

Johnny . Decimal

A system to organise your information

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00-09

About us

01 What is Johnny.Decimal?

01.01 A system to organise your information

Johnny.Decimal is a simple system that has helped thousands of people get organised, and feel calm and in control of their computer.

It's a methodical way to *structure, save, and find* everything in your life - files, notes, emails, physical items. Anything. Think of it like your personal Dewey Decimal System.

01.02 The problem

It's hard to find stuff. It's hard to focus.

The modern digital world is overwhelming. Computers let us create things instantly and save things anywhere. It's easy to be disorganised and waste time searching for stuff.

When we kept everything on paper, documents were stored in filing cabinets in a structured way so they could be found again. Our system helps you bring this order back to your computer files.

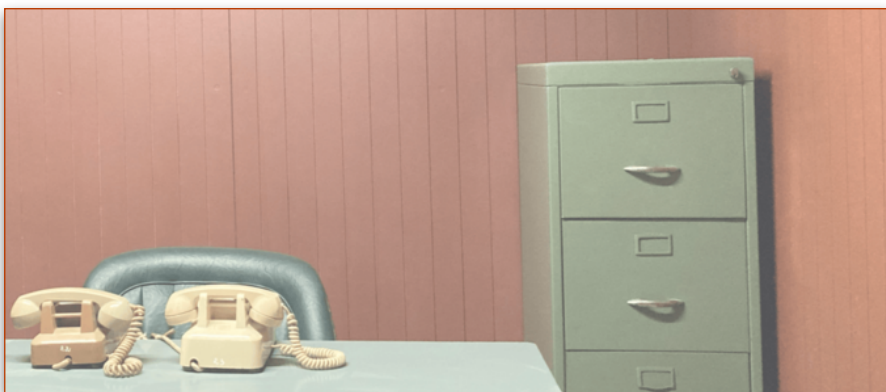


Figure 01.02A. When we kept things in filing cabinets they could be found again.

01.03 Our solution

Johnny.Decimal is designed to help you find things quickly, with more confidence, and less stress.

▣ Simple constraints

When there are fewer places to look, it's harder to get lost. The Johnny.Decimal system imposes limits: *nothing is more than three clicks away.*

▣ Unique identifiers

Everything in your life gets a unique ID. Your passport lives at '11.12 Passports, residency, & citizenship'. *So it's easy to find and really hard to lose.*

▣ An index to link everything together

You wouldn't try to use a library without a catalogue. So why use your life without an index? The 'JDex' is your place of calm. *It tells you where everything is.*

▣ Feel in control, improve focus

Now you're working methodically, not endlessly clicking around. You start to feel calm and in control. Friends ask, *how are you so organised?*

01.04 Where can I use it?

Whether you're using a pre-built Johnny.Decimal system or you've designed your own, you can organise anything, anywhere. It might be work related. Or it might be your personal life, knitting patterns, or memoirs. It doesn't matter.

01.05 The OG PKM

Johnny came up with this idea in 2010, when it was used to manage an Australia-wide dance production. He first documented it [10 years ago](#), and we have both been working on it professionally for 3 years and counting.

The Johnny.Decimal system is the result of tens of thousands of hours of thought and real-world use. *It is complete, consistent, and continually developed.* As technology evolves, so does the system. We are here to stay.

01.06 How it works in more detail

Johnny.Decimal is a simple hierarchy.

It groups everything by area, then category, and finally ID:

- A maximum of ten areas are possible in a system.
- A maximum of ten categories are possible in each area.
- A maximum of 100 IDs are possible in each category.

We don't store anything in areas or categories. Only in IDs.

This means that everything in a Johnny.Decimal structure is only two levels deep. No more endless clicking down into nested-folder hell.

01.07 Example: What an ID looks like



Figure 01.07A. The anatomy of a Johnny.Decimal ID.

01.08 Example: How we can use IDs

We can use these IDs in our filesystem, notes, email, to label physical items, or anywhere else.

