

**OO**

Janne Siren

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**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> 00		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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**REVISION HISTORY**

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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# Chapter 1

## 00

### 1.1 Offline Orbit Documentation - Table of Contents

Offline Orbit - Release 0.75a (July 6, 1995)

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## 1.2 Offline Orbit Documentation - [1] Politics

### [1.1] Disclaimer

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## 1.3 Offline Orbit Documentation - [1] Politics

### [1.2] License Agreement

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ReqTools and reqtools.library are copyright © 1991-1994 by Nico François.

## 1.4 Offline Orbit Documentation - [2] Introduction

### [2.1] Offline Orbit

Before offline reading was invented, you could only transfer files and read messages in a BBS online, ie. a modem connection was required for the duration of the entire process. Offline reading doesn't make transferring files any different, but reading and writing messages will get easier. You can download new messages in a compressed form and then read them offline using a message reader, thus leaving your phone free for other use and saving in phone bills. Replies can be written using your favourite text editor and then uploaded to the BBS during your next call.

---

Offline Orbit is a freeware multi-format offline message reader for the Amiga. It currently supports the message formats listed below. This manual only explains how to use Offline Orbit, beginners should ask their sysops for more information about downloading and uploading message bundles.

Format	Designer	Version
OMEN	Olli Majander	Revision H
QWK	Mark Herring	(n/a)
SOUP	Rhys Weatherley	Version 1.2
WWF	Veli-Matti Lintu	V1

## 1.5 Offline Orbit Documentation - [2] Introduction

### [2.2] System Requirements

Offline Orbit requires an Amiga computer with AmigaOS version 2.04 or higher. It will also take advantage of reqtools.library and AmigaOS 3.0 if they are available. Users running systems equipped with a 68020 or better processor can use the optimized version (OO\_020).

Memory requirements depend on the size of the message bundle. Each message takes approximately 350 bytes of memory for header information when the bundle is opened and more for the message body when the text is displayed. The program itself needs a couple of hundred kilobytes of memory, so 1 MB should suffice for reading most medium sized message bundles.

## 1.6 Offline Orbit Documentation - [3] Getting Started

### [3.1] First Steps

You can start Offline Orbit either from the Workbench or shell. When you have the program up and running for the first time, press the right mouse button and select Directory in the Prefs menu. A window will appear with several string gadgets. Enter the required information and move to the next menu item, until you have reached the end of the menu. Then save the configuration by selecting Save Prefs.

If everything is set-up correctly, you can now open a message bundle and start reading messages. Simply press the Open gadget and a file requester appears allowing you to select a bundle to be opened.

Example configuration files are included for beginners. To use them, copy OO.config and OO.packers to your boot disk's S directory. If you have no configuration files in the S directory, Offline Orbit will use it's few built-in defaults.

## 1.7 Offline Orbit Documentation - [3] Getting Started

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### [3.2] User Interface

Offline Orbit follows standard Amiga guidelines, with full support for both keyboard and mouse. Underscored characters in gadget titles mark the equivalent on keyboard, pull-down menus show keyboard equivalents next to the command. Listview gadgets can be controlled using the arrow keys.

Most of the windows can be closed by pressing Escape. ReqTools requesters accept it as the keyboard equivalent for the rightmost gadget. Return will pick the highlighted gadget.

If you don't have reqtools.library installed (why not?), Offline Orbit will replace ReqTools requesters with system requesters. System requesters have only limited keyboard support: Left-Amiga-V will select the leftmost and Left-Amiga-B will select the rightmost gadget. Other gadgets must be selected using the mouse.

## 1.8 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

### [4.1] Control Panel

Open

Pack

Area

Write

Reply

Edit

List

Quit

## 1.9 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Area: An area selector appears allowing you to change the current area.

## 1.10 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Write: Allows you to write a new message.

---

## 1.11 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Reply`: Allows you to reply to the current message.

## 1.12 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Edit`: Allows you to edit the current message. This will only work in the replies area. You can edit the message text and header. Editing and reading replies isn't possible after packing them.

