RainbowSystem

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	TITLE :		
	RainbowSystem		
ACTION	NAME	DATE	SIGNATURE
WRITTEN BY	Andrea Latina	December 30, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY			
NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

RainbowSystem

1.1 RainbowSystem.guide

RainbowSystem ::..

=-=--=-ENHANCED GRAPHIC SYSTEM FOR AMIGA OS

. . : :

Introduction...

What is RainbowSystem
System Requirements
About the Author
How to Install
Why Register? The Rainbow programs
The Rainbow Manager
The video Drivers Developers only
_
The Autodocs

Legal Policies Other topics...

Greetings!

1.2 about

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1.3 introduction

"RainbowSystem" is a 24 bits (16 million of colours) ↔ powerful graphic

functions library which adapts the video output to the graphic hardware where it runs.

For example, an application which uses it, will be able to visualize its graphics directly in 16 million colours on an Amiga with a graphic card installed, or in 256 colours on an AGA Amiga, or in a gray scale on an ECS Amiga, without any modify by the programmer or by the user.

So, using 'RainbowSystem' is useful for the users and for the programmers: the ones can use applications which better work on their hardware (remember that 'RainbowSystem' doesn't need a graphic card, but it uses it if present), the others can (finally!) forget shared pens, colormap, palette, public screens, etc. etc. and can create very powerful applications, running on every public screen directly in 16 million colours without any trouble, having in service a very simple and powerful instructions set.

Technically, 'RainbowSystem' is made of three cooperating programs:

1)

RainbowManager
: the heart of the project; runs in background and has
 essentially two charges:

- a) It lets the user select which driver join to a public screen.
- b) It automatically assign the appropriate video driver to every

application which uses the "rainbow.library". 2) "rainbow.library": the shared library that the applications must use. 3) the Drivers video: actually 6, they hold the code segments strictly tied to the hardware: a) amy_grey.driver output in gray scale b) amy_color.driver colour output , it adapts to the number of available pens optimized driver for 256 colours screens c) amy_color_256.driver d) cgfx_15_bit.driver output in 32768 colors e) cgfx_16_bit.driver output in 65536 colors f) cgfx_24_bit.driver output in 16 million colors

All the drivers use the system graphic library, but the d,e,f ones use also the 'cybergraphics.library', to keep compatibility with the most diffused graphic cards.

1.4 hardware

Really RainbowSystem needs only few things:

- The Operating System 3.0 or above
- A 68020 (or higher) processor

1.5 install

There are two ways to install "RainbowSystem": you can click on the "Install" icon to start the automatic sequence, or you proceed manually following the next steps:

- 1) copy the 'rainbow.library' library in your LIBS: drawer.
- 2) copy the "RainbowManager" icon (placed in the "Installation/WBStart_Icon" drawer) in your SYS:WBStartup drawer, then insert in the "Default Tool:" field of the copied icon the complete path of the "RainbowManager" program (eg: "Work:Utilities/RainbowSystem/RainbowManager")
- 3) Make sure that you have a "Drivers/" directory in the same drawer where the "RainbowManager" program is located.

SUGGESTION: If you want to put RainbowManager icon in your WBStartup, you can also put the "rainbow.library" library in the same directory of RainbowManager, instead of in LIBS:

1.6 register

The demo version of RainbowSystem only has two video drivers: - amy_grey: 16 gray scale (minimum hardware: OCS) - amy_color_demo: up to 27 dithered colors (suggested hardware: AGA)

To have the other previously described drivers , registering it's enough!

The registration quote changes on which is your needed driver:

- 15 dollars for the drivers: amy_color (from 8 to 256 colors) amy_color_256 (optimized for 256 colors)
- 20 dollars for the drivers: cgfx_15/16/24_bit (for graphic cards)
- 25 dollars for all the drivers, both "amy" and "cgfx".

(mailing charges are included)

You can register sending me the money with an international Postal Money Order, or in a closed envelope, in any case specify the address where I will have to send the floppy disk the drivers and your own personal key.

