

Browser

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Chapter 1

Browser

1.1 Browser

Browser
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Browser is a combination of a file system explorer and a text viewer. It allows you to browse the contents of your hard disk, CD-ROMs and floppy disks without having to type the names of the files you want to view or to enter the names of the volumes and drawers you wish to examine. This functionality is coupled with powerful text and file find features, i.e. you can use Browser to locate every occurrence of a string in a file and you can use the program to locate every file on your hard disk that matches a pattern.

This documentation is designed to be read with Browser running in the background; just hit the [Help] key and Browser will display the help text belonging to the window or the control the mouse pointer is currently over. But you can also use the list of help topics as listed below:

- List of startup options...
- List of keyboard shortcuts...
- List of mouse commands...
- List of menu items...
- How to search for text in a file...
- How to search for a file...
- AppWindow Workbench usage...
- Further information about this program...
- Release history

1.2 Release history

Browser 1.40 (13.4.98)

- Fixed two Wipeout hits in the directory context duplication code

Browser 1.39 (10.4.98)

- Updated the search/scan progress display.

Browser 1.38 (9.4.98)

- Added search text/pattern history

Browser 1.37 (9.4.98)

- Added new mouse command [Shift]-[Middle mouse button]
- Added directory caching

Browser 1.36 (8.4.98)

- First public release

1.3 AppWindow Workbench usage

Every Browser window is an AppWindow, i.e. you can drag an icon on the window and have Browser read the corresponding directory and show the corresponding file.

1.4 Keyboard shortcuts

[F 1] Stack windows
[F 2] Tile windows
[F 3] Cascade windows

[Help] Display help text

[Esc] Close active Browser window
[Ctrl]-C Close active Browser window

[Tab] Select next file or drawer name
[Shift]-[Tab] Select previous file or drawer name

[Backspace] Go to parent directory

[Return] Open selected drawer or display selected file

[Alt]-[Cursor up] Move to top of text file
[Shift]-[Cursor up] Move one page up in the text file
[Cursor up] Move one line up in the text file

[Alt]-[Cursor left] Move to left edge of text file
[Shift]-[Cursor left] Move one page left in the text file
[Cursor left] Move one column left in the text file

[Alt]-[Cursor down] Move to beginning of text file
[Shift]-[Cursor down] Move one page down in the text file
[Cursor down] Move one line down in the text file

[Alt]-[Cursor right] Move to right edge of text file
[Shift]-[Cursor right] Move one page right in the text file
[Cursor right] Move one column right in the text file

[Ctrl]-[Cursor up] Increase size of text display
[Ctrl]-[Cursor down] Decrease size of text display

1.5 Mouse commands

[Left mouse button] Display file contents or enter drawer

[Shift]-[Left mouse button] Display drawer contents in next Browser window

[Middle mouse button] Display list of volumes and assignments

[Shift]-[Middle mouse button] Move up to parent directory

1.6 Startup options

Browser can be started both from shell and from Workbench. You can control the look, position size, layout and appearance of the Browser window through command line parameters and icon tool types. In both cases the option syntax will be same.

DRAWER=<Name>

This selects the name of the drawer to be displayed when the Browser window is opened. The default is an empty window.

PUBSCREEN=<Name>

This selects the name of the public screen the Browser window is to open on. The default is the default public screen which in most cases is the Workbench screen. If the named public screen cannot be found, then the window will open on the default public screen.

LEFT=<Window left edge>

This sets the left edge of the Browser window to open. Default is the leftmost position that allows the Browser window to be seen.

TOP=<Window top edge>

This sets the top edge of the Browser window to open. Default is the topmost position that allows the Browser window to be seen.

WIDTH=<Window width>

This selects the width of the Browser window to open. This value must be given in pixels. Default is about 400 pixels.

HEIGHT=<Window height>

This selects the height of the Browser window to open. This value must be given in pixels. Default is about 200 pixels.

DIRLINES=<Number of lines in directory display>

This selects the number of lines to be displayed in the directory list at the top of the Browser window. This value affects the height of the window and overrides the HEIGHT parameter.

TEXTCOLUMNS=<Number of columns in text display>

This selects the number of columns to be displayed in the text display at the bottom of the Browser window. This value affects the width of the window and overrides the WIDTH parameter.

TEXTLINES=<Number of lines in text display>

This selects the number of lines to be displayed in the text display at the bottom of the Browser window. This value affects the height of the window and overrides the HEIGHT parameter.