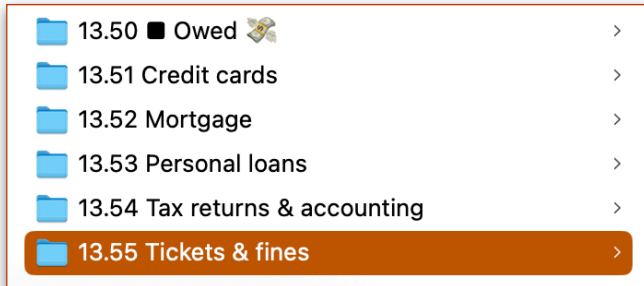


Figure 01.08A. Part of a folder structure labelled with Johnny.Decimal IDs.

01.09 The index (JDex)

The '[JDex](#)' is the master record of every ID in a system.

It's just a set of notes in your preferred notes app. One note for each ID. It's a really simple concept. And it comes with the bonus power of being able to keep your own notes related to your IDs.

Other people try to find stuff by clicking around their filesystem. Decimals find stuff by searching their JDex. This makes them better than everyone else. (It's true.)

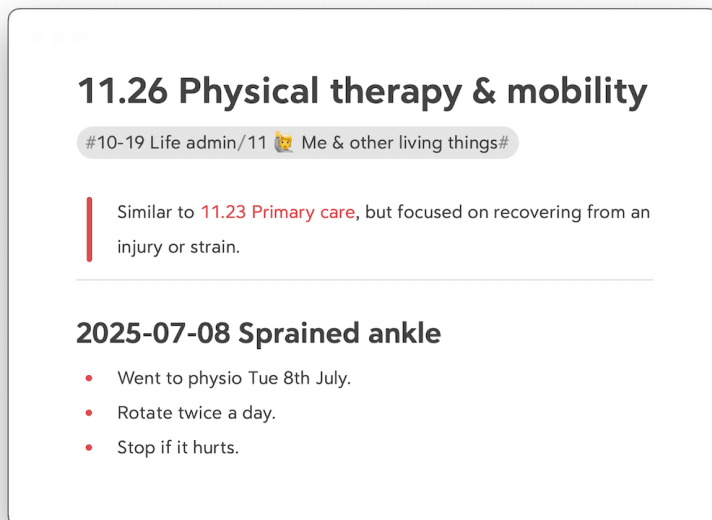


Figure 01.09A. An example of what a JDex note looks like in the [Bear](#) app.

01.10 Further reading

<https://johnnydecimal.com/documentation/>

02 Our products

02.01 A lot of our content is free

The Johnny.Decimal system is extensively documented on the [website](#), and you can use it without restriction. Johnny gives as much of his time as possible to answering questions on the [forum](#) and [Discord](#). And also maintains a [blog](#).

In May 2023 Johnny quit his job to 'be' Johnny.Decimal. This is what we do for a living. It pays our rent. This allows us to spend a lot more time thinking and making useful stuff.

Before, Johnny only had an hour or so on weekends. Now, you get both of us working at least 6 days a week. So that's why we sell things, and why everything isn't free. Thanks for supporting us. It means the world.

02.02 The Life Admin System¹

We spent hundreds of hours designing the Life Admin System so you can get organised fast. Just download the folders and your new index, and move in. You'll be more organised in 10 minutes.

☒ 150+ IDs to handle the admin we all need to manage

- Being a human and a member of society,
- Living somewhere and getting around,
- Earning, spending, and saving money,
- Dealing with technology,
- Going places and enjoying life.

☒ What do you get?

- A complete folder structure,
- Matching index files,
- Instant access to the 10,000-word Life Admin manual, and
- Personal support from us and the friendly community.