In Italy, registration quotes are: 20.000, 25.000, 30.000 Lire.

1.7 greetings

I grasp the opportunity to thank every people who, directly or undirectly, helped me to keep this project to the end:

- ...THANKS TO:
- Alain Martini
- Alessandro Zummo
- Efrem Mirolo
- Roberto DeFilippi

Who have let me test RainbowSystem on their graphics cards and for the various suggestions given to me...

- Paolo Serrao

For translating ALL THIS manual into English !!!

- Andreas R.Kleinert

For the C sources of a shared library...

- Matthias Meixner

For his gui-builder "GenGUI", which I have used for the RainbowManager...

- Vision Factory Development

For their 'cybergraphics.library'...

- Nico Francois & Magnus Holmgren

For having written the useful 'reqtools.library'...

- Stefan Stuntz

His docs have inspired me for the legal policies :))

1.8 manager

The program RainbowManager must be launched before every ↔ program which uses the RainbowSystem, so a good idea would be to put it in the WBStartup drawer in your boot disk (See how to Install to what to do).

After having activated it, RainbowManager will open its preferences window if you click on its icon. With this you can specify which driver you want to use on a selected public screen.

Manually adding the name of the screen of which you want to specify the driver to the public screen list is not necessary, because when an application (which uses RainbowSystem) will open on a public screen not present in the list, it will be automatically added and the default driver, amy_grey.driver (grey scale), will be assigned to it.

To manually add a public screen names, you have to click on the "New" gadget, then you must insert the screen name, paying attention to the upper and lower case, because the RainbowManager is case sensitive.

1.9 drivers

Drivers are code segments which access directly to the $\,\,\leftrightarrow\,$ specific graphic functions of the hardware concerning to them: drivers for standard Amiga use graphics.library (amy_#?) and drivers for graphic cards use cybergraphics.library (cgfx_#?). Let's see them in detail: - amy_grey - Default used driver - Visualizes graphic data in 16 gray scale - Uses a dithering algorithm to enhance video efficiency - Visualizes the output in colour, adapting the - amy_color_demo output to the number of pens available on the used public screen (a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 27 are required) - Uses a dithering algorithm to enhance chromatic efficiency - amy_color (*) - Visualizes the output in colour, adapting the output to the number of pens available on the used public screen (a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 256 are required) - Uses a dithering algorithm to enhance chromatic efficiency - amy_color_256 (*) - Optimized Driver for 256 colors screens - It doesn't adapt to the available number of pens dithering algorithm to – Uses a enhance chromatic efficiency - Driver for CyberGraphX 15 bit screens - cgfx_15_bit (*) (32768 colors) - Uses a dithering algorithm to enhance chromatic efficiency - cgfx_16_bit (*) - Driver for CyberGraphX 16 bit screens (65536 colors) - Uses a dithering algorithm to enhance

chromatic efficiency

- cgfx_24_bit (*) Driver for CyberGraphX 24 bit screens (16 million of colors)
 - It doesn't use a dithering algorithm to enhance chromatic efficiency because it is not necessary :-))

```
(*) Only available for
    registered
    users.
```

1.10 developer

```
I.
        Important
          II. First of all, a good
        example
          III. Autodocs:
a. Locking a public screen:
        ObtainScreen
        ReleaseScreen
                b. The only function that all developers must use :)
        AboutRainbow
               c. Initializing the graphics structures:
        BeginDraw
        EndDraw
                d. Getting some informations about the 'object':
        GetRastPort
        GetScreen
               e. Drawing primitives:
  1.
        Move_RGB
                  2.
        Draw_RGB
                  3.
        DrawLine_RGB
                 4.
        DrawCircle_RGB
```

```
5.
DrawEllipse_RGB
          6.
DrawPolygon_RGB
          7.
FillCircle_RGB
          8.
FillEllipse_RGB
          9.
FillPolygon_RGB
         10.
FillRectangle_RGB
         11.
WritePixel_RGB
         12.
WritePixelLine_RGB
         13.
WritePixelArray_RGB
```

1.11 important

If you want to develop using RainbowSystem, you must send me an email to receive the include files (specifying what compiler do you use).

