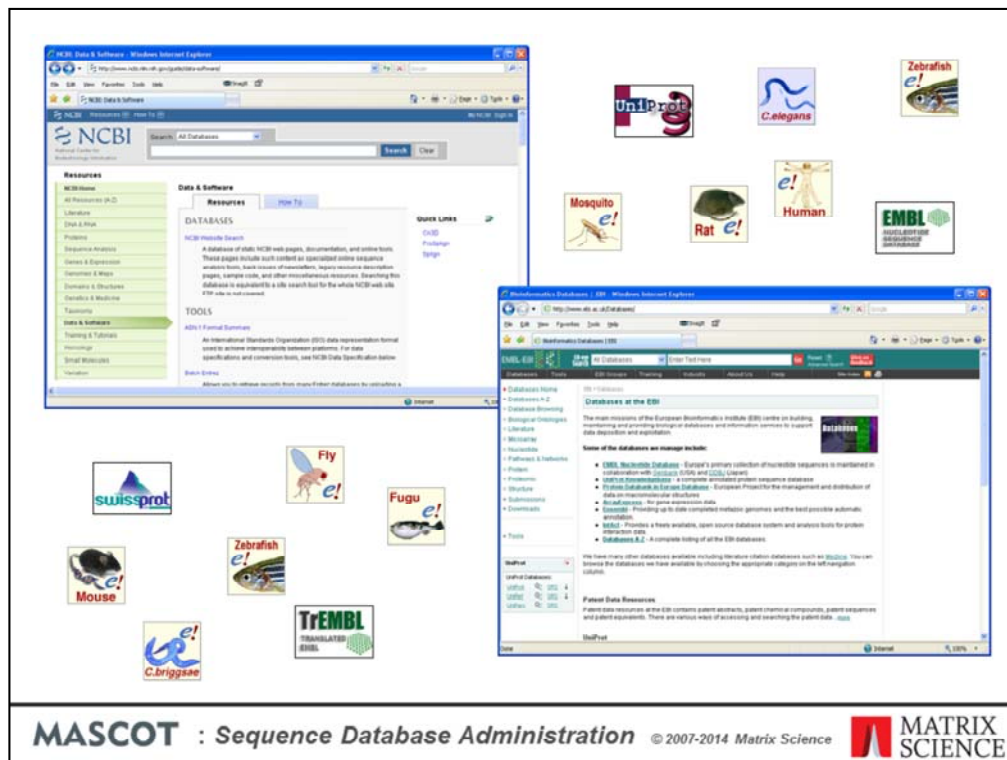


Sequence Database Administration

MASCOT





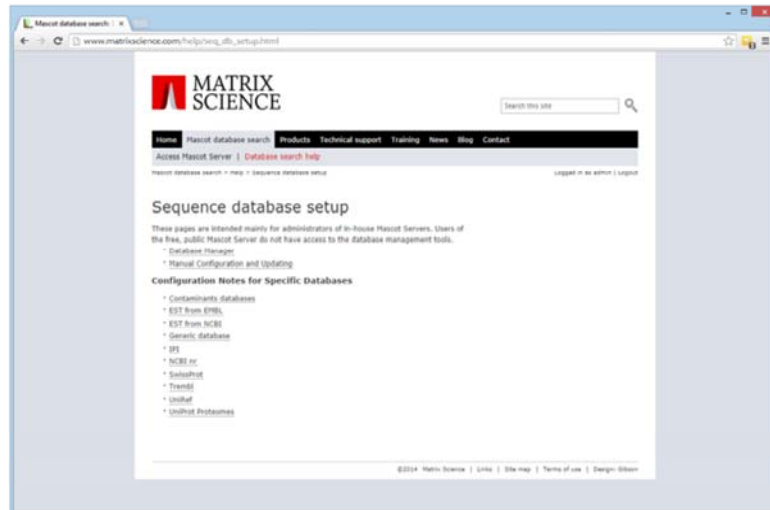
When you install Mascot, it includes a copy of the Swiss-Prot protein database. However, it is almost certain that you and your colleagues will want to search other databases as well. There are very many to choose from, and Mascot allows you to have as many databases as you wish on-line for searching at any one time.

Matrix Science doesn't supply sequence databases. Most databases are public domain, and there are a few sites that provide comprehensive database repositories. Two of the best known are NCBI and EBI. Here, you can download nr, Swiss-Prot, EMBL, TrEMBL, UniRef100, etc.

For specialised databases, such as individual genomes, you may have to track down the FTP site of the group that is doing the sequencing.

This topic described the general procedure for adding a new database to Mascot and keeping it up-to-date

Sequence Database Requirements



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For the latest information about the major public databases, refer to the help pages on the Matrix Science public web site. The help pages in your in-house copy of Mascot are similar, but become progressively out-of-date.

Sequence Database Requirements

Mascot can search any database available in Fasta format

- Amino acid
- Nucleic acid
 - Genomic DNA, EST's, ORF's, mRNA, etc

Must have local Fasta file

- (Mascot streams through the database during each search)

Other files are optional

- Taxonomy indexes
- Full text annotations.

To perform Mascot searches against a database, at a minimum, we need a FASTA file.

If the database contains nucleic acid sequences, there is no need to pre-translate the sequences. Mascot performs a 6 frame translation during each search. Nucleic acid databases come in several flavours. They may be described as genomic DNA, Expressed Sequence Tags, Open Reading Frames, messenger RNA, etc. As far as Mascot is concerned, the main differences are the quality and length of the individual entries. The relative merits of searching protein, EST and DNA sequences are discussed in Choudhary *et. al. Matching peptide mass spectra to EST and genomic DNA databases*. Trends in Biotechnology, 19, S17-S22 (2001)

If the database contains entries from multiple organisms, and you want to be able to filter searches by taxonomy, this will require some additional files, which vary from database to database

Some databases, such as SwissProt, also come with 'full text' files, containing comprehensive annotations.

FASTA Format

```
>Title text
SEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCE
SEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCE
SEQUENCESEQUENCESEQUENCE
>Next title
NEXTSEQUENCE ...

>gi|6|bgi|Contig1.seq_7|2412 3299 [+3 L= 888] [Delayed
>20021010.2.1 1112073F09.y1 1112091F10.y1 1112073F0
>IPI:IPI00140097.1|REFSEQ_XP:XP_168061 Tax_Id=9606
>CCRB cytochrome c [validated] - rabbit
>gi|129249|sp|P02820|OSTC_BOVIN Osteocalcin precursor
>"ORF5 | start 2178-1309 | frame -1 | length=870 |
```

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Perhaps this is a good moment to clarify exactly what we mean by a FASTA file.

FASTA is a very popular standard because it is so simple. On the down-side, it isn't much of a standard ... almost anything goes.

FASTA specifies that there will be a title line, starting with a 'greater than' character, followed by one or more lines containing the sequence in 1 letter code.

The problem is the lack of a well defined syntax for the title line. Here are a handful of examples of FASTA title lines. As you can see, there isn't much similarity. For a Mascot search, we need to find a short, unique identifier or accession string for each sequence. As you can see from these examples, the position of the identifier and the delimiters (e.g. spaces, pipe symbols, commas) varies considerably

Parse Rules

Parse rules are Basic Regular Expressions

```
>IPI:IPI00043251.2|REFSEQ_XP:XP_064505  
Tax_Id=9606 similar to keratin 18,  
cytoskeletal - human (fragment)
```

Accession from Fasta title: ">IPI:\([^| .]*\) "

Description from Fasta title: ">[^]* \(.*\)"

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SCIENCE**

The way Mascot handles this is to use regular expressions to describe how to parse information from the title lines in any particular database. Regular expressions will be familiar to anyone with a Unix background, but there may be a bit of a learning curve for someone with more of a Windows or Mac background.

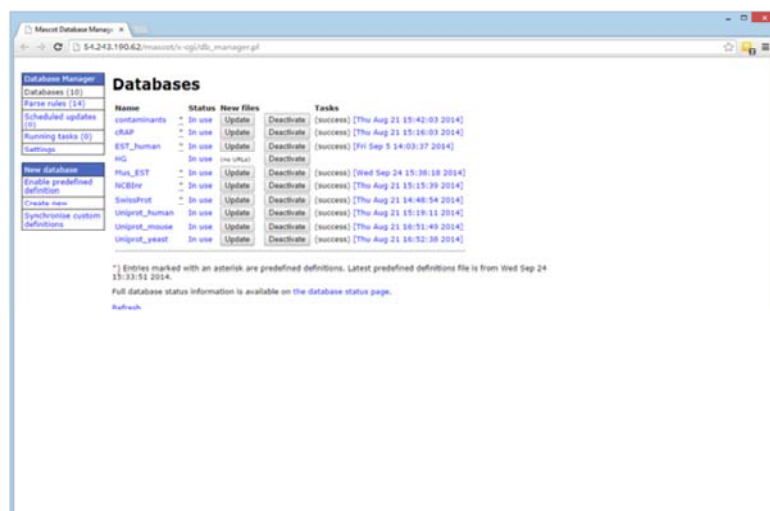
Here, for example, we have a title line from the IPI human database. Let's say that we want to use IPI00043251 as the unique accession string and everything after the first space should be treated as the description.

The regular expressions, or parse rules, used to extract this information look like this.

