OO

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COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

OO

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Offline Orbit – Release 0.70a (August 15, 1994)

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1.2   Offline Orbit Documentation - [1] Politics

[1.1] Disclaimer

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RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USER.

1.3   Offline Orbit Documentation - [2] Introduction

[2.1] Offline Orbit

When you called a BBS in the old days, you read messages and transfered
files online, ie. modem connection was established all the time. Offline
reading does not make transfering files any different, but reading and
writing messages will get much easier. You can download new messages in a
compressed form and then read them offline using a message reader, thus
leavig your phone free for other use and saving in phone bills. Replies
and new messages can be written using your favourite text editor and then
uploaded to the BBS during your next call.

```
        Format          Author                  Version
        -------------   ----------------------- -----------
        OMEN            Olli Majander           Revision H
        QWK             Mark Herring            (n/a)
        SOUP            Rhys Weatherley         Version 1.2
        WWF             Veli-Matti Lintu        V1
```

Offline Orbit is a freeware multi-format offline message reader for the
Amiga. It currently supports the message formats listed above. This manual
only explains how to use Offline Orbit, beginners should ask their sysops
for more information about downloading and uploading messages.

1.4   Offline Orbit Documentation - [3] Getting Started

[3.1] First Steps

Offline Orbit requires AmigaOS 2.04 or higher. It will also take advantage
of ReqTools.library (V38, by Nico François) if such is installed. Users
with a 68020 or better CPU can use the optimized version (OO_020). The
executables are pure, ie. they can be made resident.

You can run Offline Orbit either from the Workbench or Shell. Depending on
your configuration, a window and possibly a screen will be opened. If the
configuration file (S:OO.config) does not exist, defaults are used.

The Offline Orbit public screen is called Offline_Orbit. You can have
multiple sessions running simultaneously, so the name may already be in
use. In this case, a number will be added to the end (eg. Offline_Orbit1,
Offline_Orbit2, etc).

Press the right mouse button and pick Directory from the Prefs menu. It
will open a window with several string gadgets. Enter the required
information and press Escape or the close gadget. Then select the next
item and continue until you have reached the end of the menu. To save the
configuration select Save Prefs.

If everything is set-up correctly, you can now open a message bundle and
start reading messages. Simply press the Open gadget and a file requester
appears waiting for you to select a message file to be opened.

See also:
                    Reading Messages

1.5   Offline Orbit Documentation - [3] Getting Started

[3.2] User Interface

Offline Orbit follows standard Amiga-guidelines, with full support for
keyboard and mouse. Underscored characters in gadget texts mark the
equivalent on keyboard, pull-down menus show keyboard equivalents after
the command. Listview gadgets can be controlled using the arrow keys.

Most of the windows can be closed by pressing Escape. Requesters (windows
with a few button gadgets and no close gadget) accept it as the keyboard
equivalent for the rightmost gadget. Return in will select the leftmost or
highlighted gadget.

If you do not have ReqTools installed, Offline Orbit will use system
requesters with only limited keyboard support. Left-Amiga-V will select
the leftmost and Left-Amiga-B will select the rightmost gadget. Other
gadgets must be selected using the mouse.

1.6   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

[4.1] Control Panel

```
                          Open

                          Pack

                          Area

                          Write

                          Reply

                          Edit

                          List

                          Quit
```

1.7   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

 Area: An area selector appears allowing you to change the current area.

1.8   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

                       Write: Allows you to write a new message.

 See also:
                       Writing Messages

1.9   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

                       Reply: Allows you to reply to the current message.

 See also:
                       Writing Messages

1.10   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

 Edit: Allows you to edit the current message. This will only work in the
 replies area. You can edit the message text and header. Editing and
 reading replies is not possible after packing them.

1.11   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

 List: A message selector appears allowing you to browse through the
 message headers and change the current message.

1.12   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
        [4.2] Project


        Open Bundle

        Close Bundle

        Pack Replies

        New Session

        Iconify

        Shell

        Help

        About

        Quit
```

1.13   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Open: A file requester appears allowing you to select a message bundle to
 be opened. If you already have a bundle open, it will be closed first.
```

1.14   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Close: Closes the currently open message bundle.
```

1.15   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Pack: Packs your replies. Replies and new messages you have written will
 be compressed and moved to the Uploads directory. An information window
 will also appear displaying how many messages were packed, etc.
```

1.16   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 New Session: Starts a new Offline Orbit.
```

1.17 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Iconify: Iconifies Offline Orbit. The screen can be reopened by double
clicking the icon that appears on your Workbench. Iconify will only work
when you have Workbench running.
```

