Installing and Configuring Director

Installing Director is a reasonably straightforward process. The installation requires approximately 60MB to 80MB of hard-disk space. Director offers you two installation options:

❖ The Easy (Macintosh) or Typical (Windows) option installs the entire program, with all the features that come with Director, including the tutorials and example movies.

❖ The Custom option enables you to choose which portions of the program you want to install. This installation option is useful when you need to reinstall a portion of the program. If you are performing the initial installation of Director using the Custom installation and you select all the options, the amount of space required is the same as amount required by the Easy installation option.

Note   The installation procedure outlined in this appendix uses the Custom installation, with all the available options selected.

Director also offers you a variety of choices in the General and Network Preferences dialog boxes, which enables you to modify your work environment and control the way Director interfaces with the Internet. Using these options, you can custom-tailor the way Director uses system resources, displays your movies, and responds to commands. The preferences are described later in this appendix in the section "Configuring General and Network Preferences."

System Requirements

Director has separate system requirements for authoring and playback of your Director Movies. Authoring Director movies requires a more robust system than playing the finished projectors and Shockwave movies.

Authoring

The Windows authoring system minimum requirements are:

❖ 200 MHz Pentium II processor running Windows 98 or NT4 or later

❖ 64MB RAM, 100MB available disk space

❖ 256-color monitor capable of 800 × 600 resolution

The Macintosh authoring requirements are:

❖ 180 MHz Power Macintosh running Mac OS 8.1 or later

❖ 64MB RAM, 100MB available disk space

❖ 256-color monitor capable of 800 × 600 resolution

Playback

To play back Director movies as projectors or as Shockwave movies requires a minimum of 32MB of RAM on the user's system.

The Windows playback system requirements are:

❖ 166 MHz Pentium II running Windows 95 or later.

❖ Playback over the Web requires Netscape 4, AOL or Internet Explorer 4.0 or later

The Macintosh playback requirements are:

❖ 166 MHz Power PC running Mac OS 8.1 or later

❖ Playback over the Web requires Netscape AOL or Internet Explorer 4.0 or later

Installing Director on a Macintosh

Before Installing Director, read the Director 8.*x* readme file on the CD-ROM, to make sure that you are aware of issues that may affect the way Director will operate on your system.

Tip   Before installing Director, it's a good idea to close any programs that you have open and to disable your screensaver. This step enables your installation to proceed without interruption and reduces the amount of time required to install the program.

Installing Director

1. Insert the Director Studio CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive. In a few moments, a window appears, displaying the contents of the CD-ROM (see Figure A-1).

Figure A-1: The contents of the Director 8 Studio CD-ROM appear in this window, enabling you to choose which component you want to install.

2. Double-click the Install Director 8 option to start the installation process. After the installation procedure initializes, a screen appears, prompting you to personalize your copy of Director. Fill out the information, including the serial number, and then click OK to continue the installation.

3. When the Welcome screen appears, click the Continue button to display the software licensing information. If you agree to the terms of the license, click Yes to continue the installation. Next, you see the Install Director 8 dialog box (see Figure A-2).

Figure A-2: Choose the type of installation that you want for Director 8.

Tip   You can choose a specific folder where you want the program to be installed by choosing the folder from the Install Location pop-up menu.

 4. Choose the setup option you want to use from the installation options pop-up menu, and accept the default installation directory or choose a new location.

 5. If you select the Easy installation option, click the Install button. The program begins to install onto your hard drive (you can skip Step 6). If you select Custom, the individual components are listed in the window (Figure A-3).

Figure A-3: Select the program components that you want to install.

 6. Choose the components that you want.

 7. When you have made your choices, click the Install button to continue.

The installation now proceeds, transferring files to your hard disk from the CD-ROM. The amount of time to transfer all files depends on the resources available on your computer and the Director component options you selected. When the installation is finished, the installer asks whether you want to view the Readme file. Say Yes! Next, you are prompted through several screens to register your copy of Director (you can do it now or later).

Director bundles a variety of useful utilities and applications that you can use to enhance your movies. Although they're not listed here, we recommend you take a few minutes to explore the CD-ROM.

> **Note** The Save as Java and Java Behaviors are a separate installation. If you want to have these Java components in Director, repeat the preceding steps to install the Java components from the Java Components installer found on the CD-ROM.

