

# *FileMatrix.*

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## 1. Legend.

- **You should read this topic.** It contains very important information.
- **Path trail** = "\" or "/".
- **File title** = The name of a file, with path. A file title is valid only if none of the following characters is present in it: "<>|\" \* ?".
- **File path** = The path (absolute or relative) of a file. It **always ends with path trail**.
- **File name** = The name of a file, without any path. A file name is valid only if none of the following characters is present in it: "<>|\" : \\ / \* ?".
- **Reference of a file** = If the file is not a link, the reference is the file title. If the file is a link, the reference is the file title of the link's reference.
- [Active focus.](#)
- [Active column.](#)
- **Menu title** = The top item in a menu, if it is bold, represents the **menu title**. Click the title to close the menu.
- » after a menu item name = A submenu will be opened if you click on the item.
- \$ before a menu item name = Only these functions use [selected files](#), if any, instead of the active focus.

- ... after a menu item name = The operation requires user's intervention to begin, or is a dialog.
- After a menu item name is the shortcut key for calling that item.
- Sizes displayed as real numbers, with different number of digits from case to case, are subject of approximations, so the true value may be different than what is displayed (you will probably never meet this case). They may be written as "x^y"; this has to be understood as "x \* (10 to the power y)".
- **All mentioned (Registered) Trademarks and Copyrights belong to their respective owners.**
  - **Windows.** Copyright **Microsoft** Corporation.
  - **C++ Builder.** Copyright **Inprise** Corporation.
  - **Pentium.** Registered Trademark of **Intel** Corporation.

## 2. About.

- **FileMatrix** is freeware. However, you can [register](#) it.
- Free distribution of **FileMatrix** is encouraged as long as the package is not altered in any way.
- **FileMatrix** is a file-manager. It is designed to help you navigate through directories, manage and work with them.
- **FileMatrix** combines the easy navigation style of a menu (more than 2 columns working together) with the working power of a file manager.
- **FileMatrix** is built for the purpose of very fast file navigation.
- **FileMatrix** is **document oriented** because the file navigation uses document oriented sort mode, not low-level file sort mode, **FileMatrix** addresses to the general user, not to the "file miner" user type.
- **FileMatrix** is **link oriented** because links are used extensively.
- For questions and comments, or anything about **FileMatrix** please send an email (**use only English**) to [FileMatrix@idilis.ro](mailto:FileMatrix@idilis.ro). **Any email attachment will be ignored.**
  - Except for [Registration Forms](#), you can use the asymmetric public encryption key, from file "[FileMatrix.asc](#)", to encrypt the email. Use **PGP** for this.
  - We can not guarantee an answer.

### 2.1. Development.

- **FileMatrix** has been developed with **C++ Builder 5.0**, for **Windows98**, for **Pentium** processors. Some features will not work with **Windows95**.

#### 2.1.1. History of development.

- Only the most important **new** features are specified for each version.

- Release of **FileMatrix 1.1.0** on **4 October 2001**:
  - Improved [registration](#) method.
  - Rearranged [Net Sites Menu](#).
- Release of **FileMatrix 1.0.1** on **6 August 2001**:
  - **Auto view** is working only on [fixed](#) and [CD](#) partition types.
- First release of **FileMatrix**: public release of **FileMatrix 1.0.0** on **1 August 2001**.

## 2.2. License terms.

- **You must accept all terms in License terms topic so that you can consider to have a license ([registered](#) or not), and such to have the legal rights to use or distribute FileMatrix.**
- **If the laws of your country are incompatible with any of the terms in License terms topic you must uninstall FileMatrix immediately and not use it any more in any way. If you do not do this, and you register, it means that you accept the terms of registration as they are. It is only your (not our) responsibility to know and follow the laws of your country.**
- **Incompatible** especially means that the laws of your country **allow** you what the **License terms** topics **forbid**.
- If you do not comply with all terms in **License terms** topic, you can consider the [license](#) automatically withdrawn. Furthermore, you must uninstall **FileMatrix** immediately and not use it anymore in anyway.
- You do not have any rights over the program **it** self (or over **its** source code, or any other **individual part** of **it**), but only to use or distribute **it**.

### 2.2.1. Liability, disclaimer.

- **FileMatrix** is distributed "as is", and such no liability shall be assumed for direct or indirect damage, or claims caused by the use of **it**.
- We try to keep **FileMatrix** as error free as possible. But, it's a general rule that no software is ever error free, and the number of errors increases with the complexity of the program. That is why we can not guarantee that **FileMatrix** would run in every environment, together with any other application, without producing errors. Any liability for damage of any sort is hereby denied.
- Please test **FileMatrix** with non-critical data. We can not guarantee the safety of your data.
- If you detect errors before registration, you accept them if you [register](#).

### 2.2.2. What you **MAY DO** with FileMatrix, without our written permission.

- **Our written permission** means that we would send you a signed (with the **FileMatrix's** PGP [key](#)) text file containing the permissions.
- May use **it** as long as you want.
- May install **it** on as many computers as desired.

- May let anybody use **it**, at any time.
- May test, observe and study **its** mode of work.
- May distribute **it without any fee**, through any means (**especially Internet**), to anybody, anywhere, anytime. The original files must not be changed in any way.
- May distribute **it** packed (on CD, floppy) with a **periodic magazine**, if the **price of the magazine is its usual price**. The original files must not be changed in any way.

### 2.2.3. What you **MAY NOT DO** with FileMatrix, without our written permission.

- **The following terms have priority over the MAY DO topic.**
- May not distribute, rent, lease or sell **it** if you ask for a fee, no matter what that fee is for, except the cases specified in the MAY DO topic.
- May not attempt to transform, decipher, decompile, disassemble or reverse engineer the executable files.
- May not distribute (directly or indirectly) the key code for **its registration**.
- May not change (add or remove files, or change the content of the files) any part of **it**, except for the options (and these only for your personal use).
- May not pack **it** together with commercial software, book, or any other package, except the cases specified in the MAY DO topic. May not distribute **it** if you ask for a fee, even if you say that the fee is for another software in the package, or only for the distribution support.
- May not distribute **individual parts** of **it** that can be identified as belonging to **it**.
- May not use it for commercial purposes (meaning to help run your business), if you are not registered.

## 2.3. Register.

- If **FileMatrix** is registered, then the **help** will not be displayed at start.
- If **FileMatrix** is not registered then the **Number of visible columns** option is set with the default value.
- If you want to register **FileMatrix** (be a **registered user**), then read the following topics.

### 2.3.1. Main license.

- A **main license** may be installed only on one computer, and can be used by only one user at a time, an unlimited time.
- A **main license** is issued for one name: the **main user**.

### 2.3.2. Extra licenses.

- You can register **extra licenses** for one main license. All **extra licenses** are registered with the same information as the main license.
- An **extra license** may be installed only on one computer, and can be used by only one user at

a time, an unlimited time.

- The [main user](#) is considered legally responsible that the number of users that will run **FileMatrix** at the same time is less (or equal) than the number of registered extra licenses.
- This way you can install **FileMatrix** on multiple computers or on a server, and buy the extra licenses with a discount.

### **2.3.3. Register Dialog.**

#### **2.3.3.1.Registration Form.**

- The registration fee is **USD 10 (ten)** for each license.
- If you prefer to register for as long as **FileMatrix** will exist, then the registration fee is **USD 50 (fifty)** for each license. After this you can register for free for as long as **FileMatrix** will exist. Still, you can not register for free, for the same version, more than 3 times a year.
- Discounts may apply if you buy more than **50** licenses, but first send an email.
- If you want to register one [main license](#) of **FileMatrix**, first pay the registration fee, then fill-in the following fields before you create the **Registration Form**:
  - Use only latin letters ("ABC...Z") and arabic digits ("012...9").
  - **First name, Last name, Country, State, City** should be the user's real information because it's the only way for you to prove to us that you are the real owner of the [main license](#), though it's very unlikely for this to be needed.
  - **Email** = Set this with the **email** of the registered user. **This must be the user's real email: you will receive an answer at this address.**
  - **First name** = Set this with the **first name** of the registered user.
  - **Last name (family name)** = Set this with the **last name** of the registered user.
  - **Country** = Set this with the **country** of the registered user.
  - **State** = Set this with the **state** of the registered user.
  - **City** = Set this with the **city** of the registered user.
  - **Level** = Set this with the **level** of registration you want to have. For the moment there is no need to change this.
  - **Extra licenses** = Set this with the number of **extra licenses** you want to have. This is only important for a [main license](#). You can not have more [extra licenses](#) than this number.
    - You must pay the registration fee for all extra licenses together with the fee for the main license.
    - If you want extra licenses registered for different computers (not a server), send an email for each one of them (you must create each email on its associated computer); if you run **FileMatrix** from a server, then create an email only for it.
    - You can not add extra licenses to a main license after you send the registration form for the main license.
  - **This is an extra license** = Check this if the form is intended as an [extra license](#) instead of a [main license](#). **Email, First name, Last name, Country, State, City** must be the same as in the main license to which this extra license is associated.
  - **Registration fee payed at** = Fill these fields with the date when you have payed the registration fee.

- **Create "Registration Form"** = After filling-in the previous fields, click this button to create (and then send an email with) the **Registration Form**. From this moment do not change the information in this tab.
- The registration fee does not **entitle** (meaning "our obligation") you to **private** (meaning "personal response") software support.
- **You can only pay the registration fee in USD.**
- **After** we receive your registration fee and this form, the key code will be send to you via email (where you have specified in this form), in the Answer Form. **Allow a few (up to 7) days** for the email to get to you: the money must get to us first. If you don't receive it, please email again.

