

Craigs Search Agent Users Guide

© 2011 Good Deal Software

Version 3.0

Table of Contents

Quick Start Guide.....	4
First-Time Preferences.....	4
Toolbar Buttons.....	5
Start Searching.....	5
Stop Searching.....	5
Save Searches.....	6
Preferences.....	6
Delete Archives.....	6
Show Results.....	6
Help.....	6
Add Search Tab.....	7
Search Name.....	7
Selected Orgs.....	7
Category.....	7
Subcategory.....	8
Search For.....	8
Min/Max Price.....	8
Add Search.....	8
Search Tabs.....	9
Delete Search.....	9
Delete Archives.....	9
View Latest Hits.....	9
View Archvies.....	10
One Shot.....	10
Edit Search.....	10
Preferences Window.....	11
Geographical Settings.....	11
Default Country.....	11
Default State.....	11
Search Preferences.....	12
Search Frequency.....	12
Include nearby results.....	12
Condense results.....	12
Window Preferences.....	12
Automatically start when Windows starts.....	12
Automatically start searching.....	12
Run in system tray.....	12
Show splash screen during startup.....	13
Email Settings.....	13
Send Email Notification.....	13
Send Results In One Digest.....	13
Use Easy Settings.....	13
Email Account.....	13
Email Address.....	13
Password.....	13

Save Password.....	13
CC.....	13
Test Send Email.....	14
Advanced Email Settings.....	14
SMTP Server Name.....	14
Port Number.....	14
Username.....	14
Troubleshooting email problems.....	14

Quick Start Guide

Getting started with the Craigs Search Agent is quick and painless

1. You'll need to download and install it. Don't worry - if you're upgrading from the Trial Version to the Full Version you won't lose any searches you've already defined, or preference settings.
2. You may begin defining searches immediately. Just fill out the "Add New Search" tab of the notebook, then push the "Add Search" button at the bottom.
3. When you are satisfied with your searches, push the "Start" button and an auto-repeating search will begin.



The first time you search your Firewall Program may ask if you want to allow Craigs Search Agent to access the internet, Choose "Allow Always".

That's it! Searching will repeat itself every 24 hours (by default) unless you push the red "Stop" button or Exit.

First-Time Preferences

The first time you use the Craigs Search Agent you may want to visit the Preferences Window to customize your default settings. Push the green "Checkmark" button and the Preferences Window will appear.



This is where you can set the default Country/State that you will search in most often, the search frequency, startup settings, and email preferences. You can also make the Craigs Search Agent send you a test Email to validate the Email settings are correct (recommended).

Toolbar Buttons



Start Searching

Searching repeats automatically every 24 hours by default, or whatever the Search Frequency is set to, until the "Stop" button (the stop sign button) is pushed or the application is closed. When pressed, the button becomes disabled, and the "Stop" button becomes enabled.

When an auto-repeating search is in progress a number of other buttons and their corresponding menu items will become disabled. This is to prevent the database from changing while it is being read from or written to.

These buttons are disabled when an auto-repeating search is running, whether or not searches are actively running:

"Add Search"

"Delete Search"

"One Shot"

These buttons are temporarily disabled when a notebook tab is being actively searched, but re-enabled while waiting to start actively searching again:

"Delete Archives"

"View Latest Hits"

"View Archives"

"Edit Search"



Stop Searching

When pressed the automatic repeat of searching is stopped. This button is enabled when an automatically repeating search is in progress (the "Start" button has been pressed).



Save Searches

When you have modified the searches that have been defined (added or deleted notebook tabs), you may press this button to save your changes. When exiting, if any changes have occurred, you will be prompted to save before exiting.



Preferences

Press this button to open the Preferences Window.



Delete Archives

Press this button to delete the results for all of the searches.



Show Results

Press this button to view the latest and archived results for all of the searches.



Help

Press this button to go to the online support website.

Add Search Tab

Add New Search

Search Name:

Country: **USA**
Canada

State: New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania

Org Choices: asheville
boone
charlotte
eastern NC
fayetteville
greensboro
hickory / lenoir
jacksonville
outer banks
raleigh / durham / CH

Selected Orgs:

Category: for sale
Subcategory: All

Search For:

Only Search Titles
 Has Image

Price Min: Max:

Add Search

Search Name

Give a short but descriptive name to your search. This will become the name on the notebook tab that is created once the "Add Search" button is pushed.

