

fax

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> fax	
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>
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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

fax

1.1 fax.guide

El Cheapo Fax?

This file documents El Cheapo Fax V24.10.93.

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The primary documentation form is the AmigaGuide file. The other available documents, derived from the same source file, may therefore look a bit odd in some places.

Synopsis

Commands and their arguments

Overview

What is in the package?

Requirements

What else do you need?

Limitations

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1.2 fax.guide/Synopsis

Synopsis

Usage:

```
all2fax.rexx
  [-o output file] [-r (raw)] [-a (append)]
  [-x/y x/y-offset (50)] [-v] [-i (invert)]
  [-f name.font] [-s fontsize] script-files
```

Usage:

```
iff2fax
  [-o fax-file (ilbm.g3)] [-r (raw)] [-a (append)]
  [-sN skip N BODYs]
  [-x/y x/y-offset (50)] [-v] [-i (invert)] iff-files
```

Usage:

```
asc2fax
  [-o fax-file (ascii.g3)] [-r raw faxfile] [-a (append)]
  [-x/y x/y-offset (50)] [-v] [-i (invert)]
  [-f name.font] [-s fontsize] ascii-files
```

Usage:

```
append
  [-o fax-file] fax-files
```

Usage:

```
fax2iff
  [-o iff-file (fax.iff)] [-v] [-i (invert)] [-l]
  [-b0/1 (bitorder)] fax-files
```

Usage:

```
faxsend
  [-f faxdevice] [-l loglevel] [-v] [-b bitorder] phone
  [files..]
```

Usage:

```
faxrecv
  [-d queuedir/] [-f faxdevice] [-l loglevel] [-v] [-i]
  [-b bitorder]
```

1.3 fax.guide/Overview

Overview

El Cheapo Fax is a very cheap and simple package to send and receive

faxes using your Amiga and a suitable (Class 2) Fax modem. It is not particularly user-friendly, nor is it blazingly fast. It just does everything I need. In fact, as you and I don't need facsimile at all, it does a lot more.

The basic way of using El Cheapo Fax is that you first create a fax data file from text or IFF ILBM source files, and later send this file to the receiving fax. Each fax page will be in a separate file.

In the other direction, you receive a fax file first, and afterwards you can convert it to a viewable IFF ILBM file.

The necessary software has partly been scraped together from various sources. See the section on copyright for full details. All original code is (C) Copyright 1993 by Olaf Seibert, and All Rights are Reserved. The GNU General Public License applies to this software. The text of the GPL can be found in the file 'COPYING'.

1.4 fax.guide/Requirements

Requirements

Besides El Cheapo Fax, you need

- A Class 2/group 3 fax modem.
- A 7 to 10 wire cable that connects TXD (2), RXD (3), RTS (4), CTS (5), DSR (6), GND (7) and DTR (20) and optionally Shield GND (1), DCD (8) and RI (22).
- Large fonts. Suggested are 30+ high pixels for fixed-width fonts, 50+ for proportional fonts.
- An IFF ILBM file viewer.

1.5 fax.guide/Limitations

Limitations

Bit order problems

=====

For conversion of bit-oriented codes to byte-oriented files, there are two obvious ways of packing the bits in bytes: succeeding bits can be packed from right to left (least significant bit to most significant bit, or bit 0 to bit 7), or left to right (msb to lsb, bit 7 to 0). The first method is called "direct" by the ITU (the former CCITT), the other is called "reversed".

Most programs however like the bits in reversed order, because that is better readable if you print the bytes as binary or even as hex.

ElCheapoFax creates its fax files in reversed bitorder, and faxsend expects them that way. This means that if you have a fax file that you can only view with '-b0' (direct bit order) that you cannot re-send it; you must convert it to IFF and back again, thereby correcting the bit order.

Note that the bit order options for 'faxsend' and 'faxrecv' do not pertain to the bit order in the fax file but only to the bit order between the computer and the modem. It informs the modem beforehand, using the '+FBOR=' command. This implies that 'faxsend' must reverse the bits if it uses direct bit order, and refrain from doing that when using reversed bit order. Because of the +FBOR command, this does not mean that you can send fax files with the wrong bit order!

