



APEX **PATH**

Components

Contents

Version History.....	3
Introduction	4
Common	5
Advanced Message Bus	5
Game Services Initializer	5
Load Balancer.....	5
Debugging	7
Grid Visualizer	7
Path Visualizer.....	8
Dynamic Obstacle Visualizer (<i>requires the Advanced Dynamic Obstacle extension</i>)	8
Steering Monitor.....	8
Input	10
Selection Rectangle.....	10
Very basic input receiver	10
Navigation.....	11
Basics	11
Grid	11
Navigation Settings	13
Layer Mapping	14
Path Service.....	14
Terrain Height Map	15
Behaviours	15
Patrol.....	15
Wander.....	15
Obstacles	17
Dynamic Obstacle	17
Invalid Destination	18
Props	19
Patrol Point	19
Patrol Route.....	19
Steering	20
Humanoid Speed	20
Steerable Unit	21
Basic Scanner	21
Steer for Basic Avoidance.....	21

Steer to Flee Obstacle	22
Steer for Path.....	22
Path Options	23
Replan when Blocked.....	23
Replan when No Route	24
Steer to Align with Velocity	24
Portals.....	24
Grid Portal.....	25
Portal Action Teleport	26
QuickStarts.....	27
Game World	27
Game World with Basic Height Map.....	27
Game World with Terrain Height Map	27
Navigating Unit	27
Navigating Unit On patrol.....	27
Navigating Unit with Selection.....	27
Navigating Unit Wandering	27
Patrol Route.....	27
Steering: Basic Avoidance	27
Triggers.....	28
Attribute Manipulating Trigger	28
Units	29
Unit	29

Version History

Version 1.0	Initial Version
Version 1.1	Portals added
Version 1.2	Added new avoidance steering
Version 1.3	A few new properties.
Version 1.4	Update for Apex Path 1.2
Version 1.5	Update for Apex Path 1.3
Version 2.0	Update for Apex Path 2.0

Introduction

Apex Path offers a wide range of components to control how units move around in the game world, and how they interact with obstacles and other entities.

This document provides a detailed description of each of these components.

For a full reference on all types in the Apex Path framework, please refer to the Apex Path API help file.

Common

Advanced Message Bus

Apex Path uses a Basic Message Bus as its default. To use the advanced alternative instead you can add this component to your scene's game world.

In most cases there is no reason to change the default.

Please refer to the Apex Path Extensibility guide for details on message buses and the difference between the basic and advanced version.

Game Services Initializer

This is a required component that must always reside on the Game World GameObject. It initializes core services used by other components.

As with most other components, it is automatically added to the scene when using the Quick Starts.

Load Balancer

This component holds the configuration of each of the load balancer queues used by Apex Path.

Property	Description
Default Balancer	The load balancer used for executing miscellaneous actions. This queue is also available for use to you. Please refer to the Apex Path Extensibility guide for more on load balancers and their use.
Steering	The load balancer that handles certain parts of steering
Dynamic Obstacles	The load balancer that handles dynamic obstacles

Each load balancer has the following configuration options

Property	Description
Update Interval	This is the interval in seconds between each update of items in the queue.
Auto Adjust	If checked, the load balancer will adjust how many items are updated per frame according to how many are in the queue and how long they take to run such that they will be evenly distributed across the update interval.

Max Updates Per Frame	<p>This defines the maximum number of items in the queue that are updated each frame. If more items than this are ready to be updated (their interval has passed) they will instead be updated on the next frame.</p> <p>If you have a large number of units in the scene you may need to increase the default value, to ensure that all units get processed as close to their intended interval as possible.</p>
Max Update Time in Milliseconds Per Interval	<p>This defines the maximum number of milliseconds the load balancer is allowed to use each frame. If it reaches this limit it will continue processing the remaining items on the next frame.</p> <p>This property is related to the above property, as they both control how much time the load balancer is allowed to use each frame.</p> <p>As with the above property you may need to increase the default value if you have a large number of units, and start experiencing erratic behavior.</p>

Debugging

Components in this section are there to provide visual clues and references by drawing Gizmos or outputting text to the console.

Grid Visualizer

Draws a visual representation of grids attached to the same GameObject. The grid also shows which nodes are blocked by obstacles.

