CCB

John Wells

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : CCB		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
WRITTEN BY	John Wells	June 24, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Compressor Control Box - v2.3

August 24, 1997

by John Wells

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1.2 CCB - Copyright Message

1.3 CCB - About CCB

This program is a convenient interface for using several disk/file

archivers. Currently, Compressor Control Box (hereafter known as CCB)

supports the following archivers: LZX, LHA, DMS, and DSQ.

First, a disclaimer:

The purpose of this program is to compress the contents of floppy disks,

hard drives, and other forms of temporary and permanent computer storage.

The author, John Wells, will not be held responsible for any data lost

through the (correct or incorrect) use of this program, nor will he be held

responsible for any damages (financial or otherwise) resulting from the use

of this program.

1.4   CCB - General Info

Ok, so what are these compressors? Quick summary.

LhA is an archiver that takes groups of files and compresses them

into one single file, thereby reducing the total size and making it easier

to store said files.

LZX is the latest generation file-archiver, featuring faster and

better compression than LhA.

DMS is an archiver designed to compress entire disks, resulting in

a single file that is easier to store and transfer.

DSQ (short for DiskSqueeze!), is the modern-era disk compressor.

Dirk Vael originated the concept with DiskSqueeze!, and I was hooked. More

reliable than DMS, it also features better compression, using LZX and

PackDev. I have not done a full implementation of DiskSqueeze! here, for

that, please get the original by Dirk Vael. Look on Aminet under util/arc

for the latest version.

1.5   CCB - Requirements

I'm not sure, but I don't think CCB will run on pre-2.04 systems. I don't

know anyone still using 1.3! It does work on 2.04 thru 3.1

DMSDescript (v1.1) View/Add File_id.diz to DMS files

DMS.device (v1.40) Treat DMS files as valid devices

PackDev (v1.7) (De)Compress DiskSqueeze! files

DirII (v3.3) Create Files.dsq for DiskSqueeze!

DMS (v1.11+) * (De)Compress DMS files

LhA (v1.38e+) * Manipulating LHA files

LZX (v1.20e+) * Manipulating LZX and DiskSqueeze! files

* not included in this distribution

In order to use the supported archivers, it is important that CCB be able

to find them. A good place for them is your C: directory.

CCB has been extensively tested using the following: LhA v1.38e and v1.50r,

LZX v1.20e, and DMS v1.11. I would think that any newer versions of those

programs would work just fine as well.

CCB also requires the cando.library, v2.511+, which is NOT included in this

distribution, as I am not sure of the distributability (is that a word?) of

the library. However, since v3.006 of the library IS freely distributable,

I have included it to make the package complete.

To make things a bit easier, just click here to put the included programs

(DMSDescript, DMS.device, DirII, PackDev and CanDo.library) in your C:

directory (or click on the Install icon).

1.6   CCB - Tooltypes

CompressorControlBox currently supports the following tooltypes:

SOURCE=<default source path> Default is SOURCE="Files:"

DESTINATION=<default destination path> Default is DESTINATION="DH1:Temp"

TDIR=<default Temporary T: path> Default is TDIR="DH1:T"

VIEWER=<default text viewer> Default is VIEWER="C:MultiView"

AUTODELETE <delete if in batch mode> Default is AUTODELETE

(if you don't want to automatically delete converted files, remove this tooltype)

DEVICES=<devices to use for dms/dsq> Default is DEVICES=DF0|DF1

Additionally, the tooltype WINDOW can be set in CCB

to control the output window size

With version 2.2, I have implemented a set of variables to replace these

tooltypes. There is a new pull-down menu, SETTINGS, with various sub-menus

for setting your preferences for various things. They are:

AUTODELETE ON/OFF Toggles AUTODELETE On and Off

DEFAULT SOURCE PATH Define your default SOURCE path for file operations

DEFAULT DESTINATION PATH Define your default DESTINATION path for file operations

FLOPPIES Define your FLOPPY-type devices for disk operations

SAVE SETTINGS SAVE your settings to ENV & ENVARC

(disabled in evaluation version)

LOAD SETTINGS LOAD your settings from ENV or ENVARC

(disabled in evaluation version)

1.7   CCB - What it looks like

CCB opens a window which looks like this:

Compressor Control Box v2.3 - by John Wells

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1. Select Compressor Free Mem= XXXXk

LZX LhA DMS DSQ LhA-2-LZX DMS-2-DSQ

2. Select Operation

Compress Decompress Test View/Add Diz

3. Select Source File/Dir/Device

Source [_____]

4. Select Destination File/Dir/Device

Destination [_____]

5. Process Selection

Start Reset All AUTODELETE is ON/OFF

Status: Ready

CLI Usage

not currently supported (it's an interface. That's the point!)

