

WebTV

Troels Walsted Hansen

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	<i>TITLE :</i> WebTV		
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

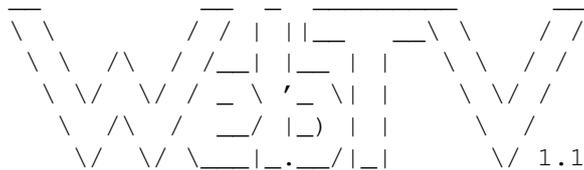
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Chapter 1

WebTV

1.1 WebTV · Contents



Copyright © 1998 Troels Walsted Hansen
Released as shareware

~	Introduction	Usage
~	Installation	Sitelist window
	Legal stuff	Edit site window
	Registration	Edit group window
	FAQ	Camera windows
~	Author	Settings window
	Thanks to	Arguments/Tooltypes
	About MUI	ARexx interface
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1.2 WebTV · Introduction

Introduction

WebTV is a viewer program for a fairly recent phenomenon on the World Wide Web - web cameras. Web cameras are recorded images published on the web and updated at regular intervals. They may show everything from a TV channel or somebody's living room to the weather in a city in northern Norway.

You can view these images with a regular webbrowser, you can even have it update the page at regular intervals, but WebTV offers a more specialized and optimized approach. Web camera sites are configured in a special window and viewing one opens a dedicated window, which is sized exactly to fit the camera image. Update delay, save directory and other parameters are easily configured individually for each camera.

Requirements

- ~AmigaOS 3.0 or higher.
- ~A JPEG datatype like akJFIF or Prodev-JFIF.
- ~MUI 3.8 or higher.
- ~An AmiTCP compatible TCP/IP stack (like AmiTCP, Miami or TermiteTCP).

Features

- Configure your list of webcams in a very comfortable MUI GUI.
- View as many webcams simultaneously as memory allows.
- Image decoding performed by datatypes, view any image format which has a datatype available.
- Image decoding and network operations are performed asynchronously, so the GUI never freezes or shows you a busypointer.
- Supports streaming/server-push webcams.
- Supports HTTP Authorization to access password protected sites.
- Supports HTTP proxies, including password protected ones.
- Supports T/TCP (Transaction TCP) with Miami, for faster sending of HTTP requests.
- Supports Last-Modified/If-Modified-Since HTTP headers so new images are only retrieved if they have been updated.
- Save camera images to a seperate directory for each camera.
- Supports importing sites from WebCam.
- ~Optionally uses the advanced MUI classes Textinput.mcc or BetterString.mcc if available.
- Tested thoroughly by an experienced group of betatesters with all available debug tools, to ensure troublefree operation.

1.3 WebTV · Installation

Installation

Simply doubleclick the supplied "Install WebTV" icon to start the installation process.

1.4 WebTV · Legal information

Legal information

WebTV is Copyright © 1998 Ultima Thule Software.

WebTV is shareware, with an evaluation period of 30 days. This means you are allowed to distribute WebTV freely, and if you use it for more than 30 days, you are obliged to register.

You are not allowed to modify any of the included files. The author of WebTV assumes no responsibility for what this program might do, you are using it at your own risk. However, WebTV has of course been tested quite thoroughly and should not cause any problems.

1.5 WebTV · Registration

Shareware registration

You are allowed to use WebTV for evaluation purposes for 30 days. If you want to use it after that you are kindly asked to register.

There are three different registration sites available. John S. Burger handles First Virtual, US and Canadian registrations, Neil Bothwick handles UK registrations, and all the rest are handled by the author.

By far the easiest and fastest method to register is to use First Virtual. If you don't have a First Virtual account yet, go to <http://www.fv.com> and follow the instructions on how to register a new account. You need a creditcard such as VISA or MasterCard.

When you have a First Virtual account and VirtualPIN, simply go to <http://www.thule.no/cgi-bin/webtv> and fill out the form. Your keyfile will be emailed shortly after payment has been confirmed.

