AID

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COLLABORATORS			
	TITLE : AID		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
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REVISION HISTORY			
NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

Chapter 1

AID

1.1 AID - Amiga Ideas Database

```
                                          =@
   WELCOME TO             $###=
 ----------+            +@######.                    A I D
                         >#######>
                          ######$              Amiga Ideas Database
                          @$.<                 -----------------------
                        .  %#@-        Official Documentation
          =. +##$>>>=-      .+>%###$.+@###%
          =%  -#################. %#####@-
          >#%. .@################= .@#######>    Document Revision
          @##@.  ###############$  %##########-       30-Oct-95
         .####>  $###############$  %##########@
         +####@  .###############$  %##########=  Written by
         >#####>  $##############=  %##########%     Lorenzo Colloreta
         @#####@  -##############-  %##########@
         >#######=  %#############  @##########@ --------------------
        -########@  +#############>  -@##########%
             About this  guide
                  $########@  ############.  $############>
             ~Distribution~note~
                  .##########+  @##########$   @###########@
        +##########>  $###########-  +############>
             ~Introduction~
                  >##########@  >##########@   %###########@
             Structure
                  =############-  .#########   @#########=
             AID Databases
                  %#############-  .########=  =##########-
             What

             How
                  =#############.  #######$  -########@+
             Where
              to post...
      -###$        .%###.  ######>  .########>
     ++            -#- .####=   @#####>
             AID Standard
                              +. -##%   >###%.
```

1.2   AID - Distibution notes

DISTRIBUTION AND LEGAL NOTES

     This guide, the AID archive and related files are considered
PUBLIC DOMAIN, and they can freely spread without any
fee.

     No modification of the files should occur, and any request
or additional info should be posted to the maintainers of AID, in
the ways suggested in this guide (see posting rules section).

     AID files can be freely spread and uploaded into electronic
BBS systems or Internet sites, but please DO NOT upload these
files where they already exist, especially on Aminet sites and
newsgroups   used   for   AID   distribution.   For any updated
information about AID distribution just feel free to contact me,
or any other AID maintainer.

Introduction

Main Menu

1.3   AID - Introduction

INTRODUCTION

     AID stands for Amiga Ideas Database, it is supposed to
become a wordwide meeting point for good programmers and good
ideas.

     Fortunately the Amiga community has always been different
from others systems users groups, as we share an unbeatable
passion and affection for our beloved machine, followed by a
great force in developing PD and Shareware software as well with
strong efforts to collect and distribute it worldwide (I'm
thinking of Aminet and other sources). All this didn't stop even
during the big Commodore's crisis, as to demonstrate the unique

power of Amiga users.

    AID is a link between Amiga Users, ideas and programming
skill. I know the last two things don't always go together, so
there could be someone who need a particular program or script
but doesn't know how to do it (or where to get it) or a good
programmer losing time searching for some good idea to develope.

    AID is a database where you can find IDEAS coming from
people who need it, and, possibly, coming from other people,
about similar programs already existing, or programs just written
for the occasion by someone. So why don't we simply create a new
newsgroup dedicated only to Amiga-Ideas? Well, I know newsgroups
are a great place to look for help, but I found them very
dispersing, they also need to be browsed periodically, and old
messages may be discarded.

    Items are sorted by difficulty, by type (conventional
program, Arexx script, Scala (tm) script, AmigaDOS script...),
and should contain as much information as possible to describe
what the user need. Replies containing suggestions about
software have to be posted to the user who posted the request AND
to the database itself.

    Items lasting on the database for more than a specified time
(let's say about two months), will be moved into a not-recent
database, as to maintain the main file more comfortable to
handle. Programs and script realized specifically due to AID
requests will be listed into another file.

    The AID archive could be maintained in several formats,
allowing the wider distribution possible. The first phase of the
distribution will be just via "rich-ascii" file, following AID

            Standard
            .

            Structure

            Main Menu

1.4 About

                ABOUT THIS GUIDE

    This guide contains all the information about the AID
project, including instructions to read the database and to post
requests. A shorter FAQ text which summarizes AID features is
also available.

Any updated info will be released mainly via:

· the
             AID WEB PAGE
                  · Aminet (DOCS/MISC)
· Amiga newsgroups

Any kind of feedback can be posted to
             the author
             via email
or snail mail.

  >>> GERMAN USERS: You can obtain German docs and ask questions
in German directly to Andreas Spreen, German coordinator
of AID.
        Email: andi@miglos.cadlab.de
        WEB : http://www.cadlab.de/~andi/

    I hope you'll like this idea. The future of this project
depends on YOU. Happy reading!...

