

MAX-FileGuide 1.0 documentation © Marcin Orlowski

COLLABORATORS

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Contents

1	MAX-FileGuide 1.0 documentation © Marcin Orłowski	1
1.1	MAX-FileGuide 1.0 by Marcin Orłowski	1
1.2	What the hell is it?	1
1.3	I wonder how it works...	2
1.4	Why should I use this one?	2
1.5	What it needs?	2
1.6	What it can do?	3
1.7	How to use it?	3
1.8	Are there any bugs left for me?	6
1.9	To do next time	6
1.10	Who am I?	6
1.11	Program history	7

Chapter 1

MAX-FileGuide 1.0 documentation © Marcin Orlowski

1.1 MAX-FileGuide 1.0 by Marcin Orlowski

MAX-FileGuide v1.0

The AmigaGuide file list generator
for MAX's BBS

What is it?

How it works?

Why this one?

Requirements

Features

Usage

Bugs

History

To do

Credits

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1.2 What the hell is it?

You really don't know?

MAX-FileGuide is a MAX's BBS support program, which allows you to

generate complete file list of your BBS files in a nice AmigaGuide format. Only files described in your "file.data" database file will be listed. No files stored on e.g. CD-ROM and accessed by any door will be included in this file list.

1.3 I wonder how it works...

How it works?

It's so simply.... To obtain all information required to generate file list, program needs the following files to process as input data: "maxbbs.config" which contains section names and related data, and "file.data" with whole information about each file known by MAX's BBS. First of all, program generates list of non empty sections. Non empty means, that section has its name (title) *AND* it contains at least one file (if you specify

PATTERN

section name must match the pattern too).

Filtered sections are then sorting by its name (title) to make any future search-by-topic bit easier (if you do not like your users, and want to make them sweat, just disable this feature with

NOSECTIONSORT

:). When this operation is finished, program starts to process largest

file in its life: "file.data". This operation takes 90% of time used to create while AmigaGuide document because of alphabetical file sort needed to be perform. However, because of fast sort-while-reading routines it take more less the same time to scan this database and to scan and sort.

At the end it includes your messages into document, if there's any. Please notice, that messages are *NOT* sorted at all. Do it yourself and set in the right queue.

1.4 Why ahouls I use this one?

MAX-FileGuide is:

- not written in Hisoft Basic
- only 25KB large
- completely system compatible
- Enforcer hits free
- not A4000 Guru invoker
- fast like a hell
- completely configurable
- fully localized

Enough?

1.5 What it needs?

Requirements

To work MAX-FileGuide needs as follow:

- any Amiga with at least OS2.1+
- enough memory to hold whole database
- turned on your power supply...
- ...and MAX's BBS 1.53+ databases to process

1.6 What it can do?

Features

MAX-FileGuide uses `locale.library` in its work. It allows you to see not only program's messages in your own language, but also generated file list, if you have got necessary catalog file for your language of course. If there is no translation for your language and you want it to be, then look for "Blank.ct" file in the "CATALOGS" directory. It's blank catalog translation file and the only thing you should do is to fill the blank lines. Be careful and do not loose any trailing space nor any other special character. Also make sure that your translation makes sense! Then compile this file with "Blank.cd" and enjoy. And do not forget to send this ("#?.ct") file to me!

1.7 How to use it?

Usage

MAX-FileGuide can be launched from CLI/Shell only (it will not crash when called from Workbench however it will be not possible to pass any argument to the program. It simply runs with default settings in mind). Before you attempt to work, please read which arguments can be used and what for. Arguments may be abbreviated as shown in the brackets:

FILE_DATA (FD) - Your "file.data" file. Example:

```
FILE_DATA = HD2:BBS/Temp/file.data
```

If not specified "BBS:Files/file.data" will be used by default.

MAX_CONFIG (MC) - Your "maxbbs.config" file. For example

```
MC = BBS:Config/maxbbs.config
```

If not specified "BBS:maxbbs.config" will be used by default.

OUTPUTFILE (OUT) - A Guide file you want to create. E.g.

```
OUT = RAM:FileList.guide
```

If not specified "FileList.guide" will be used by default.

MESSAGETITLE (MT) - Your name for Messages' button and section. This feature needs any message file to be specified. Example (quotes needs to be used because of spaces in the name):

```
MT = "Important notes"
```

If not specified "Messages" will be used by default.

MESSAGEFILES (MSG) - Name of your message files to be included in the Message section. You may specify as many messages as you want. Example:

```
MSG=HD2:Rules BBS:abc.txt DF0:BelovedPoems.txt
```

BBSNAME (BBS) - Name of your board. It will be placed in the main menu header and inside filelist in version string. Example:

```
BBS = "Silver Dream!'s BBS"
```

If not specified "BBS" will be used by default.

