

akSVG_Documentation

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> akSVG_Documentation		
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

akSVG_Documentation

1.1 akSVG : Documentation

akSVG.datatype V43.155

- licenseable FREEMWARE -

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A PerSuaSiVe SoftWorX PRODUCT.

Needs Kickstart V3.x

Release Date : 13.2.1998

<Commercial> BTW: What is SViewNG ? </Commercial>

Copyright

Disclaimer

Distribution

Usage and Notes

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Thanks

Version-History

_ //

Only \X/ Amiga makes it possible!

Please visit:

WWW Support Site
<http://www.amigaworld.com/support/aksvg/> (AWeb-II)

The CHAOS theory:

"Like finding that bloody butterfly whose flapping wings cause all these storms we've been having lately and getting it to stop." (see "Witches Abroad" by Terry Pratchett)

Ahm...well:

...and thanks for all the fish.

1.2 copyright

The akSVG.datatype in this version and its documentation files are (C)opyright 1995-98 by Andreas R. Kleinert. All rights reserved.

The "xpkmaster.library" (part of the useful Xpk package, which can be found on Aminet) is developed under the concept of the GNU license by its authors (c/o Dirk Stöcker, stoecker@rcs.urz.tu-dresden.de). This freely distributable Library is needed by SVG.datatype, to read and decode XPK-packed files.

Installer batch file makes use of a special version of Roger Hågensen's "AmigaT" utility, which has been included with his kind permission. "akT" may only be used and distributed together with this datatype, but "AmigaT" is Freely Distributable FreeWare and © Msi Software 1996 (eMail: Msi Software - msi@sn.no, WWW: <http://www.sn.no/~msi/>)

akDT_Installer by Robert C. Reiswig ©1996-1997.

If you wish to use any part of this installer you must ask. May not be integrated/placed into any other package! Changes, suggestions or problems: akDatatype@vgr.com

Prefs GUI design improved by Georg Rottlaender <Georg.Rottlaender@bonn.netsurf.de> under use of a 'NewIcon' graphics by Philip Vedovatti <vedovatt@u.washington.edu> - included with kind permission by the 'Team NewIcons'

Some of the mentioned names or products within this or other documents may be copyrighted by companies or trademarks of companies or persons.

Should any of the listed terms and clauses within this document not be valid in conjunction with the law of certain countries this does not affect the validity of the other clauses.

1.3 disclaimer

The author takes no responsibility for any results of the use of this program.

This software is provided "AS IS" and there is no warranty of any kind, so that you use this software at your own risk.

The author reserves the right to discontinue development of the program.

1.4 distribution

The akSVG.datatype in this version is freely distributable (FREWARE). You may copy it, if the copyright notice is left intact and all of its parts are included in the distribution.

This program MAY be included in commercial packages or commercial program collections without my written permission, nevertheless it must not be sold commercially as a single program.

WHEN being included with commercial or Shareware programs I hereby demand to receive a free copy of the final program.

This program may be put on public domain disks or included in public domain disk libraries - when being distributed that way, it is allowed to take a nominal fee including the costs for copying, without considering that as "commercial" in the above mentioned sense.

This program may also be distributed via electronic mail and may be put into mailboxes as long as the redistribution conditions are respected in all points.

By using or distributing this program you automatically agree to all of the above conditions and terms.

1.5 Usage and so on

Usage

Just install the datatype files to their appropriate directories, and copy the akSVGPrefs command to SYS:Prefs/Datatypes (optionally).

Please make sure, that you have xpkmaster.library V2+ installed, as well as the XPK packer module(s), specific graphics may have been packed with (note: it's unlikely, that password-encrypted files will be read).

Program information

It supports reading of SVG Graphics Files, which is SuperView-Library's graphics file format with XPK and PP20 (*) support (uncompressed as well).

With V39-V42 picture.datatype it either produces (upto) 256 color palette-based or HAM6/8 output (256 colors exported unmodified,

24 Bit data either dithered or converted to HAM6/HAM8) with picture.datatype V43 as well 24 Bit may be exported unmodified.