1.18 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Shell: Starts a new shell on the Offline Orbit screen.
```

1.19 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Help: Displays the online documentation using AmigaGuide®. You must have
amigaguide.library in Libs: and OO.guide in the current directory or
Help:English.
```

1.20 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
About: Displays copyright and version information.
```

1.21 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Quit: Exits Offline Orbit.
```

1.22 Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
        [4.3] Messages

        Mark Message

        Jump to Marked

        Save Message

        Jump to Message

        Pointers

        Mark Area

        Next Area

        Previous Area
```

1.23   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Mark Message: Marks the current message, so you can jump back to it later.

1.24   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Jump to Marked: Jumps to the marked message.

1.25   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Save Message: Saves the current message. Depending on which sub-item you pick, the message text will be saved with or without the header. You can also save only the header by selecting the third sub-item.

1.26   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Jump to Message: Allows you to enter a message number to jump to.

1.27   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Pointers: Resets, stores or restores the message pointers. These commands are useful when you decide to stop reading and continue later. You can store the pointers and close the bundle. You can then restore the pointers when you continue reading. Pointers are stored in the storage directory. Make sure you have the same bundle open before restoring pointers.

1.28   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Mark Area: Marks all messages in the current area read or unread.

1.29   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Next Area: Jumps to the next message area. Keyboard equivalent: >

1.30   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Previous Area: Jumps to the previous message area. Keyboard equivalent: <

1.31   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
[4.4] Extras


New Files

Bundle Info
```

1.32   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
New Files: Displays a list of new files (if available).
```

1.33   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Bundle Info: Displays some information about the message bundle.
```

1.34   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
[4.5] Prefs


Directory

Editor

General

Packer

Palette

Screen

Save Prefs

BBS Prefs
```

1.35   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Directory Preferences


Downloads

Uploads
```

```
                    Replies

                    Storage

                    Capture

                    Work
            You must create all directories manually. Offline Orbit will not  ←
                do this.
```

1.36   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Downloads: A directory where downloaded message bundles will be found.
```

1.37   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Uploads: A directory to place reply packets in for uploading.
```

1.38   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Replies: A directory where replies are kept temporarily.
```

1.39   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Storage: A directory where message pointers are stored.
```

1.40   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Capture: A directory where messages are saved.
```

1.41   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
 Work: A directory to hold the messages you are reading.
```

1.42   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

                        Editor Preferences

                        File

                        Quote

                        Command

                        Signature

                        Tag File

                        Show

                        Pack

                        Move Workbench Front

1.43   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

File: A temporary file to store the message you are editing. The message
text must be in this file when you save the message, otherwise the message
body is left empty. This file is currently shared by all running Offline
Orbit tasks, so do not write multiple messages simultaneously.

1.44   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Quote: A temporary file to store the quoted contents of the message you
are writing a reply to. To disable quoting, leave this gadget empty.

1.45   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

               Command: A command to start your text editor. The editor should ←
                    not detach
itself from the CLI that started it. If it does, you could accidently try
to save the message before you have exited the editor. This does not crash
the machine, but you could lose your message. You must set the editor to
edit the file you entered in the
               File
               gadget.

You can use %p in the command string, it will be replaced with the name of
the Offline Orbit public screen. If the Offline Orbit window is visiting
another public screen, the name of that screen will be used instead.

1.46   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Signature: A signature file for your replies.
```

1.47   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Tag File: A file containing your tag-lines. Tag-lines are short comments
that are appended to the end of each message you write. The file should
have one tag-line on each line. Empty lines and lines beginning with '#'
or ';' are considered as comments and are ignored. One of the tag-lines
will be randomly selected when you start writing a new message. You can
change the tag-line before saving the message. Tag-lines are optional.
```

1.48   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Show: Determines what national (Finnish/Swedish) character set is used in
the messages (ie. what characters are converted to ISO). SF7 conversion is
optional, but IBM characters are always converted.

Users in other countries: Select IBM and forget this feature.
```

1.49   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Pack: Determines what national (Finnish/Swedish) character set is used in
your replies. You must write your messages using ISO characters (keymap s)
and let Offline Orbit handle the conversion.

Users in other countries: Select ISO and forget this feature.
```

1.50   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Move Workbench Front: If selected, Workbench screen will be moved to the
front before executing the text editor. This is quite useful if you use
an editor like Ed, which does not automatically move to the front.
```

1.51   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
           General Preferences


           Highlight Quote

           No Control Panel
```

```
                    Discard Kludge-Lines

                    Flash Messages For You

                    Mark Your Messages Read

                    Use Reply Prefix

                    Skip Read Messages

                    Display RFC Headers

                    Automatic Open

                    Quote Style

                    After Loading Packet

                    Requester Library

                    End of Area

                    Message Threading

                    Message Line Length

                    Quote Header

                    Match Pattern
```

1.52   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Highlight Quote: If selected, quoted lines will be highlighted using
another color for displaying them.

