August 2009

Amiga Forever 2009 Released

July 2, 2009 — Cloanto released today Amiga Forever 2009, the latest version of the award-winning Amiga preservation, emulation and support suite for Windows and other platforms.

Amiga Forever 2009 is the most refined update ever released in the Amiga Forever series. It again sets new references in usability while more than doubling the featured content and providing easier access to a universe of free downloads. Like its sister product C64 Forever, Amiga Forever 2009 introduces a synergistic combination of the RP2 retrogaming file format, RetroPlatform Library to recognize content, and RP2 Manager to export and import to and from other file formats.

The 2009 version includes hundreds of enhancements and was tested to comply with "Compatible with Windows 7" requirements. New features include seamless, one-click integration of the AmiKit and AmigaSYS add-ons and new system ROMs (e.g. the 0.7 Kickstart required to run the software used by Andy Warhol's famous 1985 Launch of Amiga demo). The Plus Edition includes more than 100 games and a selection from the most beautiful demoscene productions ever created. Tens of thousands of games, as well as other software ranging from the oldest to the latest Amiga releases are only a mouse click apart, and can run on powerful PCs and inexpensive netbooks alike.

When both Amiga Forever and C64 Forever are installed, the players share data and software modules with each other, uniformly playing back RP2 games of both 8-bit and 32-bit platforms. The same familiar user interface and settings are also applied to saved states, disk write undo, dual-monitor setups and other advanced functionality. "The way it brings back memories is amazing, and it feels as if Commodore and Amiga were united again," said Michael C. Battilana of Cloanto.

Dave Haynie, a long-time user of Amiga Forever and former Commodore International chief engineer on high end and advanced projects, added: "The past IS the future… Amiga Forever is the single best way to run AmigaOS today. Your PC is the fastest Amiga that will ever exist, and Cloanto does a wonderful job of packing the emulation technology, every AmigaOS ROM and Workbench version (most of which I've long since lost to data rot on my floppy collection), games, utilities, Web tools, graphics programs, most anything you would need, all in one place."

Amiga Forever 2009 is available now in three editions:

- Value Edition (downloadable installer for Windows systems)
- Plus Edition (downloadable CD ISO image with additional Windows and platform-neutral content)
- Premium Edition (physical Plus Edition CD and two DVDs, plus instant download of the installer for Windows)

The Plus Edition includes the KX Light boot environment with barebone PC hard disk installation and online updates. The Premium Edition additionally contains more than five hours of videos.

http://www.amigaforever.com/news-events/af-2009/

Amiga Forever What's New

New features in Amiga Forever 2009:

- All included games and demoscene productions are now in RP2 format (uses less disk space and makes it very easy to add or remove files)
- RP2 Manager to scan for and import/export content
- Built-in RetroPlatform Library (to recognize and configure games, etc.) with live updates
- Seamless, one-click integration of AmiKit and AmigaSYS add-ons lets you experience a broader variety of Amiga perspectives*
- New system ROMs (e.g. the 0.7 Kickstart required to run the software used by Andy Warhol in the 1985 Launch of Amiga demo)*
- Improved documentation and help (new Tip of The Day balloon, new documentation in Windows Help format)
- Emphasis on usability: interface and settings are improved, but remain consistent with the previous 2008 version and with C64 Forever (also see Tips for Upgraders)

- Tested to comply with "Compatible with Windows 7" requirements, with full support for Windows Vista and Windows 7, both x86 and x64 (possibly still the first and only Windows software with custom-shaped glass-enabled skin)

Additional new and improved features that were already included in part in Amiga Forever 2008*:

- Content more than quadrupled (disk images are now compressed in the new RP2 format, and also used directly by the installer)
- New "Amiga Forever Game Pack I" (more than 100 games)
- More than 100 beautiful demoscene productions
- New Gallery items: original Tripos article, "top secret" Amiga-Atari documents, and much more
- New system HDFs: complete Amiga OS 1.3, 2.1 and 3.1 installations with only a minimum of add-ons (e.g. Y2K fixes, RTG update for 3.1), but otherwise identical to the original (including file attributes as intended by Commodore, which were lost in later distributions)
- New ADFs (1.3 Extras, complete 3.1 install set, etc.)
- New ROMs (Amiga 1000, A590 and A4091 boot ROMs, system-specific ROMs required for added compatibility, etc.)
- Pre-installed WHDLoad "kickemu" support

- New KX Light, bootable from CD and with HD installation option (now featuring live updates) and extended hardware support

Additional details about the player for Windows, which was also greatly improved in the new 2009 version:

- Revolutionary new and intuitive player interface for Windows, for easy selection and playback of games and other content
- Professional skin design with familiar "media player" interface
- Buttons and other visual controls provide intuitive access to content and emulation features (pause, resume, disk change, reboot, joystick vs. keyboard selection, window size selection, full screen, Amiga screen capture, etc.)
- The new Amiga Forever player makes it possible to double-click or drag-and-drop downloaded disk images (e.g. RP2, ADF, ADZ, IPF, etc.) to play them, using heuristic content analysis to preset a suitable Amiga hardware configuration
- The player has built-in support for dual screens (can use secondary display for full-screen Amiga) and multiple emulation sessions
- Rather than closing an emulation session, it is possible to save its state, for example to resume a game at a later time (the session is up and running again in an instant)

- It is also possible to undo the changes from the last session and revert to a previous saved state
- Full undo of RP2, ADF, ADZ, HDF and HDZ disk writes (disk changes may be committed or discarded when exiting the emulation)
- Windowed mode visualizes games and demoscene productions as they were meant to be displayed, without large unused overscan areas
- Helpful visualization of additional details (Amiga mouse options, device status with green/red read/write LEDs, context-specific help tips, Tip of the Day balloons, etc.)
- Integrated video playback (requires MPEG-2 support by the operating system, otherwise the Amiga Forever videos can be read by any DVD player)

* Indicates Plus Edition Features. The Express Edition and Value Edition are limited to 1.3 ROM, and only include 50 games out of the box (which is still more than in previous versions of the software).

Features describing the "player" refer to the Windows version. Amiga content is also usable on other platforms, with additional software (both included and available for download elsewhere).

http://www.amigaforever.com/whats new/

August Calendar

August 3 — Amiga-By-The-Loop Chapter
    7:00 pm — South Grand Prairie Library
    760 Bardin Road, Grand Prairie

August 3 — MCCC Board of Director's Meeting
    Approximately 9:15 pm — Location TBD

August 22 — Newsletter Deadline — 7:00 am

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