

MCXPrefs

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> MCXPrefs		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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Chapter 1

MCXPrefs

1.1 Wow!

MultiCX Preferences Beta Toaster v1.0

Introduction

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Copyright © 1998 Micro Design

This program can make optional use of
the reqtools.library © 1991-1994 Nico
François, © 1995-1997 Magnus Holmgren

Included in the code of this program
is the complete executable binary of
the HandleCX CLI commodity handler ©
Matrin Berndt (freely distributable)

1.2 What? Why? When?

MultiCX is great isn't it? Except the only prefs program available for it is the Magic User Interface one, and MUI really stinks, doesn't it?

If you agree with both of those statements, then MultiCX Preferences is the program for you. It runs through MultiCX, from icon or from CLI, and has a standard gadtools interface plus internally drawn bgui style page gadgets. MCXPrefs also has standard Amiga prefs features such as a 'Use' option, and 'Edit' menu 'Restore' and 'Last Saved' options. Other features are context sensitive AmigaGuide help and comprehensive error handling code - and because there's no MUI it runs nice and smooth. :-)

1.3 Machine cutting it?

MultiCX Preferences must have:

```
OS 2.05+
An icon
MultiCX ;-)
about 512K free RAM
```

But could really make use of:

```
OS 3.0+
reqtools.library
MultiView in SYS:Utilities
or AmigaGuide v34.3+ in C:
as much RAM as possible
```

1.4 Easy as...

MCXPrefs can run perfectly well independently of MCX, if you have ↵
set
up your

ToolTypes
properly - and with the reqtools.library on your
system you don't even need to do that - but it can also be tied into
MCX by editing the ToolType EXTPREFS and entering the following args:

```
"EXTPREFS=Run >NIL: SYS:Prefs/MCXPrefs" ...or your own MCXPrefs path
```

Now when you ask a commodity handler such as the Exchange program to show MCX's interface, MCX will pop up MCXPrefs instead of the WB info requester. You can also configure MCX's CX_POPKEY ToolType and have MCXPrefs running from a hotkey. The ToolType should look as follows:

```
"CX_POPKEY=<Qualifiers> <keys>"
```

Qualifiers that can be used include LALT (left alt), RALT (right alt), CTRL, SHIFT, TAB, and basically any of the grey keys on your keyboard. You can use any key combination you want, only limited by how dexterous

you are, and just about all vanilla keys except cursors are acceptable.

1.5 Those pesky things

The ToolTypes setup for MCXPrefs is very important because the program ←
won't function properly if they are not correct, although MCXPrefs does
has comprehensive error handling to cover everything from bad ToolTypes
to missing fonts to natural disasters. ;-) The entries are shown below.
Any valid entry chosen from one of the requesters described below will
be saved to the corresponding ToolType so you won't have to fiddle with
them yourself.

```
MCX_LOCATION=<pathname>
PUBSCREEN=<screenmodeid>
GUIDE_LOCATION=<path> or NONE
PARTITIONS=<dark|light>
FORCE
REGISTERED=<code>
```

MCX_LOCATION: This is the full path and name of the version of MultiCX
you want to be read from and saved to. When nil or incorrect a reqtools
file requester will be brought up, so long as the reqtools.library is
available. Without reqtools an error will return.

PUBSCREEN: MCXPrefs can be opened on its own Pubscreen if desired, and
the feature is activated by unbracketing this ToolType. A screenmode id
value must be entered - a number, not a descriptor (hires laced) - but
if a nil or incorrect value is entered then a screenmode requester will
pop up, so long as reqtools.library is available, letting you choose a
mode by name. Without reqtools an error will return.

GUIDE_LOCATION: The help guides can be located anywhere you want, but
this ToolType must be set to point MCXPrefs in the correct direction.
The entry should be in the form of a path where the full guide set will
be sought, but a nil or incorrect value will make a directory requester
pop up, so long as reqtools.library is available. Without reqtools an
error will return. Entering GUIDE_LOCATION=NONE makes the on-line help
unavailable and prevents the program from seeking the path at startup.