1.12 obtainscreen

SYNOPSIS

APTR ObtainScreen(STRPTR, LONG *);

FUNCTION

Allocates an object and initializes the specified public screen. This function invokes the help of RainbowManager to know what driver must be used by the graphics functions in the desired screen.

INPUTS

name = name string for public screen or NULL for default public screen. The string "Workbench" indicates the Workbench ↔ screen RESULT

object = APTR pointer to an 'object' to use with other functions.

NOTES

When you have finished, before closing the "rainbow.library", you must release this 'object' (to unlock the screen) using ReleaseScreen()

1.13 releasescreen

```
SYNOPSIS
```

FUNCTION

```
Releases the allocated resources and unlocks the public screen (previously \leftrightarrow locked
```

```
with
ObtainScreen()
)
```

INPUTS

1.14 aboutrainbow

SYNOPSIS

AboutRainbow(object) a0

```
void AboutRainbow(APTR );

FUNCTION
Show the "About" of RainbowSystem on the public screen previously
locked with
        ObtainScreen()
        INPUTS
obj - pointer to an object returned by
        ObtainScreen()
        NOTES
You should use this function in all your RainbowSystem-dependent ↔
        applications.
```

1.15 begindraw

SYNOPSIS

BOOL BeginDraw(APTR, struct RastPort *);

FUNCTION

Initializes some internal variables and instructs the object about what RastPort must be used

INPUTS

```
object - pointer to an object returned by
ObtainScreen()
rastport - pointer to a RastPort structure
```

RESULT

success = TRUE if successful operation
FALSE if run out of memory

NOTES

If you want to change the RastPort, before recall this function, you must call EndDraw() SEE ALSO EndDraw()

1.16 enddraw

SYNOPSIS

EndDraw(object) a0

void EndDraw(APTR);

FUNCTION

```
Releases everything that was allocated by
BeginDraw()
INPUTS
object - pointer to an object returned by
ObtainScreen()
and
initialized by
BeginDraw()
SEE ALSO
```

BeginDraw()

1.17 getrastport

SYNOPSIS

struct RastPort *GetRastPort(APTR);

FUNCTION

```
Get the pointer to the RastPort structure previously transfered to
    BeginDraw()
        INPUTS
object - pointer to an object returned by
        ObtainScreen()
        and
        initialized by
        BeginDraw()
            RESULT
rastport = pointer to a RastPort structure
```

1.18 getscreen

SYNOPSIS

```
struct Screen *GetScreen(APTR );
```

FUNCTION

```
Get the pointer to the Screen previously locked using ObtainScreen() INPUTS
```

```
object - pointer to an object returned by
ObtainScreen()
RESULT
```

screen = pointer to a Screen structure

1.19 move_rgb

SYNOPSIS

Move_RGB(obj, x, y) a1 d0 d1

void Move_RGB(APTR, WORD, WORD);

FUNCTION

Moves graphics pen position to (x,y) relative to upper left (0,0)
of RastPort. This sets the starting point for subsequent
 Draw_RGB()
 calls.

INPUTS

```
obj - pointer to an object returned by
        ObtainScreen()
        and
        initialized by
        BeginDraw()
            x,y - point in the RastPort
```

1.20 draw_rgb

13 / 27

```
SYNOPSIS

Draw_RGB(obj, x, y, r, g, b)

a1 d0 d1

void Draw_RGB(APTR, WORD, WORD, UBYTE, UBYTE, UBYTE);

FUNCTION

Draws a coloured line from the current pen position to (x,y).

INPUTS
```

1.21 drawline_rgb

SYNOPSIS

DrawLine_RGB(obj, x0, y0, x1, y1, r, g, b) A0 D0 D1 D2 D3 D4 D5 D6 void DrawLine_RGB(APTR, ULONG, ULONG, ULONG, ULONG, UBYTE, UBYTE, UBYTE) ↔ ;

INPUTS

1.22 drawcircle_rgb

SYNOPSIS

DrawCircle_RGB(obj, x, y, radius, r, g, b)
void DrawCircle_RGB(APTR, WORD, WORD, WORD, LONG, LONG);

FUNCTION

Creates a circular outline within the rectangular region specified by the parameters.

