

MegaView

COLLABORATORS

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

MegaView

1.1 MegaView - Contents

This is the documentation file for the MegaView program. Select one of the following topics:

Overview	Gives you a brief overview
Requirements	What do you need to run MegaView
Legal Stuff	The standard Disclaimer
Installation	How you get it on your Harddisk
Workbench Usage	How to start MegaView from the Icon
CLI Usage	How to run MegaView from a shell
Environment	Shell variables for some parameters
File Actions	The FileActions file format
Actions Editor	NEW : The FileActions Editor
Known Bugs	What is to be fixed in future releases?
History	What has changed
The Future	What may come next?

You MUST read the Legal Stuff chapter before using MegaView!

1.2 MegaView - Overview

As a Workbench 2.0 user, I always hated it when I started some project icon from a disk which had "SYS:Utilities/MultiView" as a default tool. What I did first was to MakeLink a link from the AmigaGuide Program to MultiView. Now every AmigaGuide Database worked, but this won't work with any other file. Then I discovered the WhatIs.library on a fish disk, and I at once decided to write a frontend that uses this library to show every file type I can.

MegaView is not "just another text/picture shower". It won't be able to show anything, not even an IFF picture, by itself, but call a viewer program according to the filetype. This means, that IFF pictures will be passed down to an IFF viewer, e.g. the Display program, Text files are passed to a text viewer, e.g. more, etc.

The File s:FileActions defines the Actions taken for a specific file type (for a complete description of the file, see File Actions). Every filetype can

have its individual file actions specified.

MegaView makes heavy use of WhatIs.library, which is Copyrighted by Sylvain Rougier and Pierre Carette. Many thanks to both of you!

With version 1.03 of MegaView, whatis.library is included in the archive. The whatis.library and a few support files are included ready to go, along with an archive containing the complete WhatIs distribution.

Version 1.2 of MegaView now incorporates an interface to the XPK external packer standard. XPK is not needed. If you try to use the feature, though, and do not have XPK installed, you will crash the machine.

Version 2.0 features the new FAEdit FileActions editor. FAEdit uses MUI, a shareware product by Stefan Stuntz. Thanks to you, Stefan, for a really great thing!

I have tested MegaView on my A2000 with Kickstart 37.175, MasterCard and ALF Harddrives, and a VXL 68030 Turbo board with 5 megs of memory. I have not tested it under any other OS version or processor, but as a rule of thumb, if it works on a '030, it should work on a stock 68000.

1.3 MegaView - Requirements

?prev overview

To use MegaView, you need the following:-

- An Amiga Computer (What else? 8-)). By Intention, MegaView will NOT run on MessyDos computers...
- at least Kickstart 37.175
(it may run with Kickstart V36, but I didn't test that)
- Workbench 2.0
- WhatIs.library (included since 1.03)

A Harddisk would also come in handy, but it will work without one.

1.4 MegaView - Legal stuff

Legal Stuff:

MegaView is public domain. You can use it as you like, but AT YOUR OWN RISK. MegaView is distributed with NO special purpose whatsoever, and in no way can DIgital DIensions or the author be held responsible for any damage caused by the use or misuse of this program. No warranty, neither expressed or implied, is granted by DIgital DIensions.

MegaView was written by Hans-Jörg Frieden in 1993.

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Please send questions about the main program to Hans-Joerg and questions about the FileActions editor to Thomas.

Watch out for other products from

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MegaView is public domain. You can use it at your own risk, copy it, or do what you want, as long as you don't claim it as yourself. You can use part of the source code in your programs, as long as you DO NOT USE MEGAVIEW FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSE. That simply means that you should not make more money out of it than we do.

Now that version 2.0 is out, we have spend much time on the developement of MegaView, and as it is, I am asking for a small donnation, as much as you see fit. Around \$10 will do, in German or U.S currency. If you can't afford that much, then use it, anyway.

If you like/use MegaView and you have access to EMail, then please send me a mail and tell me what you think of it. Look above for the EMail address. BTW, mail me, too, if you DON'T like it, and tell me why.

If you have suggestions, bug reports or something like that, or you want anything special build into a future version, please contact us also. If it is possible, and I have the time to do it, it will be done.

Should you phone, you can talk german, english, frensh, polish, japaneese or any language you like, but I will only understand german and english (and a _little_ frensh - don't count on this). Please also keep in mind that other countries may have other time, and please don't call between 10pm and 10am.

