

Short description of FutureOS

I.00) Installation of the Operating System

I.01) You have received FutureOS on disc

You are the owner of one of the following ROM expansions: M4, X-MEM, MegaFlash, FlashGordon, ROM-RAM-Box, SYMBiFACE II, III, RAMcard etc. In this case you put the installation disc in drive A or B and start the installation process with:

run"disc". Then please follow the instruction of the installation application.

I.02) You got FutureOS on EPROM(s)

If you are using an EPROM card, then FutureOS was either delivered on four 16 KB EPROMs or on two 32 KB EPROMs. Every one of the four 16 KB EPROMs needs its own ROM number.

If you got two 32 KB EPROMs then every EPROM needs two ROM numbers.

Please install your EPROMs in the correct sockets of your EPROM card and assign the correct ROM select. The ROM numbers may be selected through jumpers' f. e.

I.03) You got FutureOS on Cartridge

In this case please put the cartridge into the cartridge port of the 6128 Plus computer and switch it on. If FutureOS doesn't boot then please type in the RSX command **IOS**.

Attention: If other ROMs are connected, they may interfere with the FutureOS ROMs. In this case please switch off the other ROMs.

I.10) Verify the installation

I.11) The sign on message

After the installation of FutureOS in your system you have to make a reset.

After a reset or after you switch the computer on the standard sign on message should appear like usually. FutureOS adds four lines. The following example shows it for the CPC6128 (English version):

```
FutureOS (oG) Turbo Desk ROM aktive!  
FutureOS CPC Utility-ROM aktive!  
FutureOS oG/+ Floppy ROM aktive!  
Future Operating System oG (c)1989 - 2020
```

If one or more of the above lines are missing, then there could have been an error during the installation. But before restarting the whole installation process again you should switch your computer off, then unplug all not needed expansions and eventually switch it on again. If the sign on text still does not appear, then the CPC is not able to recognize one or more of the FutureOS ROMs. Please make sure, that there is no DOUBLE occupation of a ROM number.

I.12) Further information

The system utilities 'OS Infos' and 'Config OS' will provide more information about your FutureOS system and its version.

I.20) Working with FutureOS

After successful installation you can work with FutureOS. Start the system using the RSX commands **|OS** or **|FDESK**. When starting FutureOS using the **|FDESK** command it is possible to jump back from FutureOS to BASIC without changing the first 48 KB of the RAM. But in this case 48 KB expansion RAM (E-RAM) will be occupied during the FutureOS session. But usually you will probably start the system using command **|OS**, so all memory is usable for FutureOS.

After starting FutureOS you will come directly to the Desktop. The upper screen part is filled with icons. Below there is the area to display file names and for the two status lines.

The Desktop can be used by moving a mouse pointer or the keyboard. The mouse pointer can be moved by cursor keys and copy, by one of the joysticks or a mouse. The icons can also be activated by using the keyboard. Here some of the hot keys:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| SPACE: (then key A-M) select medium | L: Loading (of files) |
| D ...: read Directories | S: Saveing (of files) |
| X ...: eXecute an application | P: Print files or DIRectories |
| V ...: View text of pictures | A: tag All used files Again |
| E ...: Erase files | U: Untag all tagged files |
| N ...: reName disc or files | O: call the OK icon |
| C ...: Copy disc or files | Q: Quit the OS or restart it |
| F ...: FileCopy | |
| J ...: Jump to the first file name of the file section window | |
| B ...: Move the mouse pointer to the next file name, without tagging a file | |

I.21) General information about the Graphical User Interface

Enter the RSX command **|OS** in Basic to start FutureOS. You will find yourself in the Desktop of the FutureOS, called Turbo-Desk. In the upper screen part there are four lines of icons. Every line contains seven icons. The lower half of the screen is used to work with files. The two lines at the bottom are used to display status messages or error messages.

If you look at the upper left corner of the screen, you see a little arrow. You can control the arrow with the Joystick 0 and 1, the cursor keys, different mice, track balls, the analogue joystick, a light pen and the Grafpad 2.

If you have selected drive icons and subsequently clicked at the DIR icon, then you can use the mouse pointer also to tag files.

ATTENTION: Before you can work with files or applications you must tag the corresponding drive icons and then click at the DIR icon. This is needed since FutureOS buffers the DIRectories in E-RAM to speed up floppy access.

