Your first game

Overview

This tutorial will guide you through making your first Godot project. You will learn how the Godot editor works, how to structure a project, and how to build a 2D game.

Note

This project is an introduction to the Godot engine. It assumes that you have some programming experience already. If you're new to programming entirely, you should start here: Scripting.

The game is called "Dodge the Creeps!". Your character must move and avoid the enemies for as long as possible. Here is a preview of the final result:



Why 2D? 3D games are much more complex than 2D ones. You should stick to 2D until you have a good understanding of the game development process.

Project setup

Launch Godot and create a new project. Then, download dodge_assets.zip - the images and sounds you'll be using to make the game. Unzip these files to your project folder.



For this tutorial, we will assume you are familiar with the editor. If you haven't read Scenes and nodes, do so now for an explanation of setting up a project and using the editor.

This game will use portrait mode, so we need to adjust the size of the game window. Click on Project -> Project Settings -> Display -> Window and set "Width" to 480 and "Height" to 720.

Organizing the project

In this project, we will make 3 independent scenes: Player, Mob, and HUD, which we will combine into the game's Main scene. In a larger project, it might be useful to make folders to hold the various scenes and their scripts, but for this relatively small game, you can save your scenes and scripts in the project's root folder, referred to as res://. You can see your project folders in the FileSystem Dock in the lower left corner:

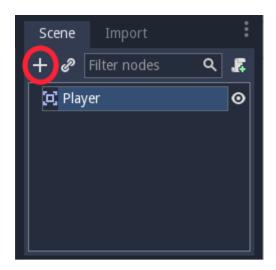


Player scene

The first scene we will make defines the Player object. One of the benefits of creating a separate Player scene is that we can test it separately, even before we've created other parts of the game.

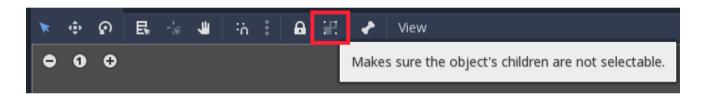
Node structure

To begin, click the "Add/Create a New Node" button and add an Area2D node to the scene.



With Area2D we can detect objects that overlap or run into the player. Change its name to Player by clicking on the node's name. This is the scene's root node. We can add additional nodes to the player to add functionality.

Before we add any children to the Player node, we want to make sure we don't accidentally move or resize them by clicking on them. Select the node and click the icon to the right of the lock; its tooltip says "Makes sure the object's children are not selectable."



Save the scene. Click Scene -> Save, or press Ctrl+s on Windows/Linux or Command+S on Mac.

Note

For this project, we will be following the Godot naming conventions.

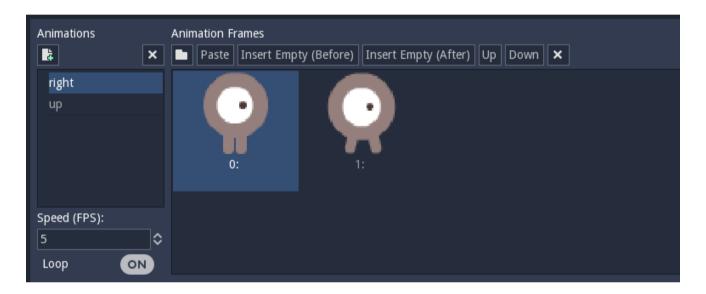
- **GDScript**: Classes (nodes) use PascalCase, variables and functions use snake_case, and constants use ALL_CAPS (See GDScript style guide).
- C#: Classes, export variables and methods use PascalCase, private fields use
 _camelCase, local variables and parameters use camelCase (See C# style guide). Be
 careful to type the method names precisely when connecting signals.

Sprite animation

Click on the Player node and add an AnimatedSprite node as a child. The AnimatedSprite will handle the appearance and animations for our player. Notice that there is a warning symbol next to the node. An AnimatedSprite requires a SpriteFrames resource, which is a list of the animations it can display. To create one, find the Frames property in the Inspector and click "[empty]" -> "New SpriteFrames". This should automatically open the SpriteFrames panel.



