

AMC

Amiga^(tm), AROS, MorphOS, Any Media Center

USER GUIDE

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1. INTRODUCTION

AMC is the ultimate Media Center for all Amigaish systems, it is available for AROS, AmigaOS4^(tm) and MorphOS.

It has been developed with three main purposes on mind:

- **Simplicity**
- **Portability**
- **Expandibility**

SIMPLICITY

This is intended for the final user, we think that the user should find what he is looking for as fast as possible, without reading tons of guides and enjoying this experience. Watching a video or looking your last holiday's photos must be a pleasure.

PORTABILITY

AMC has been developed using Hollywood, a multimedia oriented language that will let us to port this application for many platforms without much changes. Hollywood supported systems are AmigaOS3, AmigaOS4^(tm), MorphOS, AROS, WarpOS, MacOS and Win32.

EXPANDIBILITY

AMC has inbuilt a powerfull PlugIn system that let the user to expand basic AMC functionalities. Think of program launchers, emulator launchers, visual media browsers, ripping utilities... possibilities are endless!

1.1 THANK YOU

Thank you for trying AMC, using and registering this software you will help the Amiga scene funding indirectly further development. Part of the price you are paying for this software will be used to fund new projects and help the Amiga scene to grow. With “Amiga scene” I mean the whole Amiga scene, including AROS and MorphOS.

We hope you will enjoy AMC and that you report back any issue you may find so we can fix it as soon as possible.

1.2 FEATURES

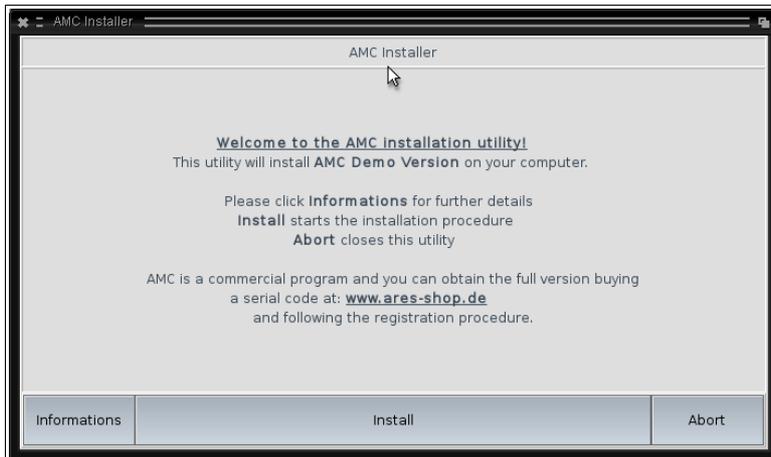
Here are the main AMC features:

- Easy navigation model and remote friendly
- AMC uses MPlayer for audio and video playback so you will be able to play any media that MPlayer can handle.
- Unlimited favorites
- Unlimited playlists
- WebTV and WebRadio
- WebTV recording thanks to an integrate job scheduler, while you continue to enjoy your media
- Slideshow and FunnySlider to view your pictures
- High configurability thanks to plain text configuration files
- AMC can be entirely skinned (themes)
- Powerfull PlugIn system to expand or even patch AMC
- Full access to the internal media databases
- TMDb (The Movie Database) integration
- ID3 tag reading of your MP3 files
- Easy organization and browsing through keywords

1.3 INSTALLATION

The package is available in two forms: iso and zip, the first one can be easily mounted or burned into a CD, while the zip archive need to be uncompressed in a location of your choice.

In both cases you need to enter the AMC drawer and double click the Installer utility, this program will install AMC where you want.



Here you can see the Installer window, as you can see at the bottom there are three buttons:

Informations

Click this button to read the EULA, the software license and the disclaimer.

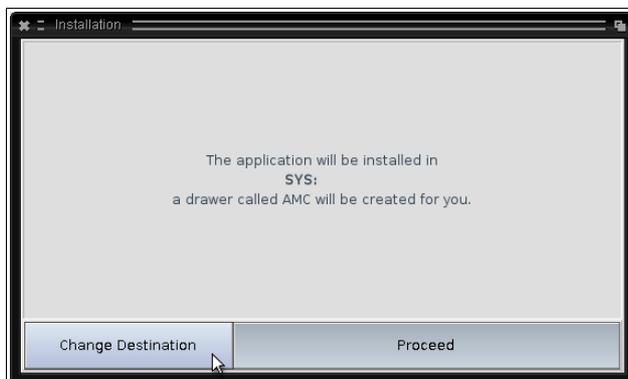
Install

Starts the installation procedure

Abort

Abort the installation and closes the program

As soon as the installation procedure is started another window will pop-up showing the default drawer where AMC will be installed, you can change this location clicking the **“Change Destination”** button, when you are fine with the destination drawer click the **“Proceed”** button to starts the installation. Below there is a screenshot of the drawer selection/confirmation window:



Please note that a drawer called AMC will be created for you in the location of your choice.

During the installation a window with a progress bar will show the status of the copying process.

At the end of the process a window will confirm the correct installation of AMC.

Now you can launch AMC double-clicking on its icon the the drawer of your choice.

The first thing you should do are:

- Change the **AMC language** to your preferred one (officially supported are English, Italian and German, for other languages please look at the AMC forums).
- If you have a **4:3 monitor** select a 4:3 theme from the **Options** → **Themes** menu (see chapters **5. Themes** for more details). AMC starts by default with a 16:9 optimized theme.

- If you notice performances problems because you have a slow CPU you can try loading a light theme (the ones with the word 'LessFX' in them), if you still have performances problems please have a look at **Appendix B. Command Line Arguments**.

 *During the installation process will be added an entry in your S\User-Startup to launch automatically the AMC scheduler when you start your computer.*

 *During the installation process the Scheduler will be launched in background once installed in your system.*

1.4 DEMO MODE LIMITATIONS

Every copy of AMC, until you have completed the registration, run in demonstration mode: missing function will be available once you have registered your copy with a serial code you can buy at <http://www.ares-shop.de>.

List of disabled features:

- Audio CD track's title editing
- Funny Slider
- Slideshow
- Scheduler (WebTV Recorder)
- PlugIn System
- Search by keyword
- Preferences saving
- Database's records editing
- Single drawer scanning
- Full screen playback
- Random WebTV
- Random WebRadio

You are encouraged to buy a serial code and register your copy of AMC, this way you will support directly further development of AROS and indirectly all Amigaish systems, infact part of the incoming will be used to fund AROS projects, the same projects that later could be ported for free on all Amigaish systems.

1.5 SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

AMC itself does not ask for high-end machines, it all depends on what you want to playback. Basically if are able to playback videos with MPlayer, AMC will let you organize and playback your videos without loosing performances.

