

ImageDeskE

COLLABORATORS

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

ImageDeskE

1.1 ImageDeskE.guide

ImageDesk

An utility for cataloging graphics archives

Version 3.0

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SHAREWARE

Introduction	What is ImageDesk good for
System Requirements	Minimum requirements on your Amiga
Installation	If not already done
Quick Start	For the impatient ones
Usage in General	Description of ImageDesk's functionality
AREXX Port	Conventions and command descriptions
Catalog Tools	Tools for touching up catalog files
How to Register	How to get a keyfile
Updates	Where can I get the latest releases
Legal Stuff	Copyright, Liability and Trademarks
Releases	What has changed
Thanks	Do not forget to read this
Author	If you want to contact me

1.2 ImageDeskE.guide/M1_INTRD

Introduction

ImageDesk is a program to catalog graphics archives by generating small representations of pictures, so called thumbnails. Those thumbnails are internally being expanded into objects which include all essential data of its represented picture. These can be combined into loadable and savable thumbnail catalogs in which XPK compression is supported to reduce memory consumption on storage medias. The catalogs are directory orientated, this means the pictures of all included thumbnails are in the same directory path. the following picture types are supported and will be recognized automatically:

- * IFF ILBM (color mapped, EHB, HAM, HAM8, DEEP, DCOL)
- * GIF (87a, 89a)
- * JPEG (1)
- * PCX (1 bit upto 32 bit)
- * BMP (4,8 and 24 bit, OS/2 and Windows formats, unpacked only)
- * PCD (upto BASE size)
- * PNM (P4, P5 und P6)
- * TARGA
- * Amiga DATATYPES (picture class)

The corresponding picture of a thumbnail object can be shown if requested. Therefore two internal viewers, the window and the screen viewer, exist for each internal supported format. The latter are able to view Images on CyberGraphics, Picasso or standard 8 bit screens, but it is also possible to specify external viewers or AREXX programs which ImageDesk will call on demand.

----- Footnotes -----

(1) ImageDesk needs the "Tower JPEG Codec Class" from Christoph Feck for its JPEG support.

1.3 ImageDeskE.guide/M2_REQUI

System Requirements

To figure a thumbnail image on the desk, ImageDesk needs an Intuition Screen with 256 colors. Hence the minimum requirements of Kickstart version is 3.0 (V39) or higher, and of the graphics hardware the

ability to provide 8-bit Intuition screens.

This distribution contains two versions of ImageDesk. One is compiled for standard systems with a 68000 CPU, the other version has been optimized for 68020 processors, but should run on 030 and 040 systems too. A coprocessor is not required (ImageDesk makes no use of floating point arithmetic).

In quiet state the program allocates about 1MB of system memory, but during loading or generating catalogs the memory consumption will increase drastically. For calculating the thumbnail images it is necessary to extend all pixel data to a bitdepth of 24, additionally catalogs are being held in a buffer, therefore at least 4MB of continuous memory is recommended.

1.4 ImageDeskE.guide/M3_INSTL

Installation

The installation procedure is handled completely by the Installer. You just have to double-click one of the Install.Deutsch or Install.English icons in the ImageDesk drawer.

To install the "Tower JPEG Codec Class" (which is necessary for ImageDesk's JPEG support) just double-click the Install icon in the JPEG Codec drawer. If the JFIF DataType by Christoph Feck has been installed already, It is not necessary to do this installation procedure.

1.5 ImageDeskE.guide/M4_FASTE

Quick Start

ImageDesk can be started from the Shell, or from the WorkBench. In both cases the same arguments and tooltypes are supported.

PREFS=<FileName>

ImageDesk opens the prefs file <FileName>

CATFILE=<FileName>

ImageDesk opens the catalog <FileName> immediately after the ImageDesk startup

REXXFILE=<FileName>

ImageDesk executes the AREXX program <FileName> immediately after the ImageDesk startup

LOGFILE=<FileName>

ImageDesk creates an error report file

TEMPFILE=<FileName>

Specifies the name for temporary files (default:
"T:ImageDesk.temp")

VILLAGEMODE

For Picasso users with CyberGraphics drivers installed: ImageDesk starts in Village mode (normally not required).

If no prefs file was specified, ImageDesk will look for the file ImageDesk.idprefs in the program directory. Should no valid prefs file be found, ImageDesk asks via requester for the screen and font to be used. If it gets all required resources, the screen will be opened and all available functions will be accessible by the menu (and partly by hotkeys too).

Menu Project

.....

New (<R-Amiga>+<N>)

First of all a requester asks for path and pattern of files to be processed. If this requester is confirmed positively ImageDesk closes the current catalog buffer, opens a new one, generates a thumbnail object for all selected and supported images, adds it to the new buffer, and lets it appear on the desk.

Open (<R-Amiga>+<O>)

Opens a requester which allows you to select a formerly generated catalog file. An already opened catalog buffer will be closed first.

Close (<R-Amiga>+<C>)

If a catalog buffer is active it will be closed and its memory will be freed.

Save as... (<R-Amiga>+<S>)

Saves the current catalog buffer into one single file. You will be prompted for a file name by a requester.

Generate Catalog (<R-Amiga>+<G>)

Similar to New, but additionally you will be prompted for the file name the catalog file will get because the catalog will be saved immediately. In opposition to New, the catalog can be split into more partitions if necessary.

Execute Arexx (<R-Amiga>+<X>)

Executes the AREXX script selected in a file requester.

Information (<R-Amiga>+<I>)

Informs you about the current program state.

About

No comment.

Quit (<R-Amiga>+<Q>)

Quits ImageDesk after a confirmation request.

Menu Edit Buffer

.....

Add Thumbnail (<R-Amiga>+<H>)

Asks for a file name of a picture, generates a thumbnail and adds it to the catalog buffer.

Add Multiple (<R-Amiga>+<U>)

Asks for a pattern to specify files, generates thumbnails and adds them to the catalog buffer.

Remove Entries... (<R-Amiga>+<E>)

Opens a window where the entries of the catalog buffer can be selected for removal.

Change Picture Path (<R-Amiga>+<&>)

Changes path for the catalog buffer's pictures. The new path will be asked by a requester.

Update >>

Completely (<R-Amiga>+<K>)

Tries to update the catalog buffer completely.

Only Add New (<R-Amiga>+<F>)

Tries to add new thumbnails for uncataloged pictures.

Only Remove Exceeded (<R-Amiga>+<J>)

Removes all thumbnails which corresponding pictures do not exist anymore.

Menu Edit Page

.....

Redraw (<R-Amiga>+<W>)

Redraws the screen, unbuffered thumbnails will be lost.

Add Thumbnail (<R-Amiga>+<A>)

A single picture thumbnail object will be created and added to the current screen page. It will not be included in the catalog buffer.

Remove Thumbnail (<R-Amiga>+<R>)

The next selected thumbnail object will be removed from the desk.

Clean Whole Desk (<R-Amiga>+<D>)

After an optional confirmation request, all of the thumbnail objects on the desk will be removed.

Mark & Delete (<R-Amiga>+<M>)

First of all the thumbnail objects to be removed have to be marked by a mouse click. If this menu item is selected again all marked Thumbnails will be removed from the desk.

Menu Navigate

.....

Next Page (<Cursor right>)

Turns to the next screen page within the catalog buffer.

Next Page (<Cursor left>)

Turns to the previous screen page within the catalog buffer.

Up One Row (<Cursor up>)

Scrolls up a row within the catalog buffer.

Down One Row (<Cursor down>)

Scrolls down a row within the catalog buffer.

Select Range... (<R-Amiga>+<L>)

Opens a special requester which enables you to select a range within the catalog buffer. All thumbnails in this range will then be shown.

Catalog Browser... (<R-Amiga>+)

The catalog browser provides a quick overview of a catalog. Besides the thumbnail image, all available data of the corresponding pictures will be displayed.

Menu View Images

.....

Single File (<R-Amiga>+<V>)

Views a choosen picture if its format is known by ImageDesk.

Path Contents (<R-Amiga>+<P>)

Works like Single File, but every file name which visible in the file requester will be processed.

Selected Thumbnails (<R-Amiga>+<T>)

First of all, the desired thumbnail objects have to be marked by a single click on its image, after that this menu item needs to be selected again. Now all pictures which belong to the marked objects will be viewed one by one.

Menu Preferences

.....

System Prefs (<R-Amiga>+<?>)

Opens a window for changing the system preference settings.

Viewer Prefs (<R-Amiga>+<!>)

Opens a window for changing the viewer preference settings.

Thumbnail Prefs (<R-Amiga>+<=>)

Opens a window for changing the thumbnail preference settings.

Confirmation Requests (<R-Amiga>+<, >)

Determinse if the user should be asked before doing things like closing the catalog buffer or removing thumbnails.

Hide Statusbar (<R-Amiga>+<.>)

Should the statusbar be hidden or visible.

Hide Title (<R-Amiga>+<#>)

Should the screen title be hidden or visible.

Load Prefs (<R-Amiga>+<Y>)

Load in other preference files.

Save Prefs (<R-Amiga>+<Z>)

Saves the current preference settings.

Reset to defaults

Overrides the current preference settings, and uses default values. Screen size and font will be asked for by a requester.

