HoF-Analyzer

Christophe Macours

COLLABORATORS			
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ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
WRITTEN BY	Christophe Macours	August 24, 2024	

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Contents

Chapter 1

HoF-Analyzer

1.1 HoF-Analyzer 1.3 - Contents

Welcome to HoF-Analyzer !

HoF-Analyzer 1.3 by Christophe Macours
with Blitz Basic 2.1

1.2 Introduction

Introduction

This program allows you to dissect Alan Strang's HoF (Hall of Fame) files. It is widely inspired by Michal Janak's HoFPoints. I appreciate much his program but it doesn't allow a global vision of the standings and the records encoding is rather boring. That's why I decided to start programming, with Blitz Basic 2.1 (which is fantastic).

You will be able to view the classifications of each circuit, edit and save your times. You will also set a position or another driver to reach and HoF-Analyzer will show you the needed performance.
You can also see the track were you are the worst, in various ways.

Other features are in development but I'm waiting to see if the program is appreciated. Suggestions and bugs reports are of course welcome !

1.3 Distribution

Distribution

HoF-Analyzer is Moduleware. If you like it, I invite you to send me a music module (mod. ...) of your own, to my E-Mail address.

You can copy HoF-Analyzer as many times as you want, as long as it is kept with the following files:

HoF-Analyzer.info	Standard 4 colours icon
HoF-Analyzer_MWB.info	Magic-WB 8 colours icon
HoF-Analyzer.guide	English documentation
HoF-Analyzer_French.guide	French documentation

Of course, I cannot be held liable if this program causes any problems with your system, even if nothing serious should happen. Have a look at the bugs page.

For the rest, I don't advise you to cut this program into 36 pieces, or to sell it at 30000 pounds. It's up to you...

1.4 Requirements

Requirements

Any Amiga with OS 2.0 or higher should suit. However, HoF-Analyzer has only been tested on a Amiga 1200 and 4000, both with Kickstart 3.0 and 4Mb Fast.

You also need a HoF AmigaGuide file. The only valid HoF files are those published from October 1996; the others are obsolete since the (new) 107% rule.

The reqtools.library and diskfont.library are also required.

I advise you to use the F.Giannici's CycleToMenu commodity (or any equivalent) to make the circuits choice easier, as well as Magic Menu (by Martin Korndörfer and Olaf 'Olsen' Barthel) to have nice looking menus (they are still ugly). You can find those tools in the appropriate directory on Aminet.

1.5 Installation

Installation

Installation is very easy. Just copy the HoF-Analyzer executable file into the desired directory.

1.6 Getting Started

Getting Started

From Workbench:

Just double-click over the HoF-Analyzer icon to open the window.
There are different TOOLTYPES (which are NOT case sensitive):

ID=your_HoF_ID Ex: ID=CM

This allows HoF-Analyzer to identify you.
If the chosen ID doesn't appear in the HoF, you can still comapre your perfomances with the HoF by encoding them manually.
If that Tooltype is not specified, the ID CM is used by default :-)

HOF=your_HoF_file Ex: HOF=Work:Jeux/grandprix/HoF/HOF_APR.GUIDE

The HoF file to work on. The program won't run if it is not a correct file.
If that Tooltype is not specified, a file requester will appear.

REC=your_records_file Ex: REC=Work:Jeux/HoF-Analyzer/CM_Records

The Records file to load, which contains the Manual Times. That file has nothing to do with the Lap Records files from F1GP ! It is a file specific to HoF-Analyzer.

SPLIT=SplitTime_file Ex: SPLIT=Work:Jeux/SplitTime/CM_SplitTimes

The SplitTime file to load. It is a 840 bytes file containing the times recorded by Rene Smit's SplitTime. HoF-Analyzer uses this file to compare your times with the Virtual Times from SplitTime.

NEEDPOS=your_needed_pos Ex: NEEDPOS=3

Determines the Global position you want to reach (i.e. the slider position).
If that Tooltype is not specified, the needed position is your Global
position minus one.

