

ShowAmiga96_E

COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

ShowAmiga96_E

1.1 ShowAmiga96 - Contents

ShowAmiga96 Version 2.2 (06.10.1998)

=====

I know there are lots of other bootpic-viewers out there, but this isn't yet another one - it's different.

- o CHOOSY
ShowAmiga96 only runs on Amigas, which have installed the Picasso96-GFX-board-software
- o FAST
The pictures are saved as raw-data by the prefs-program. Therefore they needn't be uncompressed or decoded, but can be loaded into gfx-board-memory directly.
- o RESOURCESAVING
After loading, ShowAmiga96 only needs up to 30K Amiga-memory. This is possible because the picture only exists in gfx-board-memory and isn't buffered. So fragmentation of Amiga-memory is minimized.
- o EXPANDABLE
If you like nice fades and wipes, you can use the included fader-modules, you can install third-party modules or you even could write your own and publish them.

Copyright

Requirements

Installation

Prefs-Program

Problems?

Address and Thanks

Module development

1.2 ShowAmiga96 - Copyright

Copyright

This software is subject to the "Standard Amiga FD-Software Copyright Note"
It is MAILWARE as defined in paragraph 4b.
For more information please read AFD-COPYRIGHT (Version 1 or higher).

I don't remember where I found the nice Amiga-logo, but I think it's PD...

1.3 ShowAmiga96 - MagicUserInterface

This application uses

MUI - MagicUserInterface

(c) Copyright 1993/94 by Stefan Stuntz

MUI is a system to generate and maintain graphical user interfaces. With the aid of a preferences program, the user of an application has the ability to customize the outfit according to his personal taste.

MUI is distributed as shareware. To obtain a complete package containing lots of examples and more information about registration please look for a file called "muiXXusr.lha" (XX means the latest version number) on your local bulletin boards or on public domain disks.

If you want to register directly, feel free to send

DM 30.- or US\$ 20.-

to

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80935 München
GERMANY

1.4 ShowAmiga96 - Requirements

Requirements

- o any Amiga
- o OS 3.0
- o Graphicsboard with Picasso96-software

I you found bugs, please contact
me
.

1.5 ShowAmiga96 - Installation

Installation

The installation is Installer-driven.

Most of the ShowAmiga96 V2.x components are collected in an own directory. Only the prefs-program (ShowAmiga96_Prefs) should be copied to "Prefs" and the closer (ShowAmiga96_Close) must be copied to "WBstartup".

ShowAmiga96 is launched directly after SetPatch in the Startup-Sequence. Inserting the call will be done by the Installer automatically. If you want to skip the automatical modification, simply change your Startup-Sequence like this.

```
...  
...  
C:SetPatch  
  
;BEGIN ShowAmiga96  
Sys:Utilities/ShowAmiga96/Bin/ShowAmiga96_Rev208711  
;END ShowAmiga96  
  
...  
...
```

The next step will be the selection of your

```
Picasso96-gfxboard-driver  
from "DEVS:Monitors".
```

ShowAmiga96 has to start the P96-driver itself to show the bootpic as early as possible. The other drivers will be loaded as usual a bit later in the Startup-Sequence.

After a successful installation the
Prefs-program
will be launched.

Here you can

```
Test  
if everything works right. Otherwise have a look
```

at the

```
error descriptions  
.
```

1.6 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program

```
Prefs-program  
-----
```

The Prefs-program is based on the
MagicUserInterface
by Stefan Stunz
and consists of the following pages:

```
Informations      - general informations about the program  
  
Options           - general settings and  
close conditions  
  
Images            - administration of bootpics  
  
Fadein-modules    - administration of fadein effects  
  
Fadeover-modules  - administration of fadeover effects
```

At the bottom of the prefswindow you can find these buttons:

Save

```
Saves all settings in the prefs files
```

Test

Saves all changed settings and launches the ShowAmiga96-mainprogram.
After the bootpic has been faded in, the program waits for a mouseclick.
Then it jumps into the waitloop where it checks if all
close conditions
(except WBstartup) are true.
If all are true, the test will be over. Otherwise the program will count
down the
max wait if conditions don't come true
before it continues.
You can quit the test manually by pressing ESC.

