

BrowseAminet

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	TITLE : BrowseAminet		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY		December 8, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

BrowseAminet

1.1 Aminet Browser for DaFTP

Aminet Browser for DaFTP graphical FTP client
by Osma Ahvenlampi and Dan Murrel Jr.

Legalese	The things no one likes to read...
Thanks	Who made this possible?
Introduction	What's the purpose of this program?
Installing	How to start using it..
Usage	And what to do then.
Advanced	Advanced usage notes.
History	What bloopers were fixed in this version.

1.2 Copyright, disclaimer, and othe legal mumbo jumbo

BrowseAminet (Browse.DaFTP) is Copyright © 1994 by Osma Ahvenlampi, from here on referenced as the Author. All rights reserved. BrowseAminet is freely distributable as long as it has not been modified without a prior permission from the Author, and no fee is charged for copying it. In other words, BrowseAminet is provided free to use.

While a lot of effort has been taken to ensure correct function, BrowseAminet comes with NO WARRANTY. In case it does not work as intended or does unexpected things or damage, the Author can not be held liable. By using BrowseAminet, you accept the responsibility.

1.3 The people who must be thanked for making this possible

Dan Murrell Jr., for making DaFTP, which is awesome, and starting this project.

Urban Müller and all the other Aminet maintainers, for keeping the archive running. Without you, this program would have no purpose.

All the great people who have helped me when I've ran into difficulties.

1.4 What is BrowseAminet for?

BrowseAminet was written to serve a couple of purposes. First, it was a demonstration of how to use DaFTP's ARexx interface. Most features of that interface are used in BrowseAminet, and thus it serves as a reference for other scripts.

Second, and more importantly, BrowseAminet is intended to simplify access to Aminet. Normal FTP is quite unfriendly to use with large software archives that update frequently. While a graphical FTP makes this easier, it also can slow you down when you try to get several new files in different directories.

Aminet administrators try to make access simpler by providing good lists of recent uploads with descriptions of the programs. Urban D. Müller has written a program called Aminet Download Tool to use these lists (which he designed himself). However, ADT was mainly written for UNIX systems, and thus it isn't very Amiga-like.

This is where BrowseAminet comes into picture. An ARexx script to use DaFTP's capabilities, it can connect to any Aminet mirror site, grab the recent files list, convert it to an AmigaGuide document, hiding the files you've already seen, and give you a chance to just point and click in the document to get the files you want.

1.5 How should you install BrowseAminet?

The installation is very simple. First, you will naturally need DaFTP. BrowseAminet will work best if DaFTP can be found in the Workbench search path, but that is not necessary, if you always start DaFTP first.

Second, and this is important, Browse.DaFTP has to be placed in REXX:. This is because it is called several times from within the AmigaGuide documents it generates, and if you do not place it in a directory where RX will find it, things will just fail.

Third, to be able to use the online help feature, you will need to copy this document (BrowseAminet.guide) to a directory in the AmigaGuide search path.

An example of installation is here.

That's all the installation there is. Now you can just execute the script, and it will pop up an AmigaGuide window with a small list of select Aminet sites. Don't worry if your favourite site is not in the list. Just connect to any of the sites listed, and BrowseAminet will ask for an up to date site list. The next time you use it, it will show you the complete list of Aminet mirrors. This updating will happen automatically any time the Aminet mirror list changes.

1.6 An example of installation steps

Note that this will probably not work as is on your system. It should give you the general idea, though.

```
Copy DaFTP_AS225 TO: Inet:C/DaFTP
Path Inet:C ADD
Copy Browse.DaFTP TO: REXX:
Copy BrowseAminet.guide TO: HELP:
```

1.7 What to do now that BrowseAminet is installed?

Using BrowseAminet is simple. Execute it. Or, if you have already installed BrowseAminet, just click here to start it.

If this is the first time you use BrowseAminet, you will be asked for your rough location. This is used to choose the find server BrowseAminet uses.

Choose your favourite site from the list that pops up, and watch DaFTP connect to that site. BrowseAminet will ask DaFTP to download the recent files list, and subsequently make an AmigaGuide document of the new files uploaded since you last used BrowseAminet.

This document is full of buttons.. Here is an example of what it will look like. Just click on any button to see an explanation of what that button does:

Show last week	Search for a file	Top downloads chart
Get marked files	Upload file	BrowseAminet Help

MultiCX136.lha	util/cdit	13K	Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha	util/cdit	6K	XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decomp

BrowseAminet can pop up a lot of windows, although they will all appear over each other (at least with V40 AmigaGuide). You can close any window at any time you wish, and the rest of them will continue working normally.

1.8 Show all files

Show last week	Search for a file	Top downloads chart
Get marked files	Upload file	BrowseAminet Help

MultiCX136.lha	util/cdit	13K	Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha	util/cdit	6K	XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decomp

Normally, BrowseAminet will only show the files uploaded to Aminet since your last use. This button will tell it to make a document with all the files uploaded in the last 7 days listed.

