

FlopImager
Version 1.5

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Chapter 1

Abstract

1.1 Overview

FlopImager 1.5 is designed to create image files of your floppy disk(s). Once created you can write them back to another disk. So *FlopImager 1.5* can be used to simply copy one disk to another, but the main reason I wrote this application is, that the data saved to a floppy disk is not that save as if you would write it to compact- or a harddisk. It is no problem to copy all the files stored on a floppy disk to another drive. But what if you need some extra information like the bootsector (your WinNT setup disks disks or your old MS-DOS boot disks)? Or what if your floppy disk contains data without filesystem information (disks written by other operating systems)?

Here *FlopImager 1.5* gets funky. This very easy-to-use application reads the whole content of your disk cylinder by cylinder and saves it into an image file on a specified path. This image file can then be used for easily reproducing the original floppy disk.

1.2 Delivered Files

The *FlopImager 1.5* program consists of only two files. The first one is the *FlopImager 1.5* executable itself, called 'FlopImgr.exe'. The other one is this document as a PDF-file called 'manual.pdf'.

1.3 System Requirements

FlopImager 1.5 was designed and tested for running under Windows NT 4x. It doesn't work properly under Windows 9x, but I'm working on it. Further this program assumes that you have an existing floppy drive called 'a:' or another called 'b:'. Only this two drives can be used for reading/writing disk images from/to disk.

Chapter 2

Installation and Usage

2.1 Installation

The *FlopImager 1.5* program doesn't need to be installed and as well it doesn't need some extra dll-files that are not delivered with your operating system. Just copy the whole folder containing the files shipped with *FlopImager 1.5* to your harddisk and create a link to the executable 'FlopImgr.exe' on your desktop or in your start menu. *FlopImager 1.5* will start by doubleclicking on the icon.

2.2 File Type Registration

The *FlopImager 1.5* program uses its own file types for disk images (*.dsk). To tell your computer that these files belong to the *FlopImager 1.5* program (recommanded) just start it. Open the pulldown menu by clicking on the small icon at the upper left corner of the *FlopImager 1.5* window and select the item 'Reg Filetypes'. This will add some entries to the system registry. To remove them just select the item 'UnReg Filetypes'.

2.3 Creating an Image of your Floppy Disk

The disk images will only be created from the floppy disk in drive 'a:' or 'b:'. The following enumeration will show you the steps for creating a disk image and write it to your harddisk:

1. start the *FlopImager 1.5* program
2. switch to the active drive by clicking on the button 'Switch'
3. click on the button 'Read A:' or 'Read B:'

4. a new dialog box shows up: select the place and the name of the image file to be created
5. watch the progress bar growing

2.4 Writing an existing Image to your Floppy Disk

An existing disk image can only be written back to a floppy disk in drive 'a:' or 'b:'. The following enumeration will show you the steps for writing back a disk image from an image file on your harddisk:

1. start the *FlopImager 1.5* program
2. switch to the active drive by clicking on the button 'Switch'
3. click on the button 'Write A:' or 'Write B:'
4. a new dialog box shows up: select an existing image file to be written back to the disk
5. watch the progress bar growing while *FlopImager 1.5* is lowlevelformatting your disk
6. enjoy the progress bar shrinking while the image file is written to disk

Alternatively you can also use the builtin drag'n'drop feature, which makes the handling much easier. Look at the following enumeration for learning more about:

1. start the *FlopImager 1.5* program
2. switch to the active drive by clicking on the button 'Switch'
3. click with the left mousebutton on the icon of your disk image file in the explorer window and drag it to the *FlopImager 1.5* window
4. drop it by releasing the mousebutton

But the easiest way of all is clicking with the right mousebutton on the icon of your disk image file in the explorer window (works only if the file types are registred). Choos the items 'write to a:' or 'write to b:' in the appearing menu. The *FlopImager 1.5* program will be opened and the image file will directly be written to the specified floppy disk.

Chapter 3

The Author

3.1 Contacting me for Feedback

I'd be very happy about feedback and ideas for *FlopImager 1.5* . Please do not hesitate to send me an email to 'flopimgr@oliverlanz.ch' if you have any questions or suggestions for improvements. For more information about me please visit my website at '<http://www.oliverlanz.ch>'.

3.2 Whishlist

There is still lots of room for improvement. Some of the below listed ideas will flow into the next release. When exactly this will happen is not yet decided. It depends on how many people would like them to be implemented.

1. filetype checking before reading the image file
2. check for image size and disk size before writing to floppy
3. apply data compression on the image file
4. ability to create self-executable image files

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you'd like to have another feature built into *FlopImager 1.5* .

3.3 Changes to pervious Versions

Version:	Date:	Change:
1.5	20.02.02	common filename dialogs are now application modal, added Win2k support, lowlevel format dismissed
1.4	03.03.99	drag'n'drop capability and file type registration added, gui redesigned
1.3	28.01.99	bug in the file selection dialog removed, gui redesigned
1.2	09.01.99	manual added to the package
1.1	28.12.98	bug in memory allocation fixed
1.0	25.12.98	first Release for tests