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My Obsidian Setup (Part 2/2) — Automate Everything with QuickAdd

In this article, I'll go through the QuickAdd plugin in depth. This plugin is fantastic and is one of my top 5 favorite plugins.

This plugin allows you to quickly add new pages or content using preconfigured macros, templates, multi-choice menus, and variables.

Getting started

First of all, you'll need to create a choice, which can be of type: template, capture, macro, or multi.

Choice types. Image by Noun Campus

Templates

Create a note based on a template.

Template. Image by Noun Campus

You can configure the template to use, the file name format (using variables like date or prompt for a value), the folder where the note will be created, or append a link in the current note to the new one.

I'm using this to create contacts in my vault. My "People" action looks like this:

Template in action. Image by Noun Campus

And Jim's Template.md:

```
---
name: {{VALUE:Name}}
birthday: {{VALUE:Birthday}}
phone: {{VALUE:Phone}}
email: {{VALUE:Email}}
address: {{VALUE:Address}}
{{VALUE:Relationship}}: {{VALUE:NW-NE}}
tags: people
---
# {{VALUE:Name}}

## Notes
Where did this relationship {{VALUE:Place:Where}}
{{VALUE:Notes}}

## Timeline
{{DATE:YYYY-MM-DD}}
- {{DATE:YYYY-MM-DD}}{{VALUE:Name}}{{VALUE:Place:Where}}
- {{DATE:YYYY-MM-DD}}{{VALUE:Name}}{{VALUE:Place:Where}}
```

The {{VALUE:variable_name}} means that when running, it will prompt for a value for variable_name. This can be a formatted date value like I'm using for date:{{DATE:YYYY-MM-DD}}, YYYY-MM-DD, Another curiosity is that the {{VALUE:Relationship}} is the template file to the same as already prompted in the QuickAdd action, so it won't prompt twice.

So if I run this QuickAdd action, it will prompt for Name, Company, NP (Social number), Address, Phone, Email, and then Added and will save the file with the name stored in {{VALUE:Name}}.

QuickCapture Name Capture. Image by Noun Campus

Capture

This type of choice allows you to capture text into new or existing notes, in the current note or in a specified file, anywhere. You can also capture text into a specific line or at the end/top of a specified section.

I'm using this to add journal entries to my daily notes.

Daily Note capture. Image by Noun Campus

In the filename, I'm using the format of my daily notes, including the full path.

Note that while {{DATE:Date:Added, YYYY-MM-DD}}, used in the previous example, prompts for a date value, {{DATE:format}} inserts a date value with the specified format.

As I want to insert the daily journal entry in a specific section of my daily note, I check insert after and specify the block, in this case, ## Daily JOURNAL, so that in the case that the section does not exist, which is not likely since I'm using it, it will be created using a template, I instruct it to create it at the bottom of the file.

And then the capture format. I'm using an emoji 📓, followed by the time, entry text, and a line break.

Daily note example. Image by Noun Campus

I'm also using QuickAdd Capture choice to create a new task and add it to the weekly tasks file, as mentioned in Part 1 of this series, this part was based on *Obsidian Life Hacks: Manage Weekly Tasks*. Here's the QuickAdd Capture:

Automatic capture example. Image by Noun Campus

The configuration is almost the same, I just wanted to show you that you can also prompt with suggested values. The {{VALUE:[[,]]}} syntax will show this:

Example with suggested values. Image by Noun Campus

Macro

The Macro choice allows you to combine multiple choices and also run Obsidian commands or even your custom scripts.

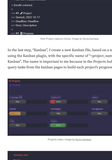
I'm using this choice for creating my projects. My «Projects macro is composed of:

Macro in action. Image by Noun Campus

In the first step, "New Project" I'm prompted to enter the project name and it creates a project main file inside a folder with the same name.

New Project template. Image by Noun Campus

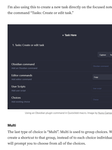
Then, on the "Metadata" step, I fill in the project main file with the project details that are prompted and create the Activity History page.



New Project capture Capture. Image by Noun Campus

In the last step, "Analysis", I create a new Kanban file, based on a template and using the Kanban plugin, with the specific name of "{project_name}-Kanban". The name is important to me because in the Projects Index file I query tasks from the kanban pages to build each projects progress bar.

Project Kanban. Image by Noun Campus


Project Index
Group: All
Filter: All
Sort: Name
Hide: No
Sort: Name
Hide: No
Sort: Name
Hide: No

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