

nis.guide database

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

nis.guide database

1.1 NIS - Nihongo Input System

NIS

Nihongo Input System for the Amiga Computer

(C) 1994, 1995 Murray Gilbert

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1.2 Introduction

Introduction

NIS (Nihongo Input System) is a front end preprocessor for the Amiga Computer to allow input of Japanese language text.

It currently allows the entry of `ascii`, `jis double width ascii`, and `kana text`, both `hiragana` and `katakana` (using `romaji` entry, on-the-fly conversion into `hiragana`).

The registered version will contain some form of `kanji` lookup.

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1.6 System Requirements

System Requirements

Any Amiga computer with AmigaOS release 2.0 or above. The use of the BFont font rendering system is required, thus all requirements of that system need to be met. See the BFont document for more information.

An additional megabyte of memory is recommended when using the online kana to kanji dictionary version of NIS.

NIS has been tested and developed on an Amiga 1200 with 2 megabytes of chip memory, 4 megabytes of fast memory, with a 40 megabyte harddrive. Smaller configurations may still work, however this has not been tested.

1.7 Installation

Installation

Copy the executable to a directory in the system path, e.g. C:, BIN: (if such exists), or SYS:System (most appropriately).

To run it on every start up, add the following command to your s:user-startup file:

```
run >nil: <nil: nis
```

Alternatively, drag the NIS icon over to your WBStartup drawer for workbench to start it up automatically.

The registered version will also contain a dictionary file which will need to be added to a directory as yet undetermined.

1.8 Usage

Usage

To start up the input preprocessor, if it has not been started already, run the following command:

```
run >nil: <nil: nis
```

That's all there is to it.

Alternatively, double click on the NIS icon to start it.

Run-time usage

There are three entry modes in NIS, `ascii`, double wide `'JIS'` alphabetic, and `romaji` input of kana. These are displayed as `'ASCII'`, `'JISALPHA'`, and `'ROMAJIKANA'` respectively.

When NIS is started, it begins in `ASCII` entry mode, just like normal keyboard entry of alphabetic text. To switch between entry modes, press `right-amiga` and the `left-quote` key (in the upper left hand corner of the keyboard, just above the `TAB` key, and below the `escape` key), i.e. `right-A & ``. The current mode is displayed in the title bar of the `'Nihongo Input System Preprocessor'` window.

`ASCII` mode is just normal entry of `ascii` characters, `JISALPHA` mode is similar except that the characters that come out are the double width `JIS` alphabetic versions.

`ROMAJIKANA` mode allows entry of hiragana and katakana characters. Entry is via `romaji` input. The first one or two `romaji` characters of the `romaji` representation of each kana is printed in the preprocessor window. When the final `romaji` of the kana is received the `romaji` is replaced by the corresponding kana. This is done on a kana by kana basis into the preprocessor window. The kana characters accumulate. To output/input them into the current window (i.e. put them into the input stream) press the space bar and all the hiragana will be spat out into the input stream. Alternatively, if one holds down the left or right shift key while pressing the space bar, katakana corresponding to the hiragana on the display will be inserted into the input stream instead.

As NIS is a commodity, some control over it can be exercised from the Commodities Exchange program. The `'Active'/'Inactive'` gadget will alternatively turn NIS `'on'` and `'off'`, its corresponding window appearing and disappearing. The `'Remove'` gadget will do just as it

says. It will tell NIS to close up and finish.

1.9 Preferences??????

Preferences

A preferences program may be written for a future release :^)

1.10 Bugs and non-implemented features

Bugs and other features of interest

What is a program without bugs? :^)

- * Non-registered release does NOT do kanji.
- * Currently cannot insert text into string gadgets (The system implementation of string gadgets is rather unfriendly!)
- * Does not appear to work with terminal programs in non-ascii mode
Am currently working on this problem.

1.11 Things to do

Things to do

- * make it work better overall :^)
- * improve kanji lookup, possibly including dictionary wildcard, etc.
search functionality.
- * improve modularization of code.
- * improve keyboard interface - suggestions appreciated.

1.12 History

History

February - April 1994 - thought about writing it :^)

May - July 1994 - started coding

August - December 1994 - too busy :^(

January 1995 - Release 0.9 (limited release)

May 1995 - Release 1.0

1.13 Registration Details

Registration

This product, NIS, is Shareware. If you use NIS please send \$30 in US funds to register in a form easy and cheap for me to convert into local currency (e.g. International Money Order). Personal cheques drawn non-Australian banks or non-Australian postal money orders will be ignored.

Australian and New-Zealand users may send \$AUS30 instead of US currency. Japanese may send 3000 Yen. Again all cases must meet the cheap and easy criterion.

In return you will be sent the latest version of each of the software contained in this package plus a few other goodies, yet to be determined.

At the current stage (version 1.0) registration of NIS and BFont is being handled together as a combined registration of both products. This can and probably will change in the future. Once the next release of either software occurs this offer can be considered NULL and void, and whatever the new documentation says will take effect.

A postcard of your home town/city would also be much appreciated :^)

1.14 Author Contact Information

To Contact the Author

Any ideas and suggestions would be much appreciated. Copies of freely distributable BDF fonts or useful texts in Japanese (or even Chinese or Korean even though I cannot read those two at all) would be useful indeed!

Bug reports also much appreciated. Please send machine details (machine model, hardware setup, etc), programs running, etc. Please test without other programs running to be sure that bugs are not of other programs. See also @{ "Bugs" link bugs }.

Please send registration and general correspondence to the following mail address:

Murray Gilbert

P.O. Box 2609
North Parramatta
NSW 2151
AUSTRALIA

Email: uminchu@zip.com.au

Please be patient for a reply. Allow up to eight (8) weeks for response to registration please. If using ordinary mail, but have an electronic address, please provide that so that we can communicate via that medium.

See also the [Amiga_jp-list](#) mailing list. Send a friendly request to subscribe to:

jamiller@neko.ec.t.kanazawa-u.ac.jp
