

AFCDFind

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> AFCDFind		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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Chapter 1

AFCDFind

1.1 AFCDFind Program Documentation

AFCDFind - File search tool for Amiga Format CD-ROMs

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Introduction
about this software

Requirements
required hardware and software

Tooltypes
recognized tooltypes

Main Window
using the main window

Menus
program menus

Search Patterns
about search patterns and keywords

How To Use Help
using AFCDFind's help system

Directory Opus
DOpus - what, why, how?

Acknowledgements
people that have helped

Contact Details
getting in touch with the author

Legal Information

copyright and distribution notices

History
program history

1.2 Introduction

AFCDFind is a powerful, fast tool for finding files on Amiga Format magazine CD-ROMs. It allows you to easily find and access files on any AFCDs, with a variety of useful options to influence the search.

AFCDFind began its life in May 1997, after I became annoyed that there was not an easy or friendly way to find specific files on a CD. At times, I remember using the AmigaDOS "search" command over each CD (lots of disk swapping) in order to find out which CD the file I wanted was on. This wasn't quite so bad to begin with, as there were only a handful of AFCDs, but it obviously became increasingly laborious. As there were no other programs available that could do what I wanted, I decided to write one myself. And in June 1997, AFCDFind was born - finally making its debut on AFC17.

Since then, AFCDFind has gradually developed, and is now much more powerful. Although, perhaps at the expense of the program becoming less easy for beginners to use. Finally, in April 1999, after 12 months or so of pondering, this documentation was created and a proper help system was added to AFCDFind (try pressing the HELP key :-)

1.3 System Requirements

AFCDFind will work on just about any Amiga - it doesn't require any non-standard add-ons.

But, to be pedantic, it requires an Amiga equipped with Workbench 2.05 or higher. Workbench 3.0 or higher and

Directory Opus
Magellan II is

recommended for full functionality. Also supports Scalos.

Requires asl.library, iffparse.library and amigaguide.library in LIBS:

1.4 AFCDFind Tooltypes

AFCDFind recognizes the following tooltypes. Normally, you do not need to change them, and indeed you can't if you're running AFCDFind from the AFC (as CDs are read-only, obviously). However, if you have decided to install AFCDFind to your hard drive for extra speed, you will no doubt find the tooltypes useful:

INDEXDIR (string - example: INDEXDIR=CD0:+System+/Indices)

This should point to the directory that holds the all important AFCD index files. By default (if this tooltype is not specified) AFCDFind will look in the same directory as the program itself (i.e. PROGDIR:).

FASTSTARTUP (on/off switch)

When AFCDFind starts up, it'll scan all the files matching AFCD#? in INDEXDIR, and will test each file to make sure it is of the required format. Setting this tooltype disables the testing of the files. This tooltype is set in the icon on the CD because the file tests are pretty slow on CD media (which means the AFCDFind window may not pop up for a few seconds), and it is safe to assume that no rogue files will make it into the indices directory on the CD. It is recommended that you do not specify this tooltype if using AFCDFind and the index files from hard drive!

MATCHSCRIPT (filename - example:
MATCHSCRIPT=CD0:S/AFCDFindHandleMatch.dopus5)

This tooltype is only of use to
Directory Opus
users. It needs to be set
correctly for the
drawer button
and
Dopus filetype buttons
to work
correctly. It should point to the AFCDFindHandleMatch.dopus ARexx script
which can be found in the S drawer on each AFCD.

NOTONCD (on/off switch)

Currently, specifying this tooltype just changes the text in the Search cycle gadget. Normally, there will be "This CD" and "Last 5 CDs" options. If you specify this tooltype, these will be replaced with the actual CD numbers. You may prefer this when running AFCDFind off your hard drive instead of the CD.

HELPPFILE (filename - example: HELPPFILE=PROGDIR:AFCDFind.guide)

Should be set to the location and name of this documentation, otherwise the
help system
will not function. Defaults to looking for AFCDFind.guide in
the same dir as where the program is located.

