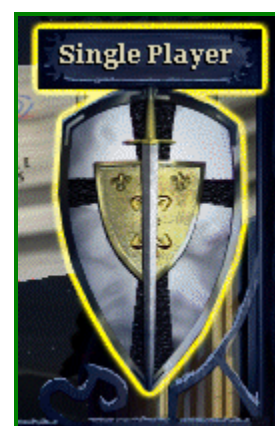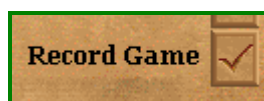# AOC Sorter 2.5

1. AOC Sorter 2.5 is new version which sorts your records inside SaveGame\ folder, and auto rename records to get relevant name by players and map type. After auto rename, records are easier to find and keep in archives.

What AOC Sorter 2.5 works:

2. Before everything, read carefully this document. After reading, and installation, you are ready to try your first start of AOC Sorter 2.5. Then, make some recorded games which got default name: "recorded game" ^^

3. Start the AOC with AOC Sorter 2.5. After AOC starts, exit the AOC, wait few minutes and after check u SaveGame\ folder. Your records will get auto rename. With new feature auto-rename-records the program will rename all default named records with their relevant information, grabbed it directly from mgx files.

Format of rename:
POV_Player(Civ)+Player(Civ)=vs=Player(Civ)+Player(Civ)-2v2-Map--date-time.mgx

Note: AOC Sorter 2.5 will recognize your SaveGame\ folder, and rename files as it's possible to fit; it has improved algorithms for detection system file path length. Date-time add-on is formed by exiting date-time which AOC Sorter 2.5 can grab from file name, if it exists. Or, if doesn't, it forms date-time add-on by reading modified time from mgx file.

4. But its not all, AOC Sorter 2.5 will sort your records in Loading Screen every time its started, and your last added records in SaveGame\ folder will become top records, so you can easy find them, pick, load and watch. No more searching. Also, you will be able to find all players and maps simply using Windows search.
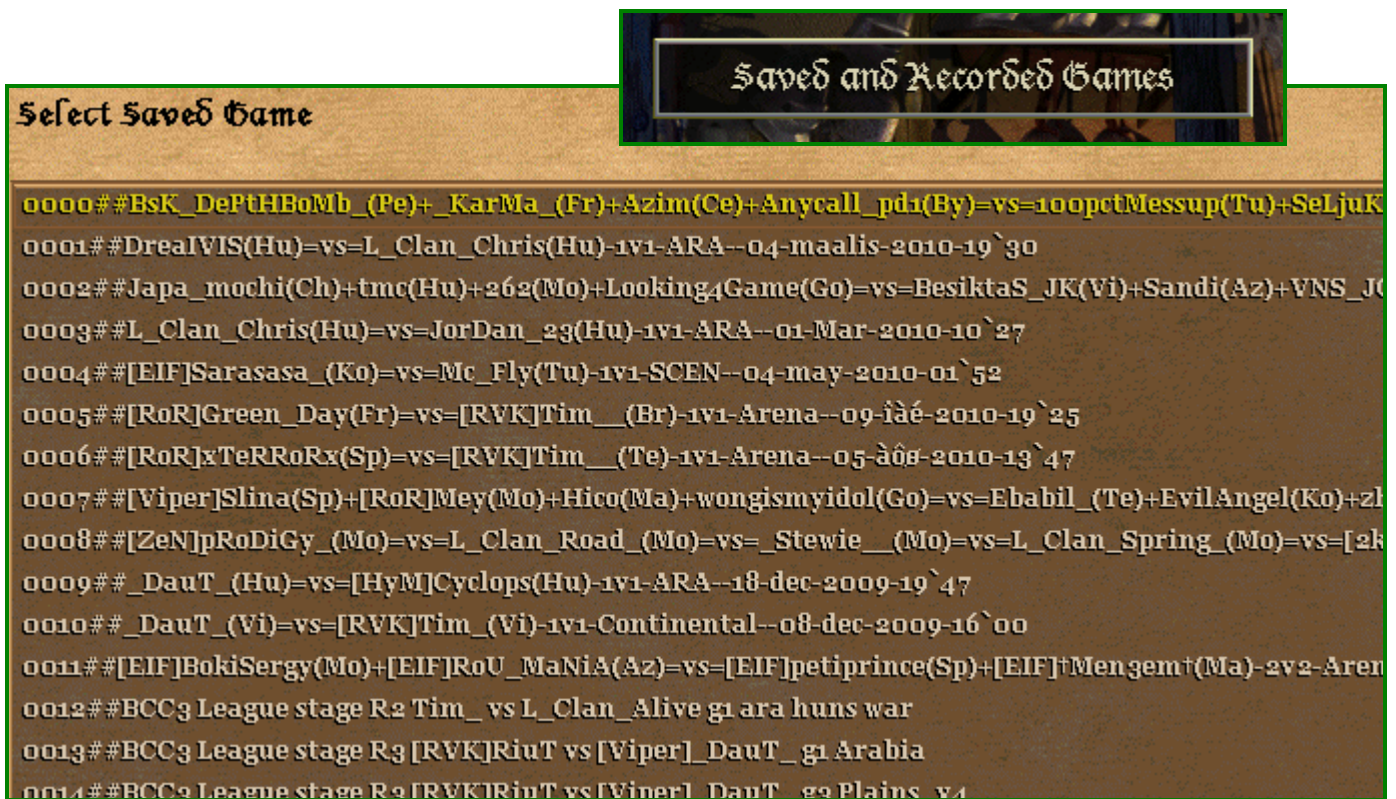
5. If you add old records again into Save Game folder (already added but you don't want search them because they could be deep down in the list), just copy them again into SaveGame\ folder, and AOC Sorter 2.5 will put them top in loading screen (make sure AOC Sorter 2.5 is started, or else Windows will ask you to overwrite).