MODE=mode_id Ex: MODE=1

This ToolType allows you to start with the NeedTime calculation Mode of your
choice.
Equal: mode_id = 0
Janak's: mode_id = 1
Split: mode_id = 2
If that Tooltype is not specified, the calculation Mode is Equal.

WORST=worst_id Ex: WORST=2

This ToolType allows you to start with the Worst track detection mode of
your choice.
Pos: worst_id = 0
Score: worst_id = 1
Diff.: worst_id = 2
Split: worst_id = 3
If that Tooltype is not specified, the Worst button in on Pos.

FONTNAME=window_font_name Ex: FONTNAME=helvetica

The Font to use in the window. This is useful if your screen font is not
cleanly proportional (i.e. the cyphers' width is not constant). If that
Tooltype is not specified, the screen font is used by default.

FONTSIZE=window_font_size Ex: FONTSIZE=15

The size of the window font. If that Tooltype is not specified, the screen
font size is used by default.

WINX=X_pos_of_window Ex: WINX=64

Determines the horizontal position of the window.

WINY=Y_pos_of_window Ex: WINY=64

Determines the vertical position of the window.

From CLI:

Just type HoF-Analyzer after its path. There is no option because the config
is read from the file HoF-Analyzer.info.
So please refer the Tooltypes'descriptions above.

1.7 Using

Using

HoF-Analyzer uses two types of commands:

