



Get the most out of your *Amiga* 2011

v0.9

Outsider
Gnu

Preamble

I decided to write this guide as a reference primarily for those new to AmigaOS 4.1, but I hope it will also prove a useful resource for more experienced users of the next generation AmigaOS. I have aimed to create an A-Z of the various hints and tips I have picked up during my OS 4.1 experience since investing in a Sam440flex system in early 2010 and getting reacquainted with AmigaOS. Many of these hints and tips have come from what I have learnt from the vibrant user community found on the various Amiga internet forums.

The guide has been put together in the spirit of the 'Getting the most out of your Amiga' cover books released by the UK magazine, Amiga Format, in the early 1990s. I felt an A-Z format would be user-friendly and fun to use as I enjoyed using the original Amiga Format books in the early 1990s.

Tinkering with Workbench has been a hobby of mine for some time, back in the late 1990s it was always fun to see what new patches I could add to OS 3.x on my A1200 tower system to gain additional functionality or speed. I whiled away many hours tinkering with the look and feel of the Workbench and have found still plays a big part in my use of OS 4.1 today. Here I document the hints and tricks I have picked up along the way here to help others get the most out of their Amigas.

Getting the most out of this document

The guide is very simple to use and is organised by key word, for example if you want to learn about how to listen to MP3s on AmigaOS you simply need to look up MP3 under 'M', of course MP3 is technically an acronym ;-).

You will find many different programs mentioned here, some are open source, some shareware, some commercial. Wherever possible I have included hyperlinks to where you can download these programs or find out more about them, see the icons at the end of each item:



Download - takes you to a download, these are usually in LHA format.



Tutorial - this takes you to an extended tutorial within this document.



Video - a video demonstration of a program's functionality.



Website - a link to related website, e.g. the developers homepage.

Sometimes references are made to locations in your AmigaOS install, e.g. **SYS:Utilities/Clock**. AmigaOS is commonly installed on a hard drive partition named 'Workbench' although it can have other names, so in this document I always refer to this drive as **SYS:** (the standard assign for the partition containing AmigaOS). Keyboard short-cuts are indicated by green text, e.g. **Right Amiga + E**.

Have fun!

Daniel Hutchinson

A

AAC is a file format used for storing audio, popularised by iTunes (as it is the default format used when importing audio CDs with iTunes). The unprotected (DRM-free) .m4a files are supported by TuneNet with an additional plug-in. However not all older files purchased from the iTunes Store which are protected by DRM, such files have the .m4p extension.

 [TuneNet AAC Plug-in](#)

ADRipper see *ripping*

ADSL router see *broadband*

AISS (Amiga Image Storage System) A huge collection of toolbar icons designed by Martin 'Mason' Merz in the OS4 icon style. These have been designed for developers to use in their applications to help retain a consistent look and feel in AmigaOS. Graphics from AISS have been used in this guide to indicate links to downloads, websites, and videos.

  [AISS](#)

AllKeys A small utility that can be used to assign functions to those extra "multimedia" keys on many modern keyboards. Will also allow you to configure extra buttons on mice, e.g. side buttons. Easy to use as AllKeys has a learn function to learn the code for a key or button when pressed, you can then make assign a function, e.g. an e-mail button could open an e-mail client or volume controls could send ARexx commands to Mixer to adjust sound volume, see the [tutorial](#) for more details.

 [AllKeys](#)

Amazon This web store's website works well in OWB and you can listen to the music samples using ClipDown. Unfortunately Amazon have their own application for downloading MP3 files from their music store and there is at present no version for AmigaOS, however Amazon's MP3 files will playback fine in TuneNet and some users have reported being able to download the MP3 files without the Amazon MP3 Downloader.

 [Amazon](#)  [ClipDown](#)

AMC see *media centre*

Ami-PrintScreen is a small tool that is used to create screenshots of the Workbench, see [tutorial](#) for more details on how it can be used.

 [Ami-PrintScreen](#)

AmiCynix This is a Unix environment that runs on OS4, don't be scared though it's very easy to install as it has a nice installer that will do the work for you. AmiCynix has allows the use of some applications commonly found on the Linux platform, these include AbiWord (a Microsoft Word compatible word processor), Gnumeric (for spreadsheets, has some Excel compatibility) and the

excellent graphics package, GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program), amongst others.



AmiDock The AmigaOS program launcher, as well as programs you can also add drawers and files to the AmiDock by drag-and-drop.



AmigaAMP is a long-standing music player for AmigaOS which features an equalizer, playlist, ARexx port and a skinnable interface.



Aminet The original "App Store" from the days when a phone was a phone and just let you talk to people. Here you can download software for classic AmigaOS and AmigaOS4. Look for the boing ball logo for OS4 native programs and the checkmark for classic programs (many of which still run on OS4).



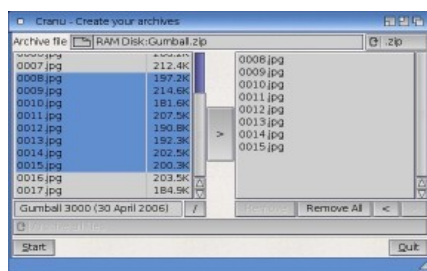
AmiUpdate is a software updater that will run at a set time each day or week to check for updates to various programs supporting the service. Most updates will offer automatic installation.



app store Although there is not yet an official AmigaOS 'app store' there are a couple of third-party attempts at creating a 'store' for AmigaOS applications and games: Jack and TopApp.



APPDIR A fairly recent and handy addition to AmigaOS, paths to all the programs you run are stored in `SYS:Prefs/Env-Archive/AppDir/`. This is useful if you move programs around and the path changes, or you rename a drive or drawer. For example if you have added OWB to AmiDock you could set the path in AmiDock preferences to `APPDIR:OWB` if OWB then moved or you installed a newer or different version elsewhere, clicking on OWB in AmiDock will then open whichever OWB you last started 'manually' through the Workbench. Another use is in the configuration of Deflcons to ensure that Workbench can always find the desired viewer/player even if you have moved it to a different place.



archiving Cranu is a useful GUI for creating archives in formats such as LHA and ZIP.



ARexx is a powerful AmigaOS scripting language which can direct commands and functions to multiple applications from the same script, offering

the opportunity to mix and match functions from the different programs. Many programs have an ARexx port which means commands can be sent to the program from others, such as configuring keys on a multimedia keyboard.

 [Multimedia Keyboards](#)

ArtEffect see *graphics*

assign When a path to a directory or file is given an additional (shortened) name. Assigns are used to give logical devices used by the operating system, such as C: where AmigaDOS stores command files, or S: where scripts are stored. A prefs program, AssignManager, is available for those wanting to manage their system's assigns without resorting to editing startup-sequences. Assigns can be very useful for creating shortcuts to frequently used folders that may be hidden deep in the file system. In file requesters assigns are shown in blue below the actual drives.

 [AssignManager](#)

astronomy The 3D space simulation, Celestia, is available for AmigaOS which gives you a virtual tour of the solar system in which you can fly to the planets and various moons, comets, asteroids, etc.

 [Celestia](#)



B

backup There are various tools for creating backups on AmigaOS, perhaps the simplest is AmiDVD, which allows you to create a bootable DVD. It is also possible to schedule automatic backups with the help of a couple of additional commodities.

 [OnyxSoft Scheduled Backup Tutorial](#)

blanker To change the screen-saver look in the 'Prefs' drawer for 'ScreenBlanker'. CollageBlanker will show your photos on screen, but rather than a slideshow of the pictures they scatter out across the screen. It reminds me a little of the look of the photos app on the iPad, but be sure to install Commander first! BubbleBlanker is also worth a look, but also needs Commander to be installed first.

