Generic Haxial Documentation

Haxial Software
http://www.haxialsoftware.com/
(Last Updated: 7 May 2004)

Description

This documentation applies to all Haxial programs in general. For documentation specific to the program you are using, look in the other documentation file.

Appearance

Haxial programs allow you to change the appearance of the program to something that is more aesthetically pleasing to you. For example, here is a third-party appearance called "Cel Shaded":

Haxial programs include a number of built-in appearances, but please note that more appearance options are available than shown in this menu — you can download more Appearance files (".hap" files) from the Haxial website or other sources. To use them, place your ".hap" files into a folder named

"Appearances" in the same folder as the program, and then show the Settings window in the program, and the contents of the Appearances menu will be replaced with the contents of the folder. For more information, please visit this website:

http://www.haxialsoftware.com/appearance/

If the program does not have a Settings window because it is very simple or has very little user interface (for example a server), then you can probably still change the appearance by copying the appearance file into the same folder as the program and renaming it to "Appearance.hap", then re-open the program.

If you wish to make your own Haxial Appearance files, then you can download the AppearanceEdit program from the Haxial website.

If you would like all of your Haxial programs to share the same Appearances folder, then note that the Appearances folder can be replaced with an alias/shortcut of the same name, but pointing to a different folder.

Haxial has created its own appearance / user interface / GUI engine (rather than using the ones provided by MS Windows and MacOS) in order to provide better cross-platform portability, consistency, reliability, speed, and in order to have greater control over the experience that it is offering to customers.

Fonts

If the Haxial program that you are using gives you the option to choose a font, then note that more fonts are available than the ones shown — you can download more Haxial Font files (".fnt" files) from the Haxial website or other sources. To use them, place your ".fnt" files into a folder named "Fonts" in the same folder as the program, and then they will appear when you show the window to choose a font.

If you wish to make your own Haxial Font files, then you can download the FontEdit program from the Haxial website.

If you would like all of your Haxial programs to share the same Fonts folder, then note that the Fonts folder can be replaced with an alias/shortcut of the same name, but pointing to a different folder.

Haxial has created its own font engine (rather than using the ones provided by MS Windows and MacOS) in order to provide better cross-platform portability, consistency, reliability, speed, and in order to have greater control over the experience that it is offering to customers.

Anatomy of a Window
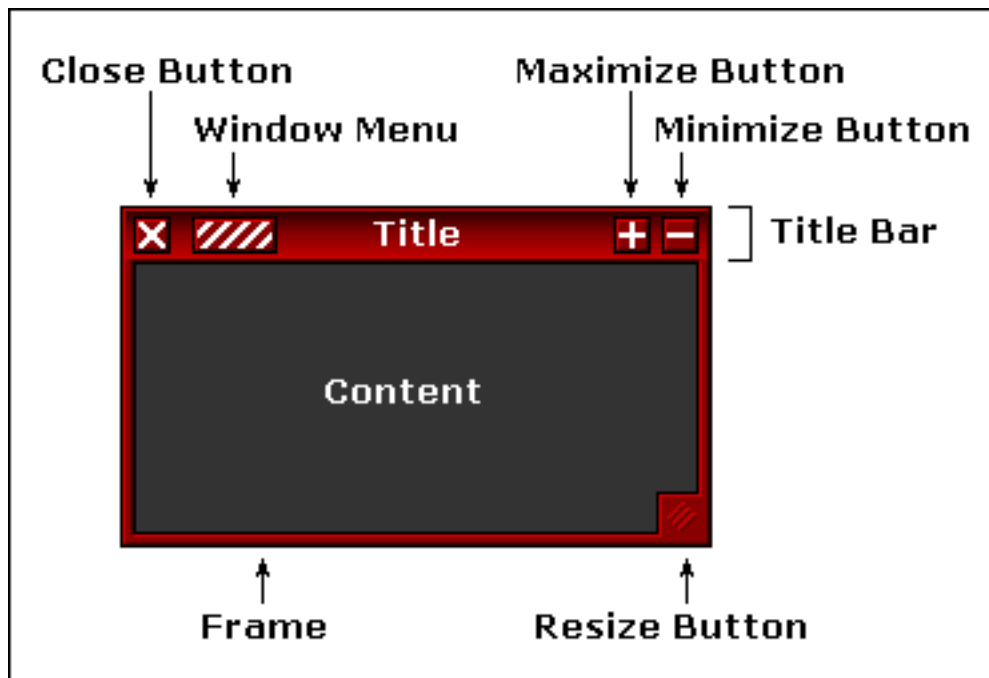
Note: The appearance of your windows may be different if you are using a different Appearance file, but the principles remain the same. Also, some of the above-described elements may be missing if the particular window does not support that ability.

