

Gui-FTP

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Gui-FTP		
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WRITTEN BY		July 22, 2024	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

Gui-FTP

1.1 main

Gui-FTP V1.0.0

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Copyrights Copyright, licence and warranty.

Introduction What is it?

Files Files you should have received.

Installation How to install it.

Use How to use it.

Restrictions What are its limitations.

Author How to contact the author.

1.2 Copyrights

Copyright

The program and its associated documentation are copyright © 1994 Kevin Preece.

This software is Freeware. Subject to the limitations set out below you are free to distribute this program to anyone in any way you see fit, provided that you do not make a profit from redistributing it.

I hope at some point in the relatively near future to make this program available under the GNU Public Licence. I cannot at the moment because I am not prepared to release the source code (it's far too messy :-)). I do, of course, reserve the right to change my mind.

Warranty

This software comes without warranty of any kind, to the extent allowed by applicable law. This program is supplied "as-is" without warranty of any kind, including but not limited to the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose. Should the program prove to be defective, you will assume the cost of correction and repair.

Unless required by applicable law, or agreed to in-writing, the author will not be liable for any damage caused directly or indirectly by the use, or inability to use this program. This includes but is not limited to damage to data, or data that is rendered inaccurate, or by an inability of this program to operate with any other.

Limitations

1) No part of the program, data or documentation files may be modified in any way.

- 2) No part of this program or its documentation or data files may be distributed as part of a commercial program offering without prior written consent from the author. This includes freely distributable demonstration versions of commercial programs.
- 3) No charge may be made for this program, other than for the cost of the medium used to distribute the program and the costs of actually distributing it.

1.3 Introduction

Introduction

As its name suggests, Gui-FTP is a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) client with a graphical user interface for easy access to all its features.

It uses the full power of Intuition to make the process of transferring files as easy as possible.

1.4 Files You Should Have Received

Files

You should have received the following files in the archive:

Gui-FTP The program

Gui-FTP.guide This document!

Gui-FTP.sig PGP signature for Gui-FTP

fonts/xen.font Fonts

fonts/xen/8

The program and documentation files are all signed with my [PGP public key](#).

1.5 My PGP Public Key

My PGP Public Key

Here is my PGP public key. If you don't trust this one, e-mail me and I'll send you a copy. See [author](#) for my email address.

-----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

Version: 2.3a.4

```
mQCNAi4+/WoAAEEALvkD7UgyGc8K2StHRbAtk0/1IXIWTo+1ak8WT7MImAa4vst
aa0pfWxsdFZht2I/RAp/5KF7Q1Me/AJWF33qjF4xf4Pa1wowPxFyi8zV6YbGQvI0
w0V3DDYRFILBxIs1E24U3TqBfGbhAXgIJRDO0SpBt81eLiZuImWKEi2DwaSVAUR
tCZLZXZpbiBQcmVIY2UgPGtldkBxc2lsdmVyLmRlbW9uLmNvLnVrPokAIQIFEC5R
BVllihItg8GklQEBdf8D/j5GzSBmdJOp/mNL0dJeogoDo3vAN4lgSP9A6pOZ4Nnm
B/GnDuHsseFhVb0RhEp4Y97symrpsfjHalCuyDasjk/yUoMngJGWT0RBEJi/J2OZ
/eT3EQTw2vWR8jf+7TYneSwMfDX9lPQljq/ccG3MiK3Vy1XTi0PNpTUx33O0wkV7
=A1L8
```

-----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

If you trust this key, do:

```
pgp Gui-FTP.guide
```

A message will inform you that the file contains key(s), shows you what they are and do you want to add it to your public key ring? Answer 'Y' to this question. Finally to test the integrity of the other files do:

```
pgp Gui-FTP.sig Gui-FTP
```

```
pgp Gui-FTP.guide.sig Gui-FTP.guide
```

1.6 Installing Gui-FTP

Installation

Before installing, note that Gui-FTP requires an Amiga running Kickstart 2.04, and AmiTCP V3.0b2 or later.

1) If you don't already have it, copy 'xen.font' and the directory 'xen' into FONTS:. This is a font that is the same height as the standard 'topaz' font, but is about 25% narrower. This allows the program to display more information in its window.

With the 'xen' font installed, the program will attempt to open a screen that will fit on a standard PAL or NTSC high resolution screen (640 pixels wide). Without the 'xen' font installed, Gui-FTP falls back to using 'topaz 8' which results in it trying to open a screen wider than either of these screens.

If Gui-FTP is unable to open the window on the current default public screen, it will print a short error message and will quit.

2) Copy the program into a directory that is in the search path. I recommend putting it in AmiTCP:bin/.

3) If you don't already have a device or assign for 'AmiTCP:' edit your user-startup to add

Assign AmiTCP: wherever-you-like

This is where Gui-FTP will create its log-file.

4) You should also ensure that the environment variables 'USER' and 'HOSTNAME' are set to your user-id and 'HOSTNAME' to your host name (including domain). For example on my system, 'USER' would be set to 'kev' and 'HOSTNAME' to 'qsilver.demon.co.uk'. These variables are used to make the password for anonymous-ftp.

