

FAXX_Documentation

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : FAXX_Documentation		
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Chapter 1

FAXX_Documentation

1.1 FAXX : Documentation

FAXX.datatype V43.11

- FREEWARE -

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A 'Joint Venture' product of GPSoftware and PerSuaSiVe SoftWorX.

Needs Kickstart V3.x

Release Date : 10.04.1998

Copyright
Disclaimer
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Version-History

_ //
Only \X/ Amiga makes it possible!

Please visit:

WWW Support Sites

http://home.t-online.de/home/Andreas_Kleinert/ (AWeb-II)

<http://www.gpsoft.com.au> (AWeb-II)

The CHAOS theory:

"Like finding that bloody butterfly whose flapping wings cause all these storms we've been having lately and getting it to stop." (see "Witches Abroad" by Terry Pratchett)

Ahm...well:

...and thanks for all the fish.

1.2 copyright

The FAXX.datatype in this version and its documentation files are
(C) Copyright 1995-97 GPSoftware, (C) Copyright 1997-98 Andreas R. Kleinert.
All rights reserved.

akDT_Installer by Robert C. Reiswig ©1996-1998.

If you wish to use any part of this installer you must ask. May not be integrated/placed into any other package! Changes, suggestions or problems:
akDatatype@vgr.com

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Should any of the listed terms and clauses within this document not be valid in conjunction with the law of certain countries this does not affect the validity of the other clauses.

1.3 disclaimer

The author takes no responsibility for any results of the use of this program.

This software is provided "AS IS" and there is no warranty of any kind, so that you use this software at your own risk.

The author reserves the right to discontinue development of the program.

1.4 distribution

The FAXX.datatype in this version is freely distributable (FREWARE). You may copy it, if the copyright notice is left intact and all of its parts are included in the distribution.

This program may not be included in commercial packages or commercial program collections without written permission and must not be sold commercially as a single program.

This program may be put on public domain disks or included in public

domain disk libraries - when being distributed that way, it is allowed to take a nominal fee including the costs for copying, without considering that as "commercial" in the above mentioned sense.

This program may also be distributed via electronic mail and may be put into mailboxes as long as the redistribution conditions are respected in all points.

By using or distributing this program you automatically agree to all of the above conditions and terms.

1.5 Usage and so on

Usage

Just install the datatype files to their appropriate directories.

Program information

FAXX.datatype is a datatype for reading the IFF-FAXX file format as e.g. written by GPSoftware's GPFax software.

It does work as well with picture.datatype V39-42 as V43 and produces 2 color black and white faxx images.

FAXX.datatype is FREEWARE - feel free to send any comments :-)

Fax software ?

For information on pricing and where to order GPFax, you may visit GPSoftware's homepage at <http://www.gpsoft.com.au>

If you're also more interested in graphics in common, you may as well take a look at PerSuaSiVe SoftWorX' homepage at URL http://home.t-online.de/home/Andreas_Kleinert/ where you can find some information on SViewNG/SuperView.

1.6 Problem fields

Out of memory

It's probably a MultiView (MV) related problem.

Schematics:

Usually one can display FAXX' on a separate screen without problems (MV's SCREEN option), but on the WB screen always "out of memory" is the result.

Obviously MV does need more RAM for remapping a given

bitmap to a given screen (additional bitmap copies ?!)
than for a new screen (maybe because FAXX ist just of
depth=1 and for on-WB copies depth may be greater).

MV does not seem to be 'intelligent' enough to recognize,
that both colors of FAXX, black and white, are already
present in the WB palette and thus there's no need for
remapping. Not only a memory loss, also a speed loss :-/

Maybe Roland Mainz' GMultiView (MV replacement, on Aminet)
or a newer MV version does fix the problem for most configurations.

Problems with foreign FAXX files

Note, that only IFF-FAXX files compliant to the official FAXX
(Facsimile image FORM) as registered at CATS 11/13/91
by Christopher E. Darsch (Atlantis Design Group, Inc.) are
supported. These files do consist of the three chunks FXHD,
PAGE and FLOG and may be extended by the GPHD chunk as defined
by GPSoftware.

NOT supported are the completely incompatible (and obviously
non-standard) files as written by MultiFax, which seem to
mainly consist of text and also may include an attached
IFF-FTXT file. MultiFax, as a second option, also seems to
output partly standard-compliant files, which in theory
should be read correctly - in practice there did occur
some problems with garbaged output though (yet it's not clear,
whether it's the fault of the MultiFax encoder or our decoder).

A typical file written by GPFax may look like this:

```
FORM FAXX
  FXHD
  GPHD
  PAGE
```

A supported MultiFax file may look like this:

```
FORM FAXX    (19102 data bytes)
  FXHD
  PCON
  PAGE
```

A non-supported MultiFax file may look like this:

```
FORM FAXX
  TELE
  CNFG
  PFLG
  FDSC
FORM FTXT
  MCMD
  MCMD
  MCMD
  MCMD
  CHRS
```

In the meantime, Christian Kaben of TKR (MultiFax) did supply us with some information on the additional chunks written by MultiFax (see to have been registered at CATS later on), so this issue seems to be clarified. Still unsolved are the incompatibilities between the two de/encoders.

More datatypes ?

On Aminet:util/dtype/ you can also find akJFIF, akPNG, akSVG and the experimental akLJPG datatype.

No V43 with AGA ?

There's a V43 picture.datatype coming with the Picasso96 RTG package (on Aminet), which works with plain AGA, too.

