BenSpeaks

Ben Vost

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Chapter 1

BenSpeaks

1.1 Welcome to AFCD23

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                   AFCD23
February 98
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Doing a new CD survey was obviously a good idea. The previous one was getting
tired (who the hell is Bill Buck anyway?), so a fresh direction was needed.
The results so far have been interesting to say the least. It seems as though
it's about time we did a new reader survey in the magazine since most of you
seem to have upgraded your machines since we last spoke. Now that memory and
hard drive space is cheaper than air, the average amounts of each seem to
have shot up. I'd say that the average amount of RAM you guys has is now
hovering well above the 10Mb mark and some of you even have more hard drive
space than me!

One of the things I wanted was some sort of feedback on what you thought of
the CD. I'm pleased with the results so far. Most of you have given us a
glowing review with score up there near ten. Some who have sent in their
survey by email have had responses from me asking why they'd given us a low
score and I'm making sure that the CD changes and improves according with
people's wishes. Remember, if there's something you want on the CD, or you
think an aspect of it could be improved, I'd love to hear from you.

The last surprising thing that the survey has popped up has been that there
are quite a lot of you that don't use AFCDPrefs at all! Now, there are two
reasons why this may be the case:

a) the default settings are fine for you;
b) you're scared that using it will alter your machine and fill up your hard
   disk with files, etc.

If the reason you haven't used it has been that the default settings have
worked fine for you, then great. If not, don't worry about AFCDPrefs. The
only file it writes to your hard drive is ENVARC:afcd.prefs – a <1k file
that just makes sure that you are getting the best out of our CD.

Lastly, reader requests. Send your requests for CD items to me at the normal
address in the submissions advice file and we'll try to make sure they go on
the CD. Oh yes, and if anyone knows where we can get a copy of a file called
"KLoad" for one of our Mediterranean readers, do tell.

                    Ben
                    HEY!!!! READ THE SUBMISSION ADVICE! THEN YOUR STUFF MIGHT GET ON ↩
                        THE CD!!!

PS. OK, I thought you'd stopped sending us your modules, but still more than half
of your submissions are not getting onto the AFCD. If you don't know why yours
hasn't appeared then maybe you should check out the
                    submissions advice page
                    .

1.2   Thought for the month

Hints and tips for AFCDFind and AFCDPrefs

Since people seem to be confused about how to use these programs I thought
I'd give you some info to be going on with:

AFCDFind
========

1. Did you know that you can search any single CD that you like with
    AFCDFind? Simply double click on the index that interests you and
    AFCDFind will start, automatically targetted at the CD you've double
    clicked on.

2. If your CD-ROM drive is a bit slow, why not move AFCDFind to your
    hard drive? You could put it, and any indices you want to search,
    somewhere safe on your hard drive and be able to search it at any
    time. Check the tooltypes to make sure that you'll be using AFCDFind
    off your hard disk successfully.

AFCDPrefs
=========

1. Use it! Check that your settings are OK and hit save and you'll never
    be bothered by it ever again. If a new whizzy picture viewer comes
    out and you want to use it for all your images on our CD, just load
    it up and change the picture viewer from viewtek. The "?" button
    allows you to browse through a file requestor to find what you are
    looking for so you don't even have to remember your new tool's path.

2. If you want to really help us out, when you send your files to use,
    you can copy the tooltype from files that are already on the CD,
    unless, of course, your file is of a file type that none of the
    existing settings can cope with. If that's the case, let us know and
    we can always update AFCDPrefs!

3. If you have an internet connection, and you've got a full-on copy of
    iBrowse, Voyager or AWeb, why use the demos we put on our CD? They're
    always older than your own copy and they are always limited in some
    fashion. Just change the settings for HTML in AFCDPrefs to make sure
    they're pointing at your browser.

4. If you own a graphics card, there's no excuse. You don't want to view
   pictures with Viewtek where all you'll see is a HAM or HAM-8 version,
   you want full 24-bit glory. Change the picture viewer to Cyberview or
   Cyberwindow to get full-on performance.

5. Want to add CLI arguments to your viewer? Simple. Oliver Roberts'
   excellent AFCDPrefs will work out that extra entries on the line are
   arguments for your viewer commands and parse them accordingly.

These are both dead simple programs to use. Play around and you'll soon find
out how easy they make life. Now, everybody, put your hands together for the
man who made them possible... Oliver Roberts!!!

