Unity3D Tutorial - Beginner Basics

0. About This Tutorial

- **1** Unity3D can be an intimidating *Game Development* tool for Windows and Mac OS. This tutorial will help a beginner feel more comfortable using Unity3D to make 3D games.
- 2 To run Unity3D well, a computer needs a 3D graphics card, and 2GB or more of RAM.
- **3** To understand this tutorial, you must be comfortable running computer programs in Windows or Mac OS, and using a mouse and keyboard. Knowing programming is not required, but helpful!
- **4** By the end of this tutorial, a beginner should be able to make and play a simple **Scene** in Unity3D, with a **FPSController**, and simple obstacles. More enthusiastic users should be able to create a platform-based 3D maze game, complete with win condition.
- **5** This tutorial should <u>explain enough for a beginner to feel comfortable with Unity3D</u>.

1. Installing Unity3D

1 Head to http://unity3d.com/unity/download and download the free version. Run the installer. It's a large install so be patient!

- 2 While downloading, make sure you have an e-mail account. You need it to finish installation!
- 3 During install, press Next > , and I Agree to the license, which says you are 13 or older, won't do anything illegal with Unity, and respect copyright (note: I am not a lawyer, this is not legal advice).



- **4** For slower computers, un-check Example Project to reduce the install, and speed up the first load time.
- **5** On Windows computers, un-check Microsoft Visual Studio Community to *drastically* reduce the instal time. However, if you want the absolute best C# editor, install it, or re-run the installer later.
- 6 Press Next > , Install , and wait for the progress bar
- **7** Finally, after Unity finishes installing press Finish
- **8** Unity3D should start up on it's own. If it doesn't start automatically, start Unity3D with the shortcut that might be on the desktop, Applications Folder (Mac OS), in the *Start-menu*, or the Windows *dashboard*.
- **9** If you have a Unity Account, sign in with that, otherwise, create one, then sign in.
- 10 Select PERSONAL EDITION for the free version, and agree to the license, saying you will buy the pro version when your games make \$100,000 in revenue (I am not a lawyer, this is not legal advice).
- **11** Press OK at the bottom of the survey, and Start Using Unity!

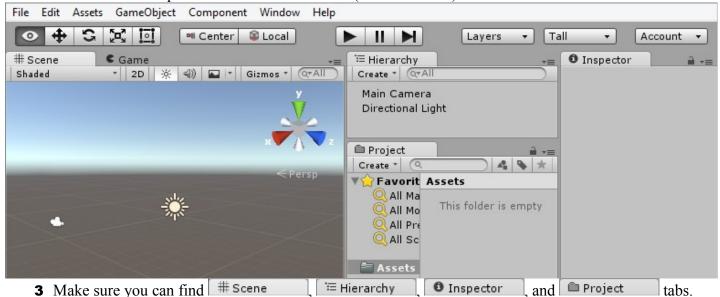
2. Start a Project

Name the new folder Unity3D.

- 1 If you un-checked earlier, just select New project. Otherwise, after the Example Project finishes loading, press in the loading, press in the loading, press in the loading, press in the loading, and create a loading loading loading, press in the loading loadin
- **3** Name your project something like tutorial1. Make this a 3D project.
- Note: if you accidentally make your project 2D, you can simply click the button to see a 3D view. A 2D project won't have sky, or 3D shadows, so following this tutorial in 2D mode will look different.
- 4 Name the folder unity3d tutorial, then Select Folder. Press Create project to create the project.

