

FMSEL Reference

Fan Mission Selector and Manager for Dark Engine based games

Overview

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GETTING STARTED

To get the game to run FMSEL when it starts, you have to edit `cam_mod.ini` and uncomment (remove the semi-colon) the line `";fm"`.

Change

```
; always start the FM Selector (if one is present)
;fm
```

to

```
; always start the FM Selector (if one is present)
fm
```

This will launch FMSEL first when you run the game, and give you the option to select an FM or start the game without an FM.

The default FM path is a directory named `FMs` in the game directory. For example if the game is installed in `C:\Thief2` then you have to create a directory `C:\Thief2\FMs`. The FM path can be customized in `cam_mod.ini` with the `fm_path` config var, and can be an absolute path to an entirely different location from where the game is installed.

You are now ready, just run the game and FMSEL will start.

When FMSEL starts it will scan the FM path for sub-directories and treat them as FMs. Additionally to the readily available FMs it finds in the FM path, it also supports working with archived (zip/rar/7z) FMs. To enable archive support you need to configure an archive path, a directory *which is different from the FM path*, where you store your collection of FM archives. FMSEL will scan the archive path recursively, so the archives may be organized in sub-directories. The archive path is configured in the options menu (see [Actions](#) under the MAIN WINDOW chapter).

To play an archived FM it has to be installed first. Installing consists of FMSEL extracting the archive into a sub-directory of the FM path. Uninstalling it, deletes the directory again. Install/Uninstall is done from the context menu in the FM list.

Deleting an FM archive, or the FM dir for a non-archived one, will usually not remove the FM entry from FMSEL's database. This ensures that your play history is preserved, without requiring you to keep the FM on your system.

NOTE: Avoid renaming FM archives after they have been added to FMSEL. This will confuse it and usually produce duplicate entries, where the entry for the old archive name will appear as a deleted FM.

Support for FMs with MP3 files

FMSEL does not support converting MP3 files to WAV by default, in order to steer clear of licensing issues, but this is required to be able to properly play FMs that contain MP3s. However MP3 conversion can be enabled (during archived FM install only) by downloading the LAME MP3 library (**libmp3lame**), in the form of a DLL file.

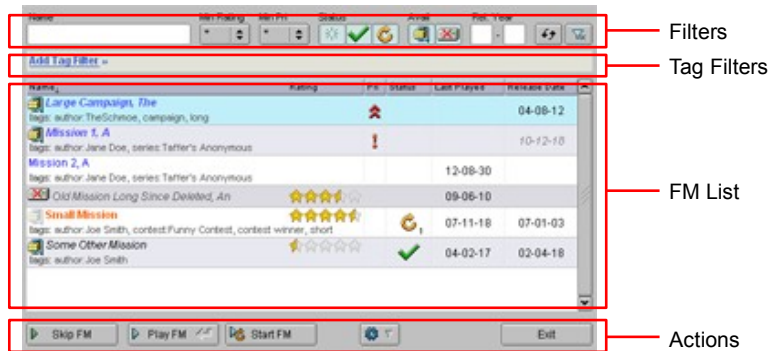
Links to download locations for the **libmp3lame** library can be found on <http://lame.sourceforge.net/links.php#Binaries>. The recommended download site from there is <http://www.rarewares.org/mp3-lame-libraries.php>. Download the **libmp3lame** library (for x86 / 32-bit) and extract the contained **libmp3lame.dll** to the same location as your **fmse.dll** (i.e. the game directory).

Note that if you install an FM (that contains MP3s) manually, instead of installing it through FMSEL, then there will be no conversion done and the game will fail to play the MP3 files.

Special note to FM authors:









Although this is not directly related to FMSEL, this is a good place to issue a recommendation to FM authors. **Avoid using MP3 when you create FMs.** There are patent/licensing issues tied to that format, which may put your FMs and especially FM selectors/loaders in a position that is completely unnecessary. There is nothing gained by using MP3 instead of OGG (<http://www.xiph.org/ogg/>).











