



# Note Taking

Notes and the Tools We Use

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Jerry Harris  
July 2022



# Notes Agenda

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- whoami and whyami Doing This
- Broad Category of Notes
- Useful Features
- Tools Comparison Chart
- Screenshots from Evernote, OneNote, SimpleNote, and Obsidian
- Pros/Cons for Evernote, Onenote, and Obsidian
- Deep Dive on Obsidian

# whoami and whyami

```
(base) jerryharris@Jerrys-MBP notes % whoami  
jerryharris  
(base) jerryharris@Jerrys-MBP notes % |
```

# Apropos Background

tl;dr - years and years of trying different methods and tools of taking notes

Tool Used	Use Cases
Steno Pad	Checklists, Meeting Notes, some planning
Emacs Outline-mode	Outline, Checklists, Planning, Meetings, Writing
Mind Map	2D Outline, Checklists, Planning, Meetings, Writing
Evernote	Outline, Checklists, Planning, Meetings, Writing, Web clipping
Airtable	Checklists, Status Reports, Presentations, Knowledge building, Interviewing, Data Gathering, Analysis/Calculations
Obsidian	Outline, Checklists, Planning, Writing, Presentations, Knowledge building, Publishing, Interviewing, Analysis/Calculations

# whyami doing this?

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- I haven't found a system that satisfies all my use cases ... until now
- The tool I'm using now has also introduced me to new use cases
- Interested in sharing with others what I've learned

# Broad Category of Notes

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Code	Name	Description
N1	Simple Text	unstructured text, ad hoc, short-term, stand alone notes
N2	Structured Text	Simple Text + outlines, check lists, hierarchical, short- to medium-term
N3	Rich Text	Structured Text + lists, pictures, bold/italic/underline, tables, daily notes
N4	Content	Rich Text + headers, TOC, tables, publish-ready
N5	Second Brain	Content + super enriched content, full-text search, plugins to enhance and add functionality, super customization, backlinks, graph view

# Other Useful Features

**Web clipper:** *a browser extension that captures content from current page into a new note*

**Publisher:** *publish a set of notes for sharing with others on a Web site or PDF document*

**Plugins:** *adds extra functionality and possibly integrates with 3rd-party services*

**Freehand Drawing:** *highlighting, marking up, shapes, lines*

**Background image:** *different images to represent lined paper or graph paper*

**File Embed:** *embed a PDF or other types of files into the note; preview of the PDF is "extra credit"*

**Note linking:** *links across different notes of "files"*

**Note organization:** *organize notes into folders, tag notes with #hashtags, sync across devices*

**Themes:** *switchable colors, layouts, dark/light mode, etc.*

**Search:** *full-text, titles, file names, etc.*

**Platform Decoupling:** *contents stored in local files*

# Tools Comparison Chart

Tool	Note Types	Main Features
<b>Evernote</b>	N3	Web clipper, File Embed, Note Linking, Note Org, Search, Proprietary format
<b>OneNote</b>	N3-ish	Drawing, Background Image, Note Linking, File Embed (no preview), check lists (poor), tables (buggy), Proprietary format
<b>SimpleNote</b>	N1	Note linking, Outline only, Simple Checklists, Proprietary format
<b>Notepad/ Textedit</b>	N1 in plain text N3 in rich text	Quick editing for copy/paste between apps
<b>Obsidian</b>	N5	Publisher, Integration, File Embed, Note Linking, Note Org, Themes, Second Brain, Search, Local text files

Code	Name
N1	Simple Text
N2	Structured Text
N3	Rich Text
N4	Content
N5	Second Brain



# Screenshots from Evernote, OneNote, SimpleNote and Obsidian

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# 3 Examples

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- Outline - simple outline with bullet points and a few checklist items
- Content - add a table and embedded image
- Embedded File - embed a PDF – all support this, so it's in Background section

# Evernote - Outline

- Rich text
- Check list
- Outline
- Bullet points
- Only 3 levels of organization

The screenshot displays the Evernote application interface. On the left is a sidebar with a user profile 'Jerry' and a list of notebooks including 'Evernote 2', 'GReader Starred 30', 'Job Stack', 'Mediation', 'Misc Research', 'Notebook Research 3', 'Notebook Stack', 'Personal', 'Photography', 'Pier Wave Consulting', 'Programming Intro 4', 'R&D', 'Reading List 10', 'Trails 7', 'X-CS', 'X-CS Team', 'X-CS Team Archive', 'X-EnerNOC', 'X-EnerNOC Sustainability', and 'X-GE'. The main area shows the 'Notebook Research' notebook with 3 notes. The first note is 'Checklist: Create and fill...' dated 6/28/22, featuring an Iron Triangle diagram with 'Value' at the top, 'Trust and Happiness' at the bottom, and 'Iron Triangle' in the center. The second note is 'SWOT Actions - Final Slides' dated 6/24/22, presented on May 24, 2022, with a thumbnail of a presentation slide. The third note is '[outline]SWOT Actions - preparation work', which contains a checklist and SWOT notes. The checklist items are: 'Create and fill in SWOT table' and 'Find a good Iron Triangle graphic'. The SWOT notes include: 'Shift the triangle to emphasize built-in quality and customer value', 'Expand data consolidation between Ops / Eng / BI to enable deeper data-driven decision-making', 'Introduce a daily cross-functional ProdOps meeting', 'Create Tech Roadmap to address architectural and best practice issues, etc.', 'SWOT Table' (with a sub-item 'Fill in later'), 'Team Recommendations' (with sub-items 'Explore changes to Scrum teams to be more cross-functional and full-stack', 'Have dedicated B2B QA resources', and 'Do 9-box analysis to identify top performers and potential flight-risk'), and 'Iron Triangle for Project Management' (with a sub-item 'Find a good Iron Triangle graphic').