To register without First Virtual, find the registration form applicable to your part of the world, fill it out and send it together with payment. Your keyfile will be emailed in return within days after payment has been received.

The following registration forms should be available in the Register directory: Register.Europe, Register.FirstVirtual, Register.United_Kingdom, Register.USA_Canada and Register.World.

If you have any questions concerning registration, don't hesitate to get in touch. The email address is webtv@thule.no or troels@stud.cs.uit.no.

1.6 WebTV · Frequently asked questions and answers

Frequently asked questions and answers

Cam pictures are downloaded, but not displayed.

This is almost certainly a problem with your datatypes. I can only recommend two jpeg datatypes from aminet. They are

`util/dtype/akJFIF-dt.lha` and `util/dtype/ProDev_jfifdt.lha`

Other jpeg datatypes are buggy and contain obsolete jpeg code. For example the tower jpeg datatype distributed with the CyberGraphX V43 picture.datatype doesn't handle progressive jpegs, and many webcam jpegs are progressive.

I use a proxy, and the picture is reloaded everytime, even though it hasn't changed.

This happens because your proxy strips the If-Modified-Since header that WebTV sends. There's nothing I can do about it.

This webcam doesn't work!

Webcams are flimsy creatures, disappearing and reappearing. If the URL has changed, do tell me about it.

Where can I find more webcams?

On the world wide web. Here's a couple of starting points:

<http://www.spy-cams.com>

http://www.yahoo.com/Computers_and_Internet/Internet/Entertainment/Interesting_Devices_Connected_to_the_Net/Spy_Cameras/ ←

1.7 WebTV · Usage - Site List Configuration Window

Usage - Site List Configuration Window

This window is where you manage the list of web cameras. The window can be closed without WebTV quitting, WebTV won't quit until the last window is closed.

If you use WebTV to view a fixed set of web cameras, you can configure this window to stay closed at startup. Check the tooltypes.

Camera sites can be sorted by dragging and dropping them in the list. Doubleclicking a site views it.

The menus

Project

About...

Open the Aboutwindow with some information about WebTV. Hint: don't be too impatient when viewing the aboutwindow. :)

About MUI...

Open the MUI aboutwindow.

Close all cams

Close all open camera windows.

Hide

Hide WebTV's userinterface. You can use the MUI settings to configure whether WebTV should open an icon on the Workbench or be completely hidden.

Quit

Quit WebTV.

Sites

Sort

Sort the sites in the selected group alphabetically by name.

Clear

Clear the whole list of sites.

Load...

Open a filerequester to select filename of a sitefile to load. The current list of sites will be lost.

Insert...

Same operation as Load... except the current sites are kept. The loaded sites will be inserted in the selected group.

Save

Save the sitelist under the name of the last loaded/saved sitefile.

Save as...

Save the sitelist to a filename picked in a filerequester.

Import from WebCam...

Select the filename of a sitefile saved by WebCam. You may get a requester asking you to specify which version of WebCam was used to save the file. This is not a fault of WebTV, but rather of WebCam because it changed sitefile format, and didn't use a cleanly extendible format.

The imported sites will be inserted in the selected group.

Settings

WebTV...

Open the WebTV Settings Window.

MUI...

Open the MUI Settingswindow. Here you can configure most aspects of the WebTV userinterface.

Snapshot window

Snapshot the size and position of the sitelist window.

Unsnapshot window

Forget the size and position of the sitelist window.

1.8 WebTV - Usage - Edit Site Window

Usage - Edit Site Window

This window opens when you create a new site in the Site List Window, or edit an existing one. Changes are not committed until you press the Ok button. When you do commit the changes, they will be reflected immediatedly by the associated cam window if it is open.

The gadgets

The "Name", "Comment", "Server", "Port" and "Filename" string gadgets should be pretty self explaining.

