

AFP-Splitter

Manual

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1. General Information

1.1. Program summary

The AFP-Splitter is a graphic-oriented tool for developers and operators of documents in AFP-format. First line it is for splitting oversized AFP files into smaller ones.

Every target file is completely valid AFP format again and analyzing such smaller files is much easier than handle and find problems in largest files.

You will find all details about what AFP-Splitter can do in the detailed description of the program (Menu Option 2).

1.2. Improvements

All improvements and changes are now listed in the program folder in file "Releases.txt".

1.3. Target group

The AFP-Splitter software directs to all document developers, print operators and software developer working with AFPDS documents.

2. AFP-Splitter

2.1. Functionality

AFP-Splitter is a professional tool for AFP-data stream splitting with miscellaneous criteria. We've tried to comply all your wishes and make AFP-Splitter as user-friendly as possible.

All advantages in detail:

- No limitation in file size
- Consideration of original delimiters and '5A' bytes
- Keeping/deletion on inline resources
- Extract each resource as external resource group alternatively
- Use TLE contents as new names for files or subfolders
- Multilingual user guide (English and German at present)
- Rudimental list function
- Selective split range from .. to ..

2.2. System Requirements

AFP-Lookup has been developed in Visual Basic and therefore needs the actual run time libraries of Microsoft Visual Basic 6. The installation routine contains all necessary files and copies them to the correct target directories.

With the libraries mentioned above, AFP-Splitter is executable on all systems with operating systems Windows 95/98/ME and Windows NT/2000/XP.

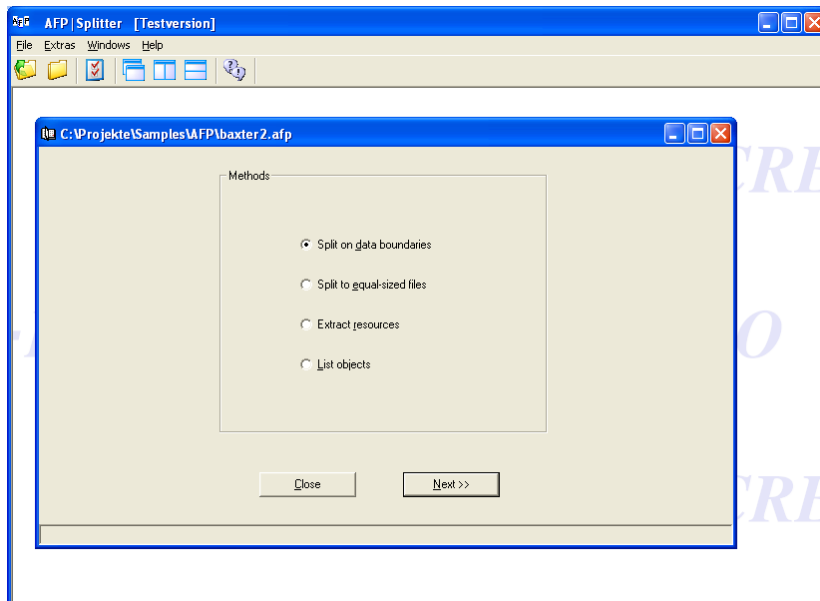
5 MB of free hard disc space are required.

A minimum of 10 MB of available main memory is required.

Please work with AFP-Splitter only on systems with a processor speed of 500 MHz or higher.

2.3. User Interface

2.3.1. Overview



2.3.2. Description

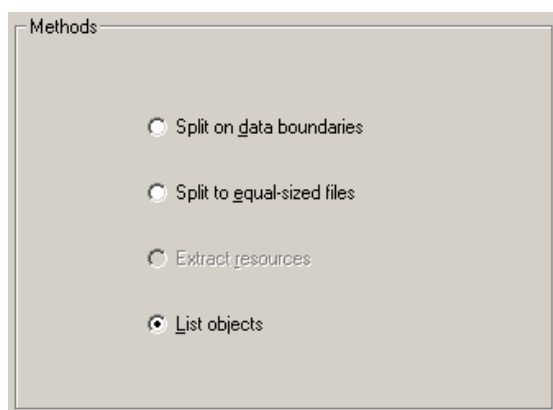
AFP-Splitter is built following the common MDI-structure (Multiple Document Interface) for Windows programs. That means, you have one main form containing menu structure and icons. Within the free area of the form, many AFP files can be split at the same time, any file with its own options.

While working, a progress bar is shown at the bottom of the sub window, showing the actual state.

The user interaction itself takes place with the two buttons at the bottom of the form showing Close, Next, Back or Start.