INPUTS

```
obj - pointer to an object returned by
        ObtainScreen()
         and
       initialized by
        BeginDraw()
                x,y - the coordinates of the centerpoint
radius - the radius of the circle (must be > 0)
r,q,b - the color of the circle, with:
            r = 8-bit red component
                                      (0..255)
            g = 8-bit green component (0..255)
            b = 8-bit blue component (0..255)
                     0, 0, 0 for black,
        example:
                     255,255,255 for white,
                     255,255, 0 for yellow...
```

NOTES

This function is a macro which calls DrawEllipse_RGB (obj,x,y,radius,radius,r,g,b)

1.23 drawellipse_rgb

```
SYNOPSIS
   DrawEllipse_RGB(obj, x, y, rx, ry, r, g, b)
                    a0
                        d0 d1 d2 d3 d4 d5 d6
   void DrawEllipse_RGB(APTR, WORD, WORD, WORD, WORD, UBYTE, UBYTE, UBYTE);
FUNCTION
   Creates an elliptical outline within the rectangular region specified
           ObtainScreen()
            and
```

15/27

by the parameters.

INPUTS

```
obj - pointer to an object returned by
      initialized by
        BeginDraw()
                x,y - the coordinates of the centerpoint
rx - the horizontal radius of the ellipse (must be > 0)
ry - the vertical radius of the ellipse (must be > 0)
r,g,b - the color of the line, with:
            r = 8-bit red component
                                      (0..255)
            g = 8-bit green component (0..255)
            b = 8-bit blue component (0..255)
          example:
                       0, 0, 0 for black,
                     255,255,255 for white,
                     255,255, 0 for yellow...
```

1.24 drawpolygon_rgb

```
SYNOPSIS
```

DrawPolygon_RGB(obj, count, array, r, g, b) DO A1 D1 D2 D3 Α0

void DrawPolygon_RGB(APTR, UWORD, WORD *, UBYTE, UBYTE, UBYTE);

FUNCTION

Starting with the first pair in the array, draw connected lines to it and every successive pair.

INPUTS

```
obj
      - pointer to an object returned by
        ObtainScreen()
         and
        initialized by
        BeginDraw()
                count - number of (x, y) pairs in the array
array - pointer to first (x,y) pair of an array containing
        the coordinates of the vertex of the polygon
r,g,b - the color of the polygon, with:
            r = 8-bit red component
                                      (0..255)
            g = 8-bit green component (0..255)
            b = 8-bit blue component (0..255)
                      0, 0, 0 for black,
          example:
                     255,255,255 for white,
                     255,255, 0 for yellow...
```

1.25 fillcircle_rgb

SYNOPSIS

FillCircle_RGB(obj, x, y, radius, rgb0, rgb1); void FillCircle_RGB(APTR, WORD, WORD, WORD, LONG, LONG);

INPUTS

rgb1 - the outline color (in the same format of rgb0), or 'RGB_NONE'
for no outline.