3. Pick a User Interface Layout

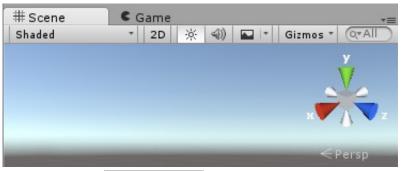
- 1 Choose a User Interface layout using the UI drop-down menu (Default on the upper-right.
- **2** Below is an example of the **Tall** *User Interface* (or UI for short):



4 If you lose any UI, check Window, or reset the layout with the UI drop-down menu.

4. Use the Scene User Interface

1 Find your #Scene view. It looks something like this:

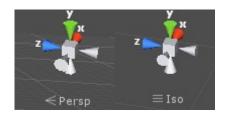


- The Game view is used while play-testing your game. If you accidentally click that, click #Scene again.
- You can *toggle* (turn on and off) the *sky box* with button. The *Grid* can be toggled as one of the Gizmos, along with many other icons in the *scene* yiew.
- 2 Turn the #Scene camera by holding the **Right-Mouse Button** and moving the mouse. Turning with the mouse like this is called *Mouselook*.
- 3 While holding the **Right-Mouse Button**, move the camera in the # scene using $\overline{\mathbf{W}}$, $\overline{\mathbf{A}}$, $\overline{\mathbf{S}}$, and $\overline{\mathbf{D}}$. If you have ever played Minecraft, or another First Person Shooter with a mouse-and-keyboard, this should be familiar. If you aren't comfortable with 3D games, this will take some getting used to!
- 4 Notice the 3D Scene Gizmo at the Upper Right of the #Scene . You'll notice it move when you Mouselook. It's diagramming the XYZ Axis.





- You can imagine the XYZ Axis in real life using a hand gesture, like this:
 - The Z axis (Depth) is forward, along your pointer finger
 - The Y axis (Height) is up, along your thumb
 - The X axis (Width) is to the side, along your middle finger
- If you've studied Algebra or Geometry, you may have seen an *XY Grid*, also called a *Cartesian Plane* or *Euclidean space*. The XYZ Axis is like that, but with a Z dimension too! Not only Width and Height, but also Depth!



- If you Click on the cube in the center of the 3D **Scene Gizmo**, you will toggle how the camera draws 3D, between *Perspective* and *Isometric*.
- **Perspective** is how we see in real life: far-away-things are smaller than close-by things.
- **Isometric**, also called *orthographic*, means distance does not change size, so it is useful for lining up objects that are far apart.
- **5** The #Scene will help you organize your game, in 3D space.

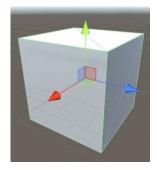
5. Use the Hierarchy User Interface

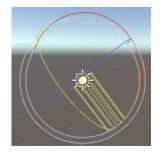
1 The Hierarchy will help you organize your scene as a list of Game Objects.



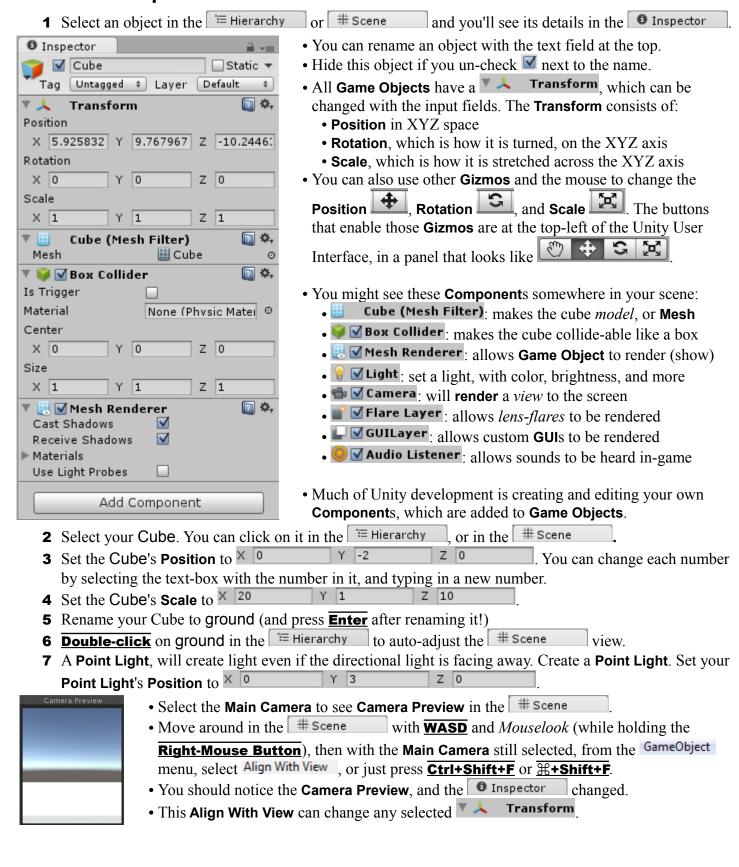
- Everything currently in the game **Scene** will be listed here!
- You can add a new element to the scene with Create
- Quickly **Double-Click** on a listed element to adjust the view, showing it.
- Slowly **Double-Click** on a listed element to rename it!
- 2 Press Create → and a 3D Object → Cube. It should appear in the Hierarchy, and the
- 3 If you cannot see the new Cube, *Quickly* **Double-Click** on its name in the ☐ Hierarchy
- 4 Other simple Game Objects you should experiment with creating: Sphere, Capsule, Cylinder, Plane. Don't be afraid to try other things too! You can Undo (Ctrl+Z or H+Z) almost anything, including adding a new object. To Delete an extra object, select it and press Delete, or press the Right-Mouse

