

A COMPANION
VOLUME

No. 0

Stacktube

how to read, not how to operate



*issue zero,
read me first*

The Stacktube Companion

Videos stream by. Knowledge should stack up.

COMPANION

1.1

2026 · 07

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stacktube.io · unstackd.io

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Prologue — 300 bookmarks. 2 reopened.

One day I counted. 312 videos in my YouTube "Watch Later." Dozens more in browser bookmarks. Another pile of links in my notes app. Every one of them saved with the same thought: *I have to watch this.*

I had reopened two.

Saving felt like learning. I'd found a great lecture, a sharp analysis — and tucked it away so I wouldn't lose it. A year later, what I had was a list, not knowledge. Videos don't sit on a shelf the way books do. They stream by, leaving behind a half-remembered title and the phrase "I saw this somewhere."

Stacktube started with those 312 videos. It's not a tool for watching more. It's a tool for making what you watch stack up. It monitors the channels you choose, turns each new video into a structured note, and delivers that note wherever you want it — email, Obsidian, Drive, Kindle. Then, at the end of each month, those notes come back to you as a book.

This is not a manual. The screen explains its own buttons better than I can. Instead, this book holds what's behind the buttons — why the timeline sits on the left, why the free plan analyzes once a week, why the monthly volume carries no ads and no summaries. A tool is a stack of its maker's decisions. A tool you understand lasts longer.

This is issue zero — a companion volume to the monthly book series, dressed in the same design. It reads in fifteen minutes. Those fifteen minutes should keep you from ever building that list of 312 again.

— unstackd.io



Chapter 1 — The day your first note arrives

Starter

You register one channel. The next morning, a note is waiting in your inbox — last night's 38-minute video from that channel. You haven't watched it. But after two minutes with the note, you already know what it argues, what the evidence is, and which section matters.

That moment is the whole product. Everything else exists to make it repeatable.

The friction of learning from video is simple. A 38-minute video usually owes you about six minutes — and you can't know which six without watching all 38. So we speed up playback, scrub the timeline, hunt the comments for "3:42 is the key part." Even then, a week later all that remains is "I watched it." Notes help, if you take them — but they live in some app, cut off from the video, and they drift away too.

So we made some deliberate decisions about how a note is built.

Why the timeline sits on the left. Open a note and the chapter outline stays pinned to the left, following you down. That's the position document tools — Notion, Linear — have spent years refining. Your eyes never lose track of where you

are. We followed the grammar of reading, not the grammar of a video player. A note isn't a shrunken video. It's a piece of writing that stands on its own. (On mobile, it folds behind a hamburger button.)

Why different videos get different shapes. Pour every video into one template and you've built a summarizer. Stacktube first identifies what kind of video it's looking at — Tutorial, News, Framework, Interview, Reflection — and structures the note to match. A tutorial gets steps. An interview gets quotes and context. A lecture gets definitions and examples.

Why the highlighter is rationed. Sentences the AI judged important come pre-highlighted — sparingly. A page where everything is highlighted reads the same as a page where nothing is.

Why scenes come into the note. Some knowledge leaks the moment you put it into words — a whiteboard diagram, a screen of code, a single chart. So each note carries the video's thumbnail, and moments too good to paraphrase get a 📷 marker. Tap it and you land on that exact frame on YouTube. If a timestamp says *read this stretch*, this marker says *look at this moment*. I wanted the note to carry even what the writing couldn't.

Start one of two ways. Register a channel (Dashboard → Channels, paste any `youtube.com/@channel` URL as-is), or analyze a single video (paste the URL, hit Analyze). Any video under 60 minutes with a transcript works. Nothing gets processed twice — each video ID runs once.

When a note arrives, read it like this. ① Scan the left timeline — the skeleton in ten seconds. ② Walk down the highlights alone — that's your two-minute read. ③ Where you want depth, tap a timestamp or 📷 marker. It jumps to the exact moment on YouTube. That's when you start watching — not the whole thing, just the section the note pointed to.