The string we want to extract is always within back-slashed parentheses. For the accession, we show the first few characters as literal text. We then say that we want to take all the following characters, stopping when we hit either a pipe symbol, a space, or a period. In fact, it is the period which applies in this example. The contents of the square brackets are known as a character class, and the circumflex at the beginning means 'not'. The asterisk means 'as many as available'.

For the description, we discard everything up to and including the first space. This is done using a character class of 'not a space' followed by one literal space. Then, we use back-slashed parentheses, take everything to the end of the title. The period matches to any character, so .* matches to all the remaining text.

Database Manager



The screenshot shows the Mascot Database Manager web interface. On the left is a sidebar with navigation links: 'Database Manager', 'Database rules (14)', 'Scheduled updates (1)', 'Running tasks (0)', 'Settings', 'New definitions', 'Enable predefined definition', 'Create new', 'Synchronise system definitions', and 'Uninstall'. The main content area is titled 'Databases' and contains a table with columns: Name, Status, New files, and Tasks. The table lists various databases like contaminants, cRAP, EST_human, HUG, Mus_EST, NCBIref, SwissProt, Uniprot_human, Uniprot_mouse, and Uniprot_yeast. Each row shows the database's current status (e.g., 'In use'), whether it has new files, and the last update task (e.g., 'Deactivate' or 'Update') with its success status and timestamp. A note at the bottom states: '* Entries marked with an asterisk are predefined definitions. Latest predefined definitions file is from Wed Sep 24 15:33:51 2014. Full database status information is available on the database status page. Refresh.'

Name	Status	New files	Tasks
contaminants	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Thu Aug 21 15:42:03 2014]
cRAP	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Thu Aug 21 15:16:03 2014]
EST_human	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 5 14:03:37 2014]
HUG	In use	(No files)	Deactivate
Mus_EST	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Wed Sep 24 15:38:18 2014]
NCBIref	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Thu Aug 21 15:15:39 2014]
SwissProt	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Thu Aug 21 14:48:54 2014]
Uniprot_human	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Thu Aug 21 15:19:11 2014]
Uniprot_mouse	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Thu Aug 21 15:51:49 2014]
Uniprot_yeast	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Thu Aug 21 15:52:38 2014]

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In Mascot 2.4, we introduced Database Manager, which handles both database configuration and the downloading of files from external servers. This replaced two utilities in Mascot 2.3 and earlier: the browser-based Database Maintenance, used for configuration, and the command line Database Update, used for downloading. If you are still using Mascot 2.3 or earlier, you will probably find the archived, 2.3 version of this presentation provides more practical information.

The file formats and download locations of sequence databases change from time to time. One of the smart features of Database Manager is that database configurations for many public databases are updated automatically, by downloading configuration data from the Matrix Science web site.

Key Concepts

Predefined Database Definition

- Configuration information for the most popular public databases is kept up-to-date on the Matrix Science web site, and downloaded as required by Database Manager

Custom Database Definition

- If you want to search a database that is not included in the list of Predefined Database Definitions, or if you want to configure one of these databases in some non-standard way, you create a Custom Database Definition

Synchronisation

- If a custom definition is very similar to a predefined definition, it can be converted into a predefined definition by being synchronised

Update Schedule

- An schedule can be created to update all the files associated with a database automatically.

Let's review a few of the important terms used in Database Manager:

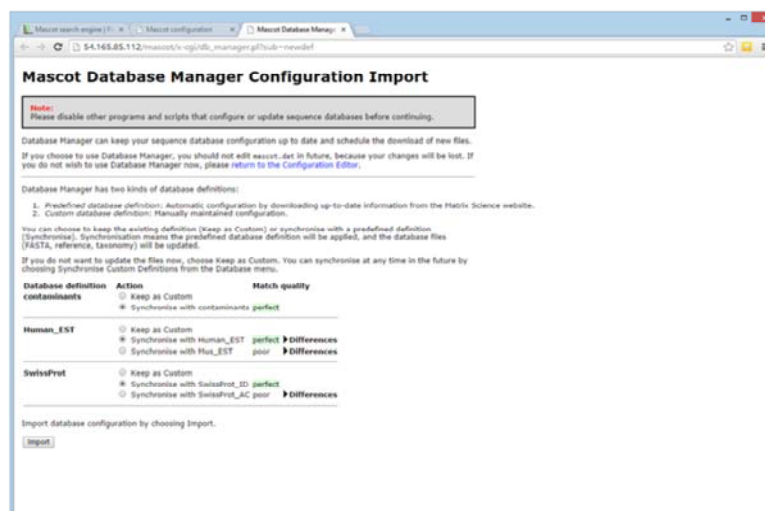
A Predefined Database Definition is one in which the configuration information is kept up-to-date on the Matrix Science web site, and downloaded as required by Database Manager. You don't need to know file URLs or worry about parse rules, etc. for a Predefined Database.

If you want to search a database that is not included in the list of Predefined Database Definitions, or if you want to configure one of these databases in some non-standard way, you create a Custom Database Definition.

If a Custom Database Definition is very similar to a Predefined Database Definition, it can be converted into a predefined definition by being synchronised. The advantage of doing this is that the configuration will then be kept up-to-date automatically.

An Update Schedule can be created to update all the files associated with a database automatically. Maybe once each week or each month. Files will only be downloaded if a new version is available.

Initialisation



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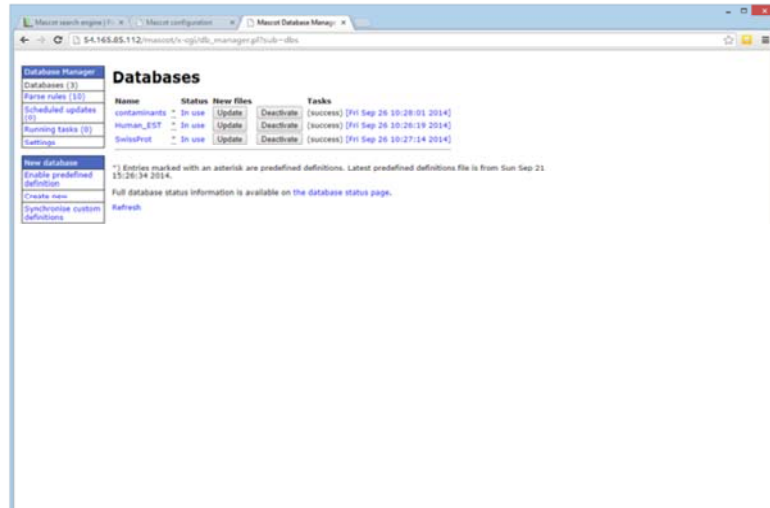


Database Manager must be allowed exclusive control of database configuration. Editing mascot.dat outside of Database Manager will just cause confusion because Database Manager re-writes mascot.dat whenever a configuration changes. If you prefer to configure sequence databases manually, by editing mascot.dat, never run Database Manager.

The first time Database Manager is run, it tries to match existing database definitions against predefined definitions and reports the quality of the match as none, poor, good, or perfect. For poor or good matches, the differences can be inspected. Usually, these arise because the existing definition is out-of-date in some respect. You can choose whether to synchronise an existing definition, making it predefined, or keep it as a custom definition.

If the Mascot Server is not allowed to access the Internet, choose *Keep as Custom* because synchronisation of any definition requires the database files to be updated.

Initialisation



Name	Status	New files	Tasks
contaminants	In use	Updated	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 26 10:28:01 2014]
Human_EST	In use	Updated	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 26 10:28:10 2014]
SwissProt	In use	Updated	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 26 10:27:14 2014]

* Entries marked with an asterisk are predefined definitions. Latest predefined definitions file is from Sun Sep 21 15:26:34 2014.

Full database status information is available on the [database status page](#).

[Refresh](#)

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Having made your selections, choose *Import* to proceed. The list of Databases will be displayed, with status information for those that have been synchronised and are being updated.

Adding a New Database

Enable predefined definition

- Apart from confirming a location for the downloaded files, everything will be handled automatically.

Create New; Custom

- Create a new custom database definition from scratch.

Create New; Copy Of

- Create a new custom database definition by copying an existing definition.

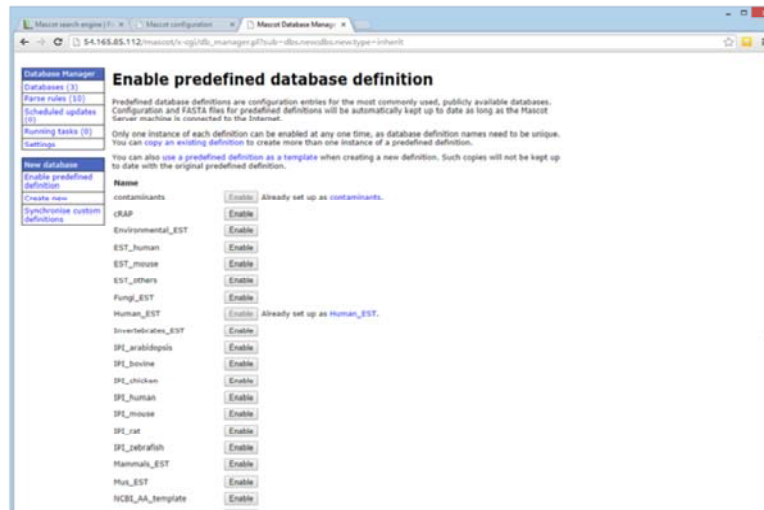
Create New; Use predefined definition template

- Create a new custom database definition by starting from a predefined definition.