1.6 ImageDeskE.guide/M5_TOUSE

Usage in general

Program concept	Thumbnail objects, catalogs ...
Starting ImageDesk	Stack size, tooltypes ...
Configure ImageDesk	Adjust to your own requirements
Menu	The menu structure
Restrictions	...of the unregistered version
Hints on usage	Tips and hints

1.7 ImageDeskE.guide/M50

Program concept

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This section should illustrate how ImageDesk handles things internally, and should explain some concepts to avoid misunderstandings.

As already described in the Introduction section, ImageDesk creates small images from picture files which are commonly known as thumbnails. The image of a thumbnail and some essential data of the original picture, are grouped together into a data compound which will henceforth be called a thumbnail object.

Several thumbnail objects can be summarized into thumbnail catalogs. Once generated, such catalogs can be loaded or saved at any time. Sometimes the thumbnail objects of a catalog will be called catalog entries.

To limit the memory consumption, and to simplify the administration, a catalog has some restrictions

- All thumbnail entries will have the same basic size for width and height.

- The catalogs are directory oriented. This means a catalog may only have entries whose original pictures are stored in the same directory.

ImageDesk holds loaded or generated catalogs in the catalog buffer. Starting with ImageDesk 3.0, the thumbnails of a buffered catalog will be organized dynamically and automatically be sorted. Such a catalog buffer may be edited (adding and removing entries or updating the catalog) and saved afterwards.

Remark: During the generation of catalogs You won't see the the thumbnails immediately sorted on the screen. But when the generation has finished, the thumbnails will be redrawn sorted.

The visible thumbnails may be originated from pictures of various directories and there is no direct coherention of visible thumbnails and the catalog buffer. Therefore ImageDesk has no possibility to save all visible thumbnails into a catalog.

1.8 ImageDeskE.guide/M51

Starting Imagedesk

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Due to my experiences, the stacksize is not growing much higher than 2KB. Therefore the default size of 4096 Bytes will be sufficient in most cases. If you work mainly with images much wider than 1000 pixels it is recommended that you increase the stacksize to 8KB.

ImageDesk could be started from a shell or by Workbench. Currently there are five arguments and tooltypes, resp., allowed:

PREFS=<FileName>

ImageDesk tries to load the prefs file <FileName> at the startup. If this file could not be found or if it is not a valid ImageDesk prefs file, default values will be used. Prefs files created with ImageDesk 1.3 or older are not supported any longer.

CATFILE=<FileName>

ImageDesk opens the catalog file <FileName> immediately after starting up.

REXXFILE=<FileName>

ImageDesk executes the AREXX program <FileName> immediately after starting up.

LOGFILE=<FileName>

While ImageDesk generates thumbnail catalogs it does not allow requesters to pop up. To get informed about which files haven't been processed, ImageDesk optionally creates an error report. This report is in an ASCII text file and will be saved as <FileName>.

Tip: This file may also be a console window.

TEMPFILE=<FileName>

When ImageDesk uses datatypes, it requires a temporary file to save this datatypes object as an IFF picture. By default its file name is T:ImageDesk.temp. But if your system has not much memory, it is recommended not to use T: for the path of this file. In this case you'd better redirect this path into one of your harddisk partitions.

VILLAGEMODE

(for usage with a picasso graphics board only) If the CyberGraphics software is installed on the system, ImageDesk will use it for its special screens in 8/15/16 or 24 bitdepth by default. if VILLAGEMODE is set, it will try to use the emulated Picasso drivers instead. Should be ignored in most cases.

If no configuration file has been specified at programstart, ImageDesk will try to find the file ImageDesk.idprefs in the program directory. The first time you start ImageDesk it won't, of course, find a configuration file. In this case ImageDesk reports about it, and you will be asked for screen mode and screen font. The other values will be set to defaults. Before exiting ImageDesk asks you for saving the last used preference settings. If ImageDesk is started the first time, it is recommended to set all the preferences values to your own requirements by selecting the menu items System Prefs, Viewer Prefs, and Thumbnail Prefs (see also Configuration).

1.9 ImageDeskE.guide/M52

Configuration

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The configuration adjustments in ImageDesk have been splitted in three major groups:

- * System preferences
- * Viewer preferences
- * Thumbnail preferences

Therefore, three preferences windows are available:

System Prefs
Viewer Prefs
Thumbnail Prefs

1.10 ImageDeskE.guide/M521

System Prefs

The valid screen mode data is displayed in the frame titled Screen. A mouse click on the ?-button opens a screen mode requester where a new screen mode can be selected. It is also possible to choose higher values for width and height than the screen's visible sizes. In this case it will be opened as an autoscroll screen.

The frame titled Font can be handled the same way. Here, the font for the screen and the windows of ImageDesk is displayed and can be changed.

Caution: If screen mode or font has been changed and you leave this window by pressing the USE or SAVE button, all unbuffered thumbnail objects will be lost.

The third framed area of this window groups some gadgets where you can choose the XPK mode to use, an encryption password if supported, and specify the efficiency of packing. If XPK is not installed these gadgets are disabled.

Other preference gadgets which could not be classified to a specific group are:

Save Project Icons

This gadget determines if an icon should be created for each generated catalog file. Creating project icons for each catalog file has a big advantage. Later, it is possible to start ImageDesk and load a catalog file with a single mouse click.

Use Datatypes

If activated, ImageDesk tries to read all unrecognized files with the help of datatypes.

Use XPK for Catalogs

This gadget is displayed disabled if XPK has not been installed. Otherwise, it determines if XPK is used for saving catalog files.

Print Execution Command

This Gadget is significant if external viewers are used. If it is selected, the executed command will be printed in the output window.

Default Action

This cycle gadget determines what happens if a thumbnail object has been clicked. Possible choices are:

- View Image - Views the corresponding image immediately.
 - Execute AREXX - Runs an AREXX script, specified in Default AREXX Script. The script will receive file name, image type of the original picture and the position on the screen.
 - Requester - An information window opens which shows all essential attributes of the image represented by the clicked
-

thumbnail object:

- * File name of the original image
- * Path of the file
- * Type of the image (IFF, JPEG, GIF...)
- * Image width in pixels
- * Image height in pixels
- * Original bitdepth of the image
- * Does the image file contain a color palette

Clicking the button Very Interesting will close the window and nothing else will happen. The buttons View Image and Execute AREXX will operate as described above.

Default AREXX Script

This string gadget is used to specify the AREXX script which has to be executed if Default Action is set to Execute AREXX. Clicking the ?-button opens a file requester for choosing the script name.

Output Window

Here the string for specifying the attributes of the external viewer console window has to be edited. It is very important for this string to contain SCREEN=IMAGEDESK at the end. Otherwise, this console window won't open on ImageDesk's screen.

Max. entries per catalog

This is a slider gadget which allows you to change the entry limit of the catalog files. If a scanned directory contains more entries than specified here, enough catalog files will be generated as necessary to store all of its thumbnails. Should more than one catalog file be used for a single scan, the files will be numbered and its filename will get this number as a file name extension.

There are four additional buttons, horizontally spreaded at the bottom of the window:

Save

The current configuration will be saved, the window is closed, and the changed values will be used in ImageDesk.

Use

The edited configuration is used immediately and the window is closed.

Load

You will be prompted in a filerequestor for a prefs file which is loaded afterwards. The window remains open to let the user make further changes to the loaded prefs.

Cancel

The window is closed, all changes will be dismissed.

1.11 ImageDeskE.guide/M522

Viewer Prefs

This window is used to select which viewer is used for each supported image format. To select, click on one radio button for custom screen, external or window.

Remarks:

- * If the 'Tower JPEG Codec' has not been installed, the corresponding buttons are disabled.
- * There are no prefs for a datatypes viewer because such readed images will be convertet into IFFs. Therefore the IFF-prefs are also valid for images readed with the help of datatypes.

To specify an external viewer, you have to type the viewer name and the arguments you want to use. Instead of a file name type %s. A small example:

Suppose you want to use the picture viewer called GigaView and usally you would call this viewer by typing:

```
GigaView <FileName> SCREENBEHIND
```

In the corresponding gadget you would have to type the following string:

```
GigaView %s SCREENBEHIND
```

Caution: you have to use the whole path instead of the viewer name only. Otherwise ImageDesk may not find it.

The preferences in the framed area named Internal Viewer Prefs are meaningless for external viewers and partly meaningless for most image formats.

Display Screens

With this cycle gadget you tell ImageDesk how to determine the custom screens for displaying the images.

- autoscreen - ImageDesk tries to find optimal values for screen mode and screen size by itself.
- requester - Everytime an image has to be displayed, the user will be asked for a screen mode by a requester.
- global - Fixed screen IDs will be used. The user is responsible for Global CLUT Screen and Global DCOL Screen to have valid values.

Display Size

Which size the images should be displayed in is set here. These values are meaningless for the external viewers.

- original - The image will be displayed in original size.
- small - The image will be displayed in half the hight and half the width.
- tiny - The image will be displayed in a quarter the hight and a quarter the width. Caution: The values in Display Size are only meaningful for the image formats PCD and JPEG.

Orientation

These adjustments will cause the following:

- Auto - Tries to find out the orientation by itself.
- Force Landscape - PCD only: Displays images in landscape mode.
- Force Portrait - PCD only: Displays images in portrait mode.
- Upside Down - Displays images mirrored to the x-axxis.
- Left to Right - PCD only: Displays images mirrored to the y-axxis.