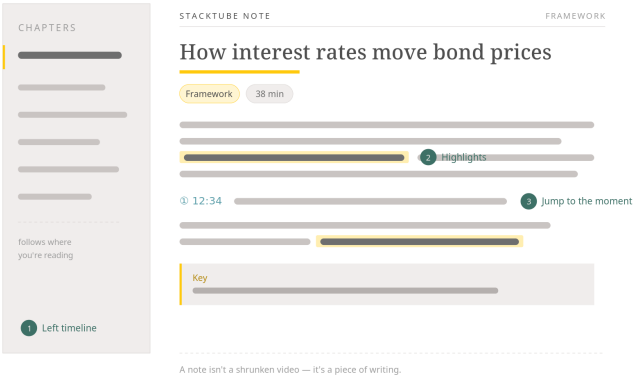


Fig. 1 · Anatomy of a note — timeline on the left, highlights rationed, timestamps and 📷 markers that jump.

✓ **One ritual.** Open the note before the video. Watch only when the note says a section is worth your eyes.

Chapter 2 — Let the stream run itself

Starter / Pro

You've had this happen: a channel you love posted something two weeks ago, and you're only finding out now. The algorithm didn't surface it. Notifications are on, but there are too many to read. The channels you most want to follow post the least — and slip out of the stream.

Subscriptions and notifications look like tools for not missing things. In practice, they're tools for *watch this right now*. Tap the notification and your time is gone, on the spot. Don't tap, and the video sinks down the feed. Watch or lose — two options. That's the friction.

Stacktube's channel monitoring is the third option. Register a channel, and every new video gets analyzed automatically. The notes stack up. Watch now, watch later, never watch — you lose nothing.

Why Starter analyzes once a week. Two honest reasons. First, cost. Every analysis burns real AI compute, and running every free user's channels daily is how a service dies young. We'd rather draw a sustainable line on day one than be the free tool that vanishes in a year. Second, rhythm. Daily notes can become one more noisy notification for a free user.

Bundled into a single weekly digest, the same notes become one sitting: *here's what your channel produced this week*. A constraint that started as economics turned out to be a better reading experience. I still like this decision.

Pro tightens the loop to daily. With more channels (7) and more analyses (50 a month), a daily rhythm starts to mean something.

Registering channels works like Chapter 1 — paste the URL. From there, your plan sets the cadence: Starter monitors one channel weekly; Pro and Max monitor all your channels daily (Unlimited sets its own cadence). Auto-monitoring covers videos posted after you register — and even on channels that post several times a day, the older ones aren't missed. Videos already up before you registered are tagged "Manual" in the list, so you can run them yourself whenever you like. New notes arrive bundled in a digest email and land in your dashboard immediately. Your monthly quota (Starter 10 / Pro 50 / Max 150, Unlimited unlimited) only counts analyses that actually ran — videos skipped for missing transcripts don't count.

One reading tip for digests: don't try to read everything. Skim the titles and type chips, then pick one — this week's one video. Reading that single note to the end beats half-skimming five. The rest are stacked in your Library anyway, and as Chapter 4 shows, what's stacked doesn't disappear.

MONITORING RHYTHM

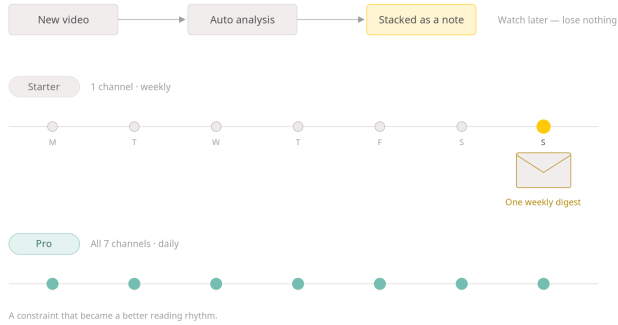


Fig. 2 · Two rhythms — one weekly digest on Starter, a daily stream on Pro.

✓ **One ritual.** Block five minutes on digest day. Five minutes turns "I should watch all of this" into "I get to pick."

Chapter 3 — Decide where your notes live

Pro+

If you use Obsidian, the scene goes like this. You open your vault in the morning and there's a note you've never seen. Last night's video, from a channel you monitor. Frontmatter in place, tags attached, one new dot on the graph view. You did nothing.

Knowledge tools share an old lie: *bring your knowledge into our app*. The problem comes later. What if the app goes paid? What if the service shuts down? Will it exist in ten years? If a good note can only live inside one service, the note's lifespan equals the service's lifespan. That's not storage. That's a hostage.

