

ReqChange

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Chapter 1

ReqChange

1.1 ReqChange.guide: User documentation for ReqChange

This file describes ReqChange, version 3.2, a program that replaces the most common requesters with the ones ReqTools (copyright © Nico François) offers. ReqChange is similar to RTPatch, included in the ReqTools distribution, but offers a lot more.

Introduction

Preface	Please read this first.
Introduction	Why ReqChange?
System requirements	What you need to run ReqChange.

Legal issues

License	What you may and may not do with ReqChange.
No warranty	Use ReqChange at your own risk.
Disclaimer	Software disclaimer.
Shareware	Shareware information.

Documentation for ReqChange

Installation	How to install ReqChange.
Patched requesters	Which requesters ReqChange can patch.
The AssignWedge	What is an AssignWedge?
ARexx messages	How to send ARexx messages.
The prefs editor	How the prefs editor works.
StartRC	The starter program.
Acknowledgements	Who did what?
The future	Possible new features in ReqChange
Program history	What have changed in ReqChange
Glossary	Explanation of some "strange" words.
Index	

1.2 ReqChange.guide/Preface

Preface

ReqChange is offered to you under the concept of ShareWare. You may use ReqChange for an evaluation period of up to 30 days without paying any charge. If you are going to use ReqChange after the evaluation period, you have to register.

See License and ShareWare for more information.

1.3 ReqChange.guide/Introduction

Introduction

One of the many new features with Amiga OS 2.0, is a new library called Asl, which contains a standard file and a font requester (in OS 2.1 or higher there is also a screenmode requester). Before OS 2.0, there were no standard requesters of this kind, which lead several programmers to write their own version(s) of a file/font requester. Some programmers put them in a library - often with other requesters and/or functions - so that other programs could use them as well. Of these external requesters, there were basically two that became really popular, Arp and Req.

Arp was the first one, and that library also contains a number of useful function that the Amiga OS didn't have before OS 2.0. Req on the other hand have a couple of extra requesters and requester-related functions, and the combined file and font requester is rather powerful (although maybe not the most beautiful one).

Anyway, the thought is that all programs should use the new standard Asl requesters, to provide a nice looking and uniform environment for the user. However, I think these new requesters have a couple of drawbacks. For one thing, the file requester is slow (although this is improved in OS 2.1), and doesn't look that good (IMHO). The information requester (which also is improved in OS 2.0) is glued to the upper left corner of the screen, and can only be confirmed with the mouse, or some cryptic key-combination (although there is a thought behind that).

Another problem is that there are a lot of older programs that still use Arp and Req. These requesters simply doesn't fit that well into the new OS 2.0 environment. Something had to be done about this. But what?

One day I got a copy of ReqTools, a library written by Nico François. This library contains a set of requesters that looks good, and are generally faster and better than the other possible alternatives (IMHO). When I saw these requesters, I thought:

"Why can't all programs use these requesters instead?"

So, I decided to do the best I could so that as many programs as possible would use the ReqTools requesters instead, regardless if they previously had used Asl, Arp or Req.

The result of this effort is this program, ReqChange, which replaces most requesters in Intuition, Asl, Arp and Req with the equivalents found in ReqTools. It also offers a couple of extra features.

Note: ReqChange only replaces the requester functions in a library, not the entire library. You still need the library in question.

1.4 ReqChange.guide/System requirements

System requirements

ReqChange should work with any Amiga that has at least OS 2.04 and 512 Kbyte of RAM.

ReqTools is ofcourse required, but it is included in the ReqChange distribution, so this shouldn't cause any problems.

When active, ReqChange uses about 16 Kbyte of memory, exluding the memory used by ReqTools, and the diskbased libraries ReqChange may patch. Any so called rexx or deny lists also takes some memory, ofcourse (see ARexx messages and The AssignWedge).

The libraries are only patched when the library in question is in use, a feature that can save quite a bit of memory. This feature was first implemented in RTPatch by Nico Francois.

A program called SetMan (Copyright (C) 1991,1992 by Nicola Salmoria) can be nice to have installed, but it is by no means required. SetMan is a program that extends the way patches are handled within the system, and can prevent system crashes with improperly written "patchers" (ReqChange is not "improperly written" :). SetMan also provides a list over all patches in the system, and which program that installed them, and a possibility to disable/enable a patch.

1.5 ReqChange.guide/License

License

- This license applies to the product called ReqChange, a set of programs for the Amiga computer, published by Magnus Holmgren under the concepts of ShareWare, and the accompanying documentation, example files and anything else that comes with the original distribution. The terms "Programs" and "ReqChange" below, refer to this product. The licensee is addressed as "you".

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- You may not disassemble, decompile, re-source or otherwise reverse engineer the programs.
- You may use the programs for a period of up to 30 days for evaluation. After that, you have to register.
- If you wish to incorporate parts of the programs into other programs, write to the author to ask for permission.
- You agree to cease distributing the programs and data involved if requested to do so by the author.
- You may charge a fee to recover distribution costs. The fee for diskette distribution may not be more than the cost to obtain a public domain diskette from Fred Fish.

