

0810b6a8-0

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

0810b6a8-0

1.1 Epic Interactive Encyclopedia

The Epic Interactive Encyclopedia

Disclaimer

- Read this first

Copyright

- Copyright & Trademark Information

Introduction

- Words from the Authors

Getting~Started

- What to do next

Network

- Running with Parnet/Sernet

Last~Minute

- Stuff that wouldn't fit into the manual

Creating~Subjects

- How to create your own entries

Credits

- Who created this wonderful product

Support

- Who to talk to when you get stuck

History

- Program History

1.2 Disclaimer

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1.3 Copyright Information

Copyright

Copyright Information

All text, images, sounds and animation files are freely distributable but are non re-distributable on any other media. You may use them in your own non-profit making projects.

The Epic Interactive Encyclopedia (TM) is Copyright ©1996 Epic Marketing/Plexus7 Media

The Epic Interactive Encyclopedia (TM) multimedia interface is Copyright ©1996 Plexus7 Media

Trademark Information

The Epic Interactive Encyclopedia (TM) is a trademark of Epic Marketing
Amiga (TM) is a registered trademark of Amiga Technologies
Workbench (TM) is a registered trademark of Amiga Technologies

All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

All rights reserved.

1.4 Introduction

Introduction

In 1985 the worlds first electronic encyclopedia was born, since then several such products have existed for the Amiga, however none of them have taken full advantage of the Amiga's wonderful audio-visual capabilities - up until now!

Since the Amiga CD-ROM boom (from 1993) Epic Marketing have been working on this revolutionary title, "The Epic Interactive Encyclopedia". For three years it has been kept under wraps in the Epic offices but now with the help of Plexus7 Media its ready for release.

You are now using one of the original copies of the first release of this amazing product. We hope that it will go on to become recognised as the product that sets future standards.

Hope you enjoy it,

Andy Savage (Programmer)

1.5 Running over a network

Running over a network

The encyclopedia will run over a simple parnet/sernet style network as long as the following steps are followed:

- 1: Run your network software on both machines as normal
- 2: Open a Shell Window on the host machine
- 3: Insert the encyclopedia CD into the remote CD-ROM drive.
- 4: Type NET:CD0 (Where net is the network devicename)
- 5: Type Assign Epic_Encyclopedia: ""
- 6: Type Endcli
- 7: Run the software as normal

NB: After installation the machine resets, so follow the above steps again before running the encyclopedia.

1.6 Getting Started

Getting Started

Installation

Once you have read this file all you need to do is double-click on the install icon. Just answer a few simple questions and away you go.

1.7 Last Minute Updates

Last Minute

This space is for all the last minute information which did not make it into the manual.

Keyboard~Shortcuts - Added too late to make the manual, just press Shift and HELP in the main encyclopedia screen for a picture of the keyboard controls.

1.8 Credits

Credits

The following people have all contributed to the making of this product:

Vince Pike - Concept, Production & Graphics
Andy Savage - Programming

John Pasternak - Voice Overs, Video Assistance

Paul Moss - 3D Animations
Glenn Butler - Additional 3D

Russell Webb - Music
Micheal West - Additional Music Tracks

John Downey - Sound Samples

Nathan Ludkin - Image Assistance

Russell Webb - Research
Nigel Bennett - Research
Marcus Dew - Additional Research

Jack Smith - Product Testing

Plus all the
people
who have contributed subjects

1.9 Support

Support

Technical Support

If you have a problem or query concerning this product or its support programs which isn't covered in the manual you can get a little human help from these places:

The Amiga Technical Centre - 1500-1730 Weekdays
UK: 01793 514187 Abroad: Intl +44 (0)1793 514187
E-Mail: tech@epma.demon.co.uk

Andy Savage (The Author)
E-Mail: andy@epma.demon.co.uk

Subject Support

This product is upgradable! New subjects can be added at any time. Currently you can get subjects via the internet (free of charge) or directly from us (for reasonable media costs).

Internet: FTP to ftp.globalnet.co.uk/epic/

This is provided as a free service, however it does cost us time and money to maintain. All we ask is that you do not abuse the service and that for every ten subjects you take you upload a new one of your own (subjects are easily created with PD Creator program on this CD).

By Post:

A current list of subjects is updated every week. You simply select the subjects you wish, we tell you how many disks they will fit on then we charge you £2.99 per disk. The average is about 15-20 subjects per disk. 50p p&p is charged per order.

To order call:

Tel: UK: 01793 490988 Abroad: Intl +44 (0)1793 490988
Fax: UK: 01793 514187 Abroad: Intl +44 (0)1793 514187

Epic Encyclopedia
138-139 Victoria Rd.
Swindon
SN3-2LB
UK

1.10 People

Subject Creators

Many thanks to these people who have worked hard to produce all of the subjects.

John Denver
Nathan Ludkin
John Pasternak
Malcolm Pett
Karen Pike
Vanessa Pike
Vince Pike
Andrew Savage
Russell Webb

Aaron Ramsay
Amanda Gibbon
Simon Wiseman
Andrew Longhorn
Julian Love
Simone Bennett
Samantha Good
Mervin Dykes
Shaun Jay
Darren Wells
Robert Small
Simon Ferrara
Andrew Row
Scott Southall
Stuart Dicker
George Sweeney
David Crookes
James Bloor

Dr. Aidan M. O'Donnell
William Smith
Graham Hamilton

1.11 Program History

Program History

1.0.0 - Initial Release.

1.12 Creating your own entries

Creating your own entries

It's very easy to add new subjects to the encyclopedia. You can create them yourself or get them from us either via the Internet or on floppy disk. Each month we give away a voucher worth £20 to the best subject submitted.