But if we want to define some minimum have a look at the following list:

GENERAL

- A soundcard for audio playback
- Internet for TMDb support and WebTV and WebRadio streaming
- CD/DVD for Audio CD playback and DVD playback

AROS

- Pentium 3 @ 1Ghz or equivalent
- Recommended for FullHD playback a singlecore @ 2.2 Ghz, like the AresOne for example (look at <http://www.vesalia.de> for further informations)
- If you are looking for a nice machine capable of 720p playback have a look at the iMica (<http://www.clusteruk.com>)

AMIGA OS4

- Sam @ 533Mhz is the minimum
- The upcoming Sam 460 and the X1000 are highly recommended

MORPH OS

- Recommended are the PEG or any supported PowerMac / MacMini

1.6 CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

CONTACTS

info@a-mc.biz

activation@a-mc.biz

for any kind of questions or problems
for AMC activation

RESOURCES

<http://a-mc.biz>

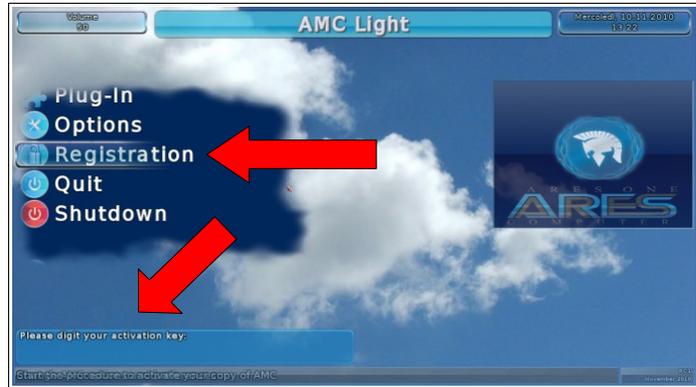
<http://forums.a-mc.biz>

official AMC site
official AMC forums

2. REGISTRATION

Registering your copy of AMC will unlock all unavailable features of the demo mode, this way you can enjoy the full AMC potential. The registration procedure is very simple and below it's showed step by step:

1. First of all you need a valid AMC serial code, if you do not have one you can purchase a serial code at the ARES shop (<http://www.ares-shop.de>).
2. Once you have a serial code start the registration procedure selecting the Registraton item in the main AMC menu.
3. A frame will appear in the left-bottom corner asking for your serial code, digit your code respecting lower and upper case characters and hit enter when done.
4. Now insert you name and surname and hit enter again.
5. The last data AMC needs is your e-mail address, please insert a valid e-mail address here.
6. AMC will elaborate your data and will produce a .rgs file in the AMC folder, the process will be terminated when AMC will show a message saying so. So please be patient and wait a few seconds to let the rgs file generation to be completed.
7. To receive the activation PlugIn send to activation@a-mc-biz the rgs file and in short time you will receive the activation PlugIn. Please use the same e-mail address you have specified in the registration procedure.
8. Once received the activation PlugIn simply put it in the AMC drawer and launch AMC: congratulations, you have successfully registered your copy of AMC.



 Please note that AMC uses a protection system that embed the informations you have submitted during the registration process in the AMC executable.

 If you need to reinstall AMC for some reasons you will need a new activation PlugIn, simply reinstall AMC and run again the registration procudere with your serial code and send again the rgs file to get the activation PlugIn.

 Once you have registered your copy the menu entry "Registration" will be removed.

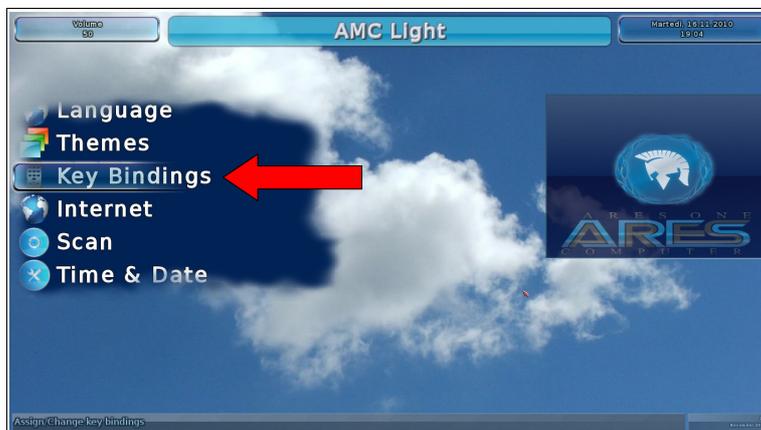
3. CONTROLS

AMC uses a simplified control system optimized for remote controllers, this means that you will be able to perform almost all actions using the cursor keys of your keyboard or the equivalent directional pad of your remote.

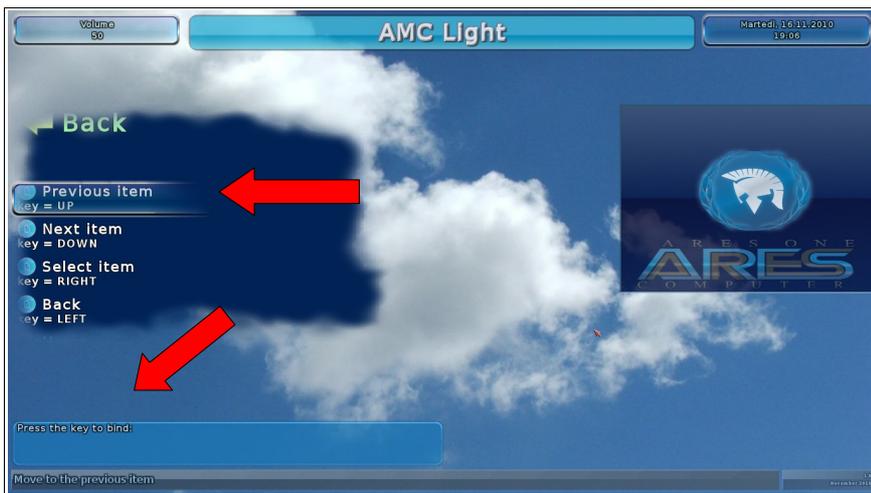
Anyway the default controls can be easily modified in the options section, below there is the default keys mapped on the keyboard

KEY	ACTIONS				
	AMC	SLIDESHOW	FUNNY SLIDER	THUMBNAIL GRID	PHOTO MODE
Left Key	Back to the previous menu	Previous Image + Stop auto advancement		Move thumbnail cursor Left	Rotate the current picture by 90°
Right Key	Select the hilighted menu item	Next Image + Stop auto advancement		Move thumbnail cursor Right	
Up Key	Move to the previous menu item	Show information bar	Increase picture speed	Move thumbnail cursor Up	Previous picture
Down Key	Move to the next menu item	Hide information bar	Decrease picture speed	Move thumbnail cursor Down	Next picture
*	Move to home (main menu)				
+ / -	Increase / Decrease volume				
Esc Key	Stop any media currently playing	Exit from the Slideshow and returns to AMC	Exit from the funny slider and returns to AMC	Exit from the grid and returns the control to the Menu	
h	Open an help window when available.			Enters Photo Mode	Exit from photo mode and return to the thumbnails grid
SPACE		Pause / Resume slideshow	Pause / Resume funny slider		
BACKSPACE	Same as Left Key	Finalize the current transition			

As said you can customize these key bindings in the Options → Key Bindings



Once you have selected “Key Bindings” option a list of all available actions will be showed like in the following screenshot:



To bind an action to a key, hilight the action and Select it (with the Left arrow key, unless you have changed the Select action key), then in the bottom left corner you will be asked to press the key you want to bind to that action.

Press your key and that's all.

4. USING AMC

4.1 FINDING YOUR MEDIA

4.1.1 INTRODUCTION

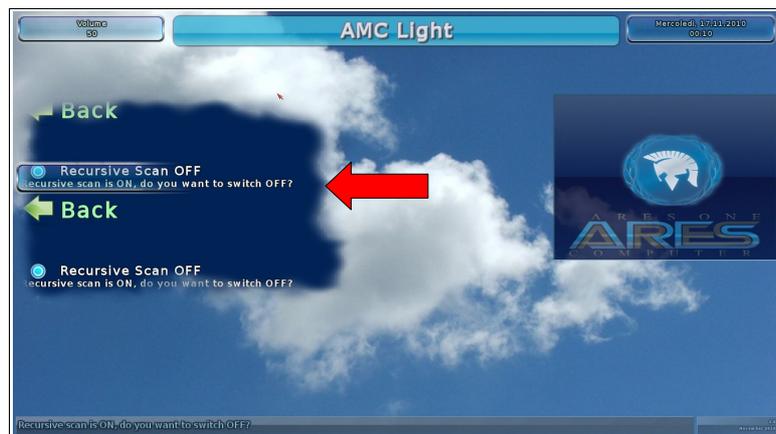
AMC allow you to browse your media in two ways, the first one is the simple browsing of your devices while the second one is browsing the AMC media databases.

