

FTrash

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WRITTEN BY		November 24, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

FTrash

1.1 FTrash Users Guide

FTrash 1.00

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Users Guide

Introduction~~~	What is all this good for?
Copyright~~~~~	Legal stuff & distribution status
Requirements~~~	What you need to run FTrash
Installation~~~	How to install FTrash
Usage~~~~~	A small chapter. Its simple! :-)
Problems~~~~~	What might go wrong
Hints~~~~~	How to do it better
Future~Plans~~~	What I am intending to do
Version~history	The evolution
Acknowledgement	Whom I would like to thank
Author	Who am I?

1.2 Introduction

FTrash is a commodity. Its purpose is to save you a lot of work in certain situations and to clean up behind you. When using FTrash correctly it will never happen again that you delete files by accident and then have to wait hours for your HardDisk recovery program if it can bring the data back to life.

This is because every file that would be normally deleted will now be moved to the trashcan first. Only if there is a trashcan directory, certainly! If there is no trashcan on the disk where the file is, it will be deleted normally. Of course FTrash works for every program that uses system routines to delete files (the only exception I know of is ixemul.library).

In addition to that FTrash will clean up your trashcan directories behind you according to your needs. You may determine how this is done for every single trashcan individually. You can specify how much space should be free on your disk at least and the maximum of days a file may stay in the trash. After that time or if your disk has less space free than specified the trash will be emptied, beginning with the oldest file.

To minimize disk access FTrash uses an internal directory cache for all watched trashcans.

FTrash has some extra gimmicks included. The first one can be noticed when you use the Workbench. Like on the Macintosh computer series you will have a 'fat' trashcan being displayed as long as files are inside of it. This can be switched off. You may also specify files that will always be deleted immediately, no matter if there is a trashcan or not. On the other hand you may specify a pattern for files that should better not be deleted. FTrash will then ask you if you really want to delete this file.

1.3 Copyright

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This program runs flawlessly on my own Amiga (Enforcer and Mungwall included). Anyway, there might be problems showing up on other systems, especially with other Icon patches (see the problems section). So I certainly cannot guarantee that this thingy works like it should. Detailed bug reports and suggestions are always welcome.

However, if you like this program very much, I would be glad if you sent me a keyfile for your shareware program, a postcard or at least an email. You certainly do NOT need to do any of the above!

1.4 Requirements

You need the following to use FTrash:

- An Amiga (surprise, surprise :-)
- Amiga OS Version 37 (Kickstart 2.04) at least
- reqtools.library (©Nico Francois) Version 38 or higher.
As there have been crashes reported with revision numbers smaller than my one (1266) from several beta testers I restricted FTrash to not use earlier ←
revisions!
This version (ReqTools 2.2c) can be obtained from various sources like Fish
Disks and AmiNet (CD 4).

You don't need it to use FTrash but I strongly suggest that if you run any kind of patch like FTrash in your system, then please use SetMan or a similar

utility. SetMan is available from AmiNet (CD 3). FTrash might refuse to exit under certain circumstances if you do not use such a tool.

1.5 Installation

If you want to have patched trashcan icon imagery then copy the files named 'def_FullTrash' and 'def_EmptyTrash' to your ENV:sys and ENVARC:sys directories. These icons are 3-bit MagicWB. If you do not use MagicWB please use the icons titled 'ugly_xxx.3bit' or 'ugly_xxx.8bit' (if you have a 256 color WB) and rename them to 'def_FullTrash' and 'def_EmptyTrash'. If you dont want patched icons then set the arg PATCHIMG=NO in the FTrash icon or on the command line. See usage for more info on options and settings.

FTrash should be startet right before Workbench because it currently uses Disk.info to detect disks and therefore works best when it is started before all disk icons show up on the WB. If you start FTrash from your WBStartup it will work correctly also, but trashcans that are not used by you may not be cleaned up properly until next usage. This behaviour will change in future releases.