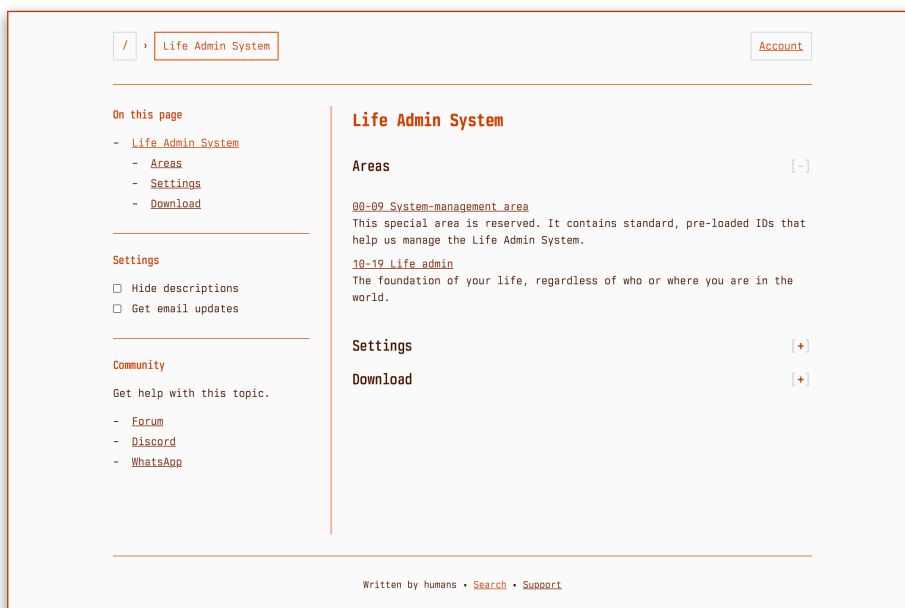


Figure 02.02A. The index page of the Life Admin online manual.

¹ Published in July 2024, to learn more see <https://johnnydecimal.com/las/>

02.03 The Small Business System²

We spent thousands of hours designing the Small Business System so you can get organised fast. Just download the folders and your new index, and move in. You'll be more organised in 10 minutes.

300+ IDs to handle the paperwork every business needs to manage

- General business administration,
- Products and their development,
- Marketing and communications,
- Customers, sales, and shipping,
- Associated creative assets and outputs.

What do you get?

- A complete folder structure,
- Matching index files,
- Instant access to the 55,000-word Small Business manual, and
- Personal support from us and the friendly community.

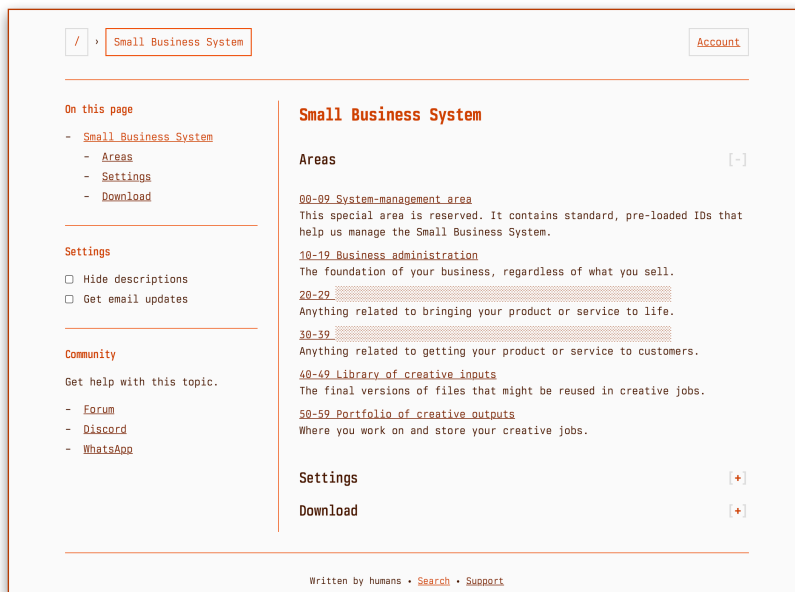


Figure 02.03A. The index page of the Small Business online manual.

² Published in March 2025, to learn more see <https://johnnydecimal.com/sbs/>

02.04 Johnny.Decimal University³

Johnny.Decimal University will teach you how to build your own system if you need something more tailored. For example, to manage a work project, hobby, podcast, or local club. We'll also show you how to tackle tasks and projects.

For those who want the deepest, most complete knowledge

- Our step-by-step Workshop⁴,
- Where you build your system with Lucy over 53 carefully-planned lessons,
- The accompanying Workbook⁵,
- The new Task and Project Management course⁶, plus
- Our beginner-to-expert Excel course⁷.

What do you get?