Close Button: Click this to close the window. Hitting the hotkey control-W (command-W) is a usually a shortcut for clicking this button.

Window Menu Button: Click this to show a popup menu with commands that affect the window or its contents. It can also be displayed by second-clicking anywhere in the title bar.

Maximize Button: Click this to expand the window to display all of its contents. If you second-click this button, then the window is returned to its previous size/location (before you last clicked Maximize).

Minimize Button: Click this to dock/minimize the window to get it out of your way. The window is hidden, and a button to represent it is added to a dock window, like this:

To restore the window, click the button representing it in the Dock window. If multiple windows are docked, they are all added to the same Dock window. Double-clicking the title bar is another way of minimizing.

MS Windows Only: You can second-click any minimize button to minimize the whole program to the system tray. All of the programs windows hide, and an icon is placed in the system tray (example following). Click the icon to restore the windows.
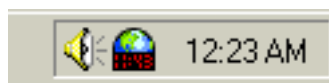
You can also second-click the program item in the task bar to show the standard Context Menu. Choose Minimize to hide all windows. Alternatively, if you click the program item in the task bar when it is already selected, it will deselect it and minimize the program.
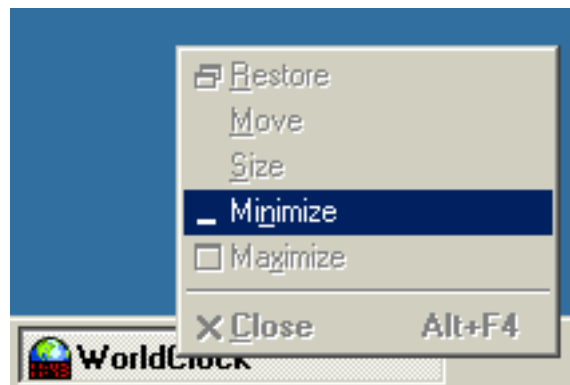

Resize Button: Press the mouse button in this button and drag the mouse to change the size of the window. Also note that the window can be moved by dragging the title bar, OR by dragging one of the edges of the window.

Title Bar: Press the mouse button in this area and drag the mouse to move the window to a new location. The window can also be moved by doing this in one of the edges of the window. If you second-click in the title bar, the Window Menu is displayed. If you double-click in the title bar, the Minimize button is clicked.

Context Menus and Window Menus

Haxial programs usually rely heavily on Context Menus, which help make the user interface less cluttered. If you are not aware of this, it might seem like the program is missing functions. However, all you need to do is to simply second-click on things to reveal the hidden commands, especially items in lists. If your mouse has only 1 button (Mac), then hold down the control key while clicking to emulate the second mouse button.
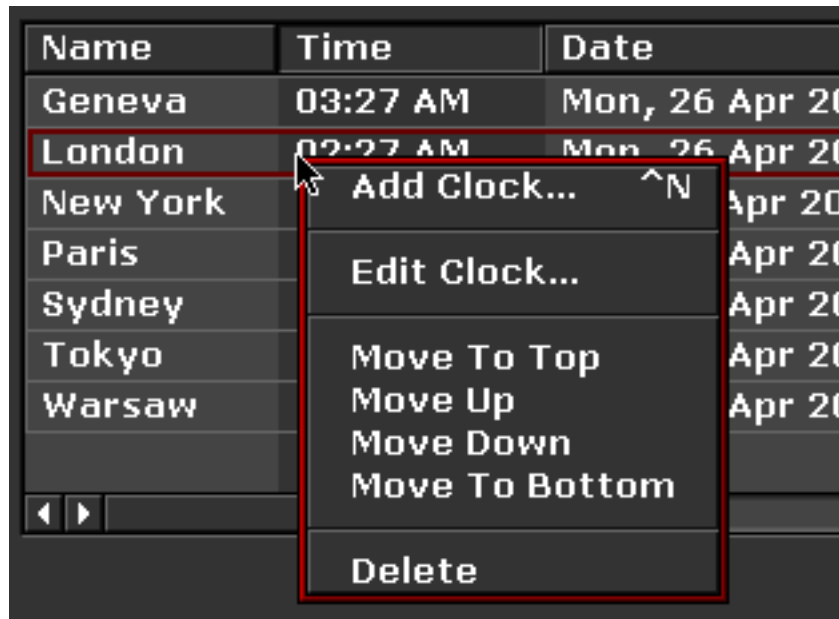
Haxial programs also use Window Menus, which are menus shown by clicking on a button in a window titlebar. The Window Menu contains commands which usually affect the window as a whole or the program.