All you NewIcons freaks start the NewIcons demon after FTrash. Then you may use NewIcons of your choice for FTrash and everything should work well. If you create your own NewIcon Images for FTrash please send them to me for inclusion in future releases! Thank you!

1.6 Usage

Usage

You may use 3 different methods to make FTrash do what you want it to do:

Config~Requesters
ToolTypes~and~Shell~options
ENV Variables

1.7 Config Requesters

The configuration requesters

Every time when FTrash detects a disk with a trashcan on it that has no associated settings you will be prompted by FTrash to input your desired values. If you want to configure a new trashcan then just double click on the disk icon where this trashcan is on (or delete a file on that disk :-))

A requester will pop up, asking you if you want to configure that trashcan or just ignore it (files will be moved in there even if you select ignore, but it will NOT be cleaned up and will not have a 'fat' icon then!!!)

Second you'll have to tell if you want to have FTrash checking your disk every time a file is deleted or just once a day or never. If you select 'on every delete' FTrash will certainly spend more time crawling around in your trashcans and looking for files to clean up. However, FTrash works asynchronously, which means that this will NOT slow down deletions more than any of the other choices. Just set FTrash to a low pri with the TASKPRI ToolType and it wont use CPU time when other tasks need it. If you select 'never' then FTrash wont clean up that Trashcan for you and you have to do that by hand if necessary

Third FTrash asks you how much space should be left on your disk at minimum. To check that out lets have an example:

Imagine a Floppydisk with 900k space on it. You select a minimum of 300k free space. Now, every time FTrash checks that trashcan (daily or on every deletion) it looks if there is still enough space left on that disk. If not FTrash will begin to empty that trash starting with the oldest file until your 300k free space are there again (or the trashcan is empty).

Fourth you are prompted to specify a maximum of days a file may stay in the trashcan. Every file in the trash that is older than that number of days will be cleaned up. 14 days are a good value for everyday use. If you have got lots of space left on your HD you may certainly have a bigger value here, but notice that deletions slow down a bit if the trashcan grows very big!

Now your trashcan is set up for use. If you want to change its settings then just take a shell, cd to the disk of your choice and type 'delete trashcan.info' or use any directory tool to delete the trashcan icon. You will then be prompted for new settings. The old icon will be lost.

1.8 FTrash ToolTypes

FTrash ToolTypes

all these values may be used on the commandline as well
if you start FTrash from the Shell.

The following ToolTypes can be used in the FTrash Icon:

- DELAY=<seconds>
where <seconds> is the number of seconds that FTrash will wait after being started before it actually begins to clean up or do any other activity. I set this to 30 seconds, so that FTrash wont cause disk trashing under any circumstances while Workbench and WBStartUp are loading.
- PATCHIMG=[YES|NO]
set this to NO if you do not want to have trashcan images like on a Mac.
- TASKPRI=<value>
determines the priority at which the FTrash cleanup task is running. Default value is -1, but you may prefer to set this to something lower. A low value does not affect the speed of file deletions which are working completely asynchronous and always with the priority of the deleting task or process.

- CX_PRIORITY=<value>
this may be a value from -127 to 128, determining which position FTrash has in the handler chain of the Commodities System. Default is 0. There is no need to have this set to a high value, you may even use -127 if you want.
- STARTPRI=<value>
This value is only of interest if FTrash is being started from WBStartUp. It determines at which moment FTrash will be started. With STARTPRI set to a high Value, FTrash will be started before other Tools which have a lower priority and vice versa.
- DONOTWAIT
Dont worry about this one, just leave it there in the Icon :-)

1.9 Environment variables

Environment Variables

You may set 2 environment variables in conjunction with FTrash:

- FTNODELETE
Files matching the pattern contained in this variable will cause a requester to pop up if you try to delete them. This requester will ask you if you really want to do that. For example you may use the pattern (startup#?|#?setup), which will prevent you from accidentally deleting files like startup-sequence.
- FTDELETE
is the opposite of FTNODELETE. Files matching this pattern will be deleted at once and not be moved to a trashcan, regardless if there is one or not. A good value for this is something like (Command-#?|#?.BAK|spool-#?) or anything else matching temporary files your system or your software tends to use and delete frequently.

