

EpicES

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> EpicES		
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

EpicES

1.1 EpicES Help: Main Contents

EpicES V1.09 (05/10/2002)

This is EpicEncyclopediaSearch V1.09. An alternative search utility for the wonderful Epic Interactive Encyclopedia '97.

EpicES was created using Blitz Basic 2.1.

I initially decided to develop this program, because I felt the original program's search facility lacked the ability to display all matches at once. The only way to find what you want was to keep pressing the "next" key combination (ramiga n). Then if you missed the article you were looking for, you had to repeat the whole process again.

I have also noticed that in the directory "Epic_Encyclopedia:Menufiles/WORLDinfo/", there are text files on 196 countries, but there is no way of accessing these files from the encyclopedia.

As well as that, there are more subjects located in the archive "Epic_Encyclopedia:Menufiles/Vin-archive/People-MESS.LHA". As the name suggests, the archive mainly contains information on people. Again, there is no way of accessing this from the encyclopedia. You could copy the contents of this archive to your hard disk, but the archive is 2.3M in size, which is about 7M uncompressed! So why not search the archive whilst compressed! After all, LhA can list and extract single files from an archive.

EpicES gets around all of these problems, and provides a stable Gadtools interface, for efficient and user-friendly searching.

Features

Quick Guide

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1.2 Features

Features

EpicES has the following features:

- * User-definable viewers for text, images, samples, animations and modules.
- * Pre-definable saves directory (for text only at this stage).
- * All subjects matching search criteria are displayed and selectable from a standard listview.
- * Subject text displayed in the interface via listview.
- * World-info text is treated the same way as all the other subjects.
- * "People-MESS" archive searchable whilst in LhA form!
- * User-setable Index file locations.

1.3 DISCLAIMER

DISCLAIMER

This program is freeware, so no donations are required.
Redistribution is allowed if the package is left unchanged.
The author is not responsible for any damage caused by the use of this program.

1.4 To-Do

To-Do

> Saving of all data.

- > Viewing of anims with sound.
- > Wildcard support for search string.

1.5 Quick Guide

Interface Guide

Here is a quick guide to get you started:

Enter your search criteria, which must be one word and no wildcards (But see To-Do), in to the top-left box.

Press return to execute the search.

Criteria matches should appear in the listview below the box. Select one and the subject's text should appear in the listview at the bottom.

At the same time, some of the gadgets on the right should activate, allowing you to view any of them upon clicking. At any time you may save the text by selecting the "Edit/Save Text" menu.

Thats all there is to it! You may select any of the other search matches from the results list, or enter a new search criteria. Any Subject entries with a WI: prefix means a match has been found in the World Info directory on the CD. These subjects are treated in the same way as the main subjects.

If no matches appear, enable "Use WorldInfo" and/or "Use People-Mess" from the Settings menu if you haven't done so already, and search again. Use these especially if you are searching for a particular person or country.

Note: Searching the "People-Mess" archive may take some time.

1.6 Settings

Viewers

Clicking on the textgadgets on the right of the window brings up a file requester for you to select an appropriate viewer for the type of file.

The selected viewer will appear in the string gadget to the left, allowing you to put in any arguments the viewer can accept. Please leave a space between the viewer name and it's arguments.

The default viewers are all on the encyclopedia disk, but have single letters for names for some reason. These are copied to your hard disk upon installation of the encyclopedia, and are renamed to their proper names.

Here is a list of the viewers used along with their "proper names".

B- DSound Sound player by Dave Schreiber.
E- Noiseplayer Music module player. Use -ml for argument by Jolyon Ralph.
F- Play16 Sound sample player by Thomas Wenzel.
L- Visage Picture viewer by Magnus Holmgren.
M- VT Picture viewer and animation player by Thomas Krehbiel.

For viewing text: more, multiview or a word processor may be used as well as EpicES's listview.

Stefan Boberg's LhA is also located in this directory and is used by EpicES to extract files from the People-MESS.lha archive.

1.7 Settings

Index Files

Select the index files by clicking on the buttons to the right of the string gadgets.

The default location for the index files is in the "Menufiles/Indexfiles/" directory.

The World Info files are in the "Menufiles/WORLDinfo/" directory.

Last, but not least, the People-MESS archive can normally be found in "Menufiles/Vin-archive/".

1.8 Settings

Font

Select the 8x8 font to be used throughout the interface and menus.

1.9 Troubleshooting

Troubleshooting

In this section I have listed some problems along with possible solutions. But if you are still having problems, please don't hesitate to report them to

me
, and I will do my best to fix them.

* If you are unable to view any of the multi-media files associated with a subject, even if the gadgets are active, then check the viewers settings ("Settings/

Viewers
" menu). The default ones should be on the CD.

1.10 Contact

If you have any queries then please contact me via E-mail:

silverscope@connectfree.co.uk

1.11 History

History

V1.02 - Added infotext listview. Viewers support. States when searching begins and ends.

V1.03 - Gadgets expand/move to accomadate window size.

V1.04 - Added "Interact" button. Changed gadget layout. Seperated viewer strings.

Fixed Gadget refresh after window resize problems.

States number of subject entries found.

Now only finds animation without sound.

V1.05 - Added menus:- About, Quit, Copy text, Index files, Viewers, save settings.

Implemented About requester and quit menu item.

Index files prefs window added. All functioning.

V1.06 - Visual Prefs support added to main window.

Save Settings routine implemented.

Added "Font" menu item.

8x8 font can now be loaded for the GUI and menus. Font saves.

V1.07 - Implemented WorldInfo search and view with textwrap.

Fixed error upon failing to read index files.

Merged hdindex search with cdindex search.

"Save Text" menu item saves to pre-defined directory.

"Viewers" menuitem changed to "Save Path".

"Save Path" now works.

V1.08 - Added "Viewers" settings window - fully functional for all 5 viewers.

Added viewers to save list.

WorldInfo Directory selector added to Index files prefs window.

Index files prefs window functionality now same as that of viewers prefs; String gadget reflects new setting after "OK" is pressed in the file requester, and string gadget may be used to alter the file path.

Added version string to about requester.

V1.09 - Implemented "People-MESS" search. Using "Lha vq" to list the

found items, and "Lha e" to extract the subject"s infotext.
Added "Use People-Mess" and " Use WoldInfo" menu items so that
searching of these can be de-activated for speed.
Added LhA to "Viewers" and "People-MESS" archive location to Index
files prefs. Uploaded (05/10/02).