Quit

Quits the Prefs-program. This doesn't save the prefs automatically.

1.7 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-Programm - Informations

Prefs-Programm - Informations

This page only shows informations about

the copyright

the author-address

.....
back to:

Prefs-program

1.8 ShowAmiga96 - Monitordrivera

Prefs-programm - Monitordrivers

These are possible names for Picasso96-monitordrivers:

CVision3D
Domino
Graffity

Inferno
 Merlin
 oMniBus
 PicassoII
 PicassoIV
 Piccolo
 PiccoloSD64
 Pixel64
 RetinaBLT
 Spectrum
 uaegfx

1.9 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - general settings

Prefs-program - general settings

Monitordriver

The string contains the path- and filename of your P96-monitordriver (e.g. DEVS:Monitors/PicassoIV). Normally it will be defined during the installation, but it can be changed here. ←

Monitordelay

If your monitor needs some time to synchronize a new screenmode, you can define a delay [1/50 seconds] to wait until the fadein starts.

FastLoad

ShowAmiga96 is able to load the imagedata directly into the gfx-board-memory. I call this fastload. If you use this feature with 16/24bit images, you will be a witness of the load-process (fadein-modules can't be selected). If you encounter problems (like destroyed screen-contents) you should disable this feature.

Startmode

This cycle-gadget defines, how long execution of the "Startup-Sequence" will be interrupted after starting ShowAmiga96.

"complete synchronous" Waits until the bootpic has been loaded and continues when the execution of the

fadein-module
has been completed.

"fadein asynchronous" Only waits until the bootpic has been loaded.
The fadein-module will run parallel to the
remaining boot-process.

"complete asynchronous" There will be no interruption. Loading and
fading will run completely parallel.
Only use this if the have the Workbench and
ShowAmiga96 on different harddisks.

MaxRead

This value tells ShowAmiga96 how many bytes it can load at once.
This may depend on your filesystem. 4.000.000 would be optimal,
30.000 should work on any system.

Workbenchname

This string contains the name of your wb(-replacement)-screen. The
close condition
check will be done on this screen.
The name of the standard Workbench is "Workbench".

Monitordriverinfo

Displays informations about the selected
monitordriver
.

Workbenchinfo

Displays informations about the specified WB-screen.

Close conditions
Here you can define when ShowAmiga96 should consider the
boot-process as finished and when to start the fadeover-
module.

.....

back to:

Prefs-program

1.10 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - close conditions

Prefs-program - close conditions

ShowAmiga96 can wait for 3 kinds of events until it starts the fadeout-module.
The following conditions can be defined on the registerpages.

WaitWindow - wait for a window to open

WBstartup - wait for the start of ShowAmiga96_Close

Pixelcolor - wait for the change of a pixel

Delay - additional delay

If you activate multiple close conditions, ShowAmiga96 will wait until ALL conditions are true.

max wait if conditions don't come true

If you made a mistake when defining the conditions or if an error occurred during the boot-process, so that the conditions won't come true, ShowAmiga96 would wait forever.

To avoid this you can define a time [seconds] after that the fadeover will be started without close conditions.

The countdown always starts, after ShowAmiga96 has been launched in the startup-sequence.

HINT: If you want to quit ShowAmiga96 manually, pressing ESC will set the max wait time to zero.

.....

back to:

Prefs-program
-
Options

1.11 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - close conditions - WaitWindow

Prefs-program - close conditions - WaitWindow

active

Will wait until a window appeared at the specified position.
(e.g. a Toolmanager dock)

X-Pos

Horizontal position of the window

Y-Pos

Vertical position of the window

The list at the right border shows all windows of the

specified Workbench-screen
. A doubleclick on an entry

will copy the position into the textfields.

.....

back to:

Prefs-program
-
Options

Prefs-program
-
close conditions

1.12 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - close conditions - WBstartup

Prefs-program - close conditions - WBstartup

aktive

Will wait until the program "ShowAmiga96_Close" has been launched.

This can be done in the WBstartup-drawer (default) or you can call
it from a script.

