

Cinematic Backlight Intro

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1 Item description

Backlight intro works just like a movie

- it buffers a small amount of data, then playback starts
- remaining data is loaded in background while intro is running
- in case of a slow connection, it can pause and resume playback once the buffer is filled again.

Flash IDE is not required: only external assets are used for XML configuration, images, soundtrack and fonts. There's no limit on intro duration or text/images, all timings are customizable and compensated to keep A/V sync.

Background options:

- Realtime audio spectrum visualizer
- External background image
- Customizable gradient

Easy Website Intro

Just place as default page for your site and define (by xml) the page to open when intro ends.

Pure Actionscript 3.0 OO design, extensively tested in Flex Profiler, includes:

- Ready to use SWF with 5 examples templates / XML configurations
- Extensive documentation in PDF format
- Flash IDE FLA
- Flex Builder project
- Flash Develop project

2 Quick setup

To use this item on your site, you'll need to copy all swfs + "resources" and "XML" folders from provided examples. Don't copy the "bitfade" folder which only contains Actionscript sources needed if you want to recompile swfs

By default, relative paths are used to define external files like XML configuration, images, etc.

Relative paths are meant relative to the swf location, so if you use a different files layout or move the swf into a different folder, always remember to change all paths accordingly.

For complex file layout, you may find easier to use absolute path.

Edit your page and include swfobject javascript sources in your HEAD section

Listing 1: HEAD Section

```
<script type="text/javascript" src="resources/js/swfobject.js"></script>
```

Now, embed item by adding this javascript code to your page

Listing 2: Javascript embedding code

```
swfobject.embedSWF("introBackLight.swf", "showItem", "100%", "100%", "9.0.0","",{  
    // flash vars  
    // this line define where to load external xml configuration file  
    "intro.xml": "xml/config.xml"  
},{  
    // background color  
    bgcolor:"#000000"  
});
```

To set item size, just use a CSS rule like this

Listing 3: CSS rules

```
<style>  
.itemContainer {  
    width: 590;  
    height: 300px;  
}  
</style>
```

Define where item should be displayed in page by adding this snippet in page body

Listing 4: HTML code

```
<div class="itemContainer">  
    <div id="showItem"></div>  
</div>
```

Now, div with id "showItem" will be replaced by a 590x300 sized intro which will load its configuration from file "xml/-config.xml"

3 Adding items

This intro can display 2 types of elements: images or texts, let's see how you can set them.

3.1 External images

To define images to be used by the intro, you'll need to edit the external XML config file: use any text editor for this, like Notepad++ which is also free.

XML syntax is very simple:

Listing 5: XML: adding external images

```
<config>
  <item type="image" start="0" resource="resources/images/image1.png" />
  <item type="image" start="3" resource="resources/images/image2.png" />
  <item type="image" start="5" duration="2" resource="resources/images/image3.png" />
</config>
```

where¹

type defines the resource type (image/text)

start defines starting time (in seconds)

resource defines the image url

duration defines transition durations

With this code, intro will display 3 images, at seconds 0,3 and 5

By defining just starting time, transition duration will be auto computed: for example, transition duration for first image is set to 3 seconds, since 2nd image will start at time "3"

Last elements need an explicit duration, if not set a default value of "4s" will be used.

Alternatively, you can set duration only: in this case, starting time will be auto computed

¹Remember to always enclose attribute values in quotes

3.2 Text

First, we'll define a style to format textlines

Listing 6: XML: setting style

```
<config>
  <style><![CDATA[
    title {
      color: #FFD209;
      font-family: Verdana;
      font-size: 50px;
      text-align: left;
    }
    description {
      color: #FFFFFF;
      font-family: Verdana;
      font-size: 30px;
      text-align: left;
    }
  ]]></style>
  <!-- ... other config options ... -->
</config>
```

We just set rules to format 2 different text elements, a title and a description but you can define any number of different rules.

