

IconAlign

COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

IconAlign

1.1 IconAlign

IconAlign Documentation

This document describes IconAlign, an Amiga Shell tool to arrange Workbench icons orderly.

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Introduction

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1.2 IconAlign/Introduction

Introduction to IconAlign

If you ever tried the "Clean Up" feature of Workbench and were not satisfied with the result, this program might help you.

In my opinion, "Clean Up" has several problems:

- * often it changes the order of the icons in a random way instead of just aligning them
- * it always tries to align icons in vertical columns first
- * horizontal aligned icons are aligned at their top edge instead of their bottom edge, which gives you non-aligned filenames if the icons have different sizes
- * you can only clean up all icons in a window at once
- * you can not give a starting position for the alignment

IconAlign has none of these problems. It allows you to specify a starting icon that remains unchanged and a number of other icons that will be aligned according to the starting icon. You can have either horizontal or vertical alignment at your choice and optionally equal distances between the icons in the other dimension (which will also sort the icons in the order you have named them). Horizontal alignment is at the bottom edge of the icons (to give you aligned filenames), vertical alignment is centered (like "Clean Up").

IconAlign is not as easy to use as "Clean Up", but it will give much nicer results.

1.3 IconAlign/Usage

Usage of IconAlign

IconAlign is a Shell program with the following template:

```
FROM/A,TO/A/M,HORIZONTAL/S,VERTICAL/S,DISTANCE/N
```

FROM

is name of the reference icon. Use the filename without the ".info"-extension. This icon will NOT be changed, but the TO-icons will be aligned according to the FROM-icon. You must always specify a reference icon.

TO

are the names of the icons that shall be aligned. Again, use the filenames without ".info"-extensions. You must always specify one or more icons to be aligned.

HORIZONTAL

is a switch that tells IconAlign to align the TO icons in a horizontal row with the same bottom line as the FROM icon. The vertical position will remain unchanged, unless you also use DISTANCE. Always use exactly one of the HORIZONTAL and VERTICAL switches.

VERTICAL

is a switch that tells IconAlign to align the TO icons in a vertical row centered to the position of the FROM icon. The horizontal position will remain unchanged, unless you also use DISTANCE. Always use exactly one of HORIZONTAL and VERTICAL switches.

DISTANCE

is an optional numeric argument to specify a distance between the icons. If DISTANCE is used, the order of the icons will be changed to the order of the TO arguments: they will be placed DISTANCE pixels apart, sorted from left to right for HORIZONTAL alignments or from top to bottom for VERTICAL alignments.

1.4 IconAlign/Hints

Hints

IconAlign can be used in a number of ways. Probably the most complicated task is get a collection of icons aligned in a grid. You can use the following steps to achieve this:

1. Select the icon for the top left corner, place it where you like and snapshot the position. Without snapshotting IconAlign will read the old position from the icon and you will get a confusing result.
 2. Use IconAlign HORIZONTAL to align the first horizontal row of icons. Here you should use the DISTANCE argument to give the icons equal distances.
 3. For each icon in the aligned horizontal row use IconAlign VERTICAL to build vertical rows below the first horizontal row. You might want to use DISTANCE here too, but the vertical position of the icons below the first horizontal row will be changed again in the next step.
 4. Now you have nice vertical rows of icons, but except for the first line, they are not properly aligned horizontally. You can fix this now by using IconAlign HORIZONTAL on the horizontal rows with the lowest icon as reference icon. Do not use DISTANCE here, else the good vertical alignment will be destroyed again.
-

1.5 IconAlign/ToolManager

Usign IconAlign with ToolManager

If you already tried using IconAlign, you have probably noticed that it is quite a lot of work typing all the filenames of the icons which should be positioned. To simplify this a lot, I would advise you to get StefanBecker's ToolManager. With this program, you can add IconAlign to your Workbench's Tools-Menu. Aligning icons is then as easy as selecting the FROM and TO icons with extended selection directly on Workbench and using the Tools-Menu entry. For different tasks, you might also want to enter IconAlign several times into ToolManager, for example with HORIZONTAL and VERTICAL alignment or with and without DISTANCE argument.

1.6 IconAlign/Author

How to reach the author

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1.7 IconAlign/Copying

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1.8 IconAlign/Index

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