1.53   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

No Control Panel: Normally there are several button gadgets in the bottom
of the Offline Orbit window. These gadgets will be removed if you check
this box. Keyboard equivalents will remain operational.

1.54   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Discard Kludge-Lines: If selected, lines starting with CTRL-A will not
be displayed. This is used to remove FidoNet kludge-lines from messages.

1.55   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Flash Messages For You: If selected, screen will flash when a message
addressed to you is displayed. To avoid unnecessary flashing, this will
not happen in the personal area, where all the messages are for you
anyhow.
```

1.56   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
                Mark Your Messages Read: If selected, your own messages will be  ←
                    marked
read when opening a message bundle. This is quite useful in combination
with the
                Skip Read Messages
                option.
```

1.57   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Use Reply Prefix: If selected, 'Re:' prefix is automatically added to the
subject of your replies. If a prefix already exists, Offline Orbit will
not modify the subject.
```

1.58   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Skip Read Messages: If selected, read messages will skipped when you are
browsing through the messages by pressing enter or backspace. You can
still display the read messages using the horizontal arrow keys.
```

1.59   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Display RFC Headers: If selected, full RFC headers are shown (SOUP).
```

1.60   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Automatic Open: If selected, a file requester appears automatically when
you start the reader, allowing you to select a message bundle right away.
```

1.61   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Quote Style: Determines what quote prefix to use in your replies.
```

1.62   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

After Loading Packet: Determimes what action is performed after opening a
message bundle. You can choose between the first area, the personal area
and the area selector.

1.63   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Requester Library: Determines what requester library is used. You can
choose between ASL and ReqTools.

You must have ReqTools.library (V38) installed in order to use it.

1.64   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

End of Area: Determines what action is performed when you reach the end of
an area. You can choose between the next area and the area selector.

1.65   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Message Threading: If you select 'Subject', messages will be put in
alphabetical order according to their subjects and position in the bundle.
Real message threading may be supported in the future.

1.66   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Message Line Length: Number of characters in one line before wrapping.

1.67   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Quote Header: [reserved for future use]

1.68   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

Match Pattern: AmigaDOS wildcard pattern to limit the files that appear in
the Open Bundle file requester.

1.69   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
             Packer Preferences
```

Offline Orbit can be configured to automatically recognize and use most
compression methods. To add configuration for a new packer, press Add. It
will open a window with the following gadgets. You can edit old entries
by selecting them from the list.

```
             Add

             Extract

             Extension

             Offset

             Signature

             Remove
```

1.70   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Add: Command for compressing files (eg. LhA a %a %d).
```

```
Enter %a instead of the archive name and %d instead of the file names.
```

1.71   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Extract: Command for decompressing files (eg. LhA x %a %d).
```

```
Enter %a instead of the archive name and %d instead of the directory.
Offline Orbit will change the current directory to the directory where the
files should be uncompressed, so %d may not be necessary.
```

1.72   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Extension: File extension for OMEN and SOUP reply packets (eg. LZH or ZIP).
```

1.73   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Remove: Deletes the currently selected packer configuration.
```

1.74   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Offset and Signature
```

Offline Orbit requires compressor signatures for automatic recognition.
The signature is a short string found in all of the files produced by a
certain compressor. The signature should be entered in the Signature
gadget as a group of hexadecimal values, separated by spaces. The Offset
gadget should contain the start byte (usually zero) for the compressor
signature. Here are signatures and offsets for some of the most commonly
used packers.

```
LhA: 2D 6C 68 (offset 2)
Zip: 50 4B 3 4 (offset 0)
Zoo: 5A 4F 4F 20 (offset 0)
Arc: 1A 8 (offset 0)
```

1.75   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Palette Preferences
```

Palette Preferences window is a ReqTools palette requester. It is only
available if ReqTools.library is installed. Adjusting the palette is quite
easy. Pick a color from the Palette Colors gadget and adjust Red, Green
and Blue sliders until you are satisfied with the color.

24-bit palette is supported on AGA machines and compatible video boards.

