



Collectorz.com Forum

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Please bring back IMDB!!



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Author

darksoul

offline

Joined: Thu Mar 19, 2009
1:58 pm
Posts: 5

Message

Post subject: Please bring back IMDB!!

Posted: Thu Mar 19, 2009 2:08 pm

Dear Collectorz.com Developers,

I bought this software after using an older trial version, which had IMDb support. But, to my shock, the *newer* version doesn't have this!

If the movie collector default database was good and populated with data, this wouldn't be a problem. But it sucks! A whole bunch of movies/cover art/cast info etc that is freely available on IMDb is NOT available in the Movie collector database. Especially for foreign language/asian films!

For example: in 6.1, try adding this movie: "Shoot on Sight". You'll see that there are 3 actors, 1 director, no cover info, no nothing pulled in from the movie collector database. and then, go here: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1038915/>

This is just one example! There are lots of other movies which just ARE NOT there in the Movie Collector DB but there on IMDb. And how can you NOT provide a way to automatically download those details like you used to?

It's not like this is NOT a feature being requested from by your customers - just read most of the posts on this forum. You're actually making paying customers use multiple versions of your software, use multiple third party scripts, manually edit databases etc! for god's sake, I just read a few posts where you were telling your customers to edit registry settings just so that they can run both the older versions and 6.x on the same computer! **Is this how a modern software company "listens" to its customers? By making life HARDER for them?**

Now tell me, where's the value you're providing for a paying customer? Why should anyone pay you for this software which doesn't recognize and download lots of the movies in their movie collection? It's not like you can't do this - older

versions of your software could easily download from other database sources.

Why pull the plug on the one feature that made this software an attractive purchase? As a paying customer, this is extremely frustrating - I usually don't have regrets paying for software, and looks like I'm headed that way soon thanks to Movie Collector 6.1 Pro.

P.S. It's sad to see how you've managed to alienate a lot of your customers who've openly complained about the lack of this "automatic IMDB" feature in the new 6.x version. Now I really regret purchasing this software - it's obvious that you don't seem to care about what your customers want, only what makes it easy for yourself.



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Bob_Collins

Post subject: Re: Please bring back IMDB!!

Posted: Thu Mar 19, 2009 4:35 pm

offline

Hallelujah!!!!!!

Joined: Thu Mar 19, 2009

7:31 am

Posts: 2



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bbbd

Post subject: Re: Please bring back IMDB!!

Posted: Thu Mar 19, 2009 7:09 pm

offline

Alwin has made it clear in many post that **IMDB is NOT coming back**.

Joined: Tue Aug 05, 2008

8:53 pm

Posts: 50

Alwin has in the past usually offered users who dislike v6 after purchasing to contact Collectorz with their details via PM or E-mail and they will issue a refund. So if you regret v6 asking about a refund can't hurt.

It has been stated that v6 is outselling any previous version. It'll be interesting to see if that continues when v7 is eventually released, since it's possible a lot of people like yourself purchased v6 after using/trialling v5 but were unaware of the multiseach function removal. These people might, like yourself, be unaware that Collectorz have been generous enough to issue refunds, just cop it on the chin, and shelve the product to continue looking for other software rather than complain. Or maybe they have come to the forums, seen the many posts about IMDB etc not being reinstated, so shelve the product and continue their search for something that suits them better.

If you are an "advanced" user, there may be a community developed product by Mark Brading called "KollektiON" that will in the future give back the ability to use IMDB with and v6 of Movie Collector. From DaveC's post in another thread he seems to be beta testing that feature. Unfortunately it is not quite as simple as it was with just installing Movie Collector, as "KollektiON" requires a little bit of extra setting up and addition software (MySQL at least) to run in addition to Movie Collector. That said, KollektiON is a fantastic piece of software and well worth the time to setup and use if using Movie Collector or Book Collector (and

hopefully in the future Game Collector 😊) as it allows you to do a lot of maintenance to your collections that isn't available (or easily done) from within the Collection software.

