AmiSearch

COLLABORATORS			
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AmiSearch

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1.2   Introduction

When you download files from Aminet, either from the Net or CD ROM, you need to ←
    search
through indexes. But as Aminet grows every day indexes become larger and larger, ←
    so
it is not very easy to find what's you're looking for in big indexes (2 MB for ←
    Aminet
main index) and people can't afford to print indexes every day.

The easiest solution is to use a program like grep to search through the indexes.
But I think that typing each time a command line like "grep module work:cdindex"
is not really the easiest way to find what you are looking for. According to
me a program with a nice graphical user interface is a better solution.

Some months ago Arne Meyer created AST (Aminet Search Tool), which is a GUI for
Aminet searches. This program was quite nice but used too much memory. A newer
version has corrected this memory problem but I think it is too slow.

So I decided to create AmiSearch. It has the following advantages :

    - Nice GUI (MUI)

    - Very easy to use (help bubbles can help the user)

- Very easy to configure

- Quite fast (a 2.4 MB index is read in 11 seconds on my A1200/030/50 Mhz),
  even on low-powered Amigas.

- Doesn't use too much memory

1.3 Requirements

To use AmiSearch you need :

- An Amiga ;)

- MUI 3.3 or higher

- Indexes

- A hard disk (indexes are quite large)

- Installer for the install script

1.4 Installation

Just double-click on install icon. Installation will be automatic.

If you don't have Installer you have to :

- Copy AmiSearch and AmiSearch.info where you want (and this manual too)

- Copy the catalog corresponding to your language to LOCALE:Catalogs

- Copy AmiSearch.sets to ENV: and ENVARC:

If you used AmiSearch 1.0 you should use the small script ConvertConfig
to keep your settings, but don't forget to make a copy before.

1.5 Usage

You can start AmiSearch from CLI (type AmiSearch) or Workbench (double-click on ↩
   icon).
If everything is ok the interfaces pops up and you are ready to use AmiSearch.

@{ "Search   " link "sear" }
@{ "Settings " link "Paths" }

1.6 Search

Click on the string gadget and enter a pattern. You can choose the index on which
AmiSearch will work by clicking on the category wanted (each category has an index ←
   , see
settings).

Your search can be case sensitive or not. A case sensitive search will be a little
faster but you have to be sure of upper/lower cases in search pattern. For example
if you search 'module' all lines with 'Module' will be ignored.

When the settings are done click on 'Go' button to begin the search. If an error
message pops up you have to fix the problem before trying again. The gauge will
show you which part of the index is being read. At the end of the search the
text viewer you chose will display an index with only lines containing the
search pattern. You will also have a window with some stats about the search.

1.7 Settings

You can set here which indexes and viewer you will use. Click on each gadget
to activate a standard file requester, allowing you to select the index or
viewer you want.

If you want not to use one or 2 indexes just type NONE (upper case) instead of the
index name and its path. Doing that AmiSearch will know that this gadget is not ←
   linked
to an index. But don't try to select a category with no index, because AmiSearch
will display an error message (and this is useless to enter NONE for a viewer for
the same reason).

When you use AmiSearch for the very first time all paths are initialized to NONE.
So you have to select all your indexes and you favourite text viewer before trying
AmiSearch.

You can also choose here which stats will be displayed at the end of the search :

– All the stats

– Just the time elapsed

– Just number of files found

– No stats at all

When you have chosen everything you can :

– Use the settings : settings will be kept in memory, so if you quit and reload
                      you will have your settings done but if you do a reset all
                      will be lost.

– Save the settings : settings are written to disk, so they will be kept until
                      you modify them.

When you save/use the setting you also keep the index category, the upper/lower
case choice and the amount of stats to be displayed.

1.8 Indexes

For AmiSearch you will need three indexes :

@{ "CD ROM   " link "cdi" }
@{ "Internet " link "inti" }
@{ "Local   " link "loci" }

But, according to your needs, you can choose not to use three indexes. For example
if you don't have access to Internet you needn't set an Internet index.
See @{ "settings" link "paths" } for more details.

1.9 CD ROM Index

Whith each Aminet CD ROM you have an index of its contents. But if you use them
directly with AmiSearch these indexes are not very useful, because they don't
give the CD number.

But with AST Arne Meyer defined a new index format for CD ROM : the archives' age
in weeks has been replaced by the CD number. So it is very easy to know where to
find a file.

So, if you want to use a CD ROM index you have two choices :

– Download a global CD index in AST format. This file is ready for use and
  can be found in the directory 'docs/lists' (ex : cdindex210.lha)

– Build the index by yourself. You just need some CD ROM indexes and I2DB
  (util/misc), a small program I created last year to convert Aminet indexes.
  Convert each index with I2DB and join them, so you will obtain a nice CD index.

1.10 Internet index

For the Internet index you'll need an index from Aminet site. Mirrors and main ←
   site
have the same index but you should download the one from ftp.wustl.edu (main site)
or ftp.netnet.net, which really contain all Aminet files.

If you can you should download INDEX.Z and uncompress it locally with uncompress
(UNIX) or gzip (Amiga). But if you can't uncompress it you can download INDEX, ←
   which
is much bigger than INDEX.Z (longer to download and costing more money).

When you have this uncompressed index you can use it with AmiSearch.

1.11 Local index

This index is used for the files which are neither on CD nor on Internet. For ←
    exemple
you can use such an index if you have saved archives on floppy disks or a hard ←
    drive
partition.

