

RndBG

J. Tierney

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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

RndBG

1.1 RndBG Documentation

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RndBG v2.1c
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Introduction

Legalities

Requirements

Installation

Options

The Settings File

How It Works

History

The Future

Thanks To...

The Author

1.2 Welcome to RndBG

Introduction:

RndBG randomly selects background pictures to be displayed on Workbench, windows, and/or the Workbench screen. It can also be used to use specific pictures.

Features:

- Supports AmigaDOS wildcards in both the settings file and CLI options.
- Runs from either Workbench or the CLI.
- Mix 'n' match the options; i.e. use a random picture for Workbench, specify a picture to use within windows, and leave the screen pattern unchanged.
- ENVARC:Sys/WBPattern.prefs is never modified; only the WBPattern.prefs in ENV:Sys/ is rewritten.
- User may choose specific pictures, too; do an end-run around the WBPattern preferences program. :-)
- May be run at any time; not just at boot up.
- Use multiple settings files.
- Any extra data in WBPattern.prefs (such as from FastIPrefs or future OS versions) is preserved.
- Tested with Enforcer and Mungwall.

1.3 RndBG: Legal Issues

Copyright Info:

RndBG, copyright © 1996-99 Jody J. Tierney. All rights reserved.
...with an option on the lefts, too.

RndBG is FreeWare.

Disclaimer:

No warranties, expressed or implied. Use this program at your own risk. Although much effort has been, and continues to be, put into this program to ensure safe and stable operation, I take no responsibility for any damages and/or losses incurred through the use/misuse of this program.

However, I will take credit for anything you like about the program. :-)

Distribution:

RndBG may be freely distributed in its original form so long as no fee, beyond a nominal copying charge to cover time and media, which is not to exceed \$4 US, is attached.

RndBG may not be included with any commercial product without written permission from the author.

Special permission is granted to include RndBG in public domain collections such as Fred Fish's disks and CDs, and the Aminet CDs. A copy of the disk, while not mandatory, would be appreciated.

1.4 RndBG: Requirements

Required:

- Workbench 3.0 or above.
- Pictures (nudge nudge, wink wink) - IFF or any format that you have a datatype for.

1.5 RndBG: Installation

Installation:

- The RndBG program may be placed anywhere (looks lovely above the mantel).
- The default name and location of the settings file is "ENV:RndBG.prefs".

This may be overridden by the SETTINGS startup option. Settings files are optional.

1.6 RndBG: Options

Startup Options:

RndBG may be started from:

- Workbench - Double-click RndBG's icon.
- Double-click an icon which has RndBG as its default tool.
- A shell.

The following options may be specified as tooltypes or CLI arguments when starting RndBG. All are optional, and are presented in the following format:

- <CLI shortcut>, <Keyword> <required parameter, if any>
<Description>

- FROM or no keyword, SETTINGS <filename>
<filename> is the settings file to use. The default is "ENV:RndBG.prefs".

This argument is ignored if RndBG was invoked as the default tool to a project icon. In this case, the file associated with the project icon is used as the settings file.

- WBPIC <filename, pattern, or !BLANK!>
 - WINPIC <filename, pattern, or !BLANK!>
 - SCRPIC <filename, pattern, or !BLANK!>
- Specifies the picture to use for the Workbench, window, or screen background.

Wildcards

may be used, in which case a file will be randomly chosen from those which match the supplied pattern.

If "!BLANK!" is used in place of a filename, a blank (color 0) background will be used.

These options override the settings file.

- IWB, IGNOREWB
 - IWIN, IGNOREWINDOW
 - ISCR, IGNORESCREEN
- Allows the current Workbench, window, or screen background to remain unchanged.
- These options override the settings file.
- NS, NOSETTINGS
- No settings file will be opened.

1.7 RndBG: The Settings File

The Settings File:

The settings file contains the names of the pictures you want to use for backgrounds. Usually it will contain three groups of file names, each name on a line of its own, and with each group separated by a blank line.

The first file names will be treated as candidates for a Workbench background. Once a blank line is encountered, one of the following names will be selected as a window background. Another blank line marks the beginning of names to choose from for the screen background.

Partial settings files are valid. For example, a file that begins with a blank line, lists four file names, and then ends will randomly choose one of the four file names for use as a window background (the first blank line signifies the end of the files to use for Workbench backgrounds). The Workbench and screen backgrounds will remain unchanged, unless the

WBPIC

or

SCRPIC

options were also used.

File names may contain AmigaDOS

pattern matching

characters. The line

"PICS:Hires/#?.wb" would make any picture in the "PICS:Hires" directory that ended in ".wb" a candidate for a background. Any directories which match the pattern will be ignored.