On the left is a list of animations. Click the "default" one and rename it to "right". Then click the "Add" button to create a second animation named "up". Drag the two images for each animation, named playerGrey_up[1/2] and playerGrey_walk[1/2], into the "Animation Frames" side of the panel:

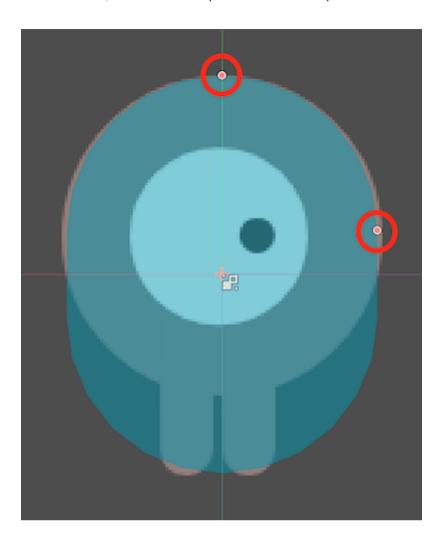


The player images are a bit too large for the game window, so we need to scale them down. Click on the AnimatedSprite node and set the Scale property to (0.5, 0.5). You can find it in the Inspector under the Node2D heading.

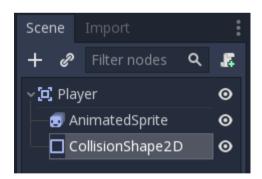


Finally, add a CollisionShape2D as a child of Player. This will determine the player's "hitbox", or the bounds of its collision area. For this character, a CapsuleShape2D node gives the best fit, so next to "Shape" in the Inspector, click "[empty]"" -> "New CapsuleShape2D". Using the two

size handles, resize the shape to cover the sprite:

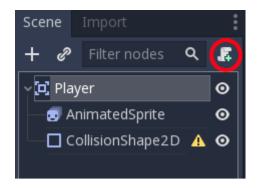


When you're finished, your Player scene should look like this:



Moving the player

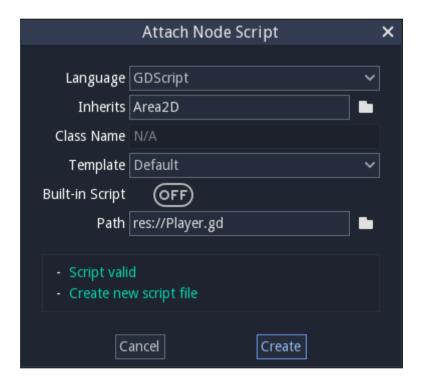
Now we need to add some functionality that we can't get from a built-in node, so we'll add a script. Click the Player node and click the "Add Script" button:



In the script settings window, you can leave the default settings alone. Just click "Create":

Note

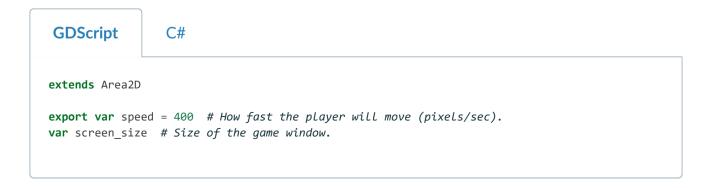
If you're creating a C# script or other languages, select the language from the *language* drop down menu before hitting create.



• Note

If this is your first time encountering GDScript, please read Scripting before continuing.

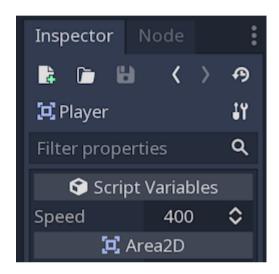
Start by declaring the member variables this object will need:



Using the export keyword on the first variable speed allows us to set its value in the Inspector. This can be handy for values that you want to be able to adjust just like a node's built-in properties. Click on the Player node and you'll see the property now appears in the "Script Variables" section of the Inspector. Remember, if you change the value here, it will override the value written in the script.