1.6 ReqChange.guide/No warranty

No warranty

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1.7 ReqChange.guide/Disclaimer

Disclaimer

No warranty, either express or implied, is made with respect to the fitness or merchantability of ReqChange.

Magnus Holgren (referred to as "the author"), reserve the right to not develop any future versions of ReqChange.

The author will try to make a good faith attempt at correcting any problems if any are discovered, but are in no way required, nor bound to correct them.

The author neither assume nor accept any responsibility for the use or misuse of these programs. He also will not be held liable for damages or any compensation due to loss of profit or any other damages arising out of the use, or inability to use these programs.

Magnus Holmgren will not be liable for any damage arising from the failure of these programs to perform as described, or any destruction of other programs or data residing on a system attempting to run the programs. While I know of no damaging errors, the user of these programs uses it at his or her own risk.

1.8 ReqChange.guide/Shareware

Shareware

ReqChange is shareware. This means that if you use this program regularly, you are required to send me, the author, a ShareWare fee as payment for the program. This fee is \$10 (70 SKR). Fill in the registration form (the file Registration.form), and send it with the money to:

Magnus Holmgren
Kvarnbergsvägen 5
S-444 47 Stenungsund
SWEDEN

Or send the money to the postal giro account 921 71 60-2 (in Sweden). Please, only send SKR, as the exchange fee is rather high. A recommended way to send the money is via the so called "International money order". Your locale post office should be able to help you with this.

You can also e-mail me the registration form. In this case, send it to:

"Magnus Holmgren", 2:204/404.6@fidonet.org

or, if you prefer Internet:

cmh@aug.s.se

If you send me \$15 (90 SKR) or include a disk + return postage (e.g. one international reply coupon), I'll send you the next version when it is finished. Additional updates costs \$5 (20 SKR) each (you can also send me a disk, SAE + return postage, and I'll do it for free! :). This is only if you want me to send you the next update as soon as it is ready. Otherwise the you don't need to pay me anything to get an update, if you e.g. download it from a local BBS.

Since this program is release as "true" ShareWare (i.e. the program isn't crippled in any way) you might think you won't gain any by registering this program. In a way that is true, since you won't get any new features by registering (instead you can really test the program to see if you think it is worth registering). Instead you encourage me to continue to improve this program, and add new features you would like to see. Also, if you have an e-mail address (fidonet or Internet) I'll mail you update information shortly before an update is released. New features requests from registered users will ofcourse have a much higher priority than those from others! :)

I've put many hours into this program to make it as good as I only could. And I would sure appreciate to get something for all this work. Please support ShareWare!

1.9 ReqChange.guide/Patched requesters

Patched requesters

ReqChange patches a number of different requester functions, found in a few libraries. All these patches are optional, and will only be installed if you have activated them, and the library in question actually is in memory. In order to accomplish this, one (or rather, two ;) function in exec.library need to be patched. This patch have been written to be completely transparant and shouldn't cause any problems.

These are the different libraries ReqChange may patch:

Intuition
Asl
Arp
Req

1.10 ReqChange.guide/Patched requesters/Intuition

Intuition

Intuition has two requesters, called `AutoRequest()` and `EasyRequest()`. These requesters are very similar to the user; they only differ in the way they are called. These requesters are used for displaying information (e.g. an about requester) or simple queries, where there are a few, predefined, answers.

The requesters ReqChange installs behaves almost like the old ones, but with a little extra: It also contains an `AssignWedge` (see The `AssignWedge`). This `AssignWedge` can be turned off if you want (see The prefs editor/Main window).

Some programs (like `DiskSalv` version 2) uses the `AutoRequest()`er in a way that ReqChange can't emulate properly. When such requesters are used, ReqChange will use the original one instead. `ARexx` messages will still be sent, but with a minor catch: There will be linefeeds here and there in the body that normally shouldn't be there.

Note: `AutoRequest()` and `EasyRequest()` also exist in asynchronous versions (which allows the program to continue processing while the requester is up). These functions can't be patched, since that calling interface can't be emulated with `ReqTools`.

1.11 ReqChange.guide/Patched requesters/Asl

Asl

Asl currently contains three requesters. These are a file, a font and a screen mode requester. All requesters are patched. However, the font and the screen mode requester patches are optional.

Some of the features in the Asl font and screen mode requesters doesn't exist in `ReqTools` \$^1\$. When any of these features are used the patch will automatically use the original requester instead. Thus, you can have the "Asl font requester" and "Asl screen mode requester" patch flags on without loosing any functionality (see The prefs editor/Main window).

Currently it isn't possible to select "no font" in the font requester, as one can do in the asl font requester. Because of this, a special font called " no font" is included (the leading space is there to try to get the font at the top of the list). It is a very small font, and if that one is selected, ReqChange will interpret it as if no font at all was selected. Maybe not the most elegant solution, but it works! :) If a new version of `ReqTools` is released that supports the "no font" selection somehow, ReqChange will be updated to use this feature instead.