A special name exists, !BLANK!, which, as its name implies, produces a blank (color 0) background. It may also be used with the

WB/WIN/SCRPIC

options.

Any text following a semicolon, ";", is treated as a comment and ignored.

Example settings file:

```
; RndBG sample configuration file.
; Any text after a semicolon is a comment, and ignored.
; Separate each category (Workbench, Window, and Screen pictures) with one
; blank line.
;
; *** Workbench Background Pictures ***
;
PICS:Hires/#?.wb      ; AmigaDOS wildcards are supported.
PICS:Tiles/EnergyNet
PICS:Tiles/Marble.002

; ^^ A blank line signals we're ready for the next category: ^^
; *** Window Backgrounds ***
;
PICS:Tiles/#?      ; Anything in the tiles directory, ...
!BLANK!           ; ...or nothing at all.

;
; *** Screen Backgrounds ***
;
; It isn't necessary to create a complete configuration file.
; The current WBPatter Preferences for whatever category (Workbench, Window,
; Screen) will be used if no data is found in the config. file.
```

1.8 AmigaDOS Pattern Matching

Wildcards:

A brief summary of important AmigaDOS pattern matching wildcards:

(What, you don't already know these?! :-)

- #? (or "*", if enabled) - Match any characters.
- ? - Match a single character.
- #<p> - Match zero or more occurrences of <p>.
- ~(<p>) - Do not match <p>.
- (<p1>|<p2>) - Logical OR - Match <p1> or <p2>
- (<char>-<char>) - Set a character range (e.g. (A-E))

1.9 RndBG: 'You Got Some S'plaining To Do...

How RndBG Operates:

What goes on behind the scenes...

- Parse arguments/tooltypes.
- Read a settings file, if one exists and the "NOSETTINGS" keyword wasn't specified.
- Read the current preferences from "ENV:Sys/WBPattern.prefs".
- Choose pictures.
- Write a new "WBPattern.prefs" file to "ENV:Sys/"

Note: Only the "WBPattern.prefs" file in "ENV:" is ever read and modified. The preferences saved in "ENVARC:" are never accessed.

1.10 RndBG: History

History:

Once upon a time...

2.1c

- Bug fix: RndBG would go into an endless loop if only one picture was available (eg. WBPIC PICS:X.iff).

2.1b

- Some changes to the random picture picking routine. It should be a little more random now.

2.1a

- Bug fix: New pattern chunks were all marked as Workbench patterns.
 - Reported by Sven Rieke <S.Rieke@bigfoot.com>.
- Bug fix: File names in PTRN chunks were one character too long (the ending null-byte was included).
 - Reported by Sven Rieke <S.Rieke@bigfoot.com>.

2.1

- Any extra data in the WBPattern.prefs file is preserved.
 - Suggested by Sven Rieke <S.Rieke@bigfoot.com>.
- Updated the docs.

2.0

- Previously, the settings file was the only way to get random pictures.

Now the

WBPIC
,
WINPIC
, and
SCRPIC

keywords can select random pictures.

- Suggested by Charles Fitzhugh <sirfitz@kaiwan.com>
- The settings file, by default, is now "ENV:RndBG.prefs".
 - Suggested by Gregory Donner <gdonner@cyberlink-inc.com>
- Completely rewrote the code.
- Updated the docs.

1.15

- Initial public release.

1.11 RndBG: Future Features

Future Possibilities:

- Fix bugs; replacing them with newer, more interesting bugs.
- Maybe a !SOLID<n>! keyword, where <n> is the fill color.

1.12 RndBG: Credit Where Credit is Due Dept.

Many thanks to the following:

- God - Life, the universe, and everything.
- My parents.
- Wouter van Oortmerssen - Amiga E. The best programming language I've ever used.
- Matt Dillon/Aaron Digulla - DME/XDME.
- Heinz Wrobel - HWGRCS.
- Peter Bornhall - Iconite, an excellent icon package. The icons were created from the Iconite clipart, which I mangled a bit to get to four colors.
- My cat - Various programming suggestions and solutions. "Sleep on it," being one of many valuable lessons.
- Charles J. Fitzhugh - Beta testing.
<sirfitz@kaiwan.com>
- Sven Rieke - Beta testing.
<S.Rieke@bigfoot.com>
- Tim Chandler - Beta testing, and for the nice pics.
- Ramones,
Blondie,
Deborah Harry,
The Heads - Music to program by.
- You - For using RndBG!

1.13 RndBG: The Author

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