 [BubbleBlanker](#)  [CollageBlanker](#)  [Commander](#)

Blender This is a free and open source 3D graphics program which can be used to creating still images and animations.

  [Blender](#)

bookmarks OWB features a built-in bookmark manager for keeping a list of URLs.

 [OWB](#)

broadband Use **SYS:Prefs/Internet** to configure your connection when setting up broadband with an ADSL router. Add "Run >NIL:" in front of AddNetInterface in **S:Startup-Sequence** or you can use a static IP address instead of DHCP for a faster boot. If you have a typical broadband ADSL router that configures by DHCP adding the aforementioned to your system's Startup-Sequence also stops your Amiga hanging on boot if the router is switched off or faulty, as the OS will no longer wait for the task to finish before continuing with the Startup-Sequence.

boot During the AmigaOS 4.1 boot process various kickstart files are loaded and then the startup-sequence is executed. For useful tips on how reduce the time it takes your Amiga to boot see ***broadband and Kicklayout***.

burn you can burn data DVDs with AmiDVD, it's included on your OS4.1 CD in the contributions drawer and will let you burn DVDs and create ISOs on your Amiga. AmiDVD can also burn data CDs. However you may also want to try out MakeCD which is particularly well suited to burning audio CDs.

 [AmiDVD](#)  [MakeCD](#)

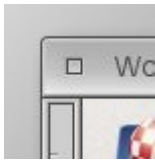




Catweasel is a PCI card featuring floppy drive connectors allowing the connection of a floppy drive for reading and writing classic Amiga disks on an OS4 system.

[Catweasel MK4](#) [Catweasel MK4 Device](#) [Catweasel MK4 GUI](#)

CLI (Command Line Interface) see **Shell**

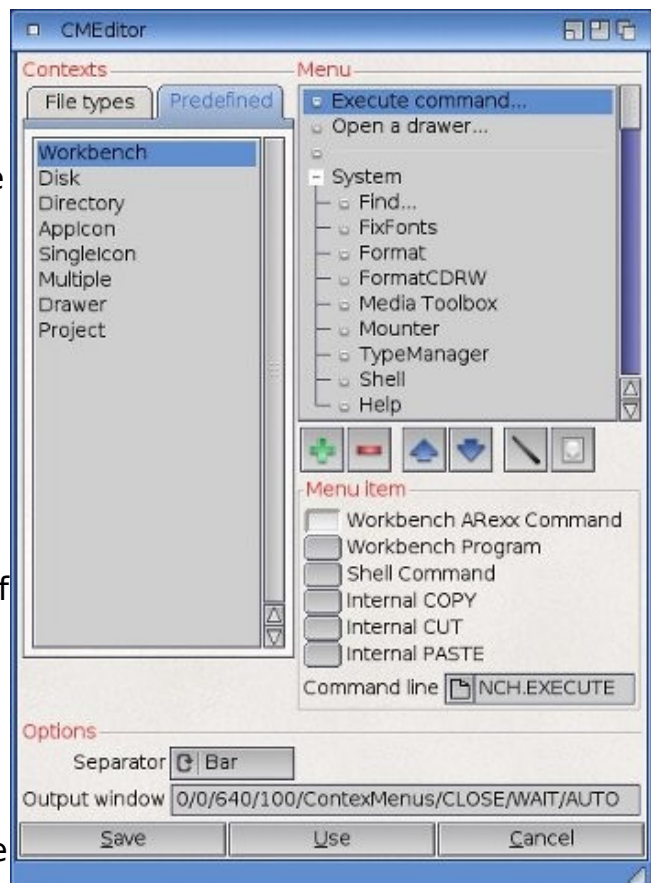


close Windows can be closed by left clicking on the close gadget in their top left corner. If you have multiple drawers open and want to close them all with one click, hold down **Right Amiga** when clicking on the close gadget of one drawer (program windows are not affected).

Commander is a blanker module that lets you run any program as a screen blanker, i.e. a you could run a Hollywood presentation, video, some number crunching app to keep your Amiga busy, whatever you like. Commander is a simple but powerful blanker module which opens up endless possibilities.

[Commander](#)

context menu The Workbench now has extensive support for context menus, by default context menus are active on the Workbench in OS4.1. Although most options simple duplicate the Workbench menu ContextMenus does show menu items relevant to the item below, e.g. if you right click on a disk the icon is highlighted and relevant options are given such as format disk, rather than usual behaviour where the full Workbench menu is shown. ContextMenus has some nice features like the ability to access Prefs programs and Utilities quickly from the Workbench. To turn off context menus go to WBStartup Prefs and uncheck or delete ContextMenus from the startup modules list. ContextMenus is a recent edition to Workbench and unfortunately there is at present no Prefs program to customise these menus, so for example any Prefs programs you add (such as OpenURL or AmiUpdate) will not appear in the context menu. However, if you're feeling brave you can use NotePad to edit ContextMenus.cfg (found in [SYS:Prefs/Env-Archive/](#)) - not for the faint hearted! Alternatively, there's the third party CMEditor which provides a GUI to edit these menus. One of my



favourite features of ContextMenus is the ability to copy or cut and paste files as you would on Windows.

 [CMEditor](#)

cookies or as they or otherwise known as web cookies, browser cookies or HTTP cookies, are pieces of text stored by a web browser. A cookie can be used various tasks such as remembering a password or user name, storing site preferences, shopping cart contents, and so on.

copy To copy items to the clipboard, such as text, select and hit **Right-Amiga + C**. If you would rather **Left-Amiga + C** (it's a little closer!) you can install AmigaKeyRemapper. Files and drawers can be copied by right clicking and selecting the appropriate option from the context menu.

 [Copying Files](#)  [AmigaKeyRemapper](#)

Cranu see *archiving*

crash see *Grim Reaper*

cut see *copy*



D

database MUIBase is a free is a relational, programmable database with graphical user interface for Linux, Windows and Amiga.

 [MUIBase](#)

datatypes allow programs on your Amiga, such as MultiView, to access different types of file format, i.e. different graphics and sound formats. You can add new datatypes to your system by drag-and-drop into [SYS:Devs/Datatypes/](#). Active datatypes are stored in [SYS:Devs/Datatypes/](#) and inactive ones in [SYS:Storage/Datatypes/](#).

Deflcons manages what pseudo icon is assigned to a file without an icon, you can use Deflcons Prefs to set the default programs used to open different types of file.



depth Windows can be brought forwards and sent back again left clicking on the depth gadget in the top left corner. A double left click anywhere on a window will bring in to the front.

desktop The AmigaOS desktop environment is known as the Workbench. It is possible to leave a file out on the Workbench by right clicking its icon and selecting 'Leave out', from the menu, or [Right Amiga + L](#).

dictionary WordNet is an easy-to-use and quick English dictionary for the Workbench, it features speech to read words back to you which can be useful for pronunciation.

  [WordNet](#)

diary see *organiser*



docky A docky is a small program that runs within AmiDock, some dockies are included with OS4 in [SYS:Utiilities/Dockies/](#) and more can be downloaded from OS4Depot, there are dockies for clocks, displaying photos, a Windows-like task bar, CPU meters, and many more. Search OS4Depot for 'docky'. Some programs feature their own built-in app docky, such as TuneNet which has a small docky that lets you control basic functions of the program without opening the full GUI. AmiUpdate has a nice

status docky that shows when updates are available or when AmiUpdate is working on and YAM's mail app docky shows when there are new or unread messages in your inbox.

