

SF

COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

SF

1.1 SF. v1.00

SF. User Guide

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What does SF. do?
How do I make it work?
Who are Silicon Based Life?
And what do they want?

1.2 What does SF. do?

WHAT DOES SF. DO?

SF. stands for Software Failure. No, the program doesn't generate software failures (or at least I hope not!) - when confronted with a 8 hex digit code, it tries to tell you as much as it can derive about what your Amiga was doing at the moment the error occurred. It's a programmer's tool.

I am well aware that such programs already exist, I wrote the program for two good reasons. When programming the Amiga, sooner or later you will feel the need to meditate with the Guru. When this happened to me prior to SF., I would feed the number into an long standing alert number conversion program (widely available) and turn up a complete blank. The reason? - The program was written in the days of WB1.3 (remember that?). Which sent me on a trip down the includes path to find the alerts header file in order to derive the code - nearly every time (a little tedious).

SF. is conversant in all software failures that can be generated up to KickStart/ Workbench 3.0 that are made known by Commodore to the 'consumer grade' programmer.

SF. will also try to tell you as much as it can, even if that is very little, when it does not know the more specific nature of an error - for instance it may tell you that intuition.library was the source of the error

even if it knows not what the error was - so that at least you know where you might start looking.

1.3 How do I make it work...

HOW DO I MAKE SF. WORK?

Make sure that you are running at least Kickstart version 2 and are in a Shell window. (Due to the nature of the program, SF. will only run from the CLI.)

Simply type 'SF' followed by the 8 digit hex number that was displayed in your software failure.

For example,

```
1.Apps:Programming> SF 81000009
```

Hex digits A-F can be entered in either upper or lower case or mixed.

INTERPRETATION OF THE OUTPUT

Typical output from SF may look like this,

```
Software Failure : 81000009
      Type : Dead end alert.
      Sub-System : exec.library.
      Specific Error : Freeing memory that has already been freed.
```

The error was a dead end alert (the machine reset), it occurred within an exec.library operation and was an attempt by your program to free some already free memory.

```
Software Failure : 04000123
      Type : Recoverable alert.
      Sub-System : intuition.library.
```

This time, the specifics of the error are unknown, however, SF. knows the error was in an intuition.library operation.

```
Software Failure : 04010123
      Type : Recoverable alert.
      Sub-System : intuition.library.
      General Error : Out of memory.
```

Again, the specifics are unknown, but SF. can tell that the error was related to a lack of memory.

```
Software Failure : 05038015
      Type : Recoverable alert.
```

```
Sub-System : math.library.  
General Error : OpenLibrary().  
Object : timer.device.
```

In this final example it is important to note the ordering. The meaning of the output is that timer.device was unable to open math.library. The object is the performer, the error was with opening the library and the library in question is math.library. The example makes no sense back to front anyhow since 'General Error' should otherwise read OpenDevice().

1.4 Silicon Based Life (SBL).

WHO ARE SILICON BASED LIFE?

Silicon Based Life are a small group of dedicated Amiga enthusiasts, who enjoy to use and to develop for the machine. We attempt to understand and to appreciate all that is the technological masterpiece that the Amiga range represents and try to present it in it's best light in what ever way we can find.

We are a varied group of individuals, each with differing levels of experience, but all with a passion for getting the best out of our equally diverse Amiga computers.

Please enjoy your Amiga, in the knowledge that you have the finest in computer hardware that your money could buy. Thankyou.

1.5 What SBL want from you.

WHAT DO SBL. WANT?

SF. is Freeware, however if you want to help us, please send a letter or a pretty postcard to the address below, stating which product (SF.) you are using. This allows us to gauge the response to each completed package and to therefor direct our activities as best as possible. Money is of course welcome, but, must be in UK pounds (lots of them!).

If you have any suggestions or have discovered a bug, please write with a detailed description to

James Ling

93 Weatherbury Way
Dorchester
Dorset DT1 2EE
England

Please remember that it is helpful to include a description of your Amiga setup - model, RAM size, Hard disk, monitor type, esp. when reporting

possible faults.

Writing does not guarantee a reply, (an SAE increases your chances), but I will try to reply to most sensible correspondence.

DISCLAIMER

Silicon Based Life does not take any responsibility for any damage, loss of data, caused directly or indirectly by the use of SF. or any of the associated material. A standard text accompanies each package, Legal.doc, which must accompany the package when it is duplicated.

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SF. may be freely included on coverdisks and other such large scale distributions.
