A-START!

COLLABORATORS			
	TITLE : A-START!		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
WRITTEN BY		July 20, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY			
NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

Chapter 1

A-START!

1.1 A-START!

```
  A-START! v0.90B (April 1996)   voidParrot Software 95/96
         Programming for you!
```

Please do not send me bug-reports on this one, since it is only a
buggy demonstration of all the new features, the next version will
have. I just wanted to release this to show you, that i'm still
alive and developing. Thank you.


```
 New features  For those, who have used A-Start before.

 Introduction  What is A-Start?
 Requirements  What do I need to use A-Start?
 Features      What can it do for me?

 Installation  How to install A-Start.
 Usage         How to use A-Start.

 Preferences   How to configure A-Start.

 Legal stuff!  Crime does not pay!
 Register!     Support shareware!
 Graphicians   PPaint,DPaint,Brilliance!

 Future        What is yet to come.
 Author        All about the author.
```

Programmers, who wan't to be a part of A-Start, be free to contact me!

1.2 A few introductory words:

```
 Introduction to A-Start (preview version):

 Before I start telling you about A-Start, I would like to remind
 you that this is only a preview version, with which you will only get a
```

limited feel for what A-Start can do. Many of A-Start's features are not
present yet.
 A-Start is a multi-function utility. It is a handy alternative to
tool managers and program launchers, but that is not all. Its GUI gives
you an easy and intuitive way to control and keep track of some of the most
important and often used functions of your system. For example editing your
preferences or like launching your favorite programs are now just a few
clicks away. You'll have fast access to your projects, whether it is
programming, graphics, or sound: two clicks, and you are in your
programming-environment, paint program, or music editor editing your
project.
 Using A-Start, you can browse through your partitions in no time, and do
whatever you need to do with the files encountered. A-Start recognizes
the file types for you, and will start your prefered viewer or editor.
All with beautiful graphics and relaxing sound(n/a yet). But wait,
there's more! Deleting or renaming files is a snap with A-Start!

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1.3   System Requirements

 What you need in order to run A-Start:

 Kickstart 2.04:
      This version of Kickstart nowadays is no longer standard,
      so get yourself OS3.1 if you are running an amiga under 3.0!

 MagicWB:
      To make A-Start look its best, you need MagicWB colors.

 Screen mode:
      It is recommended that you use a screen mode with a 1:1
      screen pixel aspect & a large page-size (min. 640*400).

 Hard disk:
      A-Start is not very useful without a hard disk, and with
      today's hardware prices, every Amiga user should have one!
      HD's are to be thought of as standard equipment.

 Font:
      You need the XHelvetica font, which comes with the Magic-
      WB package.

 WBStart-handler:
      A-Start needs Stefan Becker's WBStart-Handler:

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1.4   What can A-Start do for you?

A-Start features:

 - Easy to use: pop-up windows and intuitive gadgets
 - Graphically pleasing look-and-feel
 - Easy control of your preferences
 - Easy access to your most used programs
 - Easy access to projects you are working on
 - Fast file-browser always within reach
 - Automatic recognition of file types
 - Delete/rename files intuitive
 - Much more...

Please remember that this describes what the A-Start preview can do:
the full version will have many more features. Please see the future
page for more information.

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1.5 install

How to install A-Start:

To install this software, double-click on the install icon and
the installer will guide you through the installation.

PLEASE DO ALLWAYS USE THE INSTALLER SCRIPT

 To enable running of A-Start on every BootUp after the initial
installation, copy the A-StartWBS program to your WBStartup
directory. Please make sure that the A-Start path is typed in
correctly in the only tooltype of A-StartWBS.info.

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1.6 usage

How to run A-Start:

Two programs are included in this package: the A-Start main pro-
gram, and the small A-StartWBS program. Because the main program
has to reside in its own directory with specific subdirectories
it cannot be placed directly in your sys:wbstartup/ directory.
If you want A-Start to start every time you boot your system,
you may put the A-StartWBS program into sys:wbstartup/. (it will
run A-Start from the directory specified in its only tooltype.
Make sure this tooltype is properly set to be the A-Start home
directory)

```
  For example:  APATH=dh1:utils/A-Start/
```

```
 How to use the PREVIEW version of A-Start
```

```
 First of all you have to start the program by double-clicking on
 its icon, or by running it from the CLI.  A small button should
 appear at the bottom left of your workbench screen (note that if
 your workbench screen is not open, A-Start will open it).  Click
 on that button, and the main window pops up, presenting you with
 seven different selections (selected by moving the cursor over it):
```

```
  MyComputer      Browse through your mounted drives.
  UserProgs       Start your most often used programs.
  FileList        Start your most important projects
  Utilities       Start a system utility program(n/a).
  Preferences     Quicklink to your preferences directory
  Command         Issue a CLI command
  Reboot (quit)   Quit A-Start/Reboot your Amiga (TM)

  HotLists        Delete/Rename/Edit files
```

```
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```

1.7 mycomp