You may notice that some menu items have a symbol like ^L to the right of them. This is the hotkey/shortcut for the item. For example, if ^L is

displayed, this means you can hold down the control key (command on Mac) and press the L key, and then it will be as if you used the mouse to click that menu item. You can do this without showing the menu. ^:L would mean hold down both control and alt (command and option on Mac) and then press L. And ^!L means control-shift-L (command-shift-L on Mac).

Window Switcher

Hit the F1 key or control-shift-W (command-shift-W) to show a popup menu with a list of all windows in the program. Click a window to bring it to the front. Or use the arrow keys and then return/enter.
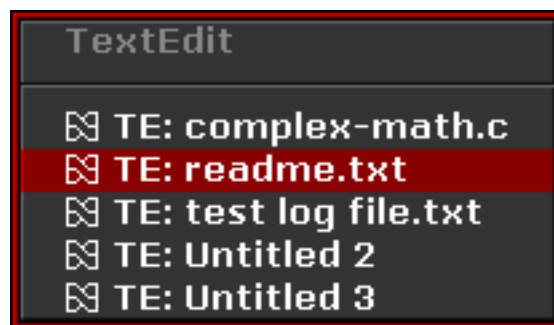
List Filtering

Many (but not all) lists in Haxial programs support filtering. This means you can type into a list, a text box appears, and then all items in the list are hidden except for those that contain the text you typed. For example, here is a list:

Notice the list has the keyboard focus (the red border around it). If you type into it, the filter text box appears:

Sorting, Resizing, and Reordering List Columns

Most Haxial programs use lists that are divided into columns, with headers/titles at the top of the columns. You can click the headers at the top to sort the list by that column. The selected column is drawn in a different color.

The width of each column in the list can be resized by pressing the mouse button on the line between 2 columns (in the column header, NOT in the list), and then dragging the mouse left or right.

Before: After:

You can also second-click a column to show a context menu which allows you to reorder the column:

Resizing Panes

If you see a window that is divided into "panes" (as in window panes :) such as the example depicted below, then you can often resize the panes by dragging the horizontal or vertical bar/space that separates them (dragging means moving the mouse while the mouse button is pressed). Note this does not work for all windows, only those that support it.

Copying Non-Selectable Text

In many windows, you can second-click on a non-editable non-selectable text item, and a context menu will appear, giving you the option to copy that text to the clipboard. This saves you from the hassle of retyping it.
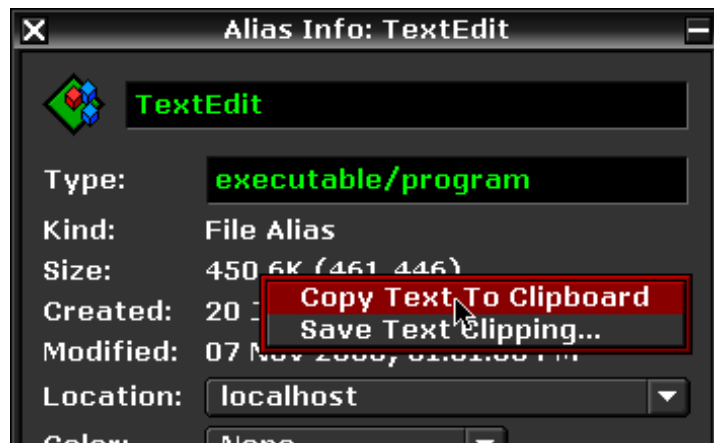
Saving Text Clippings