You can add new databases in four different ways:

1. Enable predefined definition: Apart from confirming a location for the downloaded files, everything will be handled automatically. Only one instance of each predefined definition can be enabled at any one time, as database names must be unique. If you want something similar to a predefined database, but with configuration changes, choose the final option: Use predefined definition template.
2. Create New; Custom: Create a new custom database definition from scratch.
3. Create New; Copy Of: Create a new custom database definition by copying an existing definition. You will be required to enter a new database name and given the choice of copying the existing database files.
4. Create New; Use predefined definition template: Create a new custom database definition by starting from a predefined definition. The differences between this and enabling a predefined definition are (i) you can make changes to the configuration, (ii) the definition will not be kept up-to-date automatically.

Enable Predefined Definition

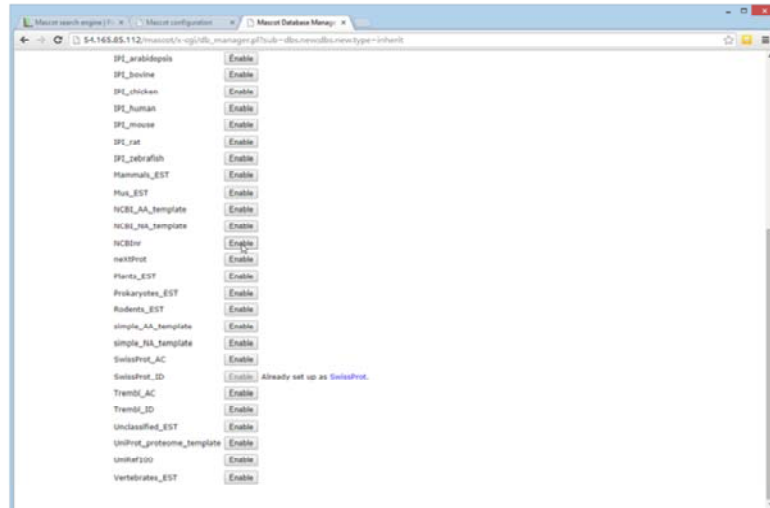


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Let's look at the first of these options: enabling a predefined definition, using NCBIInr as the example.

Enable Predefined Definition

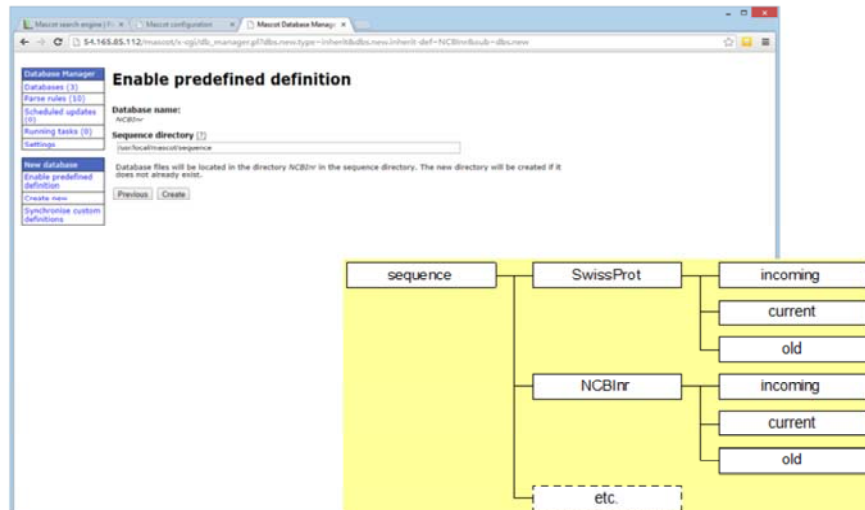


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Scroll down to NCBIInr and choose Enable

Enable Predefined Definition

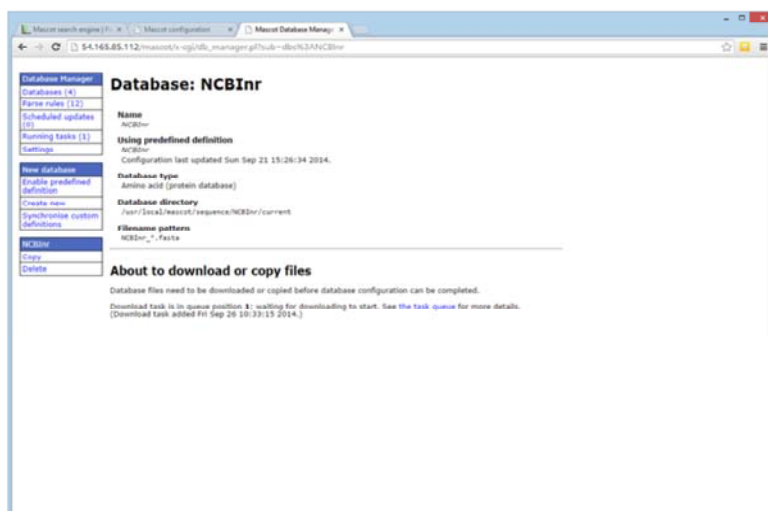


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The default location for the local copies of the sequence database files is specified in Database Manager settings. You can also change the location for the new database here. New directories will be created automatically, unless they already exist. For each database, there is a directory with the same name as the database. Under this directory are three sub-directories. The incoming directory provides a workspace for downloading and processing a new database file. The current directory contains the active database, and this is where Mascot Monitor creates the compressed files that will be memory mapped. The old directory is where the immediate past database files are archived ... just in case.

Choose Create

Enable Predefined Definition

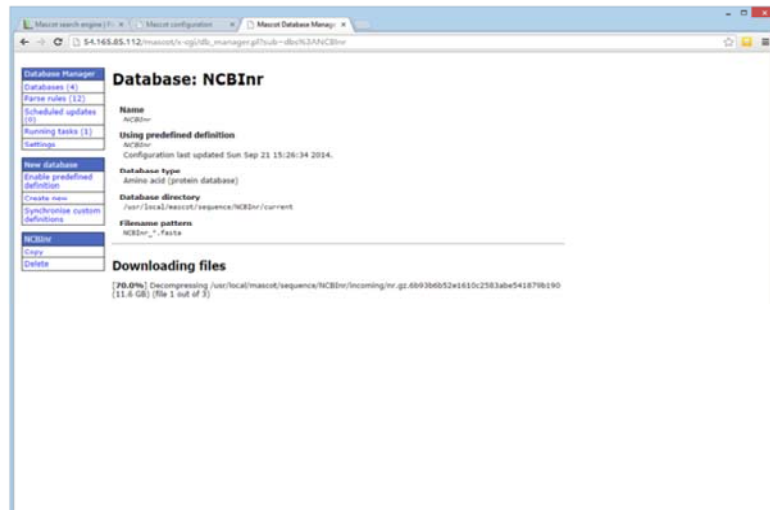


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All the files will now be downloaded automatically. For NCBInr, this is the Fasta file plus the files that are needed to create a taxonomy index. The lower part of the page is updated with status information. You don't have to leave this page open; you can close the browser and return later.

Enable Predefined Definition

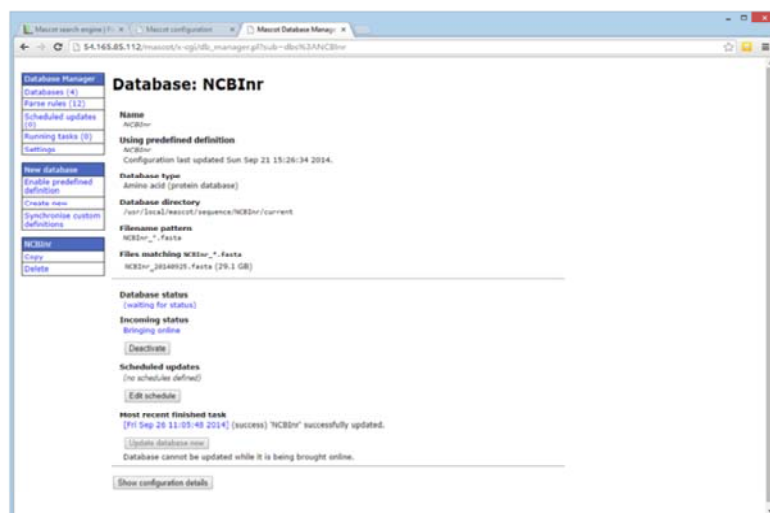


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Some database files are very large, and downloads can fail for all sorts of reasons. Database Manager tries each download 5 times before giving up. If you have persistent problems, check the support page on our web site to see if there are any known issues.

Enable Predefined Definition



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Assuming the download is successful, this page will be displayed as the new files are compressed and the database is brought online. As soon as the new database shows as 'In Use', it is ready for searching.