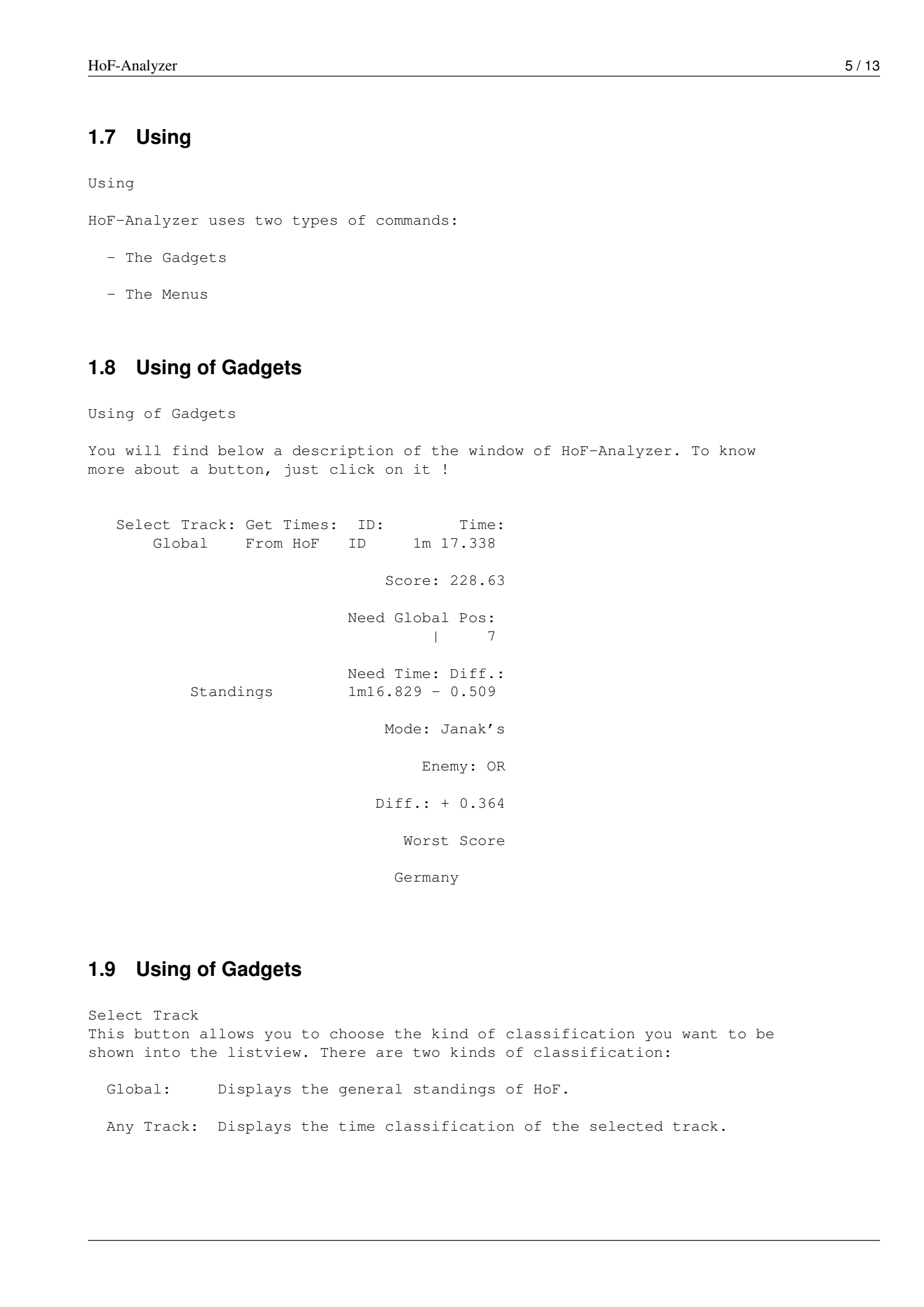
- The Gadgets

- The Menus

1.8 Using of Gadgets

Using of Gadgets

You will find below a description of the window of HoF-Analyzer. To know more about a button, just click on it !



1.9 Using of Gadgets

Select Track
This button allows you to choose the kind of classification you want to be shown into the listview. There are two kinds of classification:

Global: Displays the general standings of HoF.

Any Track: Displays the time classification of the selected track.

1.10 Using of Gadgets

Get Times
This button gives you two possibilities:

  From HoF: HoF-Analyzer will pick your times directly from the HoF file,
             without any modification.

  Manually: Your "official" times will be replaced by the Manual Times,
             manually encoded or preloaded.

1.11 Using of Gadgets

Standings
In this listview, you will find either the general classification or the
selected track classification, according to the Track button.
If you appear in the classification, the line corresponding to your ID is
automatically selected.
An asterisc (*) is displayed after every updated records (as in the HoF).

If you select an entry in the listview, an Info Window will appear.

  If your are in Global mode, you will see:

    Global Score: the global score of the selected driver
    Score Delta: the score difference with the previous HoF
    Last HoF Pos: the global rank in the previous HoF
    Average Pos: the average track position in the current HoF
    Qualified Tracks: the number of tracks records submitted
    Highest/Lowest: your best and worst track positions

  If any track is selected :

    Time: the laptime made by the selected driver on the selected track
    Date: the date the record was made
    Options: the HoF options - see the HoF documentation for more details
    Setup: the setup used - see your F1GP documentation for more details

  This Info Window allows you to save the setup by clicking the Save Setup
  button. Then a requester appears asking you to select a setup file to
  save. The saved file is the standard 14 bytes F1GP car setup file format
  and can then be used by F1GP or F1GP-Ed.

Important Note: In Global mode, your score is the only to be updated, the
others don’t change (for example when you become first at a track). This
inconvenient may be removed in the future.

1.12 Using of Gadgets

ID
This gadget simply reminds you who you are :-). It has not really a defined
purpose - I sometimes wonder why I kept it...

The only way to change your ID is to edit the ID TOOLTYPE.

1.13 Using of Gadgets

Time
This gadget is only active in Manually mode. It allows you to enter your record for the selected circuit. Your rank will change automatically, as well as your Total Score and the Need Time.

1.14 Using of Gadgets

Score
Your total score is printed here. In From HoF mode, the score is the same as in the HoF, whereas in Manually mode, your score is recalculated using your Manual Times. Note that you always get a point for having times (see HoF rules).