2.4. Functions

2.4.1. Methods



2.4.1.1. Split on data boundaries

Splitting is possible on nearly every End-structured field with this option.

This means, you can extract the index group, split on single pages, page groups or whole documents (chapter 2.4.2).

2.4.1.2. Split to equal-sized files

This method let you divide your AFP file on page boundaries into equal-sized parts. With this option it's easy to split largest files e.g. into parts of 5 MByte.

You find more information in chapter 2.4.3.

2.4.1.3. Extract resources

If you only need to extract the inline resources, you should select this method (see chapter 2.4.4).

If no inline resources are present, this option will be disabled.

2.4.1.4. List objects

If it is needed to have a quick look into any AFP file, you can take this method. Beside we strongly recommend AFP-Lookup (<http://www.afp-lookup.info>) for this job, this function can do this job similar.

It is currently possible to show the standard names of the following structured fields:

- BDI
- BRG
- BR
- BDT
- BNG
- BPG
- TLE

2.4.2. Data boundaries

The image shows a dialog box with two sections. The top section, titled "Split on data boundaries", contains four radio button options: "One file per page" (selected), "One file per named page group", "One file per document (BDT/EDT)", and "Extract index group". Below these options are two input fields for "Range from" (containing "1") and "to" (containing "999999"), followed by a "concatenate" checkbox. The bottom section, titled "Resource handling", contains an "Apply resource options" checkbox and an "Options..." button.

2.4.2.1. One file per page

Do you want to extract each page in the input file to one page per output file? Possibly missing End-structured fields are added to the new file for always creating valid AFP.

2.4.2.2. One file per named page group

In many AFP files, page groups are defined for holding all pages for one customer or postal address. With this option you can extract these groups and all pages containing together.

If the input file does not contain named page groups, this option will be disabled.

2.4.2.3. One file per document

Most time, AFP files contain only one document structure based on BDT/EDT-SFs. But generators can create also AFP files with more than one "document". To extract these structures AFP-Splitter contains this option.

2.4.2.4. Range from .. to ..

Here can a range of pages, page groups or documents be entered. Only these objects are written out. All other pages/page groups/documents are ignored.

2.4.2.5. concatenate

Concatenates the range into one single output file.

2.4.2.6. Extract index group

If you only need to extract the index group, this option is for you. But be careful: The index pointers to the documents contained in it are not corrected to any new segmentation at this time!

2.4.2.7. Using resources

If your input AFP file contains inline resources, these resources can be taken into account when one of the options above is selected (see chapter 2.4.4 for more information).

2.4.3. Equal-sized files

Split to equal-sized files

Approx. new file size in KByte: 250

Note: If chosen, keeping inline resources will increase the new file size.

Resource handling

Apply resource options Options...

2.4.3.1. New file size

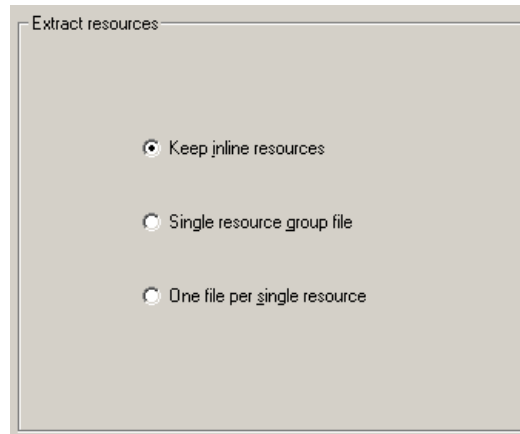
This text box is for entering the new file size in KByte. Minimum are 100 KByte.

Attention! If you want to keep inline resources, the resource group size exceeds the adjusted value.

2.4.3.2. Using resources

If your input AFP file contains inline resources, these resources can be taken into account when one of the options above is selected (see chapter 2.4.4 for more information).

2.4.4. Resource options



Extract resources

Keep inline resources

Single resource group file

One file per single resource

2.4.4.1. Keep inline resources

This option tells AFP-Splitter to keep the inline resource group also within the new file. Resources not needed in the new and smaller file won't be deleted!

If this option is selected if you want to create equal-sized files, the resource group size will increase the adjusted value.

