

McF5.0_eng

Phalanx

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WRITTEN BY	Phalanx	July 1, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

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Contents

1	McF5.0_eng	1
1.1	McFiler	1
1.2	Shareware	1
1.3	Program Concept	2
1.4	Database Handling	3
1.5	Menu Description	3
1.6	Project Menu	3
1.7	General Menu	3
1.8	Settings Menu	4
1.9	Global Settings Menu	4
1.10	Global Settings Menu - General	5
1.11	Global Settings Menu - Define commands	5
1.12	Duplicate file check	5
1.13	Fit Disk	6
1.14	Single Fit	6
1.15	History	7
1.16	Author	8

Chapter 1

McF5.0_eng

1.1 McFiler

McFiler v5.0

Written by Roberto Bizzarri © 1994-1997 Docs Translation by Phalanx

Shareware Version

Program Concept

Database Handling

Menu Description

Fit Disk

Single Fit

History

Author

.....

This program was born to achieve a better way to catalogue and archive files on any media device. It features functions able to quickly trace, view, unpack, rename, discard, dupecheck, ..., files.

It can be used either to trace a file among your CD-Roms, or to avoid wasting your hard disk space with programs you already moved to your storage/backup units.

It also features two handy options: **FitDisk** and **SingleFit**, which have been designed to allow you to optimize your collection of files to fit in the least possible number of disk units (floppies, Zip-s, tapes, ...).

McFiler requires at least OS 3.0+ (v39+) and "reqtools.library" v38+ (© by Nico François & Magnus Holmgren).

1.2 Shareware

Shareware

McFiler is Shareware. A Shareware program must be spreaded and copied freely. He, who uses a Shareware program and feels it's worth being used, has to pay the author for it. Otherwise he's morally obliged to delete the whole package.

This piece of software is to be distributed "as is" with no warranty of any kind. The author won't be held responsible for any damage occurred by its [mis]use.

The sole limitation of the unregistered version regards the maximum capacity of archiving: the program won't go farther after having stored 250 files. Thus, I strongly rely on your will to support the Shareware concept.

The Shareware fee I ask you sums to Lit. 20,000. Get my address at the link [Author](#) . Registered users will receive a keyfile ready to be placed in "S:".

By being a registered user, you will gain these amazing features:

- o There will be no fixed storage limit. You will be able to handle as many files as your memory will leave you to.
- o You will be informed (via e-mail) about McFiler's updates.
- o Is there something you would like to see? Well! Get registered and I'll do my best to satisfy your needs! :-)

People from outside Italy should send a cash-filled envelope. I ask the following amounts of money, depending on your favourite currency: 20,000 Lit 20 US\$ 25 DM (no other currencies are accepted, sorry)

I won't send any keyfile by snail mail; therefore anybody outside Italy should provide me a Fidonet or Internet address. If you lack an electronic address, ask a friend of yours. :)

If you have written a piece of shareware software, well, we could arrange a mutual free registration.

1.3 Program Concept

Program Concept

It would be best for you to customize McFiler before entering files into the database. (cfr. [Settings Menu](#)).

Bad News: Unfortunately older versions' databases are NOT compatible. Good News: I have written this "McF_Converter" program. It's so easy to use, I'm not providing any document file.

The next step is to start using McFiler for what it's really made for. Pick a disk or a device to be read, and click on "Read disk".

WARNING: McFiler will scan the ROOT directory only. Please read [Read whole disk](#) if you want to activate the subdirectory-recursive scan.

o McFiler provides four different viewing indices:

Disks, by disk name; Files, by disk contents; Comment, by filenote contents (where no filenote is provided, McFiler would put a 'NO COMMENT' string); Match, by pattern matching on filenames and filenotes (NOT case sensitive - wildcards #? can be used, too). If you select a category prefixed by '@' (eg. "@comm"), all files related to that category will be displayed.

o Visualized data may be sorted with these criteria:

Name, by name; Creation date, by creation date; Storage date, by storage date; Disk, by parent disk. Size, by size.

(quite easy, isn't it?)

Since disks are recognized on their labels, different disks MUST carry different names. Whenever you insert a disk whose name is already in use by another disk, a requester will pop up asking you whether to relabel the current disk, cancel the operation or update the record in memory with the latter disk's content (Update). Update will delete the former disk's contents in memory and write it back according to the new disk's holding. There is something to be said about this: when changing filenotes, it's VERY useful to have the option "Comment to File" active, which is intended to save on disk every new comment. Should not this be switched on, all your comments would be lost.

