



**running
the
best
software**

- **Electronic mail**
- **Usenet news**
- **File transfers**
- **Internet Relay Chat**
- **Gopher**
- **Aminet tools**
- **Conferencing**

4

Electronic mail

Almost all of the applications in this chapter require AmigaDOS 2.04 or higher, and naturally all of them need TCP/IP software such as AmiTCP or Inet225. Most applications were specifically written for AmiTCP.

Email is the number one application you will want to have installed when you get online. There are three kinds of mailers you will find for the Amiga, and we look at one of each below. The first is the straight Amiga port of a popular Unix application which usually runs in an Amiga CLI/Shell window. The second is the out-and-out Amiga application, complete with GUI front-end, and the third is somewhere in the middle—a popular Unix program ported to the Amiga but making use of some Amiga specific features.

Keep in mind that these mail program are just “agents” for reading and writing to a mail file or folder. They do not actually deliver or receive email. You will need InetUtils and AmiPOP to perform those tasks.

AmigaPINE

Description

An Amiga port of a popular Unix email program

Author

Jeff Shepherd

Price

Freely distributable

Location

comm/mail/pine391a_base.lha

comm/mail/pine391a_all.lha

Requirements

ixemul.library (dev/gcc/ixemul-41.1.lha)

The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "Csh 5.39" with a window title bar "PINE 3.91 FOLDER INDEX Folder: kj Message 60 of 67". The main content is a list of messages:

Msg No	Date	From	Size	Subject
58	Feb 12	Eddy Carroll	(2,924)	Re: Draft meeting announcement
59	Feb 12	Nick Hilliard	(2,314)	Re: Ticket Ieunet/960202-32 CLOSED
60	Feb 13	Colm Keating	(632)	Re: router
61	Feb 13	Ken Gordon, System	(801)	Re: router requirements
62	Feb 13	Jean-Michel Bezeau	(1,748)	Re: A2065 Ethernet card for sale
63	Feb 14	LAHutch@aol.com	(691)	Re: WTB: Amiga Ethernet card
64	Feb 14	UNREGISTERED VERSI	(2,347)	Re: WTB: Amiga Ethernet card
65	Feb 15	Patrick William Ma	(2,217)	Re: WTB: Amiga Ethernet card
66	Feb 15	Eddy Carroll	(2,901)	Re: minutes Feb 96 committee meeting
67	Feb 16	Jaco Schoonen	(2,156)	Re: CV64

At the bottom of the window, there is a command line with the following options: `? Help`, `M Main Menu`, `P PrevMsg`, `- PrevPage`, `D Delete`, `R Reply`, `0 OTHER CMDS`, `V [ViewMsg]`, `N NextMsg`, `SpC NextPage`, `U Undelete`, `F Forward`.

PINE is one of the more recent Unix electronic mail programs. It is quite a powerful application but unless you have used it before on a Unix system it may not be your number one choice of Amiga mailer. Because it is a straight port from the Unix version, you need to have a copy of “ixemul.library” in your LIBS: directory. If you do not have this on your system already, then it too is available on Aminet.

Voodoo

Description

An email program with multimedia (MIME) functionality

Author

Osma Ahvenlampi

Price

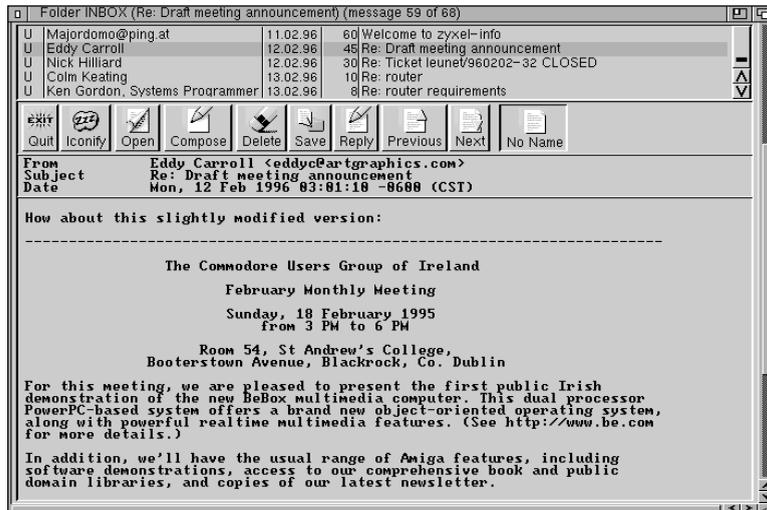
Shareware (US\$35)