 Button over the object in the Hierarchy and select Delete from the menu.
- **5** You can also find the same create menu through GameObject
- Move around using **WASD** and *Mouselook* (hold down the **Right-Mouse Button**), to see where the **Cube** and **Directional Light** are .
- 7 If you don't see the **Translate Gizmo** (as pictured to the right), select the **Cube**, and press, in the upper-left of the Unity3D UI (User Interface).
- 8 Try to move the **Cube** with the **Translate Gizmo** (colored *Arrows* and *Planes* in the **Scene**). **Drag** the *Arrows* with your mouse, or **Drag** the *Planes* between the lines of the arrows.
- 9 Select the Directional Light, then rotate it with the Rotation Gizmo. Drag your mouse along the colored circles! You should notice the lighting on the cube change. If not, press , at the top of the Scene, to toggle lights. If you create more cubes in the scene, you may notice shadows moving as you rotate the light!

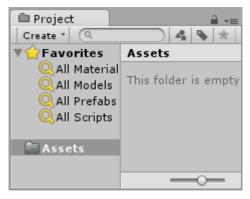




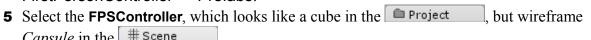
6. Use the Inspector User Interface



7. Use the Project User Interface

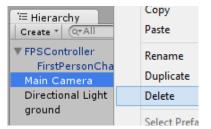


- is a list of Assets (Game Objects, pictures, sound, scripts, ...) that <u>could be</u> in your #Scene . It's different from the Hierarchy, which is a list of Game Objects that <u>are</u> in your #Scene
- You can **Import** new assets with the Assets menu item.
- The Assets folder in Project mirrors the actual file system! To see it in the file system, press the Right-Mouse Button on Show in Explorer or Reveal in Finder
- Use the slider at the bottom to change icon size.
- 1 To import a Character Controller from the Standard Assets Library, select the Assets menu, then Import Package and Characters.
- You can press Import. but to make the project smaller and faster, click the arrow w to be for FirstPersonController, RollerBall, and ThirdPersonController. Then, un-check the RollerBall, and ThirdPersonController. DO Keep FirstPersonController checked.
- 3 The Assets folder in Project now has an arrow . Click the arrow to toggle folder listing.
- **4** In the Project navigate Assets → Standard Assets → Characters → FirstPersonController → Prefabs.



