ClipHistory

COLLABORATORS			
	TITLE : ClipHistory		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
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Contents

Chapter 1

ClipHistory

1.1 ClipHistory.guide

This file describes ClipHistory, version 1.0, a program that adds a history to the clipboard.

1.2 ClipHistory.guide/Introduction

Introduction
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This is a program that I've been thinking of doing for a long time, but I haven't actually implemented it until now. I think first I got the idea when I had used the history feature of PowerSnap (by Nico François) a little while. I soon realised that it was a very convenient feature.

But other programs uses the clipboard as well. The history PowerSnap maintains only applies to the text that PowerSnap writes to the clipboard, not the ones e.g. my editor writes. And I thought that it would indeed be useful to have them in a history too.

One problem with such a history is that it easily can eat up a lot of memory, since cuts and copies in an editor can be rather large at times. To remedy this problem, there are several filtering options, that limits the amount of memory ClipHistory may use. But more about this later on in this document.

One interesting detail: ClipHistory is a completely system friendly program, in that it doesn't patch any functions at all. It only uses well documented features of the operating system. This does have a minor drawback: ClipHistory can miss clips, if several clips are written in a very short time. But this shouldn't be any problem, I think.. :)

1.3 ClipHistory.guide/Legal information

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1.4 ClipHistory.guide/System requirements

System requirements
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ClipHistory have very modest system requirements. It needs OS 2.04 or better, although OS 3.0 or better will make ClipHistory operate slightly better.. :)

If you have ReqTools (by Nico François) installed, then ClipHistory will use ReqTools for its requesters (you can disable this if you like). Otherwise the "normal" system requesters will be used.

1.5 ClipHistory.guide/Installation

Installation
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ClipHistory is easy to install. Simply copy the program (and its icon) to WBStartup, or whereeever you find convenient. If you have OS 2.1 or better, you might want to copy a catalog file as well, to make ClipHistory operate in another language than english.

The easiest way is to let the Installer do it (if you have it that is! :). If not, copy the file cliphistory.catalog as found in the Catalogs/<language> drawer to Locale:Catalogs/<language> (or to a the drawer Catalogs/<language> in the same drawer as you placed ClipHistory. In either case, <language> should be one of the languages you have select in the Locale preferences editor.

If there is no catalog file for your language, please try to fill in the file Empty.ct in the Catalogs drawer and send it to me. I will then include the catalog in the next release of ClipHistory.

1.6 ClipHistory.guide/Usage

Usage
*****

To use ClipHistory, you first make sure that the tooltypes are set up properly. Then start it. You can also start if from a shell, but then you must remember to Run it (and to write suitble arguments). To make it permanently installed, simply drop it into WBStartup, or enter a suitable line in your S:User-Startup file.

ClipHistory installs itself as a commodity, so you can use the Commodities Exchange program to show the interface, disable/enable it, or remove it completely. Starting ClipHistory a second time (for the same clipboard unit) will cause the first copy to show the interface. Pressing the hotkey will also open the interface (CX_POPKEY, see

Options
).

The user interface of ClipHistory is very simple; it contains of a window with a list gadget. This list contains all the remembered clips. There is also a menu attached (see
Menus
).

The text showed in the list is either the text - if it is a text clip - or the type of the IFF clip (everything on the clipboard should be in IFF format), followed by its size (in bytes). If you have OS 3.0 or higher, the non-text clips will be shown in bold (or at least something similar to bold).

To select an item in the list, you either click once on it with the mouse, or you use the cursur up/down keys (optionally with the shift/alt/ctrl qualifiers) to highlight the requested item.

To copy an item to the clipboard, you double-click on the item, or press return when the proper item is selected. Unless the STICKY option (see
Options
) have been used, the window will close.

Escape closes the window.

1.7 ClipHistory.guide/Menus

Menus

*****

The window ClipHistory opens have the following menus:

Project

Save clip as...

This allows you to save the currently selected item to a file of your choice.

About...

Shows some information about the program and the history.

Hide

Close the window, but don’t quit.

Quit

Close the window and quit.

Edit

Delete...

This will delete the currently selected item. You can also press Del to do this.

Delete all...

This will delete all clips in the list. You can also press Shift-Del to do this.

Options

Create icons?

If checked, then icons will be created for the files you save. This is the same as the option CREATEICONS (see

Options

).

Save text as IFF?