Once style is set, we can add one or more text items

Listing 7: XML: adding text items

```
<config>
  <item type="text" color="oceanHL" start="5" effect="outlineBlack" >
    <caption><![CDATA[
      <title>BACKLIGHT V2 INTRO</title>
      <description>works with text and external images</description>
    ]]></caption>
  </item>
  <!-- ... other config options ... -->
</config>
```

where

color defines the color gradient to use for transition, can be any of fire, ocean, lime, purple, sepia, mono, red ,green, blue each of this styles has also a “High Luminosity” version which can be choosed by adding “HL” to the gradient name, like “fireHL” or “oceanHL”

effect Apply an “outlineBlack” filter to the element

Please note that this latest options are also available for image items

3.2.1 Embedded fonts

For highest quality results, you may want to use embedded fonts: normally you'll need to use Flash IDE this would force us to recompile the swf each time we need to change the font. To solve this problem, non standard fonts are loaded from external font packages (that are also compiled swf), this allows more flexibility so once you have created one or more font package, you can use it any component that support this technique.

For a detailed description on how to build your own font packages, please refer to the fontPackagesTools folder.

To load external font, we'll use the "external" section:

Listing 8: XML: embedded fonts

```
<config>
  <external font="resources/fonts/Sapir.swf" />

  <style><![CDATA[
    title {
      color: #FFD209;
      font-family: Sapir Sans;
      font-size: 50px;
      text-align: left;
    }
    description {
      color: #FFFFFF;
      font-family: Sapir Sans;
      font-size: 30px;
      text-align: left;
    }
  ]]></style>
  <!-- ... other config options ... -->
</config>
```

This will load the font package "Sapir.swf" which contains the "Sapir Sans" font.

4 Setting a soundtrack

Soundtrack is played from external mp3

Listing 9: XML: setting soundtrack

```
<config>
  <!-- other config options here -->
  <soundtrack resource="resources/audio/vanessasdub_flashden.mp3" volume="100" loop="false" />
</config>
```

where

resource defines the mp3

volume sets soundtrack volume

loop if set to “true” will restart playback once audio reach end.

5 Background types

For intro background, you have 3 options, 4 if considering no background at all

5.1 Spectrum background

Displays a realtime spectrum of soundtrack, can only be used if you have defined a soundtrack

Listing 10: XML: spectrum background

```
<config>
  <background type="spectrum" resource="" color=""/>
  <!-- ... other config options ... -->
</config>
```

5.2 Image background

Load an external image to be used as intro background

Listing 11: XML: image background

```
<config>
  <background type="image" resource="resources/images/background.jpg" />
  <!-- ... other config options ... -->
</config>
```

where

resource defines the image to be used

5.3 Gradient background

Draw a gradient made of 2 customizable colors

Listing 12: XML: gradient background

```
<config>
  <background type="gradient" color="0xFF7722" color2="0x2D292C" />
  <!-- ... other config options ... -->
</config>
```

where

color define first color

color2 defines 2nd color

Color value needs to be in hex format: same as a normal html colors, just prefix with “0x” instead of “#”

5.4 Transparent background

Do not draw any background, intro will be transparent (useful when using wmode=”transparent” embedding option)

This is the default, so you won’t need to add anything

6 Easy Website intro mode

Place the intro on then default page of your site, then use this code

Listing 13: XML: easy website intro

```
<config>
  <intro onComplete="http://yoursite.com/home.php" />
  <!-- ... other config options ... -->
</config>
```

this way, when intro ends, it will load the page defined in the “onComplete” parameter.

7 Advanced configuration options

Here will see a list of options that will let you alter default intro values

7.1 Intro advanced options

Listing 14: XML: Advanced options / intro

```
<config >
  <intro fadeIn="0.5" fadeOut="1" loop="true"/>
  <!-- ... other config values ... -->
</config>
```

fadeIn intro fade in duration in seconds

fadeOut intro fade out duration in seconds

loop if “true” restart intro once is finished

7.2 Items advanced options

Listing 15: XML: Advanced options / items

```
<config >
  <item
    type="image"
    color="ocean"
    start="0"
    duration="5"
    burst="true"
    wait="2"
    areaY="8"
    areaX="8"
    maxLight="50"
    resource="resources/images/newLogo.png" />
  <intro fadeIn="0.5" fadeOut="1" loop="true"/>
  <!-- ... other config values ... -->
</config>
```

wait allows item to be displayed “as is” for the defined number of seconds
for example, if you set duration=”5” and wait=”2”, the transition effect will lasts for 3 seconds,
once is finished, item will stay for other 2 seconds, then fade out

burst if “true”, make the background flashes when transition starts.
only working with “spectrum” background type.

areaX Effect width, a value of “2” means 2 times the original item width

areaY Effect height, a value of “2” means 2 times the original item height

maxLight Light intensity from 0 (none) to 400 (max)

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