

EarthSiege II
README
2/22/96

About This Document:

This document contains last-minute information about EarthSiege II and other information about the program not found in the Help Files. This README file includes information that pertains to general problems, memory issues, joysticks, sound cards, and video cards. Should you experience any problems with EarthSiege II, please refer to this file for addition help on answering questions about the game and solving technical difficulties.

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I. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

PROCESSOR: 486/66Mhz - Local Bus

OPERATING SYSTEM: Windows 95

MEMORY: 8 MB RAM

KEYBOARD REQUIRED

2X CD-ROM

SVGA VIDEO BOARD WITH 1 MB MEMORY ON BOARD

Recommended

Pentium P60 +

PCI bus

WINDOWS ACCELERATED SVGA CARD 2 MB MEMORY ON BOARD

4X CD-ROM or BETTER

16 MB RAM

MOUSE + JOYSTICK

Soundblaster compatible soundcard w/DAC

II. GENERAL TECHNICAL ISSUES

Windows colors:

EarthSiege II will play most consistently if you have your video mode set to 256 colors. If you have Windows set to HIGH COLOR (16 bit) or TRUE COLOR (24 bit), the simulation itself will play normally, but certain graphic screens may have odd colors, or may appear mostly black.

For best performance (frame rate) set the video mode to 256 colors.

Joystick Calibration:

EarthSiege II is a true Win 95 product, and uses the joystick support built into the system. For this reason your joystick must be enabled and calibrated from the desktop before running EarthSiege II. To do this click on the START button on the Win 95 task bar. Move your cursor down to SETTINGS on the pop-up menu, and then select CONTROL PANEL. In the control panel window, one of the choices should be JOYSTICK. Double-click on the joystick selection and follow the instructions. Note that with some joysticks it may require more than one calibration, or some adjustment of the joystick before the stick centers properly. Refer to JOYSTICK ISSUES section in section V.

Full-screen Mode:

For EarthSiege II to function in full-screen mode, you must have Microsoft's DirectDraw(TM) installed. Sierra's Setup utility should autodetect for DirectDraw and install it, if necessary when you install EarthSiege II. However, you must reboot before the changes can take effect. To use DirectDraw during the game, go into the preferences menu from the main screen menu. Activate the full screen option. For more information about DirectDraw or for video troubleshooting tips, see the VIDEO ISSUES section.

GAME IS SLOW

If the game runs too slow on your system, we have incorporated several detail options that when disabled will help increase the speed of the game. These options are located in the game preference menu and additional settings when you press F12 during a mission. Lowering detail features and changing the screen resolution to 320X240 will increase speed performance. If you still find the game too slow, disable sound from the preferences screen and run the game from a window. Following the suggestions section IV may also help increase the performance of the game.

The game may also be slow because you are logged into a network. Close down the network connection and restart the game.

Utilities

Be sure to close any other CD player utilities before starting EarthSiege II -- These utilities will interfere with the operation of the program.

"Powertoys" and EarthSiege II:

Many Win 95 users have the popular Powertoys accessories installed as part of their default Startup options. We have found Powertoys to be quite safe and stable, however two of the utilities, XMOUSE and FLEXICD have some potential to cause minor difficulties with EarthSiege II. As noted above, if Flexicd is active, you will be unable to use the Jukebox function in EarthSiege II. Users of Xmouse may find that EarthSiege II will behave erratically if the mouse cursor is placed outside the EarthSiege II window. We suggest you disable these two utilities while playing. To close Flexicd, right click on the CD icon on the taskbar and select EXIT FLEXICD. To close Xmouse, double-click the Xmouse icon (usually in the CONTROL PANEL directory) and click REMOVE. Both can then be restarted normally when you are done playing.

Animated or 3D mouse Cursors:

We have found that animated cursors exhibit some erratic behavior when used with EarthSiege II. To avoid these problems, simply double-click the MOUSE icon under Control Panel, select Pointers, and choose the Windows default scheme.

III.GENERAL GAME ISSUES

PROBLEM: I am getting mouse trails or "Droppings" on the screen when I play EarthSiege II.