Workbench Usage

If you want to see what is happening, I would use the CCB icon, but if you

don't need to see what is going on, just click on the CompressorControlBox

icon. The only difference is that the CCB icon also opens up an output shell ,

so you can see what is happening. I have noticed no noticeable speed

increase in NOT opening the shell, so it's a matter of personal choice.

I've tried to make it as easy to use as possible. Just follow the 5 steps

shown on the interface, and you'll be set.

1.8   CCB - Output Window

Clicking on the CCB opens an addtional output shell so you can see what is

going on:

Compressor Control Box - Output Window

The initial size of this output shell can be changed by altering the WINDOW

tooltype in CCB.

1.9 CCB - 1. Select Compressor

1) Select Compressor LhA, LZX, DMS, DSQ, LhA-2-LZX, or DMS-2-DSQ

LhA-2-LZX and DMS-2-DSQ perform the conversion process in the T: directory.

I have found that you will need about 2.5 meg free for converting a DMS

file to a DSQ file, and about 1 1/2 times the size of the LhA file for

converting an archive from LhA format to LZX.

If you don't have enough memory to transform the file, I suggest

assigning T: to somewhere on your harddrive. It

will slow things down somewhat, but unless your HD is REALLY cramped, you

should have enough room there to perform the conversion.

The LhA-2-LZX and DMS-2-DSQ options also offer a 'batch' mode, for

converting many files all at once. Unlike the 'single file mode', batch

conversion does not show the resulting file-size difference between the

original and new files, or offer the chance to delete one. Select the

first file to convert, hold down the shift key, and select as many others

as you wish. Pretty easy, just like shift-selecting icons on the

WorkBench. All selected files will be processed, keeping the originals

intact, unless an error is encountered, which will stop the conversion

process. Each file will be shown in the 'Source' box as it is being

processed, and if the conversion fails, that entry will remain shown in the

box. If the AUTODELETE tooltype is set, the original file

WILL BE DELETED if the conversion process is successful. If you don't

trust me, then don't set the tooltype.

1.10 CCB - 2. Select Operation

2) Select Operation Compress, DeCompress, Test, View/Add Diz

View/Add Diz works as follows. If the file you checked doesn't have a

File_id.diz, CCB will open up a little window for you to enter the

description into. When you are finished entering text, hit 'ESC x' to

close the window and save the File_id.diz to the file. If the file DOES

have a File_id.diz attached to it, it will be displayed and you will be

given an opportunity to modify it.

If you select the Test operation, no need to select a destination. Makes

sense, right?

1.11   CCB - 3. Select Source File/Dir/Device

3) Select Source File/Dir/Device

Click on this, a requester comes up, allowing you to select the SOURCE

File/Dir/Device. When using DMS or DSQ, a requester will pop up asking for the

source device, such as DF0 or DF1, at the right time. Don't worry, you'll

know it when it happens! Just make sure there is a disk in the drive

BEFORE you click on Start!

1.12   CCB - 4. Select Destination

4) Select Destination

Another requester. When using DMS or DSQ, a requester will pop up asking

for the destination device, such as DF0 or DF1, at the right time. Don't

worry, you'll know it when it happens! Just make sure there is a disk in

the drive BEFORE you click on Start! (This sounds familiar, doesn't it?)

1.13   CCB - 5. Process Selection

5) Process Selection Start or Reset All

Reset All clears the current selection.

If you are DeCompressing an LhA or LZX archive, a requester will pop-up,

asking if you would like to create a drawer to put the contents into. This

keeps things from getting scattered all over your drive, and makes it easy

to get rid of files you decide not to keep.

That's it!

1.14   CCB

If you select the Test operation, no need to select a destination. Makes

sense, right?

1.15   CCB - DSQ Tips

If using DSQ, I strongly suggest assigning T: to

somewhere on your harddrive, as it can use up to 2 megs of RAM while

processing a file. Of course, if you have 3 megs or more free, don't worry

about it. The little memory display just below the title bar should give

you a clue as to whether or not you need to re-assign T: to your HD

1.16   CCB - About the Author

If you have any questions or comments, or just want to send a donation
(A4000, Corvette, book, game, money, whatever) please feel free to get in
touch with me at the address below.

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1.17   CCB - Greetings, Thanks, and Other Stuff

I would like to thank those who have sent me e-mail, for the kind words and
support (and suggestions!), especially ashley@apowell.demon.co.uk, who was
the very first to send me a message regarding CCB.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the following:

Ashley for making the excellent AmigaGuide for CCB

Stephen Davies author of DirII

Stefan Boberg author of LhA

Jonathan Forbes author of LZX

SDS Software author(s?) of DMS

Dirk Vael author of DiskSqueeze!