You can put in this index exactly what you want, but you MUST make a header like ←
    this :

```
|
| Title of the index
|
| Name      Size      Disk number   Desc
|---------------------------------
```

The really important things are :

 – Each header line must begin with '|'

 – The last line must begin with '|' which will be followed by '-'

If your index doesn't have a header like this (which is a standard Aminet header)
AmiSearch will act in a very weird way.

For a local index I suggest you put important information, like :

 – Archive name

 – Size

 – Where to find it (directory name for hard drive partition or disk number for ←
    floppies)

 – Short description

Here is a part from my local index, as an example :

```
|Nom                   Taille  Disk Descriptif
|------------------------------------------------
AIRWOLF.LHA            104644   1   Module
CARDMEMLAST.LHA          4890   1   Gestion de la carte PCMCIA
DELIPLAYERS.LHA          4679   1   Players pour DeliTracker
DELIPLAYERS2.LHA        28090   1   Players pour DeliTracker
EAGLEPLAYER.LHA        510917   1   Player de modules
EXOTICRIPPER.LHA       102229   1   Ripper son
FAKE20.LHA               2367   1   Gestion mémoire
FOLLOWMOUSE.LHA         13396   1   Yeux qui suivent la souris
GHOSTBUSTERS.LHA        28754   1   Module
INTEL-INSIDE.LHA          583   1   Icône
KILLAGA2.LHA             5566   1   Désactive le mode AGA
LEDSTORM.LHA            25761   1   Module
```

```
REMAPINFO.LHA              5855    1   Change les couleurs des icônes
CLICKNOT373.LHA            3002    2   Diminue le clic des lecteurs
EDPLYR21.LHA             221824    2   Player de modules
IVEGOTTHEPOWER.LHA        99024    2   Module
```

As you can see here the really important parts are the begining '|' and the '-' at ←
    the end
of the header.

1.12 History

* Version 1.0

    INTERNAL

            beta 1 : No GUI, only search functions are implemented.
                    The search is still case sensitive.

            beta 2 : Search functions are fully implemented. Internal
                    buffer size has been adapted in order to increase
                    speed. Still some strange problems with matching
                    function.

            beta 3 : GUI designed with MUI Builder. Most of AmiSearch's
                    functions are now connected with the GUI. Settings
                    can be saved to ENV: and ENVARC:.

            beta 4 : Search functions have been rewritten : now they are
                    up to 4 times faster than before. AmiSearch's GUI
                    is now fully implemented. Added help bubbles and cleaned
                    the code (now much cleaner).

            beta 5 : AmiSearch needed a huge stack to run : it has been corrected.
                    The program seems to be fully operationnal now.

            beta 6 : Error messages are now displayed in windows. Added ←
               statistical
                    message at the end of the search.

            beta 7 : AmiSearch is now localized. Created French catalog to test
                    the locale version.

            beta 8 : Corrected a small mistake in the French catalog.
                    Corrected version string. Improved error messages at startup.
                    Gauge update was not very accurate, it is now fixed.
                    Corrected some option names/help messages, according to ←
                        suggestions
                    by PhB.

May 1996 : First Aminet release

* Version 1.1   : Now a message is displayed if the search pattern cannot be ←
    found
```

in the index. According to suggestions by Max Headrom the ←
    final
stats can be customized and more settings are saved (stats, ←
    category
and upper/lower case). The file ReadMe.mui has been added ( ←
    sorry,
I forgot it in the first release). A script called ←
    ConvertConfig
has been created to convert the AmiSearch.paths to AmiSearch. ←
    sets.
AmiSearch now has a new icon, created using a nice brush ←
    created
by Colin Thompson.

Release date : July 1996

## 1.13 Thanks

The author would like to thank :

- Kirsten Davis, because without her this program would never have been written.

- Eric Totel for MUI Builder, the wonderful tool which allowed me to gave life to ←
    AmiSearch.

- Stefan Stuntz for MUI

- Arne Meyer for Aminet Search Tool (AST), which inspirated me for AmiSearch, and ←
    for
  what he said about I2DB in AST's manual

- Colin Thompson, author of WANT which gave me ideas for future options of ←
    AmiSearch
  and created a nice brush I used for AmiSearch's icon.

- People who tested AmiSearch and/or gave me hints : Emmet, Garfield, PhB, agt (# ←
    amigafr)

## 1.14 Legal

AmiSearch has been tested for hours on several Amiga models. But nobody's perfect, ←
    so
I can't be responsible in any way if my program breaks something. Due to ←
    algorithms
used it should be harmless.

AmiSearch is GIFTWARE. I spent a lot of time on this program in order to make it
fast and easy to use. You are encouraged to send me a gift if you like this
program and use it often, like a Porsche, a 060 accelerator card, ...

Seriously you are encouraged to send me something if you like AmiSearch, depending on what you think of its value. If you decide to send me money please only send CASH if you are not French.


AmiSearch is freely distribuable. So it can be included on CD ROM like Aminet CDs, magazine cover disks or public domain collections. BUT FRANCE FESTIVAL  ←
    DISTRIBUTION
AND AMIE WILL NEVER BE ALLOWED TO DIFFUSE AMISEARCH.


## 1.15  Author

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You can join me for critics, suggestions, bug reports, enforcer hits, ...
I also accept catalogs for other languages, if you send me some I'll put them with ←
    next
version of AmiSearch.
If you want me to add features don't be shy : contact me and I will think of it.