NOTES

```
This function is a macro which calls
FillEllipse_RGB
(obj,x,y,radius,radius,rgb0,rgb1)
```

1.26 fillellipse_rgb

SYNOPSIS

```
FillEllipse_RGB(obj, x, y, rx, ry, rgb0, rgb1);
a0 d0 d1 d2 d3 d4 d5
```

void FillEllipse_RGB(APTR, WORD, WORD, WORD, WORD, LONG, LONG);

INPUTS

```
obj - pointer to an object returned by
        ObtainScreen()
         and
      initialized by
        BeginDraw()
                x,y - the coordinates of the centerpoint
rx - the horizontal radius of the ellipse (must be > 0)
ry - the vertical radius of the ellipse (must be > 0)
rgb0 - the color of the ellipse (a longword in the format: 0xRRGGBB).
       To calculate this value you can use the macro 'RGB(r,g,b)'
       (defined in 'RainbowSystem.h') where:
            r = 8-bit red component of the color (0..255)
            g = 8-bit green component (0..255)
            b = 8-bit blue component
                                     (0..255)
       or a predefined color (see Colors.h)
rgb1 - the outline color (in the same format of rgb0), or 'RGB_NONE'
       for no outline.
```

1.27 fillpolygon_rgb

SYNOPSIS

FillPolygon_RGB(obj, count, array, rgb0, rgb1) d0 a1 d1, a0 d2 void FillPolygon_RGB(APTR, UWORD, WORD * , LONG, LONG); INPUTS - pointer to an object returned by obj ObtainScreen() and initialized by BeginDraw() count - number of (x, y) pairs in the array array - pointer to first (x, y) pair of an array containing the coordinates of the vertex of the polygon - the color of the polygon (a longword in the format: 0xRRGGBB). rqb0 To calculate this value you can use the macro 'RGB(r,g,b)'(defined in 'RainbowSystem.h') where: r = 8-bit red component of the color (0..255) g = 8-bit green component (0..255) b = 8-bit blue component (0..255) or a predefined color (see Colors.h) rgb1 - the outline color (in the same format of rgb0), or 'RGB_NONE' for no outline.

1.28 fillrectangle_rgb

SYNOPSIS

FillRectangle_RGB(obj, x, y, width, height, rgb0, rgb1) a0 d0 d1 d2 d3 d4 d5

void FillRectangle_RGB(APTR, ULONG, ULONG, ULONG, ULONG, LONG , LONG);

INPUTS

```
obj - pointer to an object returned by

ObtainScreen()

and

initialized by

BeginDraw()

x,y - the coordinates of the upper left corner of the ↔

rectangle.

width,height - size of the rectangle
```

rgb0 - the color of the rectangle (a longword in the format: 0xRRGGBB).

To calculate this value you can use the macro 'RGB(r,g,b)' (defined in 'RainbowSystem.h') where: r = 8-bit red component of the color (0..255) g = 8-bit green component (0..255) b = 8-bit blue component (0..255) or a predefined color (see Colors.h) rgb1 - the outline color (in the same format of rgb0), or 'RGB_NONE' for no outline.

1.29 writepixel_rgb

SYNOPSIS

result=WritePixel_RGB(oby, x, y, r, g, b) a0 d0 d1 d2 d3 d4

LONG WritePixel_RGB(APTR, LONG, LONG, UBYTE, UBYTE, UBYTE);

INPUTS

RESULT

result = 0 if pixel successfully changed = -1 if (x,y) is outside the RastPort

1.30 writepixelline_rgb

SYNOPSIS

```
result=WritePixelLine_RGB(obj, xstart, ystart, width, array )
                               a0
                                   d0
                                           d1
                                                    d2
                                                           а1
    LONG WritePixelLine_RGB(APTR , ULONG , ULONG , ULONG , UBYTE * );
INPUTS
    obj - pointer to an object returned by
            ObtainScreen()
             and
           initialized by
            BeginDraw()
                    x,y - the coordinates of a point
    width - count of horizontal pixels to write (must be <= 4096 pixels)
    array - pointer to an array of RRGGBB triplets (3 bytes per pixel):
                                             RR, GG, BB, ....
               RR, GG, BB,
                             RR, GG, BB,
               first pixel,
                              second pixel, third pixel, etc. etc.
            where:
                RR = 8-bit red component of the pixel (0..255)
                GG = 8-bit green component (0..255)
                BB = 8-bit blue component (0..255)
RESULT
    result = the number of pixels plotted
NOTES
    'Array' should point to at least width*3 UBYTEs (in any case must be \, \leftrightarrow \,
       greater
```

than 16 UBYTEs).