                                                    Lorenzo

             Distribution

             Main Menu

1.5 Web page

                    AID WEB HOMEPAGE

    AID has a homepage on the World Wide Web:

·   http://www.zen.it/~lcs/aid.html   ·

    If you have web access refer to this page for any updated
news and for downloading files containing documentation and AID
archives.

             Main Menu

1.6 AID Structure

AID STRUCTURE

Amiga Ideas Database is composed by documentation files and
database files, mostly released in LHA format, conventional names
identify the content of each file.

    - AID-faq   : The Frequently Asked Questions text
    - AID-docs   : The full AID documentation (This file)
                      (Amigaguide and txt format)
    - AID-n   : The main AID requests archive, where "n"
                      is the release number
    - AID-goals   : Archive containing software developed due to
                      specific AID requests
    - AID-store   : Comprehensive archive of all "old" AID requests
                      since the first release

    - AID-ware   : Will include any special software released
                      for use with AID archives, such as
                      browsers, search tools and similar.

    AID   requests   archive   will   be   updated and released
frequently, older requests will be moved to the store database,
making the main database easier to handle. Requests archives are
released in Amigaguide and plain ascii format. Further releases
will include special formats for use with browsers and search
tools, see AID
                    future
                    page.

                    Databases

                    Main Menu

1.7 Use of AID

HOW TO USE AID: WHAT

    There are three main types of messages you can post to AID
maintainers:

- Software Request: idea suggesting a software that it is
supposed NOT EXISTING in the Amiga PD/Shareware or even
commercial software pool. Types of software include:

  ·conventional programs (executable)
  ·AmigaDOS/Arexx/Scala(tm) scripts
  ·Libraries and devices

·Any language source code
·etc

– Answer to request: If you developed or plan to develope a
software following an AID request, you should let us know, and
your name will be included in the database

– Software information: If an AID request refers to an already
EXISTING program you should let us know, specifying the program
name and possible Internet download site(s).

                     How

                     Where

                     Main Menu

1.8 Use of AID

                          HOW TO USE AID: HOW

POSTING REQUESTS

    To send a request, first of all THINK TWICE on it :) then
just fill in the forms you can find
                here
                and
send them via email or snail mail. Any other kind of request will
take much more time to be processed.

    If you are sending info related to an existing AID request,
you should send the same message to the sender of the original
request too, especially if you're announcing the development of a
new software.

    Here's a
                quick reminder
                for you, read it before posting.

FEEDBACK FROM AID

    As soon as your request has been processed you will receive
an acknowledge message (email only!), even if your request cannot
be included into the database.

REJECTED REQUESTS

    Requests may be rejected if:

– There is existing PD/Shareware software with the SAME

     specifications of the request

– The request is too general and cannot help developing
  new software

– The request is not clearly explained

– Any other reason making it difficult to understand

                    Where

                    <- What

                    Main Menu

1.9 Use of AID

                    HOW TO USE AID: WHERE

· EMAIL:

          lcs@zen.it
          ==========

     ATTENTION:
     "Subject:" field should start with "AID-request"
                                          ===========

· SNAIL MAIL: (May take long time!)

     AID
     Lorenzo Colloreta
     Via A Calugi 9 – loc.Pontelungo
     51030 Pistoia
     ITALY

· German users

     Address German emails and forms directly to Andreas Spreen,

     email: andi@miglos.cadlab.de

                    Standard

                    Main Menu

1.10   AID Databases

                        THE AID DATABASES

HOW TO GET THEM

    You can obtain AID databases thru distribution sites:

·

                  WEB Homepage
                    · Aminet sites: directory DOCS/MISC
· Usenet (not always): comp.sys.amiga.misc
                        comp.sys.amiga.programmer

· Directly by emailing me (lcs@zen.it)

· A mailing list is supposed to start soon, it will depend on
  feedback

DATA FORMATS

    AID main archives are updated by maintainers in a "rich-ascii"
file following AID standard. Released files are generated from
the rich-ascii and converted into many formats.

    Formats currently available are:

    · Standard plain ascii
    · Amigaguide doc

    New formats will be available soon (see the
                  future
                ),
allowing users to search the archive for specific topics and
perform automatic operations such as auto-downloading most recent
databases directly from the Net. We plan to release a specific
AID browser soon, any news will be reported in the
                  Web homepage
                  .

                  What to post

                  Main Menu

1.11   Author

                    ABOUT ME

     Please feel free to send any feedback, suggestion, idea,
complaint to me, AID future will depend on you!!

     email: lcs@zen.it
       WWW: http://www.zen.it/~lcs/index.html

     snail mail: Lorenzo Colloreta
                  Via A.Calugi 9 - Loc.Pontelungo
                  51030 Pistoia
                  ITALY

     phone: ++39 573 572058 (Fax on demand)

     I wish to thank everyone who is contributing to this
project, in particular Andreas Spreen for his support,
Udo Schuermann, author of "KingFisher", for helping me
converting AID database into kingfisher data (format available
soon).