SOLUTION: Go into your Windows 95 control panel and select "System", "Performance", then "Graphics". Make a slight adjustment to the "hardware acceleration" slider. This should get rid of the mouse anomalies. We've found that every machine is different and you may have to make several slight random adjustments before remedying the problem.

Should the new setting cause other problems then reset the slider back to it's previous setting. Contact your video card manufacture for updated video drivers to resolve the mouse droppings problem.

PROBLEM: This mouse cursor flickers in and out while I play EarthSiege. Is there anything I can do to fix this problem.

SOLUTION: Yes there is. This problem is most likely caused by different mouse schemes used on your system. Just go into CONTROL PANEL, MOUSE, click on 'Pointers', and under scheme chose 'windows standard'.

IV. MEMORY ISSUES

EarthSiege 2 requires 8 MB of physical memory to run. To ensure the best configuration for the game, Sierra On-Line recommends that you disable screen savers, utilities, Shadow ROM, and additional applications that are running in Windows 95. This configuration will free up all system resources and will increase performance in the game. If you are experiencing memory error messages while trying to start the game you should also try making a Windows 95 bootdisk. At the end of this section there are some instructions on how to go about this.

VIRTUAL MEMORY SETTINGS -- Check your Virtual memory settings on your system. Click on the START, SETTINGS, CONTROL PANEL. Click on SYSTEM, PERFORMANCE, VIRTUAL MEMORY, and make sure the system is set up for "Let

Windows manage my Virtual Memory Settings". If you still experience memory problems you may need to free up some hard drive space to enable Windows to use it for virtual memory. Consult Windows 95 documentation for more information on setting up your windows virtual memory.

BOOTDISK INSTRUCTIONS -- A bootdisk maker has been included on the CD-ROM. In DOS type X:<ENTER> (where X is the letter of your CD-ROM drive). Then type bootdisk<ENTER> and follow the on screen instructions. If this resolves the problem start the system every time with the bootdisk when you want to play EarthSiege II.

V. JOYSTICKS

Calibration:

EarthSiege II is a true Win 95 product, and uses the Direct Input joystick support built into the system. For this reason your joystick must be enabled and calibrated from the desktop before running EarthSiege II. To do this click on the START button on the Win 95 task bar.

Move your cursor down to SETTINGS on the pop-up menu, and then select CONTROL PANEL. In the control panel window, double-click on the

joystick selection to bring up JOYSTICK PROPERTIES and follow the instructions. Note that with some joysticks it may require more than one calibration, or some adjustment of the joystick before the stick centers properly.

Analog Joysticks:

If you have an analog joystick, you may find that the stick is seems somewhat "sluggish" under Win95. This problem can be particularly pronounced in older joysticks that have been subjected to a great deal of wear. We have found that in some instance this can be minimized during calibration by simply not pushing your joystick to its full travel. Instead push your joystick just enough to make the cross that shows the joystick position barely reach the edges of the calibration box. Experimenting with this may improve your joystick performance.

Digital Joysticks:

Windows 95 takes full advantage of digital joysticks, and you may find that performance with digital joysticks, such as the Sidewinder, is marginally better, and that these sticks "hold" their calibrations better than analog joysticks.

What To Choose:

Many joystick manufacturers have written joystick drivers for Win 95 and are explicitly listed in the list of joysticks in the configuration menu located in the Control panel in the joystick folder. If your joystick is present, make the appropriate choice. Otherwise, look through the choices available and choose the one that most closely resembles your stick. Here are a few guidelines for specific joysticks:

Thrustmaster FLCs -- Choose 2 Button Joystick. Program the additional buttons using the Thrustmaster software.

Gravis Thunderbird -- Choose CH Pro.

Microsoft Sidewinder 3D PRO -- Choose 'Microsoft Sidewinder 3D PRO', If it is not available then you need to install the joystick driver for this device for best results.

GENERAL TROUBLESHOOTING

PROBLEM: I have a throttle control wheel or lever on my joystick and the hercs will not go backward when I move it all the way back.

SOLUTION: The joystick throttle operates in only forward or reverse.

You must either assign a joystick button to toggle direction or press [CNTRL 1]. To assign a joystick button for this, enter the game and begin a mission. When you are in the mission press F11. A preferences screen comes up. Click on the control button. set one of your available buttons to change Direction. Exit back to the game. Every time that joystick button is pressed, your throttle control will switch direction allowing you to use the slider for throttle speed.