[Top](#)**jjufon****Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Thu Mar 19, 2009 8:32 pm**offline****Joined:** Thu Jan 08, 2009
12:17 am**Posts:** 5

What kills me is the fact they state how this version is "selling so much better" but when I asked how this could be attributed to the DB change and NOT their heavy marketing, he never truly answered the question. My point is this: if existing customers WHO HAVE USED the older version and are NOW UNHAPPY with then how in the world can you say it is this change to the new DB that is driving new customers!? You can't; plan and simple. How can you miss what you never had? Are there any old (version 5 or <) that like the new DB? I haven't seen any. I think it just that it just "I've made a decision and that's that's; good or bad". Like admitting it wasn't such a great idea will prevent him from looking at himself in the mirror or something. I've yet to download a movie since the change that wasn't missing entirely or missing basic info; which I might add, they clearly market it as having! Audio, subs and screen ratio. Their response: "Just add it yourself and upload it for everyone else" Really? No what they mean is please give us your hard work for free so we can sell it to new customers and market a better DB. JJufon

[Top](#)**darksoul****Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Thu Mar 19, 2009 11:22 pm**offline****Joined:** Thu Mar 19, 2009
1:58 pm
Posts: 5

I got the email with "if you are a power user and want certain features, maybe v6 is not for you. We'll refund your money if you want."

This is what i wrote back:

Interesting - That you would actually be ready to lose customers than make edits to your software.

May I know the reasons behind this? Is it piracy? Or ease of programming? Because it certainly doesn't seem to be good for your customers. I've been trawling your forums and have seen enough posts by irate customers to see that you've angered quite a lot of them. The serious ones, who pay for your app.

It's not like I want only IMDB/Amazon etc - but the ability to be able to choose alternate data sources to maintain the meta information about my collection is paramount to me. Especially if your database is not adequate. I hope you realise

that the "Collectorz.com" database will never become IMDB - they have a far larger head start - and proving alternative data sources was the biggest strength and value your software provided. [Your competition in this space also realizes that. Your most valuable customers are the power users with large, niche collections, not the newbies with the most popular movies.]

I've given this thought - and **would be willing to stay with you, provided there is some plan to bring back IMDB/Amazon into a future version of Movie Collector 6**. If piracy is your concern, then all you have to do is ensure that the requests get sent through your authenticated servers when people search for data updates, to ensure that only people who bought it can use it that way. Here's another idea: How about releasing a small add-on, that gets sent to paying customers only, enabling IMDB lookups and updates? Or enable scripts again so we could use the user created scripts to search? Or build in an IMDB lookup only after a paying customer searches "update movie automatically" and his/her license is authenticated?

If you like, I could even help contribute [for free] to your development efforts on bringing back this feature. I have some programming experience, and am a software marketer by profession.

However, if, as your company has been accused of by customers, you'd rather be stubborn about this and not want to bring back this feature and listen to your customers, then by all means, please refund my money.

In this day and age of community, social media and economic slowdown, it amazes me to see a software company take a stance like this. Did you know that your competition is offering 30% off if users have bought Movie Collector and are now switching? And a nice "import from Movie Collector" database utility? They have a nice plugin system that lets you download meta information about your collection from various sources. Don't take my word for it: see for yourself:

Code:

```
http://www.bolidesoft.com/allmymovies.html
```



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bbbd

Post subject: Re: Please bring back IMDB!!

Posted: Fri Mar 20, 2009 12:54 am

offline

Joined: Tue Aug 05, 2008
8:53 pm
Posts: 50

darksoul, I'm all with you, I too believe that IMDB is one of the most important DB's for my collecting needs, but Collectorz have made it clear they won't return this feature to the program.

It'll all be clear in the future why the additional sources were dropped. We still won't be any happier, but it'll be clearer. Collectorz are working on releasing their online hosting feature (at a fee), that will tie in nicely to Movie Collector (and probably Game / Book collector too). If you use Collectorz web hosting, it

will likely mean with a click of a button you're Movie collection will magically appear on the web, no having to upload your own files to another webhost, or copy the files to your own server. The thing is, it's easier and cheaper to tie many personal DB's to a single entry pulled from the Collectorz DB. It's also likely that places like IMDB etc would ask for a fee if Collectorz started making money and back door linking to information in their DB.

So like it's been said many times before, kiss goodbye to multi source searches, they are not coming back in the official program.

As for "allmymovies", they are offering 30% off if you purchased ANY competitors product, not specifically aimed at Movie Collector. I've looked at "allmymovies" in the past, and yes it has some nice features, but the interface and data fields are a bit to simple looking/feeling for me.

