

McF4.3_eng

Phalanx

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COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

McF4.3_eng

1.1 McFiler

McFiler v4.3

Written by Roberto Bizzarri © 1994-1996 Docs Translation by [Phalanx](#)

Shareware Version

Program Concept

Database Handling

Shell Args & ToolTypes

Menu Description

Fit Disk

Single Fit

History

Author

.....

This program was born to achieve a better way to catalogue and archive files on any media device with special functions for floppies. It features functions able to quickly trace, view, unpack, rename, discard a file, as well as hide it from your list.

You'll have at your disposal two nice routines, [FitDisk](#) and [SingleFit](#), which will allow you to optimize your collection of files to fit in the least possible number of disks (floppy, Zip, tape, ...).

McFiler requires at least OS 2.0+ (v37+) and "reqtools.library" v38+ (© by Nico François & Magnus Holmgren).

1.2 Shareware

Shareware

McFiler is Shareware. A Shareware program must be spreaded and copied freely. He who uses a Shareware program and feels it worth of being used, has to pay the author for it. Otherwise he's morally obliged to delete the whole package.

This piece of software is to be distributed "as is" with no warranty of any kind. The author won't be held responsible for any damage occurred by its [mis]use.

The sole limitation of the unregistered version regards the maximum capacity of archiving: the program won't go farther after having stored 250 files. Thus, I strongly rely on your will to support the Shareware concept. :)

The Shareware fee I ask you sums to Lit. 20,000 (~ US\$ 15). Get my address at the link [Author](#) . Registered users will receive a keyfile ready to be placed in McFiler's directory or in "S:". Once copied, you'll be able to store upto 500,000 files and you'll be automagically acknowledged about any new version.

People from outside Italy have quite a lot of choices about money sending:

- o Untransferable bank cheque
- o International postal money order
- o Cash-filled envelope ;)

Be warned that you should send me Italian Lire ONLY, if you send me cash. If you want to send cash in US\$, you should add 5\$ (20\$ in total) for Bank operations.

If you are author of shareware software, you can propose me to exchange our keyfiles.

I won't send any keyfile by snail mail; therefore anybody outside Italy should provide me a Fidonet or Internet address. If you lack an electronic address, ask a friend of yours. :)

1.3 Program Concept

Program Concept

Before you start your own catalogue it is advisable to setup the program's preferences so as to suit your needs (see [Menus](#)). All settings will be saved along with your database file.

I highly suggest you to take a look, and correct if necessary, the first three entries of the Settings menu before creating a new database and not to touch them any longer in the future; also, don't try to edit or corrupt the savefile, since McFiler has its own saving format and it could be rejected from the loader routine.

After you have fully configured the program as you like best, insert the first disk in the selected drive, and click on the proper gadget ("Read disk"). Please note that it will be examined just the root directory, and any other subdir contents will be totally ignored.

- o McFiler provides four different viewing indices:

Disks, by disk name; Files, by disk contents; Comment, by filenote contents (where no filenote is provided, McFiler would put a 'NO COMMENT' string); Match, by pattern matching on filenames and filenotes (NOT case sensitive - wildcars #? can be used, too). If you select a category prefixed by '@' (eg. "@comm"), all files related to that category will be displayed.

If you insert "@<category> (e.g. "@comm"), all files belong that category will be displayed.

- o Visualized data may be sorted with these criteria:

Name, by name; Creation date, by creation date (newer first); Storage date, by storage date (newer first); Disk, by parent disk. Size, by size.

(quite easy, isn't it?)

Since disks are recognized on their labels, different disks MUST carry different names. Whenever you insert a disk whose name is already in use by another disk, a requester will pop up asking you wether to relabel the current disk, cancel the operation or update the record in memory with the latter disk's content (Update). Update will delete the former disk's contents in memory and write it back according to the new disk's holding. There is something to be said about this: when changing filenotes, it's VERY useful to have the option "Comment to File" active, which is intended to save on disk every new comment. Should not this be switched on, all your comments would be lost.

F1-F2-F3-F4 will select the view order (View By), while F6-F7-F8-F9-F10 will select the sort criteria (Sort By). If you mount OS 3.x, you'll be able to scan the entries in the database via the ArrowKeys/KeyPad; when in "View by Disk" mode, by pressing Space Bar, Return, Enter (KeyPad) or double-click McFiler will show some informations about the selected disk.