Warning

If you're using C#, you need to (re)build the project assemblies whenever you want to see new export variables or signals. This build can be manually triggered by clicking the word "Mono" at the bottom of the editor window to reveal the Mono Panel, then clicking the "Build Project" button.



The <u>_ready()</u> function is called when a node enters the scene tree, which is a good time to find the size of the game window:

```
GDScript C#

func _ready():
    screen_size = get_viewport_rect().size
```

Now we can use the _process() function to define what the player will do. _process() is called every frame, so we'll use it to update elements of our game, which we expect will change often. For the player, we need to do the following:

- · Check for input.
- Move in the given direction.
- Play the appropriate animation.

First, we need to check for input - is the player pressing a key? For this game, we have 4 direction inputs to check. Input actions are defined in the Project Settings under "Input Map". Here, you can define custom events and assign different keys, mouse events, or other inputs to them. For this demo, we will use the default events that are assigned to the arrow keys on the keyboard.

You can detect whether a key is pressed using Input.is_action_pressed(), which returns true
if it is pressed or false if it isn't.

```
GDScript
                  C#
func _process(delta):
   var velocity = Vector2() # The player's movement vector.
   if Input.is action pressed("ui right"):
       velocity.x += 1
   if Input.is_action_pressed("ui_left"):
       velocity.x -= 1
   if Input.is_action_pressed("ui_down"):
       velocity.y += 1
   if Input.is action pressed("ui up"):
       velocity.y -= 1
   if velocity.length() > 0:
       velocity = velocity.normalized() * speed
       $AnimatedSprite.play()
       $AnimatedSprite.stop()
```

We start by setting the velocity to (0, 0) - by default the player should not be moving. Then we check each input and add/subtract from the velocity to obtain a total direction. For example, if you hold right and down at the same time, the resulting velocity vector will be (1, 1). In this case, since we're adding a horizontal and a vertical movement, the player would move faster than if it just moved horizontally.

We can prevent that if we *normalize* the velocity, which means we set its *length* to 1, and multiply by the desired speed. This means no more fast diagonal movement.

Tip

If you've never used vector math before, or need a refresher, you can see an explanation of vector usage in Godot at Vector math. It's good to know but won't be necessary for the rest of this tutorial.

We also check whether the player is moving so we can start or stop the AnimatedSprite animation.



In GDScript, streturns the node at the relative path from the current node, or returns null if the node is not found. Since AnimatedSprite is a child of the current node, we can use AnimatedSprite.

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\$ is shorthand for <code>get_node()</code> . So in the code above, <code>\$AnimatedSprite.play()</code> is the same as <code>get_node("AnimatedSprite").play()</code> .

Now that we have a movement direction, we can update the player's position and use clamp() to prevent it from leaving the screen by adding the following to the bottom of the process function:

position += velocity * delta position.x = clamp(position.x, 0, screen_size.x) position.y = clamp(position.y, 0, screen_size.y)

Tip

Clamping a value means restricting it to a given range.

Click "Play Scene" (F6) and confirm you can move the player around the screen in all directions. The console output that opens upon playing the scene can be closed by clicking Output (which should be highlighted in blue) in the lower left of the Bottom Panel.

Warning

If you get an error in the "Debugger" panel that refers to a "null instance", this likely means you spelled the node name wrong. Node names are case-sensitive and <code>\$NodeName</code> or <code>get_node("NodeName")</code> must match the name you see in the scene tree.

Choosing animations

Now that the player can move, we need to change which animation the AnimatedSprite is playing based on direction. We have a "right" animation, which should be flipped horizontally using the <code>flip_h</code> property for left movement, and an "up" animation, which should be flipped vertically with <code>flip_v</code> for downward movement. Let's place this code at the end of our <code>_process()</code> function:

GDScript

C#

O Note

The boolean assignments in the code above are a common shorthand for programmers. Consider this code versus the shortened boolean assignment above:

```
if velocity.x < 0:
    $AnimatedSprite.flip_h = true
else:
    $AnimatedSprite.flip_h = false</pre>
```

Play the scene again and check that the animations are correct in each of the directions. When you're sure the movement is working correctly, add this line to <u>ready()</u>, so the player will be hidden when the game starts:

```
GDScript C#
```

Preparing for collisions

We want Player to detect when it's hit by an enemy, but we haven't made any enemies yet! That's OK, because we're going to use Godot's *signal* functionality to make it work.

