

**SmartFile**

<b>COLLABORATORS</b>
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# Chapter 1

## SmartFile

### 1.1 SmartFile

SmartFile 1.1

by Robert Ennals

Register : How to register SmartFilee

Introduction : What does it do?

Features : What features does it have?

Installation : How to install it.

Functions : How to do everything.

Author : How to contact the author.

Preferences : Customerising SmartFile.

The future : Features planned for the future.

Creation : How SmartFile was created.

SmartFile uses MUI by Stephan Stunz. See the file readme.mui for more information on the MUI system.

Visit the SmartFile web site at  
"http://members.aol.com/ennals/index.html"

### 1.2 How smartfile was created

how SmartFile was created

SmartFile was written using the excellent Cyclone compiler by Marcel Timmermans. At the time of writing Cyclone has not yet been released (I am a beta tested and wrote some of the support files) but it is a damn good compiler.

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The Threads used by SmartFile (for background actions) were produced using my Threads module which is part of Cyclone.

The file format uses the same parsing code as I used for TaskBar.

My Thanks go to:

Marcel Timmermans

For writing the incredible Cyclone compiler  
and for lots of useful testing

Guilherme Cirne

For doing lots of testing  
For suggesting several changes

Stephan Stunz

For MUI

## 1.3 Functions OF SmartFile

Functions of SmartFile

Note that the popup menu is activated by the right mouse button.

>Perform an action on a file

EITHER Select the action from the popup menu with the file selected  
OR Perform a general action by selecting it from the General menu

>Change directory

EITHER Select the directory string and type in the directory you want  
OR Select a previous directory from the popup menu of the directory  
string.

>Open another window

Select "New Window" from the path popup (over path string) or from the main menu.

>Select a target file

EITHER Double click on the file  
OR Select "Target Selection" from the popup menu

>Target a directory

EITHER Select "Target Dir" from the popup menu

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OR Select a dir and select "Target Selection" from the popup menu

>View actions being performed in the background

Select "Action Progress" from the main menu to display the progress window. Note that SmartFile performs all requested actions in the background using a special thread.

>Stop an action in progress

Click on the STOP button in the progress window.

>Rename a file

Turn on the rename gadget (main menu).  
The gadget will contain the name of whatever is selected. Editing the text in the gadget will rename the selected file.

>Add items to the context menus

Click [here](#) for information on adding files and types to SmartFile.

## 1.4 Customerising SmartFile

Customerising SmartFile

SmartFile is most useful when it has been customerised so that the filetype sensitive popup menus contain the commands you want ot use.

To do this you need to edit the file "SmartFile.prefs" with a text editor such as GoldEd, Emacs, CED or Ed.

The file format is very easy to work with so you should have no problems adding the commands you want. in a future version there should be a prefs editor to make this even easier.

The format used is a keyword based format similar to that used by TaskBar.

Here is a list of keywords. The indentation reflects the dependence. Eg you must define a type before you can define an action to go within it.

Keywords

TYPE [name] - define a new file type  
    SUFFIX - list of suffixes the files may have  
            different file types may share suffixes  
    ACTION [name] - define a new action

CMD [command] - CLI command to use  
UPDATE - Must update the directory view  
TARGET - the type of File that must be selected  
specify with the type name.  
CONFIRM - confirm the action  
UPSRC - update the source directory  
UPTAR - update the target directory

The TYPE name can be any string up to 20 characters long, or one of the special type names:

ANY - appears for any file  
MULTI - appears for multiple files only  
DIR - appears for directories only  
NOSUFFIX - appears for files with no suffix  
MENU - appears in the General menu

The CMD (CLI command) can contain several wildcards that specify that things should be inserted by SmartFile:

%s - source File  
%t - target File  
%p - source path (with "/")

Thus if my target file was "thingy.lha" my selected file was "sometext.txt" and the directory containing the selected file was "Ram:somedir"

%s %t %p would be

sometext.txt thingy.lha Ram:somedir/

and %p%s would be

Ram:somedir/sometext.txt

The TARGET keyword specifies which type of target files the command can work with. The command will not be available when the target is of the wrong type.

Forward references are not allowed in the SmartFile prefs file. Thus if a type is referenced in TARGET it MUST be defined before it is referenced. Note that a type can be defined more than once so as to add further items to it and that you can define a type with no actions in order to reference it later.

The flags UPSRC and UPTAR can be used within actions to specify which dirs will need to be updated as a result of the action. These will update not only the dir windows that were used, but also any others showing the same directory.

Here is a part of the standard SmartFile.prefs file:

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```
TYPE Lha
    SUFFIX .lha .lzh