If checked, then text clips (those that shows up as "normal" text in the window) will be saved as IFF files. If you save them as normal text, then some information might be lost (technical note: all CHRS chunks will be saved, but no other). Same as the option TEXTASIFF (see

Options

).

ReqTools?

If checked, then ReqTools will be used for requesters, if ReqTools is available, that is. Same as the option REQTOOLS (see

Options

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                ).
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1.8 ClipHistory.guide/Options

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Options
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   Options can be specified in the tooltypes (when starting from the
Workbench) or on the command line (when starting from a Shell).

CX_PRIORITY
     This value specifies the priority ClipHistory will have in the
     commodities input chain. This priority only applies to the hotkey.
     Default is 0. Accpted range is -128 to 127.

CX_POPKEY
     This specifies the hotkey to use to open the window. Default is
     "control lalt c". Please refer to your Amiga manual for more
     information about hotkey descriptors.

     Note: If this string is 100 chars long or more, unpredictable
     things may happen when you open the window. There is (currently)
     no check for this.  I hope this doesn't cause any problems for
     anyone... :)

CX_POPUP
     If YES, then ClipHistory will open the window upon startup (this is
     the default). Use NO to disable this.

CLIPUNIT
     This value specifies the clipboard unit to use. Default is 0.
     Accepted range is 0 to 255.

     You can start one copy of ClipHistory for each clipboard unit. In
     Commodities Exchange, the name will be "ClipHistory <unit>", where
     <unit> is the unit you specify here.

TOOLPRI
     This argument specifies the "normal" priority for ClipHistory. To
     make sure that ClipHistory doesn't miss any clips, even if the
     computer is doing much work, you might want to rise the task
     priority of ClipHistory. Default is to use whatever priority
     ClipHistory was started in (this is normally 0). Accepted range is
     -128 to 4.

     Note: The Workbench also supports the TOOLPRI tooltype. It was
     added to ClipHistory so that Shell users easily can change the
     priority as well.

