MLCpro

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Chapter 1

MLCpro

1.1   MultiLiveCam pro - THE LiveCam for the AMIGA

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                          MultiLiveCam pro
                       © 1998 by Felix Schwarz


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1.2   Introduction to the LiveCam

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Introduction
 Well, a LiveCam is a HTML-page on the web containing a picture that
 is updated every xx seconds/minutes/hours. There are LiveCams everywhere
 all over our planet and you could add one. What you need for that can be
 read here. MultiLiveCam pro allows you to make an Amiga-based LiveCam with
 a lot of comfort. I haven't seen any other programs for that on AMIGA.
 I think, this might be the only LiveCam for the AMIGA and this program
 has some special features like virtual cams, genlocking text, timelapse
 animation creation and many more that do IMHO not exist on other platforms
 anyway. As you can use up to 7 VLabs (with special Zorro-Daughter-Board,
 4 in a normal Amiga), you can use up to 21 (!!) cams on one computer.

  - Felix
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1.3   What do you need for running your LiveCam

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Requirements
 LiveCam needs the following hard- and software:
 Hardware
  · Any Amiga with Zorro-slots
  · One or more of the following boards
     · VLab Y/C (the one with 3 inputs, good speed and high quality)
     · VLab Classic (the one with 2 inputs, good quality and bit slower
       speed)
     · VLab/par (not tested, but basically supported)

  · some megs of RAM (at least 2 MB. 4 MB are recommended)
  · PowerUP-board (not needed, but for ultimate speed!)

 Software
  · Amiga OS 3.x
  · Miami (for the Internet connection)
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1.4 Configuration

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Configuration
MultiLiveCam pro (MLC pro) uses a configuration file to ensure maximal
flexibility. It mostly can be configured like if you would work with
variables - it's VERY easy to learn. Every cam is seperated by "NEXTCAM"
and there are some cam-specific fields. If you begin a line with a
"#" it will be handled as a comment.

Cam-specific fields:
INPUT
 This field specifies which input of your VLab-board(s) should be used.
 The first VLab has input 1-3, the next 4-6 and so on.
 Example: INPUT=1

XTOP, YTOP
 These fields contain the top left corner x and y coordinates of the cam.
 XTOP can range between a value of 0-716 (PAL and NTSC)
 YTOP can range between a value of 0-618 (PAL) or 0-518 (NTSC)
 Example:
  XTOP=40
  YTOP=60
 Note that it is NOT recommended to use the available values up to its limits!

WIDTH, HEIGHT
 Width and height of the part of the picture you want to grab from XTOP and YTOP  ←
    on.
 WIDTH can range between 4-720 (PAL and NTSC)
 HEIGHT can range between 2-620 (PAL) or 0-520 (NTSC)
 Note that it is NOT recommended to use the available values up to its limits!
 Example:
  WIDTH=640
  HEIGHT=540