F1-F2-F3-F4 will select the view order (View By), while F6-F7-F8-F9-F10 will select the sort criteria (Sort By). If you mount OS 3.x, you'll be able to scan the entries in the database via the ArrowKeys/KeyPad; when in "View by Disk" mode, by pressing Space Bar, Return, Enter (KeyPad) or double-click McFiler will show some informations about the selected disk.

o Selecting an item will fill the following information gadgets:

If the item is a file: Disk: The disk which that file belongs to, and its fill percentage. File: That same file name along with its length in bytes (0 if it is a subdirectory). Date: Creation date and Storage date relative to that file. Comment: Filenote associated to the file. With the cycle gadget you can set the file category.

If the item is a disk: Disk: The name of the selected disk and its fill percentage. File: Number of files stored in that disk, empty bytes and total capacity. Date: Creation date and Storage date relative to that disk.

NB: Due to a possible FileSystem bug (?), OFS and FFS disks won't be filled up to 100%, for there must still exist at least 1 free block.

1.4 Database Handling

Database Handling

The first noticeable gadget located on the main screen is "Read Disk". This will (guess?) read the disk/directory currently selected. The remaining gadgets will be selectable by clicking on an object within the list only.

If you select a file, they will behave thus:

- o Delete: You can choose to Delete the file BOTH from the memory AND the disk, or Hide the file (Delete it only from memory). You can also choose to act on ALL files displayed in the main list (useful in Match mode).
- o Rename: Renames the file.
- o Unpack: Unpacks the file, if it is recognized.
- o List: Lists the archive contents, if recognized.
- o Execute: Launches the specified AmigaDOS command (see).

The latter 3 gadgets may be customized with the **Define commands** option in the Settings menu.

If you select a disk, they will behave thus:

- o Delete: Deletes the disk from the memory.
- o Rename: Renames the selected disk. It won't work with directories or assignments.

A double-click (or space/return/enter keypress) will pop up a list of files held by that disk.

1.5 Menu Description

Menu Description

McFiler's menus will be looking somewhat like this:

Project: Load... Global settings... Save ----- Save as... SubDirs = Files ----- Comment to file Merge... Hide "NO COMMENT" Export... Comment from "Short:" ----- Duplicate file check About... Change pattern matching... Quit ----- Select device... **General:** Select directory... Clear memory Disks status Duplicate file check ----- Fit Disk Single Fit ----- Read whole disk...

1.6 Project Menu

Project Menu

Load: loads a datafile.

Save: saves the current database with the latest path/filename selected.

Save as: saves the current database, prompts for path/filename via a reqtools FileRequester.

Merge: will have you select another database to be joined with that one you are working on. If the newer catalogue holds informations about an already scanned disk, McFiler will NOT delete the older disk's. Instead, a requester will pop up to advise you to re-read the disk and update your database.

Export: generates an ASCII or AmigaGuide file report of data being in memory.

About: opens a requester with various information and a map of memory usage.

Quit: quit program (you can quit with `Esc` key too).

1.7 General Menu

General Menu

Clear memory: erases data from memory.

Disks status: shows a graphic bar for each disk in the database along with their free bytes; you can use the Arrow Keys to browse the list too.

Duplicate file check: see [Duplicate file check](#) .

Fit Disk: see [Fit Disk](#) .

Single Fit: see [Single Fit](#) .

Read whole disk: pretty self-explanatory, reads recursively into subdirectories. McFiler will furtherly ask you about an eventual category recognition based on the directory tree (therefore it works good mainly with all the aminet-like collections, e.g. "...:../comm/...").

1.8 Settings Menu

Settings Menu

Settings are divided into two sets: Global settings, and Database settings. The former will be applied on all files while the latter will be saved along with the current datafile. It is therefore best advised to customize the datafile settings just before creating a brand new archive, and leaving them untouched from then on.

Global settings: see [Global Settings](#) .

SubDirs = Files: subdirs will be treated like files, therefore you'll be allowed to comment or rename them, etc. Subdirs will be in white color. By turning it off, McFiler will ask you whether or not you wish to discard all the directories in your list.

Comment to file: filenotes changed using McFiler will be promptly saved to disk (highly advised).

