

EasyFR

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COLLABORATORS

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

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	EasyFR	1
1.1	EasyFR.guide	1
1.2	EasyFR.guide/Legal issues	1
1.3	EasyFR.guide/License	1
1.4	EasyFR.guide/NO Warranty	3
1.5	EasyFR.guide/Disclaimer	3
1.6	EasyFR.guide/Copyright	3
1.7	EasyFR.guide/About EasyFR	4
1.8	EasyFR.guide/Magic User Interface	5
1.9	EasyFR.guide/How to install	6
1.10	EasyFR.guide/Let's go!	7
1.11	EasyFR.guide/MUI-Prefs	7
1.12	EasyFR.guide/Main Page	7
1.13	EasyFR.guide/Node to Poll	8
1.14	EasyFR.guide/File .REQ	8
1.15	EasyFR.guide/Filelist	9
1.16	EasyFR.guide/Nodelist Page	9
1.17	EasyFR.guide/Global Nodelist	10
1.18	EasyFR.guide/QuickList	10
1.19	EasyFR.guide/InBound Page	10
1.20	EasyFR.guide/InBound Directory list	11
1.21	EasyFR.guide/InBound Commands	11
1.22	EasyFR.guide/Config Page	11
1.23	EasyFR.guide/Download Command	12
1.24	EasyFR.guide/Archive confoguration	12
1.25	EasyFR.guide/InBound Path	13
1.26	EasyFR.guide/OutBound Path	13
1.27	EasyFR.guide/Nodelist Path	13
1.28	EasyFR.guide/Work path	14
1.29	EasyFR.guide/Node-Filelist link	14

1.30	EasyFR.guide/REQ file Backup	14
1.31	EasyFR.guide/XPK Libraries	14
1.32	EasyFR.guide/ARexx	15
1.33	EasyFR.guide/Come registrarsi	16
1.34	EasyFR.guide/Come contattare l'autore	16
1.35	EasyFR.guide/Storia	16
1.36	EasyFR.guide/EasyFR 1.0 History	17
1.37	EasyFR.guide/EasyFR 2.0 History	17
1.38	EasyFR.guide/EasyFR 2.1	17
1.39	EasyFR.guide/Futuro	18
1.40	EasyFR.guide/Ringraziamenti	18

Chapter 1

EasyFR

1.1 EasyFR.guide

EasyFR v2.1

EasyFR, an utility to handle FidoNet File-Request.

Copyright (C) 1994 Angelo Vizzarro

Copyright (C) 1995 Francesco Dipietromaria

GUI has been created with MUI (C) 1993 Stefan Stuntz.

This guide describes how to install and use 'EasyFR'.

~Legal~issues~

~About~EasyFR~

~How~to~install~

~Let's~go!~

~History~

~How~to~register~

~Author~addresses~

~Acknowledgements~

1.2 EasyFR.guide/Legal issues

Legal issues

~License~

~No~warranty~

~Disclaimer~

1.3 EasyFR.guide/License

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- * You may use the programs for a period of up to 3 weeks for evaluation. After that, you have to register or quit using the program.

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- * You agree to cease distributing the program and data involved if requested to do so by the author.

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1.4 EasyFR.guide/NO Warranty

No warranty

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1.5 EasyFR.guide/Disclaimer

Disclaimer

No warranty, either express or implied, is made with respect to the fitness or merchantability of 'EasyFR'.

Francesco Dipietromaria (referred to as 'the author'), reserves the right to not develop any future versions of 'EasyFR'.

The author will try to make a good faith attempt at correcting any problems if any are discovered, but is in no way required, nor bound to correct them.

The author neither assumes nor accepts any responsibility for the use or misuse of these programs. He will also not be held liable for damages or any compensation beyond the original registration fee due to loss of profit or any other damages arising out of the use, or inability to use this program.

The author will not be liable for any damage arising from the failure of this program to perform as described, or any destruction of other programs or data residing on a system attempting to run the programs. The user of this program uses it at his or her own risk.

1.6 EasyFR.guide/Copyright

Copyright

'EasyFR' is become shareware from version 2.0. Unregistered users will found the old annoying requester at startup and will use a slowed and memory hunger function to read XPK packed filelists. Please, support shareware concept. If you like this program and you use it, consider registering. If you need more info, please refer to section How~to~register.

