

YaHoo

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Chapter 1

YaHoo

1.1 YaHoo! Version 1.2

Yet Another Who's Online Utility for DLG!

by Alan Bland

Introduction

- What is YaHoo?

Legal

- Copyright and redistribution notice

Quick Setup

- Getting started

Configuration File

- Setting it up your way

AREXX Commands

- Fine tuning your setup

Tricks & Tips

- Eggciting eggzamples!

BooHoo!

- Let your callers see who's online!

Read this ->

NOSHOWREXX

<- if you use Trapdoor 1.83.

Read this ->

diskfont

<- if you don't have V37+ diskfont.library

1.2 Introduction

YaHoo is a GUI control panel for DLG. It shows you who's currently on each of your ports and what they're doing. A set of configurable command buttons let you point and click to control your BBS.

YaHoo is designed for the sysop who likes to tweak their BBS. Through its configuration file and AREXX command interface, YaHoo has an almost infinite variety of customization options.

To highlight some of YaHoo's unique features:

- * YaHoo can run in a special floating screen that always sits at the bottom of your monitor screen, or it can run in a regular window on any public screen.
- * You can make YaHoo's window visible or invisible at any time, and move it from screen to screen.
- * You can launch any program by clicking on one of YaHoo's unlimited number of customizable gadgets.
- * YaHoo has a rich AREXX command set that allows you to control it in ways even I can't imagine!
- * YaHoo can notify you that a user wants to chat.
- * You can see the last caller on each of your lines.
- * YaHoo interfaces with Trapdoor to show you some information about Trapdoor sessions.
- * When combined with suitable Caller ID software, YaHoo can display the Caller ID for incoming calls (Caller ID software not included).

Many more features are available. Read on!

1.3 Copyright and redistribution notice

YaHoo the program, and this documentation are copyright ©1994 by Alan Bland, All Rights Reserved. YaHoo may be freely distributed and copied for non-commercial use only as long as the program and documentation are distributed together. Under no circumstances may you redistribute a modified version of the program or documentation. YaHoo may be uploaded to bulletin boards and included in collections of freely distributable software, such as the Fred Fish collection, the Aminet CD-ROM, and other similar volumes. YaHoo may not be sold separately for profit or included with any commercial or shareware product other than the types of software collections described above, except with the written permission of the author.

If you use YaHoo you do so at your own risk. This program is provided "AS IS" without warranty of any kind. The author is not responsible for any damages that the program may cause, material or otherwise.

You may contact the author by sending Fidonet netmail to Alan Bland at 1:104/121, or by calling Cybermiga BBS at 1-303-939-9923 or 1-303-440-0457. Bug reports and suggestions are welcome.

Other Amiga BBS software by the author:

- Al's Blackjack Casino - ANSI blackjack game for any Amiga BBS.
- Wanderer - Strategy maze game for any Amiga BBS.
- EmacsDLG - The Emacs-based full-screen editor for DLG.
- MenuThing - A custom menu generator for DLG.
- HeyMon - Another activity monitor for DLG.

1.4 Quick Setup

YaHoo requires DLG 1.0 with AmigaDOS 2.04 or later.

Unpack the YaHoo archive into any directory you want. The archive includes the program (YaHoo), a sample configuration file, (YaHoo.cfg), and this documentation file (YaHoo.guide). Give it a try by typing the following command:

```
run >nil: YaHoo YaHoo.cfg
```

YaHoo takes a single argument, the path to its configuration file.

The sample configuration file will probably not be exactly what you want, but it shows you many of the possible things YaHoo can do. Play around with the gadgets. Some may not work with your specific BBS setup, but none should cause any harm (unless of course you click the Kill button and kick off a user inadvertently!)

Some of the command buttons are always available, while others require you to first click on a port. For example, if a user is logged in and you want to chat with them, click on the user's status line to highlight it, and then click the Chat button. Voila!

If you click the Hide button, YaHoo vanishes without a trace. It's still present in the background watching your BBS for you, but you can't see it. Make YaHoo visible again by using the following AREXX command:

```
rx "address yahoo open"
```

YaHoo will exit when you click the Quit button, when it receives a break signal, or when you run the following AREXX command:

```
rx "address yahoo quit"
```

1.5 Configuration File

The supplied YaHoo.cfg file is merely an example. Change it to conform to your unique personality. YaHoo reads the file during startup, so if you change it you must exit and restart YaHoo.

The configuration file may contain the keywords listed below, one per line in any order, case is insignificant. Lines beginning with a semi-colon (;) are comments.

```
[no]alias
[no]baud
[no]city
colors & pens
dispid
font & gadfont
gad_glob, gad_idle, gad_user
[no]lace
left, top, width
[no]level
port
screen
screentop
showall
sizeup
[no]time
title
zoomleft & zoomtop
```

1.6 screen

```
Examples: screen float
          screen TrapDoor
          screen Workbench
          title Look at these wonderful users!
```

YaHoo can open a regular window on the Workbench, or on any public screen such as TrapDoor's screen. If you specify "float", YaHoo will open a special

floating screen that floats at the bottom of your monitor screen.

