WrapAG-docs

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Contents

Chapter 1

WrapAG-docs

1.1   WrapAG, A word wrap utility for Amiga Guide files.

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                                        WrapAG: Version 1.0
                          Released June 1995.
           By Bill Godfrey, <godfrey2@coventry.ac.uk>


              1. Introduction

              2. Usage

              3. Other recommended AmigaGuide utilities

              4. Version 2?

              5. Legal stuff

              6. Acknowledgements

              7. Aminet
              I can be contacted at 5 Highfield Road, RAINHAM, Kent, England,  ←
                 ME8 0EG.
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1.2   Introduction to WrapAG.

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              Why did I write this program? Well, mainly because my girlfriend
threatened to pull my legs off if I didn't.

But apart from that, at present there is no real way to write good Amiga
Guide documents without the use of a specialised authoring tool. I felt
that it would be better to use a plain old text editor and write the links
in manually, as many people do with HTML files.

The problem with AmigaGuide as opposed to HTML, is that wordwrapping has
never been a standard feature. If you have an Amiga with OS version 2, you
had to hope that the author of the document had wrapped the document
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correctly. If the document had some lines longer than the width of the
screen, the user would have had to use the horizontal scroll bar to view
the rest of the line. This is, as Chris Clarke (my girlfriend) would say,
"Sloppy, sloppy, sloppy!".

Actually as she puts it "Why the expletive isn't there one Guide-writer on

                Aminet
                 which doesn't crash for no apparent reason? Heddley v1 naffed by
buttons - moving them 1-3 spaces. Heddley v1.8 crashes because the author
can't be bothered to get it work with v34 AmigaGuide.library. Why
AGWriter103 falls over is a mystery. Maybe it's because my file is 100k
long. Lazy buggers. And while I'm whinging, why the double expletive can't
AmigaGuide show more than 35 nodes if Multiview can (it eats the rest of
mine"). Why can't MultiView display '@' in address if AmigagGuide can. And
why can't earlier versions of AmigaGuide show bold etc when MultiView can.
And why don't you write a text viewer which can do all these things.
Somebody has to be arsed!"

"Ah ha!" I hear you cry, "Many text editors have a word wrap facility
already! Why don't I just use that?"
 Good question. Here is the answer.

If you have a link in the middle of a paragraph, a word wrap facility
which does not take account of the existance of links and mark up tags,
such as bold and underline into account, some lines would be displayed
with a gap at the end of the line, since the normal word wrap facility
would assume that everything is to be displayed, and so accounts for it.

This program will perform word wrap on AmigaGuide documents specifically.
You can use it to word wrap plain text files, but I wouldn't recommend it.
For this, use a word wrap facility on your text editor (if it has one) or
alternatively, use "Text Weasel" found on
                Aminet
                 under
"text/misc/TextWeas.lha". If you don't know what Aminet is, how did you
get this file?

1.3 Using WrapAG.

                To create an AmigaGuide document, use a standard ASCII text editor ←
                .

Make sure you do the following:
 Begin the file with the line "@database <whatever>".
 No line goes over 250 characters in length, WrapAG will crash otherwise.
 All links and markup tags have a
                correct beginning and ending
                 (IE don't
forget to put the '{' and '}' in the right places!).

WrapAG will use the same rules for wordwrap as MultiView and v39, v40 of
AmigaGuide, namely:
 Paragraphs are ended by a following line being blank or starting by a

space or tab character.
 Directives (EG @database, @node, @linewith 74 etc) will be output whole
and unmodified on one line. These lines also signal the end of a
paragraph.

WrapAG will account for {b}, {u}, {i}, {fg shine} etc when wrapping text
(IE it won't count it).

When writing a paragraph to break line without a double space make sure
that the following line begins with a space, such as if you wish to do a
menu, your address, any sort of list, table or ASCII art picture.

For information on the AmigaGuide format (EG how to do links etc) read the

                AmigaGuide.guide
                 document found on
                Aminet
                 under
text/hyper/amigaguidedocs.lha or with this package if I can get the OK off
the author.

Now you've written a fully-checked unwrapped (when viewed through
AmigaGuide) document, put it through WrapAG.

