

Batch Renaming in Nautilus

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Abstract

Right now it is only possible to rename one file at once using Nautilus. This document describes how an alternative way could look like in order to rename multiple files at once.

1 Use Case

The use case how to perform a batch renaming consists of the following steps:

1. Selecting multiple files.
2. Identifying the common parts of the names.
3. Entering the change.
4. Executing the change.

2 Detail Description of the steps

2.1 Selection multiple files

This behavior does not change much compared to the current state of Nautilus. The only difference is to enable the possibility to execute the rename command when multiple files are selected.

2.2 Identifying the common parts of the names

The system needs to identify the parts of the name which are identical in all strings.

Example:

- “pic_1234.jpg”
- “1_pic_234.jpg”
- “pic_2345.jpg”

Results in “pic_”, “4”, “jpg”.

2.3 Entering the changes

The result is being displayed as the following string to the user in a new pop-up:

“*pic_*4*.jpg”

The asterisk stands for strings which are not identical in all file names.

The user can now edit the file as needed. Even delete the asterisks. If this results in identical file names, the system adds a number to make the file name unique again. E.g “pic_2345 (1).jpg”.

As an option there could be the possibility to add information of the meta data with an place holder. E.g. %md could result in inserting the last modification date. In this way one could insert artist names in mp3, or the aperture while a picture is taken in jpgs.

3 Example Use Cases

3.1 Renaming of files

File names:

- scan_123.pdf
- scan_233.pdf
- scan_234.pdf

Leads to the following string in the rename window: “scan_*.pdf”

If one enters e.g. “Personal_ *_insurance.pdf” it would lead to the following file names:

- Personal_123_insurance.pdf
- Personal_233_insurance.pdf
- Personal_234_insurance.pdf

3.2 Renaming of MP3s

File names:

- Robby_Track_1.mp3
- Robby_Track_2.mp3
- Robby_Track_3.mp3

Leads to the following string in the rename window: “Robby_Track_*.mp3”

If one enters e.g. “%Artist_%Track.mp3” it would lead to the following file names:

- Robbie Williams_How Peculiar.mp3
- Robbie Williams_Feel.mp3
- Robbie Williams_Something Beautiful.mp3

3.3 Renaming of pictures

File names:

- pic_1234.jpg
- pic_1235.jpg
- pic_1236.jpg

Leads to the following string in the rename window: “pic_123*.jpg”

If one enters e.g. “Peter_%date.jpg” it would lead to the following file names:

- Peter_20150301.jpg
- Peter_20150301 (1).jpg
- Peter_20150301 (2).jpg