

FileView

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> FileView	
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WRITTEN BY		November 24, 2024
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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

FileView

1.1 FileView.guide

```
*****  
***** FILEVIEW *****  
*****
```

By Nick Christie
Version 1.02
22nd October 1994

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1.2 Distribution

1. Distribution

=====

- o FileView is Copyright ©1994 by Nick Christie .
All rights are reserved.
- o FileView is "freeware" so no donation is required. It is not
in the public domain.
- o FileView may be freely distributed provided all the files listed
in Contents , remain unaltered and are included in the
distribution. They may, however, be archived to conserve space.
- o No profit is to be made by selling this software. You may not
charge more than Fred Fish does for a single floppy disk from
his library. This restriction is waived in the case of the
AmiNet CD-ROM, and for any CD-ROM produced by Fred Fish.
- o This software may not be included in a commercial package, or on
a magazine coverdisk, without the author's written permission.
- o This software may not be uploaded onto any BBS that claims
copyright on uploaded material.
- o If you use FV, I would enjoy receiving a postcard from you (even
an electronic one). See my addresses .

The ReqTools and PowerPacker libraries are Copyright © Nico François.

The XPK system is Copyright © Urban Müller, et al.

Amiga, AmigaGuide, Workbench and Kickstart are registered trademarks
of Commodore-Amiga, Inc.

1.3 Disclaimer

2. Disclaimer

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This program is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either
expressed or implied, including, but not limited to, the implied
warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.
The entire risk as to the quality and performance of this program is
with you. In no event can I be liable to you for damages of any kind
arising out of the use of this program, or the inability to use it.

1.4 Contents

3. Contents

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This package consists of:

FV	FileView executable for any 680x0 CPU
FV.info	8 colour icon for above
FV.guide	FileView documentation in AmigaGuide format
FV.guide.info	8 colour icon for above
FV.readme	Short description of FileView
FV.readme.info	8 colour icon for above
reqtools.library	Nico François' requester library

1.5 Background

4. Background

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FileView (or more simply, FV) is a text and hex file viewer. I wrote it because I couldn't find an existing viewer that was fast enough, and also had a hex dump mode, amongst other things. I had to make some compromises in order to achieve the desired result, in particular:

- o It doesn't interpret ANSI sequences for changing colours and text attributes like bold and underline.
- o It will only run on its own custom screen, which cannot be made public.
- o The screen can only be 640x256 (PAL) or 640x200 (NTSC) in 2 or 4 colours.
- o It only supports 8x8 monospace fonts.

Okay, so if you haven't stopped reading, this is what it does offer:

- o Scrolls at 4 speeds, from a smooth 1 pixel at a time, to a fast 8.
 - o Hex dump mode.
 - o Junk filter in hex mode.
 - o Uses the ReqTools library for attractive requesters.
 - o Can read PowerPacked and XPK'd files.
 - o Can mark blocks of text and write them to a file, device, clipboard, or into the input stream of another application.
 - o Fast searching in both hex and text modes.
-

- o Wildcard text searches, with case-sensitive option.
- o Searches in hex mode for hex, dec, and ASCII bytes.
- o Installs as a commodity.
- o Can go to sleep and pop up with a hotkey.
- o Comprehensive mouse and keyboard controls.
- o Can be launched from shell or WB.
- o Detaches from shell (optional).
- o Wildcard pattern matching of files from command line.
- o On-line help screens.
- o AmigaGuide format documentation.
- o Keeps a file list for quickly moving between files.
- o Can launch your editor with the current file.
- o Supports five bookmarks.
- o Has an adjustable palette.
- o Has adjustable tab spacing.
- o Choice of any 8 by 8 monospace font.
- o It is pure and hence may be made resident.
- o Hand-crafted with loving care in 100% assembly language.

1.6 Requirements

5. Requirements

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FV requires AmigaDOS 2.04 (Kickstart V37) or better. You must have reqtools.library V38 or better in the LIBS: directory. FV supports files compressed with PowerPacker and XPK if you have the appropriate software installed.

1.7 Installation

6. Installation

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FV can be copied anywhere you please. For ease of configuration, enter your preferences as `tooltypes` in the icon. If you're likely to run FV from the shell, copy the icon file to `ENVARC:` and `ENV:`, because it will pick up your preference settings from there.

You must also copy the `reqtools.library` file to `LIBS:` if you don't have a copy of it already. I recommend obtaining the full ReqTools package, to get its preference editor and other utilities.

Sorry, but at this time I have not prepared an installation script. This is something I will look into for future releases .