Capsule in the #Scene

6 Drag-and-drop the First Person Controller into the ⊞Hierarchy



- There are now 2 **Main Cameras** in your Game! The **Scene** started with one, and **FPSController** came with one as well (named FirstPersonCharacter)!
- Delete the Main Camera that was in the Scene *first*, the one *not* inside the First Person Controller. Select it and press <u>Delete</u>, or press the <u>Right-Mouse Button</u> over the Main Camera and select <u>Delete</u>.
- This is not required, but may help with debugging scripts later!
- 7 Set the Position of the First Person Controller to X 0 Y 0 Z 0
- **8** Rename the **FPSController** to something like "player", to help keep things simple for later.
- **9** Save your Scene by selecting <u>File</u>, and <u>Save Scene</u> (<u>Ctrl+S</u> or <u>#+S</u>). Name it something like "tutorial", and be sure to save it in the **Assets** folder, or in a folder inside of it.
- **10** Save often, especially before you try something new that you have never done before!



8. Play-Test

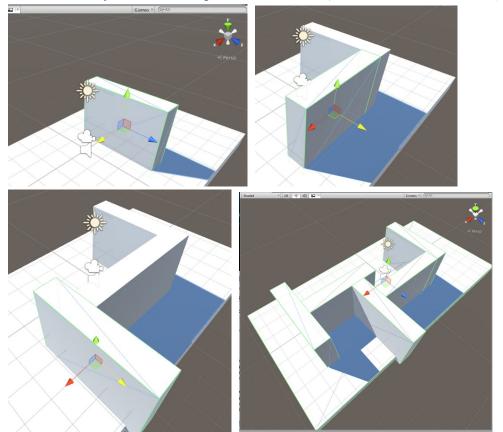
- 1 Press the Play button (in the middle, near the top, with one of these buttons)
- 2 The Game view is now active, and the rest of the UI changed color very slightly.
- 3 To move the FPSController (that was renamed to player), move the mouse (*Mouselook*), and use the **WASD** keys for movement, just like in the **Scene**. You can use **Space Bar** to jump!
- **4** If you fall, you can stop and restart the game by pressing **.**
- 5 If your game seems broken, set the player's Position to X 0 Y 0 Z 0.

 Also, make sure you have a ground cube at Position X 0 Y -2 Z 0 and the ground cube's Scale of X 20 Y 1 Z 10. The player might be partially *in* the ground cube.

- While the game is playing, select the player in the Hierarchy, then Click back into the to give mouse and keyboard focus back to the game. Notice that when you move the player, the Inspector shows the new state of the player's Transform.
- 7 You can change the details of any Game Object while the game is running with the BUT! Any changes you make while in Play Mode can't be saved!
- You should adjust your Unity settings to *more* clearly show when the game is running, so you don't accidentally make changes that can't be saved. Go to Edit, Preferences..., Colors, and change the General Playmode tint to something obvious. Like, hot pink.
- **9 Click** on the colored rectangle, and select a color using the color chooser.

9. "Iterate" On Your Game

- *Iterate* means *to do something over-and-over again*. Game Developers use that word to describe working on a game. Most of real Game Development is the same few things over and over:
 - 1 Come up with an idea to try
 - 2 Use tools (like Unity3D) to try it out
 - 3 Test it out, to see if it works like expected
 - 4 If it doesn't work, or there's more to do (there almost always is), go back to the first step!
- This is also called the *Iterative Process*, and it is also similar to the *Scientific Method*.
- Try to add more **Game Object**s and move them around to create a more interesting **Scene**:
 - **1** Try to use several cubes and lights to build a maze. You can **Scale** the cubes into walls, and even additional ground *platforms*!
 - 2 Add lighting. Don't be afraid to edit objects in the $\fbox{1}$ Inspector. Unity can Undo $(\fbox{Ctrl+Z}$ or $\fbox{\#+Z})$ and Redo $(\fbox{Ctrl+Y}$ or $\fbox{\#+Y})$ any of your changes. Also, don't forget to save often $(\r{Ctrl+S}$ or $\r{\#+S})$!
 - **3** *Play-test* your game after making some changes, to see if it is more fun!
- You could try to make a simple maze, like this (6 Cubes, 1 Directional Light, and a FPSController):