6. AOC Sorter 2.5 takes care about clones of same mgx files into your SaveGame\ folder. It recognizes same files structures and deletes duplicated records, so it helps you keeping free space and takes care about keeping your records archives more ordered. Cloned records will not take extra space and will be deleted.

7. AOC Sorter 2.5 detects changes in your SaveGame\ folder and sort mgx files and auto renames in real time (works only for current last recorded game and only if AOC Sorter 2.5 is started).

What is included to the AOC Sorter 2.5 program:
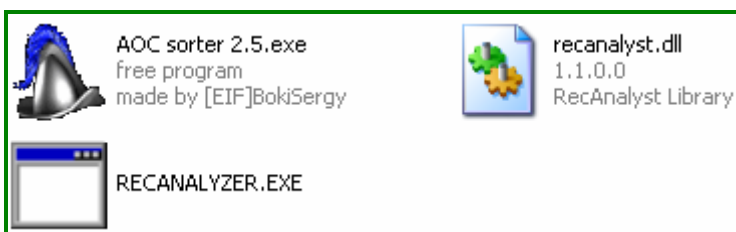
→ Copy to age2_x1\ folder

Note: AOC Sorter 2.5.exe is main program, RECANALYZER.EXE analyzes records, and recanalysist.dll is library which RECANALYZER uses. recanalysist.dll is copyrighted library made by **biegleux**, famous AOC programmer. Credits to him for made this incredibly useful library. Without that would be impossible to code auto rename part of AOC Sorter 2.5 in just 10 days.

Do a test first:

8. Before you start using AOC Sorter 2.5, make a little test. Go to test.rar, unpack it. Open SaveGame\ from test folder, you will find there some default named recs. Then watch this folder (with recs inside) carefully and in same time start AOC Sorter 2.5.exe from age2_x1\ folder in test folder. If these records got rename after few seconds, it means program works on your PC and u are ready to use it. Try with some your own records too.