Stacktube went the other way. You decide where your notes live. The web dashboard is just one of five destinations — email, Google Drive, Dropbox, Kindle, and Obsidian.

The Obsidian integration is an official community plugin (search "StackTube" in the directory). It was built on one principle: no lock-in. Notes are ordinary `.md` files with YAML frontmatter, written into a folder you choose. Uninstall the plugin — or leave Stacktube entirely — and every file stays readable, right where it is. Each video is written once (keyed

by video ID), and sync resumes where it left off. All analysis happens server-side, so the plugin stays thin: it fetches and writes files. That's all.

Why even the frames you capture stay yours. A recent plugin release (0.2.0) lets you capture a single frame from a video straight into a note — a whiteboard, a diagram, an app screen, the kind of moment that's a shame to paraphrase. That image is stored only in your vault. It never reaches our servers. The note, and the scene inside it, both belong on your device. No lock-in was never a rule for text alone.

E-ink got its own decisions, because reading on a screen and reading on ink are different acts. Kindle receives a PDF automatically via Send-to-Kindle. Boox and Supernote pick notes up through the device's own Drive/Dropbox sync. reMarkable has no official inbound API, so automatic delivery isn't possible — but the settings page walks you through three workarounds.

Everything starts at Settings → Integrations (Starter covers web and email; the other destinations open with Pro — and all of them during your 7-day Pro trial). Obsidian takes three steps: install the plugin, issue an API key in Settings → Obsidian, paste it in. Drive and Dropbox are one-button OAuth. Kindle just needs your Send-to-Kindle address. Step-by-step details live in Appendix D.

One request: pick either the plugin or the cloud-folder route into Obsidian — not both. Run both and every note arrives twice.



Leave the service — every file stays where it is.

Fig. 3 · Five places a note can live — you pick the destination.

✓ **One ritual.** Give your notes one home base. Knowledge stacked in two places ends up trusted in neither.

Chapter 4 — When the stack becomes visible

Pro+

Six weeks in, you open the Library. Forty-odd notes. You click the Cluster tab and the notes rearrange themselves into topic groups — and there it is, a group you never planned. Seven notes on negotiation. You never decided to study negotiation. But for six weeks, you were clearly pulled that way.

Stacking and *seeing the stack* are different things. This chapter is about the seeing.

Forty notes in a chronological list isn't knowledge — it's a well-organized storage box. The problem with storage: you can only retrieve what you already know to search for. *What have I been collecting?* is not a question search can answer. Structure has to show you.

Why the Library has three tabs. Same pile of notes, three lenses. Timeline is time — when you were drawn to what. Cluster is topic — the map your notes draw on their own. Stack is accumulation — where the pile is growing thick. No single sort shows all three, so instead of adding screens, we added lenses.

Why topic synthesis runs weekly. Starting with Pro, a weekly pass re-reads the week's notes and groups them by topic. Not daily — partly cost, but mostly because topics don't change daily. A week is the smallest unit in which a stream hardens into a topic.

Why the index also lives in *your* space. If the stack were only visible inside Stacktube, it would break Chapter 3's principle. So Drive users get a `Stacktube_INDEX` document, and Obsidian users get a Master MOC file called `00_Knowledge_Hub.md`, both refreshed on schedule. And to keep your folders clean, the index is always exactly one file — the contents grow, the file count doesn't.

The Library lives in the sidebar. Start with Timeline for the flow; once a month, open Cluster for the map. With few notes (under 20), Cluster looks underwhelming — that's normal. It's a screen that improves as you stack, and it hits its stride around month two. With Drive connected, `Stacktube_INDEX` in your `Stacktube/index/` folder refreshes weekly; in Obsidian, `00_Knowledge_Hub.md` plays the same role in your vault.

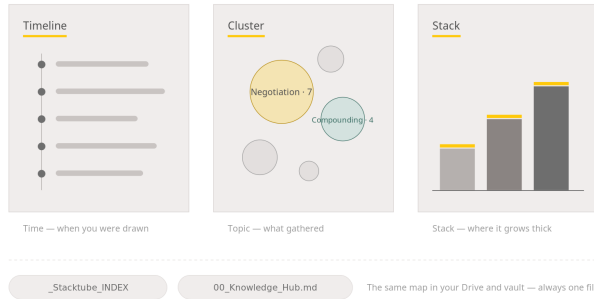


Fig. 4 · One stack, three lenses — and a single index file in your own space.