The "title" keyword specifies the title for windows on the Workbench or public screens. Put whatever you want here.

Notes: Public screen names are case-sensitive. If the screen is not found, your default public screen will be used.

Press the cycle gadget on the floating screen to cycle through your other screens. Use this instead of AMIGA-M/N or clicking the other screen's cycle gadgets. This way, you can quickly cycle through your screens without YaHoo's floating screen getting in the way.

1.7 colors

```
Examples: depth 2
          colors 000,fff,090,aa0
          pen_text 2,3
          pen_high 0,2
          pen_alert 0,1
          pen_gadtext 3
```

Use the depth command to specify how many bitplanes are on the floating screen, and the colors command to specify the colors for each bitplane. Each color is specified as three hex digits. Separate the colors by a comma and do not use any spaces. The default is a four-color screen (depth=2) using medium grey, black, white, and red.

Notes: You must specify the depth command before the colors command. Make sure the depth matches the number of colors you specify!!!

You can customize the colors within the who's online window: pen_text, pen_high, and pen_alert specify the pens for the main text, highlighted text, and alert text. You must specify both the foreground and background pen for each type of text, separated by commas as in the example above.

Pen 0 is the background color for the outside border and the gadgets. Pens 1 and 2 are used for the 3D look on the gadgets, so you should make sure those colors are contrasting. The color of the text in the gadgets is specified using the pen_gadtext command.

1.8 font

```
Examples: font topaz.font 8
          font XEN.font 9
          gadfont Helvetica.font 11
```

YaHoo will use this font throughout. I recommend XEN.font as a very tiny but readable font. You can find XEN.font in the MagicWB archive. The font should be non-proportional for best results.

You can specify a separate font for the gadgets by using the gadfont keyword. If not specified, gadfont will default to what you gave for the font keyword. The font for gadgets may be proportional.

1.9 lace

Examples: lace
 nolace

This tells YaHoo to open its floating screen in interlace or non-interlace mode.

1.10 Display ID

Examples: dispid 8004

Use this keyword to specify a display id for YaHoo's floating screen. You probably won't need this unless you need to control the screen more precisely than the lace/nolace flag

The display id must be specified in hex. See the Amiga ROM Kernel Manual for details.

You may need to also specify
 screentop
 to make the
screen visible if YaHoo's screen is a different resolution than the default public screen.

1.11 screentop

Examples: screentop 400

Screentop is where the top of the floating screen will be positioned. The default value of zero tells YaHoo to choose a reasonable value such that it fits at the very bottom of your default public screen.

You can tinker with this setting and your Intuition overscan screen height to cause YaHoo's floating screen to always sit below all your screens.

Warning: A number too high here will position YaHoo's screen completely off the bottom of your monitor. Be careful with lace/nolace too.

1.12 Window dimensions

```
Examples: top 40
          left 10
          width 600
          zoomtop 11
          zoomleft 0
```

For windows on the Workbench and public screens, these specify the top corner, left corner, and width in pixels. The height is computed automatically.

Use zoomtop and zoomleft to define where the zoomed (iconified) window will be placed when you click the zoom gadget.

1.13 ShowAll

```
Examples: showall
```

If you specify showall in your config file, YaHoo will start up showing all available gadgets. Without this, YaHoo starts up showing only the first row of gadgets.

1.14 SizeUp

```
Examples: sizeup
```

Normally, when you click the arrow gadget to hide or expose more rows of gadgets, YaHoo sizes the window downward to keep the top position of the window fixed.

If you specify "sizeup", YaHoo will size it upward to keep the bottom of the window in a fixed position.

Use this to control what portion of your screen is covered when you expand the window.

1.15 port

```
Examples: port TR0 TrapDoor logs:trapdoor.log
          port TR1 TrapTR1 logs:traptr1.log
          port TL0
          port TR2
```

List all of your BBS ports in the order that you want to view them. Use a separate line for each port.

If TrapDoor is running on the port, include the name of TrapDoor's AREXX port and the full pathname of TrapDoor's log file. These are used to display information about TrapDoor sessions. If you have only one copy of TrapDoor running, "TrapDoor" is its AREXX port name.

Notes: AREXX port names are case-sensitive. YaHoo is currently limited to 16 ports.

1.16 Format

Examples: nolevel
 notime
 nocity
 nobaud
 alias

Use the level/nolevel, time/notime, city/nocity, and baud/nobaud keywords to choose whether you want to display access level, time remaining, city, and baud rate respectively. By default, these will all be displayed.

