Torsten's KurzSorter

A tool to organize your Kurzweil PC3

0. Disclaimer

This is a little tool that I have knocked together for my own use and that I am sharing in the hope that it may be useful to you. I cannot make any guarantees for its functioning correctly – use it entirely at your own risk!

Also: even with the tool functioning correctly, you can completely mess up the content of your PC3 with it – so PLEASE make a complete backup of your device's content before you take any action with this tool!

1. General Overview

KurzSorter takes a .PC3 file from the PC3 (saved either on USB virtual drive or on a xD card), extracts the programs or setups and allows you to build a new sequence of programs / setups, something that is notoriously difficult on the PC3 and usually involves creating a list with pen and pencil (or Excel) and a lot of copying, deleting etc. As a result, KurzSorter creates a new .PC3 file that contains the new sequence of programs / setups that you can then import to the PC3.

WHAT KURZSORTER DOES NOT DO: KurzSorter cannot currently manage dependencies between objects. What does this mean?

- If you rearrange your programs, any setups using these programs will still be pointing at their old "addresses"; the setups will not be adjusted
- For programs, the PC3 files created by KurzSorter will not contain any dependent objects, i.e. user algorithms or effect setups. So, these objects will need to be on the PC3 to begin with; you should therefore only use the program on .PC3 files that reflect the current state of your synth.

I'd love to address both of these issues in a next version of KurzSorter, but am currently lacking the necessary information on the .PC3 file format. If anyone has more detail on the file format, please do contact me!

2. Installation

Simply copy the three files contained in this archive into a directory of your choice (maybe "C:\Program Files\KurzSorter" or "C:\Program Files (x86)\KurzSorter" would be a good idea?). If you want, create a shortcut to KurzSorter.exe and put it where you can find it again.

3. Usage

To start, you should have all the programs and setups you want to deal with loaded on your PC3. Then, simply create a full backup of your machine, either via xD card or through the USB "virtual drive" and copy the resulting file to your PC.

On starting the program, you are confronted with a file selector – simply choose the .PC3 file that you have just created and click "Open" (or whatever your local language Windows offers you). Next you

need to make another decision: do you want to sort programs or setups? Please click the appropriate button. If everything goes right, you will now be greeted by the main screen:

On the left side ("Source"), you see all the programs / setup that are contained in your .PC3 file. You can select one or more of these (CTRL-click and SHIFT-click work here) and copy them to your target list ("Destination") with the "Copy" button. Or, you can simply click the "Copy All" Button to copy everything to the right side.

You can then use the buttons on the right to further organize your target sequence:

- "Up" / "Down" move the selected program / setup one position up or down in the list
- "Remove" (surprise!) removes the selected program from the list
- "Insert blank" allows you to create gaps in the list. May be useful if you want to, for example, organize your programs in banks of 8 in order to use the category buttons. If you only have 6 pianos in your current sequence for "Piano 1", just insert two blanks after them and then the next programs start at 9. Blanks do not get exported as programs or setups; they just mean that the program numbers are set correctly for all programs / setups in the export file. "Insert blank" inserts a blank before the currently selected item, or – if no item has been selected – at the end of the list.
- "Sort Alpha" is a personal favorite of mine: it sorts the whole list alphabetically. This has to do with my way of using setups: I usually create a setup (or several) for every song in my repertoire, even for single programs – just setting the tempo, reverb/delay level, volume level etc. right for the song. For a gig, I then create a sequence according to the set list, but for practice, I like having these setups in alphabetical order – makes it easier to find an individual song quickly without Excel lists.

BTW: the list ALWAYS starts at 1, but there is no need to insert 1024 blanks to make it start at 1025, because you will be able to choose which PC3 bank of 128 to load the resulting list into – that's why I didn't implement a "Starting At" feature.

OK, now you are ready to export: just hit the "Start Export" button and tell the program where to put the resulting file. That's it – you now have a .PC3 file containing your new sequence of programs / setups ready to load onto your synth! Put it on an xD card or onto the PC3's virtual drive and proceed to the next step.

4. Loading your new sequence

Due to the nature of the PC3's loading mechanisms and the current lack of dependency management of KurzSorter, it is important to get this operation right.

Let us assume that we have a list of less than 128 programs that we want to load into the locations 1025 and following.

If we now just went and used the "Overwrt" or "OvFill" loading methods to put our new sequence into the user memory, the PC3 would, before loading, delete ALL user objects in 1025…1152 – unfortunately including your existing setups, user effect setups, user algorithms, etc. Same if we just wanted to import a list of setups, our programs and everything else in this space would be zapped – usually not what we want. So we have to go a more complicated route.

- First do a more "surgical" removal of the programs that we want to overwrite: Go to the "object delete" part of the Master mode: "MASTER"→"more"→"OBJECT"→"Delete". In this screen, select the correct object type (for our example: "Programs") and the intended range (1025…1152) – actually, before doing this, it might be useful to hit the "Clear" button, in order to remove any previous selection. Once you have done your selection, hit "Delete", and the space will be cleared for our new sequence.
- Now switch to storage mode, select the right drive, hit "Load", select your new file and hit "OK".
- On the next screen "Load this file as..", select the right range (1025…1152 for our example) and hit "Merge". This will ensure that our programs / setups are placed at the right locations, including gaps.

That's it – any feedback of course welcome!

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