ReadRDB

		COLLABORATORS		

	TITLE : ReadRDB			
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*	
WRITTEN BY		July 10, 2022		

		REVISION HISTORY	

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

ReadRDB

1.1   ReadRDB 0.5 ©1995-96 Gérard Cornu - Guide summary

```
                              ReadRDB 0.5 - Guide Summary - (30-Jan-96)


              by
         Gérard Cornu

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1.2   ReadRDB copyright and other boring stuff

```
                         ReadRDB   -   version 0.4   27-Jan-96

        ©1995-96
```

```
              Gérard Cornu
               –    Compiled with
              SAS/C ®
              6.56
```

ReadRDB, as well as all the accompanying files, is ©1995–96 Gérard Cornu.

ReadRDB is heavily based on the source file
              Readrdsk.c
                  .

1.3 NO warranty for ReadRDB

```
                  NO WARRANTY
~~~~~~~~~~~
```

There is no warranty for this software package. Although the
              author
                  has tried to prevent errors, he can't guarantee that the ←
                    software package
described in this document is 100% reliable. You are therefore using this
material at your own risk. The author cannot be made responsible for any
damage which is caused by using this software package.

1.4 ReadRDB distribution

```
                  DISTRIBUTION
~~~~~~~~~~~~
```

This software package is freely distributable. It may be put on any
media which is used for the distribution of free software, like Public
Domain disk collections, CDROMs, FTP servers or bulletin board systems.

In order to ensure the integrity of this software package, distributors
should use the complete original distribution. The author cannot be made
responsible if this software has become unusable due to modifications
of the distribution contents or of the distribution files themselves.
There is no limit on the costs of the distribution, e.g. for the media,
like floppy disks, streamer tapes or compact disks, or the process of
duplicating. Such limits have been proven to be harmful to the idea of
freely distributable software, e.g. instead of reducing the price of the
floppy disk below the limit, the software was simply removed from the
master disk.

Although the
              author
              does not impose any limit on the distribution of
this software, he would like to express his personal opinions on this
matter:

      * This software package should be made available to everyone free of
        charge whenever it is possible.

      * If you have acquired this software package under normal conditions
        from a Public Domain dealer on a floppy disk at a price higher than
        25FF or US $5, then you have definitely paid too much. Please don't
        support this improper profit making any longer and switch to a
        cheaper source as soon as possible.

Alan Pfeil is certainly allowed to include it in the
               I.C.P.U.G.
               Amiga
library.

               Fred Fish
               is obviously allowed to include it on one of his CDRom.

               Thierry Colin
               is authorised to include it in the
               D.P.A.T.
               collection.

1.5 Fred FISH and the AmigaLibDisk library

FRED FISH and the AmigaLibDisk Library:
~~~~~~

As Fred has been releasing CDROMs from a while now, just choose
carefully your Fish CDs retailers, if you don't buy them directly
from Fred. Those resellers aren't supposed to make money with them.

1.6 Usage restrictions for ReadRDB

USAGE RESTRICTIONS
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

No program, document, data file or source code from this software
neither in whole nor in part, may be used on any machine which is used

      * for the research, development, construction, testing or production
        of weapons or other military applications. This also includes any
        machine which is used in the education for any of the above
        mentioned purposes.

      * by people who accept, support or use violence against other people,
        e.g. citizens from foreign countries.

1.7 ReadRDB requirements

```
                 REQUIREMENTS
~~~~~~~~~~~~

ReadRDB needs at least System 2.04 to run, and has been developed
and tested with KS 39.106 and WB 40.42. It should work with higher
versions as well.

Due to the very nature of this little utility, one or several hard
disk(s) using the Commodore
                Rigid Disk Block
                specification,
are of course required ;-)
```

1.8 Installing ReadRDB

```
Installing ReadRDB:
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Just double-click on the Install icon of your choice. This suppose
that you have Installer somewhere in your command path.