1.5 The main window

The main window comprises of a slick, easy to use interface. At its
simplest, you just need to type in your search string and press enter. The
results will then be displayed.

Of course, there is more power available supplied by the following

gadgets:

```
Keywords + AND/OR
(
exact matches only
off)

Filename
(
exact matches only
on)

Find

Search

Drawer

Maximum Matches
And, don't forget to check the
menus
for extra features.
```

1.6 Keywords

Keywords

This is where you enter your search criteria. You can enter as many different keywords as you wish, separated by spaces. You can choose two different ways for the keywords to be used:

```
AND - only files containing all the given keywords will match
OR - files containing any one (or more) keywords will match
```

Alternatively, you may specify an AmigaDOS-style pattern instead. However, this is usually slightly slower than a simple keyword search.

For more information, see the
search patterns
section.

1.7 Filename entry

Filename

Enter the exact filename of the file you are looking for. This is a very strict search method - if you don't know the exact filename, then you should switch the

```
exact matches
option off to enable the normal
keyword
```

search.

1.8 Find

Find

Pressing this button will start the search. During the search process you will be presented with two progress bars. The first shows how much of each CD (CD being searched is shown in window title) has been searched, and the second shows you how many matches there are.

The progress bar also contains three buttons, allowing you to skip the current CD, cancel the search or stop it and display the results upto that point.

1.9 Search CD selector

Search

Choose which AFCDS too search. Generally, you will be given the choice to search either of the last 3 CDs separately, all the 5 most recent CDs, or the complete range of AFCDS.

See the

CD Filter window

for full control of which AFCDS should be searched.

1.10 Drawer

Drawer

Select which section of each AFCDS to search. By default, the whole CD will be searched. But, for example, if you are looking for a game, then you may just want to search the ScreenPlay section of each CD which will be quicker than searching the whole CD.

1.11 Maximum Matches

Maximum Matches

Choose the maximum number of matches you'd like the search results to ever contain. Should this limit be reached during a search, the search will automatically be stopped. This limit can be set to anything from 10 upto 2000 matches.

1.12 CD Number Selector

CD Number

Use this to select which AFCD to
add
to or
remove
from the
filter list
.

1.13 Add

Add

Add the current AFCD to the
filter list
.

1.14 Remove

Remove

Remove the current AFCD from the
filter list
.

1.15 Toggle filter list

List

Toggle the meaning of the
filter list
. You can change it to display either
included CDs (list CDs that will be searched) or excluded CDs (list CDs
that should not be searched).

1.16 Menus

Project menu

About...

Quit

Settings menu

CD Filter...
Exact Matches Only?
Highlight Keywords?
Show File Buttons?
Search Forwards?
Window Positions
 DOpus Support
Use DOpus Filetypes
Show Drawer Buttons
Icon
Icon Action
Name
Show All
 Scalos Support
Show Drawer Buttons
Icon
Name
Show All
Load Settings...
Save Settings
Save Settings As...
Help menu

Various links to parts of this documentation

1.17 About

About

Displays program and copyright information.

1.18 Quit

Quit

Exit the program (the same as clicking the close window icon).

1.19 CD Filter Settings

The CD Filter settings window allows you to tell AFCDFind exactly which AFCDs should be searched. For example, if you don't own all the AFCDs, you can change these settings so that AFCDFind won't bother performing searches on the AFCDs that you don't have.

The list on the left hand side of the window displays either which AFCDs should be search or which AFCDs not to search, depending on the list

included/excluded CDs switch
. For example, if the list is empty and set to "Excluded CDs", all the AFCDs will be searched.

Descriptions of the other gadgets:

CD Number

Add

Remove

List

1.20 Exact Matches Only

Exact Matches Only

Enables a more simplistic and stricter approach to searches. Instead of entering

keywords or patterns
, this open allows you to search for specific files which match the given input exactly, as a whole.