Just another (little) note: this function destroys the content of 'array' $\,\leftrightarrow\,$:-)

1.31 writepixelarray_rgb

SYNOPSIS

result=WritePixelArray_RGB(obj, xstart, ystart, width, height array) a0 d0 d1 d2 d3 a1 LONG WritePixelArray_RGB(APTR, ULONG, ULONG, ULONG, ULONG, UBYTE *);

INPUTS

```
obj - pointer to an object returned by
            ObtainScreen()
             and
           initialized by
            BeginDraw()
                        - the coordinates of starting point
                    x,y
    width, height - size of the rectangle that should be transfered
                   ('width' must be <= 4096 pixels)
    array - pointer to an array of RRGGBB triplets (3 bytes per pixel) from
            which to fetch the pixel data. Something like:
               line_0: RR, GG, BB, RR, GG, BB,
                                                    RR, GG, BB, ....
                        first pixel, second pixel, third pixel, etc. etc.
               line_1: RR, GG, BB,
                                     RR, GG, BB,
                                                     RR, GG, BB, ....
                       first pixel, second pixel, third pixel, etc. etc.
                .
               etc. etc.
            where:
                line_0 = array
                line_1 = array + width*3
                  .
                  .
                line_n = array + n*width*3
                ('3' is simply the number of RGB components).
            and:
                RR = 8-bit red component of the pixel (0..255)
                GG = 8-bit green component (0..255)
                BB = 8-bit blue component (0..255)
RESULT
    result = the number of pixels plotted
NOTES
    'Array' should point to at least width*height*3 UBYTEs (in any case must \leftrightarrow
       be
    greater than 16 UBYTEs).
```

Just another (little) note: this function destroys the content of 'array' \leftrightarrow :-)

