

in

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Chapter 1

in

1.1 XPKGGuide Guide

XPKGGuide V1.5
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XPKGGuide is an AmigaGuide viewer which can view AmigaGuide files which have been crunched using various crunchers (you can also view uncrunched files using it). You can either use it from the Shell or from Workbench.

There is also the added bonus that if you are using Workbench 3.x then XPKGGuide will also display any files which are supported by the datatypes.library including text files, pictures and samples. Naturally, they will be decrunched before being viewed. Under Workbench 2.x you will only be able to view AmigaGuide files and text files.

- System Requirements
- Installation
- Supported Crunchers
- Usage
- History
- Future
- Copyright
- Author

1.2 System Requirements

XPKGGuide requires Kickstart 2.04 or higher, I could rewrite it to make it 1.3 compatible, but I've made a decision not to support Kickstart 1.3 any more, as I don't want to support an obsolete operating system, everyone who uses their Amigas for anything except games should have upgraded by now, as most programmers have dropped support for Kickstart 1.3, and the ones who do still support it, generally add extra features under Kickstart 2.

XPKGGuide also requires the following library:

amigaguide.library V34 or higher (not supplied)

If you want to be able to view files which have been crunched using PowerPacker then you will need to have the following library installed:

powerpacker.library V35 or higher (supplied)

If you want to be able to view files which have been crunched using XPK then you will need to have the following library installed:

xpkmaster.library any version (supplied)

If you want to be able to view files which have been crunched using the lh.library then you will need to have the following library installed:

lh.library V1 or higher (supplied)

If you want to be able to view files which have been crunched using the CrunchMania cruncher then you will need to have the following library installed:

CrM.library any version (not supplied)

If you don't have any of the above four libraries, you will only be able to view files which have been crunched using the P-Compress cruncher or files which haven't been crunched at all.

The following library is optional and only needed if you want to be able to double click XPKGGuide from Workbench and get a file requester:

asl.library V37 or higher (on Workbench disk)

The amigaguide.library is needed to be able to display the decrunched AmigaGuide files.

If you have Workbench 3.0 or higher then you already have the amigaguide.library installed on your Workbench disk and don't actually need to install any other libraries before being able to use XPKGGuide. If you haven't got Workbench 3.0 or higher then you will need to get the amigaguide.library from somewhere else, the best place would probably be from Fred Fish disk 920 which you can get from just about any PD library.

To be able to use XPKGGuide to view crunched files, you must have T: assigned somewhere, you don't need to worry about this as you haven't altered your Startup-Sequence as everything is taken care of by that. You may run into problems if T: is in RAM: (which it is normally) and you haven't got that much memory, because the files are always decrunched into T: and AmigaGuide files tend to be quite large. To get around this problem you may need to assign T: to either a floppy disk or a hard disk.

1.3 usage

XPKGGuide can be used from Shell or from Workbench.

Shell

=====

XPKGGuide FILE/A/M, SCREEN/S, PUBSCREEN/K

FILE/A/M This argument is compulsory. You are allowed to specify as many files as you want, they will be displayed in the order that you enter them.

SCREEN/S If you specify this argument then XPKGGuide will try to open a new screen to display the AmigaGuide document on. If it can't open a new screen and the PUBSCREEN argument has been given (see below) then XPKGGuide will act as though you didn't give the SCREEN argument. XPKGGuide automatically tries to open a screen with the same screen mode as your Workbench screen. This can be changed by setting the XPKGGuide/ScreenMode environment variable.

PUBSCREEN/K Using this you can specify which public screen you want XPKGGuide to open the AmigaGuide document on, if this screen isn't open and if the SCREEN option was specified then XPKGGuide will act as though the PUBSCREEN option wasn't entered.

Workbench

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XPKGGuide can be used in four ways from Workbench:

- 1) XPKGGuide can be specified as the default tool of a crunched AmigaGuide file. This means that when you double click on the AmigaGuide file, XPKGGuide will be loaded and will display the AmigaGuide file.
- 2) You can use extended selection to cause XPKGGuide to view AmigaGuide files. This means that you first click once on XPKGGuide's icon and then while holding down either shift key double clicking on an AmigaGuide file.
If you use extended selection to select more than one AmigaGuide file then all of the files will be viewed, one at a time.
- 3) If you just double click XPKGGuide's icon then if the asl.library is present then a file requester will be brought up for you to select a file to view. If asl.library isn't present then an error message will be displayed saying that no file was selected.
- 4) You can tell XPKGGuide to create an AppIcon when it's first loaded and you are able to drop the AmigaGuide files onto it to view them. See below for more details on this.

