

I2SB

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Chapter 1

I2SB

1.1 Contents

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1.2 introduction

This program will only be useful for Superbase Users who download things from Aminet (or who use Aminet CD). If you're not in that case you should close this document and erase this archive because you don't need it at all.

I2SB (for Index to SuperBase) allows you to convert a standard Aminet Index file to an ASCII file which can be used with SuperBase.

I programmed it because I didn't want to use grep any more when I wanted to search something in my Index files.

By the way, I'm a French student so excuse me for my English...

1.3 installation

Copy I2SB where you want. You can also put an Index file in the same directory if you want. Put also the file I2SB.Config in this directory.

1.4 configuration

To use I2SB, you will need one or two things :

- An Amiga (you could use it...)
- An Aminet Index : It's a standard Index with descriptions truncated to 42 characters (more or less).
- SuperBase
- IXEMUL.LIBRARY : It can be found on Aminet or with GCC

I tested I2SB 1.5 on an Amiga 1200 + 6 Megs (2 Megs Chip + 4 Megs Fast) ←
converting
the Aminet Index from 10-Mar-95 (ftp.cnam.fr).

1.5 manual

There are two ways to launch I2SB (from CLI) :

- Type I2SB alone : If you do that you must have a file named INDEX in the directory you are launching I2SB from.
- Type i2sb + file name : If this file exists so I2SB will work on it.

I2SB has a configuration file. Please note that this file is optionnal. If it's missing I2SB will use default values (they are in the demo-file). This file contains the size of the 4 first fields, one by line. Numbers smaller than 10 must be preceded by a 0. If you don't respect this rule, and/or you change the file's structure I2SB will react in a very, very strange way... If you want to know how the file is made just have a look at the one in this archive.

The program will display his work on the standard output. If you want to record conversion in a file you will have to redirect this output to a file (you must redirect output if you use SuperBase)

Example : I2SB MyOwnIndex.txt > ImportIndex

Conversion of the file MyOwnIndex.txt in the file ImportIndex

For SuperBase import, here are a few hints :

- Create a new file with the following fields

Name	TXT	18
Path	TXT	11
Size	TXT	5
Age	TXT	3
Description	TXT	42

- Choose the name as unique index
- Import ASCII data (to save disk space)
- Wait (it could be long)

N.B. : It works with SuperBase Personnal Franch. I bought my version in 1988 and I haven't tried I2SB with a more recent one. For more details you should read your manual.

By the way, to avoid problems, redirect output in a file located in RAM: (I2SB Index.txt > Ram:Import). It will prevent your hard disk from being damaged if the program crashes during an execution (I did not have this problem on my computer but ...)

IMPORTANT NOTE : Don't redirect output to the file you are converting. You could loose your Index file or damage your disk.

1.6 disclaimer

This piece of software has been tested on a A1200 .You use it at your own risks and I can't be responsible if it destroys your hard disk, doesn't work on your Amiga 9000 + 68095 card or has a very strange behavior if you don't use it in the right way.

Seriously, I decline responsibilities in case of big problem caused by I2SB. Due to the algorithms I use it can't break anything IF YOU FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN THIS MANUAL. If there is an unclear passage , @{"contact me" LINK Author ↔ }.

1.7 distribution

I2SB is FREeware. But I keep a copyright on it.

You can diffuse it and use it freely if the archive is kept intact and if you don't put a virus in it.

Aminet, Fred Fish and Amiga magazines are allowed to include this program in their collections. Public Domain organisations also have this authorization, if the price of the disk stays normal. France Festival Distribution WILL NEVER BE ALLOWED to diffuse I2SB.

1.8 history

- March 1995 : Beta Version 1
Initial release
- March 1995 : Version 1.2
Completely re-written program (much cleaner).
Version not released
- March 1995 : Version 1.3
I2SB now works on Index files with the 'Age' column
Warning : It is no more compatible with the Aminet IV
Index file. If you need to work on it use the beta 1
version.
Version not diffused
- March 1995 : Headers and empty lines are handled by I2SB (no need
to edit the Index any more).
Version not released
- March 1995 : I2SB can be configured by an external file.

1.9 author

I2SB has been created by the mad brain of :

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You can join me for comments, critics, suggestions and bug report
(Enforcer Hits are welcome, I don't have MMU!).

I would be happy to work on a converter for another Database Software.
If you are interested send me a detailed description of the format
used by the program for the ASCII import or a demo-version (I MEAN
A LEGAL FREELY DISTRIBUTABLE DEMO, NOT A CRACKED SOFTWARE).

1.10 projects

I think I will add the following features :

- Direct file output
- Possibility to choose quantity of fields

And any other suggestion I will think it is interesting and makeable
(After all I'm just a student and I don't have much free time !)
