in.

There are two potential downsides here.

- The *length* of the word can cause the dropdown form to become a bit unwieldy.
- You'll need to prefix the group name with either a number or use spaces (see the previous sections here) to help you define where a particular group will appear in the dropdown form.

Simple enough to accomplish following the logic of the previous sections here.
My recommendation would be to stick to a short single word here. Sort out what your groups would be, then add Tags.

Example:
1 - Overview -
2 - Count -
3 - Performer -
4 - Scene -
5 - Action -

Then, with actual Tags in place, here's an example of what that would look like.

Tip: If you do use a Tag prefix to group your tags, **don't forget to also give your Tags an alias of the Tag *without* the prefix**. Otherwise you may have trouble with scraping/auto-tagging Tags from sources like StashDB.

Performers

The **Performers** feature of Stash helps you define the performers who may be in a given piece of media (Scene, Image, etc).

Studios

Galleries - Using Stash for Photos and Comics

Photos aside, Stash also happens to be a fantastic tool for viewing Comics/Manga using the **Galleries** page.
For the best experience, make sure that your ZIP files do **not** have any compression on them. This may lead to a laggy experience while moving from one image to the next, or it may result in images just not loading at all. Further, make sure your content is not in a RAR or CBR file as these filetypes are **not** supported.

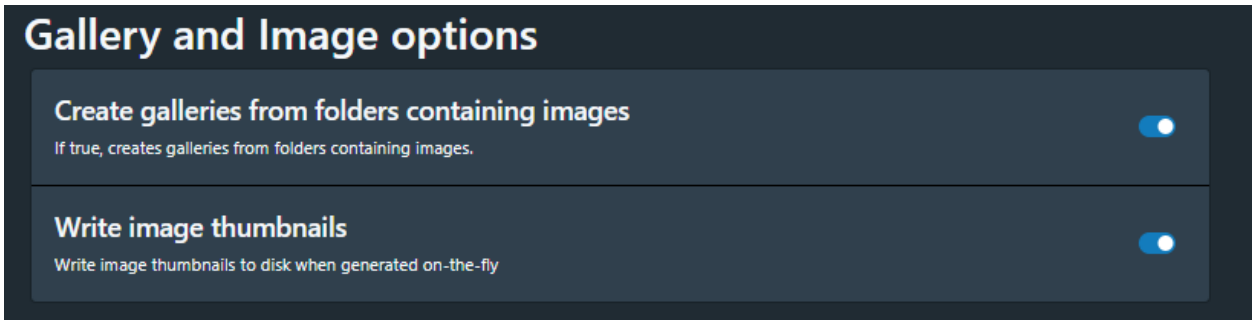
Filesystem Best Practices for Comics/Manga

Be sure to put each of your comics either in its own folder or ZIP archive on your file system. It's also a good idea to have your comics in their own high level folder separate from your video content. This makes scanning and searching far easier.

Example:
A:\Fine Art\Japanese\2022\The Great Wave off Kanagawa.zip
A:\Fine Art\Japanese\2022\Robot Dinosaurs\cover.jpg
A:\Fine Art\Japanese\2022\Robot Dinosaurs\1.jpg
A:\Fine Art\Japanese\2022\Robot Dinosaurs\2.jpg
A:\Fine Art\Japanese\2022\Robot Dinosaurs\3.jpg

Scanning the folder “A:\Fine Art\Japanese\2022” would result in two Stash galleries being created. One for all the images in the ZIP archive, “The Great Wave off Kanagawa” as well as one for all the images inside the “Robot Dinosaurs” folder.

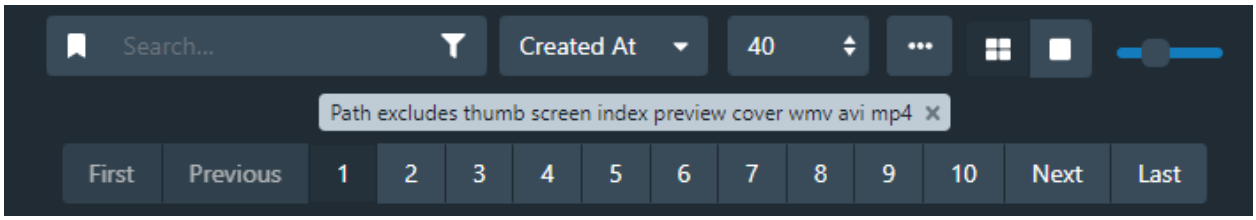
If you have your comics in their own folders rather than in ZIP files, be sure to go to **Settings**/**Library**/ **Gallery and Image Options** and turn the option for **Create Galleries from folders containing images** to **On**.