- 25+ hours of video content,
- 20,000-word online Workbook,
- More content in production, and
- Personal support from us and the friendly community.

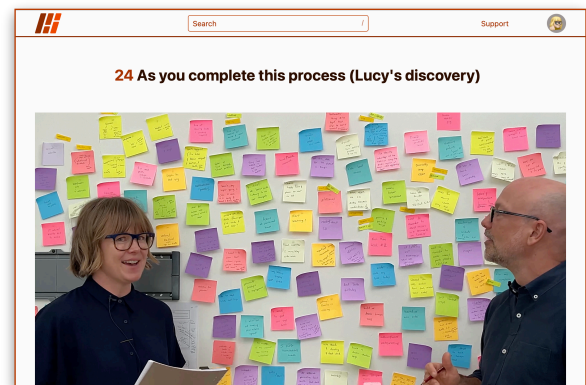
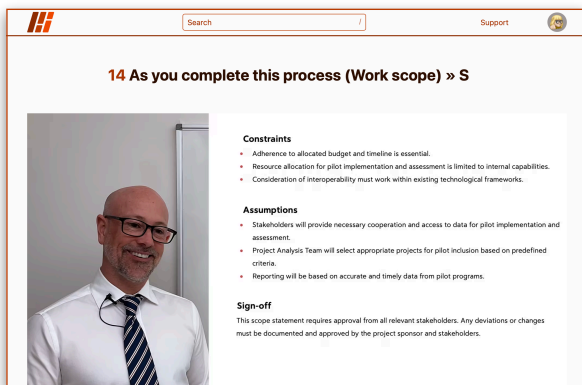


Figure 02.04A. Stills from the Johnny.Decimal Workshop.

³ To learn more see <https://johnnydecimal.com/jdu/>

⁴ Published in April 2024.

⁵ Published in August 2023 - fun fact: it's now in the [National Library of Australia!](#)

⁶ Published in October 2025.

⁷ Published in May 2022.

03 Our community

03.01 Help is always available

There's a whole community of friendly, like-minded people behind Johnny.Decimal.

We all do our best to help if anyone has a question about:

- A pre-built system,
- A system they're building,
- The Workbook or Workshop,
- Or anything else.

Our communities are not behind a paywall - *anyone can browse or sign up.*

03.02 The forum

<https://forum.johnnydecimal.com>

03.03 Discord⁸

<http://discord.gg/KYWzAJhmPv>

⁸ This is the invitation link to join the Johnny.Decimal server.

04 Our humans

04.01 Johnny and Lucy make everything at Johnny.Decimal

We take enormous pride in our work and use our own human hands and minds.



[Download.](#)

04.02 Johnny 'Decimal' Noble

Johnny's⁹ first computer was a [Sinclair ZX Spectrum](#), which he used to make databases of his toys and cassettes. He has decades of experience managing complex computer-related things at work.

He came up with Johnny.Decimal in 2010 while managing an Australia-wide dance production. He has tested and refined the system continuously in both his personal and work life, including large government projects.

04.03 Lucy Butcher

Lucy¹⁰ has a background in science writing and editing. At Johnny.Decimal she writes, thinks, draws pictures, edits videos, and helps make the websites.

⁹ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/johnny-noble>

¹⁰ <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lucy-butcher>

05 Our values

05.01 Part of the 'good internet'

We want to help everyday people be more organised.

Our overall goal is to make the world 1% more efficient. Imagine how much time and money even such a small improvement would save?

We aim to be a part of the good internet. We care about privacy, accessibility, and we don't use sleazy tactics. We try to be as contactable, helpful, and transparent as possible.¹¹

05.02 Was this AI generated?

All words at Johnny.Decimal are written by humans, the old-fashioned way. Every email is answered by a human.

We have spent thousands of hours over the last 3 years creating the pre-built systems, the course material in Johnny.Decimal University, and the website.

This means we know our systems intimately. We can answer any questions you have. And we'll continue to improve them based on community feedback.

We're both writers. The idea of a presenting AI-generated words as our own is anathema to us.