### 2.3.3.2. Answer Form.

- As response to your Registration Form you will receive an email with the **Answer Form**. Save (as plain text) the email in the **FileMatrix** installation directory as "ARF.txt" file. **If the options file gets deleted then you need to restore these fields, so keep the "ARF.txt" file. Do not loose this file because we will not send you another one (unless you pay again).**
  - Click the **<Load from "Answer Form" email>** button to process the **Answer Form** (to automatically set the information).
  - **From this moment on you can consider yourself a registered user.**
- **Key code** = The **key code** of the registration license.
  - The **key code** will be **valid unlimited time, but only for the version you register** of **FileMatrix**, not for future versions. If the current version of **FileMatrix** is different from the previous one only by the third part (like in "1.0.**1**" from "1.0.**0**"), then the **key code** is still valid, and so you don't have to register.
  - If the partition on which **FileMatrix** was installed changes its size, then the **key code** becomes invalid. If you repartition (or change) the disk on which **FileMatrix** is installed, the **key code** becomes invalid.
- **Distributor** = The distributor that issued the registration license.
- **Maximum date of distributor** = The distributor can issue registration licenses up to this date.

## 3. Main Menu.

### 3.1. Work Menu.

- **Manual run ...** = Run a program (**Program title** edit box), with parameters. If you don't want to send the parameters to the **file** (some programs don't like them), click **<Run (no parameters)>** (or empty the parameters field). You can use the command line substitutions, in both **Program title** and **Parameters** edit boxes, with the active focus as the source file title used for substitutions.
- **Delete all marked titles ...** = Delete all marked titles.
- **Hide** = Hide (/ minimize) main window of **FileMatrix**.
- **Close** menu. **Close the system or FileMatrix**.
  - **Hibernate system ...** = Hibernate the system. Not all systems distinguish this state from

### Standby.

- **Standby system ...** = Put the system in standby.
- **Relog system ...** = Relog as a different user.
- **Shutdown system ...** = Shutdown the system.
- **Restart system ...** = Restart the system.
- **Close program** = Close **FileMatrix**.
- **Exit program ...** = Close **FileMatrix**. Options will not be saved. So, if you have managed to destroy the options (especially marked titles) then use this function.
- **Explore recycled ...** = Explore content of system's **Recycle Bin** directory. Run "Recycle Bin" with the verb **Open** (from Context Menu). Here, you can:
  - Restore files to their original location.
  - Delete files from "Recycle Bin".
  - Empty "Recycle Bin".
- **Recycled Properties ...** = Edit properties of "Recycle Bin". Run "Recycle Bin" with the verb **Properties** (from "Context Menu").
- **Connect partition to net ...** = Connect a partition to network.
- **Disconnect partition from net ...** = Disconnect a partition from network.

### 3.1.1. Options.

- The following are considered **options**:
  - **You may not consider options a file that contains a copyright notice.**
  - The content of "FileMatrix.ini" file. These are the **internal options** of **FileMatrix** (= the **options file**).
    - If you want to change the content of this file, you must close **FileMatrix** before you close the editor with which you change this file. You may especially want to modify (add, delete, change) the extension sections.
    - Internal options are loaded when **FileMatrix** is started.
    - Internal options are saved when **FileMatrix** is closed.
    - Internal options are saved if you edit them, then exit with **<Okay>** from the **Options Dialog**.
    - If you want to reset the internal options, just delete the **options file**. If you delete the options file you have to know that all extensions are lost: there are no "default" extensions, so if you delete them you have to rewrite them.
  - The content of "Edit.lnk" link.
  - The content of "View.lnk" link.
  - All files from the following directories:
    - SystemTools
    - Tools
    - NetSites
    - Locations
    - Send
    - SendDrag
    - Find
  - The content of "Errors.log" file.

- **Boolean** tab.
  - Click one of the following items to toggle its status (a check sign).
  - **Secure mode** = If checked, the secure mode is on; in this case, the [title bar](#) will show it. In secure mode:
    - When you try to run a file (including the reference of a link) with an extension register in the "[DangereousExtensions]" section from the options file, a dialog will ask you to continue. See [Options](#) for more information.
    - When you try to run a file (including the reference of a link) with more than one extension, a dialog will ask you to continue.
  - **Show hints** = If checked, the hints of the application are displayed (for 1000 seconds).
  - **Show universal file time** = If checked, the universal (/ stored) time of files is displayed. If unchecked: the displayed time (date and clock) of a file is the local time (the time of your system), not the universal time.
  - **Show system info** = If checked, the [title bar](#) will contain system info.
  - **Show reference info** = If checked, the [active reference information bar](#) is visible.
  - **Show grid in columns** = If checked, a grid will be displayed in columns, wrapping each [file](#).
  - **Extension colors same as type's** = If checked, the colors of [extensions](#) are the same as the colors of [types](#).
  - **Bold font for columns** = If checked, the font for columns is bold.
  - **Bold font for info bars** = If checked, the font for information bars is bold.
  - **Show files group** = If checked, the [files group](#) is displayed.
  - **Directories at end** = If checked, the [directories group](#) is displayed at the end of the columns.
  - **Separate directories** = If checked, the [directories group](#) is displayed separated from the rest of the files.
  - **Separate links** = If checked, the [links group](#) is displayed separated from the rest of the files.
  - **Separate programs** = If checked, the [programs group](#) is displayed separated from the rest of the files.
  - **Separate documents** = If checked, the [documents group](#) is displayed separated from the rest of the files.
- **General** tab.
  - **Number of visible columns** = Number of visible [columns](#) to navigate into. All paths of columns are saved into the options, so change this number freely: the paths where you have navigated will not be lost.
  - **Extra pixels for rows in column** = Extra pixels (added to font height) for the height of a row in columns. If you increase this, the rows in columns will appear thicker.
  - **Column font name** = The name of font for columns. You can edit this, if the name of the font you want is not in the drop-list.
  - **Column font size** = The size (in points) of font for columns.
  - **Information font name** = The name of font for information bars. You can edit this, if the name of the font you want is not in the drop-list.
  - **Information font size** = The size (in points) of font for information bars.
  - **Type width** = The width of the [file type](#), in fractions from item height.

- **Extension width** = The width of the [file extension](#), in fractions from item height.
- **Fit size of main window to desktop** = The main window of **FileMatrix** is resized to fit the desktop.
- **Colors** tab = Left-click a color to open the color dialog.
- **Viewer** tab.
  - **Timer period** = The [file viewer](#) "views" the active file after **timer period** seconds after it is focused.
  - **Auto view** = If checked, when you focus a file, the [file viewer](#) "views" the file. **Auto view** is working only on [fixed](#) and [CD](#) partition types.
    - **Auto view graphic** = If checked, when you focus a graphic file, the [file viewer](#) "views" the file.
    - **Auto view media** = If checked, when you focus a media file (or a [media play-list file](#)), the [file viewer](#) "views" the file.
    - **Auto view media if already playing** = If checked, when you focus a media file (or a [media play-list file](#)), the [file viewer](#) "views" the file even if there is a media already playing.
    - **Auto view text** = If checked, when you focus a text file, the [file viewer](#) "views" the file.
  - **Fit small images to viewer panel** = If checked, when you focus a graphic file, if the graphic size is smaller than the size of the viewing panel, the graphic is zoomed to fit the panel. If the graphic is bigger, then it is always fit to the viewing panel.
  - **Text word-wrap** = If checked, when you focus a text file, the text is wrapped.
  - **Maximum text file size** = The maximum size of a text file that be [viewed](#). If this value is smaller than 0, then the maximum size is unlimited.
  - **Bold font** = If checked, the viewer font is bold.

### **3.2. File Menu.**

- All functions are performed in the active column, also using the active focus, or [selected files](#).
- **New directory ...** = Create a new directory.
- **New file ...** = Create a new empty file (size is 0).
- **Link as** menu.
  - For all these operations, the original extension of the linked file is cut from the new name, unlike in a [Copy as link](#) operation. See **Copy as link** for more information.
  - **System tool ...** = **Copy as link** into [SystemTools directory](#), the active focus.
  - **Tool ...** = **Copy as link** into [Tools directory](#), the active focus.
  - **Location ...** = **Copy as link** into [Locations directory](#), the parent directory of the active focus.
  - **Send item ...** = **Copy as link** into [Send directory](#), the active focus.
  - **Send drag item ...** = **Copy as link** into [Send Drag directory](#), the active focus.
  - **Desktop item ...** = **Copy as link** into [Desktop directory](#), the active focus.
  - **Quick launch item ...** = **Copy as link** into [Quick launch directory](#), the active focus.