✓ **One ritual.** Open the Cluster tab once a month. Don't go to find something. Go to be found.

Chapter 5 — Meeting your notes again

All plans (Resurface starts with Pro)

Scrolling an ordinary digest, you hit an unfamiliar card at the bottom: "*You read this note 90 days ago.*" The title rings no bells. You open it — oh, *this*. Something you once marked as important, now connecting exactly to what you're working on today.

Call it the illusion of saving. The moment we save something, we feel we own it. But knowledge you never meet again was never yours. And people don't go back on their own — the new thing always shines brighter. The bigger the archive, the lower the odds any old note gets read twice.

Why Resurface runs at 21 / 90 / 180 / 365 days. Each time a note reaches one of those ages, it returns to you once. Three weeks is where "fresh enough to remember" splits from "already fading." Ninety days, six months, a year — enough distance for the same note to read differently. If a year-old note comes back and still holds up, that wasn't a trend. That's your knowledge.

Why it's a digest card, not a notification. We could have built a push notification for this. We didn't. An alert that says "go read your old notes" becomes ignorable noise in three

days. Instead, one card rides along at the end of a digest you were going to open anyway. A reunion should be an encounter, not an appointment.

There's a road for searching, too. From Pro up, Cross-video search works across every note you have — and it matches meaning, not just exact keywords. Remembering only the *gist* of "I saw this somewhere" is enough.

Resurface needs no setup. It switches on with Pro and arrives as cards inside your digest. Search sits at the top of the dashboard, always. Try searching by content, not title — full sentences work: "how interest rates move bond prices."

If a question keeps coming back, save the search. Saved searches re-run in one click — and if you keep digging the same topic, you'll watch the answer to the same question grow thicker as the notes stack.

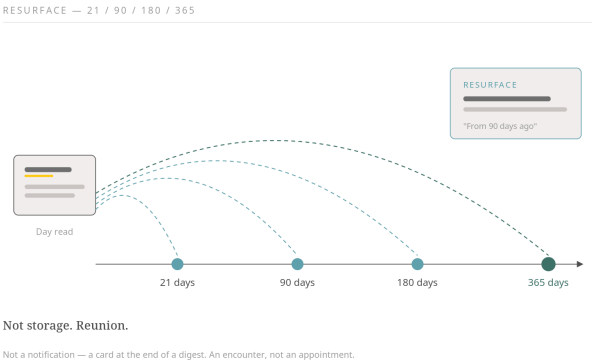


Fig. 5 · The cadence of reunion — a note returns at every age it reaches.

✓ **One ritual.** When a reunion card appears, give it ten seconds. *Did I remember this?* That one question turns a stored note into knowledge.

Chapter 6 — A month ends. A book arrives.

Max

The first morning of the month, there's a new book in your Kindle library. Last month's date on the cover. Open the table of contents and there they are — a month of notes, bound into topic chapters. On the train, on a plane, offline — your past month, readable in one volume.

Ask yourself at month's end: *what did I learn this month?* You watched something every day, yet the answer is fog. Daily input is invisible while it accumulates. At some point, someone has to bundle it and hand it back. We chose a month as the unit. We chose a book as the shape.

The decisions behind a book with no ads and no summaries. The monthly volume carries the full text of every note — not excerpts. A volume is for re-reading, not skimming, and re-reading can't be interrupted by a login screen on a plane. There are no ads and no recommended content, either. Everything in this book came from channels *you* chose. We have nothing to insert. EPUB is the format for the same reason: web pages stream by, but a book stays on the device's shelf. We've since added a PDF edition alongside

— for e-ink devices like reMarkable, Boox, and Supernote, where a fixed layout reads easier. The same volume, in whichever shape your device prefers.

Why the first volume ships the day you join. Join Max and we don't make you wait for the 1st — we build last month's volume and send it right away. One exception: if last month had fewer than five analyzed videos, the volume would be too thin to bind, so your first issue moves to next month and we let you know.

