Graphkasten

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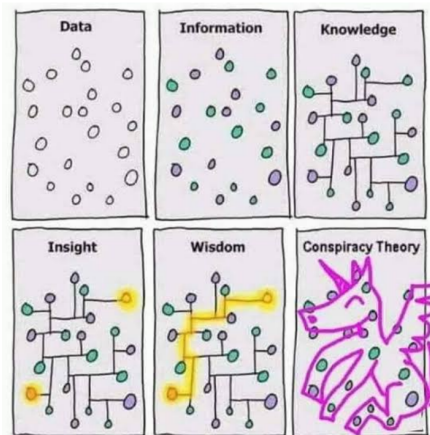March 14, 2021

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1 Introduction

Graphkasten provides a *graph view* of the notes, *keyboard-driven navigation* and *flexible search* to refine interaction with the Zettelkasten.

1.1 Motivation

Tools like Vimwiki, Vimzettel and Taskwiki provide a solid base for a Zettelkasten workflow. These are based on *the Vim text editor*, which has a lot of advantages:
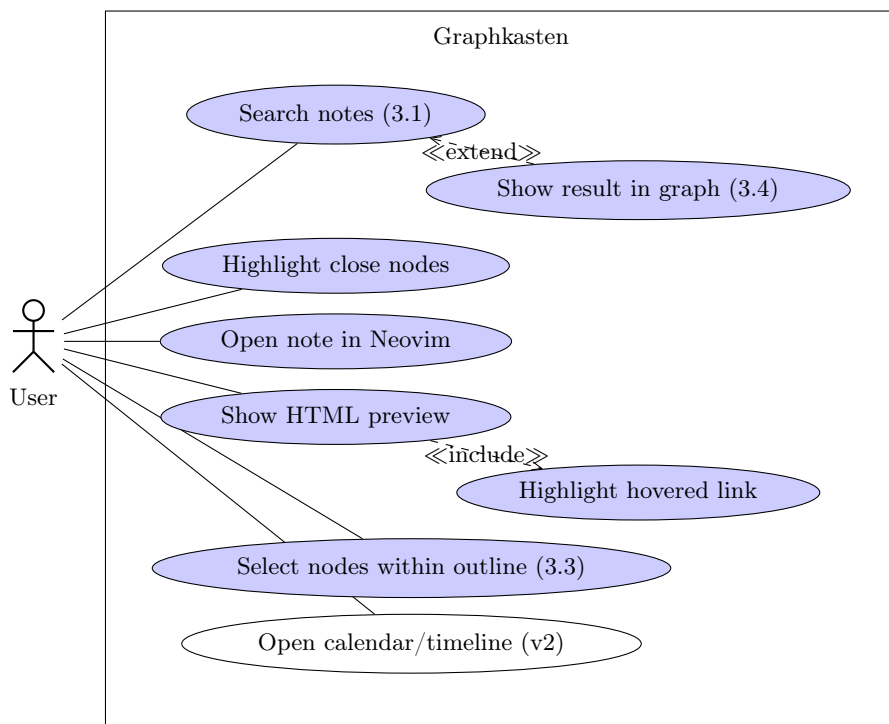
- Text editing cannot be faster

- Adding new notes is effortless

- The system is simple

- Tasks can have note links in them

- Any missing functionality can be added through Vimscript

The problem is however, that there is no GUI. Tools like *Obsidian* offer a *graph view* that enables natural viewing of the *networked structure* of the Zettelkasten. This view allows faster and easier search and navigation, but also improves the chances of *emergent ideas.*

1.2 Use case diagram

The note[1] graph is *the basis* of the system and *all* of the use cases are related to it.

1.3 Miscellaneous features

Apart from the aforementioned main use cases, there will also be the following features:

- Showing files/attachments in the graph view
- Support for Vimwiki tags
- Real-time updates
- Fast search

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[1]The terms *node* and *note* are used interchangeably throughout this document.

1.4 Common scenarios

Here are a few scenarios of how using the application might play out.

