ASCIICode v1.0.0 Help

Welcome to ASCIICode.   Thanks for giving this program a whirl.   I hope you enjoy using the program as much as I enjoyed writing it.   Remember that ASCIICode is shareware.   You can evaluate it for 30 days.   If you like it and continue to use it, you must <u>register</u> it.   You can contact me at rcfinch@hiwaay.net if you have any questions or comments.   Click links below for more information about the program.

<u>Introduction</u>

<u>Interface</u>

<u>Grid Window</u>

<u>Tips</u>

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Happy gridding !!

ASCIICode Grid Window Reference

Below is information about the gridded text window and its menus.   See the <u>tips</u> page for information about using the program.   See the <u>interface</u> reference for more information about the program proper.

File Menu

This menu contains three items: Save All Text As, Save Visible Text As, and Exit.

The Save All Text As menu item allows you save only the text in the grid to an ASCII file.   This is useful if you are viewing only a portion of the entire text.   By saving only the part that is gridded, this smaller file can be loaded in the future and searches for additional words performed more quickly. IMPORTANT: Remember that this new file has disparate portions of the original text missing (due to lopping off beginning and ending columns that are not being displayed).   The only appropriate way of gridding it is to use the same number of columns as was displayed when the new file was saved. One way of quickly doing this is to grid the new file using the same keyword used in the original gridding.

The Save Visible Text As menu item is similar to the above menu item except you are allowed to determine which rows and columns will be saved by resizing the grid.   Only the letters in the visible cells will be saved to the file.   Be aware that if just a sliver of a cell is visible, it will be included in the saved file.

The Exit menu item closes the grid and returns you to the program proper.   NOTE: If you intend to display this window again, it is best to just minimize it if there is a lot of text in the grid.   This is due to the slow speed at which the window closes if you have about 100,000 characters or more gridded.

Text Grid

The gridded text will be displayed with row and column headers containing numbers.   You can determine the position of a given letter in the filtered text by adding the number in its row header to the number in its column header.

If a keyword was specified, it will be highlighted in yellow.   If you chose to highlight all search words, they will be highlighted in cyan.   If you see another word in the gridded text that you want highlighted, just click on the cells containing the letters of the word.   The cells will turn purple. Clicking them again toggles them back to white.

Introduction to ASCIICode

I was inspired to write this program after reading Michael Drosnin's best-selling book "The Bible Code".   In this book Mr. Drosnin claims that the Hebrew Bible contains hidden messages and warnings about the recent past, the present, and the future.   These messages are hidden as Equidistant Letter Sequences (ELS).   In other words, the hidden messages consist of Hebrew letters that appear a set number of letters apart in the text of the Bible.   To better see a particular word or phrase, the Biblical text can be laid out in a grid where the number of columns in the grid matches the spacing of the characters in the hidden message.   This allows the hidden message to appear as a sequence of letters running vertically down or up the grid.   In addition, related words and phrases that are also ELSs appear near this text.   Mr. Drosnin states that the reason these hidden messages have never been found is that a computer is required.   He believes the messages were deliberately put in the Bible with the intent that our generation would be the first with the capability to decode them.

ASCIICode finds ELSs in English character texts.   An ASCII file can be loaded and user specified words searched for in the text.   All occurrences are listed.   The text can then be displayed in a grid based on the spacing of the characters in one instance of a found search word known as the keyword.   The keyword is highlighted in the grid.   If you like, the other search words that were found in the text can also be highlighted.   For more details, see the interface reference and grid window reference sections.

ASCIICode Interface Reference

Below is information about all of the sections of the ASCIICode main window as well as its menus. See the tips page for information about using the program.   See the grid window page for more information about the window that displays the gridded text.

File Menu

This menu contains five items: New, Open, Save, Save As, and Exit.

New clears all the controls in the window in preparation for working with a new file.

Open allows the user to select an ASCII file to be read in by the program.   When a file is opened, it will appear in the Filtered Text section.   The filename and length appear in the File Information section.

Save saves the filtered text using the last filename either opened or saved.   (For more on filtering text, see below.)

Save As saves the filtered text to a new file of the user's choosing.   It is a good idea to save the text after it is filtered so that it can be used later without having to filter it again.

Exit closes the program.

Help Menu

This menu allows you to either open this help file or display the About box.

Search Words Section (Upper Left)

Words to search for in the filtered text can be added to this list by typing a word in the Add field and pressing the Enter key.   Added words will be highlighted.   Only highlighted words will be searched for when the Start Search button is pressed.   To highlight only one word, click on it.   To select or deselect a word without changing the highlighting of the other words, CTRL-click the word.   The unselected words can be deleted from the list by pressing the Clear Unsel button.   All words can be deleted by pressing the Clear All button.   One word can be deleted by double-clicking or CTRL-double-clicking the word in the list.

