**Unity Tips & Tricks**

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Table of Contents

[Purpose of this Document 3](#_Toc72507403)

[Useful Web Pages for Use With Unity 4](#_Toc72507404)

[GitHub.COM – Shared Project Database 4](#_Toc72507405)

[DoFont.COM – Fonts for use with Your Projects 4](#_Toc72507406)

[OpenGameArt.ORG – Downloadable 2D & 3D Art, Music, Textures, and Sound Effects 4](#_Toc72507407)

[Freesound.ORG – Website with Free Sound Files for Download 4](#_Toc72507408)

[App.Diagram.Net – Online Flowchart Drawing Program 4](#_Toc72507409)

[Adobe Color Wheel 4](#_Toc72507410)

[Share My Game 4](#_Toc72507411)

[RenderDoc – Graphics Debugger 4](#_Toc72507412)

[Unity Answers Discussion Group 5](#_Toc72507413)

[Las Vegas Unity User Group 5](#_Toc72507414)

[Mirror Networking 5](#_Toc72507415)

[Game Programming Patterns 5](#_Toc72507416)

[Krita – Free Paint Program 5](#_Toc72507417)

[Webinars & YouTube Instruction Videos 6](#_Toc72507418)

[Text Mesh Pro – Using Fallback Font Settings 6](#_Toc72507419)

[Useful Unity Manual Pages 7](#_Toc72507420)

[Order of Execution for Event Functions 7](#_Toc72507421)

[Useful Packages from Unity 8](#_Toc72507422)

[Device Simulator 8](#_Toc72507423)

[Useful Assets from the Unity Asset Store 9](#_Toc72507424)

[Text Mesh Pro – Comes with Unity 9](#_Toc72507425)

[Agora Video SDK for Unity – Text & Video Chat Plug-in 9](#_Toc72507426)

[Generally Useful Code Tricks 10](#_Toc72507427)

[Exit Game in Unity Editor 10](#_Toc72507428)

[Laser Defender from Udemy Complete Unity Game Developer 2D Course 11](#_Toc72507429)

[Trigger Sound Effects (Explosions, Dropping a Bomb, Firing a Laser, etc.) 11](#_Toc72507430)

[Delay for Loading a Scene 11](#_Toc72507431)

[Music Player with Singleton (Lesson #114) 11](#_Toc72507432)

[Spinning Effect on a Sprite 11](#_Toc72507433)

# Purpose of this Document

This document is to help explain how to best use features of Unity from the Udemy courses on Unity. So it will include references to specific lessons and lectures. Later I will be adding references to other documentation, including web pages and videos that I have also found useful for Unity.

The hope is that this will provide a quick way to look up how I did something for a particular project, so it can be used in future projects.

# Useful Web Pages for Use With Unity

## GitHub.COM – Shared Project Database

The website is: <http://github.com>

This is a great place to store your projects, especially is using them with a development team. You can have different branches for experimenting with features in your project. It also gives you a way to go back to known good version in case you get lost going down a rabbit hole later.

It also allows you to work on the same project using multiple computers, by simply downloading the latest one onto the system you are working on at the time.

The GitHub Desktop utility gives you an easy GUI interface to use to create and maintain your projects. You can download it from the GitHub website.

## DoFont.COM – Fonts for use with Your Projects

The website is: <http://www.dafont.com>

Many fonts are free to use here. They work great with Text Mesh Pro text fields.

## OpenGameArt.ORG – Downloadable 2D & 3D Art, Music, Textures, and Sound Effects

The website is: <http://opengameart.org/user>

This is used in the Laser Defender project in the Unity 2D class by Udemy in lesson #114: Music Player With Singleton. While you may use a free download, please put an attribution about anything you may use in a game. The license terms will vary based on what the artist that posted it wants applied to it. You can use what is there, even for commercial projects. Be sure to read the FAQs about the different license types.

## Freesound.ORG – Website with Free Sound Files for Download

This is mentioned in the Laser Defender lessons #111 – Trigger Sound Effects.

## App.Diagram.Net – Online Flowchart Drawing Program

This is a useful website for drawing State Diagram flowcharts. It is completely free to use. The extension is called .drawio for the files it creates.

## Adobe Color Wheel

The website is: <http://color.adobe.com/create/color-wheel>

This is a free website from Adobe that gives you a selection of colors that go together for use in your game design. Colors are shown with the hex values, which makes them easy to use in Unity.

## Share My Game

The website is: <http://sharemygame.com>

This is a location where you can share your game for others to see and try out for free. It is only there for a limited time, but you can post updates to it at any time.

## RenderDoc – Graphics Debugger

RenderDoc is a free MIT licensed stand-alone graphics debugger that allows quick and easy single-frame capture and detailed introspection of any application using Vulkan, D3D11, OpenGL & OpenGL ES or D3D12 across Windows 7 - 10, Linux, Android, Stadia, or Nintendo Switch™.

## Unity Answers Discussion Group

The website is: <http://answers.unity.com/index.html>

This is a general discussion group where you can ask questions about Unity and search the list for possible answers. The search capability isn’t that great though. You can sign up to have questions emailed to you so you can see them and even answer them. I like to file useful ones away for future reference.

There are other links there for Forums, Unity User Groups

## Las Vegas Unity User Group

The website is: <https://www.meetup.com/Las-Vegas-Unity3D-Meetup/>

Their Facebook group is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/lasvegasunitymeetup/>

They also have this website: <https://bitbucket.org/LasVegasUnityMeetup/meetupprojects>

## Mirror Networking

The website is: <https://mirror-networking.com/>

They provide a high level networking API for Unity that provides several different types of low level transports. Supposedly you can make it so both the server and client run from the same code base.