Property	Description
Draw Always	Setting this to true means that the grid is drawn even if the GameObject is not selected.
Draw Mode	<p><i>Layout:</i> Draws the actual representation of the grid. It is useful as a reference when placing geometry in the scene.</p> <p><i>Accessibility:</i> Draws the grid as accessibility lines, meaning that all lines drawn indicate a valid path to move through the level (not counting Dynamic Obstacles). If the scene has a height map, the grid(s) must be baked for height map data to be represented.</p> <p><i>Height Overlay:</i> Draws a representation of how height data is stored. Only shows for Quad Trees, with each square representing one height.</p>
Draw Sub Sections	Draws the subsections of the Grid (See Grid component for details).
Draw All Grids	Controls whether the visualizer draws all grids in the scene or only those on the same GameObject as the visualizer
Editor Refresh Delay	The delay following updates to the scene after which the editor refreshes the grid while in editor mode.
Draw Distance Threshold	<p>This controls how much of the grid to draw, which in effect means that of the camera is tilted or zoomed out a certain amount the grid will no longer be drawn. This is both to improve performance, but also to avoid drawing visualizations that as useless, e.g. too far away.</p> <p>The threshold used is the diagonal distance of the portion of the grid currently visible on screen.</p>
Grid lines color	Sets the color of the grid lines drawn.
Ascent Only	Color for accessibility where only ascent is possible.

Descent Only	Color for accessibility where only descent is possible.
Obstacle color	Sets the color of the obstacles markings in the grid.
Sub Sections color	Sets the color of the lines marking the subsections' boundaries.
Bounds Color	The color of the bounds wire frame.

Path Visualizer

Draws a line outlining the path the unit is about to travel. Add this component to a unit if you need to visually debug the path the unit receives. Remember to enable gizmos in the Game View to see the path.

Property	Description
Draw Always	Draws the path disregarding whether the unit is selected in the Hierarchy.
Route Color	Sets the color of the line outlining the route the unit is about to travel
Waypoints Color	Sets the color of waypoints along the route
Show Segment Markers	Toggles whether an indication of the individual path segments is drawn or not.

Dynamic Obstacle Visualizer *(requires the Advanced Dynamic Obstacle extension)*

Draws the outline of the effective bounds of the dynamic obstacle when in Adaptive mode.

Property	Description
Draw Always	Draws the path disregarding whether the unit is selected in the Hierarchy.
Draw All Obstacles	Controls whether the visualizer draws all obstacles in the scene or only those on the same GameObject as the visualizer
Outline Color	Sets the color of the line outlining the route the unit is about to travel

Steering Monitor

Writes steering events to the console for debug purposes. For instance when a unit reaches a waypoint or reaches its destination.

Property	Description
Unit Filter	Can be used to only show events for a specific unit. Draw the unit's GameObject to the property to assign the filter.
Event Filter	Can be used to filter what events the monitor reacts to.

Input

Selection Rectangle

This component is used to create the selection rectangle that appears when you left click and drag in game mode, to select units.

It is used by the Selection Rectangle prefab, which is automatically added to the game world when you create one or more selectable units using the Quick Starts.

Property	Description
Start Delta Threshold	Controls how far you have to drag the mouse after holding down the left mouse button (or other input you may define), before the rectangle starts drawing.

Very basic input receiver

As the name suggests, this is a rather naïve implementation of an input receiver. All input keys and buttons are hard coded.

It works fine for getting started, but it is strongly advised that you create your own input receiver at some point.

Please refer to the Apex Path Extensibility guide for details on doing so.

Navigation

Basics

Grid

The grid component holds the information about the cells used by the pathfinder and other components.

Sub sections in the grid are used for dynamic re-planning to improve performance. Whenever an obstacle changes position, only units in the sub sections of the grid will be notified.