For example, if you were to use a search string of "lha", all files named "lha" will be matched. But, with this option disabled, all files containing the string "lha" would be matched - "file.lha", etc, etc.

Note: the GUI changes to reflect whether this option is enabled or not.

1.21 Highlight Keywords

Highlight Keywords

This will highlight the parts of the matching files/directories that match any keywords in the search string.

Note: no highlighting is possible if you specify an AmigaDOS pattern as the search string. Likewise, if you have the

```
file
and/or
drawer
buttons
```

enabled, highlighting does not work because AmigaGuide does not support highlighting within buttons.

1.22 Show File Buttons

Show File Buttons

All matching files in the search results will be shown as buttons. Pressing the the button will attempt to show the file using AFCDView (which is part of the AFCDPrefs program).

Alternatively, there is an option to make the buttons view files via the

```
Directory Opus filetype system
, instead of using AFCDView.
```

1.23 Search Forwards

Search Forwards

Normally, AFCDFind searches the CDs in reverse order of age - i.e. the latest CD first, and the oldest (e.g. AFCD1) last. Switching this option on will make AFCDFind perform the search starting from oldest CD upto the latest. This option can come in useful if you know that the file you're looking for is on a really old AFCD, and not one of the more recent ones.

1.24 Window Positions

Window Positions

Define how the AFCDFind windows should be positioned on the screen. You have 3 choices:

Mouse Pointer - Open the windows at the position of the mouse pointer on the screen (this is the default).

Centre Screen - Open the windows in the centre of the screen.

Custom - This allows you to choose your own preferred position of the windows. Simply move the windows to the desired position and select the

Save Settings
menu item to save the window positions.

1.25 Use DOpus Filetypes

Use DOpus Filetypes

If you use

Directory Opus
and have enabled
Show File Buttons
, this option

toggles what the buttons in the search results do. With this option enabled, files will be viewed via Directory Opus using it's own filetype system.

1.26 Show Drawer Buttons (DOpus)

Show Drawer Buttons

All matching drawers in the search results will be shown as buttons. Pressing the the button will bring up a

Directory Opus
lister for that

drawer.

In true DOpus style, you may specify your preferred lister format via this submenu - i.e. normal icon mode, icon action mode, or name mode. And you can also choose whether to show all the files or not. For a more in-depth description of these options, see the section about listers in your DOpus manual.

Note: for best results, DOpus Magellan II is required, but this feature will work with older versions too, although listers will always be opened in name and will then be changed to your desired format (this can look a bit messy because you'll see the lister changing modes). This was due to a bug in DOpus, which was fixed in the Magellan II version.

1.27 Enable Drawer Buttons (Scalos)

Enable Drawer Buttons

All matching drawers in the search results will be shown as buttons. Pressing the the button will bring up the respective drawer window in Scalos.

You may specify your preferred lister format via this submenu - i.e. icon mode or name/text mode. And you can also choose whether to show all the files (including files without icons).

Note: For this feature to work, the OpenDrawer command (supplied with Scalos) must be installed on your system - it is usually found in SCALOS:Tools.

1.28 Load Settings

Load Settings

Load a
previously saved
AFCDFind settings file.

1.29 Save Settings

Save Settings

Save the current settings as the defaults (to ENVARC:AFCDFind.prefs). The next time you run AFCDFind these settings will be loaded and used.

Settings that are saved include the state of the options in the settings menu, most of the settings in the main window and the CD filter settings. Window positions are also saved if you have chosen the custom window position option.

1.30 Save Settings As

Save Settings As

Does the same as
Save settings
, except that you are first asked to choose a
file to save the settings to (can be reloaded later with
Load settings
).

1.31 Keywords and search patterns

AFCDFind allows you to search for files using a number of ↔
different
variables. The most important being the search string that you provide.
This can actually be interpreted in 4 different ways:

1. Keyword search (AND mode)
-

Only files matching all specified keywords (separated by spaces) will be matched.