Thanks to everyone at IAS, International Amiga Society,
take a look at our web page to find out info about this important
group: http://snark.apana.org.au/IAS/Workbench/ias.html

                         ENJOY!!

I thought it was easier...;)

                 Main Menu

1.12   AID Future

                  AID: THE FUTURE

     First of all, AID future will depend on feedback
and suggestions from users, so feel free to contact us.

     We will release new formats for databases as soon as
possible, and we plan to have soon a specific AID-browser, which
will be able to perform several actions:

     · Search thru the database
     · Automatically download new databases from the net
     · Assist filling in forms for posting requests
     · Converting the rich ascii format into various standards
     · Automatically download (thru ftp) software announced
       in AID database (if URL is included)

     · .. and many many more

If you are interested in writing an AID browser please let
us know!

Thanks to International Amiga Society we have the
possibility to build up a mailing list for AID databases, email
us if you need it and we'll try to set it up soon.

Any other good suggestion and idea will be included into AID
project, so just
                    contact us
                        .

                    Author

                    Main Menu

1.13 Reminder

                    QUICK REMINDER BEFORE POSTING

    Pay attention here before posting your request:
    ==

· If you sent a new software request: are you SURE what you are
  looking for does not exist?. Remember to take a look at Aminet

· Did you fill in the correct form according to info you want to
  send us?

· Is the form correctly filled? Remember some fields are
  obligatory, some others may contain just a single 70 char line

· Did you include all correct info and your address(es)?

· Does the "Subject:" field of your email start with
  "AID-request"?

· If you're sending an answer to an AID request, did you contact
  the author of the request as well?

· If you're not sure about info you're posting, contact us

                    Future

                    Main Menu

1.14 Forms

AID FORMS FOR POSTING

In order to post a request you can take a look at the AID

standard
section..

Instructions:

select the correct form you need, according to information
you want to send us, cut the text between the "cut here" markers
and edit/delete the comment lines starting with "#". Fields with
[++] in comment line may accept MORE than one line, other fields
must contain less than 71 chars on a single line.

Include it in a mail message and post it to lcs@zen.it
("Subject" must start with "AID-request"). Thank you.

Choose the form according to the information you want to
send us:

New software request (IDEA)

Info on existing software

Answer to AID request

We remind you..

Main Menu

1.15 Forms

** FORM TO POST A SOFTWARE REQUEST (IDEA)

-----CUT HERE---------------------------
.FROM
#insert your full name here
.EMAIL
#insert your email address here (if any)
.SHORT
#program description in ONE line (70 chars)
.FULL
#full program description [++]

#Optional fields, remove a field if you don't use it

.MAIL

```
#contact addresses different from email [++]
.TITLE
#supposed title, just for easy searching and linking
.DIFFICULTY
#Supposed difficulty. from 0 (easy) to 10 (hardest)
.TYPE
#Type of software (see standard)
.SIMILAR
#similar existing softwares [++]
.FEATURES
#all main desired features  [++]
.NOTES
#Whatever you may want to say [++]
.LINKS
#If any, links to other previous AID requests [++]


-----CUT HERE--------------------------
```

                    Next Form

                    Main Menu

1.16   Forms

                    **FORM TO POST INFO ABOUT EXISTING SOFTWARE

```
-----CUT HERE--------------------------
.FROM
#insert your full name here
.EMAIL
#insert your email address here (if any)
.IDLINK
#insert ID number(s) of related AID item(s) separated by
#commas
.SIMILAR
#all info about similar software (even commercial), possibly
#with downloading information (URL/filename) [++]

#Optional fields, remove the field if you don't use it

.NOTES
#Whatever you may want to say [++]
.MAIL
#contact addresses different from email [++]

-----CUT HERE--------------------------
```

                    Next Form

                    Main Menu

1.17 Forms

```
                **FORM TO POST ANSWERS TO REQUESTED SOFTWARE

-----CUT HERE---------------------------
.FROM
#insert your full name here
.EMAIL
#insert your email address here (if any)
.IDLINK
#insert ID number of related AID item
.ANSWER
#answer to request (eg. "I'm developing it!") [++]

#Optional fields, remove the field if you don't use it

.NOTES
#Whatever you may want to say [++]
.MAIL
#contact addresses different from email [++]

-----CUT HERE---------------------------


            Reminder

            Main Menu
```

1.18 AID standard

```
             AID: THE STANDARD
```

The following pages contain quite technical information about AID standard for "rich-ascii" files. It is very similar to Fred Fish "Product-info" one, with field names starting with a period and the next line(s) containing field contents.