Property	Description
Friendly Name	An optional name of the grid.
Link Origin to Transform	If this is checked, the origin (center) of the grid is the same as the position of the transform.
Origin	Center of the grid, if Link Origin to Transform is false.
Offset	The offset of from the transform, if Link Origin to Transform is true.
Size X	The size of the grid on the X-axis specified in number of cells.
Size Z	The size of the grid on the Z-axis specified in number of cells.
Sub Sections X	How many subsections the grid is divided into on the X-axis.
Sub Section Z	How many subsections the grid is divided into on the Z-axis.
Sub Sections Cell Overlap	The amount cells sub sections overlap
Cell Size	The size of each cell in the grid. Cells size should be large enough to hold the largest unit type.
Lower Boundary	How far below the origin to sample heights. Any geometry lower than this will be ignored.
Upper Boundary	How high above the origin to sample heights. Any geometry higher than this will be ignored.
Obstacle Sensitivity Range	<p>Sets the range from the center of the cell, such that any obstacle inside this range will block the cell.</p> <p>This should be set to the radius of the largest unit you plan to navigate the grid. (See Unit.Radius)</p>

Generate Height Map	Controls whether a height map will be generated as part of the grid. If no height map is generated units will not be able to adjust their movement to height differences in the terrain.
Lookup Type	<p>The method of storing height data.</p> <p><i>Quad Trees</i> are efficient only storing sparse height data, leading to a reduced memory footprint at the cost of slower lookup times.</p> <p>The <i>Dictionary</i> is memory heavy but faster on lookups and generally the better option if using dynamic grid updating.</p>
Tree Depth	If using Quad Trees, this control how many times the tree will split itself before resorting to using local dictionaries for the remaining height data in that section.
Automatic Initialization	<p>When checked (default) the grid will initialize itself when enabled.</p> <p>If unchecked you will need to call the Initialize method of the grid component to enable and initialize it. This is useful for dynamic instantiation of grids at runtime, since the manual initialization is load balanced.</p>
Store Grid data as Asset	If checked, baking the grid will store the data in a separate asset, which enables reuse, i.e. prefab'ing the grid.
Bake Grid	<p>Pressing this button will create a cached version of the grid. Having a cached version of the grid reduces start-up time since the grid is already calculated.</p> <p>Some visualization also require the grid to be baked; again for performance reasons.</p>

Navigation Settings

Controls the various settings to do with mainly height navigation.

Property	Description
Mode	<p><i>No Height Sampling</i>: Disables height sampling altogether.</p> <p><i>Height Map</i>: Uses a height map for sampling heights.</p> <p><i>Ray Cast</i>: Uses live ray casting for height samples. No height map is generated.</p> <p><i>Sphere Cast</i>: Uses sphere casting for height samples. No height map is generated.</p>
Height Map Detail	<p><i>Normal</i>: Sufficient for most purposes</p> <p><i>Detailed</i>: Less performant but more precise height sampling</p>
Granularity	The distance between each height plot point. The lower this number the more accurate the height sampling will be, at the cost of some memory.
Ledge Threshold	The max angle at which a piece of geometry is considered a ledge. A climb or drop is defined as movement from one ledge to another.
Use Global Height Navigation Settings	Controls whether units will use global settings defined on this component, or will define their own settings on their Unit Component.
Max Slope Angle	Controls how steep a slope can be before it is deemed unwalkable.
Max Climb Height	<p>Controls the maximum height that is considered scalable (i.e. units are able to walk over or climb onto) even if the slope is higher than the above setting.</p> <p>This is useful for stairs and such, and in general should be set to a value other than 0. If set to zero, even the smallest height difference will be considered unwalkable.</p>
Max Drop Height	Controls the maximum height that a unit can drop down from.

Layer Mapping

This component maps the predefined layers of Apex path to layers in the project.

Property	Description
Static Obstacle Layer	The layer(s) that holds static obstacles, i.e. obstacles that will not change during the course of the game. This mapping is optional.
Terrain Layer	The layer(s) that holds the ground elements on which units can move.
Unit Layer	The layer(s) assigned to units. This mapping is optional.

Path Service

This is the service responsible for supplies each unit with a valid path.

The path service should be added to the scene only once.