Location

comm/mail/Voodoo-1.209.lha

Requirements

AmigaDOS 3.x



Voodoo is the complete opposite of AmigaPINE. It is a 100% Amiga specific program and is probably the best Amiga mail reader at present. Amiga Technologies have included it as their mailer of choice in the A1200 Surfer pack.

Voodoo comes with a standard Commodore Installer script so is easy to install and configure. It supports the Internet MIME (essentially multimedia) extensions, and has a highly configurable ARexx interface. Because it makes use of DataTypes to display different data formats such as pictures and sounds, Voodoo requires AmigaDOS 3.x to run.

AmigaELM

Description

An Amiga port of a popular Unix email program

Author

Andreas M. Kirchwitz

Price

Shareware (US\$20)

Location

comm/mail/AmigaElm-v8.lha

Requirements

No additional software needed

```
Mailbox is 'u:mail:kj' with 67 messages, page 1 of 3 [ELM8, SCREEN AmigaElm.1]
1 Feb 16 Jaco Schoonen (32) Re: CV64
2 Feb 15 Eddy Carroll (46) Re: minutes Feb 96 committee m
3 Feb 15 Patrick William Mack (37) Re: NTB: Amiga Ethernet card
4 Feb 14 UNREGISTERED VERSION (45) Re: NTB: Amiga Ethernet card
5 Feb 14 LHutch@aol.com (9) Re: NTB: Amiga Ethernet card
6 Feb 13 Jean-Michel Bezeau (31) Re: A2865 Ethernet card for .
7 Feb 13 Ken Gordon, Systems (8) Re: router requirements
8 Feb 13 Colm Keating (18) Re: router
9 Feb 12 Nick Hilliard (38) Re: Ticket Teunet/968282-32 CL
10 Feb 12 Eddy Carroll (45) Re: Disk management announcement
11 Feb 11 Wajordomo@ping.at (68) Welcome to zuxel-info
12 Feb 09 Tommy Rolfs (28) Re: dad's 508
13 Feb 9 Christian Murphy (32) Re: favour
14 Feb 8 Eddy Carroll (37) Re: bye bye IE
15 Feb 8 Eddy Carroll (44) Re: bye bye IE
16 Feb 8 Teunet.ie Teunet Wai (43) Failed mail (msg_aa16155)
17 Feb 07 Kjeacle (46) Printing: Manual feed problems
18 Feb 85 Alan Judge (246) EUnet Ireland now carrying de.
19 Feb 5 Barry Schofield (33) Re: postage payment
20 Jan 31 Benjamin Kenobi (57) Re: cv64 fix
21 Jan 21 Eddy Carroll (22) CUGI members mailing list?
22 Jan 18 Ibs (77) Ang.: The DSC switch.
23 Jan 19 David Hayes (3) Ang.: The DSC switch.
24 Jan 17 David Hayes (11) PROSPECT Infrastructure
25 Jan 16 I. Busse (19) Re: WP2/3: GMD Input
26 Jan 16 David Hayes (3) Re: WP2/3: GMD Input
27 Jan 16 I. Busse (81) Re: WP2/3: GMD Input
28 Jan 16 David Hayes (3) Re: WP2/3: GMD Input
29 Jan 15 D.Lewis@cs.ucl.ac.uk (55) Re: WP2/3: GMD Input
30 Jan 16 David Hayes (3) Re: WP2/3: GMD Input
31 Jan 16 Eddy Carroll (92) Re: newsletter (fwd)
32 Jan 11 wburns@VNET.IBM.COM (28) hello again.
33 Jan 8 Wickey Tseng (34) Re: FW: setting 2864I's own nu

? = shell, | = pipe, / = search, +, -, <, >, ?, help, <n> = set current
c)hange folder, C)opy, d)elete, e)dit, f)orward, g)roup reply, ^G)oto last msg,
m)ail, o)ptions, p)rint, q)uit, r)eply, s)ave, u)ndelete, w)rite, or e(x)it
Command: █
```

AmigaELM is a popular choice of mailer on the Amiga. ELM on Unix is quite a simple program to use and the Amiga version is quite a faithful port but enhances ELM by using custom Amiga screens, menu-driven commands and hypertext help online.