During regular operation you HAVE to click at the DIR icon after EVERY change of a floppy disc to read and buffer the DIRectories again.

I.12) The icons of the storage media A...M - hot keys: first SPACE, then A to M

The icons for storage media are the icons of the upper line A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and M; and the four left icons of the second line I, J, K and L. Every letter symbolizes a storage medium.

- A symbolizes the internal 3 inch drive.
- B symbolizes the drive at disc-drive-B port.
- The icons C and D symbolize two extra drives (C and D - use DS 3 and 4). If you expand the DS-decoding of the internal FDC you can work with four drives A, B, C and D (have a look in some computer magazines).
- The icons E and F symbolize the two 5.25" or 3.5" drives of the external Vortex F1-D, F1-S, M1-D or M1-S controller.
- If you add two further drives (drive select 3 and 4) to this external controller, you can use them through the icons G and H.
- The four partitions of the (Dobbertin-)hard-disc are symbolized through the icons I, J, K and L.
- The M icon symbolizes the RAM disc, compatible to 444 KB Dobbertin.

The icon of an unused medium is shown in dark. If you want to use it, then mouse over the icon and click at it. The icon turns from dark into bright.

After the selection of a medium you have to click at the DIR icon.

By clicking on the drive icons you can select and deselect them alternately.

But you need the DIR icon for using the drives (look there).

Never use a stripped icon, the assigned drives are not connected.

I.24) The DIR icon - hot key: D (DIRectory)

The DIR icon is the fifth icon from left in the second icon line. DIR stands for the word DIRectory (of a floppy or hard-disc). The activation of this icon reads all the DIRectories of all tagged/activated devices. The first page of the first DIRectory will be displayed on screen.

When using more than one device at the same time, then only the DIR of one device will be displayed at a time. With the SHIFT and CONTROL keys you can page the DIR(s) up and down.

Since FutureOS buffers the DIRectories of all devices in E-RAM it is necessary to re-read the DIRs after any exchange of a disc using the DIR icon. The DIR icon can also be used by pressing the key "D" on the keyboard.

To be able to perform file operations the DIRectories of the appropriate devices have to be read first. Under FutureOS all DIRectories are buffered in expansion RAM. The RAM-buffering of DIRs strongly increases the speed of all kinds of file-operations.

The selection of devices can be done by using the mouse pointer or by using the keyboard: First you press the space key, then a message will be displayed. Now you enter a letter from "A" to "M" to select the corresponding storage device.

This procedure seems to be more complicated, but eventually it's quicker than using firmware commands.

I.25) The selection of files / start applications

To be able to start an application or to work with files you must first select the appropriate devices which contains the files. Then you must read the directory of that drive(s) by using the DIR icon.

If the lower part of the screen shows a directory you can simply tag files through moving the arrow over the filename and press Copy or Fire 1. The name of a tagged file, is shown underlined. After tagging a file the arrow jumps to the next file automatically. For untagging a file just tag it again.

Under FutureOS all file-operations deal with tagged files. After using a file it's status becomes "used" (file-name is shown streaked out).

I.26) The TYPE icon - V (View)

The TYPE icon (located right the DIR icon) is the sixth icon from left of the second icon line. Its function is the TYPing of files, viewing pictures and the presentation of file-headers (file-icons) on the screen.

* To show files on screen you must first tag their file-names in the directory(s). Then you have to activate the TYPE icon, a menu appears. Now press the "1" key for TYPing files. First the file-header is shown (if it exists).

If you want to view a picture then this will be loaded and shown now. You can adjust the screen MODE by using the cursor keys or joystick's Right and Left.

And the screen format can be selected by the Up and Down keys.

In case of viewing a text file, after pressing any key, a second menu appears.

This second menu gives you the possibility to select the screen format (rows and lines) in which the first file should be displayed. For regular files you should display them with the usual 80 chars per line and 25 lines per screen (select 1).

FutureOS then loads the file in an E-RAM buffer and shows it on the screen. You can page up and down through the use of the cursor keys or a joystick (up and down). To end the file-show simply COPY or leave the file at its lower end.

If you have tagged more files (different DIRs are possible) it's the same procedure for every file.