Property	Description
Engine Type	<p>Here you can select the pathfinding algorithm to use.</p> <p>Astar: Classic pathfinding algorithm, guaranteed to find a path.</p> <p>JumpPointSearch: Memory optimized A* algorithm up to x5 faster in most cases.</p>
Move Cost	The move cost provider to use. Move cost means the cost of moving from one cell to another adjacent cell.
Initial Heap Size	<p>The heap size should be sized after the grid. A ballpark figure is number of nodes in the grid divided by 10. A 10x10 grid should have an initial heap size of 10.</p> <p>You are not required to set this as the heap will automatically resize itself as needed, but for maximum performance it is better to have a fitting start size to avoid automatic resizing during runtime.</p>
Run Async	When this is checked the pathfinding will use multithreading
Use Thread Pool for Asyn Operations	<p>Controls whether the path engine uses a thread pool or a dedicated thread for async mode.</p> <p>Even if set to use a thread pool, it will only do so if the platform supports it.</p>

Max milliseconds per frame	The maximum number of milliseconds that will be use per frame when the pathfinder is not running in Async mode.
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Terrain Height Map

Adds height map navigation using a Unity3D Terrain component.

This component is automatically added to the scene at runtime, if any terrain components are detected.

Property	Description
Terrain	The Terrain component reference.
Update Grids	Clicking this will update any prebaked grids with changes made to the height map.

Behaviours

Patrol

The Patrol Behavior is a simple behavior that allows the Agent to move along a predefined route.

Property	Description
Route	The Patrol Route Component linked to the Patrol Behaviour (see Patrol Route). This is the patrol route the Agent uses when patrolling.
Linger At Nodes for Seconds	The amount of time an Agent rests when reaching a point on the Patrol Route, before the Agent starts moving towards the next point.
Reverse Route	If set to true the Agent traverses the Patrol Route in order from the last node to the first.
Randomize	Instead of following the route in order the unit will randomly choose the next point on the route to go to.

Wander

The Wander Behavior makes the Agent wander at random across the Grid. This behavior is useful for debugging a level or for random characters in the scene such as critters.

Property	Description
Radius	The maximum radius from the Agent's original position that the next destination is sampled from.

Minimum Distance	The minimum radius from the Agent's position that the next destination is sampled from, e.g. the minimum distance you want to move each time the agent start to wander in a new direction.
Linger for Seconds	The amount of time an Agent rests when reaching its destination, before the Agent starts moving towards the next destination.
Bail After Failed Attempts	This is a failsafe to ensure that in case everything around the Agent is blocked or otherwise inaccessible, he will not continue to attempt to find a new route indefinitely.

Obstacles

Dynamic Obstacle

This component is for obstacles that are dynamic in nature, i.e. they change status, size or position during the course of the game.

Advanced Dynamic Obstacle extension

Dynamic obstacles have two bounding modes to control how they determine which cells they cover.

In Axis Aligned mode, the obstacle will cover all cells covered by its bounding rectangle. For obstacles that are axis aligned, this is fine, but for obstacles that are not it means they will block more cells than they actually cover.

In Adaptive mode there are actually two modes in one.

Both modes use the actual bounding polygon of the obstacle, meaning they will block exactly those cells they cover.

The first sub-mode, which matches the axis aligned mode in performance, is active as long as the x and z rotation of the obstacle is within a set threshold.

The second sub-mode will be entered if the x and z rotation exceeds the aforementioned threshold.

The obstacle will switch between modes automatically to use the one that gives the best performance while maintaining the precision.

Property	Description
Exceptions	The obstacle will not block units with these attributes
Update Mode	Controls when the component updates the grid. <i>AtInterval</i> : The obstacle updates every set interval. <i>OnRequest</i> : The obstacle updates only if requested to do so, through scripting.
Custom Update Interval	Setting this to a number overrides the default update interval specified on the dynamic obstacles load balancer.
Bounding Mode	<i>Requires the Advanced Dynamic Obstacle extension</i> Controls how the dynamic obstacle determines which cells it covers. <i>Axis Aligned</i> : Uses the axis aligned bounding box. <i>Adaptive</i> : Uses the actual bounds of the obstacle, see the summary above for details. <i>Fixed Hull</i> : Only calculates the obstacle outline once. Requires no velocity and that no rotation is done on the x- and z- axis after the obstacle has initialized.