1.7 EasyFR.guide/About EasyFR

About EasyFR

'EasyFR' projcet is born from my friend Angelo Vizzarro, who made the first version of this software:

"The idea of EasyFR comes in my mind one day when my friend Gino Casavecchia shows me some utility to handle File-Requests: I did like none of them. So, considering I was looking for a project to try using MUI, i started programming, and this is the result!"

Unfortunately Angelo Vizzarro stopped the project, due to lack of time. I asked him souce codes, say I would be very happy to keep on developping this software. In this way we get to 'EasyFR 2.0'. This is version 2.1, an update that feature some small bug fix and some interesting news.

'EasyFR' is an utility to help and handle File-Requests in an easier way.

Considering this, you will need to have:

- an Amiga :-)
- a modem
- a Point
- a mailer

If you do not have these, probably you are not interested in EasyFR.

EasyFR needs:

- Kickstart 2.0 (you will need at least 2.1 to run localization)
- MUI 2.2 (or updated version) installed
- xpkmaster.library 2.4
- traplist.library 5.2 (or later)

These are some of the features:

- Create and handle .REQ files to be sent to the BBS (with a mailer) that should reply your request
 - Read and select directly from a fidonet box (a Filelist) files you want to request; selected entries will be copied in the .REQ file
 - Backup of the .REQ file
 - Handle fidonet box (Filelist) packed with any XPK library
 - Find Next & Find Previous with progress indicator functions in fidonet boxes
-

- Display info about nodes in nodelist (using traplist.library)
- QuickList with most frequently used nodes
- Run the mailer directly from EasyFR by pressing one button
- Simple management of InBound: directory
- List and extract LhA & LZX archives
- EasyFR can associate a Filelist to a specific node (via traplist.library): changing node will change filelist too
- GUI can be modified by the user, this thanx Stefan Stunz and his 'Magic~User~Interface';
- Localization: by now only english and italian are distributed;
- On-line help: pressing the HELP key, the AmigaGuide® help will be shown. Help is context-sensitive;

As you can read, there is nothing really particular, but there seems that other programs miss something.

Some can run TrapDoor, do not handle fido boxes (Filelists), others do not support traplist.library, and I haven't seen any one supporting XPK libraries.

'EasyFR' try to handle File Requests in a complete and easy way.

1.8 EasyFR.guide/Magic User Interface

'EasyFR' has been developed using 'MUI' v2.0 ((C) Stefan Stunz).

This mean:

- 1) You MUST have 'MUI' installed in order to run this program;
- 2) You MUST have at least AmigaOS 2.04 (v37.175) in order to install 'MUI'

If you do not know 'MUI', probably you won't be happy to loose some space of your HD installing this package.

I think you will change your opinion!

'MUI' offers many feature to both the user and the programmer.

Some examples:

- A GUI following the Comodore's User Interface Style Guide;
 - Every 'MUI' application can be iconified;
 - You can use the keyboard, instead of the 'usual' mouse;
 - Almost all elements will automatically fit to the window size (if resiable) and to the selected font (witch may change);
-

- Many GUI parameters (font, color, pattern, background images, screen, etc.) can be changed directly from the user, using the MUI-Prefs program supplied with the distribution;

I could go on, but i prefer to stop here (please, download 'MUI' from your local BBS and read the documentation); I only add that not having 'MUI' installed means not to use all those programs that require it (and they are more and more), not only 'EasyFR'!

1.9 EasyFR.guide/How to install

How to install

- 1) Install MUI in your sistem. 'EasyFR' does not work without 'MUI'
- 2) Choose a dir and copy these files:
 - EasyFR (executable)
 - EasyFR.info (executable icon)
 - EasyFR.sleep.info (AppIcon for EasyFR)
 - EasyFR.guide (on-line help)
- 3) Create a dir named "C" and copy in it the file C/mouse2 provided with the distribution.
- 4) EasyFR need his directory to be assigned as EasyFR:. Please do this and add it to the file s:user-startup.
- 5) Copy the catalog file of your language (if provided) in the dir Locale:Catalogs/Italiano. Please note that locale support comes from Workbench 2.1 and later. If you are using WB 2.0, EasyFR will speak in English.

For a full working it is raccomandated to install TrapDoor package (or another mailer), and/or at least the traplist.library: 'EasyFR' uses this library to handle node informations.

Now installation is done.

By the way you can install EasyFR using the installer script provided with the distribution... :-)

EasyFR can be run either from a shell with the command "EasyFR" or "run EasyFR >NIL: <NIL:" or from Workbench double-clicking its icon.

