

AppCon

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Chapter 1

AppCon

1.1 AppCon Documentation - Contents

```

***** ←
**
**          AppCon 39.169          **
**
**          F R E E W A R E !      **
**
**          An AppWindow handler for the shell          **
**
**          Copyright © 1996 Stephan Fuhrmann          **
**
*****

```

Introduction

Why AppCon?

Copyright

Most important information.

System Requirements

Read this before usage.

Usage

How to use it.

History

What happened to this program.

Author

How to contact me.

Bugs

How to find and report bugs.

Jetzt aber Shell!!

Shell (tm)

1.2 AppCon Documentation - History

v37.101: first release
v37.105: improvement - when pathnames contain spaces
they are enclosed with quotation marks
v37.129: bug fix - forgot to free some memory
improvement - using exec memory functions
improvement - now waiting until the window is really activated
improvement - using input.device rather than console.device to send
events following the recommendation of CBM
v37.160: improvement - AppCon detects now automatically the closing of
the shell and exits quietly - AppCon now is 100%
user friendly!
bug fix - a problem caused memory loss, fixed
v37.177: improvement - cleaned & optimized up the code
v38.16: found a dangerous bug in OS 3.0, included a nice bypass
v38.18: names with a trailing '+' are enclosed with quotation marks, too
v38.19: recompiled with SAS/C 6.51
v38.46: replaced StdIO with DosIO (smaller code), autoremove existing AppCon
v38.47: some code optimizations (thx Teijo!)
v38.71: removed C-startupcode and replaced by my own, shorter code
v38.73: inverted the quotation mark feature by fault - fixed
v39.168: improvement - AppCon should be residentable (pure) now
bug fix - AppCon is now allocating it's own stack
this caused problems when 'run' started
AppCon with a stack of 3200 bytes
improvement - AppCon uses commodity library instead of going directly
over the input.device - faster speed and higher reliability
improvement - Cleaned up the code
improvement - AppCon doesn't need to be RUNned anymore - it detaches ↔
itself
from the Shell if needed with the proper system routines
distribution- removed the german documentation and changed
everything to AmigaGuide ®
distribution- AppCon is FREEWARE now
distribution- the sourcecode is not included anymore
recompiled with SAS/C 6.56
v39.169: bug fix - AppCon now uses the proper way to find out whether
it shall detach itself from the Shell or not

1.3 AppCon Documentation - How to report a bug

Best is to read this section before discovering a bug.

Don't panic. Many bugs are harmless, most are never discovered. Be
sure to save all projects in other applications before running software
that is suspected to be buggy.

Is it really a bug?

This is a serious question. In some circumstances, other software crashes and it appears that this application has a bug. Try to reconstruct the same situation where the error occurred again without any 3rd party software running.

Out of that, check out if you're really right with your expectations. If the software crashes, it's probably a bug. But if the software does something that you didn't expect, it could be that you're not using the software in the means the author has specified. Carefully reread the sections covering your problem in the user manual to verify your actions.

Gosh - it is a bug!

Now that you have found out that you have discovered a real bug, try to find out in which situations it occurs. Does it depend on other software running simultaneously to the application? Does it appear in certain situations? Does it depend on your system hardware? Find this out by running this software on other machines than yours or by removing hardware components (only do this if you know what you're doing).

How to report a bug

First, you should report the versions of all software you're running when getting the bug. Also, your complete hardware specifications are helpful.

Describe exactly what you have done to come to the situation where the bug occurs. Preferences or tooltype settings are important, too. Try to do step-by-step instructions how to get to the bug. The author must be able to reconstruct the bug on his machine. What happens when the bug occurs? Can you come up with a guru/software error number?

If you've been using software to find the bug, send it included with the bug report.

If the bug only occurs in 'extreme' situations, try to find the point where the software doesn't work correctly anymore.

Other material like hex-dumps, screen dumps etc. may be interesting, too.

If you have finished your bug report, finally send it to the

author

of the software. While electronic mail is faster, snail mail on paper has a higher 'consistence' and can be read while the computer of the author is crashing. Have this in mind when choosing between email and snail mail.

Finally, always include your physical and electronical mail addresses, even if you send snail mail.

1.4 AppCon Documentation - Requirements

Hardware

Amiga

Software

OS 2.0 or higher

exec.library

dos.library

commodities.library

intuition.library

workbench.library

keymap.library

utility.library

1.5 AppCon Documentation - Copyright

AppCon is a program that should improve the look & feel of the Amiga and it's Shell.

AppCon may be included in Fred Fish's AmigaLib, on the AmiNet and on Meeting Pearls.

IT IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED TO SELL THIS SOFTWARE ON MEDIA OTHER THAN THOSE COMING DIRECTLY FROM THE SOURCES DESCRIBED ABOVE. THIRD PARTIES NEED THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR.

IT IS ALSO STRICTLY PROHIBITED TO USE AND/OR REUSE AND/OR ALTER PARTS OR ROUTINES OF THE PROGRAM AND DOCUMENTATION WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR.

If you don't understand or don't accept the contents of this page, you're not allowed to run AppCon or store it on any media. You must delete it NOW.

1.6 AppCon Documentation - Introduction

The Amiga has got two user interfaces: the Workbench and the Shell. The advanced user has got to switch between these user interfaces very often because each one has got its advantages and disadvantages.

When I switched from Workbench to Shell once again I had the idea that my work could be much simpler when I could drag icons into the Shell-window and have their names displayed in the command line. This is exactly what AppCon does.

It declares the actual Shell-window as an AppWindow and lets you drop your icons in this window. Then the name and path of the icon(s) are inserted into the current command line exactly as if you typed them with your keyboard, but slightly faster!

Created using SAS/C 6.56.

1.7 The AppWindow

An AppWindow is a facility provided by the Workbench. AppWindows let the user drop Workbench icons into themselves and perform certain actions on each icon and/or associated files.

1.8 AppCon Documentation - Usage

AppCon must only be used from the Shell.

AppCon can be RUNned from the Shell, but it automatically detaches itself from the Shell if you don't explicitly RUN it. The best place to call AppCon is your shell-startup. You've got to run AppCon for *EVERY* Shell-Window seperately. Since AppCon is residentable, this is not a big problem.

If you drop multiple icons at once into your Shell-window the names will be seperated with spaces, names containing spaces are enclosed with quotation marks.

When the shell exits and AppCon is the only program that's using the Shell-window, AppCon will detect this and exit nicely, too.

AppCon periodically checks whether its Shell window is still being used. You can modify the time between two checks by setting the TIMEOUT-option in the command line of AppCon. When using AppCon, you'll see that with a higher TIMEOUT the Shell window will react slower on closing commands, and with a lower TIMEOUT AppCon will consume more CPU ticks. The TIMEOUT is in tenths of a second, this means that a timeout of 10 (default) will force AppCon to check every second whether the shell is still in use.

Simply start AppCon again to remove it from the current shell.

Example Use:

```
1> AppCon TIMEOUT=12
```

1.9 AppCon Documentation - Author

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