1.4.1 Processing the staging area

I've taken some notes and put them into the Staging Area. Now I want to quickly integrate them into the Zettelkasten.

1. The staged notes have an *outline* around them in the graph view. Each staging subtask is *further divided* by outlines.

2. I *highlight* all the task notes within an outline.

3. I *open* all the notes at once in Neovim with a single click.

4. I can view the HTML preview of the note I am working on.
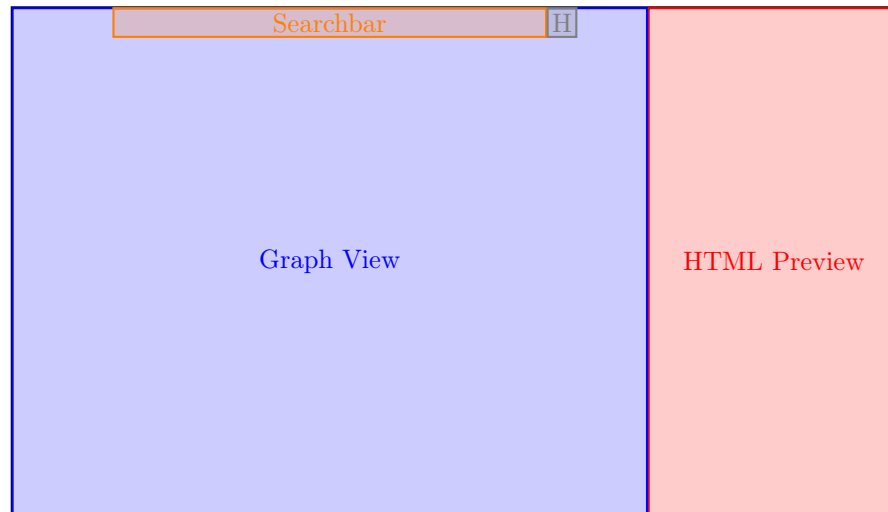
5. As I work, the graph updates *in real time.*

1.4.2 Searching for information

I need to query some information in the Zettelkasten.

1. I enter my search query by *just starting to type.*

2. The graph updates in real time and shows just the nodes matching the query.

3. I have the option to show a small snippet of the note next to each node.

4. The most relevant node is highlighted and its HTML preview is shown automatically.

5. Hitting ENTER, I can navigate the nodes with *Vim keys.*
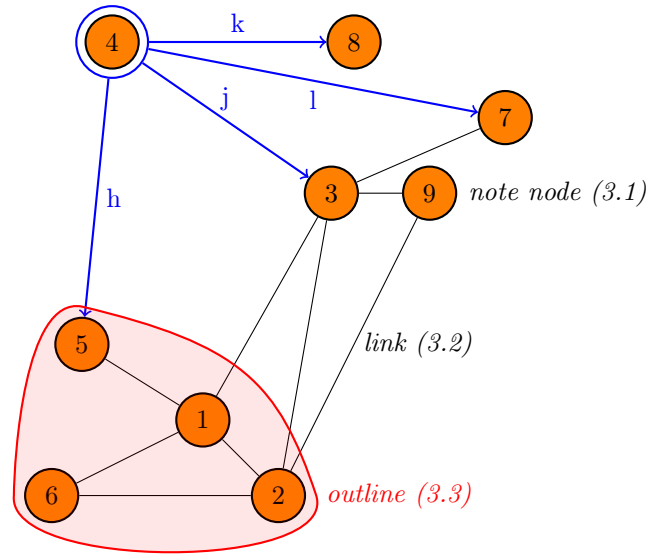
6. Hitting ENTER again, I can navigate the HTML preview.

2 UI Layout

The note graph is *the basis* of the system and so will always be shown. The user will then be able to *adjust* this graph view. Any other view will open as a sidebar.

3 Graph View

This section provides an overview of the various *elements* of the graph view.

3.1 Notes

3.2 Links

3.3 Outlines

3.4 Lenses

4 Search

5 HTML Preview

6 Options