- **Go to reference** = Go to the reference of the active focus. If the reference is not there, a dialog will automatically browse for it (in the system); if you want, you can choose to browse manually.
- **\$ Recycle ...** = Same as **Delete**, but the files are moved into the [Recycle Bin](#), so that they can be restored if necessary. See [File dialog](#) and [Working with selection](#) for more information.
  - Each directory is recycled as a unit: it is not processed recursively.
  - **Recycle** depends on the system's options: it can **recycle** or **delete**. See [Recycled Properties](#).
  - You can use **recycle** only on [fixed partitions](#).
- **\$ Delete ...** = Delete (logically) the active focus. If the active focus is a directory, then its content is recursively processed. See [File dialog](#) and [Working with selection](#) for more information.
- **\$ Clip titles ...** = Copy to clipboard the title of the active focus. If the active focus is a directory, then its content is recursively processed. See [File dialog](#) and [Working with selection](#) for more information. The actual copy to clipboard is performed at the end of the operation.
  - Use this if you want to create files that would contain a list of file titles, a list that other programs might be able to use.
  - You can also use it to create images of the file titles you have on your system (even on multiple partitions).
  - You can use this (with a filter) instead of [Find](#).
- **Rename ...** = Rename the active focus.
- **Rename reference ...** = Rename the reference of the active focus. If the active focus is a link, its reference will be changed to the new name.
- **Properties ...** = Display the properties of the active focus.
- **Reference properties ...** = Display the properties of the reference of the active focus.
- **Print** = Print the active focus. Run the active focus with the verb **Print** (from [Context Menu](#)).
- **Print reference** = Print the reference of the active focus. Run the active focus with the verb **Print** (from **Context Menu**). The [working path](#) is the path of the reference of the source file.
- **View** = View the active focus. Call the link "[View.lnk](#)". See [Tools](#) for more information about links.
- **View reference** = View the reference of the active focus. Call the link "[View.lnk](#)". The [working path](#) is the path of the reference of the source file. See [Tools](#) for more information about links.
- **Edit** = Edit the active focus. Call the link "[Edit.lnk](#)". See [Tools](#) for more information about links.
- **Edit reference** = Edit the reference of the active focus. Call the link "[Edit.lnk](#)". The [working path](#) is the path of the reference of the source file. See [Tools](#) for more information about links.
- **Select** menu. Use this to select and deselect files and directories.
  - The text color of selected files is different.
  - The active focus is **not selected**.

- See [Working with selection](#) for more information.
- **Filtered deselect ...** = Deselect files and directories with a filter (/ a find filter).
- **Filtered select ...** = Select files and directories with a filter (/ a find filter).
- **Select all** = Select files and directories.
- **Select files** = Select files.
- **Deselect all** = Deselect files and directories.
- **Deselect files** = Deselect files.
- **Toggle all** = Toggle selection for files and directories.
- **Toggle files** = Toggle selection for files.
- **Toggle this** = Toggle selection for active file, then move down the active focus.

### 3.3. Column Menu.

- Some functions are not performed in the active column.
- **Load directory** = Load active column. Usually you don't need to load the columns, because **FileMatrix** knows when this has to be done. See [Automonitor](#) for more information.
- **Load all directories** = Same as **Load directory**, but for all columns. Use **[Ctrl]** for this function.
- **Find ...** = Find files matching to a specified filter, in current directory. Files that are found are [copied as links](#) in the [Find directory](#); there is no [Overwrite dialog](#). Before the actual operation, the [Find directory](#) is cleared of links.
  - **Find filter** = A find filter is valid only if none of the following characters is present in it: "`<>|\" :\\/`".
  - **Look in directories too ?** = If this is checked, **FileMatrix** looks in subdirectories too.
  - **Find directories too ?** = If this is checked, matching directories are found (/ linked) too.
  - There are two buttons to start find:
    - **<Find>** = Start find. If you press **[Enter]**, this will be done.
    - **<Find (no clear)>** = Like **<Find>**, but the [Find directory](#) is not cleared.
  - The dialog shows some information:
    - **Errors** = The number of errors occurred when processing (all errors encountered).
    - **Directories** = The number of directories found.
    - **Files** = The number of files found.
    - **Time** = Elapsed time from beginning of processing.
  - After a find, **FileMatrix** displays the [Find directory](#) in the active column.
  - All links for all files which are found, have, before the extension, the find order-index.
  - **Example "look for music on my system"**:
    - Go to the partition where you want to look for music.
    - Display the **Find Dialog**.
    - In **Find filter** write "\*.wav".
    - Press **[Enter]** to start the find operation.
    - After the dialog disappears, in the [Find directory](#) you have all found ".wav" files.
    - [Move](#) these links into your **Music** directory. You can also move the music files, using [first level of reference](#); this way you can centralise your music in one directory.
    - Repeat all this with all music file extensions you want, on all partitions of your

system.

- If you want, you can use [Clip titles](#) instead of **Find**. This way you will have the file titles in the system's clipboard.
- If you desire to work with an advanced find, use **Find** from the [Context Menu](#) of a directory (or use **Start Menu\Find\Files** or **Folders**). Press **[Ctrl+A]** to select all files. Use **Copy / Cut** from **Context Menu**, to copy / cut the files. In **FileMatrix**, use **Paste** from **Context Menu**, to paste the files.
- **System find ...** = System find for current directory. Run the current directory with the verb **Find** (from [Context Menu](#)).
- **Set active focus ...** = Paste clipboard content as file title in active focus, then go to it.
- **Clip active focus** = Copy title of active focus into clipboard. If the operation is successful, the default system sound will be generated.
- **Clip reference of active focus** = Copy reference of title of active focus into clipboard. If the operation is successful, the default system sound will be generated.
- A group of columns contains all columns beginning from a [fixed](#) column till the last consecutive [mobile](#) column (after this is another fixed column).
- **Insert column at end** = Insert an empty column at end of active column group; the history is also empty. All columns in the right side (of the added column) are moved toward right. The active focus stays put.
- **Cut last column** = Cut column at end of active column group. All columns in the right side (of the cut column) are moved toward left. If the active column is the last in the group, the active focus is moved in the left column, else it stays put.
- **Insert column here** = Insert an empty column in the place of the active column. If the active column is [fixed](#), then its attribute remains and the next column becomes [mobile](#). See [Insert column at end](#) for more information. The active focus stays put.
- **Cut this column** = Cut active column. If the active column is [fixed](#), the attribute doesn't change. See [Cut last column](#) for more information. The active focus stays put.
- **Rotate columns to right** = Rotate all (visible or not) columns toward right. All columns are moved to right, and the last column (from all possible ones) becomes the first. The active focus stays put.
- **Rotate columns to left** = Rotate all (visible or not) columns toward left. All columns are moved to left, and the first column becomes the last (from all possible ones). The active focus stays put.
- **Beware!** When you insert a column, the last column is deleted. So, if you rotate columns toward left (so that the first column becomes the last one), then insert a column somewhere, all information about that last column is lost.

### **3.4. Viewer Menu.**

- **Force view** = Forces the [viewer](#) to "view" the active file.
- **View media in directory** = Forces the [MediaPlayer](#) to "view" all media files (not [media play-list files](#)) in current directory. All these files are loaded in the [media play-list dialog](#).
- **Toggle text viewer focus** = Focus the text viewer. When you are in the text viewer, use this to focus the active column.

- **Show / hide media control** = Show or hide [MediaPlayer](#) control panel.

### **3.4.1. MediaPlayer.**

- When you close **FileMatrix**, the **MediaPlayer** is closed too, so any music playing stops.
- If you want to change the current position in media, just click on the **media position panel** (the one with the caption "**Progress**"). The left side is for beginning; the right side is for end.
  - The **Played time** on the **media position panel** is the real played time, not the elapsed time in media.
- If you want to change the sound volume, just click on the **sound volume panel** (the one with the caption "**Sound volume**"). The left side is for lower volume; the right side is for higher volume.
- **Play button** = Play media (from beginning).
- **Pause button** = Pause / resume (from paused position) media.
- **Stop button** = Stop playing media.
- **Next button** = Play next media in [media play-list dialog](#).
- **Prev button** = Play previous media in [media play-list dialog](#).
- **MPL button** = Show [media play-list dialog](#).

#### **3.4.1.1. Media play-list file.**

- A **media play-list** file must have the ".mpl" extension. To play such a file, just [force view](#) when it is the active file.
- A media play-list file must contain a list of file titles (each on a different line): media files or links to media files (the referenced file is played). Files within a media play-list file are not limited to the media files that can be viewed by the [file viewer](#).
- You have to manually create a play-list:
  - Create the play-list file with [New file](#), using an ".mpl" extension, like this: "PlayList.mpl".
  - Use [Clip titles](#) (with a filter) to find the media files in your system.
  - [Edit](#) the play-list file.
  - Paste the clipboard content (using **[Ctrl+V]**).
  - Order file titles the way you would like them to be played.
- See [SongsPlayList.mpl file](#) for a play-list example.

#### **3.4.1.2. Media play-list dialog.**

- This dialog contains all files that can be played by the [MediaPlayer](#). Each item in the list is a media file.
- The name of the selected media has an orange background.
- The name of the currently played media has a green background.
- Left click (or press **[Enter]**) on a media to play it and all media from it to end of [media play-list dialog](#). Errors are ignored when a media is played.

- Right click on a media to select it.
- None of these shortcut keys are displayed by the user interface:
  - **[Up]** = Move the active focus up in play-list.
  - **[Down]** = Move the active focus down in play-list.
  - **[Enter]** = Play the current media in play-list, then continue with next.
  - **[Esc]** = Close the play-list.
- **Randomize menu** = Use this if you want the media to be played in a random order. All media in the [media play-list dialog](#) will be randomly ordered. Thus, each media will be played only once, from top to bottom in the play-list. You can randomize a play-list multiple times. Just remember that you have to do this manually.

### **3.5. System Tools Menu.**

- Menu items are all files from [SystemTools directory](#).
- See [Send Menu](#) for more information.
- No link [receives parameters](#).
- Create your own [links](#) to important system programs in [SystemTools directory](#).
- **Beware!** This menu is a popup menu, so it doesn't behave like any other menu item from the main menu.

