ReadRDB

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : ReadRDB		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
WRITTEN BY		April 15, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

ReadRDB

1.1 ReadRDB 0.7 ©1995-99 Gérard Cornu - Guide summary

```
                           ReadRDB 0.7 - Guide Summary - (19-Nov-99)


                by
         Gérard Cornu

            Copyright

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1.2 ReadRDB copyright and other boring stuff

```
                       ReadRDB   -   version 0.7   19-Nov-99

        ©1995-99
             Gérard Cornu
             -    Compiled with SAS/C ® 6.58
```

ReadRDB, as well as all the accompanying files, is ©1995-99 Gérard Cornu.

ReadRDB is heavily based on the source file
                Readrdsk.c
                    .

1.3   NO warranty for ReadRDB

                      NO WARRANTY
~~~~~~~~~~~

There is no warranty for this software package. Although the
                author
                     has tried to prevent errors, he can't guarantee that the ←
                     software package
described in this document is 100% reliable. You are therefore using this
material at your own risk. The author cannot be made responsible for any
damage which is caused by using this software package.

1.4   ReadRDB distribution

                      DISTRIBUTION
~~~~~~~~~~~~

This software package is freely distributable. It may be put on any
media which is used for the distribution of free software, like Public
Domain disk collections, CDROMs, FTP servers or bulletin board systems.

In order to ensure the integrity of this software package, distributors
should use the complete original distribution. The author cannot be made
responsible if this software has become unusable due to modifications
of the distribution contents or of the distribution files themselves.
There is no limit on the costs of the distribution, e.g. for the media,
like floppy disks, streamer tapes or compact disks, or the process of
duplicating. Such limits have been proven to be harmful to the idea of
freely distributable software, e.g. instead of reducing the price of the
floppy disk below the limit, the software was simply removed from the
master disk.

Although the
                author
                does not impose any limit on the distribution of
this software, he would like to express his personal opinions on this
matter:

    * This software package should be made available to everyone free of
      charge whenever it is possible.

    * If you have acquired this software package under normal conditions

```
        from a Public Domain dealer on a floppy disk at a price higher than
        25FF or US $5, then you have definitely paid too much. Please don't
        support this improper profit making any longer and switch to a
        cheaper source as soon as possible.
```

1.5 Usage restrictions for ReadRDB

```
USAGE RESTRICTIONS
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
```

No program, document, data file or source code from this software
neither in whole nor in part, may be used on any machine which is used

- * for the research, development, construction, testing or production
  of weapons or other military applications. This also includes any
  machine which is used in the education for any of the above
  mentioned purposes.

- * by people who accept, support or use violence against other people,
  e.g. citizens from foreign countries.

1.6 ReadRDB requirements

```
                REQUIREMENTS
~~~~~~~~~~~~~
```

ReadRDB needs at least System 2.04 to run, and has been developed
and tested with KS 40.68 and WB 44.2. It should work with higher
versions as well.

Due to the very nature of this little utility, one or several hard
disk(s) using the Commodore
                Rigid Disk Block
                specification,
are of course required ;-)

1.7 Installing ReadRDB

```
Installing ReadRDB:
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
```

Just double-click on the Install icon of your choice. This suppose
that you have Installer somewhere in your command path.

You prefer a hand made installation? OK, (me too ;-), just copy ReadRDB
in a directory on your command path.

1.8   Introduction to ReadRDB

                        INTRODUCTION
~~~~~~~~~~~~

ReadRDB allows you to save the
                RDB
                of your hard disk to a file,
for backup purpose, and then, to copy the saved RDB back to your hard
disk.

A good thing to do, if you want to be on the safe side, is to save
the RDB of each of your hard disks to one or more floppies, along with
a copy of ReadRDB. You may be thankfull to yourself one day for having
done it. (I have, several times, already!).

A rogue program, or a wrong manipulation while using HDToolBox or other
such hard disk utility, may corrupt or destroy your RDB. If that happen
and you don't have a backup of your RDB, the only way to get back the
use of your hard disk is to re-install it.

Please read this little
                warning
                   .

1.9   Warning!

                        WARNING:
~~~~~~~
BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN YOU USE THE "WRITE" OPTION OF READRDB, DUE TO ITS
VERY NATURE, WHICH IS TO OVERWRITE AN RDB WITH A SAVED ONE IN A FILE,
YOU MAY RENDER ANY HD UNUSABLE BY AMIGADOS. THIS CAN HAPPEN IF FOR
EXAMPLE YOU WRITE BACK THE RDB FROM A GIVEN HARD DISK TO ANOTHER
HARD DISK. A WAY TO AVOID THIS KIND OF EVENT, IS TO NAME YOUR SAVED
RDBS WITH THE BRAND NAME AND MODEL OF THE ORIGINAL HARD DISK.