Why the design tokens match your notes. Highlights, callouts, timestamps, the slogan in the footer — the volume wears the same clothes as the notes you read every day. The feeling of *my notes became a book* lives in that consistency. The companion you're reading now was built with the same system.

It turns on automatically with Max. On the 1st of each month (06:00 KST), a new volume is built in both EPUB and PDF and delivered — to your email, and to any connected Drive, Dropbox, and Kindle. Past issues are always available in the dashboard's volume shelf (ebooks). On an unusually thick month, the email carries a download link instead of an attachment.

A year from now: twelve volumes. Twelve books of yourself on a shelf — that's where Stacktube is trying to take you.

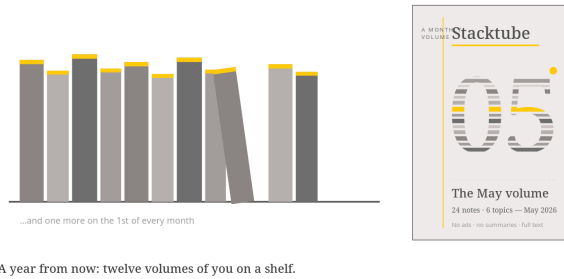


Fig. 6 · A year on the shelf — one volume on the 1st, twelve volumes of you.

✓ **One ritual.** First weekend of the month, open the table of contents — even just that. It's the autobiography your past month wrote.

Appendix — Reference

A. Plan comparison

As of 2026-07 (Companion 1.1). For current pricing and limits, the pricing page at stacktube.io wins.

	Starter	Pro	Max	Unlimited
Price (monthly)	Free	\$7.99	\$19.99	\$5.99
Price (per month, billed annually)	—	\$5.99	\$14.99	\$4.99
AI key	Managed	Managed	Managed	Your own (BYOK)
Channels	2	7	15	Unlimited
Analyses per month	10	50	150	Unlimited
Auto-monitoring	Weekly · 1 channel	Daily · all channels	Daily · all channels	Your cadence · all channels
Note destinations	Web · email	+ Obsidian · Drive · Dropbox · Kindle · E-ink	Same as Pro	Same as Pro
Cross-video search	—	✓	✓	✓
Library (Timeline/Cluster/Stack)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Resurface (21/90/180/365 days)	—	✓	✓	✓
Drive Stacktube INDEX / Obsidian Hub	—	✓	✓	✓
Monthly volume (EPUB · PDF)	—	—	✓	—
Priority queue	—	—	✓	✓

Every new account gets a 7-day Pro trial.

Unlimited is a power-user plan: bring your own AI API key and use channels and analyses with no caps. You cover the AI cost directly; in return, nothing is metered. The automatic monthly volume is, for now, a Max feature.

B. Security, one page

The principles behind how we handle your notes and keys.

- **Isolation.** All data is isolated per user (database Row Level Security). There is no path to another user's notes.
- **Encryption.** OAuth tokens and API keys are stored encrypted with AES-256-GCM. Keys are never stored in plaintext and never logged.
- **Auth and limits.** Every API request is authenticated on its first line. Excessive requests hit a rate limit.
- **Payments.** Billing runs through Paddle (Merchant of Record). Card details never touch Stacktube's servers, and payment webhooks must pass signature verification before anything changes.
- **Errors.** Error responses are sanitized before they leave the building.

API keys for the Obsidian plugin are stored server-side only as SHA-256 hashes after issuance — even a leak can't recover the original. Revoke and re-issue any time from Settings.

C. FAQ

1. What channel URL format do you accept? `youtube.com/@channel`, `/channel/ID`, and `/c/name` all work. Paste the channel page URL as-is.

2. How far does Starter's auto-monitoring go? One channel, analyzed weekly, delivered as a weekly digest. Daily monitoring across all channels starts with Pro.

3. How much is free? Starter (free) covers 10 analyses a month. Signing up also starts a 7-day free trial of Pro features.

4. Why did my analysis fail? Usually a missing transcript, or a temporary AI API error. If it keeps failing after a retry, send a bug report from the Help page. A partially completed note gets a re-analyze button — it reuses the existing analysis to rebuild just the note, cheaply.

