

xadmaster

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Chapter 1

xadmaster

1.1 Welcome to the XAD system documentation

```
*****  
*           *  
* xadmaster.library - the powerful unarchiving system *  
*           *  
*****
```

```
What is it  
    Concept and Indroduction
```

```
Why use it  
    Use it!
```

```
Requirements  
    XAD system requirements
```

```
Installation  
    How to install XAD system
```

```
Clients  
    Supported archivers
```

```
Developers  
    A word to programmers
```

```
Shareware  
    xadmaster.library is Shareware
```

```
Disclaimer  
    Read this!
```

```
Author  
    Contact me
```

```
History  
    Short system history
```

Thanks
Some helpful people

1.2 What is it

The xadmaster.library is the base library of a standard interface ←
for
dearchiving file and disk archives. Maybe you know xfdmaster.library
already, which is the interface for decrunching crunched data files and
crunched programs. The xadmaster.library is the same, but for archives and
disks.

This library allows to unarchive lots of different archiver formats with
just one archiver tool. If someone makes a nice GUI for xadmaster.library,
it can be used for all the included archiver types. It is no longer needed
to have lots of archivers with lots of options and lots of GUIs and lots
of problems. Only one library and one tool. Beside this xadmaster.library
allows to unarchive very strange archiver types. Some of the older
archivers do not work any longer on newer machines, but xadmaster.library
solves this problem, as there is needed only a short
client
to support a
new format.

Disk archives can be decrunched to devices, memory and files. This is not
possible with the most disk archiver programs.

At the moment xadmaster.library does not support splitted file archives,
which are allowed for some archivers.

At the moment xadmaster.library does not support two features, which are
used by some disk archiver programs:

- SectorLabels
- RAW disk images

Normally it is easy to expand the disk interface to support these two, but
there are some reasons, why this is not done at the moment:

- There is no way to store SectorLabels or RAW images in IMAGE files without
making them nearly useless.
- There aren't that much archivers supporting that features.
- There aren't really much disk archives really needing SectorLabel
information.
- I did never see a RAW disk archive anywhere, only the archivers itself.

If there is really a need for these features, I will think about implementing
them.

1.3 Why use XAD system

This library system has some advantages:

- It supports lots of different archive types.
- Archivers are internal or in specific clients. No special programs are needed.
- All archivers have the same interface and do their work in same way. There is no need to learn different options for different archivers or get around interface problems of archiver programs.
- The library has a lot of features not supported by most archivers, e.g. unarchiving disks into image files.
- The archiver clients are really short compared to most archiver programs.
- The library can support nearly all possible archivers, also very strange and old ones.
- Adding new archivers is really easy by making a new external client

1.4 Requirements of XAD system

All executable files in this packet require at least OS version V37 (OS2.0) to do their work.

The xadmaster.library must be in the LIBS: drawer and any needed client in the LIBS:xad drawer.

1.5 What to do to install XAD system

Copy xadmaster.library to LIBS: and the clients to the LIBS:xad drawer. The utility programs can be copied anywhere. Best will be C: drawer.

The source examples and developer files are not needed to use the system. These files are for programmers only.

1.6 clients

Currently there are following standard clients (internal and external):

Disk archivers

- SuperDuper3 Buffer file of SuperDuper3
- xDisk XPK based archiver from Oliver Wagner released with German Amiga Plus magazine
- xMash XPK based archiver
- PackDev XPK based archiver. SectorLabel information of that packer type is ignored.
- Zoom, Zoom 5 Zoom disk archiver made by Olaf Barthel. This clients are external Freeware clients. SectorLabel information of that packer types are ignored.

File archivers

Tar UNIX tar program, does not support gzipped or compressed archives. You may use xfdmaster.library to decrunch GZip files, but this may fail for really large files (like on GeekGadgets) as xfdmaster needs to have source and destination in memory. Use GZip or GUnZip for these files.

SDS Soft. SFX SDS Software Self Extracting archives (used to distribute DMS utility (1.01 to 1.11).

LZX LZX dearchiver (what else :-). This is an external Freeware client.

MXM-Sim. Arc. Simple self extracting archiver found in Zoom 4.1 archive.

LhPak SFX Self extracting archiver used for Zoom 5.x releases. This client is in external Zoom file.

Amiga+ Unpack Unpack file archiver used for older German "Amiga Plus" coverdisks.

AmiPack AMI-Pack file archiver used on German "Amiga Magazin" coverdisks. This client is lots faster than original tool.

Mixed archivers

DMS This archiver supports the complete range of files, which can be produced using DMS. This includes disk images and file archives. Some of these files are corrupt and DMS itself cannot handle them.

DMS SFX Self extracting DMS/FMS archives of DMS 2.x including corrupt format of DMS 2.04.

