Installation & Setup

Thanks for purchasing Text Chain, that's a quick guide on how to install and use the script

Unzip the archive you have downloaded

Close After Effects if it is open

Copy the script file 'Text chain<_ver>.jsxbin' into the following directory:

      Windows users:
C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe After Effects <version>\Support Files\Scripts\ Scripts UI Panels

      Mac users:
Applications/Adobe After Effects <version>/ Scripts/ScriptUI Panels
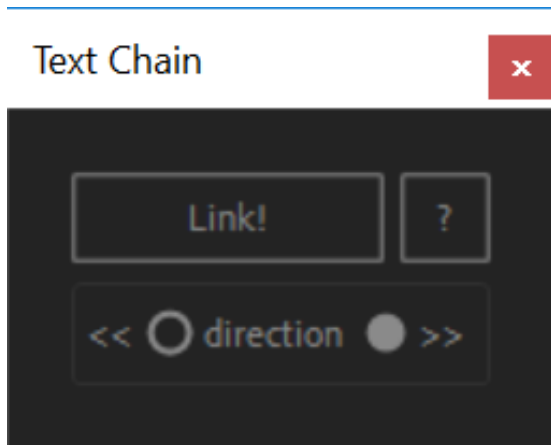
Start After Effects

Under the Window menu, find and run the script 'Text chain <ver>'

You can dock the panel or let it float over your desktop app

Please make sure to allow you software to write files on your local drives by ticking ON the 'Allow Scripts to Write Files and Access Network' option in your preferences panel. Be aware, from CC2019 above this option is found in the 'Scripting and Expressions' tab, otherwise it can be found in the General tab.
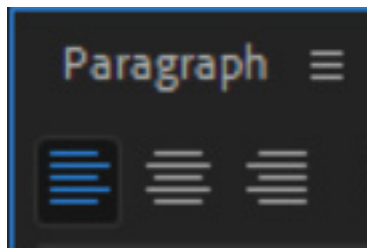`

How it works

'Text chain' is very easy to use, with the simplest UI and an intuitive Control Panel, this script will help you keep a straightforward workflow

Text chain works only with text layers. To link two or more layers in your timeline, you need to have a comp active, and in the timeline at least two text layers selected.
By default the direction is set to 'left to right', but you can change it if you text linked in the opposite direction.
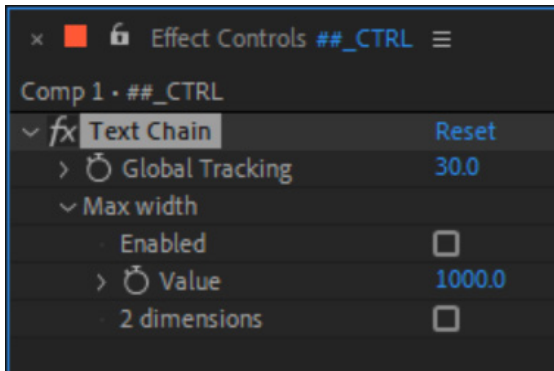

Please note, whichever your text justification is set to, the script will change it according to the chosen 'direction'

The text layers order in the titmeline is relevant: The layer with the smallest index (in this case '##') will be the driver, the rest will follow in the index order

Every time a link is made, Text chain creates a Null object and label it: '*<driver name>_CTRL*'
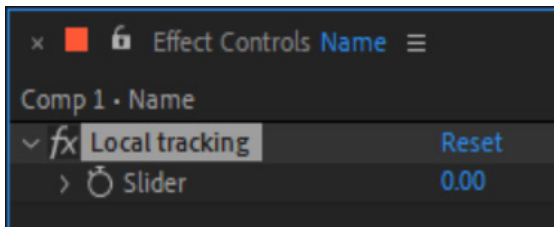
On the Null object will be applied a preset with a few controls:

Global Tracking, with a default value of 30 defines the distance between each layer

Max width is switched off by default, please tick on the 'Enabled' switch if you want to tun it on.

The max width's value can be adjusted with the 'Value' slider

And finally, you can decided to let the text layers decrease size on one dimension (default option) or two dimensions with the '2 dimensions' switch.

In addition to a global tracking, you will be able to assign a 'Local tracking' to the individual text layers, via a slider applied to them (default value is 0).

Trial Version

With the trial version, which will be active for a limited time of 2 weeks, you'll be able to link only 2 text layers, and the 'Max width' option will be fixed to 750px

Sorry, I know that's not ideal, but this is just to give you an idea of how the script works