1.15 Using of Gadgets

Need Global Pos
With this slider, you can specify the position you want to reach in the general standings. HoF-Analyzer will show you a Need Time for each circuit, using the method specified by the Mode button.

1.16 Utilisation des Gadgets

Need Time
Printed here is the time, for the selected track, you will need to reach the position specified by the slider.
When you have no time at a circuit, the time to reach in mode Janak's represents the best time to get zero point.
When you have not performed many records, the Need Time may seem strange. This is because Janak's calculation needs all the track times.

In Split mode, the Virtual laptime from SplitTime is displayed.

1.17 Using of Gadgets

Diff.
Shows the difference between your time and the Need Time. When your time is better, the difference is negative, and vice-versa.

1.18 Using of Gadgets

Mode
This button determines the calculation method to use for the Need Times.
There are two modes available:

  Equal: The score to reach is the same for all circuits:

          need_score_circuit_x = need_total_score / 16.

  Janak's: HoF-Analyzer uses Michal Janak's formula, which is explained in
            HoFPoints's documentation. Here is its principle:
            The closer your are from the best time, the less you need to
            improve it. So if you have the best time, you don't need to
            improve it. However, the more your time move away from the best,
            the more you have to improve it.

An additionnal mode (Split) allows you to see your SplitTime Virual times,
which must be pre-loaded, either using the SPLIT ToolType or with the
Change SplitTimes menu option.

1.19 Using of Gadgets

Enemy
You can find here the ID of the driver who sits at the Needed Position.
He is your Enemy !

1.20 Using of Gadgets

Diff.
Shows the difference between your time and your Enemy's time. When your time
is better, the difference is negative, and vice-versa.

1.21 Using of Gadgets

Worst
This Cycle Button allows you to see the track(s) you are the worst. There
are three ways to do that:

  Pos: Hof-Analyzer will look for the track where your rank is the worst
        (i.e. the biggest), and display its name in the Text Gadget below.
        Note that if your worst position appears twice (or more),
        HoF-Analyzer will return you the first worst track found (in the
        normal track order).

  Score: The program will look for your worst track score.

  Diff.: HoF-Analyzer will compare the time differences between you and

your Enemy (not the Need Time). The biggest difference is kept.

Split: The track with the biggest difference between your track time and your Virtual time will be displayed.

1.22 Using of Menus

Using of Menus

Please choose the Menu option you would like to know more about:

Project	Edit	Settings
Load Records	Clear Records	\/ Save Window State
Save Records	Paste from HoF	\/ Snapshot Window
Change HoF File		Save Settings
Change SplitTimes		
About...		
Quit		

1.23 Using of Menus

Load Records
Opens a file requester and asks you to choose a Records file containing the Manual Times. Those Records files have nothing to do with the Lap Records files from F1GP !
If the chosen file doesn't exist or is incorrect, there is no modification.
For people who are interested, the Records files are just text files, easy to edit. When there is no time for a circuit, there is a - (dash) instead.

1.24 Using of Menus

Save Records
Opens a file requester and asks you to choose a Records file that will contain the Manual Times currently into memory. You don't need to be in Manually mode for this operation.

1.25 Using of Menus

Change HoF File
Opens a file requester and asks you to choose a new HoF file to analyze. If the operation is successful, the program will recalculate some data and your Manual Times will be kept. If not, nothing will happen.
This operation allows you to see what your rank would have been if you had made some records three months earlier...

1.26 Using of Menus

Change SplitTimes
Opens a file requester and asks you to choose a new SplitTime file to load.
It must be a 840 bytes file generated by Rene Smit's SplitTime.
HoF-Analyzer needs it to work with Virtual times.

1.27 Using of Menus

About...
No comments... See the Author page.

1.28 Using of Menus

Quit
Exits HoF-Analyzer after confirmation. The close window gadget has the
same effect.

