

AID

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> AID		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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```
Request Forms          $#>  -##@-
Quick Reminder        @=   >#$
The future            -   $+
About the author
```

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 worldwide 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 develop.

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 develop 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-brower

.DIFFICULTY

<<OPTIONAL>>
PURPOSE: Supposed difficulty according to sender's
opinion. Range from 0 (EASY) to 10 (HARD)
FORMAT: 1 line, number

.TYPE

<<OPTIONAL>>
PURPOSE: Supposed 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