Like Voodoo, AmigaELM supports MIME, but it is not as seamless as Voodoo's implementation. Installation is not as simple as Voodoo, but once you have set the HOME environment variable to point to your ELM installation, configuration is straightforward.

Usenet news

Usenet isn't the biggest crowd-puller on the Internet any more, but in years gone by it is what really made it all worthwhile—hundreds of thousands of users all contributing to hundreds of discussion groups, collectively providing an incredible resource of information on any technical subject.

With the advent of the Web, Usenet doesn't quite have the same impact as it used to, but it's been steadily growing in size with the Internet, and there is now genuine diversity in what is being discussed. It's not just which jumper setting toggles which bit on the X391Jb4 ESDI controller any more, but also what happened to Mulder in last week's X-Files.

Because of the complexity involved in some of the popular Unix news readers, Amiga ports have not been as common as with email readers. Another reason is that, despite what the old-timers on the Internet might claim, Usenet lends itself well to a graphical front-end. With lots of discussions on lots of different topics it's nice to point and click to decide what you're going to read.

Tin

Description

An Amiga port of a popular Unix news program

Author

Mark Tomlinson

Price

Freely distributable

Location

comm/news/tin130gamma.lha

Requirements

No additional software needed

```
Csh 5.39
comp.sys.amiga.introduction (26T 40A OK OH R) h=help
1 + MONTHLY POINTER: Amiga product reviews are av comp.sys.amiga.rev
2 + FAQ: All about Amiga FTP FTP Admin
3 + 2 WANTED - AMIGA BOOKS barnhoorn@nlev00
4 + Amiga 2000 4 sale Robert Cohen
5 + A1000 Mimumum Hard Drive Requirements Eric Layton
6 + 3 help printer gone nuts J. Sadler
7 Help! What Do You Do With A * run file? Dr. Peter Kittel
8 + Using PC keyboards/mice on A2000s Daniel L. Taylor
9 + 4 Setting transparent colour in gif Frode Bakkeslett H
10 + Amiga literate person required - Manchester U srmulti@easynet.co
11 + 2 Mega Lo Mania A500 Andy Kelly
12 + Amiga FAQ (Frequently asked questions) (Part Ignaz Kellerer
13 + Amiga FAQ (Frequently asked questions) (Part Ignaz Kellerer
14 + Amiga FAQ (Frequently asked questions) (Part Ignaz Kellerer
15 + Amiga FAQ (Frequently asked questions) (Part Ignaz Kellerer
16 + 2 MAXsBBS and Fidonet John Bayko

<n>=set current to n, TAB=next unread, /=search pattern, ^K)ill/select,
a)uthor search, c)atchup, j=line down, k=line up, K=mark read, l)ist thread,
|=pipe, m)ail, o=print, q)uit, r=toggle all/unread, s)ave, t)ag, w=post
```

A favourite Unix port. Tin is quite easy to use, but like PINE it runs completely in a Shell/CLI window—not exactly pushing your Amiga to the limit. Still, if you like basic interfaces or have used Tin before, it's being going for so long in the Unix world now that you can't really argue with it when it comes to functionality.

THOR

Description

A powerful email and news reader

Author

Ultima Thule Software

Price

30-day evaluation shareware (£22)

