

xadmaster

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> xadmaster		
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Chapter 1

xadmaster

1.1 Welcome to the XAD system documentation

```
*****
*
* xadmaster.library - the powerful unarchiving system *
*
*****
```

```
What is it
  Concept and Indroduction
```

```
Why use it
  Use it!
```

```
Requirements
  XAD system requirements
```

```
Installation
  How to install XAD system
```

```
Clients
  Supported archivers
```

```
Shareware
  xadmaster.library is Shareware
```

```
Disclaimer
  Read this!
```

```
Author
  Contact me
```

```
Thanks
  Some helpful people
```

1.2 What is it

The xadmaster.library is the base library of a standard interface ↔
 for
 dearchiving file and disk archives. Maybe you know xfdmaster.library
 already, which is the interface for decrunching crunched data files and
 crunched programs. The xadmaster.library is the same, but for archives and
 disks.

This library allows to unarchive lots of different archiver formats with
 just one archiver tool. If someone makes a nice GUI for xadmaster.library,
 it can be used for all the included archiver types. It is no longer needed
 to have lots of archivers with lots of options and lots of GUIs and lots
 of problems. Only one library and one tool. Beside this xadmaster.library
 allows to unarchive very strange archiver types. Some of the older
 archivers do not work any longer on newer machines, but xadmaster.library
 solves this problem, as there is needed only a short
 client
 to support a
 new format.

Disk archives can be decrunched to devices, memory and files. This is not
 possible with the most disk archiver programs.

Ok, that's the future. At the moment xadmaster.library supports very less
 formats. I hope this will change in near future.

1.3 Why use XAD system

This library system has some advantages:

- It supports lots of different archive types.
- Archivers are internal or in specific clients. No special programs are
 needed.
- All archivers have the same interface and do their work in same way.
 There is no need to learn different options for different archivers or
 get around interface problems of archiver programs.
- The library has a lot of features not supported by most archivers, e.g.
 unarchiving disks into image files.
- The archiver clients are really short compared to most archiver
 programs.
- The library can support nearly all possible archivers, also very
 strange and old ones.
- Adding new archivers is really easy by making a new external
 client

1.4 Requirements of XAD system

All executable files in this packet require at least OS version V37 (OS2.0)
 to do their work.

The xadmaster.library must be in the LIBS: drawer and any needed client in

the LIBS:xad drawer.

1.5 What to do to install XAD system

Copy xadmaster.library to LIBS: and the clients to the LIBS:xad drawer. The utility programs can be copied anywhere. Best will be C: drawer.

The source examples and developer files are not needed to use the system. These files are for programmers only.

1.6 clients

Currently there are following internal clients:

Disk archivers

- SuperDuper3 Buffer file of SuperDuper3
- xDisk XPK based archiver from Oliver Wagner released with German Amiga Plus magazine
- xMash XPK based archiver

File archivers

- Tar UNIX tar program, does not support gzipped or compressed archives. You may use xfdmaster.library to decrunch GZip files, but this may fail for really large files (like on GeekGadgets) as xfdmaster needs to have source and destination in memory. Use GZip or GUnZip for these files.
- SDS Soft. SFX SDS Software Self Extracting archives (used to distribute DMS utility (1.01 to 1.11)).
- LZX LZX dearchiver (what else :-)

Mixed archivers

- DMS This archiver supports the complete range of files, which can be produced using DMS. This includes disk images and file archives. Some of these files are corrupt and DMS itself cannot handle them.
- DMS SFX Self extracting DMS/FMS archives of DMS 2.x including corrupt format of DMS 2.04.

Clients can be internal (in the library) or external (in LIBS:xad drawer). External clients can be made by anyone and may also replace the internal clients.

A note to programmers:

Writing a client needs some knowledge of the archiver the client should support and knowledge of clean Amiga programming. All data must be read and written through input/output functions. There is no end user interface, so the client must handle error conditions, destroyed files and all such cases itself and in an acceptable manor. Of course all clients must be reentrant (as they are used in a library)!

These requirements can be called "good and clean programming style" and are not special to xadmaster.library.

I would like to get clients in C language for portability reasons. For now it is nearly sure, that Amiga computers will change a lot in future. C code has best chances to survive that changes without lot of effort.

1.7 xadmaster.library is Shareware

The xadmaster.library is Shareware with very special conditions. There are no usage restrictions (means this is no Crippleware!), and xadmaster.library use can be implemented into programs without any restrictions.

Only the end users have to pay shareware, when using xadmaster.library. There are 3 forms of payment to get a registered user:

- Send \$20 US to my snail mail address.
 - Make detailed bug reports about 3 currently unknown bugs. I decide whether a bug report is counted or not. Mainly this depends on two facts:
 - was the bug already reported
 - does the description help me to find the bugAfter the first report you will get a partly registered user :-)
 - You make an own external client and send me the source and the client for inclusion in next release. Some more are good as well!
- The last form is the most wanted!

For programmers using xadmaster.library in own applications (f.e. in virus scanners):

- It would be fine, if you would tell me suggestions or bugs, as implementing xadmaster.library use may show you some problems.
- You must state above conditions in your distribution.
- And please do not forget: Most time you are users as well, so think about above conditions.

1.8 disclaimer

All contained files are provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The entire risk as to the accuracy of the information herein is assumed by you. I do not warrant, guarantee or make any representations regarding the use of included files in terms of correctness, accuracy, reliability, currentness or otherwise. In no event I will be liable for direct, indirect, incidental or consequential damages resulting from any defect in the included files.

1.9 author

Please contact me:

```
*****
* snail-mail:                * e-mail:                *
* Dirk Stoecker              * stoecker@amigaworld.com *
* Geschwister-Scholl-Str. 10 * dstoecker@gmx.de      *
```

```
* 01877 Bischofswerda      * world wide web:      *
* GERMANY                  * http://home.pages.de/~Gremlin/ *
* phone:                   * pgp key:              *
* GERMANY +49 (0)3594/706666 * get with finger or from WWW pages *
*****
```

1.10 thanks

There are some people I want to thank for their work (in no order):

Georg Hörmann

The former author of xfdmaster.library. This library is an interface for uncrunching file and disk archives and gave me the idea to produce xadmaster.library.

Urban Dominik Müller

The former author of xpkmaster.library. This library inspired may a lot especially in design of xadmaster.library. Thanks also that he gave me the sources to improve xpkmaster.library.
Special thanks for managing Aminet and keeping the Amiga community alive.

Andre R. de la Rocha

The author of xDMS. Thanks for his work and the free sources, which made the DMS client a lot easier (but it was still a hard job).
An "Anti-Thanks" to the later DMS authors for producing such an incredible nasty format. Especially DMS 2.04 is a pain.

Ralf Babel

For his "Amiga Guru Book" which helped me a lot during the last 3 years. And also thanks for the questions he answered (sometimes with a short mail "See Guru Book page xxx" :-)

David Tritscher, Dan Fraser

For making the unlzx utility (and the structure comment at end of source code) which helped me to make the LZX client.
