

SysPic

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COLLABORATORS

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

SysPic

1.1 SysPic v2.02

»»» SysPic v2.02 «««
"Make your boot look cute!"

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written by Grzegorz Calkowski

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Nothing' is perfect

- WBStartup/ClosePic.info (its icon - MWB style)
WBStartup.info
2. Copyright notices are not removed from executable and documentation.
 3. No more than a nominal fee is charged to cover cost of magnetic media.

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1.4 Introduction

Introduction

If you think that black screen during boot time is boring and you want make the boot look more professional (or even fancy) it is definitely program for you. I know there are other similar programs - but SysPic's features make it absolutely the BEST!

SysPic is a small viewer-like program meant to show a picture during the boot time. The picture can be removed at any time using an independent command (ClosePic) which can be placed for example in your WBStartup drawer.

Features - SysPic

- o is small & fast
 - o shows IFF-ILBM pictures of any size and resolution
 - o supports AGA modes (also HAM8)
 - o forces Workbench to open behind the displayed picture so it can be closed after whole Workbench initialization
 - o blanks the pointer sprite so you won't see it when the Workbench screen activates (it would look annoying) (see Bugs)
 - o has a nice random number generator
 - o detaches from shell in an intelligent way (i.e after loading the picture)
 - o !!!COOL-> sets overscan prefs before IPrefs will do it. <-COOL!!!
 - o supports BeetLogin (closes it's 'fake' screen)
 - o is 100% legal
 - o has been tested with Enforcer, Mungwall & MemWatch
-

1.5 Requirements

Requirements

SysPic requires at least Kickstart 3.0 (sorry, I promised to make it 2.04 compatible... but not this time yet). It makes not much sense to use it without harddisk. Memory requirement depends on size and no. of colours of displayed picture.

SysPic uses `iffparse.library` which should be installed in your LIBS:. The library comes with your Workbench package.

1.6 Installation

Installation

It's fairly easy. First copy file 'SysPic' wherever you want. I recommend you to put it to C: or somewhere else on your command path. Then add to your 'startup-sequence' following line:

```
SysPic <picture> <options>
```

As of version 2.00 SysPic sets the overscan prefs so you can put it right after SetPatch (recommended).

In order to remove opened picture, the small program 'ClosePic' is needed. Simply drop it to 'WBStartup' drawer, which is the best suitable place for it. To have picture closed when whole Workbench is initialized set STARTPRI tooltype to -128. It assures that 'ClosePic' will be launched last (for your convenience it is already set to -128 :).

If you don't put it to 'WBStartup' drawer you have to add following line at the end of 'startup-sequence':

```
ClosePic
```

Note, that there is 68020+ version supplied. If you have 68020, 68030, 68040, or maybe 68060 based Amiga you should use it instead.

1.7 Usage

Usage

The main program - 'SysPic' can be used only from Shell. It makes not much sense to use it from Workbench (for what?). Therefore don't try to launch it from WB because it will do nothing (at least it won't crash the machine).

The options template for 'SysPic' looks like:

PICTURE/A, RANDMIN/N, RANDMAX/N, DIGITS/N, BF=BESTFIT/S, SO=SETOSCN/S

where

PICTURE <path> Specifies the filepath for an IFF-ILBM picture.
Note, that PICTURE keyword can be omitted.

If you specify an asterisk (*) in the name it will be replaced with randomly generated number. In such case you have to specify both RANDMIN and RANDMAX.

RANDMIN <number> Lower bound for random generator

RANDMAX <number> Upper bound for random generator

DIGITS <size> Specifies how many digits will be inserted.

If length of generated number is shorter than specified size it will be filled with leading zeros.

BF or BESTFIT Switch - if specified program will use BestModeIDA() function of Kickstart 3.0+ to get the best resolution for the picture.

It sometimes can give unexpected results. Generally it's better to save the picture in desired viewmode.

SO or SETOSCN Sets your overscan preferences (from `envarc:sys/overscan.prefs` file). It avoids the very annoying screen-jump when IPrefs sets the overscan prefs. It's very usable when you want to display a picture in a multisync mode like DBLPAL or MULTIISCAN, which overscan preferences usually differ from the defaults. Note, it's a hack! See Bugs.

The 'ClosePic' can be used from Workbench as well what is recommended. Simply put it into 'WBStartup' drawer and forget about it. See
Installation

.

Well, in fact, SysPic is full-featured viewer. It can display any ILBM image upto 256 colours and HAM6/HAM8 images as well. IFF parsing routines are based on original C= routines.

1.8 To Do

To Do

No ideas. I think the proggie is complete.

But if you have some suggestions...?

1.9 Bugs

Bugs

Sprite blanking is still not perfect. Why? Normally it's no problem to get rid of sprites - it can be done by disabling sprite DMA or just by setting a window's mouse pointer to an invisible one. It works fine :-). But no if another program is poking in sprite stuff in the background. And this is the case, because IPrefs does so (it changes display params with VideoControl(), namely). The only thing I could do was an interrupt server, which was turning off sprite DMA subsequently. I have no other ideas! If you know a better one please contact me!!

Another thing, not really a bug - overscan prefs. Starting from Release 2 there are no documented methods for setting preferences. The only program in universe able to do it is IPrefs. Well, everything can be done :-). SysPic sets the overscan prefs EXACTLY in the same way as IPrefs does. But this can be considered as kind of hack. Well, works fine under V39 & V40, however, this maybe not be the case under future releases of Kickstart.

1.10 Author

Contacting the author

Any ideas, bug reports, donations, hardware (for example Cyberstorm turboboard for my A4000), etc. will be sincerely welcomed. Just contact me!

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(Sorry, for my poor English...)

Always remember:

Beeting is beliving...

and Amiga is the best computer ever!

1.11 Acknowledgements

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Thanks go to:

- o Michal Prochownik for general support & for the game idea (We WILL make it!)
- o Ryszard "Justus" Baginski for ClosePic's icon.
- o Jacek "Plexa" Miklasiewicz for the job...
- o Jacek "Shind" Grzegorzczuk for the 340MB HDD (really nice gift 8-)
- o For develop team at C= (R.I.P) for the wonderful machine.
- o ECom for Amiga Technologies.

1.12 History

History

v1.00B (22.07.95)

- o First BETA release.

v1.50 (25.08.95)

- o not "historized" and not released

v2.00 (30.08.95)

** not released to public

- o Now SysPic automatically detaches from current Shell process. It does it in intelligent way, i.e exits after the picture is loaded & displayed.
- o Added random generator. New options: RANDMIN, RANDMAX, DIGITS.
- o Added feature of setting overscan prefs before IPrefs will do that! (New option: SETOSCN). It's a hack! See Bugs.
- o Sprite blanking works better but it is still unreliable.
- o Added shortcut for BESTFIT - BF.

v2.01 (05.09.95)

** not released to public

- o Improved sprite blanking. A little, in fact :-). See Bugs.

v2.02 (27.09.95)

- o Added support for my other utility - BeetLogin. Automatically closes 'fake' screen leftover by it.

- o In some cases SysPic didn't display error messages (ie "Not IFF file"). Fixed.

- o Rendezvous port priority set to a high value to improve ClosePic's performance.

- o Documentation updated.

- o Finally released... (and probably the final release... :-)