Please, do similar test with few of your own records before you start using AOC Sorter 2.5

Note: AOC sorter has some problems when is used inside AOC which is installed in a very long path such is: C:\Program Files\Games\Strategy games\Microsoft Games\Age of Empires II & Age of Empires Conquerors- two in one- full game\.......   If your AOC has too long path, better email me first, before using. Because could be that AOC Sorter 2.5 can't work with your AOC (u can fix this installing AOC on shorter path).

HOW to Install:

1. before use, backup all your recorded games, making new folder and copying all mgx files (for your safety)
2. put AOC sorter 2.5.exe, RECANALIZER.EXE and recanalyst.dll in Age of Empires II\age2_x1\ folder
3. start AOC sorter 2.5.exe
4. it going to do this:
      I) start itself
      II) start AOC the game
      III) sort all recorded games inside SaveGame\ folder by creating header and adding numbers
      IV) sort all new added records SaveGame\ folder in real-time (also works if u copy multiple records)
      V) rename your just recorded game in real time
      VI) delete cloned records while is exiting
      VII) auto rename all default named records while exiting (the program starts the RECANALYZER.EXE)
      VIII) turn off itself when AOC is closing
5. from now, use AOC sorter 2.5.exe to start your AOC game, and just make a shortcut of AOC sorter 2.5.exe to the desktop to use it as u used to start standard AOC shortcut

Note: AOC sorter 2.5 doesn't affect on voobly playing or any multiplayer or single player. It sorts recorded games only inside SaveGame\ folder in game. It supports up to 9999 records, but for best performances keep number of records inside SaveGame\ folder under 1500. If you have any problem, email me.
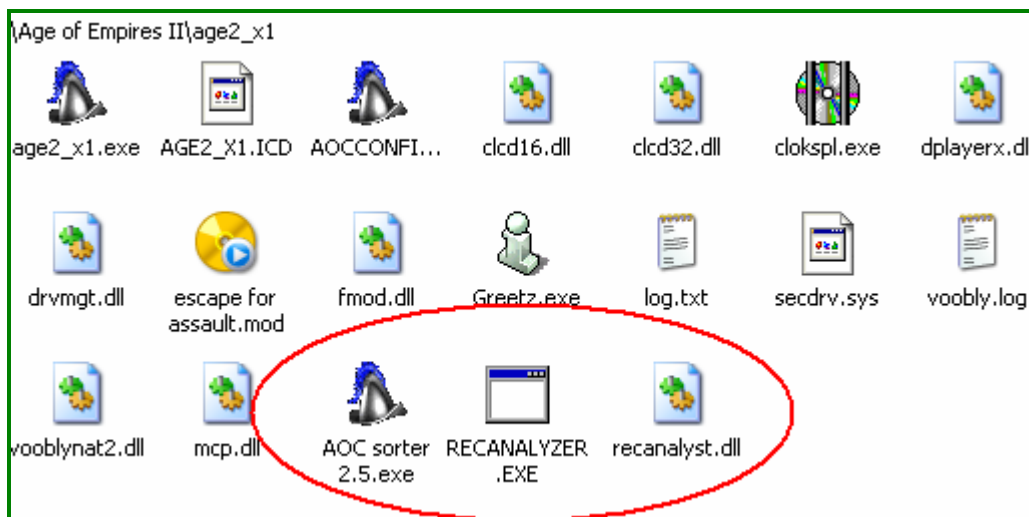
HOW it WORKS:

10. When you start AOC Sorter 2.5, it starts AOC. While AOC is starting up, AOC Sorter 2.5 sorts SaveGame\ folder and adds numbers with "0000##" header on every single mgx file renaming it. If you have less than 2000 records, and if you have average computer, all mgx files inside SaveGame\ should get a header and became sorted before you are able to open Load Screen (in AOC). Numbers of header are formed by creation time and date. Because AOC sorts records by abc order, it means recently added records will get less number and be more close to top of the screen. Last copied or made record by playing a game, in SaveGame\ folder, will get 0000## number and it will become top record.