Installing Director in Windows

The Director CD-ROM for Windows has an Auto-Run feature called Access. When you insert the CD-ROM in the drive, Access starts, enabling you to install Director or to explore the contents of the CD-ROM.

> **Tip** Director bundles a variety of useful utilities and applications that you can use to enhance your movies. Although they're not listed here, we recommend that you take a few minutes to explore the CD-ROM. Click the Explore CD option on the Access main menu.

Installing Director

1. Insert the Director CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive. In a few moments, the Access setup screen appears, displaying the choices available to you (see Figure A-4).

2. Click the Install Director 8 option to start the installation process. After the installation procedure initializes, a Welcome screen appears, displaying installation information.

What to do when Auto-Run doesn't

Despite a software company's desire to make things as smooth and automatic as possible, one fact persists: Computers are somewhat like snowflakes—no two have identical personalities. The result is that automatic run features don't always automatically run. This may occur consistently or sporadically on any given computer. So, what do you do when Auto-Run doesn't?

You've got the CD-ROM in the drive. Double-click the My Computer icon and then the CD-ROM drive icon. In most cases, this launches the Access Auto-Run program on the Director 8 CD-ROM, and the Access window appears. But if this doesn't work, in a few moments the contents of the root directory appears in a window. To peruse the CD-ROM, double-click the Access icon. If you want to jump right into setting up Director 8, double-click the Setup icon.

Figure A-4: When the Access screen appears, you can choose either to install Director or to explore the CD-ROM.

3. Click the Next button to display the software licensing information. If you agree to the terms of the license, click Yes to continue the installation. You now see the Select Install Options dialog box (see Figure A-5).

Figure A-5: Choose the type of installation that you want for Director 8.

4. Choose the setup option that you want to use, and accept the default installation directory or choose a new location. Click Next to continue.

5. If you selected either the Compact or the Typical installation, the setup continues (you can skip Step 6). If you selected Custom, the Select Components dialog box appears (see Figure A-6).

Figure A-6: Select the program components that you want to install.

6. Choose the components you want, and then click Next to continue. You are prompted to choose a Program Folder. Accept the default folder, or enter a new name in the Program Folders entry box. Click Next to continue.

7. When you have made your choices, the installer shows you a summary of them; click Next to continue, or click Back to go back and make changes.

The installation now proceeds, transferring files to your hard disk from the CD-ROM. This can take some time. The amount of time depends on the resources available on your computer and the Director component options you selected. When the installation is finished, the installer asks whether you want to view the Readme file. Always say Yes! Next, you are prompted through several screens to register your copy of Director (you can do it now or later). Finally, the Access screen reappears; you can either exit or explore the Director 8 CD-ROM to locate the goodies it contains.

Note
As with the Macintosh version, the Save as Java and Java Behaviors are a separate installation. To install the Java components, click on the Browse CD button in the Access window. Locate the Install Java Components folder and click on setup.exe to install the Java components.

Configuring General and Network Preferences

The submenus you find by choosing File ➪ Preferences ➪ General and File ➪ Preferences ➪ Network provide a variety of options and settings that affect the way Director performs. Many of the individual menus for specifying sprite, cast member, and other options appear throughout this book in conjunction with related topics. The General and Network Options on the File ➪ Preferences menu are a bit different, however. In addition to determining the way Director itself performs, they also affect Director's interface with your system and the Internet.

Specifying general preferences

In the General Preferences dialog box, you specify settings that affect not only the current movie, but also Director's overall behavior. The settings you specify for Stage Size, User Interface, and Memory remain in effect until you change them. This enables you to ensure consistency from one Director session to the next. Table A-1 lists the available general preference options and their effect on Director's behavior.