* Point 2) of the initial TYPE icon menu shows you the 128 bytes file-headers of all tagged files. After showing the first file-header, simply type any key to show the next file-header of the next tagged file (if there is one).

If you press the ESCape key the function is stopped and the last file remains tagged. After pressing ESC the last used file is now the first tagged one. You can start it with the RUN icon for example.

Under FutureOS the file-header is strongly expanded, all the 128 bytes are used. So a pure AmsDOS file-header always contains some string-trash, but that isn't dangerous. FutureOS file-headers give you more information, but they're fully compatible to AmsDOS headers.

I.27) The LOAD icon - hot key: L (Load)

The LOAD icon is the seventh icon of the second icon line. Its function is to load a file into memory. Like ever only tagged files are used.

To load the first tagged file, just click on the LOAD icon, then the LOAD menu appears. This menu asks you how to load the tagged file. There are five ways to load a file:

- **Loading type 0:** loads the file to the through it's header specified memory address in the correct (expansion-)RAM.
- **Loading type 1:** loads a file in the standard 64 KB RAM at address &0000. These files normally end with the extension 64 KB.
- **Loading type 2:** loads a (big) file in the expansion RAM. The file is load at address &4000 of expansion RAM block &C4. This is the first byte of the first block of the expansion RAM. The file can contain up to 512 KB. Such a file ends with the extension X16.
- **Loading types 3) & 4)** load a file at any address in the standard RAM (type 3) or expansion-RAM (type 4).

I.28) The SAVE icon - hot key: S (Save)

The SAVE icon is the eight of the second icon line. It allows you to save programs or parts of the memory as files. But you can only save to a drive which is active. It's directory must be read. The menu gives four ways to save a file:

- **1) Save Foreground program:** allows you to save the at last started program back to a drive. You can edit drive, user number, filename and the extension of the program/file. The target drive is symbolized through the char (a...m) at the left end.
- **2) Save Background program:** Same as point 1.). The saved file is the actually present Background-program. You can save a Background-program only if you've started one before.
- **3) Save main memory:** gives you the possibility to save a file with the maximum length of 64 KB out of a defined RAM configuration. First you are asked for drive, user, filename and extension. This is managed through editing the string "A00:ProgNameExt". Then you are asked for the start-address. After that you're asked for the RAM configuration. Normally you give the value &C0, that means saving from the standard 64 KB. The last question examines the file-length in KBs.
- **4) Save expansion-RAM:** This type of saving is very similar to type 3 saving. The difference is that the expansion RAM is to be saved. The file can have a length up to some hundred KBs, depending on the existing expansion RAM.

I.29) The OK icon - hot key: O (OK)

The OK icon is the eighth of the third icon line. It gives you the possibility to jump back to a previously started program. But only if an application provides this feature. If you haven't started a program which uses the OK icon and you click on it there will be an error message.

I.30) The ERase icon - hot key: E (Erase)

The ERase icon lies at the most left end of the third icon line. It has different functions, which are all connected with erasing data. After the activation of the ERA icon you can choose a function in the appearing menu:

- **1) Erase file(s):** By pressing "1" you'll enter the file eraser. It allows you to erase all tagged files. Different drives can be used. You can then press "4" or "5" to choose the erase mode. With 4) All & now you erase all tagged files immediately. The erased files are then gone forever. With 5) With security-query you can delete files selective. You will be queried for every file if it should be erased or not.
- **2) Format disc:** allows you to format discs. You can format Data-, System-, IBM- or Vortex. After choosing the format you will be asked for the drive in which the disc is located. Please put first the disc in the correct drive, then press the drive-letter "A".."H" and RETURN. If auto-DIR is enabled, then after formatting the DIrectory will be read.

I.31) The REName icon - hot key: N (Name, reName)

The REName icon is the second icon from left in the third icon line. After activation press "1" to REName files. However, only tagged files are used.

After pressing 1 the first tagged filename is displayed twice. The upper one remembers you how it looks like before renaming. The lower filename is there to be renamed. You can change the user-number, the file-name and the file-extension. But you can't change the drive. You can only use chars between 32 and 127 inclusive for the new name.

If the disc format allows it, then you can also change the name of the disc.

I.32) The COPY icon - hot keys: C (Copy) or F (Filecopy)

The third icon from the left of the third icon line is the COPY icon.