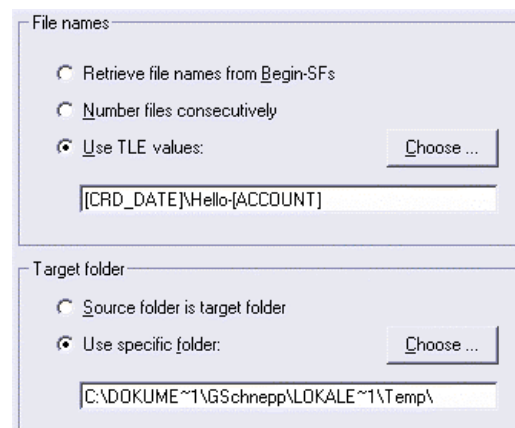
2.4.4.2. Single resource group

The inline resource group will be extracted and written to disc as external resource group file.

2.4.4.3. Single resources

Every resource will be extracted to single files, e.g. overlays, fonts, page segments, formdef's, etc.

2.4.5. Output options



File names

Retrieve file names from Begin-SFs

Number files consecutively

Use TLE values:

[CRD_DATE]\Hello-[ACCOUNT]

Target folder

Source folder is target folder

Use specific folder:

C:\DOKUME~1\GSchneppe\LOKALE~1\Temp\

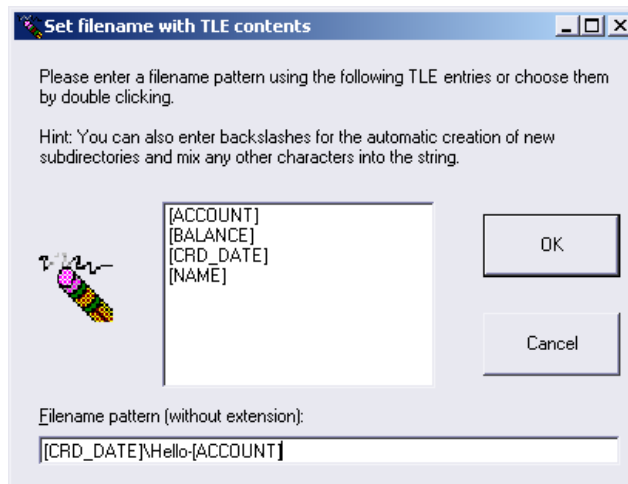
2.4.5.1. Retrieve file names from Begin-SFs

This option names every new file like defined in the corresponding Begin-SF. Only if this name can not be validated, the files are numbered.

2.4.5.2. Number files consecutively

If you don't want to use the given names, this option is for numbering the output files consecutively regarding their file type.

2.4.5.3. Use TLE values



You can choose TLE-records in the listbox or enter a filename pattern by yourself. This filename is only a pattern, filled at runtime with the original values of the TLE-records.

The TLE values are to be entered in brackets. You can enter any characters of your choice around the symbolic TLE names to extend and classify your new files.

If you enter a backslash in the filename pattern box, this character will be interpreted as a "new subdirectory" flag. Using this character, AFP-Splitter gives you the option to sort your new files into a new subfolder structure, based on the TLE contents.

Usage of standard system variables in TLE generated file names

There are two system variables available, which can be used in TLE-generated file names:

[(SEQUENCE)] : Returns a sequential number of the actual part of file

[(TIMESTAMP)] : Returns a timestamp in the format YYMMDD-HHMMSS-mmm

2.4.5.4. Source folder is target folder

This option takes the source folder as target folder. If files exist in this path, you'll be asked for an alternative name.

2.4.5.5. Specific folder

Here you can enter a new path, in which the new files will be saved. If files exist in this path, you'll be asked for an alternative name.

It is clearly possible to also use relative paths in here, which are interpreted starting in the actual folder. For example, if you want to store your new files in the actual folder, simply choose "." as output path.

2.4.6. Navigation

2.4.6.1. Back

This option shows the panel shown before again.

2.4.6.2. Next

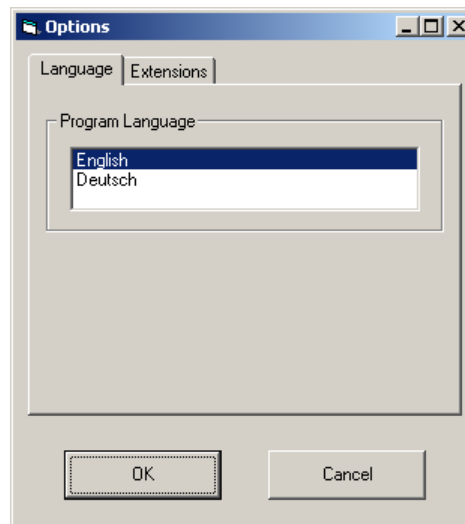
With this button you'll see the next panel with further options.

2.4.6.3. Start

With this last button, AFP-Splitter starts the process of splitting files. Additionally your options will be stored in the registry for further usage.

