

GuruLog

Kyzer/CSG

COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

GuruLog

1.1 GuruLog v1.0 documentation

GuruLog v1.0

- Introduction
- Using GuruLog
- Using alertd
- GuruLog options
- GuruLog history
- Credits

GuruLog is a program to identify and keep a log of software failures.
Copyright (C) 1997 Kyzer/CSG

alertd is a program to invoke GuruLog automatically after Recoverable Alerts. Copyright (C) 1997 Kyzer/CSG

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Contacting the author

1.2 Introduction

A few months ago, a program called 'GuruStatistix', by Steffen Clemenz, caught my eye. It gave statistics on your Amiga's most common deaths and

failures.

But! It turned out that it only worked on special logfiles that were already created, by the MCP program. Which is an evil piece of scum. So I wrote my own version.

This software package comes in two parts: the main GuruLog program, which identifies and logs software failures, and a small 'alertd' patch, which runs GuruLog every time a Recoverable Alert occurs while your system is running.

How to use GuruLog.

1.3 Using GuruLog

GuruLog requires Workbench 2 or better to run.

GuruLog is not meant to be an 'interactive' tool. It is for running in your computer's startup.

Installing GuruLog

Using GuruLog with GuruStatistix

GuruLog options

1.4 Installing GuruLog

GuruLog should be run before any 'major' startup programs and patches, it is best run just after SetPatch in the startup-sequence.

The suggested installation is to copy the program files 'GuruLog' and 'alertd' to your C: directory, and the data file 'gurus.dat' to your S: directory. Then add these two lines to your 'S:startup-sequence', after the 'SetPatch' line:

```
c:GuruLog S:gurus.log S:gurus.dat TASKNAME
Run <>NIL: c:alertd c:GuruLog S:gurus.log S:gurus.dat TASKNAME
```

A log of your system's gurus will be held in S:gurus.log

Please read the information about the taskname option, to see if you really should be using this option, and if you need to move the position in the startup-sequence where you run GuruLog.

1.5 Using alertd

alertd is a 'daemon', and should be run sometime during startup.

The entire command line given to alertd is executed as a command after

every alert. As alertd does not 'auto-detach', you must RUN the program.

Basically, use this as a template:

```
Run <>NIL: c:alertd c:GuruLog <GuruLog options>
```

You can remove alertd by sending it a CTRL-C with the break command, or simply run alertd again from the shell.

NOTE: alertd is not entirely 'pure' - never make it resident.

1.6 GuruLog options

You may set how GuruLog operates using the following options.

GuruLog LOGFILE/A, GURUDAT, TASKNAME/S

for example:

```
GuruLog S:gurus.log S:gurus.dat TASKNAME
```

```
LOGFILE
GURUDAT
TASKNAME
```

1.7 LOGFILE option

LOGFILE/A

GuruLog requires the name of a file to write the log to. If the file does not already exist, GuruLog will create it. This file will be appended to each time GuruLog is run, provided - of course - that a 'guru' or recoverable alert has recently occurred.

The log entries take this format:

```
Date   : Monday 19-Jan-98  22:17:41
Task   : 002247A0 "Unknown"
Error  : 0100000C (Recoverable)
By      : exec.library
Cause  : Sanity check on memory list failed during AvailMem(MEMF_LARGEST)
```

The log is processable by the excellent GuruStatistix program, which will allow you to see your Amiga's most common failures - and, usefully, which programs are most commonly failing.

1.8 GURUDAT option

GURUDAT

Those cryptic guru error numbers can be decoded using a 'gurudat' file, specified on the commandline. One is provided for your use with the package - feel free to add to error lists in this file, it is read in line by line, anything that line that does not fit the format will be ignored.

The format, per line, is as follows:

- an 8-digit code number (hexadecimal). Must be a full 8 digits.
- one single space
- the description for that code number.

The code number can refer to:

- a failure or guru code: all 8 digits are used (XXXXXXXX)
- an error subsystem, last 6 digits must be 0 (XX000000)
- a 'general' error, used when no specific error (00XX0000)
- another part of the 'general' errorcode (0000XXXX)

examples:

```
0700000E A filehandle was closed more than once
01000000 exec.library
00050000 OpenResource
00008020 cia.resource
```

The last two 'general' descriptions are put together when a specific reason for the alert cannot be found. For example, the code for 'exec.library cannot open cia.resource' would be 01058020, you can see from above how these are combined.

The log entry in that case would look like so:

```
Error : 01058020 (Recoverable)
By      : exec.library
Cause   : OpenResource cia.resource
```

1.9 TASKNAME option

TASKNAME/S

This is a bit naughty, but useful. Basically, it takes the 'task' value you see in the flashing alerts, and tries to find out the name of this task. This shows you which program caused the crash/alert.

However, it may well be useless, and if you run the program 'Enforcer' or 'CyberGuard', you will certainly get hits.

That's why you have to enable this task-name-finding mission by including this option. If you do not enable the option, no Enforcer hits occur, and the task name will always be recorded in the log as 'Unknown'.

The method I use regularly checks that where it is looking is in 'valid' memory. Therefore, if you have memory that is not autoconfig and requires to be 'enabled' with a command, you should always run that command first

before running GuruLog.

If you have memory that empties it's contents on reset, you will only get the 'unknown', for obvious reasons.

1.10 gurustatistix

GuruStatistix by Steffen Clemenz

AMINET: util/misc/GuruStatistix.lha

WWW: <http://userpages.fu-berlin.de/~clemenz>

It's very simple to set GuruStatistix to use GuruLog's files instead of the default MCP settings. Just install it as usual, except the 'Gurudat' file becomes S:Gurus.dat, and the 'GuruHistory' file becomes S:Gurus.log, or whatever you have installed those files as.

1.11 GuruLog history

0.1: Initial development (12.01.98)
0.2: Stopped using super-slow ReadStr() and Val().
0.3: Now describes compound errors reasonably well.
0.4: Wrote alertd.
0.5: Made alertd a bit more sensitive while unpatching.
0.6: Use cut-down version (<200 bytes) of stealchip
0.7: Rewrote alertd to use CreateMsgPort() - smaller now.
0.8: Tidied up docs. Included clr.asm and hex.asm sources.

1.0: First release (31.01.98)

Future development

1.12 Future prospects for GuruLog

- None planned.

Any further suggestions from you are very welcome, as are extra entries for the gurus.dat datafile. Contact me.

1.13 Credits

GuruLog was created by Kyzer/CSG using E v3.3a by Wouter van Oortmerssen.
alertd was created by Kyzer/CSG using PhxAss v4.37 by Frank Wille.

With thanks to Steffen Clemenz, Thomas Richter, and Ben Hutchings.

GuruLog prints log data in the format sent to me by Steffen Clemenz, I have never bothered downloading or installing MCP. GuruLog is not, and never will be, based on code from MCP or ALiENDESiGN. I acknowledge that the concept of GuruLog is based on MCP's 'GuruHistory' feature.

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