

director

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COLLABORATORS

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REVISION HISTORY

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Contents

1	director	1
1.1	Director Help	1
1.2	Legal Notes	1
1.3	Introduction to Director	2
1.4	Installing	2
1.5	Getting Started	3
1.6	Tool Types	3
1.7	Main Menus	3
1.8	Main Window	4
1.9	Macro List	4
1.10	Macro Name	4
1.11	Play Button	4
1.12	Record Button	5
1.13	Stop Record Button	5
1.14	Play Options Button	5
1.15	Record Options Button	5
1.16	Registering	6
1.17	Reporting Problems	6
1.18	Known Problems and Limitation	7
1.19	Revision History	7

Chapter 1

director

1.1 Director Help

Director 1.1
Shareware Version
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Table of Contents

Legal Notes
Introduction
Installing
Getting Started
Main Window
Menus
Tool Types

Registering
Known Limitations and Problems
Problem Reporting
Revision History

1.2 Legal Notes

This is a shareware version of Director. This version expires Oct 15, 1994. This software may be distributed freely. At the end of the trial period you are required to stop using this software. To receive a registered version of this software, please see Registering. To report problems, please see reporting problems. If many bug reports are received, or new features are requested, a new shareware version may be released. In using this software, you accept all responsibility for any damage or loss of productivity or money that may occur through or during its use.

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1.3 Introduction to Director

Director is the input recorder for the amiga. It allows the user to record all mouse and keyboard actions performed by the user into a macro. This macro can then be played back at any time and any number of times, as fast as the computer can handle it.

Director has some intelligence built into it. Macros are played back to the window they were recorded in. Upon playback, the Director finds the window in question, and plays the macro relative to that window, regardless of its position. Similarly, if an icon or button is selected during the macro recording, then upon playback the Director will find the current position of the icon or button and select it as would be expected.

Director has many uses. The simplest use is to create macros for actions frequently repeated by the user. For example a macro could be placed in the WBStartup drawer in order to open certain windows or start applications at boot time. ↵

A macro can also be used to record demos of software or hardware at exhibitions. ↵
I have also found Director to be useful in doing software testing.

Some of the more advanced features are not available in this unregistered shareware version. For example the interactive requesters are not available for making interactive demos. Please see Registering for further limitations.

Since macros are really AREXX scripts which send commands to Director, the user can modify the scripts to add any logic or add and delete parts of the macro. ↵
Macros

can also be executed from regular AREXX programs to give extended control over an AREXX capable application.

1.4 Installing

To install Director, simply double click on the install icon distributed with this package. Note that Director has to be started at system boot time, so if you want to try Director without installing it, please place it in the WBStartup drawer and reboot.

1.5 Getting Started

The Director window can be opened by pressing the hot-key 'ctrl-alt-m'. This opens the main control window. It contains a list of macros and buttons for starting and stopping a recording, playing back a recording, and setting playback and record settings. Context sensitive help is available for any button or menu by pressing the HELP key while the mouse is over any button or menu item. This feature is available under V39 or above of the AmigaDOS operating system.

The first time you run this software, there will not be any macros in the Macro List. You have to enter a new macro name in the Macro Name button. Then, you may press the Record Button to start recording into that macro. The recording will be suspended until you select a window other than the Director window. As soon as you select another window, all mouse and keyboard input is recorded. You may then go back to the Director window and press the Stop Record Button to stop the recording. To play back the macro, simply press the Play Button. You may also change the playback speed by pressing the Play Options Button. For the usage of any other buttons, please refer to the documentation for it.

1.6 Tool Types

The Director icon contains the following tool types:

- o LEFT - the left edge of the window as saved by the settings menu
- o TOP - the top edge of the window as saved by the settings menu
- o CX_POPUP - YES to open the window on startup, NO to hide it
- o DONOTWAIT - should always be there
- o FONT - the font to use for the GUI (ex: topaz.font)
- o FONTSIZE - the size for the font to use
- o EDITREQ - the command line to open the editor for requesters (should not return until done)
- o DIR - the directory to use to store macros
- o EDIT - the command line to open the editor asynchronously

1.7 Main Menus

The main window has the following menus:

Project

- o Edit - open the text editor with the selected macro
- o Help - open the Amigaguide help window
- o About - display copyright and version information
- o Hide - hide the main window
- o Quit - quit Director

Settings

- o Save As Defaults - save the window position as tool types

1.8 Main Window

The main window contains the controls to select macros and record or play them. It also allows the setting of playback and record options.

The following is a list of all the controls available:

- Macro List
- Macro Name
- Play Button
- Record Button
- Stop Record Button
- Play Options Button
- Record Options Button

Those controls which the user should not use at a given time will be fogged out.

1.9 Macro List

The macro list contains the list of available macros. This is simply the files in the s: directory that match the '#?.mac' file pattern. Names may be added through the Macro Name string gadgets. The Play Button, Record Button, and Play Options Button affect the selected macro from this list.