It's pointless arguing with Collectorz about this, they have stated multisearch is gone, they have stated they are selling more copies of the program then they have in the past (it'll be interesting if that continues with v7 for the reasons I stated in an earlier post), we are not going to change their minds. It's a business and they tell us they are making more money than they did in the past, and are preparing to create another revenue stream.

Just post your disappointment, get your refund if you feel the need, and move back to v5.x if you can, or move on to another product.

I'm personally hanging around waiting to see what KollektiON's search function will be like, at which point I might ask for my free Movie Collector v6 licence key.

[Top](#)**dark soul****Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Fri Mar 20, 2009 1:23 am**offline**

Joined: Thu Mar 19, 2009
1:58 pm
Posts: 5

Thanks for the post bbbd - it's disappointing that a good product like this is hobbled by it's own creators, while it's customers are struggling. I completely understand that it's a business - and what I'm trying to say is why don't they realize **they'll make even more money by bringing back this one feature** - their customers will be happy, they won't be seen as just another arrogant developer and people will spread the message and encourage their friends and family to buy an amazing full-featured product.

As for IMDb licensing costs, if any, surely they can afford it? If not, I'm even willing to pay a little more (\$5-\$10) to fund that - as I'm sure a whole lot of customers are.

This isn't about just a feature request - it's about customers wanting to manage and update their movie collection with a high quality of data, and being told that it's not possible, with very flimsy reasons. The "reason" in the email they sent is "it's more user friendly" - which I find quite nebulous. **It's child's play to**

let the Collectorz.com database default, and have an "advanced" tab and let users select a data source like IMDb, authenticate it and just pull in data. Even easier since they already have the source code base to be able to do it, and all they have to do is just enable it back.

It's because I like their product that I'm raising this request - I want to buy it and pay to help support development - I normally wouldn't bother with any of this and just take my refund and shut up. There are tons of avenues/tools/versions /products to find on the internet which can easily negate this problem immediately. Since they don't sell licenses to v5.6 anymore, I'm trying to take the honorable route here, and not just going and getting that version of their software from sources of questionable legality.

[Top](#)**DaveC****Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Fri Mar 20, 2009 3:30 am**offline**

Joined: Wed Feb 09, 2005
12:58 pm
Posts: 728
Location: Hampshire UK

bbbd wrote:

If you are an "advanced" user, there may be a community developed product by Mark Brading called "KollektiON" that will in the future give back the ability to use IMDB with and v6 of Movie Collector. From DaveC's post in another thread he seems to be beta testing that feature. Unfortunately it is not quite as simple as it was with just installing Movie Collector, as "KollektiON" requires a little bit of extra setting up and addition software (mysql at least) to run in addition to Movie Collector. That said, KollektiON is a fantastic peice of software and well worth the time to setup and use if using Movie Collector or Book Collector (and hopefully in the future Game Collector 😊) as it allows you to do a lot of maintenance to your collections that isn't available (or easily done) from within the Collection software.

Mark and I will be launching a web site shortly (a week or so) and I know Mark is getting close to having something which he will be happy to release. BTW mysql is a feature of KollektiON, it can export to that format, it is NOT a requirement for it to run.

I'm sure Mark will post here later and give you some more detail.

DaveC

IMDb custom script Version 2.3.10 07 Feb 09
Aqua II v.5.3.0 and Aqua Frames v6.3.0 10 Oct 07

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Alwin Hoogerdijk**Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Fri Mar 20, 2009 3:49 am**offline**

Collectorz.com



Joined: Fri Aug 29, 2003
6:07 am
Posts: 7384
Location: Netherlands

darksoul wrote:

what I'm trying to say is why don't they realize they'll make even more money by bringing back this one feature

No, "they" won't. I am 100% sure that sales will go DOWN as soon as we re-introduce the other sources.
So, we won't.

Sometimes less really IS more.

Why not just give it up? It's been over 3 months now.
We will NEVER EVER bring back the other sources. There's simply too many reasons why this single source setup is the way to go, now and for the future.

Alwin Hoogerdijk
President, Collectorz.com

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<http://twitter.com/collectorz/>

[Top](#)**Alwin Hoogerdijk****Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Fri Mar 20, 2009 4:04 am**offline**

Collectorz.com



Joined: Fri Aug 29, 2003
6:07 am
Posts: 7384
Location: Netherlands

darksoul wrote:

You're actually making paying customers use multiple versions of your software, use multiple third party scripts, manually edit databases etc! for god's sake, I just read a few posts where you were telling your customers to edit registry settings just so that they can run both the older versions and 6.x on the same computer! **Is this how a modern software company "listens" to its customers? By making life HARDER for them?**



I am making no one go through all that trouble 😊
That's their own choice. I actually recommend against it, because it's messy and it won't work for long anyway.
As soon as the v6 database format changes it won't be possible anymore.

