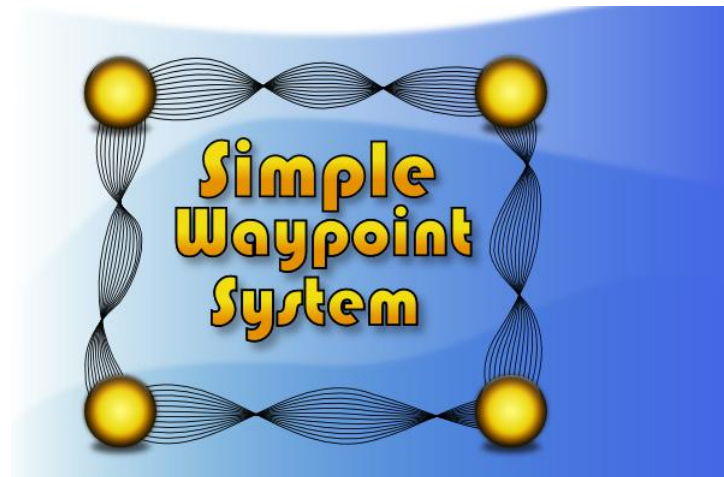


Simple Waypoint System (SWS)

by Rebound Games

v2.1.1



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Thanks for buying SWS!

Your support is greatly appreciated!

1. SWS – WHAT'S THAT?

Simple Waypoint System (SWS) is an editor extension for Unity3d which allows you to create waypoints and paths very easily right within the editor. With those created, you can then tell any kind of game object to follow a specific path.

This kit is useful for every automated movement in your games.

For example for:

- AI Patrol behavior
- Movement on a Path
- Moving Platforms
- Camera and Game Object animation
- Cut Scenes
- 3D GUI animation

But I'm sure you will also find some other needs for this system.

Included features are:

- Easy to use
- Custom Path Manager
- Movement using iTween & HOTween
- Delay and Message Settings per waypoint
- Works in 2D & 3D space
- Compatible with C# & JavaScript
- Undo and Redo
- Full source code in C#
- Every line documented
- 3 Example Scenes

As you have seen in the features, SWS uses iTween and HOTween to simulate movement in 3d space. Both of them are free and open source animation libraries for Unity3d. More information and the latest versions are available from the Google Code repository link on their main sites here:

<http://itween.pixelplacement.com/index.php>

<http://www.holoville.com/hotween/>

Please feel free to donate to both of these projects.

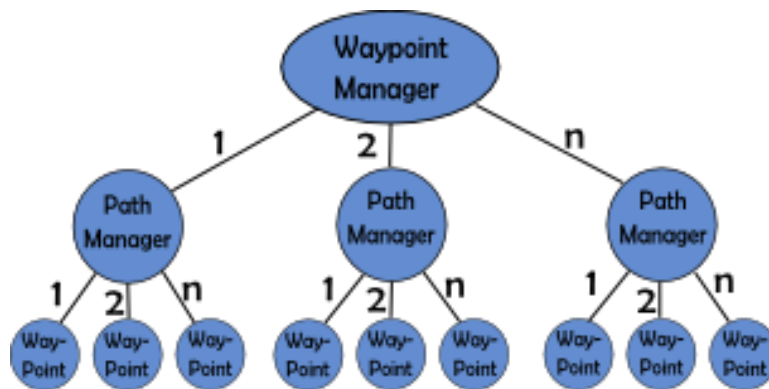
Your donation will support the development of iTween and HOTween.

2. SCRIPT CONNECTIONS AND PREPARATION

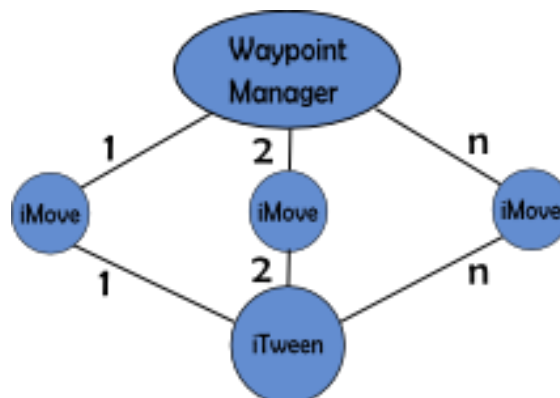
If you are new to Unity3d, please take a quick break and get dirty with its main functionalities, because this documentation will assume you have some basic knowledge regarding the interface and game mechanics.

