

finditgui

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WRITTEN BY		February 24, 2025	

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Chapter 1

finditgui

1.1 Contents

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1.2 Introduction

Hello, and welcome to FindItGui. FindItGui is a Graphical User Interface based file finding program for the Commodore Amiga. But then you knew that already!

While reading an article in a magazine, entitled "Amiga vs. The Rest of The World" or something, I realised that operating systems and user interfaces on other platforms were becoming friendlier because they had many more built-in features than Workbench. I noticed in an accompanying photograph

to the article a file finding utility that ran on the Mac. "Aha!", I thought, "that's just what the Amiga could do with".

So here it is... FindItGui.

I have tried to make FindItGui as simple to use as possible - one of the main features of the Mac is that it is aimed at the inexperienced user, and I think this is something that the Amiga OS should look to in the future. In the meantime, it's up to third-parties to improve the user-friendliness of one of the world's best multi-tasking environments.

BGUI.Library

FindItGui uses BGUI.Library by Jan van den Baard and Ian J. Einman. However, this is likely to be the final version of FindItGui that uses BGUI. Support from Mr. Einman for the library seems to have dried up, and as such the current libraries have many, many bugs.

It is probable that BGUI will be replaced by the use of the ClassAct system. However, this will be as I'm sure you'll appreciate, a *very* large upgrade, and as I am about to start my university course, my available time will be reduced. I will eventually get a new version out to you all, though.

1.3 Installation

FindItGui uses the Commodore Installer software to install itself. Simply double-click the Install icon and FindItGui will do it's stuff.

I have not included the Installer program in this archive. This is not due to licensing worries that other PD authors seem to fret about, but simply due to size. The Installer program is over 100k, and since the vast majority of you will have it already, I don't see the point in wasting your phone bill downloading it! If you don't have Installer, then follow the steps below will allow you to install FindItGui manually.

1. Copy the file libs/BGUI.Library to your LIBS: directory
2. Copy the file
FindItGui to wherever you wish to run it from - WBStartup is the recommended place.

And that's it! Simple!

1.4 Help Windows

Pressing the HELP key while in FindIt brings up a small requester detailing the major functions available to you.

1.5 Buffering

FindItGui can be made to use a buffering system to speed up the updating of the display. Instead of simply adding an item to the listview gadget as soon as it is identified, FindItGui will store the name of the file in a buffer area, and carry on reading the disk. When the buffer is full, it is flushed and the listview gadget is updated with the data that has been stored. This reduces the number of times that the listview gadget has to be redrawn by BGUI.library.

Settings

The level of buffering can be selected either through the command-line or on the "options" page of the main window.

There are four different levels of buffering available:

Command-Line	Options Page	Description
0	None	No files are buffered
1	Light	25 files are buffered before flushing
2	Medium	50 files are buffered before flushing
3	Heavy	75 files are buffered before flushing

The default level of buffering is Medium.

BGUI.Library

At present, there seems to be a problem with BGUI library which prevents me from adding a large number of entries to the list in one go. This means that I have to call the AddEntry() function for each individual thing that I want to add. Unfortunately this means that the list update is still slower than I would like. Roll on ClassAct...

1.6 Getting In Touch

You can reach me via the following methods

Electronic Mail:

Mail: mebbby@geocities.com

Postal Mail

Address:

Michael Griggs
 Palette
 Black Barn
 Gedney Marsh
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 Lincs
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1.7 Command Line Options

The following options may be placed in your command line:

(Do not include the angle-brackets: < > in your command line)

CX_POPKEY/K	=<"hotkey description">
	<p>The hotkey that activates FindItGui You can use the following in your hotkey definition. The hotkey string <i>*must*</i> be surrounded by quotation marks: ↵ "<hotkey>" String value. Defaults to "Right Amiga f"</p>
CX_POPUP/K	=<TRUE or FALSE>
	<p>Whether you want FindItGui to open its window as soon as you run it. String value. Defaults to TRUE</p>
CX_PRIORITY/K/N	=<-127 to 128>
	<p>The Priority of FindItGui in the Commodities Chain. Numeric value. Defaults to 0.</p>
PATH/K	=<path description>
	<p>The initial path to place in the "Search for Items on" string gadget. Defaults to nothing.</p>
PATTERN	=<pattern description>
	<p>The initial string to place in the "Matching" string gadget. You can use a number of different patterns. Defaults to nothing.</p>

B=BUF/N =<0 to 3>

The level of buffering you wish to use.
Defaults to 2 (Medium).

CASE/S =<TRUE or FALSE>

Determines whether your search will be case-sensitive
or not.
Defaults to FALSE.

PRESERVE/S =<TRUE or FALSE>

Setting this option causes the listview to preserve
its contents after each search.
Defaults to FALSE.

None of the above arguments **must** be specified. You can leave the command line blank, and FindItGui will use its default configuration.