## 1.13 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`List`: A message selector appears allowing you to browse through the message headers and change the current message.

## 1.14 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

[4.2] Project Menu

Open Bundle

Close Bundle

Pack Replies

New Session

Iconify

Shell

Puzzle

Help

About

Quit

## 1.15 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Open`: A file requester appears allowing you to select a message bundle to be opened. If you already have a bundle open, it will be closed first.

---

## 1.16 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Close`: Closes the currently open message bundle.

## 1.17 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Pack`: Packs your replies. All of the replies and new messages you have written will be compressed and moved to the Uploads directory.

## 1.18 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`New Session`: Starts another Offline Orbit.

## 1.19 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Iconify`: Iconifies Offline Orbit.

## 1.20 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Shell`: Opens a shell window on the Offline Orbit screen.

## 1.21 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Puzzle`: Opens the built-in puzzle game.

## 1.22 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Help`: Displays the online documentation using AmigaGuide. For this to work, you must have `amigaguide.library` in `Libs:` and `OO.guide` in the current directory (or in `Help:English`).

## 1.23 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`About`: Displays copyright and version information.

## 1.24 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Quit`: Exits Offline Orbit.

---

## 1.25 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

[4.3] Messages Menu

Mark Message

Jump to Marked

Jump to Message

Search

Repeat Search

Save Message

Pointers

Mark Area

Skip Thread

Add to User List

Next Area

Previous Area

## 1.26 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Mark Message: Marks the current message, so you can jump back to it later.

## 1.27 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Jump to Marked: Jumps to the marked message.

## 1.28 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Jump to Message: Allows you to enter a message number to jump to.

## 1.29 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Search: Searches for a string (entered in the Locate gadget) from the header and the body of messages (starting from the message following the one you are currently reading) until the string is found or the last message of the bundle is reached. The search is not case sensitive.

---

### 1.30 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Repeat Search: Repeats the last search operation without opening a window.

### 1.31 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Save Message: Saves the current message to a file or printer. Depending on which sub-item you pick, the message text will be saved with or without the header. You can also save only the header.

### 1.32 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Pointers: Resets, stores or restores the message pointers. These commands are useful when you decide to stop reading and continue later. You can store the pointers and close the bundle. You can then restore the pointers when you continue reading. Pointers are stored in the Storage directory.

Storing and restoring pointers can be automated by checking the Store Message Pointers checkbox in General Preferences.

### 1.33 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Mark Area: Marks all messages in the current area read or unread.

### 1.34 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Skip Thread: Marks read and skips the message thread you are reading. In this case successive messages with the exactly same subject (reply prefixes are ignored) are considered as a thread. Preceding messages are not marked. This function is useful only if you have enabled Message Threading in General Preferences.

### 1.35 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Add to User List: Adds the name of the current message's author's ↔  
or  
addressee's name to the  
User List  
. The list isn't automatically saved  
after this operation.

### 1.36 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Next Area: Jumps to the next message area. (Keyboard equivalent: >)

### 1.37 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Previous Area: Jumps to the previous message area. (Keyboard equivalent: <)

### 1.38 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

[4.4] Extras Menu

New Files

Bundle Info

### 1.39 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

New Files: Displays a list of new files (if available).

### 1.40 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Bundle Info: Displays some information about the message bundle.

### 1.41 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

[4.5] Prefs Menu

Directory

Editor

General

Palette

Screen

Save Prefs

Packer

---



BBS

User List

## 1.42 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Directory Preferences

Downloads

Uploads

Replies

Storage

Capture

Work

Unpack

All directories must be created manually before using Offline Orbit! ↔

## 1.43 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Downloads: A directory where downloaded message bundles will be found.

## 1.44 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Uploads: A directory to place reply packets in for uploading.

## 1.45 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Replies: A directory where replies are kept temporarily.

## 1.46 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Storage: A directory where message pointers are stored.

---

## 1.47 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Capture`: A directory where messages you've chosen to be saved are saved by default.

