

ImageDex

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> ImageDex		
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Chapter 1

ImageDex

1.1 ImageDex Docs

ImageDex - Documentation
Program Copyright © 1993, Precision Imagery
Written by Zach Williams

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1.2 What Is It?

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-- ImageDex ←
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ImageDex is a compiled Arexx script (PowerPack-able!) written for ASDG's Art Department Professional.

The program will take a group of pictures, scale them down to a specified

size, and composite them into one image (an Image Index!) with filenames as labels. View the iff file "Sample_index.iff" (included in archive) for an example. This file is 16 color IFF, and was done in 30 pics/page mode.

Through a completely graphic interface, the user may specify the number of pictures per image (20, 30 or 48), the output image format (IFF, GIF, or JPEG) and other program parameters. All settings are saved in a configuration file which is automatically recalled each time the program is run. (See

Running It
for more info).

ImageDex has many uses. For artists and renderers it's a great way to organize artwork, backgrounds, and texture images. (I keep all my Imagine textures as JPEGs on floppies, with index images on the hard-drive). For animators it's a good way to build animation storyboards from single frames.

1.3 Requirements

ImageDex requires:

- AmigaDos 2.0+ (might work on 1.3, but hasn't been tested)
- ADPro 2.2 or higher (may work on older versions, but hasn't been tested)
- rexxarp.library in LIBS: (included in archive)
- rexxplslib.library in LIBS: (included in archive)
- ARexx installed, environment active (ie. REXXMAST in user-startup)

1.4 Installation

Files included in archive

ImageDex	- Executable program
ImageDex.info	- It's icon
ImageDex.guide	- Documentation, you're reading it
Rexxarp.library	- Needed library
Rexxplslib.library	- Another needed library
Registration	- Registration form
Sample.index	- Example image index.

Installation

Installation is simple.

- Copy both libraries to LIBS:
- Copy the executable and icon wherever you want it

1.5 Running It

Program Execution

To run ImageDex, simply click on it's icon. It can also be called from a CLI.

When run for the first time, the Configuration screens will appear.

The program will prompt the user for various paths and values that it needs to run correctly. This part only needs to be completed once. All values are written to a config file stored in the S:Adopus directory and are recalled when the program is run.

These values can also be changed from within the program (see below).

The main program window will now appear. It is divided into three areas: Config, User, and Status.

Config Area

The Config area echoes values stored in configuration. Normally these don't have to be changed, but can be if necessary.

The top two are paths to ADPro and the REXX: directory respectively. To change them, either type the new path or click the "?" button for a requestor. (Be sure to hit RETURN after typing a new path)

The Pics Per Image button specifies the number of pictures to be placed in each index. Click the button to change the value. Choices include 20 (4x5), 30 (5x6), and 48 (6x8).

The Output Mode button specifies the image output mode. Choices include 16 color IFF, HAM IFF (only displayable on AGA machines), 256 color GIF, and JPEG.

Finally, the Save Config button will save current settings to disk. Settings are also saved when exiting the program.

User Area

The User Area is for values that must be entered at run-time.

Click the Add Files button to select files to process. A requester appears. Multiple files can be selected with the Shift key. Repeat to add files from different directories.

The Output Path & Filename text gadget is used to enter the path and root name for output files. It defaults to RAM:Pictures. To change, type a new path and name. NOTE: The file name is a root only. The program will add appropriate file extensions. For example, the default will output files with the name Pictures_index1.iff, Pictures_index2.iff etc. in RAM.

Finally, the Begin Processing button will start processing images. Like I really needed to say that...

Status Area

Here, program status messages are displayed.

Operation

Once you have selected all your files, the program will:

- Run ADPro, if it isn't already running
- Scale each picture
- Composite each picture into the index image, labelling each with the appropriate file name.
- If an image is filled, it is saved off and another is started, until all pictures are processed.

When all pictures are processed, the program return to it's initial state. You can then select more pictures (specifying another output name, of course) or click the top left button to exit. Sorry there's no Quit button, but screen real-estate got a little tight.

1.6 Copyright Information

Copyright

ImageDex

Copyright © 1993, Precision Imagery, All Rights Reserved.

All versions of the ImageDex executable, documentation and support files are protected by United States Copyright Law and related international treaty provisions. You are entitled to use the program and all related files in original form only. You may not reverse engineer, decompile, disassemble or derive a work based on this work in whole or in part.

The ImageDex archive is freely re-distributable as long as all files remain in the archive. No fee may be charged for it, beyond a standard fee for disk media (maximum \$5).