Adaptation Rotation Threshold	<i>Requires the Advanced Dynamic Obstacle extension</i> When set to Adaptive mode, this controls how much rotation on the x- and/or z-axis will cause the obstacle to enter the fully generic mode.
Use Grid Obstacle Sensitivity	Controls whether the obstacle sensitivity range of the grid will be used by this obstacle.
Custom Sensitivity	The custom obstacle sensitivity range to use.
Support Dynamic Grids	If checked, the Dynamic Obstacle will react to grids being disabled / initialized at runtime. If you use dynamic grid initialization this should be checked.
Velocity Prediction Factor	Indicates how far ahead of the obstacles moving direction (velocity) the obstacle will block the grid.
Resolve Velocity from Parent	Controls whether the obstacle will look for a velocity source on the parent game object if one is not found on its own.
Stop Updating If Stationary	If set to true and the obstacle is not moving, it will remove itself from the update queue.
Stationary Threshold Seconds	Indicates the number of seconds the obstacle will have to be stationary in order to stop updating. Only valid if "Stop Updating If Stationary" is set to true.

Invalid Destination

Marks a transform or sub area of a transform as an invalid destination for path finding. This means that while the area is traversable it cannot be a final destination.

Property	Description
Entire Transform	Check this to make the entire transform invalid as a destination.
Only Sub Area	Use this to specify a specific area as invalid as a destination. Only used if the 'Entire Transform' property is set to false.

Props

Patrol Point

A patrol point represents a single waypoint along a patrol route. Patrol points are typically added as child GameObjects of a Patrol Route.

Property	Description
Order Index	An arbitrary index used to order patrol points in relation to each other.
Use Transform Position	The location of the patrol point is that of its transform.
Location	If 'Use Transform Position' is set to false, this location is used to position the patrol point instead.

Patrol Route

Patrol route is used by the patrol behavior and is the parent of two or more patrol points. The patrol routes can be reused across units allowing units to share patrol routes.

The units will patrol along the patrol points in the specified order.

The recommended way of adding a patrol is to use the quick start components: Components -> Apex -> Quick Starts -> Patrol Route.

Property	Description
Draw Gizmos Always	Setting this to true means that the patrol route is drawn even if the GameObject is not selected.
Gizmo Color	The color of the patrol points on this route..

Steering

Humanoid Speed

On this component you set the speed for humanoid characters based on multiple modes of movement. The component sets the maximum speeds for different move modes for the unit. It's possible to create other components for different types of creatures.

This component starts out in Walk mode. In order to change movement mode you will have to call the appropriate method on the component through scripting. See the examples project for... yes an example.

Property	Description
Max Acceleration	The maximum acceleration rate of the unit (m / s ²), i.e. how fast can the unit reach its desired speed.
Max Angular Acceleration	The maximum angular acceleration rate of the unit (rads / s ²), i.e. how fast can the unit reach its desired turn speed.
Max Angular Speed	The maximum turn speed of the unit (rads / s), i.e. how fast can the unit turn.
Max Deceleration	The maximum deceleration rate of the unit (m / s ²), i.e. how fast can the unit slow down.
Maximum Speed	The maximum speed, regardless of movement form.
Minimum Speed	The minimum speed ever, regardless of movement form. Any speed below this will mean a stop.
Crawl	The maximum speed of the unit when crawling
Crouched Speed	The maximum speed the unit when the unit is in a crouching position
Walk Speed	The maximum speed of the unit when it is walking
Run Speed	Maximum speed of the unit when it is running forward
Strafe Max Speed	Maximum speed of the unit when it is moving sideways in a strafing position
Back Pedal Max Speed	Maximum speed of the unit when it is moving backwards

Steerable Unit

The component takes input from all steering components on the unit and combines them into a final velocity of the unit.

Property	Description
Gravity	The gravity acceleration
Ground Stickyness Factor	Controls to what degree a unit will attempt to stick to the ground when moving down slopes.
Stop If Stuck For Seconds	The amount of seconds after which the unit will stop if it is stuck.
Stop Time Frame	The time over which to stop when waiting or when no steering components have any output (as permitted by deceleration capabilities).
Terminal Velocity	The terminal velocity, i.e. maximum fall speed (m/s)

Basic Scanner

The component provides the perception needed by the basic steering.

Property	Description
Scan Interval	The interval between scans.
Scan Radius	The radius around the unit that will be scanned for other units.

Steer for Basic Avoidance

The component steers the unit in order to avoid other units in its path.

Property	Description
Priority	The priority of this steering behaviour relative to others. Only behaviours with the highest priority will influence the steering of the unit, provided they have any steering output
Weight	The weight relative to other steering components

Steer to Flee Obstacle

Steering behaviors that will make the unit avoid obstacles encroaching on its position. If an obstacle suddenly covers the cell in which the unit is located, the unit will try and flee the cell.