## 1.48 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Work`: A directory to hold the messages you are reading.

## 1.49 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Unpack`: A directory where archives are unpacked temporarily.

## 1.50 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Editor Preferences`

`Command`

`Signature`

`Tag File`

`Stack`

`Show`

`Pack`

`Move Workbench Front`

`Separate Quote File`

## 1.51 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

`Command`: A command to start your text editor.

`Modifiers`:

`%f` File to store the text you are editing.

`%p` Name of the public screen Offline Orbit is using.

`%q` File containing the quoted contents of the message you are replying to (use this only if you have checked the Separate Quote File checkbox).

`%%` '%' character.

---

## 1.52 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Signature: A signature file for your replies.

## 1.53 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Tag File: A file containing your tag lines. Tag lines are short comments that are appended to the end of each message you write. Tag files must have one tag on each line. Empty lines and lines beginning with '#' or ';' are considered as comments and are ignored.

## 1.54 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Stack: Initial stack size (bytes) for the editor.

## 1.55 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Show: Determines what character set is used in the messages you are reading (ie. what characters are converted to ISO before displaying the message text). SF7 conversion is optional, IBM characters are always converted.

Important: Only Ä, Ö, Å, ä, ö and å characters are converted, so this feature is useful only to scandinavian users. Users in other countries should select IBM.

## 1.56 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Pack: Determines what character set should be used in your replies. You must write your messages using ISO characters (keymap s) and let Offline Orbit handle the conversion.

Important: Only Ä, Ö, Å, ä, ö and å characters are converted, so this feature is useful only to scandinavian users. Users in other countries should select ISO.

## 1.57 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Move Workbench Front: If checked, Workbench screen will be moved to the front before executing the text editor. This is quite useful if you use an editor like Ed, which doesn't automatically move to the front.

## 1.58 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Separate Quote File: If checked, the quoted text is stored in a separate file. You can use this if your editor can hold two files at once and allow you to move convenient pieces from one to the other.

## 1.59 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

General Preferences

Highlight Quote

No Control Panel

Discard Kludge-Lines

Flash Messages For You

Mark Your Messages Read

Use Reply Prefix

Skip Read Messages

Display RFC Headers

Automatic Open

Store Message Pointers

Enable Joystick

Quote Prefix

After Loading Packet

Requester Library

End of Area

Message Threading

Iconify Method

Default Puzzle Size

Warn If No BBS Preferences

Message Line Length

Quote Header

Match Pattern

---

## 1.60 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Highlight Quote: If checked, quoted lines will be highlighted using another color for displaying them.

## 1.61 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

No Control Panel: Normally there are several button gadgets in the bottom of the Offline Orbit window. These gadgets will be removed if you check this box. Keyboard equivalents will remain operational.

## 1.62 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Discard Kludge-Lines: If checked, lines starting with CTRL-A won't be displayed. This is used to remove Fidonet kludge-lines from messages.

## 1.63 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Flash Messages For You: If checked, screen will flash when a message addressed to you is displayed. To avoid unnecessary flashing, this won't happen in the personal area, where all the messages are for you anyhow.

## 1.64 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Mark Your Messages Read: If checked, your own messages will be marked read when opening a message bundle. This is useful in combination with the Skip Read Messages option.

## 1.65 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Use Reply Prefix: If checked, 'Re:' prefix is automatically added to the subject of your replies (unless it already exists). If you don't check this checkbox, existing 'Re:' prefixes will be removed instead.

## 1.66 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Skip Read Messages: If checked, read messages will be skipped when you are browsing through the messages by pressing enter or backspace. You can still display the read messages using the horizontal arrow keys.

---

## 1.67 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Display RFC Headers: If checked, full RFC headers are shown (SOUP).

## 1.68 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Automatic Open: If checked, a file requester appears automatically when you start the reader, allowing you to select a message bundle right away.

## 1.69 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Store Message Pointers: If checked, the message pointers are automatically stored and restored when opening and closing bundles.

## 1.70 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Enable Joystick: If checked, you can browse through messages using a joystick. The joystick must be attached to port 2.

