The **AROS Research Operating System** is *"a lightweight, efficient and flexible desktop operating system, designed to help you make the most of your computer. It's an independent, portable and free project, aiming at being compatible with AmigaOS 3.1 at the API level (like Wine, unlike UAE), while improving on it in many areas"*. These lines, taken from the official Aros.org homepage, explain in a few words one of the most interesting open source projects available. Being distant from both Linux and Windows experiences, AROS is growing as a true alternative for people bored by the complex and resource-hungry "competition". A *niche OS*, whose strongest features are speed, compactness, responsiveness, amazingly fast boot time and tiny application dimensions, far different from the 200 megs word processors we use today.

And, best of all, it's free and it runs on cheap hardware, like common PC systems.

However, like many other young or niche projects, AROS relies on very few active developers. The team has already done a great job, re-implementing most of the functions of the original AmigaOS while improving them with modern features. The main issue, however, is the lack of drivers and applications, two holes that might be easily filled with more developers. AROS applications, can at times be difficult to install and configure for a novice user and therefore is aimed at the slightly more advanced user at this stage in its development. However any user that tinkered with Amiga setups will feel completely at home with AROS, and be rewarded with a sense of satisfaction that settings are available and not hidden away like so called modern systems that dumb every thing down.

And here **VmwAROS** (**V**irtual **m**achine **w**ith **AROS**) comes in. VmwAROS started in November 2007 as a pre-configured AROS environment for the popular *VMware* virtual machines, but since then it has evolved into a complete distribution available in two formats:

- **VmwAROS VE** (virtual environment) is the classic pre-configured virtual machine for VMware products, including read/write drive setup and ready to go.

- **VmwAROS LIVE!** is the same environment on a bootable live-DVD, that runs on top of real hardware, and can be installed onto the hard drive like any other operating system. It includes also the QEMU virtual machine for Windows, to let people test it even without a real installation (at lower speed).

VmwAROS offers a complete AROS desktop environment, which includes a complete collection of games, applications, network clients, programming languages and a complete development chain able to compile AROS itself. Every program has been tested and already configured: the only effort required to users is a double click with their mice.

With VmwAROS, both users and developers can get the most from the AROS system, and we hope that this distribution will contribute to the growth ofAROS, gaining a wider developer and user base. People interested in VmwAROS can always find news, updates and the latest version at www.vmwaros.org.

Fore more informations please contact VmwAROS mantainer
paolo@vmwaros.org

What's new in VmwAROS

People who have already experienced AROS using its nightly builds, know that it is an amazingly fast operating system, with a responsive GUI and, maybe, the quickest boot times available. But if they went deeper, they probably encountered many issues configuring and using it. That's where VmwAROS helps. This distribution includes:
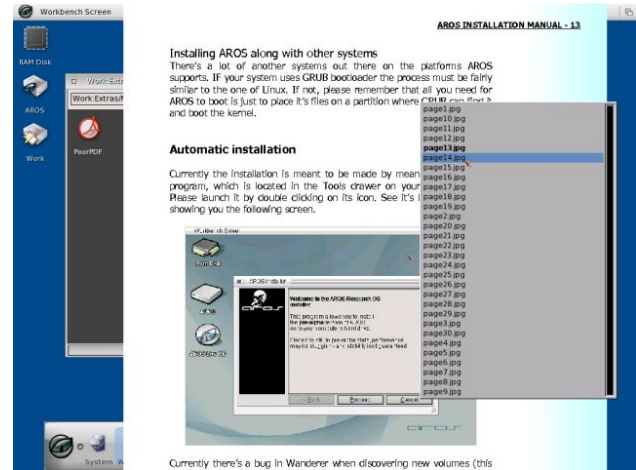
A better *Amiga-like* look

