

Multimedia Platinum for Windows

by Limelight Media Inc.
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This Disc Contains Shareware

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If you continue to use the program, you must send the author an additional payment which may entitle you to technical support, printed manual, bonus programs, and more. Your payment supports authors, allowing them to continue writing newer and better Shareware programs.

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Program Description

Multimedia Platinum for Windows is a collection of the best multimedia clips, utilities, and programs for Microsoft Windows, assembled on CD ROM under our easy-to-use Platinum Interface. Multimedia Platinum contains more than 680 megabytes of multimedia clips and programs, including:

Images

BMP	16-color
BMP	256-color
BMP	24-bit True Color

Sound Files

WAV	8-bit
WAV	16-bit

Video

AVI
MPG

Animations

FLI
FLC

Icons

ICO
ICL

DLL
EXE

As you view the selections, you are immediately provided with a various important information about each multimedia clip or program. This information includes:

1. Author
2. Classification (Shareware, Freeware, or Public-Domain)
3. Price (if shareware)
4. Size when installed
5. Duration (of sound, video, and animation files)
6. Item information (file format, bit depth, etc.)

Unlike other multimedia CD-ROM collections, Multimedia Platinum has all of its data prepared and ready-to-use. You won't have to hassle with ZIP files or batch files ever again to get the multimedia clips you need! And, with the power that our famous Platinum interface has to offer, installing a file or program is as easy as clicking a single button!

Program Installation

To install Multimedia Platinum, follow these steps:

1. Start Microsoft Windows.
2. Insert the Multimedia Platinum CD-ROM into your CD-ROM drive.
3. From the Windows Program Manager, choose "File", "Run..."
4. Type "d:\install.exe", where 'd' is the letter of your CD-ROM drive.
5. Click OK or press <Enter>

After a few seconds, Multimedia Platinum should begin running.

Troubleshooting the Installation

If you get a file or drive error, please check to see that you entered the correct drive letter in step 4 (above), that your CD-ROM and caddy are properly inserted, and that the CD-ROM drive is powered on.

Many windows shell programs, such as Dashboard, Norton Desktop, or Central Point Utilities, are not 100% Program Manager compatible and may interfere with the installation of Multimedia Platinum. If you are using one of these Windows shell programs, you should launch the Program Manager and use the File, Run... menu to perform the installation. Once the installation is complete, you may then run Multimedia Platinum from the Platinum Shareware program group, or create your own Multimedia Platinum icons in your favorite shell program.

Running Multimedia Platinum

The first time Multimedia Platinum runs, it automatically creates a Program Manager group and icon to make future use easier. Once installed, you will find a Program Manager group called "Platinum Shareware" and an icon named "Multimedia Platinum". Simply run this program as you would any other Windows application.

As with all other CD-ROM-based products, you must have the CD-ROM inserted when you run Multimedia Platinum. If you have multiple CD-ROM drives, please make certain to use the same drive each time. Please do not remove the CD-ROM while Multimedia Platinum is running, or the program will be unable to access necessary data, and may fail to work properly.

Using Multimedia Platinum for Windows

Multimedia Platinum is very easy to use... simply click on a button which represents the type of multimedia clips or programs you wish to view. You may then select any clip or program from the listbox, and you will immediately be presented with a variety of important information about the item. As multimedia clips and programs are selected, you will see the author, classification, size, and cost (if registration is required) of the item. If the item has accompanying documentation, you may view the author's original documentation simply by clicking the "View" button. Installing the files you want is just as easy--click "Install", select (or create) a directory as the destination, and you're done! You may also search for the exact clip you have in mind using Multimedia Platinum's powerful search facility!

If you choose to install a multimedia program or utility, the icon associated with the program will automatically appear in the Platinum Shareware Program Manager group.

Browsing through Multimedia Clips

As you browse through the multimedia clips, various useful information is automatically displayed. When a clip or program is selected (highlighted), you can also perform certain special actions. For example, you may view the clip's accompanying documentation (if any was provided by the author), or Install it on your hard drive, by clicking the "View" or "Install" buttons. If you wish to see the multimedia clip itself (view the picture, play the video, hear the sound, etc.), you can simply use the Multimedia Control Panel below the list box.

Using the Multimedia Control Panel

The multimedia control panel is at the bottom of the Multimedia Platinum screen, immediately below the item listbox. It looks somewhat like a VCR control panel, and operates very similarly. When a multimedia clip is selected, you can press the "PLAY" button on the Multimedia Control Panel to see the clip in action. Please note that this control only works with time-based clips, such as sound files, video, and animations.