WORKPRI
     Some operations ClipHistory does can take a little time sometimes.
     Here you can specify the priority ClipHistory should use during
     this time, so that other programs can run normally. Usually a
```

negative value should be entered. Default is not to change the priority. Accepted range is -128 to 4.

SILENT

If YES, then don't display any requesters for "clip operation errors", like when there was a problem reading/writing to the clipboard, or when there wasn't enough memory to save a clip. Default is NO.

PUBSCREEN

This specifies the public screen on which ClipHistory should open its window on. Default is the frontmost screen if it is public (if OPENONALL is on, it will use the frontmost screen anyway), or the default public screen.

OPENONALL

If YES, then ClipHistory will open on the frontmost screen, regardless if it is public or not. Default is NO.

Note: In order for this to work properly, a function in Intuition (CloseScreen()) needs to be patched (this patch is only installed if this option have been activated). This might make it impossible for ClipHistory to remove itself from the system if some other program have patched the same function. If you have a SetMan-like program installed, this should never happen.

FONTNAME

This string specifies the name of the font (including the ".font" extension) to use for the window/menus. If not specified, then the current screen font is used. You must specify both FONTNAME and FONTSIZE.

Hint: If you have MagicWB, it can be a good idea to use e.g. XHelvetica, since that font is "complete", i.e. chars than normally aren't printable holds graphics to identify the char in question.

FONTSIZE

This value specifies the size of the above font. You must specify both FONTNAME and FONTSIZE.

WINDOWLEFT

Initial left edge of the window. Default is to center the window on the screen.

WINDOWTOP

Initial top edge of the window. Default is to center the window on the screen.

WINWIDTH

Initial width of the window. Default is <width of the screen>/2.

WINHEIGHT

Initial height of the window. Default is <width of the screen>/3.

STICKY

If YES, ClipHistory won't close the window after writing a clip to the clipboard. Default is NO.

POPSCREEN

If YES, then ClipHistory will - when closing its window - restore the screen that was in front before the window was opened. This only needs to be done if that screen wasn't public. Default is NO.

Note: Using either PUBSCREEN, OPENONALL or STICKY will disable this option.

SAVEPOS

If YES, then ClipHistory will remember the current position of the window when you close it. Otherwise it will reopen using the position specified in the arguments (or the defaults). Default is NO.

SAVESIZE

If YES, then ClipHistory will remember the current size of the window when you close it. Otherwise it will reopen using the size specified in the arguments (or the defaults). Default is NO.

MAXCLIPS

Maximum number of clips that the history can hold. Any value accpted. Note that 0 really means 1... Default is 32767 (the listview handling routines in the OS can't cope with more, so.. :).

MAXCLIPSIZE

If the clip is larger than this value, then it will not be saved in the history. Using 0 here will disable the history. Default is the MAXMEM limit (see below) if that one is specified. Otherwise there is no limit.

MINCLIPSIZE

If the clip is smaller than this, then it will not be saved in the history. Default is 0.

Please note that this refers to the total size of the clip, including the extra overhead due to the IFF file format. For a minimal IFF file (as saved by e.g. PowerSnap), this overhead is 20 bytes. Also, an IFF file is (read: should be) always padded to an even number of bytes. Thus, a relatively useful minimum could be 22, which would force each saved clip to have at least 3 data bytes (when talking about saved text at least).

MAXMEM

This specifies how much memory the history may use at most. The history is dynamically allocated, using so called memory pools (to reduce memory fragmentation). Thus, the actual amount of memory used might be a little more than this value. Default is no max (other than the amount of free memory :).

MATCH

If YES, check all new items against the last one, and only save the new one if it is different. Default is NO.

FULLMATCH

Like MATCH, but check all entries instead. Default is NO.

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     Warning: This can take some time if you have a large history
     (ClipHistory will use the WORKPRI (see above) during this
     check). If more than one clip is written to the clipboard during
     this time, only the last one will be remembered.

CASE
     If NO, then ClipHistory will ignore the case when comparing two
     clips (when either MATCH or FULLMATCH have been used).  Obviously,
     this is only possible when the clip contains text (FTXT).  Default
     is YES.

FILTER
     Here you can specify which IFF types that should be saved (or not
     saved, if REJECT have been specified). Space separate the items.
     Case is important. There are many different IFF types available,
     and I can’t mention them all, but here is a list over the most
     common ones:

    FTXT
          Text. ConClip and PowerSnap saves these ones.

    ILBM
          Graphics/palettes. Saved by e.g. IconEdit.

    8SVX
          Sound (samples).

REJECT
     Make the FILTER (see above) reject on a match instead of accept,
     i.e.  reverse the action of the filter.

TEXTASIFF
     If YES, then FTXT clips will be saved as normal text instead of as
     an IFF file. All clips that shows up as "normal" text in the
     window are FTXT clips. Note that some information may be lost
     (e.g. font information). Default is NO.

CREATEICONS
     If YES, then an icon will be created for each clip saved. Default
     is NO.

REQTOOLS
     If YES, then ClipHistory will use ReqTools for requesters, if it
     should be available. Default is YES.
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1.9 ClipHistory.guide/Future

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                Future
******

   There are a few things I might add to ClipHistory:

   *  More IFF parsing. Now it is minimal, only reading/writing exactly
```

what is on the clipboard, with a minor "support" for FTXT. Enhanced parsing could e.g. reduce the overhead for FTXT clips, by only saving the actual text.

- Separate accept and reject filters. I would need to alter the way they are specified though (now I'm using ReadArgs() "/M" specifier for this, and ReadArgs() don't like several "/M" specifiers in one template.. :).

- Load of single clips and/or load/save of the entire history.

- Prefs window, to edit/save the settings. Perhaps as a separate prefs program.

- A way to view a large clip in full. I'm not sure how, but something could be nice. Perhaps writing the clip to a temporary file, and let some viewer program handle it (like MultiView)?

- Some other way of "highlighting" non-text clips on OS 3.0 or better. Problem is that I don't know how I should change it. Please tell me if you have any ideas.

- Make a Triton version (maybe ClipHistory will require Triton).

None of these things are important for me, but feel free to send me a note telling me what *you* would like to see added (see

Author contact
).

1.10 ClipHistory.guide/Author contact

Author contact
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Feel free to send comments, bug reports, money, or whatever, to:

```
S-mail:  Magnus Holmgren
         Rydsvägen 254 A:14
         S-582 51  Linköping
         SWEDEN

E-mail:  cmh@augs.se (internet) or 2:204/404.6 (fidonet).
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1.11 ClipHistory.guide/Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements
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Thanks go to the following persons:

Nico François
His program PowerSnap inspired me do write this program in the first place. He also sent me a few small (but useful) functions I needed, and came with a few suggestions/bug reports.

Nikolai Waldman
Suggestions.

Michael Berg
Bug report and suggestions.

1.12 ClipHistory.guide/Program history

Program history
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Version 1.0: Initial release.