.....

back to:

Prefs-program
-
Options

```
Prefs-program
-
close conditions
```

1.13 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - close conditions - pixelcolor

```
Prefs-program - close conditions - pixelcolor
-----
```

aktive

Will wait until a specified pixel on the WB-screen changed in a specified way.

X-Pos

Horizontal position of the pixel

Y-Pos

Vertical position of the pixel

register/colorvalue

This field contains the current register/colorvalue of the specified pixel. You can't change the value manually. It will be updated automatically when the position-sliders are moved.

wait:

ShowAmiga96 distinguishes between two wait modes:

"while equal" ShowAmiga96 will wait while the specified (saved) color-value and the current are the same.
You can e.g. wait for the appearance of the WB-backdrop picture, if you save the value of the grey Workbench (without backdrop picture).

"until equal" ShowAmiga96 will wait until the specified (saved) color-value and the current are the same.
You can e.g. wait for the appearance of an appicon if you select a position on the icon (the colorvalue of the iconpixel and of the backdrop picture must be different).

The magnification glass shows the area around the specified pixel position (which is the red dot in the middle)

.....

back to:

```
Prefs-program
-
Options

Prefs-program
-
close conditions
```

1.14 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - close conditions - delay

Prefs-program - close conditions - delay

aktive

If you want to wait a few seconds AFTER all close conditions became true, you can activate this delay.

seconds

This is the additional delay [seconds].

.....

back to:

```
Prefs-program
-
Options

Prefs-program
-
close conditions
```

1.15 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - Images

Prefs-program - Images

Imagelist

This shows a list of all available (already created) ShowAmiga96-bootpics. ShowAmiga96 distinguishes between activated (checked) and deactivated bootpics. Deactivated pics still exist on your disk, but they won't be displayed.

To change the status of an image, just doubleclick the entry.
You can adjust the image order by using drag and drop.

Infos

Displays informations about the image and the used screenmode.

Effects

Displays a list of all available

Fadein-
- and
Fadeover-modules

.

There will only appear those modules, which support the

RGB-Format
of the bootpic

and of the specified
Workbench screen

.

The status (checkmark) can be changed by doubleclicking.

If you selected more than one module for a bootpic, ShowAmiga96 will
pick one of these randomly.

In turns/random

ShowAmiga96 is able to show the bootpics in the order they appear in
the imagelist or by using a random function.

Delete

Deletes the selected imagefile.

Add

This button is the only possibility to add new bootpics to ShowAmiga96.
You just have to select the new picture in a filerequester. SA96 will
load it by using datatypes.

After that the
add picture
-dialog will appear, where
you can change some settings for the new image.

HINT: The startdirectory of the filerequester can be defined in the
tooltypes of the prefs-program:
e.g. DEFPICTUREDIRE=dh2:data/pictures

Shuffle

If you selected "in turns", you can use this button to arrange the
images in a random order.

You can do this manually by using drag&drop.

Avoid repetitions

Tells ShowAmiga96 to remember the last shown image when using random order. So the random function will not pick the same picture twice.

Test image

With this function you can test a special picture. In contrast to

Test
 , which simulates a normal start from the startup-sequence with automatical image-selection, "Test image" will only show the selected image.

.....

back to:

Prefs-program

1.16 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - Fadein-modules

Prefs-program - Fadein-modules

Fadein-modules are used to to render the loaded image on the screen. The can be done in infinte variations, so that ShowAmiga96 V2.x uses the concept of modules, that can be added and removed independently.

Effectlist

The list shows all available (installed) fadein-modules.
 A cross in the columns (8/16/24bit) means, that the module can be used with pictures of that depth.
 A cross in the "Fastload"-column means, that the module can be used in combination with fastload.

(X = useable)
 (- = not available)

Prefs

Many modules have their own settings. This button opens the prefs window for the selected module.
 The module prefs are always global, i.e. you can't define different settings for different images.

Delete

This deletes the selected module including all prefs files.

.....

back to:

Prefs-programm

1.17 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - Fadeover-modules

Prefs-program - Fadeover-modules

Fadeover-modules are used to produce some nice effects when switching from the bootpic to WB.

