

Visage

Magnus Holmgren

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Visage		
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WRITTEN BY	Magnus Holmgren	July 20, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

Visage

1.1 Visage.guide

Visage 39.5

A Team OS3 product

Release date: January 21, 1996

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Welcome to Visage, a multi-format picture viewer for the Amiga OS (version 3.0 or higher).

Introduction
Features
Legal information
The JPEG codec
Requirements

Team OS3

Usage
Viewing keys
Mode names
Rendered pictures
Included programs

Known problems
The future
Acknowledgments
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1.2 Visage.guide/Introduction

Introduction

<Sigh> Yet another picture viewer. :)

Oh well, what can I say? There were no picture viewer available that suited all my needs. They were lacking such trivial things as looking for "external" break signals, and more important things such as good monitor support.

But Visage is different. It has many features; some are not available in any other picture viewer for the Amiga (as far as I know). Since some of these features rely on things introduced in OS 3.0, this program requires OS 3.0. There are several viewers that work on OS 2.0, so it is not a major problem, IMHO.

The goal was a rather fast viewer, with many features. Picture quality was not the most important thing (this mainly applies to the HAM and color rendering).

See also:

- Features
- Legal information
- Requirements

1.3 Visage.guide/Features

Features

Can display IFF ILBM, GIF, JPEG (using the Tower JPEG Codec Class) and datatype pictures.

The internal viewers (IFF ILBM and GIF) use asynchronous IO for high performance. The picture decompressors are written in optimized assembler for speed.

Full AA, ECS and RTG (I hope! ;) support.

Supports the IFF ILBM chunks CLUT (Color LookUp Table; only RGB), PCHG (Palette CHanGe) and SHAM (Sliced HAM).

Can display "deep" pictures in all formats on ECS Amigas, rendered in HAM, "normal" color (graphics card recommended) or grayscale.

IFF ILBM pictures can be Xpk compressed (asynchronous IO is not possible for these pictures at the moment).

Fast HAM rendering of pictures, using code written by Rafael D'Halleweyn.

Can scale any rendered picture to fit the screen.

Extensive monitor support. Uses a BestModeID()-like function to find a suitable mode (if needed or requested).

Any native Amiga screen mode can be specified with text! No numbers needed. But you can use numbers, if you so wish. Or a requester.

Simple promotion of pictures to any installed monitor. No hardcoded command line options for this. Even a requester can be used.

Several slideshow options, including a random and a sort mode, making Visage ideal for use with screen blankers as an external module.

Background loading of next picture while viewing the current, if there is enough memory (this can be disabled).

When using background loading, the new pictures do not open in front of all other screens (unless told to). The two screens are "attached" to each other.

Can fade pictures (but not HAM, SHAM or PCHG pictures).

Default options can be placed in an environment variable.

Invisible screen arranging gadgets.

Can execute a command for a picture.

Can test and/or time the pictures.

Horizontal and vertical screen centering.

Can be made resident.

System friendly color cycling (no interrupt).

Several other small features not mentioned here. :)

It is freeware! No need to pay anything (but that does not mean I would not appreciate a donation of any kind! :).

A couple of small and useful utilities included.

1.4 Visage.guide/Legal information

Legal information

License

No warranty

Acknowledgments

1.5 Visage.guide/Legal issues/License

License

Visage is released under the concept of freeware. This means you are

allowed to use and copy this program freely, as long as the following requirements are fulfilled:

All files are copied without any alterations or modifications. If any extra files are added, it must be obvious that they do not belong to the original distribution, and that they do not need to be included in any redistribution.

Exception: So called "BBS ads" may not be added.

The copying is done on a non-commercial basis. A small fee to cover media costs etc. may be charged.

The copier is not claiming the copyright of this program.

Any exceptions from the above require a written permission from the author.

If you want to publish this program on a cover disk or similar, contact me first for approval (to make sure you have the latest version etc). I then expect a copy of the issue in question in return (additional contributions are welcomed :).

Note: This program uses the LZW decompression algorithm, which due to patent claims probably requires you to license if you distribute this program on a for-profit basis. (See <http://www.unisys.com>)

1.6 Visage.guide/Legal issues/No warranty

No warranty

There is no warranty for the programs, to the extent permitted by applicable law. Except when otherwise stated in writing the copyright holder and/or other parties provide the programs "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. The entire risk as to the quality and performance of the programs is with you. Should the programs prove defective, you assume the cost of all necessary servicing, repair or correction.

In no event unless required by applicable law or agreed to in writing will any copyright holder, or any other party who may redistribute the programs as permitted above, be liable to you for damages, including any general, special, incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use or inability to use the programs (including but not limited to loss of data or data being rendered inaccurate or losses sustained by you or third parties or a failure of the programs to operate with any other programs), even if such holder or other party has been advised of the possibility of such damages.

1.7 Visage.guide/Legal issues/Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments

This software is based in part based on the work of the Independent JPEG Group.

The Graphics Interchange Format(c) is the Copyright property of CompuServe Incorporated. GIF(sm) is a Service Mark property of CompuServe Incorporated.

1.8 Visage.guide/Requirements

Requirements

Visage should work on any Amiga that has OS 3.0 or higher. 512 KB of memory is enough for operation, but more memory is indeed recommended (especially if want to view large and/or JPEG pictures). There are no required disk-based libraries, although Visage will be limited if some are not available (the GIF reader is the only one that does not need any disk-based libraries).

I decided to let Visage require OS 3.0, since I otherwise would need to rewrite several new functions in OS 3.0, or write code to work around bugs. One feature cannot be implemented at all using OS 2.0. Despite all this, I might make Visage support OS 2.0 in the future (if I get requests for it. Have not got any yet... ;).

Required libraries

1.9 Visage.guide/Requirements/Required libraries

Required libraries

The following disk-based libraries are not necessary for Visage to operate, but certain things will not work if they are not available:

iffparse.library version 39 or higher
For the IFF ILBM reader.

tower.library version 1 or higher
For the JFIF/JPEG reader. To work properly, the files codec.class, picture.codec and jpeg.codec are needed as well, i.e., the JPEG codec. Included with Visage.

datatypes.library version 39 or higher
For the datatypes reader. To work properly, suitable datatypes are needed as well. Some datatypes are included with the system; several exist as different kinds of freely distributable software.

asl.library version 38 or higher
For the file, screen mode and monitor (!) requesters. If not available, you will get a warning if you try to use these requesters.

xpkmaster.library
To view Xpk compressed or encrypted IFF ILBM pictures. For it to

work properly, suitable sub-libraries are needed as well. Xpk can be found on Aminet and BBS:es.

reqtools.library version 38 or higher

For the password requester that appears if an Xpk-encrypted picture is encountered, but no password was specified. ReqTools can be found on Aminet and BBS:es.

1.10 Visage.guide/About the JPEG codec

About the JPEG codec

This application uses the "Tower JPEG Codec Class" for JPEG support. The JPEG codec is Copyright © 1994 Christoph Feck, TowerSystems. All Rights Reserved. It is based in part on the work of the Independent JPEG Group.

The JPEG codec is provided "AS-IS" and subject to change without prior notice; no warranties are made. All use is at your own risk. No liability or responsibility is assumed.

1.11 Visage.guide/Team OS3

Team OS3

Team OS3 is a non-profit association founded by members of the Amiga BBS Assimilate in the spring of 1995. It is completely devoted to the Amiga and the Amiga spirit.

Its purpose is:

To work for the use and preservation of the Amiga.

To work for a high standard of Amiga software, that uses and/or requires OS 3.0 or better.

To help fellow Amiga owners in distress.

Team OS3 has a sign of approval that only will be given to software that fully complies to the Team OS3 quality standards. If you want your program tested, just contact us. The standards can be acquired upon request.

Team OS3 is primary for programmers, but ordinary Amigoids are of course welcome, if they follow our statues.

For information write to:

Erik Lindberg

FidoNet: 2:203/123.31

Internet: Erik.Lindberg@p31.f123.n203.z2.fidonet.org

or

Mathias Karlsson

FidoNet: 2:203/123.24

Internet: d3karma@dtek.chalmers.se

1.12 Visage.guide/Arguments

Arguments

Visage can be started from a Shell or the Workbench. For Shell users it should be noted that Visage is pure, and may be made resident.

In the case of Workbench start, the tooltypes may be specified in either the program icon, the picture icon(s), or any other icon (preferably without an associated file). All tooltypes are collected (tooltypes found later on overrides earlier ones) and parsed before viewing the pictures.