- To Duplicate a Game
 Object, press the RightMouse Button over it in the

 # Scene and select
 Duplicate, or select it and press Ctrl+D or #+D.
- For more digital (or snap-to-grid) control while adjusting Game Objects with the Position , Rotation , and Scale Gizmos, hold Ctrl or , while Dragging the mouse.
- The (p)osition and (s)cale of the 6 cubes in the example ← on the left:
 - p(0,-2,0) s(20,1,10)
 - p(-3,0,0) s(1,4,5)
 - p(0,0,2) s(5,4,1)
 - p(3,0,3) s(1,4,5)
 - p(4,0,0) s(5,4,1)
 - p(7,0,0) s(1,4,5)

10. Add a Script Component: Restart After Falling

- 1 To bring the *player* back to the beginning if the player falls off of a platform, we will need a *script*.
- **2** There's a LOT to learn about *scripting*, which is a way of saying *simple programming*. During this part of the tutorial it may be helpful to have someone who knows about programming around to help you!
- Then select Create, and C# Script . C# is pronounced "See Sharp".
- 4 Name the script Fall, with a capital 'F'. You can also rename it with the **Right-Mouse Button** menu.
- 5 **Double-click**, or press **Enter** on the Fall script in the **Project**. Then, wait a minute or two! The script editor, **MonoDevelop**, takes some time to load.





6 Add to the Fall script in **MonoDevelop**, so that it looks like this:

```
Fall.cs ×
o selection
  1 ☐ using UnityEngine;
  2 | using System.Collections;
  4 public class Fall : MonoBehaviour {
  5
          Vector3 startLocation;
  6
          public float lowestAllowed = -20;
  7
          // Use this for initialization
  8 =
          void Start () {
              startLocation = transform.position;
  9
 10
 11
          // Update is called once per frame
 12
 13 -
          void Update () {
              if(transform.position.y <= lowestAllowed) {</pre>
 14
 15
                   transform.position = startLocation;
 16
          }
 17
 18 L
 19
```

- If **MonoDevelop** opens multiple times, just close the extra *instances*.
- **Unity3D** and **MonoDevelop** support several scripting languages, including:
 - **C#**: the *strictest* option. *Strict* means it requires more code, but that helps MonoDevelop offer better *auto-complete*. C# Supports entire .*NET* 2.0 library. This is the most common choice.
 - **JavaScript**: or *UnityScript*, which has fairly simple *syntax*, very close to web JavaScript.
 - **Boo**: closely related to *Python*. Least common and least supported by Unity communities.
- 7 The *lines* with the green next to the line number are the ones you will need to type.
- **8** Copy this script *exactly*. Every capital letter is capital, and every lowercase letter is lowercase.
- **9** The *curly braces* **{ }** are on the keyboard near the Enter key, above and to the right of your right pinky.
- 10 Save the file in MonoDevelop (with <u>Ctrl+S</u>, <u>\mathbb{H}+S</u>, or select the <u>File</u> menu, then <u>Save</u>).
- 11 You can check to see if your script is correct in Unity by checking the bottom bar of the User Interface:

• Assets/Fall.cs(15,25): error CS0103: The name `transfrom' does not exist in the current context this example error is a simple case of misspelling: "transfrom" instead of "transform"

- **12** If there is an error, read the error message and use it to help you discover what is wrong, to solve the problem. This is where having someone who knows about programming will be very helpful!
- **13** If there are no errors, *drag-and-drop* the Fall script from the project onto player (which is the renamed **FPSController**).
- You should notice a Fall (Script) component in player. Scroll down in the Inspector to find it.

