

RShowPrefs

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	<i>TITLE :</i> RShowPrefs		
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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	RShowPrefs	1
1.1	The RShowPrefs Preferences Editor	1
1.2	Introduction	2
1.3	Installation	3
1.4	Usage	3
1.5	Workbench invocation	4
1.6	CLI invocation	6
1.7	Distribution notes	7
1.8	Program History	7
1.9	Program Credits	7
1.10	Author	8

Chapter 1

RShowPrefs

1.1 The RShowPrefs Preferences Editor

Documentation for

RShow v1.0

An image viewer for the
Retina 24 bit graphics card

Written by Michael Berg
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This document fully describes how to use the RShow image viewer. Please select an item from the table of contents listed below:

Introduction
 Introduction to RShow

Installation
 How to install it

Usage
 How to use it

Distribution
 Distribution notes

History
 Program history

Credits
 Who made this possible?

Author
How to reach the author

1.2 Introduction

Introduction

Those of you who have owned a Retina card for some time will no doubt have used RetinaDisplay quite a few times by now. RetinaDisplay is a fine program, but it does have some annoying defects which should be corrected. Specifically, the following issues have bothered me for some time:

- * File requester does not accept multiple files
- * To make the above worse, the file requester doesn't pop up after an image has been shown. You have to press Amiga-O to make it reappear.
- * Support for overscanned images is limited and does not support hardware scrolling.
- * Screen mode is fixed for each image. You can change the screen mode with RetinaScreenMode, but this kludgy to say the least.
- * RetinaDisplay window uses topaz 8, and it uses the wrong size for the icon drop box on low resolution screens.
- * No wildcard support in filenames from CLI (boo! hiss! :-)

Also, RetinaDisplay has an annoying habit of writing the current path to ENVARC: every time you exit it. This is not really necessary in my opinion, since chances are next time I start it I won't be showing images from that directory anyway.

MacroSystems do release software updates from time to time, but apparently they feel RetinaDisplay is just perfect the way it is, because no apparent changes have been made to it for the last couple of software updates.

Thus I had no choice but to write an alternative to RetinaDisplay myself. One which behaved the way I wanted it to, and one which I could maintain myself. The result was RShow - I hope you like it :-)

Here is a rough rundown of the most important features of RShow:

- * Multiple files selectable from file requester :-)
 - * Localized
 - * Starts up as an AppIcon when run from Workbench (or during WBStartup)
 - * AppIcon name, imagery and position selectable using tooltypes
 - * Double-buffered loading (loads while showing and scrolling)
 - * Selectable screen mode and display time per filename pattern per depth
 - * External, font sensitive, localized preferences editor
 - * Supports full CLI usage, including wildcards
 - * Uses hardware scrolling to view overscanned images (fast!)
 - * RECURSIVE/ALL arg - show all files in all subdirectories
 - * NAMETAG arg - show name of each image in the top-left corner
 - * LOOP arg - show image(s) over and over again
 - * AUTOCENTER arg - automatically center image on screen
 - * QUIET arg - suppress all banners and informative output
 - * Displays info about each displayed image (ViewTek style)
-

* English documentation in AmigaGuide format (beat that, MacroSystems! :-)

1.3 Installation

Installation

Scripts for both IconX and for Commodore's Installer utility (not included) are provided to make installing RShow as convenient as possible. Installing RShow by hand is also quite easy, if you follow the instructions below.

Copy RShow and its icon into the directory or drawer where you want it. If you want it to be automatically run every time your system is rebooted, put it in SYS:WBStartup.

Now copy guifront.library from the included libs directory to your own LIBS: path. This library is required by the RShow preferences editor. Note that a preferences editor for guifront.library is also included, although you need not install this to your hard drive. This editor allows you to control the visual appearance of GUIFront applications in case the defaults do not suit your needs.

If you want RShow and RShowPrefs to run localized, you must also copy the necessary catalog files to your LOCALE: directory.

Like the RShow preferences editor, RShow requires at least AmigaDOS 2.04.