- o Selecting an item will fill the following information gadgets:

If the item is a file: Disk: The disk which that file belongs to, and its fill percentage. File: That same file name along with its length in bytes (0 if it is a subdirectory). Date: Creation date and Storage date relative to that file. Comment: Filenote associated to the file. With the cycle gadget you can set the file category.

If the item is a disk: Disk: The name of the selected disk and its fill percentage. File: Number of files stored in that disk, empty bytes and total capacity. Date: Creation date and Storage date relative to that disk.

NB: Due to a possible FileSystem bug (?), OFS and FFS disks won't be filled up to 100%, for there must still exist at least 1 free block.

1.4 Database Handling

Database Handling

The first noticeable gadget located on the main screen is "Read Disk". This will (guess?) read the disk/directory currently selected. The remaining gadgets will be selectable by clicking on an object within the list only.

If you select a file, they will behave thus:

- o Delete: You can choose to Delete the file BOTH from the memory AND the disk, or Hide the file (Delete it only from memory).
- o Rename: Renames the file.
- o Unpack: Unpacks the file, if it is recognized (see [settings](#)).
- o List: Lists the archive contents, if recognized (see [settings](#)).
- o Execute: Launches the specified AmigaDOS command (see [settings](#)).

The latter 3 gadgets may be customized with the [Define commands...](#) option in the Settings menu.

Unpack and List are supposed to be used with archive files, since many people uses a cataloguer with archive files. :-)

The "Execute" gadget is a general-purpose one, instead. You may use it to extract and view the ".readme" file, or whatsoever.

If you select a disk, they will behave thus:

- o Delete: Deletes the disk from the memory.
- o Rename: Renames the selected disk. It won't work with directories or assignments. A double-click (or space/return/enter keypress) will pop up a list of files it holds. The window popping on the screen will contain an option called "Use file comment as file path"; if selected, McFiler will get the file path from the filenote when working on a file belonging to this device (device:comment/filename).

1.5 Shell Args & ToolTypes

Shell Args & ToolTypes

These are the available ToolTypes for McFiler. Please note that they can be used as Shell arguments as well, since the syntax has been made equal.

FILE=<filename> Loads at once the specified datafile. **FONT=<foofoo.font>** Font to be used (MUST be 8 pixels high). Requires diskfont.library v37+. **PUBSCREEN=<screen>** Name of Public Screen for McFiler to open in, Workbench included. Please note that the name is case sensitive. If McFiler is opened on the Workbench, its window will behave as an AppWindow: any disk icon left on it will start McFiler scanning that disk. **LANGUAGE=<language>** McFiler is localized. It will choose the catalog language basing on your system preferences; set this tooltype/argument if you'd like to bypass them. **HELP=<path+filename>** Path and name of this guide. Pressing HELP key McFiler will open this guide (requires amigaguide.library v34+). **VMEM=<path+filename>** McFiler may run out of memory while adding lots of files. If you type a filename here, McFiler will try to open that file and store data before freeing the memory and managing a new allocation.

1.6 Menu Description

Menu Description

McFiler's menus will be looking somewhat like this:

File General Settings

```

..... | Load... || Clear memory || V SubDirs = Files || Save || Disks status || V
Ignore "#?.info" || Save as... || Dup. file check || V Comment to file || Import... | |-----| | AutoRead disk || Export...
|| Fit Disk || Overwrite |-----| |-----| | Single Fit || Duplicate file check » || V Auto || About... | `-----' |
Backup datafile || Manual || Quit || Hide "NO COMMENT" ||-----| `-----' | Define commands... || V Normal | |-----
-----|| Enhanced || Read from device... ||-----| | Read from directory... || V Delete | `-----' | Hide
| `-----'

```

1.7 File Menu

File Menu

Load... Loads a datafile.

Save Saves the current database with the latest path/filename selected.

Save as... Saves the current database, prompts for path/filename via a reqtools FileRequester.

