

EGSPhotoAlbum

COLLABORATORS

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Contents

1	EGSPhotoAlbum	1
1.1	Index	1
1.2	Disclaimer	1
1.3	Copyright and Distribution	2
1.4	Features of EGSPhotoAlbum	3
1.5	What is EGS?	4
1.6	Important requirements for EGSPhotoAlbum	5
1.7	Installing EGSPhotoAlbum	5
1.8	The fontsensitive user interface of EGSPhotoAlbum	6
1.9	Informations about the supported picture formats	6
1.10	Using EGSPhotoAlbum	9
1.11	How should I register to get the full version?	14
1.12	How to get updates	15
1.13	About the author	16
1.14	Hard- and Software used while developing EGSPhotoAlbum	16
1.15	Special Thanks	17
1.16	Information about other useful EGS programs	17
1.17	Version history	18

Chapter 1

EGSPhotoAlbum

1.1 Index

Welcome to EGSPhotoAlbum Professional (V3.3)

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Disclaimer

Copyright and Distribution

Features of EGSPhotoAlbum (EGSPhotoAlbum is (c) by Helmut Hoffmann 1994/95)

What is EGS? (EGS is (c) by VIONA-Development)

Important requirements for EGSPhotoAlbum

Installing EGSPhotoAlbum

The fontsensitive user interface of EGSPhotoAlbum

Informations about the supported picture formats

>>> Using EGSPhotoAlbum <<<

How should I register to get the full version?

How to get updates

About the author

Hard- and Software used while developing EGSPhotoAlbum

Special Thanks

Information about other useful EGS programs

Version history

1.2 Disclaimer

I tried my best to make this program error-free. It has been checked with enforcer and mungwall and works without problems on my configuration. Nevertheless, as there are so many possible configurations of Amigas and

EGS-Systems/graphic boards, I can not guarantee that this software will work on your configuration. Especially the complex EGS-System does not have the desired stability in some situations. In cases where I found problems with EGS, I tried to workaround them, or explained them in this document.

This software (program and documentation) is provided "as is" and comes with no warranty, either expressed or implied. The author is in no way responsible for any damage or loss that may occur due to direct or indirect usage of this software. You use this software entirely at your own risk.

1.3 Copyright and Distribution

EGSPhotoAlbum software (program and documentation) is copyright by

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D-41063 Mönchengladbach

Germany

The demo version of EGSPhotoAlbum may be freely distributed and used as long as the following conditions are met:

- 1) All files have to be kept together
- 2) No file may be modified or crunched/packed.

The only official way to distribute EGSPhotoAlbum demo packed is the original egsphotoalbum.lha archive.

EGSPhotoAlbum may not be disassembled or analysed. The limitations integrated in the demo version may under no circumstance be removed or bypassed.

- 3) Distributors may only charge for the duplication process (including media) and not for the software. These charges may not exceed the following limits:
 - a) Demo on a PD-disk: 8\$ (US-dollar) including postage&packing (in Germany: 12DM)
 - b) Demo on a PD-CD-ROM: 50\$ (US-dollar) including postage&packing (in Germany: 75DM)
 - c) Demo on a BBS/Mailbox/ftp-site or other electronically callable system: Maximum charge 4\$ (US-dollar) (in Germany: 6DM) for downloading

Anyway, it must be made explicitly clear to the buyer, that he does not pay for the program (demo) itself but only for the duplication service.

- 4) It is not allowed to distribute EGSPhotoAlbum with any commercial product without a written permission by me. One exception is the distribution of the demo version with products not exceeding the above price limits (e.g. a cover-disk magazine for 8\$ or less).

The following companies have my explicit permission to distribute the EGSPhotoAlbum demo with their products: NOVA Design, Ingenieurbüro Helfrich.

If you want to distribute EGSPhotoAlbum demo with your commercial product (hardware or software) write to me for details.

- 5) The registered version may not be redistributed. It may only run on one machine per registration. It is allowed to make a backup copy of the original disk.

You can currently contact me by EMail:

hhoff@pool.informatik.rwth-aachen.de

If you want to register or have suggestions (and if you don't get an answer by EMail) please write by ordinary mails to my address above.

1.4 Features of EGSPhotoAlbum

EGSPhotoAlbum is a Shareware picture management and presentation software for EGS. To use EGSPhotoAlbum as full version you need a keyfile, which can be obtained by registering directly by me. Without keyfile EGSPhotoAlbum has some restrictions.

EGSPhotoAlbum is a pure EGS program. It offers easy access to large collections of picture files e.g. on your harddrive with a comfort similar to that of PhotoCDs.