Effectlist

The list shows all available (installed) fadeover-modules.
A cross in the columns (8/16/24bit) means, that the module can be used with pictures and wbscreens of that depth.

(X = useable)

(- = not available)

Prefs

Many modules have their own settings. This button opens the prefs window for the selected module.
The module prefs are always global, i.e. you can't define different settings for different images.

Delete

This deletes the selected module including all prefs files.

.....

back to:

Prefs-program

1.18 ShowAmiga96 - Prefs-program - Images - Add picture

Prefs-program - Images - Add picture

Picturename

This is the name of the new file, which will be created in the "Images"-directory. The original file won't be touched.

Format

The radio buttons define the depth of the new image. Loading and rendering will be done by datatypes.

The fields "width" and "height" display the dimensions of the original picture and should be a guide when selecting the destination screenmode.

WB-Copy-Mode

If this checkmark is selected, ShowAmiga96 will pick a renderscreen which has the same size and modeid like the workbench screen. Some fadeover modules like Rect and RandomPixel need this property to show their effects without the typical flash when switching screens.

Fitting screenmodes

This list contains all available screenmodes for the selected image depth. A fitting screenmode will be selected automatically. If the original image doesn't fit exactly, it will be scaled.

Use

The image will be rendered, saved and added to the imagelist. Please notice, that all effects of a new picture are deactivated by default.

Show picture

Opens the selected Picasso96 screen and shows the image as it would appear on the bootscreen. A mouseclick brings you back to the prefs program.

Cancel

Leaves the "Add picture" dialog. No image will be created.

.....

back to:

```
Prefs-program
-
Images
```

1.19 ShowAmiga96 - Problems?

Boot-problems

SysIHack

You must launch the program in the startup-sequence before ShowAmiga96 is started.

ENV-/ENVARC-problems

ShowAmiga96 and Picasso96 need the ENV: assign to run. Normally, this is created too late in the startup-sequence, so that ShowAmiga96 must set the assign itself.

During the installation ShowAmiga96 saves the path of the current ENVARC: and assigns ENV: to this path at startup.

If you use multiple ENVARCs and ShowAmiga96 saved a wrong path, you could assign ENV: manually before SA96 is called in the startup-sequence. SA96 doesn't change an existing assign.

Other reasons

If ShowAmiga96 or Picasso96 have problems to launch, please check if DEVS: and LIBS: point to the correct directories. Maybe they are assigned too late, if you use non-standard paths for these directories.

System hangs after fadeout

This could be a conflict between ShowAmiga96 and Toolmanager, which appears when SA96 closes its screen at a certain time. You can avoid this by adding an additional

```
delay
or (better) by selecting one of the Toolmanager-Docks
as
WaitWindow
.
```

Prefs-problems

New pictures aren't shown properly

If new images only consist of a black or gray screen, you probably have a datatype problem. If there is no change after a reboot, you could try

to launch the prefs program from a Shell.

If this short help can't solve your problems, don't hesitate to contact
me
.

1.20 ShowAmiga96 - Module development

Module development

The fadein/-over modules of ShowAmiga96 are simple AmigaDOS-programs, which are launched by the mainprog using SystemTagList().

Fadein modules

While ShowAmiga96 is running, the modules will find some informations about the current image in the file ram:showamiga96.dat. This includes a pointer to the image data and to the already opened P96-screen. The task of the module is to transfer the image data from the buffer into the P96-bitmap. The easiest way is to copy the single bytes, because the image data has already been converted into the correct format by the prefs program.

Fadeover modules

These modules can also use the file ram:showamiga96.dat to learn about their environment. The minimal task of these modules is to close the bootscreen. If they change the bitmap contents before of if they open an own render screen is up to their choise.

If you are interested in writing your own modules, simply
request
more
detailed developer material.

1.21 ShowAmiga96 - Address and Thanks

Address and Thanks

Comments, suggestions, criticism or bugreports are always welcome.

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hmueller@online.de

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Germany

If you are interested in others of my programs,
just surf to the RelaySoft-homepage:

<http://www.online.de/home/hmueller/index.html>

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