Thanks to those of you who have written me. I was able to integrate some of the suggestions made. Special Thanks to Richard Ludwig, who came up with two bugs in the installer script, and the suggestion for the ALL switch. Special Thanks, too, to Arne Hinrichsen, who encouraged me to include an XPK interface to the program.

Thanks to Urban Müller (et.al.) for XPK.

1.5 MegaView - Installation

There are two possible ways for installing MegaView. The easy way is to double click the "Install MegaView" icon. This needs the Commodore

Installer® program to install the files. The hard way is to copy everything "by hand". Here is a list of what belongs where:

MegaView - Copy MegaView and its icon file to a drawer you like. Some good place is "SYS:Utilities", or "SYS:WBStartup" if you would like to start MegaView on boot.

Note: In order to work correctly from WBStartup, you'll have to set the DONOTWAIT Tool type.

FileActions and FileTypes - These must reside in the S: directory.

whatis.library - Must be copied into the libs: drawer.

That's all you must have done to run MegaView. Note that the FileActions and FileTypes files, along with the whatis.library, MUST be copied to your standard system disk, even if you are using a floppy based system (take some advice, get yourself a harddisk. 2.0 just needs one).

New to version 1.2: MegaView now supports three shell variables. If you want them to be present permanently, enter the command

COPY ENV:MegaView#? ENVARC:

at a shell prompt. See MegaView - Environment for details about the variables.

New to version 2.0: MegaView now comes with a full-blown GUI-based editor for the FileActions file - no need to edit it by hand with ed. Thanks to Malcom Allen for the idea.

1.6 MegaView - Usage from Workbench

There are two basic modes of operation from the Workbench:

Background operation
Show&Exit-Mode

The mode is selected by the ToolTypes .

1.7 MegaView - Background Mode

In Background mode, MegaView will setup an AppIcon (or an AppMenuItem). Icons that are dropped onto the MegaView AppIcon (or those that are selected while the AppMenuItem is activated) are processed as if MegaView was invoked with these files (see Show&Exit-Mode).

The MODE ToolType (see ToolTypes) decides whether MegaView sets up an AppIcons to add an Item to the Tools Menu. Use MODE=Icon to setup the Icon, MODE=Menu for the Tools MenuItem. Please note that the case of MODE must be all uppercase, while the "Icon" or "Mode" must be spelt exactly this way.

Double clicking the icon or selecting the menu item without any files selected will bring up a requester with three possible choices:-

Quit	-	MegaView is removed from memory.
Continue	-	Remove the requester and leave MegaView running
Select	-	Pops up a file requester. You can select a file for viewing here.

With version 1.02, the Select option has been modified so that it allows you to select files as long as you don't press cancel at the file request. Pressing cancel at the file request returns MegaView to the normal background mode.

New for version 1.03: You can now "multi-select" files in the file requester, i.e. Shift-Click more than one file. These will be processed one by one.

1.8 MegaView - Icon Usage

Show&Exit mode is like calling a display program, e.g. SYS:Utilities/Display: You shift-select a few icons, then double-click the MegaView icon. MegaView will then process all the files you selected in order.

An alternative is to use MegaView as a default tool with a project icon. MegaView will process the file as if the file was dropped into the AppIcon or the program was invoked with shift-selected icons.

1.9 MegaView - ToolTypes

MegaView accepts a number of ToolTypes. All of them are only usable in the Tool Icon. They don't make any sense inside project icons, and they are not even checked from project icons. Project icons will get invoked with MegaView once and will exit immediately.

ToolTypes which are accepted by the program are:-

MODE=<string>

<string> must be either "Icon" or "Menu". If this ToolType is encountered, MegaView will not exit, but setup an Icon (or MenuItem).

ICON_X=<number>

ICON_Y=<number>

If these ToolTypes are not given or specified as 0, the CurrentX and CurrentY fields of the icon are initialized with NO_ICON_POSITION, therefore Workbench will place the icon wherever it finds room for it. If <number> is non-zero, the icon is positioned to the coordinates you give. Note that if the coordinates are not free, then the icon is positioned as if they were zero.

ICONNAME=<string>

By default, MegaView uses the icon it is started from as it AppIcon, or an internal one if MegaView was not started from an Icon. With this

ToolType, you can specify the basename of another icon to use a MegaView's, i.e. the filename without the ".info" extension. The Icon must be in the same directory. If no icon is found by that name, the internal icon is used. In either case, the AppIcons will have the name of <string>.

