UPGRADE_WB

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Contents

Chapter 1

UPGRADE_WB

1.1 Upgrading WB

                          Upgrading Workbench

     Welcome to my latest guide about how to upgrade Workbench without
much cost using freeware or shareware now widely available from BBS'
and Aminet (includes

            Workbench 3.1 Upgrade

            Preferences

            Hardware Drivers

            Top Essential programs

            Replacement WB programs

            Libraries

            Backdrops and icons

            Contacting the Author

1.2 Workbench 3.1 Upgrade

    The current version of Workbench is 3.1 and is available for all
Amigas from the lowly A500 to the new A4000T. It comes on 6 disks:
Workbench, Extras, Storage, Fonts, Locale and Install.
    Utilities and tools are few and basic and rather old. Workbench
uses four colours for its default screen mode and its icons and looks
dated although much better than 1.3's color scheme.
    The main new features provided since 1.3/2.x are as follows:

AGA Support - Support for 256 colour screens.

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Datatypes     - Allows programs to load from different types of files
                whether graphics, sound or text based.

DosDrivers    - Uses seperate files for each device rather than a single
                mountlist. Automatically loaded on startup.

CrossDos      - Allows you to access 720K/1.44M PC floppy disks and
                hard disks and zips etc.

Monitors      - Better support for different monitors and screen modes.

Printers      - More printer drivers such as CanonEpson.

Workbench     - Much more improved workbench screen since 1.3.

Preferences - Wider range of preferences to configure your workbench

Locale        - Support for different languages other than English

CDROM         - A new CDROM Filesystem is supplied as standard.

CLI Commands - New LoadResource command
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1.3 Preferences.

   There are some preferences you can install to improve your Workbench
as follows:

util/wb/SystemPrefs37.lha

 System prefs. If you have an 030 or better CPU then you can set the
Caches, Burst Modes, Copyback, VBR and Superscalar settings
for your CPU.

util/sys/SerialPrefs292.lha

 A new Serial preferences which allows more speeds above the
current 31k limit.

util/wb/AssignMan124.lha

 Assign manager llows you to set up all your assigns with this Assign
Manager and run it once in your user-startup for all of them!

util/wb/VisualPrefs.lha

 Visual prefs changes all aspects of how your Workbench looks with new
types of gadgets, windows, boxes without going for ClassAct
or MUI.

Translator

 New Translator allows you to use different accents
when the computer speaks to you.

MenuPrefs

 Allows you to assign hotkeys to Workbench menus.
Essential for commonly used menu commands.

util/libs/Board217.lha

 Boards library allows you to identify and display what expansion boards you have
installed.

util/libs/ReqToolsUsr.ha

 Requester toolkit for users. An ASL replacement.

1.4 Hardware Drivers

Hard Disk FileSystem

   The FastFileSystem currently has already reached its limits as bigger
and bigger hard disks are appearing. The minimum for 3.5" IDE is now 2Gb.
Amiga International now supply a beta v43 of the FFS for free from their
web site and along with SCSI_IDE and NSDPatch can pass the 4Gb limit.
See http://www.amiga.de/

   Besides Amiga Intl. FFS there is also FFS64TD which is available from
Aminet which also allows larger hard disks with the above patches.

Printers

   Dot Matrix printers were the normal when the Amiga first appeared, now
inkjet, laser and colour printers are now widely available. Drivers are
now available for free for Epson, Canon, HP and other less well known
printers in Aminet in text/print.

Scanners

   Drivers and scanning programs for Epson, Microtek, Highscreen, Mustek,
HP and others are available on Aminet to drive your flat bed scanners.
See hard/drivr for the software esp. ScanTek, ScanTrax.

CD ROM

   CD ROM and CD ROM Writers are well catered for with more recent drivers
than Commodore's effort. Look for IDEFix which includes CacheCDFS, AmiCDFS
and AmiCDROM. CD ROM Writer software is also available particularly in
demo format such as BurnIt. See disk/cdrom on Aminet.

Tape Drives

   SCSI tape drives for backup purposes are catered for with programs such
as Tape_Handler, BTN. See disk/backup on Aminet.

Sound Cards

The best sound driver for a number of sound cards such as Toccota,
Prelude and so on is now provided by AHI driver software.

Graphics Cards

The Amiga can support a number of Graphics cards in particular Picasso,
CyberGraphics and so on although older cards aren't updated these days.
Software to look out for is Picasso96 and RTGMaster. See gfx section
on Aminet for this software

PCMCIA Drivers

As you know the A1200 and A600 have PCMCIA ports which allow type 2 cards to
be used for memory, hard disks (overdrives), scsi controllers and cd rom
drives (Overdrive, Zappo, Q-Drive).
Support for modems are now proved with PCMSER for some models
and also support for PCMCIA networks cards as well with the CNETDevice.