Johnny gets help from [Claude Code](#) because he's self-taught and not a professional web developer. But he never lets it work unsupervised; he's always watching, guiding, and checking it.¹²

¹¹ To learn more about our policies see <https://johnnydecimal.com/support/about-legal/policies/>

¹² This is how we're feeling about AI <https://johnnydecimal.com/support/about-legal/policies#use-of-ai>

06 Testimonials and podcast appearances¹³

06.01 Chris

I switched to PARA, and even after trying for two years I had things with no home, and difficulty finding things I knew existed. Now, one day using this pack and creating one new decade for my work life, everything has a home, and I finally feel in control again. Thank you!

06.02 Taras

I took all the productivity courses there are: Building a Second Brain, Linking Your Thinking ... and my life got maybe 10% less of a mess. Then I took Johnny.Decimal course, spent 2 weeks to integrate the system ... 1.5 years later, and I'm finally in peace because I know exactly where anything from my life is.

06.03 Devesh

You've hit it out of the park. Your workshop is another level. You have set a new standard in 'learn at your own pace' courses in my opinion. Having Lucy as the 'student zero' is just brilliant.

06.04 Jade

The JD system as a whole has helped me more than any other productivity book or course ... at a fraction of the astronomical cost other competitors are charging. The life admin pack is an incredible addition to the JD system and is a game changer in organising your digital files.

¹³ All used with permission: <https://johnnydecimal.com/support/testimonial-attribution/>

06.05 Marcus

I'm thrilled with the entire system and workshop. The speed and ease of finding what I'm looking for has been totally energizing. I'm in a big life transition phase ... and it's been crucial to have the JD system beneath me to put all the many, many documents that are needed for my new endeavors.

06.06 Ari

This is an excellent and comprehensive course. The way you explain things with such clarity and in an easy-to-understand way is fantastic ... implementing this process will significantly reduce the stress I have about my digital mess.

06.07 Cole

Watching Lucy build her system with Johnny's guidance not only provided useful insights but also gave me the confidence to build my own. One week into using my new system, I'm already feeling more organized and productive!

06.08 Victoria

I've tried all of the other popular organizational frameworks, and this is the first time I feel like I trust my system more as it grows.

06.09 @salutalice

I come from PARA and liked the system at first ... but what happened in reality after a few months of working with it ... went all over the place inside those folders. Cluttered stuff everywhere and no structure. Folders in folders in folders. Your Johnny decimal system gives me structure. A clear plan where something lives and what to expect there. You are the hero and savior for my digital life.

06.10 A nice blog post by Old Structures Engineering

2025-08-19: [Organization Help](#)

06.11 A Productive Conversation with Mike Vardy

2026-03-04: [How to Finally Organize Your Digital Life Without Overcomplicating It \(with Johnny Decimal\)](#)

06.12 First Principles podcast

2024-10-29: [Johnny 'Decimal' Noble: Filing \(and Personal Knowledge Management\)](#)

06.13 Hemispheric Views podcast

2023-10-19: [Johnny Decimalised!](#)

06.14 The Omni Show podcast

2023-05-01: [How Johnny 'Decimal' Noble Uses Omni Software](#)

07 Creative assets

07.01 Typeface

Berkeley Mono.

07.02 Name and decimal point

The **decimal point** is an important component of our brand. It's central to our name and numbering system (i.e. 11.14, 15.55, etc.).

When referring to 'Johnny.Decimal', please:

- Include a **decimal point** between 'Johnny' and 'Decimal'.
- Use the name in full; don't abbreviate.

 Johnny Decimal	 Johnny.Decimal
 JD	

07.03 Tagline

A system to organise your information.

07.04 Master logo (light/dark-mode variants)





[Download.](#)




07.05 Base colours

		
#902e00	#c03d00	#f04c00 (International Orange)

07.06 Secondary colours

		
#626a26	#838d33	#a4b040

		
#3f6c75	#54909c	#8caeb5

		
#886400	#b68600	#e3a700

08 Contact

08.01 Email

Johnny 'Decimal' Noble: hello@johnnydecimal.com

Lucy Butcher: lucy@johnnydecimal.com

08.02 Time zone

We're Australian, but at the moment we're based overseas.

Current timezone: <https://tz.johnnydecimal.com>

08.03 Social

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@johnny.decimal>

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