# AttractMode List Manager

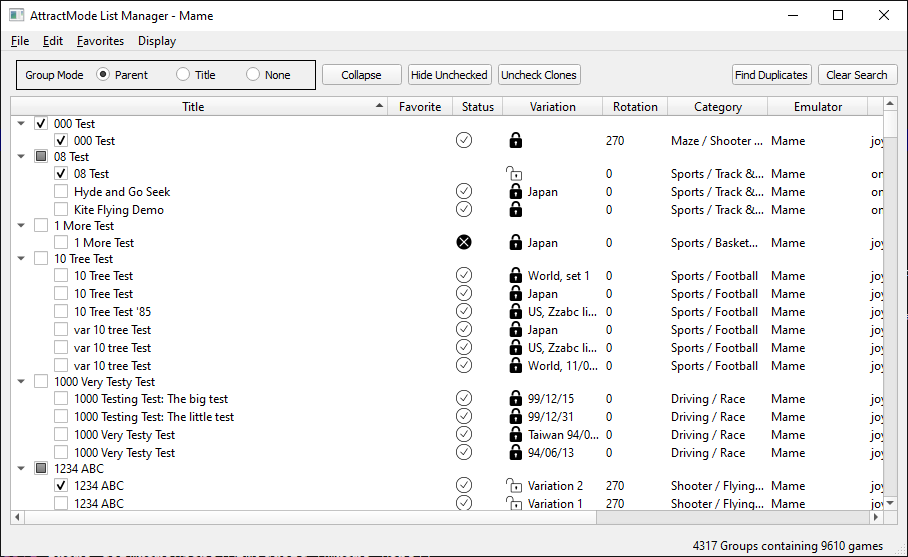
A utility to allow organization of AttractMode lists. Features include:

* Easily exclude unwanted clones/duplicates
  + Adds “excluded” value to the “Extra” field to allow easy filtering in AttractMode.
* Maintain Favorites. Easily add and remove favorites by selecting and right-clicking on an entry.
* Validate entries (for MAME only)
  + Entries that fail validation are automatically unchecked and the “excluded” tag is added to the Extras column.
* Configuration stored in separate file to retain settings if new list created. No need to curate your list again.

# Disclaimer

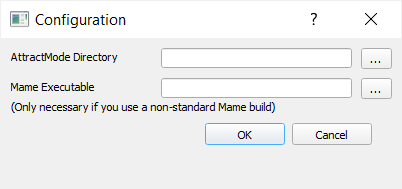
You use this software at your own risk! While it’s been tested, back up your files before using just in case! Please read the LICENSE file for more information.

## Interface



## Setup

The first time you run AttractMode List Manager (AML) you will be prompted to pick the AttractMode directory and, if applicable, an official MAME executable.



Once you choose the directory and click on OK, AML will look for attract.cfg. If it is not found it will continue to prompt until you pick the correct directory or hit cancel. You can always get back into the preferences by picking the Edit/Preferences menu item.

## MAME Configuration

For MAME validation to work, a couple of conditions need to be met. First the AML display in attract.cfg needs to be named “Mame”, secondly either the executable in emulators\Mame.cfg needs to be an official MAME build or you need to select an official MAME build in the Configuration dialog. The reason for this is that the executable is called for each entry and some unofficial builds display a pop-up when executed.

## Managing Displays

Once AML finds the attract.cfg file it loads the information for all of the displays it finds. You can switch between the displays using the Display menu item.

### Group Mode/Uncheck Clones

You can choose to group entries by Parent or Title mode.

### Parent Mode

Parent mode uses the cloneOf column to determine a parent/child relationship. In this mode you can use the “Uncheck Clones” button to automatically exclude unwanted clones quickly. In the case where you want to keep a clone, you can right-click on it and lock it. Clicking on the “Uncheck Clones” button will not affect locked entries. This option is greyed-out if no entries in the list have the cloneOf field populated. Sorting of fields other than Title are done within the group.

### Title Mode

Title mode uses the only the Title to group entries. This is useful for entries that have multiple parents or for displays with no cloneOf values. Sorting of fields other than Title are done within the group.

### None Mode

This mode displays the entries ungrouped. Sorting of fields other than Title sort as expected and therefore this mode allows for the greatest sorting flexibility.

### Collapse/Expand

This button simply collapses or expands the tree. Collapsing the tree gives a preview of what the display list will look like in AttractMode.

### Hide Unchecked/Show Unchecked

Does what it says! This applies to search results as well and the “Clear Search” button will not undo this.

### Find Duplicates

When 2 or more sibling entries are checked for a given parent they will be shown. This is useful for cleaning up the list after using the “Uncheck Clones” button. Pressing the “Clear Search” button will show the rest of the records.

## Searching

Selecting Edit/Find or pressing Ctrl-F brings up a search dialog that is pretty self-explanatory.

## Selecting Failed or Passed Entries

Use the “Edit/Select Failed” or “Edit/Select Passed” to select the corresponding records. For large lists, this can take a few seconds, be patient.

## Other Actions

After selecting 1 or more entries, **right-clicking will allow you to perform various actions**:

### Lock/Unlock

Prevents automated processes such as unselecting clones and setting favorites from affecting locked records.

### Check/Uncheck

Checks or unchecks selected entries

### Favorite/Unfavorite

Adds or removes entries from favorites

### Validate

Only works on the Mame display. Uses MAME executable to validate entry. If a valid MAME executable is not available this option will not be available when right-clicking on file(s). Validating a large list of entries can be time consuming, be patient. You will be presented with a progress bar and can cancel if you get impatient.

# Favorites

## Within Displays

Favorites can be maintained as expected within each display. When saved, the corresponding .tag file is updated accordingly.

## Merged Favorites

You can create a merged Favorites.txt file by clicking on the Favorites/Merge Favorites option. Once this is performed, a Favorites display is added to the list of displays. ALM does not actually add the display to the AttractMode configuration file, it simply creates a Favorites.txt file that contains the list of entries from all displays marked as favorites in alphabetical order by Title. Once merged, adding or removing favorites from other displays will update the favorites display and removing favorites from the Favorites display will remove them from the corresponding display. This synchronization will only work if the display has the same name as the emulator. Additionally, saving the other displays will not save the Favorites.txt file. You will need to go to the Favorites/Save option (available only after merging) to save the Favorites.txt. This allows you to have control over when the Favorites are saved. If you have a display named Favorites in your attract.cfg file, it will not be loaded. It’s a one-way operation of merging and saving from ALM.

# Saving Displays

If you make changes, you can save them using the File/Save menu item. If you try to exit without saving you’ll be warned. Once again. Favorites.txt is not saved via this option. See the Merged Favorites topic above for more information.

The following files are saved for each DISPLAY\_NAME:

* DISPLAY\_NAME.txt – Entries that are unchecked will have “excluded” added to the “Extra” field. This allows you to easily create a filter in AttractMode to exclude the entry using the “contains” filter in AttractMode. A backup of this file is made each time ALM is run.
* DISPLAY\_NAME.tag – Favorite selection from ALM is saved. A backup of this file is made each time ALM is run.
* DISPLAY\_NAME.alm – Keeps track of the excluded, locked and validation status of each entry.

# Build Information

AttractModeListMgr was written entirely in Python. The executable was created using PyInstaller. You will notice that when you run ALM, there is a console window that appears and that periodically you will see messages as you perform actions. There is an option in PyInstaller to disable this, but unfortunately if I use that option, the executable is identified as a virus by Windows Defender. So I left the console window active.