Network drivers

To set up your amiga for the network you can have Peer-to-Peer software
such as ParNet, Pronet, Sernet. For TCP/IP networks you can use AmiTCP
or Miami and there are drivers for Netware networks. See comm
and hard/drivr for this software.

1.5 Top 20 Essential programs

The following list is only a guide and may or may not meet everyone's
tastes, so apologies if it doesn't include your favourite or includes
a program you hate.
These programs are considered to be essential, something Commodore,
forgot to include or never got round to writing one. They are not in
any specific order.

1. ToolManager.
    Allows you to add menu items to the 'Tools' menu in
  Workbench (a daft oversight by Commodore). Also, allows to provide
  docks, sounds, icons or access objects on the Workbench. Saves time
  by providing short cuts to your favourite programs.

2. ReOrg
    After a lot of use, your Hard Disk will suffer from framentation
   and will take longer to boot and load files. The program will
  optimize your hard disk and make it faster.

3. FastView
    A very good picture viewer program which will view all sorts of
  pictures in various formats, includes animations and various other
  options.

4. BED
    The Editors provided by Workbench are very old and limited. BED or
  Blacks Editor is a reasonable small text editor which is Freeware.
  There are lots of other editors about, some specialised, some complex

and some simple ones. Another editor worthy of mention is GoldED
.

5. DiskSalv
    This program has saved me a lot of trouble in the past and it is
essential you get this (or a equivalent). Repairs disks and undeletes
files for you. Version 2 is shareware and widely available, newer
versions are commercial. Another salvage program is Quarterback Tools.

6. HDToolbox
    Another essential utility as it preps your hard disk. Not everyone
gets this but if you can get hold of it then you can manager your
hard disk better. As well as settings up hard disks and partitions
it can also Verify the Data Surface and map out those annoying bad
blocks which DiskSalv cannot fix. Other prep software worth having
is RDPrep and GVPPrep.

7. SnoopDOS
    This program can help you when your programs stop working. It will
display all the libraries, drives, config files and so on programs
access and whether it was successful or not. An absolutely brilliant
program to have.

8. SysSpeed
    Ever wondered how fast your Amiga runs or what the configuration is
then SysSpeed is the program to have which supports all CPU including
the 68060 unlike some older software.
Lots of modules are available that give the setup and speed results
for different Amigas and accelerator boards. A simpler and older
program to look out for is SysInfo but its Speed calculation
is source for controversy! Another new program to look out for is
AIBB which will speed test your hardware too!

9. XOper
    This advanced program will display tasks, libraries,devices and other
resources and allows you full control of tasks and intuition. A good
program but be careful it can crash your Amiga!

10. Installer
     Most Amiga programs are installed by this recent program which uses
  a standard interface to install other programs for you. Ensure that
  you have the latest version (V43) which fixes most of the bugs.

11. LHA/LZX/DMS
     These are the most common archiver programs for the Amiga.
  If you use Comms/BBS' or the Internet a lot and download files then
  you will need these to unarchive them. If the CLI gives you the
  shivers then there are plenty of Archive GUI Interface programs around
  to make it easier. LHA and LZX are file archivers while DMS (Disk
  Masher) is a disk archiver.

12. ARQ
       Requesters in Workbench are quite boring, so ARQ provides animated
  requesters instead and if you set up UPD as well, you can play your
  favourite samples as well such as an Explosion if a disasterous
  error occurs, or a Scream if the Amiga Gurus. Great fun!

13. VirusZ II
        Unfortunately, Viruses occur on the Amiga and to protect your
    self you must have a Virus checker program to detect and remove virus.
    VirusZ is a popular memory resident virus checker. There are many other
    Virus checkers available but make sure it doesn't go out of date...!!!

14. HippoPlayer
        If you enjoy listening to music then this essential utility is
    a must as it will play most music modules (MODs), there are thousands
    of modules available especially on Aminet Mirror sites! Other players
    are about including OctaMEDPlayer which specifically plays
    MED modules.

15. PicBoot
        Sick of looking at a boring screen when booting your Amiga? Well,
    Picboot allows you to display any ILBM picture while your Amiga is
    booting up.

16. ValidateWait
        Has your Amiga ever crashed and then the hard disk is invalidated?
    If so, then if you reboot, the Amiga tries to Validate the HD while
    booting up and causes a lot of disk thrashing. To prevent this, include
    ValidateWait in your startup-sequence to wait until validation is
    finished before booting up the Amiga. A useful util to have about.

