

Save the Cat!

What's New in Version 2?

Beats to the Board

The moment so many of you have waited for has finally arrived. Yes! That's right! When you finish the Beat Sheet and get to the Board, STC will place a scene card for each of the fifteen beats to get you started. You'll find your beat in the Description tab on the scene card.

Notes Tab?

Actually, you will now find three tabs on a scene card: D, N, S. The description line in version 1 didn't provide much room for a detailed description so we've rearranged the scene cards. The description box is now larger. But, making the description box bigger left no room for the notes. So, we added the tabs so you can view the description or the notes or the script. Just click the appropriate tab.

Script Tab

We would hate for you to lose those brilliant lines of dialog or the exciting action that you think of while working on a scene card. So we've given you a place to record it. Click the S tab to view the script. This works better if you view the scene card in the Big Scene Card view. Use two tabs to indicate a character name for dialog. Use a single tab for the actual dialog and use no tab for action. Also, be sure to leave a blank line between blocks of action or dialog.

The script for the scene isn't going to look exactly like it would in Final Draft but you can export it in a format that can be imported into Final Draft.

Export for Final Draft

After spending all that time planning out your screenplay and writing those great scenes, there is no sense wasting all that effort. Export the screenplay to a text file that includes the scene headings and script. Then, open the resulting text file in Final Draft and finish it up.

Actually, the export to text function gives you many more options now. You can select the parts of the screenplay that you want included in the file. Just check the boxes on the Export Options window that pops up.

Import from Final Draft

Not only can you export your screenplay from STC and load it into Final Draft but you can also import a script from Final Draft into STC. You'll have to prepare the script in Final Draft so STC can understand and interpret the scenes and pages but that won't take long. Look for more detailed instructions in the Program Tips under the Help menu.

When you import the script, STC will create a scene card for each scene and place them on the Board based on the page number of the scene in the script. Of course, STC can't figure out what the beats or the logline are so you'll have to do that. But, you'll have all of the scenes including the script for each scene.

Number of Pages

STC now allows you to change the total pages in your screenplay. In Version 1 the total pages was fixed at 110. But maybe you're writing an epic drama and you know you are going to be writing 150 pages. Just change the page count on the Title and Logline window and STC will reconfigure the Beat Sheet and the Board to reflect the new total pages. And, if you've already started on the Board, the page numbers for each scene card will automatically be changed for you. You can have anywhere from 4 to 250 pages.

Big Scene Card View

All right, the Big Scene Card View isn't new. But, the Prev and Next buttons on the Big Scene Card View are new. Just click the Prev button to work on the previous scene card or the Next button to work on the next scene card without having to close the Big Scene Card View and double-click on another scene card.

Scene Card Color Coding

You were stuck with just one color choice for a scene card in Version 1. In Version 2, you can select up to six different colors for a scene card. You will see six little bars down the left side of the scene card. Click one of the bars to select the color for that bar.

Since the color bars are down the left side of each card you can track a theme or character arc easily across the Board.

Litter Box

When you are brainstorming scenes for your screenplay, you may have scenes that you may not want to keep but you don't really want to delete them yet. Now you can move them off the Board and into the Litter Box. Open the Litter Box from the Litter Box menu on the Board in the Windows version and from the Litter Box menu under the Screenplay menu in the Mac version. You can move them back to the Board or delete them.

Scratch Pad

As you get started working on your logline or the beats, you may have one of those brilliant ideas for your screenplay that doesn't quite fit into the logline or a beat. We would hate for you to lose those thoughts so we have provided the Scratch Pad where you can record them as they hit you. You'll find the Scratch Pad next to the Litter Box on the menus.

Title and Logline, Beat Sheet, the Board

Once you get to the Board, you can have the Title and Logline window and the Beat Sheet window open all at the same time.

Tutorial and Program Tips

Speaking of keeping things open, you can also open the Tutorial and Program Tips and leave them open if you like.

New Tutorial

Be sure to read the tutorial as it has been updated with cool information from Blake.

Advice

Be sure to check out the new advice from the cat for genres on the Beat Sheet. That's all I'll say.

Backdrop on the Mac

You can tell STC to show the backdrop on the Mac version or not by checking or un-checking the Show Backdrop menu under the Preferences menu.

Spider-Man 2

Included in your download or on the CD is a complete breakdown of Spider-Man 2.

If you have the Windows version, use the Import from Windows version to import Spider-Man 2.tmg so you can check it out.

If you have the Mac version, just open the Spider-Man 2.stc file that was included in the dmg file.