Setting up SWS is very simple. But to understand internal connections between scripts without looking at code, the drawings below should give a short overview.

In the editor, the Waypoint Manager lets you create as many waypoints as you want. They get connected on the fly and are stored as separate game objects. Two and more waypoints form a path, so each path can consist of countless waypoints. This path is also a separate game object and holds a Path Manager component, which stores the array of created waypoints for this path. Waypoint Editor and Path Editor give you a custom inspector for both of them.





In order to actually move your game objects with the provided movement scripts iMove or hoMove and make use of their animation library, a copy of iTween and HOTween is also required in your project. These libraries need not be attached to any game object.




3. EXAMPLE SCENES

Once you downloaded SWS from the Unity Asset Store and imported it in your project, it is recommended that you get familiar with its mechanics and take a look at the provided example scenes. Please open

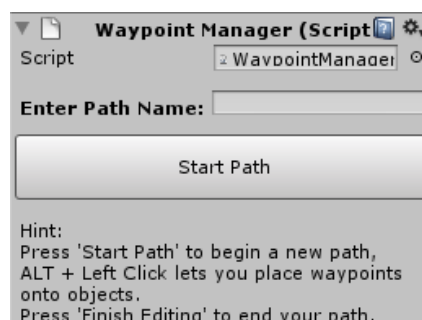
 Example_Straight

You will notice some yellow and blue paths, starting and ending with a purple box and a few yellow or blue spheres between them. If they do not show up, please make sure that the Path Manager component is enabled in the gizmo settings. 

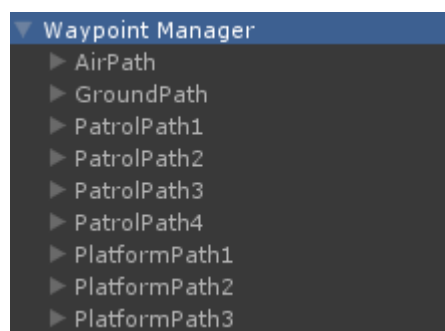
A red capsule, platform or soldier is positioned besides every starting point which will “walk” on this path. If you click on the Play button, you can see them in action. 

So, how this SWS stuff works?

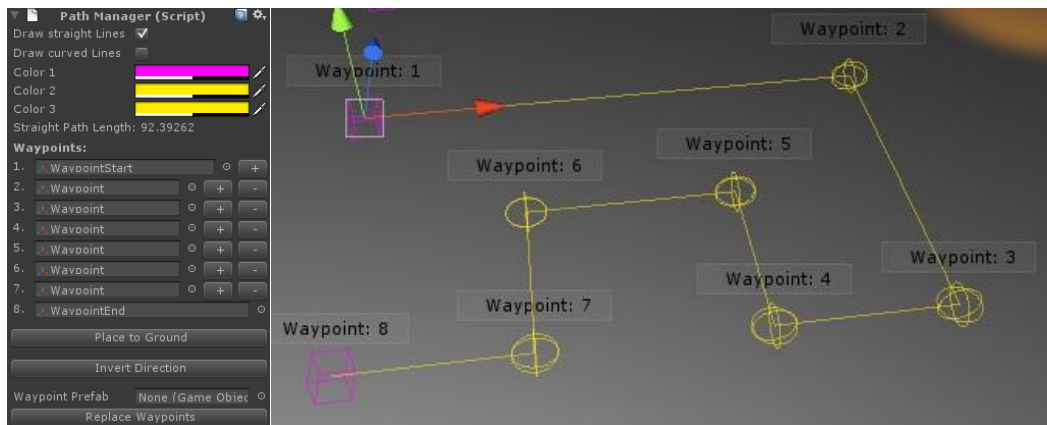
This scene consists of four game objects; the game objects “Walker” and “Waypoint Manager” are relevant for us. By clicking the Waypoint Manager game object, you will see this inspector window with one button:



By clicking on this button you are able to create paths. But since creating a path is mentioned in the next chapter and this scene already has some paths, we do not create a new one and take a look at the existing ones instead. Expand the Waypoint Manager game object in the hierarchy and you will see all paths integrated in this scene:

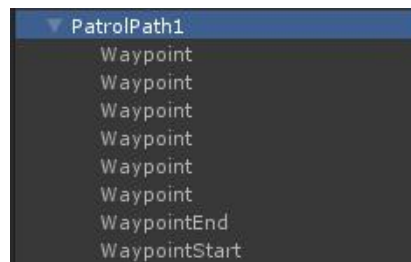


If you click on one of these paths, our Path Manager component shows up and we see some detailed information about the path we clicked. For example, this is what we get by inspecting “PatrolPath1”:

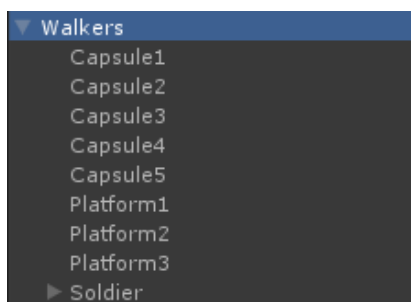


In the left picture, our Path Manager component, we see two checkboxes and three gizmo color fields, the total length of this path and also a transform slot for each waypoint involved. Due to this example should only show the use of straight paths, all paths have “Draw straight Lines” ticked. At the end we have the option to place all waypoints down to the ground or invert the existing path direction. Read more about its functionalities in chapter 5 – Editing a Path. In the right picture, a snapshot of our scene view, we see that every waypoint gets a small info box with an index above them.

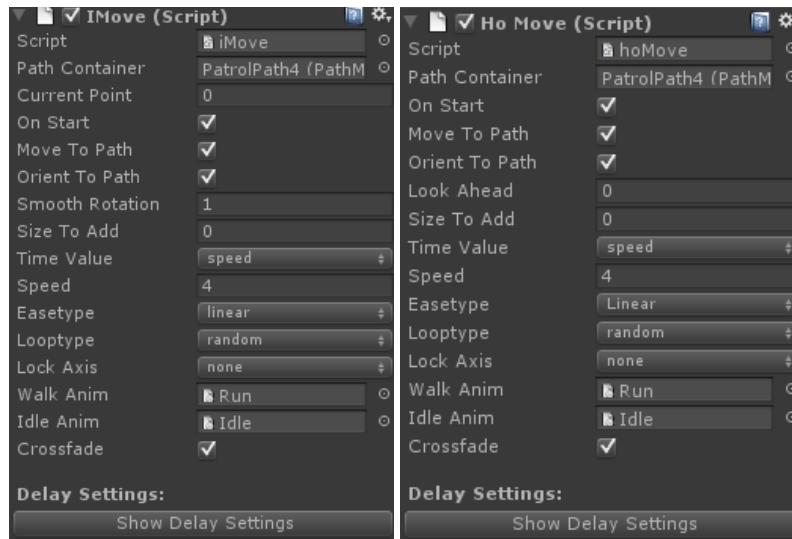
By expanding our selected path within the hierarchy, we are able to see every single waypoint game object of this path:



At this point, you should get the basic and simple structure of paths in SWS, so we continue with our walker objects. A “walker” is defined as a game object, which follows a path. Expand the “Walkers” game object to see what walkers we currently have in our scene.



In this example, each walker has an iMove component attached to it. As mentioned in chapter 2, this script is responsible for movement - more precisely, straight movement. Version 2.0 adds the ability to also use curved movement. For this concern, the hoMove component is used, what we look at next.

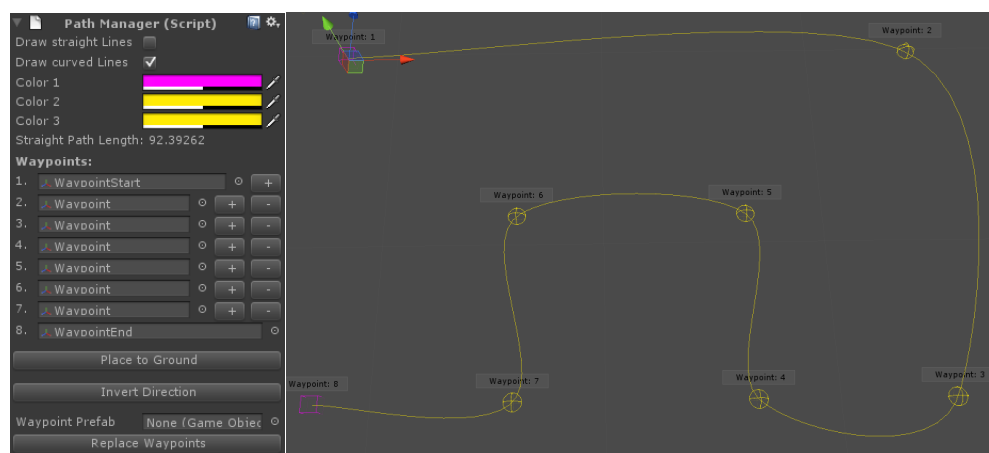



iMove and hoMove settings are described deeper in chapter 6 – Follow a Path.