1.76   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
                Screen Preferences


                Screen Attributes

                Window Settings

                Use Workbench Palette

                Blank Borders

                Screen Font

                Message Font
```

1.77   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Screen Attributes: This brings up a screen mode requester allowing
you to choose a mode for the Offline Orbit screen. You can also change
overscan and screen size here.
```

1.78   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Window Settings


Screen

Width

Height

Mode
```

1.79   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Screen: You can open Offline Oribit window in any public screen. Enter
name of the screen here. Default is Workbench. You can also select one of
the currently open public screens from the listview gadget.
```

1.80   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Width: Width of the Offline Orbit window.
```

1.81   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Height: Height of the Offline Orbit window.
```

1.82   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Mode: How and where Offline Orbit's window is opened.

 Backdrop: Offline Orbit screen, backdrop window.
   Normal: Offline Orbit screen, normal window.
   Public: Public screen, name in Screen gadget.
```

1.83   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Use Workbench Palette: If selected, Offline Orbit will use WB palette.
```

1.84   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Blank Borders: If selected, Offline Orbit's screen borders are blanked.
```

1.85   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Screen Font: Font for menus, windows and requesters.
```

```
If a window does not fit the screen, topaz eight will be used instead.
```

1.86   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Message Font: Font for the message text.
```

1.87   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Save Prefs: Saves Directory, Editor, General and Screen Preferences.
```

1.88   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
            BBS Preferences
```

```
With BBS Preferences, you can set individual signature files, tag files
and character conversions for different systems. To add configuration for
a new board, press Add. It will open a window with the following gadgets.
You can edit old entries by selecting them from the list.
```

```
            Signature

            Tag File

            Show

            Pack

            Remove
            You will see an asterisk in the title bar when these settings are ←
                in use.
```

1.89   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
Remove: Deletes the currently selected BBS configuration.
```

1.90   Offline Orbit Documentation - [5] Basic Functions

[5.1] Reading Messages

After succesfully opening a message bundle you can start reading messages.
The Offline Orbit window consists of three sections. At the top of the
window there is the message header, message text is in the middle and the
control panel (which may be disabled) at the bottom of the screen.

The author, addressee, subject, date and area are shown in the message
header. If the message text does not fit entirely on the screen, you can
scroll it with the vertical arrow keys, space (down), backspace (up),
return (down) or the scroll bar at the bottom of the screen.

You can move to the next or previous with the horizontal arrow keys,
space, backspace or return. You can browse through messages by pressing
the List gadget. The area can be changed by pressing the Area gadget.
Offline Orbit will automatically move to the next area when you reach the
end of an area.

1.91   Offline Orbit Documentation - [5] Basic Functions

[5.2] Writing Messages

You can write new messages using Write and Reply commands. These are
available when you are reading messages. The latter one can be used to
write a reply (including optional quote) to the current message. Write is
used to post a completely new message.

When you select either of these commands, a window will appear. You can
edit the message header here and select whether the message should be
public or private. In netmail areas you can enter a FidoNet address in the
Address gadget and select whether the netmail is routed or crash (crash
netmail is only supported by OMEN).

Press Edit to execute the text editor to edit the text of your message.
After this you can accept or dump the message by pressing Save or Cancel.

Before messages can be uploaded to a BBS, they must be packed in the
correct format. This can be done when closing the message bundle or by
pressing the Pack gadget on the control panel. If a reply packet for the
same system already exists, you have the option to either remove it or
append (QWK and WWF) new messages after the old ones. If you do not pack
your replies before the bundle is closed, they will be destroyed!

1.92   Offline Orbit Documentation - [6] Miscellaneous

[6.1] Support

If you have any comments, suggestions, bug reports or questions, feel free
to contact me at any of the addresses below. The latest version is always
available from the Epsilon Indi BBS.

```
Snail Mail: Janne Siren
            Oravamaentie 2 F 17
            02700 Kauniainen
            Finland

Data Phone: Epsilon Indi BBS
            +358-0-505-4201
            v32bis, 24h

Internet:   jts@krk.fi (or comp.sys.amiga.datacomm)

Fidonet:    2:220/550.0 (Janne Siren)
```

1.93   Offline Orbit Documentation - [6] Miscellaneous

```
[6.2] Acknowledgements

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Nico François    Heimo Laukkanen   Tomi Väisälä

And especially: Commodore-Amiga, Incorporated for the Amiga computers.
```

1.94   Offline Orbit Documentation - [4] Command Reference

```
          [4] Command Reference


          4.1 Control Panel

          4.2 Project

          4.3 Messages

          4.4 Extras

          4.5 Prefs
```