```
 MyComputer:
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```
 After pressing this button, a window pops up showing all your mounted
 disk devices by name.  Selecting one of the disk gadgets brings the
 root directory of that disk to front.
  You may to your liking create hotlinks to directorys and display
 them in this window. If you for example have a directory full of pictures
 and often take a glance at them you may find it easier to create a
 hotlink in order to get to that directory rather than to browse through
 subdirectories after subdirectories. To create a hotlink just drag and
 drop the corresponding ICON onto this window and the hotlink will be
 created.
```

```
 Back to usage
```

1.8 Define your most used programs

```
 UserProgs:
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```
 This gadget brings your progs-window to front. This is a window where
 all your favorite programs reside.  Drag the icon for the program you
 wish to have fast access to, and drop it into this window:  it will
```

```
be redrawn, now containing your program.
```

```
It is not possible to drop drives or directories into the window, but
you may organize your programs even better, through "program independent"
drawers:  Select the HotList-option 'Add Drawer' of any file in the
UserProgs-window to add such a drawer.
```

```
Back to usage
```

1.9   A button to launch your projects fast

```
FileList:
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```
This works like the UserProgs window, but in here you may only put
projects you are currently working on.  A-Start will check the default
tool for the selected project, and load the default program.  This
allows for a rapid return to editing your source code again, after
for example your last test run crashed your system. Only project-icons
are allowed to be dropped into this drawer.
```

```
Back to usage
```

1.10   This is not implemented yet!

```
Utilities:
```

```
In this version of A-Start, this window does nothing.
```

```
In future versions this is where you have ultra-fast access to all
the important features to help you work better with your Operating
System.
```

```
Back to usage
```

1.11   prefs

```
Preferences:
```

```
This is a quicklink to sys:prefs/ for quick and easy (am I repeating
myself?) access to all the preferences programs of your Amiga(TM).
```

```
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```

1.12   command

```
Command:
```

After pressing this button, a requester pops open where you may enter
a CLI command, which A-Start will then execute. This is (almost) like
pressing rCommand e on newer OS-versions.

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1.13   reboot

```
Reboot:
```

You may shut down A-Start by clicking on this gadget and holding the
left mousebutton for one second pressed. After releasing, A-Start will
terminate.

To SoftBoot your machine simply double-click onto this gadget.

 In the prefs-editor you can enable a security-option, so that A-Start
 asks you if you really want to reboot/quit or not.

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1.14   gfx

Yes, send me GFX! I need all kinds of icons for FileID-recognition.
These icons are 16*14 big and use standard MWB-palette. So if you
just wanted to have a own icon for your FileType, then just attach
the picture to a email you send me and I will include your pic into
the next version of the program(only if it is good enough, of course)
If you have questions, contact me!

 How to contact the author

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1.15   author

```
Address:
   Tuomas Artman
   Päärynäpolku 3
   02710 Espoo
   Finland

Email:   aartman@snakemail.hut.fi
```

```
****BEWARE!**** *  *
Email-adress MAY change in near future. So if you cannot reach me,
and only if you cannot reach me send me mail to:

vps@zumzum.tky.hut.fi

*************** *  *


Feel free to send me comments, suggestions and/or psychedelic ideas.

Acknowledgements:

Frederick Hacklin:
        (good ideas and support).

Stefan Stunz:
        (his fabulous MUI).

Eric Totel:
        (his excellent MuiBuilder. But when does 3.0 appear???).

Stefan Becker:
        (his WBStarter utility).

Brem:
        (software support).

Rickard Johansson:
        (for beeing the first one to register)

All of you who mailed me:
        (for convincing me that A-Start really is
        good:-) )



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```

1.16 This is a preview!

```
A-Start is currently being developed, and V1.0 will be released in
'near' future.  To see how you can support me, and how to get me to
release the next version more quickly, see the Register page.
```

1.17 The HotList