VisageOpts can be used to specify new defaults.

For both Workbench and Shell usage, the following arguments/tooltypes can be specified:

Text arguments

FILES	Files to view
COMMAND	Command to execute, if requested
DITHER	Dither type to use, when needed
MODE	Screen mode to use
MONITOR	Monitor to use
OVERSCAN	Overscan type to use
PASSWORD	Password for Xpk-encrypted files

Numeric arguments

BUFSIZE	IO buffer size for the IFF ILBM and GIF readers
DELAY	Time to wait between pictures
FADE	Speed for picture fade
TIMES	How many times the pictures should be shown
TOOLPRI	Task priority for Visage
UNIT	Clipboard unit to read from

Switches

ALL	Enter all drawers encountered
BESTMODE	Less strict mode promotion
CENTER	Center the pictures
CLIPBOARD	Read from the clipboard
COLOR	Render deep pictures in color
COMPACT	Use a more compact VERBOSE output
CYCLE	Start color cycling automatically
DATATYPES	Try to use a datatype
ECS	Use an ECS-compatible screen depth
FOREVER	View all files until aborted

GRAY	Render pictures in grayscale
HAM	Use HAM "when in doubt"
INFO	Only show information about pictures
LATELOAD	Read next picture after time-out
LOWMEM	No background reading
NOAUTOSCROLL	Disable autoscrolling
NOBUSY	Do not show any busy pointer
NOCLICK	Do not listen to mouse clicks
NODATATYPES	Do not use datatypes
NOENV	Do not read options in VisageOpts
NOFLICKER	Do not use laced screen modes
NOGIF	Use datatype for GIF pictures
NOIFF	Use datatype for IFF pictures
NOJPEG	Use datatype for JPEG pictures
NORMALNAMES	Use normal display mode names
NOWARN	Disable warning messages
POINTER	Do not blank the mouse pointer
QUIET	Disable most output
RANDOM	View pictures in random order
RTG	Make Visage work better with some RTG devices
SCALE	Scale rendered pictures to fit screen
SHOWINFO	Display picture information on picture
SORT	View pictures in alphabetical order
TEST	Test pictures, do not display
TIME	Display loading time
TOFRONT	Bring newly loaded pictures to the front
VERBOSE	Display extra information
VCENTER	Center pictures vertically
WAITFORPIC	Wait for next picture to load
WBMONITOR	Use the same monitor as the Workbench screen

(53 arguments! ;)

1.13 Visage.guide/Arguments/VisageOpts

VisageOpts

New default values may be specified by entering them in the VisageOpts configuration file or environment variable. The search order is as follows:

```
Does the environment variable ConfigPath$^1$ exist?
Yes: Read the file VisageOpts in the drawer specified by
    ConfigPath.
No : Read the environment variable VisageOpts, if present.
```

Put all options on any number of lines, similar to if Visage was started from the Shell. Comments start with a '#' or ';' at the start of the line, and they end at the end of that line.

To disable the reading of VisageOpts (e.g. in a script), use the NOENV switch. This disables both the environment variable and the configuration file.

If a switch is specified in VisageOpts, then by specifying it again on the command line you will turn off that switch. Thus, if CENTER is found in

VisageOpts, and CENTER is specified on the command line (or in the tooltypes), no centering will occur.

Text or numeric arguments specified on the command line will simply override any arguments specified in VisageOpts.

Two arguments in VisageOpts will always be ignored: FILES and NOENV. You will not get a warning or anything if they are specified; they are silently ignored. This has the side-effect that unknown options are ignored (they are "swallowed" by the FILES argument).

See also:

```
FILES
CENTER
NOENV
```

-- Footnotes --

$\$^1\$$ If you specify "ProgDir:" here (to get the same drawer as where the program resides), please remember that you should not make the program resident in that case. If you do, you will then get "Please insert volume ProgDir:" requesters, which can be rather annoying.

The name of the ConfigPath variable was deliberately chosen to be general. The hope is that other programs also will use this; at least as a part of their configuration file search path.

1.14 Visage.guide/Arguments/FILES

FILES

Here you specify the files you wish to view. You may enter any number of files and drawers here, using patterns if you like.

If you enter the name of a drawer, a file requester will open, located in that drawer (unless ALL has been specified). If you in this requester specify the name of a file that does not exist, then Visage will treat it as a pattern.

You may even use this argument as a tooltype in an icon. So, if you would like to get a slideshow over some pictures in a drawer, use the following tooltypes (in an icon without its corresponding file). The default tool should be set to Visage:

```
FILES=Pics:Nature
ALL
DELAY=60
```

or something similar. A double-click on that icon will start the slideshow.

See also:

```
ALL
```

CLIPBOARD
DELAY
RANDOM
SORT

1.15 Visage.guide/Arguments/COMMAND

COMMAND Synonym: CMD

Here you can specify a command that can be executed for each viewed picture. To execute the command, press 'e' when the picture in question is displayed. When in TEST mode, the command will be executed when a picture with an error is found.

The command will be executed as if it had been started in the same drawer as the picture. The name will always be quoted (e.g. to make it easy to parse from Rexx). The command is run asynchronously, so you may continue to the next picture when you like. If the command could not be run for some reason, the screen will flash (if no command is specified, then this will not happen).

By default the name of the picture will be added to the end of the command. If the string "[]" is specified in the command, then the name will replace the first occurrence of this string. This is similar to how the Alias command works (see your AmigaDOS manual for more information about Alias).

This argument makes it easy to mark pictures for deletion or something similar. In that case, a command like:

```
FileNote [] "Delete this picture"
```

can be useful. Then simply press 'e' for the pictures you do not want to keep, and do the actual deletings from a shell or a directory utility. Using the above command rather than 'Delete' has the benefit that it is easy to undo, in case you press the key by mistake.

The command 'Move [] TO Pics:' can cause problem in case several pictures with the same name (but in different drawers) are processed. An ARexx script can be used to work around this problem, if needed.

Note: To specify the above example from a shell, you must enter it like this:

```
COMMAND "FileNote [] *\"Delete this picture*\""
```

(Note the escaped quotation characters.) If you enter it as a tooltype, just enter it as the first example shows.

See also:

TEST

1.16 Visage.guide/Arguments/DITHER

DITHER

Here you can specify which kind of dithering that should be used, when rendering pictures to COLOR or GRAY modes. In the latter case, dither is only used when the screen displays less than 256 colors.

Currently, the following dither types are available:

NONE

No dithering. This is the fastest, but also gives the lowest quality. It is not recommended if COLOR rendering is used.

ORDERED, ORD

Ordered dithering. A fast dither, but the quality is not the best. Quite sufficient for grayscale images though. This is the default.

FS

Floyd-Steinberg dithering. Gives very good quality, but is slower than ORDERED (about 30% in the COLOR render case).

If an invalid dither type is specified, you will be told about it, and the default (ORDERED) will be used.

See also:

COLOR

GRAY

Rendered pictures

1.17 Visage.guide/Arguments/MODE

MODE

Here you can specify which screen mode the pictures should be displayed with. There are several ways of specifying the mode:

Via a screen mode requester. Simply enter "REQUEST" or "?" after the MODE keyword. This requires asl.library to be available.

A decimal or hexadecimal number, "describing" the mode. If the number starts with '\$' or '0x' it is assumed to be hex. The program GetModeID can be used to find out the (decimal) number for a certain mode.

A text string (anything that is not covered by the above). Either a name from the display database, or an algorithmic name.

Specifying a (valid) mode here will override the MONITOR and WBMONITOR arguments. If the mode is not capable of displaying the picture for some reason, Visage will try to find a replacement mode that is as similar as possible.

See also:

MONITOR
NORMALNAMES
WBMONITOR
Algorithmic mode names
GetModeID

1.18 Visage.guide/Arguments/MONITOR

MONITOR

With this parameter you can easily promote the pictures to display to any available monitor, providing it is capable of displaying the picture. Simply specify the name of the monitor and Visage will look through the display database for it. If the monitor is available, the picture will be promoted to use that monitor, if possible.

You can also specify the special name "REQUEST" or "?", to get a requester containing the available monitors (except for the so called default monitor). Note that the properties window will not contain useful information, except for the frequency.

Specifying a valid monitor here will override the WBMONITOR argument.

This argument is ignored if a valid MODE has been specified.

Note: The name of a monitor is usually the same as the name of the file in the Devs:Monitors drawer. Remember that VGAOnly is not a monitor.

