Taskbar

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : Taskbar		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
WRITTEN BY		July 20, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

Chapter 1

Taskbar

1.1   Taskbar 5

```
   Amiga Taskbar Release 5.1


   Please read this document to the end,
   as it contains important information.

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   Introduction   : What does it do?
     Features      : What features does it have?
  Installation    : How to install it.
     Functions     : How to do everything.
 Troubleshooting : When things go wrong.
     Changes       : Changes since version 2.
      Future        : Future plans.
     History       : The story of Taskbar.
      Thanks        : People involved with TaskBar.
      Author        : How to contact the author.
    Preferences    : Customerising TaskBar.

 TaskBar can
     Select windows
     Maximise windows
     Minimise windows
     Bring windows to front
     Panel windows horizontally
     Panel windows vertically
     Open on any public screen
     Launch any program
     Shrink itself to a single button

   Find out more about TaskBar at the TaskBar home page
   http:///members.aol.com/ennals/taskbar.html


   Don't forget to rate TaskBar5 on AmiNet

   Simply send the following message to
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    aminet-server@wuarchive.wustl.edu

      RATE util/wb/taskbar5.lha 10
```

1.2 intro

```
      Introduction!
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More observant Amiga users may have noticed that Windows 95 has
a nice little bar at the bottom of the screen called the Taskbar.
This bar allows you to switch between active programs.

Although I prefer AmigaDos to WimpDos (Windows) I rather liked the
taskbar and so I decided to write an Amiga version. I hope you
like it.

TaskBar is Freeware. You may use it and distribute it freely, but if
you like it, pass it on.

1.3 features

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        Features!
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    Only 32k. ( this is quiet nice )
    Completely font and screenmode sensitive
    Can open on ANY public screen
    Can maximise windows
    Can panel windows horizontally
    Can panel windows vertically
    Can minimise windows
    Recognises new windows when opened
    Notices when windows close
    Notices when windows change their names
    Start button to launch programs
    Nameless windows given name of owner task
    Customerisable number of buttons
    Configurable width or auto-sensing
    Customerisable length of button strings
```

Many of the features of TaskBar were suggested by users.
If you have a suggestion or just want to say you like TaskBar
(always appreciated) then contact me.

1.4 installation

        Installation!

> Simply copy TaskBar and TaskBar.info
 into WBStartup or wherever you want in your path,
 and then copy 'TaskBar4.prefs' into ENV: and ENVARC:

 If you have WB2.0 you can just drag the icon into the WBStartup drawer
 and drag the prefs file into ENVARC: (usually in prefs)

> If you put Taskbar somewhere in your path insert this line in
 s:User-Startup file.
 run <>NIL: PATH:Taskbar

Note that if you want to be able to launch programs as if from workbench
rather than as if from the CLI you need to obtain WBRun. This is shareware
and can be found everywhere, including on the AmiNet 7 cd.

Unfortunately I am not able to put WBRun in the TaskBar distribution.

If you do not have WBRun then programs can only be launched as if from the
CLI. For most programs this will be alright, but some programs need
WBRun to launch correctly.

1.5 functions

        Functions!

Amiga Taskbar can bring to front, minimise, maximise and panel any
 windows on the workbench screen.

Bring to Front
> Simply left click on the window's button.

Maximise
> Click on the window's button with the right mouse button held down

Horizontally Maximise
> Click on a button with the left shift key held down.

Panel
> Click on both windows' buttons with the right mouse button held down
    If you hold down the left shift key then panel will be vertical.

Minimise
> Click on a button with the right shift key held down.

Shrink or Grow TaskBar
> Click on the start button with the right mouse button held down

Select a non listed window.
> Click on Other and a button can be created for a window

Change the number of buttons.
> Select the Icon from Workbench and enter your desired number as
the value for the BUTTONS tooltype. For a normal Hires or DblPal
screen I recommend 4 or 6 buttons.

Force TaskBar to use button names of a preset length.
> Change the MAXCHARS tooltype. To let TaskBar make an educated
guess (normal) bracket out the tooltype.

Force the width to a set value. (eg if using Autoscroll)
> Change the FIXWIDTH tooltype Bracket it out for full screen

Quit. (But why ?)
>Select the window. If you want to be sure not to click on a button,
then use the right mouse button. Once the window is selected hit a key.

Launch a program.
> Click Start then select your desired program

Add a program to the start menu.
> Copy the file Taskbar4.prefs to EnvArc:Taskbar4.prefs
and add an entry, entries are of the form.
  ITEM:name of program
  CMD:command line for program> (as from shell)

Look at the example file and you will see what I mean.
For further information about preferences read the preferences section.

1.6   troubleshooting

     Troubleshooting!