Import... This function allows you to import data from an Ascii file structured with the following syntax:

```
DEVICE=<dev> FREE=<n> USED=<n> TOTAL=<n> DATE=<date> TIME=<time> <dir> [tab] <file> [tab] <len> [tab] <creat.date>
[tab] <creat.time> <dir> [tab] <file> [tab] <len> [tab] <creat.date> [tab] <creat.time> <dir> [tab] <file> [tab] <len> [tab]
<creat.date> [tab] <creat.time> ...
```

The first line will host informations about the chosen device, while the following lines will describe the files and the directories stored in it, with a tabulation character (ctrl-i) as field separator. Directories will be recognizable by the string "Dir" in the <len> field (alike the List command).

This feature will help you store within McFiler the whole contents of a full CD-Rom or Hard-Disk! Your settings will be uneffective on this function.

To make things easier I have included two fitting utilities, inside the Tools directory:

McF_Info - will help you generate the first line.

McF_Scan.scp - Sinopsis: DIR,FILES/S,IGNORE/M Where: DIR is the device/directory to examine; FILES will delete directory names from the scan file; IGNORE anything following IGNORE will be .. ignored :) (wildcards allowed). E.g.: McF_Scan.scp dh0: FILES IGNORE #?.info #?.readme reads all files in dh0:, ignoring icons and readme files. The scan file is by default saved as "ram:McF_Import".

McFiler provides you an automatical file category recognition based on the directory tree (therefore it works good mainly with all the aminet-like collections -e.g. "CD:Aminet/comm/..."). Before the import, you will be asked wether to enable it or not.

Export... Generates an ASCII or AmigaGuide file report of data being in memory.

About... Opens a requester with various information and a map of memory usage.

Quit Quit program (you can quit with `Esc` key too).

1.8 General Menu

General Menu

Clear memory Erases data from memory.

Disk status Shows a graphic bar for each disk in the database along with their free bytes.

Dup. file check Starts dupe check. On a hit you will be asked wether to delete dupes or just hide them from your list (according to your current [settings](#)).

Fit Disk See [Fit Disk](#) .

Single Fit See [Single Fit](#) .

1.9 Settings Menu

Settings Menu

SubDirs = Files Subdirs will be treated like files, therefore you'll be allowed to comment or rename them, etc. Subdirs will be in white color.

Ignore "#?.info" McFiler will ignore Icons (Fit Disk will be affected too).

Comment to file Filenotes changed using McFiler will be promptly saved to disk.

AutoRead disk McFiler will automatically read any newly inserted disk. Pay attention: if your disk is NOT in an AmigaDos format (f.i. PC0:), it will be read twice by McFiler. :-)

Overwrite McFiler won't ask for confirm when instructed to overwrite its datafile (anyway it won't overwrite a file not recognized as its datafile).

Duplicate file check » When reading a directory contents, McFiler will verify the current database for dupes. There are these choices related: Auto - dupe check will be started after every disk or directory read; Manual - dupe check will only be started upon a specific request (see **General Menu**); Normal - just looks for exact filename matches in memory; Enhanced - tries to find out similar filenames too, checking the first bytes (eg. "McFiler30.lha" ~= "McFiler41.lha"). Delete - McFiler will propose to delete dupe files; Hide - McFiler will propose to hide dupe files;

Backup datafile This will hold a backup copy of the datafile, i.e. it will rename the old datafile as "<filename>.bak" before saving your actual database contents.

Hide "NO COMMENT" When switched on, files lacking a filenote won't be showed when "view by comment" is enabled. When switched off, a "NO COMMENT" string will be printed.

Define commands... From this window you can define the possible actions applicable on the files matching the pattern you specify. For everyone of them, you can configure: o gadget name; o output window; o upto 5 actions applicable on 5 different extensions; o command to execute when you double-click on a file in the main list.

Example: suppose you have configured Extension Action

```
#?.lha lha x "%s" #?mod#? Play "%s" #? Copy "%s" Ram:
```

I bet one can easily foresee the program's behaviour. :) Please note that the latter choice is taken if and only if no action has been taken before (you can say it's the "default" action), but you are not compelled to specify it.

Read from device... Will open a requester to let you choose the source device for file entries. If you choose a physical device, its name will be used as diskname in within the database. If you choose a logical device (eg. an Assign), then the path will NOT be extended.

Read from directory... Will open a requester to let you chose the source directory for file entries. The maximum length of the path is limited to 60 characters.