The second method has some features that will let you find your media quickly and easily because AMC will store the media informations inside its databases, this means that you will not need anymore to navigate throught your drawers to find your media files.

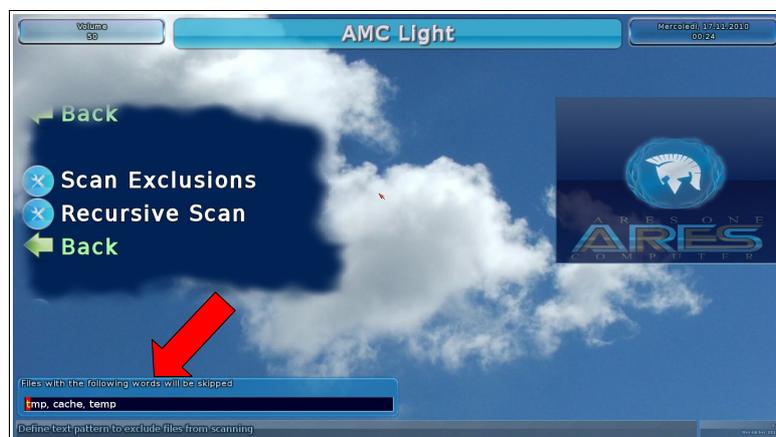
But let's start with the second method: the databases browsing. Before you are able to browse the databases you need to perform a scan of the entire system or of a single drawer.

The scan is used to let AMC detect any media files on your system or drawer, depending on the option you have chosen to execute. Remember that you can execute the scanning operation anytime you want, AMC will add to the database only the new items detected, so if you add new media in yuour system you will need to refresh the databases just executing a scan of the drawers where the new media has been added.

Note that AMC will execute a recursive scan by default, this means that all drawers included in the starting drawer will be scanned as well recursively. You can change this behaviour in **Options** → **Scan** → **Recursive Scan**.



Hit the Left arrow key to change the recursive scan switch.



Another thing you should know is that you can define some keywords to exclude files from the scanning operation. Any file (complete path) that has inside one of your defined keywords will be immediatly discarded.

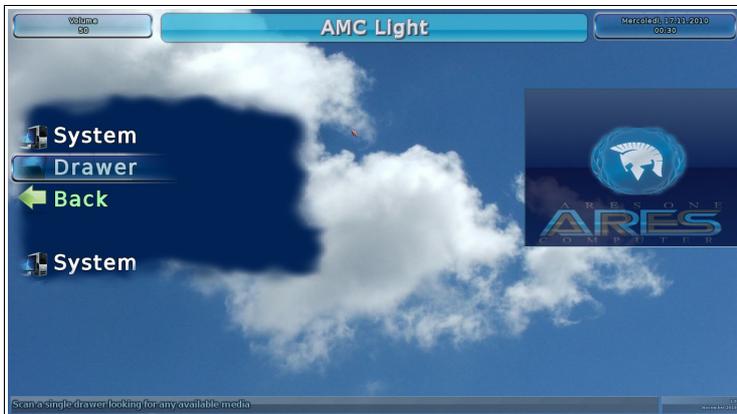
By default there are some keywords defined for you to skip the scanning of temporary files for example, but you can add or modify the existing ones in **Options** → **Scan** → **Scan Exclusions**. Each keyword must be comma separated, like in the image to the left for a screenshot

Note that during the scan process AMC will produce the image thumbnails to have a

faster access later, during the image browsing.

4.1.2 SCANNING A SINGLE DRAWER

This option is convenient if you have organized your media in a device or in a drawer, this way you can avoid that the scanning process will detect all system media like system icons, system sounds and images not related with your collections.



To execute a scan of a single drawer (with or without recursion) go to **Scan** → **Drawer**, a file requester will be showed and you have to chose the drawer you want to scan for media files.

As soon as you have confirmed the drawer to scan the analisis will starts and you can check the scanning process thanks to the progress bar displayed on the left

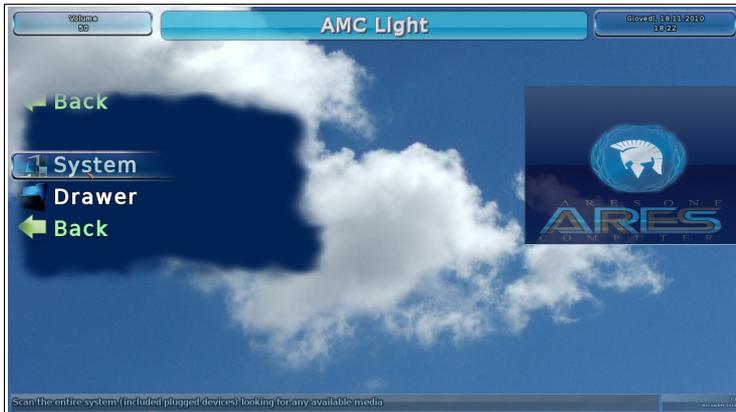
bottom corner. At the end of the analisis AMC will display how many new media has been added to the databases subdividing the results in new images, new audio files and new video files.

 Holding down the ESC key during the scanning will force AMC to interrupt the drawer analisis.

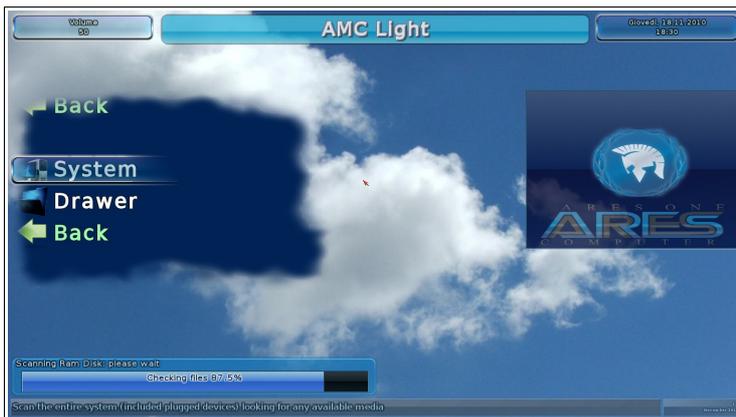
4.1.3 SCANNING THE ENTIRE SYSTEM

If you prefer to scan the whole system in search of media files you should use this option, all devices connected to your machine will be analyzed and all media files found will be stored in the AMC databases.

To execute a full system scan go to **Scan** → **System** and be patient, scanning an entire system could be quite long. A progress bar will show you the current analysis status.



Here is a screenshot of the menu entry that executes a full system scan.



And here is a screenshot during the scanning, with the progress bar showing the actual status.

At the end of the analysis AMC will display how many new media has been added to the databases subdividing the results in new images, new audio files and new video files.

 **Warning:** Holding down the ESC key during the scanning will force AMC to interrupt the current device analysis, continue holding down the ESC key to skip remaining devices.

4.2 BROWSING YOUR MEDIA

Now that you are able to scan your device for media you probably would like to browse these files, to keep things easy AMC has three main section associated with the three media type handled: **Video**, **Audio**, **Images**.

Before talking about browsing you should know that by default AMC will play a preview of the currently selected media, just leave the cursor on the media for a couple of seconds and the preview will starts. Hitting ESC key will stop immediatly any media playback, including media previews.

During the media preview you are free to navigate the menu, for example you can start the preview of a song (playlists can be previewed too) and you can enter the Images section to see your pictures while the music is playing.

Let's see what you can do in each section.

4.2.1 VIDEO SECTION

The following image is a screenshot of the Video section:



As you can see you have the following menu items:

- **Favorites** Where you can access easily all you favorite videos
- **Browse** Where you can browse the video database or your devices searching for videos
- **Search** Used to search videos by keywords
- **Playlists** Where you can access all video playlists defined
- **WebTV** Where you can access WebTV channels and the Recorder Scheduler

FAVORITES

Selecting this item a menu will appear showing you your favorite videos, to put a video in your favorite list see the chapter “**4. Organizing Your Media**”.

