

IBMConv

David Trollope

COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

IBMConv

1.1 IBMConv.guide

IBMConv Version 2.4 Documentation.
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Hi, welcome to the new version of IBMConv.

Whats new in this version of IBMConv?

What is IBMConv?

Why IBMConv?

What is needed for IBMConv?

How to use IBMConv.

IBMConv Tooltypes.

Errors/warnings

Hints on use/Frequently Asked Questions

Archive Contents

Bugs

History of IBMConv

How to contact the author

The legalities!

1.2 IBMConv.guide

Whats New in Version 2.4

Not much - just fixed that annoying string gadget bug and it now runs in the background automatically if run from the CLI.

So, if thats all thats new, what was new in 2.3???

Improved Icon Handling.

BOOPSI is now used to implement the scrollbar and arrows. When scrolling, the icons scroll while the left mouse button is held down.

Cancellation.

If an operation attempts to overwrite an existing file IBMConv always used to tell you it was about to do it - but you couldn't cancel the operation. All you could do was open a shell and rename the file if you wanted to keep it. Now you can cancel the operation and change the destination filename/dir.

New Operation Gadget.

The "Amiga File?" checkbox has been replaced with a cycle gadget to pick the operation you want to carry out. The default is set to "Amiga -> PC", which is equivalent to ticking the old "Amiga File?" checkbox.

Choosing "PC -> Amiga" is the equivalent of not ticking the old "Amiga File?" checkbox.

Choosing the new option "Split File Only" will do just that. It will not attempt any file conversion, just split the file in to many files of the size specified in the cycle gadget below it.

File Splitting.

You can now split a file into 700K or 1.4MB files to aid copying the file on to many floppies. This can be done on its own, or during the conversion.

The second cycle gadget can be 1 of 3 options:

1) "Don't Split File"

Does the same as IBMConv always did, creating one file from the source.

2) "Make 700K Files"

More than 1 file is created. Each file created is 700K in size. This will then fit on to a Double Density PC disk. Each file will be prefixed with a sequence number.

3) "Make 1.4MB Files"

More than 1 file is created. Each file created is 1400K (1.4MB) in size. This will then fit on to a Double Density PC disk. Each file will be prefixed with a sequence number.

Only the required number of digits will be prefixed on to the destination filename. IE. If there are 10 files being created, only 2 digits will be used for each number.

Even if the program is told to split a file, no number will be prefixed when only 1 file is written.

If you want more choices for the file sizes eg. for zip drives etc, email me and I will add it to the next version, and send you it.

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What is IBMConv?

This is a simple program which will read a text file and convert it to either IBM/ST format, or AMIGA/UNIX format. To non technical people, this means that extra control codes will be added/removed where appropriate when transferring text files.

Note, this program will NOT read IBM/ST compatible disks, use CrossDOS, MessyDOS, or DOS2DOS for this.

This version does however have a GUI, which displays workbench icons, and is appicon/menu, commodities aware.

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Why IBMConv?

It's quite simple really, I regularly transferred source code, text etc. from my Amiga to a PC (I know a criminal act!), and vice versa for university.

Having tried different programs around at the time (1992) I didn't like any of the ones available - so I wrote my own.

I just wanted a small simple program that worked both ways.

I didn't have time to do a GUI, but now its done! (I've been busy!)

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What do you need to use IBMConv?

Well, the GUI will run on any Amiga with workbench 2 or later.

If you don't have workbench 2, IBMConv1.21 is included and can be used on any Amiga!

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How To Use IBMConv

Its dead easy, but...

Operation of IBMConv
Using The Icon Pad
Translation Files
IBMConv Tooltypes

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The following tooltypes are recognised by IBMConv.

Tooltype	Values	Description
TYPE	AMIGA	Sets the operation to "Amiga -> PC" by default.
	PC	Sets the operation to "PC -> Amiga" by default.
	NOTYPE	Sets the operation to "Split File Only" by default.
SPLITSIZE	700K	Sets the size of files being split to 700K.
	1400K	Sets the size of files being split to 1.4MB.
	1.4MB	Sets the size of files being split to 1.4MB.
NOXPND	TRUE	The destination path will not be expanded.
	FALSE	The destination path will be expanded.
QUIET	TRUE	No output will occur during conversions.
	FALSE	Friendly messages appear to show you the progress.
FROM	filepath	The given filepath is placed in the source string.
TO	filepath	The given filepath is placed in the destination string.
FULLPATH	TRUE	Full paths will be displayed in the icon pad.
	FALSE	Full paths won't be displayed in the icon pad.
AUTOOPEN	TRUE	Whenever an icon is dropped on the appicon or appmenu, the IBMConv window will open.
	FALSE	IBMConv will remain iconified when an icon is dropped on the appicon or appmenu.
PUBSCREENNAME	screen	The given screen will be used for the IBMConv window if it can.