RShow requires multipic.library (any version) and at least version 8 of retina.library. If you do not have a recent version, contact MacroSystems for a software upgrade.

1.4 Usage

Usage

RShow can be run from the Workbench or from CLI. Please select one of the following entries for a more detailed description how to do this from either environment:

Workbench invocation

CLI invocation

Once an image is showing, the following keys can be used to control RShow: ↔

Return/Enter/Space/Right mouse button: Proceed to the next image

ESCape: Skip the rest of the images

Mouse: Scroll around in an overscanned image

It is worth noticing that images larger than the visible portion of the screen (overscanned images) can be scrolled while the next image is being loaded. This allows users with slow drives (like floppies) to fully enjoy an image even while the computer is busy loading the next one.

Tip: Some low-budget VGA monitors only scan in the 30 to 40 khz interval, and this means that the average 640 x 480 or 800 x 600 GIF image will be displayed in a mode which refreshes at only about 50 or 60 hz. RShow's ability to handle overscanned images allows you to get a much more stable image by letting you define a screen mode (with RetinaMonitor) which has a smaller visible portion (320 x 200 for example), but refreshes much quicker (say, at 90 hz, or 60-70 hz in doublescan). Having to move the mouse in order to view the entire image doesn't really spoil things that much, and the image quality is so much better.

If you by accident hit the left mouse button while an image is being shown, there is a chance RShow's input window may get deactivated. This means it won't be able to listen for any input events (mouse or keyboard activity) until the window is reactivated. To you it will seem as if the machine has locked up, while in reality you have simply activated a different window.

The solution to this problem is simple: Press Ctrl F9 to push the Retina screen to the back, reactivate RShow's tiny input window and then press Ctrl F10 to move the retina screen to the front again. Then proceed to press enter, space, escape or the right mouse button, just like normal.

1.5 Workbench invocation

Using RShow with Workbench

To start RShow from Workbench either double click its icon or move it into WBStartup and let Workbench do it for you next time your system is rebooted. RShow understands the following icon tool types:

QUIET

Suppress any banner and image information. Normal operation is to display the filename, size and image type in a small CLI window on the default public screen.

LOOP

Keep displaying images dropped on the AppIcon or selected from the file requester until the user interrupts by pressing ESCape. Normal operation is to show all images just once.

AUTOCENTER

Center images on the screen. This is off by default because it can interfere slightly with hardware scrolling by causing the first mouse movement to shift the entire image to the top left in stead of scrolling it only slightly (bug in retina.library). If you hardly ever use autoscrolling you probably want to use AUTOCENTER to make better use of your monitor.

NAMETAG

Display the filename in the top-left corner of each image. Normal operation is to show the image without this information.

DEFAULTASLPATH

Using this tooltip you can specify which path the ASL file requester should open on when it is first activated. Useful if you almost always show images from the same directory. If you do not specify an initial path, the ASL requester will open in the directory from where RShow was started.

INITIALREQUESTER

Open ASL requester immediately and prompt for files. Normally when RShow is started from Workbench, it will add its AppIcon to the Workbench screen and then wait for you to click it or drop icons on it. This works out well when RShow is started during WBStartup, but if you simply want RShow to show you some files when you start it, it can get irritating to first have to start RShow, then double click on the AppIcon just to get the ASL requester. This tooltip makes RShow open an ASL requester as soon as it is started, allowing you to select files immediately (you'll still get the AppIcon, however).

ICONNAME=<name of AppIcon>

This tooltip allows you to specify the name of the AppIcon on your Workbench. Default is "RShow Dock".

ICONPOS_X=<x position of AppIcon>

This tooltip enables you to put the AppIcon on a specific X (horizontal) position on your Workbench. Default is "no position", which means Workbench will just stick it where there is room for it.

ICONPOS_Y=<y position of AppIcon>

Like ICONPOS_X, this tooltip enables you to put the AppIcon on a specific Y (vertical) position on your Workbench. Default is "no position", which means Workbench will put it where there is room for it.