Clients can be internal (in the library) or external (in LIBS:xad drawer). External clients can be made by anyone and may also replace the internal clients.

1.7 Developing for XAD system or using xadmaster.library

Carefully read the autodoc files. Normally all important information is written down in these files. Check the include files as well, as these cover lots of comments.

Very few examples are supplied together with that library. The shell tools may help to understand the usage of the master library, the example clients may help to make own clients. There is especially one well documented example client describing the clients internals.

If you have still problems, contact me and I will answer your questions. Normally I use such questions to improve the docs afterwards.

Writing a client needs some knowledge of the archiver the client should support and knowledge of clean Amiga programming. All data must be read and written through input/output functions. There is no end user interface, so the client must handle error conditions, destroyed files and all such cases itself and in an acceptable manor. Of course all clients must be reentrant (as they are used in a library)!

These requirements can be called "good and clean programming style" and are not special to xadmaster.library.

I would like to get clients in C language for portability reasons. For now it is nearly sure, that Amiga computers will change a lot in future. C code

has best chances to survive that changes without lot of effort.

1.8 xadmaster.library is Shareware

The xadmaster.library is Shareware with very special conditions. There are no usage restrictions (means this is no Crippleware!), and xadmaster.library use can be implemented into programs without any restrictions.

Only the end users have to pay shareware, when using xadmaster.library. There are 3 forms of payment to get a registered user:

- Send US \$20 (or as DM) to my snail mail address or use any other more secure transfer system.
- Make detailed bug reports about 3 currently unknown bugs. I decide whether a bug report is counted or not. Mainly this depends on two facts:
 - was the bug already reported
 - does the description help me to find the bugAfter the first report you will get a partly registered user :-)
- You make an own external client and send me the source and the client for inclusion in next release. Some more are good as well!

The last form is the most wanted!

For programmers using xadmaster.library in own applications (f.e. in virus scanners):

- It would be fine, if you would tell me suggestions or bugs, as implementing xadmaster.library use may show you some problems.
- You must state above conditions in your distribution, at a place, where users can read it.
- And please do not forget: Most time you are users as well, so think about above conditions.

NOTE: This conditions only cover the xadmaster.library! External clients may have different legal state. For example LZX and Zoom both are Freeware. So expect clients to have any legal state. You need to check this for every client. Normally the version string in the client should tell you what type it is.

1.9 disclaimer

All contained files are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The entire risk as to the accuracy of the information herein is assumed by you. I do not warrant, guarantee or make any representations regarding the use of included files in terms of correctness, accuracy, reliability, currentness or otherwise. In no event I will be liable for direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any defect in the included files.

Using this software should not violate any copyrights, but if this is the case, please inform me any the related parts either will be removed or changed to a non-violating form. I will not be liable for trouble resulting in usage of such parts.

1.10 history

xadmaster.library 1.8 (16.03.1999)

- updated xadUnDisk and xadUnFile tools to version 1.4
- added new "Amiga Plus Unpack" archiver
- added new "AmiPack" archiver
- some little bug fixes and documentation cleanup

xadmaster.library 1.7 (15.02.1999)

- added internal "PackDev" and "MXM-Simple Archive SFX" clients
- added extern Zoom client including "Zoom", "Zoom 5" and "LhPak SFX"
- fixed bug in disk hook
- updated xadUnDisk tool to version 1.3
- LZX client got an external Freeware client

xadmaster.library 1.6 (08.02.1999)

- first official full working release

1.11 author

Please contact me:

```
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* phone:                    * pgp key:                *
* GERMANY +49 (0)3594/706666 * get with finger or from WWW pages *
*****
```

1.12 thanks

There are some people I want to thank for their work (in no order):

Georg Hörmann

The former author of xfdmaster.library. This library is an interface for uncrunching file and disk archives and gave me the idea to produce xadmaster.library.

Urban Dominik Müller

The former author of xpkmaster.library. This library inspired may a lot especially in design of xadmaster.library. Thanks also that he gave me the sources to improve xpkmaster.library.
Special thanks for managing Aminet and keeping the Amiga community alive.

Andre R. de la Rocha

The author of xDMS. Thanks for his work and the free sources, which made the DMS client a lot easier (but it was still a hard job).
An "Anti-Thanks" to the later DMS authors for producing such an

incredible nasty format. Especially DMS 2.04 is a pain.

Ralf Babel

For his "Amiga Guru Book" which helped me a lot during the last 3 years.
And also thanks for the questions he answered (sometimes with a short
mail "See Guru Book page xxx" :-)

David Tritscher, Dan Fraser

For making the unlzx utility (and the structure comment at end of source
code) which helped me to make the LZX client.

Olaf Barthel

The author of Zoom disk archiver for supplying me the source codes of
Zoom 5.4, to make the Zoom client possible.