1.8 Starting FileView

7. Starting FileView

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FileView can be run from the Workbench or shell in the normal manner. You can specify multiple files and directories by shift-selecting from WB or naming them on the shell command line. Specifying a directory will cause FV to open a file requester in that directory. You can use DOS wildcard patterns on the command line. If you don't specify any files or directories when you start FV, it will open a file requester.

FV keeps the names of all selected files and directories in a list, so you can step from one to another. Any new files loaded via requester from within FV are also added to this list. The list is forgotten when you exit FV, however.

FV detaches automatically from the shell. There is no need to "Run >NIL:" it. If this bothers you, use the `NODETACH` switch. You might like to define this as an alias: `"alias FV FV NODETACH []"`.

The only other command line option is the `HEX` switch, which starts FV in its hex dump mode.

If FV is already running, launching it again will wake it up (if it is asleep) and bring it to the front, whereupon it will deal with any arguments you have given it. FV is a commodity , so you can also wake it up with the Exchange program.

1.9 FileView as a Commodity

8. FileView as a Commodity

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FileView installs as a commodity, which means you can control it with the Exchange program. FV also has a hotkey for waking it up when it is asleep - the default hotkey is "control lalt f". You can change this definition using the `tooltypes` .

1.10 Using FileView

9. Using FileView

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You can control most of FV with both mouse and keyboard. There are some help screens available on-line as reminders; select one of the options in the Help menu, or press the Help key.

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- 9.3 Marking Blocks
- 9.4 Using the Keyboard
- 9.5 About Searching

1.11 The Status Display

9.1. The Status Display

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FV uses the screen title bar for status messages. Normally it shows the name of the current file (without the path), the line numbers of the topmost and bottommost lines, the column number of the leftmost column, and a percentage indicating how far into the file you are. FV will also display some letters to indicate that certain options are active. These are:

- U - Indicates that the "unload buffer" option is on: if you put FV to sleep it will release the memory used by the current file.
- S - Shown when FV has been asleep at least once, so pressing ESC will send it back to sleep instead of quitting FV. Use Shift-ESC or the Quit menu option to really quit FV.
- P - Indicates that the current file was packed.
- B - Shown when block marking is active.
- W - Indicates that the wildcard searches are enabled.
- C - Indicates that case-sensitive searches are enabled.

1.12 Using the Mouse

9.2. Using the Mouse

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A single left mousebutton (LMB) click on the screen starts continuous scrolling, another click stops it. So does deactivating FV's screen. The position of the mouse pointer controls the direction and speed of

scrolling: up when the pointer is in the top half of the screen, down in the bottom half. Scroll speed is slow when the pointer is near the centre of the screen, and progressively faster in four stages as the pointer is moved towards the top or bottom of the screen.

In addition, you can scroll by 8 columns left or right with an LMB click in the far left or right of the screen.

The mouse is also used to mark blocks .

There are also menu options to play with, accessed as usual with the right mousebutton. Many menu items have keyboard shortcut equivalents, which you can use instead of the keypresses outlined in `Using the Keyboard` , if you prefer.

1.13 Marking Blocks

9.3. Marking Blocks

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Marking blocks (text mode only) is achieved with mouse and keyboard. A left mousebutton click with left shift key depressed defines the start of the block, and a right-shifted LMB click defines the end. You can adjust the positions with further shifted clicks.

Once a block is marked, you can use the menu options under "Block" (or the key equivalents, see `Using the Keyboard`) to write the block to a file, a device or the clipboard. You can also switch to another application and press the "paste block" hotkey (default, control-lalt-v) to paste the block into the program as if you had typed it in yourself.

1.14 Using the Keyboard

9.4. Using the Keyboard

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In addition to the menu shortcut keys:

CrshrUp	Move up one line (16 bytes in hex mode).
CrshrDown	Move down one line (16 bytes in hex mode).
CrshrLeft	Move left 8 columns (1 byte in hex mode).
CrshrRight	Move right 8 columns (1 byte in hex mode).
Ctrl-Left	Move back to the leftmost column (to previous multiple of 16 offset in hex mode).
Ctrl-Right	Move right far enough to see the end of the longest line. (to next multiple of 16 offset in hex mode).
Shift-Up	Move up quickly by one screen.
Shift-Down	Move down quickly by one screen.
Ctrl-Up	Move to the beginning of the file.
Ctrl-Down	Move to the end of the file.
Alt-Up	Start continuous smooth scrolling upwards.