Selected Orgs

Select the Country and State of the Orgs you wish to search. Select the Orgs to search in the "Org Choices" list. To add them to the "Selected Orgs" list you can push the right-arrow button or double click to add them one at a time. To remove orgs from the "Selected Orgs" list; select the orgs you wish to remove and then push the left-arrow button or double click to remove them one at a time.

Category

Choose which category you want to search in. You can only choose one category and subcategory per search tab.

Subcategory

Choose which subcategory to search in. To search in all of the subcategories at once choose "ALL".

Search For

Enter some keywords to narrow down the hits to the specific thing you're interested in. For example, "Red Jeep Wrangler Sahara". Leave this field blank if you want to see all the listings in that category/subcategory.

All the advanced search techniques that Craigslist supports will also work here. You can make phrases, exclude words, do "OR" searches, and group words and phrases together using advanced search techniques.

Make a phrase by surrounding the words in quote marks.

Example:

```
"sewing table"
```

Exclude words by using the dash (-) character in front of a word or phrase.

Examples:

```
sewing -machine
```

```
sewing -"wanted to buy"
```

Do "OR" searching by using the pipe character (|).

Examples:

```
sewing|needlepoint
```

```
"sewing machine"|"sewing table"
```

Group words and phrases using parenthesis ().

Examples:

```
singer (sewing|table)
```

```
singer("sewing machine"|"sewing table")
```

Min/Max Price

Please enter the number only without using currency signs (\$) or commas.

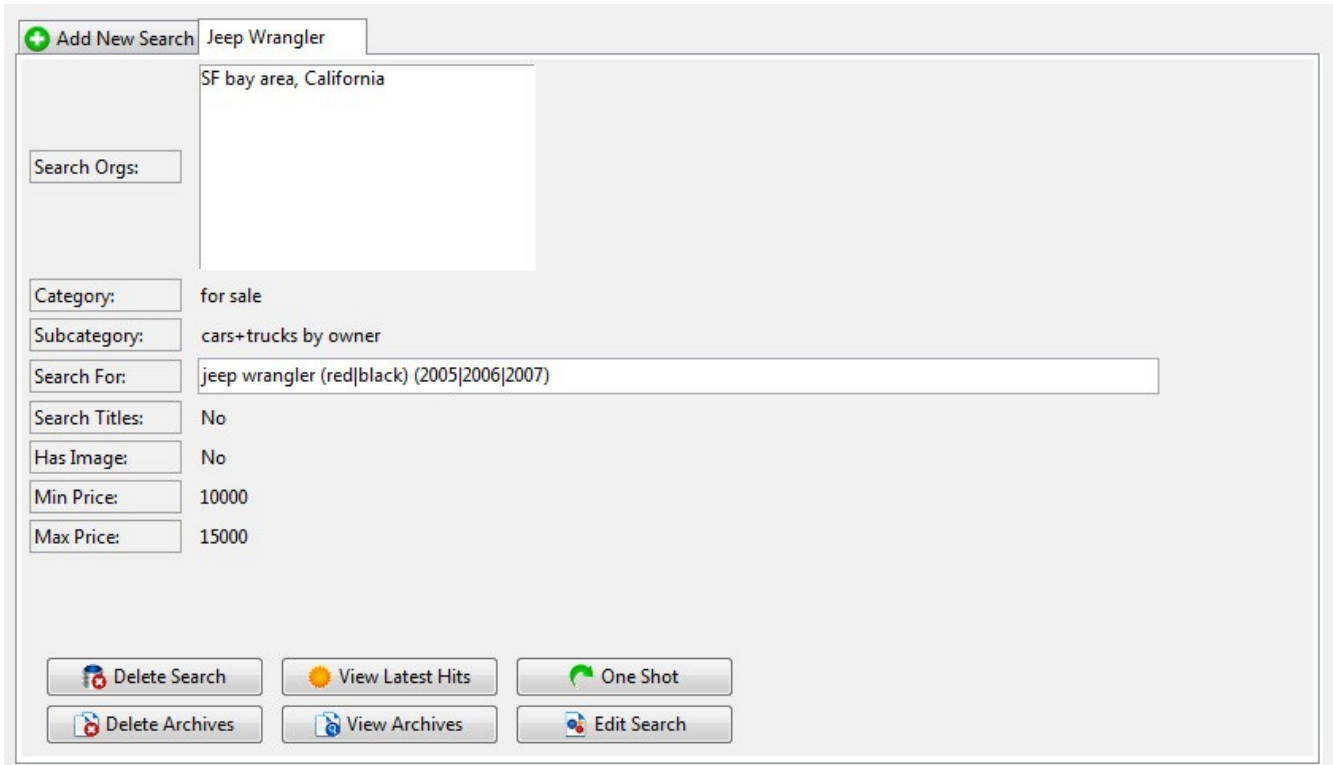
Search For, Only Search Titles, Has Image, and Min and Max Price are all mimics of the search form on the Craigslist websites!

