

Pacific HiTech: SPACE CD ReadMe File

--- This file explains how to use the viewer program which comes with your Space CD. ---

Thank you for purchasing this CD-ROM. We have downloaded various kinds of images and text data from internet sites all over the world and organized them on this disc. We have also included an interface which allows you to access those images quickly and easily. We hope this disc can be a good introduction for you to the great scientific frontier, SPACE.

We would like to thank the many people who made this CD-ROM possible. Special thanks go to the people who worked on various research projects and who made their scientific discoveries available to Internet sites, and astronomers.

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Disclaimer

The software contained on this disc is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind. The entire risk as to the results and performance of the software is assumed by you, and in no event will Pacific HiTech be liable for any consequential, incidental or indirect damages suffered in the course of using the software.

The Viewer was created using Visual Basic.
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1. Main Window

From this window, you can access all the images on the CD. It also allows you to go to several other windows when you click one of the buttons or the menus. The function of each of the buttons and menus are described below:

Menu Items

File Menu:

Choose this to copy the image showing in the window. You can choose the original file or a BMP version of the file to copy to your hard drive. If you prefer copying images by yourself, or want to copy many of them at once, select **locate** to find out where the files are. **Exit** is also included under this menu.

Locate

When you find a really cool image which you want to store on your hard drive, you might want to copy it by yourself. Usually, you can select **File/Save BMP Image** menu or **File/Save Original Image** menu to copy files, but sometimes you might want to use your favorite graphics program to load it, modify the image to your desired specifications and then save it. The path to the two versions of the image will be shown one by one.

Save BMP Image

This opens the save dialog and asks you where to save the BMP file. This BMP file is the full size version of the original image. All images are converted to Windows 256 color BMP. If you need the original image, which might not be any higher resolution than this, you can choose **File/Save Original Image** menu.

Save Original Image

This opens a save dialog and asks you where to save the original file. The file extension will be automatically selected for you, but if you want to name TIF file with a .GIF extension, please do so. This dialog won't be affected by the language you chose, but it depends on the version of Windows you have. If your Windows is configured to show German dialog box, this save dialog is always German.

Exit

This quits the program. Since the program is accessing a database file, using this function is the safest way to quit the program without harming the database. Closing the Main Window does the same thing.

View Menu:

This menu controls how you look at the image. It also includes a language menu which takes you to the **Select Language Window** so you can change the captions on the viewer program.

Language

This takes you to the **Select Language Window**. The languages you can choose from depend on which version of the CD you have. Call or E-mail PHT for information.

Slide Show

If you are new to this CD and don't know what to do with the enormous number of images, this is a good option to start with. This button lets you go through all the images in the CD automatically, so you don't even have to touch the keyboard until the slide show goes through one big loop. You can stop the slide show anytime you want by clicking this menu again or the on the **Main Window**.

Enlarge

Displays the **Enlarged Image Window**. While this image is showing you can't go to any other images, so choose the one you want to see first, and click this menu option. The corresponding button on the Main Window does the same thing as this menu does.

Go Menu:

There are several ways to browse the images on this CD. This menu includes three methods. Since going forward and backward from one image can be done by buttons on the same window, this menu is useful mainly for "category" jump.

Next

Lets you step to the next image. If you are at the last image, it takes you to the first image. The right arrow button on the **Main Window** does the same thing.

Previous

Lets you go to the previous Image. If you are at the first image, it takes you to the last image. The left arrow button on the **Main Window** does the same thing.

Category

This menu takes you to another window in which you can select a category and particular file name to jump to. Since the viewer has to read all the information about the categories from the database file, it takes a while to display the **Category Select Window**. Please be patient.

Help Menu:

Use this menu to look at this readme file.

Show Readme

Launches MS Write with this ReadMe text in it. MS Write must be in your Windows directory for you to read this file.

Other components on the Main window

ThumbNail Image:

This is the reduced version of the image. Since it went through several conversion processes, it does not necessarily reflect the color of the original file. Dimensions are 128x128 (or smaller) and 256 colors. Those files are located under \BMP_SML directory on the CD-ROM.

