

EZBackupGuide

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WRITTEN BY		July 1, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

EZBackupGuide

1.1 "

<<<EZ Backup V1.2>>>

A smart and easy way of making backups

So what is EZBackup anyway?

How to install it?

Okay, so how do I use it?

Some important remarks.

Contact the author, he'll be pleased...

Credits and legal stuff. Boooriing!

Programmed by Diego Pappalardo 1997

1.2 about ezbackup

So what's all this fuss about? Another backup utility? Come on pal, there are so many of these, which are probably better than this one, with more functions. Why did you bother, really?

Well, would you believe it or not, but I never found a PD/shareware backup utility that would fit my requirements. Some of them backup only to disks (yeah, try to backup a 1.2Gb Hard Drive on disks!), others have problems with AFS, many often ask for a shareware fee (let's be serious, everyone can copy files with DOpus!). I recently got Quaterback6.1 on a cover CD, and it has problems making backups of more than 10Mb... Okay so maybe I haven't understood how it works, or I forgot to configure it correctly. But that's exactly the point! Most of the time you only need a utility to crunch and copy some important files to your EZ drive or your Zip drive, without too many fuss. That's exactly what EZBackup does.

The features:

- It's easy
- It does backups easily
- It's easy on your wallet coz' it's free :)
- It's easy ... did I mention that already?

1.3 installation

Installation is easy enough:

First enter the directory where the program is and position the mouse pointer on the program's icon. DO NOT CLICK ON IT. Instead, press the following keys in the following order: Left Shift, Left Ctrl, Left Amiga, Left Alt. Then press the Help key SEVEN times, and say these words: "I thank Diego The Genius for giving this wonderful piece of software for free. May he be blessed forever". Next start jumping like a mad without releasing the keys (very important) and finally bang your head against the nearest wall. That should do it.

... or you could just copy EZBackup wherever you like and run it. Hey, why don't you try both methods?

No, better not try the first one...

1.4 usage

Using EZBackup is real easy. Let's see how to backup your files step by step:

* Run the program by clicking twice on its icon (is it really necessary to explain this? Oh well...). The first thing you'll see is a small welcome requester. Click on the button to continue.

* Oops, it's getting harder! Now you have three windows...

The first one is the main control window, with a few buttons to play with. We'll examine them later.

The second window, called "Backup Progress Info" will give you some info on what's going on during the backup process.

The third window is partially hidden by the previous one. Move the Backup Progress Window to see it completely. It's called "Actual LOG list". It is empty now, but it's function is to show you the list of the files or directories to be included in the backup when you press the "Backup!" button.

* Alright, so let's see how to backup your entire Workbench partition:

- First click on "New LOG" then click on "Yes". A nice requester will ask you to select something. So click on "Volumes" and select your Workbench volume. Be sure that there's nothing written in the "File" text gadget!

- Right, we just told EZBackup what part we actually want to backup, in this case the entire Workbench partition. You should see now the line "Workbench:" in the LOG window.

- We'll now select a destination path for the backup of the files. Click on "Dest path" and select a path. This will usually be your EZ drive or Zip disk.

- Now select the compression mode: Lha or XPK. The XPK compression mode hasn't been implemented yet, so leave it on Lha.

- Click on "Backup!" then on "Yes". A progress bar will appear and the backup process will start. As easy as that.

* So what if you don't want to backup a whole partition?

Lets' take the Work partition. You have all your valuable data there, but also some installed games, some demos coming from Aminet, etc... It's a bit of useless to backup demos and games. So here's how to select the files to backup.

- Click on "New LOG" then "Yes".

- Now you're asked to select stuff to backup. Do so: if you want to select a file, just find it and click on it. If you want to select an entire drawer, then click on the drawer ONCE and eventually delete entirely the "File" text gadget before clicking on "OK".

- You can keep adding files and directories by clicking on "Add to LOG".

- Notice how each selection is added in the Log window.

- If you want to delete an entry from the LOG list then just click on it in the Log window. A small requester will ask you to confirm the delete action.

- Done? Once you selected all the files and directories to backup, click on "Save LOG". This allows you to save the LOG list you created, so next time you backup you won't need to start it over again, unless files or directories have been moved, renamed, or erased of course.

- Now select a destination path by clicking on "Dest path". Then click on "Backup!" and here you go. Isn't that easy?

Basically, everything has been explained now. I told you it was easy!

1.5 remarks

Please consider the following:

- EZBackup has been conceived with removable medias in mind: EZ135, Zip, Jaz, ... The backup won't be splitted if the destination drive runs out of space. So don't try to make backups on normal disks (unless you do a very small backup!).

- Lha has been choosed to pack the data so it takes less space. Okay, so it's not the fastest packer, but consider this: imagine your HD dies and you hopefully made a backup. You'll want to retrieve your files. So you have this new and completely empty HD, you just boot your Workbench disk, install Lha (which you can found about everywhere) and your EZ or Zip drive, and just unpacks the backup files. As easy as that. You don't need to install your backup software to retrieve them, you don't need to hunt those weird libs that your backup soft needs. It's a simple matter of unpacking.

Okay so maybe one day I'll implement XPK and Lhz...

- The progress bar that appears when you hit "Backup!" is based on the progression through the LOG files. This means that if you have 5 files in the LOG, the bar will show 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, and 100%. If you're doing a backup of the whole Workbench partition, the bar is pretty useless indeed.

- Remember that Lha can't cope with files containing spaces. I started to implement a small scan for spaces function, but never finished it. So you'd better scan your drives with DOpus to be sure that no file has spaces in it.

- EZBackup surely isn't the most complete backup system in the world. But I didn't want that. It does a simple job. The one I need to be done every time I backup my HD.

1.6 contact

Please feel free to send suggestions and comments, like "your backup utility sucks, mine is far better" or "This piece of crap stood on my HD for less than fifty seconds".

Send also bug reports to the same address:

dpappalardo@arcadis.be

(Diego Pappalardo)

1.7 credits and legal stuff

Some credits goes to the authors of BlitzBasic2, Acid Software, because this thing was coded with it. To be honest, GUI programming has never been so easy!

Credits goes also to me for having programmed this software. Thanks to Diego Pappalardo for being so modest... :)

By the way, did you know EZBackup is Freeware? I mean, completely free for you, my little Amiga user. I know, I know, I'm just soooooo kind!

But remember, there are some very good shareware products out there. Maybe you're using some of them all the time. So if you haven't done it yet, think about registering the ones you use regularly, coz' if you use them then they're good, and good software worth the little shareware fee the authors ask for. You know, one day they might just get bored and go to PC land (nooooooooooooo!), the land where a dumb screengrabber asks \$20 of shareware fee. They're mad. I mean it's just a screengrabber, geez!

Okay so promise me you'll think about it!