Property	Description
Priority	The priority of this steering behaviour relative to others. Only behaviours with the highest priority will influence the steering of the unit, provided they have any steering output
Weight	All steering components can specify a weight, which determines how much impact they will have on the final velocity compared to other attached steering components.
Flee Max Radius	The maximum distance in cells that the unit will inspect to find a spot to flee to.

Steer for Path

The component steers the unit a along a path received from the path finder.

Property	Description
Priority	The priority of this steering behaviour relative to others. Only behaviours with the highest priority will influence the steering of the unit, provided they have any steering output
Weight	The weight relative to other steering components
Strict Path Following	Controls how the unit follows the path. If set to true, the unit will insist on getting within Next Node Distance of the next node on the path as specified on the Path Options Component; otherwise it will proceed once it passes by its current next node.
Arrival Distance	The distance from the final destination where the unit will stop.
Auto Calculate Slowing Distance	Determines whether the slowing distance is automatically calculated based on the unit's speed and deceleration capabilities.
Slowing Algorithm	The algorithm used to slow the unit for arrival.
Slowing Distance	The distance within which the unit will start to slow down for arrival.

Path Options

This component contains the various settings mainly for use by the path finder when issuing path requests. Other components, such as Steer for Path uses this.

Property	Description
Allow Corner Cutting	Whether to allow the path to cut corners. Corner cutting has slightly better performance, but produces less natural routes.
Announce All Nodes	Whether to raise a navigation event for each node reached along a path.
Max Escape Cell Distance If Origin Blocked	The maximum escape cell distance if the unit's starting position is blocked.
Navigate To Nearest If Blocked	Whether the unit will navigate to the nearest possible position if the actual destination is blocked or otherwise inaccessible. Using this with the A* engine is highly inefficient!
Next Node Distance	The distance from the current destination node on the path at which the unit will switch to the next node.
Pathing Priority	The priority with which this unit's path requests should be processed.
Prevent Diagonal Moves	Whether the unit is allowed to move to diagonal neighbours.
Replan Interval	The time between replans, the exact meaning depends on the replan mode.
Replan Mode	The replan mode.
Request Next Waypoint Distance	The distance from the current way point at which the next way point will be requested.
Use Path Smoothing	Whether to use path smoothing to create more natural paths.

Replan when Blocked

This component is a result processor that will change the default behavior in cases where a valid path could not be found due to the destination being blocked.

It will try to find an alternative destination which is as close to the original destination and to the unit as possible.

Property	Description
Processing Order	The order this processor should be processed in relation to other processors.
Max Cell Distance for New Destination	The maximum distance in cells that the unit will inspect to find a new destination.

Replan when No Route

This component is a result processor that will change the default behavior in cases where a valid path could not be found as the destination cannot be reached.

It will try to replan the same route a number of times to see if the cause of the destination being unreachable was temporary.

Property	Description
Processing Order	The order this processor should be processed in relation to other processors.
Retry Delay	The delay in seconds between each retry.
Max Retries	The maximum number of retries.

Steer to Align with Velocity

This component turns the unit to face in the direction of movement.

Property	Description
Align With Elevation	Whether to align with the y-component of the velocity as well
Minimum Speed To Turn	The minimum speed that the unit will actually turn.
Priority	The priority of this orientation behaviour relative to others. Only the behaviour with the highest priority will influence the orientation of the unit.
Slowing Algorithm	The algorithm used to slow the unit's rotation
Slowing Distance	The distance within which the unit will start to slow down its rotation speed to smoothly 'arrive' at the designated rotation

Portals

Portals provide the means to perform special navigation within a grid or between grids, for example a teleport.

While portals add a great many possibilities, they also come with some implications that you need to be aware of before starting to use portals.

1. Adding a Shortcut portal to a grid increases the time used by the path finder to find a route, by 30%. That is in the worst case scenario and ONLY applies to Shortcut portals, not Connectors. This increase is per portal, so adding 10 portals increases path finding time by a factor of 3. If the portals are between grids and not on the same grid, the time cost is half, i.e. 15%. Normally however you would use Connector portals between grids, which have no overhead.

