

# **Kitchen Companion**

## **Quick Start Guide**

### **Introduction**

Kitchen Companion is a software application that makes it easy to catalog an inventory of groceries, create shopping lists, research food nutrition data, and organize recipes. It comes as part of a bundle with an IntelliScanner barcode reader. Scanning the barcodes found on grocery items allows the Kitchen Companion software to automatically retrieve information on groceries from the IntelliScanner.Net Internet-enabled database.

### **Main Window**

The main window has two panes. The left pane displays the names of built-in grocery lists and user-added shopping lists. The right pane displays the groceries contained in the list selected in the left pane. Use the toolbar buttons to interact with the groceries and lists. Use the “Nutrition Browser” and “My Recipes” buttons to access the other areas of the software.

### **Creating a Shopping List**

Shopping lists can be created automatically by scanning the barcodes found on grocery items. Keep the IntelliScanner in the kitchen and scan items as their packages are thrown away. To make a shopping list of the scanned items, return the scanner to your computer. Click the Shopping List toolbar button in Kitchen Companion and choose to create a new shopping list or add items to an existing shopping list. Download the scanned barcodes from your IntelliScanner and click the Start button. Items that have already been added to Kitchen Companion will be added to the shopping list. Items that are being added for the first time will be looked up in the IntelliScanner.Net database and automatically added. If for some reason information on an item cannot be found, the software will prompt for information to be manually specified.

### **Grocery & Quantity Management**

Groceries added to the software have a quantity associated with them. This quantity can be used to note how many of an item is currently stocked. Use the “Add Groceries” and “Remove” toolbar buttons to increase and decrease the quantity of grocery items in the software, simply by scanning their barcodes. Groceries that are not already in the database will be created with a quantity of 1 with the Add Groceries function, and a quantity of 0 with the Remove function. The quantity of an item can also be adjusted by manually editing the item. Adding items to a shopping list does not change their quantity.

Groceries can be manually added to Kitchen Companion. Click the “Add Manually” toolbar button and enter the barcode (if available), item details, and quantity. Manually adding an item makes a permanent record in the database. It is not necessary to reenter the information if the item is later scanned.

Groceries are organized into lists. The “Groceries” list contains all groceries added to the software with a quantity of at least 1, while “All Groceries” contains all groceries added to the software, regardless of their quantities.

### **Searching and Smart Lists**

Groceries that have been scanned into the software can be searched. Click the “Search” toolbar button to open the search window. Specify the search criteria to be used to find items and click the “Search” button. The results of the search are displayed in the “Search Results” list of the main window.

If a search query is regularly performed, such as finding all groceries in a certain category or from a certain company, a smart list can be created that always shows the groceries that match the query. Click the “Search” toolbar button and specify the search criteria. Click the “Save As Smart Grocery List” button and enter the name for the new list. The smart list will be created alongside the regular shopping lists.

## **Printing and Exporting Groceries**

Shopping lists can be printed to bring to the market. Select a shopping list, choose “Print” from the File menu, and specify the print settings.

Groceries can be exported to tab-delimited, CSV, and XML formats. These are standard formats that other software can import. Data can also be exported to iPod, Palm, and phone formats, making it easy to carry shopping lists on portable electronic devices. Choose “Export Records” from the File menu. Choose which records to export and the desired format. When using the tab-delimited, CSV, XML, and iPod formats, choose which fields to include in the exported file. Click the “Export” button to begin.

## **Nutrition Browser**

Kitchen Companion includes a built-in database of nutrition facts for many foods and ingredients. Click the “Nutrition Browser” button in the main window to access it.

Nutrition records are organized into a hierarchical structure displayed in a three-column view. Click on one of the base groups, such as “Fruits and Fruit Juices,” and continue to choose from the available options until the desired food has been found. Foods can also be found by entering keywords into the search field. Nutrition facts for the selected food will be displayed in the window.

## **My Recipes**

Recipes can be stored and searched using Kitchen Companion. Click the “My Recipes” button in the main window to open the Recipes window. The Recipes window displays a list of all recipes entered into the software. Use the “Add” and “Delete” toolbar buttons to enter a new recipe or delete an existing, selected recipe. Recipes are edited by double-clicking them or by selecting them and clicking the “Edit” toolbar button. If a recipe is being prepared near a computer, the “View” and “Full Screen” toolbar buttons will display the recipe in an easy-to-read format.

The functionality of the Recipes window is independent from the other areas of the software. It is not necessary to utilize the other areas of the software in order to manage recipes.