PROBLEM: When I pull my joystick back and to a corner (or when I use my pedals, or when I'm steering with the keypad) the herc isn't moving in the direction I want. Why is this?

SOLUTION: Many users who enjoy flight simulators expect different behavior than those who are not used to these simulators; for example, when the 8 key on the keypad is pressed, some players expect the turret to rotate down (as if the user were pressing down on the front of the turret) while some expect the turret to rotate up (because of the up arrow on the 8 key).

KEYJOY.CFG exists in the DATA directory, off of the directory you installed ES2 into (for example, C:\SIERRA\ES2\DATA). It allows you to set some preferences for how certain keys are handled by the game. The four functions that can be changed are: keyboard control of turret, keyboard control of guided missiles, behavior in reverse turns, and pedal use. To change one of these selections from the default setting, edit the keyjoy.cfg file in a text editor and replace "DEFAULT" with "REVERSE" where desired.

THRUSTMASTER SUPPORT ES2.WCS.ADV

This is a default WCS driver for use with the Thrustmaster Mark II Weapons Control System. You can find it in the directory you installed ES into, and you should see your WCS owner's manual for instructions on how to download it into your WCS. The red Base mode switch should be set to analog, and the black Hat mode switch should be set to digital.

ES2_FLCS.B50 and ES2_FLCS.M50

ES2_FLCS.B50 is a default configuration for the new Thrustmaster F-16 FLCS and optional WCS. See the ES2_FLCS.M50 file for a description of the hat and button assignments. Consult your owners manual for downloading instructions.

ES2_TQS.B50 and ES2_TQS.M50

ES2_TQS.B50 is a default configuration for the new Thrustmaster

F-16 FLCS and optional Thrustmaster TQS. See the ES2_TQS.M50 file for a description of the hat and button assignments. Consult your owners manual for downloading instructions.

You can reach Thrustmaster technical support at (503) 968-3400 9-5 Pacific time weekdays if you have questions about the WCS MK II or the F-16 FLCS.

Updated Joystick Drivers:

Your joystick manufacturer may have updated drivers available for use with Win 95. If your joystick is not listed on the choices available in the JOYSTICK PROPERTIES, or if you are having difficulties with your joystick, contact the manufacturer for possible updates.

PROBLEM: I am having problems with the joystick control in the Sim. The joystick will not move in one direction, or is erratic when trying to control the plane. What should I do?

SOLUTION: Try calibrating the joystick. To do this click on the START button on the Win 95 task bar. Move your cursor down to SETTINGS on the pop-up menu, and then select CONTROL PANEL. In the control panel window, double-click on the joystick selection to bring up JOYSTICK PROPERTIES and follow the instructions. Note that with some joysticks it may require more than one calibration, or some adjustment of the joystick before the stick centers properly.

PROBLEM: OK, I have tried to calibrate the joystick, and I am still having joystick control problems. Any other suggestions?

SOLUTION: Try to re-calibrate the joystick, but this time, do not push your joystick to its full travel potential. Instead push your joystick just enough to make the cross that shows the joystick position barely reach the edges of the calibration box. Experimenting with this may improve your joystick performance.

At the end of this document are listed some addresses of the makers of some popular joysticks.

V. VIDEO

Running EarthSiege II in a window:

EarthSiege II accesses your video card through the standard Windows 95 video drivers. In normal operation EarthSiege II should function well on any system that is properly configured to run Win 95. If you should experience any problems while running EarthSiege II in a window, verify that the proper video drivers are selected in your Display Properties. If these selections are correct and you still experience problems, contact your video card manufacturer's technical support.

Running EarthSiege II in Full Screen Mode:

When running in Full Screen Mode, EarthSiege II uses Window's DirectDraw. DirectDraw allows EarthSiege II to run in full screen mode in either 640x480 or 320x200 modes, and provides some noticeable frame rate improvements. However, not all video cards tested supported DirectDraw properly. If you experience problems with your card, contact the manufacturer for the latest Window's '95 drivers.

