

WebTV

Troels Walsted Hansen

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : WebTV		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY	Troels Walsted Hansen	August 24, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

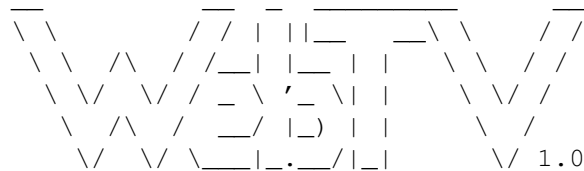
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Chapter 1

WebTV

1.1 WebTV · Contents



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Released as shareware

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1.2 WebTV · Introduction

Introduction

WebTV is a viewer program for a fairly recent phenomenon on the World Wide Web - web cameras. Web cameras are recorded images published on the web and updated at regular intervals. They may show everything from a TV channel or somebody's living room to the weather in a city in northern Norway.

You can view these images with a regular webbrowser, you can even have it update the page at regular intervals, but WebTV offers a more specialized and optimized approach. Web camera sites are configured in a special window and viewing one opens a dedicated window, which is sized exactly to fit the camera image. Update delay, save directory and other parameters are easily configured individually for each camera.

Requirements

- ~AmigaOS 3.0 or higher.
- ~A JPG datatype like akJFIF or Prodev-JFIF.
- ~MUI 3.8 or higher.
- ~An AmiTCP compatible TCP/IP stack (like AmiTCP, Miami or TermiteTCP).

Features

- Configure your list of webcams in a very comfortable MUI GUI.
- View as many webcams simultaneously as memory allows.
- Image decoding performed by datatypes, view any image format which has a datatype available.
- Image decoding and network operations are performed asynchronously, so the GUI never freezes or shows you a busypointer.
- Supports HTTP proxies.
- Supports T/TCP (Transaction TCP) with Miami, for faster sending of HTTP requests.
- Supports Last-Modified/If-Modified-Since HTTP headers so new images are only retrieved if they have been updated.
- Save camera images to a separate directory for each camera.
- Supports importing sites from WebCam.
- ~Optionally uses the advanced MUI classes Textinput.mcc or BetterString.mcc and NList/NListview.mcc if available.
- Tested thoroughly by an experienced group of betatesters with all available debug tools, to ensure troublefree operation.

1.3 WebTV · Installation

Installation

Simply doubleclick the supplied "Install WebTV" icon to start the installation process.

1.4 WebTV · Legal information

Legal information

WebTV is Copyright © 1998 Ultima Thule Software.

WebTV is shareware, with an evaluation period of 30 days. This means you are allowed to distribute WebTV freely, and if you use it for more than 30 days, you are obliged to register.

You are not allowed to modify any of the included files. The author of WebTV assumes no responsibility for what this program might do, you are using it at your own risk. However, WebTV has of course been tested quite thoroughly and should not cause any problems.

1.5 WebTV · Registration

Shareware registration

You are allowed to use WebTV for evaluation purposes for 30 days. If you want to use it after that you are kindly asked to register.

To register, please use the below registration form. Mail the form together with the form and payment, or send it by email. Your keyfile will be emailed in return within days of me receiving the payment.

My addresses are: Troels Walsted Hansen
Gimleveien 36
N-9019 Tromsø
Norway

Email: troels@stud.cs.uit.no.

Hint: The registration form should also be in the WebTV directory as "Registration.txt". Load this file into your favourite texteditor, fill it out and print it from there.

WebTV Registration Form

Yes, please, rush me my keyfile. I know this keyfile is personal and cannot be transferred to any other person.

Information about me:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____
ZIP-code: _____
Country: _____

Email: _____

The data I provide here may be stored and processed in electronic form. It will not be given to anyone not associated with the WebTV project.

I am sending you (I have set an X at the payment method used):

___ US\$ 20 in cash. The cash is sent together with this registration form (preferably by registered mail) to the address of Troels Walsted Hansen.

