

Multimedia Business 500

README File Revised 1/23/95

Installation:

Some users have reported being unable to complete installation when they launch **D:\SETUP** (the standard Microsoft installation) from Program Manager by selecting **File - Run**. We have provided an alternate installation. If you encounter a problem installing the Multimedia Business 500 or the Allegro Reference Group and its program icons are not created during set up, return to Program Manager and select **File - Run** and type **D:\ALTINST** (substitute your own drive letter for CD-ROM drive if yours is not a D: drive.) Click Run using the mouse or hit Enter from your keyboard to run the alternate installation. You will be prompted to re-start windows upon the completion of the setup for Allegro Multimedia Business 500. We suggest you do this at the end of the installation. This is a necessary step in the installation of video drivers. Selecting Yes will automatically re-start Windows. If you select No, you must manually Exit Windows and re-start Windows before using Multimedia Business 500. If you encounter any problems after installation, try re-booting your computer, repeating the installation procedure and re-starting Windows.

Prodigy Installation:

In order to use the Prodigy Access built into Multimedia Business 500 you must have the Prodigy communications software installed on your system. The double clicking the Prodigy Installation icon located in the Allegro Reference group provides for automated installation of the Prodigy software. You must have the Allegro Multimedia Business 500 CD-ROM in the appropriate CD-ROM drive for the installation to proceed.

Follow the on-screen instructions. **Business 500** and **PRODIGY Installation** icons are now installed under the Allegro Reference Group in Program Manager.

You now have two options:

Option 1 runs **Business 500** without **PRODIGY**.

If you do not have a modem -- or do not need PRODIGY updates -- simply double click on the **Business 500** icon in the Allegro Reference Group in Program Manager.

This option will **not** allow you to access the continually updated quotes and company news unless you sign up with PRODIGY at another time.

Option 2 allows access to both **PRODIGY Service** and **Business 500**.

This will allow you to access the continually updated quotes and company news on the PRODIGY. You will need a modem that is properly connected to your system to use these features. **Business 500** comes complete with 10 free hours of use for the first month to PRODIGY. If you choose to continue beyond this complimentary period, you will be billed according to the rates posted in PRODIGY. The 10 free hours must be used the first month. Additional use will result in extra fees. Some features charged for separately. A credit card is required upon enrollment.

NOTE: If you have any questions on installation and technical issues concerning PRODIGY please call 1-800-PRODIGY for their Member Services.

You have two choices in order to set up PRODIGY with **Business 500**.

A. If you are not currently a **PRODIGY Member**

1. Double click on the **PRODIGY Installation** icon in the Allegro Reference Group. This procedure will install the PRODIGY software on your hard disk.
2. You will see a welcome screen with a request on where to install the PRODIGY installation files. The default is **C:\PRODIGY**. The next screen searches for your modem and if successful, copies the PRODIGY software to your hard disk. The **PRODIGY Software for Windows** icon will appear in the PRODIGY Group. Double click the icon to connect to the PRODIGY Network. Another Welcome screen appears with the following options:

1. I would like to become a PRODIGY member.

Clicking here will take you into screens to dial PRODIGY, choose a local phone number, choose dialing and modem information, add your address and billing information (for usage in excess of the complimentary period), and list your new PRODIGY ID and password. With a slow modem, or at busy times of the day, this initial setup procedure can take 15 minutes or more. Please call 1-800-PRODIGY if you have any problems with this procedure.

For fastest access to *Business 500* it is helpful to create an "Autologon" for PRODIGY, as described in more detail below.

2. I'm already a PRODIGY member.

Clicking on this will take you to the PRODIGY Network sign-on for existing members.

After your initial sign up procedures are complete, you must exit PRODIGY to use *Business 500*. Start *Business 500* by clicking on the **Business 500** icon in the Allegro Reference Group.

To see updated stock and company news from PRODIGY, simply click on the PRODIGY icon from within a public company's overview. If you have an autologon, PRODIGY will automatically enter your PRODIGY ID and personal password. Hit enter to continue. A stock quote will appear for the company currently on screen. If you do not have an autologon, you may still access the PRODIGY Service from within *Business 500* by entering your PRODIGY ID and personal password and then hitting the Enter key.

B. If you are already a PRODIGY Member

1. Double click on the **Business 500** icon in the Allegro Reference Group in Program Manger.
2. From within a public company's overview, click once on the **PRODIGY** icon. If you have an autologon, PRODIGY will automatically enter your PRODIGY ID and personal password. Hit enter to continue. A stock quote will appear for the company currently on screen. If you do not have an autologon, you may still access the PRODIGY Service from within *Business 500* by entering your PRODIGY ID and personal password and then hitting the Enter key.

