

man

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : man		
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Chapter 1

man

1.1 Table of contents

The manual browser 1.1 (11.11.94)
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1.2 Introduction to the manual browser

What does this program do? Well, it is something like an AmigaGuide-based directory browser. You start at a directory, and the browser will display its contents. Every directory and every file will be a button. Click on a directory-button to enter that directory; click on a file-button to view the file.

With this program, you can put all your online documentation into a nicely organized directory structure for easy viewing. It is intended to be an "xman" type program for the Amiga.

1.3 Legal stuff

This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.

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1.4 How to contact the author

If you want to contact me for any reason, for example bugs, suggestions, gifts or praise -:), here is my address:

Christian Stieber
Konradstraße 41
D-85055 Ingolstadt
(Germany)

Mail sent to this address should reach me in any case, although I may not actually live there. It might take a while for the mail to reach me.

I do not have a permanent EMail address (yet?).

Currently (1994) I'm a student, and can be reached at the following address:

Christian Stieber
Seitzstraße 6, Zi. 306
D-80538 München
(Germany)

EMail: Stieber@Informatik.TU-Muenchen.de

It's probably not a good idea to send postal mail to my student-address; if I'm not there anymore people might just throw the mail away --- you never know.

I will answer all EMail and all the mail that has sufficient return postage included (of course, if you send some \$\$, you don't have to include extra return postage -:)). If you tell me your EMail address, I'll use it to answer your mail if I can.

I'm planning to get a modem and some connection to the internet when I leave university, so EMail hopefully won't be a problem.

1.5 Known problems

Currently requires AmigaOS 3.0 or later. I have no idea why: if compiled for V37 and run it with AmigaOS 2.x, it doesn't work. No error. Maybe it's a problem with V34 amigaguide.library.

If you enter a directory, take out the disk, click on "Retrace" and cancel the requester, you'll be stuck. You'll see the error message, but there won't be any buttons --- all you can do is close the window.

1.6 Configuration file

When you start the program, it will look for a configuration file. The following files will be read, in the order listed:

```
PROGDIR:ManualBrowser.config
S:ManualBrowser.config
ENV:ManualBrowser.config
```

Configuration files assign viewers to patterns:

```
PATTERN/A,ACTION/A/F
```

"PATTERN" is a standard AmigaDOS filename pattern; note that it will only be applied to the filename portion. The directory portion is ignored. See your AmigaDOS manual for a description of AmigaDOS-patterns.

"ACTION" is a command that can be put into the AmigaGuide LINK-command.

Example:

```
#?.dvi SYSTEM "TeX:bin/ShowDVI %f"
tells the browser that #?.dvi files should be displayed using
TeX:bin/ShowDVI.
```

The following %-commands may be used:

```
%f filename
%p pathname
%F filename without extension
```

Additionally, there are two special commands:

```
IGNORE do not display these files (no button will be created)
DEFAULT use the default action
```

If a filename matches two or more patterns, the last pattern read will be used.

Sample configuration file:

```
#?.info          IGNORE
.#?              IGNORE
#?.dvi           SYSTEM "TeX:bin/ShowDVI %f"
#?.(doc|dok|txt) SYSTEM "Work:Specials/Most %f"
```

Also, whenever a directory is entered ManualBrowser looks for a file called ".Config". If such a file is found, it will be read. This file only covers the directory it is stored in.

You will probably use this feature to assign viewers to a single file that you don't want to mention in your global ManualBrowser.config.

1.7 The .Message-files

Whenever a directory is read, the program looks for a file called ".Message". If such a file is found, its contents will be displayed before the directory contents.

This can be used to display a headline or a description of the directory, very much like the ".msg" files on ftp-servers.

1.8 Some things that should be done

- make ".Config" files cover a directory tree?
- something like a global table of contents (how?)

1.9 Usage information

The program may be started from the Shell or from Workbench. Currently there is only one argument/tooltype:

MANUALDIR=MANDIR=DIR: Your manual-directory. Defaults to "man:".

1.10 History information

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1.0 (06.09.94) | First public release |
| 1.1 (11.11.94) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Added ".Config" feature (see Config-files)• Removed some error messages• Some small changes to the code• Distribution is checksummed |