If everything was properly initialized, RShow installs a small AppIcon on the Workbench screen. Normally RShow uses an image identical to its own tool icon for the AppIcon, but you can change this if you wish. Simply place your favourite icon under the name "rshow_dock.info" in either ENV:Sys/ or ENVARC:Sys, and RShow automatically uses it next time you run it.

If you double click the AppIcon, RShow opens a small requester asking you if you want to display some files, quit the program or simply cancel the operation.

Select Open to make RShow open an ASL file requester and let you to select

files from there. Select Quit to quit RShow, and Cancel to cancel the operation.

If you drop one or more icons on the AppIcon, RShow will attempt to open and display each file on a Retina screen with a display mode as specified with the RShow preferences editor.

RShow uses `multipic.library` to load images, so you will be able to display images in any format supported by this library. This includes all ILBM types, GIF, JPEG and a few other less common formats. Consult your Retina system software documentation for a complete description of all supported formats.

1.6 CLI invocation

Using RShow with the CLI

RShow can be run from a CLI using the following command line template:

```
QUIET/S,ALL=RECURSIVE/S,NAMETAG/S,AUTOCENTER/S,LOOP/S,FILE/M,FROM/K,UNTIL/K
```

No options are mandatory, and if you simply run RShow without any arguments, you will be presented with a file requester from which you can select images to display.

Here is a brief description of each argument:

QUIET/S

This switch causes RShow to suppress banner and image information. Normal operation is to display the name, size and image type of each displayed file in the CLI window.

ALL=RECURSIVE/S

This switch allows you to display all files in all subdirectories matching the filename pattern specified with FILE/M. If, for example, you want to display every image in every directory on DF0:, simply enter "RShow DF0: all".

NAMETAG/S

This switch causes RShow to display the filename in the top-left corner of each image. Normal operation is to show images without this information.

{b}AUTOCENTER/S

Attempt to center images on the screen. This is off by default because it can interfere slightly with hardware scrolling. If you hardly ever use autoscrolling you probably want to use AUTOCENTER.

LOOP/S

This switch makes RShow display images in a repeated sequence until

the user interrupts it. Normal operation is to display every image once and then exit.

FILE/M

This is the name of the image or images you wish to display. You can specify as many images as you like, and each may include AmigaDOS wildcards. Specifying directory names is legal, and causes RShow to prompt for files from each using an ASL filerequester (see also ALL=RECURSIVE/S).

Example: "RShow cd0:hubble/wfpcl.gif dh2:x/#?.gif a???.gif"

FROM/K

This keyword is useful when you are interrupted during the display of a large number of files from a directory. Suppose you have entered "RShow cd0:img0 all", and then for some reason have to stop after an image called "img40.gif". To continue displaying the remainder of images, you would then issue the following command: "RShow cd0:img0 all from cd0:img0/img40.gif". You may use AmigaDOS wildcards with the FROM keyword as well.

UNTIL/K

This keyword is a complement to the FROM keyword. It allows you to display a sequence of images up to (and including) the first filename which matches the pattern specified with UNTIL. If you want to display all images on cd0:img0/ up until a file called "img40.gif", you can accomplish this using the command: "RShow cd0:img0 all until cd0:img0/img40.gif". You may use AmigaDOS wildcards with the UNTIL keyword as well. FROM and UNTIL may be used together, to display only a selection of files from a directory.

1.7 Distribution notes

Distribution notes

RShow, the RShow preferences editor and all related documentation is freely distributable. For further information on distribution rights, please refer to the Distribution document included in the full RShow distribution.

1.8 Program History

Program history

2-Aug-94 - Release 1.0, internal revision 38.1

1.9 Program Credits

Credits

Most importantly I want to thank MacroSystems for the Retina hardware, and for providing an easy to use, well developed programming interface which made it possible for me to write the bulk of RShow in just under two days.

Also thanks to SAS for their remarkable C compiler, version 6.51 of which was used to compile RShow and its preferences editor.

Thanks to Kenneth Perto for initial betatesting and Internet support.

1.10 Author

Author

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