First of all, you need to configure the program with this parameters:

- The command to run the mailer and make the call;
- InBound directory path;
- OutBound directory path;
- Nodelist directory path;
- Work dir path;

For further information, please look at the Configuration~page or to Let's ~go page.

Note: 'EasyFR' help is context-sensitive. You only have to mouse mouse pointer over a gadget and press the help key. AmigaGuide® Help will be run automatically displaying information on the gadget.

1.10 EasyFR.guide/Let's go!

Let's go!

At its first run 'EasyFR' need to be configured. Many informations required in the first version are no more needed, because of the support of the traplist.library.

After filling in the requested information in the configuration panel, the program is ready to run.

The application is divided in 4 'pages':

Main~Page
Nodelist~Page
InBound~Page
Config~Page

New MUI users should know that almost all gadgets of the GUI can be selected using the keyboard. You can move from one gadget to another using the TAB key (or SHIFT+TAB to move back).

BTW, you can select the 4 pages of 'EasyFR' using function keys F1, F2, F3 e F4.

Because of MUI, EasyFR 2.0 support also some ARexx~~command, standard commands provided by MUI itself. Further command will be implemented in later releases. The ARexx port name is 'EASYFR'.

1.11 EasyFR.guide/MUI-Prefs

MUI-Prefs

MUI registered users may change the look of EasyFR GUI. Please refer to MUI documentation on how to use MUI-Prefs program.

1.12 EasyFR.guide/Main Page

Main Page

In this page you will find:

- a section with the info about the request~node;
- a section with the req~file~list;
- a section with the FileList.

1.13 EasyFR.guide/Node to Poll

Request Node Address.

In the string-gadget you have to insert the address of the node you want to call. This address must be a standard 4 dimension Fido-like address: something like x:yyy/zzz.p (zone:host/node.point).

The address shall be present in nodelist. The program will pop up a requester if the traplist.library can not find the node in the nodelist.

For further info about the nodelist, please read Global~Nodelist.

Beside the string-gadget you will find a popup gadget; it will make appear a small list view where you will find the addresses you are using more often: this is the QuickList.

Once you have selected a valid address, node information will be displayed. These informations are taken directly from the nodelist.

If configured in this way, EasyFR will also look for the filelist linked with the node (if exist): it will be read together with the .REQ file (if exist) of the node.

1.14 EasyFR.guide/File .REQ

Requested file-list (.REQ)

This area displays informations about files you want to request.

The listview

This listview displays the file names of the packages you want to request (the contents of the .REQ). File names can be added directly or double-clicking the filename from the filelist.

The Add button

To add directly the name of one file, simply press the 'Add' button and write the name in the string gadget (that will be activated). Pressing the return key the name will be inserted in the listview. You can also select a name from the loaded~~filelist: look for it in the filelist listview, double-click it and it will be automatically inserted in the req listview.

The Edit button

By using thi sbutton you can edit a filename already inserted in the file request list. You only have to select an entry and press the Edit button: now you can modify the string. Press return to finish.

The Remove button

To remove a single name from the list, simply select an entry and then press the Remove button.

The Delete All button

Using the 'Delete all' button you will clear the .REQ list, cancelling the request.

Auto-search checkmark

The auto-search checkmark tells the program to look for the name you selected in the Filelist. This could be handy if you want to know the length and/or the date of the program you are requesting.

1.15 EasyFR.guide/Filelist

File List for Request

This listview contains loaded Filelist, i.e. those text files with the list of available files on a certain BBS. From this list you will be able to select with your mouse (or keyboard) those files you want to download from the BBS.

'EasyFR 2' supports XPK libraries. Filelist are text files and can be compressed with a ratio > 50%. Speed slow down strictly depend on the compression method you are using. Using a really fast unpacking packer can be faster than using plain filelist.

The plain filelist loader has been completely rewritten and now is 60% faster than the old version.

Unregistered users will find the xpk loader very slow. This because the xpk loader is only for demo purpose in the evaluation version. If you like xpk libraries (like I do), please register.

EasyFR offer to the feature of "linking" a filelist to a node: in this way, every time you select the node, the linked filelist will be automatically loaded. This information is saved in the extra database handled by the traplist.library. BTW, you can also turn this feature off from the configuration panel.

The name (and the path) of the filelist can be inserted directly in the string gadget or selected via the popup, that will activate an ASL file-requester.

You will also find an easy to use string search function.

1.16 EasyFR.guide/NodeList Page

Nodelist Page

In this page you will find:

- Information~on~nodes;
- The~Quicklist.