Browsing through Programs

Multimedia Platinum also contains many useful multimedia views, editors, and tools, all of which you may find extremely useful in your work (or play). To examine the programs, simply click on the "Programs" button, and browse through the listing at leisure. As programs are selected, you will immediately be provided with the author, size, classification, and cost (if any) of the application. Most applications can be launched directly from the disc, and installation is a snap. Naturally, you can also view the author's own written documentation, by clicking "Read," and get all of the information you need.

If you choose to install a program, you must specify the destination drive and path. All of the necessary programs will be copied to this destination and the icon associated with this program will automatically appear in the Platinum Shareware Program Manager group.

Finding the Multimedia Clip You Need

Most multimedia collections make the process of finding multimedia clips an overwhelming task--not Multimedia Platinum! In addition to dividing all of the multimedia clips into distinct categories, and providing you with the ability to play anything directly from the disc, we also have a very powerful search facility. Simply click on the Search button, and you can instantly create your own virtual category. Below are examples of three different searches, and the settings that were used:

Example 1: Bob works for an insurance firm, and is designing a presentation for his boss--to be used that same afternoon. Bob is looking for some multimedia clips to spice up the presentation, and needs to find something relating to accidents or emergencies. Normally, this would take hours of searching... but with Multimedia Platinum, the clips Bob needs are just a few button clicks away...

1. Click the "Search" button.

2. When the Search dialog box appears, click the "All" button.
3. In the "Search for..." area, click on "Images," "Sounds," "Video," and "Animations". Only these four categories should have checkmarks in front of them. If other ones do, remove the checkmark by clicking on them as well. A short note... when toggling categories to search in, click to the right of the checkbox. If you click on the plus or minus sign, the list will expand and contract to display more detailed options--options that we don't need for this particular search.
4. In the keyword area, type "Emergency."
5. Click "Search", and in a few moments, a sound file appears--a recording of a police siren as it passes by.
6. To find more clips, try other words such as "Accident" or "Disaster." for example, searching with the word disaster gives a lot more clips, including video and images.

Example 2: Marcy is doing a school report for her multimedia class, and needs to put a sound of a car in it. But the system that will be playing back the report only has an 8-bit sound card.

1. Click the "Search" button.
2. When the Search dialog box appears, click the "None" button.
3. Expand the "Sounds" category. To do this, if you see a plus sign in front of "Sounds", click on it. If you see a minus sign, it is already expanded.
4. Click on "8-bit" under the sounds category.
5. In the keyword area, type "car".
6. Click "Search", and in a few moments, the clips appear! Marcy can choose from several car horn sounds, starting and ignition sounds, race car clips, and even traffic!

Example 3: Joe is setting up his new multimedia computer system at home, and just can't seem to find a good icon for his favorite DOS adventure game.

1. Click the "Search" button.
2. When the Search dialog box appears, click the "None" button.
3. In the "Search for..." area, select "Icons."
4. In the keyword area, type "game".
5. Click "Search", and in a few moments, more than 200 icons are ready to pick from!

Installing Multimedia clips

Installing a program or multimedia clip from Multimedia Platinum is as easy as clicking a few buttons. Simply select the item you want to install, and click the "Install" button. Multimedia Platinum will then ask you for the destination of the clip--one you have specified the installation directory, the program or clip will be immediately available for use on your system. In many cases, however, it is not necessary to install a clip in order to use it in a program. You can usually click "Launch", and copy the desired portions from your favorite viewer program into the clipboard--then paste it into any compatible application you want to!

Changing the Default Multimedia Viewers

Multimedia Platinum gives you tremendous flexibility by using the default Windows File Manager associations. The Windows File Manager allows you to "teach" it about different file types, and how to work with them. For example, you can "teach" the File Manager about .BMP files by associating .BMP files with a program such as the Windows PaintBrush. To do this from the File Manager involves the following procedure:

1. From the File Manager's menu, select File/Associate.
2. In the "Files with Extension" box, type "BMP".
3. Scroll through the "Associate With" list until you find the entry "Paintbrush Picture (pbrush.exe)". Select this entry by clicking on it (it will turn blue)
4. Click OK, or press Enter.

When Windows is first installed, this association is automatically made, so don't be surprised if it already appears this way. But if you want to associate BMP files to another viewing/editing program, you can do so just as easily. Programs that Windows doesn't already know about (that don't appear in the list) can be chosen by clicking the "Browse" button.