Of course portals also have the opposite effect, when a portal acts as a short cut; that also means that the path finder uses far less time.

Since path finding is fast, the added cost is not likely to be an issue unless you go overboard and add hundreds of portals.

2. A* path finding usually guarantees the shortest path to the goal. With portals that is not the case. In short what this means that the path finder will prefer routes that move towards the goal, so any portals that bring the path closer to the goal will be preferred. Due to how portals work this may not be the shortest path, e.g. there may be a shorter path that uses a portal that initially moves away from the goal but eventually turns out to be shorter since it can use another portal to get closer. This can however be overcome by setting the 'Prevent Off Grid Navigation' to true on the unit's Steer for Path component.
3. If a portal is set up between two grids, the normal inter-grid navigation will no longer be active; instead the portal will be used. Note that this is regardless of how far or close the unit is to the other grid. If at least one portal exists between two grids, navigation will always use portals. As of Apex Path 2.0 off grid navigation has been disabled, so portals are the only option for cross grid navigation.

Grid Portal

This is the component that defines a portal. It consists of two sections that define the two sides of the portal.

Property	Description
Exclusive To	Controls which unit type that can use the portal. If set to anything other than Nothing the portal will only be usable by units with matching attribute(s).
Portal Name	The name of the portal. This can be used to get a reference to the portal through the Portal Manager (script).
Type	Either Shortcut or Connector. As a general rule use connectors as much as possible and only use Shortcut portals when needed.

Direction	Two-way portals are usable from both end points, one-way portals are only usable from one end point.
Portal One Color	The Gizmo color of portal one.
Portal Two Color	The Gizmo color of portal one.
Connection Color	The Gizmo color of the portal connection.
Relative To Transform	Controls whether the portal end points are seen as relative to their parent transform. IF relative they will move with the transform otherwise they will be static and remain where they were placed initially.

Portal Action Teleport

This is the basic portal action that ships with Apex Path.

This action simply teleports the unit from one end of the portal to the other.

Please refer to the *Apex Path Extensibility* guide for details on creating your own portal actions.

QuickStarts

Quick Starts are components that act as factories to add various other components to a GameObject.

Most quick starts will also add and setup a Game World object if one does not exist.

Game World

Adds a Game World object to the scene and configures it with the Apex path high level components, such as the Grid and Path service.

Game World with Basic Height Map

Adds and configures a Game World object to the scene the addition of a Basic Height Map.

Game World with Terrain Height Map

Adds and configures a Game World object to the scene the addition of a Terrain Height Map.

Navigating Unit

Adds the components necessary for a unit to have basic navigation skills. This is typically an enemy or another unit that is moved by AI instead of player interaction.

Navigating Unit On patrol

Adds the components necessary to navigate and adds the patrol behavior. This means that the unit will patrol according a patrol route. The patrol route will be created as a child of the GameWorld object.

Navigating Unit with Selection

Adds the components necessary to navigate and adds the ability to select and move a player controllable unit using the mouse or other input device.

Navigating Unit Wandering

Adds the components necessary to navigate and adds the wander behavior.

Patrol Route

Adds a Patrol Route with two Patrol Points

Steering: Basic Avoidance

Adds basic avoidance to a unit, to prevent it from colliding with other units.

Triggers

Attribute Manipulating Trigger

This component removes or adds attributes to units that collide with the GameObject that has this component attached. See the chapter on Attributes in the Apex Path User Manual or Extensibility guide for further information on Attributes.

Property	Description
Applies	Units colliding will have the attribute mask in the dropdown applied to them.
Removes	Units colliding will have the attribute mask in the dropdown removed from them.
Update On	Controls whether units will have the attribute masks applied and/or removed when they enter the collider, exit the collider, or both.

Units

Unit

Holds some basic properties associated with all units.

Property	Description
Determination	The determination factor is used to evaluate whether this unit separates or avoids other units. Units with lower determination are basically ignored.
Height Capabilities	The height navigation capabilities of the unit
Is Selectable	Controls whether this unit is selectable via user input such as a mouse.
Field of View	The field of view in degrees.
Radius	The radius of the unit.
Selection Visual	The visual used to indicate whether the unit is selected or not.
Ground Offset	The distance the unit will hover above the ground as seen from the bottom of its collider/mesh.
Attributes	The custom attributes of this entity.