Some programs I launch from TaskBar do not launch correctly.
> Some programs need to be run as if from workbench. To do this you
  must use the shareware program WBRun. If you use Wbrun then you must
  put it in the CMD statement of the prefs file. eg
    CMD:WBRun ProPage instead of CMD:ProPage

The text overflows from the buttons and looks messy.
> Set the MAXCHARS tooltype to your desired name length.
  The default value is only suitable for a screen width or 640 and
  a font of Topaz 8. If your settings are different then this tooltype
  MUST BE CHANGED.

Nothing appears on my buttons when I launch TaskBAr from a script
> Make sure that you cd to the TaskBAr directory before launching TaskBar
  or it can't find it's icon.

Opening TaskBar on some screens causes a crash or other problems
> Some badly coded programs don't like other programs opening windows on
  their screens. UYou will just have to not open on these screens.

When my selected program is launched from the start button, it can't
find it's files.
> Set the start item's DIR sttribute to the correct directory.

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TaskBar says it can't find TaskBar.prefs.
> Then you have to check if you got the TaskBar.prefs file in ENV: and ENVARC:
 or if you got something wrong with your path.

I can't select the TaskBar because I keep clicking on buttons.
> Select it with the right mouse button.

I have MagicMenu and this stops TaskBar from sensing my right mouse button.
> First select TaskBar with the Right Mouse Button.
 Then do whatever you want to do.
 MagicMenu will not interfere when TaskBar is selected.

When a window changes it's title, TaskBar doesn't notice.
> To make TaskBar look at a window again, simply reselect it.

TaskBar misses off the first or last few characters of a window's title
> It has to do this in order to fit it on the button.
  TaskBar decides whether the start or end of the title is most
  important automatically.

Some windows need to be maximised twice for it to work properly.
> This is the fault of the window owner, not taskbar.
  While it is changing size it doesn't notice the message I have sent it
  to move to a new position.

TaskBar doesn't work properly with the new prefs file I have written.
> If you send me the file by email I should be able to show you what
  you have done wrong in your prefs file.


If you have any problems not solved by this page then MAIL ME!
If you have problems then I really do want to know about them.
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1.7 changes

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      Changes since last release. (release 4)

> Shrink TaskBar added - (due to popular demand)
> Taskbar Icon fixed - Previously messed up WBStartup (sorry)
> Vertical Panelling available
> All panelling made faster
> Minimise window option added
> Windows and screens also available from start bar
> Minor bugs in start menu sorted out
> Avoid option added to avoid windows owned by certain tasks.
```

1.8 problems

    Known Problems!

> Most problems that you may experience with TaskBar are due to the
 owner of the window rather that taskbar. I am afraid that some
 applications just do not like other tasks such as TaskBar taking
 control over their windows and fiddling with them.
 There aren't any serious problems, but some windows simply will not
 panel or maximise properly. I am afraid that there is no way around
 this. Fortunately most recent programs that handle windows cleanly
 will work perfectly with TaskBar.

    Possible problems.

 A button does not do anything.

> The owner task may have closed or changed the pointer to the window
 without TaskBar noticing.

A window is not added to the list when I open or select it.

> Due to limitations of the OS TaskBar cannot always tell when a new
 window is created or selected.
 If you want to add it to the buttonlist, simply click on Other.

> I realise that my buttons look a bit odd when you click on them.
 This is because, due to limitations of gadtools, I had to write the
 text manually over the buttons. In the next version I will probably
 bypass Gadtools altogether.

1.9 author

        The Author

    This Program was written by Robert Ennals.
  Contact me if you find a bug, have an idea for an improvement,
        or just want a chat.

Email
JaNET : ennals@kingston.ac.uk
  AOL : ennals@aol.com

  Tel : England-(01)81-941-5201

  Postal Address

  19 Belgrade Road, Hampton, Middx, England, TW12 2AZ

It would be nice if you could inform me if you release TaskBar in
a collection, publish it on a coverdisk, or review it in a magazine.

Don't be scared to mail me about anything. If you have something to say,
I would like to hear it. I will *usually* send a reply to any mail I
receive.

NB
Some mail that was sent to me before was lost. If you didn't get a reply
to your mail then that is why. Sorry!

1.10   future

        Future Updates

> If I get mail telling me that you want me to do an update then I do it,
 otherwise not. I'm not going to waste my time putting in a feature if
 nobody wants it.

> Shanghai windows to different screens
> Handle MUI windows via Arexx
> Allow more than one row of buttons
> Make Buttons prettier
> Draw Start menu direct to screen rather than openning a window

If you have any other ideas then mail them to me.

1.11   history

        History.

1 - First release

2 - quick bug fix from 1.0
     bugs fixed
  didn't sense window closing
  popup sometimes wouldn't close
  crashed some machines
  buttons updated badly
     features added
  none

3 - First major release (Amiga Shopper)
     bugs fixed
  crashed if user selected no window on other popup
  compression system caused problems
  used to take up 300k
     features added
  Start button (due to popular demand)
  MAXCHARS tooltype

4 - Last release
     bugs fixed
  Popup windows sometimes appeared in the wrong place (minor)
  All enforcer hits fixed (thanks to my beta-testers)
     features added

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  Multiple screens
  Start button has multiple levels
  Better preferences file format
  Auto screen switching to window's screen
  Adapts screen title (minor)

5 - This release
    bugs fixed
  Didn't launch properly from WbStartup
  Little display problem on start menu
    features added
  Shrink feature to tidy up display
  Windows and screens also on start
  Can avoid windows owned by certain tasks
```