-- Footnotes --

\$^1\$ The `ReqTools` font requester doesn't allow you to select color(s) and

draw mode for the text, and the screen mode requester can't show a custom screen mode list

1.12 ReqChange.guide/Patched requesters/Arp

Arp

There is only one requester in Arp, and that is a file requester. Not all features of this requester can be emulated, but since these features are very seldom used (in my experience at least. I've heard of one program that use any of these features), this patch will not fall back to the original when needed. If this is a problem for you, you can always send me a note.. :)

Note: If you have a 68030 CPU (or better), there is a function in Arp that doesn't work that well, and that is ArpExit(). It seems like earlier versions of ReqChange somehow managed to make ArpExit() to work (at least on my 68040 Amiga), if a patched requester was called just before ArpExit(). Since this isn't the case any more (and I haven't the foggiest idea why! :) ReqChange will replace the ArpExit() function with one that should work better \$^l\$. This should also make programs like e.g. Move (one of the Arp commands) to work better.

-- Footnotes --

\$^l\$ Technical note: it is basically the original function with a call to CacheClearU() added at a suitable place.

1.13 ReqChange.guide/Patched requesters/Req

Req

This is the big one. Req contains most of the requester ReqTools does. Thus, rather many functions are patched. Here is a list of all requesters patched:

TextRequest()

This is a text requester, similar to AutoRequest()/EasyRequest() in Intuition (see Patched requesters/Intuition). All features are supported, including the timeout and the waitmask.

ReqFileRequest()

This is a combined file and font requester. There is only one thing one need to think about when using this one: The original requester have a (configurable) limit on the number of files one can multiselect (if this is enabled). ReqTools doesn't have any such limitation, so you may select as many as you can/like. ReqChange will then only use as many as

the limitation says, and will ignore the rest of the files. This isn't really a problem, but it can be useful to know.

GetString()

A simple string requester.

GetLong()

An integer requester.

ColorRequester()

A palette requester.

1.14 ReqChange.guide/The AssignWedge

The AssignWedge

Some of you may have seen the program AssignWedge (or maybe AssignX, the original program). This program improves the (in)famous "Please insert volume" requester. What AssignWedge does is to add a few gadgets to the normal "Retry" and "Cancel" gadgets, so that you can do something about it, without having to use a Shell or something like that. ReqChange has an AssignWedge like this builtin (but a somewhat better version).

The following gadgets are added to the "Please insert volume" requester:

Mount

This gadget will try to mount the volume in question. This requires Mount to be available in C:. If there is no suitable entry in your Devs:MountList file this will ofcourse fail. Useful for seldom used units like Rad: or Pc0:. If the mount fails, the requester will re-appear.

Assign...

This gadget shows a file requester, where you can select a drawer or a file that the volume name should be assigned to. If the assign fails (maybe you entered a file/drawer that doesn't exist), the requester will re-appear.

Note: In the requester there is a filename field. This is needed, since an assign can refer to a file, not only a drawer.

Deny

This will make ReqChange remember the volume name on a list (the so called deny list) and the next time a requester for this volume is about to appear, ReqChange will automatically cancel the requester before it is shown.

This deny list can be edited and saved, using the Edit window and the

Rexx window in The prefs editor.

1.15 ReqChange.guide/Arrex messages

ARexx messages

ReqChange have one powerful feature, and it is the ability to send an ARexx command when a certain requester appears. This allows you to e.g. add sound effects to your requesters, like ARQ does. But you can add a lot more if you like. One thing could be to start e.g DiskSalv each time a requester indicating a disk is corrupt is shown. Or it could be to try to reboot the computer if a "Task held" requester appears. Anything that can be done via ARexx.

Earlier versions of ReqChange could only send ARexx commands like this for the text requesters, much like ARQ did. But as of ReqChange 3.0, you can send a message when any of the patched requesters appears.

To be able to send different messages from different requesters, you can specify the following requester attributes:

Requester type

The requester must be of this type for a match. You may also specify 'Any', which will match on all requesters.

Title

The title of the requester (i.e. the window title) must contain a certain string. Case is ignored when checking. If not specified, the requester title is ignored.

Body

This only applies to the text requester (or if you have set the requester type to 'Any'). The body text must contain a certain string. If not specified, the body text is ignored. If the requester that is about to open doesn't have any body text, this string is ignored.

These attributes, together with a name `^1$` and a command is stored in a rexxnode. All nodes are placed in the rexx list, and you may edit the list and the nodes, using the edit window the rexx window (see the Edit window and the Rexx window in The prefs editor).

The command is a so called string file macro. This means that the command is executed like it was executed using a command line looking like:

```
Rx "say 'This is a string file macro'"
```

I.e. the string after the Rx command is the string file macro.

When a requester is about to appear, ReqChange will search through the rexx list (from top to bottom), and as soon a node that matches the current requester is found, the corresponding ARexx command is sent.