See also:

MODE
WBMONITOR

1.19 Visage.guide/Arguments/OVERSCAN

OVERSCAN

Here you can specify the overscan type that should be used to display the picture. You can specify the following types:

TEXT

Text overscan, as set by preferences. Display limits visible.

GRAPHICS, STANDARD

Graphics (or standard) overscan, as set by preferences. Display limits are just out of view. This is the default.

MAX

Maximal overscan. The largest overscan that the system

"comfortably" can display.

VIDEO

Video overscan. The largest overscan the system can display, comfortably or not.

If an invalid overscan type is specified, you will be told about it, and Visage will revert to the default (STANDARD).

See also:

CENTER
MONITOR
NOAUTOSCROLL
WBMONITOR

1.20 Visage.guide/Arguments/PASSWORD

PASSWORD

Here you can specify the password for any Xpk-encrypted IFF ILBM picture found. If no password is specified, and an encrypted file is encountered, then a ReqTools requester will be opened for that file, if ReqTools is available. To disable this requester, simply enter a password! ;)

1.21 Visage.guide/Arguments/BUFSIZE

BUFSIZE

Here you can specify the size of the IO buffers (in kilobytes) used by the asynchronous IO code (used by the IFF ILBM and GIF readers). Two buffers of roughly half the size specified will be allocated, if possible. Normally this value should not need changes, but you might get somewhat better performance with other values here (depending on the media).

Default is 16 KB. Values below 4 KB are rounded to 4 KB, but the code will (usually) try with smaller buffers, if there is not enough memory available.

1.22 Visage.guide/Arguments/DELAY

DELAY

Here you can specify the time to wait between pictures. When the time-out has expired, the next picture will be shown automatically, like in a slideshow. The delay starts counting when the currently visible picture is completely loaded. A delay of zero is valid. Default is no delay.

See also:

FOREVER

```
LATELOAD
LOWMEM
RANDOM
SORT
TIMES
TOFRONT
WAITFORPIC
```

1.23 Visage.guide/Arguments/FADE

FADE

Here you can specify the speed with which the pictures should fade in and out when opened and closed. 1 is the fastest, and 4 is the slowest. Values out of range are rounded to the closest valid value. Default is 0 (no fade).

Notes: HAM, PCHG and SHAM pictures ca not be faded, due to the nature of these picture formats.

Some auxiliary memory might be needed for a successful fade. If this memory is not available, the fade will silently not be done.

1.24 Visage.guide/Arguments/TIMES

TIMES

The number of times to view the files. Default is 1.

Any value specified here overrides the FOREVER switch.

See also:

FOREVER

1.25 Visage.guide/Arguments/TOOLPRI

TOOLPRI

The task priority Visage should use when displaying the pictures. Valid range is -128 to 4 (to prevent Visage from disturbing more important programs). Values out of range are rounded to the closest valid value. Default value depends on the starting program (usually it is 0).

This argument can be useful when Visage is used as an external screen blanker module.

Note: The Workbench automatically parses any TOOLPRI tooltype. It was added to Visage so that the priority easily can be specified e.g. in VisageOpts.

See also:

VisageOpts

1.26 Visage.guide/Arguments/UNIT

UNIT

The clipboard unit to read from, if CLIPBOARD has been specified. The value should be between 0 and 255 (inclusive). Values out of range are rounded. Default is 0.

See also:

CLIPBOARD

1.27 Visage.guide/Arguments/ALL

ALL

If this option has been specified, then Visage will enter any drawers encountered during the pattern matching process.

Note: If this switch is used, then you will not get a file requester if you enter the name of a drawer on the command line. Instead Visage will enter that drawer (and any drawers within) and start displaying all pictures found.

See also:

FILES

1.28 Visage.guide/Arguments/BESTMODE

BESTMODE

If this switch is specified, then Visage will always search the display database for the best screen mode to display the picture with, even if it is not necessary.

Also, Visage will be less strict when looking for a replacement mode when doing monitor promotion. Visage will ignore the size of the "source" screen mode; the size will be taken from the picture instead. Only the aspect will be considered.

If a MODE has been specified, then this option will be ignored.

See also:

MODE

1.29 Visage.guide/Arguments/CENTER

CENTER Synonym: CENTRE

If this switch is specified, the displayed pictures will be centered horizontally, if needed. If you also want vertical center, see the VCENTER switch.

Notes: If a screen promoter is installed, the centering may be wrong sometimes. It depends on how the screen mode is changed, and how "good" the promoting software is.

For Super72 screen modes, the centering may be more or less wrong (the amount depends on the OS version).

This centering does not seem to work on (most) graphic card screens.

See also:

VCENTER

1.30 Visage.guide/Arguments/CLIPBOARD

CLIPBOARD

If this switch is specified, then Visage will try to read the data from the clipboard. Any files specified in the FILES argument are ignored.

Use the UNIT argument to specify which clipboard unit Visage should read from.

See also:

FILES

UNIT

1.31 Visage.guide/Arguments/COLOR

COLOR

If this switch is specified, then pictures that normally would be rendered in a HAM mode, will be rendered in a normal color mode instead.

This switch is mainly intended for owners of graphic cards (especially those who have ECS Amigas), since it allows Visage to render the picture to a screen mode supported by the card (although I have heard that there are cards that support a "faked" HAM8).

The GRAY option will override this one, if both are specified.

Note: The color rendering is a so called 1-pass render with a fixed palette. This means that it is rather fast, but the quality is not

the best. By default, the rendering includes ordered dither, but this may be changed, to improve either the speed or the quality (the quality will drop significantly if dithering is disabled).

See also:

DITHER
GRAY
Rendered pictures

1.32 Visage.guide/Arguments/COMPACT

COMPACT

If this switch is specified, then the VERBOSE output will be a bit more compact. It assumes that your console is wide enough to accommodate all output in one line. This means that the console needs to be at least 90-100 characters wide (the exact width depends on the picture and screen mode name, and if you want timing information).

See also:

QUIET
VERBOSE

1.33 Visage.guide/Arguments/CYCLE

CYCLE

If this switch is specified, then color cycling will automatically be started for pictures that have color cycling information.

Notes: This cycling only understands "simple" (CRNG) cycling right now. I think I know how to implement the "complex" (DRNG) cycling, but I have not worked out all details yet. If you have some example code or similar, please send it to me. ;)

The cycling is done in a high priority subtask. The vertical blanking interrupt is not used, since the function used to change colors may not be called from an interrupt (it can cause deadlocks/crashes). This can make the cycling a bit jerky at times. This can not be avoided.

1.34 Visage.guide/Arguments/DATATYPES

DATATYPES Synonym: DT

Try to view the files with a datatype before trying with internal viewers. The NODATATYPES switch overrides this one, if both are specified.

See also:

NODATATYPES
NOGIF
NOIFF
NOJPEG

1.35 Visage.guide/Arguments/ECS

ECS

Originally intended as a debugging option (to check the ECS-graphics conversion routines), I decided to leave it in. What it does is to make Visage think that only ECS graphics is available (not even any graphics card).

I read somewhere (in fidonet, I think) that some FastJPEG users (that had AA graphics) used the ECS version in grayscale mode, in order to get a fast preview of the picture. Using this switch will have the same effect. This can be especially useful on e.g. an A1200 without fast memory. It will make the rendering of deep pictures quite a bit faster.

1.36 Visage.guide/Arguments/FOREVER

FOREVER

Keep viewing the pictures until interrupted. It actually sets the TIMES argument to a very high value (4,294,967,295 :).

Any value specified in the TIMES argument overrides this switch.

See also:

TIMES

1.37 Visage.guide/Arguments/GRAY

GRAY Synonym: GREY

Convert rendered pictures to grayscale.

This option will override COLOR, if both are specified.

See also:

COLOR
DITHER
Rendered pictures

1.38 Visage.guide/Arguments/HAM

HAM

This switch tells Visage that a HAM mode should be selected for IFF ILBMs that have a depth of 6 bitplanes, and do not have any so called CAMG chunk (this chunk tells what kind of screen mode that should be used to display the picture). If not specified, Visage assumes an extra halfbrite (EHB) mode should be used.

Note that this switch does not force a HAM mode to be used, only that a HAM mode should be used in case of doubt.

1.39 Visage.guide/Arguments/INFO

INFO

If this switch is specified, then Visage will not display any pictures. It will simply read some information about the picture, and display that information.

Thus, all options related to how things are rendered are ignored. However, screen mode related arguments are not, as the VERBOSE option still may be used.

This switch is in many ways similar to the TEST switch. Major differences are that the picture is not loaded at all, and that VERBOSE is considered.