 [Date Time Docky](#)  [Photo Frame Docky](#)  [Winbar Docky](#)

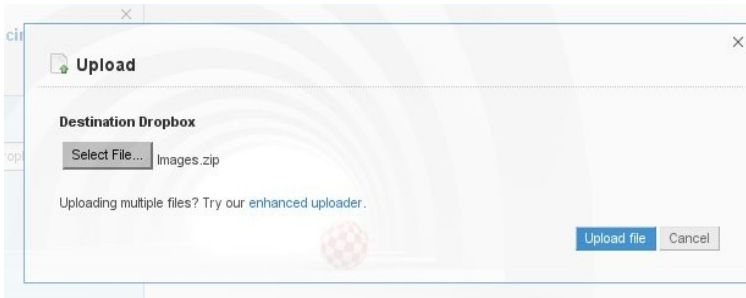
DOpus (Directory Opus) An OS4 port of the legendary Directory Opus file manager is available to download from OS4Depot.

 [Directory Opus](#)

DOS (Disk Operating System) is the software used for the management of secondary storage devices, e.g. hard drives.

DPMS (Display Power Management Signaling) timings can be adjusted using 'ScreenBlanker' which you will find in the 'Prefs' drawer or associated Workbench context menu. You can set a time of inactivity in seconds after which your monitor will be put on standby.

drawer AmigaOS disks are organised into 'drawers' rather than 'folders' as on other operating systems.



Dropbox is a cloud storage website that can be accessed on AmigaOS. Tested with OWB, the file browser works well and you can use the functions of the web interface, although you will need to switch to the 'basic uploader' when

uploading files. An AmigaOS application for uploading files to Dropbox is currently under development and expected to be available very soon.

 [AmigaBox](#)  [Dropbox](#)

DVD (Digital Versatile Disc) You can burn data DVDs with AmiDVD, it's included on your OS4.1 CD in the contributions drawer and will let you burn DVDs and create ISOs on your Amiga. You can use DvPlayer to play back video DVDs, also included on the OS4.1 CD in contributions. Be sure to download and install the dvdcss plugin to play back encrypted DVDs with DvPlayer.

 [AmiDVD](#)  [DvPlayer](#)  [DVDCSS Plug-in](#)

DvPlayer see *video player*







E

Eastern A small commodity that turns regular icons into previews when viewing a drawer of photos, for example. This is done on the fly and Eastern can be added to WBStartup if you wanted this feature permanently, the downside is you may notice a slow down in the opening of drawers containing lots of pictures as Eastern creates the scaled down previews.



e-mail SimpleMail and YAM are both excellent e-mail clients and are easy to use and configure if you have ever used the likes of Outlook, Thunderbird, or Apple Mail. Some key differences are outlined below.

- **SimpleMail** displays HTML messages in their full glory, but make sure you go to the 'Reading HTML' panel in Config and add the email addresses of senders you are happy for SimpleMail to download images from. SimpleMail also has a built-in spam filter. You will need to install OpenURL so that SimpleMail can open web addresses, when you click on them, in your web browser.  [OpenURL](#)  [SimpleMail](#)
- **YAM** on the other hand, does take advantage of some of the newer AmigaOS features, such as the Ringhio notifications system and the built-in URL handler for sending URLs to a web browser.   [YAM](#)

emulation see *RunInUAE*



F

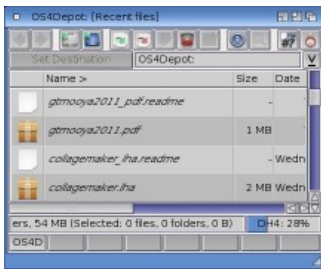
Facebook Yes, you can Facebook on your Amiga, make sure you install OWB and proceed as usual to facebook.com. The instant messaging and photos features work fine, however if you're a fan of games like Farmville, you are out of luck, as these are flash-based applications and currently OWB lacks a flash plug-in.



ffmpeg see *video conversion*

FFS (FastFileSystem) is a widely used classic Amiga file system, OS4 can read and write FFS formatted drives. The more modern SFS and JXFS are (a little ironically) much faster and more robust file systems. SFS and JXFS are recommended when setting up new drives for day-to-day use.

file sharing with other computers can be achieved using Samba.



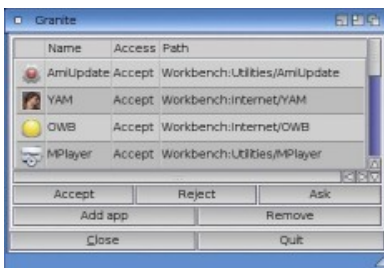
Filer An excellent file manager with plenty of options for you to tweak it to your own taste. Read the readme to get the most out of Filer, particularly nice when used in conjunction with ContextMenus. See the readme that comes with Filer for details on a handy feature that allows you to browse OS4Depot using the file manager.



filters can be set up in SimpleMail or YAM to sort your e-mail into different folders, for example I filter all my eBay messages into an eBay inbox folder.

FinalWriter see *word processing*

Firefox see *web browser*



firewall Granite is a useful commodity that blocks in internet access to all but your 'allowed' applications. Once running Granite pops up a requester whenever a application tries to access the internet, giving you the option to allow or deny. Fortunately no malware yet exists for AmigaOS, but Granite provides reassurance all the same.




flash There is a flash player for OS4, called Gnash, unfortunately no one has yet incorporated this into a modern AmigaOS web browser, so it is of limited use, however will play back most local .swf files successfully. A flash plug-in is available for the IBrowse web browser.



floppy disk see *Catweasel*

folder see *drawer*

fonts in various formats are supported in AmigaOS including bitmap, compugraphic and truetype fonts. By default all fonts are stored in [SYS:Fonts/](#) and new fonts can be installed using [SYS:Utilities/FontManager](#) and widely available free truetype fonts can be downloaded and installed from the internet. Workbench's default fonts can be changed with [SYS:Prefs/Font](#). 

FTP (File Trasfer Protocol) There are a number of free FTP clients for OS4.1, these include Pete'sFTP (supports SSH) and AmiFTP. There is also FTPMount, which allows FTP sites to mounted on Workbench as drive on bootup which is a nice and convenient method especially for occasional uploading to a site such as Photobox. With FTPMount you're FTP sites will show in file mangers, like Filer and any other program that you would access the file system to load and save, e.g. ArtEffect, you could edit a photo and save straight to your Photobox account for example.

 [AmiFTP](#)  [Pete's FTP](#)  [FTPMount](#)  [Photobox](#)



G

gestures are commonly found on touch screen devices and allow the use to perform actions such as 'swiping' through pages in a document. You can configure gestures for a regular USB mouse with the help of the HyperControl commodity.

 [HyperControl](#)







GIMP (GNU Image Manipulation Program) see **graphics**

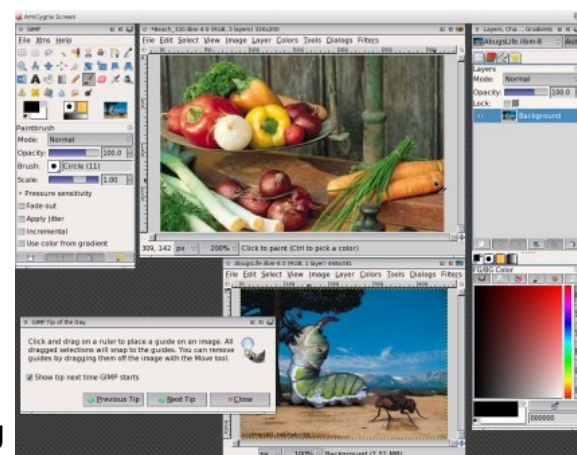
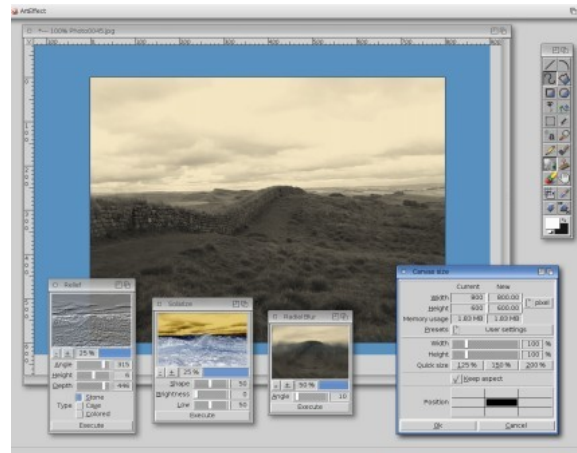
Google Docs is reported to work in the latest version of OWB.