Point 1) gives the possibility to copy files multidirectional! That means that there can exist multiple sources and multiple targets of files. In the second menu you can decide if you want to copy all the tagged files to one target (point 3) or if you want to copy different files to different targets (point 4). Here you can choose destination, user number, file-name and extension.

Point 2) of the COPY icon main-menu allows you to copy a disc (Data-, System-, IBM- or Vortex format, single/double sided, and double-steps).

If the source and the target drives are identical you have to swap the discs.

At the bottom of the screen will be messages. The disc-format is emerged automatically.

Depending on the format the target-disc may be formatted.

I.33) The PRINT icon - hot key: P (Print)

The PRINT icon is located at the fourth left position in the third icon line. It has two features. The printing of DIRectories or files using the connected printer. Hence the icon-menu has two points:

- **1) Print file(s):** allows you the printing of all tagged files one after one. The ESC key stops it.
- **2) Print DIR:** prints out the DIRectory of a drive. Just type in the drive letter (a to m) and press RETURN.

I.34) The RETAG icon - hot key: A (All, retag em All)

The fifth icon of the third icon line is the ReTag icon. Its function is the retagging of all used (previously tagged) files shown streaked out. These files will become tagged again (shown underlined).

Through the RETAG icon you can use a subset of files for different operations.

I.35) The UNTAG icon - hot key: U (Untag)

The sixth icon of the third icon line is the UNTAG icon. Its function is to UNTAG all tagged files. After a click on this icon all previously tagged ("used") files will be untagged. You can use the DIR icon to get the same effect (if you haven't changed a disc), but it reads all DIRs again.

I.36) The MONitor icon - hot key: M (Machine Monitor)

The MONitor icon is the icon at the right end of the third icon line. It's used to start the machine monitor of FutureOS. More information is given in the big handbook. Please use the monitor only if you are very familiar with your CPC's hardware.

I.37) The ALARM (WECKER) icon - hot key: W (Wake up!)

The second icon from the right end of the forth icon line is the ALARM / WECKER icon. Use the Cursor-keys and COPY (Joystick and Fire 1) or ESC to set the Alert time video oriented.

I.38) The END icon - hot key: Q (Quit)

The END icon is located at the right of the forth icon line. It can:

1) Start FutureOS new: starts the Future Operating System again.

2) Initialize AMS-OS: ends the current FutureOS session and initializes Amstrads OS. This function is equal to a reset of the CPC.

I.39) The RUN icon - hot key: X (eXecute)

The RUN icon is located most left in the lower icon line. In case the name of any file is tagged, then it will be loaded and subsequently executed in memory.

The first tagged file will be used.

If there is no tagged file present the following menu will be displayed:

1) Start actual Foreground-program: The last started program would be started again, because it's still in the RAM and the OS has memorized its location through it's file-header.

2) Start actual Background-program: The actual Background program will be started. A Background program is a special program which is nested in the expansion memory.

3) Jump into RAM: This point allows you to jump at any address in any connected (expansion-)RAM. When you want to jump in the standard memory you should give &C0 as RAM block when you're asked. Attention! You should know where to jump.

4) Start ROM application: Will start an application from a FutureOS expansion ROM. First you select the XROM, then the application of this XROM.

I.40) The TIME and DATE icons - hot keys: Y (Time) and Z (Date)

They're located in the lower icon line. The TIME icons at the left side and the DATE icons at the right side. You can use them to define time and date. For changing the values just use the Cursor-keys and Copy (or a Joystick and Fire 1). Press the ESCape key to leave.

I.41) The IDE icon

This icon is located at the very right end of the second icon line. It allows accessing IDE devices, for example: X-MASS, IDE8255, CPC-IDE, SYMBiFACE or others. To use IDE devices a fifth FutureOS ROM is needed, which contains the IDE/FAT management software.

I.42) The <I> icon - hot key: I (Information)

The <I> icon is the seventh icon of the third icon line. If you've started an INFOrmation-system or Help-system before you can now enter through this icon. If there is no INFO / HELP system present nothing will happen except the appearance of an error-message.

Comments, critics and notices are welcome every time.

Only together, we can make the system better.

Send email to: FutureSoft@gmx.de

Important notice:

You can contact me through internet

<http://www.FutureOS.de>