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Operation of IBMConv.

IBMConv can be run from both the shell and the workbench, however, shell operation is limited.

Command line operation of IBMConv has changed between V1 and V2. The command line is not used to control the operation of IBMConv as it did with version 1.

V2 is designed to be a totally GUI application. If you want the command line control of IBMConv, use version 1.21 included in the archive. This is useful for batch processing. Note, file splitting is not supported in the CLI version.

The command line is not ignored all together though! All the workbench tooltypes can be set from the command line, in the same format as the information window from workbench. eg. from=file

Should the workbench not be available, commodity access will be the only interface to IBMConv.

When run, if the IBMConv icon is found, it is shown on the workbench. The IBMConv title can also be found on the tools menu bar of the workbench, and in the list of commodities in the commodities exchange.

Icons can be dropped from the workbench on to the IBMConv icon, or selected using the menu item. These filenames will then be stored, ready to be converted from/to PC format.

Open the IBMConv window by either picking the menu item, double clicking the workbench icon, or hitting "Show Interface" button in the commodities exchange and you will see a window half filled with gadgets, and half filled with the images of any icons selected/dropped in to IBMConv.

Set the destination of the converted file by either clicking the file requestor button and entering a directory and/or filename, or simply typing the destination directory/filename in to the string gadget. If a directory is supplied as the destination, make sure the "Expand Destination" option is ticked, unless you want to use something like the PIPE: device which doesn't require a filename.

"Amiga -> PC"

If the file is an Amiga file and you want to convert it to a PC file, make sure the "Amiga -> PC" option is selected.

"PC -> Amiga"

If the file is a PC file and you want to convert it to an Amiga file, make sure the "PC -> Amiga" option is selected.

"Split File Only"

This option is regardless of the file type, and can be used to simply split a file into many files so it can fit on to a floppy.

Either double click an icon to convert it, type in the filename to convert, or use the file requestor button to pick the file to be converted. If you type in the filename, or use the file requestor, you must hit the "Convert" button to convert the file. This will happen automatically if you double click an icon.

As the file is converted, the display will be updated with the number of lines, and bytes read/written. Should you not want to see this when you convert files, tick the "Quiet" option.

"Don't Split File"

If this option is set, then only 1 file will be written.

"Make 700K Files"

As the file being written exceeds 700K, the file is closed, and a new file opened. All the files will be placed in the same directory, with a number prefixing the filename.

"Make 1.4MB Files"

As "Make 700K Files" but each file is only closed when it exceeds 1.4MB (1400K).

The "Auto open window" option will, when ticked, open the window whenever you drop/select icons in to IBMConv.

You can convert all the icons displayed on the right side of the window by setting the destination to a directory, and hitting "Convert All". All the files will then be converted in one go, and placed in the destination directory. This is useful for multiple source codes within a project.

How To Use IBMConv Using The Icon Pad

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Using the Icon Pad.

Icons can be removed from the pad of icons on the right without converting them by picking the icon, and clicking on the "Remove" button.

The whole path of the icons can be displayed by ticking the "Full Path" option.

If there are too many icons to be displayed on the icon pad, the scrollbar (and arrows) may be used move along the list of icons stored. Just hit the right arrow to scroll the pad.

Anyway, what are you sat here reading up on how to use IBMConv? Its simple enough, just run it now!

How To Use IBMConv Translation Files

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Translation Files.

If the "Update Translations?" option is ticked, a file is saved which stores the name of the file being converted, and the name used when saving the file. This allows you to see the name when saved to a PC filesystem, and only 8 characters (+3 for the ext.) are used.

Just to the left of the tickbox, a button allows you to set the filename of this translation file. If a file is not entered, the default will be RAM:Trans.

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Errors.