You prefer a hand made installation? OK, (me too ;-), just copy ReadRDB
in a directory on your command path.
```

1.9 Introduction to ReadRDB

```
                 INTRODUCTION
~~~~~~~~~~~~~

ReadRDB allows you to save the
                RDB
                of your hard disk to a file,
for backup purpose, and then, to copy the saved RDB back to your hard
disk.

A good thing to do, if you want to be on the safe side, is to save
the RDB of each of your hard disks to one or more floppies, along with
a copy of ReadRDB. You may be thankfull to yourself one day for having
done it. (I have, several times, already!).

A rogue program, or a wrong manipulation while using HDToolBox or other
such hard disk utility, may corrupt or destroy your RDB. If that happen
and you don't have a backup of your RDB, the only way to get back the
use of your hard disk is to re-install it.

Please read this little
                warning
                .
```

1.10   Warning!

```
                    WARNING:
~~~~~~~
BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN YOU USE THE "WRITE" OPTION OF READRDB, DUE TO ITS
VERY NATURE, WHICH IS TO OVERWRITE AN RDB WITH A SAVED ONE IN A FILE,
YOU MAY RENDER ANY HD  UNUSABLE  BY AMIGADOS. THIS CAN HAPPEN IF FOR
EXAMPLE YOU WRITE BACK THE  RDB  FROM A  GIVEN  HARD DISK TO ANOTHER
HARD DISK.  A WAY TO AVOID THIS KIND OF EVENT, IS TO NAME YOUR SAVED
RDBS WITH THE BRAND NAME AND MODEL OF THE ORIGINAL HARD DISK.
```

Don't let yourself be put off by this warning, if you use ReadRDB
correctly you shouldn't have any problem. You may be thankful to it the
day you'll be able to restore a saved RDB over a corrupted one. I have
had to do it a few times, and I am much thankful to Randell Jesup who
wrote
                Readrdsk.c
             .

1.11   Readrdsk.c

"Readrdsk.c" is a little C source which I found on Usenet a while ago,
(in January 1991!).

ReadRDB is heavily based on this source. I have added ReadArgs support,
several more checks, and simplified its command line interface.
The original allowed to set the length and start offset of the RDB to
save (or write).

The author of Readrdsk.c is Randell Jesup, who was the Keeper of AmigaDos,
at Commodore Engineering. (and is also a Jack-of-quite-a-few-trades ;-)

1.12   Rigid Disk Block

RDB:
~~~
The RDB, or Rigid Disk Block, is a Commodore specification that defines
blocks of data on a hard disk to describe that disk. These blocks are
created and modified with installation utilities such as HDToolBox, and
they are read and used by the device driver ROM or expansion code.

These blocks contain information about the drive, such as number and
size of blocks, tracks, cylinders, bad block list, partitions data,
file system and drive initialisation.

They are not generally accessible to the user as they do not appear on
any DOS device.

For a more complete description of the RDB and other hardblocks, see the
RKRM libraries, 3rd edition (ISBN 0-201-56774-1), pages 769-776.
(Or pages 538-545 for the second edition of RKRM Libraries & Devices).

1.13   Using ReadRDB

                       Using ReadRDB
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

ReadRDB is a Shell only utility.

                  Template

                  Examples

                  Extra info

1.14   The template for ReadRDB

                     The template is as follow:

D=DEVICE/K,U=UNIT/K/N,WRITE/S,FILE,H=HELP/S,FORCE/S

Only for those who don't usually read their manuals ;-):

   /K means that the keyword must be given with the argument.
   /N the argument is numeric.
   /S the argument work as a switch.
   = the equals sign means that 2 different forms of the keyword are
      equivalent, and either will be accepted.

The first argument, D or DEVICE, must be followed by your scsi device
name. This argument is optional, the default device is "scsi.device".

The second argument, U or
               UNIT
             , must be followed by the unit number of
the device. This argument is also optional, the default unit is "6".

The third argument, WRITE, should only be used if you want to write a
saved
               RDB
               back to your hard disk. This argument is an optional switch.
The default action is to read the
               RDB
               and save it to a file.
Please read this little
               warning
                .