Add Search

Push this button when you have completed the form. Pushing this button will create a new notebook tab where you can go to view the search definition and view results.

Search Tabs

Each time you add a new search by pushing the “Add Search” button on the “Add New Search” notebook tab, a new notebook tab is created. This is a record of one item that you are interested in finding Ads for. It shows the values from the form you filled out on the “Add New Search” notebook tab.



The screenshot shows a web interface for adding a new search. At the top, there is a tab labeled "Add New Search" and a sub-tab labeled "Jeep Wrangler". Below the tabs, there is a large text input field containing "SF bay area, California". To the left of this field is a "Search Orgs:" label. Below the text field, there are several form fields: "Category:" with the value "for sale", "Subcategory:" with the value "cars+trucks by owner", "Search For:" with the value "jeep wrangler (red|black) (2005|2006|2007)", "Search Titles:" with the value "No", "Has Image:" with the value "No", "Min Price:" with the value "10000", and "Max Price:" with the value "15000". At the bottom of the form, there are six buttons: "Delete Search", "View Latest Hits", "One Shot", "Delete Archives", "View Archives", and "Edit Search".

Screen shot of a search to find a Jeep Wrangler

Delete Search

Pushing this button will delete the currently viewed search record (notebook tab) and all the associated result files (latest and archived).

Delete Archives

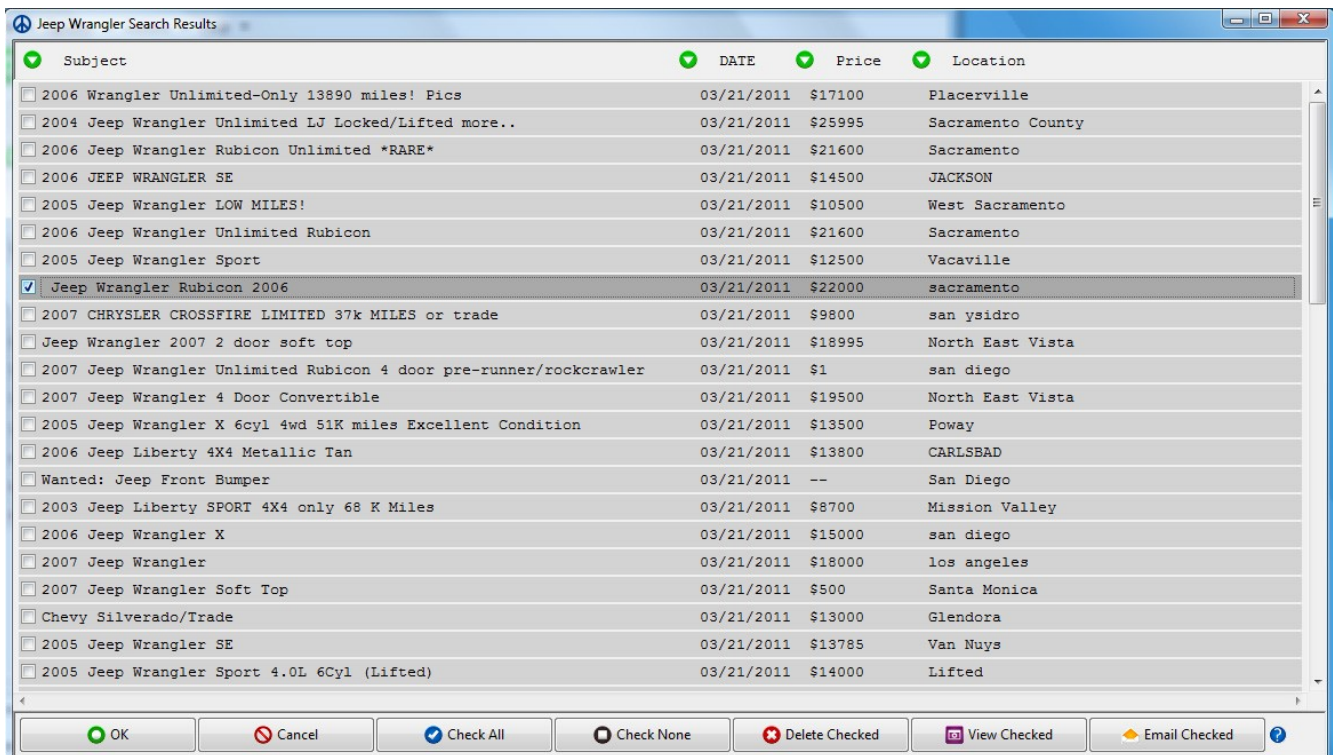
Pushing this button will delete all of the result archive files, but not the latest result file. It will not delete the search record (notebook tab).