MENUNAME=<string>

By default, "MegaView" will appear as the menu item in the Tools menu. With this tool type, you can specify what name the menu item should have.

RECURSE

This ToolType does not have an argument. Normally, MegaView handles DIR's and VOLUME's like any other "filetype", using the info from the FileActions file. With this ToolType present, MegaView enters the directory and processes EVERY file inside. Subdirectories are also entered recursively, as deep as the directory tree will go. Beware! Stack setting must be big enough, as MegaView does not check the stack. This ToolType is identical to the ALL command line switch, as well as the ALL command line switch of the DIR command. This feature of MegaView is new to version 1.1, and was proposed by Richard Ludwig. Thanks.

WINDOW=<window string>

Some commands may use stdio to display information. With this tool type, you can specify a window description. The window is opened as soon as the command is executed and closed afterwards. If you specify the AUTO keyword, the window will only open if the command does use stdio. If you specify the WAIT/CLOSE combination, the window will stay open until you press the close gadget.

PACK=<packed filetypes>

In normal operation, MegaView handles compressed files like any other files - it searches the FileActions file and executes the command specified for this filetype. With the PACK ToolType, you can specify some filetypes to be compressed files. These files will be reprocessed after they have been decompressed first. This way, MegaView can handle packed pictures, text and anything just as if they were not compressed at all. Furthermore, MegaView hence adds XPK support to view programs which normally do not have it. You may specify any filetype which can be handled by XPK, i.e. all XPK- and PowerPacker-Filetypes. If there is no packed filetype specified, this feature is disabled. More than one filetype may be specified using a bar ("|") character, i.e.

PACK=XPK|PP Data

would enable the PACK feature for all XPK and PowerPacker-Data files. Note: There is a shell variable called "MegaViewPACK" which represents this feature in a more permanent way. However, all shell variable parameters of MegaView are overridden by the ToolType/Command Line. See MegaView - Environment .

This feature of MegaView is new to version 1.2, and was proposed by Arne Hinrichsen. Thanks.

KEEPFILES

This ToolType flag is related to the above PACK option. Normally, MegaView unpacks files into a temporary directory (usually T:). After processing, these files are automatically deleted. The KEEPFILLES option tells MegaView not to delete these files. Please note, however, that only the filename of the original file is used to store the unpacked data. It is possible that two files from different directories have the same name, and hence overwrite each other. Note that this is only a flag, it will be enabled if the tooltype is present, and disabled if not. This feature of MegaView is new to version 1.2.

TMPDIR=<dir or volume>

This ToolType is related to the above PACK option. It specifies the directory where temporary files are stored. This defaults to the T: directory.

Note: There is a shell variable called "MegaViewTEMP" which represents this feature in a more permanent way. However, all shell variable parameters of MegaView are overridden by the ToolType/Command Line. See MegaView - Environment .

AFILE=<fileactions file>

This ToolType specifies a different name for the FileActions file. The Default value is "S:FileActions". This is provided to make it possible to have different copies of MegaView behave different on the same file-type.

Note: There is a shell variable called "MegaViewACTION" which represents this feature in a more permanent way. However, all shell variable parameters of MegaView are overridden by the ToolType/Command Line. See MegaView - Environment .

SHORTCUT

Again, this is a boolean Tooltype. With this, you can "cut short" the Select|Quit|Continue requester, so that MegaView immediatly pops up its file requester if the icon or menuitem was invoked without an icon selected.

NOTEZ BIEN: If you specify this option, there is NO WAY of quitting MegaView once it is up and running, as the QUIT gadget in the requester that would normally appear will not be accessible any longer.

DONOTWAIT

If you want to use MegaView from WBStartup, you'll have to set the DONOTWAIT tool type. This is not really a MegaView feature, it tells workbench not to wait for the program to finish on WBStartup.

1.10 MegaView - CLI Usage

MegaView can be used from the CLI like every other viewer. The most basic command line is

```
MegaView <filename>
```

where <filename> can be a file or path you want to show. The complete template

for MegaView is
 FILE,ICON/S,MENU/S,ICONNAME/K,MENUNAME/K,REQUESTER=REQ/S,ALL/S,
 PACK/K,AFILE/K,TMPDIR/K,KEEPFILES=KF/S,SC=SHORTCUT/S,MAN/K

FILE is a filename. If you just want to show this file, then this argument must be given.