1.17 EasyFR.guide/Global Nodelist

Global Nodelist

From version 2.0, EasyFR uses `traplist.library` written by Maximilian Hantsch and Martin Laubach. In this way there is no more need to use a self made handling of the nodelist (as in the `èpreviuos` release). This make EasyFR more standard...

Every information about nodes are completely handled by this library. You have not to load big nodelist and to process them: `traplist.library` uses an index to speed up searching trough the nodelist itself.

In the bottom you'll find a string gaded labeled 'Node address': here you shall write the fidonet node number you want to look at. If this address exist, EasyFR will show every information available for this node.

Displayed nodes can be added to the Quicklist for a faster use.

1.18 EasyFR.guide/QuickList

The QuickList

This is where you should add the most used systems. This list will be shown every time you will activate the pop-up near the node address un the main page, where, double-clicking on a node, will select it.

Please, have a look to Node~to~poll.

'Add' and 'Remove' buttons are used to add or remove the node that is currently displayed to the QuickList.

Double-clicking an entry from this list will let EasyFR display informations about it.

1.19 EasyFR.guide/InBound Page

InBound Page

From this page you can perform some easy function of the InBound directory before and after the request. You can:

- have a look to the InBound~List,
 - perform some commands~on~files.
-

1.20 EasyFR.guide/InBound Directory list

InBound directory List.

This page can be usefull before and after the download to verify witch files are present and witch are just arrived. Name, lenght, date and comment are displayed.

Have a look to InBound~commands

1.21 EasyFR.guide/InBound Commands

InBound commands

Rescan InBound

Force EasyFR to read InBound directory again, usable after a download.

Set Comment

This button let you edit the filenote of a file; this can be handy after a download when filenotes do not describe the contents of the file.

Arc List

Open a console window and displays the contents of the selected file if it is an LhA or LZX archive. This feature runs the command you have inseted in the appropriate string gadget in the config page.

Arc Extract

Extract the selected archive using the command in the appropriate string gadget in the config page.

Sort by ...

From here you can select the sort method of the directory list, either by Name or by Size or by Lenght.

1.22 EasyFR.guide/Config Page

Config Page

This page contains all information required from the program to work properly. Following entries are requested:

- Download~command;
 - Arc~settings;
-

- InBound~path;
- OutBound~path;
- Nodelist~path;
- Work~path;

Then you can choice to either to use the traplist.library or not to link~a~Filelist to a specific node address. On the right some information about the registration status and the XPK~libraries status are displaied. Registered users may also enable the backup for the .REQ file. With this option on you can use the "Add Backup" entry from the menu and the "Scan Inbound" button in the main page.

1.23 EasyFR.guide/Download Command

Download command

'EasyFR' allow you to directly do a download without having to run manually a mailer and make it do the call. Anyway it cannot handle directly the modem. 'EasyFR' will run the command you will enter in this string gaded every time you will push the call button in the main page.

If you are using Trapdoor as mailer, you will have to insert something somilar to the following line (let's suppose Trapdoor is in the directory Mail:bin/):

```
Mail:bin/Trapdoor CALL %a
```

The token %a will be sobstituted with the current address. You are supposed to use a mailer that support traplist.library too, because no telephone number is inserted (future release may support this, too).

For further information about Trapdoor or other mailer, please refer to theri documentation.

1.24 EasyFR.guide/Archive confoguration

Archive configuration

In this section you find a register frame to select the archiver you want to configure, and two string gadgets where to insert the list and extract commands.

List archive command

Here you must insert the command that will be executed on the selected file in the InBound listview when you press the 'Arc List' button. The command should look like:

```
C:Lha l -Qa %f
```

where %f is the filename of the selected entry. There is non need the specify the redirection on a console: a window will be opened automatically.

Arc extract command

Here you must insert the command that will be executed on the selected file in the InBound listview when you press the 'Arc Extract' button. The command should look like:

```
C:Lha x -Qa %f RAM:
```

where %f is the filename of the selected entry. There is non need the specify the redirection on a console: a window will be opened automatically.