Don't let yourself be put off by this warning, if you use ReadRDB
correctly you shouldn't have any problem. You may be thankful to it the
day you'll be able to restore a saved RDB over a corrupted one. I have
had to do it a few times, and I am much thankful to Randell Jesup who
wrote
                Readrdsk.c
                   .

1.10   Readrdsk.c

"Readrdsk.c" is a little C source which I found on Usenet a while ago,
(in January 1991!).

ReadRDB is heavily based on this source. I have added ReadArgs support,

several more checks, and simplified its command line interface.
The original allowed to set the length and start offset of the RDB to
save (or write).

The author of Readrdsk.c is Randell Jesup, who was the Keeper of AmigaDos,
at Commodore Engineering. (and is also a Jack-of-quite-a-few-trades ;-)

1.11 Rigid Disk Block

RDB:
~~~
The RDB, or Rigid Disk Block, is a Commodore specification that defines
blocks of data on a hard disk to describe that disk. These blocks are
created and modified with installation utilities such as HDToolBox, and
they are read and used by the device driver ROM or expansion code.

These blocks contain information about the drive, such as number and
size of blocks, tracks, cylinders, bad block list, partitions data,
file system and drive initialisation.

They are not generally accessible to the user as they do not appear on
any DOS device.

For a more complete description of the RDB and other hardblocks, see the
RKRM libraries, 3rd edition (ISBN 0-201-56774-1), pages 769-776.
(Or pages 538-545 for the second edition of RKRM Libraries & Devices).

1.12 Using ReadRDB

                  Using ReadRDB
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

ReadRDB is a Shell only utility.

                  Template

                  Examples

                  Extra info

1.13 The template for ReadRDB

                  The template is as follow:

D=DEVICE/K,U=UNIT/K/N,WRITE/S,FILE,H=HELP/S

Only for those who don't usually read their manuals ;-):

```
    /K means that the keyword must be given with the argument.
    /N the argument is numeric.
    /S the argument work as a switch.
    =  the equals sign means that 2 different forms of the keyword are
       equivalent, and either will be accepted.
```

The first argument, D or DEVICE, must be followed by your scsi device
name. This argument is optional, the default device is "scsi.device".

The second argument, U or
                UNIT
              , must be followed by the unit number of
the device. This argument is also optional, the default unit is "6".

The third argument, WRITE, should only be used if you want to write a
saved
                RDB
                back to your hard disk. This argument is an optional switch.
The default action is to read the
                RDB
                and save it to a file.
Please read this little
                warning
                .

The 4th argument, FILE, must be followed by the name of the file that
will contain the
                RDB
              , if option WRITE is NOT specified, or by the name
of the file containing the
                RDB
                to write back to the hard disk if option
WRITE was specified.

This argument is optional if the WRITE option is NOT specified and in
this case the default file name is "T:RDB_scsidevicename_unitnumber".

On the other hand, if the WRITE option is specified, the argument FILE is
MANDATORY.

The 5th argument, H or HELP, will give you some help about the usage of
ReadRDB.

The FORCE switch option has been removed, it shouldn't be needed anymore!

1.14 How do I know which unit my HD is?

If you don't know the unit number for your SCSI hard disk(s), just run
HDToolBox and once the window is opened you will see the following:

```
                Hard Drives in System

Interface      Address    LUN  ...
SCSI             x
```

```
              ^
              |
The unit number is displayed here, in the Addresses column.

If you used another utility to install your hard disk(s), it should
have a similar layout, or at least tell you the address of your
installed hard disks.
```

1.15 Examples

```
               Examples:
~~~~~~~~
Assuming your hard disk uses a scsi device named "cybppc.device" and
is addressed as unit "88":

If you wish to save the
             RDB
             of this hard disk to a file
named "DF1:RDBs/IBM_36GB", the syntax will be:

ReadRDB DEVICE=cybppc.device UNIT=88 FILE=DF1:RDBs/IBM_36GB

If you now wish to overwrite this hard disk's
             RDB
             with the saved file:

ReadRDB DEVICE=cybppc.device UNIT=88 WRITE FILE=DF1:RDBs/IBM_36GB
```

1.16 Extra info

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               ReadRDB also displays some information contained in the
             RDB
             .