Rasmus K. Ursem author of DLDiz

Christian Wasner author of PackDev

Jay Miner for creating a REAL computer!

Amiga Technologies for resurrecting Amy

VisCorp for picking up the pieces

INOVAtronics, Inc. developers of CanDo!

ReMo(Mystic/X-DeSign) author of DMSDescript v1.1

1.18   CCB - Registered version

v1.3+ - REGISTERED VERSION

I decided to make the LhA-2-LZX and DMS-2-DSQ options only available to
registered users, have to give them some kind of benny for registering!
Since v1.0 - v1.2 did not support this repacking option, it looks like v1.3
will be the first to give the un-registered users something to think about.
I find the option VERY handy, since it is SO EASY TO USE! So come on,

folks, go ahead and register. It really is worth it! :)

Registration is simple. I'm not picky. I will accept just about anything
you consider to be of value. For example, I will gladly accept a
registered version of a program YOU have written in exchange for the
registered version of Compressor Control Box. If the exchange is handled
via e-mail, I will continue to send updates as they are created, with no
further fee due. Naturally, I will not turn down monetary offers, or boxes
of cookies, a CD, whatever. I will supply the registered version
ONCE by floppy, if you would prefer to do it that way. Updates
will ONLY be sent out via e-mail. So be sure to give me your
e-mail address when you register.

1.19   History

v2.3 - 24 August 97

Did some tinkering with the SETTINGS, after restoring all the code that was
lost in a massive HD crash. I also lost the names and email addresses of
all registered users, so if you are a registered user, please email me so I
can send you a copy of the registered version.

v2.2 - 24 March 97

Decided to start moving away from the tooltypes (they were a pain anyway)
and implemented variables stored in ENV & ENVARC, created a new pull-down
menu, SETTINGS, to do what used to be done with the tooltypes. If CCB
finds the tooltypes it will use them, but if not it will look for the
variables in ENV and/or ENVARC. Decided to make CCB pop up in the center
of the display screen, love to find out what users think of that. Easy
enough to remove if need be. We'll see. CCB now shows in the SOURCE &
DESTINATION windows the default settings, until/unless something else is
chosen.

v2.11 - 24 December 96

Nothing major, just fixed the included ToolTypes on the CompressorControlBox
icon so that they actually worked. Seems I fixed the ones I use, but not
the ones for the distribution. Geez, sometimes it just seems like nothing
goes the way it's supposed too! Oh, well. Enjoy!

v2.1 - 4 August 96

Well, improving the handling of the ToolTypes in v2.0 resulted in some
other problems, namely, the program didn't read them correctly, and
reverted to the defaults! So I REALLY fixed it this time! I also changed
the way CCB handles valid floppy devices, and removed the IGNORE ToolType.

Instead I added a new ToolType, DEVICES. This allows you to specify the

floppy-type devices that DMS and DSQ will use. I also changed the way DMS

files are converted to DSQ, it now uses the dms.device instead of DMS

itself. Of course, this function is only available to registered users.

v2.0 - 9 June 96

Straightened up some items in the display window, added another pull-down

menu item (I'm not gonna tell, you'll have to take a look!), fixed the

AUTODELETE function, removed some code that didn't do anything, improved

the handling of the ToolTypes.

v1.9 - 16 Mar 96

Ok, I think I REALLY fixed the IGNORE problem, this time. There are

several devices built in that are scanned for and removed, I know that

there will be some left over, but that's what the tooltype is for. If it

still gives you problems, let me know what the problem is, I'll try to

correct it.

v1.8 - 9 Mar 96

Fixed some problems with the log generator, set it to default to using

'MORE' if the viewer specified by the tooltype could not be found.

Remember, you MUST specify a complete path to the viewer, for exammple

'C:MultiView', not just 'MultiView'.

v1.7 - 1 Mar 96

Added the tooltype IGNORE, which allows the user to specify which devices

to NOT show when using DMS/DSQ. Just add other devices to the tooltype,

each separated by '|', such as IGNORE=CD1|TCP|FIFO

v1.6 - 18 Feb 96

Added a logfile, which will keep track of all actions performed by CCB. It

will be located in the same directory that CCB is in, so it will be easy to

find. Added another pull-down menu item, 'View CCB Log' (hotkey is

Right-Amiga V). This will call your default viewer, or C:MultiView if not

set, to display the log file.

I realized that I had forgotten to specify how to use the 'batch'

conversion mode for LhA-2-LZX and DMS-2-DSQ. Here it is. Select the first

file to convert, hold down the shift key, and select as many others as you

wish. Pretty easy, just like shift-selecting icons on the WorkBench.