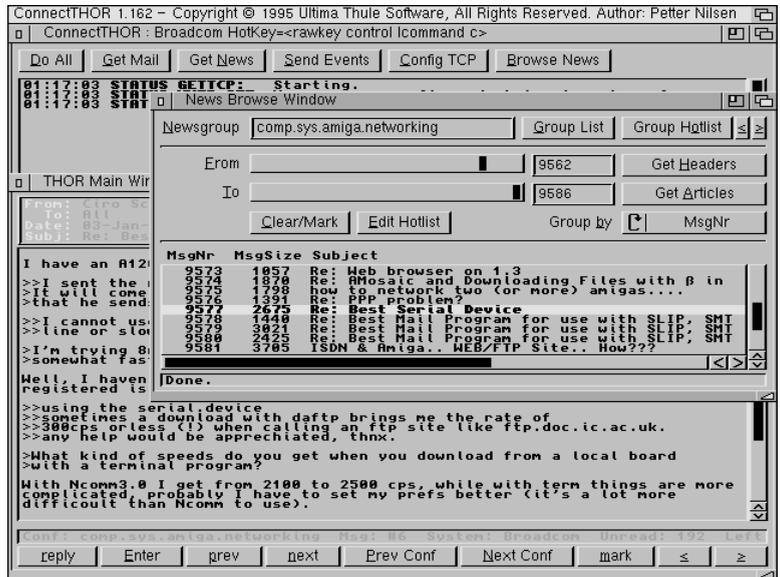
Location

comm/mail/thor222_main.lha

comm/mail/thor222_inet.lha

Requirements

Several THOR modules are available which determine what systems THOR will be used for—BBS or Internet that is. All available in the comm/mail directory.



THOR is a big program. It was originally used just for offline reading of bulletin board system messages, but has been extended through various modules to handle just about any form of electronic messaging. This includes not only Usenet news but also regular email.

THOR is a self-contained program. After AmiTCP provides you with your Internet connection, THOR is a one-stop-shop. You don't need any AmiPOP, InetUtils or any other utilities on your system. You can read mail and news from within the one program. Since it is a genuine Amiga program you could argue that it is easier to use than the average Unix port. But it is so big that it can be a little daunting.

It would be a mistake not to give THOR a try. Some swear by it, some swear at it, but it's definitely one of the best known Amiga Internet applications.

GRn

Description

News reader with point-and-click interface

Authors

Michael H. Schwartz, Michael B. Smith

Price

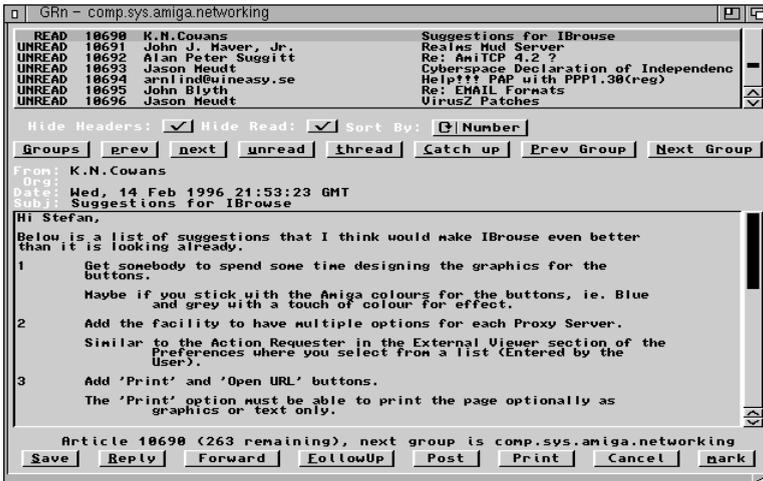
Freely distributable

Location

comm/news/GRn-2.1a.lha

Requirements

No additional software needed



GRn was one of the first Amiga news readers available. It was originally designed for use with UUCP (Unix-to-Unix Copy Program), not for direct Internet connections. It now supports online reading of Usenet news using NNTP, but because of its origins it is quite a difficult package to install. As a beginner, you may find yourself tearing out your hair.

GRn isn't a bad news reader but it's hard to compete with some of the newer more user-friendly applications that are becoming available. Don't ignore GRn, but don't try installing it on Day One. Wait till you've a bit of experience under your belt.

File transfer

One of the best reasons for getting on the net is to take advantage of the thousands of files available for download. Choosing an FTP client that makes life easy is a good idea. The ncftp program supplied with AmiTCP is more than adequate, but it is completely text-based. Fortunately, Amiga users are spoiled for choice when it comes to graphical FTP clients. We'll look at just three, but there are quite a few more available.