ICON is a switch that works like the MODE=Icon ToolType . MegaView sets up an AppIcon and stays in memory. If you use this switch (or the MENU switch) then you will have to use "run" or "runback" since MegaView will not disconnect from the console.

MENU is a switch that works like the MODE=Menu ToolType . MegaView will stay in memory, and an additional item in the tool menu will appear. As with the ICON switch, use "run" or "runback".

ICONNAME or MENUNAME work exactly like the ToolTypes with the same name (see ToolTypes

REQUESTER or REQ makes MegaView open a file requester and then process the file selected, just as if you selected "SELECT" from the popup requester. This feature was added for version 1.02. Since 1.03, you can also shift-select more than one file to be processed - see Background usage for more detail. Note also that MegaView will exit immediately after you canceled the file Requester - it will not go into Background mode.

ALL will make MegaView enter into directories of volumes instead of just passing them to a command specified in s:FileActions. MegaView will step down the directory tree as far as it will go, so stack setting here is crucial. This switch is similar in functionality to the ALL switch of the DIR and DELETE commands. The workbench equivalent is RECURSE .

PACK will allow MegaView to recognize packed files as well. Normally, these files are handled like any other file. With the PACK option, you can specify a list of filetypes that should be decompressed first and then scanned a second time. Filetypes must be separated by a bar ("|") character, i.e.

PACK "XPK|PP Data"

will turn the pack feature on for XPK and PP Data files. For further detail, see PACK ToolType

SHORTCUT will "cut short" the "Select|Quit|Continue" requester and immediately go into the file requester if it was invoked without an active icon.

Attention: You will not be able to quit MegaView, because you will never see the Quit gadget in the popup-requester.

AFILE, TMPDIR and KEEPFILES are identical in functionality to the AFILE , TMPDIR and KEEPFILES ToolTypes.

MAN is an option unique to the Shell interface of MegaView. As its name suggests, it simulates the use of the MAN command found under operation systems like UN*X. MegaView uses an environment/shell variable called "MegaViewPATHS", which should contain a list of directories to be searched, separated by commas, with the special entry ".", which means the current directory. MegaView tries to find a file starting with the string given on the command line and ending with anything except ".info". To be precise, the file is checked against the pattern "<fname>~(<#?.info>|<fname>)" (see the

AmigaDOS Manual/MatchPattern function for details). Note that this feature also works with Autodoc entries converted to AmigaGuide. Here's an example:

```
SetENV MegaViewPATHS ".,Man:,Autodocs:"
MegaView MAN MegaView
```

will try to locate the Doc file of MegaView in the current, Man: and Autodocs: directory. It will match anything that is not an icon, e.g. MegaView.guide, MegaView.man MegaView.dok, MegaView.doc etc., and even MegaView.iff, if you happen to have IFF pictures as manuals (just an example 8-). A good idea for this feature is an alias, e.g.

```
Alias MAN MegaView MAN []
```

1.11 MegaView - Environment

There are three new shell/environment variables for MegaView. These are all prefixed by "MegaView", followed by the variable name. All variables are taken instead of the default value, but command line or ToolType options override these. Variables are set using the SETENV command, i.e.

```
SETENV MegaViewPack "XPK|PP Data"
from a shell prompt.
```

The variables are:

MegaViewPACK

This works exactly like specifying the PACK ToolType , except that it will be "permanent".

MegaViewACTION

This works exactly like specifying the AFILE ToolType .

MegaViewTEMP

This works exactly like specifying the TMPDIR ToolType .

Note: In order to have these settings permanent, even after power off, issue the command

```
COPY ENV:MegaView#? ENVARC:
from a shell.
```

Note: MegaView accepts either global or local variables.

1.12 MegaView - FileActions

File Actions are specified in a file called "s:FileActions". This file is scanned everytime a file is dropped/invoked/started (...). Every filetype you want MegaView to handle must have a single line in this file. The format of the file is as follows:

A semicolon (;) starts a comment. Comments can begin anywhere within a line and continue to the end of the line.

A filetype entry must have the format

```
TYPE <filetype> ACTION <action> [QUOTES].
```

The <filetype> must be the same as in the `whatis.library's FileTypes` file. <action> should be a string representing a command. The special symbol %s can be used to represent the file name. QUOTES is an optional switch. It makes MegaView enclose the filename given to the ACTION command in quotes, thus that filenames with spaces are handled correctly. Note that some older, badly written commands - mostly old assembler programs - do not handle quotes correctly, but simply handle the whole command line as one argument - these will not work with the QUOTES switch.