When the command returns, the requester appears. Thus, specific nodes should be placed near the top of the list, and more general ones near the bottom.

The fact that ReqChange waits until the command returns means you may need to run a command you start, and that you should avoid doing things that may take some time to complete. To make an ARexx macro to run asynchronously, you'll need to write something like this in the command:

```
ADDRESS COMMAND "Run Rx <Macro filename>"
```

```
-- Footnotes --
```

\$^1\$ This name field is for you only, where you can enter something descriptive, so you easily can identify what a rexxnode does. This field is what you see in the list.

1.16 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor

The prefs editor

Arguments	Command line arguments and tooltypes.
Main window	The gadgets in the main window.
Main window menus	The menus in the main window.
Edit window	The gadgets in the edit window.
Edit window menus	The menus in the edit window.
Deny window	The gadgets in the deny window.
Rexx window	The gadgets in the rexx window.

The prefs editor allows you to customize the behaviour of the patches, which libraries to patch, etc. You can also edit the lists that hold information about what message to send from certain requesters (see ARexx messages) and which volumes that always should be denied (see The AssignWedge). You may also install, update or remove the patches (see Main window menus/Patches)

All changes you do have immediate effect, so you don't need to exit the editor to try them.

Pressing the HELP key will open an AmigaGuide® window with help (for the currently active window), if you have AmigaGuide® installed, and placed the file ReqChange.guide somewhere in the AmigaGuide® search path (this is either the same directory as you have the prefs editor, or any of the drawers specified in the AmigaGuide/Path environment variable). You can also press help when you're in a menu, to get help about the current menu.

Pressing the F1 key will zip/unzip the window, and pressing cursor left and cursor right will activate the "previous" and "next" window, respectively.

As ReqChange is implemented as a library, and doesn't have any IPrefs-like program (that would sit and check for changes to the default preferences files), a simple copy of a preferences file to Env:ReqChange

will not be noticed. Use the prefs editor argument USE in combination with the FROM argument do something like this (see Arguments).

Any version of the prefs editor should work with any version of reqchange.library (and vice versa ofcourse). You maybe won't be able to edit all things, or all gadgets maybe doesn't have any effect, but that should be the only problem. The interface between the prefs editor and the library have been designed to eliminate compatibility problems.

1.17 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Arguments

Arguments

The preferences editor understands the following arguments, either specified on the command line, or as tooltypes in the icon:

FROM/M

Here you can specify a preferences file to load into the preferences editor. Unlike the normal preferences editors, you can enter several files here (space separated). You can't use patterns though. ReqChange will check what type of file it is `^1$`, and if it indeed is a valid ReqChange preferences file, it will be loaded before any window is opened. If you enter several files of the same kind, only the last one will have any effect.

SAVE/S

If this option is specified, the editor will save the current configuration to `EnvArc:`, just as if you had selected the "Save" gadget in the Main window. The main window will not be opened. If any FROM files are specified, they will be read first.

USE/S

If this option is specified, the editor will save the current configuration to `Env:`, just as if you had selected the "Use" gadget in the Main window. The main window will not be opened. If any FROM files are specified, they will be read first

PUBSCREEN/K

This argument lets you specify which public screen the windows should open on. If the screen couldn't be found, they will open on the default public screen (which also happens if you don't specify any name). Please note that this name is case sensitive.

-- Footnotes --

`^1$` There are three different preferences files: The main configuration file (ReqChange/ReqChange.prefs), the denylist file (ReqChange/Deny.prefs), and the rexxlist file (ReqChange/Rexx.prefs).

1.18 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Main window

Main window

This window contains general flags for the patches, and the settings for the different requester types. The settings of the gadgets and menu items are saved in a separate file (called the main preferences file). The following gadgets exists:

Asl font requester

If this gadget is checked, it means that the Asl font requester will be patched. You don't need to clear the checkmark in this gadget in order to be able to select e.g. different colors in the Font preferences program, since ReqChange automatically will use the original font requester when needed.

Asl screen mode requester

If this gadget is checked, it means that the Asl screen mode requester will be patched. If an unsupported feature is used (currently the "custom screen mode list"), then ReqChange will automatically use the original font requester when needed.

Buffer

If this gadget is checked, ReqChange will try to buffer the filelist in the different file requester patches. In some cases this isn't possible (the Arp requester can't be buffered, while some of the Req and Asl filerequesters' can be. It depends on the calling program), but when possible, it means that the requester remembers all shown files from the previous call. This uses a little memory, but removes the directory-reading time. This is especially useful when you are using floppies, and you don't use the new DirCache filesystem that exist in OS 3.0.

Center text

If this gadget is checked, the body text in the text requesters will be centered. This often makes the requester look better. Sometimes this centering will be disabled, if a requester have centering "by hand". The current algorithm for this is fairly simple: If a line starts with a space, then the centering is disabled! ;) Please remember that this doesn't fix all cases. Proportional fonts in the requester will also cause "troubles". Use a fixed-width font, and the requester should look good.

