Marty Mouse Readme

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Part 1   Setup

Sound
Marty requires both sound input (from you into the computer through the microphone) and output (out of the computer through a sound card and speakers).

Most programs play music and sounds, so if you can hear sound effects and music in other programs, most likely your sound card is set up properly for output. Input, however, is another story.

Most programs don't require a microphone and don't care about sound input. If you have used your microphone to record before, you should have no problems with Marty. If you have never used a microphone with your computer to record, it is very possible that your sound card may have the microphone input setting all the way down. Here's how to test it:

1. Look on your hard disk and find the program(s) that came with your sound card.
2. Find the one called Mixer or Control Panel, and run it.
3. Set the control for microphone input all the way to the top or highest volume. (This makes the microphone very sensitive.)
4. Run the Windows Sound Recorder and test whether you can record your voice (The Parents' Guide has instructions how to do this if you're not sure).

If you can record your voice, your microphone and sound card settings are okay. If you can't, please go through the troubleshooting steps outlined in the Parent's Guide that came with the program.

Video
Make sure your video card is properly set up before running Marty.
Marty requires 256 Colors (sometimes called 8-bit mode). Marty also uses (in Windows 3.x) the WinG graphics library. This helps the program draw graphics (pictures) quickly. Follow the directions and/or advice given by WinG prompts to keep this at an optimum rate. If there is a problem, a message will tell you what to do.

Part 2   Performance

Run Marty and Marty only, if possible.
Marty is a very **CPU Intense** program. This means that Marty takes a lot of your computer's resources to run properly. In other words, don't try to run Marty while you're correcting a 100,000

word document in another window and recalculating a 6,000 field spreadsheet in another window and ... well you get the picture.

When you install Marty, select your particular sound card for wave out, midi out and wave input.
Setup will ask you what kind of sound card you want to use for the wave out (voices and sound effects), midi out (musical soundtrack) and wave input (listening to your voice through the microphone). It asks for each one separately because some people have different sound cards for sound effects and music.

Marty will work best if you choose *your* sound card for each option. If you can't find your sound card, then the default choice should still work, but possibly not as well.

Use the microphone that came with your sound card, if it came with one.
All sound cards are different internally and externally. And to make it even more confusing, there are a number of different kinds of microphones, too. Every sound card was designed by the manufacturer with a particular mic in mind. For best performance, use a microphone either provided or suggested by your sound card manufacturer.

Play Marty in a quiet room.
The program responds to your voice, but in a noisy room, it can't tell your voice from other sounds, and will get confused.

Don't turn the music up to full volume.
The program will have a hard time telling your voice from other sounds--even from the music and sounds from the program itself. This is very noticeable in Windows 95. In Windows 95 you may experience problems trying to play the background music during game play. If so, turn down the music or **turn it off completely**.

Don't face your speakers at your microphone.
Again, this will make it hard for the program to filter your voice from the music being played by the game.

If you make a change to your sound setup, re-calibrate your microphone.
Making any changes to your sound setup will have an effect on whether Marty hears you or not. If you make changes to the sound or music volume you should check Marty's face in the Options dialog to see if he is still responding to you and re-calibrate if necessary.

You can do a little more fine-tuning of the calibration level if you're still having problems with Marty hearing you too much or too little. Here's how:

1. Exit Marty.
2. Look in your Windows directory for a file named MARTY.INI.
3. Make a copy of this file before you do anything else.
4. Edit this file using Notepad or other simple text editor. Look for a line of text in the file containing the word "Threshold".
5. Make the number after the = higher if Marty hears you too much or lower if Marty can't hear you easily. A reasonable threshold number that allows you to speak to Marty in a normal conversational tone is between 5 and 10. Below 5, you'll pick up lots of noise all around you. Much higher than 20 and you'll really have to yell into the mic to have Marty

hear you. These values vary depending on the microphone, the system (and sometimes the day of the week and the time of day).

Fixing choppy-sounding voice and sound effects.
If there are little gaps in sound playback on your system, they are probably related to the amount of memory available for the program to play sounds. You can easily adjust the amount of memory available to improve this condition. Here's how:

1. Exit Marty.
2. Look in your Windows directory for a file named SOUNDMIX.INI.
3. Make a copy of this file before you do anything else.
4. Edit this file using Notepad or other simple text editor. Look for a line of text in the file containing the name of your sound card in brackets, like this:
   [Media Vision Wave Output]

   If you don't see a section for your card, don't worry. Find the section somewhere near the beginning of the file that looks like this:

   [default]
   Remix=1
   GoodWavePos=0
   WaveBlocks=5
   SamplesPerSec=22
   WaveBlockLen=1376

   The number values may be different on your system. Change the WaveBlockLen number following the "=" sign to something slightly larger or smaller in increments of 128 and run Marty again.

   The minimum to try is 512 and the maximum is 4096, but don't immediately try these values. Make small changes until the sounds in Marty play smoothly.

   The amount of available memory will affect sound playback. Try to have as few other programs as possible running while your child is playing with Marty.

Part 3   Cool Stuff from Maxis

Be sure to check out the demos of other Maxis products in the Demos directory on your CD. Click on install.exe to install the Maxis CD Sampler.

Part 4 Uninstalling Marty

To uninstall Marty, you need to delete the Marty icons from the Maxis Program Group and, if you don't have any other Maxis programs in it, delete the Program Group itself. Then delete the following files from these directories:

Windows directory:
    MARTY.INI
    SOUNDMIX.INI

NOTE: The following WING files are installed by many programs so you may want to leave

them in case some other programs are using them as well.

Windows\System directory:
       WING.DLL
       WINGDE.DLL
       WINGDIB.DRV
       WING32.DLL
       WINGPAL.WND
       DVA.386