# Evernote - Content

- Tables - good features
- Images - resizing

Notebook Research note Share

Created: May 24, 2018 Updated: Jun 28, 2022

[content]SWOT Actions - preparation work

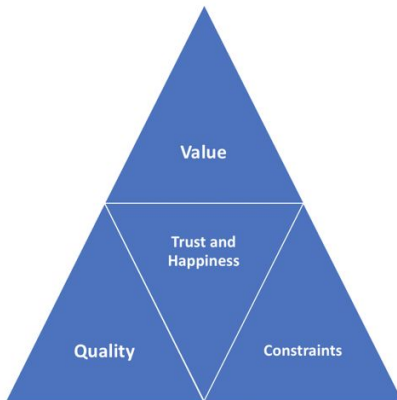
- Create and fill in SWOT table
- Find a good Iron Triangle graphic

**SWOT Notes:**

- ...removed for screen shot
- SWOT Table

<p><b>Strength:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual desire to do what's best for the business</li><li>• Observed good team spirit and camaraderie</li><li>• Long tenure with deep business and technical knowledge</li><li>• Strong commitment evidenced by long commutes by key people</li></ul>	<p><b>Weakness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Iron Triangle is unbalanced</li><li>• Lower quality and reduced trust</li><li>• Handling production issues is via individual and informal communication means</li><li>• Data silos: Information about system breakage or releases not communication widely</li></ul>
<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shift the triangle to emphasize built-in quality and</li></ul>	<p><b>Threats:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When the Iron Triangle remains unbalanced in one direction for a long time, business performance is vulnerable to inefficiencies</li><li>• New features need to assure that seller data can not be easily screen scraped by a competitor</li></ul>

- Do 9-box analysis to identify top performers ar
- Iron Triangle for Project Management



# OneNote - Outline

- Rich text
- Check list
- Outline
- Bullet points
- Only 3 levels of organization

The screenshot displays a OneNote page titled "SWOT Analysis" with a dropdown arrow. The left sidebar shows a hierarchical outline:

- Company Analysis
  - [outline]SWOT Actions - ...
  - [content]SWOT Actions - ...
  - SWOT Actions – final sli...

The main content area shows the selected outline item, "[outline]SWOT Actions - preparation", with a timestamp of "Monday, June 27, 2022 9:28 AM".

**Checklist:**

- Create and fill in SWOT table
- Find a good Iron Triangle graphic

**SWOT Notes:**

- Shift the triangle to emphasize built-in quality and customer value
- Expand data consolidation between Ops / Eng / BI to enable deeper data-driven decision-making:
- Introduce a daily cross-functional **ProdOps** meeting
- Create Tech Roadmap to address architectural and best practice issuesting, etc.
- SWOT Table
  - ☆ • *Fill in later*
- Team Recommendations:
  - Explore changes to Scrum teams to be more cross-functional and full-stack
  - Have dedicated B2B QA resources
  - Do 9-box analysis to identify top performers and potential flight-risk
- Iron Triangle for Project Management
  - ☆ • *Find a good Iron Triangle graphic*

# OneNote - Content

- Tables -
  - embedded images
  - Easy creating
  - Difficult re-arranging
- Images - resizing
- Drawing layer

## [content]SWOT Actions - preparation

Monday, June 27, 2022 9:30 AM

Checklist:

- Create and fill in SWOT table
- Find a good Iron Triangle graphic



SWOT Notes:

- >> deleted for screen shot
- SWOT Table

Strength:

- Individual desire to do what's best for the business
- Observed good team spirit and camaraderie
- Long tenure with deep business and technical knowledge
- Strong commitment evidenced by long commutes by key people

Weakness:

- The Iron Triangle is unbalanced
- Lower quality and reduced trust
- Handling production issues is via individual and informal communication means
- Data silos: Information about system breakage or releases not communication widely

Opportunities:

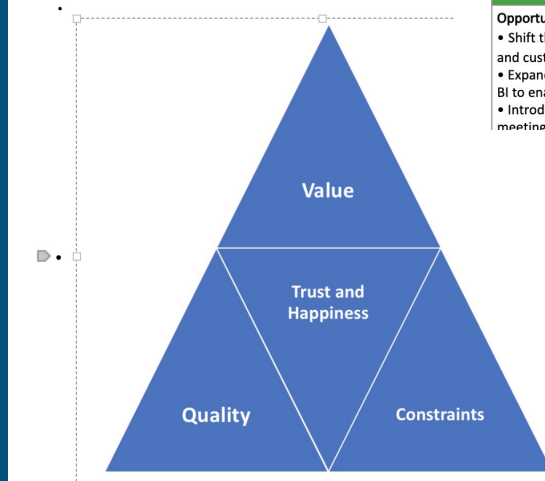
- Shift the triangle to emphasize built-in quality and customer value
- Expand data consolidation between Ops / Eng / BI to enable deeper data-driven decision-making:
- Introduce a daily cross-functional ProdOps meeting

Threats:

- When the Iron Triangle remains unbalanced in one direction for a long time, business performance is vulnerable to inefficiencies
- New features need to assure that seller data can not be easily screen scraped by a competitor
- Growth needs more process, but more processes reduce

