

# Aerial for Windows



## User Manual

Aerial is a Windows screen saver that mimics the Apple TV screen saver that displays the videos Apple shot over New York, San Francisco, Hawaii, China, etc. as well as from the ISS and various underwater locations.

Aerial is an open source project published under MIT License.

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# Installing Aerial for Windows

After downloading the latest version of Aerial from the [Releases](#) page, locate the download folder on your pc. Follow the instructions for the installation method you have chosen:

- **.zip (Recommended)**

Unzip the file to the location of your choice. Navigate inside the extracted folder (aerial-vX.X.X) and right-click on the aerial.scr. From the options that appear click "Install".

- **.scr**

Unzip the file and move to the location of your choice. Your anti-malware software might mark this installation file as "Potentially harmful". There is no need to worry, since this is a false-positive. Right-click on the aerial.scr. From the options that appear click "Install".

After that the Windows Screensaver Settings menu will appear on your screen. Select the settings option next to the selected screensaver name and configure your screensaver. Information regarding the options and the procedure are listed below.

- **Why is .zip recommended over .scr?**

The main reason that the .zip file is recommended is performance. The files included in the .zip have a smaller compression ratio and that makes the screensaver load faster and work better. In order to combine all the files in a single .scr file a bigger compression ratio has to be applied, so load times may increase and performance might be degraded.

# **General Settings**

In the General Settings screen, you can change and customize the most important aspect of the screensaver. Since a time metadata is set for all the provided videos, you can select the sunrise and sunset times and have aerial display videos according to the time of your videos. Although there is not a video for every time of day for all locations, most of them support this feature. Also, in the General Settings the option of changing through videos by the press of a keyboard button can be enabled. Furthermore, there is an option to avoid displaying the same video in a short period of time.

## **a) Multi Screen**

From this section you are given the ability to play the same video to all of your screens, if you are using a multi-monitor setup. Also, peripherals screens can be disabled and the video will be played only on the primary screen of your setup.

## **b) Playback**

From here you can edit the visual aspect of playing back the videos. Playback speed, blur, brightness are some of the options you can play with to give the videos the flavor you want. If you don't want any of that to happen or you notice that your computer can't keep up with these settings you can disable them completely and see the raw, unprocessed version of the videos. (Caution: Disabling video processing might lead to playback errors)

## **c) Transitions**

If you find that the gap between video change is too big or too small there is the option to set it up according to your needs.

#### **d) Video Cache**

Videos are streamed from the internet and are not included in the installation files. In order to ensure smooth video playback caching them is necessary. This can be done via two ways, automatically by the screensaver app or manually by the user.

Automatically: The app caches the videos to local storage when they are selected to playback. The next time the video is played, load time and playback quality will be better. This approach has the flaw that in order to cache all the available videos, the app must circle through all the videos first. Until that process is finished playback quality might not be smooth.

Manually: The user is able to select which videos are cached before hand on the device, without the app having to circle through all the videos. More information on this procedure can be found in this manual under section "III. Videos Settings", clause "d. Video Downloads".

Furthermore, through this menu, the user is given the ability to update the Cache Size reading on the menu, delete all the cached videos, open the folder in which the cached videos are stored and change the location in which the files are downloaded and cached.

**Before proceeding to change the location in which videos are downloaded, be aware that the all the old directory and all its files will be deleted. In order to prevent having to redownload all the videos that have been stored until now, move them to the new directory before changing the location through the app's menu.**

#### **e) Custom Videos**

The user can add custom videos to the playback list. In order for the videos to be added, they have to be stored to a separate folder from the app's Cache folder.

# Videos Settings

This section of the configuration menu allows to preview the videos that are available to playback through Aerial, download to the cache and select which of them are actively playing as your screensaver.

## **a) Video Preview**

By clicking on a video title, a preview appears on your screen to choose whether you want to include it in your playback list. A status indicator also exists to inform you about the status of the selected video, downloaded or not. There is also the option to individually select if the video should always be downloaded, never downloaded or downloaded when checked.

## **b) Video Type Selection**

Through this menu you can select and deselect all of the videos, if you want all of the videos to be played. But in this menu, you can also select videos based on their type (Aerial, Underwater, Space).

## **c) Profiles**

Through this feature you can change the selected videos in just a few clicks, rather than having to check and uncheck every video individually. Simply create and update profiles with the videos you like and change the selected videos to be played instantly.

## **d) Video Downloads**

This option gives the ability to select which videos are downloaded. Based on which of the three options you select: always be downloaded, never downloaded or downloaded when checked, the videos will be marked to be downloaded or not accordingly.

# Text Settings

This menu allows to customize your video playback with custom text or display useful information.

## **a) Available Text Types**

Aerial provides three types of options, to display over the video that is being played: Custom Text, Time and/or Date and General Information. For all option listed below, font customization is provided. More information on this procedure can be found in this manual under section "IV. Text Settings", clauses "c. Choosing Default Font" and "d. Choosing Font for Specific Text".

Custom Text: The user can add a static text message of his choice to be displayed on the screen.

Time/Date: Using the Moment.js syntax, the user can display the current time and date of their location using the hour and date format that suits their needs. A Moments.js Syntax Table is provided in this section for ease of use, as well as a preview of what the format will look like. More information about the Moment.js syntax can be found under section "VI. Useful Links".

Information: Using this option, the user can choose to display between the label, the name or the scenery location of the video that is currently playing.

## **b) Text Placement on Screen**

All the available type of texts can be positioned at the point of your choice by simple selection the dot on the config screen that matches the position you want. Different screen text positions can have different text options.

### **c) Choosing Default Font**

A globally applied font can be selected under this menu. Text color, size and font can be changed. When selecting the font, simply type its name and the autocomplete function will help you find the one of your choice. In order for this option to be applied to all the user selected text, the "Use Default Font" option must be selected under each text position's menu.

### **d) Choosing Font for Specific Text**

Different screen text options can be customized with different fonts, sizes and colors. In order to achieve that select the text option you want to modify, uncheck "Use Default Font" option and select the style you want, just like you would select the default font.



## Useful Links

- [Moment.js Formats and Examples](#)
- [What is the .scr file extension](#)
- [Aerial FAQ](#)
- [Aerial Tips & Tricks](#)