1.8 Icon Tooltypes

All of the tooltypes that FindItGui can use are stored in the icon itself. Simply select the icon from Workbench and press "right amiga i" to view/edit them.

The definitions for all tooltypes are as in the command line, except that the hotkey definition need **not** be surrounded in quotes: "<hotkey>"

1.9 FindItGui is a Commodity

Commodities are a new feature of V36 which allow the user to run several background tasks that can be activated independently. For example, a screen blanker can run as soon as you hit it's hotkey. Similiarly, the FindItGui window can be shown on screen at any time by depressing **it's** hotkey combination. This allows for a very powerful system of tasks which take up virtually no processor time but, paradoxically, are ever aware when you send a message their way!

Commodities can be controlled from the central Commodities Exchange program which you will find on your Extras disk.

1.10 hotkeys

You can use the following hotkeys

One or a combination of:

lshift	(Left Shift)
rshift	(Right Shift)

shift	(Either shift)
ctrl	(Control)
lcommand	(Left-Amiga)
rcommand	(Right-Amiga)
caps	(Caps Lock)
lalt	(Left Alt)
ralt	(Right Alt)
alt	(Either Alt)

along with one of: a-z; A-Z; f-keys; 1-9; rawkeys (e.g. esc)

1.11 Wildcards available

The following wildcards are available on Kickstart 2+

?	Matches a single character.
#	Matches the following expression 0 or more times.
(ab cd)	Matches any one of the items seperated by ' '. Note: The original text says 'seperated'.
~	Negates the following expression. It matches all strings that do not match the expression (aka ~(foo) matches all strings that are not exactly "foo").
[abc]	Character class: matches any of the characters in the class.
[~bc]	Character class: matches any of the characters not in the class.
a-z	Character range (only within character classes).
%	Matches 0 characters always (useful in "(foo bar %)").

"Expression" in the above table means either a single character (ex: "#?"), or an alternation (ex: "#(ab|cd|ef)"), or a character class (ex: "#[a-zA-Z]").

1.12 Distribution

FIG is classified as PostCardWare/E-MailWare. That is, if you use it then get in touch! I don't solicit any money, and I don't ask for any donations. If you feel inclined to, the next time you go past a charity collector in the street, chuck fifty pence in or whatever you can afford.

I regret that I cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage FindItGui causes, but if you find a bug then report it to me ASAP. I will do my best to fix it.

1.13 Thankyou to the following

Phillip Snell
Erol Ismael
Volley
Ein

David Bump
Rene Beekman
Mark Godley
Tobias Biehl
Alain Rouillon
Sven Stullich
Shane McMaster
Gerard Cornu

And lots more people who are on the registered list, but I don't have a "Real Name" for ('cos I'm not going to write their email addresses :)

1.14 Future Developments

The most pressing problem at the moment is BGUI.library. The upgrade to ClassAct *will* take place, but it is a problem of time....

I am open to suggestion as to the future development of FindItGui. If you want something new in the program, I'll do my *best* to put it in, along with a credit to you.

As for other projects, if anyone wants to collaborate on something new, or wants to suggest something new, then get in touch!

1.15 Multiple Path Searching

As of version 1.15, you can use FindItGui to search on multiple paths, simply by separating these paths with a comma - ",". For example, the path:

```
boot:c,work:pictures/jpeg,env:
```

would search in boot:c, work:pictures/jpeg and env: for your specified pattern.

Thanks to Alain Rouillon for suggesting this.

1.16 Electronic

I have a list of people on my mail program who automatically receive updates about the current status of FindItGui. Usually I only bother people when a new version is due to be uploaded. If you would like to be added to this, please send email to me: mebbby@geocities.com.

1.17 Online Information

At present, there is a World Wide Web page for FindItGui. It is hosted on my current web site, located at:

`http://ftp.enterprise.net/mebby/finditgui.html.`

However, this WILL change in the very near future. If you cannot find the web page, then please email me and I will point you to the current site. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience.

1.18 File-typing

By clicking on any of the entries in the listview gadget, you can find out a bit about any file. The name of the file, it's size and it's type are displayed in a small requester.

File-typing is provided courtesy of WhatIs.library..

New file types can be added by you, the end user. Information on this is provided in the WhatIs.library documentation.

1.19 BGUI.Library

FindItGui is presently in transition from using BGUI.library to the ClassAct system. There are a large number of problems with BGUI, which show no signs of being rectified.

Versions of the library number >39 are badly bugged, and I suggest that you DO NOT use them. The library included with this archive is version 39, and this is, apparently, the most recent *stable* version.

I hope that you will bear with me while I conduct what will be a large code change.

1.20 BBS System

I am very happy that FindItGui has been uploaded onto a large number of BBS systems. However, I would appreciate that the Sysops of these BBSs get in touch with me so as I can ensure that everyone has the latest version. I am still getting people sending me bug reports for V1.11, which is aeons old!