Please open

 Example_Curved

The hierarchy of this scene looks very similar to the last, but now each path draws curved lines between its waypoints and every walker game object has the hoMove script attached to it.



Press Play to see the result. 

In the following chapters we will set up our project for creating and editing a new path.

4. SETUP AND CREATE A PATH

To get SWS running in your own project, you first need to drag these files into it:

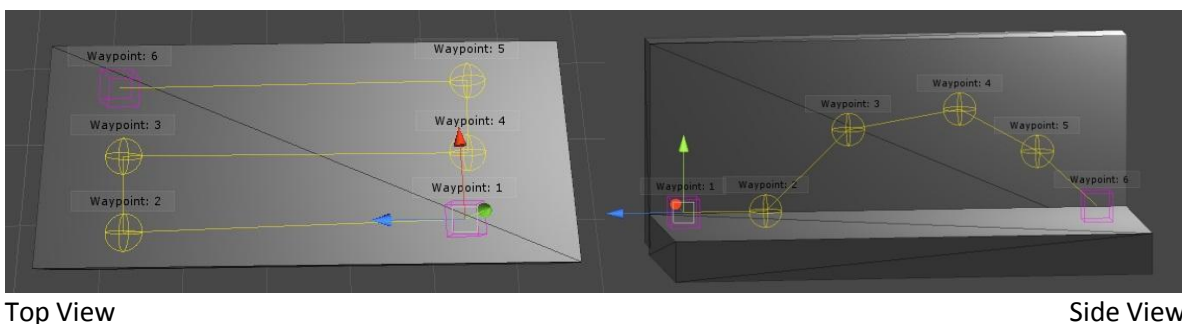
- ✓ CreateWPMManager.cs
- ✓ WaypointManager.cs, WaypointEditor.cs
- ✓ PathManager.cs, PathEditor.cs
- ✓ iMove.cs, iMoveEditor.cs, hoMove.cs, hoMoveEditor.cs
- ✓ iTween.cs
- ✓ HOTween.pdb, HOTween.dll, HOTween.xml, HOTween_License.txt

CreateWPMManager, WaypointEditor.cs, PathEditor.cs, iMoveEditor.cs and hoMoveEditor.cs need to be in a folder called “Editor” to work correctly. If necessary, please create a new folder for this purpose and drag them in.

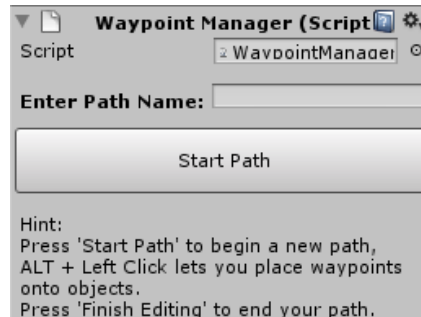
Hint: In case you want to access these scripts via JavaScript, you will have to place all files and the “Editor” folder in another folder called “Standard Assets”, so Unity detects them as plugins.

Next, we set up our scene. Open Window > Waypoint Manager. Basically that’s all. But for being able to place waypoints onto ground, please make sure you have some environment in your scene. If you are just experimenting with SWS, a big flat cube should do.

For developers of 2D games, at this point there is a small trick to consider: because in 2D you will not place waypoints onto ground but more likely in the air, the setup of a “background wall” will facilitate path creation, because the editor tries to detect collisional objects. Remove that wall again when you’re done.



The creation of a path is a simple process. With your Waypoint Manager game object selected, name the new path in the text field next to “Enter Path Name:” and press “Start Path”. Now the creation is enabled and your new path game object was parented to the Waypoint Manager.



A short warning: Do not click on other objects in scene view while creating a path to let the Waypoint Manager inspector window disappear, this will skip the renaming task of the first and last waypoint for better visibility, so you would have to rename them yourself. That's nothing critical, but wasted time. If your path does not contain at least two waypoints, this will also spit out an error.

With the creation mode enabled, hold down **left alt** and press **left mouse button** to place new waypoints onto other objects. If you are satisfied with the result, release left alt and press “Finish Editing” in the Waypoint Manager menu. This will automatically rename the first and last waypoint and switch their gizmo icons.