Add the following at the top of the script, after extends Area2d:

```
GDScript C#
signal hit
```

This defines a custom signal called "hit" that we will have our player emit (send out) when it collides with an enemy. We will use Area2D to detect the collision. Select the Player node and click the "Node" tab next to the Inspector tab to see the list of signals the player can emit:



Notice our custom "hit" signal is there as well! Since our enemies are going to be RigidBody2D nodes, we want the body_entered(Object body) signal; this will be emitted when a body contacts the player. Click "Connect.." and then "Connect" again on the "Connecting Signal" window. We don't need to change any of these settings - Godot will automatically create a function in your player's script. This function will be called whenever the signal is emitted - it handles the signal.

Tip

When connecting a signal, instead of having Godot create a function for you, you can also give the name of an existing function that you want to link the signal to.

Add this code to the function:

```
func _on_Player_body_entered(body):
   hide() # Player disappears after being hit.
   emit_signal("hit")
   $CollisionShape2D.set_deferred("disabled", true)
```

Each time an enemy hits the player, the signal is going to be emitted. We need to disable the player's collision so that we don't trigger the hit signal more than once.

Note

Disabling the area's collision shape can cause an error if it happens in the middle of the engine's collision processing. Using set_deferred() allows us to have Godot wait to disable the shape until it's safe to do so.

The last piece for our player is to add a function we can call to reset the player when starting a new game.

```
func start(pos):
   position = pos
   show()
   $CollisionShape2D.disabled = false
```

Enemy scene

Now it's time to make the enemies our player will have to dodge. Their behavior will not be very complex: mobs will spawn randomly at the edges of the screen and move in a random direction in a straight line, then despawn when they go offscreen.

We will build this into a Mob scene, which we can then *instance* to create any number of independent mobs in the game.

Node setup

Click Scene -> New Scene and we'll create the Mob.

The Mob scene will use the following nodes:

RigidBody2D (named Mob)

- AnimatedSprite
- CollisionShape2D
- VisibilityNotifier2D (named visibility)

Don't forget to set the children so they can't be selected, like you did with the Player scene.

In the RigidBody2D properties, set Gravity Scale to 0, so the mob will not fall downward. In addition, under the PhysicsBody2D section, click the Mask property and uncheck the first box. This will ensure the mobs do not collide with each other.



Set up the AnimatedSprite like you did for the player. This time, we have 3 animations: fly, swim, and walk. Set the playing property in the Inspector to "On" and adjust the "Speed (FPS)" setting as shown below. We'll select one of these animations randomly so that the mobs will have some variety.



fly should be set to 3 FPS, with swim and walk set to 4 FPS.

Like the player images, these mob images need to be scaled down. Set the AnimatedSprite 's Scale property to (0.75, 0.75).

As in the Player scene, add a CapsuleShape2D for the collision. To align the shape with the image, you'll need to set the Rotation Degrees property to 90 under Node2D.

Enemy script

Add a script to the Mob and add the following member variables:

```
extends RigidBody2D

export var min_speed = 150  # Minimum speed range.
export var max_speed = 250  # Maximum speed range.
var mob_types = ["walk", "swim", "fly"]
```

When we spawn a mob, we'll pick a random value between min_speed and max_speed for how fast each mob will move (it would be boring if they were all moving at the same speed). We also have an array containing the names of the three animations, which we'll use to select a random one. Make sure you've spelled these the same in the script and in the SpriteFrames resource.

Now let's look at the rest of the script. In _ready() we randomly choose one of the three animation types:

```
GDScript

func _ready():
    $AnimatedSprite.animation = mob_types[randi() % mob_types.size()]
```

Note

You must use randomize() if you want your sequence of "random" numbers to be different
every time you run the scene. We're going to use randomize() in our Main scene, so we
won't need it here. randi() % n is the standard way to get a random integer between o
and n-1.