DaFTP

Description

File transfer program with GUI front-end

Author

Dan Murrell Jr.

Price

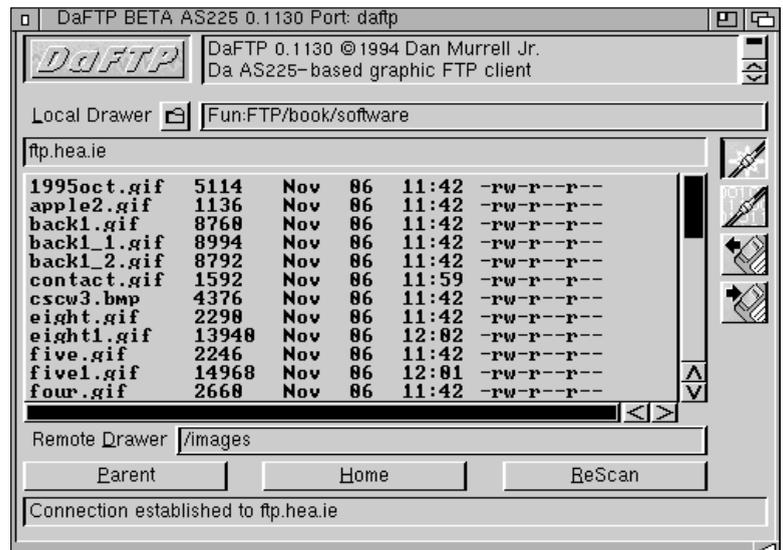
Freely distributable

Location

Currently in beta-testing: <http://artech.warped.com/~danimal/DaFTP.html>

Requirements

No additional software needed



DaFTP is a perfect example of what you can expect from a well written graphical FTP client. Virtually no installation is required, you just unpack the archive and run the program. Simple menu options and clear buttons make it a cinch to use. Pull down a menu to open a connection, click on the Local Drawer button to choose where you want to store downloaded files, and away you go. Check it out!

Gui-FTP

Description

File transfer program with GUI front-end

Author

Kevin Preece

Price

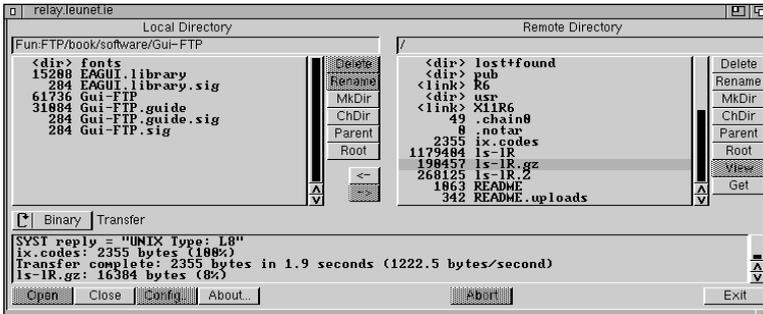
Freely distributable

Location

comm/tcp/Gui-FTP.lha

Requirements

No additional software needed



Another excellent program, Gui-FTP is very similar to DaFTP but provides a neat split window interface where you can see the contents of both local and remote file systems. Uploading and downloading files is then just a matter of clicking on the arrow pointing in the direction you want the file to move. A status window at the bottom shows exactly what's going on. This window is handy as it lets you see everything that you would normally see when using a conventional text FTP client such as ncftp.

Gui-FTP probably has the edge over DaFTP if you are transferring a lot of files back and forth between two systems and not just downloading all the time.