Here follows an example for an entry for IFF pictures:

```
TYPE ILBM ACTION "sys:utilities/display %s" ; IFF File type
```

Take a look at the sample `FileActions` file for further examples.

If started from Workbench, MegaView CD's into the directory the file you want to process is in. The following line works:

```
TYPE Dir ACTION "dir"
```

It will list a directory dropped into the icon.

NOTE:

I've included the QUOTES option because older versions of MegaView couldn't handle files which contained spaces. Thanks to Malcom Allen who found this bug and reported it to me.

NOTE:

MegaView now supports `FileActions` files other than the one located in the `S:` directory. There is an environment variable, as well as commandline and `ToolType` support to change the name and path of the `FileActions` file to be used.

NOTE:

Starting with version 2.0 of MegaView, there is a special GUI-based editor for the `FileActions` files, see `FileAction Editor` for details.

1.13 MegaView - FileAction Editor

The Action Editor is quite simple to use. When the editor is invoked, the fileactions are loaded from the file specified in the `MegaViewACTION` environment variable. The list on the left will show all available filetypes. The group in the upper right part is a string gadget where you can edit the fileaction for this type, and a cycle gadget where you can tell MegaView to use quotes for the filenames passed to the program. Save and load options are just what they seem to be.

A word on the interface. We decided to use MUI for the GUI for two reasons:

1. MUI is an easy to use, very flexible interface builder with maximum user control.

2. The editor is not required to run MegaView. You can still edit the FileActions by hand.

MUI can be downloaded via ftp from aminet.

1.14 MegaView - Known Bugs

Known Bugs

There are currently no bugs known to me, MegaView seems to be pretty stable now.

If you ever get some recoverable alerts when using MegaView, try to increase stack size. A stack of 25000 should work fine, but if you encounter problems or crashes, try some more. With 50000, it should always work.

Stack setting is also crucial with the ALL option, as this may mean a lot of recursion, which means that it eats MUCH stack memory.

If you discover a bug, please contact me (see Legal Stuff where you can get me). If you do, please

- state clearly what exactly happened (a bit more than "it crashed").
- state which machine you have, your Kickstart version, processor type, additional hardware etc.

If you keep this in mind, it should help.

1.15 MegaView - Revision History

--- MegaView History -----

REVISION	DATE	Comment
1.0	13-Jul-93	First public release
1.01	22-Jul-93	Added REQUESTER=REQ/S command line option
1.02	22-Jul-93	Added "Loop" mode on Popup requester (see Background usage)
1.03	30-Jul-93	File requester has now multi-select possibility, i.e. files can be shift-selected. Also new with this version is that the whatis.library is now included.
1.1	06-Oct-93	Back from Holliday. Just adding a new options which allows the user to recursively collect files from a directory or volume Suggested by Richard Ludwig.
1.2	10-Oct-93	Started work on the XPK Interface. Suggested by Arne Hinrichsen.
1.2	11-Oct-93	Added some new command line switches. The

		XPK Interface took me some two hours. Great stuff! And easy to use.
2.0	26-Oct-93	Started the new version with a few bug fixes. Now includes a GUI Editor. Added new command line switches and tooltypes.
2.0	13-Nov-93	Implemented the MAN switch
2.0	23-Nov-93	Added Localization!

--- FAEdit History -----

REVISION	DATE	Comment
1.00	23-Nov-93	First working version.
1.01	24-Nov-93	Localization.

1.16 MegaView - The future

What is to come:

Maybe I will add a build-in text reader in a future version. There might be some sort of "DEFAULT" command for unrecognized/unspecified filetypes. I also thought about a "FORCE TO FILETYPE xxx"-possibility, where the user can "force" an unidentified/unspecified file to be of another filetype and apply this command to the file. Let me know what you think about that.

I thought about adding online help á la AmigaGuide, but I don't know if this is really needed, so please tell me your opinions about that.

Hope everybody likes the GUI-based editor. We do plan to add a Drag&Drop feature, which will come very soon.

Suggestions about future expansions and improvements are very welcome. Send everything concerning MegaView to
inf01@uni-trier.de (Hans-Jörg Frieden)

Suggestions about the editor should go to
inf02@uni-trier.de (Thomas Frieden)