Hide "NO COMMENT": when switched on, files lacking a filenote won't be showed when "view by comment" is enabled; when switched off, a "NO COMMENT" string will be printed.

Comment from "Short:": Aminet CD-Rom and mirrors hold ".readme" files. These files in turn hold a "Short:" line with a file description. By turning this option on, McFiler will grab the "Short:" line and will place it as a comment to the file when adding files to your database. You can even customize the ".readme" file extension. Please note that with this feature active, directory reads will slow down considerably when there are many files within (a couple thousands).

Duplicate file check: when reading a directory contents, McFiler will verify the current database for dupes (cfr. [Duplicate file check](#)). There are these choices related: Auto - dupe check will be started after every disk or directory read; Manual - dupe check will only be started upon a specific request (by menu); Normal - just looks for exact filename matches in memory; Enhanced - looks for equal AND similar filenames. Two files have similar names if and only if they start with the same string (e.g. "McFiler30.lha" is similar to "McFiler41.lha").

Change pattern matching: tells McFiler which files are to be ignored when reading disks. e.g. by selecting "~(#!.info)" McFiler will read all files but icons.

Select device: will open a requester to let you choose the source device for file entries. If you choose a physical device, its name will be used as diskname in within the database. If you choose a logical device (eg. an Assign), then the path will NOT be extended.

Select directory: will open a requester to let you chose the source directory for file entries.

1.9 Global Settings Menu

Global Settings Menu

General: see [General](#) .

Define commands: see [Define commands](#) .

Sorting method: this window allows you to select your sort criteria for each indexing method.

Save settings: saves your global settings as "S:McFiler.prefs". It is to say anyway that during its startup, McFiler looks into PROGDIR: directory too, after having looked in S:. This has been set to permit its use into CDRoms, where there's no S: directory. McFiler might thus be pre-set with a full catalogue and used as a file browser.

1.10 Global Settings Menu - General

Global Settings Menu - General

NB: you need to start McFiler again in order to make newly saved screen settings active; I'll do better in the next program version... ;-)

Screen Mode: asks for the screen mode to be used. McFiler needs a minimum workscreen of 640x480; either your monitor is able to display it or you'll be forced to give up using McFiler 5... :(

Font: font to be used; requires diskfont.library v37+.

Language: McFiler is localized; specify here your preferred language ("italiano" and "english" available).

AutoRead disk: McFiler will automatically read any newly inserted disk. Pay attention: if your disk is NOT in an AmigaDos format (f.i. PC0:), it will be read twice by McFiler. This bug hasn't been fixed yet, I'm sorry.

Overwrite: McFiler won't ask for confirm when instructed to overwrite its datafile (anyway it won't overwrite a file not recognized as its datafile).

Backup datafile: this will hold a backup copy of the datafile, i.e. it will rename the old datafile as "<filename>.bak" before saving your actual database contents.

Copy icon to datafile: assigns an icon to your datafiles, so that you will be able to start McFiler just by doubleclicking at it. This feature needs the icon "McFiler_def.info" to be in PROGDIR: (the same directory in which McFiler is).

Match comment too: checks filenotes too, when looking for a file.

Load this datafile on startup: loads the specified datafile on startup.

Temporary filename: McFiler may need a temporaneous file. Type its name here; the file MUST NOT be opened in RAM:.

Help filename: path and name of this guide. Pressing HELP key McFiler will open this guide (requires amigaguide.library v34+).

1.11 Global Settings Menu - Define commands

Global Settings Menu - Define commands

From this window you can define the possible actions applicable on the files matching the pattern you specify. For each one of them, you can set: o a gadget name; o an output window; o upto 5 actions applicable on 5 different extensions; o a command to be execute at a double-click on a file in the main list.

Example: suppose you have configured actions this way:

Extension Action

```
#!.lha lha x "%s" #?mod#? Play "%s" #? Copy "%s" Ram:
```

I bet one can easily foresee the program's behaviour. ;) Please note that the latter choice is taken if and only if no action has been taken before (you can say it's the "default" action), but you are not compelled to specify it.

1.12 Duplicate file check

Duplicate file check

This feature will scan for dupes. Not only McFiler will look for exact filename matches, it will also trace similar names when instructed to do so (see [Settings](#)).