This switch overrides TEST and QUIET, if they are specified as well.

Note: Datatypes will always load the entire picture, although nothing will be displayed. There seems to be nothing one can do about this.

See also:

MODE
MONITOR
TEST
VERBOSE

1.40 Visage.guide/Arguments/LATELOAD

LATELOAD

When viewing several files, this switch tells Visage to wait with loading the next picture until told to do so. Background loading is not disabled, only delayed. When used in slideshows, the extra memory needed for background loading is therefore delayed to when it is really needed.

See also:

LOWMEM

WAITFORPIC

1.41 Visage.guide/Arguments/LOWMEM

LOWMEM

If this switch is specified, then the background loading of pictures is disabled.

Note: Visage will automatically close any displayed picture, if there is not enough memory to load the next one in the background. Thus, this switch should not be needed much.

See also:

LATELOAD

1.42 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOAUTOSCROLL

NOAUTOSCROLL Synonym: NOAS

If this switch is specified, then the autoscrolling of pictures is disabled. The cursor keys can still be used to move around in the picture.

Usually, when the mouse pointer reaches the edges of a screen that is larger than the display area, the screen will automatically start scrolling, to show the "hidden" areas.

See also:

Viewing keys

1.43 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOBUSY

NOBUSY

If this switch is specified, then no busy pointer will be shown when a picture is loaded (in the foreground or the background).

See also:

POINTER

1.44 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOCLICK

NOCLICK

If this switch is specified, then Visage will ignore any mouse click on a picture. To view the next picture, or exit Visage, the keyboard need to be used (or you could send a so called break signal).

1.45 Visage.guide/Arguments/NODATATYPES

NODATATYPES Synonym: NODT

If this switch is specified, then Visage will not try to use datatypes if the picture format was not known to Visage.

This switch overrides DATATYPES, if both are specified.

See also:

DATATYPES
NOGIF
NOIFF
NOJPEG

1.46 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOENV

NOENV

If this switch is specified, then Visage will not consider the options stored in the configuration file or the environment variable VisageOpts.

See also:

VisageOpts

1.47 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOFLICKER

NOFLICKER

If this switch is specified, then Visage will not use laced screen modes. Mostly useful if you have AA graphics, and you do not promote the pictures to either the NTSC monitor or the PAL monitor.

See also:

MODE
MONITOR
WBMONITOR

1.48 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOGIF

NOGIF

Try to view GIF files with a datatype before trying with the internal viewer. The NODATATYPES switch overrides this one, if both are specified.

See also:

DATATYPES
NODATATYPES
NOIFF
NOJPEG

1.49 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOIFF

NOIFF

Try to view IFF files with a datatype before trying with the internal viewer. The NODATATYPES switch overrides this one, if both are specified.

See also:

DATATYPES
NODATATYPES
NOGIF
NOJPEG

1.50 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOJPEG

NOJPEG

Try to view JPEG/JFIF files with a datatype before trying with the internal viewer. The NODATATYPES switch overrides this one, if both are specified.

See also:

DATATYPES
NODATATYPES
NOGIF
NOIFF

1.51 Visage.guide/Arguments/NORMALNAMES

NORMALNAMES

If this switch is specified, then the algorithmic mode names will not be used when displaying the mode names. You may still use them when specifying a mode though. This is might be needed if you have a graphics card (unless

you use CyberGraphX). Or maybe you prefer the normal names.

If RTG is specified, then this switch will be set as well.

See also:

RTG
Algorithmic mode names

1.52 Visage.guide/Arguments/NOWARN

NOWARN

If this switch is specified, then most warning messages will not be displayed. Some warnings can be a bit annoying when Visage is started from the Workbench.

1.53 Visage.guide/Arguments/POINTER

POINTER

If this switch is specified, then a normal mouse pointer will be displayed when the busy pointer is not displayed. Normally, no mouse pointer is visible during this time.

See also:

NOBUSY

1.54 Visage.guide/Arguments/QUIET

QUIET

If this switch is specified, then most output from Visage is disabled. Errors and similar things are still displayed. This option is automatically used when the program is started from the Workbench.

If the INFO switch is specified, then this switch will be ignored.

See also:

INFO
TIME
VERBOSE

1.55 Visage.guide/Arguments/RANDOM

RANDOM

If this switch is specified, then Visage will display all specified/selected files in random order, rather than the (perhaps somewhat random) order in which they were found. This switch overrides SORT, if both are specified.

Note: Visage will first scan through any patterns specified, before starting to view the pictures. This may take a little while. It also means that you will not get a new file requester after having viewed the first selected files.

See also:

DELAY
SORT

1.56 Visage.guide/Arguments/RTG

RTG

If this switch is specified, then Visage will not make certain assumptions about the contents of the display database (i.e. that a flag will be set for all non-native Amiga modes). This assumption makes Visage work slightly better (i.e. work faster and/or use less memory) when displaying pictures in a native Amiga mode.

However, due to bugs in the current system software, this assumption is not (always?) correct when a graphics card is installed, and this can lead to problems. Thus, if Visage seems to be unable to display a picture on a "graphics card screen mode", then you should try this option.

Thanks to a new way handling things (in Visage 39.2), this switch should not be needed, but I find it best to make no such assumptions! ;) Also, Visage is capable of recognizing CyberGraphX modes, so this switch will not be needed if you have CyberGraphX installed.

This switch implies NORMALNAMES.

See also:

NORMALNAMES

1.57 Visage.guide/Arguments/SCALE

SCALE

If this switch is specified, then rendered pictures will be scaled down to the visible part of the screen in question, if needed.

Notes: This scaling uses a simple (but fast) algorithm, and hence the

result may not be that good at times (this largely depends on the picture in question).

See also:

Rendered pictures

1.58 Visage.guide/Arguments/SHOWINFO

SHOWINFO

If this switch is specified, the Visage will not only display picture information in the Shell it was started from (if any), but will also display it on the actual picture.

The VERBOSE switch can be used to specify how much information that should be displayed, similar to the output in a Shell. TIME information is (currently) not displayed on the picture.

This switch is not affected by the QUIET switch.

Notes: This information is not displayed for datatype pictures.

Visage will only use a single line for the text. This means that the text can be truncated, if the screen is not wide enough.

Visage will examine the colormap, and will try to find the best colors. However, the text may not always be (clearly) visible anyway.

When used with PCHG or SHAM pictures, the color selection may seem a bit odd (and incorrect) sometimes.

See also:

QUIET
TIME
VERBOSE

1.59 Visage.guide/Arguments/SORT

SORT

If this switch is specified, then Visage will display all specified/selected files in alphabetical order, rather than the (perhaps somewhat random) order in which they were found. The RANDOM switch overrides this switch, if both are specified.

Note: Visage will first scan through any patterns specified, before starting to view the pictures. This may take a little while. It also means that you will not get a new file requester after having viewed the first selected files.

See also:

DELAY
RANDOM

1.60 Visage.guide/Arguments/TEST

TEST

If this switch is specified, then Visage will not actually display the pictures. Rather, it will try to load them to see if they seem to be free from errors. When all files have been tested, Visage will print out a status message, showing if any picture contained any error. Also, if there was any error, the WARN flag will be set.

For each file that failed with a "data" error, an error message will be printed, and the COMMAND will be executed (if specified). Thus, errors caused by external things (such as out of memory) are not considered here.

If this switch is specified, then many other switches and arguments will be ignored.

If INFO is specified as well, then this switch will be ignored.

Notes: Only certain errors causes Visage to treat it as a bad. I.e. exit with the WARN flag and execute the command.

Even if a picture "fails", it might still be more or less viewable (e.g., it is not much of a problem if the error occurred while loading the last few pixel-lines of the picture). Conversely, the fact that a picture passes the testing does not mean that the picture is free from trashed graphics.

It seems like most datatypes does not return any error, even if the picture contained detectable errors. Thus, you should use the NODATATYPES option to make sure that this does not happen.

See also:

COMMAND
NODATATYPES
INFO

1.61 Visage.guide/Arguments/TIME

TIME

If this switch is specified (and QUIET is not), then Visage will display how long it took to load (and possibly render) the picture. This time does not include the time it took to open the screen in case a datatype picture was loaded. However, the only case when this can make any

noticeable difference is when you display the picture on a graphics card screen (on the other hand, the difference can be quite large).

Note: Since the QUIET option always is on when Visage has been started from the Workbench, there is no point in specifying this option in the tooltypes of an icon.