Creating an Autologon

The update process from within *Business 500* will be much faster if you create an "autologon." An autologon automatically sends your service ID and password to PRODIGY each time you start PRODIGY from within *Business 500*. You may do this by clicking on the **"autologon"** icon in the PRODIGY Group in Program Manager and following the on-screen options to setup an autologon. Alternatively, once you are logged into the basic PRODIGY (not from within *Business 500*), you may "Jump to" Autologon using the Jump menu item at the top of the PRODIGY screen, then type "Autologon". Please call 1-800-PRODIGY if you have any problems with this procedure.

Technical Notes:

During installation, the *Business 500* viewer will be copied to your hard disk (the data files will remain on your CD-ROM). In addition, files necessary for audio and video will be copied to your hard disk. In order to use these multimedia features you will have to re-boot your machine after installation (this updates your Windows configuration for video).

The first time you view a video, Windows will profile your display to determine optimum playback characteristics. The video and audio sequences on *Business 500* work best on 486 level or greater machines with fast CD-ROM drives. In order to keep pace with these videos, it is normal to drop video frames and small audio segments on slower machines. A faster CD-ROM drive, faster processor or video accelerator may enhance the playback of these videos.

Since the videos on *Business 500* use 256 colors, machines configured for 16 colors may display videos at a lower resolution (the videos will appear grainy). If you are sure you have a 256 color display adapter but can only see 16 colors, it may be necessary to change your Windows setup. Refer to your Windows manual or hardware supplier for assistance with this process.

If you are running an existing PRODIGY session before you start up *Business 500*, the PRODIGY

features will not be available for *Business 500* and may cause an error in your current Windows session. You must first exit your PRODIGY session before using the PRODIGY features from within *Business 500*.

Temporary communications errors may occur while you are using the PRODIGY feature in *Business 500*. These are usually caused by noisy telephone lines, high usage levels at PRODIGY, or conflicts with other software running on your computer.

Video:

Use the video control bar at the bottom of each video screen to start and adjust video playback. Double-arrow buttons scan back and forward. The single-arrow button serves both to play and pause the video. The square button stops the video and returns it to the first frame.

Lip-sync problems (voice appears to lag behind video):

Open the Drivers control from the Windows Control Panel. Locate the WAVE driver for your sound card and click Setup. If the driver Window allows you to change the DMA buffer setting, set it to 1K. NOTE: some drivers don't allow you to vary the DMA buffer size.

General video problems:

Video and audio sequences will work best on 486 level machines with fast (double speed) CD-ROM drives. In order to keep pace with these videos, it is normal to drop video frames and small audio segments on slower machines. A faster CD-ROM drive, faster processor or video accelerator may enhance the playback of these videos. You may also be able to tune the performance of your system to play back Indeo videos more effectively by loading device drivers in high memory, and using the latest device drivers for your video card, sound card and CD-ROM drive. These updated device drivers should be available from your hardware manufacturer.

Problems using certain video cards:

Some video drivers cannot run AVI animations with the [MCI] Microsoft Video for Windows driver set to full screen. To resolve this problem:

1. In the Drivers section of Control Panel, choose [MCI] Microsoft Video for Windows.
2. Choose the Setup button.
3. In the Video Mode dialog box, set the Window option.
4. Choose the Set Default button.
5. Choose the Close button in the Drivers dialog box.
6. Close the Control Panel.

Certain AVI's or videos cannot be properly displayed on systems with ATI video cards installed. The problem lies in an incompatibility between the ATI Windows or display drivers and the new version of Video for Windows version 1.1. If you have installed Video for Windows v. 1.1 after you have installed your ATI drivers, then you must call ATI to track down this problem. ATI can be contacted at the following phone number: 1-905-882-2626

Keyboard Shortcuts:

Clicking Print Topic from the File menu brings up a copyright notice. Press the P key to print a topic directly.

Audio:

After playing a number of audio clips on a single screen, you may get an "Out of Memory" error. The problem occurs because Viewer does not release memory after playing audio files. To release memory, click the Next button, then the Prev button (returning to the same screen). This will allow you to continue to play audio clips. You may also try increasing the available low level memory in your computer, or increasing the number of Files in your CONFIG.SYS file.

Images:

Images are stored in 256 color format. Images displayed on a VGA or 16 color display will not reproduce colors accurately. Be sure that you have a 256 color driver loaded to properly display bitmaps. Check your Windows setup to be sure that you have the proper drivers loaded.

TBBOOK.DLL Error:

If you receive this error message you should exit from the disc and restart Windows.

TS Timer Not Available Error:

The Allegro catalog uses a timer to automatically display screens and videos. Under certain circumstances, Viewer does not release enough memory to allow proper timing of sequences, thereby causing this error. If this problem persists, try increasing the available low level memory in your computer, or increasing the number of Files in your CONFIG.SYS file.

We at Allegro New Media are sorry for any inconvenience this has caused you.