Using~the~Creator

Adding~them~to~the~encyclopedia

Where~to~send~them

This offer runs until further notice.

1.13 The Creator

Using the Creator

Supplied is an early version of a subject creator type program. It is quite basic but is functional even if a tad bug-ridden.

This version is only a beta-. It will continue to evolve and grow. Data checking facilities will be added and bugs will be squashed until it is perfect! Should you wish to offer comments and suggestions please send them to me at:
andy@epma.demon.co.uk

The Creator is split into five sections:

Main~Screen

Infotext

Sample

Pictures

Anim
Here are the required
file-specifications
.

1.14 Adding entries to the Encyclopedia

Adding Subjects

Subjects are available from our FTP site on the internet, or directly from us on floppy disk. Alternatively you can create your own using the Creator program!

Either way you obtain new subjects they are very easy to add to the encyclopedia.

All subjects are stored as '.epic' files, so a subject titled 'frogspawn' will be on disk as 'frogspawn.epic'. The Setup program will recognise '.epi' files as well.

To add new subjects:

1. Run the 'Setup' Program by double-clicking on its icon.
2. Click once on the 'Install new Subjects' button.
3. Select the subjects you wish to add by double-clicking on them.
4. Repeat steps 2-3 until you have added all of the new subjects.
5. Click once on the 'Update Subject Index' button.

You can now see the subjects in the encyclopedia!

1.15 Where to send them

New Subjects

We want to see your subjects! If everyone has a go at creating new subjects then there will be a wealth of new subjects for everybody.

All the subjects should be made freely available, packs of subjects will become available on floppy disk for a minimal copying charge. Or you can download them from our FTP site on the internet free of charge.

Each month we will give a £20 CD voucher to the best

subject we receive.

So where do I send them?

By post

On floppy disk to:

Subject Submissions
Epic Marketing
138-139 Victoria Road
Swindon
SN1 3BU

On the Internet

FTP them to:

ftp.globalnet.co.uk/epic/incoming

Or by Email to:

subjects@epma.demon.co.uk

1.16 The Main Screen

The Main Screen

There are eight main features on this screen:

- New
 - Asks for a name and then creates this subject. Do NOT use spaces in your subject names. If you need to give the appearance of a space use the underscore character "_".
 - Current Subject
 - Shows the title of the current subject
 - Export Subject
 - Packs and saves the current subject to the "EpicData:TempSubjects/" directory ready for import by the setup program.
 - Quit
 - Quits The Creator
 - Infotext
 - Takes you to the text creator Screen
 - Sample
 - Takes you to the Sample Selector
 - Pictures
 - Takes you to the Picture Selector
-

Animbrush

- Takes you to the Animbrush Selector

1.17 Infotext

The Infotext Screen

Main Infotext - You can type straight into this box the text for your entry, the text should be completely visible in the window.

Keywords - Type your desired keywords into this box, they should be in CAPITAL letters, listed one after the other each on its own line. Do NOT use spaces in your subject names if you need to give the appearance of spaces use the underscore character, "_".

Import - Presents you with a file requester which allows you to choose a text file to import into the main Infotext window.

Clear - Clears both the Infotext and Keywords windows.

Help - Displays a help picture.

OK! - Checks your entries and takes you back to the main screen.

Use External Editor - Jumps to the selected editor so you may edit your current text, currently only ED is supported.

1.18 Sample

Sound file

Import Sample - Brings up a file requester so you can choose a sample to load.

Test - Plays the current sample.

Use External Editor - Not currently implemented.

Clear - Removes the current sample from memory.

Help! - Shows a help picture.

OK! - Checks your sample and takes you back to the main menu.

1.19 Pictures

Pictures

Total Number of Pictures - Use the left and right arrows to increase or decrease the number in the middle. This is the total amount of pictures for the given subject. This version only supports upto eight images.

Use External Editor - Not currently implemented.

Picture Brush - Shows the current picture. Click on it for the large version, if available.

Current image - Use the left and right arrows to cycle through the pictures that are available.

Import / Standard - Use the file-requester to select a picture for the current image number.

Import / Large - Select the large image for the current image number.

Clear - Sets the total number of pictures to one and removes all pictures and large pictures.

Help! - Shows a help picture for this screen.

OK! - Checks your pictures and jumps back to the main screen.

1.20 Anim

Animbrush

Use External Editor - Not currently implemented.

Import Sample - Select a sample to import as the current animbrush sample.

Test - Play the current animbrush sample.

Animbrush - plays the currently loaded animbrush.

Import Animbrush - Use the file-requester to select an animbrush to load, it must be 160x120 and in 16 greyscales.

Use External Editor - Not currently implemented.

Speed - Use the left and right arrows to change the number, the lower the number the faster it plays.

Loops - Use the left and right arrows to change the number of loops, usse 0 for infinite loops.

Test - Plays the current animbrush and animbrush sample together.

Clear - Removes both the animbrush and animbrush sample from memory.

Help! - Shows this screens help page.

OK! - Checks your files and returns you to the main menu.

1.21 File Specifications

File Specifications

Text - ASCII text, 45 characters wide. Keywords must be listed in capital letters.

Sample - IFF (or even WAV) 8 or 16 bit.

Picture - IFF lowres picture, 320x240 in 16 colours.

Large Picture - Any IFF resolution and depth supported.

Animbrush - 160x120, 16 colour IFF animbrush, must be less than 300k in size.

Templates and examples are supplied for most of the above in the templates directory of the CD.