 [Google Docs](#)

GrafX see **graphics**

graphics there are various paint and graphics packages for AmigaOS, these include:

- **ArtEffect 4** is a graphics package from Alinea Computer that you can use to paint pictures and edit photos through the use of 'layers'. There is a demo version available to download and try at Alinea Computer's website. To install you need to make sure your Locale prefs is not set to a euro preset, i.e. choose english-british in language rather than english-british-euro, as the registration window is not yet compatible with the new euro presets in OS4. 
- **GIMP** or GNU Image Manipulation Program will let you can touch up and add flares to photos to your heart's content. You will need to install AmiCynix first. 
- **GrafX** is a drawing program dedicated to pixel art and low-colour graphics (256 colour limit). GrafX has a very similar interface to Deluxe Paint. 
- **ImageFX** is a powerful image editing and special effects package from Nova Design. An updated installer for the ImageFX 4.5 CD-ROM is available for download.  
- **LodePaint** is a painting program that is particularly well suited to creating and editing textures and sprites, but also useful for general purpose image editing. It is free to download and use. 



- **Personal Paint** is a classic Amiga paint program, similar to Deluxe Paint which runs under OS4 and is available as a free download. 

Gnash see *flash*

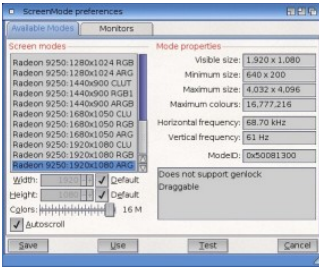
Granite see *firewall*

Grim Reaper OS4.1 is very stable however there's third party software out there that isn't and the Grim Reaper will try its best to lock down misbehaving programs, preventing them from crashing the whole system. Choosing the option to "kill" from Grim Reaper's requester will suspend the troublesome program.

Guru Meditation see *Grim Reaper*



H



HD (High Definition) AmigaOS 4.1 supports high definition screen modes such as 1920x1080 (1080p or full HD). See [SYS:Prefs/ScreenMode](#) for a list of screen resolutions supported by your current monitor.

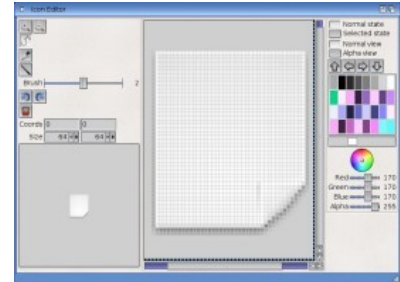
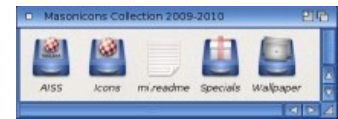
HyperControl see *gestures*



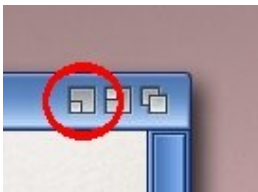


IBrowse see *web browser*

icon To enable PNG icons you need to download and install png.iconmodule. PNG icons often have the .png extension and this simple needs to be changed to .info by renaming the file to reveal PNG graphic as an icon on the Workbench. There are many free PNG icon packs available to download on the internet. To edit PNG true colour icons (the classic IconEdit is not up to the task) download and install IconEditor. Lastly there are two scripts (see Fix Icons below) which you can use to automatically fix some legacy faults and oddities in some of Workbench's icons and their tooltypes. Martin 'Mason' Merz created the OS4.1 icons and more of his work can be found on his website. *see also Deflcons*



[!\[\]\(26388bf82a9d28864e0ddb284e508cab_img.jpg\) PNG Module](#) [!\[\]\(bdb6c83986906aa7a859720b54a30f47_img.jpg\) IconEditor](#) [!\[\]\(c5c68ae8c3a890488999e4e4903e6b55_img.jpg\) Fix Icons](#) [!\[\]\(2306ea32cc842e26f861d947b9b13155_img.jpg\) Mason Icons](#) [!\[\]\(c65c033077b0b275149c861f873f214f_img.jpg\) Replacing Icons](#)



iconify is the AmigaOS equivalent to the 'minimise' function commonly found on other platforms. When minimising a program the windows disappear from the Workbench and the program is reduced to icon on the Workbench. The third gadget in from the right at the top of a window will iconify the related program. Note that not all windows and programs can be minimised and will therefore not feature this gadget. Many programs can also minimise to the 'Tools' menu and some to the AmiDock too.





junk see **SPAM**

JXFS is a fast and robust filesystem for AmigaOS that supports multi-terabyte drives. You cannot boot AmigaOS from a JXFS partition so you should ensure AmigaOS is installed on a partition with the default SFS, similarly AmiCygnix is not yet compatible with JXFS and should also be installed on an SFS formatted partition. JXFS is recommended for all other partitions for improved performance.

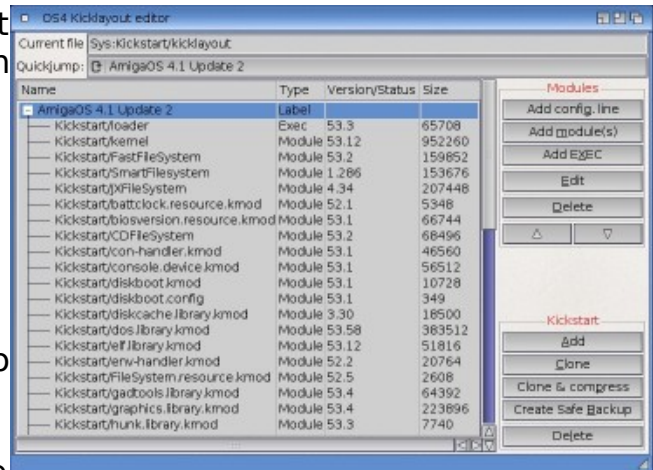


K

kicklayout This is a small text file that governs what modules are loaded when your Amiga cold boots. You can increase how fast your Amiga boots from cold by editing

SYS:Kickstart/Kicklayout, be very careful though and make a copy first, as your Amiga may not boot if you remove the wrong parts. Simply put a ; in front of the module you don't want to load at boot, e.g. ;MODULE Kickstart/bootimage will result in no splash picture being displayed (this one

is safe for anyone to remove). On my Sam440flex I've removed all the IDE modules except the one I need (sii3114ide.device.kmod), and also the module for Voodoo graphics card as I have a Radeon installed this becomes redundant. Bare in mind if for instance you swapped your Radeon for a Voodoo card in the future you would need to change Kickstartayout before so that it would work. If manual editing worries you there is an editor program available called Kickedit. Always take care if your tempted to mess with Kicklayout and make a backup of the original before saving any permanent changes.



 [Kickedit](#)



L

Last.FM A client, called AMuse, is available for browsing Last.FM and requires the TuneNet audio player.

 [AMuse](#)  [TuneNet](#)

lock screen A-Lock is a screen locking tool for AmigaOS, will lock the Workbench after a set time requiring a pre-set password to lock. Can also lock the machine at boot up or be set to lock particular screens which is useful for public demonstrations.

 [A-Lock](#)

LodePaint see *graphics*



M

MakeCD see *burn*

media centre AMC is media centre interface for AmigaOS which gives a full screen interface for browsing media such as music and photos at a distance, i.e. with a remote control. There is a fee for the full program, however a demo is available to try before you buy.