BROWSE

If you select this item you will be prompted if you want to browse the video database or your computer devices.

If you chose to browse the video database you will see the following screen:



In this screen you can chose to browse your videos by the category you like.

It's easy to select the movies with a particular actor, just select the item “by Cast” and a list of all detected actors will be displayed, select your preferred actor and a list of all movies where this actor is part of the cast will be

showed. This concept is valid for all the available categories.

Talking about videos you can edit manually these category fields or let the **TMDb integration** do it for you automatically, for further details, please look at the chapter “**5. Databases**”.

SEARCH

It's really easy to search videos by **keywords**, just select this item and digit the text to search: AMC will show a menu with all matching videos.

The search is performed in every movie field, for example, time, release date, cast, directors, title, and so on.

During the search a progress bar will show you the status of the searching.

PLAYLISTS

If you enter the Playlists item AMC will show you a menu composed by all video playlists defined, you can play any playlist at your wish selecting the entry with the Select key (Right arrow key).

To create or edit video playlists have a look at chapter “**4. Organizing Your Media**”.

WEBTV

From here you can access the WebTV section, here you can view streaming channels or plan a channel recording using the **Recorder Scheduler**. Please note that you need a working internet connection to be able to watch WebTV channels.

Once you have entered this section you will see some categories used to group WebTV

channels to help you to find immediately what you are looking for.
You can list WebTV channel with the following grouping methods:

- List all channels sorted by **channel name**
- List channels grouped by **country**
- List channels grouped by **genre**
- List channels grouped by **bandwidth**
- List channels grouped by **resolution**

Additionally you can play a **random channel** from the available ones choosing the item **“Random Channel”**.

ABOUT WEBTV PLAYBACK

When you are previewing or playing WebTV channels AMC will display some information messages to let you know what's happening behind the scene, this is useful because some channels are not available in all countries while some channels may be active only in defined time frames.

Here are the messages you could receive while starting a WebTV streaming:

- **Waiting for connection**
This message informs you that MPlayer is attempting to establish a connection with the remote streaming source.
Sometimes AMC is able to detect that the channel is unreachable, sometimes not: this depends most likely by the internet connection, and the remote site. If AMC stay in this state too long you can hit **ESC** to break the connection process or the **NEXT/PREVIOUS** keys to break the connection and move to the next/previous listed channel.
- **Connected, now buffering**
This message informs you that MPlayer has established a connection with the remote streaming source and is filling the stream buffer with the received data. In few seconds you should be able to watch the WebTV channel, the wait depends on your internet connection and the stream buffer size. You can adjust the stream buffer size in **Options** → **MPlayer** → **Video Settings** → **Adjust Video Stream Cache**.
- **Connection aborted**
When you receive this message means that MPlayer cannot connect with the remote site, but sometimes happens that the connection is simply timed out or your internet connection is too slow, if you are sure that the WebTV channel is active you can retry simply moving the cursor again on this channel.

WEBTV RECORDER SCHEDULER

The scheduler is used to schedule WebTV recordings, once you have entered this section you will see a menu composed by three entries:



This screen is really self explanatory, you can add, remove or edit your scheduling.

Let's see briefly each items:

- **Add Job**

Let you add a scheduling job. When you select this item AMC will ask you to select the channel you want to record, navigate the channels categories and

select the channel you want to record. Now you have to insert the starting date followed by the starting time and the ending date followed by the ending time. The last step is to define the type of the recording, it can be a single recording, a daily recording or a weekly recording. That's all!

- **Remove Job**

Select this item to remove a scheduled recording

- **Edit Job**

Select this item to modify an existing recording, it like the Add Job option but before starting to define the recording you will be prompted to chose an existing scheduling to edit.

- ⚠ When you are prompted to insert the starting date and the ending date AMC expects to receive the date in the dd-mmm-yyyy format, for example: 20-Jun-2010
- ⚠ When you are prompted to insert the starting time and the ending time AMC expects to receive the time in the hh:mm:ss format, for example: 20:35:00
- ⚠ Scheduled recording are handled by the Scheduler program that are launched automatically for you at system startup unless you have modified the Startup-Sequence or you have manually terminated the program.
- ⚠ By default all recordings will be saved in AMC/Utilities/Rec.

4.2.2 AUDIO SECTION

Hitting the Audio item in the main menu will let you access the audio section, the following is a screenshot of the Audio menu:

As you can see is similar to the video section so I will be quick in the explanations to not be repetitive.

So let's see each available items of this menu.

FAVORITES

This item will let you access all your favorite audio files, to put an audio file in your favorite list see the chapter “4. Organizing Your Media”.

BROWSE

Let you chose to browse the audio database or your devices for audio file. If you chose to browse the audio database the following menu will be displayed:



These items represent the grouping methods used for your audio files, the first item “**by Title**” will show all your audio files sorted by title.

As you can see you can browse your files also grouped for:

- Artist
- Album
- Genre
- Year
- Keywords

These informations will be extracted automatically from the **ID3 tag** (where available) of the mp3 files, but you can edit or adjust by yourself in the database section. Actually **ID3 tag** are read only.

SEARCH

Hitting this item you can search audio files using **keywords**, just select this item and digit the text to search: AMC will show a menu with all matching files.

The search is performed in every audio field, for example, time, album, artist, title, and so on.

During the search a progress bar will show you the status of the searching.

PLAYLISTS

If you enter the Playlists item AMC will show you a menu composed by all audio playlists

defined, you can play any playlist at your wish selecting the entry with the Select key (Right arrow key).

To create or edit audio playlists have a look at chapter “**4. Organizing Your Media**”.

WEB RADIO

From here you can access the WebRadio section, here you can view streaming stations: please note that you need a working internet connection to be able to listen Web Radio stations.

Once you have entered this section you will see some categories used to group Web Radio stations to help you to find immediatly what you are looking for.

You can list Web Radio stations with the following grouping methods:

- List all channels sorted by **station name**
- List channels grouped by **country**
- List channels grouped by **genre**
- List channels grouped by **bandwidth**

Additionally you can play a **random station** from the available ones chosing the item “**Random Station**”.

AUDIO CD

This section is used to play audio CD, but here you can also edit track's titles. Editing is usefull because this way, next time you will listen again the same CD, you will see the track's titles instead of the anonymous Track01, Track02, and so on.

To play audio CD tracks use the Right Arrow key, the same command used to play any recognized media file by AMC.

4.2.3 IMAGES SECTION

The image section is a bit different if compared with the audio and video sections, but let's see step by step what can you do with your images. Below there is the two items menu you can see when you enter this area.