To setup automatic updates of the database files, choose Edit Schedule from here or via the Scheduled Updates side menu

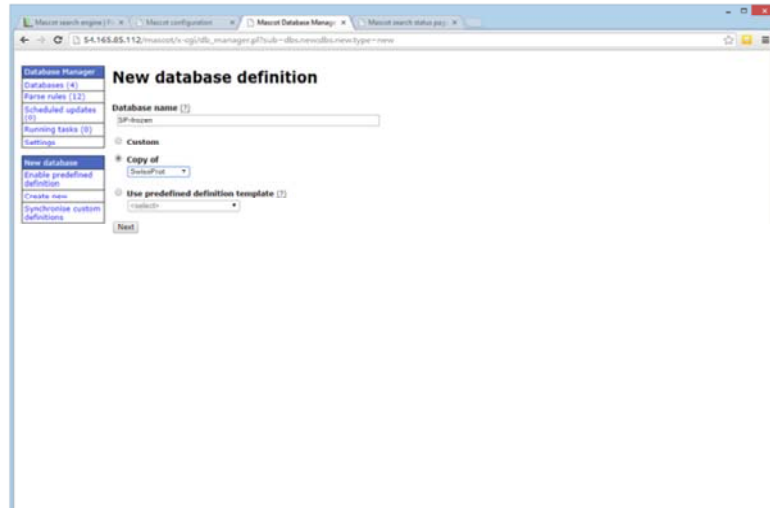
Scheduled Updates

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `54.165.85.112/mascoat/vcg/dls_manager.php?db=ncbi&mode=cronsub&db%3ANCBI%3AtransactionID=dbmanager_205540408968001`. The page title is "Database configuration: NCBInr". Under the heading "Scheduled updates", there are three radio buttons: "None" (selected), "Daily at", and "Weekly on Sunday". The "Daily at" option is selected, with a time of "02:00" and a year of "2004". There are "Cancel" and "Save" buttons at the bottom.

It is usually best to download the files at a quiet time, like the middle of the night or at the weekend.

Note that keeping the definition up-to-date and keeping the database files up-to-date are two different things. A predefined database definition is kept up to date automatically while a custom database definition is not. The only requirement for keeping the files up to date is that the definition includes URLs for downloading the required files. Files are not updated by default; you have to save a schedule for the database specifying how often to look for new files. If no new Fasta file is available at the scheduled time, nothing will be downloaded.

Create New - Copy of



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Creating a new database by starting from a copy of an existing database is usually more convenient than starting from scratch. It is also a good way to preserve a copy of a particular version of a database. Imagine you have SwissProt configured to be automatically updated every month or so. If you want to keep a copy of the current version, so that it can be used for all searches during a year long project, choose SwissProt from the drop down list and give it a suitable name so that it won't be confused with the 'live' version

Create New - Copy of

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `54.163.85.112/mascot/v-cgi/db_manager.pl?db_name=SP-frozen&db_name.new=mode-copy&db_name.base-def=SwissProt&db_name.type=new&db_name.new=`. The page title is "Copy an existing definition". On the left is a sidebar menu with options: "Database Manager" (selected), "Databases (4)", "Database rules (12)", "Scheduled updates (0)", "Running tasks (0)", "Settings", "New definitions", "Enable predefined definition", "Create new", "Synchronise system definitions". The main content area contains the following fields and options:

- Copy of:**
- Database name:**
- Sequence directory:**
- Existing SwissProt files:**
 - SwissProt_2014_06.fasta (270 MB)
 - SwissProt_2014_06.def (2.6 GB)
- Copy files also:**
 - ☒ **Don't copy files**
 - ☐ **Copy files**

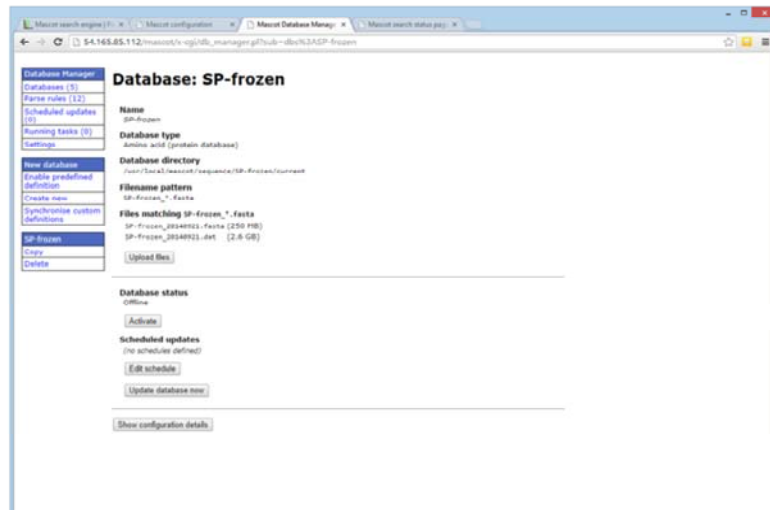
Below the radio buttons, a note states: "If you have chosen to copy files from the base definition, please do not close the browser or refresh this page after clicking Create. Copying may take some time if the files are large." At the bottom are "Previous" and "Create" buttons.

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You are given the option to copy the existing files.

Create New - Copy of

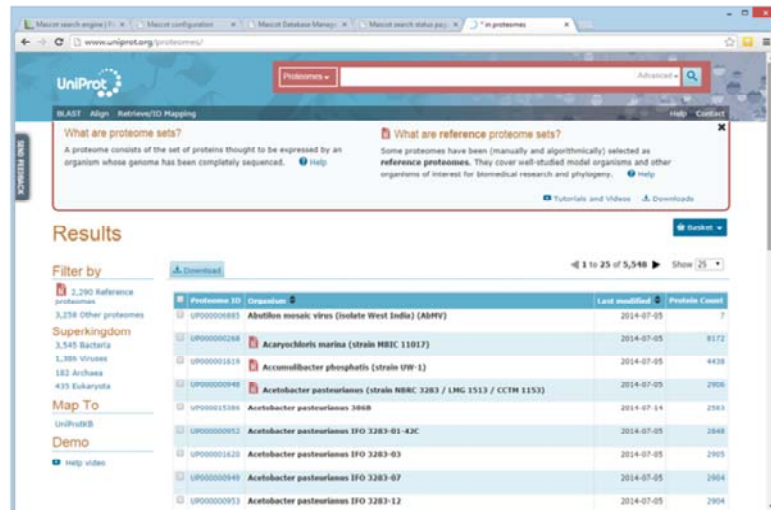


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Unless you wish to make some change to the configuration, all you need to do now is to choose Activate. When submitting searches for the year-long project, you choose SP-frozen rather than SwissProt

Create New - Predefined as Template



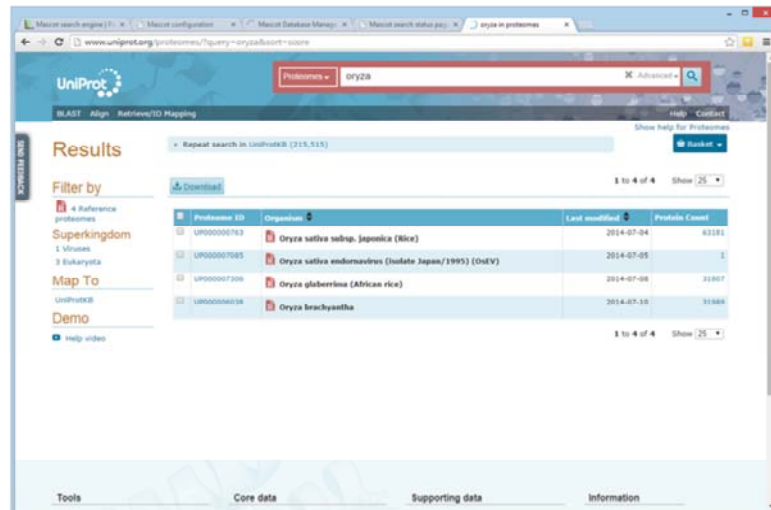
The screenshot shows the UniProt website's 'Proteomes' section. At the top, there's a search bar and navigation links. Below the header, there are two informational boxes: 'What are proteome sets?' and 'What are reference proteome sets?'. The main content area is titled 'Results' and shows a list of proteomes. On the left, there's a 'Filter by' sidebar with categories like 'Reference proteomes', 'Other proteomes', 'Superkingdom', 'Map To', and 'Demo'. The main list has columns for 'Proteome ID', 'Organism', 'Last modified', and 'Proteome Count'. The list includes entries for 'Abutilon mosak virus (Isolate West India) (ABMY)', 'Acaryochloris marina (strain H81C 11017)', and several strains of 'Acetobacter pasteurianus'.

Proteome ID	Organism	Last modified	Proteome Count
UP000000883	Abutilon mosak virus (Isolate West India) (ABMY)	2014-07-05	7
UP000000268	Acaryochloris marina (strain H81C 11017)	2014-07-05	9172
UP000001619	Accumolibacter phosphatis (strain UPR-1)	2014-07-05	4438
UP000000948	Acetobacter pasteurianus (strain NBRC 3283 / LMG 1513 / CCTM 1153)	2014-07-05	2906
UP000015366	Acetobacter pasteurianus 3048	2014-07-14	2561
UP000000052	Acetobacter pasteurianus IFO 3283-01-42C	2014-07-05	2848
UP000001620	Acetobacter pasteurianus IFO 3283-03	2014-07-05	2905
UP000000949	Acetobacter pasteurianus IFO 3283-07	2014-07-05	2904
UP000000953	Acetobacter pasteurianus IFO 3283-12	2014-07-05	2904

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To illustrate how a predefined definition can be used as a template, we'll set up a database for the Uniprot proteome of rice. In a browser, go to the Uniprot web site, www.uniprot.org, and follow the 'Complete Proteome' links. You could search on rice or, if you remember the latin name, oryza

Create New - Predefined as Template



The screenshot shows the UniProt website with a search for 'oryza' in the 'Proteomes' section. The results table lists four entries:

Protein ID	Organism	Last modified	Protein Count
UP000000763	Oryza sativa subsp. japonica (Rice)	2014-07-04	63181
UP000000765	Oryza sativa endonuclease (isolate Japan/1995) (OsEV)	2014-07-05	1
UP0000007306	Oryza glaberrima (African rice)	2014-07-08	31807
UP000000018	Oryza brachyantha	2014-07-10	31888

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There is a choice of three (one hit is a virus that infects rice). We'll choose *Oryza sativa* subsp. *Japonica*.

