Download E-Reading

Introduction

This program accesses a web site (www.e-reading.club) that has eBooks on it. As described in the User's Guide section below, you can display all the authors available, then choose one and be presented with the list of titles from that author available for download, select the ones you want, then with a click, download them.

eBook Format

All books on this site are in .fb2.zip format. The .zip format is of course familiar to almost everybody. The .zip file contains within it a single file in .fb2 format (fb = Fiction Book). This somewhat obscure format can be processed by a number of programs.

See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FictionBook for more details and a list of programs that can process such files. Alternatively, do a search on ".fb2".

Note that many, but not all, programs that can process .fb2 files, can also process .fb2.zip files directly, avoiding the need to unzip the .fb2 file.

I haven't tried it myself, but the *Calibre* program (https://calibre-ebook.com/) seems to be free and can convert many eBook files (including .fb2) into other formats (e.g. .epub).

Copyright Considerations

I don't know what the copyright implications are. These eBooks may be quite legitimate in Russia (www.e-reading.club seems to be a Russian site). Whether or not it's legal to download them in your country is the responsibility of the user.

Invalid Characters

Some of the author names and/or book titles have "invalid" characters in their names, such as AL◆AS, ◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆ . I assume these are Cyrillic letters. No attempt has been made to display them in Cyrillic. If you're fluent in Russian and want to download authors/books in that language, I assume you already have software in place to display the characters properly.

Files Required to Run this Program

- DownloadEReading.exe – The program itself
- HtmlAgilityPack.dll – An auxiliary file used to read the web site
- DownloadEReading.xml – A configuration file, as follows

On my machine, the contents of this text file looks as follows:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
      <ConfigData xmlns:xsi=http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance
      xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema">
      <TargetDirectory>G:\E-Reading</TargetDirectory>
</ConfigData>
```

The important part of this is the <TargetDirectory> entry. It tells the program that all files downloaded should go into the G:\E-Reading directory. You'll probably want to edit this file (e.g. using Notepad) to change this to something you'd prefer. In particular, you probably don't want things going into a (possibly non-existent) G: drive!

Edit this file before running the program for the first time!

User's Guide

The user interface looks as follows:

Clicking on one of the 26 letter buttons at the top will display all the authors on the site that have last names beginning with that letter. The author names will be displayed in the large box on the left.

To cut down on the amount of scrolling required to find an author you're interested in, the *Name Prefix* box lets you type in the first few characters of the author's name. For example, if you've clicked on the A button, entering Asi into this box will scroll down to Asimov. Note that the first letter of the last name will automatically be placed into this box. For example,

Click on an author's name and his/her books that are on the site will be displayed in the box on the right. Each book will have a check box next to it to indicate whether this book should be downloaded or not.

The books are initially, by default, checked or not depending on the Select All / Select None buttons. These buttons can also be used to select all or none of the books by clicking them.

The Download button will download all the books for the given author that have been checked. A directory will be created within the TargetDirectory for each author you download and any of his/her books will go there. For example, G:\E-Reading\Asimov, Isaac.

The downloads are multi-threaded so that many are retrieved in parallel, reducing the time to download all the files.

As mentioned earlier, files on the server are in .fb2.zip format. If the eBook reader you've chosen to use lets you read the book in .fb2.zip format, fine. But if not, you'd have to unzip the file first to get a raw .fb2 version. The *Unzip file(s)* check box tells the program to automatically extract the .fb2 files. The *Keep .zip file* box indicates whether the .zip file should be kept or not after the download. If the *Unzip file(s)* box isn't checked, the *Keep .zip file* box will not be shown and the .fb2.zip will be the only file retained.

If you've selected a book that you've already downloaded, you'll see a message saying the program is skipping downloading the file again.

If a file has been selected for downloading and you want to have the .fb2 file extracted, and there is a .fb2.zip file already there, then the *Unzip file(s)* setting is ignored. Either manually extract the file(s), or delete the .fb2.zip file and download the file again.

Some books cannot be downloaded; presumably the copyright owners have asked the web site to disallow downloads. If that has been done, you'll get an error message in the message box at the bottom of the screen such as

Error – Server denied access to Foundation and Empire, probable copyright restriction.

The box at the bottom of the screen shows progress messages when the Download button has been clicked. Hopefully the messages should be self-explanatory. They are shown in reverse chronological order; the most recent message is always at the top.

Finally, the red line above the message box is a splitter. Click on it and, while holding the mouse button down, move the splitter either up or down to resize the boxes.