PARTITIONS: The style of the vertical and horizontal indented lines
that partition the pages of MCXPrefs can be modified by altering the
dark and light values of this ToolType. MCXPrefs has the ability to
use greyscale slightly darker and lighter than the background grey
for the partitions instead of black and white, as it can clutter the
interface when using certain screenmodes, and on a laced screen stark
b&w horizontals destroy your eyes - the greys are much kinder to them.
Unfortunately, Workbench doesn't have a standard pair of greys in its
palette, so MCXPrefs has to alter the RGB of two other colours. To make
sure MCXPrefs doesn't pick something already used in a backdrop etc.
and muck up your Workbench, you get to choose the colour numbers of the
two colours you want it to alter. If you have two greys a lot like the
ones MCXPrefs wants to make (dark 131, 131, 131 & light 195, 195, 195)
you can choose them and the changes will be less apparent, or if you
use a big palette you can choose two colours that aren't in use at all.

Dark comes first, and the two values should be separated by a "|" char. The colours will be returned to their original values once MCXPrefs has been closed.

FORCE: The above function (PARTITIONS) will only set the colours it's given to the greys it wants if this ToolType is activated. Otherwise it will stick with the present RGB value of the colours it is told to use. This way you can have borders drawn in any colour combination you want.

REGISTERED: If you are planning to keep and use this program, then you should also be planning to

register

. This code will be sent to any good

persons who register and it will disable the awfully annoying requester that pops up when the prefs are called and closed.

1.6 When it dies on you...

Big killers:

If you are running with very low free memory then the redraw lag might well be horrible, and can only be solved by freeing up RAM or by buying more of it.

The 'Use' function makes a duplicate of MultiCX in T: and its presence determines the behaviour of certain program functions, so make sure you do NOT copy anything into T: with the name 'MCXPrefsTemp' at any time, or delete the file that will appear when the 'Use' function is invoked.

Nasty little bugs we might have made! We have no idea what they will or might be so you'll have to decide for yourself if it's our doing.

General illness:

Patches that act as GUI tweekers may do some damage, but MCXPrefs is as yet untested with such little critters, so

contact

us if one does.

We currently have a 17k memory leak every time MCXPrefs is run, which we can't pin down at the moment, but you'd have to run the prefs over and over about a hundred times for this to become a serious problem.

1.7 Got it covered

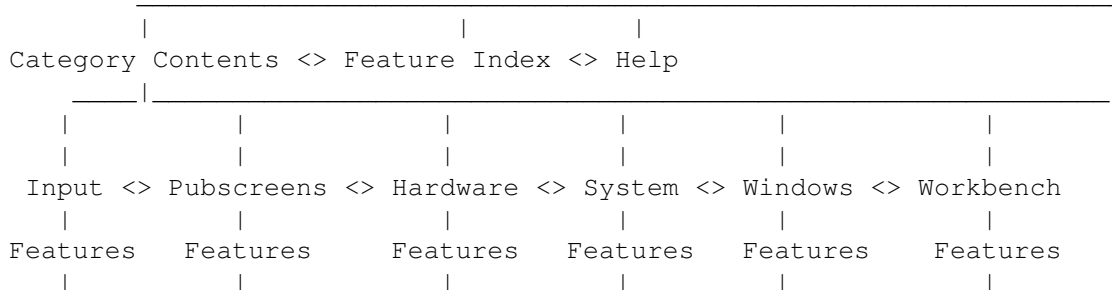
If you're using the prefs and you see a feature that means ←
absolutely

nothing to you, just pull down/pop up a menu and choose 'On-Line Help' or press the 'Help' key. The all singing all dancing context sensitive help guide will now open (if you've set up you're

ToolTypes

properly).

A category listing will appear for the category you are currently in - input, system, so on - and you can then choose the feature you want to know all about. The help guide is a bit complicated in terms of set up, but simplicity itself to use. It is hierarchically arranged as shown in the diagram below.