After this adding of headers AOC Sorter 2.5 goes to faze two and it monitors the SaveGame\ folder for changes. If it detects new mgx file (new game just recorded, or new records are just added), it will resort records and new files will get a header. Also, if new record is made by playing, and it got default name "recorded game-...." (which is always the case) it will be auto renamed with name formed by relevant information grabbed from mgx format using RECANALYZER.EXE. Note that AOC Sorter 2.5 will not auto rename records added manually (even they got default name), but they will be auto renamed while the AOC Sorter 2.5 is exiting. This faze is left for exiting because if there is 500 records with default name, process can long up to 5 min. So, auto rename of records is process which mainly runs while AOC Sorter 2.5 is exiting (recent recorded game will still get auto rename). And it happens after we close AOC the game. After exit, all records back to their actual name, with exception that all default named records get relevant rename based on mgx reading the format.

Troubleshooter & FAQS:

Q: Why I should backup all my records before I start using AOC Sorter 2.5?
> A: Its just for case, this program is new, and only time is real tester. There are not many unpredictable things can happen, but still its better and wise to reduce the risk of losing records. Personally, I did the same.

Q: I started AOC Sorter 2.5 first time, but after exit the AOC, something was working 5 min, and I was unable to start AOC Sorter 2.5 again.
> A: Yeah, it's a standard behavior of the program when you run it first time. It works on renaming all your default named recorded games. Just have patience and wait few minutes until finish. After go to SaveGame\ folder and see your new record's names.

Q: I started AOC Sorter 2.5 but it didn't start AOC, why?
> A: Make sure you putted AOC Sorter 2.5 in \Age of Empires II\age2_x1\. Also, make sure that, when you open Task Manager, is written "Age of Empires II Expansion", when your AOC starts. If doesn't, email me.

Q: Why I need to start AOC from AOC Sorter 2.5?
> A: The program AOC Sorter 2.5 needs to start exact same time with AOC. Because that, when u start AOC Sorter 2.5, AOC is starting too. You still can start AOC from standard age2_x1.exe, but in that case AOC Sorter 2.5 doesn't start. And records will not be sorted. Note that If you start AOC Sorter from another path (not from age2_x1\), program will start, but it will not find SaveGame\ folder, nor start the AOC.

Q: What if I don't have standard path, where is my AOC installed?
> A: It's not a problem, AOC Sorter 2.5 still works. Make sure that folders age2_x1\ and SaveGame\ are in a same folder (e.g. Age of Empires II\), and the program should work fine.

Q: What if my game path, where is AOC installed, is too long?
> A: In that case AOC Sorter 2.5 could have a problem because it will be unable to rename files. Why that problem happens? Because, when records get rename, they get longer system path. And if that path become longer than 260 characters which is limit for Windows, files are unable to get longer rename. In that case, AOC Sorter 2.5 should work too; it will try to adapt the name of record which fits with your configuration, and try to make it shorter, still adding some relevant informations. In some extreme situations, when path is tooooo long, using AOC Sorter 2.5 doesn't have sense, because no files will get rename or even get a header. For best results try to install your AOC game in short path like this: "C:\Age of Empires II\", or, at least, try to install it to default AOC path "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Games\Age of Empires II\", and records should be able to get rename with full information. Sometimes information about civilization will not be included in file name, because the name is already too long.

Q: I Started AOC Sorter 2.5, and AOC started, but when I opened Load Screen, not all records got a header?
> A: This problem can happen if u have many records in SaveGame\ and it just needs little more time to finish sorting. It's just a question of milliseconds. Try to open load screen again, and you should see records are sorted (got headers).

Q: I played a game, but after I finished and back to main screen and opened Load Screen, newest record didn't get rename, why?