Its window will lock the program until the first pair is found. Then, you can pick your next action: o deleting one; o hiding one; o ignoring the hit; o hidind always: make McFiler hide any other dupe (useful for CDRoms, no deletion allowed there) o keep searching.

Now I'm answering to a frequently asked question. Suppose you want to check whether your Download dir holds files already present in some of your aminet CD's. You'll have to go this way:

1. Load McFiler :-) and prepare a database with all of your CD's. 2. Have McFiler read your "Download" dir too. 3. Start the dupe check. 4. Voila!

Sounds hard? I don't think so! Anyway, McFiler will have a better and more optimized feature to accomplish this goal in one of its next upgrades.

1.13 Fit Disk

Fit Disk

The FitDisk feature will optimize transfers of files directed to a given device (i.e. floppy disks). What about having a large amount of files, with different sizes, and some fixed size floppies (the ones we usually know :)? Suppose you have 100k floppies, and 4 files to backup, respectively 60k, 65k, 40k and 30k long. Their sum amounts to 195k, so two disks should be enough for a backup. If there were no optimization and files were sent to the floppies as they come, you'd need 3 disks: the first would contain just the first file, the same for the second, and the third would accept 40+30k=70k, that is the sum of the two files left. This is no longer to happen having FitDisk enabled: this feature would scan each combination to grant the best file placing and avoiding waste of media storage.

Obviously, in the above example, you'd easily find the best combination just thinking some more, but when the going gets tough, well, McFiler would help you very likely. :)

When you select 'FitDisk' from the Project menu, a new window will open, with two ListView gadgets, respectively Source and Destination directories. These are the steps to make the algorithm operative:

- o Choose a SOURCE directory and select your files.
- o Choose a DESTINATION directory.
- o Click on the EVALUATE gadget.

McFiler will scan each combination and finally suggest you the best by selecting the chosen files on the right side of the window.

Selecting 'Copy' or 'Move' (which will discard the successfully copied files) will finally backup your files. (NB: McFiler uses the AmigaDOS 'Copy' command to accomplish it)

NB1: Free space calculus may produce weird results with non-Amiga filesystems.

NB2: McFiler will call the "copy" command, which is therefore necessary. It's usually located in the "C:" directory.

Calculus limit

Fitdisk may handle a maximum of 16 files with the standard algorithm. This is because of the high number of possible combinations of files, which follow an exponential rate (2^n). With 16 files, combinations are 65536, and the elaboration time might raise up too much for slowest machines. From v3.1 on, I have tried to get a patch for it by adding a second algorithm (called "Quick" instead of the original "Best"), useable for any number of files (upto 500) but a little less accurate.

1.14 Single Fit

Single Fit

This feature will suggest you the best disk to store a given file in. In case you have more than a single disk with some free space left, and many files to store, SingleFit will suggest you the right order to store them all, optimizing the disk usage. You could risk to remain with a single file of 10k and 10 disks with 1k free...

Switching on the practical side, once opened the 'SingleFit' window, you must select the source directory (this directory also will be saved in the datafile), by clicking on the little gadget. McFiler will read the files held inside (eventually ignoring "#?.info" entries, as reported in the settings) and will show them in an alphabetical order within a ListView gadget. By selecting one of them, on the right side of the window the following informations will appear:

- o Store to: <suggested diskname>
- o Free bytes: <free bytes on that disk>
- o File size: <file size in bytes>
- o After copy: <free bytes left after file copying>

and "Copy" and "Move" gadgets will become enabled too. They are equal in effect (they both copy the selected file), while "Move" will delete it from the source directory. Finally McFiler will automatically re-read your disk to update the disk situation.

"Min. leave available" will check for a fitting disk with a minimum space free left after the file copying. This is mainly dedicated to that kind of people who usually substitute obsolete versions of their archives. Almost always the newer archives are larger, and won't fit in a disk 100% full; therefore it is advisable to leave some space free. This feature will accomplish that goal.

NB: Free space calculus may produce weird results with non-amiga filesystems (OFS and FFS).

1.15 History

History

Here is a list of the most significant version upgrades.

v5.0 (26 Aug 1997):

McFiler has been almost totally rewritten. It's therefore impossible to list every single improvement.

v4.4b (10 May 1997)

"McFiler.prefs" has been moved to "S:" (excuse me for the drawback).

Fixed screen-mode bug with gfx-boards (thanks to Michele Giorato).