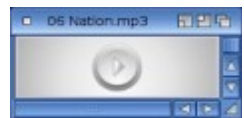
menus The Amiga menus behave in pretty much the same way they have since 1985, but with some useful new additions. Right click to reveal the menu in the toolbar. It is worth noting many programs can be configured to iconify into the 'Tools' menu which is useful for keeping the Workbench tidy and also puts them at easier reach when many windows cover the Workbench, any MUI program can do this by changing the appropriate setting in the the program's MUI settings.

minimise see *iconify*

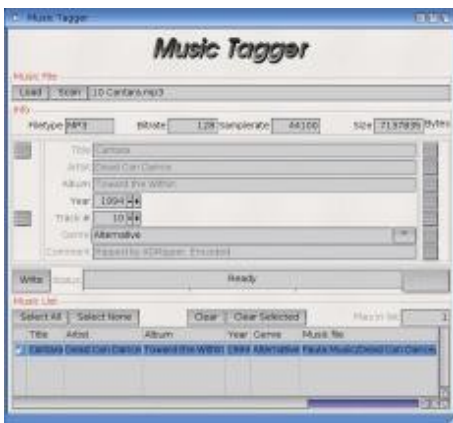
Mixer An audio mixer for AmigaOS, once installed this makes a useful addition to WBStartup, especially when using the AREXX interface. For example, you can use AllKeys or FKey to set a key to adjust the volume or mute by sending an AREXX command to Mixer when pressed.



MP3 There are various applications for playing MP3s on OS4. TuneNet features a nice skinnable GUI and features like playlists and internet radio. You can rip MP3s from a CD using ADRipper, this program uses the excellent LAME encoder and can be configured to produce CBR or VBR MP3s in any bitrate you like. ADRipper will also download track names automatically from the internet to tag your MP3s and generate .m3u playlists if you wish. Installing the MPEG Audio Datatype will allow Multiview to play back MP3 files. For editing an MP3 file's tag try MusicTagger.



 [ADRipper](#)  [AmigaAMP](#)  [MPEGA Datatype](#)  [MusicTagger](#)  [TuneNet](#)



MP3 tag The data stored within an MP3 file that gives track details, e.g. artist. These can be edited using a tag editor, such as MusicTagger.



MP4 A commonly used video format, can be played back using MPlayer.

MPlayer see *video player*

MSN SabreMSN is an excellent MSN client and will let you send messages across the MSN network. Add SabreMSN to WBStartup and have set its MUI preferences to iconify on start so it's always there in the background.



multimedia keyboard see **AllKeys**



MusicTagger see **MP3 tag** or **tag**



N

NotePad is a simple text editor that can be found in [SYS:Utilities/](#).

notifications Ringhio is the AmigaOS4.1 notification system, various programs use this to show notifications on the Workbench, for example TuneNet will show track playing, YAM notifies of new emails, AmiUpdate will notify of updates in this way, XNet-RSS can show RSS feeds as notifications. Go to [SYS:Prefs/Notifications](#) to change the look and placement of notifications or control what programs can show notifications.





organiser AOrganiser is a nice digital diary that has the appearance of a traditional paper diary and lets you view events by day, week or month. LimipdClock is an attractive clock for the Workbench that features a calendar you can add reminders and alarms to.

 [AOrganiser](#)  [LimipdClock](#)

OS4Depot On this website you can download the latest OS4 programs and check for new software, help developers by reporting bugs or suggesting new features.

 [OS4Depot](#)

OWB see *web browser*



P

paint see *graphics*

paste see *copy*

PDF (Portable Document Format) AmigaOS comes with a PDF viewer called AmiPDF, you can find it in [SYS:Utilities/AmiPDF/](#) or by double clicking on a PDF file of course! AmiPDF will let you view PDF files in a window on Workbench or fullscreen (Right-Amiga L) and you can also copy text from your PDFs and print via postscript printers.

Personal Paint see *graphics*

Play.com The Play.com website works well in OWB, including the MP3 store. MP3 tracks can be bought and downloaded with OWB and played back using TuneNet. Unlike the ubiquitous iTunes, Play.com files have no DRM and are also feature high bitrates (minimum 192kbps, often as high as 320kbps) for excellent sound quality.

 [Play.com](#)

Photobox is a popular photo printing service which works with OWB, choose the upload 'photo by photo' option or try using an FTP client to access the site (they give instructions, however I've had the problem on both Ubuntu and AmigaOS with slow response, the only FTP client I managed to upload a photo on either platform was FTPMount on AmigaOS). Once uploaded the photo cropping tools work nicely in OWB.

 [FTPMount](#)  [OWB](#)  [Photobox](#)

Photo CDs can be read by installing the Photo CD datatype from OS4Depot.

 [Photo CD Datatype](#)

PNG (Portable Network Graphics) is a bitmap image format and video codec that employs lossless data compression. See *icon* for details of how to enable the use of PNG icons on AmigaOS.

Podcast Amipodder can be used to manage podcast subscriptions.

 [Amipodder](#)

PowerPoint You can view many PowerPoint shows using the viewer, PointRider. PointRider also includes a tool called 'MeltingPoint' which will convert a PowerPoint file into a Hollywood project which can then be edited in AmigaOS with Hollywood Designer. See also *presentation*

 [PointRider](#)  [Airsoft Softwair](#)

presentation In the past we had the excellent Scala for making multimedia presentations on the Amiga, sadly Scala is no longer developed, however we

do have the excellent Hollywood. With Hollywood Designer you can produce excellent presentations, slideshows, quizzes, games and some have even developed applications for OS4 using Hollywood. Hollywood will save your finished product ready for playing back on an Amiga or should you choose one of those funny Windows or Mac computers some people use. You can get Hollywood from Airsoft, Hollywood Designer is also a worthwhile investment and provides too for a an easy-to-use graphical interface (think PowerPoint).

 [Airsoft Software](#)

PTP (Picture Transfer Protocol) This is a connectivity technology used by most modern digital cameras and is supported by AmigaOS 4.1. Upon connecting a camera with PTP you are presented with a window of thumbnail previews on Workbench, you can then select the pictures you want and transfer to a drawer of your choice on the Amiga. The photos are then neatly downloaded into a drawer(s) labeled with the date the photos were taken. Check your camera's settings to make sure PTP is enabled!





Qt is a cross platform application and UI (user interface) framework. The intention is that applications designed for Qt work on any computer with Qt installed.

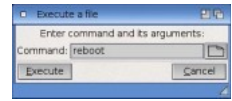


Quake You can play Quake, Quake 2 and Quake 3 by getting a copy of the original PC games and then downloading the associated AmigaOS port of the game engine. Capehill's Quake 2 port is highly recommended, once download and unpacked to your hard drive just copy the .wad files from the Quake 2 CD into the Quake 2 drawer on your hard drive, easy!



R

reboot The classic Amiga reset still works, **Right Amiga + Left Amiga + Ctrl.** You can hard reboot (like turning power on and off) by opening a Shell or the "Execute command..." from the Workbench menu and typing "reboot". A word of warning: there's no option to cancel or time delay! Reboot now is a useful commodity that offers a menu on Workbench with options to soft or hard reboot, handy if your computer's reset button is in a hard to reach place and you need to do a hard reboot.

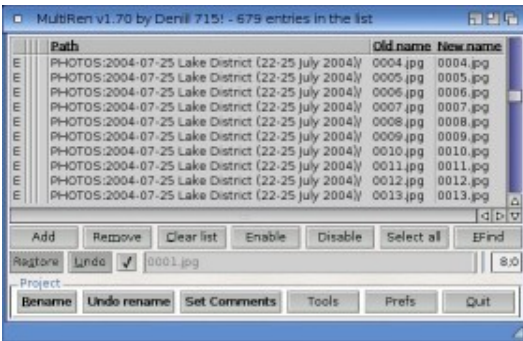


 [Reboot Now](#)

recycle bin see *trashcan*

remote desktop RDesktop can be used to access remote desktops from AmigaOS, for example you could access the desktop of a screen-less Windows PC or file server on your home network via a window on Workbench. To control the desktop of a Linux machine you should use TwinVNC.

