Figure 2: The author's iconified and restored DirWork 2 configuration. Note the border of the window is expanded but the filelists are not. As explained in the text, this can be overcome by putting DW2 to 'sleep,' rather than iconifying.

thing in there to get the job done. Furthermore, combining these utilities, takes much less memory than having to load each one and it's light-years faster than having to search for each one just when you happen to need it.

"...so much with so little..."

A good example of the built-in abilities of DW2 is a very complete Disk Operations window. Here, even novice users can copy, direct or from memory buffer, to up to four disks at once. All those confusing disk commands with the impossible to remember CLI syntax; OFS, FFS, Cache, International, verify, format quick, etc., are reduced to simple buttons. "DiskOp" claims to work with the new High Density drives but, while I was unable to verify this, the speed of these disk utilities is impressive. Comparing a `format without verify' between DW2 and SuperDuper, a dedicated disk copier/formatter, reveals DW2 is only slightly slower at 43 seconds verses 35 seconds. That should be fast enough for even power users. If not, when was the last time your blazing disk formatter played your favorite MODs and displayed an IFF slide show while it was formatting all those disks? Humm?

On the other hand, I did run into some problems transferring files on floppies between an A1200 and an A4000, when the disks had been formatted with DW2. Checking the disks before and after formatting, with QuarterBack Tools, revealed a "Bitmap Contents Incorrect" error was generated on each disk as it was formatted. DW2, itself, did not recognize this error when it performed a disk check.

Although the spiral bound users' manual, is in need of an index, it is very well written and well organized, once you understand that the first half of the manual is devoted to explaining configuration via the Configuration Editor and the last half is trying to explain direct entry via editing the text-based config file. Despite all the warnings, sooner or later most users are going to try editing the config file directly. When you are ready for that step, study the included config files carefully. They aren't difficult to understand and it seems every function has been used in

one or more of them.

There was only one function which I could never get to work on my A1200, the 'Hunt' function. This is supposed to search for a file matching a user-specified pattern but, mine just sat there and stared back at me. Also, I could never get the filelists to fully expand after iconifying DW2. They always looked like "Figure 2." On startup and 'awakening,' the filelists behaved normally so, if you experience similar problems, just put DW2 to 'sleep' instead of iconifying it. Yes, you will probably have to use a hotkey combination to awaken it but surely, you can think up one safe combination. According to Quasar Distribution, a free patch should be available as you read this to fix minor bugs reported by users.

Other than the above, DW2 only has one limitation which I can find; it will only allow you to open two filelists. The solution, however, should be simple; open as many DW2s as you need, even if they have different configuration files.

In Conclusion

In summary, I can think of no other utility which I would rather have than this one. Nor can I think of any one more thoroughly satisfying utility which does as much as this one does in such a small package. Whether you are a novice or an experienced programmer, if you can only afford one utility, heck, even if you can afford 20, this is the one to have, hands down a winner.

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