Global CLUT Screen

After clicking on the ?-button a screen requester appears where you have to choose an 8-bit screen. This selected screen mode is used for displaying all images containing up to 256 colors. This setting is only significant if Display Screens is set to global.

Global DCOL Screen

Same as Global CLUT Screen, with the difference that a screen mode for all images containing more than 256 colors has to be choosen.

Remark: it is quite possible to choose an 8-bit screen mode, but the display quality will be not very satisfying.

Dither 8-Bit Displays

If this gadget is checked, the images in 8 bit illustration (this is valid for the window viewers and for the 8-bit screen viewers) are displayed dithered. This improves the display quality of the image, but slows down the procedure a bit. Only images which contain more than 256 colors will be dithered. This means all 15/16/24/32 bit pictures and HAM images.

Use Original Palette

If checked, this gadget says that the window viewers will use the original color palette of the pictures. Therefore, it is meaningful for images which only contain up to 256 colors. If 'Use Original Palette' is activated, ImageDesk temporarily switches its palette to the one of the picture. This will cause a somewhat strange looking user interface but it will decrease the the time for building up an image dramatically and will avoid quality losses. In the other case the image will be converted to 24-bit RGB row by row and scaled to 8-bit RGB, afterwards (for the

insiders: RRRGGGBB).

SuperBitMap Window

If checked the Window viewer opens its Window as a "SuperBitmapWindow". The SuperBitmap window has the advantage that the picture is visible during reading, but it needs much more system resources and causes scrolling problems on CyberGfx screens.

Delay

The maximum duration time an image has to be displayed (in 1/10 seconds). After all, the display could be closed at any time (any keystroke or mouse button when screen viewers are used, ESC-key or CloseGadget when the Window viewers are used).

The four additional buttons SAVE, USE, LOAD and CANCEL have the same meaning as they have in the System Prefs window.

1.12 ImageDeskE.guide/M523

Thumbnail Prefs

In this window it has to be choosen how the thumbnail objects have to be presented or rendered.

The upper three gadgets are responsible for the font which is used for printing the file name below a thumbnail image (if desired). This font has to be selected the same way as described in System Prefs.

The next four gadgets have the following meaning:

Show File Names

If selected, file names will be displayed below the thumbnail images.

HiQuality

This switch is just relevant for the formats PCD and JPEG. If it is activated the original images will be used for calculating the thumbnail images instead of reading them in already scaled.

Remark: HiQuality requires much more memory and rendering time while calculating thumbnail images for the above mentioned formats.

Dither Method

Since ImageDesk has to deal with a limited number of colors, the thumbnail images are not always in the best quality, especially if the images contain fine colour runs. If FLOYD or ORDERED has been selected in this cycle gadget, a bigger colorspace is simulated by the use of dithering. However, using dithering does not always result in a better quality of the thumbnail images, as the pixelspace is too small to cheat the eyes perfectly.

Thumbnail Size

This cycle gadget determines the basic size of the thumbnails.

Remark: For performance and quality reasons the thumbnail images won't always get exactly the specified size.

The four additional buttons SAVE, USE, LOAD and CANCEL have the same meaning as they have in the other prefs windows.

Caution: If you have made changes in this window, it may be necessary to remove all active thumbnail objects from the screen. Otherwise all changes will be dismissed.

1.13 ImageDeskE.guide/M53

Menu

====

```

Project
    Edit Buffer
        Edit Page
            Navigate
                View Images
                    Preferences

```

1.14 ImageDeskE.guide/M531

Project

```

New                A N
Open               A O
Close              A C
Save as...         A S
~~~~~
Generate Catalog  A G
~~~~~
Execute Arexx      A X
~~~~~
Information        A I
About...
~~~~~
Quit               A Q

```

1.15 ImageDeskE.guide/M5311

New

...

First of all a requester asks for path and pattern of files to be processed. If this requester is confirmed positively, ImageDesk closes the current catalog buffer and opens a new one. After that it generates a thumbnail object for all selected and supported images, adds it to the new buffer and lets it appear on the desk.

1.16 ImageDeskE.guide/M5312

Open

....

An ImageDesk catalog file will be loaded into a new catalog buffer if the selected file is identified as a correct catalog. A formerly opened catalog buffer will be closed before the new one is opened.

1.17 ImageDeskE.guide/M5313

Close

.....

If there is an active catalog buffer it will be closed after a optional confirmation request. Its allocated system memory will be freed.

1.18 ImageDeskE.guide/M5314

Save as...

.....

Saves the current catalog buffer into one single file. You will be prompted for a file name by a requester. It takes care of the XPK Prefs, but ignores the value in max. entries per catalog.

1.19 ImageDeskE.guide/M5315

Generate Catalog

.....

This menu item branches into two subitems:

- * Show Thumbnails - First a file name is requested for the catalog file to be generated. After this another requester opens where path and pattern for the picture files can be chosen. Any additionally selected files will be ignored. If the OK-button has been pressed, ImageDesk starts to examine all of the files listed in the requester for being in a supported format. In each case in which they are a supported format, a thumbnail object will be generated which appears as an intuition gadget on the screen and which will be added to the catalog buffer.
- * Hidden - Acts exactly like Show Thumbnails, but the generated thumbnail images won't appear on the desk.

The process monitor which appears during the generation process helps by estimating the current state of the procedure. To stop the thumbnail generation, press the ESC-key and it will be interrupted on the next possible point of time. Generate Catalog takes care of the XPK Prefs and max. entries per catalog in System Prefs.

Remark: If the generation process has been interrupted, all former generated objects will be saved correctly.

1.20 ImageDeskE.guide/M5316

Execute Arexx

.....

Executes an Arexx script which has to be selected by a file requester

1.21 ImageDeskE.guide/M5317

Information

.....

Opens a information window which tells:

- * Name of the public screen
 - * Name of the AREXX port
 - * Graphics board mode
 - * Currently valid thumbnail sizes
 - * Available memory
 - * Thumbnail deskpace
 - * Number of thumbnail objects used
-

1.22 ImageDeskE.guide/M5318

About

.....

Opens a information window which tells about program version, author and wether you are a registered user.

1.23 ImageDeskE.guide/M5319

Quit

....

Exits ImageDesk after a confirmation request. The current preference settings can be saved before you exit.

1.24 ImageDeskE.guide/M532

Edit Buffer

Add Thumbnail	A H
Add Multiple	A U
Remove Entries...	A E
Change Picture Path	A &
Update	>>

1.25 ImageDeskE.guide/M5321

Add Thumbnail

.....

Adds a thumbnail object to the catalog buffer which has to be selected in a file requester. The path for the images is given and cannot be changed.

1.26 ImageDeskE.guide/M5322

Add Multiple

.....

Several picture files can be choosen by specifying a search pattern in

the file requester. The path for the images is given and cannot be changed.

1.27 ImageDeskE.guide/M5323

Remove Entries...
.....

Opens a window which lists all entries of the catalog buffer and shows the selected thumbnail. Every listed entry can be removed from the buffer.

1.28 ImageDeskE.guide/M5324

Change Picture Path
.....

If the path of cataloged pictures has changed, it has to be changed in the catalog, too. Former it was necessary to use CATChPath for this job. Now ImageDesk can do it internally.

If this menu item has been selected, a requester appears in which you have to choose the new path. After the selection, ImageDesk changes the picture path of the current catalog buffer to your selection. All visible thumbnail-objects will be redrawn afterwards to apply this patch change to them, too. unbuffered thumbnails will be lost.

1.29 ImageDeskE.guide/M5325

Update
.....

Completely	A K
Only Add New	A F
Only Remove Exceeded	A J

1.30 ImageDeskE.guide/M53251

Completely
.....

Tries automatically to do a complete update of the catalog buffer. It

will be tested if there are uncataloged images in the picture directory and then generates thumbnail objects for them. Besides this, every catalog entry will be checked if its corresponding picture still exists. If not the thumbnail will be removed.

1.31 ImageDeskE.guide/M53252

Only Add New
.....

Tries to find all uncataloged files of the picture directory and to generate thumbnail objects for them which will be added to the catalog buffer.

1.32 ImageDeskE.guide/M53253

Only Remove Exceeded
.....

Removes thumbnail objects from the catalog buffer which corresponding pictures does not exist anymore.

1.33 ImageDeskE.guide/M533

Edit Page

The menu items contained here serve for adding or removing thumbnail objects from the desk. It will not have any effects on the catalog buffer.

Redraw	A W
Add Thumbnail	A A
Remove Thumbnail	A R
Clean Whole Desk	A D
Mark & Delete	A M

1.34 ImageDeskE.guide/M5330

Redraw
.....

The current Page will be fully redrawn. All unbuffered thumbnails will be lost.

1.35 ImageDeskE.guide/M5331

Add Thumbnail
.....

A file name for a picture is requested and a thumbnail object will be generated for it on the desk.

1.36 ImageDeskE.guide/M5332

Remove Thumbnail
.....

The thumbnail object selected next will be removed from the desk.

1.37 ImageDeskE.guide/M5333

Clean Whole Desk
.....

All thumbnail objects will be removed from the desk. Depending on the current preferences a confirmation request is made before the operation is performed.

1.38 ImageDeskE.guide/M5334

Mark & Delete
.....