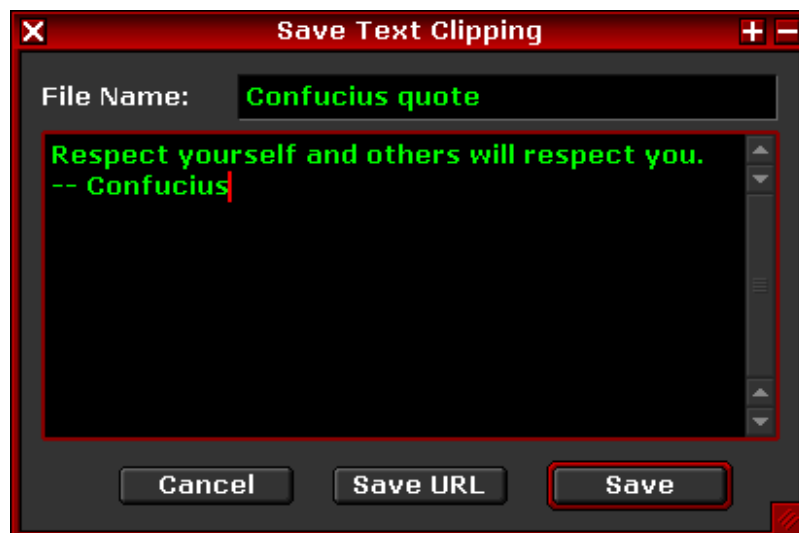You can second-click on editable text (or non-editable text as described above) to show a context menu. If you use the "Save Text Clipping" command, a window like this appears with a copy of the text you selected:

When you click the "Save" button, a plain text file containing that text is saved to a folder named "Clippings" in the same folder as the program. If you want them saved somewhere else, then you can replace this folder with an alias/shortcut with the same "Clippings" name but that points to a different folder. The text files can be opened using Haxial TextEdit, or other programs that can open plain text files.

If the text in the window is a valid URL (for example, http://www.haxial.com), then you can click the "Save URL", and a ".url" file will be created instead of a text file. When a ".url" file is opened, it automatically takes you to that webpage.

Opening URLs in Text

If you see a URL in selectable text, then you can second-click on it to the show the context menu, then use the "Open URL" command. Alternatively, you can control-click on the URL to open it immediately (command-click on Mac). This saves you from having to copy & paste the URL to your web browser program.

Text Editing Hotkeys/Shortcuts

- Shift-Arrow selects text in that direction.

- Control-Shift-Arrow selects text from the current insertion point to where the insertion point would be if you had done the key combination without the Shift key. For example, Control-Shift-LeftArrow selects text from the insertion point to the start of the line. (Use Command on Mac.)

- Alt-LeftArrow in text moves the insertion point backwards (left or up) skipping over words (Alt is the same as Option on Mac).
- Alt-RightArrow in text moves the insertion point forwards (right or down) jumping over words (Alt is the same as Option on Mac).

- Alt-Shift-Arrow selects text from the current insertion point to where the insertion point would be if you had done the key combination without the Shift key. For example, Alt-Shift-LeftArrow selects text from the insertion point to the start of the word.

- The Delete key in text removes the character to the left of the insertion point.
- The Forward Delete key in text removes the character to the right of the insertion point.

- The Home key in text scrolls to the top of the file (without moving the insertion point).
- The End key in text scrolls to the bottom of the file (without moving the insertion point).

- The Page Up key in text scrolls upwards by as many lines as are visible.
- The Page Down key in text scrolls downwards by as many lines as are visible.

- Double-click a word to select it. Double-click and drag to select multiple words.
- Triple-click a line to select it. Triple-click and drag to select multiple lines.