The 4th argument, FILE, must be followed by the name of the file that
will contain the
               RDB
             , if option WRITE is not specified, or by the name
of the file containing the
               RDB

                        to write back to the hard disk if option
WRITE was specified. This argument is optional if the WRITE option is not
specified and in this case the default file name is "T:RDB".
On the other hand, if option WRITE is specified, the argument FILE is
mandatory, as a safety measure.

The 5th argument, H or HELP, will give you some help about the usage of
ReadRDB.

The last argument, FORCE (new from version 0.4) allow the reading and writing
of non standard RDBs, those not having "RDSK" as their first 4 bytes.

1.15 How do I know which unit my HD is?

If you don't know the unit number for your SCSI hard disk(s), just run
HDToolBox and once the window is opened you will see the following:

                Hard Drives in System

Interface   Address   LUN ...
SCSI   x
                 ^
                 |
The unit number is displayed here, in the Addresses column.

If you used another utility to install your hard disk(s), it should
have a similar layout, or at least tell you the address of your
installed hard disks.

1.16 Examples

                 Examples:
~~~~~~~~
Assuming your hard disk uses a scsi device named "foo_scsi.device" and
is addressed as unit "0":

If you wish to save the
            RDB
            of this hard disk to a file
named "DF1:RDBs/Barracuda", the syntax will be:

ReadRDB DEVICE=foo_scsi.device UNIT=0 FILE=DF1:RDBs/Barracuda

If you now wish to overwrite this hard disk's
            RDB
            with the saved file:

ReadRDB DEVICE=foo_scsi.device UNIT=0 WRITE FILE=DF1:RDBs/Barracuda

1.17   Extra info

ReadRDB also displays some information contained in the
RDB
.

The first part concerns the so called 'physical layout' of the drive.
It must be understood that this layout is not the real physical layout,
but an equivalent arrangement made by the installation software to be
used by the driver. For example it might say 1 for the number of heads,
but the drive may in fact have 4 heads. This is done to simplify the
layout used by the device driver. But the total size, which is equal to:

(cylinders * sectors * heads) * bytesperblock

will correspond to the actual size of the drive.

Then ReadRDB will tell you if reselection is enabled or disabled. Some
drivers don't support reselection properly. So if you have problems
with more than one hard disk connected to the same SCSI controller,
you may try to turn reselection off on ALL of your SCSI drives.
You may do it with Prod_Prep and the accompanying scripts which are
usually supplied on the Workbench Install disk. This can be useful
while you are waiting for the new ROM driver that you just ordered ;-)

To finish ReadRDB will check if the following rdb_Flags are set:
RDBFF_LAST, RDBFF_LASTLUN, RDBFF_LASTTID and RDBFF_SYNCH.

Those flags are defined in the Commodore include file
"devices/hardblocks.h" as follow:

```
RDBFF_LAST       no disks exist to be configured after
                 this one on this controller

RDBFF_LASTLUN    no LUNs exist to be configured greater
                 than this one at this SCSI Target ID

RDBFF_LASTTID    no Target IDs exist to be configured
                 greater than this one on this SCSI bus

RDBFF_SYNCH      drive supports scsi synchronous mode
                 CAN BE DANGEROUS TO USE IF IT DOESN'T!
```

1.18   ReadRDB author

Send any suggestion, bug report, compliment ;-), DARK ↩
chocolate
(BLACK, containing at least 69% cocoa!), Bergerac Affiné tobacco,
freely distributable software, 4 GB hard disks (not more than 4 GB
in size, otherwise ReadRDB will give a wrong size (ULONG) ;-), A3
48 bits colour scanners, CDROM drives and CDROM disks, tape streamers,
brand new AMIGA 8000 with 256 bits RISC CPU, etc..., etc...

```
  OR JUST A POST CARD, to:


                        Gérard CORNU
                        11 avenue Edouard Aynard
                        69130 ECULLY


                        FRANCE.
              (WPC)
                Email: gerard@ariane.univ-lyon2.fr



         Have plenty of nice days! ... me too!



         Translations ...
```

1.19 W.P.C.