'USER' is usually set by the login command which is normally one of the commands that the script AmiTCP:bin/startnet runs. 'HOSTNAME' is also normally set in this script by a line such as:

```
set HOSTNAME 'qsilver.demon.co.uk'
```

With AmiTCP 4.0 the line may be slightly different.

That, as they say, is all there is to it!

1.7 Using Gui-FTP

How to Use Gui-FTP

Gui-FTP can be started either from workbench or from a CLI. If AmiTCP is not active, a short error message will be displayed and the program will quit.

If started from a CLI you can give one parameter to the program; '-d'. This turns on debugging. This is designed to provide me with information for diagnosing and fixing problems. It is not intended for general use as it will probably overwhelm you with the amount of output it produces.

After a short pause a window will open. This window is split into roughly two sections.

The top two thirds contains directory lists for the local (client) and remote (server or host) computers.

The bottom third contains the log display and buttons controlling the session as a whole.

Lists

Transfer Buttons

Log Display

1.8 The directory lists

Directory Lists

There are two directory lists. The one on the left hand side shows the name and sizes of files in the current directory on the client. The right hand list shows the same information for the server.

The items shown in the lists are selectable, although only one item from one list may be selected at any time. If the item selected is a directory, it will made the current directory and the display updated to show its contents. Selecting a file will enable one of the **transfer buttons**.

The lists may be scrolled using the scroll bars and arrows to the immediate right of the list.

The contents of the local directory are read directly from the programs current local directory. The remote file list is built up by scanning and interpreting the long format directory listing sent by the server.

Obviously this poses problems if you connect to a site that sends listings that Gui-FTP does not recognise. See **restrictions** for more information.

The lists show the type of entry it represents, i.e. a directory or a link, or for a file, its size in bytes.

To the right of both lists there are a number of buttons. These are, from top to bottom:

Delete - Delete the selected file.

Rename - Rename the selected file.

MkDir - Create a new directory.

ChDir - Move to a new directory.

Parent - Move to parent of current directory.

Root - Move to the root directory.

Whether or not you may delete or rename files or create directories will depend on the access permissions granted to the user that you logged on the host with. The host will usually send back a 'permission denied' message if you attempt any operation you are not entitled to do. This reply will be shown in the log display.

1.9 Delete a File

Delete

This button will only be enabled when a file is selected in the appropriate directory list.

Clicking on this button will cause the selected file to be deleted. You must have the applicable permission for this command to succeed on the host.

Take care, there is no second chance - you will get no "Are you sure?" requester, yet.

Only files can be deleted, there is presently no way to delete directories.

1.10 Rename a File

Rename

This button will only be enabled when a file is selected in the appropriate directory list.

Clicking on this button will display a requester into which you can enter the new name of the file. Clicking on "Ok" will continue, while "Cancel" will abort the operation. If the file is successfully renamed the list will be refreshed.

Only files can be renamed, at present there is no way to rename directories.

1.11 Create a directory

Create New Directory

Clicking on this button will display a requester into which you can enter the new name of the directory to be created. Clicking on "Ok" will continue, while "Cancel" will abort the operation. If the directory is created successfully the list will be refreshed.

The name you enter can be one of:

- A fully qualified path.
- Relative to the current directory.
- A name (i.e. created in the current directory).

If you are creating a directory on the host, the name and path information you enter must be valid for that host.

1.12 Change to a Directory

Change Current Directory

Clicking on this button will display a requester into which you can enter the new name of the target directory. Clicking on "Ok" will continue, while "Cancel" will abort the operation. If successful the list will be refreshed with the contents of the new directory.

This button is provided to allow you to move quickly between directories, when you know the full directory path. It is considerably faster than selecting the intermediate directories from the list, particularly if the distanation is several levels away.

Also, when a link to another directory is created, some sites indicate this by including the name of the target directory, following a '->', after the name of the link, for example,

```
<preamble> aminet -> packages/aminet
```

Gui-FTP cannot handle these, selecting one of these entries will result in a reply saying that there is no such directory. The only way to use one of these names is to use 'ChDir'.

1.13 Parent Directory

Parent

Clicking on this button will make the parent of the current directory into the current directory. Selecting this button when the root directory is displayed has no effect.

1.14 Root Directory

Root

Clicking on this button will make the root directory into the current directory. Selecting this button when the root directory is displayed has no effect.

1.15 The Transfer Buttons

Transfer Buttons

Between the two directory lists are the 'transfer buttons'. These buttons represent the transfer direction. One (and only one) of these will be enabled whenever a file is selected in either list.

Selecting a file in the local list will enable the -> button. Whereas selecting a file in the remote list will enable the <- button.

Below the local directory list is a button to select the transfer type, either Binary or ASCII (but see [Restrictions](#)).