The first part concerns the so called 'physical layout' of the drive.
It must be understood that this layout is not the real physical layout,
but an equivalent arrangement made by the installation software to be
used by the driver. For example it might say 1 for the number of heads,
but the drive may in fact have 4 heads. This is done to simplify the
layout used by the device driver. But the total size, which is equal to:

(cylinders * sectors * heads) * bytesperblock

will correspond to the actual size of the drive.

Then ReadRDB will tell you if reselection is enabled or disabled. Some
drivers don't support reselection properly. So if you have problems
with more than one hard disk connected to the same SCSI controller,
you may try to turn reselection off on ALL of your SCSI drives.
You may do it with Prod_Prep and the accompanying scripts which are
```

usually supplied on the Workbench Install disk. This can be useful
while you are waiting for the new ROM driver that you just ordered ;-)

To finish ReadRDB will check if the following rdb_Flags are set:
RDBFF_LAST, RDBFF_LASTLUN, RDBFF_LASTTID and RDBFF_SYNCH.

Those flags are defined in the Commodore include file
"devices/hardblocks.h" as follow:

RDBFF_LAST   no disks exist to be configured after
                this one on this controller

RDBFF_LASTLUN   no LUNs exist to be configured greater
                than this one at this SCSI Target ID

RDBFF_LASTTID   no Target IDs exist to be configured
                greater than this one on this SCSI bus

RDBFF_SYNCH   drive supports scsi synchronous mode
                CAN BE DANGEROUS TO USE IF IT DOESN'T!

1.17   ReadRDB author

                  Send any suggestion, bug report, compliment ;-), DARK ←
                    chocolate
 (BLACK, containing at least 75% cocoa!), Bergerac Affiné tobacco,
 freely distributable software, 36 GB hard disks (18 GB will do ;)
 A3 48 bits colour scanners, CDROM drives, CD writers and CDROM disks,
 10 GB tape streamers, brand new AMIGA 9999 with 256 bits RISC CPU, etc...,
 etc...

 OR JUST A POST CARD, to:

                    Gérard CORNU
                    11 avenue Edouard Aynard
                    69130 ECULLY

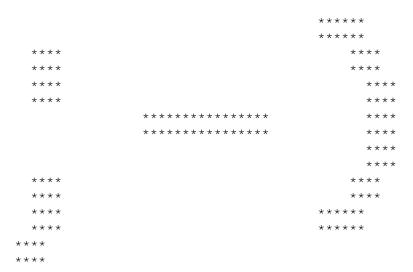   FRANCE.
             (WPC)
                                  Email: gcornu@serveur.dtr.fr

          Have plenty of nice days! ... me too!

1.18   W.P.C.

                    World People Community ;-)

1.19   For the humor impaired ... ;-)

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        * * * *
        * * * *
```

1.20   History

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0.7     Now scans the first RDB_LOCATION_LIMIT for an RDB and
        get its size from rdb_HighRDSKBlock.

        If no file name is given for reading the RDB, ReadRDB saves it as
        T:RDB_scsi_device_name_unitnumber and add a comment with the drive's
        manufacturer info if available, followed by the device name and unit
        number.

        The FORCE switch option has been removed, it should not be needed
        anymore!

0.6     Internal revision

0.5     The bug fixed in V0.2 in fact introduced a new one: unability
        to write back the RDB under AmigaOS 2.x :-(
        Thanks to "Sheer Panic" for emailing me about it.

0.4     Added FORCE switch, to allow reading and writing of non standard
        RDBs (those not having RDSK as their fist 4 bytes).
        Suggested by Roman Patzner. Thanks Roman.

0.3     Private version, not publicly released.

0.2     Fixed bug that made it impossible under OS 39.x to
        write back an RDB. Sorry all :-(

0.1     First release
```

1.21   Index

Index created by AGIX 1.2 (5.8.94) Copyright © Ralph ←
Seichter
modified and re-formated by Gérard Cornu ;-)