You can still enjoy full screen game play by resetting your display mode to 640 X 480 resolution. To do this, right mouse click with your cursor on the desktop and select "properties" then "settings". There, you will be able to select the display mode.

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Diamond Stealth:

Diamond Multimedia Technologies has released updated video drivers for Windows '95 that will allow the Stealth cards to run with DirectDraw. Contact Diamond Multimedia for a set of Windows '95 drivers if you would like to run in full screen mode.

NOTE -- You can run the game in Window play - the drivers will only correct problems in Full Screen (DirectDraw) mode.

Diamond Stealth 64 2001 series

The game will play but the screen is black in 640X480 resolution.

The latest GT drivers from Diamond Multi-Media should solve this problem. Please contact Diamond for information on how to obtain and install the latest driver.

What to do if you have problems:

Reboot -- The Sierra Setup utility program automatically detects whether your machine has DirectDraw installed and installs it, if needed. These changes will not take effect until after you restart your system.

Reinstall -- It is possible something interrupted the installation of

DirectDraw. Uninstall EarthSiege II and install again. Make sure to click the choice REINSTALL DIRECTX on the DirectX setup box. This utility can be run from Windows explorer. Go into Windows explorer double click on the CD-ROM drive, double click the DirectX directory in the root directory and then double click the DXSETUP.EXE file. The Directx reinstallation option is on this screen.

Update your drivers -- Contact your video card manufacturer and verify that you have the latest video drivers for your card, and verify that these drivers do, in fact, work with DirectDraw. If you already have the newest drivers, verify that those drivers are the ones currently installed. If you have installed or updated Win 95 since you installed the newer video drivers, it is possible that Windows may have replaced the driver with an older version.

You can get information on your video card and drivers by clicking on SYSTEM in the Control Panel folder, selecting DEVICE MANAGERS, and clicking on DISPLAY ADAPTERS.

Video Card Manufacturers:

When attempting to resolve video problems with EarthSiege II, you should contact your video card manufacturer's technical support. Before calling you should make sure you have all of the information about your video card and monitor handy, and that you know what version of your video drivers you are using.

At the end of this document are addresses for some popular video card manufacturers:

VI. SOUND ISSUES

If you experience sound problems, particularly erratic sound effect cut off, You may resolve this by changing parameters in Earthsiege II's sound system configuration file- SOUNDS.CFG. You'll find this file in the directory where it was installed on your hard drive. For example: C:\Sierra\ES2\Data. Load this file into a text editor such as Windows Notepad and change the driver setting (default MME) to read: DIRECTSOUND.

WARNING: Not all sound cards support Direct Sound. You may experience slower performance using the DirectSound drivers. If you experience problems after changing this setting, change the line back to its

original default MME setting.

Sounds and "Focus":

For sounds to play correctly in EarthSiege II, the game's window must be the active window. Moving the mouse outside of the EarthSiege II window and left-clicking can often switch "focus" to another window or icon, and sound effects in the game may stop playing properly. Usually, simply clicking on the game window will correct the problem. If it does not, it may be necessary to return to the menu and restart the mission or start another mission to restore the sounds.

PROBLEM: The sound in the game sporadically cuts in and out.

SOLUTION: This maybe caused by the system being slowed down. First make sure all other applications are closed on the system. If you have all the detail settings set to high try lowering them to improve performance. Make a bootdisk using the instructions in the memory section. Because hard drives tend to be a bit faster than most CD-ROM drives, you may also want to delete and reinstall using the maximum installation option. This option puts more files on the hard drive decreasing the amount the game must access the CD-ROM.

PROBLEM: I am receiving no sound in the game.

SOLUTION: Make sure your system is setup for sound in Windows 95. To test this make sure you have speakers that are correctly connected to your computer (Refer to you sound card documentation for the specific information for your card). If they are properly installed click on the START button in Windows 95. Click on PROGRAMS, ACCESSORIES, MULITIMEDIA, and MULTIMEDIA PLAYER. Click on DEVICE and choose SOUND. If no option exists it is possible you have no sound device on your system or that it is not properly setup for Windows 95. Contact you hardware manufacture for more information.