17. Assign Manager
        A lot of Amiga programs require assigns to be set up for it to be
    used and that can make your user-startup very, very big and slow down
    booting up. Assigns allow you to make ALL your assigns in one go
    with just one command! Includes a prefs program to add or delete any
    assigns without resorting to Editing user-startup.

18. Interplay
        If you have a CDROM then you can also play Audio CDs as well and
    a program such as Interplay can be used to play them. It supports
    different CD ROMs including SCSI, IDE and Zappo drives. It also allows
    you to name the different track so that they're easily identified.

19. MCP
        To make life a lot more easier to use Workbench and enhance it
    the multi-commodity program like MCP can make Workbench easy and better
    to use. I use it for Title Clock, Click-to-front, Screen titles, WB
    and memory patches. It has many more features than can be useful.

20. ReKeyit
        Another useful program is Rekeyit which allows you to assign key
    strokes to Workbench menus and sub-menus so that a quick keystroke is
    only needed for commonly used functions such as Show All Files and
    Delete etc.

1.6 Replacement Programs

                    Amiga Workbench comes with a few utility programs to look at ←
                    files,
print them out and enhance the way your Amiga works. Unfortunately, over

time they have become quite dated. Now, there are thousands of Public
Domain and Shareware programs available to update them with more features
and enhance current facilities.

                        Utilities drawer

                        System drawer

                        Tools drawer

                        Commodities

                        AmigaDOS

                        Workbench

1.7 Utilities Drawer

 This drawer tends to fill up with all your favourite utility software,
programs which you tend to use day after day. Here are a few you could
include in your collection.

Picture Viewers

 THere are many picture viewers with built-in code to read other file types
 much faster than Multiview. See gfx/show for some viewers.

      e.g. ViewTek, FastView, Visage, PPShow etc.

Text Viewers

 There hundreds of text viewers from the simple TYPE and
 MORE programs to more advanced viewers with XPK support, search
 facilities, Guide compatible and so on.

      e.g. Evenmore, Muchmore, MUIMore, PowerGuide, AmigaGuide.

 PDF and Postscript files are now possible to be viewed on the aminet
 although it tends to be slow. Look out for Ghostscript, pdftops
 and xpdf4d.

Animation Players

 The Amiga is well suited to creating and playing various types of
 animation. There are many different formats such as Amiga's ANIM format,
 MoviePlayer, MPEG, AVI and Quicktime formats. All are catered for on the
 Amiga.
 e.g. ANIM Viewers: ViewTek, CyberAnim, Xanim,
       MPEG: XAnim, amipeg, Xingplay
       QT: QT, Xanim

 Good general ones to look for are XAnim and MainActor!

Sound & Music Players

  Multiview supports 8SVX but there are many other modules types which
  it does not support. A dedicated music player(s) is required.

  e.g. HippoPlayer, Octamed Player, HD-Play, Eagle Player etc.

  Some players will support audio direct from an audio CDROM.
  e.g   Interplay, Octaplay,

Clocks

    The standard clock is rather old and can be a nusiance as it opens
  a window to display the time. Replacement clocks now put the date and
  time on the Screen menu bar out of the way at the top of the screen.
  See util/time on Aminet for a whole load of clocks.

1.8 System Drawer

  The system drawer contains programs to for the Operating System
and things like disks, fonts, the shell, memory and so on.

Replacement Shells

    The shell is a useful and powerful feature to access the AmigaOS.
To enhance the current shell there are some replacements about, the all time
favourite is KingCon which provides menus for certain shell functions,
file name completion (using TAB) key, iconisation and a history.

    A more recent shell to appear is called VINCEd which provides: its own clip
board, scrollers, macros, menus, history, special characters sequences, ANSI
colour and so on.

Disk Formatters

 A good replacement is MyFormat which add BadSector, BadTrack options,
and the option to save a bootblock - a major oversight on CBM's Format
command.
  Other formatters allow you to map out bad blocks on damaged bits of a disk.
Although such disks really ought to be thrown out as they can get worse over
time. Check out WorseFormat.

Disk Copiers

  The standard diskcopy program is quite slow but reliable, if you
wish to copy other disks quicker or copy Non-DOS disks then you will
require more specialised copier programs such as DCOpy, AFCopy.

System Monitors

  To find out what is running on your system, whats loaded into memory and
what happens when yout run a program requires a monitor type program.
XOper is an excellent system monitor program, it tells you whats
loaded into memory, what tasks are running and you can enter commands to change

things about tasks, windows, screens and so on. Other programs such as
Snoopdos and ARTM allow to see in real time what files,
libraries and resources are loaded as you load and run programs. Ideal to find
out whyy certain programs fail to work. See util/moni on Aminet for other
monitor type programs.