MAIN WINDOW



FM List

Displays a list, or partial list depending on filter settings, of FMs in the database.

Name	Rating	Pri	Status	Last Played	Release Date
 Large Campaign, The tags: author:TheSchmoe, campaign, long					04-08-12
 Mission 1, A tags: author:Jane Doe, series:Taffer's Anonymous					10-12-18
Mission 2, A tags: author:Jane Doe, series:Taffer's Anonymous				12-08-30	
 Small Mission tags: author:Joe Smith, contest:Funny Contest, contest winner, short	★★★★★			07-11-18	07-01-03
 Some Other Mission tags: author:Joe Smith	★☆☆☆☆			04-02-17	02-04-18

Column	Description
Name	<p>Displays the FM name, rating if set and tags if any (and FMSEL is configured to display them). The Name column header also provides the possibility to sort by Rating.</p> <p>Some list items may display one of these icons left of the name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  FM is available as an archive, but isn't currently installed.  FM is available as an archive and is currently also installed (ready to be played).  FM isn't available at all (not installed and no archive). <p>The font and color used for the name also conveys information about status and availability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Italics</i> - FM isn't installed (may be combined with any of the other styles). Blue - FM has been launched but hasn't been completed. Blue Bold - FM has never been played/loaded. Orange Bold - FM has a playthrough in progress. <p>Rating is only displayed if an FM has been rated. The rating can range from 0 to 5, in 0.5 steps. Ex: A 4.5 rating ★★★★★</p>
Pri	<p>Priority. This is a way to flag an FM for importance. The original intent is to use it to flag unplayed FMs that you want to play more urgently than others, but there's no functionality tied to the priority other than being able to filter and sort on it, so you may use it for whatever purpose you see fit.</p> <p> Medium  High  Urgent</p>
Status	<p> Mission has been completed.</p> <p> Playthrough is in progress.</p> <p>Either of the above icons may display a number next to the icon like  or  where the number indicates the number of times that the FM has been completed.</p>
Last Played	Date when the FM was last launched, empty when mission has never been launched.
Release Date	<p>Release date of FM, empty if none has been set.</p> <p>FMSEL will attempt to automatically determine the release date for newly added FMs. Automatically determined dates are marked as unverified, which are displayed with an <i>italics font</i> in the list.</p>





To change status/rating/priority, install/uninstall, edit other FM properties and more, use the context menu that can be accessed by right-clicking on an a list entry.

Item	Description
Play	Same as Play FM (see Actions).
Start Playthrough	Same as Start FM (see Actions).
Install	Install an archived FM. Installing means it will extract the archive to a directory in the FM path. If there are backed up files from a previous uninstall, like savegames, it will ask if those should be restored. <i>Not restoring the backed up files can result in the backup being lost, if you create a new backup the next time the FM is uninstalled.</i>
Uninstall	Uninstall an archived FM that is currently installed. The uninstallation process simply consists of deleting the FM's directory and all its contents from the FM path. It will ask if it should make a backup archive of changed files or savegames (depending on the Backup Type currently set, see Options menu under Actions). The backup archive is a ZIP file saved alongside the FM archive, using the same filename with a <code>.FMSELbak</code> suffix. For example If the FM archive is named <code>TheLargeCampaign.rar</code> then the backup archive will be named <code>TheLargeCampaign.FMSELbak.zip</code> .
Status	Change status.
Priority	Change priority.
Rating	Change rating.
Edit...	Edit FM properties, like the name displayed in the list, release date, tags, notes and more.
Edit Tags...	Does the same as Edit... but displays the tag editor tab page right away, for quick access.
View Info File...	View the info/readme file associated with the FM, if one is available. The file is open in an external application like for example Notepad or Wordpad, depending on the file type.
View Summary...	Displays a popup window with a summary sheet for the FM. While the popup is displayed it's possible to cycle through the FM list with the left and right arrow keys.

The context menu has a few additional items in “advanced mode”, which can be accessed by holding down CTRL while right-clicking.