Character Map Popup

When typing, hold down the control/command key, then hit the asterisk key (the '*' key) on the numeric keypad. A popup grid appears showing you a map of every character that can be used. Click one to insert it into the text. You can access special characters and letters with diacritical marks etc this way.
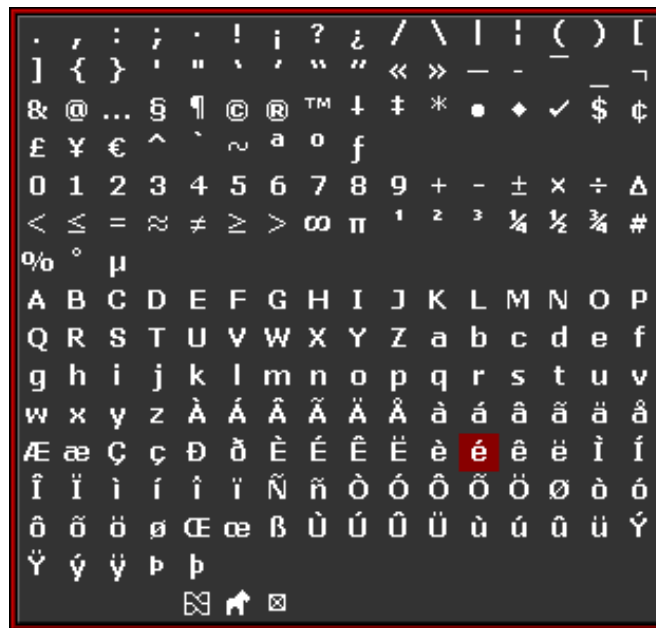
Unicode Converter

If you wish to numerically enter a unicode character into an editable text box, then type the unicode hexadecimal number of the character (for example, 2022) into the text, select it, and then hit control-shift-U (command on Mac). The number will be converted to the character. If the current font does not include an image for that character, it will be displayed with the replacement image, usually a crossed box. The same hotkey also works in the reverse direction (character to number) if you select a single character other than 0-9, A-F, a-f.

Upgrading To A New Version

To upgrade to a new version of a program, first download and decompress the new version. Then BEFORE you run it, move/drag the contents of that new folder into your old folder, replacing any items with the same name, and you are done. Your settings are usually stored in a file "ProgramName.stg" in the same folder as the program (there may be other files too). The folder that a

new version comes in does not contain settings files (until you run it). The program will create fresh new settings files if it does not find settings files in the same folder as itself. If your settings file contains important information, you should back it up before using it with the new version.

The Default Button

Many windows in Haxial programs draw 1 of the buttons differently to the others, such as the "Save" button in the following example. This button is known as the "default button", which is a shortcut.

When you see this, you can simply press the Enter key and that distinguished button will be clicked (or the Return key on Mac). If you pressed the main Enter/Return key and it did nothing, it is probably because the window is allowing new lines / returns to be typed into text boxes. In these cases you can press the Enter key on the numeric keypad (far right) to hit the default button.

When there is a default button, there is often also a Cancel button. You can usually press the Escape key (top left) as a shortcut for that button.

The Importance Of Backing-up

Computers, programs, and hard disks regularly fail or malfunction. When they do, it is possible that you could lose all the information/files on your hard disk, or the information could become corrupted/damaged. Therefore it is essential that you regularly backup any important files in order to avoid losing that information. To backup means to copy the files to a different storage device, and then you usually do not use the backup unless the original is destroyed/damaged.

Copying files to CD-R is a cheap way to backup, although note that very cheap CD-Rs may have a very short lifetime (they can become unreadable after a while, so it is better to buy quality CD-Rs). Rewritable CDs (CD-RW) have

the advantage that you can overwrite old backups when you no longer need them (reusing the media). The longevity of CD media is a subject of debate, and varies widely depending on the brand and quality of manufacturing.

Other ways to backup include copying to a USB keychain drive, or to an external hard disk, or a removable media drive. Floppy disks are not recommended because they are slow, unreliable, low capacity ancient/obsolete technology.

It is a good idea to keep multiple copies of backed-up files from different times (not necessarily on different devices), because occasionally it is useful to see a version older than the most recent backup. For example, if there was something wrong with the original file, but you did not notice immediately, then when you back it up, if you overwrite the previous backup, then you have just destroyed your only good copy of the file. So it is better to keep the last 5 or 10 backups.

If you keep updating/modifying the original files over time, then ofcourse you need to regularly copy the files to the backup location. If you do this every week, then the most work you can lose is a weeks worth of work, but on average half a week.

Any questions/suggestions/feedback?

Your feedback and suggestions are welcomed. Feel free to send a message to Haxial using the form on this webpage:

http://www.haxialsoftware.com/contact/

Please support the development of Haxial programs

Please support the further development of Haxial programs by purchasing a license. Programming is not easy, much effort is required to make a good program, and Haxial has many bills to pay just like any other company. You can purchase Haxial products at:

http://www.haxialsoftware.com/shop/

Thank you!