First of all, ImageDesk turns into a marking mode. You will be prompted to mark all thumbnail objects you want to remove by clicking them with the mouse. ImageDesk confirms this by rendering a frame around the object. At this point of time it is still possible to unmark selected objects by clicking them again. If the marking procedure is finished this menu item has to be chosen again and all marked objects will be removed.

1.39 ImageDeskE.guide/M534

Navigate

Next Page (Cursor right)
Previous Page (Cursor left)
Up One Row (Cursor up)
Down One Row (Cursor down)

~~~~~

Select Range... A L

~~~~~

Catalog Browser A B

1.40 ImageDeskE.guide/M5341

Next Page

.....

Turns to the next screen page within the catalog buffer.

1.41 ImageDeskE.guide/M5342

Previous Page

.....

Turns to the previous screen page within the catalog buffer.

1.42 ImageDeskE.guide/M5343

Up One Row

Scrolls up the buffered thumbnails one row.

1.43 ImageDeskE.guide/M5344

Down One Row

Scrolls down the buffered thumbnails one row.

1.44 ImageDeskE.guide/M5345

Select Range...

.....

Opens a special requester which enables you to select a range within the catalog buffer. All thumbnails of this range will be shown afterwards.

1.45 ImageDeskE.guide/M5346

Catalog Browser

.....

The Catalog Browser provides a quick overview of a catalog. It makes no use of the catalog buffer so it asks for a catalog file before opening its window. This window shows the global catalog data in the upper area:

- * catalog name
- * number of entries
- * basic thumbnail sizes
- * directory path of the images

In the middle part of the window the thumbnails image is figured on the left side. next to it the data of the current thumbnails is shown:

- * picture name
- * picture type
- * picture height, width, depth
- * colortable information

On the right side a listview gadget is located in which all available thumbnail entries are listed. Switching to another thumbnail is either possible by clicking it with the mouse button or by using the cursor keys.

Bellow this five buttons are located:

- * Load New - Loads a new catalog into the browser
 - * To Desk - Copies the current thumbnail to the desk
 - * View Image - Views the corresponding picture of the current thumbnail
 - * AREXX - Calls the Default AREXX Script
-

* Close - leaves the browser window

1.46 ImageDeskE.guide/M535

View Images

The menu items contained here serve for viewing pictures. The adjustments made in the Viewer Prefs are responsible for the viewers behavior. All internal viewers can be interrupted at any time by pressing the <ESC>-Key.

Single File	A V
Path Contents	A P
Selected Thumbnails	A T

1.47 ImageDeskE.guide/M5351

Single File

.....

You will be prompted for a file name of an image file. If it is a supported type it will be displayed.

1.48 ImageDeskE.guide/M5352

Path Contents

.....

Acts like Single File, but all files shown in the filerequester's listview will be processed. During this procedure, a process monitor is present in order to inform you about the current process state. To interrupt it ESC-key.

1.49 ImageDeskE.guide/M5353

Selected Thumbnails

.....

First of all, ImageDesk turns into a marking mode. You will be prompted to mark all thumbnail objects you want by clicking them with

the mouse. ImageDesk confirms this by rendering a frame around the object. At this point of time it is still possible to unmark selected objects by clicking them again. If the marking procedure is finished this menu item has to be choosen again and all images which belong to the marked objects will be displayed one by one.

1.50 ImageDeskE.guide/M536

Preferences

```

System Prefs          A ?
Viewer Prefs          A !
Thumbnail Prefs       A =
~~~~~
Confirmation Requests A ,
Hide Statusbar        A .
Hide Title            A #
~~~~~
Load Prefs            A Y
Save Prefs            A Z
~~~~~
Reset to defaults

```

1.51 ImageDeskE.guide/M5361

System Prefs

.....

Opens the window for changing the system preferences (see also System Prefs in Configuration).

1.52 ImageDeskE.guide/M5362

Viewer Prefs

.....

Opens the window for changing the viewer preferences (see also Viewer Prefs in Configuration).

1.53 ImageDeskE.guide/M5363

Thumbnail Prefs
.....

Opens the window for changing the thumbnail preferences (see also
ThumbNail Prefs in Configuration).

1.54 ImageDeskE.guide/M5364

Confirmation Requests
.....

If this item is checked, everytime a Clean Whole Desk operation is made
or the catalog buffer has to be closed, the user will be prompted for
confirmation before it occurs (ignored during thumbnail generation).

1.55 ImageDeskE.guide/M5365

Hide Statusbar
.....

Wether a status line at the bottom of the screen should be hidden or
visible.

1.56 ImageDeskE.guide/M5366

Hide Title
.....

Wether the screen title should be hidden or visible.

1.57 ImageDeskE.guide/M5367

Load Prefs
.....

This menu item serves for loading a formerly saved configuration. The
file name for the prefs file will be asked for by a requester.

1.58 ImageDeskE.guide/M5368

Save Prefs
.....

You will be prompted for a file name which will be used for saving the current configuration.

1.59 ImageDeskE.guide/M5369

Reset to defaults
.....

The current configuration will be replaced by the default values. Screen mode and font will be asked for by requester.

1.60 ImageDeskE.guide/M54

Restrictions
=====

Without a personal key file, ImageDesk does not offer its whole functionality. The restrictions in particular:

- * Sometimes a NervRequester will appear.
- * The generation of catalogs is limited to 39 entries.
- * ImageDesk reads 38 thumbnail entries per catalog at most.
- * The funtction Save as... is disabled.
- * Updating catalogs is disabled.
- * The catalog tool CATJoin won't work without a key file.

You can read about how to get a personal key file in How to Register.

1.61 ImageDeskE.guide/M55

Hints on usage
=====

Memory shortages

Starting with ImageDesk 2.0 catalogs will be held in memory, which is the basis for a quick turn over of screen pages. This additionally memory consumption may cause memory shortages on lower equipped systems. In this case the first step should be to redirect ImageDesk's temporary file to a device which doesn't use system memory (see also Tooltypes).

Also avoid large catalog buffers. The system prefs setting max. entries per catalog will help you on this.

Renounce using XPK when saving or generating catalogs. ImageDesk 3.0 handles its catalog buffer in another way than older versions. When using XPK compression, this makes it necessary to occupy a second temporary catalog buffer with the same size as the original catalog buffer. To compress saved catalogs you can alternately use the tool CATREPACK afterwards.

Using XPK

If you have enough memory, it is recommended to use XPK compression for saving catalogs. The files will be shrunk to 35% of their original size on the average. This shrink factor may be brought down to 25% if certain XPK mode and efficiency have been chosen. Furthermore, XPK provides password protection for catalog files. Yet for all, that it has to be considered, your password is stored unencrypted in the prefs file and could be read by anyone who has access to the computer system. The following XPK methods are very useful.

- SHRI - provides very high packing rates
- RDCN - provides very fast packing
- MASH - provides quick packing with high rates

Caution: Don't use xpack for packing or repacking catalog files, ImageDesk won't be able to read them then. Use CATRepack instead.

Datatypes

It is possible to renounce on datatypes support (see System Prefs). If you only work with images, ImageDesk recognizes internally it is even recommended because it speeds up ImageDesk a bit.

Besides this, Datatypes support has the side-effect that undesired files like icons or fonts also will be cataloged if the corresponding datatype is installed.

Online Help

ImageDesk does not support an internal online help function, but this could be done external very simply:

check the tooltypes in the icon of the hypertext document ImageDesk.guide. If it has not been done before, set a tooltype

variable to PUBSCREEN=IMAGEDESK.

If you need help after ImageDesk has been started you have to switch to the Workbench Screen (<Left-Amiga>+<m>) and double-click the icon ImageDesk.guide.

ImageDesk Windows

Everytime the current configuration is saved, the size and position of certain ImageDesk windows are saved with it. The last used positions and sizes will be stored here. If the font or screen size has changed in the meantime it may be necessary to override these values for opening the windows properly.

Screen Colors

ImageDesk uses an optimized color palette. 255 out of 256 possible colors are reserved for figuring the thumbnail images. Therefore it is not possible to let the user choose custom colors for ImageDesk's user interface. Another consequence of this fixed palette are the unusual colors the mouse pointer will get.

PCD support

The PCD support in ImageDesk is just rudimentary, because there is no public PCD documentation available. A licence is very expensive and just affordable for commercial developers.

All used information on the PCD format, I got from studying pertinent source codes or I found out by myself. If you want to have a more professional Photo CD(TM) support you should consider buying commercial product. Thereby you'll get access to the larger formats 1536x1024, 3072x2048 (and even bigger) and to image converting and processing functions.

Changing the default project icon

If you don't like the icons generated by ImageDesk (maybe you need 'MagicWB'-style icons), you just have to change the icon named ID_DefProjIcon(.info). This could be done with pertinent icon tools e.g. IconEd. But you should consider not changing the icon's attributes and also not to fix them.

1.62 ImageDeskE.guide/M6_AREXX

AREXX Port

Miscellaneous

Conventions

Command references

1.63 ImageDeskE.guide/M61

Miscellaneous

=====

Since version 1.5 ImageDesk consists of an AREXX port. Such an AREXX port has several advantages.

- ImageDesk can be controlled by a script file
- ImageDesk is able to communicate with other programs
- ImageDesk can be controlled by other programs
- It is possible to extend ImageDesks command set

There are several possibilities for starting ImageDesk AREXX scripts.

- a. By executing the AmigaDos command "rx <Scriptfile>" in the command line
- b. Immediately on program start by using ImageDesk's command line arguments (ImageDesk R=<Scriptfile>)
- c. Immediately on program start by using ImageDesk's tooltypes (REXX=<Scriptfile>)
- d. By selecting the menu item "Execute AREXX" in the menu "Project"
- e. By clicking into a thumbnail object (if selected in System Prefs)
- f. By clicking the AREXX button in the Catalog Browser

1.64 ImageDeskE.guide/M62

Conventions

=====

Each AREXX script for ImageDesk which has been started by a) to d) has to begin with the following lines:

```
/* ----- standard startup ----- */

OPTIONS RESULTS
```

```
if ( ADDRESS() ~= "IDESK_REXXPORT" ) then
    ADDRESS IDESK_REXXPORT
```

```
/* ----- */
```

AREXX scripts which are thought to be executed on thumbnail click will receive three arguments from ImageDesk.

- * file name of the corresponding image
- * image type (IFF, GIF, JPG, PCX, BMP, PCD, PNM or TGA)
- * a position number

Therefore those AREXX programs should begin like this:

```
/* ---- standard startup II (if started via thumbnail click) ---- */
```

```
OPTIONS RESULTS
```

```
PARSE ARG iname itype thpos
```

```
/* ----- */
```

All AREXX commands and keywords if supported have to be in uppercase letters. Up to four arguments are supported. Some of the commands show a different behavior, depending on the number of arguments (for example OPENCAT). Arguments containing spaces have to be quoted. Since AREXX is filtering these quotation marks out of static strings, they have to be forced by embedding the quoted string in `'`'s in this case.

Example

.....

```
OPENCAT 'ram disk:pics.cat'
```

If a string is stored in an AREXX variable the string has to be embedded explicitly in quotation marks.

Example

.....

```
StringVar = "This is a requester"
IDREQUEST OK '||StringVar||'
```

Some of the AREXX commands will return a result string which can be found in the global AREXX variable "RESULT"

Example

.....

```
GETSYSINFO DESKPLACE
deskplace = RESULT
```

In addition to a result string you will get a return code from from the commands. If a command has been executed properly without an error this will be the value 0. If the number of delivered arguments was not

right for a specific command, the return code will be 10. If a command has been canceled by the user or an error occurred, you will get a return code of 5. The return code can be requested through the global AREXX variable "RC"

Example

.....

```
IDGETFILE "Select a file"
if RC > 0 then exit /* User has chosen "cancel" */
filename = RESULT
```

Boolean values have to be made available as one of the strings "TRUE" or "FALSE" (uppercase!). Commands which return boolean values, will return them as strings, too.

Example

.....

```
SETVPREFS DITHER TRUE
```

1.65 ImageDeskE.guide/M63

Command references

=====

ABOUTWIN
INFOWIN
SPWIN
VPWIN
TPWIN
IDREQUEST
ERRORMSG
CLEANDESK
VIEWIMAGE
VIEWPATH
LOADPREFS
SAVEPREFS
MAKETHUMBNAIL
GENTHUMBNAILS
DESKTOFRONT
DESKTOBACK
OPENCAT
GENCAT
QUIETGENCAT
IDGETFILE
IDGETPATH
GETSPREFS
SETSPREFS
GETVPREFS
SETVPREFS
GETTPREFS
SETTPREFS

GETSYSINFO
CLOSEBUF
SAVEBUF
NEXTPAGE
PREVPAGE
SELECTRANGE
CATBROWSER
RELOADCAT
REDRAW
GETBUFPOS
REMFROMBUF
REMFROMDESK
GETTHUMBINFO
TERMINATE

1.66 ImageDeskE.guide/M631

ABOUTWIN

Syntax: ABOUTWIN

Description: Opens the "About" window

Result: NULL

Example: ABOUTWIN

1.67 ImageDeskE.guide/M632

INFOWIN

Syntax: INFOWIN

Description: Opens the "Information" window

Result: NULL

Example: INFOWIN

1.68 ImageDeskE.guide/M633

SPWIN

Syntax: SPWIN

Description: Opens the "System Prefs" window

Result: NULL

Example: SPWIN

1.69 ImageDeskE.guide/M634

VPWIN

Syntax: VPWIN

Description: Opens the "Viewer Prefs" window

Result: NULL

Example: VPWIN

1.70 ImageDeskE.guide/M635

TPWIN

Syntax: TPWIN

Description: Opens the "Thumbnail Prefs" window

Result: NULL

Example: TPWIN

1.71 ImageDeskE.guide/M636

IDREQUEST

Syntax: IDREQUEST <Gadget1>|<Gadgeet2>|...|<Gadget0> <Text>

Description: Opens an intuition requester containing the body <Text> and the button texts <Gadget1>, <Gadget2>, ..., <Gadget0>.

Result: Number of selected gadget (1,2,...,0) (Integer).

Example:

IDREQUEST "YES|NO" ' "Do you want to exit?" '


