XPKPatch

Grzegorz Krolik

	COLLABORATORS		

	TITLE : XPKPatch		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
WRITTEN BY	Grzegorz Krolik	August 8, 2022	

	REVISION HISTORY		

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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XPKPatch

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1.2   Program version

XPKPatch

A small patch that makes XPK or PowerPacker datafiles and executable

files crunched with XPK act completely as if they were normal files.

Version 1.7

Copyright (C) 2000 Grzegorz Krolik

Compilation date: 25 February 2000

1.3 Copyright and spreading

This program is spread as SHAREWARE.

If you want to use it regularly, please register. You can do it by
sending me a small sum of money. This sum is fixed and it amounts to 5
USD. But if you do not live in Poland and want me to send you the
registered program, please send 2 USD more (postage), that is 7 USD
altogether.

The money you can send in any way. The safest way to do it seems to be
a money order - sending cash in letters is risky. Note that I SHOULD GET
5 USD, and not YOU are to pay that much, in other words - I do not care
about expenses you have to bear sending me the money. You should send it
directly to me. My address is in the chapter A few final words .

The above-mentioned sum DOES NOT include the price of a disk. You should
send me the disk on which I will save you the program, or send a litte
more money in order that I could buy a disk.

If you have an e-mail, you may order a licensed version through Internet
(my e-mail is in the chapter A few final words). The money you should
still send in a conventional way. In that case only 5 USD.

Also please drop me a line on your machine configuration (its type,
memory (VERY IMPORTANT!), operation system, hard disk, external devices,
etc.), and let me know where you got this program from.

If you have obtained a licensed version of this program from somewhere
else, I give you the right to test it for two weeks. After that time you
have to make up your mind and: pay the shareware or give up the program.

The DEMO version has all the options that the licensed one, but it stays
in the computer's memory only for 15 minutes and then it terminates
itself without any warning.

The DEMO version gives you full chance to test it in practice, and also
discourages from using it often. This version is spread as FREEWARE.

What can you gain by registration?

- You will get the full, licensed to your name version of XPKPatch.

- You have the right to expert advice from the author in case of any
troubles with using the program.

- You have the right to get free upgrades. You will be informed if any
upgrades are made (see Getting upgrades).

- You will support the author.

Spreading the licensed version on PD disks is forbidden - only the DEMO
is intended for this purpose.

This program may be spread only with the following files:

XPKPatch.info

XPKPatch (dir)

XPKPatch - file present only in the licensed version

XPKPatch.info

XPKPatchDEMO

XPKPatchDEMO.info

XPKPatch.guide

XPKParch.guide.info

XPKPatch_pl.guide

XPKPatch_pl.guide.info

This program may be also spread as an LhA archive.

Changing the program and (or) its documentation is forbidden!

The source code is not spread with the program, but (in EXCEPTIONAL

cases) you can get it from me.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The author of XPKPatch is not responsible for any data loss, caused

because of faulty work of his program.

Using XPKPatch is user's own risk!

1.4 What it does

This program makes work with XPK or PowerPacker datafiles and executable

files crunched with XPK much easier. This is the successor to

PowerPacker Patcher by Michael Berg.

After installing the program, system will see files crunched with the

above-mentioned crunchers as if they were normal files.

So from now, loading XPK or PowerPacker datafiles into your favourite

program (text editor, graphic program, etc.) which does not recognize

these files itself, does not make troubles.

1.5 Program requirements

This program does not have too excessive requirements!

It works correctly under any OS version, beginning from 1.3!

Yes, of course it works under OS 1.3!!!

Besides, it works with any processor of Motorola 680xx and it also works

with 0.5 MB RAM (but I recommend at least 1 MB).

This program also requires the xpkmaster.library in version 2 or later.

And of course, in spite of this, it also requires the suitable

sub-libraries that must be placed in the LIBS:Compressors.

1.6 Starting the program

This program may be run in the same way as almost every program on

Amiga, that is: from Shell or from Workbench.

In both cases you can supply XPKPatch with some arguments (in argument

line when starting from Shell and in ToolTypes when from Workbench).