### **3.6. Tools Menu.**

- Menu items are all files from [Tools directory](#).
- See [System Tools Menu](#) and [Send Menu](#) for more information.
- Create your own [links](#) to important programs in [Tools directory](#).
- **Beware!** This menu is a popup menu, so it doesn't behave like any other menu item from the main menu.

### **3.7. Net Sites Menu.**

- Menu items are all files from [NetSites directory](#).
- See [System Tools Menu](#) and [Send Menu](#) for more information.
- Create your own URLs to important sites in [NetSites directory](#).
- **Beware!** This menu is a popup menu, so it doesn't behave like any other menu item from the main menu.

### **3.8. Help Menu.**

- **Main topic ...** = Display the [main](#) topic.
- **License Terms topic ...** = Display the [License Terms](#) topic.
- **Input topic ...** = Display the [input](#) topic.
- **Tips topic ...** = Display the [tips](#) topic.
- **About ...** = Display the **About Dialog**.
- **Register ...** = Show the [Register Dialog](#).

## 4. File Drag Menu.

- All functions (except for [Set with source path](#)) use as source and as destination the same way as the [Send Drag Menu](#).
- If you click on a free area of a column, the source file will be the active focus.
- **Send to program** = The source file is [send](#) to the destination file, as parameter to the program. This works only if destination file is a program or a link.
- **Send reference to program** = The reference of the source file is **send** to the destination file, as parameter to the program. This works only if destination file is a program or a link. The [working path](#) is the path of the reference of the source file.
- **Copy as ...** = [Copy](#) the source file, into the destination column, with a new name. Only files can be **copied as**.
- **\$ Copy as link ...** = Copy as link to the source file, into the destination column. The **Start in** field of the link (in the link's [Property dialog](#)) will be set to the path of the new **Target** field; in some cases, you might want to delete this. The name of the link will be the name of the original file plus the proper link extension.
  - **Copy as link** does not process recursively directories, but it makes a link to the directory.
  - See [Working with selection](#) for more information.
  - **Beware!** When the link already exists at destination, **FileMatrix** will show you the [Overwrite dialog](#) were the source is the real file (not a link with the same name). Don't worry, a link will be copied, not the real file. Also know that because the source is not a link, its last write time should not be compared with the last write time of the destination.
  - **Beware!** Lets say you have copied into the "AnyDir" directory, as link to it, the "AnyDir.lnk" link. If you try to [Copy first level of reference](#) to "AnyDir.lnk", an error will occur. This is because **FileMatrix** considers "AnyDir.lnk" to be on the first level, always using the initial source directory as base (for the fist level). It doesn't look to the source "from the outside" (that is: if it is outside the initial source directory), so it considers that the operation will be attempted again (in an endless loop, like in [Copy all levels of reference](#)), though it doesn't happen.
- **\$ Compare ...** = Compare the source file with a file with the same name in the destination column, for files with newer last write time. See [File dialog](#) and [Working with selection](#) for more information.
  - **The contents of the files are not compared.**
  - The directories are ignored: only their component files are compared recursively.
  - This function behaves the same way [Copy](#) does.
  - After compare, a dialog will show to the user how many newer files there are in source (compared to destination), how many were processed, and how many are common (already exist at destination and are common for both source and destination). **Beware!** If there are any newer files in the destination, they are not counted (and not shown to the user).
  - After compare, the newer source files that already exist at destination are selected. This is

done only for the files (not directories) on the first level (the directory in which the operation begins). Any other source file / directory is deselected.

- **Example 1:**
  - Lets say you have 10 source files you want to compare with the files in the destination column.
  - [Select](#) the 10 source files.
  - Press **[RMB]** on the source file name and drag cursor into the destination column.
  - Release **[RMB]**.
  - Choose **Compare** from the [File Drag Menu](#).
  - Click **<Okay>**. Now, the selected source files are compared with the destination column, If there are any files with the same name into the destination, and the source files are newer, after compare, those source files are selected (no other file or directory is selected in the source column).
- **Example 2:**
  - Lets say you have 10 links to files, and you want to compare the files referred by those links, not the links.
  - Do the same as in **Example 1**, but choose **First level** radio-button from **File Dialog**.
- **Example 3:**
  - Lets say you have 10 directories which contain links, and you want to compare the files referred by those links, not the links.
  - Do the same as in **Example 1**, but choose **All levels** radio-button from **File Dialog**.
  - **Beware!** In the destination column / directory you must have the same directories (with the same names).
- **\$ Copy ...** = Copy the source file, into the destination column. If the active focus is a directory, then its content is recursively processed. See [File dialog](#) and [Working with selection](#) for more information.
- **\$ Move ...** = Same as **Copy**, but it moves the source file into the destination column.
  - **Beware!** If you try to move some files which already exists at destination, and choose not to [overwrite](#) them (or choose to overwrite all older, but there is no older file), the source files remain. Because of this, the source directories (if any) can't be deleted (/ moved), so errors will occur: you should ignore them.
  - For **First level** and **All levels** radio-buttons from [File Dialog](#), if the source file is a link, its reference will be changed to the new name. Also, if **Start in** field (in the link's [Property dialog](#)) contains the path of the initial **Target** field, it will be changed to the path of the new target.
  - See [File dialog](#) and [Working with selection](#) for more information.
- **Set with source path** = Set the path of the destination column with the path of the source column. This way, both source and destination columns have the same content.

## 5. Partitions Menu.

- This menu contains the mounted partitions in your system.
- The type of a partition can be:

- **Removable** = A floppy disk.
- **Fixed** = A hard disk.
- **Remote** = The network.
- **CD** = A compact disk.
- **RAM** = A volatile RAM partition.
- You can use a key to change the way the partition is loaded:
  - If you don't use any key, [autohold](#) is automatically used.
  - For **[Ctrl]** key: [automove to left](#).
  - For **[Shift]** key: [autoopen to right](#).
- See [Partitions button](#) for more information.

## 6. System Locations Menu.

- System locations are designed to take you to a specific predefined directory.
- You can use a key to change the way the partition is loaded:
  - If you don't use any key, [autohold](#) is automatically used.
  - For **[Ctrl]** key: [automove to left](#).
  - For **[Shift]** key: [autoopen to right](#).
- See [System locations button](#) for more information.
- **Terminal root** = Go to terminal. The terminal contains all mounted partitions in your system.
- **Partition root** = Go to root directory of current partition.
- **Find** = Go to [Find directory](#). This directory contains the results (link files) of a find.
- **SystemTools** = Go to [SystemTools directory](#).
- **Tools** = Go to [Tools directory](#).
- **NetSites** = Go to [NetSites directory](#).
- **Locations** = Go to [Locations directory](#).
- **Send** = Go to [Send directory](#).
- **SendDrag** = Go to [Send Drag directory](#).
- **This program** = Go to [FileMatrix installation directory](#).
- **Temporary** = Go to system's **Temporary** directory. All files in this directory can be deleted: there is not need to store them. Still, do not delete the files if the program that has created them is running.
- **Program links** = Go to system's **Start Menu\Programs** directory. This directory, normally, contains only links to installed programs.
- **Program files** = Go to system's **Program Files** directory. This directory, normally, contains installed programs.
- **Startup** = Go to system's **Startup** directory.
  - If you want to have a program to automatically start when the system starts, just [copy it as link](#) in this directory. This also works for any other file, but not for directories.
  - If you want to have directories automatically opened by the system, create any at this location.
  - If you want to terminate the automatically start, just delete the proper link in this directory.

- If you want to automatically start **FileMatrix**, just copy the "[FileMatrix.lnk](#)" link from desktop in the **Startup** directory, or copy as link in the **Startup** directory the "[FileMatrix.exe](#)" file.
- **Desktop** = Go to system's **Desktop** directory.
- **Quick launch** = Go to system's **Quick Launch** directory.
- **Favorites** = Go to system's **Favorites** directory.
- **Documents** = Go to system's **Documents** directory.
- **Music** = Go to system's **Musics** directory.
- **Pictures** = Go to system's **Pictures** directory.

## 7. Locations Menu.

- Menu items are all files from [Locations directory](#).
- See [Send Menu](#) for more information.
- If the chosen item is a link to a directory, and you have used a key to popup the menu, then:
  - If you don't use any key, [autohold](#) is automatically used.
  - For **[Ctrl]** key: [automove to left](#).
  - For **[Shift]** key: [autoopen to right](#).
- No link [receives parameters](#).
- Create your own [links](#) to important locations (/ directories) in [Locations directory](#).
- See [Locations button](#) for more information.

## 8. Marked Titles.

- You can **mark file titles** for a whole group of columns, whenever you want, and at a later time you can go there instantly.
- There can be up to 100 **marked titles**.
- Marked titles are saved in [options](#).

### 8.1. Marked Titles Menu.

- The **Marked Titles Menu** contains all marked titles. Click one item to go there (to the whole group marked titles).
- The menu title identifies what will be done:
  - **Show right to left** = Show marked titles you click in the **Marked Titles Menu**. The paths are set from right to left, like this: the last column in the current group is set with the last marked title, then consecutively to the beginning of the group.
  - **Show left to right** = Use **[Ctrl]** to show marked titles you click in the **Marked Titles Menu**. The paths are set from left to right, like this: the first column in the current group is set with the first marked title, then consecutively to the end of the group.
  - **Delete** = Use **[Ctrl+Shift]** to clear marked titles (a whole group at a time) that you click in the **Marked Titles Menu**.
- See [Marked Titles button](#) for more information.