1.10 Fit Disk

Fit Disk

FitDisk feature will optimize transfer of files directed to a given device (i.e. floppy disks). What about having a large amount of files, with different sizes, and some fixed size floppies (the ones we usually know :)? Suppose you have 100k floppies, and 4 files to backup, respectively 60k, 65k, 40k and 30k long. Their sum amounts to 195k, so two disks should be enough for a backup. If there were no optimization and files were sent to the floppies as they come, you'd need 3 disks: the first would contain just the first file, the same for the second, and the third would accept $40+30=70$ k, that is the sum of the two files left. This is no longer to happen having FitDisk enabled: this feature would scan each combination to grant the best file placing and avoiding waste of media storage.

Obviously, in the above example, you'd easily find the best combination just thinking some more, but when the going gets tough, well, McFiler would help you very likely. :)

When you select 'FitDisk' from the Project menu, a new window will open, with two ListView gadgets, respectively Source and Destination directories. These are the steps to make the algorithm operative:

- o Choose a SOURCE directory and select your files.
- o Choose a DESTINATION directory.
- o Click on the EVALUATE gadget.

McFiler will scan each combination and finally suggest you the best by selecting the chosen files on the right side of the window.

Selecting 'Copy' or 'Move' (which will discard the successfully copied files) will finally backup your files. (NB: McFiler uses the AmigaDOS 'Copy' command to accomplish it)

NB1: Free space calculus may produce weird results with non-Amiga filesystems.

NB2: McFiler will call the "copy" command, which is therefore necessary. It's usually located in the "C:" directory.

Calculus limit

Fitdisk may handle a maximum of 16 files with the standard algorithm. This is because of the high number of possible combinations of files, which follow an exponential rate (2^n). With 16 files, combinations are 65536, and the elaboration time might raise up too much for slowest machines. From v3.1 on, I have tried to get a patch for it by adding a second algorithm (called "Quick" instead of the original "Best"), useable for any number of files (upto 500) but a little less accurate.

1.11 Single Fit

Single Fit

This feature will suggest you the best disk to store a given file in. In case you have more than a single disk with some free space left, and many files to store, SingleFit will suggest you the right order to store them all, optimizing the disk usage. You could risk to remain with a single file of 10k and 10 disks with 1k free...

Switching on the practical side, once opened the 'SingleFit' window, you must select the source directory (this directory also will be saved in the datafile), by clicking on the little gadget. McFiler will read the files held inside (eventually ignoring "#?.info" entries, as reported in the settings) and will show them in an alphabetical order within a ListView gadget. By selecting one of them, on the right side of the window the following informations will appear:

o Store to: <suggested diskname> o Free bytes: <free bytes on that disk> o File size: <file size in bytes> o After copy: <free bytes left after file copying>

and "Copy" and "Move" gadgets will become enabled too. They are equal in effect (they both copy the selected file), while "Move" will delete it from the source directory. Finally McFiler will automatically re-read your disk to update the disk situation.

"Min. leave available" will check for a fitting disk with a minimum space free left after the file copying. This is mainly dedicated to that kind of people who usually substitute obsolete versions of their archives. Almost always the newer archives are larger, and won't fit in a disk 100% full; therefore it is advisable to leave some space free. This feature will accomplish that goal.

NB: Free space calculus may produce weird results with non-amiga filesystems (OFS and FFS).

1.12 History

History

Here is a list of the most significative version upgrades.

--- v4.3 (01 Dec 1996)

Added file categorizing.

Added category as a search method (pattern has to be prefixed by '@').

The number of currently viewed entries will be monitorized below the list.

Added a workaround to help McFiler reallocate memory when in need.

The Import feature will ask you to automatically recognize the file category basing on its directory tree.

Fixed a bug in the sort routine; sort is now much more faster!

Added pattern #?.data to FileRequesters.

Added McF_Merge in Tools/ directory; this program merges two or more McFiler's archives v4.x into a sole file.

A lot of minor bugs has been fixed.

--- v4.2 (31 Aug 1996)

The Menus have been reorganized.

Dupe check reworked. Now it's a stand-alone function with more options.

Now McFiler can store upto 500,000 files.

The Help function is now context-sensitive (you will be prompted with the page of this guide relative to the window you are in).

It has been added a gadget on the window popping on screen upon a double-click over a diskname. If active, all the files within that disk will be intended to hold the work directory in their filenote (as it happens with imported files).