Create New - Predefined as Template

Proteome Name Oryza sativa - Reference proteome

Proteins 63,181

Proteome ID UP000000763

Taxonomy 39947 - Oryza sativa subsp. japonica

Last modified July 4, 2014

Genome assembly GCA_000005435.2

Oryza sativa (rice) is a monocotyledonous flowering plant of the family Poaceae and is one of the most important crop plants in the world, providing the principal food source for half of the world's population.

Oryza sativa subsp. japonica is one of three major subspecies of rice, the others being indica and javanica. Oryza sativa subsp. japonica is short-grained and high in amylopectin so that the grains stick together when cooked, which distinguishes it from subsp. indica which is long-grained and not sticky.

Oryza sativa subsp. japonica is grown in dry fields, mainly in temperate or colder climates such as Japan.

Oryza sativa has a haploid chromosome number of 12, containing 370 Mb with 30,000 protein-coding genes. Rice was an obvious choice for the first whole genome sequencing of a cereal crop. It is the smallest of the major cereal crop genomes and is the easiest to transform genetically. The cultivar sequenced from the japonica subspecies was Nipponbare (<http://www.therixjournal.com/content/5/1/4/abstract>).

Components

Genome Accession(s)	Proteins
AP008207	8910
AP008208	7120
AP008209	7085
AP008210	5904
AP008211	4203

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You could download the file manually. If so, click on the proteome ID link, then a download button, and select all proteins in Fasta format.

A better option is to set up a download URL, because this will allow us to configure automatic updating of the database files. First, make a note of the taxonomy ID for this strain - 39947

Create New - Predefined as Template

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `54.143.85.112/mascot/vcg/db_manager.php?sub=dbc,newdef&newtype=new`. The page title is "New database definition". On the left is a "Database Manager" sidebar with links: Databases (1), Database rules (12), Scheduled updates (0), Running tasks (0), Settings, New definitions, Enable predefined definition, Create new, Synchronise custom definitions, and Definitions. The main form area contains: a "Database name (1)" text input with "Uniprot_ssw" entered; a "Copy of" dropdown menu; a checked checkbox "Use predefined definition template (1)"; and a dropdown menu showing "Uniprot_proteome_template". A "Next" button is at the bottom.

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In Database Manager, choose Create new. Enter a suitable name and select the uniprot proteome predefined definition as a template.

Create New - Predefined as Template

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `54.163.85.112/mascot/v-cgi/db_manager.pl?db_name=Uniprot_rice&db_new_mode=template&db_new_template_def=Uniprot_protosome_template`. The page title is "Custom definition from predefined definition template". On the left is a "Database Manager" sidebar with links: Databases (5), Database rules (12), Scheduled updates (0), Running tasks (0), Settings, New definitions (highlighted), Enable predefined definition, Create new, Synchronize custom definitions, and Previous. The main content area has the following fields and text:

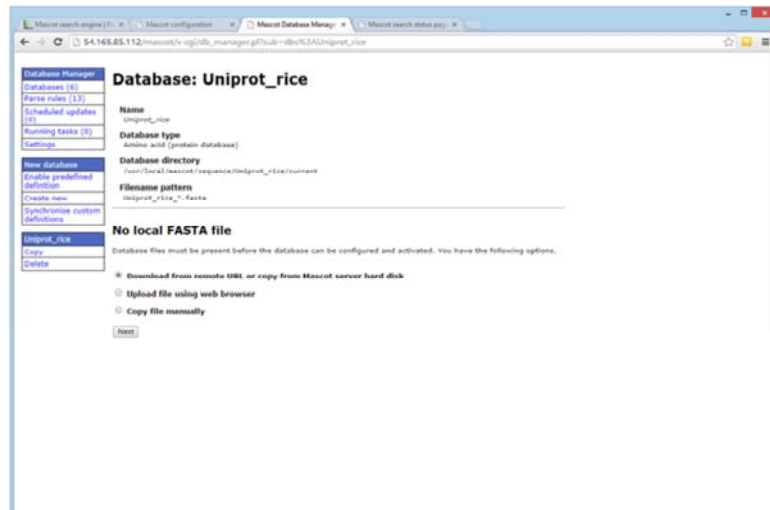
- Template:** `Uniprot_protosome_template`
- Database name:** `Uniprot_rice`
- Sequence directory:** `/var/local/mascot/sequence`
- Text: "Database files will be located in the directory Uniprot_rice in the sequence directory. The new directory will be created if it does not already exist."
- Buttons: "Previous" and "Create"

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Choose Create

Create New - Predefined as Template



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If we had chosen to download the Fasta manually, we could follow the instructions to upload or copy the Fasta file to the target directory and rename it to match the Filename pattern. Since we want to schedule automatic file updates, we choose instead to download from a remote URL and, in the next page, choose Setup download URL

Create New - Predefined as Template

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `54.163.85.112/mascot/v-cgi/db_manager.pl?lib=dr1-mode=download&db=fast&source=uniprot&db=Uniprot_rice&transactionID=dbmanager_140857537782`. The page title is "Database configuration: Uniprot_rice". The form contains the following fields and options:

- FASTA file URL or path to source file on Mascot Server hard disk**: A text input field containing the URL `http://ftp.ebi.ac.uk/pub/sequence/annotation/uniprot_rice/uniprot_rice.fasta`.
- ☐ **Delete original FASTA file after updating**
- Version file URL or path to source file on Mascot Server hard disk**: A text input field.
- ☐ **Delete original FASTA file after updating**
- Reference file URL or path to source file on Mascot Server hard disk**: A text input field.
- ☐ **Delete original FASTA file after updating**

Below the form, there is a note: "The original file can only be deleted if it resides on the Mascot Server hard disk and Database Manager has sufficient permissions in the source directory." At the bottom of the form are "Cancel" and "Save" buttons.

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The format for the URL can be found on the Mascot help page for UniProt proteomes under Sequence database setup. You just need to change the taxonomy ID to the one for rice that you noted earlier. There is no reference file to download ... we'll link out to Uniprot to get annotation text for the Mascot Protein View report. There is no version file either, so each update will be identified using an ISO datestamp

Create New - Predefined as Template

The screenshot shows the 'Database Manager' interface for 'Uniprot_rice'. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Databases (6), Change rules (13), Scheduled updates (10), Running tasks (9), Settings, New database, Create predefined, Create new, Synchronize system, and Definitions. The main content area is titled 'Database: Uniprot_rice' and includes the following fields:

- Name:** Uniprot_rice
- Database type:** Access and/or main database
- Database directory:** /usr/local/mascot/sequence/uniprot_rice/current
- Filename pattern:** uniprot_rice_*.fasta

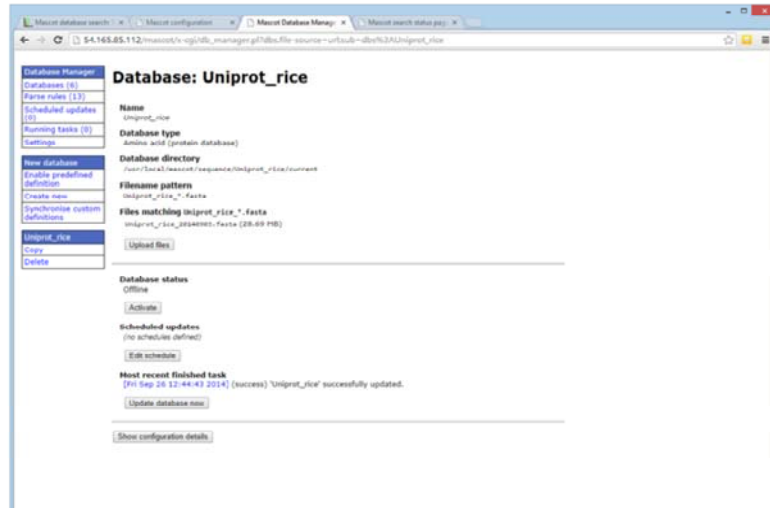
Below these fields is a section titled 'Download files from URL or copy from Mascot Server disk'. It contains a 'FASTA file URL' field with the value: <http://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/?query=taxonomy:3947505&id=keyword:K22Ceq&format=fasta&include=yes>. There is an 'Edit download URL' button. Below the URL is a 'Filename pattern' field with the value: uniprot_rice_*.fasta and an 'Edit filename pattern' button. At the bottom, a note states: 'The downloaded files will be renamed to match the filename pattern.' There are 'Previous' and 'Start downloading' buttons.

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Save, and we're ready to start downloading

Create New - Predefined as Template



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Once the download is complete, the page is updated. Assuming we don't want to inspect or modify the configuration, just two things left to do. Make the database active in Mascot and create an update schedule.