SCALETOWIDTH, SCALETOHEIGHT
 As WIDTH and HEIGHT might not be the final width and height you want to use, you ←
     can
```

enter alternate values for them and MLC pro will scale them down internally to ↩
     this
size. Note, that some details in the image could be lost.
Example:
  SCALETOWIDTH=320
  SCALETOHEIGHT=240

DELAYSEC
 The time between two updates of the cam's picture on the web.
 Example:
  DELAYSEC=50

GRABSPERPIC
 As switching the inputs MIGHT cause some noise in the picture you can enter
 the number of pictures that are made before the final GRAB, here.
 Example:
  GRABSPERPIC=2

PICTURE
 Enter the filename and the path of the picture, that the grabs are saved to,
 here. Normally the path is picdir/.
 Example:
  PICTURE=picdir/MLCam1.jpg

PICFORMAT
 MLC pro supports GIF and JPEG as output format for your pictures. You can choose
 between them with this entry.
 Example:
  PICFORMAT=JPEG

JPEGQUALITY
 If you use JPEG, enter the quality here.
 Example:
  JPEGQUALITY=60

STARTPICFILE
 If you want to do time-lapse films with MLC pro, you can simply add a "*" at the ↩
     position
 an index should be added to. You also need a file for every cam you want to do ↩
    time-lapse
 films with. Note: This does NOT affect the name of the uploaded file!
 Example:
  PICTURE=picdir/MLCam1.jpg*
  STARTPICFILE=spf/MLC1.spf

 .. will output MLCam1.jpg.0000000, MLCam1.jpg.0000001, MLCam1.jpg.0000002 ..

GENFONT, GENTEXT, GENXPOS, GENYPOS
 These entries allow you to add a changing (!) text to your cam at a given ↩
    position,
 with a given font and a given "mask". The font is entered using GENFONT. The ↩
    font
 must be given to it in <font>/<size>-format. GENTEXT allows you to create an ↩
    auto-
 updated text. The following variables are supported:
 %secs, %sec2
  Is replaced with the current seconds of the AMIGA clock (either unformatted or

    formatted: either 2 or 02).

 %mins, %min2
  Is replaced with the current minutes of the AMIGA clock (either unformatted or
  formatted: either 2 or 02).

 %hours, %hour2
  Is replaced with the current hours of the AMIGA clock (either unformatted or
  formatted: either 2 or 02).

 %date, %date2
  Is replaced with the current date of the AMIGA clock (either American or ←
     European
  style: 01/01/1998 or 01.01.1998.

 GENXPOS and GENYPOS finally have to contain the X- and Y-coordinates the text ←
    should be
 blitted/added to.

 Example:
  GENFONT=CGTriumvirate.font/20
  GENTEXT=MultiLiveCam pro ©1998 by Felix Schwarz - %hour2:%min2:%sec2 - %dat2
  GENXPOS=1
  GENYPOS=1

Ok, now we have finished the part the cams are configured in. Now let's move on
to the part with the global settings:

CONNECTSCRIPT
 This command will be executed to connect to the Internet.
 Example:
  CONNECTSCRIPT=sys:rexxc/rx MiamiStart.rx

DISCONNECTSCRIPT
 This command will be executed to disconnect from the Internet.
 Example:
  DISCONNECTSCRIPT=sys:rexxc/rx MiamiStop.rx

SUBMETHOD (EMAIL/FTPMOUNT)
 MLC pro allows you two ways to submit the updated picture to the Internet:
 - via EMail
   The pictures will be packed using gzip and the zip-archive then will be
   encoded using the Base64-method. The encoded data is sent to the address
   given at the other fields.

 - via FTP
   You have to have FTPMount installed for this. Then the pictures all will
   be copied over to the directory given at the FTPMOUNTDIR-field.

MAILSERVER
 If SUBMETHOD=EMAIL, then you have to enter the mailserver (SMTP-server) that
 should be used, here.
 Example:
  MAILSERVER=mail.foo.com

MAILADRESS

If SUBMETHOD=EMAIL, then you have to enter the mailaddress of the receiptant
of the pictures, here.
Example:
 MAILADRESS=mycampicshere@foo.com

YOUREMAIL
 If SUBMETHOD=EMAIL, then you should enter your own emailadress here.

MAILTOPIC
 If SUBMETHOD=EMAIL, then you have to enter the subjectline of the mail
 sent to MAILADRESS, here.

CONNECTTIMENEEDEDINSECS
 After the CONNECTSCRIPT was executed, MLC pro will wait the number of seconds
 entered here before doing any actions.

MAILPORT
 If SUBMETHOD=EMAIL, then you have to enter the port of your mailserver here,
 normally this is 25.

FTPMOUNTDIR
 If SUBMETHOD=FTPMOUNT, then all pictures will be copied to this directory
 Example:
  FTPMOUNTDIR=FTP:mycamftpserv/

VIDEOSYSTEM (PAL/NTSC)
 As there are two VIDEOSYSTEM existing, you have to choose which one you are
 using.
 Example:
  VIDEOSYSTEM=PAL

GFXSYSTEM (CGX/AOS)
 You can choose the view-routines, that should be used, here. CGX uses Cyber-
 GraphX or Picasso96 and AOS runs everywhere using AmigaOS 3.x-functions.

RESOLUTION (INTERLACE/NORMAL)
 If you have some picture errors when digitizing a "moving picture", you should
 choose NORMAL for normal resolution or INTERLACE for maximum vertical resolution ←
    .
 Example:
  RESOLUTION=NORMAL

JPEGSAVER
 Lets you choose a CPU-optimized version of the JPEG-saver. There are currently
 the following possibilities:
 – Saver/cjpeg
   This one runs on every machine

 – Saver/cjpeg.040
   This one is an optimized version for 68040/060

 – Saver/cjpeg.elf
   This is the PPC-PowerUP-Version. You have to have ElfLoadSeg-Patch
   installed.

1.5 Setting up independant systems

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Independence
 This part tells you, what software you need to set up
 an independant system. Simply follow the following steps:
 1. Install AmigaOS 3.x (make sure you have Kickstart 3.x installed!)
 2. Install Miami 3.0 + GTLayout-GUI
 3. Configure Miami and also configure it for not closing the window when
    it has established a connection (VERY important!)
 4. Install and configure MultiLiveCam pro
 5. Type "C:ed S:user-startup" in a shell and add the following lines:
    run <>NIL: Miami:Miami
    wait 5
    run <>NIL: FTPMountDir:MultiLiveCam
 6. Reboot your system and it should work.

 If you need any assistance, don't hestitate to contact the author.
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1.6 Disclaimer - Read this!

```
Disclaimer
 MultiLiveCam pro is commercial. MultiLiveCam pro is NOT a collection of freely
 distributable material though it contains freely distributable material.  ←
    Nevertheless
 no file from MultiLiveCam pro may be freely distributed without the written  ←
    permission
 of Felix Schwarz.

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of data, loss of connections and loss of money.

All information is subject to change without notice.
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1.7 Future plans for MultiLiveCam pro

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Future
 - program to create timelapse-animations from the saved pictures
 - option to select any color for the text or make it inverse
 - localization
 - German documentation
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1.8 The author - the great master of programming ;-)

```
The author
 The author can be reached the following ways:
  - Snail-mail
     Felix Schwarz
     Am Gründla 3
     D-91074 Herzogenaurach
     Germany

  - Email
     bs168@fen.baynet.de <-- prefer this one
```

```
   bs168@gmx.net
   innovative@in-tec.de
```

- Homepage
  http://innovative.in-tec.de/

- Phone
  +(0)049 - (0)9132/3400

1.9 Registration

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Registration
The unregistered demo-version has several disadvantages
compared to the full version:
· no time-lapse support
· time limited to 6 updates
· DEMO-text on all images
· a requester needing your input at start
· no FPU-version of the fsgfx.library
· no PPC- and 040-version of the JPEG-saver
Please consider registering for only 99 DM/66 US$ and support
this product. To register, fill out the registration form and
print it. Then send it to:

Felix Schwarz
Am Gründla 3
D-91074 Herzogenaurach
Germany

Thank you for your support.
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