 [RDesktop](#)  [TwinVNC](#)



rename MultiRen is a useful tool that allows the user to rename multiple files at once. There are built in numbering systems, which can be very useful if renaming photos and you can also remove certain characters from file names from hundreds of files at once with a few clicks. A very useful time saver.

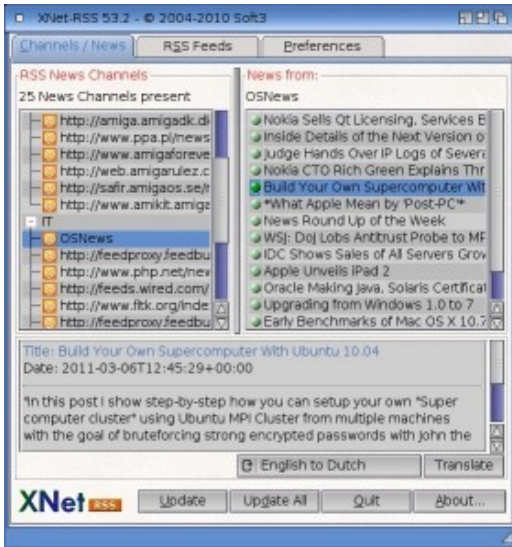
 [MultiRen](#)



ripping You can create MP3 files from a CD using ADRipper, this program uses the excellent LAME encoder and can be configured to produce CBR or VBR MP3 files in any bitrate you like. ADRipper will also download track names automatically from the internet to tag your MP3 and can also generate .m3u playlists if you wish.

  [ADRIpper](#)

Ringhio see *notifications*



RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a format used to publish frequently updated items, such as news headlines or latest downloads. XNet-RSS is a good RSS reader.



RunInUAE makes it easier to run classic Amiga games and applications on OS4.1, that is those needing the classic Amiga custom hardware chips. Since AmigaOS 4.1 update 4, RunInUAE is included as an optional extra including the necessary classic Amiga ROM and AmigaOS 3.1.



S

Samba When correctly configured Samba allows the host computer to interact with a Microsoft Windows client or server as if it is a Windows file and print server, for example to share files between an Amiga and a Windows PC.

 [Amiga Samba Idiot's Guide](#)

scan For scanning pictures and documents there is the free XSane program which supports a wide range of popular USB scanners. You will need to install AmiCynix first.

 [XSane](#)

screen lock see *lock screen*

screensaver see *blanker*

screens When multiple screens are open you can cycle through them by clicking on the gadget in the top right corner of the Workbench screen. Screens can also be dragged up and down by holding down the left mouse button on the screen title bar and moving the mouse. Access.docky gives a useful menu listing all the windows and screens currently open, see the [SYS:Utiilites/Dockies/](#) drawer. You can have different screens for different applications set at different colour depths and resolutions.

screenshot see *Sgrab*

 [Grabbing a Screenshot](#)


SDK The AmigaOS software development kit is free to download from Hyperion Entertainment's website.

 [Hyperion Entertainment](#)

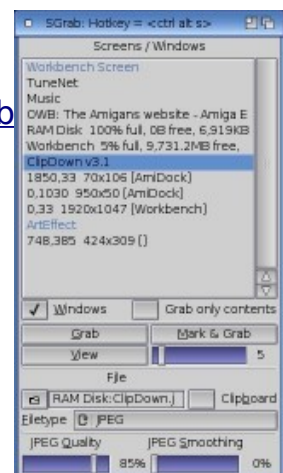
SFS (Smart File System) is the default file system used by AmigaOS 4.1.

 [SFS](#)  [SFS Walkthrough](#)

SGrab A tool that can be used to grab still images of the whole Workbench, a window, or selected area of the screen.

 [Grabbing a Screenshot](#)  [SGrab](#)

Shell You can access the shell by going to [SYS:System/Shell](#). If you only need to execute a single DOS command, go to the Workbench menu and look for 'Execute...' or [Right-Amiga + E](#). For a detailed list of available commands see [SYS:System/Help](#).



shutdown There is no 'shutdown' command on AmigaOS. Simply use the power button on your computer's case to switch off, remembering to save any work first of course. The tool 'Reboot now' will power off a Pegasus II system.



SPAM SimpleMail and YAM both feature built-in SPAM filters that will remove spam e-mail from the inbox and place in a separate folder. Messages not identified automatically as SPAM can be marked as such, and the program will learn to remove similar e-mails in future, simply highlight the offending message and right click to bring up the context menu.

SRec is a screen recorder which will record on screen activity to a video file at a resolution of your choice. The videos on the gtmooya YouTube channel were all recorded with SRec.



startup Which commodities and programs load when the computer starts up can be configured with WBStartup, see your Prefs drawer, [SYS:Prefs/WBStartup](#).

startup-sequence This script resides in [SYS:S/](#) and controls various aspects of the system that load as the computer boots. Exercise extreme caution when editing this file, if you do make alternations to this file back it up first and keep your OS4.1 CD-ROM handy in case your system no longer boots into the Workbench.



T

tag mp3 files with the easy-to-use MusicTagger.

 [MusicTagger](#)

terminal see *Shell*

text editor see *NotePad*

themes The look of AmigaOS is highly customisable, you can change almost all elements of the GUI using GUI prefs, which has a wealth of options. Alternatively you can download and install ready made theme packs, complete with wallpapers from various websites such as AmiBoing. Go to [SYS:Prefs/Presets/](#) to change themes, simply double click on the theme's icon to install, the AmigaOS default themes are stored in [SYS:Prefs/Presets/Default/](#) in case you ever want to change back or you change your screen resolution and want something more befitting. There are some variations on the default theme included in [SYS:Prefs/Presets/](#).

 [AmiBoing](#)  [AmigaLook](#)  [AmigaNG](#)

Timberwolf see *web browser*

touchscreen There is limited support in AmigaOS for touch-screens, however a driver supporting a limited range of eGalax screens is available on OS4Depot. Check the documentation for details of supported screens.

 [eGalax USB Driver](#)

trashcan Each disk volume or partition has it's own trashcan on AmigaOS, you can manage these as one by installing a commodity such as BenchTrash or GlobalTrash.

 [BenchTrash](#)  [GlobalTrash](#)

TuneNet A multi-format music player, but will also play a variety of other formats such as AAC with the various plug-ins available. Also features internet radio and support for M3U playlists.

 [Tunenet](#)

Twitter is a popular micro-blogging website. Twitter can be accessed using either Timberwolf or Origyn Web Browser (OWB).

 [Twitter](#)



U

UAE (Ubiquitous Amiga Emulator) is an emulator for emulating the classic Amiga's custom chipset, needed for playing most classic Amiga games and also useful for some classic applications. See Dax's tutorial below on how classic Amiga functionality, such as the use of real Amiga floppy disks, can be achieved. When installing AmigaOS 4.1 update 4 or later choose the 'install RunInUAE' option when prompted to install UAE.

