

Readme file for AntConc 2.3.0 (Windows)

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AntConc started out as a relatively simple concordance program, but has been slowly progressing to become a rather useful text analysis tool. It is written in Perl 5.6 using ActiveState's excellent Komodo 1.2 development environment. The program can be launched by simply double clicking on the .exe executable file, which can be downloaded from the Laurence Anthony laboratory website at <http://antpc1.ice.ous.ac.jp/>. The program can run under any windows environment including Win 98/Me/2000/NT and probably will run with no problems on Win XP. A version of the software for Linux is also available.

If a user finds any problem launching the program under a particular OS, please let me know using the email address below.

Currently, AntConc can generate concordance lines either from a single text or a set of texts stored in a single directory. A single text to be analysed can be chosen by selecting 'Open File' from the 'File' menu. Similarly, a set of texts can be chosen by selecting 'Open Dir' from the 'File' menu. A list of the chosen files is displayed in on the left of the main window, below the name of the chosen directory (if appropriate). The output display can be saved by selecting 'Save Output' from the 'File' menu. The color used to highlight the search term in the concordance lines can be changed from the default color 'blue' by selecting the 'Highlight Color' option in the 'Options' menu. AntConc also has a sort feature, whereby the results can be realigned in alphabetical order according to either the target word, or words to the left or right of the target word. The words on which to rearrange the concordance lines are chosen via the button bar at the bottom of the main window. The highlight color for the Level 1 and Level 2 sort can be changed via the settings menu.

To produce a set of concordance lines of text, a user needs to perform 5 actions:

- 1) Select either a single file or set of files stored in a single directory (see above)
- 2) Enter a search term on which to build concordance lines in the entry box on the left of the button bar.
- 3) Choose the number of text characters to be outputted on either side of the search term, using the increase and decrease buttons on the right of the button bar (default value is 20 characters)
- 4) Click on the 'Start' button in the main window to start the concordance lines results generation (Note: The concordance generation can be halted at any time by clicking on the 'Stop' button in the main window)
- 5) Select a target word on which to rearrange the concordance lines. 0 is search word, 1L, 2L.. are words to the left of the target word, 1R, 2R .. are words to the right of the target word. Note that two levels of sort are possible, with the second level not-activated when the software is first launched.

6) Click on the 'Sort' button to start the sorting process.

New since AntConc2.3.0 is the ability to display a plot of the location of the concordance results for each file as a kind of barcode. The plot is produced automatically and can be viewed via the "Concordance Search Term Plot" page from the main window. New concordance search criteria can be entered on the Plot page, and then pressing start will allow the user to see dynamically in what files and in what positions the concordance results are generated. The plot can also be enlarged or reduced in size using the 'Zoom' buttons in the button bar. Unfortunately, the Plot display cannot be saved at present.

Also new since AntConc2.3.0 is the ability to generate Wordlists for the files selected. This feature is accessed via the "Wordlist" page from the main window. By selecting the page, a wordlist will be generated automatically according to the criteria displayed in the button bar at the bottom of the page. These criteria can be changed to produced wordlists ordered by frequency or alphabetically, and with the frequencies displayed or omitted, or presented in inverted order. At any time during the wordlist generation, the user can stop the process.

AntConc can be used freely for individual use for non-profit research purposes, and freely distributed on the condition that this readme file is attached in an unaltered state. The software comes on an 'as is' basis, and the author will accept no liability for any damage that may result from using the software. Although there is no support available for AntConc, the author would be happy to hear comments and/or suggestions from anyone using the software, and will try to fix any bugs etc. when time is available.

Known Issues

1. When the file or directory selection dialog boxes are accessed, if they are dragged across the top of the AncConc main window, they leave 'ghost' traces. These traces are removed when the dialog boxes are closed.

Revision History

2.3.0 A major upgrade since 2.2.3

First, the ability to view concordance search results as a barcode plot graph and a feature to produce wordlist according to different criteria were added. Numerous bugs centered around the way the software entered a 'Busy' mode were updated. The main core of the software was also updated resulting in a quicker, 'cleaner' processing of the data. Performance improvements should be noticed as a result.

2.2.3 Updated file and directory selection dialog boxes to run smoothly in a Windows environment. Also, changed the default colors for sort highlighting, and search window frame size. A number of small bugs were also corrected

2.2.2 Corrected critical fault with compiler that caused program to expire when evaluation version of ActiveState Perl Development Kit expired. Sorry folks!! I didn't realize this would happen!!

2.2.1 Corrected bug with prevented new concordance lines being generated if search term was left the same and then new files were selected. Port to Linux also completed.

2.2 Designed new subroutines for selecting directories and files to solve rendering of dialog windows problems. This also enables an easier port to Linux.

2.1

Added a second level of sort.

Added ability to restrict searches to full-words only, case sensitive

Added ability to search using full Perl implemented regular expressions

Added ability to save results either to a file or the clipboard

2.0 Added new sort feature, for rearranging concordance lines.

Tidied up the interface.

Made the system more robust for novice users. (Now bad input will not cause the system to crash so easily).

1.1 Added binding to allow return key to launch concordance search.

Also, recompiled software so that no console is required.

1.0 First version

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