View Latest Hits

Pushing this button will open a web browser showing the most recent results of the currently selected search record (notebook tab).

View Archvies

Pushing this button will open a new window showing the archived results of the currently selected search record (notebook tab).



From within this window you can sort results by Subject, Date, Price, or Location. The date is the date that the item was discovered, not the date the item was posted on Craigslist.

Hotkey "f", middle mouse button, or right mouse button when over an item will open that item in your web browser.

There are utility buttons at the bottom to delete postings you are not interested in, or to view or email postings that are of special interest. The buttons operate on whatever items are currently checked.

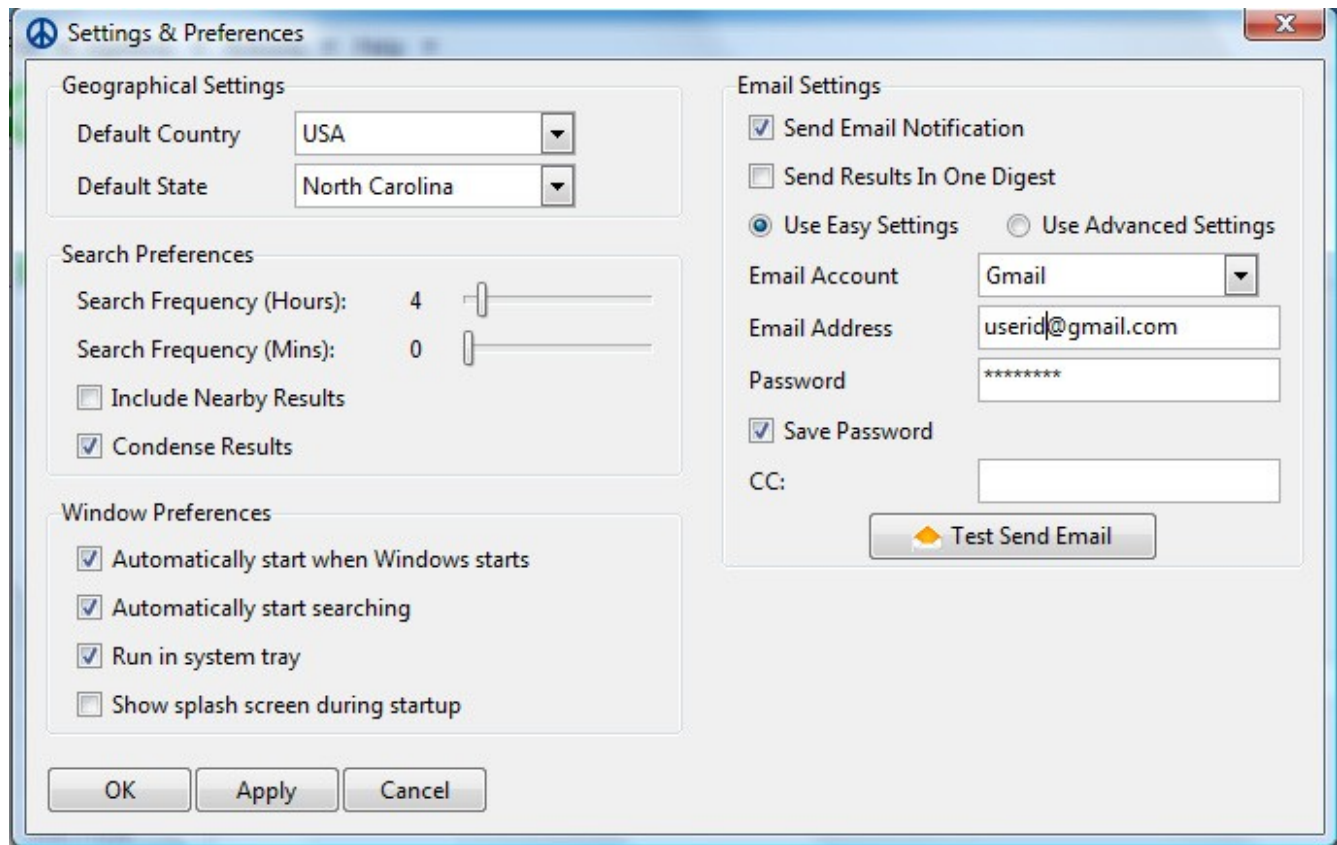
One Shot

Pushing this button will run this notebook tab search, one time. This is useful when you're setting things up for the first time.

Edit Search

Pushing this button will open a new window where you can modify any of the search parameters of this search.

Preferences Window



Geographical Settings

Default Country

Choose the country you are interested in searching in most often. You can always choose another country on the main window.

Default State

Set this to the state/province that you will search in most often. You can always choose other states/provinces on the main window.

Search Preferences

Search Frequency

This is how you control how often searching repeats. Use the hour and minute sliders to select a value between 0 minutes and 48 hours.

Include nearby results

If there is a small number of items found during your search, Craigslist will automatically include results from nearby areas (if any are found). If you would like these "nearby" items include in your results then turn this button on. If you do not want these items included in your results then turn this button off.

Condense results

This button is used to control the reporting format. Turn this button on for the most condensed version of the reports (only essential information), or turn this button off to see all of the information available.

Condensed results will only include the city, items, and number of items found. Not-condensed results will also include header information about the search definition and time the search was run.

Window Preferences

Automatically start when Windows starts

Check this if you want Craigs Search Agent to start when Windows starts.

Automatically start searching

Check this is you want Craigs Search Agent to automatically start searching (as if you had pressed the auto-repeat button) whenever Craigs Search Agent starts.

Run in system tray

Check this if you want Craigs Search Agent to minimize into the system tray (lower right corner).

Show splash screen during startup