Keys

If this gadget is checked, you can use the keyboard to select the gadgets in the text requesters. Please refer to the ReqTools documentation for more information about these keys.

AssignWedge

If this gadget is checked, it means that The AssignWedge is activated. This means that when a "Volume requester" is displayed, there will be three extra gadgets, allowing you to mount the volume, enter an assign, or deny this volume name.

Only AssignWedge

If this gadget is checked, it means that only The AssignWedge is activated and ReqChange will call the original requester instead. This is regardless the state of the 'AssignWedge' flag. If you use ARQ then this gadget can be handy.

You can still use the ARexx messages for this requester, even if this gadget is checked.

Requester type

This gadget specifies which requester type you currently are editing the settings for. All gadgets within the "double" border applies to the requester specific settings.

Center mode

This gadget specifies the center mode to use for the current requester type. There are several possible center modes, but most of them should be rather obvious. A few comments are in place though:

'Normal' makes the requester "center" as they normally would have done if the patch wasn't installed.

'Default' causes ReqChange to use the current default as set in the ReqTools preferences editor.

The other ones does what the name implies. However, window-relative options may not always behave like expected. In some cases, ReqTools can't find any window to be relative to, and if so, the requester will be centered relative to the screen instead. Also, the window may not always be the one you expect. Thus the centering can be a bit odd sometimes. Mostly it should work fine though.

Offset

For the 'Top left ...' centering modes you can also specify an offset, using the 'Offset' gadgets. The leftmost gadget holds the 'Left' offset, while the rightmost holds the 'Top' offset.

These gadgets can be disabled, depending on which center mode you are using. Also, if the 'Default offset' gadget is checked, these gadgets will be disabled.

Default offset

If this gadget is checked, the offset set in the ReqTools preferences will be used. Otherwise the offset in the 'Offset' gadgets will be used.

This gadget can be disabled, depending on which center mode you are

using.

Default height

If this gadget is checked, the requesters that can be resized will have the default height, as set in the ReqTools preferences. Otherwise they will have the height the calling program requested.

Pop screen

If this gadget is checked, then ReqTools will pop the screen a requester appears on. This is similar to the ReqTools option, but here you can specify it on a requester type basis, instead of a single global option.

Backfill

This gadget only applies to the string and integer requesters. If checked, the requester will have a background pattern, like the one used in the text requester. Otherwise the background will be blank (using the current background color).

Rexx messages

If this gadget is checked, the ARexx messages for this requester type will be enabled. Otherwise no messages will be sent when a requester of this type appears.

Font

This gadget opens up a font requester, that allows you to choose a font that will be used in the requesters. If no font is specified, the current screen font will be used.

Note: ReqChange will not issue any warning if a font can't be opened during library init (i.e. when the library is loaded into memory, either by StartRC or The prefs editor).

Save

Saves the main window settings for permanent use.

Use

Saves the main window settings. Any changes will be lost when you reboot or turn off your computer.

Cancel

Undoes any changes you have done to the main window settings, and exits. Any changes done to the lists are not affected.

1.19 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Main window menus

Main window menus

The main window have the following menus:

Project	File operations, etc.
Edit	Different edit functions.
Patches	Control the patches.
Options	Options.

1.20 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Main window menus/Project

Project

Open...

This menu item allows you to select a previously saved main preferences file to use. You can only load a valid preferences file.

Save as...

This menu item allows you to save the current main preferences to a file of your choise.

About...

This menu item shows a requester with some information about the program and the patches. You can see if the patches are enabled, how many of the patches that were active when you selected this menu item, and the number of allocated requesters.

Quit

This menu item quits the preferences editor. Works like the "Cancel" gadget in the main window (see Main window.

1.21 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Main window menus/Edit

Edit

Lists...

This menu item opens the list editor window, where you can edit the deny list and the rexx list. If the window already is open, it will be unzoomed if needed, and then brought to the front.

Defaults

This menu item sets the main window gadgets to the builtin defaults (note: these defaults are stored in the library, and not in the editor).

Last saved

This menu item reloads the last saved (using the "Save" gadget in the main window) main preferences file (see Main window).

Restore

This menu item restores the main settings to the state they were in when the editor was started.

1.22 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Main window menus/Patches

Patches

Intuition

If this menu item is checked, it means that the Intuition patches are enabled. If you change the state of it, ReqChange will try to install/remove the patches as needed. If it isn't possible to remove the patches, they will remain in a disabled state, so that you won't notice them. See Patched requesters/Intuition.

Asl

If this menu item is checked, it means that the Asl patches are enabled. If you change the state of it, ReqChange will try to install/remove the patches as needed. If it isn't possible to remove the patches, they will remain in a disabled state, so that you won't notice them. See Patched requesters/Asl.

Note however that if you install the patches, the currently running programs may or may not use the new ReqTools requesters. This depends on the program (technical note: if they keep a requester structure allocated or not). If you want them to use ReqTools directly, quit and restart the programs, and they should now use ReqTools.