Speed Testers

   Lots of people like to find out whats in their computers or how fast their
machine runs at. A number of speed programs have appeared as ShowConfig with
the WB is rather limited. Programs to look out for are SysSpeed, SysInfo and
AIBB which give some decent speed comparisons. SysSpeed is the latest and
works with the 68060 cpu.

1.9 Tools Drawer

Icon Editors

 It is usually better to use a paint package, such as PPaint to create your
icons, and import them into IconEdit to save as icons. Iconian is
an excellent IconEdit replacement with a bigger editing area and lots of
features!
   If you want to copy icons from one file to another it was only
possible via the Shell or a file manager. Now we have Icon copy programs
to do it for you, just drop the file into the given window and it will
over write the icon file without losing tooltypes etc. Programs to look
for are IconCopy, MAgicWB's IconCopy.
   There are also programs that will edit the tooltypes, stack, default tool
and so on much more easily than Workbench can. Look out for DoICon,
ToolTypeEditor, DefaultTool, IRT.

Calculator

    This is a simple calculator program with no other functions than add,
subtract, multiply and divide. There are many calculator replacements
some more specialised than others. For advanced calculations, a spread
sheet program is needed, such as TurboCalc.

System Configuration

   The ShowConfig program displays the hardware configuration of your Amiga.
Unfortunately, it cannot easily identify cards added to the system and
doesn't display other items such as Hard disks or cD-ROM drives.
The best programs to use are: SysInfo, AIBB, ShowConfigEnh, SysSpeed.

Picture Dump

    This program outputs pictures to the printer and results can be rather
disappointing on modern printers. Results can be better from a Paint
package or a freeware program such as EasyPrint which can provide
a wide range of features to output your pictures.

1.10   Commodities

   Commodities are programs which run in the background and wait for
various intuition events to occur whether from the keyboard, mouse, or
window changes or insertion of floppy disks. They can affect how things
happen via patches and so on.

Commodity Exchange

   To control commodity programs there is the Exchange program which
can display Commodity's interface and end commodity programs.
There are a few commodity exchange replacements which do similar things
using different interface libraries such as MUI, BGUI etc.
Ones to look out for are: Mexch, CxBar, Magic_Exchange and BExchange.

Screen Blankers

   If you leave your Amiga on all the time, then a screen blanker is a useful
program to have to save burn in on your Monitor. There are replacements
around with a choice of animations such as BlitzBlanker, BServe,
GershneBlanker and MCP and MCX commodities etc.

Other Commodities

   These are simple commodities that affect windows, the mouse and the
keyboard. Instead of having more than one program loaded, some people
have written multi-commodity programs that can do lots of things.
Ones to look out for are MCP, MCX and YAK.
   Some commodities are specialised for specific tasks such as sound effects
on events, window events, file finders and so on. Many of these can be found
on Aminet in util/cdity.

1.11   AmigaDOS (CLI/Shell)

   AmigaDOS Shell commands that reside in the C: directory can also be
   updated with more up-to-date versions and added to with more powerful
   commands. For example:

   AKCC   - Adds a whole load of powerful CLI commands.
   WKUtils - Requester commands, split and join commands
   GCopy   - A Copy replacement with a progress bar
   zDir   - An 'ultimate' dir replacement
   GetInfo - Returns information about memory, files and disks

  There are also a whole load of boot commands which you can run from your
   startup-sequence or user-startup:

   PicBoot - Displays a picture while your Amiga Boots.
   UPD   - Adds sounds to Workbench events (comes with ARQ)
   NoClick - Turns off those annoying floppy drive click sounds
   SetPens - Allows more than 4 colours on Workbench properly
   FastExec- Moves exec.library from slow chip ram to fastram
   FastIPrefs - Improves speed of preferences
   WaitValidation - Pauses boot up while disk validaton occurs

```
WBStartupPlus  - Decides which programs to run on Startup
NewPassword    - Asks for password before you can complete bootup
BootChange - Selects random samples and pictures on bootup
CheckDrive, IfNoDrive - Reboots if no hard disk found first time
```

These and a whole lot more can be found on Aminet in util/cli and util/boot
and other places.

1.12   Workbench Replacements

Workbench itself is provided with LOADWB and the workbench.library.
There are a number of complete replacements about which adds multi-
tasking, threading and better menus and facilities than WB itself.
e.g. MBench.

Windows 95 provided the 'Start' button and this can also be simulated
on the Amiga with programs such as: Win95, Taskbar, StartMenu,RunBar.