Crashes ?

The first reason for a crash often is stack size. Not enough stack size. IPrefs/WBPatterns has this problem, and others as well. Checking this and/or using FastIPrefs (the replacement) is recommended.

Using (Fast)IPrefs in PPC mode may not be a good idea at all, but for some people, the following did help in s:startup-sequence:

```
Wait 8 secs
C:FastIPrefs W M L A G
```

For the others, the trick from the Picasso96 FAQ should do the job: put the tool "CPUblit" (an old patch available on Aminet) to your s:startup-sequence *before* the monitors are started. You must call it as follows:

```
CPUblit -a -b
```

No write support ?

Sorry, there won't be write support (DTM_WRITE method), since I think, that datatypes are mainly a system for data exchange and not to do the job of existing conversion utilities.

Odd screenmode selection

graphics.library's BestModeID function isn't so well designed. Try Patching to a better one, e.g. with Aminet:util/sys/ModeP.lha

Unknown datatypes (V43)

If your datatypes stop working (unknown file format), please don't blame me, but at first check, whether you've still installed an already expired beta version of picture.datatype V43...

1.7 correspondence

<http://www.gpsoft.com.au>

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AND

WWW Support Site
http://home.t-online.de/home/Andreas_Kleinert/

```
| You may reach me the following way. |
| Send bug-reports, money or whatever to: |
|-----|
| * SuperView Development & Registration * |
| * DRAFU Development & Registration * |
| * Image Engineer Registration Site Europe * |
| |
| PerSuaSiVe SoftWorX |
| |
| Andreas R. Kleinert |
| Sandstrasse 1 |
| D-57072 Siegen |
| Germany, Europe |
| |
| Any snail mail to the old address will still be routed. |
| |
| Phone: +49-271-22869 also FAX + AM |
| |
| Weekdays after 18.00h. |
| |
| When calling via phone you may leave a message, |
| if I'm not available - but don't expect me |
| calling back to USA, Australia, ... since |
| german phone rates are HIGHLY expensive. |
|-----|
```

EMail:

Please send binaries via ARK@News.wwbnet.de, and keep them smaller than 16 KB. Please think twice before sending them - my postbox is not unlimited in size.

* Do not send binaries via Fido or Fido-Gates ! *

- Fido Andreas Kleinert 2:2457/350.18
- Usenet ARK@superview.ftn.neckar-alb.de (Fido-Gate)
 Andreas_Kleinert@t-online.de (T-Online)

ARK@News.wwbnet.de (Z-Netz)
ARK@amigaworld.com (AmigaWorld)

- If nothing else works, try one of these public Fido-Usenet gateways:

In Germany:
Andreas_Kleinert@p18.f350.n2457.z2.fido.sub.org

From USA or elsewhere:
Andreas_Kleinert@p18.f350.n2457.z2.fidonet.org

1.8 thanks

Thanks go to (in order of appearance ;-)
=====

- Robert C. Reiswig - Frank Mariak - Olaf Barthel
- Todd A. Oberly - Jürgen Urbanek - Christian Kaben

1.9 history

There's a Datatype Developers Mailing List (DTA) running now.
If you are a datatypes programmer and want to join, please
don't contact me for further information, but maybe ask
info@amigaworld.com (Bodo) or simply visit the Datatype Association's
WWW homepage under <http://www.amigaworld.com/support/dta/>

Known Bugs: - Some people reported problems with the installation
scripts in the past. If you encounter any problems or
bugs, please report these directly to the script author
Robert C. Reiswig <akDatatype@vgr.com>

History
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- V43.11 (10.04.98) : - FAXX files without GPHD header would not
have been read at all (introduced in 43.10 ?)
(-> Jürgen Urbanek)
- FAXX files written by MultiFax sometimes seem
to be decoded badly. Reason unknown yet (decoder
bad or encoder faulty ?)
(-> Jürgen Urbanek)
 - added note on problems with foreign, non-standard FAXX ↔
files
(and follow-up clarification by Tkr)
 - 030/040/060 versions now generated from patches
 - added new, improved Installer script by
Robert C. Reiswig (-> a lot of credits
hereby go to his address :-)

- V43.10 (11.03.98) : - fixed descriptor
- replaced buggy dispatcher code from 43.7
- improved code generation
- probably faster
- viewmode generation isn't finalized yet
- updated docs
- V43.7 (29.09.97) : - rewrote Dispatch() routine completely,
implemented new routines derived
from Roland Mainz' improved sample code
- DTM_WRITE now can be forced to its
old behaviour by specifying the hidden
prefs option "OLD_DTM_WRITE"
(IFF-ILBM then will be written without
any error code given because of
unsupported DTWR_RAW)
- updated docs
- V43.6 (08.09.97) : - updated docs
- updated akDT_Installer by Robert C. Reiswig
- installer icon was missing
- better (compiler) optimization
- V43.5 (12.08.97) : - recompiled with SAS/C V6.58
- updated URLs (GPSsoftware)
- added akDT_Installer by Robert C. Reiswig
(-> Robert C. Reiswig, akDatatype@vgr.com)
- V43.4 (04.07.97) : - fixed "memory loss on LibInit failure" bug, #2
- V43.3 (26.04.97) : - fixed "memory loss on LibInit failure" bug
- Dispatcher code now gracefully handles
DTM_WRITE (rejection) and other source media
than supported (rejected, too)
- V43.2 (10.6.97) : - public release on Aminet
- V43.1 : - internal version
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