1.32 example

```
#include <exec/types.h>
#include <exec/memory.h>
#include <intuition/intuition.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <proto/dos.h>
#include <proto/exec.h>
#include <proto/graphics.h>
#include <proto/intuition.h>
#include <RainbowSystem.h>
struct RainbowSystemBase *RainbowSystemBase;
int main(void )
{
    APTR obj;
    LONG error_code;
    if (RainbowSystemBase=(struct RainbowSystemBase *)OpenLibrary("rainbow.library ↔
        ",1L)) {
        if (obj=
                ObtainScreen
                 (NULL, &error_code)) {
            const int width=256, height=256;
            struct Window *wnd;
            if (wnd=OpenWindowTags(NULL,WA_Left,
                                                          16,
                                          WA_Top,
                                                          16,
                                          WA_Title,
                                                          "Demo",
                                          WA_InnerWidth, width,
                                          WA_InnerHeight, height,
                                          WA_CustomScreen,
                GetScreen
                 (obj),
                                          WA_IDCMP,
                                                          IDCMP_CLOSEWINDOW,
                                          WA_Flags,
                                                          WFLG_CLOSEGADGET | \leftarrow
                                             WFLG DRAGBAR|WFLG DEPTHGADGET| ↔
                                             WFLG_SMART_REFRESH, TAG_DONE) ) {
                 /*
                 ** Communicate the dest RastPort to obj
                 */
                 if (
                BeginDraw
                 (obj,wnd->RPort)) {
                     const int offx=wnd->BorderLeft,
                               offy=wnd->BorderTop;
                     int i;
```

```
/*
    ** Clear Window
    */
FillRectangle_RGB
(obj, offx, offy, width, height, RGB_BLACK, RGB_NONE);
    /*
    ** Draw 50 random lines
    */
    for (i=0;i<50;i++)</pre>
    {
        UWORD x0=offx+rand()%width,
                                         // 0 .. width
              y0=offy+rand()%height,
                                         // 0 .. height
              x1=offx+rand()%width,
              y1=offy+rand()%height;
                                          // 0 .. 255
        UBYTE r=rand()&0xFF,
              g=rand()&0xFF,
              b=rand()&0xFF;
DrawLine_RGB
(obj,x0,y0,x1,y1,r,g,b);
    }
    /*
    ** Wait 3 secs and clear the window
    */
    Delay(150);
FillRectangle_RGB
(obj,offx,offy,width,height,RGB_BLACK,RGB_NONE);
    /*
    **
        Draw a red circle
    */
DrawCircle_RGB
(obj,width/2,height/2,width/2,0xFF,0,0);
    Delay(150);
FillRectangle_RGB
(obj,offx,offy,width,height,RGB_BLACK,RGB_NONE);
    /*
       Draw a filled blue circle, with a red outline
    * *
    */
```

```
FillCircle RGB
            (obj,width/2,height/2,width/2,RGB_BLUE,RGB_RED);
                Delay(150);
            FillRectangle_RGB
            (obj, offx, offy, width, height, RGB_BLACK, RGB_NONE);
                 /*
                 ** Draw 40 random triangles (without outline)
                 */
                for (i=0;i<40;i++)
                 {
                     UBYTE r=rand() & 0xFF,
                           g=rand()&0xFF,
                           b=rand()&0xFF;
                     WORD array[6];
                     array[0]=offx+rand()%width; array[1]=offy+rand()%height;
                     array[2]=offx+rand()%width; array[3]=offy+rand()%height;
                     array[4]=offx+rand()%width; array[5]=offy+rand()%height;
            FillPolygon_RGB
            (obj, 3, array, RGB(r, g, b), RGB_NONE);
                }
                /*
                 ** Stop drawing!
                 */
            EndDraw
            (obj);
                WaitPort (wnd->UserPort);
            }
            CloseWindow (wnd);
        }
            ReleaseScreen
            (obj);
    } else printf("Error code: %d\n",error_code);
    CloseLibrary((struct Library*)RainbowSystemBase);
}
return(OL);
```

1.33 policies

}

Using RainbowSystem in your own applications

The following text describes the rules and caveats if you want to use the RainbowSystem in one of your applications. Please read the complete document, following the rules are some paragraphs that try to give reasons why things are handled this way.

Since the rules are different for freely distributable and commercial applications, some definitions follow before we get started:

In this document, the term "freely distributable" refers to software which is either really for free (costs nothing) or which lets the user decide if he wants to pay. Some restrictions for not paying users (better: enhancements for paying users) are acceptable, but the software has to work even without paying. Freely distributable software is one of public domain (not copyrighted), freeware (copyrighted but for free) or shareware (copyrighted and requesting a rather low fee).

Every program that doesn't fit into the freely distributable group is considered commercial. If you are unsure about the type of your application, just ask.

Freely Distributable Software

Freely distributable software may use RainbowSystem for free, no special license agreements are needed. However, redistributing parts of RainbowSystem (libraries, drivers, preferences) together with your application is neither allowed nor necessary. Users of freely distributable applications are usually enough experienced to look out for the complete RainbowSystem package themselves. Not redistributing RainbowSystem helps eliminating network traffic and keeps down archive size. If you really feel that your application absolutely needs a RainbowSystem coming with it, just contact me. I am sure we will find a solution.

The copyright information contained in all programs using RainbowSystem and the accompanying documentation should state that this program uses RainbowSystem and that RainbowSystem was written by Andrea Latina.