Alt-Down Start continuous smooth scrolling downwards.
Shift-Alt-Up Smooth scroll up one screen.
Shift-Alt-Down Smooth scroll down one screen.
Space Stop continuous scrolling (other keys do this, too).

While FV is continuously scrolling, you can hold down the Alt, Shift, or Ctrl keys to make it scroll progressively faster.

S Search forward again from last match.
A Search backward again from last match.
Alt-S Search forward again from the current position.
Alt-A Search backward again from the current position.
Shift-S Search forward for (brings up a requester).
Shift-A Search backward for (brings up a requester).
Shift-Alt-S/A Return to last search match.
W Toggles wildcard searching (text mode only).
C Toggles case-sensitivity (text mode only).

L Load a new file (brings up a requester).
Ctrl-L Load a file from the filelist (brings up the list).
Shift-L Load the next file from the filelist.
Alt-L Load the previous file from the filelist.

Numeric Pad Corresponds to cursor keys, plus:
NumEnter Load a new file (brings up a requester).
NumAsterisk Load a file from the filelist (brings up the list).
NumPlus Load the next file from the filelist.
NumMinus Load the previous file from the filelist.
Num5 Return to last search match.

F1-F5 Jump to bookmark number 1-5.
Shift-F1-F5 Drop bookmark number 1-5.

H Toggles between text and hex mode.
Alt-H Toggles the junk filter in hex mode.
P Opens a palette requester.
Tab Opens a requester for specifying tab spacing.
I Shows some information about the current file.
1,2,3,4 Sets the scrolling speed for moving up/down by line.
Ctrl-E Launch your editor with the current file (requires you to have set the EDITOR tootype).

Ctrl-W Write the marked block to a file (via requester).
Ctrl-Shift-W Write the marked block to a device (via requester).
Alt-W Write the marked block to the clipboard.
DEL Clear the current block definition.

Help Show some help on key commands.
Shift-Help Show some help on mouse control.
Ctrl-Help Show some help on searching.
Alt-Help Show some help on block marking.

U Toggle the 'unload buffer' option. If set, FV will free the current file buffer when you put it to sleep.

Q/ESC Quit FV.
Shift-Q/ESC Put FV to sleep.

After FV has been asleep once, the meanings of the above are reversed, so that ESC puts FV back to sleep, while Shift-ESC really quits it.

1.15 About Searching

9.5. About Searching

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In text mode, FV can use DOS wildcard patterns for searches. Just turn on the wildcard option but remember that the pattern must match the whole line. Searches can be made case-sensitive as well, by turning on the case-sensitivity option.

Briefly, DOS wildcards are:

?	Matches any single character.
#	Matches the following expression zero or more times.
(a b)	Matches any of the items separated by " ".
~	Negates the following expression: ~(a b) matches everything but "a" or "b".
[abc]	Matches any of the characters within the character class.
[a-z]	Defines a character class as a range.
%	Matches zero characters: (a b %) is "a" or "b" or nothing.
*	Synonym for "#?", if enabled globally in DOS.

In hex mode, you must specify the search pattern as a series of bytes, separated by commas or spaces. The values are assumed to be hex, put "#" in front for decimal, eg. "#32". You can also put in ASCII characters by preceeding them with "@", eg. "@A". Of course these can be mixed together: "30 #32 @A" corresponds to "0", space and an "A".

1.16 Tooltypes

10. Tooltypes

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The following tooltypes may be entered into FV's icon to set your preferences:

CX_PRIORITY (-128 to +127, default: 0)

Sets FV's priority within the the commodities input handling chain.

CX_POPKEY (see DOS manual, default: "control lalt f")

Defines the hotkey to wake FV up when it is asleep.

CX_PASTEKEY (see DOS manual, default: "control lalt v")

Defines the hotkey that makes FV paste the currently marked block

into the input stream of the active window.

TASKPRIORITY (-128 to +127, default: inherited from shell or WB)

Sets FV's priority relative to other tasks. Careful with this ! Best to stay in the ± 3 range. Try +1 if you always want FV to respond quickly even when other programs are running, and -1 if you don't want FV to interfere with the running of other programs.

HEX (switch, default: off)

If HEX is specified in the tooltypes, FV will start in hex dump mode. This is a switch, ie. it doesn't need to be given a value.

NTSC (switch, default: machine's native mode)

Will force FV to open its screen with the NTSC monitor specification. This monitor must have already been installed with AddMonitor.

PAL (switch, default: machine's native mode)

Like the NTSC switch, but for the PAL monitor spec.