We don't need no steenkin' parameters...

=====

Currently, no parameters can be chosen. Everything is fixed as 1728 pixels wide (in 215 mm), vertical resolution is fine (7.7 lines/mm), compression is 1-D Huffmann, no error correction mode, no binary file transfer. This, however, is purely a software matter, and thus fixable.

RTS/CTS required.

=====

Currently, 'faxsend' relies on RTS/CTS handshaking between the modem and the computer. It seems that this is not standard, but is at least supported by the Supra V32bis FAX modem, ROM version 1.200H. This is harder to remedy, as Commodore's serial.device can only do XON/XOFF in both inward and outward direction at the same time, or not at all. The fax protocol however officially requires that you use no flow control in one direction (the computer to modem if sending, modem to computer if receiving), and XON/XOFF in the other.

1.6 fax.guide/Usage

Usage

Creating

How to create a fax file

Viewing

How to view a fax file

Sending

How to send a fax file

Receiving
How to receive a fax file

1.7 fax.guide/Creating

Creating Fax Files

=====

It is probably easiest to start at the Rexx script that glues together the functionality of the other programs.

Basically you write a text file interspersed with simple formatting parameter sets. Every block of text between parameters is processed to fax data. No text-fitting is currently done; you must make sure yourself that everything fits on the paper. You must have specific provisions for directing output for each page to a separate fax file.

```
all2fax.rexx
  The "master" program that calls the others

iff2fax
  Converts IFF FORM files

asc2fax
  Converts Ascii files

append
  Use pre-existing fax files

FaxPrinter
  A preferences-selectable printer driver

alternatives
  Alternatives to using this set of programs
```

Several options apply to more than one of the subprograms. It is therefore best to discuss them now. Generally, all options must be given before the input files.

```
'-o FAX-FILE'
  You must always select an output file.
```

```
'-a'
  Append to output file, instead of overwriting it. Set by
  'all2fax.rexx' for all fileparts but the first.
```

```
'-x X-OFFSET'
```

```
'-y Y-OFFSET'
```

Normally, all fax data is offset by 50 pixels both horizontally and vertically. The x offset is needed to prevent any data to fall off the left edge of the paper.

The y offset is only needed for the first part of a fax page, if at all. Therefore, 'all2fax.rexx' resets the '-y' option to 0 for every part after the first.

'-v'

Verbose. Some subprograms act on this, some don't.

'-i'

Invert pixels before conversion. Probably only useful for converting ILBM images.

'-r'

Raw. Don't append an end-of-page marker to the output. This option is set initially, but reset for the very last part (this is detected by the end of file condition when reading its text).

1.8 fax.guide/all2fax.rexx

all2fax.rexx

The commands supported by all2fax are:

'args ARGS'

Process the preceding file part by running it through 'asc2iff', and set the given arguments (in addition to those given earlier) for the next part. Most options will be left untouched and remain in effect for succeeding parts (exceptions are '-a', '-r', '-y'). Binary options (switches) can be reset with a double dash (as in '--a').

'doit ARGS'

Set the given arguments, just as 'args' would, and process the preceding file part with 'asc2iff'.

'iff ARGS'

Process the given arguments, and run 'iff2fax' with the relevant parameters.

'raw ARGS'

Run append with the relevant parameters plus those given here. Note that these are not processed in the usual fashion - these arguments are purely one-shot.

'Append' is used to append a previously created (raw) fax file to the output. This is useful for including output of 'FaxPrinter'.

'rexx CMD'

Execute the given rexx command.

'shell CMD'

Execute the given shell command.

1.9 fax.guide/asc2fax

asc2fax

`'-f ANY.FONT'`

`'-s SIZE'`

Select the font and size to be used. Remember that because of the resolution of a fax, you need quite large fonts. Suggested minimum sizes are 30+ pixels for fixed-width fonts, 50+ for proportional fonts. These will allow approximately 80 characters of text per line.