## 1.71 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Quote Prefix: Determines what quote prefix to use in your replies.

## 1.72 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

After Loading Packet: Determines what action is performed after opening a message bundle. You can choose between the first area, the personal area and the area selector.

## 1.73 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Requester Library: Determines what requester library is used. You can choose between ASL and ReqTools.

You must have ReqTools.library (V38) installed in order to use it.

## 1.74 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

End of Area: Determines what action is performed when you reach the end of an area. You can choose between the next area and the area selector.

---

## 1.75 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

**Message Threading:** If you select Subject, messages will be put in alphabetical order according to their subjects and position in the bundle. Real message threading may be supported in the future.

## 1.76 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

**Iconification Method:** Determines how Offline Orbit is iconified. Icon means an icon in Workbench, Menu an item in Workbench Tools menu and Window a tiny window on your default public screen. The latter method is always used if Workbench is not running when Iconify is selected.

## 1.77 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

**Default Puzzle Size:** Default size for the built-in puzzle game.

## 1.78 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

**Warn If No BBS Preferences:** If selected, Offline Orbit warns you with a requester when you are opening a bundle from a system that doesn't have an entry in your BBS Preferences.

## 1.79 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

**Message Line Length:** Number of characters in one line before wrapping.

## 1.80 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

**Quote Header:** A line of text to precede the quote in replies.

**Modifiers:**

```
%a Name of the current area.
%d Date.
%f Author's full name.
%n Linefeed.
%o Addressee's first name.
%r Author's first name.
%s Subject.
%t Addressee's full name.
%% '%' character.
```

## 1.81 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Match Pattern: An AmigaDOS wildcard pattern to limit the files that appear in the Open Bundle file requester.

## 1.82 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Palette Preferences

Palette Preferences window is a ReqTools palette requester. It is only available if ReqTools.library is installed. Adjusting the palette is quite easy. Pick a color from the Palette Colors gadget and adjust Red, Green and Blue sliders until you are satisfied with the color.

24 bit palette is supported on AGA machines and compatible video boards.

## 1.83 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Screen Preferences

Screen Attributes

Window Settings

Use Workbench Palette

Blank Borders

Screen Font

Message Font

## 1.84 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Screen Attributes: This brings up a screen mode requester allowing you to choose a mode for the Offline Orbit screen. You can also edit overscan and screen size here.

## 1.85 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Window Settings

Screen

Width

---



Height

Mode

## 1.86 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Screen: If you would like to move the Offline Orbit window into another public screen, enter the name of that screen here. You must also set the Mode gadget to Public for this to work.

## 1.87 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Width: Width of the Offline Orbit window.

## 1.88 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Height: Height of the Offline Orbit window.

## 1.89 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Mode: Determines how and where the Offline Orbit window is opened.

## 1.90 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Use Workbench Palette: If checked, Offline Orbit will use WB palette.

## 1.91 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Blank Borders: If checked, Offline Orbit's screen borders are blanked.

## 1.92 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Screen Font: Font for menus, windows and requesters.

If a window doesn't fit the screen, topaz eight will be used instead.

---

### 1.93 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Message Font: Font for the message text.

### 1.94 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Save Prefs: Saves Directory, Editor, General and Screen Preferences.

### 1.95 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Packer Preferences

Offline Orbit can be configured to automatically recognize and use most compression methods. To add configuration for a new packer, press Add. Pressing it will open a window with the following gadgets. You can edit old entries by selecting them from the list.

Add  
Extract  
Extension  
Offset  
Signature  
Stack  
Remove

### 1.96 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Add: A command for compressing files.

Modifiers:

%a Name of the archive to be created.  
%d Files to be compressed.  
%% '%' character.

### 1.97 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

---

Extract: A command for decompressing files.