1.25 EasyFR.guide/InBound Path

InBoud path

Insert here the full path of the directory where your mailer puts downloaded files. This path shall be the same as in the mailer configuration file.

```
Examples: Mail:InBound/  
          InBound:
```

1.26 EasyFR.guide/OutBound Path

OutBoud path

Insert here the full path of the directory where you want .REQ file saved. This one should be the same directory where mail packet are saved from the tosser. This path shall be the same as in the mailer configuration file.

```
Examples: Mail:OutBound/  
          OutBound:
```

1.27 EasyFR.guide/Nodelist Path

Nodelist path

Insert here the full path of the nodelist directory. This path shall be the same as in the Traplist configuration file.

```
Examples: Mail:Nodelist/  
          Nodelist:
```

1.28 EasyFR.guide/Work path

Work path

'EasyFR' needs a work directory where to write some temp files. Insert here the full path of this directory. Usually it is better to select a path in the Ram Disk, but you can select a path on you hard drive too.

Examples: T:
Ram:T/

1.29 EasyFR.guide/Node-Filelist link

Filelist link

Using three radio buttons you can select the behaviour of the program when you change the node of the system you want to request to.

Clear at node change
every time you select a new node in the main window, the filelist listview is cleared.

Take the same
the contents of the listview is kept even when you change node. You can still load a new filelist.

Node Association
the program remember the last Filelist used for a specific node, and load it when that node is selected.
Filelist path and name are recorded in the extra database handled by the traplist.library. This function is available only if this library is installed.

1.30 EasyFR.guide/.REQ file Backup

.REQ file backup

This checkmark enable the backup of the .REQ file. WHen this function is on, you will be able to use the "Scan~Inbound" function from the main panel, and the "Append Backup" from the menu.

This function is only available for registered users.

1.31 EasyFR.guide/XPK Libraries

XPK Libraries

XPK is an interface standard between programs and packer libraries. Every XPK application can handle datas packed with every XPK packer library: you

only need that specific packer library and also 'EasyFR 2.x' will be able to read packed Filelist.

XPk libraries are distributed in two archives 'xpkXXusr.lha' and 'xpkXXdev.lha', where XX is the version number. Currently distributed version is 2.5. You can find them from your local BBS or on an Aminet mirror.

Thanx goes to:

Urban Dominik Mueller	umueller@amiga.physik.unizh.ch
Bryan Ford	bryanf@hpmcaa.mcm.hp.com
Peter Struijk	ddws0168@dutiws.tudelft.nl
Christian von Roques	roques@karlsruhe.gmd.de
Andre Beck	beck@freia.inf.tu-dresden.de
Marc Zimmermann	zimmerma@ibr.cs.tu-bs.de
Kristian Nielsen	bombadil@diku.dk
Torsten Juergeleit	bj030@aix370.rrz.uni-koeln.de
Matthias Scheler	tron@uni-paderborn.de
Uwe Roehm	roehm@kirk.fmi.uni-passau.de
Martin A. Blatter	blatter@amiga.physik.unizh.ch

...and may others.

EasyFR 2.0 support XPk libraries. You only need to install the xpk25usr.lha package (where 25 is the version number) to make 'EasyFR 2.0' to read XPk packed filelist. There are many other packer libraries not distributed with the original archive. You can find them on many BBSes or on internet.

Filelist are text files and can be packed with a ratio up to 60-70%. I suggest you to try to pack filelist with the NUKE method (the xpknuke.library can be found in the original XPk archive): using this one you will gain more than 60% on text file keeping hi-speed decompression.

WARNING: registered users will make use of an optimized (either in time or in space) function for reading packed filelist. Unregistered users will note a slow down and will need more memory for read them. I suggest you not to read big packed filelist, or you will have to wait long time. On my A2000/030 (25 Mhz), 'EasyFR 2.0', 020+ registered version, took about 14 seconds to read a packed Aminet INDEX filelist (Uncompressed length 1119741 bytes, Compressed length 443256 bytes) loading it from HD.

1.32 EasyFR.guide/ARexx

ARexx Interface

EasyFR 2.x have the standard ARexx interface provided by MUI (quit, hide, deactivate, show, activate, info, help): please refer to the MUI documentation for further information about these commands. Other commands will be implemented in next releases, to make it possible to program 'EasyFR' with an ARexx script.

1.33 EasyFR.guide/Come registrarsi

How to register

From release 2.0, EasyFR is become shareware. You can use EasyFR for an evaluation period of 3 weeks. After this period, if you like it, if you think it is useful and it is a well done program, you have to register. The registration fee can be payed in italian lire (15.000 lire), in american dollars (10 US \$) german marks (15 DM).

When possible, postal money order should be payable at the Turin Post Office number 27.

To register fill in the Registration~form and send it to the author via snail mail or via e-mail.

Remember that future developing of this software depend on your support.