 [Dax's 'FUSION' tutorial](#)  [E-UAE](#)

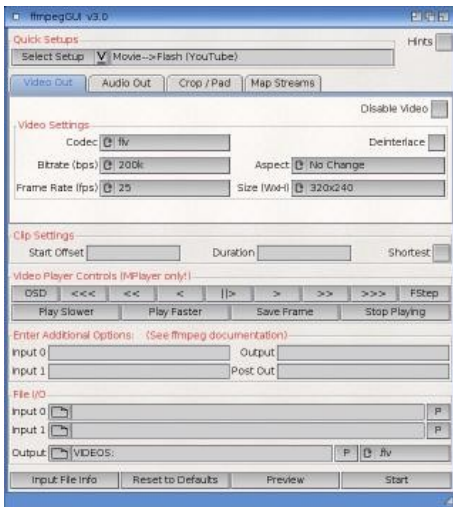
updates AmiUpdate is a useful tool for getting automatic software updates for various third party programs on your Amiga, will update various applications all though not all are supported yet. It is a worthwhile install and using the Updates Prefs to schedule a daily check for updates. To widen the programs AmiUpdate keeps up-to-date you can add www.amiupdate.net/sdkserver to the list of servers in Updates Prefs.

 [AmiUpdate](#)

USB (Universal Serial Bus) USB 2.0 is supported in AmigaOS with support for USB 3 currently in development. An ever growing list of USB devices tested and working can be found on the Amigans website.

 [USB devices that work with OS4.1](#)





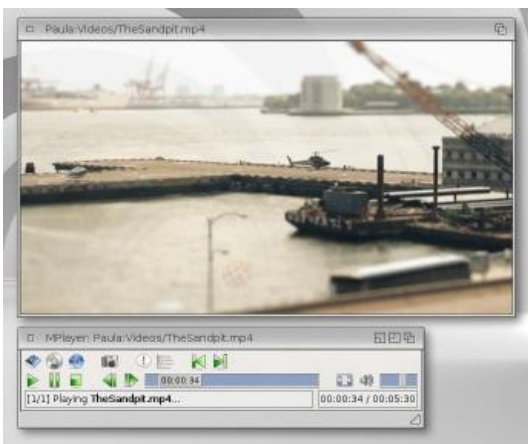
video conversion A useful tool for converting videos into different formats is ffmpeg. For example you can convert a DVD video into an MP4 video to play on an iPod or capture JPEG images from a video. The excellent ffmpeg GUI has options for changing resolution and bitrate so that you can reduce the file size of a video. There are also some very useful presets for common tasks that can save you time.




 [ffmpegGUI](#)  [ffmpegGUI Image Capture](#)

video downloader ClipDown is a simple application that will let you watch, and also download videos to your hard drive, from websites such as Vimeo and YouTube. ClipDown can download various formats including HD where available. You will also need to install MPlayer to play the videos.

 [ClipDown](#)  [MPlayer](#)

video player



- **DvPlayer** can play back various formats, including DVD, and a special edition is included on the OS4.1 CD in the contributions drawer. For a more recent version see the DvPlayer website. For playing back encrypted DVDs (the ones you buy in the shops) you will need to download and install the DVDCSS plug-in.  [DvPlayer](#)  [DVDCSS Plug-in](#)
- **MPlayer** is a video player for playing all the current common video formats, i.e. .mp4, .avi, .mpeg.  [MPlayer](#)

Vimeo is a popular video sharing website. ClipDown is a simple application that will let you watch, and also download videos from Vimeo to your hard drive in various formats including HD where available. You will also need to install MPlayer to play the videos.

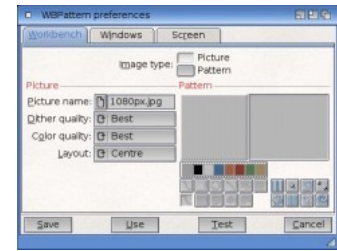
 [ClipDown](#)  [Vimeo](#)



W

wallpaper Go to [SYS:Prefs/WBPattern](#) to change your Workbench's wallpaper, or 'backdrop'.

WBStartup This Prefs program is used to manage which tools and commodities are loaded when Workbench starts up, for example a screen blanker or a commodity like AllKeys. See [SYS:Prefs/WBStartup](#) to start customising.





weather If you fancy seeing the current weather conditions in your AmiDock, Wet may be of interest. Wet retrieves weather forecasts from the internet and will present a docky in AmiDock showing the current conditions.



web browser

- **OWB** is a "must have" OS4 application, OWB is a web browser based on the nippy WebKit engine used by Apple's Safari browser. OWB is a good web browser for browsing most sites, featuring support for various standards including CSS, SSL and JavaScript. Currently lacks a flash plug-in, however installing GetVideo and configuring OWB's context menus makes it easy to play or download videos.



- **Timberwolf** is the AmigaOS port of Mozilla's Firefox web browser, a functional beta release is currently available.   [Timberwolf](#)
- **IBrowse** was a very popular web browser in its day and is still used by some folk today, however lacks support for many modern features like CSS so web pages don't always look as intended. Many Amiga related will however work fine as the authors have built them to be compatible with this classic browser. OWB is currently recommended for daily browsing.

webcam Sonix is a program that allows images to be grabbed from some USB webcams, check the readme for compatibility information. WebVision is a program for viewing the feeds from remote webcams.



WebP or 'weppy' as it is pronounced is a new image image format from Google that provides lossy compression for photographic images. Google claim that "In

a large scale study of 900,000 web images, WebP images were 39.8% smaller than jpeg images of similar quality.” A datatype for viewing WebP images is available, as is a converter for converting JPEG images to the WebP format.

 [WebP datatype](#)  [WebP converter](#)







WiFi networks can be accessed using a WiFi card based on the Prism2 chip. Various Amiga retailers offer such cards including a PCI offering from AmigaKit which includes their EasyNet software. PCMCIA cards are also available for use with Amiga 600/1200 computers.

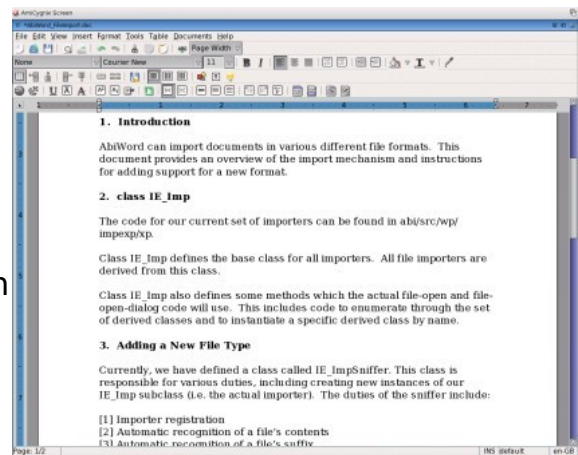
 [AmigaKit](#)  [EasyNet Review](#)  [Prism2 Driver](#)  [WiFi Signal Monitor](#)

Winbar is a a docky for AmiDock that gives a Windows style task bar showing the current windows displayed. Access is a docky included with the OS which gives similar functionality, albeit as a pop-up menu on AmiDock.

 [Winbar docky](#)

word processing

- **AmigaWriter** is a tried a tested Word Processor that is compatible with the Microsoft Word .doc format. AmigaWriter does not yet support the newer .docx format used in Microsoft Word 2007 and later. A functional demo version can be downloaded from Aliena computer and runs fine on OS4.1, it feels a little dated now but remains a useful program. 
- **AbiWord** is a more modern alternative and features greater functionality and better compatibility with Microsoft Word, as well as features like PDF export, but you need to install AmiCynix first. 
- **CinnamonWriter** is a new and promising Amiga word processor, which can export PDFs amongst other things. It is unfinished at present and take care as it may well crash as it's still in the early stages of development.  
- **FinalWriter** is a feature-rich Word Processor, very popular in the Amiga's hay day. Unfortunately no longer updated but is reported to work well under OS4.
- **Text Engine** is a rather an old word processor but is free, fast and stable. Only has basic features, simple spell checking and a word count, but runs fast and uses little memory so may be useful to some.  



WordNet see *dictionary*

workspaces see *screens*





XNet-RSS An excellent RSS feed reader which allows the user to keep up-to-date with multiple feeds from different websites. Features a translation tool to translate feeds into a multitude of different languages also support for the Ringhio, the AmigaOS notification system.