A short note on splitting up URLs for the gadgets:

```

http://www.webcam.com:5000/directory/file.jpg
    ^           ^     ^
    |           |     | +--- Filename (remember the leading slash)
    |           |     | +----- Port (not present means 80)
    +-----+-----+----- Server
  
```

"Username" and "Password" are sent in the Authorization HTTP header if they are filled out.

The "Auto update" slider specifies the number of seconds between each update of the image. Setting the slider all the way to the left gives continous refresh, i.e. WebTV starts fetching the next picture as soon as the first one is fetched. Setting it all the way to the right disables automatic update.

The "Show on start" checkmark makes the camera open when you start WebTV.

The "Autosave dir" optionally specifies a directory where to save all images fetched from the camera.

1.9 WebTV · Usage - Edit Group Window

Usage - Edit Group Window

This window opens when you create a new group in the Site List Window, or edit an existing one. Changes are not committed until you press the Ok button.

Hopefully operating this window should be selfexplaining. :)

1.10 WebTV · Usage - Camera Windows

Usage - Camera Windows

You can have any number of these windows open, they each display a camera. The window will automatically resize to fit the size of the camera image.

Status information and error messages will be displayed in the window titlebar.

The menus

Project

About...

Open the Aboutwindow with some information about WebTV. Hint: don't be too impatient when viewing the aboutwindow. :)

About MUI...

Open the MUI aboutwindow.

Save as...

Open a filerequester to select the filename to save the currently displayed camera image to.

Update

Update the camera image and reset the autoupdate timer.

Force update

Force an update the camera image. This aborts any update in progress and sends HTTP headers to indicate that a new copy of the image is desired no matter how old it is.

Open sitelist window

Open (or activate) the sitelist window.

Close this cam

Close this camera. Same as clicking the closegadget of the window.

Close all cams

Close all open camera windows.

Hide

Hide WebTV's userinterface. You can use the MUI settings to configure whether WebTV should open an icon on the Workbench or be completely hidden.

Quit

Quit WebTV.

Settings

Camera site...

Open the Edit Site window for this site.

WebTV...

Open the WebTV Settings Window.

MUI settings...

Open the MUI Settingswindow. Here you can configure most aspects of the WebTV userinterface.

Snapshot window

Snapshot the size and position of the camera window.

Unsnapshot window

Forget the size and position of the camera window.

1.11 WebTV . Usage - Settings Window

Usage - Settings Window

This window allows you to edit the global settings of WebTV. Settings will be saved to a file called WebTV.settings in ENV: and ENVARC:. You can override these settings through the tooltypes.

The gadgets

The "Hide sitelist window on startup" option is useful if you use WebTV to view a fixed set of sites, and don't want the sitelist window to open. You can always open the sitelist window from the menus in the cam windows if you need it. WebTV will force the sitelist window open if no cams are configured to open on startup.

The "Temporary directory" is where images are stored while they are displayed. If you are short on memory, change the default "T:" to a directory on disk.

The HTTP proxy configuration supports username and password. These are sent in the Proxy-Authorization HTTP header.

The menus

Project

About...

Open the Aboutwindow with some information about WebTV. Hint: don't be too impatient when viewing the aboutwindow. :)

About MUI...

Open the MUI aboutwindow.

Hide

Hide WebTV's userinterface. You can use the MUI settings to configure whether WebTV should open an icon on the Workbench or be completely hidden.

Quit

Quit WebTV.

Settings

MUI settings...

Open the MUI Settingswindow. Here you can configure most aspects of the WebTV userinterface.

Snapshot window

Snapshot the size and position of the camera window.

Unsnapshot window

Forget the size and position of the camera window.

1.12 WebTV - Usage - Arguments and ToolTypes

Workbench startup

WebTV supports a number of tooltypes when started from Workbench. The tooltypes are stored in the icon of WebTV, and you can edit them by selecting the icon and selecting the Icon/Information... Workbench menuitem.