There are picture.datatype V43 versions available for both, CyberGraphX and Picasso96, while the one for Picasso96 does work with ECS/AGA, too - simply use the appropriate one.

```
akSVG.datatype is
    FREEMWARE
    .
```

- (*) - "PP20" means PowerPacker compression (upto V4) as supported by powerpacker.library, which both have been done by Nico François. There is a PP module available for Xpk.
- "XPK" is an open compression standard for the Amiga platform and also includes powerpacker support - among many others (-> see Aminet)

Please also check out the replacement file format for SVG, called IFF-RGFX.

1.6 Datatype FAQ

More datatypes ?

On Aminet:util/dtype/ you can also find akJFIF, akPNG, akLJPG and the co-production FAXX (with GPSoft) datatype.

No V43 with AGA ?

There's a V43 picture.datatype coming with the Picasso96 RTG package (on Aminet), which works with plain AGA, too.

Crashes ?

The first reason for a crash often is stack size. Not enough stack size. IIPrefs/WBPPatterns has this problem, and others as well. Checking this and/or using FastIIPrefs (the replacement) is recommended.

No write support ?

Sorry, there won't be write support (DTM_WRITE method), since I think, that datatypes are mainly a system for data exchange and not to do the job of existing conversion utilities.

Odd screenmode selection

graphics.library's BestModeID function isn't so well designed. Try Patching to a better one, e.g. with Aminet:util/sys/ModeP.lha

Progressbar and programs (esp. Browsers)

Please note, that the (optional) progress bar will either open

on a windows's screen as specified via `pr_WindowPtr`, or on the default Public Screen, thus if your favoured Web Browser does not set `pr_WindowPtr` or does not declare its screen as default pub screen, that's not my fault. `PDTA_Screen` will be checked first, as well - but usually this won't work at all.

Unknown datatypes (V43)

 If your datatypes stop working (unknown file format), please don't blame me, but at first check, whether you've still installed an already expired beta version of `picture.datatype V43...`

1.7 correspondence

For XPK: <http://rcs.urz.tu-dresden.de/~stoecker/xpkmaster.html> (AWeb-II)
 or: <http://www.amigaworld.com/xpkmaster/welcome.html> (AWeb-II)

For akSVG:

WWW Support Site
<http://www.amigaworld.com/support/aksvg/> (AWeb-II)

(try <http://193.203.162.219/>, if you can't connect)

```

-----
| You may reach me the following way. |
| Send bug-reports, money or whatever to: |
|-----|
| * SuperView Development & Registration * |
| * DRAFU Development & Registration * |
| * Image Engineer Registration Site Europe * |
| |
| PerSuaSiVe SoftWorX |
| |
| Andreas R. Kleinert |
| Sandstrasse 1 |
| D-57072 Siegen |
| Germany, Europe |
| |
| Any snail mail to the old address will still be routed. |
| |
| Phone: +49-271-22869 also FAX + AM |
| |
| Weekdays after 18.00h. |
| |
| When calling via phone you may leave a message, |
| if I'm not available - but don't expect me |
| calling back to USA, Australia, ... since |
| german phone rates are HIGHLY expensive. |
|-----|

```

E-Mail:

Please send binaries via ARK@News.wwbnet.de, and keep

them smaller than 16 KB. Please think twice before sending them - my postbox is not unlimited in size.

* Do not send binaries via Fido or Fido-Gates ! *

- Fido Andreas Kleinert 2:2457/350.18
- Usenet
 - ARK@superview.ftn.neckar-alb.de (Fido-Gate)
 - Andreas_Kleinert@t-online.de (T-Online)
 - ARK@News.wwbnet.de (Z-Netz)
 - ARK@amigaworld.com (AmigaWorld)

- If nothing else works, try one of these public Fido-Usenet gateways:

In Germany:

Andreas_Kleinert@p18.f350.n2457.z2.fido.sub.org

From USA or elsewhere:

Andreas_Kleinert@p18.f350.n2457.z2.fidonet.org

1.8 thanks

Thanks go to (in order of appearance ;-)

=====

(some of these people did support development, others did make suggestions/bug reports or helped otherwise - how about you ?)