1.7 Information about Browser

Purpose

This program was written since I needed a simple and easy way to compare the compiler and linker options in makefiles located in a large and unwieldy source code tree. As it turned out, I spent most of the time opening file requesters, loading one file, then loading another, looking at the files and starting over. After the 20th file out of about 300 I grew tired of all this and thought to myself that there must be an easier way to this. Browser is my solution to this problem.

Credits

Credit where credit is due, Browser is modeled after the file browser window in the BBEdit text editor distributed by Bare Bones Software, Inc. While the two share similarities, Browser is an entirely original program which was written from scratch in about two weeks, starting with 20 March 1998.

Source code

The Browser source code is not placed in the public domain, and it is not included in the regular program distribution. The source code is copyrighted and available from the author for a small fee to cover the costs of mailing. If you are interested in obtaining the source code, send US\$ 5.00 and a blank 3½" disk to the following address:

Olaf Barthel
Brabeckstrasse 35
D-30559 Hannover
Federal Republic of Germany

If there is enough demand for it, the source code will eventually be made a permanent part of the regular distribution.

Distribution

Browser is distributed using a concept known as Gift-Ware. If you like the program and use it frequently, the author wants you to send him a gift of any kind that could serve as a payment for Browser. Cool Jazz and Be Bop CDs are among the all time favourites of the author, but feel free to be creative and send something different. Thank you! Send your contributions to:

Olaf Barthel
Brabeckstrasse 35
D-30559 Hannover
Federal Republic of Germany

Commercial use

If you are publishing this program on a magazine cover disk, on a software compilation CD, etc. I would like to have a copy of that magazine or CD without having to ask for it. If, and only if, I receive that copy you will get my permission to publish Browser in this form.

Author

If you wish to contact the author of Browser, you can use the following postal address:

Olaf Barthel
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D-30559 Hannover
Federal Republic of Germany

or you can use this e-mail address:

olsen@sourcery.han.de

1.8 Find text

Once Browser has loaded a text file to display, you can start searching for a substring in the text body. The following controls are available:

Find
Ignore case
Only whole words
Scan backwards
Find next
Cancel

1.9 Text to find

This is where you enter the text to find in the file displayed in the bottom half of the Browser window.

Hit [Return] to close the text search window and to begin searching for the next occurrence of the search string.

Hit [Cursor up] to recall the previous search text entered. Hit [Alt]-[Cursor up] to recall the first search text entered.

Hit [Cursor down] to move around in the search history list. [Alt]-[Cursor down] will take you to the end of the list.

1.10 Use wildcards

This option selects whether Browser should interpret AmigaDOS wildcard patterns in the search text you specified. If disabled, Browser will check whether the text found exactly matches the search string.

Not available in the text search window.

1.11 Ignore case

This option selects whether Browser should consider that a text substring matches the search text if only the case of the characters is different. This means, a word like MORE is treated the same as more.

1.12 Only whole words

This option selects whether a text found to match the search string is accepted only if it occurs as single word and not just as part of a word. This means, searching for the word man will stop when the text man is found, but not on the text caiman.

1.13 Scan backwards

This option reverses the direction of the search. Normally, searching starts at the top of the display, continuing downwards to the end of the file. With this option enabled, it will still start at the top of the display, but continue upwards towards the top of the file.

1.14 Find next

Hit this button to start the text search without closing the text search window.

1.15 Cancel

Hit this button to close the text search without starting the search process.

1.16 Find file

Once Browser has read the contents list of a directory, you can start searching for a file or drawer that may be located in this directory or far below in one of its subdirectories. Browser will scan the entire filing system hierarchy below this directory and even follow links and multiple volume assignments. The following controls are available:

- Find
- Use wildcards
- Start search
- Cancel

1.17 File name pattern to find

This is where you enter the name of the file or drawer to find in the directory and all its subdirectories.

Hit [Return] to close the file search window and to start searching for matching file and drawer names.

Hit [Cursor up] to recall the previous search text entered. Hit [Alt]-[Cursor up] to recall the first search text entered.

Hit [Cursor down] to move around in the search history list. [Alt]-[Cursor down] will take you to the end of the list.

1.18 Use wildcards

This option selects whether Browser should interpret AmigaDOS wildcard patterns in the search text you specified. If disabled, Browser will check whether the text found exactly matches the search string.

1.19 Ignore case

This option selects whether Browser should consider that a text substring matches the search text if only the case of the characters is different.

