

title: **Search for a simple tool yet impossible to find**

num\_comments: 4

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#### #### Post Text ####

Hi /r/ADHD\_Programmers, I turn to you because after spiraling hours on this quest today, I haven't find what I'm looking for. I'm ADHD, developer and in a manager role for the technical team. I have been struggling more and more on my own organization: notes, tasks, R&D, input from my team members, events logs/journal logs, thoughts/ideas dump,... (I will call the content types). All is spread out on different medium; notebooks, papers, sticky notes, mailbox, notion, evernote, Google keep, todoist,... without a proper system. Each item of these content types can have different priorities, privacy levels, importance, statuses,... The other day (maybe 2-3 weeks ago) , I saw a video that made blew me by the simplicity and made me reflect on what medium system I'm trying to find. I can't remember - nor find in my saved items - if the video was on reddit or tiktok. I searched for it 2-3h. So I will describe it. The trick that was presented was: \* to write every task/thoughts on a single post-it (or a piece of paper of sameish size). Small enough to not have enough space for multiple different items per sheet. \* So one would dump his tasks/thoughts on them. \* then go through them and sort them (content type and priority). \* then stack the tasks papers with the most urgent on top of the stack, the least being at the bottom. This method helping get things done and reducing anxiety due to the overwhelming list (looking at your notes, your are more reminded of the not done than the rest). My constraints are the following : - working from 3 different places: home, office, my partner's appartement 200km away. In average 1/3 of the time at each. - avoid physical medium. They are adding weight volume to carry around. Currently, I carry around my laptop (not light), accessories and 4 notebooks. - also physical medium won't work for links or clipped content "à la Evernote". - fast to add entry - possibility to add entries from: browser (clipper), app itself (web app or not), mobile, email (like evernote, Trello or instapaper do) - ability to sort/move/organize items from an inbox/unsorted list. From my search, Trello is ticking a lot of the boxes of the features I'm looking for but some things turn me down. Like the fact that there is not really a possibility to avoid the board/lists to get cluttered and overwhelming. Also it tend to be more on the project management side (we already use tools for that). Apps like notion are too feature rich, in the sense of trying to solve too many problems of too many groups. I had a similar feeling with Evernote when I left it 5 years ago (it just became a big mess and more painful than helpful). Maybe I should give another try to Evernote... What tools/apps would you suggest or recommend? Thank you for your input!

#### #### Comments ####

##### Commenter\_2

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2

# Rant + some warnings

Instead of using this, i use my adhd as an excuse to my procrastination, but I still want to tell you about GNU Emacs, more specifically `org-mode`. **However It is a rabbit hole you may never want to climb back out of.** (Reference [from this meme video](#)). **And some people may never want to** climb into... Btw of all the text editors emacs is best for me. I just use it to code.

# Example

Here is a sample todo tree:

...

\* TODO [#A] Go to sleep :home:

**MAYBE Actually do it**

- [x] think about it

- [ ] Actually go to sleep  
...

What you can see there is a task with one sub task and that one has a checklist. The `:home:` you see on line 1 is a tag that you can use to sort your todo by project, location etc.  
Also you can get an agenda like this one.

...  
Monday, 31 09 2021 W32  
12:30-.... [#A] Some task  
..... Another task (Unsheduled)  
...

# Learning emacs

Because I am on mobile i can't continue typing forever so this is rather [good documentation](https://orgmode.org/manual/) on the entirety of org mode and you can also get it inside of emacs, goodnight bye.

Oh and also this tutorial series on the basics of vanilla emacs. Its still working and that's what i learned from.

##### Unknown\_User  
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2  
Curious where this goes. I'm in the same type of role and have done it all similarly to what you wrote. I was on the Trello bandwagon but I've always reverted back to writing it down. My ADHD brain seems to connect actually writing it to staying longer in my memory.

I do like the idea of post-it's, but once I move to electronic — it loses steam.

##### OP  
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2  
If you would be open to it, I would be very interested into having a conversation with you (and/or others in similar role and situation).

I'm actually ADD, not ADHD.

Before I forget, how do you manage/organize online content types? (like R&D material, articles, videos, links,...).

I agree with what you said about writing staying longer in memory. But I find myself struggling to organize written notes on classical notebooks (or bullet journal type ones). Mainly because I would mix up different types of content. And then they end up being "out of sight", and makes me tend to forget what is too far back.

"Out of sight, out of mind" is hitting home for me and my partner (who is ADHD).  
But clutter or list is overwhelming and triggers anxiety, especially that in that kind of role your need to take more notes (or of more things).  
The physical medium that is the least problematic is the Atoma type notebooks, which allows me to move pages around to sort/organize/classify them.

That's why I'm thinking of a app/tool/system that would free my mind of clutter and anxiety while helping me to organize things, having the best of physical and non-physical medium.

I have been seriously considering getting a Remarkable 2. For the following reasons:

- \* close enough to paper notebooks.
- \* distraction free (in opposition to iPad/Android tablets)
- \* ocr

But the main drawback for me is the lack of bidirectional integration with other services (like evernote for example). It is a bit too limited to Remarkable ecosystem.

##### Commenter\_4

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2

I got obsessed with finding tools I would actually use and that would actually help me organize this past year and have come up with a few that are helping me so much. Overall my process includes the use of:

1. Remarkable 2 - I love it. If you go over to that subreddit there a lot of people who complain about lack of features and integration, but I got it exactly because I don't want all that frill. RM advertised as a tool to reduce distractibility and for me it very much helps to accomplish that. I use it to write and draw and that's it. My main need for it was to have all my notes and writing in one place and for that it succeeds easily. The writing experience on it is... remarkable.

2. OneNote - Most of what I need in terms of integrating with links etc is for work, and for that I use my company OneNote. I spent way too much time coming up with a notebook system and eventually landed on having it mirror my file structure for projects. Links around specific topics go into project notebooks as part of documentation. I use bookmarks now really only for things I'm going back to repeatedly or the most valuable learning resources I come across. I'm getting out of the habit of bookmarking for "I'll definitely come back and read this later." I won't.

3. Things app - This has been a game changer for me. For awhile I was toying with creating my own to do app because nothing I tried had the functionality that made sense to me. But then I found Things. It has pretty much all of the functionality I want in a to do app and the UI is super clean. I brain dump everything into my inbox and then easily move stuff into categories and days. I have categories for daily/weekly, etc for chores. I can create projects for things with lots of subtasks and break down every task into steps. It integrates with my calendar, so for scheduled stuff it brings it all into one place and each day I just have a very clear list of what I have to prioritize. Stuff that doesn't get checked off rolls into the next day, so it works great for big floating things that I want to remember to do eventually or for things with a lot process that get done over several days or weeks.