Calling the guide from within the prefs will always take you to one of the category listings, from where browsing will cycle through the other categories, and the contents button links to a contents of categories. When a feature link is chosen and a feature listing on screen, browsing cycles through the other listings pertaining to the current category, and the contents button links back to the category listing. The index button at all times links to a duplicate of the feature list that can be seen in Martin Berndt's MultiCX docs. It sounds complicated, but in practice it is easily picked up, and the structure prevents you getting lost in such a large amigaguide set.

The sections of the MultiCX guide present in the help guide described above have been reproduced with the kind permission of Martin Berndt.

1.8 All about us

Micro Design is a two-man coding team, and the alter-ego of part- ↔ time computer artist Daniel Pimley and part-time programmer Richard West, hoping to acquire a reputation for quality coding on the finest machine this earth has ever seen.

Please direct all praise, flames, bug reports, good ideas, (and so on) to the email address. You should also consult the Legalties section of the guide for more details concerning the Micro Design name.

1.9 It's the law!

The name 'Micro Design' is a collective alter-ego of Daniel Pimley and Richard West. All legal rights pertaining to the software referred to as 'MultiCX Preferences' and 'MCXPrefs' that have been attached to the name 'Micro Design' must also be attached to those persons. Thus:

MultiCX Preferences is Copyright © 1998 Daniel Pimley and Richard West

Both program and doc files may be freely distributed, so long as they are not altered in any way and all accompanying files remain with them. No more than a nominal fee to cover media and other miscellaneous costs may be charged for the distribution of this program. The software is supplied "as is" and comes with absolutely no warranty either expressed or implied.

1.10 Tell us some stuff

Business:

email: md@dream.u-net.com
http://www.business.u-net.com/~dream/md

Personal:

dan@dream.u-net.com
westy@dream.u-net.com

1.11 Pay up, bozos

MCXPrefs is Shareware and the registration fee is a mere £2 ↔
Sterling.

If you want to get rid of the annoying message that pops up when the prefs are called and closed then you'd better do it. You will be sent a reg' code to enter into the REGISTRATION

ToolType
to kill the message.

If you do not register, you may only keep the program for a maximum of 28 days. This is a legal contract entered into when using this program. Shareware and its authors keep your Amiga breathing, so pay the fee.

As well as cold hard cash and lovely cheques, the fee can be paid in one of the alternative methods listed below, which we happily accept.

liquor - we appreciate Bud and whisky in particular (yum!)
Blade Runner and Star Wars memorabilia and merchandise
Japanese Manga or related stuff (no internet downloads)
^ if you're in the know, "Gunsmith Cats" material wanted.

If you are not a UK resident then please DO NOT send us your foreign cheques, as we will have to pay extra to bank them, see above instead.

The two addresses to send any of these wonderful things to are listed below (Manga and Blade Runner stuff should be sent to Daniel Pimley). Persons registering from within the U.K may also send any of the above instead of money or cheques. In fact, send anything at all and we'll love you forever!

Daniel Pimley
3 Wyatts Lane
Walthamstow

Richard West
240 Hall Lane
Chingford

London
E17 3JD
England
U.K.

London
E4 8HY
England
U.K.

1.12 Kind souls wanted

As stated elsewhere, this is the beta version of the program, and ↔
as
such probably not the finished article. If you find a glitch or a bug,
or the program completely dies on you under certain conditions then you
should
contact
us and tell us about it. We'd appreciate any and all
help you care to give, and hopefully you'll get a better program out of
it. Suggestions for improvements and additions are also very welcome,
and we'll gladly accept offers from users wanting to become permanent
testers. Updates won't be all that frequent, and the commitment needed
will be minimal.

1.13 The Micro Design angel list...

Micro Design consider the following to be angels for all their help:

Martin Berndt - For his support, for allowing us to reproduce various
sections of his MultiCX docs in the MCXPrefs on-line
help, and of course for MultiCX, best commodity ever!

Carl Drougge - for replying to the GetRGB32() command query we posted
to the AmigaE mailing list, which let us make the FORCE
ToolType return altered colours to their original RGB.

West Family - For tolerating Daniel virtually living in their house on
every Friday night during the four months MCXPrefs took
to code, and every Friday since come to think of it. :-)