There are also a couple of tooltypes which are supported by XPKGGuide. They are:

```
SCREEN
PUBSCREEN=<pubscreen name>
APPICON
```

Both the SCREEN and PUBSCREEN tooltypes do exactly the same as the command line options of the same name.

If the APPICON tooltype is specified then when you run XPKGGuide without specifying any files from Workbench then an AppIcon will be created and you are able to drop any AmigaGuide files onto the AppIcon in order to view them. If you drop more than one file onto the AppIcon at the same time, all of them will be viewed. Once you have created an AppIcon, if you double click on it a requester will appear asking what you want to do, you can quit XPKGGuide, show some info about XPKGGuide or cancel the requester.

1.4 XPKGGuide Program History

XPKGGuide v1.5 (30 September 1994) 13400 bytes

=====

- * Now recognises CrunchMania files without needing the CrM.library installed.
- * XPKGGuide now uses the LockE() command from the amigaguide.library, this allows XPKGGuide to search for files by using the AmigaGuide/Path environment variable. Although this worked for uncrunched files before this version (without me realising!), it's only in this version I made XPKGGuide able to decrunch them after finding them in that way.
- * XPKGGuide now only opens the decruncher libraries which it needs, as it needs them, instead of loading them all at startup.
- * XPKGGuide can now view files which have been crunched using P-Compress.
- * Due to supporting the P-Compress cruncher, XPKGGuide can no longer be made resident.

XPKGGuide v1.4 (3 September 1994) 11188 bytes

=====

- * Added AppIcon support, including APPICON tooltype to tell XPKGGuide to create an AppIcon if no files were specified when run from Workbench.
- * Can now view multiple documents using multiselect from Workbench.
- * Can now view multiple documents from CLI.
- * Fixed a few small bugs which caused a small amount of memory to be lost each time you ran XPKGGuide.
- * Added support for files crunched using the lh.library.
- * Added support for files crunched using CrunchMania (via the CrM.library).

XPKGGuide v1.3 (21 August 1994) 7876 bytes

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- * XPKGGuide can now work as a stand-alone AmigaGuide viewer as both the powerpacker.library and the xpkmaster.library are now optional. They are still needed in order to view crunched files though.
- * XPKGGuide now only creates a temporary file if the original was crunched rather than for every file.

XPKGGuide v1.2 (13 August 1994) 7608 bytes

=====

- * Rewrote a few routines so they didn't use standard C routines, but instead use my own versions. This saved 3172 bytes on XPKGuide and 3308 bytes on XPKGuidePrefs!
- * I just discovered that, unknown to me, when you are using the Workbench 3.x version of amigaguide.library, XPKGuide is able to display any type of file which is supported by the datatype.library. They will be decompressed and viewed! This has happened since version 1.0, I just didn't realise it.

XPKGuide v1.1 (10 August 1994) 10880 bytes

=====

- * Added more requesters to tell you what actually went wrong, rather than just quitting and telling you nothing.
- * Added a tooltip and command line option to allow XPKGuide to open the AmigaGuide database on a separate screen. XPKGuide uses the Workbench's current screen mode and size for the new screen.
- * Also added another tooltip and command line option to allow XPKGuide to open the AmigaGuide database on any public screen.
- * XPKGuide now brings up the ASL file requester if you double click on its icon.
- * If you haven't got xpkmaster.library installed then XPKGuide tries to use powerpacker.library instead.
- * Optionally uses an environmental variable to specify what screen mode to open XPKGuide's custom window as.
- * Added a tool which brings up a screen mode requester and sets the XPKGuide/ScreenMode to the selected mode.

XPKGuide v1.0 (6 August 1994) 8232 bytes

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Initial release

1.5 About the Author

XPKGuide was written by:

Simon Dick

My address is:

31 Salisbury Road
Bexley
Kent DA5 3QE
England

or from 2 October 1994 to the end of June 1995 during term time:

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XPKGuide was developed on an A1200, 80MB hard drive running Workbench 3.0.

XPKGuide was compiled using DICE V3.0.