The current version supports the following picture file formats:

- * IFF-ILBM (all standard formats 1 to 8Bit, EHB, HAM6, HAM8, 24Bit)
- * JPeg (color and greyscale)
- * PPM (P6 color and P5 greyscale)
- * QRT (also known as dump format by PD raytracer as POV-Ray)
- * Targa (several variants for 24Bit, 8Bit, ColorMap; incl. RLE compression)
- * PCX (several compressed formats for EGA1-4Bit; VGA upto 8Bit and 24Bit)
- * BMP (several uncompressed formats for 24Bit RGB and 8Bit or 1Bit Colormap)
- * TIF (uncompressed formats for 24Bit RGB, Colormap 1-8Bit and 8Bit grey)
- * EGS7.x window iconification file format
- * DEEP (24Bit and 32Bit; compressed and uncompressed)
- * YUV (color 1:1:1, 2:1:1, 4:1:1 and greyscale)

EGSPhotoAlbum shows whole directories and (new!) even directory trees of pictures with downscaled preview images automatically. Special fast loading functions for downscaled loading are used.

- * full automatic layout of the preview pages with fixed or variable field size (max. field size can be selected)
 - * flexible subtitling of images with file name, file format, image size, file size, file comment, path, ...
 - * file comment of pictures can be edited (only in full version)
 - * Page turning functions to turn the page like in a real PhotoAlbum...
 - * Viewing of pictures in full size by mouse click (only in full version);
-

an unlimited number of full size picture windows (limited only by memory) can be open at the same time.

*** new: now with fast scrolling and zooming functions! ***

- * Pictures can easily be deleted by visual selection from your disk (only in full version)
- * Pictures can be removed from the preview pages
- * intelligent caching algorithms to hold preview images in memory to reduce waiting time when turning pages
- * asynchronous load function which preloads preview pictures during work with EGSPhotoAlbum (can also be switched off)
- * automatic generation of preview files to reduce waiting time for later use of EGSPhotoAlbum; several formats are supported, including Jpeg for minimum disk usage. The preview files can be put in a separate directory (only in full version)
- * Saving of shown pictures in other file formats (currently IFF-ILBM24, Jpeg, PPM, QRT, Targa, DEEP, EGS7.x window icon) or direct transfer to other programs (as ImageFX, XiPaint, PicoPainter, BigPainter or general to the Clipboard) (only in full version). This makes EGSPhotoAlbum a comfortable 24Bit picture converter or easy picture selection front end for other programs...
- * Automatic recursive searching of subdirectories (can be switched off)
- * Easy single or multiselect feature for pictures
- * Information display for selected picture (name, size, file format, ...)

All this is done with a font sensitive EGS user interface which can be used even on largest Screens and in full 24Bit color quality.

Many extensions (as slideshow with transition effects, ...) could be integrated in the future, if there is enough response and the number of registered users will be high enough. The keyfile concept offers registered users the possibility to use future demo versions automatically as update for their full version.

1.5 What is EGS?

EGS is the quasi standard for Hi- & True-Color graphics on the Amiga computer. It is supported by different graphics cards and can display graphics on any supported screentype in a compatible way. Besides that, it offers a flexible user interface, which is much easier to program than the Amiga-Userinterface.

Some popular graphic boards which are delivered with EGS:

- * Piccolo
- * Piccolo SD64

- * Rainbow
- * EGS-Spectrum
- * EGS-110

Some graphic boards for which EGS is available separately:

- * EGS for all Amigas (no graphic board necessary!)
- * Retina
- * Picasso
- * Merlin
- * Impact Vision

EGSPhotoalbum does not depend on special graphics hardware. It should run in conjunction with all graphic cards (or even without) which support EGS. Only the speed and the available screen resolutions and colors might differ.

EGS is currently ported to some other graphics cards, so the number of EGS-users will hopefully increase in the future.

Since version 1.5 EGSPhotoAlbum can also be used with EGS demo versions, which can be used on all Amigas!

1.6 Important requirements for EGSPhotoAlbum

EGSPhotoAlbum currently has the following requirements:

- * Amiga-OS 2.04 or higher
- * EGS-System version 6.0 or higher for your graphics board or for Amigas without graphics board (also usable as demo version)
- * Much memory (at least 2MByte Fast-RAM; more is really recommended to use EGSPhotoAlbum comfortably; the caching algorithms can use lots of memory); low memory can lead to problems with the EGS system.

1.7 Installing EGSPhotoAlbum

Special note for EGS7.x users:

An iconification icon for EGSPhotoAlbum windows is provided in the demo archive. Please copy this to your EGS:EGS-Icons directory, if you want to see this custom icon instead of the default icon for iconified EGSPhotoAlbum windows.

1) Demo version

Currently no installation is necessary. EGSPhotoAlbum can be started from Workbench or shell (stack size should be at least 20000 Bytes!).

2) Full version

The keyfile for the registered full version is a library called

"egsphotoalbum.library", which may not be distributed. This library can remain in the program directory or it can be moved to the LIBS: directory. I recommend to move it to the LIBS: directory if you are using a packing file system on your partition, as problems can show up with libraries on such file systems.

1.8 The fontsensitive user interface of EGSPhotoAlbum

EGSPhotoAlbum has a fontsensitive user interface, which means that the fonts which are used in windows and buttons can be selected with the EGS font preferences program "eFonts". You can change the size and appearance of the control windows by selecting several fonts. The EGS system distinguishes between 3 usage classes:

1) The Screen-Text-Font

This is used only for the screen title bar.