Use the alias/noalias keyword to display the user's alias instead of real name. The real name is displayed by default.

1.17 Custom gadget definitions

Examples: gad_user Open dlg:tsscreen -p \$1 -o
 gad_user Clear_Chat -alert \$1
 gad_glob Local dlg:immed TL0 19200 19200
 gad_idle Busy dlg:getport -p \$1 -k YaHoo -r Yahoo -l 1

Specify as many gadget commands as you want. They will be positioned from left to right in the order you specify them here. For each gadget, you specify its type, label, and the command to run. These are described below.

YaHoo automatically wraps the gadgets onto multiple lines if you specify a lot of gadgets. An "arrow" gadget appears at the right of the window to indicate that there are more gadgets. Click on the arrow to expose the full set. You should place your most-used commands on the first line, and use other lines for rarely-used commands.

The gadget type is the first keyword on the line:

"gad_user" is a command associated with a logged-in user. The gadget will be active only while a user is logged in and that user's port is selected.

"gad_idle" is a command associated with a port when a user is not logged in. The gadgets will be active only while a port is selected and no user is logged in on that port.

"gad_glob" is a global command that is always available.

The gadget label is what appears on YaHoo's screen. Use underscores wherever you want spaces to appear in the label.

The command can be either a CLI command or one of YaHoo's built-in AREXX commands. Built-in commands are indicated by a dash as the first character. YaHoo runs all CLI commands asynchronously.

The following substitutions will be made in the command string before it is executed:

- \$1 will be replaced by the port name (i.e. TR0).
- \$2 will be replaced by the user's full name (i.e. Joe User).
- \$3 will be replaced by the users' underscored name (i.e. Joe_User).
- \$4 will be replaced by the AREXX port name for Trapdoor on that port.
- \$5 will be replaced by the name of Trapdoor's logfile for that port.

1.18 AREXX Commands

While YaHoo is running, it listens to its AREXX port for commands. The name of its AREXX port is YAHOO. Use the "address yahoo" statement in AREXX to cause commands to be sent to YaHoo.

YaHoo recognizes the AREXX commands listed below.

- open
- close
- hide
- alert
- cid
- getline
- quit

1.19 open

Examples: open
open Workbench
open TrapDoor
open float

YaHoo will open a window of the specified type (see the screen configuration command for details). If a window is currently open, it will be closed before opening the new window.

Without any arguments, the last window you had open will re-open.

1.20 close

```
Examples: close
hide
```

The close command will close the current window. YaHoo remains running but there is no screen output. Hide is a synonym for close.

For a convenient way to re-open YaHoo's window, see
Tricks & Tips
.

1.21 alert

```
Examples: alert tr0 'Wants to chat'
alert tr0
```

The alert command is used to display a special message on YaHoo's display. If a user is logged in on the port, the message will be shown at the rightmost edge of the display. It will remain there until the user logs off, or another alert command is issued. An alert command with no message will clear the message.

The intent of this command is to provide an indicator that a user has requested a chat, but it could be used for other purposes. See the example in

```
Tricks & Tips
to implement a chat alert.
```

1.22 cid

```
Examples: cid tr0 '303-555-1234 SMITH JOHN'
cid tr0
```

When the specified port is idle, or if an incoming call is detected, the supplied Caller ID is displayed for the port. This command is provided in case you have Caller ID hardware along with appropriate software that can interpret the Caller ID and pass it to YaHoo.

The Caller ID string can be any format, but should be on one line. YaHoo will clear the Caller ID string if none is supplied. It is up to your Caller ID software to format the string as you wish, and to clear it when it is no longer valid. YaHoo will never clear the string on its own.

1.23 getline

Examples: getline TR0 alias nocid
getline TR1 nolevel nocid nobaud

Use getline in an AREXX script to obtain a line describing the current activity on the specified port. Use this to create a who's online command that your callers can see.

You must specify the port. By default, the result will be the same data that the sysop sees in the YaHoo window. If you want to show different information to your callers, use any of the formatting keywords to modify the result.

The getline command has one special formatting keyword that is not available elsewhere. The keyword is "nocid" and tells the getline command to not show the Caller ID information that appears via the

cid

AREXX command. If you use cid to show actual telephone Caller ID, you probably do not want to show it to your callers. However, if your only use of the cid command is to show the the

last caller

, you may want to let your callers see it.

See the

BooHoo

AREXX script for an example.

1.24 quit

Examples: quit

YaHoo will immediately terminate when it receives this command. You may also force YaHoo to quit by sending it a break signal.

1.25 Tricks & Tips

I use most of the tricks listed below on my board. Give them a ↔ try, and let other sysops know of any other cool uses you have with YaHoo's awesome customization capabilities!