```
if( Result = 1 ) then exit
```

1.72 ImageDeskE.guide/M637

ERRORMSG

Syntax: ERRORMSG <Text>

Description: Opens ImageDesk's standard error requester, containing the error message <Text>.

Result: NULL

Example: ERRORMSG "Last command failed!"

1.73 ImageDeskE.guide/M638

CLEANDesk

Syntax: CLEANDesk

Description: Removes all thumbnail objects from the desk.

Result: NULL

Example: CLEANDesk

1.74 ImageDeskE.guide/M639

VIEWIMAGE

Syntax: VIEWIMAGE [<FileName>]

Description: If <FileName> is given the corresponding image will be displayed. Otherwise you will be prompted for an image file by a file requester.

Result: NULL

Example: VIEWIMAGE

1.75 ImageDeskE.guide/M63A

VIEWPATH

Syntax: VIEWPATH [<Path> [<Pattern>]]

Description: If <Path> and <Pattern> were given all known image files which match the pattern will be displayed. If <Pattern> was not specified the default pattern "#?" will be used. Without any argument you will be prompted for path and pattern by a requester.

Result: NULL

Example: VIEWPATH "work:pics/gif" "#?.gif"

1.76 ImageDeskE.guide/M63B

LOADPREFS

Syntax: LOADPREFS [<FileName>]

Description: Tries to read the configuration file <FileName>. If <FileName> is missing you will be prompted for one by a file requester.

Result: NULL

Example: LOADPREFS "ImageDesk.idprefs"

1.77 ImageDeskE.guide/M63C

SAVEPREFS

Syntax: SAVEPREFS [<FileName>]

Description: Tries to save the current configuration under the name <FileName> if specified. Otherwise you will be requested for a file name.

Result: NULL

Example: SAVEPREFS

1.78 ImageDeskE.guide/M63D

MAKETHUMBNAIL

Syntax: MAKETHUMBNAIL [<FileName>]

Description: Generates a single thumbnail object from the image file <FileName>. If <FileName> is missing you have to select one in a file requester.

Result: NULL

Example: MAKETHUMBNAIL

1.79 ImageDeskE.guide/M63E

GENTHUMBNAILS

Syntax: GENTHUMBNAILS [<Path> [<Pattern>]]

Description: If <Path> and <Pattern> were given for all known image files which match the pattern a thumbnail object will be generated. If <Pattern> was not specified the default pattern "#?" will be used. Without any argument you will be prompted for path and pattern by a requester.

Result: NULL

Example: GENTHUMBNAILS "work:pics/gif" "#?.gif"

1.80 ImageDeskE.guide/M63F

DESKTOFRONT

Syntax: DESKTOFRONT

Description: Switches ImageDesk's screen into front.

Result: NULL

Example: DESKTOFRONT

1.81 ImageDeskE.guide/M63G

DESKTOBACK

Syntax: DESKTOBACK

Description: Switches ImageDesk's screen to back.

Result: NULL

Example: DESKTOBACK

1.82 ImageDeskE.guide/M63H

OPENCAT

Syntax: OPENCAT [<FileName> [<startindex> <num>]]

Description: If a file name was given ImageDesk tries to open a thumbnail catalog file. Otherwise you will be prompted for a file name. If you also specify <startindex> and <num> besides <FileName> only the selected range will be displayed on the screen (although the catalog will be loaded completely into the buffer).

Result: NULL

Example: OPENCAT "work:catalogs/gifpics.cat"

1.83 ImageDeskE.guide/M63I

GENCAT

Syntax: GENCAT [<FileName> [<Path> [<Pattern>]]]

Description: Generates a thumbnail catalog file with the name <FileName> for all known images in <Path> which match the pattern <Pattern>. If <Pattern> was not specified the default pattern "#?" will be used. If GENCAT is called with <FileName> only, ImageDesk asks for path and pattern. Without any argument you will additionally be asked for a file name.

Result: NULL

Example: GENCAT "work:catalogs/gifpics.cat" "work:pics/gif" "#?.gif"

1.84 ImageDeskE.guide/M63J

QUIETGENCAT

Syntax: QUIETGENCAT [<FileName> [<Path> [<Pattern>]]]

Description: Same behavior as GENCAT but QUIETGENCAT will not display the generated thumbnail images on the desk.

Result: NULL

Example: QUIETGENCAT "work:cat/gifpics.cat" "work:pics/gif" "#?.gif"

1.85 ImageDeskE.guide/M63K

IDGETFILE

Syntax: IDGETFILE <Title>

Description: Opens a file requester with the title text <Title>.

Result: Chosen file name or NULL

Example: IDGETFILE ' "Please choose a file" '

1.86 ImageDeskE.guide/M63L

IDGETPATH

Syntax: IDGETPATH <Title>

Description: Opens a path requester with the title text <Title>.

Result: Chosen path or NULL

Example: IDGETPATH ' "Please Choose a path" '

1.87 ImageDeskE.guide/M63M

GETSPREFS

Syntax: GETSPREFS <KeyWord>

Description: Supplies the value of a single system prefs adjustment. The result type depends on <KeyWord>. Valid keywords are:

- PROJECTICONS (-> System Prefs "Save Project Icons")
- PRINTCOMMAND (-> System Prefs "Print Execution Command")
- USEDTYPE (-> System Prefs "Use Datatypes")
- USEXP (-> System Prefs "Use Xpk for Catalogs")
- XPKPACKER (-> System Prefs "Xpk")
- XPKPASSWD (-> System Prefs "Password")
- XPKEFFIC (-> System Prefs "Xpk Efficiency")
- OUTWIN (-> System Prefs "Output Window")
- MAXENTRIES (-> System Prefs "Max Entries per catalog")
- DEFAREXX (-> System Prefs "Default AREXX Script")
- DEFACTION (-> System Prefs "Default Action")
- CONFIRM (-> Menu item "Confirmation Requests")
- STATUSBAR (-> Menu item "Hide Statusbar")
- SHOWTITLE (-> Menu item "Hide Title")

Result: Depends on the keyword

- PROJECTICONS (BOOLEAN)
 - PRINTCOMMAND (BOOLEAN)
 - USEDTYPE (BOOLEAN)
 - USEXP (BOOLEAN)
 - XPKPACKER (STRING)
 - XPKPASSWD (STRING)
 - XPKEFFIC (INTEGER)
 - OUTWIN (STRING)
 - MAXENTRIES (STRING)
 - DEFAREXX (STRING)
 - DEFACTION ("REQ", "VIW" or "REX")
 - CONFIRM (BOOLEAN)
-

- STATUSBAR (BOOLEAN)
- SHOWTITLE (BOOLEAN)

Example: GETSPREFS MAXENTRIES

1.88 ImageDeskE.guide/M63N

SETSPREFS

Syntax: SETSPREFS <KeyWord> <Value>

Description: Sets a single system prefs adjustment to <Value> (see also GETSPREFS). The argument type of <Value> depends on the argument <KeyWord>. Valid keywords are:

- PROJECTICONS (BOOLEAN)
- PRINTCOMMAND (BOOLEAN)
- USEDYPES (BOOLEAN)
- USEXPX (BOOLEAN)
- XPKPACKER (STRING)
- XPKPASSWD (STRING)
- XPKEFFIC (INTEGER)
- OUTWIN (STRING)
- MAXENTRIES (STRING)
- DEFAREXX (STRING)
- DEFACTION ("REQ", "VIW" or "REX")
- CONFIRM (BOOLEAN)
- STATUSBAR (BOOLEAN)
- SHOWTITLE (BOOLEAN)

Result: NULL

Example: SETSPREFS MAXENTRIES 50

1.89 ImageDeskE.guide/M63O

GETVPREFS

Description: Supplies the value of a single viewer prefs adjustment. The result type depends on <KeyWord>. Valid keywords are:

- DSCREENS (-> ViewerPrefs "Display Screens")
- DSIZE (-> ViewerPrefs "Display Size")
- DITHER (-> ViewerPrefs "Dither 8-bit Displays")
- SUPERBM (-> ViewerPrefs "SuperBitMap")
- ORIGPAL (-> ViewerPrefs "Use Original Palette")
- DELAY (-> ViewerPrefs "Delay")
- VIEWERxxx (1) (-> Viewerprefs/MX Gadgets for choosing one of "custom screen", "external" or "window")
- EXTCOMxxx (-> ViewerPrefs/String Gadgets for external viewers)

Result: Depends on the keyword

- DSCREENS ("ASC", "REQ" oder "GLB")
- DSIZE ("ORIGINAL", "SMALL" oder "Tiny")
- DITHER (BOOLEAN)
- SUPERBM (BOOLEAN)
- ORIGPAL (BOOLEAN)
- DELAY (INTEGER)
- VIEWERxxx ("CSC", "EXT" or "WIN")
- EXTCOMxxx (STRING)

Example: GETVPREFS DITHER

----- Footnotes -----

(1) xxx stands for IFF, GIF, JPG, PCX, BMP, PCD, PNM or TGA

1.90 ImageDeskE.guide/M63P

SETVPREFS

Syntax: SETVPREFS <KeyWord> <Value>

Description: Sets a viewer prefs adjustment to <Value> (see also GETVPREFS). The argument type of <Value> depends on the argument <KeyWord>. Valid keywords are:

- DSCREENS ("ASC", "REQ" oder "GLB")
- DSIZE ("ORIGINAL", "SMALL" oder "Tiny")
- DITHER (BOOLEAN)
- SUPERBM (BOOLEAN)
- ORIGPAL (BOOLEAN)
- DELAY (INTEGER)
- VIEWERxxx ("CSC", "EXT" or "WIN")
- EXTCOMxxx (STRING)

Result: NULL

Example: SETVPREFS DSIZE SMALL

1.91 ImageDeskE.guide/M63Q

GETTPREFS

Syntax: GETTPREFS <KeyWord>

Description: Supplies the value of a single thumbnail prefs adjustment. The result type depends on <KeyWord>. Valid keywords are:

- DITHER (-> ThumbnailPrefs "Dither Thumbnail Images")
- SHOWNAMES (-> ThumbnailPrefs "Show File Names")
- HIQUALITY (-> ThumbnailPrefs "HiQuality")
- TSIZE (-> ThumbnailPrefs "Thumbnail Size")

Result: Depends on the keyword

- DITHER ("NONE", "FLOYD" or "ORDERED")
 - SHOWNAMES (BOOLEAN)
 - HIQUALITY (BOOLEAN)
 - TSIZE ("SMALL", "STD", "BIG", "HUGE" or "XLARGE")
-

Example: GETTPREFS DITHER

1.92 ImageDeskE.guide/M63R

SETTPREFS

Syntax: SETTPREFS <KeyWord> <Value>

Description: Sets a thumbnail prefs adjustment to <Value> (see also GETTPREFS). The argument type of <Value> depends on the argument <KeyWord>. Valid keywords are:

- DITHER ("NONE", "FLOYD" or "ORDERED")
- SHOWNAMES (BOOLEAN)
- HIQUALITY (BOOLEAN)
- TSIZE ("SMALL", "STD", "BIG", "HUGE" or "XLARGE")

Result: NULL

Example: SETTPREFS TSIZE STD

1.93 ImageDeskE.guide/M63S

GETSYSINFO

Syntax: GETSYSINFO <KeyWord>

Description: Supplies the value of a specified system state variable. The result type depends on <KeyWord>. Valid keywords are:

- VERSION (supplies ImageDesk's current version number)
- GFXMODE (tells the graphics mode e.g. "CyberGfx")
- DESKSPACE (tells how many thumbnails currently fits on the desk)
- THUMBSUSED (tells how many thumbnails are currently in use)
- CATNAME (tells the file name of the last loaded catalog)
- BUFENTRIES (tells the number of thumbnails in the catalog buffer)

Result: Depends on the keyword

- VERSION (STRING)
- GFXMODE (STRING)
- DESKSPACE (INTEGER)
- THUMBSUSED (INTEGER)
- CATNAME (STRING)
- BUFENTRIES (INTEGER)

Example: GETSYSINFO VERSION

1.94 ImageDeskE.guide/M63T

CLOSEBUF

Syntax: CLOSEBUF

Description: If a catalog buffer is active it will be closed and its allocated memory will be freed.

Result: NULL

Example: CLOSEBUF

1.95 ImageDeskE.guide/M63U

SAVEBUF

Syntax: SAVEBUF [<FileName>]

Description: Saves the active catalog buffer into one single file. If <FileName> has not been specified a file requester will ask for it.

Result: NULL

Example: SAVEBUF "work:catalogs/gifpics.cat"

1.96 ImageDeskE.guide/M63V

NEXTPAGE

Syntax: NEXTPAGE

Description: Turns to the next screen page within the catalog buffer.

Result: NULL

Example: NEXTPAGE

1.97 ImageDeskE.guide/M63W

PREVPAGE

Syntax: PREVPAGE

Description: Turns to the previous screen page within the catalog buffer.