2) The Window-Text-Font

This is used for title bars, menus and user interface buttons in windows. The size of this font has great influence on the size of the control windows.

3) The System-Text-Font

This is used for all editable gadgets (e.g. number gadgets). The size of this font has influence on the control windows sizes too. This font must not be proportional. You should select a font size similar to the window font, so that the user interface appears well balanced.

Examples:

For 800x600 screens I recommend the following fonts:

for 1) Helvetica 15
for 2) Helvetica 13
for 3) Courier 15

For 640x480 screens I recommend the following fonts:

for 1) Helvetica 13
for 2) Helvetica 11
for 3) Courier 13

You can find these fonts on all original workbenches. You can certainly choose other fonts (and sizes), if you like.

1.9 Informations about the supported picture formats

EGSPhotoAlbum can currently read pictures in the following formats:

- 1) IFF-ILBM (all standard formats 1 to 8Bit, EHB, HAM6, HAM8, 24Bit)
- 2) JPeg (color and greyscale)
- 3) PPM (P6 color and P5 greyscale)
- 4) QRT (also known as dump format of the PD raytracer POV-Ray bekannt)
- 5) Targa (several variants for 24Bit, 8Bit, ColorMap; incl. RLE compression)
- 6) PCX (several compressed formats for EGA1-4Bit; VGA upto 8Bit and 24Bit)
- 7) BMP (several uncompressed formats for 24Bit RGB and 8Bit or 1Bit Colormap)
- 8) TIF (uncompressed formats for 24Bit RGB, Colormap 1-8Bit and 8Bit grey)
- 9) EGS7.x window icons
- 10) DEEP (IFF-DEEP: 24Bit and 32Bit; compressed and uncompressed)
- 11) YUV (color 1:1:1, 2:1:1, 4:1:1 and greyscale)

Important note: The GIF (®) format, which could be supported in earlier versions, can not be supported anymore since 11st jan. 1995 for legal reasons. Due to this since V3.1a GIFs are not supported anymore (see version history).

EGSPhotoAlbum can currently save in the following formats (full version only):

- 1) IFF-ILBM (only 24Bit) (compressed and uncompressed)
- 2) JPeg (color and greyscale pictures with variable quality/smoothing/optim.)
- 3) PPM-P6 color
- 4) QRT
- 5) Targa 24Bit (compressed and uncompressed)
- 9) EGS7.x window icons (create your own icons for iconified windows...)
- 10) IFF-DEEP (special TVPaint format; currently only uncompressed)

For preview file generation currently PPM-P6, IFF24, JPeg and Targa24 can be used.

Information about the file formats

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1) IFF-ILBM

The standard format on the Amiga. Pictures can be compressed or uncompressed; the compression is normally quite bad for photorealistic pictures; pictures with large colored areas (e.g. from raytracing) can sometimes be compressed better. Unfortunately this format is slow to read and write because all the bits for each pixel are scattered on individual bitplanes.

A setting in the settings menu selects IFF compression for saving (also used for Clipboard transfer).

All standard formats can be read (palette pictures with 1 to 8Bit incl. EHB, HAM pictures in HAM6 and HAM8, true color 24Bit and greyscale 8Bit). Only the 24Bit format can currently be saved.

2) JPeg

This is a very high compressable format; the compression is not lossless, so a picture can normally be a bit different after loading, as before saving. This format is best suitable for long term archiving and not for pictures which are still to be changed or

as temporary format. The compression is best for photorealistic pictures. Before saving the quality (and compression ratio) can be selected or smoothing can be applied.

This format can also be used as very disk space saving preview file format, but the loading speed will then be quite slow.

3) PPM

This uncompressed format can be read and written very quickly on fast harddrives, but needs lots of space as well. The PPM format is esp. used by the PD image processing system "PBM", which comes from workstations but has also been ported to the Amiga.

PPM-P6 (RGB 24Bit) and PPM-P5 (greyscale 8Bit) pictures can currently be read. Only 24Bit pictures can be saved.

This format is useful as preview file format, if fast access speed is needed, and a large amount of harddisk space is free for the preview files.

4) QRT

This format has similar advantages as PPM-P6. It is esp. used by some PD raytracers, e.g. by the very powerful PD raytracer "Persistence of Vision" (POV), which is also available for the Amiga. This format is also known as Dump format in such raytracers. The QRT support makes EGSPhotoAlbum an ideal converter for such raytracing pictures to convert them to IFF-ILBM24 or JPeg.

5) Targa

Targa can optionally be compressed. EGSPhotoAlbum reaches quite good compression in high speed. This format is ideal for such pictures, where JPeg is insufficient due to its quality losses. Depending on the type of picture, Targa compression can be better or slightly worse than IFF24 compression. Targa can also be used for transfer of pictures to other computer platforms, as Targa is used on many systems. In uncompressed form, Targa reaches the same speed as PPM or QRT. Targa can also be selected as preview file format since version 1.8. A setting in the settings menu selects Targa compression for saving.