1.10 fax.guide/iff2fax

iff2fax

Iff2fax is for including ILBMs verbatim (or inverted). No scaling of any kind is done. To get scaled (and possibly dithered) pictures of appropriate size it is probably best to use the 'FaxPrinter'.

This program would actually be more accurately named 'ilbm2fax', but perhaps more general iff support will be provided in the future (though I doubt it). But in any case, 'iff2fax' delves into complex IFF files and converts all FORM ILBMs that it finds, each on a separate page, respecting the '-x/-y' offsets.

Because 'faxsend' doesn't support multiple-page fax files yet, you *must* use '-r' to suppress the page terminators in the case of IFFs with multiple ILBMs. This simply glues all pages underneath each other.

1.11 fax.guide/append

append

Append is used to catenate some existing fax file to your output, for instance as created by

FaxPrinter

.

1.12 fax.guide/FaxPrinter

FaxPrinter

This is not a stand-alone program, but is a standard Preferences printer driver instead. This enables you to create fax graphics from your favourite graphics or printing program (for example, DeluxePaint, ADPro, Post, Ghostscript). Colour graphics can be dithered this way, but please note that the fax data "compression" algorithm behaves very badly on dithered graphics (a single white or black pixel is encoded in a 6 or 3 bit sequence, respectively). You are advised to use black & white graphics whenever possible, unless you don't mind an enormous phone bill.

'FaxPrinter' is the only part of El Cheapo Fax that can generate low-density (i.e. non-fine) fax data. Therefore you should select a printer density of 4 or higher.

The '-r' (raw) switch is implemented by the "SPECIAL_NOFORMFEED" printer flag. Your printing program should enable you to set this, usually with an option like "no formfeed" or "don't eject paper".

Support for text output is completely absent from 'FaxPrinter'. You can use a wordprocessor that prints text as graphics, or 'asc2fax'.

When running on 2.0+, 'FaxPrinter' uses an ASL file requester to get the name of the file to write in. When ASL is not available, the filename used will be 'FAX:faxrastportdump'.

1.13 fax.guide/alternatives

Alternative ways of generating fax files

Of course, if you have any other way to generate group 3 fax files, you can use that as well. For instance, Ghostscript has a g3 printer driver. Other programs may have something similar.

1.14 fax.guide/Viewing

Viewing Fax Files

=====

You can view a fax file by converting it to an IFF ILBM file (using 'fax2iff') and viewing it with your favourite picture viewer. It is recommended that it is capable of displaying very large pictures, and that you select a high resolution display mode (at least hires interlace). Mostra performs great for this.

'Fax2iff' can optionally invert the fax for you ('-i'), if your viewer program uses black as background and white as foreground color.

'-o' must be specified to name the output file.

Normally, the output file is an IFF CAT file when there are multiple input files, and a plain IFF ILBM file when there is only one input file. A CAT file is just a concatenation of several other IFF files, but many programs can't handle them, stupidly enough. To invert the default output file type, specify '-1'. When a non-CAT output file is forced, only the first input file will be converted, and the others ignored. To always force a non-CAT file, even with unknown arguments (as in a script) you can add NIL: as an extra input file, i.e. 'fax2iff -o test.iff -1 <files> NIL:'.

A PAL hires/interlace display mode has approximately the same aspect ratio as a fine mode fax. My monitor displays approximately 2.4 pixels/mm horizontally and 2.66 pixels/mm vertically, while a fine fax is 8 pixels/mm horizontally and 7.7 pixels/mm vertically. A fax will thus appear a bit too wide. An NTSC mode would be 2.4/2.01 and make the fax a bit too tall. In both cases, the fax will be over 3 times enlarged on screen.

'fax2iff' will add a CAMG chunk indicating HIRES and INTERLACE, and a colormap in which color 0 is white and color 1 is black.

For some reason, the bit order in files received from some faxes is not the order that is "correct". This happens at least with my modem (Supra V32bis, revision 1.200H). Therefore, 'fax2iff' attempts to determine the bit order in the present file, by attempting to decode the first 10 lines using both bit orders. The one that produces the least errors is used. Sometimes this could be the wrong choice; in that case you have to give a '-b0' (direct bit order) or '-b1' (reversed bit order) option.