Item	Description
Delete from Db	Delete FM entry from database. All associated information, such as rating, notes, tags etc. will be permanently lost. If the FM exists as an archive and/or in the FM path, it will be re-added from scratch the next time FMSEL runs.
View Archive Contents...	Displays a popup window that lists the files in the archive, for an archived FM. Also lists the files in the backup archive if one is found.

Actions

Button	Description
 Skip FM	Start the game without an FM. Pressing ESC has the same function.
 Play FM	Start the game with the selected FM. Pressing Return has the same function. When running under DromEd this button is named Edit FM instead to better suit editor use.
 Start FM	Start the game with the selected FM and automatically change its status to playthrough in progress. This button isn't available when running under DromEd.
	Options/Tasks menu. See table below.
Exit	Quit FMSel and the game.

Contents of the options/tasks menu:








Item	Description
Tag Rows	Number of rows with tags to display per FM entry in the list. When Variable Height is enabled, the number of rows acts as max number of rows, so if the number of rows is set to 4, and an FM only requires 1, then the list item height will be adjusted to only display 1 tag row.
Date Format	Set the date display format in the FM list.
UI Theme	UI Theme to use for FMSel.
UI Font Size	Choose between Normal and Large font setting. Changing this will exit FMSel because it requires a restart.
Misc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word Wrap Descr Editor – Enable word wrapping in FM description text editor. • Word Wrap Notes Editor – Enable word wrapping in FM notes text editor.
Return to FMSel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never – Does not return back to FMSel after exiting the game(/DromEd). • After FM – Returns back to FMSel after exiting the game when an FM was launched. • Always – Always returns back to FMSel after exiting the game. <p>This setting is separate when running under DromEd, so you have to configure it once when running the game and once when running DromEd.</p>
FM Archive Path...	Optionally set the path(/directory) where FMSel can find your collection of FM archives. This cannot be the same as, or a sub-directory of, the FM path (the directory where installed FMs are located), or vice versa. FMSel scans the archive path recursively, so the FM archives may be organized in sub-directories.
Backup Type	<p>When uninstalling (deleting the extracted FM from the FM path) an archived FM, you are asked if you want to make a backup. A backup is a ZIP archive that FMSel creates, that contains for example savegames. The Backup Type configures which files will be included in such a backup.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Saves and Shots – The backup archive only includes savegames and screenshots. • All Changed Files – The backup archive includes all files that have been changed*, added or removed**, compared to the original install (i.e. the archive). Since screenshots and savegames are added files, these will also be backed up. This option is useful if you modify files in the FM, like customize a config file, add an updated OSM or even re-process the mission file with improved settings, and want all those changes restored the next time you install the FM. <p>* Files whose modified time or size differ from the original file in the archive. ** Removed files are tracked so that when the backup is restored, they are removed again.</p>
Install Options	<p>Options for installing archived FMs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert OGG to WAV – Convert OGG sound files to WAV during FM installation. The game <i>can</i> play OGG files but it can under some circumstance cause short hiccups, on less powerful computers, performance heavy missions or with large OGG files. In such cases it might help to convert them to WAV files during installation.

Tasks	<p>Various less frequently performed tasks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto-fill Release Dates – This command will probably never be necessary during normal operation, because when FMSel comes across an FM it hasn't seen before it will automatically try to determine a release date. If for some strange reason there are FMs in the list where this hasn't happened, then this command will scan through all FMs currently visible in the list and try to determine a release date. • Export FM.INI from FM... - Export an <code>fm.ini</code> file for the FM currently selected in the list. FM.INI creation is primarily for FM authors, so they can create an INI file to include with the FM. The <code>fm.ini</code> is a standardized file that can include information like mission name, release date, description and a list of tags. • Create New FM.INI... - This is similar to Export FM.INI except it doesn't require an existing FM in the list. It opens up a dialog where all the data can be entered, which is then saved to an <code>fm.ini</code>. • Export Batched FM.INI... - Export an <code>.ini</code> file for all archived FMs currently visible in the list. The exported file contains the same data as a regular FM.INI, but for several FMs (identified by their archive name). This can be useful to share database data with other users. The exported file can <i>only</i> be used by Import Batched FM.INI.... • Import Batched FM.INI... - Import a batched FM.INI file. You can select which data you want to import and how you want it to be applied.
About	About box.