See also:

QUIET
VERBOSE

1.62 Visage.guide/Arguments/TOFRONT

TOFRONT

If this switch is specified, then the picture will be brought to the front each time a new picture is to be displayed. This is useful in slideshows in screen blankers, which should bring their screens to the front every now and then (in case some other program has opened a screen in front of the blanker).

See also:

DELAY
RANDOM
SORT

1.63 Visage.guide/Arguments/VERBOSE

VERBOSE

If this switch is specified (and QUIET is not), then some extra information about the pictures will be displayed. Currently this is the screen size and mode used by the picture. This screen mode name uses the algorithmic name, if possible.

If the SHOWINFO switch has been specified, the extra information will be displayed on the picture as well.

Note: Since the QUIET option always is on when Visage has been started from the Workbench, there is no point in specifying this option in the tooltypes of an icon, unless SHOWINFO has been specified.

See also:

SHOWINFO
TIME
QUIET
Algorithmic mode names

1.64 Visage.guide/Arguments/VCENTER

VCENTER Synonym: VCENTRE

If this switch is specified, the displayed pictures will be centered vertically, if needed.

Notes: If a screen promoter is installed, the centering may be wrong sometimes. It depends on how the screen mode is changed, and how "good" the promoting software is.

Due to the implementation, it does not look that good if border blanking is enabled (this ca not easily be avoided).

The centering:

Does not work for datatypes pictures.

Will make the picture use some more graphics memory.

Should work on all graphic cards (that put proper information in the display database).

See also:

CENTER

1.65 Visage.guide/Arguments/WAITFORPIC

WAITFORPIC

If this switch is specified together with DELAY and/or LATELOAD, then Visage will wait for the next picture to load completely before switching to that one (if there is enough memory to load the picture in the background).

See also:

DELAY

LATELOAD

LOWMEM

1.66 Visage.guide/Arguments/WBMONITOR

WBMONITOR Synonym: WBMON

Similar to MONITOR, but it will promote the pictures to the same monitor as the Workbench screen is using (if possible). The MONITOR argument overrides this switch, if both are specified.

Note: If you use the so called default monitor for your Workbench screen, then this option will not work. This can only happen if the

relevant preferences file is not available for some reason (to create it, simply select a suitable mode in the ScreenMode preferences editor and select "Save" or "Use").

See also:

MODE
MONITOR

1.67 Visage.guide/Viewing keys

Viewing keys

When displaying a picture, there are several keys you can use:

Esc, Q
Quit Visage.

E
Execute the COMMAND, if specified.

B, N
Toggle the NOBUSY option.

M, P
Toggle the POINTER option.

Space, Return, Enter
View the next picture. If the last picture is shown, show a file requester or exit.

You can also use the cursor keys and/or the numeric keyboard to scroll around in the picture. When doing this, no qualifier will scroll using steps of 10 pixels, Shift uses steps of a quarter of the visible size, Alt uses steps of three quarters of the visible size, while Control moves to the extreme.

The mouse can be used as well (unless the NOCLICK switch has been specified):

Left button
View the next picture. If the last picture is shown, show a file requester or exit.

Right button
Quit Visage.

You can of course also use these keys/mouse buttons while a picture is loaded. There may be a small delay before Visage reacts though (this is usually due to IO buffering, or a datatype picture is being loaded).

1.68 Visage.guide/Algorithmic mode names

Algorithmic mode names

An algorithmic name is a name that is built out of information available in the so called display database. These names are rather similar to the (English) names seen in e.g. the ScreenMode preferences program, but some things differ.

But why have different names? Well, the reason is rather simple actually. The display database only contains names for relatively few screen modes\$^1\$. With these algorithmic names, you can specify any mode using text (in a consistent manner). You are not limited to the rather few modes the OS programmers decided to put names on.

Mode name parts	How a mode name is "constructed".
Mode name examples	Some examples.
Mode name notes	Some notes about the mode names.

Visage also supports the more traditional (and in some ways simpler) way of displaying modes without a name, where the name consists of the monitor name, the screen size, and any special mode flags. Examples:

```
PICCOLO:1024x768
MULTISCAN:320x240 HAM
```

-- Footnotes --

\$^1\$ By using a custom sys/monitors.catalog file, more names can be added. The problem is that screen mode names are limited to about 30 chars, and this is not enough for many modes (especially MULTISCAN modes). The algorithmic names can be much longer (the internal buffer is currently 256 chars ;).

1.69 Visage.guide/Algorithmic mode names/Mode name parts

Mode name parts

A name is made of a couple of components, of which some are required, and others are optional. The different components are separated from each other by a single space.

This is the how the mode name should look (required components enclosed in <>, optional components enclosed in []):

```
<Monitor name:><Horizontal resolution> [Vertical resolution]
[Special mode flag]
```

And here is an explanation of the different components:

Monitor name:

The name of the monitor, including an ending colon (':'). Example:
"PAL:".

Horizontal resolution:

The nominal horizontal size (i.e. without overscan). Use one of the

following:

"Extra-Low Res" - Less than 200 pixels wide.
 "Low Res" - Between 200 and 400 pixels wide.
 "High Res" - Between 400 and 800 pixels wide.
 "Super-High Res" - More than 800 pixels wide.

Vertical resolution:

The nominal vertical size (i.e. without overscan). Use one of the following:

"Double" - So called double-scanned mode. Usually less than 200 pixels high.
 "" - Normal mode. Usually between 200 and 400 pixels. Sometimes more, up to 5-600 pixels.
 "Laced" - Interlaced ("flicker") mode. At least 400 pixels. Often more.

Special mode flag:

The following ones are available:

"HAM" - Hold And Modify. A special "compressed" mode with many colors, but color selection is restricted. six or eight bitplanes.
 "EHB" - Extra HalfBrite. 64 colors (six bitplanes). The second half of the colors are copies of the first, but they are half as bright.

There are a few more special mode flags that could be used, but they are not useful in this application.

1.70 Visage.guide/Algorithmic mode names/Examples

Mode name examples

Here are some examples on how the algorithmic mode names can look (English system defaults in parentheses):

DblPAL:Low Res	(DblPAL:Low Res No Flicker)
Euro72:High Res	(Euro72:Productivity)
Euro72:Extra-Low Res Double	(«No equivalent»)
DblNTSC:Low Res Laced	(DblNTSC:Low Res Laced)
Super72:Super-High Res Laced HAM	(«No equivalent»)

Please note that e.g. the modes 'PAL:Low Res' and 'DblPAL:Low Res' have very different aspect with these kind of names! The "equivalent" of 'PAL:Low Res' in DblPAL is 'DblPAL:Low Res Double'.

1.71 Visage.guide/Algorithmic mode names/Notes

Mode name notes

It is usually not that important to specify the right special mode. If a special mode is needed, but not specified, then Visage will try to find a suitable replacement mode.

The strings will be translated if a suitable catalog is installed and used, but Visage will always understand the English strings listed above. Also note that the monitor name is never translated.

The algorithmic names are only suitable for native Amiga modes. Visage is currently only capable of detecting CyberGraphX modes, and will use the normal display database name (if any) instead. For graphics cards with other emulation software, I recommend the use of the NORMALNAMES switch.

See also:

- Mode name parts
- NORMALNAMES

1.72 Visage.guide/Rendered pictures

Rendered pictures

A rendered picture is simply a picture that Visage must do more with, apart from reading - and possibly unpacking - the data, in order to be able to display it. Some picture formats (e.g. GIF and JPEG) are not stored in the normal Amiga bitmap format, and must therefore be converted. Others are in bitmap form, but your Amiga might not be able to display them anyway (e.g. 24-bit IFF ILBM pictures). These must be converted as well.

The rendering of such pictures can be controlled by using the COLOR, GRAY, SCALE and DITHER options (and the ECS option).

Note: Datatype pictures can not be scaled or converted to the requested color mode at the moment. The reason for this is that the datatype returns the picture in a format ready for display, and Visage has very little influence on the actual result. Although it would be possible to add scaling and color mode conversion, it would often only be possible at the cost of rather much time and extra memory. It could also result in rather low picture quality.

See also:

- COLOR
- DITHER
- ECS
- GRAY
- SCALE

1.73 Visage.guide/Included programs

Included programs

In this archive (in the drawer 'Visage/C') you can find a couple of extra support programs that I have written (some of these can also be found in the PicBoot archive):

GetModeID	Print the mode id number for a screen mode
Kill	Stop another task, similar to Break
MakeLink	Make links, supports soft links too
UnpackILBM	Unpack the BODY chunk of an IFF ILBM file

The following program is used during the installation:

UpdateTT	Update tooltypes from one icon to another
----------	---

Feel free to use the programs above wherever you like, but if you do copy them, distribute them with another program or anything like that, please include the manual page in question, and a note that I wrote them.