So some of you says: "But can't the same thing happen when I try to remove the patches?" No, it can't, since ReqChange have the ability to fall back to the original Asl function when needed.

Arp

If this menu item is checked, it means that the Arp patches are enabled. If you change the state of it, ReqChange will try to install/remove the patches as needed. If it isn't possible to remove the patches, they will remain in a disabled state, so that you won't notice them. See Patched requesters/Arp.

Req

If this menu item is checked, it means that the Req patches are enabled. If you change the state of it, ReqChange will try to install/remove the patches as needed. If it isn't possible to remove the patches, they will

remain in a disabled state, so that you won't notice them. See Patched requesters/Req.

Update

This menu item will try to update the patches so that they reflect the current settings of the 'Patches' menu. What this means is that ReqChange will try to install/remove any patches that need to be.

Each time you alter the state of any of the patch checkmarks in the 'Patches' menu, such an update will be performed, so you'll probably not need this one that often.

Install...

This menu item will install the patches. If the patches already are installed, you will be informed about it.

Remove

This menu item will try to remove all patches. If this isn't possible, you'll be asked if all patches should be disabled or not. Disabling all patches is equivalent to clearing all checkmarks in the 'Patches' menu.

There are a couple of things that can make it impossible to remove the patches. There could be some allocated requesters around (these must be freed before the patches can be removed), or someone else have "patched over" some of the patches ReqChange have done.

If both the active patches count and the number of allocated requesters are zero, it is very likely that ReqChange is "overpatched", i.e. some other program have patched a function ReqChange already have patched. ReqChange can then only be removed if the other program is removed first. If you have a "SetMan-like" program installed, this shouldn't happen.

1.23 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Main window menus/Options

Options

Create icons

If this menu item is checked, ReqChange will write an icon together with all main preferences files that are saved using Project/Save as... (see Project).

1.24 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Edit window

Edit window

In this window you can edit the two different lists, the deny list and

the rexx list. Each list is saved in a separate file. These lists are not affected by anything you do in the main window (except for the gadgets that can exit the editor, which will close this window), and the main window is not affected by anything you do here.

The window contains the following gadgets:

List type

This gadget lets you choose which list to edit. There are currently two lists you can edit, the deny list and the rexx list.

List contents

This gadget shows the contents of the current list. Use the arrow gadgets or the drag-bar to move around in the list. Select an entry (a node) by clicking on it. A double-click will open a window that allows you to edit that node. See Deny window and Rexx window

Add...

This gadget opens an empty node-edit window so that you can enter a new one. See Deny window and Rexx window

Delete...

This gadget deletes the currently selected node.

Edit...

This gadget opens a node-edit window allowing you to edit the current node. You can also double-click on that node in the listview gadget to do the same thing. See Deny window and Rexx window

Sort

This gadget sorts the nodes in the current list in alphabetical order.

Up

This gadget moves the current node up one step in the list.

Down

This gadget moves the current node down one step in the list.

Save

This gadget saves the lists for permanent use, and closes the edit window.

Use

This gadget saves the current list, and closes the edit window. Any changes will be lost when you reboot or turn off your computer.

Cancel

This gadget closes the window. ReqChange will try to restore the lists (by reading from Env:ReqChange) to the way they were when you opened the edit window.

1.25 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Edit window menus

Edit window menus

The edit window have the following menus:

Project	File operations, etc.
Edit	Different edit functions.
Options	Options.

1.26 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Edit window menus/Project

Project

Open...

This menu item will allow you to select a list to load. The current list will be deleted, but only if the file is of suitable type. You must select a file of the same type as specified in list type gadget.

Append...

This menu item allows you to select a list to load. The current list will not be deleted. You must select a file of the same type as specified in the list type gadget. The new nodes are added to the end of the list, and no check for duplicates is done.

Save as...

This menu item allows you to save the current list to a file of your choice. If you specify a name that already exists, no warning is issued, and the file will be deleted if there is an error during the saving.

About...

This menu item opens the About requester, as in the main window menus. See Main window menus/Project.

Quit...

This menu item closes the edit window, like the "Cancel" gadget in the Edit window.

1.27 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Edit window menus/Edit

Edit

Clear list...

This menu item will delete the current list.

Last saved

This menu item allows you to load the last saved list of the current type, saved using the "Save" gadget (see Edit window). The old list will be replaced. Use "Append..." to append the last saved list (see Project).

Restore

This menu item will try to restore the currently selected list (by reading from Env:ReqChange) to the way they were when the editor window was opened.

1.28 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Edit window menus/Options

Options

Create icons

If this menu item is checked, icons will be saved with the list files you save. This menu item does not affect the "Create icons" option in the Main window menus

1.29 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Deny window

Deny window

This window allows you to enter/edit a deny node. A deny node is a very simple one. It simply contains the name of the volume to deny. This is also the name shown in the listview gadget.

