

Finder

Chris Jones

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Chapter 1

Finder

1.1 main

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1.5 introduction

Finder is an easy to use, powerful file finding utility. The user supplies Finder with a path (i.e. a Volume or Directory) and a pattern (i.e. a filename or a partial name and wildcards e.g. foo#?). Finder will use this information to search the Volume/Directory and any sub-directories for any files matching the supplied pattern. Any that are found are displayed in the window with their full path. When the last file has been found the number of file found is presented.

The program is based upon 'Finder V1.00' by Toby Simpson which appeared as a C programming tutorial in Amiga Shopper.

I didn't like the GUI he had used and so I decided to change it and generally spice the program up a bit to test my newly found C programming skills!

The GUI for Finder V2.06 was created using GadToolsBox v2.2b by Jan van der Baard (a program I heartily recommend to all GUI minded programmers). Finder V2.06 was written using DME by Matt Dillon and compiled with DICE v2.07.56R also by Matt Dillon (also excellent).

Finder V2.06 is FREE/SHARE - WARE. Copy it to all your mates (please!)

But they all need to register separately.
REGISTRATION IS FREE

1.6 gettingstarted

Finder can be run from either CLI or Workbench.

If you have not registered, a nag requester will appear twice.

From CLI:

Simply type the path and name of Finder and it will run and present it's window. To run Finder in the background (i.e. so it returns a CLI prompt immediately), type "run <NIL: >NIL: <path>/Finder" (<path> is the path of the Finder executable). Note; any program which is self detaching from the CLI does so illegally. This may cause problems with newer versions of Kickstart. Using "run" is safer and easier because it requires no extra programming (i.e. SegList splitting, etc).

From Workbench:

Simply double click on Finder's icon and it will run and present it's window. If you wish Finder to not open it's window, but instead place "Finder V2.06" in the Tools menu, set the ToolType "ACTION=MENU" using the "Information" item in the Icon menu of Workbench. Then, when you wish to use Finder, just select "Finder V2.06" from the Tools menu and the window will open. This option is useful for running Finder from WBStartup.

1.7 installation

Finder is very simple to install:

1. Copy the Finder program and icon to C: or Sys:WBStartup as appropriate.
2. Copy "Finder.guide" and "Finder.win" to HELP: if you require on-line help.
3. If you are a registered user, copy Finder.key to S:

Finder is then installed.

1.8 requirements

Finder V2.06 requires Kickstart 3.0 or above.

It uses Intuition, Utility, Workbench, Icon, Graphics and GadTools libraries all of version 39 or higher (they are all stored in the ROM, so don't worry).

Finder V2.06 was compiled on an A1200, 2Meg Chip RAM with 350Mb Conner 2.5" IDE Hard Drive using DICE v2.07.56R with Kickstart 3.0 Includes.

NOTE: FINDER V2.06 HAS ONLY BEEN TESTED ON KICKSTART 3.0. IT WILL NOT WORK WITH ANYTHING LESS AND CANNOT BE ASSUMED TO WORK WITH ANYTHING HIGHER (IT IS, HOWEVER 100% SYSTEM COMPLIANT AND SO IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE FULLY COMPATIBLE WITH ANY FUTURE 680X0 BASED AMIGAS)..

If you own a machine with anything less than OS3.0, UPGRADE. It costs less than £100 Sterling to upgrade to OS3.1 and it is worth it. Or, you should upgrade to A1200 or A4000 now they are on sale again.

I have no plans to EVER support <OS3.0 as I see that as encouraging people NOT to upgrade. If people are still using 1.3 A500s in five years time, the Amiga market will be dead. If we all use AGA machines (ideally accelerated) then software developers can make more CPU intensive programs. (Gripe over!).

1.9 usage

When Finder is running (see Getting Started), you will

see a window with a large listview, some gadgets and two string fields.

Preview of Finder's main window: FinderV2.06

Explanation of gadgets:

- Close Window (Top Left) - Closes the window and puts 'Finder V2.06' in the 'Tools' menu. To re-open the window, select this menu item.
- Files found (Listview) - Shows all of the files found which match the given pattern in the given path. You can remember a specific file by clicking on it. It will be highlighted so you can see it easily.
- Window Depth (Top right) - This will put the window to the front/back of all the currently open windows.
- Window Zoom (Top right) - This will close the window and replace it with a little in the top left corner of the screen.
- Find gadget (Bottom left) - This will begin a search of the chosen path with the pattern provided and display the results in the Listview.
- Quit gadget (Bottom left) - This will quit the program.
- Help gadget (Bottom left) - This will load the on-line Help file using Multiview. NOTE: You need Multiview in 'Sys:Utilities', 'Finder.guide' and 'Finder.win' in 'HELP:' for this to work.
- About gadget (Bottom left) - This will bring up a requester with some information.
- Search path (Bottom right) - This is the text field in which you can type the path you want Finder to search.

Note:

The search is NOT case-sensetive, (i.e. #?CAT is treated the same as #?cAt) and is recursive (i.e. it will search all sub-directories).

Pattern - This is the text field in which you can type the pattern
(Bottom right) you want Finder to search with.

Note: Only standard AmigaDOS wildcards are supported, not '*' or others unless you use a hack like WildStar (or similar).

1.10 history

Finder History

V 2.06{fg text}

Public Release - Aminet

- Only added the Keyfile checking routine. PLEASE REGISTER FINDER. Especially since IT IS FREE!
- Fixed a silly bug with library opening.