When the Start Search button is pressed, it will change to a Stop Search button.   Press it to interrupt the search.   ASCIICode will find all hidden (where letters in the word are spaced more than one character apart) and non-hidden (letters are next to one another) occurrences of each highlighted search word in the filtered text.   The spacing of the characters is known as the skip value.   Skip values can be either positive (letters run forwards through the text) or negative (letters run backwards through the text).   As the search words are found, each occurrence is added to the Search Results table.

Search Results Section (Upper Right)

As each occurrence of each search word is found, information about it is added to this table.   The Num column shows which occurrence of a given search word is being displayed in that row.   The Search Word column displays which Search Word was found.   The Start column shows the position within the filtered text at which the first letter of the search word is found.   The Skip column shows the spacing of the search word letters in the text.   This number can be positive or negative.

The width of the columns can be adjusted by moving the dividing line between the column headers.

To select a row, click on it.   To select multiple consecutive rows, click on a row and drag.   Selected rows can be deleted by pressing the Clear Selected button.   All rows can be deleted by pressing the Clear All button.

When a row is double-clicked, the search word becomes the keyword and it, along with the starting and skip values are added to the Keyword Information section of the program.   If the Auto Adj check box is selected in the Text Gridding section, then the number of rows and columns needed to grid all the filtered text such that the keyword will appear in a vertical column is added to the Rows and Cols fields.

Keyword Information Section (Middle Left)

This section of the program is for informational purposes only as indicated by the blue text fields. No data can be entered into this section.   The keyword and its starting and skip values are displayed here by double-clicking a row in the Search Results table.   The occurrence of the search word that is displayed here will be what the text gridding is based on (see below).

Text Filtering Section (Middle Center)

When an ASCII file is loaded, it will probably contain spaces, numerals, punctuation, and vowels.   In "The Bible Code", the Biblical text was devoid of spaces and punctuation.   Hebrew has no numerals, its alphabet is used for numbers.   I also found out later that Biblical Hebrew usually does not contain vowels.   Therefore, this section of the program allows these things to be filtered out of the ASCII file. The Other check box actually filters out any character that is not a space, numeral, vowel, or consonant.   If all four check boxes are checked, everything but consonants will be filtered out.

Press the Filter Text button to actually perform the filtering.   Afterwards, the filtered text will appear in the Filtered Text section of the program and the length of the filtered text will appear in the File Information section.   The complete unfiltered text originally loaded from a file can be restored by unchecking each filter option and pressing the Filter Text button again.

It is a good idea to save the filtered text so that it can be loaded in the future with no further need of filtering.

Text Gridding Section (Middle Right)

This section allows you to grid your filtered text.   Listen up good, this is a bit complex.

You can either grid all of the filtered text or just a portion of it.   If the Auto Adj check box is selected, then the number of rows and columns needed to display all the filtered text such that the keyword will appear vertically in the grid will automatically be filled in when a row in the Search Results table is double-clicked.   However, new values for Rows and Cols can be manually entered.   If the Auto Adj check box is selected, then the number of columns will automatically adjust as the number of rows is

changed and vice versa.   The size of the grid will be kept just large enough to contain all the filtered text.

If the Auto Adj check box is unselected, then the number of rows and columns can be set independently.   If the grid size is sufficiently large to contain all the filtered text, the grid will display all the text.   If the grid size is not large enough to contain all the filtered text, then only the part of the grid centered on the keyword will be displayed.   If there is no keyword, a message to that effect is displayed and the gridding does not occur.

The keyword will be highlighted in yellow in the grid.   If the Hghlt All check box is selected, then every occurrence of every search word that appears in the Search Results table will be highlighted in cyan.   Be careful.   If there are a ton of words in the table, it will become nearly impossible to know which highlighted letters go together.   You can delete all but the most promising search words occurrences from the Search Results table before gridding if you wish to highlight all words in the grid.

Press the Show Grid button to start the gridding process.   See the grid window page for more information about the gridded text.

Filtered Text Section (Lower Left)

This section is for previewing the filtered text.   When a file is first loaded, the entire text will appear in this section.   After filtering is applied, the filtered text will appear.

File Information Section (Lower Right)

This section of the program is for informational purposes only as indicated by the blue text fields. No data can be entered into this section.   When a file is first loaded, its name appears in the Name field and its length appears in the Unfiltered Length and Filtered Length fields.   The Name and Unfiltered Length fields will never change until another file is loaded.   The Filtered Length field will change as different filters are applied to the text.