BCG box analysis to identify top performers and potentialing

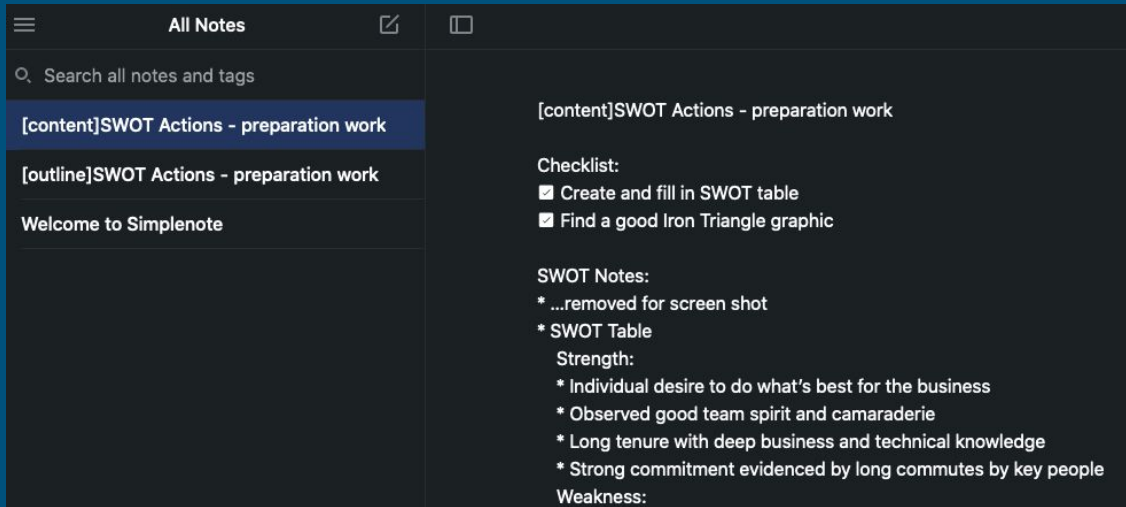
• Iron Triangle for Project Management



# SimpleNote

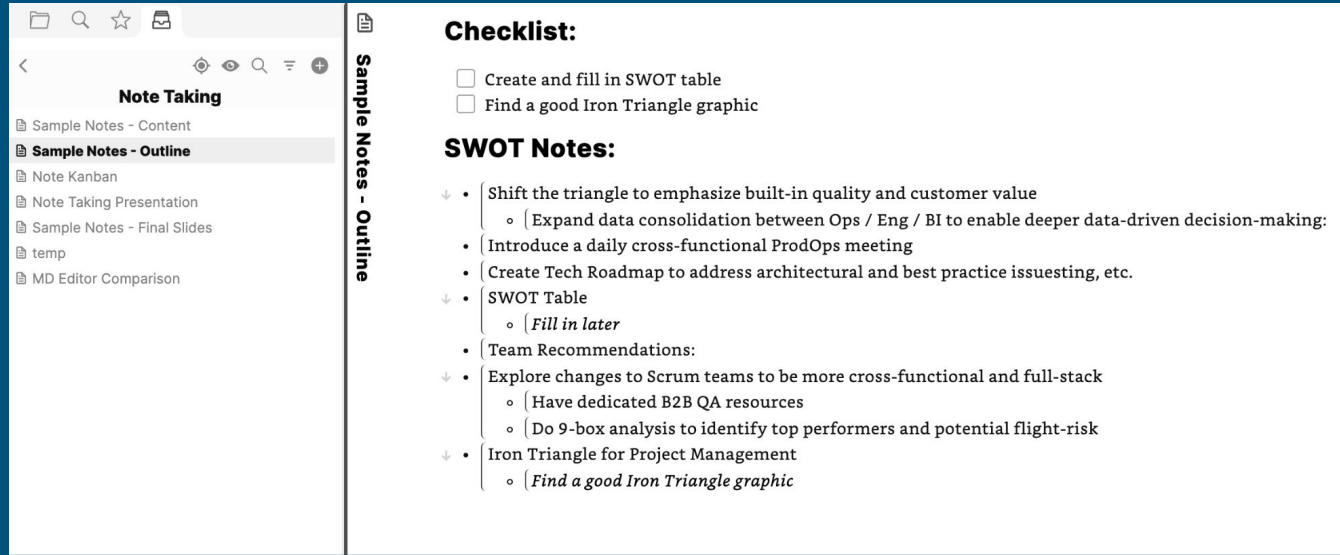
---

- 1-level of organization
- Checklists
- Inter-note linking
- No rich text: ~~bold~~, ~~italics~~, underline
- No bullet points
- No embedded images
- No tables
- Not much better than TextEdit (Mac) or Notepad (Win)



# Obsidian - Outline

- Rich text
- Check lists
- Outline
- Bullet points
- Multiple levels of note organization - whatever your local file system can support
- File format is plain text using Markdown



The screenshot displays the Obsidian interface with the Outline view active. The left sidebar shows a list of notes under the heading "Note Taking". The main content area shows the "Sample Notes - Outline" view, which includes a checklist and a list of notes with expandable sub-items.