My upgrade philosophy

> More observent users may notice that in general I tend to have a lot of
 releases for my programs. This is because, like many other Shareware
 authors, I believe in continuous updates.

 This means that as soon as I have implemented a new feature and am sure
 that is working, I make a release.

 This is something that is much harder to do with comercial software.

1.12 thanks

Thanks!

> All my beta-testers, without whom this release could not have been
  possible. Especially the following:

  Jonathon Rhys Evans
  Mark Boothroyd

> Other people who were essential to the development of TaskBar.

```
  Tommy Johansen - For putting the documentation in guide form
  Damir Petkovic - For spotting the popup bug first
  Paul Loustalan - For being the only person to spot the WbStartup
    problem. Why did nobody else tell me about this one???
  Jens Andersson - For suggesting many features including the MAXCHARS
    toolype, and noticing the memory problem.
  Christoph Guelicher, Software Project Manager of
    Amiga Technologies GmbH - For suggesting the FIXWIDTH tooltype
```

> All the people who mailed me to give support, bug fixes and
  preferences as to what updates I should do.

  I am afraid there are simply too many of you to list.

This is by no means a conclusive list. If you helped in the development

of TaskBar and I have missed you off this list unfairly then mail me.

1.13 start

The Start Button

TaskBar5 has a Start button similar to that in Windows 95.

When you click on the start button, a popup window appears with two lists.
The list on the left is for the program group.
The list on the right is for the programs withn the selected group .

Selecting a group changes the program list to show the programs within
that group.
Selecting a program executes the specified command as if it was run
from the shell.

Customerisation

Obviously the start menu is useless without you being able to set what
should be on it. To find out how to edit the start bar go to the
Preferences section.

1.14 prefs

Preferences

There are two ways in which preferences can be set.
Some settings are altered by tooltypes and some need to be set from the
prefs file.

Tooltype preferences

BUTTONS - The number of buttons
MAXCHARS - The number of characters of text to write onto each button
    (set this if text overflows across butons)
FIXWIDTH - Set this to fix the bar width if you don't wish it to use
   the whole screen
STARTSMALL - Set this to YES if you want TaskBar to startup with the
    bar in small mode.
    NB the bar still has to be generated in full mode to avoid confusing
    Gadtools so opening the bar *can* look a little messy.

Prefs file preferences

The prefs file is called "TaskBar4.prefs" and should be in ENV:
and ENVARC:. It should have been copied there during installation.

Although this is version 5 of TaskBar it uses the same object
orientated preference format as v4 so to make upgrading easier
I have continued to call the file TaskBar4.prefs.

The format is object orientated and keyword based. It should be quite
easy for you to get to grips with. For those who hate to edit
preferences files, a prefs editor should be available quite soon.

The keywords

Start menu attributes

    GROUP:name
  Define a new start group of name 'name'.
  This group MUST have child items.

  ITEM:name
      Defines an item of name 'name' within the current group.

    CMD:command
    Specifes the cli command to run when the item is selected
    If you want to launch programs as if from workbench
    then you need the CLI program WBRun.
    I do not have rights to distribute this, but it is
    widely available including in the archive for 'browser'.

    DIR:directory
    Specifies the directory to launch the program into

    further options may be implemented in future, but
    currently anything more should be done by running a
    script file.

    There is no need to include the RUN command as TaskBar
    detatches launced tasks itself.

Screens

    SCREEN:search string
  Any screen with the specifed search string in it's default title
  will have a TaskBar opened onto it.

If you are unsure of the defualt title of any open screen, simply run the
supplied TellScreens program from the CLI to list the titles of all
available screens. Remember that only part of this title needs to be given
in the prefs file. See the standard TaskBar4.prefs file for an example.

Others

    AVOID:taskname
  Avoids windows owned by the Task called <taskname>.
  Often this will be the same as the label given in the 'other' popup.

Due to the object orientated nature ofthis file format, new keywords
can easily be defined later while remaining compatible with old versions.

Look at the standard preferences file (Taskbar4.prefs) if you are unsure.

1.15   dummy

This is to correct a bug in some AmigaGuide versions which
ignore the last node.