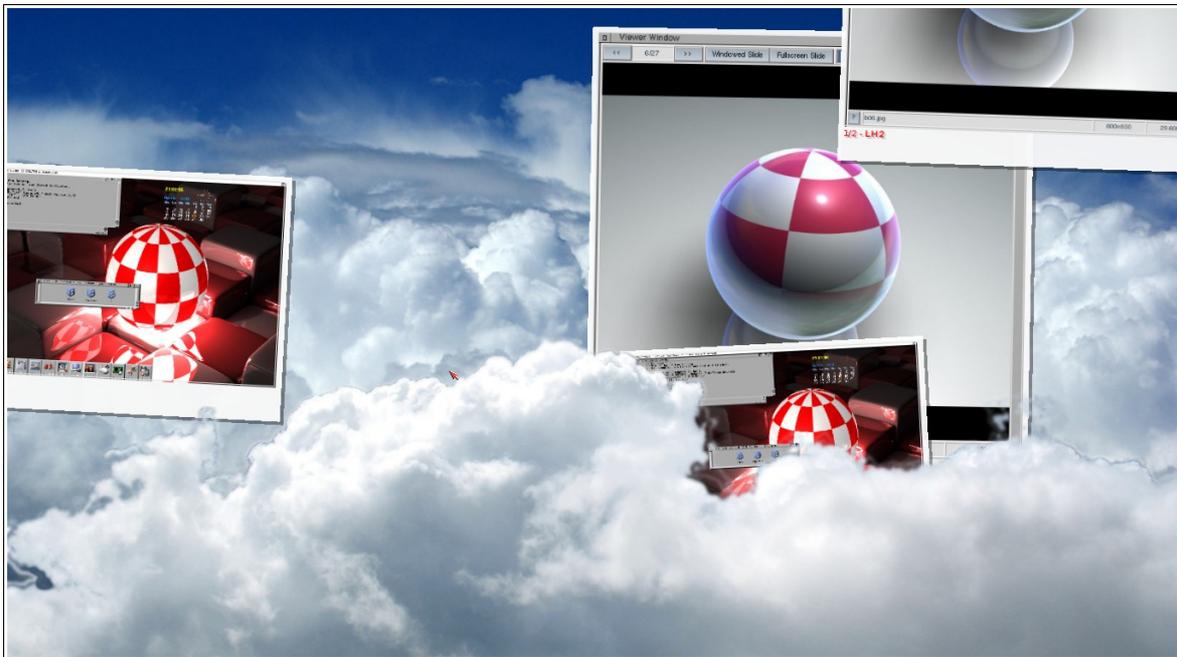
As you can see there are only two items:

- **Browse**
- **Funny Slider**

Funny Slider is a special mode to view your images, in the built in module you can see your images falling down with a nice cloudy background. The module is configurable and you can alter it to make new fun way to view your pictures.

When you select the Funny Slider menu item you will be prompted to select an image playlist, if you want to make a new image playlist please have a look at chapter “4. Organizing Your Media”.

Here is a screenshot of the Funny Slider in action:



If you select the **Browse** item AMC will display a new menu where you can chose which pictures to view using a free search or using the various grouping methods you available for you. Once you have entered the Browse menu the preview frame will disappear and will be replaced by the thumbnails frame.

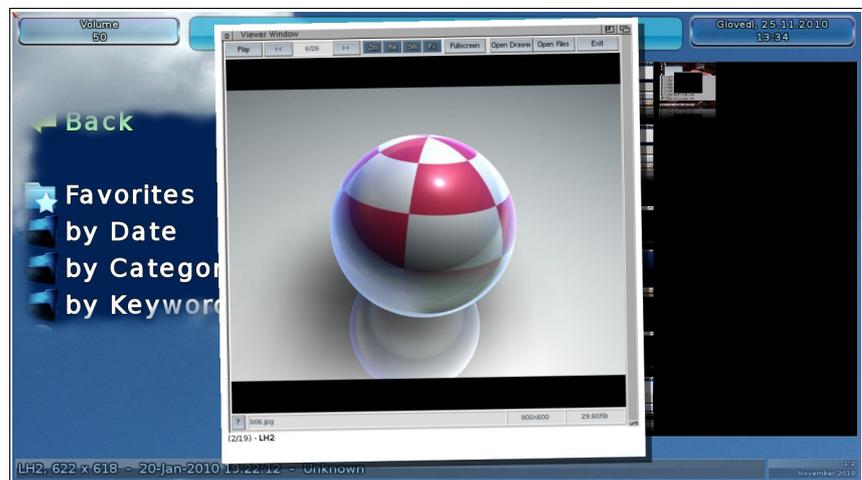
⚠ Even if the Funny Slider is configurable and themeable you will need some CPU power to view your photo sliding smoothly.
⚠ Please see the Appendix B for some tips to resolve speed issues in slow CPU computers

You will be able to chose from:

- **Favorites**
- **by Date**
- **by Category**
- **by Keywords**
- **Search**
- **Show all thumbnails**
- **Thumbnail control**
- **Browse Devices**
- **Slideshow**

By default you will enter in the thumbnail mode, infact you will see that you are able to control the cursor in the thumbnails frame, while in this frame you can move the cursor with the cursor keys, in this mode you can go one level deeper entering the **Photo Mode** hitting the **Help** key (default is 'h' key), once in the photo mode you will see that the hilghted picture in the cursor frame is showed in a nice photo frame like in the screenshot to the right.

While in the Photo Mode you can press the **Previous/Next** keys to show the previous/next picture, you can use the **Select** key to rotate the picture by 90 degrees, and you can press the **Help** key to return in the Thumbnail mode.



Before telling you how to exit from the thumbnails frame you should now that moving the cursor to the extreme right will force the thumbnail grid to scroll to the left, the same is valid if you are going to the extreme left. To exit from this frame you can press the **Escape** key or you can move the cursor over the first row. If you need to enter again in the Thumbnails frame you have to select the **Thumbnail Control**.

 *AMC will remember the last angle used when you rotate the picture while in the Photo Mode, everytime you will show again that picture will be showed rotated (if you have used an angle different by the default one).*

Let's see, one by one, the available menu items:

FAVORITES

This item will let you access all your favorite images, to put a picture in your favorite list see the chapter “**4. Organizing Your Media**”.

By DATE

Entering this item AMC will show a list of date groups with the format **Year-month**, selecting one of these groups the thumbnails frame will be filled with the pictures that are included in the selected group and automatically you will enter the thumbnail frame.

By CATEGORY

Here you will can select images grouped by category, this field is initially set to the “unknown” category, but you can edit this field in the database section and assign your images to any category you want. One image can be assigned to more then one category letting you organize your images with great flexibility.

By KEYWORDS

This item is similar to the “By CATEGORY” one, in fact your pictures will be grouped for every keywords you have specified to each picture. This field is initially filled with the date when your image has been found by the scan routine to help you find your new pictures with few operations.

Selecting the item group AMC will fill the thumbnails grid with the pictures that belong to that group.

Keywords may seem a duplicate if compared by Category grouping but instead it has been added because I think that with category you should use a more generic grouping (family, work, holydays, and so on) whiule using keywords you can use more detailed informations, for example you can list the names of people that are in the picture: this way you will be able to search picture for subject!

SEARCH

This item will let you find all pictures that contains the string you have specified, remember that the search will be performed an all image database's fields.

SHOW ALL THUMBNAILS

This item will remove all filters and will show again all available pictures on thumbnails grid.

THUMBNAIL CONTROL

Selecting this item you will leave the menu to control the cursor on the thumbnail frame, for all available controls please see the beggining of this chapter where are described the Thumbnail Mode and the Photo Mode.

BROWSE DEVICES

With this item you will be able to browse your machine in search of pictures, in the menù frame will be showed all available drawers, where in the thumbnail frame will be rendered all available picture in the current drawer.

Every time you enter a subdrawer the thumbnail frame will be updated and you will enter automatically in the thumbnail mode.

This item is really usefull to look for pictures in devices that has not been analyzed by the

scanning routines.

SLIDESHOW

Select this item and AMC will start a Slideshow with the currently selected pictures (the ones showed in the thumbnail frame).

While in Slideshow mode you can interact with the program using the following keys:

KEY	SLIDESHOW
Left Key	Previous Image + Stop auto advancement
Right Key	Next Image + Stop auto advancement
Up Key	Show information bar
Down Key	Hide information bar
Esc Key	Exit from the Slideshow and returns to AMC
SPACE	Pause / Resume slideshow
BACKSPACE	Finalize the current transition

 Remember that when you enter the Slideshow your audio playback will not be interrupted, this means that you can start a playlist, a song, a cd track or a WebRADIO before entering the Slideshow and then you can enjoy your pictures while listening your music.