Table A-1 General Preferences	
Option	*Effect When Enabled*
Use Movie Settings	Uses the Stage size of the new movie or matches the setting of the previous movie if you don't set a new size.
Match Current Movie	When you create a new movie, this setting uses the current Stage size.
Center	Centers the Stage on the screen.
Reset Monitor to Movie's Color Depth	(Macintosh only) Automatically resets the monitor's color depth to match the one being used for the current movie.
Animate in Background	Enables the movie to continue playing if the user switches to another application. If this option is not checked, the movie pauses when the user switches to another application, and then it should continue when the user switches back to Director. On some computers, the Director presentation stalls, requiring the user to quit the application and relaunch the presentation.
Dialogs Appear at Mouse Position	Causes Director to display dialog boxes at the position of the mouse pointer. If this option is disabled, dialog boxes appear centered in the active window.
Save Window Positions on Quit	Causes Director to remember which windows were open and their location when you close the program. When you start Director for your next session, the dialog boxes open during the previous session appear in the same position as in the previous session.
Message Window Recompiles Scripts	This option, which is enabled by default, causes your scripts to be recompiled when you open the Message window. If this option is disabled, you should recompile scripts prior to entering Lingo in the Message window.
Show Tooltips	Displays tags to identify the command or tool currently under the mouse pointer, whenever you pause momentarily over a tool or command. This option is especially useful when you are first learning your way around Director. This is the default setting.

Option	Effect When Enabled
Text Units	Sets the default unit of measurement used for text elements. You can choose Inches, Centimeters, or Pixels.
Memory	On Windows, enables you to limit the amount of memory Director can use for operations. If you multitask and keep several applications open simultaneously, you might want to consider limiting the amount of resources available to Director. We recommend never lowering this amount below 16MB of RAM. If this option is disabled, you are specifying that Director can use as much of the available RAM as is needed, up to the amount indicated in the Limit Memory Size To box. On the Macintosh, this option enables Director to use available system memory if it's own partition is full.
User Name	Sets the username that is displayed in both the Comments and the Created By fields of the Cast window and Property Inspector.

Setting General Preferences

1. Choose File ➪ Preferences ➪ General Preferences to display the General Preferences dialog box (see Figure A-7).

2. Click the check boxes for the options you want to use, and then click OK to complete the operation and return to Director's main window.
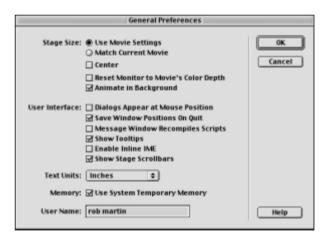

Figure A-7: Use the General Preferences dialog box to specify the way Director will behave.

Specifying network preferences

Director enables you to preview your movies in a Web browser at any time during the authoring process. You can also link files on the Internet for use in your movies and projectors. Using dynamically linked information from the Internet is useful when you want to incorporate information that changes frequently, such as stock quotes or weather data. The Network Preferences dialog box contains options that control communication between Director and the Internet (see Table A-2). You can specify settings such as the browser you want to use, disk caching, and proxy information.

Table A-2 **Network Preference Options**	
Option	*Description or Effect*
Preferred Browser	Specify the location of the browser program that you want to use.
Launch When Needed	Causes Director to launch your preferred browser when the program encounters an event requiring a browser. If you don't specify a preferred browser, Director prompts you for the browser information or enables you to disable this option.
Disk Cache Size	Specify the amount of hard-disk space you want to make available for disk caching.
Check Documents	Select Once Per Session if you want Director to verify and update dynamically linked media once per Director session or once per playback of a projector. Select Every Time if you want Director to verify and update dynamically linked media each time it encounters an instance requiring the information. This choice can slow down the playback of a projector or movie.
Proxies	Select No Proxies to tell Director that you have a direct connection to the Internet, such as a private Internet service provider, that is not dependent on a local network server. Select Manual Configuration to tell Director that your machine is connected to a local network server that has security firewalls in place. If you choose this option, you need to enter the `http` or `ftp` URL and port number that provide your access to the Internet.

Setting Network Preferences

1. Choose File ➪ Preferences ➪ Network Preferences to display the Network Preferences dialog box (see Figure A-8).

2. Set or enter information for the network options that you want to use. Click OK to complete the operation and return to Director's main window.

Note

When you are working with Director, you can clear the disk cache immediately by clicking the Clear button in the Network Preferences dialog box. Clearing the disk cache ensures that the dynamically linked media you see in a projector or movie are current.
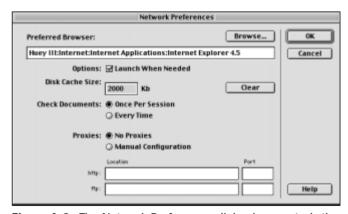

Figure A-8: The Network Preferences dialog box controls the way Director interfaces with the Internet.

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