There are a few additional items in “advanced mode”, which is accessed by holding down CTRL while clicking the button.

No Auto-refresh	Disable automatic refresh of list after editing FM properties. Can be useful when editing a large number of FMs.
Save Db Now	Save database changes immediately. This is normally done when FMSel closes.

Filters

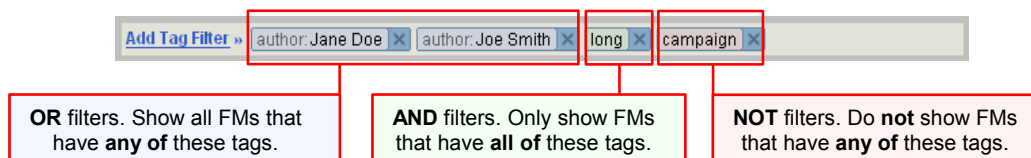
Item	Description
Name	Name filter. Only FMs whose names contain this string will be displayed in the list.
Min Rating	Minimum rating. Only FMs who have this or higher rating will be displayed. An asterisk (*) value means that the rating filter is disabled.
Min Pri	Minimum priority. Only FMs with this or higher priority will be displayed. An asterisk (*) value means that the priority filter is disabled.
Status	Status.  Show FMs that have not yet been completed.  Show FMs that have been completed.  Show FMs with a playthrough in progress.
Avail	Availability.  Show FMs that are available as archives but aren't currently installed.  Show FMs that aren't installed and aren't available as archives either.
Rel. Year	Release year (from - to). Only list FMs that have a release date within the specified range. The year is specified as a two digit number (where "99" would mean 1999, "04" would mean 2004). If both the from and to fields are left empty then the release date filter is disabled. You can also leave either the 'from' or 'to' field empty. Only specifying a 'from' year will list all FMs that were released on that year or later, and only specifying a 'to' date will list all FMs that were released that year or earlier.
	Refresh list with regard to sorting and filtering. This can come in handy after changing the status, rating or priority of an FM. It doesn't automatically update the list after changing any of those because it may result in the item disappearing from the list due to filtering, which can be annoying. For example let's say you've hidden all the FMs that are completed and you just finished playing an FM that you want to rate and mark as completed. If filtering was updated automatically the FM would disappear the instant you marked it as complete, but you might not be done yet because you wanted to rate it and maybe add some notes and/or tags.
	Reset all filters to default and clear all tag filters.

Tag Filters

Filter FMs based on tags. To add a tag filter click on **Add Tag Filter >>**, which will display a popup with all existing tags to select from. The popup can be aborted by pressing ESC or clicking anywhere in the main window, outside of the popup.



The number displayed next to each tag is the total number of FMs in the database that have the tag. By default filters are added as an **OR** filter, by holding SHIFT or ALT while clicking on a tag it will add it as an **AND** or **NOT** filter. See below for details on the different filter operations. To remove all tag filters that you've added at once, you can use **Reset Tag Filters** in the upper right of the popup.



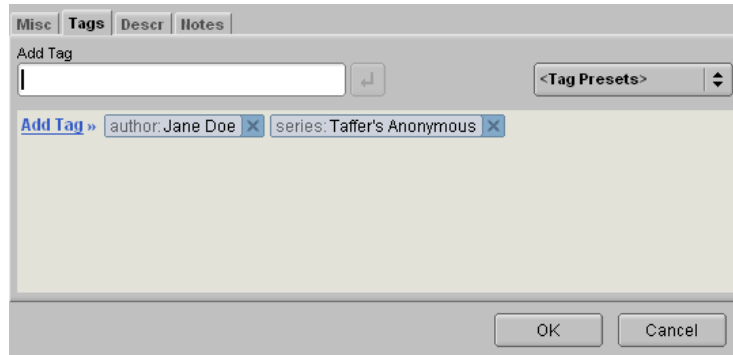
TAGS

The tag system is roughly similar to the ones that can be found on various web sites. It allows you to add any number of keywords to an FM, which can be used to convey basic information or used to find FMs with specific traits in the database. Aside from simple keyword-like tags, FMSEL also supports what it calls tag categories, to group certain categories of tags. To specify a category you just start the tag with the category name followed by a colon, and then the actual tag keyword.