There is another program in the distribution archive, FixAG, written by Martin Taillefer. It is used during the installation to add automatic wordwrapping to the Visage.guide file (this wordwrap requires AmigaGuide version 39 or higher). It makes a few assumptions about the document header, so please use it with care. It simply copies the file from the source to the dest, adds a "@WordWrap"-command in the "header" and removes linefeeds found in paragraphs from the file.

Finally, in the 'Visage/Rexx' drawer, you can find an ARexx script written by Leo Davidson. Its purpose is to use Visage to show slideshows in Directory Opus 5.

1.74 Visage.guide/Included programs/GetModeID

NAME

GetModeID -- Get screen mode id number.

SYNOPSIS

GetModeID

DESCRIPTION

Open an Asl or ReqTools screen mode requester, and print out the decimal number for the selected screen mode. Only the number is printed, making it suitable for "backticking" it into the command line of other programs.

EXAMPLE

A bit useless perhaps, since Visage has a mode requester (among other things) already, but just an example to show how it can be used:

Visage Pics:Some.Pic MODE `GetModeID`

1.75 Visage.guide/Included programs/Kill

NAME

Kill -- Send a break signal to a program.

TEMPLATE

Kill NAME/A,ALL/S,C/S,D/S,E/S,F/S

SYNOPSIS

Kill [NAME] <Name> [ALL] [C] [D] [E] [F]

DESCRIPTION

Send the specified break signal(s) to the specified program. If the program is not found, do nothing and return WARN. Any combination of break signals are allowed.

Exactly how a program reacts (if at all) to a certain break signal is up to the program, but below you can see the typical action (if any is "defined").

OPTIONS

NAME The name of the program that should receive the break signal. Note that this is the so called process name, not the program name. They might differ, but usually they should not. The first program with this name is signalled. The search is not case sensitive.

ALL All break signals below are to be sent.

C Send the break signal Ctrl-C. The program usually quits upon receiving it. This is the default signal.

D Send the break signal Ctrl-D. Some programs (such as Visage) abort the current "operation" (or file), and proceeds with the next (if any).

E Send the break signal Ctrl-E.

F Send the break signal Ctrl-F. The program usually "pops up" (bringing any window to the front) upon receiving it.

1.76 Visage.guide/Included programs/MakeLink

NAME

MakeLink -- Make a link from one file or drawer to another.

TEMPLATE

MakeLink FROM/A, TO/A, HARD/S, SOFT/S, FORCE/S

SYNOPSIS

MakeLink [FROM] <Source> [TO] <Dest> [HARD] [SOFT] [FORCE]

DESCRIPTION

Creates a file on a disk that is a pointer to another file. When an application or command calls the FROM file, the TO file is actually used. By default, MakeLink makes hard links - the FROM and TO files must both be on the same volume.

To make soft links - which can cross volumes - the SOFT keyword must be specified. This might not be supported by all filesystems or OS versions.

Normally, MakeLink does not support drawer links, as they can be dangerous to applications. To create a drawer link you must use the FORCE option. If MakeLink detects that you are creating a circular link, such as a link to a parent drawer, you will receive a Link loop not allowed message.

OPTIONS

FROM The name of the link to be created.

TO The file/drawer the link should point to.

HARD Create a hard link. Hard links can only point to files or drawers on the same volume. This is the default.

SOFT Create a soft link. Soft links can point to files or drawers on other volumes.

FORCE You must specify this in order to make a drawer link.

NOTES

Not all programs support soft links. Especially soft file links can cause problems, and may show up as a directory.

Using soft links can be a bit tricky. If you delete the file/directory the soft link points at, then not all programs will be able to delete it. In that case, you have to create the file the link points to, and then delete the link (and finally the file).

1.77 Visage.guide/Included programs/UnpackILBM

NAME

UnpackILBM -- Unpack IFF ILBM pictures.

TEMPLATE

UnpackILBM FROM/A,TO

SYNOPSIS

UnpackILBM [FROM] <Source> [TO <Dest>]

DESCRIPTION

Unpack the so called BODY chunk of an IFF ILBM file. The BODY chunk contains the actual picture data. The other parts of the file are simply copied.

OPTIONS

FROM The picture to unpack.

TO The file to unpack to. If not specified, then the unpacked file will overwrite the original (via a temporary file). Specifying the same file for both FROM and TO causes an error.

FUTURE PLANS

Several things could be improved, including buffered I/O (and thus not loading the entire BODY chunk into memory and unpack it there); a chunk filter (to remove unwanted chunks). Other (less likely to be implemented) things include the possiblity to add/change some chunks and pack the BODY chunk.

1.78 Visage.guide/Included programs/UpdateTT

NAME

UpdateTT -- Update tooltypes from one icon to another.

TEMPLATE

UpdateTT FROM/A,TO/A,TT=TOOLTYPES/A/M

SYNOPSIS

UpdateTT [FROM] <Source> [TO] <Dest> [TOOLTYPES] <ToolType> ...

DESCRIPTION

Update tooltypes from one icon to another. The tooltypes specified (patterns are allowed) that are found in the FROM icon, will be copied to the TO icon, but only if the did not already exist in the TO icon. All other tooltypes are left unchanged.

When specifying the tooltypes, only the actual "name" of the tooltype is considered. Any arguments are ingored, as are "comment parentheses" ("()") around the tooltype to disable it).

OPTIONS

FROM The name of the icon to read the tooltypes from, without the ".info" extension.

TO The name of the icon to update the tooltypes to, without the ".info" extension.

TOOLTYPES

The tooltypes that should be updated. Patterns are allowed. Parentheses around tooltypes in the icons (to disable them) are ignored, as are any arguments.

1.79 Visage.guide/Known problems

Known problems

Visage has been extensively tested on a variety of different Amigas (sometimes with Enforcer and/or Mungwall running), and I am happy to say that there are not many known problems at the moment.

However, there are a couple of things that you should be aware of:

- Back picture visible
- Bad aspect
- Graphic cards
- Monitors
- Mouse jumping
- Screen centering
- Tooltypes ignored

I would not be the least surprised if more serious problems/bugs turns up. After all, bug-free software is a goal that is impossible to reach. :)

1.80 Visage.guide/Known problems/Back picture visible

Back picture visible

Under some very special circumstances, the picture loaded in the background may be partially visible. This and cannot be avoided, and is harmless.

1.81 Visage.guide/Known problems/Bad aspect

Bad aspect

Some pictures have a strange aspect stored in the file. Thus, if you do get a strange aspect for a picture, this is the most likely explanation (or maybe your Amiga does not have a screen mode with a proper aspect). If you have a graphics card, it is possible that the display database does not contain proper values (for the "graphic card screen modes"). The internal `BestModeID()` function is very strict when it comes to the aspect, so this should not be the source of the problem.

For certain GIF files (of the GIF89a version) it is possible that Visage gets the aspect wrong. I hope I have interpreted the GIF specification correctly, but if not, then the aspect will be wrong. As I don't have any GIF89a picture that uses this feature, I have not been able to test it. If you have such a picture (especially one that is displayed incorrectly), I would appreciate if you could send it to me.

1.82 Visage.guide/Known problems/Graphic cards

Graphic cards

As I do not own a graphics card myself, it is a bit tricky to ensure that Visage really works with the "Intuition emulators" most cards have. I do have a couple of beta testers that have graphic cards though, so Visage should behave fairly well.

One important thing to remember is that you should use the `COLOR` switch (and possibly the `DITHER` argument as well) if you want to display e.g. JPEG pictures with your graphic card (unless it supports HAM8).

Here is a list over how the most common emulators behaves (according to the beta testers! ;):

EGS

Pictures are displayed properly. However, it seems like the background loading does not work. The `LOWMEM` or `LATELOAD` option should be specified in that case.

Picasso

No known serious problems. Possibly some trashed graphics at the right side of the picture (but hopefully not).

CyberGraphX

No known serious problems. Visage may select the wrong mode

sometimes, due to errors in the display database. Crashes when displaying 24-bit IFF ILBM pictures (?).