The "Define commands" window has been reworked. Now its 3 string gadgets are fully configurable (was Unpack, List, Execute).

FitDisk: Now the source filelist will automatically update after a copy (or move) command.

Fixed a bug in the Import function.

Added double-click on file: you can define the actions.

Fixed a bug in the "AutoRead disk" function.

--- v4.1a (27 May 1996)

Bug removed from dynamyc memory allocation: problems with load routine and databases with more than 300 files. :-I

The Help key didn't work when McFiler launched from Workbench.

--- v4.1 (21 May 1996)

Fixed a little bug occurring when there was just one entry in the main ListView (thanks to Alex Tucker).

Added "Sort by size". It will show files starting from the least to the bigger. When used with disks, the fullest will be shown first.

Fixed a bug with FitDisk on OFS disks: there must still be a free block left (filesystem bug?).

A double-click on a disk will show its contents.

Added dupecheck with similar filenames (Idea by Luigi Bocci).

Dynamic Allocation: MAXDISK and MAXFILE ToolTypes have been finally trashed :)

Added Import function (Idea by Mario Murè).

--- v4.0 (16 Feb 1996)

Keyfile management added. McFiler is now ShareWare!

McFiler is now localized.

When the FitDisk routine is applied on a non-Amiga filesystem, a requester will pop up to inform user about possible uncorrect results.

Now data can be sorted either on creation date or on storage date (when loading an old database having just one datestamp, McFiler will make them equal).

Added "Sort by disk". Files are shown in groups basing on the disk they belong to. Groups are divided by colour (reverse).

Directory names are now printed in white.

It is now possible to choose a path (60 characters maximum) to scan.

The whole source code has been reviewed and corrected, with plenty of little improvements.

Wildcards are now allowed within the search string. When no wildcard is specified, a "#?string#?" pattern is assumed.

AutoRead finally operative!

Pressing HELP during operations will pop up this very file.

The export() function has been fixed (added AmigaGuide format too).

When McFiler is opened on the WorkBench screen, it will work as an AppWindow: any disk icon left on it will start McFiler scanning that disk.

--- v3.2 (06-Dec-1995)

A bunch of little bugs have been fixed, and the whole source has been reviewed, with some optimizations here and there (2kb gain).

Now you can "Hide" a file only when deleting (a proper requester will pop up).

A nasty bug related to the loading routine has been pointed out and eliminated (thanks to Mario Mure').

If you are going to remove all the files belonging to the same disk, McFiler will ask you whether you'd like to remove that disk instead.

From this version on, only v3.x+ savefiles are accepted.

Command interactivity has been implemented for Unpack and List (e.g. Ctrl-C depressing). I have also found a workout for the system hanging due to LZK's "overwrite?" prompt.

--- v3.1 (18-Ago-1995)

Some bugs have been fixed.

Sort speed is BLAZING faster!

FitDisk routine improved (now can handle upto 500 files).

Added support for 3 archiving extensions in list/unpack.

ASCII-Export feature added.

--- v3.0a (25-May-1995)

An incredible number of bugs removed :)

Lots of improvements to the program.

Now every file will be saved along with its datestamp.

New sort criterias (name/date).

Added "Disks Status", "Fit Disk", "Single Fit" features.

Now the device to be read is selected via requester.

--- v3.0 (24-May-1995)

Happy birthday! :)

<version suddenly replaced with v3.0a>

--- v2.1 (01-Nov-1994)

Even more bugs fixed :)

McFiler now refuses to overwrite unrecognized files.

Added "Duplicate Check"

--- v2.0 (27-Oct-1994)

More bugs fixed.

Added "View by Comments"

McFiler now checks for modifies before loading.

Added "Unpack" and "List" functions.

--- v1.1+ (17-Oct-1994)

Matching now checks also the Comment field.

The "Match" gadget may be activated from keyboard too.

--- v1.1 (16-Oct-1994)

Some bugs fixed.

Added confirm request for Save operation.

Datafile recognition before loading.

--- v1.0 (24-May-1994)

First version.

1.13 Author

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1.14 Your english is cr*p

I ask all you native english speakers to send me any comment/correction you may find on this document. I'd like to improve my english and your help would be useful. :-)

My E-mail address is "mgiorgin@dsi.unive.it".

Thank you.