For example the recommended tag category to use when specifying the FM's author(s), is **author**, so the tag for an author named Joe Smith would be **"author:Joe Smith"**. If there are multiple authors for an FM, then you can just add multiple author tags.

The tag editor has a couple of tag and category presets, which are recommended in order to standardize the most common tags. The standardization is useful so `fm.ini` files by different authors use the same tags for basic information, otherwise the tag database would become messy and make filtering less useful.

Tag Editor



The tag editor is accessed through **Edit Tags...** (or **Edit...**) in the context menu (in the FM list). It provides two methods of adding tags. You can add existing tags by clicking **Add Tag >>**, which will display a popup that's nearly identical to the one for adding tag filters, with all existing tags to select from. The popup can be aborted by pressing ESC or clicking anywhere in the main window, outside of the popup.

The other method is to type it in manually in the input field and then press return (or click the button to the right of the input field). As you type, a suggestion list may pop up with existing tags that begin with the same string. When you add the typed in tag, the editor will check for illegal characters and formatting, and adjust the tag if necessary. If it had to adjust the tag it will *not* add it immediately, instead it will display the updated tag in the input field, which allows you to review the change and accept it, by pressing return one more time, or to edit it further.

Important note to users of FMSEL localized in other languages

Some tags may be localized when they are displayed, but internally they are still maintained in English. As a result, the Add Tag input field, for manually adding tags, only works in English even if tags have translations. For example if the tag **"campaign"** is localized to **"goosfraba"**. If you want to manually add that tag, using the text input field, you have to type in **"campaign"** and *not* **"goosfraba"**. The editor will attempt to automatically correct the input by translating the tag back to English if it can, but this is not guaranteed.

Below is a brief description of what the tag presets mean and what their intended use is.

Preset	Description / Intended use
author:	Category for FM author(s). If there are multiple authors then add several tags.
contest:	Category for FM contests. Specifies the contest name that an FM is part of, if it is a contest FM.
genre:	Category for genre(s) that an FM specializes in. If the FM does not specialize in any genre, in other words if it represents typical gameplay of the game, then there's no need to add genre tags. That would only make it harder for users to filter for specialized FMs.
language:	Category for language(s) supported by an FM. If multiple languages are supported then add several tags.
series:	Category for an FM series that an FM is part of, if it is part of one.
campaign	Specifies that an FM is a multi-mission (consists of more than one mission file) FM.
demo	Specifies that an FM is a feature/tech demo and not a regular gameplay FM.
long	Specifies that an FM is noticeably longer than an average mission. No specific numbers will be mentioned, but think of it from a player's point of view, who feels like playing a mission that takes longer to finish than usual. With the help of this tag they can filter the database to easily find such FMs.
other protagonist	Specifies that the protagonist/player is a character other than the one of the original game.
short	Specifies that an FM is noticeably shorter than an average mission. The intended use for this is based on the same reasoning as long , see description above.
unknown author	Specifies that the mission author is unknown. Mainly intended for use with contest FMs where the author is secret.

LOCALIZATION / LANGUAGE

FMSel supports localization, so that the user interface can be translated to other languages. Translations are maintained in separate files (with **.po** extension), one per language. If you have obtained such a file for the language of your choice, then place it in the same location as your **fmsel.dll** (i.e. the game directory). Make sure it's named "**fmsel.po**" (without quotes).

If for some reason your FMSel DLL is named something other than **fmsel.dll** then the "po" file must have the same name. For instance if the DLL is named **fmsel-alt.dll** then the language file must be named **fmsel-alt.po**.

Note to translation authors

For instructions and translation rules open the supplied template **fmsel.po** in a text editor and read the comments.