

RndPic

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Chapter 1

RndPic

1.1 RndPic 1.3

RndPic module 1.3

by Helmut Hummel

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English guide corrected by Trevor Morris.

1.2 Introduction

Have you had it with the same old background(s)?

Do you want a DOpus module which will randomize not only the backgrounds, but the images for requesters too?

Look no further (since there are no other modules that can do this anyway ;-)!

RndPic.module allows you to individually enable/disable random images for backgrounds, requesters, and listers -- you can even enter image pattern matches (and icons and drawers are automatic filtered out). Also, you can use the Command "RndPic" in scripts (ie. ARexx) to change the background(s) whenever you like :-).

The module will not, however, test selected image files to see whether they are of a legitimate format (ie. the module will accept an archive name even though it cannot be used), so make sure that for pattern matches you specify a directory containing only image files.

[Installation](#)

1.3 Installation

Simply use the installer script...or do the following:

- copy the file rndpic.module to DOpus5:modules
- copy the catalog file (if needed/supplied) to DOpus5:catalogs/<your language>
- copy the guide (of your language/if available) to DOpus5:help (as it is needed for online help...)
- setup a button (or whatever) with the command "RndPicPrefs"
- configure the module as is explained in [Setup in makelink mode](#) or see.....[Setup in command mode](#)

1.4 RndPic

You do not need to add the RndPic command to the Startup Script (as it is called automatically to change the backgrounds after DOpus is started).

The RndPic command does not work, if you use the "MakeLink Method". Maybe it will work in a later version, however, that would depend upon (and require) Jonathan Potter to rewrite the "SetAsBackground" command within DOpus.

1.5 RndPicPrefs

Within RndPicPrefs you can enabled/disable the random patterns for the background, listers and requesters (using optional file-name patterns) - and you can choose the way the picture appears (ie. tile or center, and precision). This command (RndPicPrefs) will not work until all actions initiated by the RndPic.module are finished!

You can also choose the method with which the RndPic module handles images (see [How it works](#)).

For usage see [Setup](#) and/or the online help.

1.6 Setup in 'MakeLink mode'

This is the simplest (and currently the best) way to use the RndPic.module:

Simply enter the following into your DOpus Settings for Environment/Backgrounds:

"Desktop" - "<your images path>/Background.0"

"Lister" - "<your images path>/Background.1"

"Requester" - "<your images path>/Background.2"

NOTE: <your images path> must already exist! Also, make sure that you specify precision settings and appearance (center/tile) for each image.

Now launch RndPicPrefs and enter the following (manually or using file requesters):

"Copy to" - <your images path> (ie. where you want the images copied to)

all other fields - the path/filename pattern of the images which RndPic is to match

If you use the file requesters, simply enter a filename the pattern. The pattern must be a standard DOS pattern. Do not worry about rejecting icons and directories as they are automatically filtered out.

After saving the settings you are ready to enjoy... :-)

Remember: The command "RndPic" and the button "Test it" do not work in "MakeLink Mode".

1.7 Setup in 'command mode'

By using this setting (Command Mode) you do not need to alter any of DOpus' settings. Simply run RndPicPrefs and select the directories and patterns which RndPic should use.

You may enter your pattern in the string gadget or, equivalently, in the filename field of the file requester. Also, be sure to use the popup menu to select the image position and precision to be passed to DOpus.

You may even turn off all entries in the position/precision popup so that the arguments are not passed to DOpus.

By default the slider bar is set to 180 for "until start" and 200 for "between cmd" (the numbers on the slider represent ticks=1/50 sec).

- Save and reboot
- If no background is present, try increasing the value for "until start" by 50 ticks
- Continue the above steps until your image(s) are displayed
- If, however, your image is displayed immediately you may try continually reducing the value by 10 ticks until you find the minimum value.
- After you get your background(s) working for bootup, you must repeat the same procedure for the lister background(s) with "between cmd"
- The "Test it" button allows you to verify that your image paths and patterns are correct

You will have to play around quite a bit to get the correct times, but once you get them you're all set! It is recommended that you use times which are slightly higher than the minimum values that you find (ie. if you find that 250 works, use 260).

1.8 How it works

Irrespective of the selected mode, RndPic scans all supplied directories and creates a list of all files which match the supplied pattern. It then copies a random filename from each list to an internal buffer.

If you choose "MakeLink mode" the module creates a softlink for each choosed file in the supplied destination (as Background.<number>) and DOpus takes care of the rest...

In "Command mode" the module builds a commandline (using ARexx) for each background (Command SetAsBackground <for what> <filename> <precision=<your choice> <center or tile>) and then waits for the DOpus ARexx port (on startup).

If the port is open, the module will wait for the duration set in "until start" and send the first command to setup the desktop. Then it waits for the "between cmd" time to elapse before it sends the next command line (if switched on); and then again to send the last command line (again, if switched on).

That's all... :-)

1.9 Author

First off, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Trevor Morris and James Hays! Without their help, testing, and suggestions this module would not be what it is.