Result: NULL

Example: PREVPAGE

1.98 ImageDeskE.guide/M63X

SELECTRANGE

Syntax: SELECTRANGE

Description: Opens a special requester which enables you to select a range within the catalog buffer. All thumbnails of this range will be then shown. afterwards.

Result: NULL

Example: SELECTRANGE

1.99 ImageDeskE.guide/M63Y

CATBROWSER

Syntax: CATBROWSER [<FileName>]

Description: Opens the window of the Catalog Browser. See also Catalog Browser in the menu Navigate. If <FileName> has not been specified, a file requester will ask you for one.

Result: NULL

Example: CATBROWSER "work:catalogs/gifpics.cat"

1.100 ImageDeskE.guide/M63Z

RELOADCAT

Syntax: RELOADCAT

Description: Loads the last opened catalog again.

Result: NULL

Example: RELOADCAT

1.101 ImageDeskE.guide/M63_a

REDRAW

Syntax: REDRAW

Description: Redraws the current page. Unbuffered thumbnails will be lost!

Result: NULL

Example: REDRAW

1.102 ImageDeskE.guide/M63_b

GETBUFPOS

Syntax: GETBUFPOS <ThumbName>

Description: Returns the position of the thumbnail <ThumbName> within the catalog buffer. This position for example is required for GETTHUMBINFO and REMFROMBUF.

Result: Number of the position if succesful, else -1.

Example: GETBUFPOS "Amiga_Pic.jpg"

1.103 ImageDeskE.guide/M63_c

REMFROMBUF

Syntax: REMFROMBUF [<Position>]

Description: Removes the thumbnail on position <Position> from the catalog buffer. If <Position> is missing, an window opens where the user may choose the entries to remove.

Result: NULL

Example: REMFROMBUF 0

1.104 ImageDeskE.guide/M63_d

REMFROMDESK

Syntax: REMFROMDESK <Position>

Description: Removes the visible thumbnail on screen position <Position> from the screen. The position is required and cannot be asked by GETBUFPOS, But the Default AREXX Script will be supplied with it.

Result: NULL

Example: REMFROMDESK ipos

1.105 ImageDeskE.guide/M63_e

GETTHUMBINFO

Syntax: GETTHUMBINFO <Keyword1> <Position> <Keyword2> Description: Supplies you with information about a thumbnail object at position <Position>. <Keyword1> gives the thumbnail source:

- BUF (thumbnail source is the catalog buffer)
- DESK (thumbnail source is the screen)
- BROWS (thumbnail source is the browser's buffer)

The following information may be asked (Keyword2):

- PICTYPE ("IFF", "GIF", "JPG", "BMP", "PCX", "TGA", "PCD" or "PNM")

- PICWIDTH (width of the corresponding picture, INTEGER)
- PICHEIGHT (height of the corresponding picture, INTEGER)
- PICDEPTH (depth of the corresponding picture, INTEGER)

Result: See above.

Example: GETTHUMBINFO DESK ipos PICWIDTH

1.106 ImageDeskE.guide/M63_f

TERMINATE

Syntax: TERMINATE

Description: If the catalog browser is active, it will be closed. In the other case ImageDesk exits. Coution, it is very problematic to close an application by AREXX. So use TERMINATE very carefully.

Result: NULL

Example: TERMINATE

1.107 ImageDeskE.guide/M7_TOOLS

Catalog Tools

This distribution contains several CLI-only tools. They serve for touching up catalog files created by ImageDesk. The templates for running such a tool work in accordance with the Commodore style guides. For further explanation take a look into your AmigaDos Manuals.

Remark: With the release of ImageDesk 3.0 these tools will be partly unnecessary because the program is now able to do some of these jobs internally. For example, the thumbnails now will be automatically sorted. Removing thumbnails from catalogs is also possible in ImageDesk itself.

CATList

CATChPath

CATRepack

CATJoin

CATRemEntry

CATSort

CATSplit

1.108 ImageDeskE.guide/M71

CATList

=====

Template:

CATFILE/A,P=PASSWORD/K,F=FULL/S

Description:

Lists all entries of an ImageDesk catalog file in the order of their occurrence. This command is very useful to find out which position a specific entry has. To remove an entry, for example, it is necessary to know its position in the catalog file.

CATFILE/A

Path and filename of an ImageDesk catalog file.

P=PASSWORD/K

If a catalog file was generated by using xpk-password encryption, the corresponding password has to be specified here.

F=FULL/S

Besides position and filename, this switch directs CATList to print further attributes of the pictures.

1.109 ImageDeskE.guide/M72

CATChPath

=====

Template:

CATFILE/A,P=NEWPATH/A

Description:

To avoid a repeated thumbnail generation run if a path of an image directory has changed, you should use this program. It changes the content of the pathname in a catalog file to the choices given by the user. As only the header of a catalog file is changed, it is not necessary to specify a password even if it has been encrypted before. In opposition to most of the other catalog tools, CATChPath is a so called 'In Place'-operation. This means, you should better work on a copy of a catalog file to avoid damaging this file if an error occurs.

CATFILE/A

File name of the ImageDesk catalog to work on.

P=NEWPATH

A string which describes the path to a image directory. It won't be checked for validity, so the user is responsible for it being correct.

1.110 ImageDeskE.guide/M73

CATRepack

=====

Template:

CATFILE/A,O=OUTFILE/K,X=XPKMETHOD/K,F=EFFICENCY/N,P=PASSWORD/K

Description:

If the packing method or packing efficiency of a formerly generated catalog file is to be changed, this command has to be used. For example, you could save your catalog files uncompressed in ImageDesk and pack them afterwards with CATRepack. For security reasons an OUTFILE should be specified.

CATFILE/A

File name of the ImageDesk catalog to work on.

O=OUTFILE/K

Name for the resulting output file. If this argument ist missing, the original file will be overwritten.

X=XPKMETHOD/K

Packing method to be used for the catalog file. Referring to the XPK conventions, this has to be an uppercase, fourletter string. X=NUKE for example would mean, XPK method NUKE has to be used. If this argument is missing or XPK has not been installed the file will be saved without packing.

F=EFFICENCY/N

Efficiency the XPKMETHOD specified pack method should work with. This has to be a number in the range between 0 and 100. Default value is 50.

P=PASSWORD/K

If the catalog file has been saved key encrypted the password has to be specified here. This password will also be used for the new output file if XPKMETHOD supports passwords.

1.111 ImageDeskE.guide/M74

CATJoin

=====

Template:

CATFILE1/A,CATFILE2/A,AS=TO/K/A,X=XPKMETHOD/K,F=EFFICENCY/N,P=PASSWORD/K

Description:

Joins two catalog files to a new one. Provided that you have generated more than one catalog file for a image directory in ImageDesk - maybe to save memory. For later assembly this command has to be used. It is very important for CATFILE1 and CATFILE2 to have the same path entry for the image directory. CATJoin won't work if ImageDesk has not been registered - it is the only one of the catalog tools which requires the key file.

CATFILE1/A

File name of the first ImageDesk catalog file.

CATFILE2/A

File name of the second ImageDesk catalog file.

AS=TO/K/A

Name for the output file.

X=XPKMETHOD/K

Packing method to be used for the output file. Referring to the XPK conventions, this has to be an uppercase, fourletter string. If this argument is missing or XPK has not been installed the file will be saved without packing.

F=EFFICENCY/N

Efficiency the XPKMETHOD specified pack method should work with. This has to be a number in the range between 0 and 100. Default value is 50.

P=PASSWORD/K

If the catalog files has been password encrypted, you have to specify the password here. Unless the two input files use the same password, CATJoin returns with an error. In this case, one of them has to be adjusted with CATRepack to the other one. This password will also be used for the output file.

1.112 ImageDeskE.guide/M75

CATRemEntry
=====

Template:

CATFILE/A,E=ENTRY/N/A,O=OUTFILE/K,X=XPKMETHOD/K,F=EFFICENCY/N,P=PASSWORD/K

Description:

CATRemEntry removes the entry with the position number ENTRY from a catalog file. This could be necessary to re-establish the consistency between the catalog file and the contents of the image directory. By help of CATList you can find out the entry number you want to know. The other arguments show the same behavior as they do in CATRepack.

CATFILE/A
File name of the ImageDesk catalog to work on.

E=ENTRY/N/A
Position of the entry to remove.

O=OUTFILE/K
Name for the resulting output file. If this argument is missing the original file will be overwritten.

X=XPKMETHOD/K
Packing method to be used for the output file. Referring to the XPK conventions, this has to be an uppercase, fourletter string. If this argument is missing or XPK has not been installed the file will be saved without packing.

F=EFFICENCY/N
Efficiency the XPKMETHOD specified pack method should work with. This has to be a number in the range between 0 and 100. Default value is 50.

P=PASSWORD/K
If the catalog file has been saved key encrypted the password has to be specified here. This password will also be used for the new output file if XPKMETHOD supports passwords.

1.113 ImageDeskE.guide/M76

CATSort
=====

Template:

CATFILE/A,O=OUTFILE/K,X=XPKMETHOD/K,F=EFFICENCY/N,P=PASSWORD/K

Description:

Sorts the thumbnail entries of the catalog CATFILE in lexicographical order of the pictures file names.

CATFILE/A

File name of the ImageDesk catalog to work on.

O=OUTFILE/K

Name for the resulting output file. If this argument is missing the original file will be overwritten.

X=XPKMETHOD/K

Packing method to be used for the output file. Referring to the XPK conventions, this has to be an uppercase, fourletter string. If this argument is missing or XPK has not been installed the file will be saved without packing.

F=EFFICENCY/N

Efficiency the XPKMETHOD specified pack method should work with. This has to be a number in the range between 0 and 100. Default value is 50.

P=PASSWORD/K

If the catalog file has been saved key encrypted the password has to be specified here. This password will also be used for the new output file if XPKMETHOD supports passwords.

