

# Fimfarchive

20150307

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# 1 Introduction

Fimfarchive is a project which aims to release all stories available on Fimfiction, together with their metadata, as a single archive. The archive is organized by author and could be used for backup, offline reading, or data mining.

Note that the archive contains a large number of files. Unzipping it to your file system may not be necessary if the archive is to be used together with some application. If you are a developer, reading directly from the ZIP-file may be preferable.

A new version will be released each season via BitTorrent, approximately once every three months. When suitable, an xdelta3 patch will also be provided for users who do not wish to redownload unchanged stories.

# 2 Index

The metadata of each story can be found in `index.json`. The file contains one story entry per line ordered by story ID. It was constructed using data from the Fimfiction API, which is incomplete. Additionally, each entry includes the attribute *path* which shows where in the archive the story is located. Below is an example entry for the story *Sunny Skies All Day Long*. Note that the structure of the metadata may change in the future as it depends on Fimfiction.

```
{
  "20685":{
    "author":{
      "id":"26190",
      "name":"PhantomFox"
    },
    "categories":{
      "Adventure":false,
      "Alternate Universe":false,
      "Anthro":false,
      "Comedy":false,
      "Crossover":false,
      "Dark":false,
      "Human":false,
      "Random":false,
      "Romance":false,
      "Sad":false,
      "Slice of Life":true,
      "Tragedy":false
    },
    "chapter_count":1,
    "chapters":[
      {
        "date_modified":1348680464,
        "id":63408,
        "link":"http://www.fimfiction.net/story/20685/1/sunny-skies-all-day-long/-",
        "title":"Chapter 1",
        "views":44911,
        "words":8536
      }
    ],
    "comments":529,
```

```

"content_rating":0,
"content_rating_text":"Everyone",
"date_modified":1334414541,
"description":"Princess Celestia tires of constantly being surrounded by
    decorum, deference, and formality, and decides to take a day off from being
    Princess. But visiting Ponyville incognito is harder than she expects. Will
    she be able to fit in and make friends without blowing her cover?",
"dislikes":81,
"full_image":"http://www.fimfiction-static.net/images/story_images/20685.png",
"id":20685,
"image":"http://www.fimfiction-static.net/images/story_images/20685_r.png",
"likes":5079,
"path":"epub/p/phantomfox-26190/sunny_skies_all_day_long-20685.epub",
"short_description":"Celestia's Day Off",
"status":"Complete",
"title":"Sunny Skies All Day Long",
"total_views":44911,
"url":"http://www.fimfiction.net/story/20685/sunny-skies-all-day-long",
"views":44911,
"words":8536
}
}

```

### 3 Formatting

Fimfarchive uses the same formatting as Fimfiction's old EPUB exporter. The EPUB files in Fimfarchive will therefore not work properly in many e-readers. How to solve this issue is described in section 3.1, while section 3.2 describes why this is necessary.

#### 3.1 Calibre

Calibre is a free and open source e-book library management application. Calibre can be used to convert e-books, even from EPUB to EPUB, which is how stories in Fimfarchive can be repaired. The converter will ensure that the output file correctly follows the file format standard. All e-readers should therefore be able to display the converted files properly.

Please make sure to use Calibre, or any other such software, if you are planning on viewing EPUB files from Fimfarchive in any e-reader. If files from Fimfarchive are not converted prior to viewing, then large parts of the story may simply not be displayed. This also holds true for programs such as FBReader. Calibre's built in viewer will however always display the entire story.

#### 3.2 Rationale

As described previously, Fimfiction's old EPUB exporter would generate files that many e-readers had trouble displaying. The e-readers would simply cut off chapters once they came across any invalid formatting that the old exporter would generate. The solution was, as described in the previous section, to pass the files through a converter. Not everyone would do or even knows how to do that though, thus ending up missing large parts of stories. Fimfiction therefore decided to start using a new EPUB exporter which does not include formatting such as italics or bold text.

However, using Fimfiction's new EPUB exporter would have resulted in the loss of all formatting in Fimfarchive. This was not acceptable since many stories use, for example, italics to denote thoughts or flashbacks. An HTML converter was therefore implemented so that Fimfiction's HTML exporter could be used in place of the new EPUB exporter. The files that the HTML converter outputs have been verified to be replicas of what Fimfiction's old EPUB exporter would have generated. While this allows Fimfarchive to retain the formatting, it also means that Fimfarchive suffers from the same problem as Fimfiction's old EPUB exporter.

This could of course be solved in Fimfarchive by running the stories through a converter before adding them to the archive. But, doing so would be a one way trip at the moment. It would require quite a bit of work to ensure that the archive could go back to the way it was before if this was done. Then there is also the concern about losing data. While most converters will make sure all the text and formatting is kept, the EPUB file structure and content would be very different. In other words, it is possible for anyone to convert a file in Fimfarchive, but almost impossible to reverse already converted files.

Fimfiction will someday add formatting back to the EPUB exporter in a proper manner. When that happens it will be much easier to ensure that Fimfarchive only contains valid EPUB files. Fimfarchive will for now stand by and keep using EPUB files that are faithful to Fimfiction's old EPUB exporter. I would however appreciate feedback on this matter.

## 4 Changelog

Version	Stories	Added	Updated	Removed
20150307	105211	6664	6756	0
20141201	98547	11028	8296	0
20140719	87519	8286	7395	3
20140418	79236	8818	65208	2
20140120	70420	9821	7317	14
20131015	60613	13446	7694	0
20130616	47167	47167	0	0

### 4.1 20150307

- Updated archive contents.
- Added readme section about formatting.

### 4.2 20141201

- Updated archive contents.
- Changed EPUB content source to Fimfiction's HTML exporter.

### 4.3 20140719

- Updated archive contents.

### 4.4 20140418

- Updated archive contents.
- Redownloaded all available stories.

- Fixed mime type issues with repackaged stories.

## 4.5 20140120

- Updated archive contents.
- Updated stories with new style from Fimfiction.
- Removed now empty stories.

## 4.6 20131015

- Updated archive contents.
- Added anthro category.

## 4.7 20130616

- Initial release.

## 5 Links

- Fimfarchive on Fimfiction:  
<http://www.fimfiction.net/user/Fimfarchive>
- Fimfarchive on Reddit:  
<http://www.reddit.com/user/Fimfarchive>
- Fimfiction:  
<http://www.fimfiction.net/>
- Calibre:  
<http://calibre-ebook.com/>
- xdelta:  
<http://xdelta.org/>

## 6 Contact

To contact Fimfarchive, send an e-mail to [fimfarchive@gmail.com](mailto:fimfarchive@gmail.com).