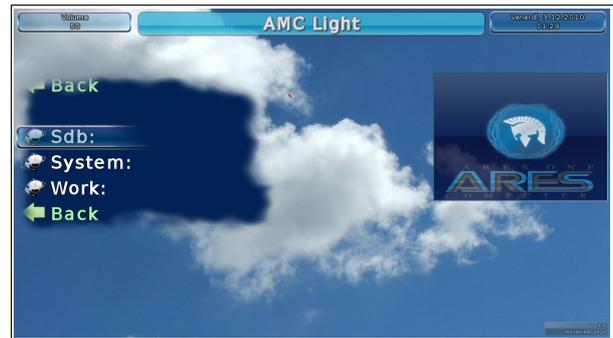
4.3 EXPLORING DEVICES

4.3.1 BROWSING YOUR DEVICES

AMC integrate a simple file browser to let you navigate through your media files, it is contextual and this mean that if you are looking for audio files, only supported audio files will be showed.

When the browser is started will list in a menu all available devices connected to your computer, like in the following picture:

Selecting one of the available devices you will start the navigation. Browsing instructions are the same for each media group (images, audio, video) except for a little difference for the image browsing because, instead of showing you the name of the multimedia file you will see the file thumbnail in the thumbnail grid, like in the thumbnail browser.



Once you have selected the device you want to browse AMC will show the list of available drawers and the available files for the current media group: files and drawers will be rendered with different colors.

Remember that the preview function is active in the file browser too so, if you will leave the cursor for few instants on a multimedia file AMC will start the media preview.

 *The file browser will ignore any unmounted device.*

 *Drawers and files are sorted alphabetically, remember that uppercase characters are different from lowercase characters like happen in Linux, and files starting with uppercase characters will be showed before files starting with lowercase characters.*

4.3.2 USING DEVICE AUTO-DETECTION

AMC features a device auto-detection system meaning that it is able to recognize any device that has been plugged into your computer like removable hard-disks, USB thumb drives, compact disks, dvd disks, cameras, and so on...

If your system is able to recognize the plugged device, AMC will be able too!

Whenever AMC detect a plugged device it will advise you with a message, then will show you a menu listing all the actions you can perform with the currently detected device:

- Browse the device looking for Images
- Browse the device looking for Videos
- Browse the device looking for Audio
- Copy all multimedia files from the device to your computer
- Move all multimedia files from the device to your computer

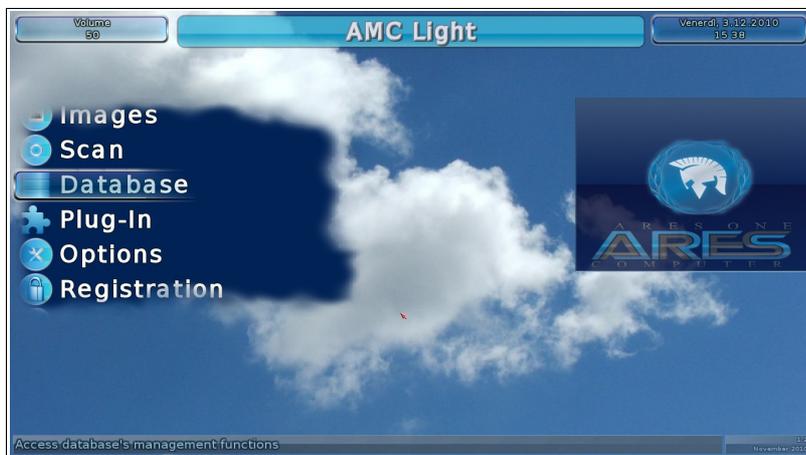
It's important to know that all moved or copied files will be placed under the AMC/Data folder! Remember this when updating, reinstalling or removing AMC!!

4.4 ORGANIZING YOUR MEDIA

One of the most important feature of AMC is the ability to access the media databases and modify them to organize your media. Mastering this section you will be able to organize your multimedia files easily and easily you can find them because many database's fields are used to automatically group your files. For example using properly the field 'category' of the image database you will be able to browse your images without losing time through endless drawers and without performing search for a keyword you don't remember.

The interface is almost the same for all three media databases with small differences here and there, and we will see all together.

To enter the database section, from the main menu, select the item "Database" like in the following screenshot:



You will see another menu, with the items:

- **EDIT**
- **STATISTICS**

Select the first item: **EDIT**

Now you will see another menu that will allow you to select which database you want to edit from:

- **VIDEO**
- **AUDIO**
- **IMAGES**

For each database you select you will see another menu composed by three items:

- **FAVORITES**
- **PLAYLISTS**
- **RECORDS**

Now things will start to get interesting because for each database you can define your favorites list, your playlists and you can edit the single database's records.

4.4.1 FAVORITES

Editing the favorite list for each database will let you access your media very fast because any media section have a **Favorite** item which, if selected, shows all the items that you have selected here.

You can define any favorites you want/need, there are no limits.

Editing this list is really simple, once entered in the Favorite section you will see a new menu composed by three items, like in the following screenshot:

As you can see you can **Add items**, **Remove items** or **empty** the favorite's list removing all entries.

Selecting the **Add items** entry AMC will show you a list of all media files that can be added to your favorites list, simply select an entry to add it to the favorite's list.



If you select **Remove items**, instead, AMC will show you a list of all media currently in your favorite list, select the media you want to remove and AMC will remove it from the current favorite's list.

The last entry is **Remove All items**, selecting this item AMC will ask you to confirm the operation and if confirmed will empty the favorite's list.

 *When you are adding an item to a Favorite's list, remember that AMC will show you only all items that are not already included in your favorite's list.*

4.4.2 PLAYLISTS

Playlists are sequences of media files of the same type, and, again, there are no limits in the number of playlists you can create and in the number of items for each playlist. The Playlist menu is composed by the following items:

- **New** Used to create a new playlist
- **Remove** Used to remove an existing playlist
- **Edit** Used to modify an existing playlist

New

When you select this item AMC will ask you for the name and a brief description of the playlist you are going to create, remember that the playlist name is case sensitive so if you are creating a playlist named "The new playlist" and already exists a playlist named "the new playlist", AMC will not advise you because these are two different and legal names. The next step is to insert the media items in your playlist so AMC will show you all available media, just select the files you want to insert in your playlist and go back to the previous menu or to the main menu when you are done.

Remove

The remove item is used to delete an existing playlist, after you have selected this item AMC will show a menu containing all defined playlist, just select the one you want to delete and you will be asked to confirm the operation before the final deletion.

Edit

This item is used to edit existing playlists, so the first step is to select one playlist from the existing ones and then you can choose one option from the following:

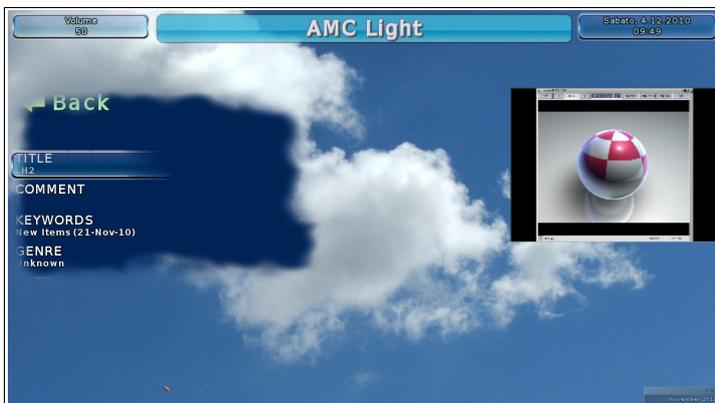
- **Add Items** Used to add new items to the selected playlist
- **Remove Items** Used to remove items from the selected playlist
- **Change Description** Used to change the playlist description

4.4.3 RECORDS

With this menu item you will be able to change every field of any multimedia file in your database, once you have selected this option you will be asked to select how you want to find the media files to edit, you can choose from the following possibilities:

- **List All** List all your media files stored in the current database
- **List Incomplete** List only media with missing informations
- **Search** List all media matching with search key you have to insert

After few seconds AMC will show you a list with all available media files for edit, just select the one you want to change and a menu showing all available record's fields will appear on your screen, in the screenshot below there is an image record:



If you want to edit a field it's really simple, just select the field you want change and digit the new information in the input frame that will appear on the bottom left corner.

