

Browser

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Browser		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY		January 13, 2023	

REVISION HISTORY

<i>NUMBER</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>

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Chapter 1

Browser

1.1 Browser Help System

The ImageFX 2.0 release includes a stand alone file selector/viewer system called Browser. It is based, in large part on the thumbnail file requester system used by ImageFX, but it includes a few handy features that make it a truly independent system.

Configuring Browser

Before you use it, you should configure Browser to suit your system. This is done by editing Browser's Tooltypes using the Workbench Information editor.

1. Locate the Browser icon in your ImageFX directory. Click it once, to select the icon.
2. Move to the Workbench pulldown menu for Icons and select Information. The Workbench Icon Information editor will appear.

Browser contains a list of Tooltypes that condition how it responds to selections and what sort of display it uses. These Tooltypes are reproduced below:

```
DRAWER=dcl:
SCREENDDEPTH=4
IMAGEFX=ImageFX:imagefx Iconify
VIEWTEK=dh0:bin/VT24
MPEG=ImageFX:MPEG/mp
(WORKBENCH)
(GREYSSCALE)
NOVERIFY
```

Tooltypes that are enclosed in parentheses (...) will be ignored by Browser when it starts. For instance, the Workbench tooltype, which would cause browser to open in a window on your active Workbench screen is, in this example, enclosed in parentheses. This causes Browser to not open on the Workbench; opening its own screen, instead.

The listed tooltypes are interpreted as follows:

`DRAWER=dcl:`

This defines the default directory or volume that Browser searches on startup. You can use the various browser controls to select another volume or path at any time afterwards, of course.

`SCREENDEPTH=4`

This entry determines the color depth of the screen on which Browser opens. If you open Browser on the Workbench screen, this value is ignored as its color depth is inherited from the Workbench screen. Depending on your display system, you may be able to use only 16 colors (non-AGA Amigas) or up to 256 colors (AGA Amigas and machines equipped with third party display hardware).

Color depth is expressed in terms of bits. Thus, the default 4 bits produces a 16 color screen. 8 bits produces a 256 color screen. Browser requires a minimum screen depth of 4.

`IMAGEFX=Imagefx:imagefx ICONIFY`

You can perform a number of ImageFX operations from within Browser. To do this, however, ImageFX must be running. This tooltype tells Browser where to look for ImageFX, in the event that it is not already running.

It can then, independently, start ImageFX. The ICONIFY keyword instructs ImageFX to open in iconified mode (i.e.: running, but not consuming screen resources).

`VIEWTEK=dh0:bin/VT24`

This tooltype tells Browser what display utility to use when asked to view an image file. By default, this is set to the copy of ViewTek (VT) located in your ImageFX:ViewTek directory. In this example, the tooltype has been changed to call the IV24-specific version of ViewTek, in order to display in full 24-bit color on an IV-24 display enhancer.

`MPEG=ImageFX/MPEG/mp`

This tooltype tells Browser where to look for, and what display utility to use when asked to play an MPEG encoded digital video file.

(WORKBENCH)

This tooltype, when enabled, forces Browser to open in a window on the Workbench screen. Its default condition is disabled, which allows Browser to open its own display screen.

(GREYSCALE)

This tooltype, when enabled, forces Browser to display its thumbnails in greyscale only. On a pre-AGA Amiga, where the maximum color depth allows only 16 colors, it may be desirable to use greyscale for better image recognition.

`NOVERIFY`

This tooltype, disabled by default, causes Browser to prompt you for confirmation before performing various operations (like quitting). When enabled, these prompts are suppressed.

Starting Browser

Locate the Browser icon in the ImageFX drawer. If you wish, you can select the Workbench Icons/Leave Out menu to make Browser a permanent resident of the Workbench environment.

Using Browser

Once started, Browser opens a screen (or a window on Workbench) that looks very similar to the ImageFX thumbnail file requester. It has some different functions, however.

Browser Menus

Browser has two pull-down menus:

Control

- o Parent (Right-Amiga P) moves to the next highest directory level.
- o Volumes (Right-Amiga V) produces a vile requester for selecting other volumes.
- o Delete (Right-Amiga D) deletes the selected file(s). Browse will not delete any file without prompting for user confirmation.
- o View (Right-Amiga V) loads the selected file(s) into the display utility specified in the View tooltip.
- o View MPEG (Right-Amiga M) displays the selected MPEG digital movie.
- o About produces an informational panel.
- o Quit (Right-Amiga Q) exits Browser.

ImageFX

- o Run ImageFX (Right-Amiga I) starts ImageFX if it is not already running.
- o ARexx Program... (Right-Amiga R) produces a file requester into the ImageFX REXX directory. Assuming that ImageFX is running, you can load any REXX script to execute using the selected image file.
- o Create thumbnails (Right -Amiga 1) process the directory's contents, making thumbnails for any picture file without one.
- o Edit Image (Right-Amiga 2) loads the selected image file into ImageFX.
- o Convert to GIF (Right-Amiga 3) reads the selected image file and saves it to the same directory as a GIF format file.
- o Convert to JPEG (Right-Amiga 4) reads the selected image and saves it to the same directory as a JPEG format file.

Editing the text file `Browser.defaults` can allow you to add commands of your own to this list.