BBSINFOFILE (INFO) - ASCII file you want to be show when the user clicks the BBSNAME button on the main page. It should be info page about your BBS (like well-known #?.displayme files, but you may place your poems here as well :). If you do not specify the file, BBSNAME will not become the button. Example:

```
BBSINFOFILE = hd1:Utils/Smieci01/SD!.displayme
```

INFOTEXT (TXT) - You have possibility to add one info line on the main page (e.g. "Amiga Files only", "Windows sucks!").

GUIDEWIDTH (GW) - Width (in characters) of visible page. This value is used to center the main menu buttons in the window. The width should be between 1 and 255. The optimal, default, value is 74. Do not change if you really have to.

WORDWRAP (WW) - Turns on the AmigaGuide's wordwrap feature on. Default is off.

BOLDOFF (BO) - Turns off the boldfaces, which are ON by default.

LANGUAGE (LANG) - You can force MAX-FileGuide to use any language by using this keyword. By default, program tries to use language globally set for your system. If it doesn't find necessary catalog file built-in english strings will be used. E.g. to generate polish (polski) filelist in your english system

use following formula in the command line:

```
LANGUAGE = polski
```

Of course you need proper catalog files for this. If you can't find your language between them, please take the blank.cd file from the archive and do your best to translate it to your own language. After all, please, send it to me to let other users enjoy your work!

- NOEQUALWIDTH (NOEQ) - By default, MAX-FileGuide calculates longest text used for buttons on the page. This value is then used to make nice-looking, same width buttons on the page. If you do not like this, simply disable it with this switch.
- NOSORT (NS) - Do not sort the files. Speeds up the program about millions times :), but makes whole list more "useful" (in Microsoft's meaning :) Sort is defaulty ON and do not touch it if you like your users!
- NOSECTIONSORT (NSS) - If you want sections to be shown by its number, not alphabetically as by default, use this switch. Do not touch until you really have to!

PATTERN (PAT) - You may force some sections to be excluded (or included) using name pattern. Pattern will be processed using system DOS functions, so all pattern rules (#?, ~. [a-b]...) may be used - for more information about pattern power refere AmigaDOS manual. Exaples: you want Amiga sections to be listed only, use following pattern (those sections have to have word "Amiga" in the name).

```
PATTERN = #?Amiga#?
```

LASTDAYS (LD) - You may need to filter older files out, for e.g. every-week (day, month, whatever) list of new uploads. If so, use this to determine daylimit (related to curent date): Example: to list only files uploaded last week type:

```
LASTDAYs = 7
```

DOWNLOADS (DL) - Normally MAX-FileGuide doesn't put download counter for each file into result database, but if you find useful to inform your users about this, just switch this on.

NOLINKx (Lx) - MAX's BBS gives you possibility to 'attach' file to one of three link (e.g. all Amiga sections are attached to 1st link, all Mac sections to 2nd, and all ZX Spectrum to 3rd). MAX-FileGuide gives you (again :) possibility to simply ignore some

sections. By default it doesn't care about links, but you may specify which are should be skipped. Use:

```
NOLINK1 NOLINK2
```

to list only ZX Spectrum related sections.

```
QUIET           (Q) - forces MAX-FileGuide to keep mouth shut
```

NOTE: Default texts shown above are valid only for english, build-in version. Using other languages you should rather suppose polish/deutsch/spain or whatever strings instead of english one.

1.8 Are there any bugs left for me?

Bugs? Are you kidding?

There is no bugs at all neither in this program nor in any other of mine because I always use professional Microsoft Turbo Pascal 7.0 for Microsoft Windows Chicago for Networks, Printers and for Workgroups to avoid bugs! Remeber - only using 100% bug-free tools for software creations lets you create bugless programs. Please support Microsoft.

BTW: If you find any bug in this program, report it directly to Microsoft
If you do not find anything report it either.

1.9 To do next time

Future plans

I plan to add new and expand existing features in the future release, but it happen only when I receive enough support from all you MAX's users. Ideas, opinions, E-Mails and whatever else would be enough to motivate me to continue MAX-FileGuide development process.

1.10 Who am I?

MAX-FileGuide has been created using mainly Sinclair Basic. After all it have been transferred to ZX-81 and compiled to Amiga executable file using PSION CHESS 2.0.

This program is CCardWare. It means if you like it, send me your Credit Card :). If you don't have Credit Card then treat it as GiftWare send me something else you think is good as payment for this program (small donation, postcard, CDs (data or music) or HD floppies...)

If you have any suggestions (or got newer PSION CHESS).....

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1.11 Program history

The life story

v1.0 (01.10.95) - first release