___ NOK 150 as a Eurocheque. The cheque is sent together with this registration form to the address of Troels Walsted Hansen. No other currencies than NOK are accepted. Make the cheque payable to Troels Walsted Hansen.

___ NOK 150 as an international cheque. The cheque *must* be in NOK and written on a *Norwegian* bank. The cheque is sent together with this registration form to the address of Troels Walsted Hansen. No other currencies than NOK are accepted. Make the cheque payable to Troels Walsted Hansen.

___ NOK 150 sent by International Postal Money Order to the address of

Troels Walsted Hansen. No other currencies than NOK are accepted.
This registration form is sent by either snailmail or by email.

In case of holidays or other extraordinary events, I allow up to 4 weeks for delivery.

Yours truly,

1.6 WebTV · Usage - Site List Configuration Window

Usage - Site List Configuration Window

This window is where you manage the list of web cameras. The window can be closed without WebTV quitting, WebTV won't quit until the last window is closed.

If you use WebTV to view a fixed set of web cameras, you can configure this window to stay closed at startup. Check the tooltypes.

The gadgets

The "Name", "Comment", "Server", "Port" and "Filename" string gadgets should be pretty self explaining. Note that the name of the camera is used as a unique identifier, WebTV will refuse to open two cameras with the same name.

The "Auto update" slider specifies the number of seconds between each update of the image. Setting the slider all the way to the left gives continous refresh, i.e. WebTV starts fetching the next picture as soon as the first one is fetched. Setting it all the way to the right disables automatic update.

The "Show on start" checkmark makes the camera open when you start WebTV.

The "Autosave dir" optionally specifies a directory where to save all images fetched from the camera.

Camera sites can be sorted by dragging and dropping them in the list. Doubleclicking a site views it.

The buttons below the camera site list should be pretty self explaining too. "Sort" sorts the sites alphabetically by name.

The menus

Project

About...

Open the Aboutwindow with some information about WebTV. Hint: don't be too impatient when viewing the aboutwindow. :)

About MUI...

Open the MUI aboutwindow.

Close all cams
Close all open camera windows.

Hide
Hide WebTV's userinterface. You can use the MUI settings to configure whether WebTV should open an icon on the Workbench or be completely hidden.

Quit
Quit WebTV.

Sites

Sort
Sort the sites alphabetically by name.

Clear
Clear the list of sites.

Load...
Open a filerequester to select filename of a sitefile to load. The current list of sites will be lost.

Insert...
Same operation as Load... except the current sites are kept.

Save
Save the sitelist under the name of the last loaded/saved sitefile.

Save as...
Save the sitelist to a filename picked in a filerequester.

Import from WebCam...
Select the filename of a sitefile saved by WebCam. You may get a requester asking you to specify which version of WebCam was used to save the file. This is not a fault of WebTV, but rather of WebCam because it changed sitefile format, and didn't use a cleanly extendible format.

Settings

MUI settings...
Open the MUI Settingswindow. Here you can configure most aspects of the WebTV userinterface.

Snapshot window
Snapshot the size and position of the sitelist window.

Unsnapshot window
Forget the size and position of the sitelist window.

1.7 WebTV - Usage - Camera Windows

Usage - Camera Windows

You can have any number of these windows open, they each display a camera. The window will automatically resize to fit the size of the camera image.

Status information and error messages will be displayed in the window

titlebar.

The menus

Project

About...

Open the Aboutwindow with some information about WebTV. Hint: don't be too impatient when viewing the aboutwindow. :)

About MUI...

Open the MUI aboutwindow.

Save as...

Open a filerequester to select the filename to save the currently displayed camera image to.

Force update

Update the camera image.

Open sitelist window

Open (or activate) the sitelist window.

Close this cam

Close this camera. Same as clicking the closegadget of the window.

Close all cams

Close all open camera windows.

