00246f38-0

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COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : 00246f38-0		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

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1.1 Index2Guide - View Aminet-index/recent in an easy way!

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                              Index2Guide V 1.3 by Per Bratt
                with help and betatesting by Barry Holmes

                        Abstract

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                                          Interesting

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1.2 Why was this program created?

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Why this program was created.

Nowadays  AmiNet is important for all Amiga owners to share files through.
With such a great shareware  base, however,  there are many files. With  a
Ftp-client  like  MuiFtp  by Michael Neuweiler you can easily choose among
them in their divided drawers, but what happens if you don't have a wallet
the size of Bill Gates' and can't stay online all day?

Then  you  can  examine  the  files at  home by downloading  the  enormous
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indexfile from AmiNet. This file is pretty hard to handle and difficult to
search in – and that's why Index2Guide were created!

Index2Guide makes an easy to read   .guide-file out of the indexfile,
which can be read by any program that supports the hypertext format
AmigaGuide such as Multiview that comes with AmigaOS 3.0+.

In the created AmigaGuide file you can click your way through the drawers
and see which files is in each drawer – which is much easier than
examining the whole index at a time, and the guide-file gets smaller!

With version 1.3 you can convert RECENT files to AmigaGuide format to.

1.3   What does this program require?

What this program requires.

Well... first you got to have an Amiga, and that's about it! But if you
would like to view result of this program you must have a program that
supports the hypertext format AmigaGuide.

ie: AmigaGuide or Multiview.

This program requires a lot of memory. 2 * the size of the Indexfile
you are converting   or 12 * the Recent file (Recent-files are small,
though). If you have problem with this, write to me, and I will consider
releasing a less memory-hungry version.

1.4   How do I use this program?

How to use the program.

The using of the program is very simple, just double-click on it's icon or
start it from Shell/Cli. It no longer takes arguments from cli.

The mainwindow

When starting the program, a window appears. It has two buttons at
the bottom, a progress indicator and some information about the choosen
file.

Name   – The name of the file.

Size   – The size of the file.

Type   – What type the file is of. (Recent or Index)

Status – What the program is doing at the moment.

About   – Button for showing information about the program.

Convert - Start converting your file.

If you have got the "TREE" file in the drawer you start the program from,
or   in   S:, "The TREE-file was found" is   shown between the buttons.
Otherwise "The TREE-file was NOT found" is shown. The "TREE" file can be
found on any AmiNet site or on any AmiNet CDs.

When converting

Pick a correct INDEX file or RECENT file found on AmiNet, or on one of the
AmiNet CD's, by clicking on the "Convert"-button to the right of the main-
window.

If the file is an proper Index/Recent-file the program will start to
analyze it, showing progress on the progress indicator.

If "The file is NOT an AmiNet-file" is displayed, the program is sure you
have not given it a AmiNet Index/Recent-file. Maybe you have forgotten to
unpack it, or you picked the wrong file.

If "The file is probably not an AmiNet-file. Continue anyway?" is shown,
the program does not think you have choosen a correct file. It is an
ASCII-file, but does not start with "|" as it usually does. Deciding to
continue here may hang your computer if the file is in an incorrect format.

When the the program is finished, the file created can be found in the same
drawer as the source, but with the extension ".guide".

View the new .guide file with any program that supports AmigaGuide, and
you will soon see how useful this program actually is.

When viewing

At the start you see a list of the maindrawers at Aminet with, if the
"TREE"-file was present when the file was converted, descriptions of them
are on the right.

If you go ahead and click on one, the subdrawers of the drawer are shown.
These can also have descriptions. If you click on one of them, their files
are displayed. You can go back by clicking on the retracebutton.

In the filelist you can see the name of the file (Oh yeah!;), its size,
its age and a short description of the file. If the description has a '+'
in front of it, there is a longer description available on AmiNet. The
age is, depending on if it's a RECENT or INDEX-file, in days or weeks
present on AmiNet. A '.' before the age means it is in days.

If you think the abbreviations of the drawers (like 'comm' or so) are
cryptic, you are strongly recommended to download the TREE-file from an
AmiNet site or CD. Then you will get an easy to understand description of
the directories.

1.5   Which files can it convert?

Which files it can convert.

This program can convert both Index-files and Recent-files of AmiNet. These
files can be converted as long as they look like they do today:

            The token '|' in front of the non-file-lines

                        19 charaters filename

                        <11 charaters directory

                         max 6 charaters size

                         max 6 charaters age

                 Less than 80 charaters descriptions

            An extra linefeed between the days in Recent-files.

As soon as this is changed, the program must unfortunately change – I would
really appreciate if someone told me when ;).

1.6   What are the known bugs?

The known bugs.

There are no real bugs, but there may exist some unsupported type of Index
or Recent files, as reported by Christer Bjarnemo (I didn't find that
one, however). Please write to me if any kind of bug is encountered
including unsupported types of AmiNet lists.

1.7   What is left to be done?

To do.

Well, here's a list of things:

* Be able to download through the AmigaGuide-file, as suggested by Christer
  Bjarnemo. He has also sent me the software for it – but it would make the
  AmigaGuide-files enormous. Please write and tell me what you think.

* Make size and numbers of files appears next to the drawers.

* Make everything optional.

Please write to me if you have anything to add!

1.8   How do I contact the author?

How you can contact the author.

The main author of this program is named Per Bratt and lives in Uppsala of
beautiful sweden. If you want information about how the program was written,
want to give away money or just encourage me to write more programs for the
Amiga, write to me.

You can now also register freely, by sending me a letter/email. You will
then get a notice when a new version of this program is released.

Snailmail: Per Bratt
           Döbelnsgatan 10A
           752 37 Uppsala
           Sweden

Email: perbratt@canit.se

IRC-Nick: Flair (When there, that is)

The Canadian Barry Holmes, was the betatester of this program and helped
me a lot with usefull suggestions and stuff. He can be reached by email:

B_HOLMES@cariboo.bc.ca

I would also like to say thanks to a lot of guys and girls who helped
me out:

Linn Nordin – My source of inspiration. Just by existing, she made this
program possible. Thanks for making the world a better place to live in,
Linn – I love you (though you don't know, and never will know :'( )

Anders Bjerin – One of the greatest in the history of Amiga. I wouldn't
be programming without him.

Per Helldahl, Stig Bratt, Henrik Anniko, Max Epstein – Moral support and
suggestions when I most needed it. Thanks for the BBS "Satisfaction" Max!

Teachers at the Eriksbergsschool in Uppsala,   Sweden and especially
Lars-Ove Johansson and Olof Sand – Thanks for teaching me what I know,
and for the motivating good marks. ;)

Pupils in 9E of Eriksbergsschool – Thanks for being there when I needed
you. I won't forget it. And Johan Ericsson – Stop being a jerk.

Also thanks to all of you who apreciated the recent version and to those
who reported bugs and made suggestions for it – Especially
Steve Bridges and Christer Bjarnemo.

1.9 The history

The history of Index2Guide

1.3 A lot of things were done:
    *Bugs were fixed
    *Now allocates memory instead of opening files in RAM
    *Faster (than it would have been if files were opened in RAM)
    *Now converts Recent-files as well as Index-files
    *Nice GUI was added
    *Writes descriptions of drawers if the TREE-files is present
    *Program checks if the file actually is an AmiNet-file or not

1.0 First public release