A: This could happen if u clicked too fast (faster than 1-2 seconds), and u opened load screen before RECANALIYZER.EXE finished its job, it needs about 0.5 second for analyze, and AOC Sorter 2.5 needs about 0.5 second to react and make rename. Also, to get rename, the record must be closed (as a file).

Q: What if I turn off RECANALYZER.EXE while it is working? Could it damage my records or game?

A: No, it can affect on renaming of current record, but it will not delete or damage the file. If you try to terminate RECANALYZER.EXE, it will start again in few seconds, as long AOC Sorter 2.5 needs it. If you really want to terminate it, just terminate AOC Sorter 2.5 and RECANALYZER.EXE will close in seconds.

Q: What if I delete RECANALYZER.EXE or recanalyst.dll?

A: Nothing special, AOC Sorter 2.5 will still sort records adding headers, but no mgx files will get rename by relevant information. For proper working of AOC Sorter 2.5, RECANALYZER.EXE and recanalyst.dll need to be in same folder where AOC Sorter 2.5.exe is.

Q: What if I try to start AOC Sorter 2.5 multiple times?

A: Basically, it's not possible to start it multiple times, so every extra instance of AOC Sorter 2.5 will wait few seconds and turn off itself.

Q: I clicked to start AOC Sorter 2.5, but nothing is happening?

A: AOC Sorter 2.5 is surely starting; you can check it in Task Manager Processes. But, does AOC is starting- it depends if you put AOC Sorter 2.5 into age2_x1\ folder (where is age2_x1.exe).Other reason could be: previous instance of AOC Scoter 2.5 didn't finish exiting. AOC Sorter 2.5 and AOC should always start in few seconds. If not, it means, that AOC Sorter 2.5 still analyzing records from last recent instance. So it will exit and new instance of AOC Sorter 2.5 should start in few seconds (exception if run first time).

Q: How AOC Sorter 2.5 knows which are my new/default named records?

A: It reads file names and compare with known forms such are "recorded game", "partida grabada", "parties enregistrées", etc.. The AOC Sorter 2.5 is made to recognize most of known default record name forms, including Japanese and Chinese. If your AOC uses some unusually language (or use Japanese or Chinese but still doesn't work), send me email and I will fix it.

Q: Why my new renamed record looks like this: "cant-read--08-Apr-2010-01`48.mgx" ?

A: It happens when the file is corrupted or an unpredictable problem with reading mgx format happened. If you get too many of these files, stop using AOC Sorter 2.5 before you find out what happens. Could be that this file is corrupted (was a game crash and file can be loaded) and therefore it's normal. But if it happens even file is ok (can be loaded in AOC), stop using AOC Sorter 2.5, and send me email report.

Q: How it knows when recorded game is played? What if I delete date and time from name of file?

A: AOC Sorter 2.5 makes date-time add-on which attaches to any file on end. For example: "08-Apr-2010-01`48.mgx" is one add-on. If you delete this add-on from original record name, AOC Sorter 2.5 will still make a add-on formed from information that can be garbed from analyzing the file.

Q: What if I have a record which I want to be auto renamed, but its not default named record?

A: Simply rename you record to be "recorded game.mgx" or "----.mgx" (1----.mgx, 2----.mgx, 3----.mgx… if u wish to rename multiple records) and AOC Sorter 2.5 will auto rename it, with full information, including date-time add-on.

Q: I started AOC Sorter 2.5 but default named records didn't get rename, why?

A: AOC Sorter 2.5 do renames of more than one default named files while it is exiting (in real time, AOC Sorter 2.5 renames only last current record of last played game). The process of massive renaming takes about 5 min for 500 default named records and it starts only while AOC Sorter 2.5 is exiting. If your records still didn't get rename, must be that your AOC has too long path, or the language of record is unknown to AOC Sorter 2.5, or it's an unknown reason. Just send me email: bsergijevic@yahoo.com and I will see what is about to fix problems.

Happy watching recs!! Enjoy in the AOC Sorter^^ ;)

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