```
                        World People Community ;-)
```

1.20 Translations ...

```
  I can translate commercial software's documentations or hardware
  manuals, in fact anything technical, from English (or American!)
  to French, and vice versa.

  I have a very good knowledge and experience of the Amiga and
  of computing in general.

  Send your proposition to:

                        Gérard Cornu
                        11, Avenue Edouard Aynard
                        69130 Écully
                        (France)

  Email: gerard@ariane.univ-lyon2.fr
```

1.21 D.P.A.T.

```
                  D.P.A.T
~~~~~~~

French PD library, Domaine Public Amiga Toulouse.
Started and managed by
                Thierry Colin
                at
                AmigaNews
              .
```

1.22 ICPUG

```
I.C.P.U.G
~~~~~~~~~
```

ICPUG is the one and only Independent Commodore Products Users Group.
ICPUG is a non-profit making voluntary group run by its members for
      its members.

To become a member of this brilliant club contact:

Jonathan Cooley
ICPUG Membership secretary
10 Willson Road,
EGHAM, Surrey,
TW20 0QB

ENGLAND.

1.23 ReadRDB's author would like to thank...

                    (in alphabetical order...)

Amiga   For being the best platform to 'work' on. And still
                    alive in spite of some sad facts.

AmigaNews   The first French Amiga magazine edited and
                    published on an Amiga.

Bernard Kubler   For the delicious chocolates.

Christian Marz   For sending the Aminet 4 CDROM, for the Mod lists
                    and much more.

Commodore-Amiga's   For improving it.
Software and
Hardware Teams

            Fred Fish
                    For the much helpful
            AmigaLibDisk library
            .

Gérard Cornu ;-)   For the excellent french translations of all
                    ReadRDB documents
            ;-) ;-) ;-)
            .

```
                    I.C.P.U.G.
                         For all the nice guys and gals making it!

      Jen Allen            For the chocolate bars, and everything else.

      Jérôme Chesnot       For showing me his nice country in the Pyrénées and for
                           making me discover 'Parapente' through Pierre Nicolas and  ←
                               Ariane.
                           For all the support and much much more. Jérôme pushed me  ←
                               to
                           rewrite ReadRDB from ReadRdsk.c, when he told me that  ←
                               ReadRdsk
                           crashed on his 4000
                .
                  Joy & John Harding   For their kindness, and for showing me  ←
                     their nice
                           Devon country. And much, much more.

      Mark J. Lednor       For supplying me with AmigaLibDisks, and loads of
                           Aminet's files.

      Peter Miles          For having supplied me with AmigaLibDisks, and everything
                           else.

      Randell Jesup        The author of
                  Readrdsk.c
                  , upon which ReadRDB is based.

      Roman Patzner        Who prompted me to add the FORCE switch. Hi Roman!


                    SAS/C ®
                    Team        For my preferred compiler environment.

      "Sheer Panic"        For emailing me about the bug in 0.4.

      Stefan Becker        For the indispensable ToolManager, and for letting
                           me use his disclaimer.

      Thierry Colin        For the keeping of the
                  DPAT
                  collection, and for
                           having upgraded
                  (just kidding!)
                     And all the other people for
                  supporting me
                  and/or the Amiga ;-)
```

1.24 For the humor impaired ... ;-)

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```

1.25 History

0.1   First release

0.2   Fixed bug that made it impossible under OS 39.x to
      write back an RDB. Sorry all :-(

0.3   Private version, not publicly released.

0.4   Added FORCE switch, to allow reading and writing of non standard
      RDBs (those not having RDSK as their fist 4 bytes).
      Suggested by Roman Patzner. Thanks Roman.

0.5   The bug fixed in V0.2 in fact introduced a new one: unability
      to write back the RDB under AmigaOS 2.x :-(
      Thanks to "Sheer Panic" for emailing me about it.

1.26 Index

```
                    Index created by AGIX 1.2 (5.8.94) Copyright © Ralph  ←
                        Seichter
    modified  and re-formated by Gérard Cornu ;-)
```