

AFCDPrefs

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COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

AFCDPrefs

1.1 AFCDPrefs Program Documentation

AFCDPrefs - Preferences program 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

How To Use Help
using AFCDPrefs' help system

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what is AFCDView?

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types of files that are recongized

Directory Opus
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people that have helped

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1.2 Introduction

AFCDPrefs is a fast and simple filetyping tool for AFCDS. It allows you to choose which program you'd like to run on different types of file, when clicking on icons on AFCDS. AFCDPrefs is the configuration part which uses a GUI, whereas

AFCDView
is the small tool that does all the real work.

AFCDPrefs follows on from the success of AFCDFind, and made its debut on AFCDD20. Since then, AFCDPrefs has gradually developed, and is now caters for more

filetypes
than before and also supports the filetype system of

Directory Opus

. Finally, in April 1999, after 12 months or so of pondering, this documentation was created and a proper help system was

added to AFCDPrefs (try pressing the HELP key :-)

1.3 System Requirements

AFCDPrefs 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 and requires `asl.library`, `iffparse.library` and `amigaguide.library` in LIBS: (Workbench 3.0 or higher is recommended).

1.4 AFCDPrefs Tooltypes

AFCDPrefs recognizes tooltypes including the same tooltypes as Workbench preferences programs do, which behave in the normal way - nethertheless, I've decided to document them :-). Normally, you do not need to change them:

ACTION (string - example ACTION=EDIT)

Must be either one of EDIT, USE or SAVE. This is only of real use with AFCDPrefs settings project icons. It defines what AFCDPrefs does when you click the icon:

```

EDIT - the default action (opens the
      AFCDPrefs window
      )
USE  - temporarily use the settings from this file
SAVE - permanently use the settings from this file

```

CREATEICONS (on/off switch)

Specifying this tooltype will turn on the
 Create Icons
 feature (normally
 toggled via the menus).

PUBSCREEN (string - example: PUBSCREEN=Workbench)

Specify the name of the public screen which you would like AFCDPrefs to open on. Normally, it will open on the default public screen.

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

Should be set to the location and name of this documentation, otherwise the

```

      help system
      will not function. Defaults to looking for AFCDPrefs.guide in
the same dir as where the program is located.

```

1.5 The main window

The AFCDPrefs window comprises of a simple, easy to use interface. Functionality is strongly based on that of the standard Workbench preferences programs, so if you know how to use them then you should be able to grasp AFCDPrefs pretty quickly. Likewise, the
 menus
 perform in the
 same way as other preferences programs.

Settings can be changed using the following gadgets:

Use DOpus Filetypes

Filetype

Tool

Arguments

Save

Use

Cancel

1.6 Use DOpus Filetypes

Use DOpus Filetypes

This switch will be available if
Directory Opus
is running.

Never - Don't use Directory Opus filetypes (default).

As a fallback - Only use Directory Opus filetypes if
AFCDView
does not

recognize
the file in question.

Always - Totally ignore the filetype settings in AFCDPrefs, and
use
Directory Opus
to view files instead.

1.7 Filetype

Filetype

Lists the different types of files that are handled. The tools and arguments will be displayed for the selected entry.

Note that

AFCDView
can actually recognize a bigger range of different

filetypes

than those listed here. For example, it can recognize a variety of different image formats, although there is only a single entry for pictures in AFCDPrefs.

1.8 Tool

Tool

Define which program should be used to view files of the
selected filetype

You may press the '?' button to bring up a file requester. This should only contain the program name/location - command line arguments

should be specified separately.

Note: NEVER set this to AFCDView!

1.9 Arguments

Arguments

Set the command line arguments for the tool defined for the current filetype. This field may be left blank.

Special tokens:

%f - any occurrences of '%f' in the argument string will be replaced by the filename. This is generally only required for programs that do not take the filename as their first argument.

1.10 Save

Save

Save the current settings to disk and then exit.

1.11 Use

Use

Exit and use the current settings for the current session only - any changes will be lost after a reboot.

1.12 Cancel

Cancel

Exit and discard any changes you have made to the settings.

1.13 Menus

AFCDPrefs' menus are very similar to those in the preferences programs supplied with Workbench, and they perform the same functions. ↔

Project menu

Open...
Save As...
About...
Quit
Edit menu

Reset To Defaults

Last Saved

Restore
Settings menu

Create Icons?
Help menu

Various links to parts of this documentation

1.14 Open

Open

Load a

previously saved
AFCDPrefs settings file.

1.15 Save As

Save As

Saves all the settings to a file of your choice (can be reloaded later with

Open
).