Pictures with 24/32Bit (RGB color), 8Bit greyscale or 8Bit color map can be read (all in top down or bottom up order). Only 24Bit format can be saved (top down order).

6) PCX

A format from the PC world with moderate compression. It can currently only be read; 24Bit true color, 8Bit greyscale and several palette oriented formats from 1Bit to 4Bit (EGA) and 8Bit (VGA) are supported. The speed is quite high. Both chunky and planar EGA formats are supported.

7) BMP

A format from the PC world. It can currently only be read in uncompressed format with 24Bit RGB true color or 8Bit palette or 1Bit palette.

8) TIF

A format from the PC world. It can currently only be read in uncompressed format with 24Bit RGB true color, colormap 1 to 8Bit or 8Bit greyscale.

9) EGS7.x window icons

This format is used by the EGS system since version 7.x for icons of iconified windows; the EGS system looks for these icons in the EGS:EGS-Icons directory. If it finds an icon with the name of the EGS program, it will use this as icon for all iconified windows of this program. With EGSPhotoAlbum you can load and save such icons now. The icons have a size of 64x64 (smaller pictures can not be saved as EGS-Icons; larger pictures will be cropped).

10) IFF-DEEP

This format has first been used by TVPaint. Pictures in 24Bit and 32Bit format can be loaded (including compression); saving is currently only possible in uncompressed 24Bit format. This format is useful for all who want to transfer pictures to TVPaint or TVPaint Junior quite fast.

11) YUV

This format is esp. used by applications as EGS-TV Professional; first it has been used by Macrosystems VLab framegrabbers. There are several variations, which differ in the number pixels, which have the same color information. This format can currently only be read, in the variants "greyscale" and "color Y:U:V" with 1:1:1, 2:1:1 and 4:1:1.

1.10 Using EGSPhotoAlbum

EGSPhotoAlbum currently always runs on the EGSDefaultScreen. For highest quality and speed this should be selected to 24Bit.

*** new: optional directory/pattern parameter for CLI start ***

If you start EGSPhotoAlbum from CLI, you can now specify a parameter with a directory path incl. an optional pattern or picture name (a picture name will just be interpreted as pattern for a single picture). In this case, the path requester will not appear on program start, but instead the selected directory will be shown immediately according to the optional pattern. Example: "EGSPhotoAlbum RAM:#.pcx" starts EGSPhotoAlbum and shows all pictures with the ".pcx" extension in the RAM disk. To select the current directory, just pass "" as argument.

After start from Workbench (or with missing or invalid CLI parameter) a file requester will appear. With this you should select a Path for your pictures (->formats) and optionally a search pattern if you want to restrict the search to some files. It won't be a problem if you select unsuitable files; these are quietly ignored.

Please note: Files with the extension ".pre" are always ignored, as such names are reserved for preview files.

The Professional version can automatically search subdirectories too. Please note, that patterns have to match the directory names as well (this is a restriction in AmigaDOS). If you select a pattern "#?.jpg" for recursive search, only files from the main directory, ending with ".jpg" are accepted, and files from subdirectories, if the subdirectory name ends with ".jpg". If you instead want to read all files with the ending ".jpg" from all subdirectories, the pattern should be "#?/#?.jpg", but would then only match files in the first level of subdirectories.

After the path selection EGSPhotoAlbum starts to load little previews of all pictures asynchronously and shows them in an overview page. During the loading you can still control EGSPhotoAlbum as normal. To control EGSPhotoAlbum a control window exists with many functions. The overview window can be resized at any time; the pictures will then automatically rearranged. Picture previews need not to be reloaded (if enough memory exists) once they have been loaded.

Functions of the control window:

1) Field layout (variable or fixed)

If fixed layout is selected a rectangular area of fixed size will be reserved for all preview pictures. The actual preview pictures will then be scaled down (1:1, 1:2, 1:4 or 1:8) into this area. The area size can be selected upto 200x200. Pictures which are too big after 1:8 downscaling will only be partially visible.

At variable layout the pictures will also be downscaled, but only the actually needed place of the picture will be reserved. This normally allows more pictures to be shown on one page, but it might look slightly untidy. If pictures are too big after downscaling in this mode they may appear bigger than the selected area size.

2) max. field size

These gadgets specify the maximum size of a preview field. It can be selected as upto 200x200. The change of this size gadgets will result in a reloading of the preview pictures (as they might have to be scaled in another ratio).

3) Page changing buttons

If more pictures are found in a directory than can be shown on the actual page, you can "turn the pages" with these buttons.

Since version 1.6 there are similar functions in a menu in the preview overview window. These menu also has keyboard shortcuts for easy access. This is useful, if the control window was in your way and you placed it behind the picture window or iconified it (which is possible since EGS system version 7.0).

4) New directory button

This button opens the file requester again, so you can select a new path and pattern for your pictures. If you cancel this requester, no change will be done. A change of the directory will also close

all full picture windows.