## 9. History.

- The history contains all file titles where the user has navigated.
- History is kept for invisible columns too.
- The **history** does not contain file titles with the same path: older items are deleted from **history**. Example: "C:\Images" and "C:\Music" have the same path ("C:\").
- The maximum capacity of the **history** is 30 items. When the history is full, before adding a new item, the oldest item is deleted.
- **Connected columns** = The contents of the directories that were displayed at the same time in all columns. You have to set the connection manually.
  - **Restore connection** = Press a digit to restore (= go to) a previously set connection. Mobility attributes are also restored.
  - **Set connection** = Press **[Ctrl]** and a digit to connect all visible columns: all **mobility attributes** are stored in history, then they are set to true. If the operation is successful, the default system sound will be generated.
    - Use this if you want to temporarily explore a directory, in all columns, then go back with one key: the digit used to set the connection with.

## 9.1. History Menu.

- The **History Menu** contains all titles in history.
- The top item in the **History Menu** is always the file title in active focus.
- Each menu item with a connected title has a check mark, and the number of the connection, before the title (between parenthesis).
- See History button for more information.

## 10. Send Menu.

- Menu items are all files from Send directory. Directories are interpreted as submenus. Files (including directories) with special access rights are not loaded. Each submenu is loaded with no more than 30 items.
- The whole title of active focus will be **send as parameter** to the clicked item / program.
- Every time a file is send as parameter to a program, the title is putted between quotes (" "). Exception from this is when you send the file to a link (and the link has command line substitutions).
- If you use **[Ctrl]** when popup the **Send Menu**, the reference of the active focus will be send to the clicked item. The working path is the path of the reference of the source file.
- If you use **[Shift]** when popup the **Send Menu**, the path of the (reference of) active focus will be send to the clicked item. If you use this, there is no need to click on a file: you can click on a free area of a column.
- The menu title identifies what will be processed:
  - **Active title** = Active focus.
  - **Active reference** = Reference of active focus.
  - **Parent directory** = Parent directory of active focus. **Beware!** It does not end with path trail.
- Each menu item has an associated file link (with the same name as the menu item's caption). Each link has to target the proper program. The location of this program can be different on

different systems, so you might need (or want) to change the targets. To do that, go to [Send directory](#). Here select the link you want to retarget, and edit its [properties](#). Change the content of the **Target** field to the path you want, then click **<Okay>**. See [Links](#) for more information.

- All targets receive as parameter the active focus.
- Links to directories are not executed, but their content is displayed in the active column.
- Create your own [links](#) to programs in [Send directory](#), like this:
  - [Copy as link](#), into the [Send directory](#), the program to which you desire to send the active focus.
  - Write the parameters you want to send to the program, in the section of parameters (in the [link's Property dialog](#)).
  - Delete the content of the **Start in** field (in the link's **Property dialog**), so that the [current working path](#) would be used.

## **11. Send Drag Menu.**

- Menu items are all files from [SendDrag directory](#). Only ".lnk" links should be in the directory: only they can use the destination. Links [receive as parameters](#) both source and destination.
- This menu is like [Send Menu](#), but it uses as source the file on which you have pushed down the mouse button, and as destination the file above which you have released the mouse button. If you have released the mouse button on a free area of the destination column, the destination file is the file in focus (even if the column is empty, so the active focus is missing).
- In the links from this menu you can use the commands with destination in the [command line substitutions](#).
- Create your own [links](#) to programs in [SendDrag directory](#).
- **Remember!** The [working path](#) is the path of the destination file; therefore it may not be any need to use the command line substitutions with destination.

## **12.Context Menu.**

- This menu belongs to the system.
- See [Send Menu](#) for more information.
- The **Context Menu** for the [terminal](#) (for the parent directory of any partition) is actually for the system.
- **Beware!** For files in [Recycle Bin](#), this menu is not available. Therefore [Properties](#) and [Print](#) are also not available.

## **13.Context Drag Menu.**

- It is just like [Context Menu](#), but because the [working path](#) is the destination column, any program in this menu can use it to do stuff in it.

## **14.User interface.**

- At any time you can resize the main window of **FileMatrix**. This size will be remembered when **FileMatrix** is restarted.

### 14.1. Viewer panel.

- **FileMatrix** integrates (within the interface) a file viewer.
- In this panel the **viewer** displays the files.
- Recognized files:
  - **Graphic files** = Graphic files with extensions: ".bmp", ".dib", ".emf", ".ico", ".jpg", ".wmf".
  - **Media play-list files** = [Media play-list files](#).
  - **Media files** = Files with extensions registered in the [options](#) in the [Viewer\_AudioExtensions] (for audio media files) and [Viewer\_VideoExtensions] (for video media files) sections.
  - **Text files** = Files with extensions registered in the [options](#) in the [Viewer\_TextExtensions] sections.
- If the active file is a [link](#), then its reference is viewed instead of the link it self.
- If the active file is a media file, then the [MediaPlayer](#) is started. The file is loaded in the [media play-list dialog](#).
- If the active file is a [media play-list file](#), then the [MediaPlayer](#) is started. The content of the file is loaded in the media play-list dialog. After this you can change the directory, because the files are already loaded in the [media play-list dialog](#).
- When the active file is viewed and its content changes, the viewer does not [automatically reload](#) it.
- If there is no space for the viewer to be displayed, then the minimum height is set. So, if you desire, you can maximize the [column](#)'s heights, and then just by [forcing](#) the view you can view a file.
- The **splitter** (on the bottom of the viewer panel) can be dragged up or down to reset the height of the **viewer panel** and of the **columns**.

### 14.2. Title bar.

- The information is updated every 5 seconds.
- **FileMatrix** = The name of **FileMatrix**.
- **SECURE** = The [secure mode](#) is on.
- The following information is visible only if [Show system info](#) is checked:
  - **<Date> (<day in year>)** = Current date, in long format (as defined by the system). Between parentheses is the index of current day in the current year; first day has the index 1.
  - **<Clock> (<minute in day>)** = Current clock, in long format (as defined by the system). Between parentheses is the number of minutes (of 100 seconds) passed from the beginning of the day; the lowest value is 0.
  - **Swap** = Free swap file size (in bytes), total swap file size (between parentheses).

- **RAM** = Free RAM size (in bytes), total RAM size (between parentheses).
- **Proc** = Processor load (percent from total power); the information is taken from the registry, from "HKEY\_DYN\_DATA\PerfStats\StatData : KERNEL\CPUUsage" key. Minimize all windows to obtain minimum processor load.

### 14.3.Active column information bar.

- All information is about the active column.
- Where "**Real-time information**" exists it means that the information is extracted in real-time (when the active focus is set), else the information is extracted only when the current directory is loaded.
- **Dirs** = Number of elements in [directories group](#).
- **Links** = Number of elements in [links group](#).
- **Progs** = Number of elements in [programs group](#).
- **Docs** = Number of elements in [documents group](#).
- **Files** or **Invisible** = Number of elements in [files group](#). **Files** exists if [Show files group](#) is checked, else **Invisible** exists.
- **Special** = Number of elements with [special access rights](#).
- **SelectedNum** = Number of [selected](#) files.
- **SelectedSz** = Size (in bytes) of selected files.
- **TotalSz** = Total size (in bytes) of files.
- **PartitionSz** = Free size (in bytes) of current partition, total size of current partition (between parentheses). **Real-time information**.

### 14.4.Active file information bar.

- The information is extracted in real-time (when the active focus is set).
- **<Type>** = [Type](#) of active focus.
- **<Size>** = Size (in bytes) of active focus. Sometimes, you might get a directory with a no null size (on CDs). If the file does not exist (is not stored) anymore, this field contains **Missing**.
- **Real-time information.**
- **<Attributes>** = Attributes of active focus:
  - **A** = Archive.
  - **R** = Read-only.
  - **H** = Hidden.
  - **S** = System.
- **<Title>** = Title of active focus. If you delete all files in the active column, the active focus title before deletion is remembered.
- **<Last modification date> (<day in year>)** = Last modification date of active focus, in long format (as defined by the system). For directories (on some operating systems), this is the creation date. Between parentheses is the index of current day in the current year; first day has the index 1. **Real-time information.**
- **<Last modification clock> (<minute in day>)** = Last modification clock of active focus, in long format (as defined by the system). For directories (on some operating systems), this is the creation clock. Between parentheses is the number of minutes (of 100 seconds) passed

from the beginning of the day; the lowest value is 0. **Real-time information.**

## **14.5. Active reference information bar.**

- This bar is visible only if [Show reference info](#) is checked.
- It is like [Active file information bar](#), but the information refers to the reference of the active file (the **active reference**).
- All information is extracted in real-time (when the active focus is set).
- If the active focus is a link (by extension), but can't be loaded (it is not really a link, or it can't be found), the [Type](#) is **Unknown**.
- **<Reference parameters>** = After the **File title** there is the section of parameters of a link. If there are no parameters, this field contains **None**. See [Links](#) for more information.

## **14.6. Columns.**

### **14.6.1. Buttons.**

- Left click on one of the following buttons to perform its associated action.
- Right click on one of the following buttons to focus the column that contains it, and so to make it the **active column**. In the **active column** take place all operations. The **active column** contains the [active focus](#).
  