Modifiers:

```
%a Name of the archive to be decompressed.
%d Destination directory (Offline Orbit will change the current directory
to the destination directory, so you may not necessarily need this).
%% '%' character.
```

## 1.98 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Extension: File extension for OMEN reply packets.

## 1.99 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Stack: Initial stack size (bytes) for the packer.

## 1.100 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Remove: Deletes the selected Packer Preferences entry.

## 1.101 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Offset and Signature

Offline Orbit requires compressor signatures for automatic recognition. The signature is a short string found in all of the files produced by a certain compressor. The signature should be entered in the Signature gadget as a group of hexadecimal values, separated by spaces. The Offset gadget should contain the start byte (usually zero) for the compressor signature. Here are signatures and offsets for some of the most commonly used packers.

Compressor	Signature	Offset
ARC	1A 8	0
LHA	2D 6C 68	2
LZX	4C 5A 58	0
ZIP	50 4B 3 4	0
ZOO	5A 4F 4F 20	0

If a compressor doesn't have a signature (which is very unlikely) or you don't know it's signature, leave the Signature gadget empty and make sure the compressor's entry is the last one in the Packer List.

## 1.102 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

### BBS Preferences

With BBS Preferences, you can set individual signature files, tag files and character conversions for different systems. To add configuration for a new board, press Add. Pressing it will open a window with the following gadgets. You can edit old entries by selecting them from the list.

Signature

Tag File

User Name

Show

Pack

Remove

You will see an asterisk in the title bar when these settings are ←  
in use.

## 1.103 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

User Name: The alias or name you use in the selected system. This will override any name included in the message bundle. If you leave this gadget empty, Offline Orbit will use the name that came with the bundle (if any).

This feature can be very useful when reading OMEN or SOUP bundles, as they don't contain your name and therefore Offline Orbit doesn't know which messages are for you [unless you enter your name (or Internet address in the case of SOUP) here, of course].

## 1.104 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Remove: Deletes the selected BBS Preferences entry.

## 1.105 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

### User List

With User List, you can store user names and Fidonet addresses that you often use. These can then be easily inserted in the message's headers when you are writing a message. To add a name to the list, press Add. Pressing it will open a window with the following gadgets. You can edit old entries by selecting them from the list.

---

User Name

Address

Remove

## 1.106 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

User Name: Name to be stored in the list.

## 1.107 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Address: Fidonet address of the user whose name is in the User Name gadget. If the user has no Fidonet address, or you aren't going to use it, or the message format you use doesn't support it, just ignore this option. ←

## 1.108 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Remove: Removes the selected name from the User List.

## 1.109 Offline Orbit Documentation - [5] Basic Functions

### [5.1] Reading Messages

After successfully opening a message bundle you can start reading messages. The Offline Orbit window consists of three sections. At the top of the window there is the message header, message text is in the middle and the control panel (which may be disabled) at the bottom of the screen.

The author, addressee, subject, date and area are shown in the message header. If the message text doesn't fit entirely on the screen, you can scroll it with the vertical arrow keys, space (down), backspace (up), return (down) or the scroll bar at the bottom of the screen.

You can move to the next or previous message with the horizontal arrow keys, space, backspace or return. You can browse through message headers by pressing the List gadget.

A joystick can also be used to browse through messages if you have checked the Enable Joystick checkbox in General Preferences.

The area can be changed by pressing the Area gadget. Offline Orbit will move automatically to the next area when you reach the end of an area. There are separate areas for your replies and messages addressed to you.

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## 1.110 Offline Orbit Documentation - [5] Basic Functions

### [5.2] Writing Messages

You can write new messages using the Write and Reply commands. These are available when you are reading messages. The latter one can be used to write a reply (including optional quote) to the current message. Write is used to post a completely new message.

When you select either of these commands, a window will appear. You can edit the message header here and select whether the message should be public or private. In netmail areas you can enter a Fidonet address in the Address gadget and select whether the netmail is routed or crash (crash netmail is only supported by OMEN). Press Edit to execute the text editor to edit the text of your message. After this you can accept or dump the message by pressing Save or Cancel.

