

**W.F.M.H. asl.library**

**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> W.F.M.H. asl.library		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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# Chapter 1

## W.F.M.H. asl.library

### 1.1 World Federation of Mad Hackers

W.F.M.H. asl.library

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Copyrights

Introduction

Requirements

Disclaimer

What's new

Usage

Tooltypes

Technical Info

Credits

History

To do

Support sites

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### 1.2 Tooltypes

WB and CLI usage

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The following tooltypes are supported by AslPrefs when ran from WB:

CREATEICONS = YES|NO - default state of "Create Icons" checkmark will be off.

ACTION = USE|SAVE|EDIT - action to perform, as in usual preferences editor.

The following parameters are supported by AslPrefs when launched from CLI:

FROM - name of prefs file if you need to load other than default one

USE, SAVE, EDIT - action, as in usual preferences editor.

### 1.3 History

The soap opera:

v42.0 - Initial release

### 1.4 Open

Open

Lets you select and load a file containing asl preferences.

### 1.5 Save

Save

Lets you save current asl preferences to a file.

### 1.6 Quit

Quit

No prizes for guessing what this one does.

### 1.7 Reset to Defaults

Reset to Defaults

Resets ASL settings to their default values (as suggested by the authors).

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## 1.8 Last Saved

Last Saved

Automatically loads the most recently saved prefs file to the AslPrefs.

## 1.9 Restore

Restore

Restores values that were active at the time you started AslPrefs.

## 1.10 Test

Test

Temporarily applies your settings to the asl.library (upon quitting current prefs will be restored).

## 1.11 Pages

Pages

You have possibility to switch to the File/Font/Screen page also via menu and corresponding hotkeys.

## 1.12 Create Icons?

Create Icons?

Whenever prefs file is saved to disk, the icon file will be created, too.

## 1.13 How to set it up

How to use prefs program:

This release of asl.library is supported by preferences editor which allows you to set all configurable features of new asl. Using prefs editor will probably cause no problems, because all standard options and features, well-known from other prefs editors are also implemented.

Menus:

Project      Edit                      Options

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Finally, please note that all size/position calculations are in respect to the visible part of the virtual screens and also requester always open to be entirely visible.

## 1.15 Top and Left

Left and Top:

these gadgets specify offset top-left corner of requesters for Top Left of Window and Top Left of Screen settings.

## 1.16 Height and Width

Height and Width:

these gadgets determine how big requester will be in percentage of its screen size. Values range from 25% to 100%.

## 1.17 Force settings

Force:

normally, settings describing window position and size are only used if programmer didn't specify corresponding tag. However, if you want ALL your requesters to behave the same, this gadget forces asl not to take programmer-specified tags under consideration.

## 1.18 Auto Scroll

Auto Scroll

You may force the screen font requester to has AutoScroll selector set to your settings (ON/OFF). Corresponding checkmark should be used to turn this feature off and on.

## 1.19 Default ID

Default Screen Mode ID

This ID will be the default one in ScreenMode requesters.

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## 1.20 Default Screen Width

Default Screen Width

This width will be the default one in ScreenMode requesters.

## 1.21 Default Screen Height

Default Screen Height

This height will be the default one in ScreenMode requesters.

## 1.22 Default Screen Depth

Default Screen Depth

This depth will be the default one in ScreenMode requesters.

## 1.23 Pop Screen To Front

Pop Screen To Front

When this gadget is checked, asl will pop the requester screen to front, so no more you will have to look for your requester through all opened screens.

## 1.24 Force Screen Font

Force Screen Font

Forces file requesters to use screen font, even if it is a proportional one.

## 1.25 Display Drawers First

Display Drawers First

This is probably the most wanted feature, which causes drawers to be shown above files in the filerequester.

---

## 1.26 Drawers Mixed

Drawers Mixed

When this gadgets is set, contents of given directory will be displayed using only alphabetical order, without splitting it into two parts (files and dirs).

