Babyrus Manual

Introduction

Babyrus is a terminal-based program for helping you to get organised and manage plans. It started as a way to organise many hundreds of e-books in my PC by associating tag(s) to them and search them by tag name or file name, etc. But babyrus is much more than that – it allows you to not only register e-books, add tags to them, search them, and selectively open them in a viewer, but it allows you to create notes and project files too!

You could say there are three ‘layers’ to babyrus. The first layer is the ‘Manage eBooks’ section. Next is the ‘Manage Notes’ section, and third is the ‘Manage Goals’ section. You could say that these layers are on top of one another, with ‘Manage eBooks’ at the very bottom, ‘Manage Notes’ on top of that, and finally, ‘Manage Goals’ at the very top.

These layers are part of common workflow when using babyrus. You could start with creating a new project from Manage Goals section. In that project file you could write down your goals like this:

My Project: Learn to ride bicycle

Goals

Learn about riding bicycle so I can ride it this weekend

Watch Youtube video about riding bicycle

Download a book about riding bicycle and read it

Reason

To get fit

Notice how each heading can have different indentation. This is a feature inside babyrus.

You then write some notes from Manage Notes section. To do that, you must first fill in some meta data about your note file:

Note Title Current: What brand of bicycle should I buy?

Note Path Status: (will be generated)

Tags Status: none

Ebooks Status: none

Save and Edit Save note and open in editor

Save and Return Save note and exit

In this introduction, I’m not going to go through the full UI of the program. That is for subsequent chapters. But note here that a note file requires a title and an optional list of tags. These tags are used specifically for this note file only for the purpose of adding attribute(s) to the note. It is not associated to other note files or even a registered e-book or a project file.

Let me clear this up by giving you a bit more info. A project file can associate a note file to itself. A note file can associate an e-book file or URL as well as attach a tag to itself. An e-book database file contains a list of registered e-book files on your system but also can add tags to an e-book entry.

So in order to narrow down and identify an e-book file, you may filter the e-books database by tag or search by file name. In order to do the same with notes, you can filter the notes database by tag.

Once you have narrowed down the search (for either an e-book, a note, or a project file), there are a few actions you can perform. For an e-book file, you could add or remove tag and open it using an external application (suppose it’s a pdf file and use evince to open). For a note, you could also add or remove tag but there’s more – you can also add e-books and URL’s. After that, you can choose and open an e-book or an URL from the list.

When you open an e-book associated with a note file, you can open them on a specific page. That’s because we register chapter-page pairs as entries to the e-book file. For URL’s, user can select registered URL from the list and the URL opens on an external browser (like google chrome).

So you can associate the bicycle book you’ve downloaded to the note you wrote for your ride bicycle project. By adding it to the note file, you can register chapter-page pairs and use them to open the book in that specific page (using evince, for example). Once you’ve found the URL for that Youtube video, you can also associate it as an URL to your note file. By doing this, you can select it from the list and open it in a browser (like chrome).

But there’s a catch. You can’t associate an e-book file to a note file until you register it into the e-book database in the ‘Manage eBooks’ section. To do this, select ‘File Management’ → ‘Register eBook’. Here’s how the menu would look like:

This screen allows you to select a directory:

Current Directory: /home/logan/Desktop/ray tracing

Select a folder to search files.  
  
::SELECT:: select

.. up

The next screen allows you to select a file:

Choose an item (Page 1/1)

1:[/home/logan/Desktop/ray tracing] Fundamentals of Computer Graphics.pdf  
  
<OK> <Back>

Finally, this message box informs you that the file is now registered to the e-book database.

Registered: /home/logan/Desktop/ray tracing/Fundamentals of Computer Graphics.pdf  
  
<OK>

Now we can associate this e-book file to a note file and add multiple chapter:page entries to it, so that we can open the book at different pages.

So, that’s how the three layers work, in a nutshell: ‘Manage eBooks’, ‘Manage Notes’, and ‘Manage Goals’. You may register multiple e-book files to the e-book database; actually even hundreds or thousands of files. Babyrus has advanced search functions to filter through thousands of e-book entries. You may also register multiple notes and projects (goals). You may register multiple e-books and URL’s to a note file.

In a nutshell, you create a project and write down goals. You write notes about ways of achieving the goals in separate note files and associate them to the project file. You can associate multiple e-books and URL’s to the note that you’ve written. You can open the associated e-book file at different bookmarked pages, and open the associated URL using a browser. Finally, you may register hundreds and thousands of e-book files on your system, add tags to them, and open them in a viewer.

That’s how babyrus helps you to write down your plans and make it accountable.