The following gadgets exist in the window:

Deny name

In this gadget you specify the name of the volume that should be denied. Do not enter any colon (':'). E.g., to deny the volume 'DF9:' (which normally doesn't exist! :) you should thus enter 'DF9'. You must enter something here. An empty string, or a string that only consists of spaces is not allowed.

Ok

This gadget accepts the string as it is, and uses that name in the new/changed node.

Cancel

This gadget cancels the requester, and the list is left unchanged.

1.30 ReqChange.guide/The prefs editor/Rexx window

Rexx window

This window allows you to enter/edit a rexxnode. A rexxnode contains several fields so that you can specify exactly which requesters that should have a certain ARexx-command associated with them.

The rexx window contains the following gadgets:

Name

This gadget allows you to enter a name for the node. Since there isn't really any field that is suitable to use for identifying a node (and to place in the listview gadget, you have this one, where you can enter a name of your own choice for the node. You must enter something here. An empty string, or a string that only consists of spaces is not accepted. Since this field is for you only, why not enter something that makes it easier for you to see what kind of requester the node matches?

The name can be up to 500 chars long.

Requester type

This gadget allows you to select a requester type to match on. Only if the requester is of the specified type, a message can be sent for the requester. 'Any' matches any requester.

Title

This gadget allows you to enter a string that the title must contain. If empty, the title of the requester is ignored.

The string can be up to 500 chars long.

Body

This gadget allows you to enter a string that the body must contain. If empty, the body of the requester is ignored. You can only enter a string if the "Requester type" gadget is set to 'Any' or 'Text' (as these are the only cases when there is a body to compare with).

The string can be up to 500 chars long.

Command

This gadget allows you to enter the command that should be sent to ARexx

if a requester matches this node. You must enter something. An empty string, or a string that only contains spaces isn't accepted.

You should avoid sending commands that take a long time here, since the requester won't appear until this command have returned. If you only start a program, a simple "Run" in front of the program will do. Otherwise, a good idea could be to place the macro in a normal file, and use a command like:

```
ADDRESS COMMAND "Run Rx <Filename>"
```

The command can be up to 500 chars long.

Ok

This gadget accepts the rexxnode as it is, and places puts the new/changed node in the list.

Cancel

This gadget cancels the window, and the list is left unchanged.

1.31 ReqChange.guide/StartRC

StartRC

StartRC is a small program used to start or stop ReqChange. It simply loads reqchange.library (if needed) and tells it to install or remove the patches (see The prefs editor/Main window menus/Patches).

If ReqChange already is installed when StartRC is started (:), it will ask you if the patches should be removed.

The patches can't always be removed. If some other program have "patched over" ReqChange's patches (and a program like SetMan isn't installed), there is no way for ReqChange to exit safely, and thus, it won't be done. Also, if there are some allocated requesters around, ReqChange can't be removed either, since these requesters must be freed first, and the original functions can't handle that. And ofcourse, ReqChange can't exit if some patch is active (e.g. a requester window is open).

When the patches are removed, the library will be removed from memory whenever the system needs the memory for other things (assuming no one else is using reqchange.library, like the prefs editor).

Note: Removing patches is never a completely safe operation. One can only try to make it as safe as possible (well, there is a safe way, and that is to never unload the patches from memory. But that isn't a good solution either), and hope for the best. :) Normally, there shouldn't be any problems though.

StartRC can be started from both the Workbench and the Shell.

Note for OS 2.1+ users: Since both the prefs editor and StartRC use the

same catalog file, you will either need to have two copies of reqchange.catalog, or place it in Locale:Catalogs/<language> (where "<language>" is the language you have selected in the Locale preferences editor).

1.32 ReqChange.guide/Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to the following persons, for helping me with ReqChange in one way or another:

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Legal information largely stolen from the documentation to TrapDoor.

Icon inspiration from the icon to the ReqTools preferences program.

Spelling errors etc. in this manual by myself (hey, english is only my second language! I try as good as I can! :)

Persons mentioned here by name doesn't need to send any shareware fee for using this program. :) They have done enough already!

1.33 ReqChange.guide/The future

The future

Although I've implemented most things I found important in ReqChange, there are still things that might be implemented at some future date. And maybe you have some idea on how to improve this program? If so, please send me a letter, and I'll consider it. To give you some inspiration, here

are some of the ideas that popped up during the development of this program:

- A "requested width" for the req.library/GetString() patch (user request actually). But where should I place this in the prefs editor? :)
- A ReqTools-patch (!). :) This patch would add the "RexxMessages" to all ReqTools requesters, and probably add some of the ReqChange prefs settings too.
- Make the ARexx messages almost asynchronous, so that the requester can appear before the command has completed (and the requester will disappear before waiting for the command to return). However, there are certain problems with this.