Message

Sorry, Can't allocate buffer memory..

The memory used to convert the file could not be retrieved. Try closing another program down and freeing some memory.

Sorry, Can't examine destination.

The Destination file could not be examined. Check the Expand Destination option is set correctly, and the file exists.

Sorry, File requestor could not be reserved.

There was a problem allocating the file requestors. Check that the asl.library is in the LIBS: directory. The requestor buttons will be inactive if this error occurs.

Internal Error - MAXUSER_ERR.

This should never occur, but if it does contact me immediately, a problem with the actual execution has arisen. Try re-executing the command. If the problem persists, try playing around with the command line parameters. A really persistent problem should be attempted after a reboot then if all has failed contact me.

Please note, these are not DOS error numbers, as you will see they have no meaning regarding AmigaDOS.

Warnings.

Binary codes have been found in source file.

If extra binary codes are found in the file, a warning is given to the user. This does not include tabs, they are not counted as binary codes. Extra symbols such as '@' or 'a' are also not counted as binary.

This warning may appear if the either the file actually has extra binary codes, or if the file is not of the type specified. EG. If you supply an AMIGA file specifying as an IBM file, the warning will appear. This is because the program will be expecting different sequence of binary codes in certain places.

Warning, Bad end of line sequence found.
New to version 1.21.

This warning will appear in conjunction with the binary code warning. It is displayed when a 0x0d code is found and it is not followed by a 0x0a, or vice versa in IBM source files. When 0x0d is found in an Amiga source file this message is also displayed.

Warning, Destination file being overwritten.

If you supply a destination file which already exists, or a directory containing a file with the same name as the original file, a warning is given, but the file is overwritten. No confirmation is given.

Hotkey Inactive.

The commodities hotkey could not be reserved, and will not be able to be used to open IBMConv.

Source file is not an Amiga style file.

The file given as the source, is not an AMIGA style file, yet the operation "Amiga -> PC" was selected. Check the destination file written.

Source file is not a PC style file.

The file given as the source, is not a PC style file, yet the operation "PC -> Amiga" was selected. Check the destination file written.

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I do have a few hints on use...

I use the program in conjunction with CrossDOS. Assuming you have a CrossDOS device PC1: setup you can directly read from an IBM disk using IBMConv:

Set the source to PC1:File, the destination to your hard drives directory, Clear Amiga File tickbox, and hit convert.

For all you people who download stuff from the net, here is a method of transferring the UUEncoded files to the Amiga, converting it to an Amiga format file, AND decoding it to the decoded archive at once!

Lets assume you wish to convert the file PROGRAM.UUE from the IBM disk you hold in your hand using CrossDOS.

Put the disk in the drive, clear the "Auto Expand" flag, and set the destination to PIPE:. Type in the source filename (or drop an icon) and hit convert. In a directory you want the converted file, from a shell type:

UUDecode PIPE:

Using the above method reduces the need to convert the file to the Amiga, saving it, converting it to Amiga format and then decoding it to another disk. You just read the file directly, and write the decoded file directly. Easy huh?

Even better setup a script to simply UUDecode PIPE: and call itself, then "convert all" from IBMConv allows you to convert loads of files in one go!

Frequently Asked Questions! (OK may be not!)

So how do I convert an Amiga/Unix file to a PC file?

- 1) Set the operation gadget to read "Amiga -> PC". This is the default.
- 2) Drop the file from the workbench in to the IBMConv Window.
- 3) Type the destination in to the destination string.
- 4) Click on "Convert"

Alternatively, instead of dropping a file in to the window, or manually typing in the filename, use the button to the right of each string to use a file requester.

To convert a PC file to a Unix/Amiga file?

Do exactly the same as above, except set the operation gadget to "PC -> Amiga".

Can you just supply a destination drive or drawer?

Yes - However, if you want IBMConv to tag the filename on to the end of the path, the option "Expand Destination" must be ticked. The reason this is enforced is this allows the PIPE: device to be used without filenames - Now you don't see that very often!

Can I stop the number of bytes read/written being displayed?

Yes, tick the "Quiet" option.

Does the window appear every time the an icon is dropped on the appicon?

Only if the "Auto open window" option is ticked.

Can IBMConv handle more than 1 icon at a time?