## 1.27 Sort by Devices' Name

Sort by Devices' Name

When you click Volumes gadget, asl will show you list of volumes and assigns, sorting it alphabetically by their names. So if you prefer opposite behaviour, and want the devices to be sorted by their names (DF0, HD0) instead of names of inserted volumes (Work, Empty) just click on this.

## 1.28 Arrows Size

Arrows Size

You have a ability to change the height of arrows of slider gadget in the filerequester. You may turn them off, set custom size or if you do not want to change this - set the default values.

## 1.29 Things that we plan in next releases

As this release is little rushed, due to recent attempts ↔ of several people on patching asl in a way that we felt was not quite right, there are still some features missing, that we plan to add in the future:

- we know that not everybody likes MUI, so "standard" preferences program has high priority on our list.
- localization of AslPrefs (due to soon-coming changes some strings will be added - after that #?.cd and #?.ct will be available publicly).
- localization of "About" menu item and requester ;-)
- better documentation (also in polish),
- whatever YOU feel is necessary and WE think is wise...

Things we are not likely to implement:

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- palette requester - what for? Use colorwheel/gradientslider for this.
- list of volumes after pressing right mouse button - asl requesters have menus, so... Perhaps someone can supply us with three button mices which use standard mouse port - then it would make sense with the middle button.

### 1.30 What's new?

What is new:

\* asl is now totally configurable:

- configurable default position and size of the requesters,
- all requesters can be open relative to mouse, current screen, parent window and so on,
- all requesters open on visible part of virtual screens...
- ...and bring the screen to front,
- file requester can now use proportional fonts,
- order of files/directories in filerequester can be changed,
- file requester can sort volumes by devices name,
- default values in ScreenMode requester can be changed, too.

Feeling like you would like something more?  
Contact us  
, but  
first check out the  
to do  
section.

### 1.31 What do you need to run this

Requirements

This version of asl.library is distributed as patches to the original Commodore asl.library versions 39.4 and 40.6, which are parts of OS3.0 and 3.1 respectively. Therefore you need at least OS3.0 to be able to use this version (and of course original library to patch it).

Included preferences program requires  
MUI  
v2.2+ to run successfully.

## 1.32 Technical information

This section describes some of the patches which were applied to asl.library. Please note that this is NOT any kind of hack nor kluge. It is simply a case of reverse-engineering the library and adding (with the Commodore programming rules in mind) several features. As there ARE people who like to play with undocumented/private parts of code, every possible step has been taken to avoid problems even in such cases. As a result, during all the testing time we encountered only ONE program that won't work as expected - PatchAsl by John Corigliano - but this is quite understandable I guess. It would come as a big surprise if anything else would fail to work with this new version of asl.library.

Now, some paragraphs for technically-minded people who would like to know how it works internally:

First, one new private function has been added, which is used by preferences program to copy new user settings to the internal ASL buffer. Also, prefs program saves settings to ENV: (if "used") and to ENVARC: (if "saved"). As it operates on callers context, asl.library could not use usual notification routines without creating additional task, which we thought was unnecessary overhead. Hence, changing sys/asl.prefs variable in ENV: manually won't be noticed by asl.library - you have to use preferences program for this to work. It can be changed if it really bothers you, please give feedback.

Internal settings buffer is obviously protected with semaphore to avoid havoc that could break out if prefs change/requester opening happened at the same time.

Whenever new requester is being open it receives a copy of its settings. Private parts of File/Font/ScreenMode requesters have been extended to hold it. This way even if you change prefs while a requester is open nothing wrong can happen.

Also, text width calculations in file requester were changed, allowing it to look reasonably with both proportional and fixed-width fonts.

## 1.33 Support sites

ASL is supported by the World Wide Web page:

<http://dedal.univ.szczecin.pl/~thorgal/ASL/asl.html>

where you can always download the newest version.