**Note Taking**

- Sample Notes - Content
- Sample Notes - Outline**
- Note Kanban
- Note Taking Presentation
- Sample Notes - Final Slides
- temp
- MD Editor Comparison

**Sample Notes - Outline**

**Checklist:**

- Create and fill in SWOT table
- Find a good Iron Triangle graphic

**SWOT Notes:**

- ↓ • Shift the triangle to emphasize built-in quality and customer value
  - Expand data consolidation between Ops / Eng / BI to enable deeper data-driven decision-making:
- Introduce a daily cross-functional ProdOps meeting
- Create Tech Roadmap to address architectural and best practice issuing, etc.
- ↓ • SWOT Table
  - *Fill in later*
- Team Recommendations:
- ↓ • Explore changes to Scrum teams to be more cross-functional and full-stack
  - Have dedicated B2B QA resources
  - Do 9-box analysis to identify top performers and potential flight-risk
- ↓ • Iron Triangle for Project Management
  - *Find a good Iron Triangle graphic*



# Obsidian - Content

- Tables -
  - Easy creating
  - Difficult re-arranging
  - Complex tables hard to edit
- Images
  - Easy to re-size
  - Stored as separate files

## Checklist:

- Create and fill in SWOT table
- Find a good Iron Triangle graphic
- Build slides

## SWOT Notes:

- Shift the triangle to emphasize built-in quality and customer value
  - Constraints on Schedule, Cost, and Scope still exist, but aren't goals by themselves
  - ...deleted for screen shot
- Do 9-box analysis to identify top performers and potential flight-risk

## SWOT Table

### Strengths

- Individual desire to do what's best for the business
- Observed good team spirit and camaraderie
- Long tenure with deep business and technical knowledge
- Strong commitment evidenced by long commutes by key people

### Weakness- The Iron Triangle is unbalanced

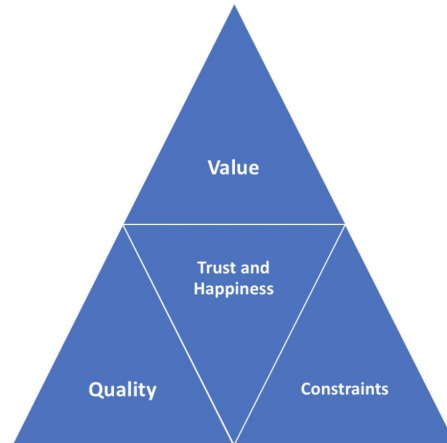
- Lower quality and reduced trust
- Handling production issues is via individual and informal communication means
- Data silos: Information about system breakage or releases not communication widely

Threats: When the Iron Triangle remains unbalanced in one direction, business performance is vulnerable to inefficiencies. We need to assure that seller data can not be easily screened by competitor.

Opportunities: More process, but more process can reduce personal

Challenges: High revenue restrains experimentation with user features that can increase revenue

## Iron Triangle for Project Management



# Pros/Cons

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These are based on my experiences.  
yymm

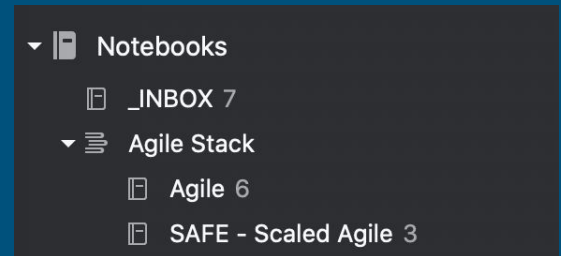
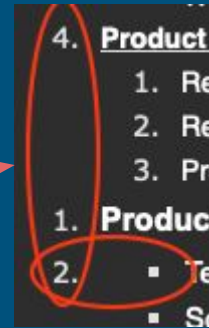
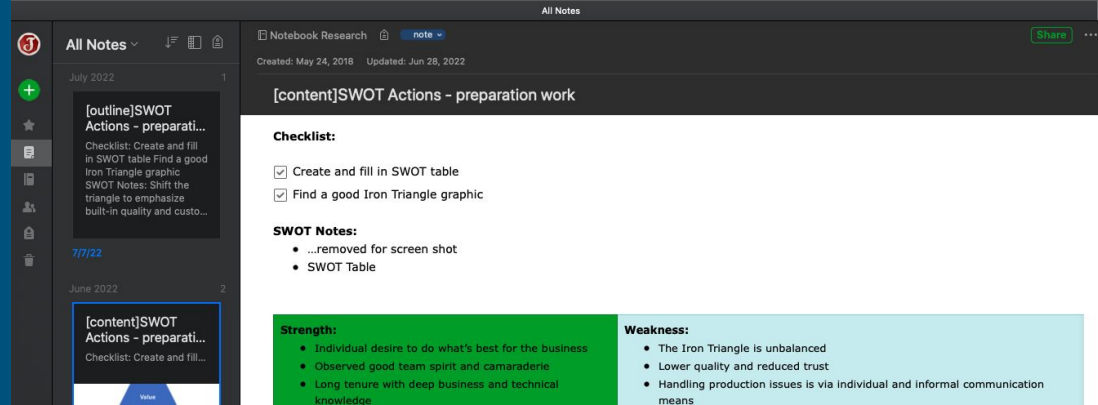
# Pro/Cons - Evernote

## Pros:

- Good table support
- Good sharing / collab w/ others
- Sync to 1 other device for free
  - Pay \$ for more

## Cons:

- Buggy bullet points
- Copy/paste to other apps can often mangle them
- Hard to link to other notes
- Files stored on Evernote servers, not locally
- No Extensibility - features have stagnated
- Only 3 levels for organizing notes