Before messages can be uploaded to a BBS, they must be packed in the correct format. This can be done when closing the message bundle or by pressing the Pack gadget on the control panel. If a reply packet for the same system already exists, you have the option to either remove it or append new messages after the old ones (append may not fully work if the existing reply packet was generated using another reader). If you don't pack replies before the bundle is closed, they will be destroyed!

## 1.111 Offline Orbit Documentation - [6] Miscellaneous

### [6.1] Support

If you have any comments, suggestions, bug reports or questions, feel free to contact me at any of the addresses below. The latest version is always available from the Epsilon Indi BBS.

Snail Mail: Offline Orbit Support  
c/o Janne Siren  
Oravamaentie 2 F 17  
02700 Kauniainen  
Finland

Data Phone: Epsilon Indi BBS  
+358-0-505-4201  
V.32bis, 24h

Internet: jts@krk.fi (or comp.sys.amiga.datacomm)

(There have been some problems with Internet connections at krk.fi, so my responses may be unintentionally delayed.)

Fidonet: 2:220/550.0 (Janne Siren)

## 1.112 Offline Orbit Documentation - [6] Miscellaneous

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## [6.2] Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the following people for their help, support and products, making Offline Orbit possible (in alphabetical order):

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Ralf Thanner (MemGuard)  
Harri Tolvanen  
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Tomi Väisälä

And especially: Commodore-Amiga, Inc. for the Amiga computers and Escom for purchasing the Amiga.

## 1.113 Offline Orbit Documentation - [6] Miscellaneous

### [6.3] External Utilities

Following utilities can be found in the Utilities directory.

gconv

## 1.114 Offline Orbit Documentation - [6] Miscellaneous

gconv

AmigaGuide versions are not fully backwards compatible. gconv was written by Ville-Pertti Keinonen for converting new AmigaGuide documents into a format that is compatible with older AmigaGuide versions. OO.guide and OO\_history.guide are in AmigaGuide V40 format. If you are using an older version of the amigaguide.library, you should use gconv to convert the manuals.

Usage: gconv [-d ver] [-o file] [-s ver] [--help] [--ignore] file

Example: gconv OO.guide -o OO\_guide

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## 1.115 Offline Orbit Documentation - [6] Miscellaneous

### [6.4] Frequently Asked Questions

This section contains answers to some common questions.

Question:

Offline Orbit tells me it has rejected some of my replies. Why?

Answer:

A reply can be rejected (not packed) for two reasons: the packing fails (eg. not enough memory) or you've set the message's status to Killed. If all of your replies are rejected, you should check your directory settings and try to free some memory.

Question:

I selected the AREAS file in the Open Bundle file requester, but Offline Orbit won't recognize it as a SOUP bundle. Should I select one of the MSG files instead?

Answer:

No. SOUP bundles, like all the other messages bundles, must be archives containing the message files in a compressed form. You must pack the AREAS file and the files with MSG extension into an archive and select this archive in the Open Bundle file requester.

Question:

The shell started from Offline Orbit won't find any of my commands. Why?

Answer:

The existing command paths are ignored by the shell if Offline Orbit was started asynchronously (eg. from Workbench). This is a bug in AmigaOS. Use full paths or start Offline Orbit from a shell.

Question:

Zip returns error code 12 when I'm trying to pack replies. What can I do?

Answer:

Get a newer version of Zip (2.0.1 works fine). If you can't find a newer version, try the following Add string in Zip's Packer Preferences entry.

```
Zip -r %a ""
```

## 1.116 Offline Orbit Documentation - [6] Miscellaneous

### [6.5] Known Bugs

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The following bugs are known, but not yet fixed.

- o Offline Orbit sometimes freezes after closing the area or message selector. This doesn't happen very often and on some systems it never happens. MemGuard reports an attempt to write 0020C7EC to address 0000000C. The whole machine doesn't crash, but all console windows freeze. Any help in finding and fixing this bug is appreciated.

## **1.117 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference**

[4] Command Reference

4.1 Control Panel

4.2 Project Menu

4.3 Messages Menu

4.4 Extras Menu

4.5 Prefs Menu

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