

XPKDT

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

XPKDT

1.1 XPKDT 1.0B

XPKDT 1.0B

XPKDT package is Copyright © 1995
Michal Letowski

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All rights reserved.

The author's native language is Polish, so please forgive bad spelling, grammar mistakes etc. Or better - correct them.

Copyright notice

- legal informations.

Introduction

- what it is useful for.

Requirements

- what you need to run.

Installation

- how to install.

Notes

- some notes and comments.

History

- what has changed since last release.

To do

- this is BETA version!

xpk_dtc - programmer's documentation.

1.2 XPKDT Copyright

Copyright

XPKDT package is Copyright © 1995
Michal Letowski

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XPKDT is freely distributable under the following conditions:

- no more than a reasonable fee is charged for copying/downloading;
- this distribution is not a part of other non-free distribution;
- the distribution is complete - it contains all the files (full list at the end of this chapter);
- no file in the distribution is changed.

Distribution without meeting conditions specified above requires written permission from me.

The

DataType

from the package works, but no guarantee is given nor implied. In no case will I be liable for any results of using supplied

DataType

.

The source code is provided only for informational purposes and is also under copyright. It is based on source for cli.datatype by Stefan Ruppert, who had the great idea of "unwrapping" formats.

This documentation is based on CatEdit.guide, which is Copyright © 1993 Rafael D'Halleweyn.

XPK

Data Compression Package was created by Urban Dominik Mueller.

PowerPacker

is Copyright © 1990 Nico François.

List of all files in the distribution:

Install XPKDT.info
Install XPKDT
XPKDT.guide.info
XPKDT.guide
AutoDocs
 xpk_dtc.doc
Devs.info
Devs (dir)
 DataTypes.info
 DataTypes (dir)
 Power Packer.info
 Power Packer
 XPK.info
 XPK
Libs (dir)
 DataTypes (dir)
 xpk.datatype

```
Src (dir)
  classbase.c
  dispatch.c
```

1.3 Introduction to XPKDT

Introduction

```
XPKDT is a
  DataTypes
  sub-class for loading
  XPK
  compressed files.
XPKDT handles decompression and passes decompressed files back to
  DataTypes
. In the end the user is able to utilize/view compressed files
using any
  DataTypes
  compliant application.
XPKDT will also decompress
  Power Packer
  compressed files thanks to a
kludge in
  XPK
  system.
```

1.4 Requirements for XPKDT

Requirements

```
XPKDT requires AmigaDOS 3.0 or higher (datatypes.library V39+).
  XPK
  subsystem (xpkmaster.library) must also be installed with all ←
  necessary
compression sub-libraries.
  XPKDT requires some temporary disk space to store decompressed data.
By convention it will use T: logical device for all temporary files.
```

1.5 Installation of XPKDT

Installation

Use supplied Installer script to copy necessary files. You can choose to have XPKDT permanently enabled or manually selectable. In the former case recognition files will be copied into DEVS:DataTypes directory, while in the latter - into SYS:Storage/DataTypes directory.

Manually selectable installation requires XPKDT to be activated before use by double-clicking on SYS:Storage/DataTypes/Power Packer or SYS:Storage/DataTypes/XPK icons or typing

```
1.SYS:> AddDataTypes SYS:Storage/DataTypes/#?
from Shell.
```

1.6 XPKDT Notes

Notes

XPKDT is only a temporary solution! Decompression and decryption should be handled on higher level, perhaps by datatypes.library itself.

If (despite it's shortcomings) you still like XPKDT be sure to send "Thank You" message to Stefan Ruppert (<http://www.uni.mainz/~ruppert>, <mailto://ruppert@goofy.zdv.uni-mainz.de>, <mailto://i511@informatik.fh-wiesbaden.de>) who had the original idea. I'm merely trying to implement it...

XPKDT creates temporary directories and files on T: logical device.

XPKDT will properly handle multi-compressed files (eg.
 XPK
 files
 compressed again with
 Power Packer
).

DataTypes

system often uses file name to determine type of a file. Therefore it is recommended that you don't append any suffixes to names of your compressed files.

1.7 XPKDT History

History

Version 1.0B (21.11.95) - initial BETA release.

1.8 To do in XPKDT

To do

This is BETA release! This program does not work in all cases and may crash your system! But the bugs come from some interference with other

DataTypes

, not bad programming on my part. I can't test XPKDT further, because I run only AmigaDOS 3.0. Comments from users with AmigaDOS 3.1 are welcomed!

XPKDT can't process packed AmigaGuide® files - the link buttons become unselectable (in amigaguide.datatype V39). You can, however, view compressed files linked to AmigaGuide® buttons.

There are some open issues not addressed in this release of XPKDT. In particular, I would like to hear from you opinions on how to handle:

- progress indication. I think it should be handled on higher level,

preferably by `datatypes.library` (`DTA_ProgressHook?`).

- passwords. At present, XPKDT does not support passwords and therefore will not work with encrypted files.

- error reporting. Current version converts XPK

error codes to standard

AmigaDOS error codes and therefore does not take advantage of

XPK

descriptive error messages. Alas, I can see no way to change ↔
this...

1.9 DataTypes Information

DataTypes

DataTypes is an AmigaDOS subsystem (introduced in AmigaDOS 3.0) for dealing with different types of files found on different machines (PC's, Macs and Amigas). DataTypes can be used for recognizing types of files and interpreting informations in this files. An example of the latter is MultiView, which can show many types of data.

DataTypes divide all files into the following main categories:

- syst (System) - system files;
- text (Text) - textual files;
- docu (Document) - documents (spreadsheet data, text with pictures etc.);
- soun (Sound) - sound samples;
- inst (Instrument) - musical instruments;
- musi (Music) - songs;
- pict (Picture) - graphics;
- anim (Animation) - animations;
- movi (Movie) - animation with sound.

Each category is further divided into sub-classes. Each sub-class interprets one type of file, converting it into some universal format. `xpk.datatype` is a subclass of System group.

1.10 XPK System

XPK System

In XPK author's words:

For a long time, there have been various compression programs for different purposes on the Amiga. But every application supported only one compressor, and most compressors were only supported by one application. XPK wants to put an end to this: Every application with XPK interface can use every packer with XPK interface. An XPK packer is a library with a four letter library name.

1.11 Power Packer

Power Packer

Power Packer is a very popular compression program, useful for packing both data and executable files. It comes with a support library, which allows programmers to utilize compression in their programs.

1.12 About the Author

About the Author

XPKDT package was written by Michal Letowski, who holds Master degree in Computer Science and is currently looking for a good job.

If you have something to say me (questions, remarks, suggestions, wishes, bug reports) please contact me (I like receiving mail!):

by E-Mail (preferred way):

pro37@ci3ux.ci.pwr.wroc.pl (valid until 1.3.96)

by normal mail:

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53-030 Wroclaw

POLAND

You can get my other free software:

MCommands - 8 useful AmigaDOS CLI commands
(Aminet://util/cli/MComms-1.4.lha);

MCEd - 8 great ARexx scripts for CygnusEd users
(Aminet://text/edit/MCEd-1.2.lha);

ClipHandler - easily exchange data between AmigaDOS and applications
(Aminet://util/misc/ClipHan-1.2.lha);

FontDT - DataType for Amiga fonts.
(Aminet://util/dtype/FontDT-1.1.lha);

MREKO - DataType for viewing REKO cardsets
(Aminet://util/dtype/MREKO-1.0.lha).

1.13 XPKDT Index

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xpk_dtc
