Workshop Knowledge Graphs

This text is the companion to the Workshop that was given by Iman, Berry and Coen in Mindlabs, Tilburg, on 8 Februari 2024. We hope to have inspired people by telling and showing a little bit about Knowledge Graphs and how to use them to investigate some news subject, and in the process showing an example of RAG (Retrieval Augmented Generation) and how a tool like Obsidian can be used to dive into Knowledge. This page is about Obsidian.

QR

todo...

Install and download workshop material

- Open browser on https://obsidian.md, download and install Obsidian.
- Open browser on workshop material, download in 'Documents', unzip.
- Start Obsidian, 'Open (folder as) Vault', chose the folder where you unzipped.

What is a Vault?

A vault is a **collection of notes** (which are basically files on your hard disk) together with

relations between them. Look at the `Graph View` (, find the button on the upper left-side) to get an impression of the notes and how they are connected. Below you see an example, but please look at a live one.
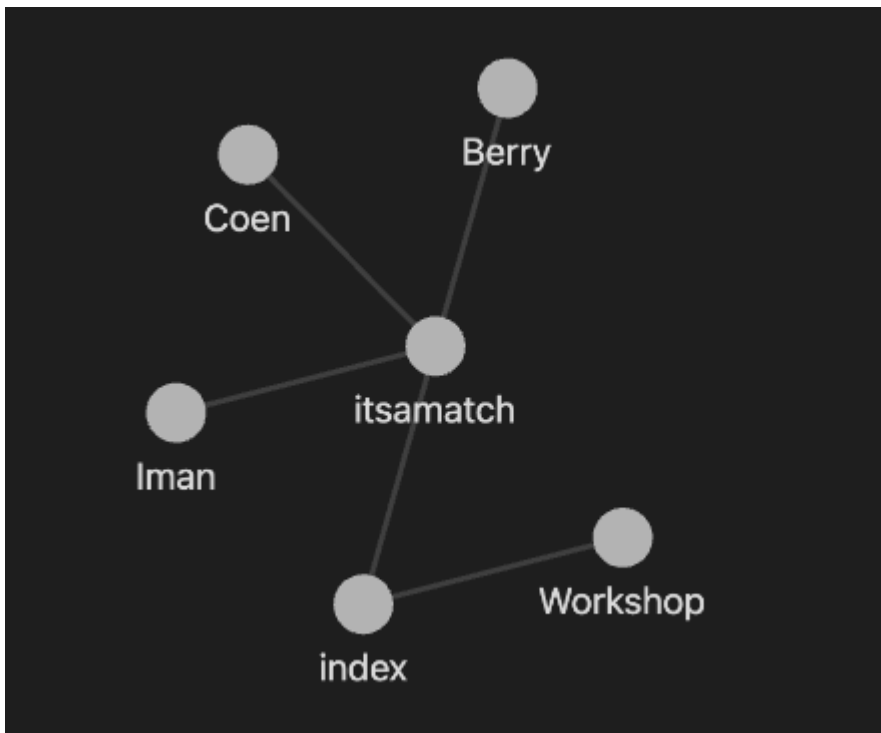
Why would you use Obsidian?

- Create structured notes.
- Knowledge management.
- A lot of information is *in-between* the documents: in how they are related!

Making and Linking Notes

As with most computer applications nowadays, when you hover the cursor above an icon or button, after a second or the name will pop-up, giving a hint of what will happen if you press it.
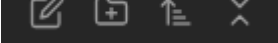
Some functionalities:

- Move files, links will be updated!
- 'Export to pdf': find it upper-right under the '...'

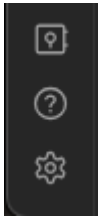# How to start Exploring?

Let's look at some menu items.

From left to right:

- **Files**: when selected you see these items: , of which the leftmost two (New Note, New Folder) are the most used. I think these names speak for themselves.