Create New - Custom

Custom is rarely required

Fasta from Uniprot

UniProt_proteome_template

Fasta from Genbank

NCBI_AA_template

NCBI_NA_template

Most other cases

simple_AA_template

simple_NA_template

In most cases, it is faster to start from one of the predefined definitions, and modify it, than choose custom

Create New - Custom



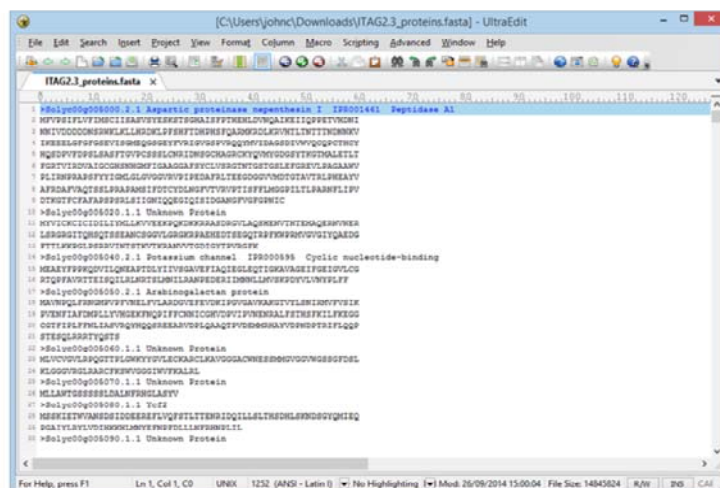
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But, to illustrate, let's configure a protein Fasta for the recently completed tomato genome. Choose a file and download it

Create New - Custom



```
[C:\Users\JohnC\Downloads\ITAG2.1.proteins.fasta] - UltraEdit
File Edit Search Insert Project View Format Column Macro Scripting Advanced Window Help
ITAG2.1.proteins.fasta x
1 >Belye00g000000.1.1 Agapornis phoeniceus penguinase 1 12801441 12801441
2 MPTVPIFLVYIMCIIIAFVTEERTDGALEFFTHKLVQWQAIKIIQPFYVGMH1
3 KNIYVQCCONENWLLKLLSGLSFFHTDHSFQAQNSCLQKNTLNTTTHNNKV
4 ITRSLQFVPSSTVDSHSGSSTFVTSVPSFQGGHTFDSASLTVGQGTWTV
5 NQSDVFTSFLSAFTVTPCSSELSNDISCHAGRCQVQVYDGSFTSTDALETLT
6 FGRVTRDVAIGCKNNGDFTGAAGGAFVCLVSGTNTQSTGLFSGHYLADAAVY
7 FLINRFAAFSTYIDGLSLOVGVVPIEDAFILTEEGDGYMGTUTATLREAVY
8 AFDMFPAQTSLRFAAHMIFPTCDGAPFTVTVVTFSTFASGSLTLPANFLIFV
9 DTGKTFCAFAHSSSLSTIOWCQSGISITDAGSPVPSGHWIC
10 >Belye00g000020.1.1 Unknown Protein
11 HTVVCICIIILLTGLPVTERRKQPCDRAARGLAQKHWYTHEDQKHWYER
12 LSGSGITQNGTSEAMSGGVLSGKGSFADSDTSEQTRFQFQFVTVYQAGDQ
13 FTLAWGCLSSDVTNTSTVTSAAVYDSDVTPVAGFV
14 >Belye00g000040.1.1 Potassium channel IP800086 Cyclic nucleotide-binding
15 MEATVFRGQVQLQHAFTPLTVNGHSTFAGTSLGDTIDKAPAGEIFPSDCLG
16 STQPTAVDTTEISQLRLASTLSLMLAAGFEDERIDNGLLVSEDTVLVNYPLFF
17 >Belye00g000050.1.1 Arabinoxylanase protein
18 DNRNGLFTHGDFVYFELLFTLADVSTETWELPVSATKATVTLKIMDVTPEIK
19 PVNTIAFMGLLYNGEKYKQIFPCNIGCGVTVIPNKGALSTHSFILLKSGG
20 CQTFELFTHLAAVQVWGGGSESAVTVLQAQTPVDSDGSAVVSQSTPFIHQGP
21 STESQAAFTYQTS
22 >Belye00g000060.1.1 Unknown Protein
23 HGVGVVLRPQDTFLGKHYTVLCKAKLKAUVGGACWESDGGVGVWGSSTDSL
24 KLGQGVRLAARCTFHWVGGIIVTFKALG
25 >Belye00g000070.1.1 Unknown Protein
26 HLAWTSSSSSLZALFFSGLATVY
27 >Belye00g000080.1.1 YnfZ
28 HESLSTVWMSGDIQSESEFLVGFSTLITENIDQILLSTHSLSPGDSVGHISQ
29 DQATVLAIVDMDGLMHTFNSFELLIAFNNKIL
30 >Belye00g000090.1.1 Unknown Protein
```

The first thing to do with any unknown Fasta file is open it in a text editor that can handle large files and take a look at the syntax of the title lines. If you don't have a suitable text editor, you can use more at a command prompt. Make sure you look at different places in the file because it may be a merge of entries from different sources

Create New - Custom

Look at through the the Fasta file to get a sense of what aspects of the titles are constant

```
>Solyc00g005000.2.1 Aspartic proteinase nepenthesin I IPR001461  
Peptidase A1  
>Solyc04g047700.1.1 Unknown Protein  
>Solyc09g008500.1.1 Non-specific lipid-transfer protein IPR013770  
Plant lipid transfer protein and hydrophobic protein, helical  
>Solyc12g100360.1.1 Calpain-like protein IPR001300 Peptidase C2,  
calpain
```

Best to use the very simple rules (simple_AA_template)

```
">\([^\s]*\)"  
">[^\s]*\s\(.*\)"
```

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As is often the case, a simple rule that takes everything between the ">" symbol and the first space as the accession is the safest choice. Everything after the first space can be treated as the description. These rules are pre-defined in Database Manager and you could set up this database by using simple_AA_template as the template. But, to illustrate the flexibility of Database Manager, we'll follow the custom definition route, and even create a new parse rule.

Create New - Custom

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `54.163.85.112/mascot/vs-vgi/ids_manager.php?sub=ids.newvolts.newtype=new`. The page is titled "New database definition". On the left, there is a "Database Manager" sidebar with links: Databases (6), Change roles (3/3), Scheduled updates (0), Running tasks (0), Settings, New definitions, Enable predefined definition, Create new, Synchronise system definitions, and Help. The main content area has a "Database name" field with the value "testdb" and a "Database type" dropdown menu set to "Custom". Below the dropdown, there are two radio buttons: "Copy of" (selected) and "Use predefined definition template". At the bottom of the form is a "Next" button.

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So, we Create new, enter a suitable name, and choose Custom

Create New - Custom

The screenshot shows the 'Custom definition' form in the Mascot Database Manager. The form is titled 'Custom definition' and has a left sidebar with navigation links: 'Database Manager', 'Databases (6)', 'Database rules (3)', 'Scheduled updates (0)', 'Running tasks (0)', 'Settings', 'New definitions', 'Enable predefined definition', 'Create new', 'Synchronise system definitions', and 'Database Manager'. The main form area contains the following fields and options:

- Database name:** A text input field with the value 'AutoPup'.
- Database type:** A radio button selection with two options: 'Amino acid (protein database)' (selected) and 'Nucleic acid (DNA database)'.
- Sequence directory:** A text input field with the value 'local/mascot/sequence'.
- Download or copy files automatically:** A radio button selection with two options: 'Download or copy files automatically' (selected) and 'Upload or copy files manually'.
- FASTA file URL or path to source file on Mascot Server hard disk:** A text input field.
- Delete original FASTA file after copying:** A checkbox.
- Version file URL or path to source file on Mascot Server hard disk (optional):** A text input field.
- Delete original version file after copying:** A checkbox.
- Reference file URL or path to source file on Mascot Server hard disk (optional):** A text input field.
- Delete original reference file after copying:** A checkbox.
- Upload or copy files manually:** A radio button selection.

Below the form, there is a note: 'If you have chosen to download files from a remote server or copy from the Mascot Server hard disk, the task will be scheduled as a background task. You can follow the progress in the task list. The database configuration can be completed once the files have been downloaded or copied. The original file can only be deleted if it resides on the Mascot Server hard disk and Database Manager has sufficient permissions in the source directory.'

At the bottom of the form, there are two buttons: 'Previous' and 'Create'.

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This is an Amino Acid database and we already have the Fasta file. Set these options and choose Create

Create New - Custom

The screenshot shows the Mascot Database Manager web interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: `54.143.85.112/mascot/vcgdb_manager.php?file_source=upload&sub=dir%2Fketchup`. The interface is divided into a left sidebar and a main content area.

Database Manager

- Databases (7)
- Database rules (3)
- Scheduled updates (0)
- Running tasks (0)
- Settings
- New database**
- Create predefined definition
- Create new
- Synchronize system definitions

Database: ketchup

Name
ketchup

Database type
Anteas and (protein database)

Database directory
/usr/local/mascot/sequence/ketchup/current

Filename pattern
ketchup_*.fasta

Upload FASTA file

Please select the FASTA file to upload.
Note that if the file is large (more than 50 megabytes), it is better to transfer the file to the Mascot Server hard disk by some other means than uploading via web browser.

Filename pattern
ketchup_*.fasta
[Edit filename pattern](#)

FASTA file to upload
[Choose file](#) ketchup_20140526.fasta

The uploaded file will be renamed to match the filename pattern.