1.114 ImageDeskE.guide/M77

CATSplit

=====

Template:

CATFILE/A,E=MAXENTRIES/N/A,O=OUTFILE/K,X=XPKMETHOD/K,F=EFFICENCY/N,P=PASSWORD/K

Description:

Splits the input catalog CATFILE into several smaller catalogs. The resulting catalogs will have MAXENTRIES at most.

CATFILE/A

File name of the ImageDesk catalog to work on.

E=MAXENTRIES/N/A

Number of thumbnails a resulting catalog should contain at the most.

O=OUTFILE/K

Name for the resulting output file. If this argument is missing the original file will be overwritten.

X=XPKMETHOD/K

Packing method to be used for the output file. Referring to the XPK conventions, this has to be an uppercase, fourletter string. If this argument is missing or XPK has not been installed the file will be saved without packing.

F=EFFICENCY/N

Efficiency the XPKMETHOD specified pack method should work with. This has to be a number in the range between 0 and 100. Default value is 50.

P=PASSWORD/K

If the catalog file has been saved key encrypted the password has to be specified here. This password will also be used for the new output file if XPKMETHOD supports passwords.

1.115 ImageDeskE.guide/M8_REGIS

As you may have noticed, ImageDesk is a shareware product. Nearly all functions are available for testing without paying any money. If you think ImageDesk is worth the amount of 30 DM or \$20,-, refer to me for your personal key file. If you want me to ship ImageDesk via airmail, you have to include an additional \$10 (the airmail postage is 16 DM!). Please notice, airmail shipping makes no sense if you live in europe.

The key file method offers the advantage of enjoying the whole functionality of new ImageDesk releases immediately. You do not have to wait until I send you a new fully featured version.

Besides the key file, you'll get the latest release of the ImageDesk distribution and a printed manual.

To get registered for ImageDesk, please print the file OrderForm on your printer (if no printer is available, write off this text), fill up this form and send it to the given address. I will endeavor to act upon your registration within two weeks after I get the register form and the shareware fee. In most cases it will be done faster. Prospectively the key files will be shipped by (snail)mail.

The author reserves the right, to not accept register requests.

1.116 ImageDeskE.guide/M9_UPDAT

Updates

When you become a registered user, you will get the latest release of ImageDesk together with your personal key file. Thereby, you are independent from direct support by the author. You'll get the latest releases from Aminet (eventually other PD archives, too) instead.

If you do not have the possibility to get ImageDesk this way you can get it directly from the author. In this case, send me a letter and include 5 DM or \$5 if you do not live within the EU. This offer is available to registered users only.

1.117 ImageDeskE.guide/MA_RIGHT

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1.118 ImageDeskE.guide/MA1

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1.119 ImageDeskE.guide/MA2

Distribution

=====

It is allowed to distribute ImageDesk on any data medium and to make it available on bulletin boards or other network compounds, if the directory structure of the original Aminet release will be kept. No file may be added, removed or exchanged.

It is of course allowed for you to distribute ImageDesk in a packed archive file. It is also allowed to levy copy charges for the distribution on floppy disks or CD-ROMs, as long as it has stated clearly to the user, that he has not payed for the shareware fee, hereby. It is not allowed to copy, distribute or generate key files for ImageDesk without a written permission from the author (hello pirate BBS sysops).

Special versions

Especially for CD-ROM productions which include very much graphics I can ship a special version of ImageDesk. It won't have the possibility to save catalogs or generate thumbnails, but it won't have other restrictions like NervRequester. If you are interested then try to contact me.

1.120 ImageDeskE.guide/MA3

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1.121 ImageDeskE.guide/MA4

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JPEG Group.

1.122 ImageDeskE.guide/MB_HISTO

0.97 Beta

First beta release.

0.98 Beta

- * Now the default public screen is left to the workbench as long as it is not necessary for ImageDesk to declare its screen to the default publicscreen.
- * Before closing the screen, ImageDesk now checks if other applications have opened their windows on ImageDesk's publicscreen.
- * Don't try to load IFF-ILBM images with unknown compression types anymore.
- * File names for the external viewers may contain spaces.
- * The slidergadgets in the Load Catalog control window are now managed correctly.
- * A few catalog file tools have been added (CATList, CATChPath, CATRepack, CATJoin and CATRemEntry).

1.0 - first public release

- * Added internal window viewer.
- * Removed small bug in the BMP reader.
- * System font will be opened correctly now.
- * Added dither option for 8-bit displays.

1.01

- * Fixed bug: Village Screenmode requester sometimes has been opened on the workbench screen.
 - * Fixed bug in the JPEG Picasso viewer: 8-bit JPEGs were displayed incorrectly on the 8-bit screens.
 - * Fixed a wrong palette entry in the 8-bit Picasso viewer.
 - * Improved display speed of the window viewer for truecolor images.
-

1.02

- * Added Scrollbars to the window viewer.

1.1

- * Added Switch 'Use Original Palette' for the window viewers.
- * Now supports and generates project icons for catalogs.

1.11

- * Thumbnail generation from 4-bit BMPs reported an error - Fixed.
- * Now The name of the screen is displayed instead of the ID in the System Prefs window.

1.12

- * 'Default Public Screen' has not been set back to workbench if the Picasso screenrequester has been used - Fixed.

1.2

- * Fixed bug: If no complete path was specified for a catalog file to be generated, some problems could have been arised while saving.
- * CyberGraphics and standard 8 bit intuition screens are supported.
- * The state of Show Image Infos is stored in the prefs file.
- * The information window now shows the current graphics board mode.
- * Added new menu item Ask Before Cleaning Desk.
- * Open Catalog now branches into subitems: Selectable and Quick.
- * Added new menu item Mark & Delete for multiple thumbnail removal.
- * Changed (Improved?) most of the screen displaying routines.
- * The image information window now shows the path of the file too.

1.21

- * The number of entries per catalog is now selectable in the range of 3 and 600.
 - * It is now possible to interrupt the internal viewers at any time.
 - * A few internal changes.
-

1.22

- * Removed problems in conjunction with MFR.
- * Fixed bug in the window viewers which caused a very high CPU-load factor.
- * Compacted program code in the Picasso screen viewers.

1.23

- * IFF DCOL (Direct COlor) chunks are supported now.

1.3

- * Fixed bug: The ILBM decoder had problems reading truecolor images which contained additional palette information.
- * Fixed problem of reading ILBMs containing ANNO Chunks with a wrong Chunk length field.
- * Now it is possible to have file names being rendered below the thumbnail images.

1.4

- * Added Thumbnail Prefs window.
- * Now supports further thumbnail sizes.
- * Uses own font for thumbnail text.
- * New option: Print Execution Command.
- * Prefs windows retouched.
- * Changed prefs file structure.
- * New catalog file structure.
- * Adapted all Catalog Tools to the new structure.

1.41

- * Fixed size and alignment problems on temporary rastports.

1.42

- * Support for environment variable KEYPATH added which specifies the location of the key file.
-

1.5

- * Integrated AREXX Port.
- * Increased GIF decoding speed (twice as fast).
- * ImageDescriptor instead of ScreenDescriptor is used for size determination of GIF thumbnails now.
- * Removed several smaller bugs.

1.6

- * Now executes AREXX programs on thumbnail click.
- * Enhanced hotkey handling.
- * New option HiQuality.
- * Further AREXX commands.
- * Enhanced slider gadget handling.
- * File requester attributes are stored in the prefs now.
- * Larger thumbnail sizes possible.
- * Config will be saved before ImageDesk exits.
- * Bug in the PCX reader removed.
- * Reduced stack consumption.

2.0

- * New structured menu.
 - * Catalogs are held in memory.
 - * Fast, screenwise turn over within the catalog buffer.
 - * Introduction of the Catalog Browsers.
 - * Significant speed improvement when figuring the thumbnail images.
 - * New option for dithering Floyd Steinberg.
 - * Full tooltype support for Project-Icons.
 - * Takes care of IFFs aspect ratio.
 - * Optionally writes an error report.
-

- * Introduction of new Catalog Tools CATSort and CATSplit.
- * New AREXX commands.
- * Removed several bugs.

2.1

- * The Default AREXX Script will now be supplied with 3 parameters.
- * AREXX Commands GETSPREFS, SETSPREFS, GETSYSINFO and OPENCAT extended.
- * The Catalog Browser now allows to start AREXX scripts.
- * Fixed bug in Mark & Delete.
- * Increased the size of some internal string buffers.
- * Introduction of the ImageDesk tool MIPFIC.
- * New option in ViewerPrefs to disable SuperBitmaps for the Window viewer.
- * Appertaining new keyword SUPERBM for the AREXX commands GETVPREFS and SETVPREFS.
- * Totally rewritten bufferd image readers for better stability.

3.0

- * Datatypes support.
- * Dynamic thumbnail handling and automatic buffer sorting.
- * Enables automatically catalog updates
- * Now allows to remove single thumbnails from a catalog.
- * Some screen layout changes.
- * Now it is possible to hide or to show the screen title and a status bar.
- * Some new AREXX commands.
- * Many internal changes and enhancements.

1.123 ImageDeskE.guide/MC_THANX

The following people I have to thank a lot. Without them, ImageDesk would not exist (at least not in this appearance).

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