An important note is about single and multiple data fields.

Single data fields are the ones that can store only one definition, for example the title field can only store only one title, and this is logic because a media file can have only one title in reality! Instead fields like keywords, genre, category and so on, can store more than one description separated by a comma. In the image above, for example, we could insert in the genre field the following descriptions (or tags if you want): Screenshots, Applications, Viewers, and so on... while in the Keywords field we could insert the following tags: LookHere, Viewer, Allanon, Amiga, and so on... these tags are really important because when you browse the images, AMC will automatically group your media by these descriptions.

Now let's see for each database records the available fields you can edit, multiple data fields are marker with **[M]**

DATABASE	FIELD NAME	DESCRIPTION
IMAGE	TITLE	Image title
	COMMENT	Image comment
	GENRE	Image genre or category [M]
	DATE	Image date
	ANGLE	Default image rotation
	KEYWORDS	Custom keywords [M]
	METER	Image vote (actually not used)
AUDIO	TITLE	Title of the audio file
	GENRE	Genre or category [M]
	YEAR	Production year
	ARTIST	Artist / Performer [M]
	WRITER	Lyrics writer [M]
	MUSICIST	Composer [M]
	ALBUM	Album title
	KEYWORDS	Custom keywords [M]
	LENGHT	Audio file duration (in seconds)
	METER	Audio file vote (actually not used)
	COMMENT	Audio file comment
VIDEO	TITLE	Video file title
	GENRE	Video genre or category [M]
	YEAR	Production year
	CAST	Actors list [M]
	DIRECTOR	Director [M]
	LENGHT	Video duration
	KEYWORDS	Custom keywords
	METER	Video vote (actually not used)

One last note about the video section: during the record editing, along the editable field names you will find an item called '**TMDb Search**', selecting this item AMC will perform an Internet search in the TMDb (**The Movie Database**) archives and returns a list of all possible matches based on the current video title.

If there was no matches the AMC will ask you if you want to try the search with a different title, insert the new title to search to accept the new search or insert an empty title (hitting return) to abort the new search request.

When AMC has found some results they will be showed in a menu list like in the following screenshot:



Selecting the movie that matches your search will fill automatically the record fields for you (overwriting the one that are currently stored).

This is really usefull because setting up a movie record is quiet long, thing about typing all movie actors!

If you want, before selecting the matching entry, you can inspect further the returned movies hitting the Help key (default 'h' key), this way AMC will send another request to TMDb for detailed informations about the currently hilighted movie: you will obtain a detailed window like the following one:

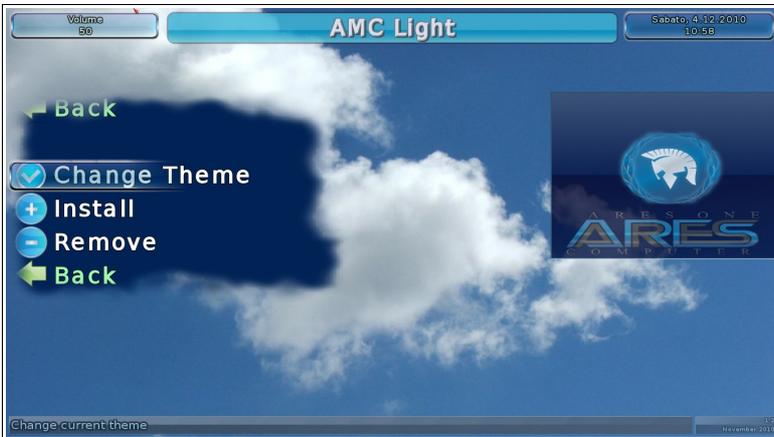
Don't you like it? To the left there are also some available graphic art downloaded with the informations like movie poster or movie covers. Press again the Help key to close this information window.



Actually AMC handle only English language, but TMDb supports more languages and soon AMC will be adapted to support your own language in this section too. Anyway remember that the TMDb database with more informations is actually the english one.

5. THEMES

Since AMC is fully themeable/skinable there is a custom menu in the **Options** section that will let you manage your themes, here is a screenshot of the Theme menu:



As you can see you have only three items:

- **Change Theme**
- **Install**
- **Remove**

CHANGE THEME

The first one is used to switch to one of the installed themes, when you select this item a path requester will be opened pointing

to the default themes directory located at **AMC/Themes/** here you will see the drawers of all installed themes, just enter in the theme drawer you want to activate and confirm the path. AMC will setup the new theme and will restart using the new look you have selected.

INSTALL

This item is used to install new themes to your AMC installation, once selected AMC will open a file requester where you have to select the theme pack you want to install. AMC theme packs are files with the extension **'.atp'** (AMC Theme Pack). Remember that you will need a **7zip unarchiver** installed in your system to unpack and install your new themes, AMC will look for a command named **7z**. Once installed you will be able to activate the new theme using the **'Change Theme'** item.

REMOVE

Use this item to remove an installed theme, remember that AMC will not be able to remove the currently active theme.

6. PLUG IN

AMC features a complete and powerful **PlugIn system** that will be used to expand the program capabilities with new features, or to patch the current ones with customized versions. PlugIn are also able to add new menu entries to AMC so please referer to the specific PlugIn documentation you are installing for more details.

Remember that all PlugIn are cross platform! Unless the developer is using platform specifi features all released PlugIn can be installed on any system.

The PlugIn menu has the following items:

- **Run** Manually launch an active PlugIn
- **Configure** Configure an active PlugIn
- **Stop** Interrupt an active PlugIn
- **Activate** Activate an inactive PlugIn
- **Deactivate** Deactivate an active PlugIn
- **Install** Install new PlugIns
- **Uninstall** Uninstall unused PlugIns

First of all you have to know that all AMC PlugIns can have two states: **active** and **inactive**. You will be able to perform actions (like Run, Configure and Stop) only on activate PlugIn, this is because some PlugIn may have an **autostart** feature and this way you can have more on control on them.

INSTALL

Let's start with the installation of new PlugIns, using the item '**Install**' AMC will open a file requester asking for an **AMC PlugIn Pack** (.app file). Again you will need a **7zip unarchiver** installed in your system named 7z because AMC will look for it while using this menu entry.

Installed PlugIn will be set by default in the inactive state.

UNINSTALL

Use this item to remove completely an unused PlugIn from your AMC installation.

ACTIVATE

Activate any inactive PlugIn. Remember that autostarting PlugIn will be started as soon as they are activated.

DEACTIVATE

Deactivate any active PlugIn. Running PlugIn will be automatically stopped before being deactivated.

RUN

Manually Run any active PlugIn

CONFIGURE

Configure any active PlugIn, only if the PlugIn developer has provided such function.

STOP

Stop any running PlugIn, again only if the Plugin developer has provided such function.