5) Configuration switches

If the "Auto View" button is pressed down, any selection of a preview image will result in an immediate opening of the full size picture. This is only possible in the registered version. In the demo you can deactivate this button. An image selection will then only result in the output of some picture information in the info lines.

If the "Preload" button is pushed down, the automatic preloading of preview images (on other pages) is permitted. If loading of new previews is started, it will only stop when all pictures have been read or no memory is free for more pictures. If you deselect this option (button not pushed down), the preview loading will stop, if the page is full.

6) Info lines / editable file comment

During loading of the preview images (and of full images) an info field shows how much (in percent) of the image is already loaded.

Below that there are field for information about the currently selected image. You can select a picture by a mouse click in it's preview image. Multiple pictures can be selected by multi select (with pressing the shift button during the mouse click). If the "Auto View" feature is selected, a selected picture will be shown in full size directly (only in full version).

The information currently includes the file type, path/file name, picture size, file size and file comment. If a separate preview file exists for the selected picture, the information about the picture will partially be read from the preview file. This can lead to wrong information, if the preview file does not belong to the corresponding full picture file.

In the full version you can edit the file comment, which will then be saved to the original picture file as well as to the preview file.

7) Control field

The "View picture" button opens a full size picture window for all pictures which are selected in the preview pages. This is e.g. useful if the Auto View feature is not selected. The full size viewing is only available in the registered version.

The "Close pictures" button closes all full size windows. You can also close those windows individually with their close buttons.

The "Info" button displays the information window for EGSPhotoAlbum.

The "Select all" and "Deselect all" buttons can be used to select or deselect all pictures (on all pages). The selection can e.g. be used for the preview file generation. You can also select single pictures manually by mouseclick or multiple pictures with Shift and a mouseclick. Other buttons select all pictures with preview files or all pictures without previews (this is useful, if you want to create preview file only for such pictures).

The "Generate previews" button can be used in the full version to save the downscaled images in a special format, so that they can be reloaded by EGSPhotoAlbum very quickly. This can save you a lot of time if you want to view directories regularly, esp. with complex picture formats, which are slow even for downscaled image loading. The generation will be performed for all selected pictures; to generate previews for a whole directory, just press "Select all" before the generation. The preview files will normally be located in the original directory with the additional file extension ".pre". *** new since V1.7 *** You can also select a separate preview directory with another button. This is esp. useful for CD-ROMs, where you can't create the previews on the disk. The preview files contain (in addition to the preview image) information about the original dimensions and file format.

The current field size is important for the creation of the preview files. If you have selected a small field size, the preview files will only contain a small picture (which takes low disk space). If you have selected a big field size, the preview image will be bigger (and occupy more disk space); those images can then appear later in big size too optionally; if you watch large preview images in small fields, they will automatically be downscaled as usual, so that this will be no problem. If you want to change the preview file image size, you just need to create them again. For the creation of new preview files the original image will be used.

The preview files are created in an embedded format. As basic picture format you can select PPM-P6, Jpeg, IFF or Targa format. Jpeg preview files are certainly much smaller, but can normally not be loaded as fast as P6 pictures. For Jpeg preview files you can select the usual Jpeg parameters as well (quality, smoothing, optim., greyscale). IFF and Targa can be significantly smaller than P6 for certain picture types.

The preview file generation of Jpeg pictures can be aborted by the Cancel button in the Jpeg save parameter window.

Selection of a preview directory:

With this button you can select a directory for preview files. If you press CANCEL in the path requester, the default condition will be used, which means that preview files will be loaded and saved in the normal picture directory. If you select another path (and press OK), preview files will only be loaded from and saved to that directory, until you change it again.

If recursive searching is enabled while a separate preview path is selected, corresponding subdirectories will be read or created automatically.

Free cache memory:

With this button you can free all the memory occupied by the preview images. This is useful if you need this memory for other applications or operations. During load functions (incl. automatic preloading) this button has no effect! In this case you should first deselect the automatic preloading function.

Deleting pictures:

In the full version selected pictures can be deleted comfortably. After a security warning the selected pictures will be removed from the preview page and deleted on disk (together with the preview file, if it exists).

Remove pictures:

This function removes pictures only from the preview pages (they are not deleted from disk). This function is e.g. useful for CD-ROM owners who want to get unwanted pictures out of the way.

Configuration saving (full version only):

This button saves the current settings, which will then be read automatically on the next program start. The configuration file is called "default.cnf" and lies in the program directory. This format will be upward compatible to formats of future versions.

The configuration file includes window sizes and positions, field sizes and type, flags (recursive, preload, auto view, ...), picture subtitle mode, file format parameters (e.g. JPEg quality).

Please note
=====

Some functions (as Delete Pictures and Generate Previews) can only be used, if no picture or preview loading is in progress, as the whole picture list is effected by those operations. To abort the preview loading (of not visible pictures) you can deselect the preload setting button.

8) Closing gadget / Exiting EGSPhotoAlbum

By closing the control window or the preview page window you can quit EGSPhotoAlbum. All open full view windows will then also be closed automatically. The quit button in the action field has the same effect.