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| - André Laemmer | - Edwin H. Bielawski | - Matteo Tenca |
| - Ludwig Berndt | - Roger Hågensen | - Dirk Stöcker |
| - Bodo Thevissen | - Helge Thorsten Kautz | - Harry W. Turner II |
| - Mat Bettinson | - Dr. Greg Perry | - Philippe Duchenne |
| - Tom Lively | - Torbjörn Aronsson | - Max Headroom |
| - Ian Barclay | - Marc-Tell Volkmann | - Christian Beck |
| - Jürgen Haage | - Michael C. Battilana | - Milco Veljanoski |
| - Per Jonsson | - Roland Mainz | - Robert C. Reiswig |
| - Goerg Rottlaender | - Phil Vedovatti | - Petra Struck |
| - Alvaro Thompson | - Achim Stegemann | - Bert Bosma |

Thanks also must go to:

- ...the DOpus team, namely Dr. Greg Perry
- ...the StormC/Wizard team, namely Jürgen Haage and Markus Nerding
- ...the Cloanto team
- ...the people on the DTA (Datatypes) Mailing List on Amiga World and the people of the "Datatypes Replacement Project" in general

This datatype also has been quite often quite high in the Aminet charts, so I am soon getting much support, I hope... :-)

1.9 prefs

akSVGPrefs

 akSVGPrefs is the Preferences Program for akSVG.datatype.

GUI has been designed with StormWizard 2.0, so this program needs "wizard.library" V37+ (you can find a copy on Aminet under "biz/haage/WizardLibrary.lha").

Icon by Bert Bosma <lmb@wxs.nl> (based on NewIcons).

An alternative MUI prefs program replacement by Alvaro Thompson (originally) and Achim Stegemann (later) is now available as util/dtype/akMUIPrefs.lha

The global settings will be written to ENV: (and maybe also ENVARC:) into a preferences file called "Datatypes/akSVG.prefs".

OPTIONAL

----- task specific settings files -----
 Settings specific to different caller programs may be created by copying the global settings from "Datatypes/akSVG.prefs" to an optional task-related prefs file called

"Datatypes/akSVG.prefs_Tasks/TaSkNaMe"

where "TaSkNaMe" means the name of the program as e.g. shown by a system monitor (for obvious reasons, this does work best with workbench programs, which don't require name patterns as some CLI programs might do, like for example "CLI(3):Work:Browsers/XWebber"). So, with AWeb for example, you would just edit your global settings file and then do the following:

```
MakeDir ENV:Datatypes/akSVG.prefs_Tasks
Copy ENV:Datatypes/akSVG.prefs ENV:Datatypes/akSVG.prefs_Tasks/AWebIP"
```

[... and the same for ENVARC: ...]

After that, AWeb will ignore the global settings and fetch its own from the given file.

(Currently you can't edit them locally, sorry - but for e.g. AWeb it should be simple to manage that via ARexx by just including an appropriate script to AWeb's ARexx menu).

 You can do the following settings:

- 1) V43_MODE= (NO_DITHERING|V40_DITHERING)
 - 2) V40_24BIT_MODE= (DITHER_ORDERED|HAM_OUTPUT)
 - 3) V40_DEPTH= (3..8)
 - 4) HAM_MODE= (HAM6|HAM8)
 - 5) PROGRESSBAR= (ON|OFF)
-

That's mostly self-explaining, but as an example, here are the default settings and a short explanation:

```
V43_MODE=NO_DITHERING
V40_24BIT_MODE=DITHER_ORDERED
V40_DEPTH=8
HAM_MODE=HAM6
INTERLEAVED_BM8=ON
PROGRESSBAR=ON
```

General Explanation of Options

=====

1) V43_MODE

NO_DITHERING: does output 24 Bit data when running pic-dt V43

V40_DITHERING: switches to V40 mode settings when running pic-dt V43

2) V40_24BIT_MODE (when running picture datatype V40 or V43 in V40 mode)

DITHER_ORDERED: does ordered dithering of 24 Bit data

HAM_OUTPUT: does convert 24 Bit data to HAM6/8

3) V40_DEPTH

When dithering to a palette (so: when in V40 mode and ordered dithering being selected) the number of palette colors, which is 256 by default, may be reduced here (e.g. on ECS systems).