There is also a drawback: With synchronous ARexx commands, I could (at least for the text requester) add an automatic "gadget selection", based on the return value, so that boring requesters that always should be replied with a certain value could be replied without ever appearing. I'm not sure that this would be that useful though.. :)

- Formatting codes in the ARexx commands, so that e.g. the current title, requester type and body, can be inserted (useful for automatic gadget selection).
- Add a task/process name field for the rexxnodes. I'm not sure this is that useful though... :)
- A RCPrefs program (similar to IPrefs) that would automatically re-load the config files if they are changed "externally" (i.e. not by the prefs editor). I certainly don't need such a program, but some persons maybe does?
- An exceptions list. Programs listed here would use the original requester instead.
- A possibility to use special prefs (some or all) for selected requesters (similar to the ARexx-message selection).
- Function keys to select one of the gadgets (ala Arq) in the text requesters. Should be in ReqTools.. :)

1.34 ReqChange.guide/Program history

Program history

Version 1.00-2.03
Version 3.0
Version 3.1
Version 3.2

1.35 ReqChange.guide/Program history/Ancient versions

Version 1.00-2.03

Ancient history.

1.36 ReqChange.guide/Program history/Version 3.0

Version 3.0

This version is a complete rewrite from scratch!

- All resident code is written in efficient assembler, and stored in a library.
 - Patch installation/removal code a lot smaller and a bit smarter. SetMan is no longer treated as a special case. Thanks to Nicola Salmiora for his SetPatch() function, which was used as a base when I rewrote the patch related code.
 - Stack swapper redesigned. Now uses exec.library/SwapStack().
 - ARexx messages can now be sent from any requester, based on requester type and title (and/or body, for the text requester). These messages can be disabled for certain requester types, for maximum efficiency.
 - Centering modes, offsets, fonts etc. can be selected for each requester type.
 - Two new centering modes: 'Default' and 'Normal'. 'Default' will make ReqChange use whatever set in the ReqTools preferences editor, while 'Normal' will make the requesters appear where they normally would have if ReqChange wasn't installed (although the Asl patches won't remember their position between calls).
 - Prefs editor that allows you to modify the behaviour of ReqChange with a nice user interface, complete with keyboard shortcuts and online help. You can also edit the deny and rexx list!
 - Complete support for Asl V38 (as complete as it can be, I hope). This includes the accept/reject patterns, the "dirpattern", all hooks & tags etc.
 - The Asl patches can now fall back to the original requester if the patches have been disabled or an unsupported feature is used. The code for this is fairly small, thanks to a new approach of handling tags.
 - Improved localization. Will now automatically adjust to any new language selected.
 - The AutoRequest()/EasyRequest() patch can now (optionally ofcourse) call the original function after the AssignWedge. I suspect some ARQ
-

users will like this. ;)

- Documentation completely rewritten in AmigaGuide® format.
- Requires OS 2.0, and is OS 3.0 aware.
- No longer a Commodity.
- Patterns will only be converted if necessary (i.e. the WILDSTAR bit in dos.library is cleared).
- Tested with Enforcer & MungWall (earlier versions were only MungWall tested).
- Uses memory pools wherever possible. This reduces memory fragmentation.
- Should handle text requesters with "manual" centering better.
- Asl font requester patch is now optional.
- Asl screenmode requester patch added (optional).

1.37 ReqChange.guide/Program history/Version 3.1

Version 3.1

- Minor bugfix: Prefs files would have the wrong protection bits when saved. This update only reflects reqchange.library.
- Made a few corrections to the manual (there were some references to non-existent sections).

1.38 ReqChange.guide/Program history/Version 3.2

Version 3.2

- Fixed incorrect fido-address in this manual.
 - The ARexx-messages should now work without enforcer hits etc.
 - The ARexx-messages were not always sent when they should have been. Now this should work! :)
 - ARexx-messages may now be sent when an Asl patch calls the original requester.
 - Translations for French, Italian and Dutch added.
 - In the AssignWedge, the gadget "Assign..." will now default to the same directory as the program resides in, if this is defined. Otherwise Ram:
-

will be used as before.

- Leftoffset and toffset should be properly saved now. Also improved some other "related" code, to ensure no problems with newer OS versions (if there will be any :().

- Fixed a bug in the library startup code. Also changed a message to be nonlocalized to make things a little simpler. If this message is to be shown, it isn't likely the catalog will load anyway! :)

- Included a small JPeg (8 Kb), so you can see what I look like! :) Use e.g. PPShow (V4.0+), FastJPEG or ViewTek to view it.

- Bug in the Asl screenmode requester fallback fixed (usually led to crashes. But not always).

- Version 2.2b of ReqTools included.

1.39 ReqChange.guide/Glossary

Catalog: A file that contains all text a program uses that needs to be translated. By loading this file (and with the help of a few OS routines) a program can operate in several different languages with relatively small amount of work by the programmer.

IMHO: Acronym for in my humble opinion.

Library: A module containing a set of functions which other programs may use. These modules can be stored on disk and loaded when needed.

String file macro: A special type of an ARexx macro. Instead of having the macro in a file (which is the usual form), it is simply a string that contains all the ARexx commands (separated with semi-colons) that should be executed.

1.40 ReqChange.guide/Index

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