No, drop as many icons into the window or appicon as you want (or memory permits) and either hit "Convert all" to batch process all the icons or double click each icon when you are ready! Use the scrollbar and arrows to scroll the icons in the icon area.

I don't want to convert every file I dropped after all, can get rid of some?

Yes, simply single click the one you don't want, and hit "Remove".

I want to see the whole path in the icon area, how?
Tick "Full Path"

Can I convert both Amiga files and PC files to their opposite form in one go?

Err, No. (Sorry may be later!)

There are two dummy text files supplied for you to experiment with. Convert the documentation too if you want, but make sure you use backups!

To examine the files, I recommend using the HEX option in the AmigaDOS command TYPE because using TYPE on its own shows no difference between the files in a normal shell. When looking at the HEX values, look for the occurrence (or disappearance depending on the direction of transfer) of values 0D followed by 0A.

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Bugs in IBMConv, Past and Present.

Version 2.4

Well, we'll see won't we!

Version 2.3

There was 1 small bug - not noticed/reported for a long time. When hitting the cancel button on a file requestor the string data was being corrupted.

Well, there is certainly more risk of there being bugs in this version. The conversion code had to be updated to handle the splitting of files. I haven't yet had any problems, but then, I'm not doing as much conversion as I used to...

Version 2.2

None that I know of!

Version 2.0, 2.1

None Reported... :-)

Version 1.3

Poor interface - but it was a one off, and done in an evening!

Version 1.21

Version 1.2 was released with a major bug, 0x0d followed by 0x0a would

not get converted when 0x0d was the last character in the buffer and 0x0a being the first of the next buffer. In the previous release I said 'I am confident that this release is bug free, but they could be my fatel last words!', It was my fatel (well almost) last words, it had not been totally fixed.

Version 1.2

I cannot say that I am aware of any bugs at the moment, but as I have said before, and have found out the hard way, has anybody ever written a bug free program? However, the bug which I thought I had fixed at the last moment in version 1.2 reoccurred, this is now fixed, I am absolutely positive of this (I think!).

Previous versions gave the binary warning when it (correctly) found a control Z, this code is often found at the end of MSDOS files and is now suppressed. The warning will still occur if it is found elsewhere in the file. The code is not copied to the destination if it is the last character in the source.

All resources are now freed if the program is interupted by CTRL C etc. I did not class this as a bug previously, just a drawback with using C, but now its fixed, I found out how to call the deallocation routine when the program exits, even if it's caused by a break etc.

Please, Let me know if you find any bugs, providing as much information as possible. My address is given below.

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This version has not been modified by anybody but the original author: D Trollope

No liability is accepted for the contents of the archive containing this and other files relating to IBMConv. Use these files at your own risk.

The following should be included in this archive.

IBMConv2	Workbench executable program.
IBMConv.guide	The documentation for IBMConv V2.
IBMConv1.21	CLI executable program (Pre GUI Version).
Doc1.21.doc	The documentation file for IBMConvV1_21.
Contents.doc	A cutting of this section of documentation. (You obviously have this!)
IBMFile.doc	A Dummy text file in IBM format for you to experiment on.
AmigaFile.doc	A Dummy text file in Amiga format for you to experiment on.

Workbench Icons:
IBMConv.guide.info
IBMConv2.info

Doc1.21.doc.info

If something is missing, ask your source why!

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Future.

There are a number of things I intend to do, and they are listed below.

Use even better dynamic memory allocation methods.

Allow a specified amount of memory to be used.

Tidy up the ParseCLIArgs function.

If you have any ideas please forward them to me.

Version 2.4

This is the current release.

Recompiled with SAS V6.58. Removed lots of warnings which never appeared in the previous compiler used.

Fixed the bug where the string was corrupted when the cancel button was hit.

Used the startup module which runs IBMConv in the background (cback)

Version 2.3

The biggest change in this version is that files can now be split. This can be done at the same time as the conversion, or separately. Numbered files are created for you.

No Join functionality is provided because most Operating Systems have a join command and there's no point re-inventing the wheel now.

The icon handling was refined even more by utilising BOOPSI gadgets and making the scrollbar relative to the window. This allows the scrollbar to change size with the pad. Much Nicer!

You can now cancel the operation if it would result in an existing file being overwritten.

The tooltype "TYPE" can now accept "NOTYPE", which will cause the "Split File Only" operation to be the default.