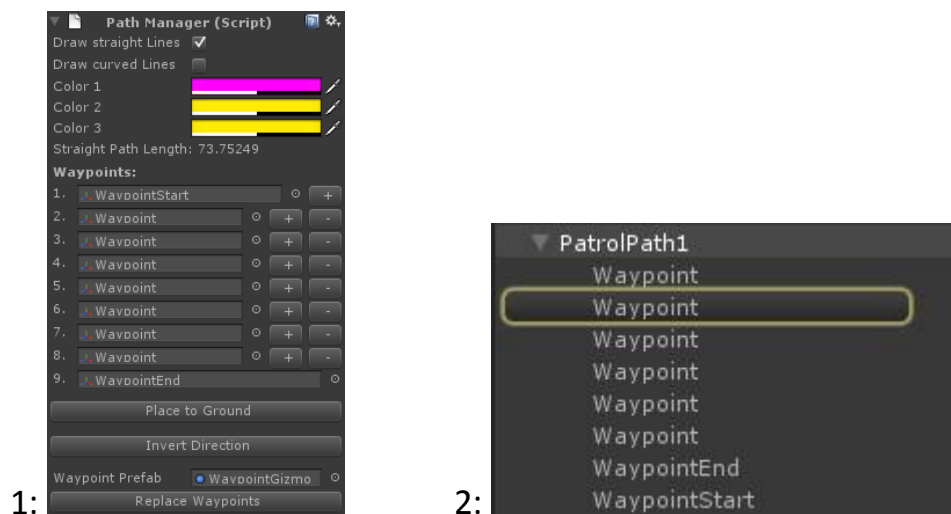
There is no need to setup layers, tags or something else to make SWS work. Just create a path, drag a movement script onto your game object you want to move, select the path, check the other settings and you are ready to go. On the next page we continue finalizing paths, before we attach movement scripts to a walker game object.

During runtime, HOTween automatically draws its calculated paths with white lines and white spheres within the editor. If you do not want that to happen, uncheck “HOTween” in the gizmo settings.

5. EDIT A PATH

Once you created a path and made a small change to the environment, so it does not fit anymore, there is still the option to edit your path to avoid the process of creating a new one.

Select the path you want to edit, so the Path Manager component shows up.
(Image 1)

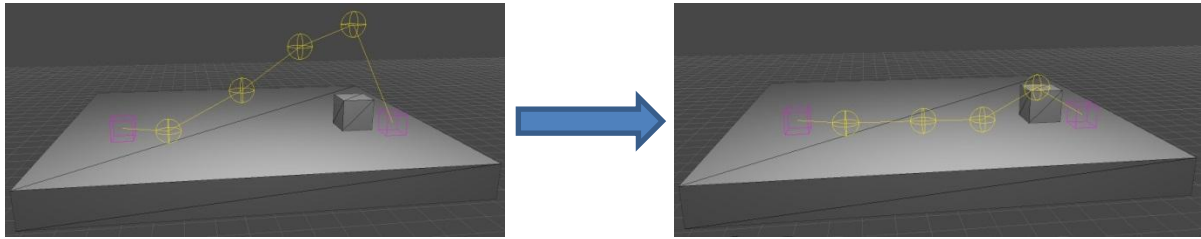


In the scene view all waypoints now get a small info box above them, including a number corresponding to this overview. As discussed in chapter 3, you have the choice between straight and curved lines by simply checking the appropriate box, or both of them. The first color field is used for the starting and ending waypoint of this path, the second for straight line color and the third for curved line color. To move an existing waypoint, simply click its transform slot in this component, so it gets highlighted in the hierarchy (Image 2). Select that highlighted waypoint game object and move it through Unity's built in x/y/z handles.

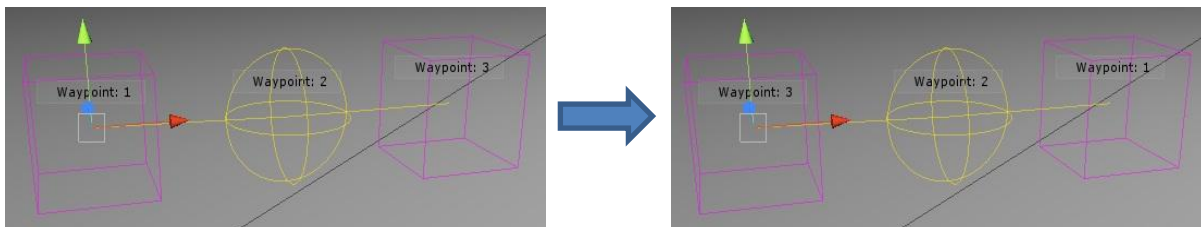
To add new waypoints to an existing path, press the small "+" button next to a waypoint slot. This will create a new waypoint *after* the one selected, that gets placed at the same position. Furthermore, it gets the active selection, so you can move it directly to a desired position.