Hide

Hide WebTV's userinterface. You can use the MUI settings to configure whether WebTV should open an icon on the Workbench or be completely hidden.

Quit

Quit WebTV.

Settings

MUI settings...

Open the MUI Settingswindow. Here you can configure most aspects of the WebTV userinterface.

Snapshot window

Snapshot the size and position of the camera window.

Unsnapshot window

Forget the size and position of the camera window.

1.8 WebTV . Usage - Arguments and ToolTypes

Workbench startup

WebTV supports a number of tooltypes when started from Workbench. The tooltypes are stored in the icon of WebTV, and you can edit them by selecting the icon and selecting the Icon/Information... Workbench menuitem.

The tooltypes

HIDESITELISTWIN - Setting this to YES will make WebTV keep the sitelist configuration window closed on startup. This option is meant to be used along with the "Show on startup" option for camera sites.

SITESFILE - Set this to the filename of the file which contains your configured camera sites. Default is a file called "WebTV.sites" stored in the same directory as WebTV.

PROXYSERVER - Set this to the hostname of your HTTP proxyserver, if any.

PROXYPORT - Set this to the portname of your HTTP proxyserver if it differs from the default, port 80.

TEMPDIR - Set this to the directory where WebTV should store temporary files. Default is "T:".

Shell startup

When starting from a shell, arguments are handled through the AmigaDOS ReadArgs interface. Hopefully this should be familiar, if not, check your AmigaDOS manual.

The arguments

The following arguments are equivalent to the tooltypes described above, except of course for the /S (switch) argument which doesn't take a value.

HIDESITELISTWIN/S
SITESFILE/K
PROXYSERVER/K
PROXYPORT/K/N
TEMPDIR/K

The following arguments are not meant for general use, they are meant to be used when WebTV is launched from other applications such as webbrowsers. The arguments describe a camera site which will be added to the list of sites and immediately displayed after startup.

SERVER/K - Hostname of server.

PORT/K/N - Port, if different from the default of 80.

FILENAME/K - The filename of the camera file on the server.

DELAY/K/N - How often to refresh the picture, measured in seconds. Default is 30. Specifying 0 means continuous refresh, and -1 means automatic refresh is disabled.

PUBSCREEN/K - Name of a public screen WebTV should open on.

If SERVER is specified, FILENAME must also be specified, and vice versa.

1.9 WebTV . Usage - ARexx interface

ARexx interface

WebTV can be controlled through its ARexx port. For information about how to create ARexx scripts, you should refer to the manuals that came with

your computer.

In order for ARexx to work SYS:System/RexxMaster needs to be running and ARexx needs to be turned on in the MUI configuration.

The arguments for the commands works exactly like ordinary AmigaDOS command arguments with respect to the flags /A, /S, etc.

For commands which returns a string in 'result' you need to execute the ARexx command 'options results' first. Remember also to have your script send its commands to the correct port. WebTV's ARexx port is called 'WEBTV.1'.

The following commands are available.

QUIT FORCE/S
Ends WebTV.

HIDE
Hides (iconifies) WebTV.

SHOW
Shows (pops up) an iconified WebTV.

INFO ITEM/A
According to the given parameter the result string is filled with the following contents:

- "title" Title of the WebTV
- "author" Author of the WebTV
- "copyright" Copyright message
- "description" Short description
- "version" Version string
- "base" Name of the ARexx port
- "screen" Name of the public screen

HELP FILE/A
A list of all ARexx commands available in WebTV is written into the given file.

INSERTSITE NAME/A, COMMENT/K, SERVER/A, PORT/K/N, FILENAME/A, DELAY/K/N, SAVEDIR/K, ↵
SHOWONSTART/S, SHOWNOW/S

This command is mostly meant for internal use, but it is documented in case you find a nice use for it. WebTV uses it internally when being started a second time with a camera site specified on the commandline. The newly started WebTV sends this command to the existing copy, and then quits.