MONO (switch, default: off)

If MONO is specified in the tooltypes, FV will open a 2 colour screen instead of a 4 colour one. As FV itself doesn't use 4 colours (the requesters do, though) you can save a bit of graphics memory this way.

PENx (0 to 32767, default: similar to standard WB palette)

Actually, this is four tooltypes: PEN0, PEN1, PEN2 and PEN3, for setting the colours of FV's screen. Each takes an argument of the form: red, green, blue, eg. "PEN0=6,11,5".

FONT (fontname, default: topaz.font)

You can select a font for FV to use with this tooltype, but there are restrictions: the font must be monospace and 8 by 8 pixels in size. Write it like this: "FONT=whatever.font".

EDITOR (pathname, default: none)

Put in the path and name of your favourite text editor and FV should be able to launch it with the current text file, eg. "EDITOR=C:Ed".

1.17 Limitations

11. Limitations

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- o Maximum line length is 32K.
- o Maximum number of lines is also 32K.
- o Maximum file size is otherwise limited only by available memory.
- o Maximum number of files in filelist is also up to available mem.

1.18 Bugs and Improvements

12. Bugs and Improvements

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Okay, so there is one "failure mode" I am aware of at present, but it is so extremely unlikely to occur that it's not very high on my list. Please do inform me if you find any reproducible "unintentional features" (bugs).

Attention programmers: while running SegTracker, you will notice a 72 byte free memory loss each time you run FV. This is because the "segment split" technique that FV uses for detaching confuses SegTracker. Suggestions for ways around this are welcome.

As for improvements, I am considering (in no particular order):

- o Using ASL by default and offering a switch to use ReqTools.
 - o Writing an installation script.
 - o Launching the AmigaGuide doc from within FV.
 - o Updating the help screens to explain some features currently not described in them.
 - o Selectable screenmode, or at least a LACE option. But I find scrolling to be too slow with large screens (maybe with AGA it's okay) and it would certainly require support for larger fonts.
 - o A "TAB" tootype for default tab spacing, possibly associated with file extensions.
 - o Button bar along the top or bottom, with up/down, load, etc.
 - o A way to mark blocks just using the mouse.
 - o Display clipboard contents like a file.
 - o Locale support, except I don't have WB3.
-

- o Simple AmigaGuide support.
- o Reduce use of hard-coded rawkey codes for use with foreign kbds.
- o More filters in hex mode, and maybe some in text mode, too.
- o Switch into text or hex mode according to file content.
- o Split-screen operation on 2 files.
- o Support for CX_NOPOPUP, so you can put it in WBStartup and always have it running in the background.
- o Not use gadtools for Load from List function -> reduces size.
- o Option in prefs tooltypes to make ESC always mean "quit", never "go to sleep".
- o Option in prefs tooltypes to make "unload buffer during sleep" the default behaviour.
- o Put prefs in separate file so it takes less space in ENV:.
- o Facility to list an archive and extract a file from it to view.
- o ARexx port. I don't know what for, but it seems a program is naked without one these days.
- o Rework arithmetic (from WORDs to LONGs) to remove all practical restrictions on line length and number of lines.
- o Option to write filelist to ENV: on exit, reload when launched again.
- o Eliminate slight beam contention when scrolling upwards. Yeah, I *have* tried using the hardware scrolling, double buffered, ScrollVPort method, and it did eliminate the beam contention. But: it precludes the use of menus, doesn't improve the scroll speed significantly (except in interlace), and resulted (to my surprise) in no discernable reduction in CPU load. Maybe I'll make it an option for use with interlace.

1.19 Version History

13. Version History

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- | | | |
|------|----------|--|
| 1.00 | 10/07/94 | First release. |
| 1.01 | 02/08/94 | Fixed odd-aligned reference that crashed 68K CPUs. |
| 1.02 | 22/10/94 | Menu shortcuts, wildcard pattern matching, etc. |

1.20 Credits

14. Credits

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Thanks go to:

Nico François for ReqTools, PowerPacker, and dozens of other great products.

Urban Dominik Müller, Bryan Ford, Peter Struijk, Christian Roques, Andre Beck, Marc Zimmermann, Kristian Nielsen, Matthias Scheler, Martin A. Blatter and others for the XPK packing system.

Urban Dominik Müller and Andreas M. Kirchwitz for Csh.

CygnusSoft for CEDPro3.

HiSoft for DevPac3.

Stefan Schulz for pointing out the big 68K bug! Oops. :-)

Plus all the authors who make the software that makes the Amiga great.

1.21 Author

15. Author

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