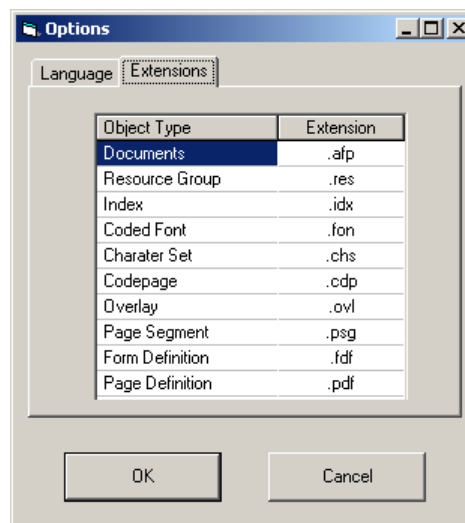
2.5. Program Options

2.5.1. Language Settings



The user can choose between several languages in which the graphical user interface and the analysis results are represented. Currently German and English are available.

2.5.2. File extensions



When saving resources and documents AFP-Splitter uses typical file extensions. If you need to change them, you can do that in the options dialog.

2.6. Menus

2.6.1. File

2.6.1.1. Open

A file of your choice with AFP-contents is opened independent of the file extension.

2.6.1.2. Close

Closes the file that is opened at present.

This menu option is deactivated, when no file is opened.

2.6.1.3. Exit

Terminates AFP-Splitter. All files that may be opened will be closed automatically.

2.6.2. Extras

2.6.2.1. Options

Opens the options-dialogue. The user can adjust the code page to be used for analysis and choose the program language.

Changing of the setting of a code page does not have an influence on files already opened.

2.6.3. Windows

2.6.3.1. Cascade / Tile vertical / Tile horizontal

Puts single windows in order corresponding to the menu options chosen.

This menu option is deactivated as long as no file is opened.

2.6.3.2. Close all

Closes all file windows that have been opened.

2.6.4. Help

2.6.4.1. Help

Shows online help.

2.6.4.2. Website

Opens the AFP-Splitter-Website www.afp-lookup.com/ in your internet browser window.

2.6.4.3. License

Opens the window in order to show the license data. If you have a trial license, you will find the expiration date here.

2.6.4.4. Register License

Runs a separate program for registering your new license on your computer. AFP-Splitter will be closed before to avoid problems.

2.6.4.5. About

Opens the window with all details of the version of the program.

2.7. Command Bar

2.7.1. Icons

The command bar is placed below the menu border. The following menu options are installed here starting from left to right. If applicable, single switching buttons are deactivated analogue to the corresponding menu options.

- Open file
- Close file
- Options
- Cascade windows
- Tile windows vertical
- Tile windows horizontal
- Help
- Cancel

2.7.2. Hints for several buttons

2.7.2.1. Cancel

The cancel button for stopping the process is only visible when loading. The functionality corresponds to the switching button intended for stopping at the lower-right edge of the window. Pressing this button, the file analyzed so far will be shown.

3. Information

3.1. AFP-Documentation

3.1.1. Books about AFP

IBM offers the following books (order numbers) for download or order. Sometimes you will find, that the orderable book is available earlier than the download version.

- Printing and Publishing Collection Kit (SK2T-2921, only orderable)
- Guide to AFP (G544-3876)
- Advanced Function Presentation: Programming Guide and Line Data Reference (S544-3884)
- MO:DCA Reference (SC31-6802)
- PTOCA Reference (SC31-6803)
- FOCA Reference (S544-3285)
- BCOCA Reference (S544-3766)
- AFP GOCA Reference (S544-5498)
- IOCA Reference (SC31-6805)
- ACIF User's Guide (S544-5285)
- Intelligent Printer Data Stream Reference (S544-3417)
- and many, many more ...

3.1.2. Publications online

You can find detailed information about the AFP architecture in general and some order information using the following addresses:

IBM Printing Systems: <http://www.printers.ibm.com>

IBM Publications online: <http://www.elink.ibm.com/pbl/pbl>

3.2. Program history

All improvements and changes are now listed in the program folder in file "Releases.txt".

3.3. Registration

Purchasing this software, you register yourself as a legal user. You will receive all necessary details and the program for license release a few days after purchase by mail.

Hints concerning terms of payment and sale are available on the internet-pages of the Company Creative Document Automation e.K. under the domains <http://www.cre-do.de> or <http://www.afp-lookup.com>.

3.4. License Agreement

3.4.1. Not registered Software

3.4.1.1. Limited Warranty

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