The tooltypes

HIDESITELISTWIN - Setting this to YES will make WebTV keep the sitelist configuration window closed on startup. This option is meant to be used along with the "Show on startup" option for camera sites.

SITESFILE - Set this to the filename of the file which contains your configured camera sites. Default is a file called "WebTV.sites" stored in the same directory as WebTV.

PROXYSERVER - Set this to the hostname of your HTTP proxyserver, if any.

PROXYPORT - Set this to the portname of your HTTP proxyserver if it differs from the default, port 80.

PROXYUSERNAME - If your HTTP proxyserver requires authorization, set this to your username.

PROXYPASSWORD - If your HTTP proxyserver requires authorization, set this to your password.

TEMPDIR - Set this to the directory where WebTV should store temporary files. Default is "T:".

Shell startup

When starting from a shell, arguments are handled through the AmigaDOS ReadArgs interface. Hopefully this should be familiar, if not, check your AmigaDOS manual.

The arguments

The following arguments are equivalent to the tooltypes described above, except of course for the /S (switch) argument which doesn't take a value.

HIDESITELISTWIN/S
SITESFILE/K
PROXYSERVER/K
PROXYPORT/K/N
PROXYUSERNAME/K
PROXYPASSWORD/K
TEMPDIR/K

The following arguments are not meant for general use, they are meant to be used when WebTV is launched from other applications such as webbrowsers. The arguments describe a camera site which will be added to the list of sites and immediately displayed after startup.

SERVER/K - Hostname of server.

PORT/K/N - Port, if different from the default of 80.

FILENAME/K - The filename of the camera file on the server.

DELAY/K/N - How often to refresh the picture, measured in seconds. Default is 30. Specifying 0 means continuous refresh, and -1 means automatic refresh is disabled.

PUBSCREEN/K - Name of a public screen WebTV should open on.

If SERVER is specified, FILENAME must also be specified, and vice versa.

1.13 WebTV . Usage - ARexx interface

ARexx interface

WebTV can be controlled through its ARexx port. For information about how to create ARexx scripts, you should refer to the manuals that came with your computer.

In order for ARexx to work SYS:System/RexxMaster needs to be running and ARexx needs to be turned on in the MUI configuration.

The arguments for the commands works exactly like ordinary AmigaDOS command arguments with respect to the flags /A, /S, etc.

For commands which returns a string in 'result' you need to execute the ARexx command 'options results' first. Remember also to have your script send its commands to the correct port. WebTV's ARexx port is called 'WEBTV.1'.

The following commands are available.

QUIT FORCE/S
Ends WebTV.

HIDE

Hides (iconifies) WebTV.

SHOW

Shows (pops up) an iconified WebTV.

INFO ITEM/A

According to the given parameter the result string is filled with the following contents:

- "title" Title of the WebTV
- "author" Author of the WebTV
- "copyright" Copyright message
- "description" Short description
- "version" Version string
- "base" Name of the ARexx port
- "screen" Name of the public screen

HELP FILE/A

A list of all ARexx commands available in WebTV is written into the given file.

INSERTSITE NAME/A,COMMENT/K,SERVER/A,PORT/K/N,FILENAME/A,DELAY/K/N,SAVEDIR/K, ←
SHOWONSTART/S,SHOWNOW/S

This command is mostly meant for internal use, but it is documented in case you find a nice use for it. WebTV uses it internally when being started a second time with a camera site specified on the commandline. The newly started WebTV sends this command to the existing copy, and then quits.

The command inserts a new camera site in the list of sites, and optionally shows it. The arguments are as follows:

NAME/A - Name of the camera site as it will appear in the list.

COMMENT/K - Comment.

SERVER/A - Hostname of server.

PORT/K/N - Port number of server, default is 80.

FILENAME/A - Filename of camera image.

DELAY/K/N - Refresh delay. 0 for continuous, -1 for disabled. 30 is default.

SAVEDIR/K - Directory where to save camera images.

SHOWONSTART/S - If specified, WebTV will show the camera when starting up.