## Game Programming Patterns

The website is: <https://gameprogrammingpatterns.com/>

This is someone that wrote a book on patterns used to program games. The book is available for free via the website, or you can buy one.

Here is the online version: <https://gameprogrammingpatterns.com/contents.html>

## Krita – Free Paint Program

The website is: <https://krita.org/en/>

# Webinars & YouTube Instruction Videos

## Text Mesh Pro – Using Fallback Font Settings

<https://create.unity3d.com/thank-you-text-mesh-pro-webinar>

# Useful Unity Manual Pages

## Order of Execution for Event Functions

This is described on <http://docs.unity3d.com/Manual/ExecutionOrder.html> and has a state diagram chart that is very useful. It has references to many other methods that can be useful in the text after the chart.

# Useful Packages from Unity

## Device Simulator

There is a simulator that will simulate all sorts of phone and device screens. In the case of some Apple phones you have a notch, so it simulates that.

Go to Windows 🡪 Package Manager and when it is up select Advanced and enable Preview, since it is currently a preview. You enable it by going to Window 🡪 General 🡪 Device Simulator.

Note: After you install it, you must restart Unity for the Device Simulator option to be shown.

<https://docs.unity3d.com/Packages/com.unity.device-simulator@2.2/manual/index.html>

# Useful Assets from the Unity Asset Store

## Text Mesh Pro – Comes with Unity

There is one in the standard API included with Unity now, so you don’t need to download it from the Asset Store. It is better to use this for any text items than the older Text class.

There are two types for this type of text object. The TextMeshPro type can be used in 3D space. The TextMesshProUGUI type is what you use on a canvas, which is the UGUI environment that it requires. You might use the TextMeshPro type for showing some health info or other text that needs to follow something within a scene, for example.

## Agora Video SDK for Unity – Text & Video Chat Plug-in

Their website is : <https://www.agora.io/en/unity/>

I set up a login here: <https://sso.agora.io/en/login/>

This was recommended to me. I still don’t understand how the licensing would work for it, but it looks very capable to allow for Teams-type video conferencing for games.

You can find it under Home -> Tools -> Video -> Agora Video SDK for Unity

# Generally Useful Code Tricks

## Exit Game in Unity Editor

To exit a game while in the Unity editor you can’t use the same method as you would for a standalone game. Note that the logic must be disabled, so it doesn’t even compile, when you build it for a standalone game. If you don’t you will get an error that prevents it from running as a standalone program.

Here is the code I use:

public void ExitGame()

{

if (Application.isPlaying & !Application.isEditor)

Application.Quit(); // We may return from this, but the program will terminate at the end of the frame

#if true

else

UnityEditor.EditorApplication.isPlaying = false; // Handle being in the editor, but set #if to true to use it

#endif

} // ExitGame()

You simply change #if true to be #if false when you build for a standalone game and it will run just fine. This is useful for testing that your exit game logic works while in the Unity Editor.

# Laser Defender from Udemy Complete Unity Game Developer 2D Course

## Trigger Sound Effects (Explosions, Dropping a Bomb, Firing a Laser, etc.)

While most audio formats are supported, in Laser Defender he used OGG files for these effects. Here is example code used to create a bomb and play the sound. Note that the position in 3D space for the sound to play is that of the camera. Changing that position would change the volume and possibly where the sound seems to come from (assuming Surround Sound is being used).

Here is an article on what audio formats are supported by Unity: <http://support.unity.com/hc/en-us/articles/206484803-What-are-the-supported-Audio-formats-in-Unity->

private void Fire()

{

GameObject bomb = Instantiate(projectile, transform.position,

Quaternion.identity) as GameObject;

bomb.GetComponent<Rigidbody2D>().velocity = new Vector2(0, bombSpeed);

AudioSource.PlayClipAtPoint(bombDropSFX, Camera.main.transform.position,

bombSoundVolume);

} // Fire()

## Delay for Loading a Scene

You sometimes need to delay a bit before continuing on, like loading the next scene. Calling a method like this will delay for the number of seconds you specify in the variable delayInSeconds:

IEnumerator WaitToLoad()

{

yield return new WaitForSeconds(delayInSeconds);

SceneManager.LoadScene("GameOver");

} // WaitToLoad()

You can just have the WaitForSeconds() call in here to have a more general delay method and pass the number of seconds to delay as a parameter to the method and it will return to the caller once the delay period is over. This example is one that was designed to load the Game Over scene using a value you can set in the Unity Editor.

## Music Player with Singleton (Lesson #114)

* Download a music track and put it in an *Asset* folder called *Music*.
* Create an Empty Game Object (reset the Transform info, as usual) and add an Audio Source component.
  + Be sure to click on the Loop checkbox to play it in a continuous loop.
  + Add a new script called MusicPlayer to the object.
* Drag it into your Prefab folder to make it a prefab and put it in your other scenes.
* Change the Start() method in the MusicPlayer scripts to be Awake() and use code like the following to make it a Singleton object:

void Awake()

{

if (FindObjectsOfType(GetType()).Length > 1)

Destroy(gameObject); // Destroy any that come afterwards

else

DontDestroyOnLoad(gameObject); // Make the first one immortal

} // Awake()

## Spinning Effect on a Sprite

This is lesson video #118 and is implemented in the Spinner.cs script. I changed the name to specify how many times it would spin per second. You simply add this line in the Update() method to spin on the Z axis:

gameObject.transform.Rotate(0, 0, degreesOfSpinPerSecond\* Time.deltaTime);