FindPearls

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COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : FindPearls		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

Chapter 1

FindPearls

1.1   FindPearls V1.0 - Manual

FindPearls V1.0 - Manual

1.2   FindPearls/Synopsis

FindPearls/Synopsis

Name

Meeting_Pearls_II:c/FindPearls

Synopsis

FindPearls

DATABSE/K =<database>

CONFIG/K =<configfile>

INSTALLSCRIPT/K =<installscript>

PREFS/K =<prefsfile>

1.3 FindPearls/Description

Description

This program has limited purpose as it currently only serves to search for specific programs and software packages found or made available on the Meeting Pearls II CD-ROM.

It does load a simple database and a configuration file then offers a SearchRequester to search for specific material using different search methods. The result is displayed in the listview-gadget and can be saved to 'T:FindPearlsMatches' or be copied to ClipBoard.

The database is the collection of the entries of the Tooltypes of the main drawer-icons on the CD.

1.4 FindPearls/Source

Source

The source is available on request from the author, but I sure don't give it to you, unless you pay.

I don't see any reason to supply the source code for this program on the CD-ROM. If you are really interested into the source code you may have a specific intention, i.e. distribute it on another CD-ROM or other software collection. The later will cost you a fortune :-)

1.5 FindPearls/Copyright

Copyright

© Copyright 1995 by Markus Illenseer,

Copyright address stated at: Author

Legal mumble follows.

FindPearls 1.0 is freely distributable on the Meeting Pearls II CD-ROM. And as yet only on this CD-ROM!

It is not allowed to distribute this version of FindPearls outside or the Meeting Pearls II CD-ROM itself.

You are allowed to copy FindPearls 1.0 for personal use on your system or onto systems you have access to.

You are allowed to make FindPeals 1.0 available on a BBS or FTP-Site together or along with the *entire* MeetingPearls II CD-ROM.

You are not allowed to commercialize this product and to gain money with it unless I do get my share. You are strongly requested to contact the author for this matter.

FindPearls 1.0 may not, or is not allowed to be used by any military institution or any civil institution which makes any research or products which is used by military institutions.

The author is not and cannot made responsible for anything which may happen to you, while using FindPearls 1.0. Especially for any hypnosis trauma...

It is not allowed to distribute FindPearls on the so-called 'AmiNet' and its mirrors or corresponding CD-ROMS without permission of the author.

Version 1.21 is allowed to be distributed on the "Amiga-Magazin" CD-ROM 1/96.

1.6   FindPearls/Author

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1.7   FindPearls/Changes

Changes

0.1 ALFA 1 upto 0.3 BETA 10 - internal Versions and Versions released for Beta-Testers.

1.0 initial release Version for Meeting Pearls II CD-ROM.

1.10 upto 1.20 - internal Versions and Versions released for Beta-Testers.

1.20 release Version for Meeting Pearls III CD-ROM.

1.8   FindPearls/Starting

Starting

FindPearls 1.0 starts best from Workbench but can of course be started from CLI or other appropriate shell.

FindPearls 1.0 requires a MUI system for window and gadget layout. MUI is preinstalled, ready-to-use, on the Meeting Pearls II CD-ROM.

FindPearls requires small amount of RAM but does require OS/KS 2.0x or above.

To Start:

Just double-click the Icon, the rest should be intuitive enough. All outfit or behaviour of the window and even screen can and must be changed with the MUI-preference tool.

1.9   FindPearls/Credits

Credits

Credit goes to the entire Meeting Pearls Team working hard for this release of the CD and who suffered under my flames and comments during the makings.

Many thanks go to Klaus Melchior and Christian Scholz, who helped me solving out problems and ideas with MUI.

Greetings to all people who had weird filesystems running and could not run the old FindPearls. ExamineFH() is not implemented in all filesystems, the "Error: 0"-Bug is fixed now.

1.10   FindPearls/Problems

Problems

There are few known problems, but there are.

- You will get problems if you want to run FindPearls from outside the CD-ROM, ie. copying it to your hard drive will not work without some more config...

- Does not work with KS/WB 1.3 because requires MUI. Aw chuck - who he is still using 1.3 these days must either be maniac or living on the moon. Sorry, but I sure wont support MS-Windows 2.8 (when WIn 3.1 is out) these days neither if I would ever support Windows, so why bother with KS/WB 1.3?

- Has memory leaks and defragments memory lists. But gives back all mem.

- The usuage is not intuitive - well, I had lot of work to set up this kind of tool at all. Please tell me what you would like to have changed.

1.11   FindPearls/MUI

MUI

For FindPearls the Magic User Interface (MUI) system from Stefan Stuntz was used, which helps the programer saving a lot of time developing the GUI. Also, the user has a wide range of influence to the GUI now.

MUI is a shareware product worth using. Of course it is on this Meeting Pearls CD-ROM.

Without registering MUI the only feature which is not available is that you can't save but change the preferences. Thus MUI _is_ usable even without registration.

Please do read the file 'ReadMe.MUI', which should be in the Archive.

I have decided to release FindPearls as MUI application, because MUI involves a new and usable standard for graphical user interfaces which we never would have achieved without serious programing, which would have exeeded the surrounding of a simple commodity.

FindPearls using GadTools with the features of MUI would have been 50 to 100kb larger (not to speak from the source code) as a version made with MUI - and I still wouldn't have copied all the features MUI provides... And nowadays there are so many nice tools written for and with MUI, that the MUI library is not needed for FindPearls alone.

Your mileage may vary, I love it.

1.12   FindPearls/Commodities Exchange

Commodities Exchange

With the Exchange Tool, you can temporarily stop FinPearls with DISABLE, restart it with ENABLE, remove FindPearls with KILL (as would do a Quit in the Config Window), SHOW up the Config Window, and HIDE the Config Window.