1.34 EasyFR.guide/Come contattare l'autore

How to contact the author

For any information, for registering, bug report, suggestions or other, you can reach the author to the following address:

Francesco Dipietromaria
v. Genovesi, 15
10128 Torino
Italia

...or via E-mail to the following addresses:

Fido: 2:334/503.15
Amy: 39:101/402.5
E-mail: dpm@ns.sinet.it

You can also have a look at my WWW home page:

http://www.di.unito.it/pub/WWW/www_student/amiga/Dpm/

I will not reply to snail mail because of postal expenses. It's better to use e-mail.

1.35 EasyFR.guide/Storia

History

- ~EasyFR~1.0~~
- ~EasyFR~2.0~~
- ~EasyFR~2.1~

Future development of this software depend on your support.

1.36 EasyFR.guide/EasyFR 1.0 History

History

EasyFR 1.0:

- First public release (not distributed on internet because english documentation were missing).

1.37 EasyFR.guide/EasyFR 2.0 History

History

EasyFR 2.0:

- The project comes in my hands (thanx to Angelo Vizzarro that give it to me);
- Added traplist.library support;
- Removed personal nodelist handling;
- Added XPK~libraries support for reading packed filelist;

Future developing of this software depend on your support.

1.38 EasyFR.guide/EasyFR 2.1

EasyFR 2.1

- Plain filelist load function entirely rewritten: it's 40% faster!
 - "Sort by Date" function in InBound now sorts in decreasing mode.
 - New: "Sort by Length" sorting method added.
 - Added backup function (now works).
 - Added Scan Inbound function.
 - Added ASLFR_RejectIcons tag in the ASLRequest file for filelists
 - Now filename > 16 char can be added in the .REQ
 - Fixed the address display (I hope): some times it prints "%"
 - Now prints in addresses in 4D: if you insert "2:334/21" it prints "2:334/21.0"
 - EasyFR didn't save .REQ file when iconify. Fixed.
 - Every Allocation is now done using Memory Pools
 - If starting with a node without an associated filelist, it comes an error message (Could not open filelist). Fixed.
 - Added "Filelist Info" option from Project menu.
 - Added Iconify item in the Project menu.
 - Added a progress indicator & abort button for searching.
 - Added a Proceed & Cancel button to the Set Filenote window.
 - Added LZX support.
 - New menu "REQ List".
 - Added a Save entry in the REQ List menu.
 - Added Append Backup in the REQ List menu.
 - Added a full preconfiguration for first run.
 - Now you can call node with empty f'req list (usefull for multinode BBSes)
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- Catalog updated!

Future releases of this software are related to your support.

1.39 EasyFR.guide/Futuro

Future...

Future releases are planned to have some more feature:

- A complete ARexx interface, able to pilot the program completely;
- Make it possible to handle not in nodelist addresses using the QuickList (handling at least the phone number for the mailer);
- Time cost calculation for the download of the selected files;
- Other archivers;
- MUI 3.1 new functions

Suggestions are welcome.

1.40 EasyFR.guide/Ringraziamenti

Acknowledgements

The following names are either trademarks or the efforts of the person and/or company listed:

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I wish to thanx Angelo Vizzarro for giving me the source code of his first release of EasyFR with the documentation needed for continuing the development of this soft (some authors prefer to trash their source code instead of giving them to someone else).

A special thank you to the following people (in alphabetical order):

- Gino Casavecchia fot his support;
- Alex Garoli for his suggestion and his help in solving probs;
- Marco Losurdo for the Icons and the Logo;

and to my other beta testers (in alphabetical order):

Danilo Aghemo, Fabrizio David, Andrea Vallinotto, Angelo Verdone e Amiga & Technology BBS

for their support and bug reports needed to keep developing EasyFR 2.0.

A special thanx for the french catalog translation for version 2.0 goes to Florent Montheilhet.

License agreement and legal mumbo jumbo largely stolen from TrapDoor manual.

Many thanx to all of you.

EasyFR 2.1 has been programmed on Amiga2000/A2630, Kickstart 3.1 (version 40.63), Workbench 3.1 (version 40.42) using SAS/C Development System 6.56. A special thanx goes to SAS Institute for developing this great compiler and to the SAS Institute GmbH (European Headquarter) for their reliability and the speed with witch they send me the package.

The documentation and the source code have been prepared using GoldED 3.1.3 ©1993-1994 Dietmar Eilert. My thanx goes to him too for his wonderful editor.

The guide has been prepared using Heddley 1.1 by Edd Dumbill.