9) Picture subtitles

You can select different informations for subtitling of the pictures. Currently you have the choice of "None", filename, file type, picture size, file site, path name and file comment.

Full view windows in the registered version

Pictures can be shown in full size by a simple mouse click (if automatic view is selected) or after selection with the "View picture" button. In the current version a separate window will be opened in full size for each selected picture.

*** new ***

Fast zooming and scroll functions are available in the full size windows. Scrolling can be done with the scrollbars in the window borders or with the four cursor keys.

Normally pictures are shown 1:1. You can zoom into pictures (enlargement upto 1:8) or zoom away from pictures (downscaling upto 8:1). This can normally be done with the '+' and '-' keys on the numeric keypad; predefined zoom stages can be found in the local menu of the full picture window.

Many extensions are possible here, if enough users register for EGSPhotoAlbum.

The full picture windows have a menu bar, which allows saving of the picture in different formats or fast transfers to other programs or to the Clipboard, as well as a menu for zooming.

1) Direct transfer

Fast direct transfers are possible to the programs PicoPainter and BigPainter (as picture or as brush), to the program (EGS-)ImageFX and to the program XiPaint (incl. EGS version).

Transfers to other programs could be possible, if the developers/manufacturers of those programs would be willing to cooperate with me.

The direct transfer functions allow the usage of EGSPhotoAlbum as comfortable front end for picture selection for other applications...

2) Save functions

Pictures can be saved in other formats. This makes EGSPhotoAlbum a comfortable picture converter as well...

Currently 24Bit pictures can be saved as IFF-ILBM24, JPeg, PPM, QRT, Targa and DEEP. For JPeg saving you can choose the quality (which also influences the compression ratio) and an optional smoothing or optimizing. You can also save color pictures as greyscale JPegs.

The compression of IFF and Targa pictures can be selected in the settings menu.

3) Clipboard transfer

Full pictures can be transferred directly to the Clipboard.

1.11 How should I register to get the full version?

The registration fee for EGSPhotoAlbum Professional is currently 25US\$ (as cheque) or 22US\$ (as bank notes) for users outside of europe (see registration form for other possible currencies). Inside europe the registration fee is 30DM (see registration form for other possible currencies).

English and german versions are available.

Free updates are normally available due to the keyfile concept.

A registration form is supplied in this archiv (please print it with 12CPI and a left margin of 10).

Please send the filled in registration form to:

Helmut Hoffmann
Rubensstrasse 4
D-41063 Mönchengladbach

Germany

(no registrations by EMail!)

The delivery of the full version with the keyfile for future updates will normally not take very long, but under some circumstances (esp. from non european countries) it can take some weeks.

1.12 How to get updates

The keyfile concept allows the usage of new demo versions as full version. Here are some hints, where you might be able to get new versions (no guaranty):

1) by FTP

On many AmiNet sites in the directory gfx/board

2) on CD-ROM

On recent AmiNet-CD-ROMs (directory aminet/gfx/board)

3) on BBSs

Many mail boxes get new versions from AmiNet. Ask your local SysOp for this...

4) on disk

From time to time, a new version might appear on the german Saar-PD disk series.

5) from me

If you can't find new versions somewhere else, you can certainly order an update disk directly by me:

In europe:

O 10DM	O 10SFr	O 15HF1	O 80ÖS	O 5GB£	O 50F	O 250bfrs
	O 50DKr	O 50SKr	O 50NKR	O 50Fmk	O 15000LIT	

From outside of europe:

O 13US\$ (cheque) O 10US\$ (banknotes) O 15Aus\$ O 15Can\$ O 15DM

Update disks from me normally include current versions of EGSPhotoAlbum and EGS-TV.

1.13 About the author

I am currently a student of computer science at the
Rheinisch Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen
in germany.

I am using and programming Amiga computers since more than six years now.

I wrote this program to get comfortable access to my large picture collections, which have been grabbed with VLab, scanned or rendered with raytracing programs...

You can reach me by EMail via Internet while I study in Aachen:

hhoff@pool.informatik.rwth-aachen.de

(no registrations by EMail!)

There are some holiday periods in the year, when I don't come to my EMail-account for some weeks.

My postal address is

Helmut Hoffmann
Rubensstrasse 4

D-41063 Mönchengladbach

Germany

This is valid through all the year.

1.14 Hard- and Software used while developing EGSPhotoAlbum

Most parts of this program are written in pure Assembler (using the german assembler O.M.A. 2.0). Only the lowlevel JPeg functions have been implemented in C (based on the portable C source of the Independent JPeg Group; This software is based in part on the work of the independent JPeg Group) and compiled with the german MaxonC++ system.

My development system is:

Amiga 3000/030/25MHz / 18 Megabytes RAM

OS version 3.1

EGS System 7.0 (yes, this does really exist)

4MByte Piccolo SD64 (64Bit) graphics board (running in Zorro III-mode).