- The following (/ upper-side) buttons are "pressed" (only) for the active column.
- With the following buttons you can also use **[Ctrl]** and **[Shift]** the same way as with the associated menu.
- Right click on the button to close the associated menu.
- **Partitions (Part)** = Show [Partitions Menu](#).
- **System locations (SysL)** = Show [System Locations Menu](#).
- **Locations (Loc)** = Show [Locations Menu](#).
- **Marked titles (MT)** = Show [Marked Titles Menu](#).
- **History (H)** = Show [History Menu](#).
  
- **Mobility attribute (Mob / Fix)** = Toggle column's mobility. Click (with mouse left button) on button to toggle its status: column's **mobility attribute**.
  - The navigation style depends on the status of the mobility attribute.
  - If a column is **mobile**, it behaves like an extension of the column on its left. If a column is **fixed**, it starts a new group of columns, and therefore it has nothing to do with the column on its left.
  - The first visible column is always considered **fixed**, no matter what its mobility attribute is.
  - The last visible column is always considered the last **mobile** column in its group, no matter what the mobility attribute of the next column is.
  - If a column is **fixed** this button is "pressed".
  - If a column is **mobile** this button is not "pressed".
  - See [Working with columns](#) for more information.

- **Up (Up)** = Go to parent path of file in focus. See [\[Backspace\]](#) for more information. You can also use [\[Ctrl\]](#), [\[Alt\]](#) and [\[Shift\]](#) the same way as with [\[Backspace\]](#).
- **Back (<<)** = Go to previous path in **history**. See [\[Insert\]](#) for more information. You can also use [\[Ctrl\]](#) the same way as with [\[Insert\]](#).
- **Forth (>>)** = Go to next path in **history**. See [\[Delete\]](#) for more information. You can also use [\[Ctrl\]](#) the same way as with [\[Delete\]](#).
- **Load (Ld)** = Load directory of active column. You can also use [\[Ctrl\]](#) the same way as with **Load all directories**. If the directory in focus has been changed from its last load, this button is "pressed". See [Load directory](#) and [Automonitor](#) for more information.

### 14.6.2. Files.

- In a column are displayed all the files contained by the current directory. These files are organised into groups, according to their extensions. In each group files are sorted by name.
- Each file can have **normal** or **special access rights** (with **read-only**, **system**, **hidden** attributes; you might not be able to access such files). Files with special access rights are displayed with bold text.
- At the left of each file name is its **type**. The width of this area depends on the height of the row (including [extra pixels](#)). Types / groups:
  - **Directories group**. The type is "**D**". The most important group.
  - **Links group**. The type is "**L**". Recognised extensions:
    - **lnk** = LiNK file.
    - **pif** = Program Information File (link to DOS file).
  - **Programs group**. The type is "**P**". Recognised extensions are loaded from the "[ProgramExtensions]" section from the [options file](#).
  - **Documents group**. The type is "**T**". Recognised extensions are loaded from the "[DocumentExtensions]" section from the [options file](#).
  - **Files group**. The type is "**F**". All files that don't belong to any of the previous groups make this group.
- At the right of each file name is its **extension**. If this contains "\*\*\*\*\*" it means that there is no extension for that file. The width of this area depends on the height of the row (including [extra pixels](#)).
- Between the **type** and the **extension** there is the **name** of the file.

### 14.6.3. The focus.

- The **active focus** is the file used to perform operations. The **active focus** is contained by the [active column](#).
- The name in the **active focus** is set, at every column load, with the nearest match of the last name in **active focus**.
- When you [enter into a directory](#), the active focus is set on the:
  - First file, if you have never visited that directory.
  - The last file you have focused in that directory, if you have visited it in **that column** and if it still is in the [history](#) of the column.
  - The last file you have focused in that directory, if you have visited it in **any column** and if it still is in the history of that column.

- The **inactive focus** is a file that would be in **active focus** if the column in which it is would be the active column.
- All functions of **FileMatrix** that use files [as parameters](#) actually use the active focus as parameter, except for some cases (see [Working with selection](#)).
- If you use the scroll-bar, and make the **active focus** invisible (it is outside the visible rows of the file box), when a directory is loaded in that column, the **active focus** is set on the first (or the last) row.

#### **14.6.4. Automatic directory change monitoring (automonitor).**

- **Automonitor** means that **FileMatrix** continuously (once per second, on fixed partitions) monitors the displayed directories for changes. If there are changes in a column, the status of the [Load directory button](#) of the column is set to "pressed".
  - Automonitor is continuously performed, but [displayed](#) only if a column is focused.
  - The automonitor does not detect the change of last write time of the active focus. Therefore if **FileMatrix** just sits and another program changes the last write time of the file that is in active focus in **FileMatrix**, it is not detected as changed, and so the information in [Information bar](#) is wrong.
- **Autoload** is a function that automatically loads the displayed directories if there is any change in them, change detected by the automonitor function. The autoload is performed only in specific cases, so you would know if a change occurs, but not to be disrupted from work.
  - Autoload is forced after an internal function is used.
  - Autoload is performed, for any type of partition, when **FileMatrix** receives the user focus (wait for less than 1 second).

#### **14.6.5. Working with columns.**

- You can set the number of working columns from [Options Dialog](#).
- When a directory is loaded, if it can't be loaded, then the parent directory will be loaded instead.
- Functions to work with in the active group of columns:
  - **Automove to left** = Move columns (without history), from the active column toward left. This is like the active column is [fixed](#).
  - **Automove to right** = Move columns (without history), from the active column toward right. This is like the next column is [fixed](#).
  - **Autohold** = Open directory in active column.
  - **Autoopen to left** = Open parent directories in all columns toward left.
  - **Autoopen to right** = Open (last visited or first) directories in all columns toward right.
- The **current working path** is the path of the active column. If the path is not valid, then it is used the [Temporary directory](#).

- The **working path** for any function is the **current working path** (the path of the active focus), except for:
  - [Send reference to program](#) from [File Drag Menu](#): the **working path** is the path of the reference of the source file.
  - **Send reference** used with [Send Menu](#) and [Context Menu](#): the **working path** is the path of the reference of the source file.
  - [Send Drag Menu](#) and [Context Drag Menu](#): the **working path** is the directory in the destination column.
  - [Print reference](#), [View reference](#), [Edit reference](#) from [File Menu](#): the **working path** is the path of the reference of the source file.
  - When you [run](#) a link, the path specified in **Start in** field has priority, and is used as **working path**.

#### **14.6.6. Working with selection.**

- **Selected files** stay set until the directory (which contains them) is loaded, or until after a [Copy as link](#), [Compare](#), [Copy](#), [Move](#), [Recycle](#), [Delete](#), [Clip titles](#) operation is performed (each file is deselected immediately after it is processed).
- The active focus is **not selected**. Therefore, it is ignored with [Copy as link](#), [Compare](#), [Copy](#), [Move](#), [Recycle](#), [Delete](#), [Clip titles](#) operations, if there are selected files in the source column. Only these functions use selected files, if any, instead of the active focus.
- See [Select](#) for more information.

### **15.Input.**

- None of these shortcut keys are displayed by the user interface.

#### **15.1.Mouse.**

- **On mouse left button ([LMB]) pressed on a file (of any kind), if the cursor is not dragged:**
  - If the cursor is on the [type of the file](#) = [Toggle selection of file](#).
  - If the cursor is on the [name of the file](#) = Just focus the file.
  - If the cursor is on the [extension of the file](#) = [Run](#) file. You can also use [\[Ctrl\]](#), [\[Alt\]](#) and [\[Shift\]](#) the same way as with [\[Enter\]](#).
- **On double click with mouse left button on a file (of any kind):**
  - If the cursor is on the [name of the file](#) = [Run](#) file.
- **On mouse right button ([RMB]) released on a file (of any kind), if the cursor is not dragged:**
  - If the cursor is on the [type of the file](#) = Send file to [Send Menu](#). You can also use [\[Ctrl\]](#) and [\[Shift\]](#) the same way as in the **Send menu**. If you use [\[Shift\]](#) there is no need to click on a file: you can click on a free area of a column.
  - If the cursor is on the [name of the file](#) = Just focus the file.
  - If the cursor is on the [extension of the file](#) = Send file to [Context Menu](#). You can also

use **[Ctrl]** and **[Shift]** the same way as in the **Context Menu**.

- **On mouse right button released on a file (of any kind), if the cursor is dragged (on another file, or in another column):**
  - **If the cursor is on the type of the file** = Send source and destination files to [Send Drag Menu](#). You can also use **[Ctrl]** and **[Shift]** the same way as in the **Send Drag Menu**. If you use **[Shift]** there is no need to click on a file: you can click on a free area of a column.
  - **If the cursor is on the name of the file** = Send source and destination files to [File Drag Menu](#). You can also click on a free area of a column.
  - **If the cursor is on the extension of the file** = Send file to [Context Drag Menu](#). You can also use **[Ctrl]** and **[Shift]** the same way as in the **Context Drag Menu**.
- **On [LMB] or [RMB] pressed on a file** = Set file as active focus. Set column as the active column.
- **On [LMB] or [RMB] pressed on a free area of a column** = Set the inactive focus as the active focus. Set column as the active column.