Syntax: XPKPatch [-c] [-n] [-u] [-s] [<temppath>]

Because XPKPatch (like PowerPacker Patcher) has a simple virus-detection

mechanism (see Virus detection), I think it was good to add the

possibility to turn it on or off.

Using the parameters '-c' or '-n' you can turn this function on or off.

These parameters are case insensitive. Supplying XPKPatch with '-c'

(CHECK) you can turn this option on, and supplying it with '-n'

(NOCHECK) you can turn it off.

XPKPatch also decrunches executable files. However, this function is

sometimes unnecessary. So I have added the possibility to turn it on or

off.

Using the parameters '-u' or '-s' you can turn this function on or off.

These parameters are also case insensitive. Supplying XPKPatch with '-u'

(UNPACKEXE) you can turn this option on, and supplying it with '-s'

(SKIPEXE) you can turn it off.

These parameters can either be supplied separately or can be linked (eg.

'-nu'). The sequence of the parameters is not important, eg:

XPKPatch -n -u <temppath>, XPKPatch -nu <temppath>,

XPKPatch <temppath> -u -n, XPKPatch -u <temppath> -n, etc.

The other argument is the name of the path where you would like XPKPatch

to save temporary files (see How it works).

If the user runs XPKPatch with no arguments, it will use the default

ones, i.e. '-c' (virus detection), '-s' (executable files will not be

decrunched), and as the temporary path it will use RAM:.

In case of starting this program from Workbench, the parameters should

be supplied as follows:

In ToolTypes item of its icon you must type:

VIRCHECK = (YES|NO) (depends if you want to turn it on or off)

UNPACKEXE = (YES|NO) (as above)

If you want to choose directory where the temporary files will be saved,

follow these steps:

Select the XPKPatch icon. Then holding down the Shift key, double-click

on the drawer of the directory, where you want temporary files to be

saved.

If you do not supply any arguments, the default ones will be used.

After the correct start of the program, it will display information that

it has correctly been installed. If it was started from Shell it

detaches itself.

From that moment the program stays quietly in memory.

If any errors occur during its installation, it will inform you about it

by displaying suitable information which describes the reason of its

fault.

1.7 Stopping the program

To leave the program simply run it again.

It is possible to happen that the program will not be removed from

memory when you start it again. The reason of such behaviour may be the

situation when some other program tries to load a packed file, that is

in the progress of depacking by XPKPatch. For more information see

chapter How it works .

1.8 Virus detection

XPKPatch has built-in a very simple virus-detection mechanism. Despite

this, it may be recognized as a virus!

It happens so because it patches the following vectors in the

dos.library:

Open(), Close(), Write(), Examine(), LoadSeg(), NewLoadSeg() (OS V36+)

Anty-virus programs usually check addresses of the vectors of all

libraries, and if any address is suspicious (usually < $F80000) then it

is possible that system is infected by a virus. So if your anty-virus

program has found something in memory, and you have XPKPatch installed,

it is probably not a virus. But you should always check it (e.g. by

using other anty-virus program).

XPKPatch works similarly - when any program changes the address of at

least one of the above functions, you will be warned. A change of the

vectors does not mean a virus!!! Surely, the reason is a program similar

to XPKPatch that is also trying to install itself.

1.9 'Everyday' use of this program

If you intend to use this program 'everyday', it is recommended to make
it start automatically. The best way to do it is to place a command
which starts XPKPatch in the file S:User-Startup. After the program's
name you may enter its arguments.

1.10 How it works

An average user need not read this chapter - information that is covered
in it is not indispensable to use this program in the correct way, but
you have to know a lot about programming the Amiga in order to
understand it.

This program during its installation patches the following vectors in
the dos.library:

Open(), Close(), Write(), Examine(), LoadSeg(), NewLoadSeg() (OS V36+)

Function Open()

If a program (let's name it a caller) opens a file (in MODE_OLDFILE)
XPKPatch checks if the caller is not opening a device (CON: or NIL:), if
it is a device then it jumps into the orginal Open() ROM function.
Otherwise, if the file is crunched, it is decrunched and then saved as
a temporary file into RAM:, or in whatever directory you supplied at
start of the program. And if everything went all right a FileHandle of
the temporary (already decrunched) file is returned. If the file cannot
be decrunched for any reason, Open() will return a FileHandle to the
original file.