To create picture files I used (beside others):

Classical VLab with vlab.library version 8.2

under control of EGS-TV Professional (my own Shareware video software for EGS)

Reisware scanner interface and Cameron Type 14 handy scanner

(used with EGS-TV Professional; this program also has some scanner support)

This program was tested with enforcer and mungwall running.

Transfer functions and file formats have been tested with PicoPainter, BigPainter, EGS-ImageFX, XiPaint-EGS, TV-Paint-Junior EGS and others.

1.15 Special Thanks

I want to thank Alexander Pratsch for providing me with BigPainter, the successor of PicoPainter. The picture transfer from EGSPhotoAlbum to PicoPainter and BigPainter is possible by a fast direct transfer interface.

I also want to thank Mr. Woodall from NOVA-Design for his support at the implementation of the direct transfer interface to ImageFX (EGS) by providing me with EGS-ImageFX.

My special thanks go to the Ingenieurbüro Helfrich and Jan-Claas Dirks for their great support.

I want to thank Mr. Thomas Dorn for providing me with "EGS-XiPaint beta" as well as documentation for picture transfers to this program.

I also want to thank the "Independent JPEG Group" for providing the portable C source code for JPeg compression. The JPeg functions are based on this code (This software is based in part on the work of the independent JPeg Group).

I also want to thank all who registered during the development phase and had to wait a bit longer for the full or professional version.

1.16 Information about other useful EGS programs

Are you looking for an animation, video sequence editing, framegrabbing program for EGS or do you have a Cameron/Reisware handyscanner? Then you should take a look at EGS-TV Professional 4.0!

This shareware program (which is also developed by me) offers a comfortable usage and special effects (e.g. Blue Screen Keying) as well as harddisk recording and sequence editing functions. Esp. VLab and IV24 users can experience new dimensions with EGS-TV.

EGS-TV Professional 4.0 can also be used to create animations very comfortably, as it can read all formats, which EGSPhotoAlbum supports. All pictures of a directory (independent of their format) can e.g. be imported in one go and converted to an animation. The fast scaling functions (known from EGSPhotoAlbum Professional) can also be applied.

As special function, 256 greyscale handyscanners of Cameron/Reisware can be controlled by EGS-TV.

EGS-TV Professional demos should be available on places where you found EGSPhotoAlbum.

1.17 Version history

- * Version 1.0 (31.10.94)
First demo version (only JPeg pictures are supported in this version)
 - * Version 1.1 (04.11.94)
Special version for the Computer 94 expo in Cologne:
Introduction of full picture windows (unlimited number of windows)
 - * Version 1.2 (11.11.94)
Support of the IFF-ILBM24 format (compressed and uncompresses)
Support of the PPM-P6 format
 - * Version 1.3 (14.11.94)
Speed-Up of the PPM loading functions by adaptive buffer alignment
Different "Pic-Load" display increment rates for previews and full pictures
Display fields for currently loaded picture number and total number of files
Full version:
Introduction of keyfile "egsphoalbum.library"
Change of full picture view to "simple refresh" windows; this allows efficient use of the original full picture bitmap for transfers etc.
Introduction of fast direct transfers to Pico-(and Big-)Painter; full pictures can be transfered as picture or as brush
Introduction of fast direct transfer to (EGS-)ImageFX
 - * Version 1.4 (16.11.94) (First official full version)
Introduction of "Select all" and "Deselect all" functions
Full version:
Introduction of Clipboard transfer
Introduction of save operations for full pictures in the file formats IFF-ILBM24 (compressed and uncompressed), JPeg, PPM-P6, QRT, Targa, DEEP
Improvement of the full picture loading management
Introduction of preview file generation and management
 - * Version 1.5 (20.11.94)
Support of the QRT picture format for loading (also know as Dump format by the PD raytracer "POV-Ray")
Fix of a bug in the selection frame drawing with "Select All" (occured when the first page was not visible)
Introduction of a "Quit" button
Fix of a bug, which could lead to crashes, if libraries where missing during program start
-

Change of the needed library versions to make EGSPhotoAlbum usable even with old EGS6.0 demo versions

Full version:

Introduction of the delete function, to make deletion of pictures (including preview file) possible in a comfortable way

* Version 1.6 (02.12.94)

Introduction of a menu (incl. keyboard shortcuts) in the picture overview window for comfortable page flipping even with hidden/overlapped control window

Introduction of a setting to omit or interrupt automatic preloading of not yet visible preview pictures

More efficient directory management: files of unknown format are now removed after the first access; this accelerates repeated access

Full version:

Fix of a bug with a wrong "out of memory" requester during preview file creation in directories with unknown file formats

Field for number of files is now correctly decremented after delete operations

* Version 1.7 (05.12.94)

Fix of a bug (in V1.6) which could let pictures disappear from a page if the preview loading was interrupted

Introduction of a remove function, which can be used to remove pictures from the pages (without deleting them on disk, so the removal is not permanently and can also be used with read only media as CD-ROMs)

Fix of another bug with selection frame drawing (which could occur when layout had changed and pictures where still reloading)

Full version:

Extension of the preview file generation by an embedded JPEG and IFF format; together with the former used embedded PPM-P6 format there are now three alternatives (with varying space requirements and loading speeds); for the JPEG creation all usual JPEG parameters are available (e.g. quality).