In order to send a request to AID it is recommended to take a brief look at field names and usage.

```
            Header and conventions

            Fields

            Forms

            Main Menu
```

1.19 Header standard

```
                    AID: THE STANDARD

    Main conventions are:

· Lines contain 70 chars

· Lines starting with "#" are treated as comments



    AID files header contains:

#AID                            : Identifies AID database
#Version: n                     : Standard version no. (now:1)
#ID: n                          : Release number
#Release: <date>                : Release date
#Uploader: <name + address(es)>  : Uploader name and addresses


              Field descr.

              Main Menu
```

1.20 Fields

```
                  AID: THE STANDARD

    Fields description:
    ------------------
    Obligatory when not specified!
    Standard Version: 1

.ID
    <<INSERTED BY AID MAINTAINERS>>
    PURPOSE:  Identifies a request in a unique way
    FORMAT:   1 line, number
-----------------------------------------------------
.DATE
    <<INSERTED BY AID MAINTAINERS>>
    PURPOSE:  Date of processing
    FORMAT:   1 line, <<dd/mm/yy>> or <<dd/mmm/yy>>
    EXAMPLE:  31-11-95
    EXAMPLE:  04-Nov-95
-----------------------------------------------------
.FROM
    PURPOSE:  Full name of the request/answer author
    FORMAT:   1 line
```

```
     EXAMPLE:  Lorenzo Colloreta
     NOTES:    Don't add addresses here
-------------------------------------------------------
.EMAIL
     PURPOSE:  email address of request author (if any)
     FORMAT:   1 line
     EXAMPLE:  lcs@zen.it , lcs@zen.zen.it
     NOTES:    Separate different addresses with comma
-------------------------------------------------------
.SHORT
     PURPOSE:  Short program description
     FORMAT:   1 line
     EXAMPLE:  browser for AID databases
-------------------------------------------------------
.FULL
     PURPOSE:  Longer program description
     FORMAT:   Multiple lines accepted
     EXAMPLE:  Browser for AID database with
               many options
-------------------------------------------------------
.MAIL
     <<OPTIONAL>>
     PURPOSE:  Addresses different from email
     FORMAT:   Multiple lines accepted
     EXAMPLE:  Lorenzo Colloreta
               Via A.Calugi 9 - Loc.Pontelungo
               51030 Pistoia - Italy
               Phone: +39 573 572058
-------------------------------------------------------
.TITLE
     <<OPTIONAL>>
     PURPOSE:  Supposed software title (if any)
     FORMAT:   1 line
     EXAMPLE:  AID-broswer
-------------------------------------------------------
.DIFFICULTY
     <<OPTIONAL>>
     PURPOSE:  Supposed difficulty according to sender's
               opinion. Range from 0 (EASY) to 10 (HARD)
     FORMAT:   1 line, number
-------------------------------------------------------
.TYPE
     <<OPTIONAL>>
     PURPOSE:  Suppposed type of software, according to
               sender's needs or opinions
     FORMAT:   1 line
     EXAMPLES: executable (conventional)
               Arexx
               Scala script
               Amigados script
               E source
               C source
               Library
               Device
               Basic source
               (...etc)
-------------------------------------------------------
```

```
.SIMILAR
     <<OPTIONAL>>
     PURPOSE:  Similar programs, if known
     FORMAT:   Multiple lines accepted
               URL format suggested for internet access
     EXAMPLE:  AID homepage at
               http://www.zen.it/~lcs/aid.html
     NOTES:    Use the specific form to send info about similar
               software not included in the record
-------------------------------------------------------
.FEATURES
     <<OPTIONAL>>
     PURPOSE:  List needed features
     FORMAT:   Multiple lines accepted
     EXAMPLE:  Handle screenmode
               Save preferences
               Online help
-------------------------------------------------------
.NOTES
     <<OPTIONAL>>
     PURPOSE:  Add misc notes to the request
     FORMAT:   Multiple lines accepted
-------------------------------------------------------
.LINKS
     <<OPTIONAL>>
     PURPOSE:  Links to other previous AID requests
     FORMAT:   Multiple lines, numbers, separated by comma
     EXAMPLE:  11, 34, 46
               55, 56
-------------------------------------------------------
.IDLINK
     PURPOSE:  Pointer to AID request (used for answering
               or sending info about  previous request(s))
     FORMAT:   Multiple lines, numbers, separated by comma
     NOTES:    It does not appear in the final database, but
               only in the posting form
-------------------------------------------------------
.ANSWER
     PURPOSE:  Answer to request
     FORMAT:   Multiple lines accepted
     EXAMPLE:  I'm developing a browser using Arexx
               Download it from http://somewhere.com
     NOTES:    Answer fields can be more than one in any
               database record. Maintainer will add author's
               info (address, date, etc) to the field
-------------------------------------------------------
```

Forms

Main Menu