Check this if you prefer to have the Good Deal Software splash screen (the "about" screen) displayed when Craigs Search Agent starts.

Email Settings

Send Email Notification

Check this if you want the Craigs Search Agent to Email you the search results when new hits are found.

Send Results In One Digest

Check this if you prefer to have all the new hits combined into one Email. Uncheck this if you prefer to receive a separate Email for each search that had new results.

Use Easy Settings

Select this if your Email service is Gmail, Yahoo!, Hotmail, or AOL. If your SMTP mail service is something else then you need to select the alternative, "Use Advanced Settings".

Email Account

Choose your Email service provider

Email Address

Enter your Email address. This is the "To:" address mail will be delivered to.

Password

Enter the password for your Email account.

Save Password

Check this to have Craigs Search Agent save your password (recommended). Your password is kept in an encrypted file so no one will be able to read it (not even a computer). If you choose not to save your password then you will have to re-enter it every time you start the Craigs Search Agent.

CC

If you want to copy others then enter their Email address here separated by a space. Important! Space separated, not comma separated.

Test Send Email

Push this to send a test Email. If it works you should see a message in the console that there was success, and you should receive an Email. Depending on your Email service provider, your Email may end up in your "Sent" box. To fix this you'll have to create a mail rule so that the Email goes to the mail folder you prefer.

Advanced Email Settings

SMTP Server Name

Enter your smtp mail server name.

Port Number

Enter the port number that your smtp mail server accepts mail on.

Username

Enter your username for the account. Sometimes this is the same as the email address, sometimes it's the part before the @ character, or it could be something completely different.

These days it's usually not too hard to find these settings. You have to get them from your email service provider. Most often this can be done by searching their support website for how to configure third party email clients.

Troubleshooting email problems

When I try to send email, it just says "Sending email..." but I don't receive email. If the email doesn't work the most likely cause is that a firewall or your internet service provider is blocking the email from being sent. Make sure Craigs Search Agent is considered trusted and given permission to access the internet.

If it's still not working, check that your internet service provider isn't blocking the port numbers for your configuration. If it is then you will have to use a different configuration in order to get the email to send.

The default port numbers are:

Gmail port 25

Yahoo! Port 465

AOL Port 587

Hotmail Port 25