

MetaTool.doc

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Chapter 1

MetaTool.doc

1.1 MetaTool Documentation

MetaTool V1.04

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a configurable Workbench project handling tool for CD-ROMs.

Motivation

Purpose

Installation

Copyright

Author

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Matthias Scheler

1.2 Motivation to write MetaTool

When I received my Meeting Pearls CD-ROM I immediately started ←
playing

around without reading any documentation or starting the "ClickMe". After a short time I got a nasty "Please insert volume MP_READER: ..." requester. I opened a shell, made an assign to "Most" and continued to explore the CD. I entered the "Fractals" directory, clicked on a GIF picture and got a nasty "Please insert volume MP_VIEWER: ..." requester. I made an assign to "ViewGIF" and looked at some of the nice pictures. A little later I entered a drawer with some JPEG pictures, clicked on one of them and got an error message because "MP_VIEWER:" ("ViewGIF" at this moment) couldn't handle JPEG pictures of course.

When we started to talk about the Meeting Pearls II CD-ROM we had these problems in mind and thought about a better solution. The first suggestion was to use a dozen of assigns ("MP_GIFVIEWER:", "MP_JPEGVIEWER", etc.), a

quite horrible idea in my opinion.

At this point Bernard Möllemann and I had the idea of a
MetaTool

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1.3 Purpose of MetaTool

MetaTool was designed as a configurable tool for automagic ↵
handling
Workbench projects. It will determine the type of every project and call a
proper tool to handle it.

MetaTool will load a
user defined configuration file
if one is
available. Otherwise it will load one for the used Operating System from
the CD-ROM. This configuration file is used to define the tool used for a
certain file type and may easily be changed with a texteditor.

This way you don't need assigns or patches like ToolAlias to adjust a
CD-ROM's Workbench interface to your personal needs.

1.4 installation

Per default you don't have to do any installation to use MetaTool. Just
click on an icon and the tool will be loaded.

Anyway if you want to adjust MetaTool to your personal needs (e.g. to
use viewers for your GFX board) you just have to create a configuration
file and set the environment variable METACONFIG to the full pathname
of this configuration file.

Here is an example of such a configuration file:

```
; MetaTool Configuration File

; MetaTool Configuration File

TEXT LYSSA:Most
GUIDE CLI SYS:Utilities/MultiView [] FONTNAME topaz FONTSIZE 11

JPEG BIN:CyberView
GIF BIN:CyberView
ILBM BIN:CyberView

ANIM LYSSA:Viewer/VT
MPEG CLI BIN:mp -dither village24 []
MOVIE CLI BIN:MoviePlayer []
```

The first column is the file type which is taken from the icon tooltype
METATYPE. The rest of the line is the path of the tool which is used

for this file type. If it starts with CLI the tool will be invoked as a CLI process instead of a Workbench process. [] marks the location where the filename of the project file is inserted. If it is omitted the filename is appended to the end of the line.

If you would click on a project called Pearls.guide with the tooltype METATYPE=GUIDE using the configuration file shown above the following CLI command would be invoked:

```
SYS:Utilities/MultiView "Pearls.guide" FONTNAME topaz FONTSIZE 11
```

It is a good idea to take the configuration file for your version of the Operation System (located on the CD-ROM in :MetaTool/MetaTool??.config) and modify it instead of creating one from scratch.

1.5 Copyright

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No guarantee of any kind is given that the program described in this document is 100% reliable. You are using this material at your own risk. The author *can not* be made responsible for any damage which is caused by using these programs.

MetaTool is not freely distributable.

Permission is granted to use and distribute this program on the following CD-ROMs:

- CD-ROMs from the Meeting Pearls series
- CD-ROMs produced by the Amiga Library Services
- Gateway!

Any other usage or distribution is only allowed with a written permission from the author.

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