

01108730-0

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COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

01108730-0

1.1 File Finder

File Finder
Release Version 1.3 17th April 1995
written by Mark Melton
email u9326383@radon.sys.uea.ac.uk (until July 96)

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1.2 Copyright

Copyright
©1995 M.D. Melton

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consent
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consent
is~obtained~before~distribution.
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above conditions.

Warrenty

None, well ok lets just say that I'm quite confident that it has less bugs than ←
any Microsloth product, Windoze
95 (96 more likely ;-) for example.

Disclaimer

This~program~is~provided~as~is,~and~no~liability~is~accepted~for~any~dammage~ ←
caused
to~you,~your~machine,~or~for~that~matter~anything~else.~Hey~if using~this ←
program causes WW3 don't~blame~me~OK.

1.3 Introduction

Introduction

This program is used for finding things, still you probably worked that out~from ←
the name~;-). I~wrote~it~mainly
because~I~have~access~to~several Amigas~(TM), with rather large hard-drive's. I~ ←
found~there~was~a~need~to~quickly
find the location of file's~on~the~machines~as~many~of them have files stored in~ ←
different~ways. There~was~also
the~article~in~the~Amiga Shopper magazine on a file finding utility.
I~modified~their~code~a~bit~and~added~substantial~amounts,~and~came~up~with~this ←
program.

Current features in version 1.3

- > Find any file on a disk, using standard AmigaDos(TM) file matching patterns.
 - > Fully implemented as a commodity, with user definable hotkey etc.
-

- > Limit search size parameters, only files in a certain size range are checked.
 - > Limit date range parameters, only files in a certain date range are checked.
 - > Window is now sizable.
 - > Slightly faster search routine.
 - > Interface is an "AppWindow", when a file or directory is dropped on the interface its path is entered in the path gadget.
 - > Now able to search multiple paths.
 - > Much faster when doing date or size limited searches. Now only 25% slower doing a date limit search. 60% slower in previous versions. Size limit search now has no visible overhead. 50% slower in previous versions.
 - > Much faster overall when searching. Upto four times faster than previous versions!!!
- + a few bug fixes.
- > Stack overflow fixed. Reported by millions (well at least four people :-)
 - > GUI problems when running on non-interlaced NTSC machines fixed. Reported by a NTSC A500 user, thanks!
 - > Problems with SoftLinked directories fixed. Well they now work on my machine, if you know different let me know ;-).
 - > All gadget entries are remembered even if GUI is hidden.
 - > Close window gadget now "hides" the interface instead of closing it.
 - > Solved problem with overflowing text when using topaz 8 font.

1.4 Requirements

Requirements for File Finder.

It is essential that you have at least kickstart & Workbench 2.04.

Other than that there are no further restrictions, well apart from having an amiga :-).

The program has been written on an A1200 with 50MhzGVP~A1230-II. It has been tested using~enforcer,~and~does not cause~ any enforcer hits so it should be OK on all amigas.

Tested on plain A1200, A4000/040, A4000/030/ and an A3000. I have had reports of it working on the following:-

- > A500 (NTSC)
- > A2000 030

I would be grateful for people to confirm its operation on other machines, e.g. A500+, A2000, etc.

1.5 Usage

Usage

This program was designed with one goal in mind, to be simple to use. It is for this reason that the standard "look" of the workbench has been used.

The program has three main interface areas. The file list at the top (initially blank), the search parameter controls, contained within the "raised" box, and the program control functions at the bottom.

Search parameter gadgets.

The program currently has three ways of setting the search parameters.

- 1) By file name.
- 2) By size.
- 3) By date.

They can be used in combination.

The status gadget informs the user of the current status of the program. It is not selectable by the user.

The Path gadget, keyboard shortcut P, is used to specify the drive or directory in which to look for the file. Limiting the search to a particular directory saves time by reducing the number of files which have to be searched. e.g.

DH0:

This would search all of DH0:, whereas

DH0:Utilities/

would only search the directory dh0:utilities.