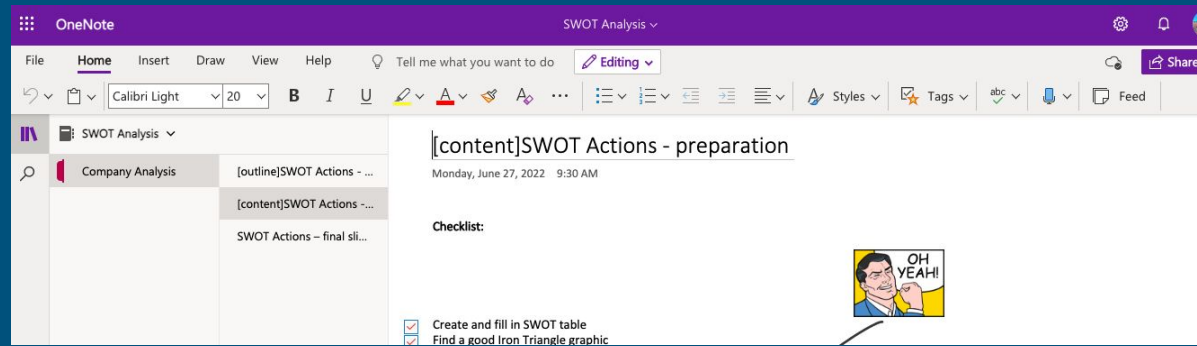
# Pros/Cons - OneNote

## Pros:

- Free with Outlook / Office
- Drawing layer
- Background images for lines / graph paper
- Share w/ others at company
- Math support

## Cons:

- Poor table management
- Hard to link to other notes
- Only 3 levels of organizing notes
- Checklists are poorly implemented



Name	Notes
<u>This</u> was my attempt	
To move a column	
So I cut it and pasted it	
And This happened	
Cool that you can embed a table in a table	
But why?	

# Pros/Cons - Obsidian

## Pros:

- Free - open source
- Dynamic community support
- Markdown files stored locally
- Highly extensible
- Github syncing
- Strong hyperlinking and search
  - Useful to build Maps of Content

## Cons:

- Simple tables easy to create
  - more complex tables are much harder
- Advanced uses are somewhat DIY

The screenshot displays the Obsidian interface. On the left, a sidebar lists various MOCs: FlowCreation MOC, Goals MOC, Habits MOC (selected), Health MOC, I want to..., Ideas MOC, Interests MOC, Language MOC, LYT Kit, LYT Notes MOC, Metaphor MOC, Mindsets MOC, People MOC, Philosophy MOC, PKM MOC, Places MOC, Projects MOC, and Sources MOC. The main note, 'Habits MOC', contains the following text:

**Habits MOC**

**This is showing the Unifying Phase of MOCs**

*Unify & Merge with the whole; Enjoy, Use, Navigate, Reference* - Enjoy the spatial constellation you created.

It's most likely meaningful to you. Use it for different purposes: for final products (content creation), as a reference point in the future, as a navigational hub, or for the inherent joy the ideas provide.

As you finish work on an area of interest, the MOC remains as a **renewable** summation of thought for the future you. An MOC is your easy access point back into the topic—whether that's tomorrow or in ten years.

Here's an assembly of the notes in some sort of formalized structure. I have continued adding to this whenever it made sense.

**Understanding Habits**

- Defining a habit

The 'Graph view' shows a network diagram with 'Habits MOC' at the center, connected to various other notes. Below the graph, there are two task lists:

**02 Projects**

<b>Completed Project</b> Target: To complete this project Goal: Create Cool Stuff Deadline: 2022-02-27 Complete: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Build OLM Repo</b> Target: Publish it Goal: Create Cool Stuff Deadline: 2022-02-28 Complete: <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Make homemade pesto</b> Target: Make a tasty pesto Goal: Learn to make pastas Deadline: Invalid date Complete: <input type="checkbox"/>	

**01 Tasks**

- Overdue Tasks
- Upcoming Tasks
- Completed Tasks

**All Tasks**

- Buy Q-Tips 2022-02-28
- Climb a tree 2022-02-27

**Project Tasks**

- Finish Build 2022-02-27 (Build OLM Repo > Tasks)
- Finish Guide 2022-02-28 (Build OLM Repo > Tasks)
- Find recipe 2022-02-28 (Make homemade pesto > Tasks)
- Buy herbs & garlic 2022-02-28 (Make homemade pesto Tasks)

# More About Obsidian

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# What is Markdown?

*Markdown is a lightweight markup language for creating formatted text using a plain-text editor. Created 2004, Markdown is widely used in blogging, instant messaging, online forums, collaborative software, documentation pages, and readme files.*

- Wikipedia

*The overriding design goal for Markdown's formatting syntax is to make it as readable as possible.*

- John Gruber, co-inventor

Sample Markdown Doc

```
# Header 1

This is an Obsidian Markdown document. Markdown is a simple formatting
syntax for authoring notes and webpages.

Use an asterisk mark to provide emphasis, such as italics or bold.

Create lists with a dash:
- Item 1
- Item 2
- Item 3

Use back ticks to create
a block of code
...

Embed LaTeX or MathML equations,  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ 
 $x_{-i}$ 

Or even footnotes, citations, and a bibliography. [^footnote]

Also can embed images in a self-referential way.
![[Sample Markdown Doc-20220711-1.png|250]]

Links can be created to other files [[File 2]]
Or websites [Webb Telescope](https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/webb-tel
escope-image-galleries-from-nasa)

[^footnote]: Markdown is easy to use
```