7. OPTIONS

This section is used to tune up your AMC installation, we will see quickly and with a schematic view all available options since they are very simple to understand and almost self-explanatory:

SECTION	OPTION	DESCRIPTION
LANGUAGE	-	Change the current AMC language
THEMES	Change Theme	Switch theme
	Install	Install a new theme (.atp file)
	Remove	Remove an installed theme
KEY BINDINGS	Previous Item	Change the key used to move to the previous item
	Next Item	Change the key used to move to the next item
	Select	Change the key used to select menu items
	Back	Change the key assigned to the 'Go back' action
	Home	Change the key used to move to the main menu
	+ Volume	Change the key used to increase the volume level
	- Volume	Change the key used to decrease the volume level
	Help	Change the key assigned to the Help action
INTERNET	Escape	Change the key assigned to the Escape action
	Use TMDb	Select if you want to enable the TMDb support or not (enabled by default)
	Max TMDb Images	Set how many images should be downloaded from TMDb during the movie searches
SCAN	Use Internet	Enable or Disable the Internet support
	Scan Exclusions	Define/Modify file name parts which will determine the exclusions from the scan.
TIME & DATE	Recursive Scan	Enable/Disable the recursive scan
	Date Format	Change the default date format
	Movies Date Format	Change the default movies date format
	Show Clock Seconds	Show/Hide clock seconds in the date & time frame
	Show Flashing Dots	Show flashing or fixed clock dots in the date & time frame
PLUG IN	Date & Time frame format	Change the date & time format in the date & time frame.
	Allow auto-running Plugin	Allow or not autorunning Plugins
MPLAYER	MPlayer location	Change MPlayer default path
	Video format extentions	Change recognized video extentions
	Audio format extentions	Change recognized audio extentions
	Video settings	Video Stack → Change default stack used by mplayer when playing videos Adjust Video Stream buffer → Change MPlayer default buffer size when playing video streams
	Audio settings	Audio Stack → Change default stack used by mplayer when playing audio Adjust Audio Stream buffer → Change MPlayer default buffer size when playing audio streams
MISC SETTINGS	Browse: Excluded Devices	Exclude devices from browsing
	Audio: Max Volume level	Setup the maximum allowed volume level
	Audio: Volume step	Setup the volume steps when increasing or decreasing it
	CD: PlayCDDA location	Change the PlayCDDA default path
	Misc: Starting Intro On/Off	Switch starting introduction On or Off
	Misc: Message pause	Default message pause duration

8. UNINSTALLING AMC

Actually AMC does not have an utility to remove its package from your system, the process must be done manually but it's not so hard!

First of all you need to stop the AMC scheduler that is launched automatically at system startup, follow these simple instructions:

- Open a new shell
- Type 'status' and hit return (without quotes)
- You will see a list of running processes and one of them is the AMC scheduler, look at the end of the line to find it and note the process number it have
- Type 'break' followed by a space and the process number you have noted before and hit return.
- Now type again 'status' followed by return and see if the scheduler process is gone.

Now you need to remove the entry in the Startup-Sequence that is used to launch the scheduler at system startup, again, follow these simple steps:

- Open your preferred text editor and load the 'Startup-Sequence' file located in your S: directory.
- Look at the end of the text file and you will see the AMC clearly marked section, delete this block and save back the file.
- Close the text editor.

It's strongly reccomanded to make a backup of your Startup-Sequence before changing it, it's a vital file for the correct booting of your system!

Now the last step is to delete the entire drawer where AMC has been installed, and you are done.

Please, share your feedback about AMC even if you have uninstalled it! Tell us why you don't like it, what core features is missing and what you will like to see in an application of this kind: we want to improve AMC with your suggestions and comments!

You can write to us using the info@a-mc.biz email address or you can use the forum located at <http://forum.a-mc.biz> .

9. CREDITS

ICONS

AMC uses some **"free for commercial projects"** and **GPL** icons from the following authors:

Taytel	(Abort.png, Accept.png) http://taytel.deviantart.com/
Centigrade	(Activate.png, Deactivate.png) http://www.centigrade.de/
Alexandre Moore	(Back.png) http://sa-ki.deviantart.com/
WebIconSet.com	(Bandwidth.png) http://www.webiconset.com/
WebDesigner Depot	(Browse.png, Database.png, DatabaseEdit.png, Favorites.png, PlugIn.png) http://www.webdesignerdepot.com/
Media Design	(BrowseDev.png, BrowseDir.png, Countries.png, FunnySlider.png, Genres.png, Internet.png, RandomRadio.png, RandomTV.png, Resolution.png, Slideshow.png, System.png, WebRadio.png, WebTV.png) http://mediadesign.deviantart.com/
Sergio Sanchez Lopez	(CD.png, Play.png) http://kde-look.org/usermanager/search.php?username=Sephiroth6779
IconShock	(Configure.png, TMDb.png) http://www.iconshock.com/
Delacro	(Devices.png) http://delacro.deviantart.com/
Oxygen Team	(Recorder.png) http://www.oxygen-icons.org/
La Glanz Studio	(Register.png) http://3dlb.com/
Mebaze	(Reload.png) http://mebaze.com/
Ypf	(Run.png) http://ypf.deviantart.com/art/icon-for-transformers-61630983
Alessandro Rei	(Stats.png) http://kde-look.org/usermanager/search.php?username=mentalrey
MazeNL77	(Stop.png) http://mazenl77.deviantart.com/
New Moon	(Themes.png) http://code.google.com/u/newmoon/

The icons has been searched and downloaded from IconFinder (www.iconfinder.com).

MPLAYER

AMC uses MPlayer (**GPL**) to playback audio and video streams.

Here are the credits for the specific version ported

- AROS port by Krzysztof Smiechowicz
- AmigaOS4(tm) port by Andrea Palmatè
- MorphOS port by Fabien Coeurjoly

ACTIVATEWIN

AMC uses the utility ActivateWin (APL) from Olivier Tigréat

Here are the credits for the specific version ported

- AmigaOS4(tm) port by Andrea Palmatè

PLAYCDDA

AMC uses the utility PlayCDDA from Fredrik Wikstrom

10. THANK YOU PAGE

- A special thank to Pascal Papara for the collaboration and his support in this project
- A special thank to Seiya that helped me alot reporting bugs and testing patches, especially for the first version.
- A special thank you to Andreas Falkenhahn for the great Hollywood, the program that has been used to develop AMC
- Many thanks to Mason for the AmigaOS4 icons
- Many thanks to all people involved in betatesting like Krzysztof Smiechowicz, Stephen Jones and Pascal Papara.
- And a final thank you to all people involved in this huge project!

And a SPECIAL thanks to all people that will decide to support this project registering their copies!

11. PIRACY

I will be really brief here: **if you love Amiga like me, please don't crack AMC!**
Supporting developers is the last chance to make your Amiga system fly again!

Anyway you have to know that every registered copy of AMC have embedded in the executable the owner informations so you are advised!

Appendix A: Mid Mouse button & Moveable Window

The main AMC window can be moved around just to see what's appening behind your desktop, it's use is really limited because AMC will try to get the focus back every time you try to activate another window on your desktop: this is a wanted features and not a bug!

If you want to center back the AMC window you can simply click your central mouse button instead of dragging back the window at its original position.

Appendix B: Command Line Arguments

SlowCPU argument

At this time AMC supports only one command line argument, it's the `-slowcpu` flag and it is used to disable some eye-candy effects to gain some more speed in computer with a slow CPU (like the SAM440ep for example).

To use this switch you can launch AMC from the shell like in the following example:

```
cli> amc -slowcpu 1
```

An alternative way to activate the slowCPU flag is to uncomment the SLOWCPU tool type in your AMC icon, simple change from `(SLOWCPU=1)` to `SLOWCPU=1` and you are done.

Here are what the `slowcpu` does when active:

- Menu RefreshFX = #REVEALLEFT instead of #CROSSFADE
- Menu GoBackFX = #REVEALRIGHT instead of #CROSSFADE
- Menu FXSpeed increased
- Menu grouping value = 50 instead of 100 (less time to build big menus)
- PhotoMode Size decreased by 50 pixel width and height
- Photomode rotation OFF
- PhotoMode animation OFF
- Audio Player FXSpeed increased
- Progress bar update feedback decreased
- FX update frequency increased
- Help windows alpha channel disabled
- Help windows animations disabled

- Funny Slider will be launched at 800x600 instead of the current desktop resolution

Appendix C: Updates

Starting from version 1.2 AMC supports an autopatching system, this means that all you have to do is to download the patch and copy in the **AMC/Patches** drawer, then start AMC and you are done!

Available updates will be published in the official AMC site (<http://a-mc.biz>) and in the official AMC forum (<http://forum.a-mc.biz>).

All patches are cross platform, this means that there is no distinctions from an AROS patch and an MorphOS patch for example!