akSVG_Documentation

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Chapter 1

akSVG_Documentation

1.1   akSVG : Documentation

```
                            akSVG.datatype V43.95

                    'Sojourner' Release

                  – Mars mission started
              on Independence Day, July 4th

                  – licenseable FREEWARE –

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              A PerSuaSiVe SoftWorX PRODUCT.

                  Needs Kickstart V3.x

               Release Date : 12.08.1997


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



        Copyright

        Disclaimer

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        Usage and Notes

        Problems

        Prefs
                                SVG Format specification
                    SVG Conversion

        Correspondence
```

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 "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

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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 (FREEWARE).
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
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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
Ralph Schmidt's picture.datatype V43 24 Bit may be done unmodified
(the same applies to Picasso96's picture.datatype V43).

akSVG.datatype is
                FREEWARE
                  .

(*) - "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)

1.6 Problem fields

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.
   IPrefs/WBPatterns has this problem, and others as well.
   Checking this and/or using FastIPrefs (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. Browers)

   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   |
   |                          +49-271-22838                 |
   |                                                       |
   |                  Weekdays after 17.00h.                |
   |                                                       |
   |          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.       |
   |_____|


   EMail:

        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 Hâgensen        - 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

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 Detlef Winkler (same as SVPrefs.info)

   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. EGSPlus
```

```
  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
 contact me for further information or ask info@amigaworld.com (Bodo)
```

```
History
=======
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 Hâgensen)

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 WBPatterns),
                          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
```