If you have an option for sound, then once you click on SOUND a few files should appear. Click on one of them and then choose play (>) from the MEDIA PLAYER screen. If no sound comes out of the speakers this may be because your system has not been setup properly. You may also want to check the Windows mixer setting.

Click on the speaker symbol at the end of your Windows 95 Task Bar to change the master volume setting. Double click on the speaker to change individual sound settings.

If you are still having problems it may be because your sound card does not support Microsoft's DirectSound which EarthSiege II uses.

Adjusting Volume Levels in EarthSiege II:

Since EarthSiege II is a true Windows '95 application, it utilizes the volume level settings that are set within Windows '95. If you would like to increase the volume of either the "Redbook" (CD-Audio) music, or the speech and sound effects in the simulation, simply adjust the volume levels in the Volume Control Window. To do this, right-click on the speaker icon by the on-screen clock of the lower right hand section of the task bar, and adjust the CD Audio Volume and the Wave Volume to your personal preference.

Music in the Game:

In order to have the music play either in the Main Menu and/or in the actual Simulation, make sure that you have enabled the Music option in the Preferences. Simply enable the Preferences screen, and "X" the click box by the SOUND option.

NOTE -- You will need to have either a CD Audio cable connected between your sound card and your CD-ROM Drive, or an audio cable leading from the CD-ROM drive's headphone port to the sound card or external speakers in order to hear the game music. Consult your sound card documentation for more information about connecting an audio cable to your CD-ROM drive.

If you still have problems: _____

EarthSiege II has been tested with a wide variety of sound cards and we believe that you should experience no noticeable problems with any sound card that functions properly with Windows 95. If you are having any consistent problems with sound in EarthSiege II, or sounds do not play correctly in other Windows applications, please contact your sound card's manufacturer for possible updates to the Win 95 drivers. For your convenience we have included the addresses of the makers of several popular sound cards.

A Sound Card Manufacturer List is listed at the bottom of this document.

LIST OF JOYSTICK MANUFACTURERS

Advanced Gravis

United States:

(604) 434-1807 T/S

(604) 431-7553 BBS

United Kingdom

COMPUSERVE BBS

C H Products

United States:

(619) 598-2518 T/S

(619) 598-3224 BBS

Kraft

United States:

(619) 724-7146 T/S

Logitech

United States:

(510) 795-8100 T/S

(510) 795-0408 BBS

ThrustMaster

United States:

(503) 639-3200 T/S

LIST OF VIDEO CARD MANUFACTURERS

Advanced Integration Research

United States:

408-428-0800 T/S

408-428-1735 BBS

Advanced Micro Technology

United States:

909-598-6120 T/S

909-594-5770 BBS

Alpha Systems Lab

United States:

800-576-4275 T/S

Altech International

United States:

800-882-8194 T/S

408-946-2227 BBS

Artist Graphics Company

United States:

800-627-8478 T/S

612-631-7664 BBS

ATI Technologies

United States:
905-882-2626 T/S
905-764-9404 BBS
United Kingdom:
01753 631121 TEL
01753 631106 FAX

Atlaz Intl., Limited
United States:
516-239-1854 T/S

Boca
United States:
407-241-8088 T/S
407-241-1601 BBS

Cache Computers, Inc.
United States:
510-226-9922 T/S
510-226-7486 BBS

Cardinal
United States:
717-293-3124 T/S
717-293-3074 BBS

Celerite Graphics, Inc.
United States:
510-226-6390 T/S
510-226-7851 BBS

Cirrus Logic
United States:
408-435-8808 T/S
510-440-9080 BBS

Colorgraphic Communication
United States:
404-455-3921 T/S
404-452-8238 BBS

Cornerstone Technology
United States:
800-562-2552 x306 T/S
408-435-8943 BBS

CSS Laboratories, Inc.

United States:

800-966-2771 T/S

714-852-9231 BBS

Diamond Speedstar

United States:

408-325-7100 T/S

408-325-7080 BBS (up to 2400bps)

408-325-7175 BBS (above 2400bps)

Edge Technology, Inc.

United States:

800-438-3343 T/S

ELSA America, Inc.

United States:

800-272-3572 T/S

415-588-6286 BBS

Focus Information Systems, Inc.