5. Do you process the same video twice? No. Deduplication is keyed by video ID — each video runs once.

6. Is there a video length limit? Videos up to 60 minutes. Longer videos are blocked automatically.

7. What changes with Pro? Daily auto-monitoring, 50 analyses a month, every destination (email · Obsidian · Drive · Dropbox · E-ink · Kindle), and Cross-video search.

8. How do I set up Obsidian? Install the official community plugin (StackTube), issue an API key under Settings → Obsidian, and paste it into the plugin — your vault syncs automatically. Available on Pro and above, and open during the 7-day Pro trial. Pick either the plugin or the cloud-folder

route — not both. From plugin 0.2.0, you can capture a video frame straight into a note, and that image is stored only in your vault — never on our servers.

9. Can I read on an E-ink tablet? Kindle, reMarkable, Boox, and Supernote are supported. Kindle gets automatic delivery via Send-to-Kindle; Boox and Supernote receive through the device's Drive/Dropbox sync. reMarkable has no inbound API, so the settings page documents three alternatives. The monthly volume comes in both EPUB and PDF, so pick the PDF on devices that prefer a fixed layout.

10. How do refunds work? Cancel any time from the subscription management page. For anything else, write to studio@unstackd.io.

11. What is the Unlimited (BYOK) plan? Register your own AI API key and use channels and analyses with no caps. You cover the AI cost yourself; in return, nothing is metered. Add the key under Settings → BYOK, where it's stored encrypted with AES-256. The automatic monthly volume is, for now, a Max feature.

D. Integrations in three steps

Obsidian (official plugin) 1. Obsidian → Settings → Community plugins → search "StackTube" → install and enable 2. In Stacktube: Settings → Obsidian tab → issue an API key 3. Paste the key into the plugin settings → choose a sync folder → Sync — From 0.2.0: capture a video frame straight into a note (the image is stored only in your vault).

Google Drive 1. Settings → Integrations → Google Drive → Connect 2. Approve with your Google account (OAuth) 3. Done — new notes save automatically to your `Stacktube/` folder

Dropbox 1. Settings → Integrations → Dropbox → Connect 2. Approve with your Dropbox account (OAuth) 3. Done — new notes save automatically to your `Stacktube/` folder

Kindle 1. In Amazon's Send-to-Kindle settings, add Stacktube's sender address to your approved list 2. In Stacktube: Settings → Integrations → enter your Send-to-Kindle address (@kindle.com) 3. Done — new notes arrive in your Kindle library as PDFs

Boox · Supernote (E-ink) 1. Connect Drive or Dropbox first (above) 2. Sign the device into the same Drive/Dropbox account and enable sync 3. Done — the device picks up the folder automatically

reMarkable 1. Open the reMarkable guide card under Settings → Integrations 2. Choose one of three routes (Drive/Dropbox mirroring for Connect subscribers · the Read on reMarkable extension · manual upload) 3. Set it up once as guided — after that, it's the same flow every time

Epilogue — Maker's note

Stacktube is built by one person. The product decisions, the code, and the sentences in this book.

I've been building in public for close to a year. The day the analysis pipeline broke is on the record. So is the day the Obsidian community plugin went live in the directory. The weakness of a one-person service is obvious: it's slow. In exchange, I can promise one thing. Every decision in this service has a person who made it — and you can reach that person. I read every piece of feedback that comes through the Help page.

The decisions in this book are dated July 2026. The service will keep changing, and some of these decisions will turn out to be wrong and get reversed. When that happens, this book gets a revised edition. The version number on the cover is that promise.

Videos stream by. Knowledge should stack up. May your shelf grow thick.

— unstackd.io

Colophon

The Stacktube Companion — 스택튜브를 읽는 법 Companion · 1.1
· 2026-07 (revised edition)

A companion volume (issue zero) to the monthly book series, built with the same design system — the cover is a single-color variation of the monthly edition, and the body uses the same tokens as your notes: highlights, callouts, timestamps, chapter dividers. The manuscript was written in Markdown and built into EPUB and PDF.

Version 1.1 reflects scene thumbnails and  deep-link markers in notes, Obsidian frame capture (plugin 0.2.0), the PDF edition of the monthly volume, and the Unlimited (BYOK) plan. When features change in ways that matter, a revised edition (1.2, 1.3 ...) ships alongside the changelog. If this book and the live service disagree, the service is newer.

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