AmFTP

Description

GUI based FTP client

Authors

Oliver Wagner, Mathias Mischler

Price

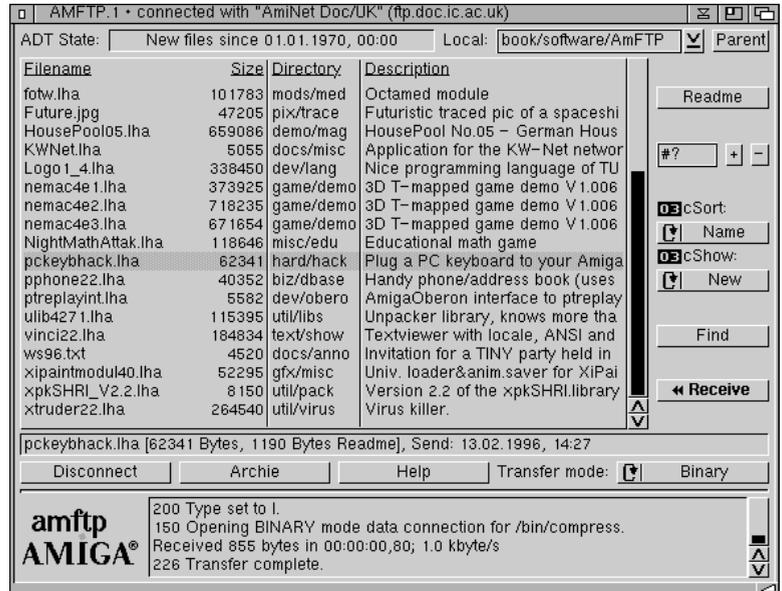
Shareware (DM30)

Location

comm/tcp/AmFTP152.lha

Requirements

Magic User Interface (MUI)



AmFTP is the FTP client which has been chosen by Amiga Technologies for their A1200 Surfer pack. As well as all the features offered by the above mentioned FTP clients, AmFTP offers ADT (Aminet Download Tool) support. What this means is that not only can AmFTP be used with regular FTP sites, but when it is used with an Aminet archive you can browse the archive in "Aminet style" by checking out the most recent uploads along with one-line or optional full-page descriptions.

Both DaFTP and Gui-FTP are hard acts to follow, but AmFTP is one seriously cool piece of software. Lots of nifty features combined with the genuine Amiga logo at the bottom of the screen make it simply irresistible.

Internet Relay Chat

IRC is a 24-hour online electronic partyline, except the conversations are not all quite as inane as you might get on a real telephone. There are lots of interesting topics discussed, and there are often “interviews” held over IRC. There was even a performance of Shakespeare’s Hamlet on an IRC channel once. Users around the world played out different characters by typing in their lines at the appropriate moment. They called it “Hamnet”.

Grapevine

Description

Internet Relay Chat client

Author

Brian J. Cerveny

Price

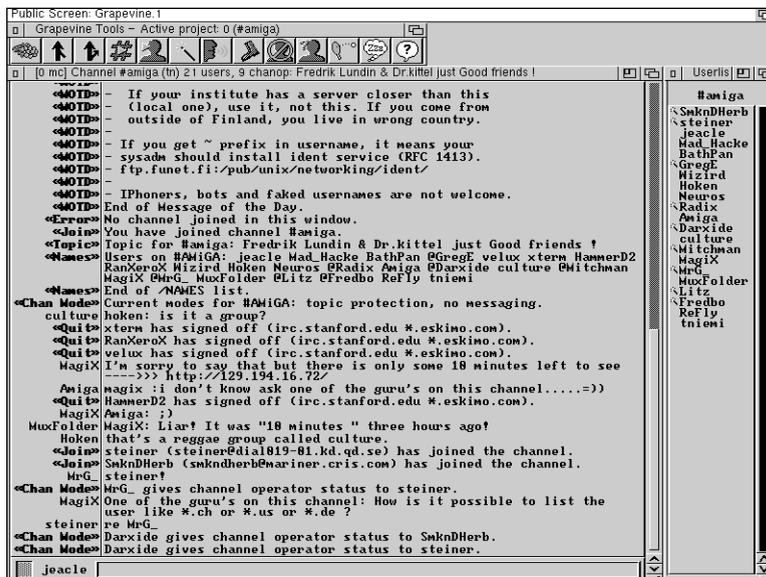
Shareware (US\$25)

Location

comm/net/grapevine.lha

Requirements

No additional software needed



Grapevine has been called “The best IRC client on any platform” by a number of experienced Amiga Internet users. It was one of the first major Internet applications available for the Amiga and it did such a good job of being an IRC client that until recently there was no competition whatsoever.