The Exchange Tool is a comfort way to remove or dis/enable FindPearls.

Please refer to the AmigaDOS Manual (Section AmigaDOS Reference and Workbench Programs) for further docs on Exchange Tool.

1.13   FindPearls/Online Help

Online Help

To make this feature available, you need to copy the file "FindPEarls.guide" to the directory where FindPearls is started in (mostly Sys:WBStartup or ProgDir:). Normally you would not have to do anything, as FindPearls is pre-installed on the Meeting Pearls CD-ROM for you.

You can then point with the mouse onto a gadget (do not click) and press the help-key on the keyboard. Then AmigaGuide or Multiview should show up and display a helpline about the requested gadget.

It is therefore necessary that the Workbench has AmigaGuide or Multiview in its search path (normally SYS:Utilities/AmigaGuide).

1.14 FindPearls/Tool Types

Tool Types

Both, Icon-Tooltypes and ReadArg-Parameter specify the same.

DATABASE

A File to use as DataBase. Normally not required. Default is ":Index/FindPearlsDB"

CONFIG

A File which will contain all the drawers below ":Pearls/" which should be searched for in the Database. Normally not required. Default is ":SYS/S/FindPearls.config"

INSTALLSCRIPT

An AmigaDOS Script which copies entire drawers from the CD-ROM to anywhere you want. Normally not required. Default is ":SYS/S/CopyToHD"

PREFS

A File which contains the MetaTool-preferences. Either default in ":SYS/S/FindPearls.prefs" or user defined in "S:FindPearls.prefs" or given Tooltype.

DEBUG

Not included in release version.

NOTE:

The Tool Type Entries should be written in upper-cases.

1.15 FindPearls/Version

Version

Initial Release 1.0

1.16 FindPearls/MainWindow

This is the main window of FindPearls. Basically it consists of three parts. The first part shows the contents of the Entries of the DataBase. The next part offers a List to browse through the Entries, and last but not least you can choose between several actions:

Launch Search Save to file Help me Copy Directory

Main Documentation

1.17 FindPearls/Text

This area displays the entires of the database:

Drawer: This is the drawer or directory in which you can find the software paket you activated by clicking into the Listview The path is relativ to the Root-drawer of the CD-ROM.

Short: Short description of the package

Kurz: Short description of the package, in german language.

Author: This describes the author of the package

Version: Maybe you are interested into the version of the supplied packages.

Status: This mentions the copyright, the distribution royality such as FreeWare or ShareWare.

Uploader: Who met the package onto the CD?

Requires: What is required to run the software packages?

All the above info come from a static DataBase on the CD-ROM, and are collected offline from the icons of each drawer.

Main Window Main Documentation

1.18   FindPearls/List

This list shows all the entries of the database. If you have performed a Search then you will probably see specific entries only.

The entries consists of two parts: the size of the entire drawer of the package or drawer in general and the path which to use.

The active entry is displayed in the above text-frame , the number of the entries is also shown above, in the title.

You can copy the active entry to the clipboard unit, using the shortcut Right-Amiga c, and then use it in the shell for example by pressing Right-Amiga v.

Main Window Main Documentation

1.19   FindPearls/Search

This button pops up a new window requesting you for specific strings to search for in the database.

Search Window

Main Window Main Documentation

1.20   FindPearls/File

Here you can save the contens of the listview into a file of you choice. This may by interesting for CLI-Users or for other purposes.

Main Window Main Documentation

1.21   FindPearls/Help

Well, you knew it, didn't you? This window pops up every time you press the help-key on specific parts of the window.

Main Window Main Documentation

1.22   FindPearls/Copy

This button pops up a window to specify the destination drawer where you want to copy the active entry of the Listview.

Copy Window

Main Window Main Documentation

1.23 FindPearls/Copy

This window contains some nice features. Not only that you can specify the destination drawer but also some more magic.

You certainly have seen that you can specify the programs to be used for almost every picture, text, guide and more wich the Tool 'MetaTool'. This makes sense on the CD, which is static and where the entries cannot be altered. After copying stuff to your harddrive though, you probably want to change this.

Using 'use own config' will change the entries of the icons using your specifications for each MetaType we were using.

Please asure yourself that you do not use commandline options for any of the specifications. But for example:

GIF="VT display=PICASSO:800x600"

will work.

Also, after coping the stuff, the original File-Attributes and even Dates and FileNotes which are lost during the mastering process, are resurrected.

This is why copying stuff takes some time.

Main Window Main Documentation

1.24 FindPearls/Search

This sophisticated window offers quite a lot of features - if you know how to do it right.

At first you will see the String-Gadget. There you can use any kind of substrings you want to look in the database. You can use regular expressions of any kind. Have in mind that via default a #? is placed around your string. use Menu/Options to disable this feature.

At next you sure have remarked the area 'in drawer'. Each Checkmark represents a drawer of specific kind of software packages you are able to look at.

So, fo example clicking on 'game' and using the search-string 'strategy' will display all games of the kind 'strategy'.

Further on, you can specify what entry you are looking for. Normally you would only look out for the defaults. But maybe you want to see who uploaded most of the packages: Use 'illenseer' as substring, klick on 'All packets', disable all checkmarks on the right, enable 'Uploader'. (No, I am not the Top-Uploader :-)

Main Window Main Documentation

1.25 FindPearls/Help

Leave this window open, move the mouse to a spot you are interested in and then press the 'help'-key again.

Copy Window Search Window

Main Window Main Documentation

1.26 Index

Author & Support

Changes

Commodities Exchange

Copyright

Credits