Function Close()

When the caller closes the file (which it thinks is the original file),
it will really be closing the temporary file. It is a good chance to
delete it, so that the temporary directory will not get crowded with
temporary files. If the caller has written a new data to the (temporary)
file, we have to rewrite the temporary file over the original file.

Function Write()

When the caller writes something to the temporary file, opened to read
(MODE_OLDFILE), XPKPatch will remember to save the changes to the
original file.

Function Examine()

If the caller needs the correct file size for packed file, XPKPatch will
change the file size in FileInfoBlock, so that the caller will see the

correct size of the file, as if it was unpacked.

Functions LoadSeg() and NewLoadSeg()

Now XPKPatch decrunches also executable files (programs, libraries, devices, fonts, etc.). Every executable file that is loaded by one of the above functions will be decrunched to the temporary file, loaded from it, and then the temporary file will be deleted. You need no longer use xLoadSeg because XPKPatch can replace it. Unfortunately, it cannot replace the program PPLoadSeg (see Program history).

XPKPatch counts every opened file and it will not be possible to leave the program before all of the files are closed.

1.11 Program history

1.0 - 25-Aug-96 First release.

1.1 - 5-Jul-97 Second release.

I have removed one, small bug:

- XPKPatch after removing did not free the previously allocated memory. But this occured only when the program was started from Workbench.

1.2 - 28-Jul-97 Third release.

I have removed another, small bug:

- XPKPatch after removing and restoring vectors did not compute the correct checksum of the dos.library.

1.3 - 22-Aug-97 Fourth release.

I have removed another bug:

- The program creates a temporary file during decrunching files, which is removed after the operation finishes. Buf if the crunched file could not be decrunched XPKPatch created an empty file which was not removed. Actually it was not caused by the program itself, because a temporary file is created by xpkmaster.library and if an error occurs the library should remove the file by itself.

1.4 - 11-Feb-98 Fifth release.

I have added the possibility to decrunch executable files:

- At present the program can also decrunch executable files (programs, libraries, devices, fonts, etc.). It gives you the possibility to crunch these files and save disk space. It can entirely replace the program xLoadSeg, but it cannot replace PPLoadSeg because structure of the file crunched with

PowerPacker is complicated.

1.5 - 28-May-98 Sixth release.

I have added the option to turn on or off the mechanism for

decrunching executable files:

- Now you can decide whether you want executable files to be

decrunched or not (see Starting the program).

1.6 - 18-Nov-99 Seventh release.

I have removed one, small bug:

- If XPKPatch could not install itself for some reason, then it

quited without freeing the previously allocated memory. But this

occured only when the program was started from Workbench.

1.7 - 25-Feb-00 Eighth release.

I have removed two, quite serious bugs and improved argument line

parser:

- If XPKPatch was started from Shell, it was not possible to

supply it with two options, because it would report an error. It

was, therefore, impossible to start it with the options '-n' and

'-u', specifying, at the same time, the path for the

temporary files.

- Starting from this version, the Shell parameters can be linked

together (see Starting the program).

- At an attempt to load an 'Overlay' executable file, the system

would crash.

1.12   Getting upgrades

If you live in Poland and want to get an upgrade, send me:

1. A disk.

2. A self-addressed envelope with a stamp.

If you do not live in Poland, send me:

1. A disk.

2. 2 USD for postage.

Easy, isn't it? Please keep this rule - it will make my life easier, and

you can count on fast reply.

Alternatively, you can order through Internet. It was described in the

chapter Copyright and spreading .

A non-registered user has the right to get one free upgrade that

contains demostration version.

A registered user has the right to get unlimited number of free upgrades

that contain licensed version.

1.13   A few final words

Special thanks go to two persons:

- Michael Berg for his great PowerPacker Patcher.

- Mr. J.M.Boucher for suggestions and bug reports concerning using

XPKPatch and xLoadSeg, and for reporting about bugs in the previous

version.

If you have found any bug in this program, or you have any questions or

suggestions about this program then write on the following address:

Grzegorz Krolik

ul. Wyszynskiego 8/19

42-400 Zawiercie

Poland

tel. +48 (32) 672-32-53

e-mail: gkrolik@poczta.onet.pl