Selectable directory for preview file generation: This feature allows usage of preview generation also for read only media (as CD-ROM), where you can keep all the previews on a separate harddrive directory.

Automatic prevention of preview file generation for files with file names which are too long (30 characters); as the added ".pre" extension would be ignored by the DOS, the preview file could overwrite the original file in such situations.

* Version 1.8 (12.12.94)

Support of the Targa 24Bit format (compressed and uncompressed, in top-down and bottom-up order)

Introduction of optional picture subtitles in the preview window for file name, file type or picture size

Introduction of a menu (incl. keyboard shortcuts) in preview- and control window for different preview field sizes

Picture directory needs not to be specified at program start anymore; with Cancel you can now leave the path requester to select some settings before starting with pictures

Introduction of a settings menu for different file format parameters (compression for IFF and Targa, high quality JPEG loading)

Full version:

Extension of the Targa save function for compressed Targa pictures

Fix of a bug, which could lead to problems if preview file generation had been selected while the preview loading was still in progress

Correction in the picture delete function with separate preview path:

now preview pictures are also detected in the separate path

* Version 1.9 (13.12.94)

Support of the GIF format (non-interlaced) in several variants

("Graphics Interchange Format" (c) by CompuServe Incorp.;

GIF is a service mark property of CompuServe Incorp.)

Please note: Since version 3.1a the GIF format is not supported anymore for legal reasons.

* Version 2.0 (23.12.94)

Support of EGS7.x window icons as picture format for loading and saving;

with the help of EGSPhotoAlbum you can now create such icons for all your EGS applications

* Professional-Version 3.0 (07.01.95)

Recursive searching of subdirectories for pictures now possible

Extension of the picture information display by path, file length and comment

Optional picture subtitle can now also be path, file length and comment

Acceleration and extension of load functions:

+ downscaling now often possible with other factors than 1:1, 1:2, 1:4 and 1:8

+ all standard IFF-ILBM formats (1 to 8Bit, EHB, HAM6, HAM8, 8Bit grey, 24Bit)

+ Interleaved GIF (support not possible anymore since version 3.1a!)

+ many new Targa formats (palette oriented, 8Bit grey)

+ PCX load functions (compressed; EGA 1,2&4 Bit; VGA 4,8&24Bit; 8Bit grey)

+ BMP load functions (only uncompressed 24Bit RGB und 8Bit palette oriented)

+ TIF load functions (only uncompressed 24Bit RGB and 8Bit grey)

+ PPM-P5 greyscale format

Please note: Since version 3.1a the GIF format is not supported anymore for legal reasons.

Full version:

The file comment of pictures can be edited

Extended full size picture viewing capabilities:

+ fast scrolling functions

+ fast zoom functions (magnification and downscaling possible)

Introduction of fast direct transfer function to XiPaint

Saveable default configuration (preferences; loaded automatically on program start)

Automatic creation of subdirectories for preview files, if a separate preview path has been selected and picture files have been loaded recursively from subdirectories

* Professional-Version 3.1 (09.01.95)

Acceleration and extension of load functions:

+ DEEP (24Bit and 32Bit; compressed and uncompressed)

+ YUV (color 1:1:1, 2:1:1, 4:1:1 and greyscale)

* Professional-Version 3.1a (11.01.95)

Since version 3.1a the GIF format can not be supported as loading format anymore for legal reasons. This applies to all type of software (PD/ Shareware or commercial,...), which can deal with this format.

Although the GIF format could be used for free since about 7 years, and became a quasi standard for 256 color pictures (esp. on PCs) all over the world, the legal situation has changed in the USA, so that the free using possibility ended on 10th jan. 1995.

* Professional-Version 3.2 (16.01.95)

Extension and correction of the PCX load function:

- + new EGA formats (2,3,4 Bitplanes)
- + Loading possibility for pictures which have not the full specified size
- + Correction for pictures with a wide being not a multiple of 4
- + Work around a CD-ROM file system bug, which could prevent 256 color PCX pictures from being loaded from a CD-ROM

Extension of the BMP load function to load the uncompressed 1Bit format

Optional parameter for CLI start:

A directory/path incl. optional pattern can be specified as parameter, to have the specified directory shown (with the selected pictures) direct after program start

Reservation of memory areas as security buffer for EGS operations; this should improve stability, as many EGS operations depend on free memory and can block the system or even crash, if memory is missing

Introduction of a button for manual cache memory release

Full version:

Possibility to abort preview file generation in JPeg format

* Professional-Version 3.2a (16.01.95)

Change of maximal preview window size from 1024x768 to 4000x4000

* Professional-Version 3.3 (31.01.95)

Extension of the TIF load function for color mapped pictures (1 to 8Bit)

Introduction of menu leave out bars in some menus