SHOWNOW/S - If specified, WebTV will open the display the site immediately after inserting it into the list.

Example script

```
/* get results */

options results

/* talk to WebTV */

address WEBTV.1

/* show which version of WebTV we are running */

'info version'
say "Running " || substr(result, 7)

/* insert a way cool camera site */

'INSERTSITE "True beauty" COMMENT "Wow, this is one handsome chap" www.cs.uit.no ←
  /~troels/graphics/troels.gif DELAY -1 SHOWONSTART SHOWNOW'
```

1.14 WebTV · Author

Author

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WWW: <http://www.cs.uit.no/~troels>

IRC nick: Troels

Feel free to contact me about anything related to WebTV. If you have any problems, be sure to check the FAQ first, the solution may be there.

1.15 WebTV · Thanks

Thanks to...

- ~The whole ibeta team of betatester for trying out WebTV, reporting bugs and giving many good suggestions, no matter how crazy. ;)
 - ~To Neil Bothwick for the CU Amiga mention and handling UK registrations.
 - To John S. Burger for handling First Virtual and US registrations.
 - Special thanks to Olli for code contribution, WebTV support in his V webbrowser (available in V 2.95 and higher) and the Textinput.mcc class.
 - To Allan Odgaard for BetterString.mcc and Gilles Masson for NList/NListview.mcc (the last one isn't used anymore as of version 1.1).
-

- To stuntzi for MUI, the reason Amiga programming is fun.
- To Petter Nilsen, for setting up the First Virtual registration script.
- And a little bit of thanks to Martin 'xen' Huttenloher, for the MagicWB icons. Don't like MagicWB? Draw me some new ones, and I'll happily include them.

WebTV uses code derived from the following program:

```

/*****
/*                               XFlame v1.0                               */
/*****
/* By:                               */
/*   The Rasterman (Carsten Haitzler)   */
/*   Copyright (C) 1996                 */
/*****
/* This code is Freeware. You may copy it, modify it or do with it as you */
/* please, but you may not claim copyright on any code wholly or partly   */
/* based on this code. I accept no responsibility for any consequences of  */
/* using this code, be they proper or otherwise.                          */
/*****
/* Okay, now all the legal mumbo-jumbo is out of the way, I will just say */
/* this: enjoy this program, do with it as you please and watch out for more */
/* code releases from The Rasterman running under X... the only way to code. */
/*****

```

1.16 WebTV · About MUI

This application uses

MUI - MagicUserInterface

(c) Copyright 1993-98 by Stefan Stuntz

MUI is a system to generate and maintain graphical user interfaces. With the aid of a preferences program, the user of an application has the ability to customize the outfit according to his personal taste.

MUI is distributed as shareware. To obtain a complete package containing lots of examples and more information about registration please look for a file called "muiXXusr.lha" (XX means the latest version number) on your local bulletin boards or on public domain disks.

If you want to register directly, feel free to send

DM 30.- or US\$ 20.-

to

Stefan Stuntz
Eduard-Spranger-Straße 7

80935 München
GERMANY

Support and online registration is available at

<http://www.sasg.com/>

1.17 WebTV · History

Version history

WebTV 1.0 (13.2.98)

- ~First release to AmiNet.

WebTV 1.1 (5.3.98)

- ~Streaming/server-push video support.
- HTTP and HTTP Proxy Authorization.
- Bugfixes (Save as... and autosaving files).
- Easier camsite configuration, uses a listtree and changes are reflected immediatedly in open cams. No need to close and reopen windows.
- Easier global configuration from a new settings window. No more messing around with tooltypes/arguments.
- More webcam sites.
- First Virtual, US and UK registration available!
- Better reporting of errors.
- Requires AmiTCP v3+ instead of V4+ now.
- And much more...

1.18 WebTV · Future

Planned enhancements

- Possibly internal jpeg decoder.
- Locale support.
- ~Your suggestions?