PixFolio - Windows Image Viewer and Catalog Manager (Shareware)
Version 2.0

****

PixFolio is a Microsoft Windows program that can view a
variety of bitmapped graphics formats and maintain multiple catalogs of
images.

The graphics formats currently supported are:

- BMP/DIB-Windows Bitmap
- CLP - Windows clipboard file
- DRW/GRF - Micrografx draw and graph files.
- EPS - Encapsulated Postscript with imbedded TIFF preview images.
- FLI/FLC - Autodesk Animator and Animator Pro (tm) files.
- GIF - CompuServe Graphics Interchange Format
- ICO - Windows Icon
- ICS - Image Cytometry ICS files.
- IFF - IFF/LBM (Amiga) used by Computer Eyes frame grabber.
- IMG - GEM/IMG (Digital Research).
- JPG - JPEG
- MAC - Macintosh MacPaint files.
- PCT - Macintosh PICT files.
- PCX - Microsoft Paint & PC Paintbrush
- RLE - Compuserve Run Length Encoded
- TGA - Targa
- TIFF- Tag Image Format. Most formats including 24 bit color are supported.
- WMF - Windows Metafile.
- WPG - WordPerfect Graphics

Note: Not all variations that may be possible in the above file formats have
been tested due to lack of suitable test files.

*** Optional features ***
PixFolio supports the additional file formats if you purchase the optional,
extra cost ($15) PixFolio-Plus PCD/multimedia upgrade. This option requires
that you have a Photo CD capable of reading KODAK Photo CDs and in the case
of Video for Windows and/or Quick Time that your machine has the necessary
Windows software. The PCD/multimedia, PixFolio-Plus option is available only
to registered users of PixFolio because of licensing agreements on some of
the support modules.

- AVI - Video for Windows. (Requires Video for Windows)
- MID - MIDI music files.
- MOV - Quick Time movie files. (Requires Quick Time for Windows)
- PCD - KODAK Photo CD.
- WAV - WAVE sound files.

Note: MIDI and WAV files can be cataloged just like image files; a placeholder

bitmap is provided for screen and catalog displays.

The major feature of PixFolio is the ability to build catalogs of images, that may reside on different disks. The catalog can then be searched and images can be easily located. Provisions are made for saving a primary and backup location for the image concurrently. To enhance searching for a particular image the program can display postage stamp images in a matrix.

The ability to read an image in one format and to save it in another allows the program to be used as a file conversion utility.

THE AUTHOR RESERVES ALL RIGHTS TO THIS PROGRAM. THE AUTHOR DOES NOT WARRANT
THIS PROGRAM'S FITNESS OR SUITABILITY FOR ANY PURPOSE. ALL USERS SHOULD USE
IT AT THEIR OWN RISK.

The author will make a reasonable effort to correct problems and software bugs relating to documented features of the program for registered users. The author intends to make continuing improvements to the program including supporting additional file formats. To this end, comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Users may contact the author, Allen C. Kempe on CompuServe (71220,23), on GEnie at A.KEMPE, INTERNET: allenk@coplex.com or in writing at:

Allen C. Kempe
298 W. Audubon Drive
Shepherdsville, KY 40165-8836
USA
Phone: (502) 955-7527
Fax: (502) 543-8980

The Author is a member of the Association of Shareware Professionals.

Main Features

PixFolio utilizes Microsoft's MDI (Multiple Document Interface) so that multiple images can be open concurrently.

File Menu:

New File - create a blank image suitable for pasting from the clipboard.
Open File - Open a new file for viewing.
Save File - Save an image, possibly in a different format.
Move/Copy file - Move or copy a file.
Delete - Delete a file.
Print - print all or part of an image.
Select Printer - select a printer
Close

Catalog Menu:

Select catalog: Create, delete, select or rename an image catalog.
Catalog. Create or update a catalog entry for a displayed image.
Browse Catalog. View catalog entries one by one; select a subset

for viewing.

Build Catalog. Create catalog entries for groups of images.
View thumbnails of catalog entries.
Print Catalog Entries. Two formats are provided.
Export - Export the contents of a catalog for input to a database or spreadsheet.
Rebuild Catalog Index. Recover lost space in file and compact it.

Edit Menu:

Paste palette and image from clipboard.
Copy all or part of an image to the clipboard.
Cut a selected area from an image.
Crop an image.
Expand an image to fill the dimensions of the current window.
Resize an image by a percentage amount or fit to a given dimension.

Options:

Set background color used when image is expanded.
Set whether to use a solid or pattern background color.
Display DIB or Bitmap format.
Control whether warning messages will be displayed.
Establish default operating options.

Palette Options:

Palette manipulation (Brightness and contrast).
Convert to gray scale.
Dither to Black & White or color palette.
Play a GIF animation sequence.
Single step through a GIF animation sequence.
Change the speed of a GIF animation sequence.

Capture:

Capture the contents of another screen or the Windows desktop.

Other:

Using the mouse in the main viewing window, a marquee can be selected for copying or cutting to the clipboard. The right mouse button can be used to draw a stretch marquee where the selected image rectangle is copied.

Help:

Context sensitive help is included for all menu items.

**** Other Features ****

PixFolio version 2.0 supports OLE version 1.0 as a server only. PixFolio will automatically register itself as an OLE server the first time that it is executed.

PixFolio will accept "Drag and Drop" filenames from File Manager.

******** Equipment Requirements **********

While PixFolio will execute in a minimal Windows installation, for example, a 286 with 2 megabytes of memory, program operation will be severely inhibited

by a lack of memory. On such a configuration, large bitmaps, especially 8 or 24 bit images may fail. Other applications could be adversely affected as well and fail with unexpected UAE's. Actual results will vary depending upon the amount of memory used by other applications running concurrently.