Sample Markdown Doc

```
Header 1

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Use back ticks to create
a block of code

Embed LaTeX or MathML equations,  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i$ 

Or even footnotes, citations, and a bibliography. [1]

Also can embed images in a self-referential way.

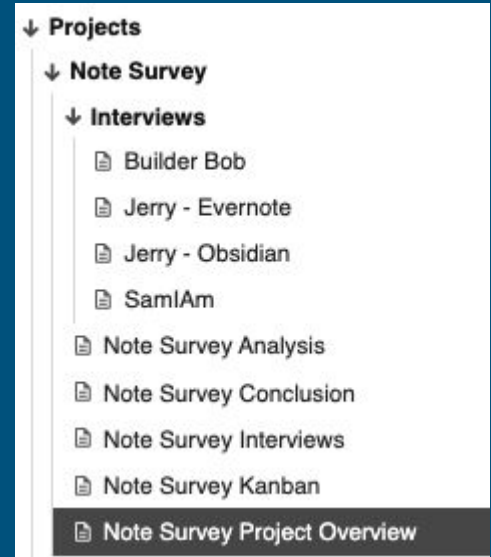
Links can be created to other files File 2
Or websites Webb Telescope
```

---

1. Markdown is easy to use↔

# Obsidian Example Premise

- Research project
- Simple File Structure
- Interviews
  - Questions and answers captured in individual Obsidian documents
  - Want to easily surface Objections, Follow-up questions, Pain and Pleasure Indices
- Simple Graphs of some Metrics
- Data Gathering for Analysis





# Overview Doc

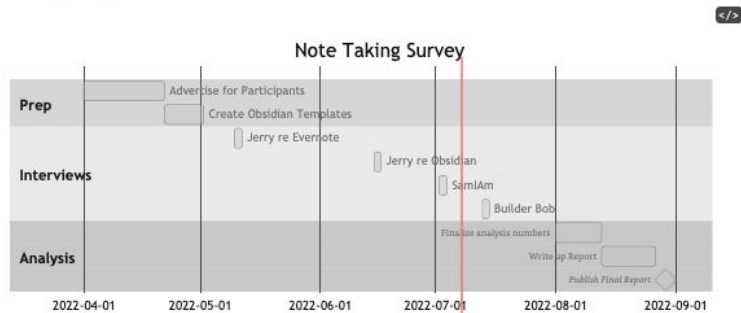
Provides an overview of the project:

- Goals
- Timeline
- Interview subjects & schedule

## Project Goals

Survey users on their usage of note tools. Capture feedback on their tool(s) of choice, their primary use cases, key features, and pain and pleasure indices.

## Timeline



## Interviews

Subjects will be asked the same questions. Their responses will be captured in Obsidian using the same template. It's ideal if we can get an interview with a person before and after they've changed note taking apps.

## ## Subjects

File <sup>(4)</sup>	occupation	Interview Date
<a href="#">Jerry - Evernote</a>	Consultant / Manager / Software Engineer	2022-05-10 done
<a href="#">Jerry - Obsidian</a>	Consultant / Manager / Software Engineer	2022-06-15 done
<a href="#">SamIAM</a>	Avoider of Green Eggs and Ham	2022-07-02 partial
<a href="#">Builder Bob</a>	Construction Foreman	2022-07-13 upcoming

Interview Overview is at [Note Survey Interviews](#)

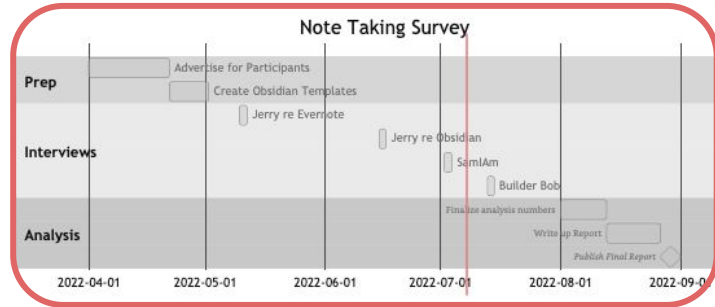
# Plugins Add Features

- These sections are images pasted from another tool
- They are powered by plugins that are open source and easy to use

## Project Goals

Survey users on their usage of note tools. Capture feedback on their tool(s) of choice, their primary use cases, key features, and pain and pleasure indices.

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## ## Subjects

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<a href="#">Builder Bob</a>	Construction Foreman	2022-07-13 upcoming

Interview Overview is at [Note Survey Interviews](#)

# Diagrams

'Mermaid' is a plugin that renders different diagram types

It has a web-based interactive editor

The diagram is described using plain text

The screenshot shows the Mermaid web editor interface. On the left, there's a code editor with the following Mermaid Gantt chart code:

```
1 gantt
2   title Note Taking Survey
3   dateFormat YYYY-MM-DD
4   excludes weekends
5   section Prep
6   Advertise for Participants :a0, 2022-04-01, 21d
7   Create Obsidian Templates :after a0, 10d
8   section Interviews
9   Jerry re Evernote :a1, 2022-05-10, 2d
```

Below the code editor, there are buttons for 'Sample Diagrams' including Flow Chart, Sequence Diagram, Class Diagram, State Diagram, Gantt Chart, Pie Chart, ER Diagram, User Journey, and Git Graph. On the right, the rendered Gantt chart is displayed, showing the 'Prep' phase with 'Advertise for Participants' and 'Create Obsidian Templates', and the 'Interviews' phase with 'Jerry re Evernote'. The x-axis shows dates from 2022-04-01 to 2022-06-01.

The screenshot shows a rendered Gantt chart titled 'Note Taking Survey'. The chart is divided into three phases: 'Prep', 'Interviews', and 'Analysis'. The x-axis shows dates from 2022-04-01 to 2022-09-01. A red box highlights the chart area, and a red arrow points from this box to the Mermaid code in the adjacent screenshot.