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Any further suggestions, queries, money...or even a simple "Thanks" would be greatly appreciated :-).

Copyright:

The RndPic.module is Freeware and may distributed by:

- GPSoftware, AmiNet and Fish - with their products without restriction
- other Freeware/PD - just send me some information... :-)
- PD sellers and other - ask me first (and tell me your prices!)

1.10 Button 'Desktop'

Here you may turn desktop patterns on (gadget is selected) or off (gadget is deselected).

1.11 Filebutton for 'Desktop'

Pops a file requester up to choose the directory and pattern you want to use for the desktop images. Just enter the (standard DOS) pattern you want to use in the field.

Do not add stuff to reject icons and directories (as the module already handles this)!

1.12 Stringgadget for 'Desktop'

If (for whatever reason) you prefer not to use the file requester, you may enter your path and pattern here, manually.

See also [Filebutton for 'Desktop'](#)

1.13 Desktop picture precision

This button opens a popup menu where you may choose the image precision and positioning (tile/center). Selecting nothing disables the passing of this argument to DOpus.

This popup is only available for the "command method".

1.14 Button 'Lister'

Here you may switch images for listers on (gadget is selected) or off (gadget is deselected).

1.15 Filebutton for 'Lister'

Pops a file requester up to choose the directory and pattern you want to use for the lister images. Just enter the (standard DOS) pattern you want to use in the field.

Do not add stuff to reject icons and directories (as the module already handles this)!

1.16 Stringgadget for 'Lister'

If (for whatever reason) you prefer not to use the file requester, you may enter your path and pattern here, manually.

See also [Filebutton for 'Lister'](#)

1.17 Lister picture precision

This button opens a popup menu where you may choose the image precision and positioning (tile/center). Selecting nothing disables the passing of this argument to DOpus.

This popup is only available for the "command method".

1.18 Button 'Requester'

Here you may switch images for requesters on (gadget is selected) or off (gadget is deselected).

1.19 Filebutton for 'Requester'

Pops a file requester up to choose the directory and pattern you want to use for the requester images. Just enter the (standard DOS) pattern you want to use in the field.

Do not add stuff to reject icons and directories (as the module already handles this)!

1.20 Stringgadget for 'Requester'

If (for whatever reason) you prefer not to use the file requester, you may enter your path and pattern here, manually.

See also [Filebutton for 'Requester'](#)

1.21 Requester picture precision

This button opens a popup menu where you may choose the image precision and positioning (tile/center). Selecting nothing disables the passing of this argument to DOpus.

This popup is only available for the "command method".

1.22 Button 'Use copy method'

This is the easiest method with which to use RndPic.

If selected, RndPic creates links to the random picture(s) in the selected destination directory with the following names:

Background.0 -> for desktop

Background.1 -> for listers

Background.2 -> for requesters

Your Environment/Backgrounds settings should reflect the path you have selected in RndPicPrefs followed by the above names (ie. SYS:Prefs/Patterns/Background.1).

When using this mode (MakeLink method), the RndPic command does nothing.

1.23 Button 'Use command method'

This is not as easy as the 'MakeLink method', however, you can do more...:-)

In command mode RndPic does not alter any filenames, nor does it copy anything. It simply uses the DOpus command 'SetAs-Background'. Unfortunately this command does alter your Environment/Backgrounds settings, so you should only use this mode if you are sure.

Using the command method also gives you access to the command "RndPic" (another part of the RndPicPrefs module which allows you to change your backgrounds whenever you wish).

1.24 Filebutton 'Destination directory'

Opens a directory requester to choose the destination in which the picture link is created.

Not available for "Command method".

1.25 Button destination string

You may enter your path here, if you don't want to use the file requester.

1.26 Cyclegadget for delay

RndPic requires two time values to work correctly when using the "command method".

You may choose which value the slider alters. "Until start" is the time RndPic should wait after the DOpus ARexx port becomes available. And "between cmd" is the time RndPic should wait before sending another command (as the previous picture must be loaded/displayed first...).

1.27 Slider delay

Choose your delay times. The values displayed are in ticks (50 ticks = 1 second).

The best method for achieving the correct values:

Enter a (DOS compliant) pattern for one of the largest images you intend to use and adjust the time. After the first picture is displayed RndPic sends the next command (watch your disk LED).

What ever value you end up with, add a bit of a buffer (ie. if you found that 250 was a good value, use 260 or 270).

For the "until start", you will have to play around with the value and reboot a number of times until your patterns are displayed (and again add a buffer). Sorry, but this is the only way - and once it is working, it will be worth it ;-).

1.28 Button 'Save'

Saves your current settings (what else did you expect? :-)

1.29 Button 'Test it'

This button is only used for "command method".

You may use this button to test/adjust the value for "between cmd", or just to test your pattern(s).

Note that it does alter your Environment/Backgrounds settings!

1.30 Button Cancel

Discards all changes made and closes RndPicPrefs.

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1.32 Help page

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[Author, addresses, helper](#) and copyright :-)