The XPKGGuide documentation was written using EdWord Pro.

If you have any suggestions, bug reports, questions, spare money, etc. then feel free to write to me. I will do my best to reply as long as you supply return postage (preferably IRC's).

If I receive any money then I will put it towards registering the decrunch.library so that I will be able to use it to view an even wider range of crunched files.

1.6 Copyright Information

XPKGGuide is © 1994 Simon Dick

XPKGGuide is Freeware, which basically means that I retain the copyright to XPKGGuide, but I am allowing anybody to freely give copies of this program to all of their friends (or even enemies if they think that XPKGGuide is that bad ;-).

If you are distributing XPKGGuide in any way, you must distribute the whole package unmodified and including all of the following files:

```
XPKGGuide
XPKGGuide.info
XPKGGuidePrefs
XPKGGuidePrefs.info
XPKGGuide.guide
XPKGGuide.guide.info
libs/xpkmaster.library
libs/powerpacker.library
libs/lh.library
```

The exception to this is the files in the libs directory, in this case if you have a later version than I have included, then feel free to replace the version I supplied with the new version before giving it to anyone.

If you want to include XPKGGuide as an AmigaGuide viewer then you are permitted to include XPKGGuide without its documentation on the condition that you mention that you used XPKGGuide in the manual. I would also appreciate it if you would send me a copy of whatever it is, but that isn't compulsory.

I am not responsible for any harm which may occur to your data, computer or anything else either directly or indirectly due to you using XPKGGuide. But if you do have any problems with XPKGGuide, please contact me and I will try to help you.

powerpacker.library is Copyright (c) Nico François.

lh.library is Copyright (c) Holger P. Krekel & Olaf 'Olsen' Barthel.

The P-Compress decruncher module is (c) Chas A. Wyndham.

1.7 installation

In order to install XPKGGuide you just drag the XPKGGuide icon to whichever drawer you want to keep it in. In order for XPKGGuide to work you must have some libraries installed, see Installation for details of which libraries you need. You can install the libraries which I have supplied by double clicking on the InstallLibs icon which I have provided.

1.8 future

Possible future additions to XPKGGuide

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- * Support any other decrunchers. If you know of any you would like me to support, then please could you write to me, preferably with details of how I can decrunch it.
- * Anything you suggest (within reason naturally).

1.9 Environmental Variables

XPKGGuide supports a couple of environmental variables at the moment. The first one is called "XPKGGuide/ScreenMode". Whenever XPKGGuide tries to open a screen, it will first try to use the screen mode specified in the variable. It must be specified as a number. I have included a small tool, called XPKGGuidePrefs, which brings up a screen mode requester and then stores the selected screen mode in the variable. If you want to do this manually then to get XPKGGuide to open a hires screen you should set the variable to 0x8000.

XPKGGuide can also make use of a variable called "AmigaGuide/Path". This is actually used by the amigaguide.library as well. For example if you had a directory which you keep all of your AmigaGuide files in called "Work:Guides" and another called "Data:Guides", then if you used the following command:

```
SetEnv AmigaGuide/Path "Work:Guides Data:Guides"
```

and then ran XPKGGuide and told it to view, say, XPKGGuide.guide (without a path name) then XPKGGuide would first look in the current directory, then in Work:Guides and finally in Data:Guides before saying that it couldn't find the file. Using this environmental variable also means that most programs which support online help using AmigaGuide files will also look in the directories which you set which means that you can keep all of the AmigaGuide files in a single directory rather than scattered all over your disks.

1.10 Supported Crunchers

At the moment XPKGGuide supports the following crunchers:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| P-Compress | You don't need any additional library files to be able to view files crunched using this method. |
| CrunchMania | To view CrunchMania files, you need to |

have the CrM.library installed.

lh.library (I mean that it supports files crunched using LhEncode which was supplied with the package on Fish Disk 436). Obviously you need the lh.library installed to use this.

PowerPacker To view files crunched using PowerPacker, you need to have powerpacker.library V35 or higher installed.

Any XPK sublibrary To view files crunched using XPK, you must have both xpkmaster.library and the appropriate compressor library installed.

I have also written another program called Cruncher which is designed to complement XPKGuide, it is capable of crunching files using a number of different crunchers including all of the above crunchers. I have also written another program called AppDecrunch which can decrunch any files which have been crunched by the above crunchers.