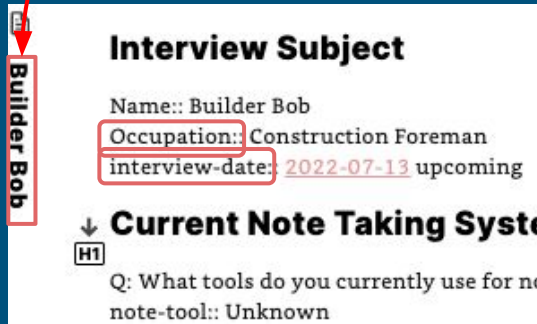
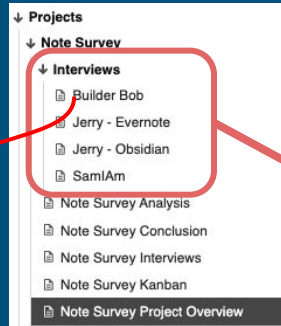
Phase	Task	Start Date	End Date
Prep	Advertise for Participants	2022-04-01	2022-04-21
	Create Obsidian Templates	2022-04-21	2022-05-31
Interviews	Jerry re Evernote	2022-05-10	2022-05-12
	Jerry re Obsidian	2022-06-15	2022-06-17
	SamIAM	2022-07-02	2022-07-04
Analysis	Builder Bob	2022-07-13	2022-07-15
	Finalize analysis numbers	2022-08-01	2022-08-13
	Write up Report	2022-08-14	2022-08-28
	Publish Final Report	2022-08-29	2022-08-29

The screenshot shows the Mermaid code for the Gantt chart, including the title, dateFormat, and task definitions:

```
mermaid
gantt
  title Note Taking Survey
  dateFormat YYYY-MM-DD
  section Prep
  Advertise for Participants :a0, 2022-04-01, 21d
  Create Obsidian Templates :after a0, 10d
  section Interviews
  Jerry re Evernote :a1, 2022-05-10, 2d
  Jerry re Obsidian :a2, 2022-06-15, 2d
  SamIAM :a3, 2022-07-02, 2d
  Builder Bob :a31, 2022-07-13, 2d
  section Analysis
  Finalize analysis numbers :a4, 2022-08-01, 12d
  Write up Report :a5, after a4, 14d
  Publish Final Report :milestone, after a5, 5d
```

# Simple Data Queries

'Dataview'  
plugin queries  
documents and  
extracts data



## Interviews

Subjects will be asked the same questions. Their responses will be captured in Obsidian using the same template. It's ideal if we can get an interview with a person before and after they've changed note taking apps.

## ## Subjects

File <sup>(4)</sup>	occupation	Interview Date
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Builder Bob	Construction Foreman	2022-07-13 upcoming

Interview Overview is at [Note Survey Interviews](#)

## Subjects

```
---dataview
table occupation, interview-date as "Interview Date"
from #proj/note-survey and "Projects/Note Survey/Interviews"
sort interview-date asc
---
```

Interview Overview is at [Note Survey Interviews](#)

# Stats and Charts

Queries do some simple statistics like average

## Top-line Analysis

### Average Pleasure and Pain per Note Tool

#### Average per Tool

Group <sup>(3)</sup>	Note Tool	Num Rows	Pleasure Avg	Pain Avg
Evernote	Evernote	1	3	8
Obsidian	Obsidian	1	9	2
OneNote	OneNote	1	2	2

### Average Pleasure and Pain per Note Type

#### Average per Tool

Group <sup>(3)</sup>	Pleasure Avg	Pain Avg	Num Rows
N1	2	2	1
N3	3	8	1
N5	9	2	1

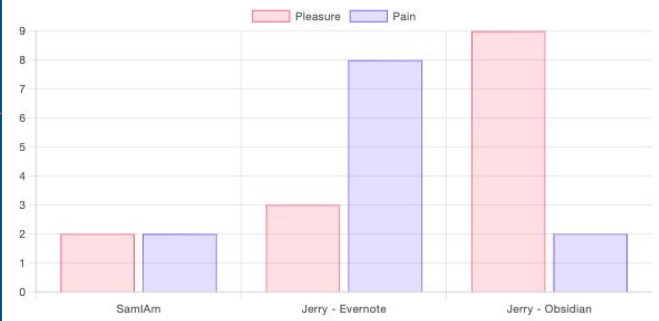
Another plugin displays a wide range of charts based on data extracted from documents and continuously updated:

- Line, pie, bar, radar, stacked, area, etc.

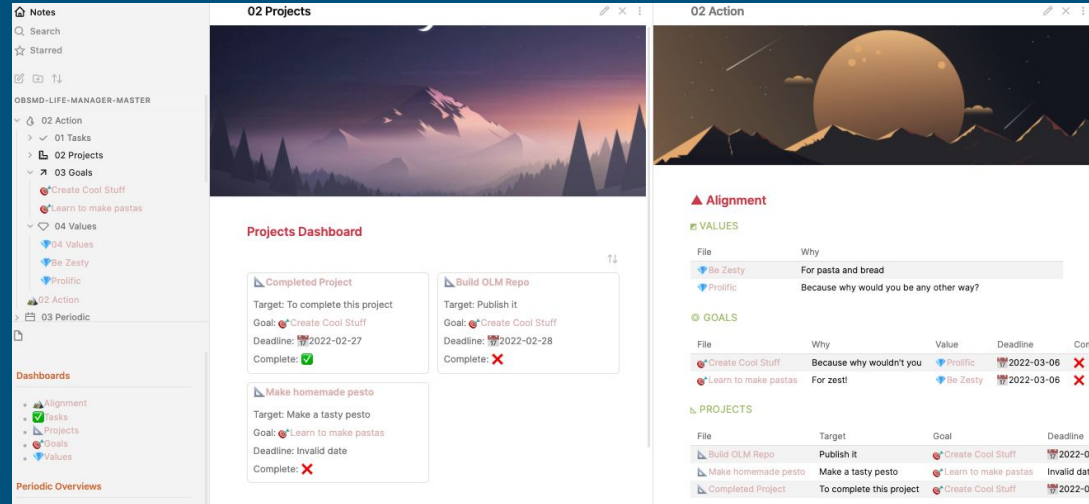
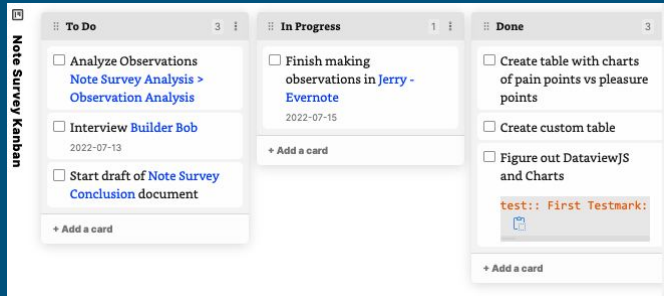
## Metrics