## 15.2. Keyboard.

- **[Enter]** = [Run file](#).
  - **[Ctrl+Enter] on a directory** = Enter in directory: [automove to left](#).
  - **[Alt+Enter] on a directory** = Enter in directory: [autohold](#).
  - **[Shift+Enter] on a directory** = Enter in directory: [autoopen to right](#).
- **[Backspace]** = [Up directory](#).
  - **[Ctrl+Backspace]** = Up: [automove to right](#).
  - **[Alt+Backspace]** = Up: [autohold](#).
  - **[Shift+Backspace]** = Up: [autoopen to left](#).
- **[Insert]** = [Back directory](#).
  - **[Ctrl+Insert]** = Back for all columns in current group of columns.
- **[Delete]** = [Forth directory](#).
  - **[Ctrl+Delete]** = Forth for all columns in current group of columns.
- **[Home]** = Focus first element in column.
  - **[Ctrl+Home]** = Focus beginning of page.
- **[End]** = Focus last element in column.
  - **[Ctrl+End]** = Focus end of page.
- **[PageUp]** = One column page up. The active focus stays put in window.
  - **[Ctrl+PageUp]** = Focus beginning of page.
- **[PageDown]** = One column page down. The active focus stays put in window.
  - **[Ctrl+PageDown]** = Focus end of page.
- **[Left]** = Focus left column.
- **[Right]** = Focus right column.
- **[Up]** = Focus previous file in column.
  - **[Ctrl+Up]** = Focus previous file in column: move all down. The active focus stays put in window.
- **[Down]** = Focus next file in column.

- **[Ctrl+Down]** = Focus next file in column: move all up. The active focus stays put in window.
- **[Esc]** = Close dialog.
- **[Alt], [Esc]** = Close menu.
- **[F1] ...** = Context help. If you want to display help for a static menu item, then focus the item and press **[F1]**.
- **[Alt] ...** = Enter / exit [Main Menu](#).
- **[Ctrl+Alt+Del] ...** = Show task manager (this is a system shortcut).

## 16.Links.

- If you need to locate a file referred by a link, file that is no longer where it's supposed to be, use [Go to reference](#).
- **FileMatrix** does not recognise links with a relative file title in the **Target** field (in the link's [Property dialog](#)).
- When you [run](#) a link, sometimes it is necessary not to have a path specified the **Start in** field (in the link's **Property dialog**): **FileMatrix** must set that path, and it does so only if **Start in** field is empty.
- You can create your own links.

### 16.1.Command line substitutions.

- When you [run](#) a link file and [send](#) to it a file as parameter, **FileMatrix** will make substitutions in the **parameters** section of the link, according to the **command line substitutions**.
- The **Target** field (in the link's [Property dialog](#)) can contain a reference (the program you want to run) and the parameters that will be send to the program (the **section of parameters**). The parameters must be separated with blank space from the reference. If you want to send, to that program, the active focus, use **%n%** to specify where the name of the file (including its absolute path) is to be putted inside the command line. Sometimes it might be necessary to put **%n%** between " " (like this "%n%"). If there is no **%n%** in the parameters, then the file in the active focus will not be send to the program.
- You can use the [commands](#) in the following sections of a file link (only ".lnk" links):
  - **Parameters** (at the end of **Target** field, after **Reference**).
  - **Working path** (**Start in** field).
- All commands (the part before "="), present in any section, are substituted with what they represent (the part after "=").
- The names are case sensitive.

#### 16.1.1. Commands.

- Commands depending on parameter:

- In the following lines, file defines the active focus.
- **%t%** = File title.
- **%r%** = Reference of file.
- **%p%** = File path.
- **%rp%** = Path of reference of file.
- **%t-e%** = File title without extension.
- **%n%** = File name. If you [run](#) a program and [send](#) to it a file as parameter, there is no need to send the full file title. So use just the file name instead, unless you change the **working path** section of the link (in which case you have to send the full title).
- **%n-e%** = File name without extension.
- **%e%** = File extension.
- Put "**d**" in front of all commands to use the file in focus from the destination column (basically the active focus when the [Send Drag Menu](#) is displayed) as the file title. This is used only with the **Send Drag Menu**.
- Commands not depending on parameter:
  - **%phOper%** = Path of **operating system** directory.
  - **%phSys%** = Path of **system** directory.
  - **%phTemp%** = Path of [Temporary directory](#).
  - **%phDesk%** = Path of [Desktop directory](#).
  - **%phDocs%** = Path of [Documents directory](#).
  - **%phProgLinks%** = Path of [Program links directory](#).
  - **%phProgFiles%** = Path of [Program files directory](#).
  - **%phFavor%** = Path of [Favorites directory](#).

### 16.1.2. Example.

- Lets say you want to display a list of thumb images, using **IrfanView**, from the [Send Menu](#). Right click on the directory (on its [type](#)) you want to display, then click (in the **Send Menu**) on the "IrfanView Thumbs.lnk" item.
- **FileMatrix** comes with a link to **IrfanView**, which you can call from the **Send Menu**. If you have the **IrfanView** in a different directory, change the **Target** in the "IrfanView Thumbs.lnk" link from the [Send directory](#).
- Let **Target** be "C:\Program Files\IrfanView\i\_view32.exe %n% /thumbs".
- Let the active focus to be "C:\Images" (a directory), then the [working path](#) is "C:\".
- The command line will be "C:\Program Files\IrfanView\i\_view32.exe Images /thumbs". This way **IrfanView** will display the first image in the directory ("Images") in the **main window**, and thumbs of all files in the directory, in the **thumbs window**.

### 16.2. Links used by FileMatrix.

- Some functions (like [View](#), [Edit](#), and all items in [Send Menu](#)) use links or programs to perform. They receive [as parameter](#) the active focus.
- See also [System Tools Menu](#), [Tools Menu](#), [Locations Menu](#).

## 17. How does it work?

- **FileMatrix** does not process command line parameters.

### 17.1. Run file.

- **Run file** = The file is executed. It is sent to the associated (by extension) application.
- **Run link to file** = Run the referred file.
  - When you run a “.lnk” link file, it will not be run directly, but rather the information from the link will be extracted, and the target (of the link) will be run.
- **Run directory** = Enter in directory: the content of the directory is displayed in the active column.
- **Run link to directory** = Run the referred directory.
- See [Input](#) for more information.

### 17.2. File dialog.

- No function notifies the user about processing files with [special access rights](#).
- For [Find](#), [Copy as link](#), [Compare](#), [Copy](#), [Move](#), [Recycle](#), [Delete](#), [Clip titles](#) operations, the dialog does not show every file processed because it is updated only once every 0.5 seconds (in which time many files are processed). Still, except for **Find**, when an [Error dialog](#) is displayed, the file title in the processing dialog is the currently processed one; also the last processed file is the last displayed file.
- For [Copy as link](#), [Compare](#), [Copy](#), [Move](#), [Recycle](#), [Delete](#), [Clip titles](#) operations:
  - The dialog shows some information:
    - **Errors** = The number of errors occurred when processing is a part from the total number of processed directories and files.
    - **Directories** = The number of processed directories.
    - **Files** = The number of processed files.
    - **Links** = The number of links processed as references.
    - **Size** = The size of processed files. This value is set after a file is processed.
    - **Time** = Elapsed time from beginning of processing.
    - **File** = Processed percent of current file.
  - Except for [Compare](#), [Clip titles](#), before the actual operation:
    - The files to be processed are checked.
    - If there is any link to be processed as reference, a dialog will ask you to continue or not. This is also done for [Compare](#) and [Clip titles](#) if you use file reference.
    - The size occupied by the files to be processed is calculated.
- When actually performing the operation (not when calculating size), if a directory is processed as a whole unit, then **Directories**, **Files**, **Links** and **Size** are smaller than the real values.
- There is no [Error dialog](#) when calculating size.
- After the operation, a dialog will display the number of errors, if any.
- In some cases you might see a dialog saying there is not enough space at destination, and you are asked to continue. The question exists because some files may be overwritten, so some space may be available.

### 17.2.1. Reference processing.

- **None** = Process the active focus. If the active focus is a directory, then its content is recursively processed, except for [Copy as link](#).
- **First level** = Same as **None**. If the active focus is a link and is on the first level (in the directory where the operation begins), its reference will be processed also. If you [move](#) files, the original links are not deleted after move. **Be very careful with this!**
- **All levels** = Same as **None**. If the active focus is a link (no matter where it is in the directory tree), its reference will be processed also. If you [move](#) files, the original directories and links are not deleted after move. **Be EXTREMELY careful with this!**
- See [Working with selection](#) for more information.

### 17.2.2. Filter.

- This edit-box is used to edit a file (**not directories**) name filter. The function will be executed **only** on files that match this filter.
- If the filter is empty, any file is considered a match.
- If you [move](#) or [delete](#) using the filter, use the **<Okay (no errors)>** button to start the operation, else you may get a lot of [error dialogs](#) (because files that don't match the filter remain in the directories and these directories can't be deleted).

### 17.3. Overwrite dialog.

- This dialog is displayed when you [Copy as link](#), [Copy](#) or [Move](#) files, if at destination there already is a file with the same name as the source file; in this case choose a button to continue.
- The **<Overwrite all older>** button determines that all destination files with the last write time smaller than the last write time of the source files with the same names, will be overwritten automatically. If the last write time of both files is the same, then the bigger file is considered newer. If the last write time and length are the same for both files, the destination is considered newer, so that it will not be overwritten.
- **Be careful** with the **<Overwrite all older>** button when: a file is modified, then (after, lets say, 10 minutes) the clock is officially set back with 1 hour, then (after lets say 30 minutes; less than 50 = 60 - 10) another file with the same name is modified. The first file will appear as older than the second one, so if you try to move the second file over the first one, it is not correct, but the system does not know that. It is best that you don't work in that 1 hour, so no problems would occur with any program on your system. **Normally, no operating system should change the time while working, because of cases like this; also you should not change it manually.**

### 17.4. Error dialog.

- This dialog is not displayed if already displayed.
- The **<Okay>** button: Click it to close the dialog (and continue with the operation).
- The **<Okay (no errors)>** button: When you use a repetitive function (like [Copy](#) on a directory), if an error occurs at some point and this dialog is displayed, you may want to

continue the operation, till it ends, without any error dialog being displayed, so click this button.