Ken Lester's icons give AROS a better "Amigan" look and feel, with professionally-drawn dual state icons. The complete collection is available in a drawer.
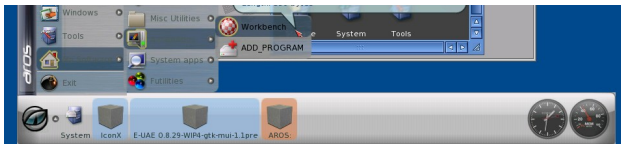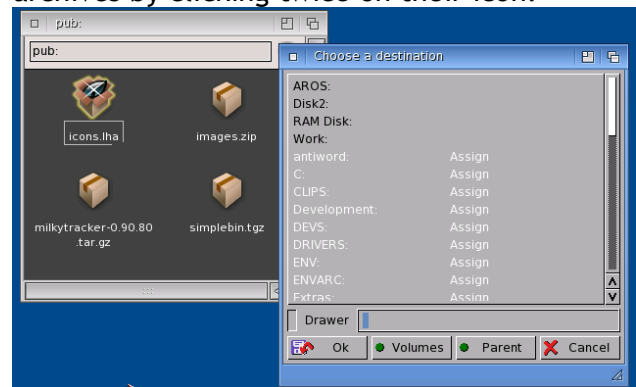

A simpler interface

AmiStart is the de-facto standard toolbar/dock application for modern AmigaOS incarnations and clones, with drag-n-drop approach and customizable icons, effects, menu and applets.
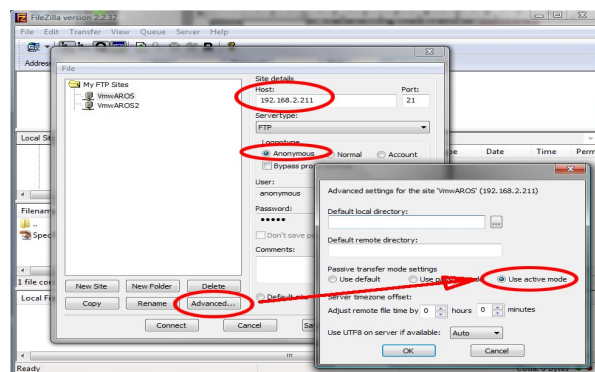

Better access to files

VmwAROS runs in the background **YAFS**, a tiny FTP server, which allows easy transfer from/to AROS. Either you're running VmwAROS in a real or a virtual machine, you'll love it.

PDF support

PoorPDF is VmwAROS' reader for PDF files. Maybe it's not like having Adobe Acrobat Reader ported to AROS, but at least it works (most times...).

Multiple Archive decompressor

PoorARC is VmwAROS' extractor for archived files. Expand your files from **zip, tgz, bzip2, lha, arj, lzop, ace, rar** and many, many other archives by clicking twice on their icon.

The best compatibility

A customized *muimaster.library* allows using both current and older AROS applications, without compatibility issues. All apps included in the compilation have been tested.

Networking made easy

Configuring the network in AROS has always been a long and painful task, for skilled people only. With VmwAROS, all needed files are already in place.

A robust development chain

VmwAROS can compile AROS itself, and provides many updated libraries and all the languages, compilers and interpreters available today for AROS.

Amiga 68K application support

AmiBridge allows launching AmigaOS applications in a emulation window, launching them straight from Wanderer and AmiStart (you need *AmigaOS* files and Amiga ROM images).

New background images
A new collection of desktop wallpapers, many of them coming from the private collection of a professional photographer (who kindly offered them).

Easy system files updating
With VmwUpdate, you can keep your AROS system files and basic applications always up-to-date.

Easy customization
Make AROS looks and feel the way YOU like it! And in a easy way...

The most up-to-date applications, already configured!
Do whatever you want with AROS: with VmwAROS you can play many SDL games, browse the Internet (well, almost...), send and receive your emails, create and manage your database, emulate old computers and consoles, play your MP3 songs and watch your MPEG movies, compose music with HivelyTracker, write text files, paint your pictures, browse your image collections, chat on IRC, discover old gaming classics like DooM, Quake and Beneath a Steel Sky, write your own applications and much, much more, because this is only the beginning.