Y

YouTube ClipDown is a simple application that will let you watch, and also download videos to your hard drive in various formats including HD where available. You will also need to install MPlayer to play the videos. GetVideo needs to be installed before ClipDown can be used. Alternatively, the context menus in OWB can be configured to make playing back videos more convenient, see the screengrab to the right for an example.



 [ClipDown](#)  [GetVideo](#)



Z


zip UnArc (see [SYS:Utilities/UnArc](#)) will unpack zip archives and you can create zip archives using Cranu. Make sure you have installed the 68k version of Zip from Aminet as there is a bug in the PPC version.




Tutorials

Grabbing a Screenshot



This tutorial will explain various methods for taking screenshots of the whole Workbench screen, individual windows, or selected areas of the screen.

There are various methods for taking a screenshot of AmigaOS, SGrab  is probably the most widely used. When you run SGrab presents the user with a list of current windows and screens (see right). Here is a step-by-step guide to its use:

1. To grab a screen you first need to select the desired window or screen from the list. Uncheck 'Windows' to remove individual windows from the list leaving just the open screens.
2. Next go to 'File' at the bottom of the SGrab window and press the button to the left which will ask you to 'Select a file', here you need to choose where you want to save the grab and give your grab a name or check next to 'Clipboard' to have SGrab copy the image to the AmigaOS clipboard. You can use the selector at the bottom of the window to change the file filetype, JPEG and PNG are also available. N.B. if your grab is to be uploaded to a website or used on another OS it is sensible to include the appropriate extension on the end of your filename, e.g. .jpg for JPEG as SGrab does not do this by default.
3. Click the 'Grab' button to save the grab or 'View' to see a preview. You can set time delay of up to 60 seconds using the slider to the right of the 'View' button, you will notice a delay of 5 seconds has been set in this instance (see right). The time delay is typically used when you want to make a window in the finished grab. Check 'Grab only contents' to leave the window's 'frame' out of your grab. The SGrab Window will never appear on your grab and automatically disappears when the grab is taken.





A nice addition to SGrab is ClipDown  which makes use of the SGrab program, providing shortcuts to its functions. ClipDown has various options in it's 'Tools' menu which allow you to do the following:

1. SnapShot Mark - mark an area of the screen to grab, very simple to use and works in the same fashion as using a mouse to select multiple icons. After selecting simple left click on the area of the screen you want to start from and then drag out the box to required size, when you release the mouse button a grab of the selected area, in JPEG format, is automatically created in **RAM Disk:ClipDownloads/**. This is very useful for grabbing smaller parts of a screen or window. This functionality is also provided in SGrab by the 'Mark & Grab' button (see right).
2. SnapShot Window - select this option and the next window you make active with a left click of the mouse will be grabbed and an image saved in 'RAM Disk:ClipDownloads/'.
3. SnapShot Screen - this option simply grabs the entire screen and again saves in JPEG format to **RAM Disk:ClipDownloads/**.



An alternative to SGrab is Ami-PrintScreen  which is a small tool which grabs the whole screen. It is designed to be installed in **SYS:C/** and the idea is to use FKey or a third-party commodity such as AllKeys  to assign the tool to a key on your keyboard, so that whenever that key is pressed a full screen grab is saved to the **RAM Disk:Clipboards/0/** as an uncompressed IFF-ILBM (24-bit). This is a very quick and simple alternative to SGrab for making a grab of the whole screen.

Multimedia Keyboards

In this tutorial I will show you how to setup a USB keyboard with multimedia keys for use with AmigaOS4.1. We start by configuring volume control keys first to control system volume.

1. Download and unpack AllKeys  and Mixer .
2. Copy AllKeys and Mixer to [SYS:Utilities/Commodities/](#) and then add both to WBStartup by using the Prefs program, [SYS:Prefs/WBStartup](#). For both programs check that 'Wait until finished' is unchecked in the icon information (this is accessed through WBStartup Prefs).
3. Open the newly installed AllKeys by double clicking on its icon in [SYS:Utilities/Commodities](#) and click on the Add button, this opens the 'key learning window'. In the new window you will see that keyboard actions are being recorded. First check to 'No upstrokes' box as this is unnecessary for what we are doing. Press the key you want to use to mute sound output, the key code and other information is now added to the learning window. Select this and click 'Use code'. The key has now been added to AllKeys.
4. To mute sound enter 'MIXER' into 'ARexx Port' (no quote marks) and MASTERMUTE into 'ARexx Command'.
5. Click save.
6. For this to work Mixer needs to be running, so start Mixer by double clicking it's icon in [SYS:Utilities/Commodities/](#) (we have added Mixer to WBStartup so in future it will always load when you boot your Amiga).
7. Now to test we need to make some noise, maybe play an MP3 from in AmigaAMP  or TuneNet  and hit the mute key, press the key again to unmute.

To add volume up and down functionality follow steps 3-5 again, with the other keys, the ARexx command for volume up is MASTERUP and down is MASTERDOWN, of course the port is MIXER as we are accessing the same program as before.

You can also use AllKeys to start programs, for instance a web button could be set to start OWB, or assign a program like SGrab  or Ami-PrintScreen  to the 'print screen' key. AmigaAMP features an excellent ARexx port with commands to skip tracks, play, pause, shuffle and so on. See AREXX.readme (included in the AmigaAMP archive).

AmigaOS Keyboard Shortcuts

Workbench

Execute command Right Amiga + E
Find Right Amiga + F

Drawers

New drawer Right Amiga + N
Parent drawer Alt + Cursor Up
Open selected drawer Alt + Cursor Down
Cycle open drawers Alt + Cursor Left/Right

Show...
...all files Right Amiga + +
...only files with icons Right Amiga + -
...icon .info files Right Amiga + 0

View by...
...icon Right Amiga + 1
...name Right Amiga + 2
...date Right Amiga + 3
...size Right Amiga + 4
...type Right Amiga + 5

Clean up by...
...column Right Amiga + .
...name Right Amiga + 6
...date Right Amiga + 7
...size Right Amiga + 8
...type Right Amiga + 9

Select all contents Right Amiga + A
Clear selection Right Amiga + Z
Close Right Amiga + K

Files

Open Right Amiga + O
Copy Right Amiga + C
Rename Right Amiga + R
Information Right Amiga + I
Snapshot Right Amiga + S
UnSnapshot Right Amiga + U
Leave out Right Amiga + L
Put away Right Amiga + P
Delete Right Amiga + D

Move to next file Tab
Move to next file Tab + Shift
Switch selected file Cursor keys



Get the most out of your **Amiga 2011**

Get the most out of your *Amiga 2011* was written by Daniel Hutchinson

Contributions

Contributions and feedback are very welcome. All contributors will be mentioned below. Contact gmooya@talktalk.net with any contributions.

Thanks

- Massimiliano Scarano for an update regarding his program, Ami-PrintScreen.
- Lio for his tip about Kickedit, a program used to edit the OS4 'kicklayout' file.
- The graphics used for the download, website and video links are taken from the AISS package by Martin 'Mason' Merz.
- Hyperion Entertainment for the continued development of AmigaOS!

Distribution

This document is available as a free download from OS4Depot as a PDF. The document freely distributable. No fee should be charged for this document in any format, except to cover printing costs where printed (not for profit). It would be great to hear about any distribution beyond OS4Depot, please send me an e-mail: gmooya@talktalk.net.

Disclaimer

- I cannot except liability for any damage done to systems or data as a result of following any of the hints and tips in this document.
- Always keep recent backups of your data to protect yourself against accidental data loss.
- The contents of this document are provided without any warranty, you use them at your own risk!

Get the most out of your **Amiga** 2011