Freely distributable software should also contain some basic information about RainbowSystem to help unexperienced users to find it and to make some little advertisement for my system. You can either directly use the supplied "RainbowSystem.redme" for this purpose or say something similiar with your own words. If you really dislike the advertisement, I won't mind if you remove the registration part from the readme file. But hey... you got this fantastic RainbowSystem for free so why not help me making some money? :-)

Commercial Software

Commercial Software

RainbowSystem within commercial software is not for free. Your company will have

to pay a licensing fee somewhere between US\$ 50.- for very small and US\$ 500.for very big applications. Usually, the price is calculated by multiplying the suggested retail price of your product with a factor of five, but this is only some kind of very rough example. Rather expensive applications with probably very few customers (e.g. "special purpose" software) will of course get other conditions. Also, if you plan to use RainbowSystem for more applications, multi application licenses are available. Just contact me and ask.

The license agreement will allow you to use the current and all following versions of RainbowSystem with the current and all following versions of your product. You will also get the rights to reproduce and redistribute some of the files from the RainbowSystem distribution, including the RainbowSystem library, the drivers and the RainbowManager program. Special commercial versions of this preferences program without shareware reminders are available on demand.

The copyright information contained in all programs using RainbowSystem and the accompanying documentation should state that this program uses RainbowSystem and that RainbowSystem is copyrighted by and reproduced under license from Andrea Latina.

Discussion

First of all, these policies are not some kind of quick hack. I considered lots of other possibilities and it took quite a long time for me to decide. Please read the following paragraphs carefully, I hope you will understand my reasons.

RainbowSystem shall be used in all kinds of applications, regardless whether they are distributed as Public Domain, Freeware, Giftware, Shareware, Commercial Ware or whatever else.

First of all, if something wants to become a standard on the Amiga, the public domain and freeware scene is the most important thing to consider. There is a really huge number of programmers that work just for fun, supplying all the little (and sometimes big) tools that make our lifes easier. These people do a really great job and surely will help keeping the Amiga alive for a long long time.

Of course I could have released RainbowSystem as a completely commercial product, sold for a somewhat high price. Some companies might have bought it to create some of their applications, but only very few public domain or shareware programmers would have been willing to pay such a considerable amount of money. And even if some of them would, RainbowSystem would never have the chance to become a real standard. Besides this fact, I don't think that it's a good idea to take money from people who spend their spare time in writing public domain applications. If an application is for free, the use of RainbowSystem has to be free too.

Since charging programmers is not what I wanted to do, the only way for me to get some money out of RainbowSystem is to have the users of applications pay for it. Well, in fact they are the ones who benefit from flexible and configurable programs, charging them seems quite reasonable. Luckily, there are a lot more users than programmers. This results in a very low price which seems to be even more cheap if you consider that a single registration allows configuration of all currently existing and all future RainbowSystem applications.

Furthermore, I do not force people to register. Most other shareware products allow some period of evaluation time after that one either has to register or to delete the program. This is not true for RainbowSystem. Registration is only necessary when some advanced configuration options are wanted.

Distribution policies for commercial applications are kind of different. If I see someone making real money with the aid of my work, it should be easily understandable that I also want to get a little piece of that cake. That's why the use of RainbowSystem is not for free in commercial programs.

My first ideas were to have some kind of percentage fee per sold application but this would become uncontrollable and too complicated to handle quite soon. So I decided to have a fixed license fee which's amount depends on the size of the product. Thus, small and relatively cheap programs with probably not too much financial profit will be able to get a cheap RainbowSystem license whereas big products will have to pay a bit more.

I understand that it's nearly impossible to sell a commercial product together with a RainbowSystem preferences program with some disabled options and shareware reminders. Therefore, commercial licensees may get a special stripped version of this tool which only contains the possible settings of an unregistered RainbowSystem but doesn't contain any reminders or other stuff unsuitable for commercial applications. I am also thinking of a system that allows commercial programs to come with full featured preferences, restricted only to the specific application.

I really hope that these policies will satisfy the requirements of both, freeware authors and commercial companies and of course also of application users. Currently, this seems to work quite well. Anyway, if you have some other ideas or suggestions how things could be handled better, feel free to tell me about them. I am always looking for new ideas. But please keep in mind my main destinations mentioned above since I won't give up any of them.

Andrea Latina