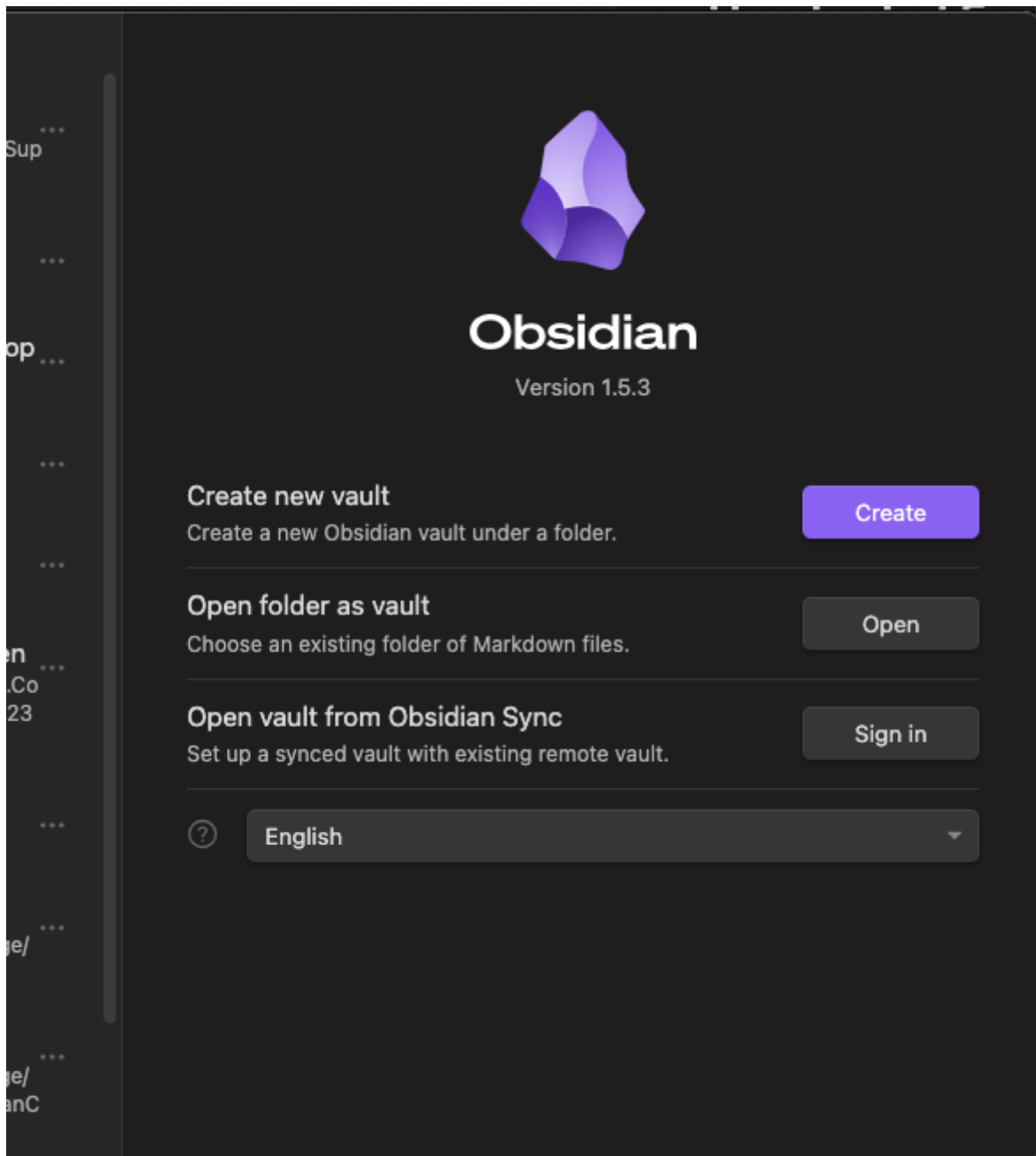- *Search*.
- *Bookmarks*: store links to important pages.

In the corner left below you find these buttons:

, which we will discuss in the next 3 chapters.

1. *Open another Vault*

So, a *Vault* is basically a folder (directory) on your machine containing files (mainly markdown, `.md` -files, called `notes`) and (sub)folders. *Any* folder can be chosen to act as a *Vault*.

The first options ('Create...' and 'Open...') are more or less self-explaining.

The 'Open vault from Obsidian Sync' is for paying customers: contents will be stored on the internet (~in the cloud) and several people can work together on 1 vault.

2. *Help

Some places to get help. One nice one is the 'Sandbox vault', which is a Practice-what-you-Preach-Vault: info about Obsidian *within* an Obsidian Vault.

3. *Settings*

There are some settings worth to talk about already, now.

Press the 'Settings'-button ( ) or go to the 'Settings'-menu. Always good to have a glance at the existing options. Some that we think could be of importance for you:

- **General/Language**.
- **Editor/Spell check**.
- **Files and links/Detect all file extensions**: if you want to see **all** kinds of files: for example docx, xlsx, pptx and so on.
- **Appearance/Base Color Scheme**: Do you prefer Light mode or Dark mode?
- **Core Plugins**: see next Chapter, or just experiment yourself.

Plug-ins

Divided in 2 categories:

1. Core Plug-ins

- **Audio recorder**.
- **Daily notes**: to put the Date automatically in new notes names (Zettelkasten).
- **Slides**: to present.

2. Community Plug-ins

Community Plug-ins/Browse: to see what's already been created. Some examples:

- **Mind Map**.
-

Some tutorials

So, this was just the beginning. If you want to take a deeper dive

- [Beginner Obsidian Tutorial - Personal Knowledge Management](#)
- [Video about plugins](#): how to make Obsidian even more powerful.
- **RSS Reader**.
- **Charts**.