Removing a waypoint is as easy as that. Just press the small "-" button next to the waypoint slot you want to be removed. This automatically adjusts the waypoint array, deletes the selected waypoint from your scene and updates connections between them. The first and last waypoint of a path cannot be deleted, just delete the whole path game object instead.

The button “Place to Ground” will do exactly what it says: Every waypoint calls a ground detection method, which places them onto collided environment.



The next button, “Invert Direction”, inverts the order of waypoints which belong to this path. This causes no effect in the movement setting loop type random.

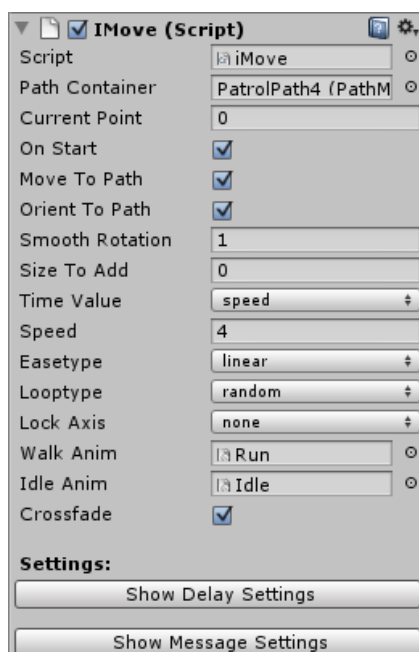


The last button, “Replace Waypoints” can be used for replacing all waypoints of this path with a predefined prefab, which could hold custom components or a 3D gizmo, as seen in Image 1. This way, all waypoints are clickable within the editor scene view.

The next section describes how to let a game object follow existing paths.

6. FOLLOW A PATH

For telling a game object it should follow a path, there is nothing more needed than the iMove or hoMove component. iMove is derived from iTween and will straightly move your walker, while hoMove is an implementation of HOTween, which supports curved movement. First let's take a look at iMove. If attached to a game object that should move, you will see the following settings:



Path Container: Which path this object should follow.

Expand your Waypoint Manager game object and drag the desired path transform onto this slot, or click the little circle at the end of this line for selecting an available path.

Current Point: At which waypoint this object should start moving. 0 = first waypoint.

On Start: Whether this object should start to move when the game launches.

Move To Path: Whether this object should walk to the first waypoint (true), or spawn there on start (false). If loop-type was set to loop, this will automatically close the path.

Orient To Path: Whether the walker will orient to its direction of travel.

Smooth Rotation: Smoothing parameter for rotation between waypoints (in seconds), enabled when "Orient To Path" is checked.

Size To Add: Additional height for the walker object.

Time Value: Speed determines the walker's velocity, while time is a constant value and describes how long it should take from one waypoint to the next.

Speed: Speed or time value, depends on "Time Value". How fast waypoints are passed.

Easetype: Ease type function of the movement. There are many ease types possible such as linear, spring, cubic, etc.

Looptype: Whether path movement should play once, loop, ping pong or random selection between waypoints.

Lock Axis: Rotation axis to lock while moving on the path. Useful if waypoints have different heights and the walker should be restrained on one axis.

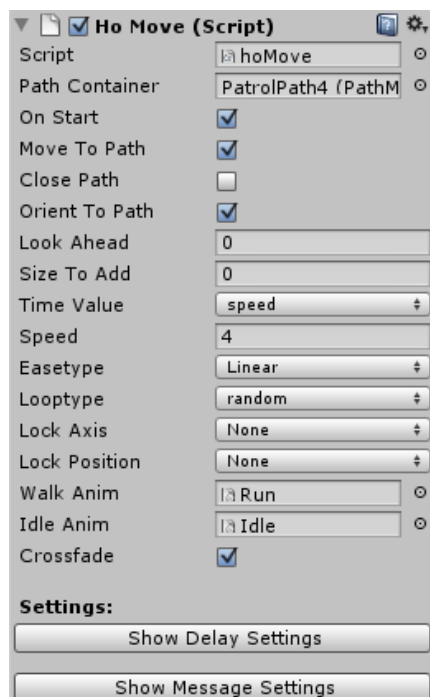
Walk Anim & Idle Anim: Animation to play during walk or waiting time. If no waypoint delay is set under “Delay Settings”, there is no waiting time.

Crossfade: Whether animations should fade in and out over a period of time.