The last piece is to make the mobs delete themselves when they leave the screen. Connect the screen_exited() signal of the visibility node and add this code:

This completes the Mob scene.

Main scene

Now it's time to bring it all together. Create a new scene and add a Node named Main. Click the "Instance" button and select your saved Player.tscn.



A Note

See Instancing to learn more about instancing.

Now, add the following nodes as children of Main, and name them as shown (values are in seconds):

- Timer (named MobTimer) to control how often mobs spawn
- Timer (named ScoreTimer) to increment the score every second
- Timer (named StartTimer) to give a delay before starting
- Position2D (named StartPosition) to indicate the player's start position

Set the Wait Time property of each of the Timer nodes as follows:

```
MobTimer: 0.5ScoreTimer: 1StartTimer: 2
```

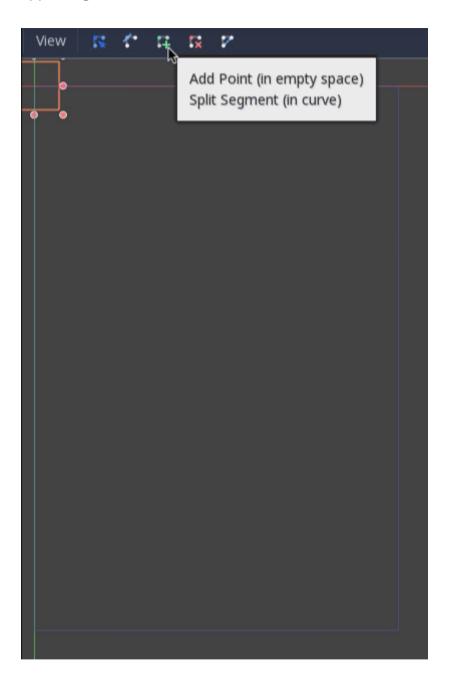
In addition, set the One Shot property of StartTimer to "On" and set Position of the StartPosition node to (240, 450).

Spawning mobs

The Main node will be spawning new mobs, and we want them to appear at a random location on the edge of the screen. Add a Path2D node named MobPath as a child of Main. When you select Path2D, you will see some new buttons at the top of the editor:



Select the middle one ("Add Point") and draw the path by clicking to add the points at the corners shown. To have the points snap to the grid, make sure "Snap to Grid" is checked. This option can be found under the "Snapping options" button to the left of the "Lock" button, appearing as a series of three vertical dots.



• Important

Draw the path in *clockwise* order, or your mobs will spawn pointing *outwards* instead of *inwards*!

After placing point 4 in the image, click the "Close Curve" button and your curve will be complete.

Now that the path is defined, add a PathFollow2D node as a child of MobPath and name it MobSpawnLocation. This node will automatically rotate and follow the path as it moves, so we can use it to select a random position and direction along the path.

Main script

Add a script to Main. At the top of the script, we use export (PackedScene) to allow us to choose the Mob scene we want to instance.

Drag Mob.tscn from the "FileSystem" panel and drop it in the Mob property under the Script Variables of the Main node.

Next, click on the Player and connect the hit signal. We want to make a new function named game_over, which will handle what needs to happen when a game ends. Type "game_over" in the "Method In Node" box at the bottom of the "Connecting Signal" window. Add the following code, as well as a new_game function to set everything up for a new game:

```
func game_over():
    $ScoreTimer.stop()
    $MobTimer.stop()

func new_game():
    score = 0
    $Player.start($StartPosition.position)
    $StartTimer.start()
```

Now connect the timeout() signal of each of the Timer nodes (StartTimer, ScoreTimer, and MobTimer) to the main script. StartTimer will start the other two timers. ScoreTimer will increment the score by 1.

```
func _on_StartTimer_timeout():
    $MobTimer.start()
    $ScoreTimer.start()

func _on_ScoreTimer_timeout():
    score += 1
```

In <code>_on_MobTimer_timeout()</code>, we will create a mob instance, pick a random starting location along the <code>Path2D</code>, and set the mob in motion. The <code>PathFollow2D</code> node will automatically rotate as it follows the path, so we will use that to select the mob's direction as well as its position.