Chat Alert

Assorted Utilities

Chat Alert 2

Aftersession

```

ProChat Alert

    NOSHOWREXX

Last Caller

    Use your editor

    Hot Key

YaHoo and BooHoo

```

1.26 Chat Alert

To implement the chat alert, replace your chat command with the following AREXX script:

```

/* mychat.rexx */
options results
parse arg port
address 'YAHOO' alert port 'Wants to chat'
overlay 'dlg:chat -t'

```

Note: Do not use DLG's AREXX menu capability. Instead, set this up as an executable command, with the following command string:

```
sys:rexxc/rx dlgconfig:batch/mychat.rexx %port
```

If you use DLG's AREXX menu command, it will eventually hang your system.

1.27 Chat Alert

Here is another example of using the chat alert. This AREXX script prompts the user for a reason to chat, and displays that reason to the sysop using YaHoo. As written, this is a silent chat (I don't like to be disturbed).

```

/* mychat.rexx */
/* Silently notify the sysop via YaHoo. */
/* No messy requesters or obnoxious noises. */
/* You must set CLI mode to YES in your menu for this to work. */

options results
say "Please enter a reason why you would like to chat with the sysop."
parse pull reason
if length(reason) > 55 then reason = left(reason, 55)
if length(reason) < 5 then say "You'll have to do better than that!"
else do
    parse arg port

    /* put reason for chat on the YaHoo */

```

```
/* bring YaHoo to front so sysop can respond */
address yahoo
open float
alert port reason
address
say "Sysop has been notified, he'll break in to chat if he's around."
end
```

Note: Do not use DLG's AREXX menu capability. Instead, set this up as an executable command, with the following command string:

```
sys:rexxc/rx dlgconfig:batch/mychat.rexx %port
```

If you use DLG's AREXX menu command, it will eventually hang your system.

1.28 ex_chat3

Wim Rumping provided the enclosed Pro_Chat_2_Yahoo.lha file. This is a set of scripts and an executable program that integrates ProChat with YaHoo. Wim also provides his version of yahoo.cfg, which shows some interesting uses for YaHoo.

1.29 Last Caller

To have YaHoo display the last caller between calls, you can use the CID feature. Yep, it can be used for things other than Caller ID!

Place the following command in your logout.dlgbatch file:

```
sys:rexxc/rx "address yahoo cid %port '%name logged out 'time()"
```

1.30 Assorted Utilities

I use UserData 1.0 by Ron Reynolds to provide the "Info" command in the example yahoo.cfg file. This is a wonderful GUI user viewer. Freq USERDATA.LHA from 1:104/121 if you want it.

1.31 Aftersession

The CID command can also let you see information about the last Trapdoor session. Make these changes in your configuration files:

```
Trapdoor.cfg:
  AFTERSESSION "run fido:batch/tr0.aftersession %n"

tr0.aftersession:
  .key addr/a
```

```
.bra {  
.ket }  
sys:rexxc/rx "address yahoo cid tr0 'Session with {addr} complete'"  
; followed by your normal tr0.aftersession stuff...
```

1.32 Hot Key

Go into Commodore's FKey commodity and make the following hotkey assignment:

```
Key Sequence: Ctrl Help  
AREXX Command: 'address yahoo open float'      [include the quotes]
```

Now whenever YaHoo is hidden or if it's on a screen you can't see, press ctrl-Help and YaHoo's floating screen will appear.

1.33 Editor

Setup a gadget in YaHoo to use your favorite editor to view your user's notes files, event log, etc. This lets you make changes to them as well as simply viewing them.

1.34 BooHoo!

BooHoo is an AREXX script that your callers can use to find out [who's](#)

online. BooHoo uses YaHoo to do all the grunge work. BooHoo is just an example, so you'll probably want to modify it to make it work the way you want.

See the

```
getline  
AREXX command to find out how to customize BooHoo.
```

Use "rx BooHoo.rexx" to run BooHoo.

1.35 NOSHOWREXX

YaHoo sends AREXX messages to Trapdoor at various times. Due to a bug in some versions of Trapdoor, if Trapdoor has the SHOWREXX option turned on, it can crash or hang if several programs send AREXX commands to Trapdoor at the same time. If you run DLGMAIL or TRAPPOLL at the same time as YaHoo, your system WILL crash.

To avoid this, make sure you have NOSHOWREXX in your Trapdoor config file. I tried having YaHoo do this automatically when it starts up, but it couldn't reliably do it. :(

This was only a problem with Trapdoor 1.83. It is fixed in 1.84.

1.36 diskfont

The 2.04 release of Workbench contains two different diskfont.library files. According to some users, our beloved Commodore included an older V36 version on the main disk and the correct V37 version on the fonts disk. YaHoo needs the V37 version, so if it complains about an incorrect version please install the correct version from your Workbench distribution disks.