AmIRC

Description

Internet Relay Chat client

Author

Oliver Wagner

Price

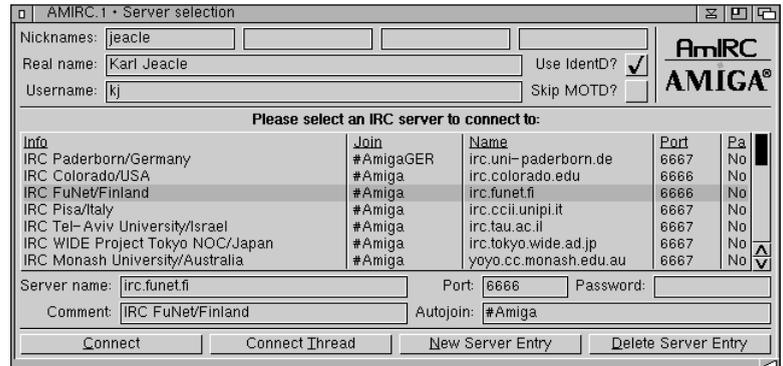
Shareware (US\$25)

Location

comm/tcp/AmIRC.lha

Requirements

Magic User Interface (MUI)



AmIRC is the aforementioned competition to Grapevine. As with the other “Am” applications, it is the Amiga Technologies choice for inclusion in the A1200 Surfer pack. Both Grapevine and IRC are excellent IRC clients so it’s really a matter of personal preference as to which one you choose. Try them both before making any final decision.

Gopher

Before the days of the World Wide Web, gopher had its 15 minutes of fame by being a sort of networked equivalent of the AmigaGuide hypertext browser. Gopher is a purely text-based system which entails a series of menu selections. Each choice on a menu leads you to another series of choices which eventually lead you to the item of information you are looking for.

Gopher

Description

A Gopher client that uses AmigaGuide for its front-end

Author

Graham Walter

Price

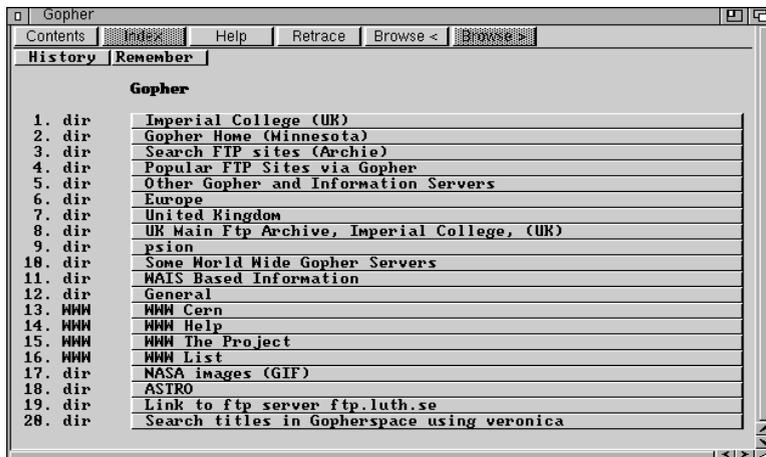
Freely distributable

Location

comm/tcp/gopher.lha

Requirements

No additional software needed



This gopher client uses AmigaGuide to display its menu options, and it works quite well. Gopher clients are in short supply simply because everyone uses the Web these days, and many Web browsers now incorporate gopher client functionality.

Aminet tools

The Aminet collection of Amiga FTP archives is where you'll go every time you're looking for a piece of Amiga shareware. Because of the frequency of these visits some file transfer tools are available which present a more customised interface to the Aminet archives than a normal FTP program.