[Previous](#) [Skip](#)

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We've chosen to rename the Fasta file and upload it via the web browser

Create New - Custom

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `54.163.85.112/mascot/v-cgi/db_manager.pl?sub=dbc%2Aketchup`. The page is titled "Database Manager" and displays the configuration for a database named "ketchup".

Database Manager

- Databases (7)
- Database rules (3)
- Scheduled updates (0)
- Running tasks (0)
- Settings

New database

- Create predefined
- definition
- Create new
- Synchronize system
- definitions

ketchup

- Copy
- Delete

Database: ketchup

Name
ketchup

Database type
Antevis wild (protein database)

Database directory
/usr/local/mascot/sequences/ketchup/current

Filename pattern
ketchup_*.fasta

Files matching ketchup_*.fasta
ketchup_001ketch.fasta (23.83 MB)

Finish database configuration

Please edit the configuration to finish setting up the database definition.

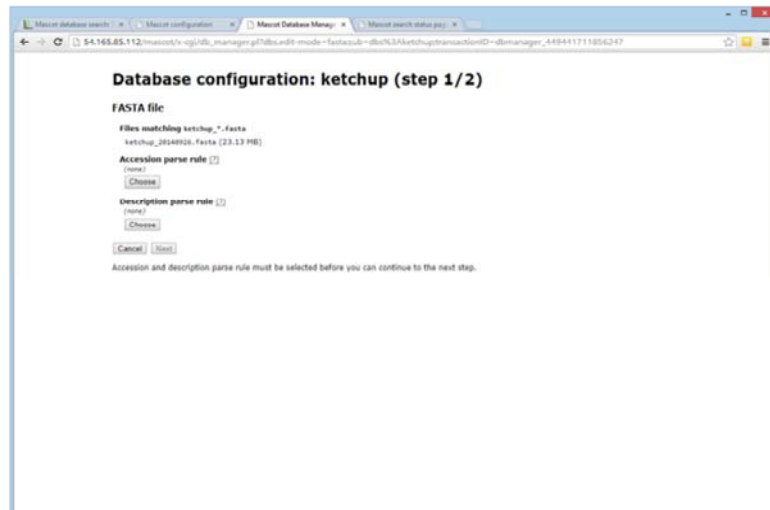
[Edit configuration](#)

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Once the file is uploaded and the name matches the wild card pattern, it will be recognized, and we can proceed to edit the configuration. If Database Manager doesn't recognize the presence of the Fasta, maybe there is a typo in the database name or maybe you have the file permissions / security settings set so that a CGI process cannot read the file.

Create New - Custom



Database configuration: ketchup (step 1/2)

FASTA file

Files matching ketchup.*.fasta

ketchup_20140101.fasta (23.13 MB)

Accession parse rule [none]

Description parse rule [none]

Accession and description parse rule must be selected before you can continue to the next step.

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First thing we have to do is choose parse rules for accession and description.

Create New - Custom

FASTA file accession parse rule for ketchup

Raw test data (10 samples)

1. rslcygmgnm0006.1.1 Aspartic proteinase heparinase II IPR001461 Peptidase A1
2. rslcygmgnm0020.1.1 Unknown Protein
3. rslcygmgnm0040.1.1 Potassium channel IPR000595 Cyclic nucleotide-binding
4. rslcygmgnm0050.1.1 Aralingalacton protein
5. rslcygmgnm0060.1.1 Unknown Protein
6. rslcyg12gms020.1.1 Unknown Protein
7. rslcyg12gms030.1.1 Cytosine-specific methyltransferase IPR001525 C-5 cytosine-specific DNA methylase
8. rslcyg12gms040.1.1 methyl-lysine 4 cyclotransferase IPR000106 DNA recognition motif, HMP-1
9. rslcyg12gms050.1.1 Calpain-like protein
10. rslcyg12gms060.1.1 Calpain-like protein IPR001300 Peptidase C1, calpain

Suitable parse rules (4)

Parse rule	Match	Extracted data
+[L?]{}	10/10	1. rslcygmgnm0006.1.1 Aspartic proteinase heparinase II IP0001461 Peptidase A1 ► more matches
+[L?]{ }{ }	10/10	1. rslcygmgnm0006.1.1 ►9 more matches 2. rslcygmgnm0020.1.1 3. rslcygmgnm0040.1.1 4. rslcygmgnm0050.1.1 5. rslcygmgnm0060.1.1 6. rslcyg12gms020.1.1 7. rslcyg12gms030.1.1 8. rslcyg12gms040.1.1 9. rslcyg12gms050.1.1 10. rslcyg12gms060.1.1
+[L?]{ }{ }{ }	10/10	1. rslcygmgnm0006.1.1 Aspartic proteinase heparinase II IP0001461 Peptidase A1 ► more matches
+[L?]{ }	10/10	1. rslcygmgnm0006.1.1 aspartic proteinase heparinase II IP0001461 Peptidase A1 ► more matches

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All the existing parse rules are tested against ten of the title lines, five from the start of the file and five from the end. Four parse rules give matches to all ten. We need to study the matches and choose the one that pulls out a suitable accession string. I think its fairly obvious that the one we've selected is the most suitable

Create New - Custom

FASTA file description parse rule for ketchup

Raw test data (10 samples)

1. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1
2. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Unknown Protein
3. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Potassium channel [P080055 Cyclic nucleotide-binding
4. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Arabinoxylan protein
5. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Unknown Protein
6. Solyc12g000000.2.1 Unknown Protein
7. Solyc12g000000.2.1 Cytosine-specific methyltransferase [P080125 C-5 cytosine-specific DNA methylase
8. Solyc12g000000.2.1 Acetyl-coenzyme A synthetase [P080054 RNA recognition motif, RNP-1
9. Solyc12g000000.2.1 Calpain-like protein
10. Solyc12g000000.2.1 Calpain-like protein [P080125 Peptidase C2, calpain

Suitable parse rules (5)

Parse rule	Match	Extracted data
1. Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1	5/10	1. Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1
2. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1	10/10	1. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1
3. Solyc08g000000.2.1	10/10	1. Solyc08g000000.2.1
4. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1	10/10	1. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1
5. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1	10/10	1. Solyc08g000000.2.1 Aspartic proteinase neprilysin I [P08034] Peptidase A1

Unsuitable parse rules (41)

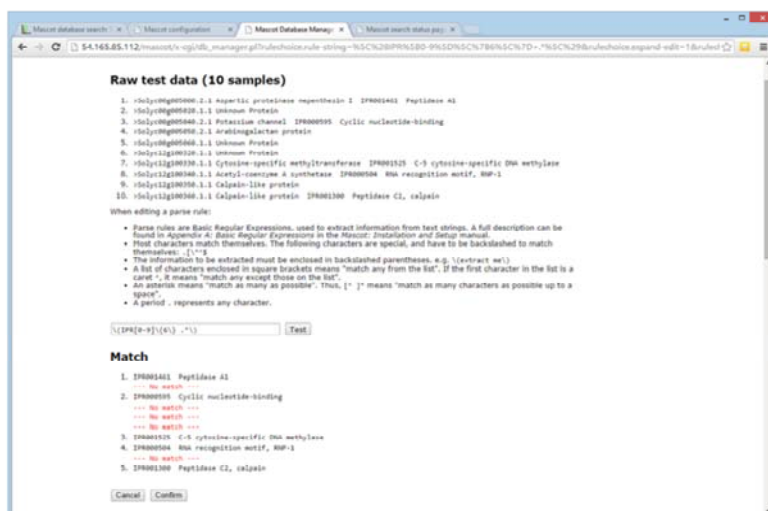
Cancel Create new parse rule Choose

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When it comes to the description parse rule, the first one listed would be fine but, as a challenge, we'll devise a new rule to extract only the Interpro reference and the text that follows. We click on 'Create new parse rule'

Create New - Custom



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There is a brief reminder of how basic regular expressions work, and you can use trial and error; pressing test until your rule succeeds. This screen shot shows a rule that appears to work. It locks on to the text IPR followed by 6 digits, then takes everything from that point to the end of the line. This is actually not a good rule, because not all titles include an Interpro reference, but let's not worry about that right now. We confirm our choices and move on to the remainder of the configuration

Create New - Custom

[illegible]

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The next step deals with taxonomy and annotations.

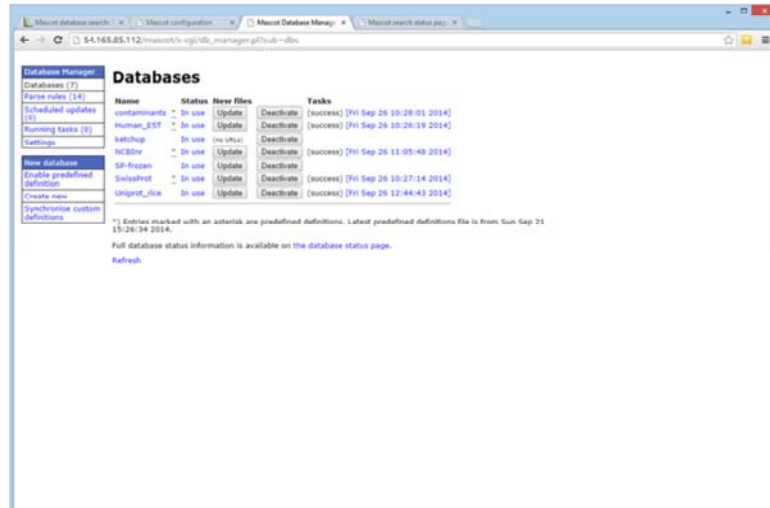
If this was a comprehensive database, containing entries from many different organisms, we might want to select a rule for determining the taxonomy of each entry. There is a drop down list of rules for the major public databases. Most of these require additional files, which can be downloaded automatically by Database Manager whenever the Fasta file is updated. It is extremely unlikely that you will need to create a new taxonomy definition. But, for completeness, the syntax is described in Chapter 9 of the Installation & Setup manual.