```
HotList-How to make it pop up?:
```

To make the HotList pop up, simply press the left mousebutton over the
icon (the small picture left of the name) of any File-entry and keep
it pressed. releasing the button selects the highlighted option.

HotList-What to do with it?:

The most important feature of the hotlist is that you can define for
each FileType (iff,gif,guide,lha,...) one or two functions additional
to the function, which is executed, when you select the entry. These
are called the 2nd and the 3rd function. In the prefs-editor you can
simply enter these two functions in the same manner you entered the
main-function. Additional to that you have to define the names for
these functions as they will appear under that name in the hotlist.

Imagine for example a lha-file:

 The main function should be the command, which you most often will
 execute. Imagine browsing through your HD and finding a LHA-archive
 with a name you do not recognize. Wouldn't it be nice if you could
 just double-click on it and see a list of what it contains? No
 problem: Just enter the function 'LHA l {f}' for the main-function
 of a LHA-archive. But what if you then find out that you have found
 the lha-archive you have been looking for and want to unpack it to
 your Data-directory. With A-Start you do not have to start the CLI
 and type the unpack command in, no! Just enter for the 2nd function
 of a LHA-archive the name 'Unpack LHA' or something like that and
 for the function itself 'LHA x {f} dh1:Data/'. Then with the HotList
 you are able to unpack LHA's to your Data-directory.

 If you encounter for example a IFF-picture you most likely want to
 take a look at it and the decide if you want to load it into your
 paint-program,right? The enter for the main-function 'Visage {f}'
 and for the 2nd function the name 'Paint iff' and for the function
 itself 'PPaint:PPaint {f}'.

 It's as easy as that!

HotList-What else to do with it?:

There aree three useful default-parameters defined for every HotList:

-'Remove entry' removes a file from the UsrProgs or FileList-windows.
This was on earlier versions done with the 'D'-button

-'Delete' markes the current file to be deletet, when the user closes
the window in which the file is in. There is a security-option, which
will ask you if you really want to delete files, once the window is
being closed. Ofcourse you may remove the deletion-flag before closing
the window.
 The delete-option can not be used for directories or drives.

-'Rename'. With this you can rename the current file or dir.

1.18 The Prefs program

```
  Preferences:
```

```
You actually do not need a description of the prefs-program in this
manual, because all buttons are described in the prefs-program itself.
Just let the mouse-pointer rest for a second or two (depending on your
MUI-settings) on the gadget you want to get information of.

If you have problems to make your own FileTypes look at the pre-defined
ones and all should be clear.

  Back to main
```

1.19 Stefan Beckers WBStart-handler

```
  About WBStarter:

  WBStart-handler is a handler copyrighted and written by Stefan Becker.

  Short Description:

  WBStart is a handler wich lets you run programs in "WB-mode"
  from CLI.  The program now thinks it has been started from the
  workbench, by double-clicking on its icon.

  A-Start NEEDS WBStart-handler. Most of you have it in your L: directory,
  but if it ain't, please get the WBStarter package from Aminet. A-Start
  does not use the WBStarter library, because it needs OS3.0 to function.

  Back to main
```

1.20 Magic User Interface

```
  About Magic User Interface:

  MUI is shareware, copyrighted by Stefan Stunz.  You do not have to
  register MUI in order to use the A-Start preferences program,
  but I really think you should, because of the superb quality
  of the MUI system.


  Back to main
```

1.21 Legalize it!

```
  A-Start is (c) copyright Tuomas Artman/vPS (1995/96)
  All rights reserved
```

```
 1)
The programs are provided "as-is" and the author can not be made
responsible of ANY possible harm done by them.

 2)
The program may be freely distributed IF:

2.1)
  the whole and nothing but the whole ORIGINAL package is
  spread and absolutely no changes have been made to it.

2.2)
  only a small amount is charged to cover media expenses.

 3)
No changes of any kind may be made to the software, this guide
file, or to any other file in the package without the permission
of the author.

 4)
The program may be put on PD series or other kinds of software
collections without the permission of the author, but the author
would appreciate it if he could be informed of such inclusions
and if he would be sent the collection.

 5)
This program is, at this stage of development, considered to be
'FreeWare'.


 Back to main
```

1.22   Register and support shareware

```
 How to "register" and why?

 At this stage of development, this software is considered to be
 FreeWare. This means that anyone may use it without any restrictions.


 So why "register"?

 By registering you first of all give me feed-back that A-Start is
 a useful program, thus inspiring me to finish the 1.0 version more
 quickly. The 1.0 version of A-Start will be released as shareware.

 The fact is that I will continue developing A-Start no matter how
 many users register or send me comments.  I think it is a useful
 piece of software, and that it should be developed further into new
 dimensions.  And why not support a programmer who's software you use?
 I haven't slept for many weeks to give you the pleasure of using this
 program, now its you're time to do something for me ;).