Portions of this distribution are copyrighted as follows.

rexxarplib.library 3.0
Copyright (c) 1988-91, W.J.G. Langeveld.

rexxplslib.library 1.32
Copyright (c) 1992-93, Dineen Edwards Group

Also, ImageDex was compiled using the Rexx Plus Compiler 1.3
Copyright (c) 1992-93, Dineen Edwards Group

Shareware

This program is made available through the concept of "Shareware" which is a form of distribution that gives you the opportunity to try a piece of software before you buy it. It is a copyrighted work that is not now, nor will it ever be regarded as in the Public Domain or otherwise "free" software.

License

You are granted a limited license to evaluate this software for a 30 day period on a private, non-commercial basis only. You must decide at the termination of this evaluation period to register this product if you plan to continue using it or to cease all use otherwise.

Registration is not only required for your continued use, it is needed to keep the development of future enhancements to ImageDex active. Without your support the product cannot continue to evolve.

Disclaimer

No warranties are implied or expressed with regard to the fitness or merchantability of ImageDex for any particular purpose. All risks and damages, incidental or otherwise, arising through the use or misuse of ImageDex are entirely at the responsibility of the user.

While considerable effort has been made to provide you with a reliable product, there is no guarantee that this program is 100% "bug-free". Additionally, this disclaimer does not guarantee future versions of this product, but maintenance releases may be made available if and when feasible.

Fred Fish

Permission is granted to Fred Fish to include this archive in his PD collections.

1.7 Troubleshooting

Troubleshooting

If ImageDex seems to have locked up, try the following.

- If you haven't clicked Begin Processing yet, most likely you entered text in a text gadget without hitting return. Try clicking in any text gadgets and hitting Return.
 - If it seems to lock while processing images, use Alt-M to bring up the ADPro screen. Sometimes ADPro errors will appear, letting you know what's happening. Also, Alt-M-ing to ADPro is cool, just to watch ADPro chug along all by itself. :)
 - If all else fails, executing the the command
-


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rx "call quit(myhost)"
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from a CLI, shell, or WB Execute should kill the program.

1.8 How To Register

Registration

The registration fee for ImageDex is \$10. Registered users will receive a disk containing a serialized version of ImageDex with the annoying ShareWare screens removed. Registered users will also be eligible for any future upgrades, as well as getting the ADOpus package at a reduced rate (See

Future Plans
for more info on ADOpus)

To register, print and fill out the included registration form and send it with a check or money order for the \$10, plus \$1 for postage (\$3 outside the US) to:

Precision Imagery
PO Box 20676
Cranston, RI 02920
USA

If the form is lost, just include your name, mailing address, and any other information you think might be relevant (or even just entertaining).

1.9 Special Thanks

Special Thanks to the the following people...

Merle Ilgenfritz - for all the suggestions, and for beta-testing it to death. If there's a way to crash a program, he can find it.

Mark Montminy - for the all-important polishing suggestions. Call his BBS, The Bloom Beacon at 1-508-399-7536.
--- Home of world-famous Hack & Slash ---

1.10 Future Plans

Future Plans

ImageDex is actually one small piece of a much bigger project. If it's well received, hopefully I'll get the rest together soon.

The big package is called ADOpus, and consists of a bank of Directory Opus buttons configured for Art Department Professional, and aimed at making life easier for the graphic artist/professional/hobbyist.

Using Opus as the interface, users will be able to harness the power of ADPro's graphic routines. Planned buttons include Conversion, Effects Application, Animation tools, Scaling, and assorted other batch processing and goodies (like ImageDex). All will have graphic interfaces like this program.

As an example, creating JPEGs will be as easy selecting a list of files and clicking a button. Or, effects like Emboss can be applied to a series of stills or an animation, with just a few mouse clicks.

ImageDex was one of the first buttons I completed, and the response was so positive I figured I'd release it as a stand-alone.

If you have any suggestions for things you'd like to see as an ADOpus button, feel free to email me (see

 About the Author

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for how to contact me.

1.11 About the Author

Zach Williams

Well, I'm a programmer/graphics artist living in Providence, RI, with my fiancée and a couple of insane cats. Any typos are their fault.

I can be reached on InterNet as "zachws@ids.net". FidoMail in any of the major Amiga areas will probably reach me as well. Finally I can also be reached at the Precision Imagery address.

Precision Imagery is a small company devoted to Amiga-generated graphics for industry and commercial use, as well as the occasional foray into software development.

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