MagicMenu allows you to replace the menu system with popup menus from
anywhere other than the top of the screen.

The Tools menu is not supported directly by Workbench but there are
plenty of replacements: ToolManager, ToolsDaemon.

If you find Workbench itself too limiting them there are replacements
for that too! File Managers such as Dir Opus, DiskMaster, SID and
so forth are quite popular.

1.13   Libraries

AmigaOS uses shared libraries for its operation and this allows
programmers to expand and enhance the Amiga by writing and releasing
their own libraries. There are hundreds and hundreds of libraries,
some are specific to particular applications and some are more general
and can be used by any program.

MUI - Magic User Interface

Workbench programs used to use Intuition for WB1.3 and then GadTools
for WB2/WB3. MUI is a replacement user interface library system for
programs to provide a powerful and pleasing graphical user interface.
It is getting popular but requires an expanded system to make full use
of it.

Requester replacement Libraries

Until WB2.04, programmers had to write their own File Requesters from
scratch for their programs and ARP (Amiga Replacement Project) provided
a library to fix this oversight. Req and Reqtools replaced ARP
and CBM's ASL library.

Compression Libraries

   These libraries provide functions to compress files and then decompress
files usually in real-time by compress-aware programs such as PPMore,
PPShow, Muchmore and many other programs. They are helpful when space
is at a premium and compressing large files and saving them to disk
would free up vital space and using a program to decompress them for you
when you need to view or modify them.
Common libraries: Explode, PowerPacker, XFD, XPK, Decruch.

Unix IXEmul Library

   This library provides Unix type functions to AmigaOS and makes it easy
for certain Unix programs to be easily converted to the Amiga.

Translator Library

   This library is an uptodate speech synthesis with locale support for
the Amiga and can now be used on Amigas with WB2 or better!

Maths Libraries

   If you have an accelerated Amiga and got an FPU then there some replacement
libraries that can make use of your FPU without needing an FPU specific
program.

Identification Libraries

   There are a number of identifying libraries. Some can recognise types of
hardware you have (Boards, Expname, Identify), or the type of files you have
(FileID, Datamaster), useful for Dir commands and Virus killers.

Datatypes Library

   This library is provided with WB3 or above and allows programs to read
difference filetypes such as pictures, sounds and types of text files.
A few are provided by many, many more can be added:

   GIF, JPEG, PNG, MacPaint, Wave, MacSnd, SVG, Animation, MPEG, Metafiles,
Faxx, MacPaint, MacPict, Protracker, Icon, Tool, AIFF, Targa, Koala, Reko,
ZX Spectrum, XPM, BMP, NewIcons, PostScript, VOC, TIFF, AU, C, Fonts,WPG,
HSN, Sun Man, PCX, QRT, Sun Raster, BeOS.

1.14 Backdrops and icons

   Workbench uses a standard 4 colour icon system which is quite bland and
boring. To improve the way Workbench looks, there are replacement icon
collections available to make Workbench more colourful:

Magic Workbench

   This a a direct icon replacement using 8 colour icons using a grey/blue/
pink type palette. It is very popular and doesn't require much extra
system resources to ensure speed isn't affected.

NewIcons

   This is a special icon replacement. Instead of using normal icon images
like Workbench, the images are stored in the icon's tooltypes and the
standard icon image appear as small squares. A program is required to
be run to see the new style icons. The icons appear as 3D colourful icon
and look completely different to the normal Workbench icons.

Multicolour Icons

   There other other sets of icons with more colours, typically 16 and 256
colour icons but can slow down Workbench as the more bitplanes required
for the icons make bigger .info files. These are ideal for people with
graphics cards which can cope with these larger icons.
There is one called Iconographics which is nive colourful icon
collection.

Backdrop Pictures

   As well as improved icons the Workbench screen can be made to be more
interesting by either using patterns or pictures called backdrops and this
can be set up using the WBPATTERN preferences program to automatically
load a picture onto the Workbench screen. The picture must match the
screen depth and palette in use.

1.15 The Author

   This guide has been written for those people would like to make their
Workbench more up to date and more productive for their use. I hope
some of the information will be useful. Almost all the programs described
can be readily installed and used from the many utility collections,
the best place is the Aminet archives either via the Internet or on CD.
There are some CDs with Workbench Enhancements included as one collection
and are worth looking at.

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   Other Guides to look out for:

   The Printer Guide
   Workbench 1.3 Guide
   Expanding the Amiga Guide
   PC Task Guide
   Hard Disk Guide

   See Aminet/docs/help or hyper for the above.