I have not been able to trace any of the above problems to bugs in Visage (maybe some of the problems can be avoided, if I only knew how ;). It should be noted that newer/older versions of the emulation software may work differently. Also, the beta testers have not tested the final release version. ;)

See also:

COLOR
DITHER
LATELOAD
LOWMEM
NORMALNAMES
RTG

1.83 Visage.guide/Known problems/Monitors

Monitors

There is (usually) no need to have most of the monitors installed in order to be able to view all pictures. Visage will automatically try to find a suitable replacement mode if the screen mode specified (in an IFF ILBM picture) is not available.

However, not all ILBMs contain the correct information to make it possible for Visage to find the best mode. If the screen mode requested in the file does exist, Visage will do its best to use a comparable mode when needed. If it does not exist, then another part of the file is used to obtain the screen aspect. However, not all pictures have proper values here. Thus, Visage will not use the ideal mode for these pictures.

On the other hand, if you do have several monitors installed, Visage will most likely get the "right" screen mode aspect information for all (or at least most) pictures. However, this way Visage can use modes you do not want it to use. To avoid this, the monitor promotion can be used. But this has its drawbacks as well (Visage will only use that monitor, even if another one would be better).

So, both approaches have their benefits and drawbacks. Its up to you to select which you prefer! ;) Visage could be improved, so that you could tell which monitor types Visage should prefer during monitor promotion. However, I am not sure how this should be implemented yet (maybe extending the MONITOR argument with a pattern?). Besides, I do not know if anyone needs it! ;) If you feel you need it, tell me, and it might get implemented.

1.84 Visage.guide/Known problems/Mouse jumping

Mouse jumping

During picture loading (especially in the background), the mouse pointer "jumps" a little horizontally. I do not know if this is specific to my computer (and all my background utilities), but it does happen for other picture viewers as well.

I do not know why this happens; if it is due to a bug in Visage (not likely, considering that other programs have similar "problems") or what. It seems to be harmless though.

1.85 Visage.guide/Known problems/Screen centering

Screen centering

The screen centering algorithm does not seem to work most "intuition emulators" for graphic cards (I think I know how this could be worked around, but I have not bothered with it yet ;).

Also, the centering may be more or less wrong for Super72 screens. The exact amount depends on the OS version.

1.86 Visage.guide/Known problems/Tooltypes ignored

Tooltypes ignored

It is possible that the tooltypes specified in the Visage icon are ignored. This can happen if you e.g. double-click on an icon that has Visage as the default tool. The Workbench then passes on information that makes Visage believe that the program is located in the same drawer as the project icon, which is not the case. Seems to be a Workbench bug if you ask me. ;) I do not know which versions of Workbench that has this problem. 3.1 (40.5) has it at least..

To work around this problem, select the project icon, and double-click on the Visage icon with shift pressed. However, this is not always convenient...

1.87 Visage.guide/The future

The future

There are a several things that could be improved/implemented. These are things I (or a user or beta tester) have thought of during the development, but did not get implemented, either due to lack of information, time, "interest" (i.e. if I thought it could be useful) or something similar.

Anyway, here is a list over the more important ones:

Support for PNG (Portable Network Graphics) pictures.

Improve the quality of rendered "deep" (less than 24 bit) pictures in ECS modes. Code that detects grayscale pictures could be nice. Future versions of the PNG code might help as well.

Direct support for graphic cards, via EGS and/or CyberGraphX. I think I have enough information to implement CyberGraphX support (and I have a couple of betatesters), so this is likely to be implemented in an upcoming version (next major update perhaps?).

A GUI mode, to make Visage easier to use, especially from the Workbench. This would probably mean a set of menus, and slightly different behavior.

And a few minor ones:

Internal multitasking. This would mean that Visage would better respond to e.g. cursor keys, while loading a datatype picture.

Support for `superview.library/multipic.library`?

If you have any suggestions on what you think should be implemented, feel free to contact me. Several features in Visage comes from user requests.

I have no immediate plans to add the following:

Animation support. I suggest you use a dedicated animation viewer instead, such as BigAnim.

More picture formats. I do plan to add PNG, but only since this seems to be a rather "good" format, that will be used a lot in the future. Maybe a few more formats will be added, but I do not know of any other right now (and using datatypes is much better for "odd" formats anyway).

1.88 Visage.guide/Acknowledgments

Acknowledgments

There are a couple of persons who have helped me in one way or another with this program (in no particular order):

Christoph Feck
The Tower JPEG Codec Class.

The Independent JPEG Group
The color quantization/dithering functions.

Rafael D'Halleweyn
The fast 24-bit to HAM6/HAM8 encoding functions.

Sebastiano Vigna
The PCHG specification and example code.

Martin Taillefer

The asynchronous IO code and the FixAG program. (Although I had to fix a bug or two in the async io code myself! ;)

Günther Röhrich

His ideas/suggestions, and the help he gave me about his HAM encoding function, although I decided to not use it.

Lars Eilebrecht

For DoIconLite, which was used during the installation in earlier versions of Visage. I replaced it with a program written by myself, since DoIconLite did not quite work the way I wanted.

Phil Vedovatti

For the nice NewIcon.

John Hendrikx

For the conversion routines between chunky and planar formats.

Erik Lindberg, Johan Billing, Hans Bergengren,

Mathias Karlsson, Mattias Johansson, Reinhard Katzmann,

Thorsten Marquardt, Lars Eilebrecht

Beta testing. A special thank must go to Mathias Karlsson, who suggested the name for this program.

1.89 Visage.guide/Author information

Author information

If you wish to send me comments, bug reports, gifts, money or whatever, then use this address:

Magnus Holmgren
Kvarnbergsvägen 5
S-444 47 Stenungsund
SWEDEN

Electronic addresses:

Fidonet : 2:204/204.6
Internet: cmh@lls.se or cmh@aug.s.se
WWW : <http://www.lls.se/~cmh>

The latest version of Visage is available for download from my home page. There you can also find some information about me, and other programs I have written.

1.90 Visage.guide/Program history

Program history

Version 39.0

Version 39.1
Version 39.2
Version 39.3
Version 39.4
Version 39.5

1.91 Visage.Guide/Program history/Version 39.0

Version 39.0

Initial release.

1.92 Visage.Guide/Program history/Version 39.1

Version 39.1

Various bug fixes to the Xpk support code (it was a last minute addition. The beta testers never saw it ;):

Certain seeks did not work. Usually caused crashes if the unpacking was broken.

After a break, the next picture will be started faster (never noticed, due to the bug above ;).

Errors (during read) was not quite properly handled.

Fixed a bug that caused MungWall hits, but usually nothing else. ;)

Tried to remove the "odd" error requesters some users got after cancelling the file requester. I am not sure why this happened, but hopefully the changes will help. If not, I guess I will have to remove it, although this must be due to some "bad" Asl patcher or something similarly buggy. ;)

Corrected the version string. The last part of the version number should never have been there.

The working name of the program (PicView) was left in a few places. Funny, I thought I had searched through the relevant files.. ;)

Please note that my Fidonet address changed to 2:204/204.6 on the 13th of August ('95)!

Added support for color rendering of pictures, based on code from the Independent JPEG Group. The quality is not great perhaps (largely based on the fact that the palette is fixed), but on a 256 color screen the result is fairly good, at least with dithering.

Now (optionally) dithers grayscale rendered pictures on ECS Amigas. Improved the quality quite noticeably.

Made various minor cleanups to the program. Hopefully made it a bit

smaller. ;) (Eaten up by all additions..)

Updated the installer script a bit.

Norwegian translation by Jan-Tore Eliassen included.

Included a simple ARexx script written by Leo Davidson. Its purpose is to use Visage for a slideshow in DirOpus5.

Removed an Enforcer hit. Only occurred when Visage encountered a file it could not display, and no other picture was displayed.

Added support for soft file links (the OS handles soft dir links by itself).

Included a MakeLink clone I wrote quite a while ago, but never released, so that you can make soft links yourself. Note: This clone has the same size as the original (MakeLink 37.4)! ;)

Fixed a bug that (probably) could cause the wrong filename to be displayed sometimes. I never noticed it... ;)

Included DoIconLite by Lars Eilebrecht, to allow easy and flexible update of the tooltypes in the icon (in the installation script).

Added the TIME tooltype. So now you can see how long it took to load each picture. Note: This is another "last minute addition", so do not be surprised if things does not quite work as expected. ;)

Added COMPACT switch. By default, Visage is now displaying verbose output on a separate line, to make it look better on consoles with a "limited" width. Using this switch will revert to the old one-line format.

If an error occurred when using the RANDOM option, some memory (and locks on drawers) was not always freed.