Valid depth values are 3..8 (which results in 16..256 colors, easily calculated by 2^{depth}).

4) HAM_MODE

HAM6: generates HAM6 output for 24 Bit graphics, when running V39-42

HAM8: generates HAM8 output for 24 Bit graphics, when running V39-42

Note, that HAM8 is native to AGA machines and thus may cause difficulties with graphic boards and won't work with OCS/ECS Amigas. With HAM6 and graphic boards also problems may occur.

5) INTERLEAVED_BM8

ON: will output interleaved bitmaps upto 256 colors

OFF: will output normal bitmaps (BMF_CLEAR only) - you may switch interleaved mode off for specific programs, which cannot handle it, or when AllocBitmap() has been patched for chunky modes by a graphics card software or e.g. EGSPPlus

Note: There's no need for BMF_DISPLAYABLE, don't rely on it.

6) PROGRESSBAR

ON: pop up percentage display

OFF: do not pop up percentage display

1.10 history

There's a Datatype Developers Mailing List (DTA) running now.
 If you are a datatypes programmer and want to join, please
 don't contact me for further information, but ask info@amigaworld.com (Bodo)

Known Bugs: - Some people reported problems with the installation
 scripts (symptom: new version won't be installed at all).
 Please report any bugs directly to either:

Roger Hagensen <emsai@online.no> (for akT)
 or Robert C. Reiswig <akDatatype@vgr.com> (for Installer)

History

=====

V43.155 (13.2.98): - small changes

V43.140 (25.1.98): - added new icon for prefs program (NewIcons)
 (-> by Bert Bosma <lmb@wxs.nl>)
 - fixed enforcer hit as introduced in 43.135
 (-> Sebastian Becker, Thomas Tavoly, various)

V43.135 (5.1.98): - optimized progress bar code
 - fixed possible bugs in the progress bar code
 - upgraded outdated "1997" to "1998" bugfix
 release ;-)
 - made bitmap allocation and handling a little
 bit more cgfx-aware
 - added special speed hack for 8 Bit output on
 AWeb-II screens under CGfx
 - donations *appreciated*
 - BTW did you know SViewNG already ?

You may wish to upgrade your wizard.library
 to V36.127 or higher, since there occurred problems
 with V36.126 (see Aminet:gfx/show/SViewNGWiz.lha)
 There's also a V39.101 available now - you may wish
 to ask Haage and Partner for it.

MUI prefs program replacements by Alvaro Thompson
 now available as util/dtype/akMUIPrefs.lha

Please also check out the replacement file format
 for SVG, called IFF-RGFX.

V43.130 (12.12.97): - speed: optimized compiler's code generation

V43.121 (23.11.97): - OLD_DTM_WRITE switch was taken from akJFIF.prefs :-(
 - the new dispatch routine again (or still) has been
 causing problems, this time with IBrowse (not
 displaying certain images, maybe because of refresh
 problems). Removed all the new code, again using
 David N. Junods good old method, here