\*\* \*\* \*

All you modem traders can also try our support BBS (newest asl is always placed in section "FileTransferMenu/FreeFilesMenu", available even for guests).

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in my opinion that's one of the reasons that attract people to other requester libraries as reqtools.library by Nico Francois. When Commodore released Kickstart 3.1 and there was still no sign of change, the idea was born to patch asl.library in some way and to let the end user to decide for himself. After just a few hours of fiddling with the code I had a working ASL which used environmental variable to determine if directories should be here or there. This version was only released to few friends.

But as I had a recompilable code, why not to improve the ASL even more? This is exactly what I did, making it completely configurable by means of preferences editor written by fellow programmer Marcin Orlowski. Now see the

features

.

This new asl.library has been tested on the following equipment:

A4000/040/25, 850MB HD, 18MB RAM, CyberVision 64, Kickstart 3.0

A4000/040/40, 3.4GB HD, 50MB RAM, EGS Spectrum, Kickstart 3.1

A1200/020/14, 80MB HD, 2MB RAM, Kickstart 3.0

As you can see we were not able to test it on plain 68000 - we simply couldn't find one running OS3.0+ in our town. Feedback from both 68000 and 68060 users is thus especially welcome.

Giftware

This product is released under the concept of giftware - what means that if you use it you should send something to us - even email will do - but even then you are only allowed to use this yourself - no PD company apart from FredFish or Aminet can include this patch in their offer without contacting us first.

Final note

Please bear in mind that english is not our native language, thus this documentation can contain some grammar and/or spelling errors. Please be overlooking with them, or even better - send us a mail, so we can fix it ASAP. Thank you.

## 1.36 Disclaimer

Disclaimer

In case of any problem with this particular version of asl.library or AslPrefs, programmers responsible will be tortured, chopped down, fried and fed to sharks - NOT!

In fact great effort has been made to avoid problems - original asl.library version 40.6 has been carefully resourced, enhanced in a system compatible way, reassembled with original Devpac 3.14 and then tested in a period of six (yes!) months by several people, before releasing it to the public. Not even a single bug shown up, what I find quite encouraging :). Well, to be honest this long testing time is in a big part due to other

commercial activities of both authors, nevertheless the asl.library v42.0 was during all this time in heavy use by them - and they are both multitasking beasts :)

But then, if YOU experience the harddrive failing to spin, monitor blowing up or mouse biting - this is NOT our problem. All you can do is to flame us ;-). All other activities, including spoken or written threats, letter bombs, hired killers knocking at our doors and the like are hereby forbidden and are sure to be answered with the nuclear strike :)

And BTW, frequent failures of PeeSee equipment in neighbourhood are not OUR fault. Really.

## 1.37 Acknowledgments

### Acknowledgments

These people contributed some ideas to implement and we say them big "Thank you":

Konrad "Banshee" Dubiel  
Krzysztof "K.K." Kobus  
Patrik "Silver Dream!" Logiewa

We also want to greet the following people:

Stefan Stuntz - for  
MUI  
used as GUI basement of our prefs program  
Eric Totel - for MUIBuilder, used to create layout of prefs program

## 1.38 Credits

### Authors

Asl.library resourcing and updating was entirely done by Miloslaw Smyk.  
AslPrefs preferences program was written by Marcin Orłowski.

They are both Computer Science undergraduates at the Technical University of Szczecin, with the computer graphics as their main specialization and Amiga programming as their nature.

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## 1.39 MagicUserInterface

This application uses

MUI - MagicUserInterface

(c) Copyright 1993/94 by Stefan Stuntz

MUI is a system to generate and maintain graphical user interfaces. With the aid of a preferences program, the user of an application has the ability to customize the outfit according to his personal taste.

MUI is distributed as shareware. To obtain a complete package containing lots of examples and more information about registration please look for a file called "muiXXusr.lha" (XX means the latest version number) on your local bulletin boards or on public domain disks.

If you want to register directly, feel free to send

DM 30.- or US\$ 20.-

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