    ACTION Extract
    CMD lha x %s %t
    TARGET DIR
    UPTAR

    ACTION View
    DEFAULT
    CMD lha v %s

TYPE ANY
    ACTION Add to archive
    CMD lha a %t %s
    TARGET Lha
```

## 1.5 Target Files

### Target Files

SmartFile uses a system of Target files to handle operations involving multiple files.

To perform an operation involving several files or dirs, you must make one the target. If you then bring up the context menu of the other file (or dir or multiple files) the context menu will have added to it actions relevant to the type of the target file.

Target files allow destination files to be worked with outside the conventional two window view and prevent the context menus being filled with irrelevant actions.

The current target file is reflected in the screen title.

### Examples of use of Target Files

>Copy a file to a dir

Make the dir target and then select "copy" from the popup menu of the file

>Add a file to an archive

Make the archive the target and then select "Add to archive" from the popup menu of the file you wish to add to the archive.

>Extract an archive

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Make the output dir the target and then select "Extract" from the archive you wish to extract.

(navigation of archives like files may be added in a future version)

>Adding the contents of a directory to an archive

Make the dir you wish the archive to go into the target and then select "Create Archive" from the dir you wish to archive.

The target system can be a little confusing at first if you are used to source and destination lists and a panel of buttons, but you get used to it very quickly.

## 1.6 Features of SmartFile

Features of SmartFile

- \* Right mouse button popup menus for performing actions on files
  - \* Multiple windows
  - \* Multithreaded - It performs operations in the background
  - \* Progress window - See how far SmartFile has got with actions
  - \* Interruptable actions - Click STOP and it does
  - \* Popup dir history
  - \* Gadget based file renaming - Incredibly easy to rename files
  - \* Gadget based comment editing
  - \* General menu for performing actions not specific to a file type
  - \* Target files
  - \* Volume and assign list window
  - \* Go straight to a dir by typing it into a string gadget
  - \* MUI GUI - Customisable, pretty, powerful and font sensitive
  - \* Bubble Help - Bubbles give you information to help you learn to use SmartFile
  - \* Open windows on directories from the shell  
eg SmartFile Work:
-

## 1.7 Installing SmartFile

Installing SmartFile

Installing SmartFile is very simple.  
Just do the following:

Copy SmartFile.prefs to ENV: and ENVARC:

Copy SmartFile.guide to HELP:

Create this assign if it does not already exist with a line such as  
Assign HELP: docplace (where docplace is where you put SmartFile.guide)

If you have a keyfile (registered user) put it in KEYS:  
Create this assign if it does not already exist.

SmartFile requires you to have MUI3.5 installed on your machine in order to use it. MUI3.5 can be obtained from AmiNet or any PD library.

If you have any problems installing SmartFile mail me.

## 1.8 What SmartFile does

SmartFile is a file management program similar to Explorer on Windows95 and Directory Opus on the Amiga.

SmartFile uses a MUI GUI in order to provide extended GUI features.  
A non-MUI version may be written if there is enough demand.

This is the first version of SmartFile so it *may* have some bugs in it.  
If you find any bugs, please report them to me so that I can fix them.

Many functions in SmartFile are performed using the right mouse button. You can use the right mouse button to perform context sensitive operations on files and select history paths for a dir window.

SmartFile lets you perform actions on files by selecting them from a list of actions relevant to that file type. These actions are defined in the file "SmartFile.prefs" which should be present in "ENV:".  
Currently this file must be edited by hand using a text editor as the preferences editor is not yet finished. Editing this prefs file is still very easy as it uses a very simple file format.

SmartFile uses a system of target files for performing actions that require more than one file.

For example if I wanted to add files to an archive, I would make the archive

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the target file (by double clicking on it or using the popup menu) and then the option "add to archive" would become available when I used the context sensitive popup (right mouse button) menu with another file.

## 1.9 How to register SmartFile

SmartFile is a shareware program.

You are free to use it for a limited evaluation period to decide if you like it or not, but if you wish to continue using it, you must register it and get a keyfile.

The unregistered version will display a reminder from time to time to remind you to register SmartFile. The registered version (with keyfile) does not have this annoying requester.

Registering SmartFile helps to promote it's future development. The more people register it, the more time I can spend on it, and the better it gets :-))

How to register

Send £10 (10 UK pounds Sterling) or another approved payment (listed later) as cash, or a cheque drawn on a UK bank to the following address:

Robert Ennals  
19 Belgrade Road,  
Hampton,  
Middx,  
TW12 2AZ  
England

Together with your payment you must enclose either a stamped self addressed envelope with a disk, or your email address so that i can send you a keyfile that registers SmartFile.

You must also give the name of the person to whom SmartFile will be registered as this will be contained in the keyfile.

Accepted currencies (cash or cheque drawn on a UK bank)  
Listed in order of preference:

- 10 UK Pounds (prefered)
- 20 US Dollars
- 25 German Marks
- 90 French Francs
- 30 Dutch Guilders
- 110 Swedish Kroner

Foriegn currencies include the cost of my converting them so if you can get a more favourable exchange rate to UK pounds it may be cheaper

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for you to send UK pounds Sterling instead of your own currency.

Checklist of things to include

- \* Payment in an accepted currency (others not accepted)
- \* EITHER Self address envelope with disk  
OR email address (preferred)
- \* Name in which to register SmartFile

Suggestions of features you would like to be added to SmartFile are also welcome, as are bug reports.

Bug reports can of course be sent separately to registrations.

Click here to find out how to contact me.

## 1.10 The Author

The Author

This Program was written by Robert Ennals.

Contact me if you find a bug, have an idea for an improvement,  
or just want a chat.

Email

JaNET : ennals@kingston.ac.uk  
AOL : ennals@aol.com (preferred)  
URL : <http://members@aol.com/ennals/index.html>

Tel : England-(01)81-941-5201

Postal Address

19 Belgrade Road, Hampton, Middx, England, TW12 2AZ

If any of these donot work, download a more recent version of this archive  
to see if my address has changed.

It would be nice if you could inform me if you release SmartFile in  
a collection, publish it on a coverdisk, or review it in a magazine.

Don't be scared to mail me about anything. If you have something to say,  
I would like to hear it. I will \*usually\* send a reply to any mail I  
receive.

SmartFile goes very well with my program TaskBar, also available on AmiNet.

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## 1.11 The Future of SmartFile

### The Future of SmartFile

This is only the first version of SmartFile. Many more features may come in later versions. Mail me to suggest more or say which you think are most important.

How much gets done on SmartFile depends on how many people register, so if you want to see more features in SmartFile, support it by registering.

### Proposed future features

- \* Preferences Editor
- \* Selectable file views
  - Including a tree view and a workbench style icon view!
- \* More dynamic gadgets (like Rename)
- \* Built in commands (make some operations a little faster)
- \* Notification for updating directories

and anything else you suggest

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