 Why do I write "register" in quotation marks?
```

At this stage you cannot 'register', due to the freeware status of the
program. You can only support me. BUT: All users who support me
at this stage will be treated as registered users of future A-Start
releases.

To "register": send US$15/20DM/60FMK, along with a letter, to:

 Tuomas Artman
 Päärynäpolku 3
 02710 Espoo
 Finland

*If you are using a keymap which cannot show special charachters then
*note that this -> ä <- is an 'a' with two dots on top of it.

If you have no possibility to get one of the currencies mentioned above
(US Dollars, German Marks, Finish marks) you may send me money of any
other currency (the value beeing equal,of course). But please try to
find a bank somwhere, will you?

   The letter should contain the following information:

   -<First Name   : (Tuomas)
   -<Last Name   : (Artman)
   -<City&Country : (Espoo/Finnland)
   -<Email address : (aartman@snakemail.hut.fi)

   -<OS-version   : (3.0)
   -<Monitor   : (PAL/Multisync/VGA)

   If you do not have an own email-address, you can ofcourse give me one
   of your friends email-address. If you do not have any friends with
   email you have to include your full address.

   You will receive your KeyCode when the 1.0 Version of A-Start is ready.

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1.23   What is to come?

Future versions of A-Start:

  A-Start is right now going through serious development and many things
  WILL change and be included in future versions!

  The ToDo-list is very big, be sure of that!

  Please read the Register and the Graphicians pages!

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1.24   New features of A-Start

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late May 96- A-Start v0.9B is ready
--------------------------------
```

New features and improvements:

  -The Prefs-editor has been rewritten. How to use the new Editor
  is not documented within this guide, but for every button there
  is a bubble-help. Just let the mousepointer rest for a few secs
  on the gadget you don't know what to do with.

  -FileType-recognition has been rewritten. It is now possible for
  the user himself to add new Types and enter functions for them.
  This is what took so long for this version to becom available.

  -The user may change the icons of the FileTypes from the given
  list. He cannot YET paint his own icons to use with A-Start

  -There is a HotList-window for every FileType available. Just click
  on the 'picture' of the dile you want to delete/rename. The user
  may add two entries to this HotList with the FileID-section of the
  prefs editor. Now unpacking a lha is as fast as viewing a picture.

  -The user may rename the MainWindow-entries.

  -Graphics have been enhanced a bit.


```
---------------------------------------
early April 96 - A-Start v0.87 released
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```
New features and improvements:

  -I have decided not to send KeyFiles to the registered users, because
  many do not have e-mail. I have decided that A-Start will ask the user
  for their name and a specific code. All registered users will be send

this code, so that they can use A-Start withoout any restrictions.

-If you want to reboot you now have to double-click on the 'Reboot'-gadget. If you want to quit A-Start hold down the 'Reboot'-gadget for one second.

-You have to change your prefs-settings concerning the programs to start when a specific file-type is beeing selected. Now you must enter something like this:

Sys:Utils/Multiview {f}

you may also add parameters for the programs as for example:

C:ShowGif {f} -aga -fullscreen

or

C:ShowMeAJpeg -24Bit -SuperDuper {f}

The '{f}' will be replaced by the complete path and name of the selected file. This must be present, because otherwise A-Start cannot know, where the name should be stated.

-A-Start's stability has been increased very much. Many Enforcer-hits have been corrected.

-The 'START-gadget' may now be placed wherever you like. An option has been added to enable the user to define, whether the main-window should be opend up- or downwards. It is noe also possible to make A-Start open its sub-menus from right to left instead of from left to right. All this can be set up in the prefs-editor.

-By pressing the right mouse-button, when a filewindow with sliders is open A-Start will encrease the size of the window to fit the whole screen.

-You now may add hotlinks to directories in the MyComputer-window Just drag a directory-icon onto this window to add the hotlink. A new entry then appears just like in the proglist and filelist-windows which enables you to open that drawer with only two clicks. You could for example drop your pics-drawer onto the MyComputer-window and so have fast access to your pics.

-Some minor improvements to the Prefs-editor.

-CPU-usage has been reduced dramatically.

-It is now possible to leave out the graphics of the main-window.

-Subdirectories in Proglist didn't make it to this version, sorry.
Neither did the recognition of other file-types. Send me comments
for/against A-Start using WhatIs.library!

March 96 – A-Start v0.72 ready

New features:

-A-StartWBS-program added to the package. With it you can start
A-Start on every bootup from your WBStartup-drawer.

-THE FILELIST-WINDOW IS NOW IN USE! Read the usage-section to find
out, how and why to use it...

-Possibility to choose the look of the gadget, appearing below the
mouse-pointer. Use A-Start prefs to configure it.

-A-StartPrefs rewritten. The v0.72 A-StartPrefs-program does NOT
support the v0.52 Env-file, but all newer versions of A-Start will
be backward-compatible.

-Possibility to define your prefs-drawer in case you do not put your
pref-files into 'Sys:Prefs/'.

-You may now choose if A-Start closes its windows after viewing a pic,
reading a text..., or if the windows should remain opened.

-Support for Mod and Med- MusicDataFiles and Sound-effects.

-Bugfixing. A-Start SHOULD work now better on 3.1 platforms.

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late February 96 – A-Start v0.52 hits the net.