A new tooltype "SPLITSIZE" is introduced, which can specify the size of the destination file. Current Values are 700K or 1400K. If no tooltype is given, then the default will be not to split.

Version 2.2

Significant improvements to the icon handling and displaying.
Now uses clipping to support displaying of only part of an icon.
The scroll bar is now realistic, and can scroll the whole icon pad.

A translation file can now be saved so you can see what the saved files are called. Useful when filenames are longer than 8 letters.

Version 2.1

The GUI was somewhat rough in places under version 2.0 and was cleaned up. The documentation was Amigaguisied too!

Version 2.0

Never released!

The new GUI with icon handling.

Version 1.3

Version 1.20 was distributed on a PC<>Amiga compilation disk by Kevin A Kirk (Thanks Kevin). (Email Kevin - K.A.KIRK1@lut.ac.uk) but unfortunately, he distributed a bugged version!

I did not hear from anyone using this program until recently so I did not develop it further because (after the bug fix) it worked perfectly well, and it was small. However, I was contacted recently and it gave me the motivation to upgrade it a little (For the users sake!), Thanks Dan!

All I have done is add a workbench icon (with tooltypes) and a window for entering filenames etc. It is simplistic but I have not much time to spend on it.

I have tidied up this doc file, I didn't realise it looked so bad through MuchMore etc...

This version is a precursor to a full blown workbench version. This will be version 2... and a commodity, etc.

Version 1.21

Apart from the bug fix which is explained in the 'Bugs' section, very little has been done to the program.
The code has been changed to be closer to the C standard conventions (variables using lower case etc.).

Two functions have been used in place of the inline code in the function main. These functions convert one buffer to the second. This was carried out because it makes it easier to see what is happening in the function main. The code has been optimised in places to try to keep it fast but readable. I could probably make it faster, but less understandable!

The 'NOXPND' option has been added.

Two new warnings have been added too. Warning 102 now becomes

'Warning, Bad end of line sequence found.'. Old warnings 102, 103 now become 103,104 respectively. 105 refers to multiple use of the NOXPND option.

All resources are now freed if the program is interrupted by CTRL-C etc.
My main priority with this release was to get the bug fixed, because it did cause problems with large files.

The program also now uses WARN and ERROR return codes. If a warning occurs, WARN is returned, no matter which warning it was. Any error causes ERROR to be returned. FAIL is not supported, because it is very difficult with this program to decide where to draw the line between ERROR and FAIL.

Version 1.2

Previous code was not overly accurate when referencing LONG variables, not set to 0L, just 0, and displayed using %d rather than %ld. Sorry, this is now corrected.

A new buffer system has been employed for source AND destination files, work being carried out in the buffers. The reason behind this is I expected it to be faster than the system in 1.1. Now an 8K buffer is allocated for the source file, and depending on the direction of transfer, a destination buffer of 8K/10K is allocated, and worked upon. This new system is between 9 to 10 times faster than version 1.1. It is quite fast. An example of this is that a file of approx 45K took approximately 1 minute 35 seconds (95 seconds), this version takes approximately 5 seconds!

The IBM/AMIGA switch is now case insensitive, ie. "Amiga", "amiga", "AmIgA", will all be recognised as "AMIGA". Previous versions were limited to upper case.

A new progress report has been employed displaying the number of bytes read and written.

An additional feature showing the number of lines processed has been added. I thought it might come in useful.

The 'QUIET' option has been added.

A warning is now displayed if extra binary codes are found in the file being converted.

Version 1.1

A buffer system was added using 2K, in theory speeding up the program, and it did, about 50% faster... I don't claim it to be fast though!!

IBM/AMIGA option changed, see above, it now indicates the source file type. A progress report is now given, a full stop appears for every 2K read.

If an error occurs during the opening of a file, a new error message

outputting the DOS error number has been added.

Version 1.0

This was extremely slow, and the IBM/AMIGA option operated differently, it said the file type being written, but I felt that to indicate the sourcefile type made more sense so V1.1 came about.

Besides, only I have version 1.0!

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If you want to get hold of me, for any reason, then you can write to me via EMail, or snail mail.

65 Ascham Road EMail dave.trollope@lucent.com
Grange Park WWW <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/7499/>
Swindon
Wiltshire SN5 6BE
ENGLAND

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