These variables may not be longer than 255 character max! Anything further will just be ignored and might end you up in using faulty file patterns (missing parentheses)!

To set environment variables open a Shell by clicking on the Shell Icon, then type the following into it:

```
setenv FT(NO)DELETE <mypattern>
```

for example:

```
setenv FTDELETE (Command-#?|#?.BAK|spool-#?)
```

```
setenv FTNODELETE (startup#?|#?setup)
```

to make these settings permanent, type:

```
copy ENV:FT#? ENVARC:
```

Changes in the environment variables will not take any effect before the next start of FTrash!!!

For more information on AmigaDos file patterns please consult the manuals that came along with your Amiga computer.

1.10 Problems

Problems that might appear

(I) FTrash is not perfect at finding out if you moved files in and out of trashcans manually. Therefore it might happen that the trashcan icon does not show up 'normal' even when there are no files inside or vice versa. The detection code will be more accurate in future versions. (Yet another kiske to be added, or maybe I'll try Notify even if it this will cause a lot of problems with my current cleanup system... >:)

(II) Using Disks with identical names will confuse FTrash, if there is a Trashcan on at least one of them. I am currently working on a new concept to avoid that. However, using disks with equal names is never a good idea.

(III) FTrash won't work together with the Program 'IconManager'. This is due to a flaw in IconManager which seems to not check correctly if Workbench uses its Patches or if it is just another Process. The Author of IconManager told me that this problem will be gone in the next release of IconManager.

(V) If you encounter strange problems, Enforcer hits or even system failures while using FTrash, please send~me a detailed description of your system, what you were doing in the moment when the problem occurred and which software you were running. Dont forget to tell me which patches you use :)

1.11 Hints & Tips

Hints and Tips

- Use Commodities Exchange to temporarily disable all FTrash patches, if necessary.
 - If you want to change the configuration of one of your Trashcans, then delete its icon while FTrash is running!
 - Dont use your Trashcan as a kind of /tmp (temporary) directory. FTrash maintains an internal directory cache of every trashcan to minimize disk accesses. If you move files in an out of your trash FTrash will be forced to update its cache by re-reading the directory. Better have a separate TMP directory which you empty once a day via some kind of cron utility or similar.
 - Notice that it is possible to choose quite silly settings, like that you always want 100% of your drive to be free (which will result in FTrash
-

deleting every file from the trashcan as soon as it it moved in there).
So please think about what your settings will do :-)

- If you have some thousand files in a trashcan deletions on that volume will slow down noticeably. Try to avoid that by choosing reasonable cleanup settings.
- NewIcons users please start the NewIcons patch demon after FTrash for correct operation. See Installation

1.12 Future Plans

Future Plans

- Maybe a kind of Prefs Editor for the trashcan settings [low pri]
- Create the possibility to exclude certain tasks from the patch and/or from the unprotect requester.
- Rewrite the Program to use real handler code to detect and maintain all inserted disks accurately (no need to start FTrash before WB then)
- Set up Notification on the ENV vars to detect user changes at runtime. [low pri]
- Writing a delete command that will always delete for real and that does not - like the dumb amigados delete - try to Lock() every file and this way prevents deletion of vagabond soft links.

Any futher suggestions are welcome, just drop~me~a~note!

1.13 How to reach the Author

The Author

I may be reached via snail mail under the following address:

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If you have acces to any electronic mailing system try the following ones:
(topmost mailbox is checked most often)

Behrens@appl1.hrz.uni-siegen.de
fionn@informatik.uni-siegen.de
Flash@asgard.rni.sub.org
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-

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(The idea of this rule was inspired by Osma "Tau" Ahvenlampi, Finland. It was included to set a standard. If someone does not use these tools (s)he has to make not more than three links to the preferred programs!)

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```
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```

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