A simpler and quicker method to specify a search path is to drag the icon of the disk or directory that you wish to search on to the FileFinder interface, anywhere will do, and release it. This will enter the path of the icon into the path gadget.

Multiple paths can be entered by either using the shift key to select multiple icons to drop on the interface, or

by typing in each name with a space between each entry. If drive names with spaces are entered, e.g. Ram Disk, then should be enclosed in quotes. e.g. "Ram Disk".

The Pattern gadget, keyboard shortcut T, is used to specify the file for which to search. Standard AmigaDOS file patterns are accepted, to save you digging out your AmigaDOS manual, if you even have one, here are the pattern's

- ? Matches any single character.
- #<p> Matches zero or more occurrences of <p>.
- <p1>|<p2> Matches if either <p1> or <p2> matches.
- <p> Matches everything but <p>.
- (<p1><p2>...) Groups items together.
- % Matches the null string.
- [<p>-<p>] Determines a character range.

Now unless you've used AmigaDOS extensively, that lot will be about as clear as mud. So here's the english translation.

A?B Matches any three letter word beginning in A and ending in B. Such as AcB, AzB, ABB, etc.

A#BC Matches any name beginning in A and ending in C, with any number of B's in between. Such as ABC, ABBC, ABBBC, etc.

ABC#? Matches any name beginning ABC. Such as ABCD, ABCPIC.info, etc.

#?XYZ Matches any name ending XYZ. Such as MARK_XYZ, PICXYZ, etc.

ABC#?XYZ Matches any name beginning ABC and ending XYZ. Such as ABCXYZ, ABCMARKXYZ, etc.

A(B|C)D Matches ABD or ACD.

~(XYZ) Matches anything but XYZ.

~(#?.info) Matches anything not ending in .info.

A#(BC)~ Matches any name beginning with A followed by any number of BC's. Such as ABC, ABCBC, ABCBCBC, etc.

A(B|D|%)C Matches any name starting with A ending with C with B, D or nothing in between. Such as ABC, ADC or AC ~~~.

[A-D]#? Matches any name beginning with A, B, C or D.

The Size button, keyboard shortcut S, opens the Search Size limit window containing three gadgets.

They are, the info gadget, which is a small reminder of what to do, the Max Size gadget, keyboard shortcut M, where the maximum file size to include in the search is put, and the Min Size gadget, keyboard shortcut S, where the minimum file size to include in the search is put. The search size limit window does not have to be closed after use and can be left open. To ignore a maximum file size limit enter a value of 0. e.g.

Max size = 0 Min size = 1000

would only look for files over 1000 bytes (1Kb) in size.

Max size = 10000 Min size = 5000

would only look for files over 5000 bytes (5Kb) long but under 10000 bytes (10 Kb)

The Date button, keyboard shortcut D, opens the Date Size limit window containing three gadgets.

They are, the info gadget, which is a small reminder of what to do, the From gadget, keyboard shortcut F, where the earliest date to include in the search is entered, and the To gadget, keyboard shortcut T, where the most recent date to include is entered. The date range limit window does not have to be closed after use and can be left open. To ignore a date limit leave the gadget empty.

The date should be entered in a DD-MMM-YY format e.g.
04-Mar-95, also 04-03-95 works equally well.

The List Gadget.

This is where the list of files that match the search parameters will appear. If the list gadget is clicked on, details of the file selected, will appear in the info window. This provides details such as the creation date of the file, its name, the path to the file and its size. The info window can be left open when selecting other files, there details will replace those already in the info window.

Program control gadgets.

Quit, keyboard shortcut Q, exits the program immediately. Warning, you will not be asked to confirm a quit request.

Hide, keyboard shortcut H, closes the GUI, but leaves the program running, press the hotkey combination to popup the interface, default Shift Alt F.

Find, keyboard shortcut F, commences the search with the current search parameters ←
 .