1.29 Using of Menus

Clear Records
This option allows you to clear the Manual Times currently in memory.
Your Total Score will thus be zero and you will only appear in the general
standings, with one point. This operation is NOT reversible !

1.30 Using of Menus

Paste Records from HoF
Very useful when using HoF-Analyzer for the first time, this function allows
you to copy all the HoF times to the Manual Times, so you don't have to
type them in.

1.31 Using of Menus

Save Window State
This option specifies if the Need Global Pos, Mode, and Worst gadget status
must be saved when choosing the Save Settings menu option.

1.32 Using of Menus

Snapshot Window
This option specifies if the window position must be saved when choosing the
Save Settings menu option.

1.33 Using of Menus

Save Settings
Saves the program configuration into the TOOLTYPES. Here is what is saved:

- The HoF file name
- The Records file name
- The SplitTime file name
- The ID
- The Need Global Pos, Mode and Worst gadget status (if Save Need Pos is activated)
- The window coordinates (if Snapshot Window is activated)

1.34 Help me!

Help me!

As HoF-Analyzer is the first Intuition program I have created with Blitz Basic, it is not impossible, despite everything, that bugs have resisted to the tests. If so, please send me the bug description and your configuration. Moreover, if you have Fonts problems (especially in the classifications), feel free to inform me ! Finally, any suggestion is welcome !

1.35 Thankyous

Thankyous

A big thank to:

Michal Janak for his HoFPoints, without which HoF-Analyzer wouldn't exist, and also for having noticed the (stupid) bug in the Need Times.

Oliver Roberts for his critics and suggestions, his site, F1GP-Ed, etc... (I stop - there is really too much to write here :-)

Alang Strang for the HoF (continue Alang !), his constructive suggestions, and for having also tested HoF-Analyzer.

1.36 The Author

The Author

I'm 21 years old and I'm studying computer engineering at the University of Liège, Belgium. I'm fond of car racing, Amiga, athletics...

To contact me:

Christophe Macours
Rue des Azalées, 20

B-5001 Belgrade
BELGIQUE

E-Mail: s952025@student.ulg.ac.be

If you are interested in engine sound samples (especially GTs), I suggest you to have a look at my web page:

http://www.stud.montefiore.ulg.ac.be/~macours/samples.html

That's all...

1.37 History

History

V1.3 - 14 December 1997 (139180 bytes)

- Added the Split mode, which allows viewing Virtual times from SplitTime
- Added the Split option in Worst button, to see your biggest Real-Virtual time difference
- Added the Global Info Window
- Added MODE, WORST and SPLIT ToolTypes (Thanks Alang!)
- Added asterisc (*) after ID if record is updated (as in the HoF)

- Menus are less ugly without MagicMenu
- Now works if "Fonts:" drawer doesn't exist
- Corrected some more bugs...

V1.2 - 26 October 1997 (126280 bytes)

- Added the Record Info Window with the Save Setup button
- Added the Worst button
- Added the NEEDPOS Tooltype

- The listview size depends now on the chosen Font size
- Corrected the layout bug with Fontsizes < 9

V1.1 - 26 August 1997 (121380 bytes)

- Added Enemy feature, which shows the time differences between you and the driver occupying the needed position
- Added FONTNAME and FONTSIZE Tooltypes
- A Bevel Box has been put around the window...

- Fixed a bug: when your position is 1st in the general standings, your needed times are now correct

V1.0 - 17 August 1997 (118180 bytes)

First public release.

V0.5ß - 22 July 1997 (120760 bytes)

  Beta version, for testing.

1.38 The Future

The Future

It is clear that the future of HoF-Analyzer depends on YOU ! I hope that enough reactions and positive answers will occur, so I can continue the delevopment.

I have some ideas:

  - Gadtools menus <- HELP: If someone knows how to do in Blitz ?

  - Fonts Requester

  - ???