Because Multimedia Platinum uses these same associations, it will automatically use your favorite bitmap viewer to view bitmaps. And your favorite sound file editor to play and edit sound files. If you have associations made for icons, flics, and video programs, it will also use their associations automatically. But the best part of all is that Multimedia Platinum allows you to use your favorite viewers and editors for every multimedia clip on the CD-ROM.

A Note on Performance

Although CD-ROM technology has many tremendous advantages over any other form of digital media, it is still a relatively slow method of data retrieval. Due to the immense amount of data which Multimedia Platinum needs to keep track of, certain operations may be very slow on less-powerful computer systems. These functions include starting the program, switching between categories, and searching. Each of these operations requires that Multimedia Platinum scan the entire database and organize necessary information. However, once you are working within a category, performance should remain unhindered. If you are concerned about improving the speed of Multimedia Platinum, the following suggestions may provide significant improvement:

1. Increase the amount of RAM in your system.
2. Allow SmartDrive to use a fair amount of memory (this will help keep a good portion of the Multimedia Platinum database in memory).
3. Use a CD-ROM caching program, such as DOS 6.2's SmartDrive or a third-party utility.
4. Use a permanent Windows swap file, and make it fairly large.

Also on this Disc...

Visual Basic Runtime DLL's

All of the Visual Basic programs require the VBRUNXXX.DLL to execute at runtime; but this program is often eliminated from the distribution file set to save on space. We have included a copy of VBRUN100.DLL, VBRUN200.DLL, and VBRUN300.DLL in a subdirectory called VBRUN on the Multimedia Platinum disc. If you encounter a Visual Basic program which gives an error message "Cannot locate VBRUNXXX.DLL", then copy the appropriate Visual Basic DLL to the programs subdirectory; this should correct the problem.

Troubleshooting...

There are some applications which may not run 100% correctly from the CD-ROM. This is due to the fact that they attempt to write data to the CD-ROM, which is a read-only medium. To use these programs in a fully-functional state, you must first install them to your hard drive, as you would any other software. Once installed, these programs should function perfectly.

The Platinum Shareware Series

The Platinum Shareware Series is a line of shareware which makes hundreds of extremely high-quality programs easily accessible on any Windows CD-ROM based system. Our famous Platinum interface has all of the programs categorized, sorted, and evaluated for you, making your job of finding the right application as easy as possible. Our discs are not packed full of useless, poor quality programs or duplicate versions of the same program. Every program we put on our disc has been tested under Windows 3.1 and nearly all of them will launch directly from the CD-ROM--without installation!

We tailor our Platinum Interface to best suit the needs of every new title in the Platinum Shareware Series. We are releasing a Platinum Shareware Series title every month and plan to update the content every 6 months.

WIN Platinum

This is our flagship windows disc. You'll get the highest quality windows applications, utilities, games, desktop, graphics programs, and sound programs, all under our famous Windows-based Platinum interface. This disc remains unchallenged as the best Windows shareware disc in the entire industry. As CD-ROM Today announced in February 1994, "...This disc merits attention for having perhaps the best-designed front end of any shareware CD-ROM on the market."

Games Platinum

Our second title in the Platinum series has hundreds of the latest Windows games. Every single game can be run directly from the CD ROM. This is a great disc and will keep you entertained for months.

Publisher Platinum

A huge collection of clip art and fonts. Publisher Platinum offers tons of clean, good-looking clip art in both color and black and white. Locating the clip art you need is very easy... choose a predefined clip art category or search on keywords. Once you find the right area, preview a thumbnail of each file for the exact piece you need. You'll also get 100's of Windows TrueType™ fonts, with easy, one-button installation!

Fonts Platinum

The best collection of TrueType™ fonts for Windows. Fonts Platinum has 1,500 of the best TrueType™ fonts, complete with our high-powered Platinum interface. With Fonts Platinum, you can actually SEE the font before you install it! And our powerful search facility helps you find the exact font you need, for every application!

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About Limelight Media, Inc.

Limelight Media Inc. was formed to produce high quality CD ROM titles. Our company hires only the best programmers with outstanding skill and unsurpassed dedication to our cause.

This disc was scanned before release and found to be virus-free.

Requirements: MS Windows 3.1 / Mouse

If you have any question about our products or suggestions for new products, please call us. We are always eager to talk about the industry and potential opportunities.

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