 If you accidentally added the script more than once, remove extras by pressing the Right-Mouse Button over the extra script, and select



- 15 You can change how the Fall script works by changing Lowest Allowed in the Inspector
- 16 Test out the script by jumping from your game area! If it does not work, think about what might fix it, and try it out, or ask a friend to help you *Debug* your problem. *Debugging*, or *Troubleshooting*, which means *fixing-computer-problems*, is a very important and powerful skill for a *Game Developer* to develop for themselves. Think of these problems as challenges to improve your skills with!

11. More Scripting Examples

• Here are some more scripts you can try to figure out and play with (each script will need its own file):

```
<u>ClickColor.cs</u>
                                                                            FoundIt.cs
using UnityEngine;
using System.Collections;
                                                                            using UnityEngine;
                                                                            using System.Collections;
public class ClickColor : MonoBehaviour {
                                                                            public class FoundIt : MonoBehaviour {
     Color originalColor;
                                                                                 public GameObject player;
     public Color color = Color.red;
void Start () {
                                                                                 public float distance = 2;
public string message = "You Win!";
public static GameObject FindGObj(System.Type t) {
    object[] f;
    f = UnityEngine Object FindObjectSOfType(t):
          originalColor = renderer.material.color:
                                                                                      if = UnityEngine.Object.FindObjectsOfType(t);
if(f != null && f.Length > 0) {
    return ((CharacterController)f[0])
     void OnMouseDown () {
   if(renderer.material.color == originalColor) {
                renderer.material.color = color;
                                                                                                 .gameObject;
                renderer.material.color = originalColor;
                                                                                       return null;
                                                                                 void Start() {
                                                                                      if(player == null) {
    player = FindGObj(
<u>TouchSensitive.cs</u>
using UnityEngine;
using System.Collections;
                                                                                                 typeof(CharacterController));
// put this on the player
public class TouchSensitive : MonoBehaviour {
                                                                                 void OnGUI() {
     void OnControllerColliderHit(
                                                                                      if(player == null) {
    print("No player looking for "+name+"!");
    Destroy(this);
                              ControllerColliderHit hit) {
          Damage dmg = hit.gameObject.
                              GetComponent<Damage>();
                                                                                            return:
           if(dmg != null) {
                dmg.DoDamage(this.gameObject);
                                                                                       float calculatedDistance = Vector3.Distance(
          }
                                                                                            transform.position,
     }
                                                                                            player.transform.position);
                                                                                       if(calculatedDistance < distance) {</pre>
Damage.cs
                                                                                            GUILayout.Label(message);
using UnityEngine;
using System.Collections;
                                                                                 }
// put this on something that damages the player public class Damage : MonoBehaviour {
     public void DoDamage(GameObject go) {
          Fall f = go.GetComponent<Fall>();
if(f != null) {
                go.transform.position =
                     new Vector3(0, f.lowestAllowed, 0);
          }
```

- These scripts can create color-changing objects, goal objects, and penalty objects that restart the player!
- Someone who feels comfortable with Programming may want to check out the **Monobehaviour** documentation at http://docs.unity3d.com/Documentation/ScriptReference/MonoBehaviour.html.

12. What Else Can Unity3D Do?

- There is still SO MUCH that Unity3D can do to create games! You can use scripting to implement any kind of gameplay you can think of, but scripting is only one part of it! You should also know about:
 - Materials, to change the color and texture of objects
 - Particle Effects, to make explosions water effects, and things that look like magic!
 - Rigidbody Physics, to allow objects to interact with each other in interesting ways
 - 3D Models and Animations, which you can import from tools like Blender, 3DS Max, or Maya
 - Music and Sound Effects, which can add a lot to your game
 - And so much more! **Terrain** editors, *Web* and *Mobile* development, **Shaders**, **Lighting**, Novel *Game Controllers*, *Networking*, Graphical User Interface (**GUI**), the Unity **Asset Store**, ...
 - 1 Find the Unity3D User Guide is at: http://docs.unity3d.com/Documentation/Manual/UserGuide.html