- The **<Cancel>** button: Same as **<Okay (no errors)>** button, but the operation is aborted (= no further processing is performed).
- The **<Cause>** button: Click it to display a dialog that shows why and where the error has occurred. If the **System error** is present, you can see that it is not reliable; this is because it represents a smaller context than the context of the operation that resulted in an error.
- The **<Log>** button: click it to log the current error into the "[Errors.log](#)" log file. If the operation is successful, the default system sound will be generated.
  - Errors with the type "Internal" are automatically logged.
  - The log file is cleared whenever it gets bigger than 10000 bytes.

## **17.5.Component files.**

- **FileMatrix** doesn't make any changes in the system's registry.
- In the [installation directory](#) you can find the following files (not all files in subdirectories are specified); there are no other files of **FileMatrix** into the system:
- **Directories:**
  - "[Find](#)" (empty).
  - "[Locations](#)".
  - "[NetSites](#)".
  - "[Send](#)".
    - "IrfanView Thumbs.lnk" = Graphic viewer, for a whole directory.
    - "IrfanView.lnk" = Graphic viewer, for a file.
    - "Media Player.lnk" = Play media (audio, video) files.
    - "WinWord.lnk" = Complex document editor.
    - "WordPad.lnk" = Simple document editor.
  - "[SendDrag](#)".
    - "WinRar Compress.lnk" = Compression manager (use **Zip** compression method for faster compression).
    - "WinRar Decompress.lnk" = Decompression manager.
  - "[SystemTools](#)".
  - "[Tools](#)".
    - "PGP.lnk" = (A)Symmetric encryption manager.
- **Files:**
  - "Edit.lnk".
  - "Errors.log". It may miss.
  - "FileMatrix.asc" = **FileMatrix**'s **PGP** (asymmetric public encryption) key. You can also find this key on the **PGP**'s keys servers (under the name **FileMatrix**).
  - "FileMatrix.exe" = **FileMatrix** program.
  - "FileMatrix.hlp" = **FileMatrix** documentation.
  - "FileMatrix.ini" = [Options](#) file.
  - "FileMatrix.reg".
  - "SongsPlayList.mpl". Example of [media play-list file](#).
  - "View.lnk".

- **Other files:**
  - In the [Desktop directory](#): "FileMatrix.lnk".
- Each ".sig" file is the **PGP** signature of the ".?" file.
- In **SystemTools** directory there are links to some programs that you may have to install from the operating system.
- In **Tools** and **Send** directories there are links to some programs that you have to download from the **Internet**. All these programs can be used without any fee, but with limitations.

## 18.Tips.

- Be sure to check out column's [mobility attribute!](#)
- Wait for a little while to get used with the new navigation style: you might find the space too small.
- Be dynamic! Do not hold on to the column's structure. Change their attributes and paths. You can easily return to your preferred paths.
- Unless you need [Auto view](#) it is recommended that you disable this option.
- You can perform 8 distinct operations with the [mouse](#) on a [file](#) (from a [column](#)):
  - Left click on file's:
    - [Type](#) = Toggle [selection](#).
    - [Name](#) = Set file as [active focus](#).
    - [Extension](#) = [Run](#).
  - Double left click on file's:
    - [Name](#) = [Run](#).
  - Right click on file's:
    - **Type** = [Send menu](#).
    - **Name** = Also set file as active focus.
    - **Extension** = [Context menu](#).
  - Right click (and drag on another file / column) on file's:
    - **Type** = [Send Drag Menu](#).
    - **Name** = [File Drag Menu](#).
    - **Extension** = [Context Drag Menu](#).
- [Run directory](#) + :
  - [\[Ctrl\]](#) = [Automove to left](#).
  - [\[Alt\]](#) = [Autohold](#).
  - [\[Shift\]](#) = [Autoopen to right](#).
- You can not use [recycle](#) on [removable partitions](#), but you can use [delete](#).

## **19.Customize the system.**

- Read this only if you want to change (/ reconfigure) some things about your system.
- You have to manually customize the system.
- Before customization you must insert into the system's registry some data:
  - Go to [FileMatrix installation directory](#).
  - Click file "[FileMatrix.reg](#)". Click **<Okay>** for all (two) dialogs that will appear.

## 19.1. Set system's color scheme.

- The color scheme that comes with **FileMatrix** provides soft colors, and has no fancy look.
- Right click on desktop (on a free area). Choose **Context Menu\Properties**, then **Appearance\Scheme**.
- Choose **FileMatrix** from the list of names.
- Click **<Apply>**.
- Click **<Okay>**. The new color scheme is set.

## 20. Troubleshooting.

- If you can't start **FileMatrix** anymore, then delete the [options file](#) ("[FileMatrix.ini](#)"), then try to start it again.

### 20.1. (Re)Install.

- **FileMatrix** can be reinstalled without the need to uninstall previous versions of it. You can simply [overwrite older](#) files.
- If you do not use **overwrite older** and you want to keep your current options, you must [copy](#) (somewhere safe) the [options file](#) before reinstallation, then copy (and [overwrite](#)) the new options file.

#### 20.1.1. Moving the installation directory.

- You can move the [installation directory](#) anywhere you want.
- Be sure to change the content of the **Target** field (in the [link's Property dialog](#)) in the "[FileMatrix.lnk](#)" link from [desktop](#). There is no need to change the content of the **Start in** field.

### 20.2. Uninstall.

- To uninstall **FileMatrix** simply delete its [installation directory](#).

### 20.3. Error reports.

- If you find an error in **FileMatrix** you can report it to us, by [email](#). Please, provide the following information:
  - An exact description of the error: how can it be reproduced?
  - Version of **FileMatrix** you have used while the error occurred.
  - Operating system version.
  - The **content** (also the **source** of the error) of the [Error dialog](#), if there is any.
- **If you don't understand why **FileMatrix** does something the way it does, therefore you don't know if that is an error or not, please read the documentation (especially the known errors) before sending an email.**

## **20.4. Known errors.**

- **FileMatrix** has been **tested** only on **Windows98**. Some (minor) features will not work under **WindowsNT**.
- **FileMatrix** has not been run on network.
- **FileMatrix** will probably fail (at some point) if your system works with **MBCS** (Asian languages).

### **20.4.1. Our errors (seems that way).**

- If you try to recycle the operating system's directory using the shortcut key, the system tells you that can't be done. Then, when the main window gets the user focus, you will not see the active focus (though is there). Click or use arrows (back and forth) to refocus. This does not happen if you use **Delete** from Context Menu.
- After you use the Context Menu a few times it will fail to perform the operation you select. Just restart **FileMatrix** to solve this.

### **20.4.2. Programming environment errors (seems that way).**

- Sometimes the last modification time of a file is with a second bigger than the time displayed by the system (in the properties dialog).
- Sometimes, some texts may be wrongfully bold. We have noticed this to other programs (build with C++ Builder) too.
- When you view an icon, if the icon size is over 32, before painting the icon, the visible area size is limited to 32.
- There is a silly error about the splitter when you use force view and try to minimize the viewer panel.

### **20.4.3. System errors (seems that way).**

- The **Send To** item from the Context Menu is empty: therefore it will not work.
- If you set the active focus on a ".pif" file, in Reference of active file bar, the size of the reference is 0.
- If you change removable partitions while working within **FileMatrix**, then the automonitor will fail because the system does not recognise the change.
- We have met the following case:
  - C++ Builder version 1 (with **version 5**, this problem does not occur) is opened with a project.
  - In a column of **FileMatrix** it is opened the project's directory.
  - We close **C++ Builder**, then focus **FileMatrix** before the system flushes the cache.
  - **FileMatrix** automatically loads the directory. The ".dsk" file has a small size.
  - The ".dsk" file changes again after a few seconds (in our case 8), it has a new size.
  - The problem is that the system does not detect the second change, so **FileMatrix** can not automatically load the second time.
  - The problem does not occur if **FileMatrix** is focused after the system flushes the cache the first time. **FileMatrix** will automatically load twice (the first time the ".dsk" file

- disappears, and the second time reappears).
- We also have to say, about the automatically load, that the "FindNextChangeNotification()" does not work properly, so we had to use "FindFirstChangeNotification()" instead.

#### **20.4.4. Bugs (and we mean they really bug us).**

- We can't get rid of the sound made when **[Alt+Backspace]** is pressed.
- The Context Menu doesn't overlap the associated file name, but the Send Menu does. This is because **Context Menu** is displayed with low-level functions, but **Send Menu** uses C++ Builder functions that doesn't allow the user to do what low-level functions do.
- In the file viewer, a video media file can't be fitted to the viewing panel.
- In some cases, if the sound volume is too small (but not 0), the real volume will actually be very high; this "lowest limit" depends on the global real sound volume. This is why the sound volume has a predefined "lowest limit".
- There is a case (that you may never meet with) when the Back directory function does not work: when the directory you want to enter in does not exist anymore. This is not an error, but the way the algorithm works.

#### **20.5.FAQ.**

- **The options are not saved:** Probably, the options file is read-only.