- (-> Philippe Duchenne)
- V43.120 (5.11.97):
- Prefs now with correct version id
 - included fixed "install" script by Roger Hagensen, which - besides some other bug fixes - now also does check for the GUI version
 - (-> several)
- V43.110 (15.10.97):
- Prefs GUI design improved by Georg Rottlaender <Georg.Rottlaender@bonn.netsurf.de> under use of a 'NewIcon' graphics by Philip Vedovatti <vedovatt@u.washington.edu> - included with kind ↔ permission by the 'Team NewIcons'
 - Prefs program accidentally linked with storm020.lib. Fixed ↔
 - .
 - this will be the LAST update, until there's a MAJOR reason to fix/update something
- V43.100 (5.10.97) :
- rewrote Dispatch() routine completely, implemented new routines derived from Roland Mainz' improved sample code
 - DTM_WRITE now can be forced to its old behaviour by specifying the hidden prefs option "OLD_DTM_WRITE" (IFF-ILBM then will be written without any error code given because of unsupported DTWR_RAW)
 - recompiled prefs program with StormC 3.0 (2.00.23)
 - prefs now using external .wizard file (improve GUI, if you like)
 - prefs GUI now remembers position and size
 - AnyToSVG: recompiled, updated docs
- V43.95 (12.08.97) :
- recompiled with SAS/C V6.58
- V43.92 (28.07.97) :
- updated docs
 - updated 680x0 info
 - updated akDT_Installer by Robert C. Reiswig (-> Robert C. Reiswig, akDatatype@vgr.com)
 - recompiled prefs program with StormC V3.0
 - fixed possible, small memory leak within progress window's msg handling
- V43.91 (04.07.97) :
- fixed "memory loss on LibInit failure" bug
 - added new akT V43.70
 - (-> Roger Hâgensen)
 - updated scripts
 - (-> done by Roger Hagensen)
 - progress bar: replaced two Forbid/Permit by semaphore
 - removed another (unnecessary) Forbid/Permit pair
 - some saveds were missing
 - inlined CalcProgressPos() (not time-critical)
-

- V43.90 (24.06.97) : - V43.81 should had been available as binary-only fix archive "akFix4381.lha" together with the other datatypes, only.
Upload did not succeed
(-> a zillion people did report V43.80 bug)
- added akDT_Installer by Robert C. Reiswig
(-> Robert C. Reiswig, akDatatype@vgr.com)
- V43.81 (16.06.97) : - there was an interim version of the datatype directly copied into the main directory
(-> examined by Roger Hagensen)
- new dispatcher code either still is buggy, only works with V45 or has been implemented wrongly. Anyway: V43.80 was messed up, better use V43.81 !!
- V43.80 (14.06.97) : - SetPatch 43.6 is on ftp.amiga.de
Get it!
- protection bits now correctly set
(-> Per Jonsson)
- updated class dispatcher
(-> Roland Mainz)
- V43.75 (27.05.97) : - aspect ratio fields of BitMapHeader structure now are filled according the given viewmode
- added new akT V43.70
(-> Roger Hågensen)
- V43.61 (04.05.97) : - minor changes
- V43.50 (30.03.97) : - in the prefs, "24 Bit" was "Dithering" and vice versa (V43_MODE)
(-> Milco Veljanoski)
- V43.40 (13.03.97) : - due to problems with the (global and custom) startup the prefs program did only run from CLI/Shell, not WB. Could not explain that at first, fixed now.
(-> Tom Lively, Torbjörn Aronsson, Max Headroom, Ian Barclay, Marc-Tell Volkmann, Christian Beck)
- note, that a copy of wizard.library also can be obtained from: Aminet:gfx/show/SViewNGWiz.lha (library only)
- redone with StormWizard 2.0
- etc.
- there is a certain likelihood, that this version does either become:
 - most stable so far
 - nearly rock-solid
 - rock-solid
 - buggy as hell
[please mark :->]
- V43.30 (03.03.97) : - now, finally the GUI of the prefs program has been re-designed with StormWizard, so this program needs "wizard.library" V37+ (you can find a copy in the StormC Demo archive or the Wizard Demo package on Aminet under "biz/demo/StormWIZARD1_0.lha").
Note, that the GUI still is not very sophisticated,
-