1.15 fax.guide/Sending

Sending Fax Files

=====

You send a prepared series of fax files with 'faxsend'. The parameters are simply the phone number to be called and the names of the files to send. Remember, only one page per file.

The phone number is given as a Hayes modem style dial string. It is simply appended to an 'ATDT' command. Valid dial characters are (depending on your modem):

0-9

Numeric Digits

* # A-D

Auxiliary Digits

T
Tone Dialing

P
Pulse Dialing

,

Pause for (S8) seconds, default is 2 seconds

/

Pause 1/8 second in dialing sequence

W
Wait for second Dial Tone

The `-l` option allows you to select the verbosity of progress reporting. Values are from 1 to 8, 8 being most verbose. Default logging level is 5, which reports warnings and all more serious messages.

Specifying a level in the range 11-18 has the same effect as a level of 10 lower but also logs the resulting messages in the file "faxlog".

The serial device to be used for the faxmodem can be specified with `-f unit/nameof.device`. Default is `-f 0/serial.device`. Both parts of the string can be omitted.

Normally, the bits are sent to the modem in "direct" order (bitorder code 0). Some faxmodems however seem to work better if the data is sent in "reversed" order (bitorder code 1). Theoretically this should not make any difference at all, but in practice it seems that it does. Don't you love this fax "standard"?

If you send a fax and you receive an hangup error code of 54 (the log file shows +FHNG: 54), or the the first page is sent a few times and then `faxsend` gives up, then you should try the option `-b1`. The default is `-b0`. Technically, this is the value for the `+FBOR=` command (1).

----- Footnotes -----

(1) Only use 0 or 1; 2 and 3 are not supported.

1.16 fax.guide/Receiving

Receiving Faxes

=====

To receive faxes, you should start `faxrecv`. When it detects any input from the modem (presumably a `RING` message) it will attempt to answer the call in fax mode. There is no need (and in fact, you should not) set your modem to autoanswer mode.

Incoming faxes are written into subdirectories of a spool directory

(`-d' option), with each page in a separate file, plus a LOG file containing session information. The given directory must end in a `:' or `/' . The default incoming directory is `FAX:incoming/' .

To immediately answer the phone (if it is already ringing) specify the `-i' option. In this case, `faxrecv' answers the phone immediately after initialisation.

If you insist on auto-answer, and have some front-door program that can detect fax calls, double the `-i' option. In this case, the modem is not initialised, the phone not answered (because it already has been), and fax commands are issued immediately. This is experimental.

For information, this would work with some faxes as follows: Give the commands `AT +FCLASS=0 +FAA=1 S0=(1-255)' . The fax will then eventually reply with `FAX' or `CONNECT speed' .

`faxrecv' can be given a phone number as argument. It will poll that number for a fax, then exit. *This does not currently work, at least with the Supra modem.*

The `-b' option is also implemented in `faxrecv' . Perhaps you may need it.

1.17 fax.guide/Copyrights

Copyrights

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For tofax.c (derived from Ghostscript 2.2's file gdevdfax.c):

```
/*
 * Copyright 1992 DigiBoard, Inc. All rights reserved
 *
```

```
-l (toggle CAT ILBM)
    Viewing

-a (append)
    Creating

-b (bit order between computer and modem)
    Sending

-b (bitorder in the fax file)
    Viewing

-d (directory)
    Receiving

-f (fax device)
    Sending

-f (font name)
    asc2fax

-i (immediate answer)
    Receiving

-i (invert)
    Creating

-l (logging level)
    Sending

-o (output)
    Creating

-r (raw)
    Creating

-s (font size)
    asc2fax

-v (verbose)
    Creating

-x (offset)
    Creating

-y (offset)
    Creating

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.doit
    all2fax.rexx

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    all2fax.rexx
```

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asc2fax	asc2fax
fax2iff	Viewing
FaxPrinter	FaxPrinter
faxrecv	Receiving
faxsend	Sending
iff2fax	iff2fax