PixFolio was developed and tested on a 20-MHz 386 with 8 megabytes of memory. It is recommended that PixFolio be run on a machine with at least 4 and preferrably, 6 megabytes of memory. Running in 386-Enhanced mode will also make available the benefits of virtual memory.

The display of images containing more than 16 colors requires that you have a Super VGA or better video display and a 256 color Windows device driver in order to display the full range of colors in the image. However, PixFolio incorporates dithering functions that will allow display of a 256 color image using a 16 color driver such as the standard VGA driver. Such operations are slow and the results are not as good as if you have a video display capable of displaying 256 colors.

********** Program Limitations **********

PixFolio has no limit on the number of catalogs that can be created or the size of these catalogs except as noted below and the amount of available memory. However, the following points should be noted:

1. PixFolio 2.0 will only run under Windows 3.1 or higher. Catalog file formats are compatible with PixFolio version 1.04 with one exception: if the text in a catalog entry's description exceeds 1200 bytes, the catalog cannot be read by versions of PixFolio prior to version 2.0.

2. The size of a catalog is limited by the amount of disk space where it resides or 2,048 index entries. Catalog records are variable length and depend upon the type of image and how big the comments are. It is recommended that for performance reasons that catalogs be limited to less than 2000 entries.

3. PixFolio may encounter difficulty with extremely large images, those in excess of 1024 x 768 pixels. This is particularly true of color images and even more so by 24 bit color or gray scale images. This is primarily due to the increased memory requirements.

4. While PixFolio and Windows supports 24 bit color and gray scale images, the display of such images using a video driver that only displays 256 colors, can result in some lengthy delays whenever windows has to realize the 24 bit RGB data to an 8 bit palette. It may take 15 to 20 minutes to realize a 640 x 480 image depending upon the speed of your machine. Dithering a 24 bit image to 256 colors can take more than an hour in some cases. If you plan to work with 24 bit images, you may wish to invest in a video board that supports "high color". One such board that appears to work quite well is the ATI VGASTEREO F/X card.

5. The support for GIF animation in PixFolio requires large amounts of free memory. GIF animation files with a large number of frames or overlays may unexpectedly fail if PixFolio runs out of memory.

   Autodesk FLI/FLC animation files likewise require large amounts om memory.

To provide maximum performance, the entire image is loaded into memory to reduce delays caused by reading from disk. A lack of physical memory that requires Windows to utilize paged virtual memory (in 386 Enhanced mode) can result in "jumpy" animations. In addition a high performance video board and driver is recommended to optimally display animation files without pauses that destroy the effect.

6. PixFolio has not been rigorously tested in a network environment. The affect of network operations and more than one user accessing PixFolio files concurrently cannot be predicted.

7. Not all graphics formats are supported equally with respect to reading and saving a file. For example, not all of the compression options are currently supported for saving TIFF images. GIF images can only be saved in GIF87a format. Likewise, some of the more obscure or obsolete formats such as 4 color CGA formats for PCX cannot be written although they can be read.

   CCITT Group 4 TIFF file comprssion formats are not supported at this time.

8. The author has not been able to test PixFolio with printers that print in color in Windows 3.1 except for an Epson 2550.

   One user has reported that PixFolio give very good results printing color images on Start Micronics NX-1000 Rainbow and NX-1020 printers but you must obtain the OEM driver from Star Micronics. Use of HP Deskjet 500C printers requires obtaining the latest drivers.

   Printer performance when running under Windows 3.1 is much improved. It is both faster as well as of higher quality. Changes to the printer drivers also enable printing to color printers such as the Epson LQ-2550.

9. The implementation of Micrografx .DRW and .GRF files is not rigorous. Some features of these files are not supported. Unless you have Adobe Type Manager or scalable typefaces, the rendition of fonts used in these files may not be optimal when Windows matches fonts.

10. Other program limitations, if any, can be determined by accessing the online context-sensitive help.

****** Installation and Getting Started*******

If your copy of PixFolio was received on a distribution diskette, the installation should be done from within windows by running "SETUP" from drive A: or B: (whichever is appropriate). This is important as the files on a distribution diskette are compressed. Otherwise, the following installation procedure should be followed:

It is suggested that the files which constitute PixFolio be placed in their own subdirectory on your hard disk. These files are:

PIXFOLIO.EXE
PIXFOLIO.HLP
SPIN.DLL

METER.DLL
PIXDLL.DLL
PIXIODLL.DLL
PIXHELP.DLL
PIXCATLG.DLL
PIXTIFF.DLL
PIXGIF.DLL
PIXFLIC.DLL
PIXWPG.DLL
PIXJPEG.DLL
PIXCNTRL.DLL

Once the above files have been located in the subdirectory of your choice, start Windows and then use the Program Manager "Add" command to add PixFolio to the desired program group.

When PixFolio runs for the first time, it will establish a section in your WIN.INI file with program variables. These default options should enable you to start using PixFolio immediately. Once PixFolio is running you may access the online Help command for specific instructions and explanation of PixFolio menu commands.

A quick review of PixFolio features and operating procedures can be gained by reviewing the user guide.

****** Credits ******

The author of PixFolio would like to recognize the efforts of Mr. Paul Hachey, (CompuServe Id 76625,2644) who performed an invaluable service by getting deeply involved in the extensive testing that went on over a period of months. Paul is responsible for the design of the PixFolio cover page, Icon and "About" dialog box and his many suggestions greatly influenced the "look and feel" of PixFolio.

Other people who have participated in the testing of PixFolio include:

Luis Alvarez
David Brune
Monte Davis
Bruce DeVries
Sean Gonzalez
James Horner
Tom Little
John Sabo

Their help is appreciated.