- but at least sizeable and font-sensitive now.
 - prefs program now developed/compiled with StormC 2.x
 - if no new bugs appear, this one is quite-final now.
- V43.27 (23.02.97) :
- there's now a global BestModeID() patch available as Aminet:util/sys/ModeP.lha
 - re-introduced "wm32 magic fix"
 - temporary bitmap would not have been free even if allocation did fail... (oops)
 - __inline'd HAM code also, now
 - added some notes to the docs
 - most stable version so far
- V43.26 (15.02.97) :
- skipped V43.15-25
 - fixed installer script's "copy 040 version" bug (-> Philippe Duchenne, Tom Lively)
 - superview.ftn.sub.org will be replaced by ftn.neckar-alb.de until 22.2.97
 - added info about new XPK URL
 - rewrote docs
 - removed charts
- V43.14 (1.2.97) :
- updated docs
- V43.13 (30.01.97) :
- improved error handling
 - now explicitly checks DTA_SourceType == DTST_FILE
 - forgot to bump version
 - a "Prefs/Datatypes.info" was missing (-> Roger Hâgensen)
 - added new akT version by Roger Hâgensen
 - a pr_WindowPtr of -1 was not recognized as NULL ptr (-> Dr. Greg Perry)
- V43.12 (25.01.97) :
- added new installer script and special "akT" version of AmigaT tool by Roger Hâgensen (thanks, Roger).
 - prefs program moved from sys:prefs to sys:prefs/datatypes (-> Roger Hâgensen)
 - added ordered dithering support for V40 mode (16..256 colors) - select between HAM and ordered dithering
 - now allows to run it in V40 mode even with picture-datatype V43, thus HAM6/8 output becomes possible
 - added HAM8 support (V40 24 Bit mode now may be switched from HAM6 to HAM8)
 - minimum bitmap depth set to 4 (compare akGIF)
 - various small changes to the code
 - now, in a first attempt, checks PDTA_Screen with highest pri for where to open the progress window - only works, when always remapping to the same screen (e.g. some web browsers) (-> Mat Bettinson)
 - note: get and install SetPatch 43.4 or 43.5
-

-
- V43.11 (15.01.97) : - installer script was faulty
(-> Harry W. Turner II)
- added "http://193.203.162.219" info
(-> Harry W. Turner II)
- guide now is interactive and connects URLs to
AWeb-II if available
- V43.10 (09.01.97) : - icon for prefs program was missing
- added new installer script and "AmigaT"
tool by Roger Hâgensen (thanks, Roger).
Only slightly modified script.
- added script icon (using IconX), may
nevertheless still be started from shell
(-> Roger Hâgensen)
- added directory icon
(-> Roger Hâgensen)
- updated FormatSpecs and added link to guide
- added note about new homepage
- completely rewrote docs
- V43.9 (01.01.97) : - reworked docs
- reworked "AnyToSVG" tool, added 24 Bit support
- added support for task-specific settings
(private settings for specific programs)
- added/fixed buffered I/O
- added new Xpk notes
- used new headers
- removed sample picture - you can very simply
create your own
- 8 Bit only:
now by default uses interleaved bitmaps, which
should fix the remaining problems with small
sized bitmaps and/or distorted bitmap borders.
Can be switched off.
- included prefs program
- progressbar could not directly be disabled,
since we tried to read akGIF.prefs
- V43.8 (17.12.96) : - installer script now asks for CPU type and
selectively installs the single datatype
versions (-> first version worked out by
Roger Hâgensen)
- V43.7 (7.12.96) : - updated/changed docs
- fixed possible memory leak on temporary memory
allocation error
- V43.6 (30.11.96) : - updated/changed docs
- fixed small bug (GadTools)
- fixed CTRL-C problem (IBrowse)
(-> Matteo Tenca)
- V43.5 (24.11.96) : - progress bar now treated like requester.
Now will check pr_WindowPtr before trying
to open on (default) pubscreen
(-> Edwin H. Bielawski)
- added special fix for AWeb 2.1, which has
-

pr_WindowPtr correctly set, but does let the Datatype operations do by an "AWebIP" task, which has not. Thus when being called by "AWebIP" we now refer to the pub screen "AWeb" instead of fiddling with pr_WindowPtr

- V43.4 (23.11.96) : - progress bar window no longer auto activated
(-> André Laemmer)
- when called by IPrefs (e.g. for WBPatters), a progress bar will never pop up
- V43.3 (14.11.96) : - completely recompiled with SAS/C V6.57
- added progress bar (optionally, via prefs)
- added 030, 040, 060 versions
- did not successfully close xpkmaster.library
- V43.2 (3.11.96) : - fixed bug
- V43.1 (9.10.96) : - completely rewritten
- added V43 support
- V40.2 (29.10.95) : - recompiled with SAS/C V6.56
- V40.1 (29.09.95) : - first version
-