Time for Operations Section (Even Lower Right)

This section displays the time it takes to perform certain operations.   The list can be dropped down to view previously recorded times for other operations.   This section was added mostly for my benefit so I could see the effect of changing algorithms to make them more efficient.   However, I thought the user might like seeing the times, also.

Status Bar (Very Bottom)

The status bar is used to inform the user about what is occurring during program operation.   It will display Idle when the program is not busy.

Registering ASCIICode

ASCIICode is shareware.   If you want to use it past the 30 day trial period, you must register it with the author, Randy Finch.   Here is contact information.

Randy Finch
RKA Productions
122 West Oak Hill Dr.
Florence, AL   35633-1013
Email: rcfinch@hiwaay.net
HomePage: http://fly.hiwaay.net/~rcfinch

Send comments and suggestions to my Email address.

Print this form and send it in with your payment.   If you give me your Email address, I will let you know when updates to the program are available.

YES, I want to help support the author of ASCIICode and encourage him to continue updating it.   I have enclosed my $20 shareware fee.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

ASCIICode Tips

ASCIICode can be a bit difficult to understand, especially if you have not read the book that inspired its creation, "The Bible Code".   Therefore, I have included this help page to provide a more practical understanding of the program.

The first thing you will want to do is find an ASCII file in which you would like to find hidden messages.   Make sure the file is not too small.   If it is, you will most likely not find much hidden in the text.   Also, you don't want it to be too big.   If it is, it will take a while to search the text for words you have provided.   Also, shorter words will probably show up thousands of time.   The speed of your computer and the amount of patience you have will determine what the upper limit on size should be.   However, I recommend file sizes in the range of 5000 to 200,000 characters.   Once a file is loaded, it will appear in the Filtered Text section and its filename and file length are displayed in the File Information section.

Once you have loaded the file, you might need to filter it.   Most often you will want to at least filter out spaces and punctuation (using the Other check box).   Other times you might want to filter out numerals also.   Filtering out vowels increases your chances of finding hidden words or phrases in the text since the same spelling will apply to different words.   For instance, the vowel-less word "lv" can translate to the normal words "live", "alive", "love", etc.   After filtering the text, save it to another filename for future use.   (This is especially useful if the file is large and takes a while to filter.)   After filtering the text, its filtered length will be displayed in File Information section.

Now you are ready to find some hidden words.   Type each word in the Add field of the Search Words section and press Enter to add it to the search words list.   Remember not to include any characters in the search words that you have filtered out of the text.   Be aware that short words will be found thousands of times in long texts.   A good length for a search word is around 4 to 8 characters depending on the length of the text you will be searching.   If you find words that contain more than 8 characters, it is significant.

After adding all the words you want to the list, press the Start Search button and sit back and watch.   The Status Bar will keep you informed about what is happening.   Only search words that are selected are used during the search.   As the search words are found, information about each occurrence appears in the Search Results table.   If the search is taking too long for you, just press the Stop Search button.

Now take a look at the Search Results.   If you see an interesting occurrence, double-click it to make it the keyword.   The information about this occurrence will be added to the Keyword Information section.   If the Auto Adj check box is selected, the appropriate number of rows and columns is calculated and inserted into the Rows and Cols fields.

You can now view the gridded text by pressing the Show Grid button.   If the filtered text is large, it can take a while to set up the grid.   For this reason, you can also turn off Auto Adj and manually type in the number of rows and columns you want to display.   The program will do its best to accommodate the values you enter, centering the keyword in the block.   This action basically lops off all the rows above and below the block and to the right and left of the block.

If the Hghlt All check box is selected, every occurrence of every search word shown in the Search Results table will be highlighted.   Otherwise, only the keyword will be highlighted.   You can manually highlight other words in the grid by clicking on the cells containing the letters in the words.   Clicking these cells again turns off highlighting.

While viewing the gridded text, you can save just the portion of the text that is gridded by selecting the Save All Text As menu item.   If you want to save less text than what is gridded, resize the grid so that only the part you want to save is visible and select the Save Visible Text As menu item.   When you load a file that has been saved in this way, remember that its text is not contiguous as was the original file.   The only appropriate way to grid it is to use the same number of columns as was being displayed when the file was saved.   A quick way to do this is to grid the text about the same keyword that was used when the original text was gridded.

I have found some interesting messages hidden in essays that I have written.   Let me know of interesting discoveries you make.

Grid Window

<GridReference>

interface
<Reference>

Introduction

<Introduction>

Register

<Register>

Tips
<Tips>