The command inserts a new camera site in the list of sites, and optionally shows it. The arguments are as follows:

NAME/A - Name of the camera site as it will appear in the list.

COMMENT/K - Comment.

SERVER/A - Hostname of server.

PORT/K/N - Port number of server, default is 80.

FILENAME/A - Filename of camera image.

DELAY/K/N - Refresh delay. 0 for continuous, -1 for disabled. 30 is default.

SAVEDIR/K - Directory where to save camera images.

SHOWONSTART/S - If specified, WebTV will show the camera when starting up.

SHOWNOW/S - If specified, WebTV will open the display the site immediately after inserting it into the list.

Example script

```
/* get results */
```

```
options results
```

```
/* talk to WebTV */
```

```
address WEBTV.1
```

```
/* show which version of WebTV we are running */
```

```
'info version'
```

```
say "Running " || substr(result, 7)
```

```
/* insert a way cool camera site */
```

```
'INSERTSITE "True beauty" COMMENT "Wow, this is one handsome chap" www.cs.uit.no ↵  
/~troels/graphics/troels.gif DELAY -1 SHOWONSTART SHOWNOW'
```

1.10 WebTV · Author

Author

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Norway

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WWW: http://www.cs.uit.no/~troels

IRC nick: Troels

Feel free to contact me about anything related to WebTV.

1.11 WebTV . Thanks

Thanks to...

- ~The whole #ibeta team of betatester for trying out WebTV, reporting bugs and giving many good suggestions, no matter how crazy. ;))
- ~To Neil Bothwick for the CU Amiga article.
- Special thanks to Olli for code contribution, WebTV support in his V webbrowser (available in V 2.95 and higher) and the Textinput.mcc class.
- To Allan Odgaard for BetterString.mcc and Gilles Masson for NList/NListView.mcc.
- To stuntzi for MUI, the reason Amiga programming is fun.
- ~And a little bit of thanks to Martin 'xen' Huttenloher, for the MagicWB icons. Don't like MagicWB? Draw me some new ones, and I'll happily include them.

WebTV uses code derived from the following program:

```

/*****
/*                                     XFlame v1.0                               */
/*****
/* By:                                                                       */
/*   The Rasterman (Carsten Haitzler)                                       */
/*   Copyright (C) 1996                                                       */
/*****
/* This code is Freeware. You may copy it, modify it or do with it as you   */
/* please, but you may not claim copyright on any code wholly or partly     */
/* based on this code. I accept no responsibility for any consequences of   */
/* using this code, be they proper or otherwise.                             */
/*****
/* Okay, now all the legal mumbo-jumbo is out of the way, I will just say  */
/* this: enjoy this program, do with it as you please and watch out for more */
/* code releases from The Rasterman running under X... the only way to code.*/
/*****

```

1.12 WebTV . About MUI

This application uses

MUI - MagicUserInterface

(c) Copyright 1993-98 by Stefan Stuntz

MUI is a system to generate and maintain graphical user interfaces. With the aid of a preferences program, the user of an application has the ability to customize the outfit according to his personal taste.

MUI is distributed as shareware. To obtain a complete package containing

lots of examples and more information about registration please look for a file called "muiXXusr.lha" (XX means the latest version number) on your local bulletin boards or on public domain disks.

If you want to register directly, feel free to send

DM 30.- or US\$ 20.-

to

Stefan Stuntz
Eduard-Spranger-Straße 7
80935 München
GERMANY

Support and online registration is available at

<http://www.sasg.com/>

1.13 WebTV · History

Version history

WebTV 1.0 (13.2.98)

- ~First release to AmiNet.

1.14 WebTV · Future

Planned enhancements

- Maybe offer online First Virtual registration. Would you register if FV registration was available? Tell me.
 - Global settings configured internally in addition to tooltypes and arguments.
 - HTTP authentication.
 - Support for streamed HTTP 1.0 images as produced by Webcam32.
 - ~Your suggestions?
-