<SFX: Ecstatic cheers and riotous applause tailing off after about ten
minutes>

1.3 Submissions advice

                              HOW TO SEND US YOUR SUBMISSIONS
                   ===============================

IMPORTANT! We can't accept your music modules as submissions for the
Amiga Format CD owing to copyright problems with sound samples from
copyrighted sources. Please don't send any more...

We want you to send us your programs, animations, pictures, game tips and
cheats, hacks, hardware projects, basically anything you can think of that you
have done with your Amiga. It must be your own work – no passing off Chris
Achilleos' greatest masterpieces as your own, and we need a variety of things
from you in addition to your submission and we need them on your disk.

    1. We need your name and address so that we know where to send your prize.
   You should also put your name and address on labels on your media.

    2. We need two
              read me
               files accompanying your work; one for us and one
   to go on the CD itself (title them AF_ReadMe and ReadMe). These can be
   as in-depth as you want them to be, but should contain instructions for
   us on getting your work running if it is a complicated procedure,
   including things like necessary libraries and so on. The readme that
   will go on the CD will be the introduction of your work to the whole
   Amiga Format reading world so check your spelling and grammar and show
   people just what is so good about your work.

    3. If your work requires files such as libraries which you cannot send
   us owing to copyright reasons make sure we know about them so that we
   can either arrange to put them on the CD, or warn our readers about
   them (you will probably do this in your CD read me).

    4. Be aware that we won't be as interested in programs that need to
   boot or that require to be in a certain place on the CD, unless, of

course, that place happens to be in your directory on the CD. Your
directory will almost certainly have the path:
"AFCDxx:-ReaderStuff-/your_name/" but then no-one will be able to run your
program except from the CD, limiting its usefulness or appeal.

If we do put something on the CD that needs to autoboot, it will almost
certainly only be as a DMS that readers will have to extract to disk
before they can use it.

   5. Lastly, your submission must include the following text within your
AF_ReadMe file, otherwise your submission will not go on the CD:

In respect of all material which forms my reader contribution to Future
      Publishing's Amiga Format I hereby warrant that:-

(1) the material is original and does not infringe any other material
          or rights;

(2) the material does not contain any material which is defamatory,
          obscene or indecent and is exempt from classification under the Video
          Recordings Act 1984;

      (3) that there are no legal claims against the material
          provided;

(4) that I have full power and authority to provide this material to
          Future Publishing.

      (There is a version of this text as a file in the -Look_here_1st!-
       drawer on the CD.)

You can send us your work on pretty much any sort of media whether it be floppy
disks (high or double density, but don't send us work on high density disks
unless you yourself have a high density drive. High density disks used in a
double density drive aren't as reliable as using double density disks), a
floppy disk back up using AmiBack, Quarterback or any of the shareware backup
tools (we provide ABackup on the CD), Zip disk, Jaz cartridge, SyQuest 44MB,
88MB or EZ Drive, DAT tape backup from any of the above-mentioned
programs (the only thing we're not very keen on is the Video Backup System
that Power Computing sell in the UK, we've had nothing but trouble with it),
FTP upload to ftp2.futurenet.co.uk, (you'll only be able to put your
file in the incoming directory, you won't be able to see it once you have
finished uploading, but don't worry, it'll be there. Make sure that you name
your file with AF_ at the start so that we know it's for us) basically
anything apart from a listing on paper. We don't want to have to type in your
program too!

We will return any media more expensive than high density floppies via
registered post, so you won't have to worry about losing seventy quid's worth
of Jaz cartridge.

Send your submissions to:

  CD submissions

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Amiga Format
30 Monmouth Street,
Bath, BA1 2BW
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1.4   How to make a Read me file

If you are unsure about how to make a readme file it really is very simple.
If you have a word processor of some description (Wordworth, Final Writer or
the like) you can create one in that – you must just make sure that you save
the text as ASCII text; there will be an option in the Save As... requester
or program preferences.

If you don't have a word processor, but you have a text editor for a
programming language or for some other reason – we put Gold Ed on our CD
every time the authors release a new version, you can use that, in fact, it
would be ideal for the purpose.

If you don't have a third party text editor, you have two provided by
Commodore with your Amiga. In the tools drawer you should find MEmacs, but
just opening a shell window will get you to ed. To edit a new file in ed,
type the following line at the shell prompt:

ed ram:AF_Readme

This will create a new text file in RAM: called, yes, you guessed it,
AF_Readme. It won't have an icon, but don't worry about that, we can always
add one for you, just make sure you put it in with your submission.