Found, and squashed, a little bug in the history function, should work the

way it's supposed to now.

Added checking for processor-type (680x0), so that the special functions of

LZX won't be tried if the processor doesn't support them (sorry, 68000/010

users. Didn't mean to alienate you!)

Added another tooltype, AUTODELETE, which will automatically delete the original file during batch conversion, IF the conversion had no errors. I personally converted over 180 megs of DMS files to DSQ, with no errors at all. And I converted over 200 megs of LHA files to LZX, no problems there, either.

v1.5 - 12 Feb 96

Added 'batch mode' to the LhA-2-LZX and DMS-2-DSQ conversion routines, added tooltype support for defining the Source, Destination and temporary T: directories, as well as the ability to define where your favorite viewer is. If the ToolTypes are not found, the defaults of SYS: and C:MultiView will be used. Moved the 'Free Mem' indicator from the window title bar to it's location next to the 'Select Compressor' text for legibility. Re-arranged the 'History' in this document, to show the latest info at the top, removed the use of DLDiz (no longer needed), and enhanced the error-detection routines.

v1.4 - 30 Jan 96

Ok, cleaned up the GUI, think I have the docs pretty well squared away now. I have (I think) complied with Dirk Vael's request to dump xDM and switch support to DiskSqueeze!, I hope he likes the way it has turned out. Okay, let's get with it. Fixed a bug in the creation of a new drawer for decompressing lha and lzx archives (thanks for spotting that, Ashley!), fixed the constant re-drawing of the program window, added the ability to delete the original or the new when converting from lha-to-lzx and when converting from DMS-to-DSQ. Added a bunch of progress indicators, so you won't think things are frozen when converting files, fixed the memory indicator (I hope), added a means of assigning T: to the hard drive if low on memory, fixed a serious bug in the DMS and DSQ routines (I won't tell what it was. If you found it, you know what it was). Changed the 'Abort' button to 'Reset All', which is what it was originally supposed to do (and now does). There might be more, but after 3 days sitting in front of Amy, I can't seem to remember! I would like to especially thank Ashley for doing the AmigaGuide for CCB. Looks great!

v1.31 - 27 Jan 96

This was an emergency release, disabling the xDM portions of CCB. I received a message from the originator of xDM, Dirk Vael, asking me to remove xDM from the program. In haste, I simply disabled those functions pertaining to xDM and sent it out, to replace the v1.3 release. I'll get the GUI and docs cleaned up for the next release.

v1.3 - 20 Jan 1996

Finally found a way to make LhA and LZX compress a directory and include

the selected path ONLY, as well as the .info for the drawer (if it exists).

What this means, is that you will no longer have files that un-compress to

something like: WorkBench:Games/FavoriteOfAllTime/blah Instead, if you had

elected to compress the drawer 'FavoriteOfAllTime/', containing 'blah' and

such, it will actually only have the path of 'FavoriteOfAllTime/blah', just

like it should! Also, I finally got around to fixing up some of the

pull-down menus, take a look at them. One more thing. I found the program

'DMSDescript', which means that you can now View/Add a File_id.diz to DMS

files.

v1.3 - FIRST REGISTERED VERSION

I decided to make the LhA-2-LZX and DMS-2-xDM options only available to

registered users, have to give them some kind of benny for registering!

Since v1.0 - v1.2 did not support this repacking option, it looks like v1.3

will be the first to give the un-registered users something to think about.

I find the option VERY handy, since it is SO EASY TO USE! So come on,

folks, go ahead and register. It really is worth it! :)

v1.2 - 14 Jan 1996

Spruced up the appearance of the GUI somewhat, added a pop-up requester to

the DeCompress option of LhA and LZX, to ask the user if a drawer should be

created to put the contents into. Straightened up some code, got rid of

some excess, added the 'About' menu item. Just little stuff, really. Oh,

and I cleaned up this readme, too!

v1.1 - 9 Jan 1996

Finally found a way to fix the niggling problem with selecting the device

to use for DMS and xDM. The user can now select ANY floppy-type device for

use by CCB.

Added a 'history' function to the source/destination requesters, so that

the last directory used will be the default (hope that is what you had in

mind, Ashley!)

Fixed the 'View/Add Diz' option, can now view the File_id.diz of LZX, LhA,

DMS, and xDM archives, and can add a File_id.diz to LZX, LhA, and xDM

/files. Sorry, nothing for DMS (yet!).

Added a Memory display to the title bar, good for keeping track of just how

much ram you have left after crunching up several disks or directories.

v1.0 - 1 Jan 1996

Initial release

1.20   CCB - Disabled features only in registered version

This feature is only available in the registered

version of CCB.