Not available in the file search window since comparisons are by default case-insensitive.

1.20 Only whole words

This option selects whether a text found to match the search string is accepted only if it occurs as single word and not just as part of a word. This means, searching for the word man will stop when the text man is found, but not on the text caiman.

Not available in the file search window.

1.21 Scan backwards

This option reverses the direction of the search. Normally, searching starts at the top of the display, continuing downwards to the end of the file. With this option enabled, it will still start at the top of the display, but continue upwards towards the top of the file.

Not available in the file search window.

1.22 Start search

Hit this button to start the file search without closing the file search window.

1.23 Cancel

Hit this button to close the text search without starting the search process. Note that closing the window will not stop a search process already in progress.

1.24 Drawer name

This is the name of the volume or directory whose contents are displayed in the list below.

1.25 Directory list

This list shows the names of volumes, drawers and files that can be entered or displayed. To move around in the list and to use its contents, see the following topics:

- List of keyboard shortcuts
- List of mouse commands

1.26 Text display

This list shows the contents of a file.

1.27 Separator

The directory list and the text display are separated by this small bar. To change the sizes of the directory list and the text display, click on this bar with the left mouse button, drag the bar to its new location and release the left mouse button.

1.28 Message display

This display shows error messages and information about the text file being displayed in the list above it.

1.29 Directory status display

This display shows error messages and information about the directory list displayed above it.

1.30 Menu items

The Browser commands are grouped into six pull-down menus:

Project

- New
- Duplicate
- Close
- Activate next browser
- Activate previous browser
- About...
- Quit

Edit

- Copy file name to clipboard
- Open with editor...

Directory

- Parent
- Volumes
- Open
- Open in next browser
- Change drawer...
- Reread drawer
- Sort by name
- Sort by size
- Sort by date
- Natural order
- Reverse order

Find

- Find file...
- Find text...
- Find text again

Organize windows

- Stack windows
- Tile windows
- Cascade windows

Help

- General...
- Keyboard shortcuts...

1.31 New

Select this menu item to open a new empty Browser window.

1.32 Duplicate

Select this menu item to open a new Browser window with the same directory list and text display contents as the currently active Browser window.

1.33 Close

This menu item will close the active Browser window. If this is the last Browser window, the program will exit.

1.34 Activate next browser

This will activate the next following Browser window and make it visible.

1.35 Activate previous browser

This will activate the preceding Browser window and make it visible.

1.36 About

This menu item displays the copyright and usage information.

1.37 Quit

This terminates the program and all other Browser applications.

1.38 Copy file name to clipboard

If there is a text file loaded, this will copy the complete name of the file into the clipboard.

If there is no text file loaded yet, the complete name of the drawer or file currently selected in the directory list will be copied to the clipboard.

1.39 Open with editor

If there is a text file loaded, this will launch the text editor on the file.

Note that this requires the EDITOR environment variable to be set up properly.

1.40 Parent

This menu item moves up to the parent of the currently displayed directory. If you are already at the top directory of a volume, the volume and assignment list will be displayed.

1.41 Volumes

This menu item will display the list of volumes and assignments.

1.42 Open

This menu item opens the currently selected file or drawer.

1.43 Open in next browser

This menu item opens the currently selected file or drawer in the next following Browser; if there is no such Browser window yet, it will be opened.

1.44 Change drawer

This menu item will activate the drawer name text entry field for you to make changes to the drawer name.

1.45 Reread drawer

This menu item will cause the directory list to be reread and updated.

1.46 Sort by name

This menu item will cause the directory list to be sorted by name.

1.47 Sort by size

This menu item will cause the directory list to be sorted by the sizes of the files.

1.48 Sort by date

This menu item will cause the directory list to be sorted by the modification dates of the drawers and files.

1.49 Natural order

This menu item will cause the directory list to be sorted in ascending order.

1.50 Reverse order

This menu item will cause the directory list to be sorted in descending order.

1.51 Find file

This menu item opens the file find window.

1.52 Find text

This menu item opens the text find window.

1.53 Find text again

This menu item repeats the previous text find operation. If there was no previous text find operation, the text find window. will be opened.

1.54 Stack windows

This menu item causes all Browser windows on the same screen as the active window to be placed below one another.

1.55 Tile windows

This menu item causes all Browser windows on the same screen as the active window to be placed right next to one another.

1.56 Cascade windows

This menu item causes all Browser windows on the same screen as the active window to overlap one another.