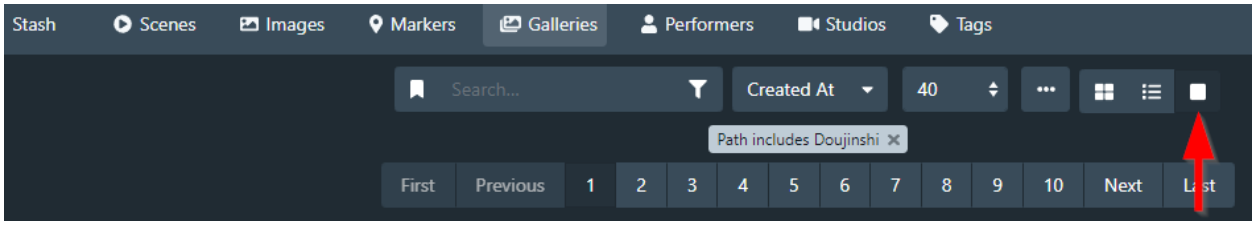
Tip: If you want a particular image to be the cover of a given gallery, either have it be the first image in naming order, or name it cover.jpg.

Browsing your Comics/Manga using Galleries

Tip: If you acquire your content from sources that include thumbnails in the overall download, you may want to make a default saved filter to filter those out by default.
I recommend using a **Path** filter and excluding words like: “thumb screen index preview cover wmv avi mp4”.



Tip: Viewing your Galleries is straight forward, but don't forget that some views might be a better fit than others! Try out the Wall view!



Tip:

CSS Modifications for the Photo Viewer

Hide the Footer
When viewing an image in the expanded view (aka the "lightbox"), you can have Stash expand the image all the way to the bottom of your browser window by hiding the footer! This can be accomplished with CSS using the following

```
/*Hides the whole lightbox footer to make the image area larger*/
.Lightbox-footer{
  display:none;
}
```

Darken the background when Photo Viewer is active
There is some darkened tint to the background when the photo viewer is active by default, but making it a smidge darker is definitely an improvement over the default.

```
/*Recolors the marker tag wall background to more of a black, and adjusts the text color to a light gray*/
.wall-item-text{
  color: #d6d6e1;
  background: linear-gradient(rgb(0 0 0 / 23%),rgb(0 0 0 / 65%));
    background-image: linear-gradient(rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.23), rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.65));
}
```

Remove transition animation when moving between pages
The transition animation can be a bit unnecessary, especially when viewing comics.
This CSS will remove it.

```
/*Deletes that swipe animation when viewing images in the gallery*/
div.Lightbox-carousel {
```

```
  transition: none;
}
```

Movies

Movies are composed of several unique Scenes.

There is no available automation for this feature, not even StashDB can help you here. Scenes must be manually added.

While I understand the initial intent of the developers, I don't believe it would be hyperbolic to say that by far and away, Movies are the least used feature of Stash.

Plugins and CSS Themes

Stash can be extended using plugins

Duplicate Checker

As your Stash grows, you may realize that you've accidentally downloaded the same file once or twice. Using PHashes, we can locate duplicates and remove them in order to save space.

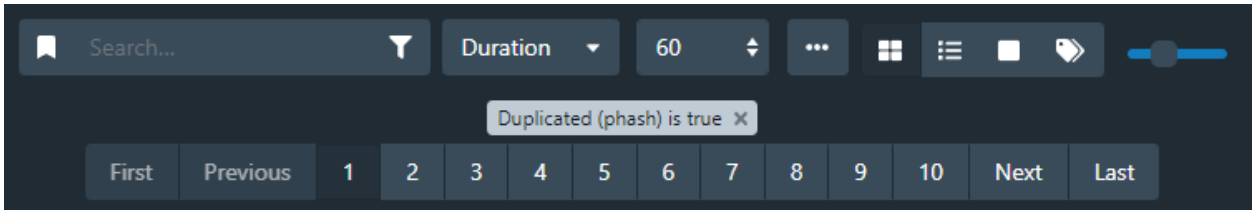
Duplicate Checker Tool

To access this tool, navigate to **Stash Settings / Tools / Scene Duplicate Checker** or browse to the link
http://localhost:9999/sceneDuplicateChecker

Using Filters to check for Duplicates

Alternatively, you may check for duplicates using Scene filters.

This gives you a bit more control over the duplicate query itself.
Click on **Scenes**, **sort by Duration**, then **add a Filter** for Duplicated (phash) equal to **True**



CSS Modifications related to Dupe Checking

You might also want to add the following to your custom CSS in order to see more information about the scenes in the thumbnails on your Scene wall

```
/*Displays additional information about scenes*/
.extra-scene-info {
 display: inline;
}
```