Just go with the flow, use version 6, submit the movies you couldn't find (or at least tell us about em) and help us grow the Collectorz.com database.

THAT is what I recommend everyone to do.

Alwin Hoogerdijk
President, Collectorz.com

Wanna know what we're up to? Follow us on Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/collectorz/>



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darksoul

Post subject: Re: Please bring back IMDB!!

Posted: Fri Mar 20, 2009 4:59 am

offline

Joined: Thu Mar 19, 2009
1:58 pm
Posts: 5

Thanks for your reply Alwin. Like a lot of your customers have pointed out, I'm paying for this software for the ability to update my movie collection from online sources. Not to spend **my** time on improving **your** "locked-in" database - a service that I don't want.

If the "source data" you provide is not good enough, and you're not willing to acknowledge and remedy the pain your customers and well wishers are going through, then there is no longer any inclination for me to pay for and use your software. Luckily for us, there are plenty of alternatives.

I've asked for a refund. I hope you one day see the error of what you're doing.



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Alwin Hoogerdijk

Post subject: Re: Please bring back IMDB!!

Posted: Fri Mar 20, 2009 6:19 am



Collectorz.com

**Joined:** Fri Aug 29, 2003

6:07 am

Posts: 7384**Location:** Netherlands**darksoul wrote:**

Thanks for your reply Alwin. Like a lot of your customers have pointed out, I'm paying for this software for the ability to update my movie collection from online sources. Not to spend **my** time on improving **your** "locked-in" database - a service that I don't want.

I am sorry to hear that, but as I said: there's many users who DO like helping us, so no worries there.

darksoul wrote:

If the "source data" you provide is not good enough, and you're not willing to acknowledge and remedy the pain your customers and well wishers are going through, then there is no longer any inclination for me to pay for and use your software. Luckily for us, there are plenty of alternatives.

Yes, there are. But will be still be around next year, or the year after that? I know we will. The recent changes will help us ensure that we will be around for a LONG time 😊

darksoul wrote:

I've asked for a refund. I hope you one day see the error of what you're doing.

We will process your refund ASAP.

Alwin Hoogerdijk
President, Collectorz.com

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<http://twitter.com/collectorz/>

[Top](#)**TheExterminator****Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Fri Mar 20, 2009 2:53 pm**Joined:** Wed Dec 27, 2006

7:16 pm

Posts: 63

The collectors team will not have there old customers, it will only have new one, and the team is only think of the fucking money. Comeon Alwin give up an give us the IMDB back, is not so a prob to make again. drive with IMDB and you shit database.

[Top](#)**jjufon****Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Fri Mar 20, 2009 9:49 pm**offline**

Joined: Thu Jan 08, 2009
12:17 am
Posts: 5

Has anyone here tried the PVD (Personal Video Database) software? it's free and seems to be pretty good.
if so, did you have any issues exporting from collector into it?
does anyone know of other software where we can actual download details? (free or not)

thanks!!

[Top](#)**Alwin Hoogerdijk****Post subject:** Re: Please bring back IMDB!!**Posted:** Sat Mar 21, 2009 4:49 am**offline**

Collectorz.com



Joined: Fri Aug 29, 2003
6:07 am
Posts: 7384
Location: Netherlands

TheExterminator wrote:

The collectors team will not have there old customers, it will only have new one, and the team is only think of the fucking money. Comeon Alwin give up an give us the IMDB back, is not so a prob to make again. drive with IMDB and you shit database.

Nice...

BTW: Do you know how funny it is to see you guys make predictions like "The collectors team will not have there old customers", while I have 3 months of sales data that show the complete opposite?

Really, most active Movie Collector users have already upgraded to version 6, even despite our warnings.

And this week, with the temporary upgrade offers, we are pulling the last few ones in 😊

Live with it (or not). But we are moving on, FAAASSSTTT !!
... to boldly go where no movie cataloger has gone before

Alwin Hoogerdijk
President, Collectorz.com

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<http://twitter.com/collectorz/>

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