Delay Settings: If a path is set, you will see a button to set all delay slots to a specified value or input fields to set delay for a specific waypoint. Useful if your walker should take a short break (in seconds) at a waypoint and then continues its walk.

Message Settings: If a path is set, you will see a button for defining a method to call at each waypoint. You can call more than one method per waypoint. A script containing this method has to be attached to the game object or its children. The example scene “Example_Straight” and its walker game object “Capsule4” has a sample use case.

The hoMove component is very similar to iMove, however it does have some differences:



Look Ahead: For how much (in percentage) the object should look ahead on the path, enabled when “Orient To Path” is checked.

Move To Path: Whether this object should walk to the first waypoint, regardless of the Looptype setting.

Close Path: Tries to close the path smoothly.

Speed: If “Time Value” equals time, this value describes the time for the whole path, not the time between waypoints.

Looptype: For performance reasons and smooth loops “random” does not calculate a random waypoint after each waypoint, it calculates a random order of all waypoints once.

Lock Position: Constrains the movement of this object on the selected axis.

7. RUNTIME ACCESS

Version 2.0 adds another example scene to demonstrate runtime access and instantiation. Please open

 Example_Runtime

This scene consists of three examples.

Using Unity's built-in GUI System, in "Example 1" you can instantiate a walker and a path during runtime. When they are instantiated, there will be a button to start the movement, but also to reposition the instantiated path, so the walker will update its path after each waypoint. Once the movement was started, you can reset, stop and continue the tween.

In "Example 2", you can also instantiate a walker along with a path and start movement. If you instantiated the objects of the first example, there will be a button for switching paths.

"Example 3" introduces movement based on user input. The main concept of this is to use iTween's `PointOnPath()` method for the movement of objects from waypoint to waypoint. While still following the basic principles of SWS, this approach has nothing really in common with it. `UserInput.cs` is well documented.

Next, we investigate the coding possibilities of SWS. As programmed in `RuntimeExample.cs`, you could start movement at a specific event or anytime in your game. Just place these lines into your custom script attached to your walker object and call it whenever you need it to start.

Calling iMove via code

C# and JavaScript (iMove or hoMove):

```
gameObject.SendMessage("StartMove");
```

or (C#, iMove – works with hoMove too):

```
iMove moveScript = gameObject.GetComponent<iMove>();  
moveScript.StartMove();
```

Do not place this code into `Start()`, just check "OnStart" in iMove/hoMove's settings for the same result.

Runtime Instantiation

Basically, for runtime instantiation there are these few additions:

- ✓ To have access to an instantiated path, call
`WaypointManager.AddPath(instantiated path gameObject)`
– note that this will abort if the passed path gameObject name exists already.
- ✓ You can change the path container of a walker object at runtime using

(C# and JavaScript):

`(iMove/hoMove component).SetPath(WaypointManager.Paths["path name"]);`

or (C# and JavaScript)

`(walker gameObject).SendMessage("SetPath",
WaypointManager.Paths["path name"]);`

SetPath() automatically calls StartMove() afterwards.

- ✓ Repositioning a path will result in updated waypoints of its walker objects (they always follow the current path/waypoint positions). iMove updates its waypoints after each waypoint. hoMove updates its waypoints after each loop.
Do not reposition hoMove's path while moving as this will break the iteration.

Reset + Stop & Pause + Resume

iMove and hoMove have some extra methods to facilitate movement control.

Reset(): Immediately stops the walker's movement and resets it to the first waypoint.

Stop(): Immediately stops the walker's movement (this destroys the tween).

iMove: For resuming movement, call StartMove() again.

hoMove: Do not call Stop() if you want to be able to continue movement from the same position later, use Pause() & Resume() instead.

Only hoMove:

Pause(): Pauses the animation at the current position and does not destroy the tween.

Resume(): Resume the paused animation/tween.

8. CONTACT

As full source code is provided and every line is well-documented, feel free to take a look at the scripts and modify them to fit your needs.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be pleased to answer them.

Visit my Unity3d SWS thread here:

[http://forum.unity3d.com/threads/115086-Simple-Waypoint-System-\(SWS\)-RELEASED](http://forum.unity3d.com/threads/115086-Simple-Waypoint-System-(SWS)-RELEASED)

or send me an email at:

info@rebound-games.com

*Again, thanks for your support,
and good luck with your games!*

Baroni

Rebound Games

9. VERSION HISTORY

V 1.0

- Initial Release.