Abort, ~keyboard~shortcut~A, ~aborts~the~current~search~operation.~This~will~stop~ ←
 the~ search~at~the~point~it~had
 reached~~when~the~abort~button~was~pressed.~Search~ operations~must~be~allowed~to~ ←
 compleat~or~aborted~before~any
 other~commands~can~be used, such~as~Quit.

Print, keyboard shortcut R, print's the current contents of the list to the ←
 current prefs printer.

Recommendation

To make the search as fast as possible, it is recommended that the program window ←
 is kept as small as
 possible.~It can easily be enlarged after the search is finished.

1.6 Installation

Installation

This couldn't possibly be easier. Simply drag the File Finder icon to wherever ←
 you want
 it~to~be~put.~I~would~recomend either your utilities drawer, tools drawer or ←
 preferbly your~WBStartup drawer.

The documentation~consists~of~the~AmigaGuide~format doc, and a plain text file.

TOOLTYPES

(See page 10-23 of the WorkBench 3.0 manual.)

CX_HOTKEY="Shift alt F" or any other combination you want. This key combination ←
 will cause
 the~program~to~popup~its~GUI(Graphical user interface) if it is currently "Hidden ←
 ".

Use the tooltype DONOTWAIT if you run the program from the WBStartup drawer.

The CX_POPUP tooltype determinew if the program opens its GUI on startup.

The UPDATE_FREQUENCY tooltype determines how often the list view gadget is updated ←
 . This is how the massive speed
 improvements when doing searches were achived. It can be any value from 0 to 255. ←
 When a value of 0 is used the
 program operates in the same way as pre v1.3 versions, updating the list view ←
 every time it finds a file matching
 the search parameters. If a value of 10 is used (the default value), the program ←
 updates the list ten files at a
 time. From my tests 10 is about the optimum value. Feel free to use higher ←
 values but any increases are subject

to a law of deminishing returns.

1.7 Problems

Problems

One problem that you might experience if you have a particularly deep directory structure, is that of a stack overflow. This can be solved by the increasing the stack size of the program. See page 3-19 of the WB3.0 manual for details on how to do this.

If you discover any problems with this program send me the details, such as what the problem is, what sort of machine you use machine, you KS and WB version numbers and an address where you can be contacted.

1.8 Future plans

Future plans

Implement the type limit feature. This may take a while :- (Quite possibly it will never get done, quite simply because of the monumental number of different file types. Lets just say that I would require a significant number of requests to implement it.

Perhaps add a slider to control the update frequency of the list view gadget.

Add a shell gadget to the info window. This would give you a shell set to the directory of the file. This would allow you to quickly extract lha files or run programs etc.

You never know, some shareware subscriptions might encourage me to get these features implemented :->

Also I would welcome any suggestions for improvements or new features.

Contacts

1.9 Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to the Amiga Shopper magazine in the UK for providing the inspiration for this program. This program is

loosly based on a program that they ran as a C programming tutorial,~but~has~had~ ←
considerable enhancements,~and ←
extra features added.

1.10 Suggestions/Registration

Firstly I can be contacted by Email or snail mail.

Email (Bugs, suggestions only)

u9326383@radon.sys.uea.ac.uk

I will have access to this account until at least summer 1996.

Snail mail(registration requests, bugs, suggestions)

Mr M D Melton,
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England,
LN6 9PN

Registration

What~benifits~will~registration~bring~you. ~Well~appart~from~making~your pocket/ ←
wallet slightly~lighter and ←
slimmer :-),~ firstly it will bring my eternal gratitude, and secondly the very ←
latest version of this program, ←
if you have an email address where I could send it to, or send me a self addressed ←
jiffy bag or similar containing ←
a DSDD floppy. Also it would give mea bit of motivation to continue development ←
of the program. What do I ask ←
for this program, which has been written in my spare time while studying for my ←
degree, as a possible method of ←
supplementing my~income~:-> and because I needed a file finding program.

Registration is the huge figure of £5, yes thats all, just 5 GB pounds. If you ←
are sending forign currencies, ←
please send the equivelent of 7 GB pounds to help cover my costs in getting it ←
changed.