### Detailed per-person graph

#### Per Person



# Project Management

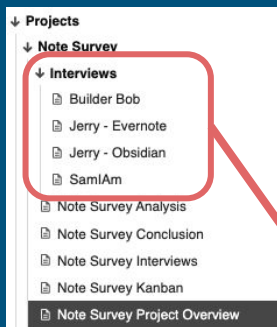


‘Kanban’ plugin displays Checklist items in configurable columns

A Project/Task Framework with dashboards

# Complex Data Gathering

'Dataview' has even more advanced uses



**Jerry - Evernote**

Observation:: Evernote formatting of bullet points and numbered lists is buggy

Q: Do you dread having to take a note?  
Not dread, but it's not easy jumping to a notebook under which notes. I never know when the bullet point bug will crop up...then minutes to fix it. Especially if I have to re-do the numbered list.

Observation:: Jumping in quickly to take a note is difficult

Q: Do you often find yourself frustrated when you want to capture something but can't think of a good way to do it?  
Yes...especially when I need to re-factor a note into several connected notes that become more detailed and complex.

Observation:: Organizing connected notes in Evernote is not easy enough.

**Jerry - Obsidian**

### Switching Costs

Q: Is price a consideration if you were to switch?  
To Obsidian? It's free, except for you want to pay for Sync or Publishing still get syncing and publishing for free using plugins.

fu-p-q: Which plugins do you use for sync and publish?

Observation:: Costs \$ to get platform-supported Syncing and Publishing

Q: Is it difficult to extract your current notes?

## Observations

- Jerry - Evernote:
  - Evernote formatting of bullet points and numbered lists is buggy
  - Jumping in quickly to take a note is difficult
  - Organizing connected notes in Evernote is not easy; tools aren't flexible enough.
  - Lock-in to Evernote is relatively high
- Jerry - Obsidian:
  - Mobile support requires some customization to avoid running a bunch of plugins
  - Documentation for community plugins is simplistic, but help is available with a Google search
  - The community of people using Obsidian is open and easily available via a Google search or a Discord chat request
  - Costs \$ to get platform-supported Syncing and Publishing to Web
  - Live Preview is a very useful feature
- SamIAM:
  - Sam's pain and pleasure points are low since he has very little use for note taking
  - Switching is not likely to happen

## Follow-up Questions

- Jerry - Obsidian:
  - What would increase pleasure of using the tool to a 10?
  - Which plugins do you use for sync and publish?

**Observations**

```
dataview
list Observation from #proj/note-survey and
"Projects/Note Survey/Interviews" where Observation != null sort file.name asc
```



# Second Brain Stuff

The screenshot displays a Notion workspace with a sidebar on the left containing a list of MOCs (Maps of Content) such as 'FlowCreation MOC', 'Goals MOC', 'Habits MOC', 'Health MOC', 'I want to...', 'Ideas MOC', 'Interests MOC', 'Language MOC', 'LYT Kit', 'LYT Notes MOC', 'Metaphor MOC', 'Mindsets MOC', 'People MOC', 'Philosophy MOC', 'PKM MOC', 'Places MOC', 'Projects MOC', and 'Sources MOC'. The main content area shows the 'Habits MOC' page, which includes a title, a subtitle 'This is showing the Unifying Phase of MOCs', and several paragraphs of text. Below the text is a 'Graph view' section showing a network diagram with 'Habits MOC' at the center and various other MOCs connected to it.

**Habits MOC**

**This is showing the Unifying Phase of MOCs**

*Unify & Merge with the whole; Enjoy, Use, Navigate, Reference* - Enjoy the spatial constellation you created.

It's most likely meaningful to you. Use it for different purposes: for final products (content creation), as a reference point in the future, as a navigational hub, or for the inherent joy the ideas provide.

As you finish work on an area of interest, the MOC remains as a **renewable** summation of thought for the future you. An MOC is your easy access point back into the topic—whether that's tomorrow or in ten years.

Here's an assembly of the notes in some sort of formalized structure. I have continued adding to this whenever it made sense.

**Understanding Habits**

- [Defining a habit](#)
- [Habit formation provides an evolutionary advantage](#)
- [Habits carry a ton of hidden inertia](#)
- [The neural formation of habits is additive](#)
  - [The truest habit metaphors are additive](#)

An open source repo of files to help you capture information and unify it using Maps of Content (MOC). The graph view shows all other files linked to this Habits MOC.



# The End



# Background