V 1.1

➤ Fixes & Changes

- iMove: unnecessary bool repeat check in StartMove() removed
- iMove: Delay variable for all waypoints removed
- iMove: variable pathContainer is now of type "PathManager"
- iMove: implemented orientToPath to define walker orientation
- WaypointEditor: displays hint for more transparent handling
- Example Straight: Bootcamp Soldier uses new path to present animations, Capsule3 on path "PatrolPath1" also

➤ Features

- iMove: looptype "random" added
- iMove: walk height is now settable per walker object (sizeToAdd)
- iMove: Delay array added to allow delay at a specific or for all waypoints
- iMove: support for animation during walk and waiting time added
- iMoveEditor: added, displays custom iMove Inspector
- Documentation: modified to represent the current version

V 1.2

➤ Fixes & Changes

- replaced some calculations with iTween's internal methods
- iMove now has direct access to Path Manager waypoint positions (your path will update at runtime on position changes)
- reset delay at waypoints (StopAtPoint[]) if path container gets null

➤ Features

- WaypointManager.cs: AddPath() added to support more flexibility and path instantiation at runtime
- iMove.cs: added SetPath(), Stop() and Reset() methods
- Example_Runtime.cs: new script to demonstrate combinations of those new methods

V 2.0

➤ Fixes & Changes

- iMove: animation checks outsourced in own methods
- iMove: animation does now stop correctly at the end using loop type none
- Example_Waypoints renamed to Example_Straight
- iMoveEditor: custom representation of variable sizeToAdd removed
- iMoveEditor: delay array StopAtPoint gets created at start if not set in editor
- WaypointManager: path dictionary gets cleared at scene change
- WaypointManager: now also responsible for initialization of HOTween

➤ Features

- curved movement using HOTween
- introduced hoMove & new sample scene Example_Curved
- PathManager: checkboxes for straight or curved lines between waypoints
- PathManager: additional color field for curved lines
- new example scene Example_Runtime for runtime access and instantiation
- iMove: smooth rotation variable added
- UserInput.cs added, demonstration of movement based on user input
- documentation restructured and updated

V 2.0.1

➤ Fixes & Changes

- iMove/hoMove: bugfix StopAtPoint[] length null reference at resizing paths
- iMove/hoMove: animation component need not be attached to main object
- iMove: current location marked as public, allowing multiple starting points

➤ Features

- PathManager: added button for replacing all waypoints with a prefab
- iMove: lock-axis option added

V 2.0.1a

➤ Fixes & Changes

- hoMove: hotfix animation component null reference on Start()

V 2.1

➤ Fixes & Changes

- hoMove: removed critical waypoint distance value that led to unexpected behavior when tweening an object with a very high speed value or timescale
- hoMove: completely rewritten to incorporate with partial tweens. The tween and its runtime checks should be a significant amount faster now
- hoMove: partial tweens allow easing options between waypoints instead of an easing curve for the whole path
- hoMove: separated MoveToPath and its internal ClosePath option, you can toggle them independently now as ClosePath has its own checkbox
- hoMove: movement parameters (waypoint positions) do not update at each iteration anymore, you have to call InitWaypoints() and recreate the tween manually with StartMove(), for example at the last waypoint using messages
- simplified the Waypoint Manager even more, it shows only one button now
- switched widget position. You'll find the Waypoint Manager setup widget under "Window > Simple Waypoint System" and iMove/hoMove under "Component > Simple Waypoint System"
- documentation updated, contact info & email changed

➤ Features

- iMove/hoMove: custom methods callable per waypoint. Both editor scripts for iMove/hoMove were changed accordingly, so that this feature comes with a new message settings field, easily adjustable by the user
- custom methods are using SendMessage() and allow one parameter of the type object, text, numeric, vector2 or vector3. The class of these types was centrally placed in WaypointManager.cs
- new example script "MessageExample.cs" demonstrates the usage of custom messages in the scene "Example_Straight" on walker "Capsule4"
- hoMove: integrated HOTween's new lock-position option that limits movement on the selected axis

V 2.1.1

➤ Fixes & Changes

- hoMove: fixed Pause() so it actually does pause the tween correctly
- hoMove: fixed bug on "closePath" not playing a walk animation while moving
- MessageExample.cs: added methods for pausing a tween with messages
- HOTween: updated to version 1.1.333, big thanks to Daniele who fixed the constrained rotation using "lockAxis" and improved "lookAhead" rotation, also optimized partial tweens and made them more garbage collector friendly

➤ **Features**

- PlayMaker actions: added SWS_SetPath, SWS_GetPathNode, SWS_SetPathNode under “Simple Waypoint System” in the Action Browser