Calling WrapAG from the cli with no parameters, will produce a short help
text. To save you doing that here's the result:
  Syntax:
 WrapAG [-Wn] infile.guide [outfile.guide]

If you use WrapAG with a -W parameter it will use the stated value as the
textwidth to work with. Any single words longer than this value will be
printed directly and not cut up.
 Minimum=1, maximum=250. Default=74.

If you do not state an output file, it will be printed to the screen. Use
this facility if you prefer to be able to redirect output using the > or |
symbols.

The output will be the same file but wordwrapped to the set line width.

If the output file is viewed through a normal, non-wrapping *text* viewer,
you will notice that lines containing links will extend beyond the set
text width, any lines without links should be wrapped at the set width.

1.4 Other Recommended Utilities

                CygnusEd Pro
 An excellent (expensive) text editor which should provide for all your
editing needs. About £70 from various mail order suppliers or shops;
you'll probably have more luck if you try the computer shops, BTW ;-)

If £70 is too much try
                Aminet
                , memacs if you're desparate, or vi if you're

really desparate.

You could use a normal word processor, but make sure it saves out as ASCII
and doesn't save everything in a paragraph out on one line.

AmigaGuide.guide by Aric R. Caley
 Information on how to write AmigaGuide documents. Find it on Aminet in
text/hyper/amigaguidedocs.lha

BadLinks by Roger E. Nedel
 This program will run through your guide file and find unattached links.
Find in on Aminet in text/hyper/BadLinks.lha

AGIX by Ralph Seichter
 This will automatically scan your document and create an Index for you,
which it will append to your guide file. You may need to edit duplicates
out of the index, but it's a lot easier than doing one manually. Find it
on Aminet in text/hyper/agix_1.2.lha

WrapAG by Bill Godfrey:
 A truely excellent program which people using OS2 or less will die for.
Civilisation will not survive without it (maybe).

1.5 Version 2?

                    Or what I couldn't be bothered to write for this version ;-)

This version of WrapAG is a bit incomplete. My old A-level computer
science teacher would have a fit if he saw this program.

Here's a few things to watch out for, WrapAG will crash if you don't.
 Forget to put a closing quote or closing } in a link - this is why you
run
                BadLinks
                    .
 Having a line in the source text longer than 250 characters, but if you
write a guide file in a text editor this shouldn't happen as most people
will write it so they can see it on the screen.
 Running out of memory. I didn't make any checks for memory running out.
If you get a software failure (blank screen with red box at the top of the
screen) then this has probably happened. This should not be a big problem
as WrapAG uses only as much memory as required for a single paragraph.
 V40 macros. I don't know if this will be a problem in practice but from
the look of it if you define a macro for a link it may get confused.
 Read the @width directive for the textwidth to use. If you want to
specify a text width use the -W parameter.
 Check that it is wrapping an AmigaGuide document by looking for an
@database line.
 Modify the line number links should the wrap change the number of lines in
the document.

Since I have licenced this program using the GNU General Public Licence
you are free to modify the source code and release it under the condition
that you use the same licence for the modified code. If you think this

version is rubbish then write a better one! What more can I say?

1.6 Legal stuff

This version of WrapAG is licenced under the GNU Public Licence version 2.
Please read the file COPYING for this licence.

AmigaGuide and MultiView are registered trademarks of Commodore Business
Machines (or whoever owns them this week).

1.7 Acknowledgements

                Chris Clarke
 For helping me type this document, helping me test the program, giving me
the idea for the program in the first place (and being bored for four days
while I used her Amiga 1200) and for stopping me from being depressed when
the first and second attempts didn't work properly.

Aric R. Caley
 For his
                AmigaGuide.guide
                 file which I found very useful.

                Aminet
                 OK, I know this isn't a person, but it's very useful.

Free Software Foundation
 For their GNU Public Licence and being rather altruistic programmers. But
you did write emacs and that wasn't very nice.

1.8 Aminet

For those people with Internet access there is a well-maintained archive
of Amiga software. Use ftp to the site src.doc.ic.ac.uk and cd into
/pub/aminet. There are other sites, but I can't remember their names at
this point.