MuiADT

Description

A download tool for Aminet

Author

Jem Atahan

Price

Public Domain

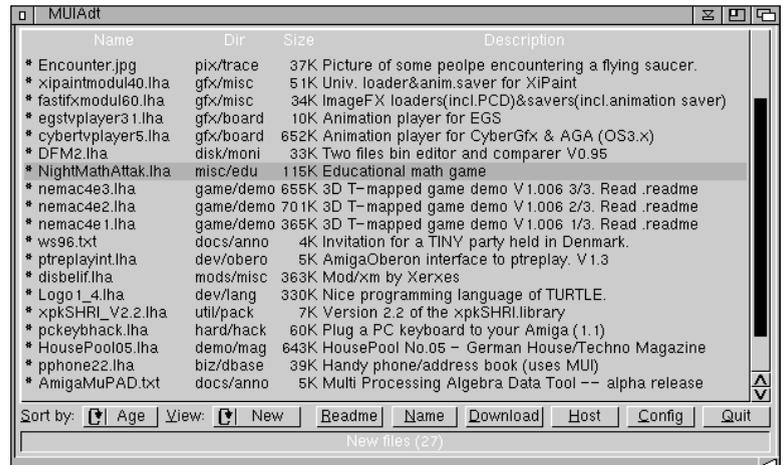
Location

comm/tcp/MUIAdt.lha

Requirements

Magic User Interface (MUI)

A "Unix-like" compress program



MuiADT is an Amiga version of the Unix Aminet Download Tool written by the founder of the Aminet archives. Aminet is like any other FTP archive, but it has quite a strict directory structure so it is pretty clear where files should be placed. Also, all uploads must be supplied with a "README" file. Every night an index of the files on Aminet is created, along with lists of the most recent or new uploads.

MuiADT takes advantage of this by downloading these lists and presenting them as the interface to the archive instead of just a directory full of filenames. You can scroll up and down through the list of new files since your last visit, and double-click on a file to get a copy of the "README" file on screen.

If you are not using the excellent AmFTP program for FTP (which includes ADT support) then MUIAdt will be a worthwhile addition to your collection of Internet applications.

Conferencing

The last two applications we'll look at are for live person-to-person communications. Unfortunately, neither is in particularly widespread use, at least not among Amiga owners, so you may be better off sticking to regular email or meeting up on IRC for most communications.

AmiTALK

Description

The popular Unix "talk" utility for the Amiga

Author

Brian Gunn

Price

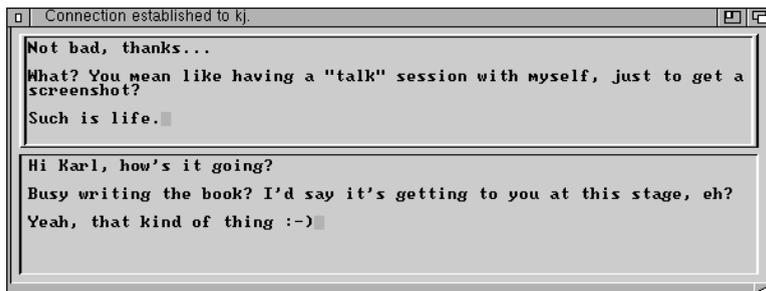
Freely distributable, donations accepted

Location

comm/tcp/AmiTALK155.lha

Requirements

No additional software needed



AmiTALK is a neat Amiga version of the Unix "talk" program. You simply issue a talk command, such as `talk user@machine.co.uk` and AmiTALK will attempt to make a connection to the remote machine. The problem with the talk system is that there are a number of variants of it, so you can never be quite sure which system the remote party might be using. But if the system does work AmiTALK pops up a split screen window and lets you type in one half while watching what the other party is typing in the other half.

AmiTALK comes with a "daemon" program which sits listening for incoming talk requests from other machines. The most likely reason for talk not to work is if the talk daemon is not installed correctly at one end of the call.

ACUSeeMe

Description

Internet video conferencing program

Author

Berend Ozceri

Price

Freely distributable

Location

comm/tcp/acuseeme2_02.lha

Requirements

Magic User Interface (MUI)



CU-SeeMe originally came from New York's Cornell University and was a Macintosh network project whose aim was to build a very low-cost video conferencing system designed to work with as little bandwidth as a 14.4K bps modem. The system works by using servers called "reflectors" which generally run on large Unix-based machines. These reflectors accept connections across the Internet from transmitters and receivers—or "lurkers" as they are known. When you run ACU-SeeMe you can connect to a reflector on the Internet as a receiver, and receive any video or audio packets being transmitted by anyone else connected to that reflector.

Some reflectors are dedicated to certain types of transmission. For example, NASA have a number of reflectors which broadcast live events such as Space Shuttle launches. All you need to view these on your Amiga is ACU-SeeMe.