1.10 Macro Name

The macro name gadget displays the name of the currently selected macro. The name may also be changed in order to add a new macro to the Macro List. Please note that the name will always have the '.mac' extension in order for the macro to be found and placed in the list the next time Director is started.

1.11 Play Button

The play button will start to play the currently selected macro file. The Main Window window will be hidden during playback. Also, all user input is blocked, since it would interfere with playback. However, the mouse buttons may be used to control the playback. The right mouse button will abort playback. The left mouse button will speed up playback (if possible).

When the macro is finished, the Main Window will once again appear and become active.

1.12 Record Button

The record button will start to record into the currently selected macro file. Any input that does not go to a Director window is recorded. This means as long as a Director window is active, nothing is recorded. This is so since the user would normally not want to record what is being done to the Director windows, but rather what is being done to some other application. Also, while recording, the Record Options Button can be used to control some record options.

1.13 Stop Record Button

The stop record button will stop the recording. This button is disabled when Director is not recording a macro.

1.14 Play Options Button

The play options button opens the play options window. This window controls some attributes of the currently from the Macro List. Options that may be set include:

- o 'Speed' - this slider goes from 1 to 30, where 1 is recorded speed, and 30 is maximum speed.
- o 'Hot Key' - the key combination which will automatically execute this macro. This key sequence is identical to that used with 'FKey'.
- o 'Loop' - the number of times to repeat the macro if the 'Loop...' button is pressed.

1.15 Record Options Button

The record options button opens the record options window. This window controls how the macro is recorded and provides some extra functionality. This evaluation version does not have this window enabled, but a registered version will. It will allow things like:

- o storing and recalling the mouse position.
 - o waiting for a window to close before resuming macro playback.
 - o inserting various text requesters into the macro to create interactive macros or demos.
 - o creating flowchart blocks to make the macro respond to requester input
 - o calling other macros from within macros
 - o recording the macro relative to window, screen or mouse.
 - o record keyboard only or mouse also.
-

1.16 Registering

To register this software please send a check for \$25. This check has to be from a US bank. If you are not able to send a US check, you may send \$25 cash or money order. All orders received will be replied to within 2 weeks. Please include you full name, mailing address, what you use Director for, and what you would like to see changed.

My mailing address is:

Philip A. Gruebele
100 Buckingham Dr. #267
Santa Clara, CA 95051

You will receive a 3.5" disk with the latest software and documentation and no expiration date. Also, the "Record Options Window" will be fully enabled and updated. This window adds advanced functionality including:

- o inserting requesters into macros for demos
- o creating flowchart blocks to make the macro respond to requester input
- o calling other macros from within macros
- o recording relative to the mouse
- o saving and restoring the mouse position

The documentation will also be updated to include information on all the AREXX commands supported.

Please note that this is the first release, so if you find too many bugs, please report them to me without registering. I will collect and fix as many bugs as possible, and may come out with a second shareware release by the time this one expires - assuming I get enough bug reports. ↔

1.17 Reporting Problems

Since this is the first release of this software, I suspect a good number of bugs to be reported to me. If this number is large enough, I will post another unregistered shareware on Aminet.

Problems may be reported to me in several ways. You may send me mail at the following mailing address:

Philip A. Gruebele
100 Buckingham Dr. #267
Santa Clara, CA 95051

You may also send me email at:

pgruebele@scuacc.scu.edu

If you find enforcer hits please send the complete hit. It helps greatly if you run segtracker and enforcer with the following settings:

```
segtracker
enforcer STACKLINES 35 STACKCHECK AREGCHECK
```

This gives me more detailed information needed to find the problem. Also, you should include a brief description of how to recreate the problem, the version of AmigaDOS you are using, the machine type, and any other pertinent information.

1.18 Known Problems and Limitation

Since this is the first release of this software, I suspect a good number of bugs to be reported to me. Here is are some items you should be aware of:

- o requires AmigaDOS 2.04 or greater
- o AREXX has to be installed and running
- o only one macro can be placed in WBStartup drawer
- o some times macros won't play back correctly with a speed of 30, so slow them down ←
- o application with overlapping screens may cause problems
- o when using MagicMenu, menus are not played back appropriately.
To bypass this problem, always click the right mouse button over where the actual menu will appear, rather than clicking and then moving to the appropriate menu.

1.19 Revision History

This history lists the changes between releases:

version 1.2

- o compiled for 68000 instead of 68030 (will no longer crash on 68000)

version 1.1

- o Fixed problem that would cause instant crash under AmigaDOS 2.04/2.1.
Director was calling AmigaDOS 3.1 funstions even under 2.0
- o made it so macros always get '.mac' extension.
- o cleaned up some error handling

version 1.0

- o First public release
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