When the transfer is started by selecting one of these buttons, the progress of the transfer is shown in the log display. The number of bytes transfered and the value this represents as a percentage of the total. Internally Gui-FTP buffers the input for speed and the number of bytes transfered will be a multiple of this buffer size, currently 4096 bytes.

Unfortunately it is not possible to abort a transfer once it is started. This will be rectified in a future version.

1.16 Transfer From Server

Transfer from Host

This button causes the item currently selected in the remote list to be transferred from the host to your computer. The file created on your computer will have the same name as the file on the host.

1.17 Transfer To Server

Transfer to Host

Selecting this button will cause the item in the local list that is currently selected to be transferred to the host. The host file will be created with the same name as the file on your computer.

1.18 Binary Type

Binary Transfer

Binary transfers must be used for transferring binary files, such as archive files (.lha, .z, .gz, etc.) or executable files although there is normally no harm in transferring a text file in this mode.

1.19 ASCII Type

ASCII Transfers

ASCII type is intended for use when transferring text files (but see **restrictions** for limitations in this version). It must not be used to transfer binary files because in ASCII mode, newline (NL) characters are expanded to a CRLF sequence.

1.20 The Log Display

The Log Display

Most of the bottom third of the window is taken up by the log display. Here replies sent by the server in response to commands sent by the program will be displayed. Information and error messages generated by Gui-FTP are also shown here. All messages displayed in the log display are also written to the **log file**.

Along the bottom of the window are a row of buttons. Reading left to right they are:

Open - Establish a connection to a host

Close - Disconnect from a host

Options - Not Yet Implemented

About - Info about the program and author

Exit - Quit the program

1.21 The Log File

The Log File

The log file is a permanent record of all messages written to the log display. It is intended to help me to diagnose and fix problems when they occur.

At the moment the log will always be written, and will be written to AmiTCP:Gui-FTP.log. I intend making the location of this file, and indeed whether it is produced at all, customisable by the user.

If no log file exists when the program is run, it will be created. If it does, all output will be appended to the previous contents. It is worth keeping an eye on this file since it has a tendency to grow large quite quickly, particularly if you turn on debugging :->

1.22 Open a connection

Open

This button displays a requester which allows you to enter details of the remote host:

- The name of the site to try to connect to.
- The user-id to use when logging on to the host.
- The password for the user-id.
- Optionally, some account information.

When you click on "Open" for the first time, the requester will default the user-id and password for anonymous-ftp. I.e. the user-id will be 'anonymous' and the password will be user@hostname, where 'user' and 'hostname' are read from the environment variables 'USER' and 'HOSTNAME' respectively.

If Gui-FTP is unable to make a connection, for whatever reason, a message (or messages) in the log display will alert you to the fact. If the server refuses connection because it limits the times and/or number of simultaneous transfers the servers reply will be shown in the log display area.

1.23 Close a connection

Close

When you have finished at a site, click on the "Close" button to close the connection. This will transmit the command telling the server that you have finished using its services.

1.24 Options

Options

This is not implemented. In a future version I hope to allow better customisation of Gui-FTP's operation.

1.25 About the author

About

This button causes a small requester to display, which gives brief details about the version of the program, its copyright status and the author.

1.26 Exit from Gui-FTP

Exit

This terminates the program. If you are still connected to a site, the close command is sent to that site first.

1.27 Restrictions and things to do

Restrictions

This version of the program suffers from some functions not having been implemented. These are:

- 1) ASCII transfers are not properly implemented and may cause errors with some servers.
 - 2) Once a transfer has been started, there is no way to abort it.
 - 3) The program only recognises the long format directory listings produced by (most) Un*x operating systems. Windows NT listings are known NOT to be recognised. Most of the sites I have tried with Gui-FTP use listings that the program recognises. If you find a site that Gui-FTP does not recognise please send me the log file (Gui-FTP.log) for that session. See [Author](#) for details about contacting me.
- You will know when a directory listing format is not recognised because the listing appears in the log window rather than the remote directory window.
- 4) The program does not honour your font preferences.
 - 5) Only files can be deleted.
 - 6) The way that links are represented by some servers confuses Gui-FTP.

1.28 Contacting me

How To Contact Me

If you are reporting a bug (heaven forbid!) or you wish to make suggestions for features in future versions of this program, you can contact me in any of the following ways.

- 1) By e-mail at gui-ftp@qsilver.demon.co.uk
- 2) By snail mail:

Kevin Preece,
17 Chislet Way,
Grange Park,
Tuffley,
Gloucester,
GL4 0QQ.
ENGLAND.

If you are sending me a bug report, I would appreciate it if you would send me the log produced when you run the program from a CLI with the '-d' option (i.e. with debugging switched on). This will enable me to better diagnose the problem and maybe reproduce it.

Please only include the output from the single run, and keep the output as short as possible, thank you.

Take care if you are using anything other than anonymous FTP since this log file will contain both your user-id and password (and account) in an unencrypted form. If you don't want me to know them make sure you remove them before you send me the file (please leave the line, but replace the password with '<< password removed >>'). Likewise with user-id if you don't want me to know that either.

1.29 Index of Topics