Updated the asynchronous IO code, to work around a problem when using SnoopDos with "ShowRexx" active. Caused enforcer hits if Enfocer and Mungwall was running.

1.93 Visage.Guide/Program history/Version 39.2

Version 39.2

Compile date: November 7, 1995
Program size: 46312 bytes

Finnish translation by Osma Ahvenlampi included.

The GIF reader sometimes reported odd errors if there was an error in the picture.

If there was an error in a picture, the error message was printed before the picture information.

No newline was printed after the error message.

Timing information output was not quite right (leading parenthese was shown when it should not, and vice versa).

Empty files now get a meaningful error message.

Did some changes to improve RTG support (i.e. an attempt to make it actually work ;).

Removed an Enforcer hit when using GRAY output and DITHER NONE.

Added the NORMALNAMES switch, in case you prefer the normal display mode names (and sizes plus modes for those without a name), or you have a graphics card.

Fixed a typo in this manual, so that one link to the man page for DoIconLite works.

Certain constructed mode names were not correct. Could only happen for "foreign" (normally graphics card) modes without a name. Made a couple of other changes to the related code.

Implemented color cycling. Added the CYCLE argument, to automatically start the cycling when needed. This cycling only supports "simple" (CRNG) cycling at the moment.

SORT argument added. If specified, then the pictures will be displayed in alphabetical order. Behaves otherwise as RANDOM.

NOCLICK argument added. If specified, then Visage will ignore any mouse clicks on the pictures. To view the next picture or exit, the keyboard need to be used.

COMMAND argument added. Here a command can be specified, that is executed when 'e' is pressed.

VisageOpts may now contain comments. Comments starts with a '#' or ';' on the beginning of a line, and ends with the end of that line.

Visage now looks for the file VisageOpts in the drawer specified in the environment variable ConfigPath, before looking for the environment variable VisageOpts.

TEST argument added. Causes pictures to be loaded, but not displayed. If a picture fails, the COMMAND is executed, if specified.

Fixed a few problems in the installer script.

Cleaned up the output code. The WShell scrollbar looks much better now.

If you specify a file in the file requester that refers to a file that does not exist, then Visage will interpret it as a pattern. This allows you to select a drawer, and then specify a pattern in a very easy way. ;)

Replaced some catalogs strings.

Rewrote dithering functions into assembler. Overall render speed increased

some 13-18 percent (depending on dither mode) on a rather large (scaled) JPEG on my system (A4000/040).

Added the RTG switch. Forced by the fact that Visage assumed a certain flags in the display database would be set for foreign screen modes, but due to bugs in some system software, this was not the case. This switch will make Visage slower on rendering some pictures, and/or use more memory for datatype pictures, when displayed in native Amiga modes. Thus, it should only be used when needed; i.e., when a graphics card is installed.

Visage will now always try to use the aspect of the screen mode stored in an IFF ILBM picture. This did not always happen earlier.

Visage did not render dithered grayscale images properly (the picture was almost completely black).

Added some simple CyberGraphX support. Visage is now able to properly recognize a CyberGraphX mode, and will behave accordingly. Thus, the RTG switch is not needed if you have CyberGraphX installed.

Replaced the NewIcon image with one drawn by Phil Vedovatti.

Visage sometimes exited without reason when a bad file was found.

Changed to chunky <-> planar conversion code written by John Hendrikx (except for chunky to planar for 8-bit screens). Shaved some 700 bytes from the program, and made it a tad faster.

If no password was specified, but one is needed, Visage will now prompt for one, if ReqTools is available.

Added GRAPHICS as a synonym to STANDARD, for the OVERSCAN argument.

Added some safety checks.

Cleaned up some parts of this manual. Also changed the layout a little.

Reduced memory usage during dither and/or color render (at most a couple of KBs).

Added vertical centering (VCENTER). Note that this looks best if border blanking is off, due to how it is implemented. It also makes the picture use more graphics memory.

Fixed a bug that could make gray scale rendering a tiny bit slower than needed. ;)

Added support for background color in GIFs (of version 89a). Nice when the border blanking is not on, and/or vertican screen centering is used. Note that not all GIFs use this feature.

Localized date in "initial about string". ;)

Changed way of rendering interlaced GIFs. Looks much better, but is slightly slower. This method is not used if the picture is scaled (it will not look good.. ;).

Changed way of detecting foreign modes. Not as flexible as the old one, but should work much better. And even if it should become "out of date", the only drawback will be that Visage sometimes will be a bit slower than needed. ;) Should hopefully remove the need for the RTG switch.

Made some more changes for improved RTG support.

Fixed a bug that could cause crashes when started from Workbench via a project icon.

1.94 Visage.Guide/Program history/Version 39.3

Version 39.3

Compile date: December 12, 1995
Program size: 95152 bytes

TEST option did not work properly. It said "Not enough memory" for all non-datatype pictures, and did not display picture information for datatype pictures. Note that it seems like most datatypes doesn't report any error, even if the picture did contain detectable errors.

Rewrote the scaling functions. The new ones have much higher precision (and are smaller and simpler, without loss of speed). The scaling should always make a perfect screen fit now! ;)

Made some other scaling related changes, so that Visage (hopefully) will make the picture completely visible at all times.

Visage did not properly parse the density (i.e. "reversed" aspect) information in JPEG pictures.

Tried to remove the trashed graphics that sometimes can be seen to the right of a picture, when displayed on a Picasso emulation screen.

Made some further optimizations on the dithering functions (cases DITHER NONE and DITHER ORDERED). Overall speed increase at most some 6%.

GIF pictures that were larger than specified (in the header) caused problems for Visage.

Fixed a bug in the SORT option, that could cause crashes and similar.

Added nifty SHOWINFO switch. Displays picture information above the actual picture.

Added INFO switch. Makes Visage display information about the picture, but not load it.

Cleaned up the datatype reader a bit. Did not improve behavior as I had hoped (found the reason for it after I had made the change ;).

Replaced DoIconLite with UpdateTT. I wrote UpdateTT since DoIconLite did not quite behave the way I wanted. UpdateTT is also much smaller. ;)

Tried to fix the crashes when promoting IFF ILBM pictures to CyberGraphX modes.

Improved the TOFRONT behavior a little.

French translation by Georges Goncalves included.

1.95 Visage.Guide/Program history/Version 39.4

Version 39.4

Compile date: December 22, 1995

Program size: 47692 bytes

Fixed a problem that trashed memory when displaying (non-scaled) interlaced GIFs.

Missing/incorrect password got no error message. I knew about the problem before I released version 39.3, but I forgot to fix it! ;)

The "Program size:" field in the version 39.3 information was with all debug info (it is quite much ;).

Special screen modes (HAM, EHB and similar) was not properly handled when a MODE argument was specified, possibly causing pictures to be displayed in the wrong special mode.

The LOWMEM option caused crashes if "show next picture" was requested while loading the current picture.

1.96 Visage.Guide/Program history/Version 39.5

Version 39.5

Compile date: January 21, 1996

Program size: 43832 bytes

Fixed a bug that caused Visage to not work on CyberGraphX screens (and quite likely other intuition emulators as well). Introduced in version 39.3 and/or 39.4.

Recompiled with SAS/C 6.56. Reduced size with almost 4 KB.

Fixed an Enforcer hit that occurred when starting Visage from a shell with the QUIET option.

Visage did not always close datatypes.library as needed, when viewing datatype pictures.

German translation by Lars Eilebrecht included (I got one from Christian Kemp first, but his translation was not quite complete ;).

Added some more error checking in the GIF unpacker.

When breaking the current picture to view the next, Visage behaved as if the LOWMEM switch had been specified.

Visage did not propagate break signals that were recieved during a fade. Now the fading code simply peeks on the received signals and does not process them (leaving that for later). This means that Visage will not react immediately to break signals during the fade, but to fix that would cost more work than I would like to spend right now. ;)

Argh! Catalog generation went haywire in version 39.3. :/ Why did not anyone notice this eariler? ;)

If SHOWINFO was specified, but there were no vertical centering or scaling, then Visage could calculate the wrong screen height, and would quite likely trash some graphics memory.

Visage would quit on certain errors (such as file did not exist).

Switched on invisible typing in the password requester.

Visage sometimes ignored "show next picture" requests.

Misc cleanups and optimizations. I hope I did not break anything fixed above. ;)

Changed so that UpdateTT only requires OS 2.04+. I made it require OS 3.0 for no real reason. ;) Added a proper version string. Recompiled with SAS/C.

1.97 Visage.guide/Index

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