V 2.05

Public Release - CUCD III

- MAJOR bug fix. Up until now, Finder used a simple loop for it's IDCMP handler. This is a fairly standard way of doing things and is the default generated method with GadToolsBox, but it does have a VERY nasty side-effect - It uses ALL available CPU time so it can do the loop as fast as possible. There is a much better way of doing it. That is to wait until a message is recieved rather than assume one has and start trying to figure out what it is (usually nothing). This 'new' method was already being used by the AppMenu handler (the code came straight from the RKM examples, I hadn't really looked at it). The added command is:
"WaitPort(FinderWnd->UserPort);"
Extremely simple and very irritating, but at least now Finder won't swallow your CPU everytime you run it!
I am considering putting a counter into an old version of Finder to work out the average number of times it ran the loop unsuccessfully. Maybe this could be the start of a new benchmark!
- Totally new error handling system. Finder now uses a CON: window to present any errors and a solution to the user.
- The ListView has a new feature specific to OS3.0+ which is that you can select items in it. Doing this will have no effect on the program, but it provides a useful way of remembering a particular file name/path.
- Cleared up an interesting problem with the stack. Finder was allocating too much stack and would cause the machine to hang on a long search. This has been solved by using dynamic stack code (a dice compiler option).
- Oh dear. We have a little problem. I now own my Blizzard 1230-IV (with 8Mb SIMM) and hence have an MMU. I have now tested Finder with Enforcer and discovered at least four Enforcer hits.
They seem to be involved with opening and closing the window (a problem with GadToolsBox?).
Unfortunately, I have absolutely no idea what the hell the Enforcer output means! So I can't debug it. Sorry if these hits make your machine crash, but

unless somebody explains to me what I am supposed to do they will have to stay there!

- Tested again with CodeWatcher. Seems to be that some allocated memory is not being freed, but I can't find it (a compiler error?). Most of it claims to be ROM space (huh?).

V 2.04

Not released

- Finder will now open on the default public screen, not Workbench. (most users will not notice any difference as Workbench is usually the default public screen, but if you use DOpus 5, it isn't).
- When the window is re-opened (e.g. after zooming or AppMenu), the list is not cleared.
- Major bug fix. I have finally found the cause of the silly Listview bug. I was initialising the list as soon as the search was over so any names not being displayed were 'forgotten'. Boy do I feel stupid!
- Cleaned up the source and moved some functions around to make it easier to recompile using GadToolsBox (see ReadMe in the Source drawer)
- Tested with CodeWatcher (I can't get easy access to an MMU for Enforcer to use because the Blizzard A1230-IV is so bloody difficult to get hold of! They are being sold before even being made!).

V 2.03

Not released

- Added busy pointer while search is happening. (buttons pressed with a busy pointer will be activated when the normal pointer returns).
- Listview bug evades me yet again (AAAAAARRRGH!)

V 2.02

Beta release

- Added option (via Tooltypes) to put Finder in the 'Tools' menu WITHOUT opening the GUI (can therefore be used from the WBStartup drawer easily)
- Still can't find Listview bug.

V 2.01

First public Release (AUI coverdisk 82 - May '96)

- Tested with Enforcer (seems OK so Listview bug must be a 'legal' bug!).
- Added AppMenu support.
- Cleaned up code a bit.
- Can't find Listview bug.

V 2.00

Not released

- GUI updated from Finder v1.00 by Toby Simpson.
- Search routines revised.
- Bugged to hell!

1.11 credits

Finder V2.06 by Chris Jones
Finder V1.00 by Toby Simpson
DME by Matt Dillon
DICE by Matt Dillon
GadToolsBox by Jan van der Baard
Amiga by Commodore-Amiga

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Imdad Shah and David Ward for very kindly including Finder V2.01 on an Amiga User International coverdisk. I didn't expect them to, but they did. Cheers guys! Sorry it was bugged!

Also, thanks to Thomas Frieden of DIgital DIMensions for his excellent utility "AssignPrefs". Some sections of the code for Finder are based on his code (← especially the reading of Tooltypes which is nigh on impossible if you don't own RKMs).

For this reason, I have included full source to Finder and filled it with comments ← so that anybody who wants to use my code can (please do).

1.12 author

Please send all bug reports, comments, suggestions, A4000Ts, etc. to:

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Personal Plea: If anyone knows how to calculate the CPU usage % (as in Driectory Opus 4) PLEASE mail me with the code (not using sysinfo.library from Executive).

Thank you.

1.13 todo

If I get feedback from you (and if I can be bothered), these are ↔
some of the
things I would like to see in Finder V3.00:

- Option to turn off recursive searching.
- Option to search multi-volumes.
- Commodity support.
- AppIcon support.
- AppWindow support (i.e. drop a drawer to search).
- Localisation (anybody want to translate for me?).
- Use ReqTools for the About requester and a directory requester.
- Option to save list produced to an ASCII file.
- Option to print list produced.
- Option to search any assign 'add's (e.g. if FONTS: points to more than one ↔
directory)

Example-script:

```
$VER:startup-sequence v39.29  
assign FONTS: SYS:Fonts  
assign FONTS: Work:Fonts ADD
```

Currently, Finder would only search SYS:Fonts. If I can work out how to do it, ↔
it
would also search Work:Fonts

These are some things I would like to put in, but only if someone pays me:

- Option to automatically search LhA/LZX files for the file pattern
(VERY difficult to do without LhA routines!).
- Option to search individual files for string patterns.
(Also VERY difficult to do (Well, I think so!))

If you would like to get involved with updating Finder, please contact me at the
address in the

Contacting the Author
section.