Fixed hotkeys conflict in the italian catalog (thanks to Marco De Vitis).

Fixed minor bugs (thanks again to M. Giorato and M. De Vitis).

v4.4a (02 May 1997)

Fixed archive distribution mistake: McFiler.prefs did use DbIPAL, not available in all Amigas; now it uses the PAL screen mode. Besides, if McFiler can't open PAL screen will open its window on Workbench as default.

Fixed bug: in certain cases the mouse pointer was Busy forever... (thanks to Luigi Bocci).

Added gadget into settings window for a more intuitive screen mode selection.

v4.4 (20 Apr 1997)

Added Settings Window, which caused the tooltypes to become obsolete. I removed them.

I finally added the Interlaced resolution (640x512)!!

Added CopyIcon option, which will copy the default "Project" icon with McFiler's databases.

Fixed a nasty bug into FitDisk-BestMode (thanks to Marco De Vitis).

Now you can choose to Delete/Hide ALL files displayed in the main list (useful in Match mode).

In this version the Import function includes the Import-script feature (which was previously used for whole disks).

The DupeCheck function now ignores files which have a single letter (eg. A1200.lha), because that caused too many requesters to appear. Anyway now it provides the display of filenotes along with the file itself.

Fixed a few conflicts with Busy pointer and ReqTools.

v4.3 (01 Dec 1996)

Added file categorizing.

Added category as a search method (pattern has to be prefixed by '@').

The number of currently viewed entries will be monitorized below the list.

Added a workaround to help McFiler reallocate memory when in need.

The Import feature will ask you to automatically recognize the file category basing on its directory tree.

Fixed a bug in the sort routine; sort is now much more faster!

Added pattern #?.data to FileRequesters.

Added McF_Merge in Tools/ directory; this program merges two or more McFiler's archives v4.x into a sole file.

A lot of minor bugs has been fixed.

v4.2 (31 Aug 1996)

The Menus have been reorganized.

Dupe check reworked. Now it's a stand-alone function with more options.

Now McFiler can store upto 500,000 files.

The Help function is now context-sensitive (you will be prompted with the page of this guide relative to the window you are in).

It has been added a gadget on the window popping on screen upon a double-click over a diskname. If active, all the files within that disk will be intended to hold the work directory in their filenote (as it happens with imported files).

The "Define commands" window has been reworked. Now its 3 string gadgets are fully configurable (was Unpack, List, Execute).

FitDisk: Now the source filelist will automatically update after a copy (or move) command.

Fixed a bug in the Import function.

Added double-click on file: you can define the actions.

Fixed a bug in the "AutoRead disk" function.

v4.1a (27 May 1996)

Bug removed from dynamyc memory allocation: problems with load routine and databases with more than 300 files. :-I

The Help key didn't work when McFiler launched from Workbench.

v4.1 (21 May 1996)

Fixed a little bug occurring when there was just one entry in the main ListView (thanks to Alex Tucker).

Added "Sort by size". It will show files starting from the least to the bigger. When used with disks, the fullest will be shown first.

Fixed a bug with FitDisk on OFS disks: there must still be a free block left (filesystem bug?).

A double-click on a disk will show its contents.

Added dupecheck with similar filenames (Idea by Luigi Bocci).

Dynamic Allocation: MAXDISK and MAXFILE ToolTypes have been finally trashed :)

Added Import function (original idea by Mario Murè).

v4.0 (16 Feb 1996): ... v3.2 (06-Dec-1995): ... v3.1 (18-Ago-1995): ... v3.0 and v3.0a (25-May-1995 - happy birthday!): ... v2.1 (01-Nov-1994): ... v2.0 (27-Oct-1994): ... v1.1+ (17-Oct-1994): ... v1.1 (16-Oct-1994): ... v1.0 (25-May-1994): ...

1.16 Author

Author

You can find me here:

Internet Email : robiz@tin.it

Fidonet matrix : Roberto Bizzarri, 2:335/533.14

Snail mail : Roberto Bizzarri v. Giolitti, 124 I-61100 Pesaro ITALY

/* * * * * * * * * */

Assistants:

Alex Pagnoni: Betatester & installation script (alex.pag@usa.net) Marco De Vitis Betatester (marco.dvv@flashnet.it) Phalanx: Italian->English translations (phalanx@kyuzz.org)