Annotation text usually comes from some type of web service. Mascot submits a request using an accession string and the text is returned and embedded in the Protein View report. This form allows you to select from existing URLs or create a new one. In rare cases, the full text for the entire database is downloaded as a local file. The only common examples of this are the SwissProt and TrEMBL DAT files

For the tomato genome, as is often the case with simple, single organism databases, we don't need to worry about taxonomy and there isn't a suitable source for full-text annotation reports.

At the bottom of this page, we can choose ‘Save and Finish’ then, on the next page, ‘Activate’.

Create New - Custom



The screenshot shows the 'Databases' section of the Mascot Database Manager. On the left, there is a sidebar with navigation links: 'Database Manager', 'Database Manager (7)', 'Database rules (14)', 'Scheduled updates (1)', 'Running tasks (0)', 'Settings', 'New definitions', 'Enable predefined definition', 'Create new', and 'Synchronise system definitions'. The main area displays a table of databases.

Name	Status	New files	Tasks
contaminants	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 26 10:28:01 2014]
Human_EST	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 26 10:28:19 2014]
ketchup	In use	no files	Deactivate
NCBI	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 26 11:05:40 2014]
SP-frozen	In use	Update	Deactivate
SwissProt	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 26 10:27:14 2014]
uniprot_ref	In use	Update	Deactivate (success) [Fri Sep 26 12:44:43 2014]

*) Entries marked with an asterisk are predefined definitions. Latest predefined definitions file is from Sun Sep 21 15:26:34 2014.
Full database status information is available on the database status page.
[Refresh](#)

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All being well, a short time later, our new database will show as 'In Use'. You'll notice that there is no option to update 'ketchup' because we copied the file manually.

If there are problems, and the database fails to reach 'In use', you'll need to follow the Status link to Database Status

Database Status

“Old” & “New”

Unidentified taxonomy

Statistics

The screenshot shows the MASCOT database status page with a list of databases. The databases listed are:

- SwissProt**: Status: Not in use. Links: [Statistics](#), [Unidentified taxonomy](#).
- NCBItr**: Status: In use. Links: [Statistics](#), [Unidentified taxonomy](#).
- contaminants**: Status: In use. Links: [Statistics](#), [Unidentified taxonomy](#).
- CRAP**: Status: In use. Links: [Statistics](#), [Unidentified taxonomy](#).
- Environmental_EST**: Status: In use. Links: [Statistics](#), [Unidentified taxonomy](#).

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Database status provides an overview of all the active databases. It also provides links to other pages of useful information.

Initially, there will be a single information block for each database on this page. When a database is updated, a second information block is added. One is for the new or incoming database, the other is for the old or outgoing. If all is well, one of the pair will have the status of “In use”, and the other “Not in use”.

If there is a problem, the status will be an error message and a ‘compression warning’ link added to the relevant error messages.

The database statistics are very useful for diagnosing problems and checking up on the health of a database

Database Statistics

- Is the number of entries correct?
- Any invalid codes?
- Any entries “too long”?
- Is an AA database all ACGT?
- If using taxonomy, is the success rate > 99%?

The image displays three screenshots of the Mascot database administration interface. The top screenshot shows the 'Database Statistics' page with a list of metrics such as 'Time files compressed', 'Time / date of fasta file', 'Number of residues', and 'Number of sequences'. The bottom-left screenshot shows a table of 'Tax IDs Count' with columns for 'Tax ID' and 'Count'. The bottom-right screenshot shows a 'Residue Frequency' table with columns for 'Residue' and 'Frequency'.

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For example, does the number of entries look about right? Sometimes, a download may be truncated and the problem go undetected

Are there any invalid characters in the sequences? If there are, this should definitely be investigated

Mascot has a parameter, `MaxSequenceLen`, to set the length of the longest sequence. The default is 50,000. The higher this value, the more memory Mascot uses, so it should not be set to a ridiculously high value. If any sequences are “too long”, then you need to increase `MaxSequenceLen` to something a little greater than the length of the longest sequence. If you are trying to search an assembled genome, you might want to consider searching shorter sequences instead, such as a database of contigs.

If your protein database seems to be composed entirely of A, C, G, and T, then it may be worth double checking that you downloaded the correct file..

Although it is rarely possible to achieve 100% accuracy for taxonomy, you certainly want the accuracy to be better than 99%. Otherwise, the results could be misleading. Near the bottom of the stats file is a list of the number of entries with 0, 1, 2, etc., taxonomy identifiers. From time to time, check that the number of entries with no taxonomy identifiers is well below 1% of the database. Here, it is a very healthy 0.03%

Configuration - Performance

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Mascot Database Manager" with the URL "http://14.143.85.112/mascot/v.cgi/db_manager.pl?sub=dbc%2FNCBInr%2Fshow-configuration". The page displays configuration details for the "NCBInr" database. The "Performance settings" section is highlighted, showing the following options:

- Number of threads: automatic
- Use memory mapping?: yes
- Lock to memory?: no

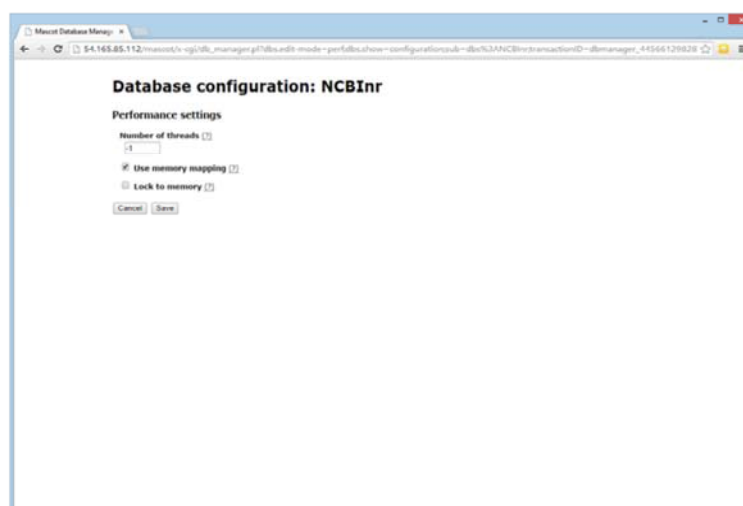
Below these settings is a button labeled "Edit performance settings". At the bottom of the page, there is a note: "NCBInr is linked to the predefined definition NCBInr, which means its parse rules, annotation details and remote file URLs cannot be edited. You can create an editable copy instead." and a button labeled "Back to database summary".

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If you look at the configuration details for any database, there is a section for Performance Settings

Configuration - Performance



A Mascot search can use multiple threads, so as to make use of all the logical processors covered by the licence. Usually, it is best to leave threads set to -1, which means automatic. If you want to restrict the number of threads on a non-cluster (SMP) system, you can do so by setting a value of 1 or more. Each CPU in the Mascot licence allows use of up to 4 cores, which requires 8 threads for a hyperthreaded processor or 4 otherwise. On a cluster system, the number of threads is set for each search node in a separate configuration file, `nodelist.txt`.

Database files should always be memory mapped because this gives the fastest access times. Memory mapped files can be locked in memory, but only if the computer has sufficient RAM. Having a database locked in memory means that it can never be swapped out to disk, ensuring there is never a lag as the database is read from disk. If you try to lock databases into RAM when there isn't room, this will not be a major problem. The locking will fail, generate an error message, and Mascot will carry on regardless. A more serious problem is when there is just sufficient RAM to lock the databases, but none left over for searches or other applications. In this case, the whole system will slow down and the hard disk will be observed to be "thrashing". Eventually, the system is likely to hang or crash. In general, it is better to let the operating system manage which files are held in memory and not lock any databases into memory.

Database Tips

Check the statistics file from time to time

Always memory map databases

Be selective when locking databases into memory

- Only the small databases, which are searched frequently, should be locked in memory

Can place sequence databases on any local drive

Don't download files onto a Windows desktop

- They will get very restricted security settings

Don't create a sequence database with inconsistent title syntax

- Must be able to extract a unique identifier (accession) from all entries with a single parse rule

Use predefined databases where available

- Configuration kept up-to-date automatically.

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This slide recaps some important tips.

Check the statistics file from time to time, particularly after configuring a new database

Always memory map database files to make access as fast as possible, but be selective about locking databases into memory. Only the smaller databases, which are searched regularly, should be locked in memory

You can place sequence database files on any local drive. Under Unix, you can use NFS mounted drives as long as the connection is fast and stable

If you download files manually, don't download to your Windows desktop. Chances are that Database Manager won't be able to see the file because it becomes private to your Windows login. If this happens, add the local Users group to the security settings for each file and give the Users group full control

If you create your own Fasta file, use a consistent title syntax. It must be possible to extract a unique identifier (accession) from all entries with a single parse rule

Use predefined databases where available because this means the configuration is kept up-to-date automatically.