1.9 Search by keyword

Show last week Search for a file Top downloads chart
Get marked files Upload file BrowseAminet Help

MultiCX136.lha util/cdit 13K Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha util/cdit 6K XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decompr

This button activates the search feature of BrowseAminet. This function has some special requirements. First of all, it needs the TCP: device. This is provided by AmiTCP's Inet-Handler. I am not aware of a similar feature in AS225. The second requirement is ESR, a string requester by Scott Ellis.

Provided both of these requirements are filled, pressing this button will pop up a string requester, in which you can type the search keyword. This will be sent to an ADT find server, and you will see next the files matching the keyword. Currently, finds are limited to a maximum of 30 matches.

1.10 Top downloads chart

Show last week Search for a file Top downloads chart
Get marked files Upload file BrowseAminet Help

MultiCX136.lha util/cdit 13K Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha util/cdit 6K XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decompr

This button will get the "Aminet Top 10 downloads in the last week" chart file and show it to you. This file is not, unfortunately, in the normal BrowseAminet format. Maybe this will change later..

1.11 Get marked files

Show last week Search for a file Top downloads chart
Get marked files Upload file BrowseAminet Help

MultiCX136.lha util/cdit 13K Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha util/cdit 6K XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decompr

This button will tell DaFTP to get all the files marked for later download with the Mark button (that shows file size).

1.12 Upload a file to Aminet

Show last week Search for a file Top downloads chart
Get marked files Upload file BrowseAminet Help

MultiCX136.lha util/cdit 13K Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha util/cdit 6K XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decompr

This button will pop up a file requester, in which you can select the file

you want to upload to Aminet. The directory should also contain a .readme file (for example, CoolUtil.lha and CoolUtil.readme), that has, at a minimum, one line starting with "Short: " and containing the short description of the file. For more information, refer to Aminet upload policy readme.

1.13 Help

Show last week	Search for a file	Top downloads chart
Get marked files	Upload file	BrowseAminet Help
MultiCX136.lha	util/cdit	13K Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha	util/cdit	6K XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decomp

This button will, surprisingly, show the BrowseAminet online help. However, this will only work if BrowseAminet.guide is placed in the AmigaGuide search path.

1.14 Get a file immediately (file name in the list)

Show last week	Search for a file	Top downloads chart
Get marked files	Upload file	BrowseAminet Help
MultiCX136.lha	util/cdit	13K Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha	util/cdit	6K XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decomp

By clicking on any file name, you can instruct DaFTP to immediately download the file.

1.15 Mark a file for later download (file size in the list)

Show last week	Search for a file	Top downloads chart
Get marked files	Upload file	BrowseAminet Help
MultiCX136.lha	util/cdit	13K Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha	util/cdit	6K XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decomp

By clicking on the button displaying the size of the file, you will place the file in the DaFTP Batch Mode file list for later download.

1.16 Get file description (short description in the list)

Show last week	Search for a file	Top downloads chart
Get marked files	Upload file	BrowseAminet Help
MultiCX136.lha	util/cdit	13K Multi Commodity v1.36
Shri20.lha	util/cdit	6K XpkSHRI.library 2.0 w/ 2 times faster decomp

By clicking on the button showing the short description of the file, you will instruct BrowseAminet to immediately get and display the full .readme for the file.

1.17 Advanced usage notes for power users

While BrowseAminet is fully usable without a need to know anything told in this chapter, power users may find that some of these things make use of BrowseAminet faster.

Bypassing the front page

You can make BrowseAminet skip the front page and connect to your preferred Aminet mirror immediately by calling it with the command

```
RX Browse.DaFTP CONNECT <address>
```

where <address> is the name of your favourite Aminet site.

Similarly, if you want to find an older file, without having to first connect to an Aminet site, use

```
RX Browse.DaFTP FIND <address>
```

where <address> is, once again, the name of your favourite Aminet site. Note that this is NOT the find server address, but the address of the Aminet mirror where the file will be fetched from in case you want to download it.

Using GZIP compression with the RECENT file

If you want to make BrowseAminet use compressed recent file lists, this can be done simply by changing the ENVARC:BrowseAminet configuration file. The second line of this file is in the form

```
<find server> <use-gzip> <max find hits>
```

So, just change the use-gzip value from 0 to 1. Oh, and don't edit this file while BrowseAminet is operational, because the changes will be lost when it updates the file when quitting.

Getting more matches in file searches

If a maximum of 30 matches for a file search you, you can make it larger by changing the value of the max find hits in the prefs file (see above).

1.18 What bloopers were fixed in this version?

0.13

Forgot to give the pubscreen name to DaFTP..

- 0.12
 - Changed to use rexxreqtools.library, made find function more configurable.
- 0.11
 - A bugfix in prefs file handling
- 0.10
 - Support for ADT find servers added (needs TCP: device, which is a part of AmiTCP.. Maybe there's something for AS225 also, don't know really.)
 - Can also UPLOAD a file to Aminet...

BrowseAminet has been tested on V40 AmigaOS (OS 3.1).

1.19 About Aminet

Aminet is the premiere archive of freely distributable Amiga software. Centrally located at ftp.wustl.edu, USA, it is mirrored around the world and also available on CD-ROM. Aminet has received over 10,000 files, and the complete archive, with full program distributions compressed with the LhA archiver, takes almost 2 gigabytes of disk space.

A big thanks must go to all the great people who donate their time and effort to keep Aminet operating.