Note that a new instance must be added to the scene using add_child() .

Now click on MobTimer in the scene window then head to inspector window, switch to node view then click on timeout() and connect the signal.

Add the following code:

GDScript

C#

```
func _on_MobTimer_timeout():
   # Choose a random location on Path2D.
   $MobPath/MobSpawnLocation.set_offset(randi())
   # Create a Mob instance and add it to the scene.
   var mob = Mob.instance()
   add_child(mob)
   # Set the mob's direction perpendicular to the path direction.
   var direction = $MobPath/MobSpawnLocation.rotation + PI / 2
   # Set the mob's position to a random Location.
   mob.position = $MobPath/MobSpawnLocation.position
   # Add some randomness to the direction.
   direction += rand_range(-PI / 4, PI / 4)
   mob.rotation = direction
   # Set the velocity (speed & direction).
   mob.linear_velocity = Vector2(rand_range(mob.min_speed, mob.max_speed), 0)
   mob.linear_velocity = mob.linear_velocity.rotated(direction)
```

• Important

In functions requiring angles, GDScript uses *radians*, not degrees. If you're more comfortable working with degrees, you'll need to use the deg2rad() and rad2deg() functions to convert between the two.

The final piece our game needs is a UI: an interface to display things like score, a "game over" message, and a restart button. Create a new scene, and add a CanvasLayer node named HUD. "HUD" stands for "heads-up display", an informational display that appears as an overlay on top of the game view.

The CanvasLayer node lets us draw our UI elements on a layer above the rest of the game, so that the information it displays isn't covered up by any game elements like the player or mobs.

The HUD displays the following information:

- Score, changed by ScoreTimer.
- A message, such as "Game Over" or "Get Ready!"
- A "Start" button to begin the game.

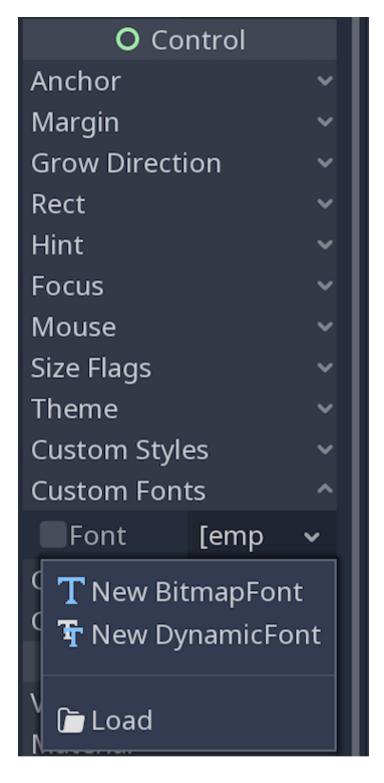
The basic node for UI elements is Control. To create our UI, we'll use two types of Control nodes: Label and Button.

Create the following as children of the HUD node:

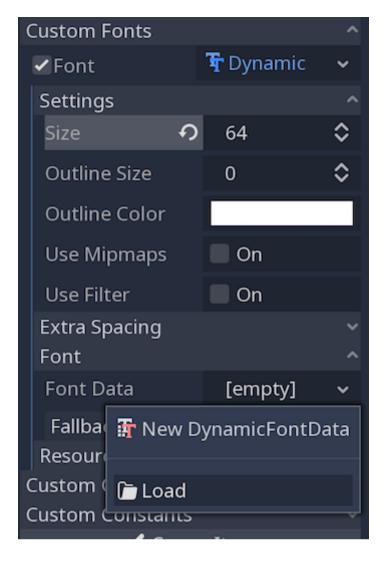
- Label named ScoreLabel.
- Label named MessageLabel.
- Button named StartButton.
- Timer named MessageTimer.