For example, a search string of 'html amiga' will match files whose names contain both 'html' and 'amiga'.

2. Keyword search (OR mode)

Any files containing any of the specified keywords (separated by spaces) will be matched.

For example, a search string of 'html amiga' will match files whose names contain either 'html' or 'amiga'.

3. AmigaDOS-style search pattern

All files matching a standard AmigaDOS-style search pattern will be shown in the search results. These search patterns can be as complex as you wish. For example, you could enter '#?.jpg' which will look for all filenames ending in '.jpg' (i.e JPEG images). And starting to get more complex, you could enter '~(AF#?|#?.guide)' which would list all files not starting with 'AF' and not ending with '.guide'.

4. Non-substring filename search

With

exact matches only

enabled, you may perform far more stricter and precise searches. Only files that match the search string exactly (case insensitive) will be shown. As such, this is only useful if you know exactly what the filename you are looking for is - i.e. but, you can't remember what drawer it is in or which AFCD it is on.

1.32 How to use help

You can receive help with AFCDFind in several ways:

Help key - Press the Help key while over a gadget to get help on it.

Menu Help - To receive Help with a menu, select the menu item as normal, but instead of releasing the right mouse button, press the Help key.

Help menu - Choose one of the topics from the Help menu.

1.33 Directory Opus

Some of AFCDFind's features require Directory Opus. Why? Well, we wanted to make this program as useful and powerful as possible, but some features are simply not possible when using the standard Workbench. For example, the drawer buttons feature was a common suggestion, but Workbench does not

provide an API to allow other programs to open windows containing files. Whereas, Directory Opus 5 does (via ARexx).

When I refer to Directory Opus, I'm really referring to its workbench replacement mode of operation, which is what the specific features in AFCDFind are intended for. However, the features should work if you run Directory Opus in standalone mode too. AFCDFind requires Directory Opus Magellan II for full functionality, although it does support older versions too.

I know there are users out there who either hate Directory Opus, or they just haven't used it before. Rest assured, features in AFCDFind that require Directory Opus, require it for a reason - wherever possible I intend to support users who do not use Directory Opus.

If you're not a Directory Opus user, and you'd like to find out more then GP Software's website (www.gpsoft.com.au) is a good place to start. Browse the adverts in Amiga Format to find resellers in the UK that you can buy it from.

1.34 Acknowledgements

Thanks to Ben Vost for support during the development of this program, and for the many suggestions. Thanks also to all the AF readers who have provided suggestions and bug reports.

Thanks also go to Dr Greg Perry of GP Software for Directory Opus Magellan II, and for fixing bugs in DOpus' arexx interface so that we can support it fully :-)

Progress bar courtesy of the Prog_Bar link library by Allan Savage.

1.35 About Oliver Roberts

AFCDFind was designed and developed by Oliver Roberts. If you should find any bugs, then please contact me at the e-mail address below - alternatively, contact Ben Vost at Amiga Format. If you have any suggestions be sure to mention them on the AFCD survey or let me know personally.

e-mail: oliver.roberts@iname.com
www: <http://www.nanunanu.org/~oliver/>

If you're lucky, you may be able to view my website offline :-)

1.36 Copyright Notice & Disclaimer

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1.37 History of AFCDFind

v1.33, 24 August 1999

- Now takes notice of the "Seriously Amiga" -> "Serious" drawer name change as of AFCD42 - yes, I should have done this 2 months ago! ;(

v1.32, 6 August 1999

- Added
 Search Forwards
 option
- Default matchscript location changed from :S/ to PROGDIR:

v1.31, 28 July 1999

- The drawer buttons feature is now available to
 Scalos
 users too
- Help window is now activated on open

v1.30, 6 May 1999

- Added proper
 help system
 and started this documentation.
 - Added option to choose what
 position the windows open at
 .
 - Increased
 maximum matches
-

limit from 1000 to 2000.

.
.
. ancient history
.
.

v1.0, 24 June 1997

- Initial public release.
