

in

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

in

1.1 IconHandler V1.5: Contents

***** IconHandler V1.5 *****

©1997-1998 Tim Jackson

Revision date: 20-Mar-98

Introduction to IconHandler

At-a-glance guide to recent changes

System requirements

Files which should be in this distribution

Configuration

Tooltypes

Usage

Future improvements

Known bugs

Version history

Support and latest version

Copyright and Distribution

Disclaimer

CONTACT ME!!!

1.2 What is IconHandler?

IconHandler is a program to help manage file icons on Workbench. Say you create a file using a program which does not save icons with the file or saves them with icons you don't like. You might want to give that file an icon. Normally this would involve either copying an icon from another file using the CLI or using an icon editor to load an icon from another file and save it out to your new file.

But no longer. :)

Now, you can simply have an AppIcon on your desktop which sits and waits for you to drop files on it. Then you can select from a list of your favourite icons, click and...bang! Your file has a new icon!

1.3 System requirements

Any Amiga with WB2.04+.

1.4 Recent Changes

V1.3 -> V1.5 (V1.4 unreleased)

Directories now work - you can give an icon to a directory by dropping the directory on IconHandler! :) Thanks to Stuart 'Kyzer' Caie for help with sorting this problem out.

1.5 Files in this distribution

In this distribution, there should be the following files:

IconHandler * The main program

IconHandler.info * Main program icon file + tooltypes (required)

IconHandler.prefs * Example preferences file

IconHandler.guide * This document

IconHandler.guide.info

1.6 Configuring IconHandler

To use IconHandler, you will first need to create a preferences file.

The preferences file tells IconHandler which icons you wish to make available. It is in the format:

<Name of icon type>

<Full path of icon file, excluding the .info extension>

For example, an entry as follows:

Picture

HD1:Icons/Pic

would define an icon type 'Picture' which takes as an example the icon file HD1:Icons/pic.info.

You can have as many entries as you like.

Once you've created your preferences file you need to save it. I

recommend saving it to ENV:IconHandler.prefs (don't forget to save it to ENVARC:IconHandler.prefs too if you want it still to be there next time you boot!) but you can actually save it anywhere you like, as long as you set the **CONFIG** **tooltype** to point to the location where you've saved it.

There is an example preferences file included which demonstrates what an IconHandler prefs file might typically look like.

Further optional customisation can be done by editing IconHandler's **tooltypes** .

1.7 Using the tooltypes

IconHandler offers a number of tooltypes which can be used to configure it to your exact needs. They are all optional, and defaults have been inserted as examples of their usage.

APPICONTEXT

Default: IconHandlerAppIcon

Specifies the text to be placed under the IconHandler AppIcon on Workbench.

ICONXPOS

Default: <None>

Defines the X position of the AppIcon on the Workbench screen.

ICONYPOS

Default: <None>

Defines the Y position of the AppIcon on the Workbench screen.

CONFIG

Default: ENV:IconHandler.prefs

Specifies where the IconHandler configuration file is to be found.

APPICON

Default: PROGDIR:IconHandler

Specifies an icon to be used as the AppIcon.

To use, enter the full path of an alternative icon, excluding the .info extension

If any of the above tooltypes are not specified, a default will be used.

1.8 Using IconHandler

To start IconHandler, you can either double-click on the icon or (even better) put it in your WBStartup drawer.

You can also start it from the CLI if you really want to.

Once it's running, you'll see the AppIcon appear on Workbench. Now drop one or more files on the AppIcon and you'll see the main window appear. In this window will be a list of your icon types (as defined in the `config` file). You can now click on an icon type to give the file/drawer(s) you dropped a new icon. Alternatively, click 'Cancel' to close the window and leave the files as they were.

You can also access two menu options, 'About...' and 'Quit' whilst the main window is open, although the functions provided by these options are also accessible from the AppIcon, as described below.

If you double click on the AppIcon, you will get a requester asking you what you wish to do. Clicking 'Quit' will quit IconHandler, 'About...' will give you version information, and 'Cancel' will simply close the requester.

In general, the file/drawer(s) you drop on the AppIcon will take on the properties of the new icon you give them - tooltypes, file type (project, tool etc.), default tool etc. However, there is one important exception to this. If you try to give a drawer a file icon, or give a file a drawer icon, IconHandler will notice this and preserve the original icon type since it is pretty useless and meaningless to have a drawer which has an icon set to type 'project' (for example). The best way to see what I mean is to try it! An example is, if you dropped a drawer onto the AppIcon, and clicked to give it type 'AmigaGuide file' (assuming you had this type set up), the drawer WOULD get an AmigaGuide icon but would still be a drawer...

1.9 Future Improvements

Here are some improvements I plan to make in the future:

- Add 'default' icon types e.g. Disk, Drawer, Project, Tool etc.
- Rewrite prefs file loading routine to speed up plus allow comments etc.

And here are some possibilities:

- Pattern matching for auto recognition e.g. all files matching pattern `#.jpg` would automatically get a 'picture' icon.
- Add option to 'snapshot' position of AppIcon
- Add option to preserve original icon type/tooltypes

If you have any comments on the above, or have any other suggestions, please feel free to contact [me](#) .

1.10 Known Bugs

I don't *know* of any bugs at the moment, but there almost undoubtedly are some, somewhere! If you find any, *please* report them to me } - I will be very grateful. Thanks!

1.11 Version History

V1.0 Original version

V1.1 GUI tidied

V1.2b FIRST BETA RELEASE

Totally rewritten GUI.

Number of prefs entries now unlimited.

Speeded up file writing.

V1.3 FIRST PUBLIC RELEASE

WB window updates when the new icon is written

Icon positions within directory windows are preserved

APPICONTEXT, ICONXPOS, ICONYPOS, CONFIG, APPICON tooltypes added

Multiple file support

Corrected bug which prevented quitting until the main window was closed.

V1.4 Directories can now be given icons. Thanks to Stuart Caie for help.

Correct version number put in window title!

V1.5 Now notices if you try to give a file a directory icon and vice versa

1.12 Support

IconHandler is still under development, which means new versions will appear from time to time. I will release new versions as soon as they are in a fit state to be placed in public distribution.

The latest version of this program, along with some other programs I have written, can always be downloaded from my program support web pages, which can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.radiolink.net/timjackson>

New versions will also be uploaded to Aminet as soon as they become available.

E-mail enquiries are always welcome, see my [contact](#) page for details.

1.13 Contact me!

If you've found IconHandler useful, TELL ME ABOUT IT! The program is freeware; there is nothing to be paid but I'd like to hear from you anyway.

Any bug reports or suggestions for improvement should also be sent to the below e-mail address:

tim_jackson@bigfoot.com

I occasionally use IRC and when I do, my usual nick is Arcline. I tend to hang around on IRCnet. A list of IRCnet servers can be found at:

<http://www.irchelp.org/irchelp/networks/servers/ircnet.html>

1.14 Copyright & Distribution

This program is FREEWARE. That means you can copy it and freely distribute it (including uploading to a BBS/Aminet etc.), as long as:

- You don't charge anything for it (except a nominal charge for disk and copying)
- You include all the files listed above in any distribution.
- You don't modify any files.

(For inclusion on compilation CDs or magazine coverdisks/cover CDs, contact me. Any other queries, contact me. No permission is necessary for inclusion on Aminet or Fred Fish CDs.)

The copyright of the program remains with me at all times.

1.15 Disclaimer

You use this program entirely at your own risk. The author will accept no responsibility whatsoever for any loss or damage caused by this program including but not limited to loss of or damage to data.