Click on the ScoreLabel and type a number into the *Text* field in the Inspector. The default font for Control nodes is small and doesn't scale well. There is a font file included in the game assets called "Xolonium-Regular.ttf". To use this font, do the following for each of the three Control nodes:

1. Under "Custom Fonts", choose "New DynamicFont"



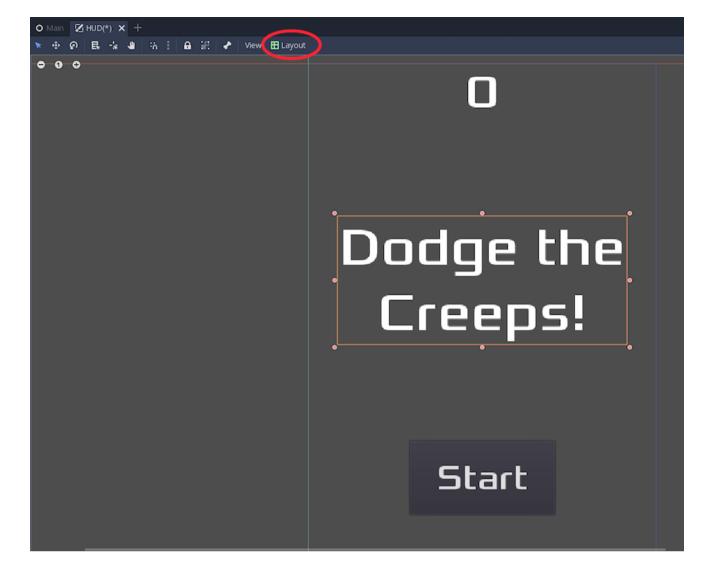
2. Click on the "DynamicFont" you added, and under "Font/Font Data", choose "Load" and select the "Xolonium-Regular.ttf" file. You must also set the font's Size. A setting of 64 works well.



Note

Anchors and Margins: Control nodes have a position and size, but they also have anchors and margins. Anchors define the origin - the reference point for the edges of the node. Margins update automatically when you move or resize a control node. They represent the distance from the control node's edges to its anchor. See Design interfaces with the Control nodes for more details.

Arrange the nodes as shown below. Click the "Anchor" button to set a Control node's anchor:



You can drag the nodes to place them manually, or for more precise placement, use the following settings:

ScoreLabel

• Text : 0

• Layout: "Top Wide"

• Align: "Center"

MessageLabel

• Text: Dodge the Creeps!

• Layout : "HCenter Wide"

• Align: "Center"

StartButton

• Text: Start

• Layout: "Center Bottom"

• Margin:

∘ Top: -200

• Bottom: -100

Now add this script to HUD:

```
GDScript C#

extends CanvasLayer
signal start_game
```

The start game signal tells the Main node that the button has been pressed.

```
func show_message(text):
    $MessageLabel.text = text
    $MessageLabel.show()
    $MessageTimer.start()
```

This function is called when we want to display a message temporarily, such as "Get Ready". On the MessageTimer, set the Wait Time to 2 and set the One Shot property to "On".

```
func show_game_over():
    show_message("Game Over")
    yield($MessageTimer, "timeout")
    $MessageLabel.text = "Dodge the\nCreeps!"
    $MessageLabel.show()
    yield(get_tree().create_timer(1), 'timeout')
    $StartButton.show()
```

This function is called when the player loses. It will show "Game Over" for 2 seconds, then return to the title screen and, after a brief pause, show the "Start" button.

Note

When you need to pause for a brief time, an alternative to using a Timer node is to use the SceneTree's create_timer() function. This can be very useful to delay, such as in the above code, where we want to wait a little bit of time before showing the "Start" button.

GDScript

C#

```
func update_score(score):
   $ScoreLabel.text = str(score)
```

This function is called by Main whenever the score changes.