1.16 About

About

Displays program and copyright information.

1.17 Quit

Quit

Exit the program (the same as clicking the cancel button).

1.18 Reset To Defaults

Reset To Defaults

Discard the current settings and reset them all to the built-in defaults.

1.19 Last Saved

Last Saved

Discard the current settings and use the settings that you last saved, instead.

1.20 Restore

Restore

Discard the current settings and replace them with the original settings that were initially there when you ran AFCDPrefs.

1.21 Create Icons

Create Icons

When saving the settings, an icon will also be created for the settings file.

1.22 How to use help

You can receive help with AFCDPrefs 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.

1.23 AFCDView

You may be wondering what AFCDView is used for... Well, AFCDPrefs is just the GUI which allows you to set your favourite viewers - it doesn't actually show or recognize files that you wish to view. Instead, a compact, small and fast separate program called AFCDView handles this side of things.

AFCDView can be started from the shell, and you need to give it the name of the file you want to view as a parameter. But, in most cases it will be started from Workbench. More specifically, it should be specified as the default tool in project icons of files you wish to view via the AFCDPrefs system.

On startup, AFCDView loads the settings you have made with AFCDPrefs. It will then attempt to identify the file you are trying to view, and then launch the relevant program to view the file, as defined by you in AFCDPrefs. Should AFCDView not recognize a file, it'll attempt to run Multiview (OS 3.x only) on the file as a last resort. Of course, you may choose to setup AFCDPrefs so that it views unrecognized files via Directory Opus instead.

AFCDView will usually be installed to C: on your system.

1.24 Supported Filetypes

Supported Filetypes

AFCDView is able to recognize the following types of file:

- Amigaguide, HTML and PDF documents
- ASCII text
- ILBM, JPEG, PNG and GIF images
- 8SVX, WAVE, Sun AU and MPEG audio
- IFF-ANIM, Quicktime, AVI and MPEG movie
- LhA, LZX, ZIP and DMS archives
- Imagine and Lightwave 3D objects
- Amiga font files

1.25 Directory Opus

AFCDPrefs supports the filetyping system of Directory Opus - note that I say "support" because AFCDPrefs will work perfectly well without Directory Opus!

However, Directory Opus users may prefer to not use AFCDPrefs at all, and

in that case AFCDPrefs can be setup so that AFCDView will ignore the settings in AFCDPrefs, showing the files via Directory Opus instead. Or you can just choose for AFCDView to only show files via Directory Opus if the type of the file in question is not support by AFCDPrefs/View. See the DOpus filetypes switch. This means that AFCDView can view absolutely any type of file, just as long as there is a filetype for it in Directory Opus.

When I refer to Directory Opus, I'm really referring to its workbench replacement mode of operation, which is what the specific features in AFCDPrefs are intended for. However, the features should work if you run Directory Opus in standalone mode too.

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.

1.26 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 and Jonathan Potter for Directory Opus Magellan II.

1.27 About Oliver Roberts

AFCDPrefs 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 :-)

1.28 Copyright Notice & Disclaimer

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1.29 History of AFCDPrefs

See also:

AFCDView history
v2.12, 6 August 1999

- Now looks in PROGDIR: (i.e. AFCDxx:+System+) for the default settings files

v2.11, 21 July 1999

- Added an option for specifying an Amiga font viewer
- Help window is now activated on open

v2.10, 26 May 1999

- Added proper
 help system
 and started this documentation.

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. ancient history
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v1.0, 23 September 1997

- Initial public release.

1.30 AFCDView History

v2.9, 6 August 1999

- Now looks in AFCDxx:+System+ for the default settings files (will continue to check for them in AFCDxx:S, for backwards compatability, when required)

v2.8, 21 July 1999

- Added detection of Amiga font (*.font) files

v2.7, 2 June 1999

- Added workaround for file systems that do not support OpenFromLock()
- Now prepends tool names that begin with ':' with the CD volume name (e.g. :C/Visage -> AFCD41:C/Visage)

v2.6, 22 April 1999

- Added loopback recursion detection (i.e. if the user specifies AFCDView as a tool in AFCDPrefs), and issues an error message

v2.5, 20 April 1999

- Added requester to confirm copying of AFCDView to C:

v2.4, 20 April 1999

- AFCDView now checks to see if the latest AFCDView is in C: (will copy the newer version from the CD, if required)
- Tidied various bits of the code up

v2.3, 24 March 1999

- Added support for PDF files
- Stack for launched programs increased from 16384 to 20000

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v1.0, 23 September 1997

- Initial public release.
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