United States:

510-657-4586 T/S

510-657-9451 BBS

Genoa

United States:

408-432-8324 T/S

408-943-1231 BBS

Headland (Video Seven)

United States:

800-553-1850 T/S

415-656-0503 BBS

Hercules Technology

United States:

510-623-6050 T/S

510-623-7034 BBS (V32)

510-623-7449 BBS (v32b)

Identity Systems Technology

United States:

800-723-8324 T/S

214-705-7213 BBS

IOcomm Intl., Corp.
United States:
800-998-8919 T/S

Liberty Electronics USA
United States:
800-497-8324 T/S

Matrox Electronics Systems Limited
United States:
800-462-8769 T/S
514-685-6008 BBS
United Kingdom:
01793 614002 TEL
01793 614336 FAX

Metheus Corporation
United States:
503-690-1550 T/S
503-690-1559 BBS

MicroStep, Inc.
United States:
818-336-8991 T/S
818-961-9992 BBS

Mirage Computer Systems
United States:
310-440-1460 T/S

Miro
United Kingdom:
01223 301102 TEL

National Design, Inc.
United States:
512-329-5055 T/S
512-329-6327 BBS

Number Nine Computer Corporation
United States:
617-674-0009 T/S
617-862-7502 BBS

Nth Graphics
United States:

800-624-7552 T/S
512-832-1964 BBS

Oak Technology
United States:
408-737-0888 T/S
408-524-9014 BBS

Orchid
United States:
510-683-0323 T/S
510-683-0327 BBS
United Kingdom:
01256 4798898 TEL
01256 64222 FAX

Paradise
United States:
800-832-4778 T/S
415-968-1834 BBS

Sigma Designs
United States:
510-770-0100 T/S
510-770-0111 BBS

SixGraph Computing, Limited
800-561-2892 T/S
514-336-4169 BBS
STB
United States:
214-234-8750 T/S
214-437-9615 BBS
United Kingdom:
01344 874744 TEL
01344 874546 FAX

SuperMac Technology, Inc.
United States:
408-245-0646 T/S
408-773-4500 BBS

Swan Technologies, Inc.
United States:
800-468-7926 T/S
814-237-6143 BBS

Trident

United States:

415-691-9211 T/S

415-691-1016 BBS

United Kingdom:

01273 670570 TEL

01273 670666 FAX

Video Logic, Inc.

United States:

617-494-0530 T/S

617-494-4960 BBS

United Kingdom:

01923 260511 TEL

01923 268969 FAX

Video Seven (Headland)

United States:

800-553-1850 T/S

415-656-0503 BBS

VidTech Microsystems, Inc.

United States:

800-752-8033 T/S-780-3564 BBS

Willow

United States:

718-402-9500 T/S

LIST OF SOUND CARD MANUFACTURES

Advanced Gravis

United States:

(206) 881-6945 T/S

(604) 431-7553 BBS

Aztech

United States:

(800) 886-8879 T/S

(510) 623-8933 BBS

United Kingdom:

0191 5202598 TEL

Cardinal

United States:

(717) 293-3124 T/S
(717) 293-3074 BBS
United Kingdom:
01522 542519 TEL

Creative Labs
United States:
(408) 428-6622 T/S
(408) 428-6660 BBS
United Kingdom:
01734 344322 TEL
01734 320300 FAX

Diamond
United States:
(408) 325-7100 T/S
(408) 325-7175 BBS

Logitech
United States:
(510) 795-8100 T/S
(510) 795-0408 BBS

Media Vision
United States:
(800) 638-2807 T/S
(510) 770-0968 BBS

Microsoft
United States:
(206) 637-7096 T/S
(206) 936-4082 BBS
(206) 936-6735 BBS
United Kingdom:
01734 271000 TEL
01734 270002 FAX

Orchid
United Kingdom:
01256 4798898 TEL
01256 64222 FAX

Reveal
United States:

(800) 473-8325 T/S
(818) 713-8188 BBS
United Kingdom:
0181 8457400 TEL
0181 8457411 FAX

Roland US
United States:
(213) 685-5141 T/S

Turtle Beach
United States:
(717) 767-0200 T/S
(717) 845-4835 BBS

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