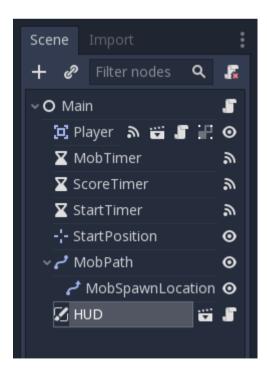
```
Connect the timeout() signal of MessageTimer and the pressed() signal of StartButton.
```

```
func _on_StartButton_pressed():
    $StartButton.hide()
    emit_signal("start_game")

func _on_MessageTimer_timeout():
    $MessageLabel.hide()
```

Connecting HUD to Main

Now that we're done creating the HUD scene, save it and go back to Main. Instance the HUD scene in Main like you did the Player scene, and place it at the bottom of the tree. The full tree should look like this, so make sure you didn't miss anything:



Now we need to connect the HUD functionality to our Main script. This requires a few additions to the Main scene:

In the Node tab, connect the HUD's start_game signal to the new_game() function.

In new_game(), update the score display and show the "Get Ready" message:



In game_over() we need to call the corresponding HUD function:



Finally, add this to _on_ScoreTimer_timeout() to keep the display in sync with the changing score:

```
GDScript C#

$HUD.update_score(score)
```

Now you're ready to play! Click the "Play the Project" button. You will be asked to select a main scene, so choose Main.tscn.

Removing old creeps

If you play until "Game Over" and then start a new game the creeps from the previous game are still on screen. It would be better if they all disappeared at the start of a new game.

We'll use the start_game signal that's already being emitted by the HUD node to remove the remaining creeps. We can't use the editor to connect the signal to the mobs in the way we need because there are no Mob nodes in the Main scene tree until we run the game. Instead we'll use code.

Start by adding a new function to Mob.gd . queue_free() will delete the current node at the end of the current frame.

GDScript

C#

```
func _on_start_game():
   queue_free()
```

Then in Main.gd add a new line inside the _on_MobTimer_timeout() function, at the end.

```
GDScript C#

$HUD.connect("start_game", mob, "_on_start_game")
```

This line tells the new Mob node (referenced by the mob variable) to respond to any start_game signal emitted by the HUD node by running its _on_start_game() function.

Finishing up

We have now completed all the functionality for our game. Below are some remaining steps to add a bit more "juice" to improve the game experience. Feel free to expand the gameplay with your own ideas.

Background

The default gray background is not very appealing, so let's change its color. One way to do this is to use a ColorRect node. Make it the first node under Main so that it will be drawn behind the other nodes. ColorRect only has one property: Color. Choose a color you like and drag the size of the ColorRect so that it covers the screen.

You could also add a background image, if you have one, by using a Sprite node.

Sound effects

Sound and music can be the single most effective way to add appeal to the game experience. In your game assets folder, you have two sound files: "House In a Forest Loop.ogg" for background music, and "gameover.wav" for when the player loses.

Add two AudioStreamPlayer nodes as children of Main. Name one of them Music and the other DeathSound. On each one, click on the Stream property, select "Load", and choose the corresponding audio file.

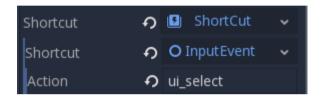
To play the music, add \$\music.play() in the new_game() function and \$\music.stop() in the game_over() function.

Finally, add \$DeathSound.play() in the game_over() function.

Keyboard Shortcut

Since the game is played with keyboard controls, it would be convenient if we could also start the game by pressing a key on the keyboard. One way to do this is using the "Shortcut" property of the Button node.

In the <code>HUD</code> scene, select the <code>StartButton</code> and find its <code>Shortcut</code> property in the Inspector. Select "New Shortcut" and click on the "Shortcut" item. A second <code>Shortcut</code> property will appear. Select "New InputEventAction" and click the new "InputEvent". Finally, in the <code>Action</code> property, type the name <code>ui_select</code>. This is the default input event associated with the spacebar.



Now when the start button appears, you can either click it or press the spacebar to start the game.

Project files

You can find a completed version of this project at these locations:

- https://github.com/kidscancode/Godot3_dodge/releases
- https://github.com/godotengine/godot-demo-projects