File Name:

Name of the Image file. This is usually the same name as you can see in the Internet sites, but some names which don't fit into the Windows file name configuration were translated to 8.3. It only shows the base file name (without the extension) on this window. If you need to know the path or the whole name of the Image, choose **File/Locate** menu.

Category:

This is the category of the image. Usually, the name of the planetary body which is the main image. You can choose an image using this category. Check the **Go/Category** menu.

Data Source:

Shows where the image came from. Usually an Internet site of the government or a research institute. This might be helpful if you want further information on the image.

Description:

The descriptive text that came with the image. Some of them are copied from the WWW page and some of them accompanied the image on the ftp site. Therefore the format of this description varies, so you need to use two scroll bars to read some of the larger text files. The text can also be cut and pasted to somewhere else by using CTRL-C and CTRL-V.

Slide Show Button:

This button is used to start the slide show. While the slide show is running, this button shows a different state to indicate it. Click here again to stop the slide show. See the **View/Slide Show** menu for more details.

Left and Right Arrow

This is the simplest method to go through the images on the CD. These let you go forward (right arrow) or backward (left arrow) one image at a time. Clicking the left arrow when you are at the first image will take you to the last image. Similarly, clicking the right arrow when you are at the last image lets you go to the first image. The **Go/Previous** and **Go/Next** menus do the same thing.

Enlarge Image Button.

This button invokes the **Enlarged Image Window**. Choose an image you like using other buttons and menus, and click this. You can see the full size version of the image.

2. Language Selection Window

You can select the language of your choice from this window. The viewer will display all the captions in that language until you change it again. Depending on the version of the CD, the number of languages you can choose from varies. The default language is defined in SPACE.INI file. You can find the file in your Windows directory.

To select a language, set the cursor to the one you like, using arrow keys, and then click OK. Or alternatively, you can just double click the language name with your mouse to select it.

Note: Depending on the version of Windows and the fonts you installed on it, some languages may not be available even though your CD supports it. We assume you have the version of the Windows which can display your own language so this shouldn't be a problem.

3. Enlarged Image Window

Clicking the enlarged image button in the main window invokes this window. It will display the full size version of the image you were looking at in the Main Window. The size of the image shown here is the same as the size of the image when it was downloaded. To dismiss this window, click anywhere in the window (including the region where the image is).

4. Category Select Window

It is very difficult to find an image by going through them one at a time. If you know what is contained in the image you are looking for (and you probably do), you can save your time by using this window. When this window is used, it reads all the information it needs from the database file, so it may take some time. After it has accessed all the information from the database file, you can choose the file you want to see. If you know the exact file name of the image, choose the file name from the right hand side list box. If you don't know it, don't worry, you can choose one of the files in the same category (maybe the first one) and go through the images one by one using other methods. Read on if you need more information about the two list boxes attached to this window.

Category List Box (Left Hand Side)

This lets you choose the category of the image. Select one of them by clicking on the category name. This makes the viewer get another set of information from the database file. Therefore going through each category one by one is not a great way to find an image since each of the steps to another category takes time.

File Name List Box (Right Hand Side)

This shows all the file names of the images belonging to the category chosen. Double clicking one of the file names in this field has the same effect as setting the cursor to the file name and clicking OK. If you change your mind and want to go back to the image you were looking at before you invoked this window, click CANCEL.

5. About INI File

The setup program in the CD creates a file named **SPACE.INI** in your Windows directory when you installed the viewer. This file contains information the viewer needs to run. Although most of the time, you shouldn't need to modify, or even look at the file's contents, it sometime would be a good idea to edit this file and configure the viewer for your environment. The options you can modify from the .INI file are:

JPEG Directory

Decides where to look for JPEG files. This should only be changed if you copy the whole JPEG directory from the CD to somewhere else, or when your CD-ROM drive path is changed.

TIFF Directory

Decides where to look for TIFF files. This should only be changed if you copy the whole TIFF directory from the CD to somewhere else, or when your CD-ROM drive path is changed.

MPEG Directory

Decides where to look for MPEG files. This should only be changed if you copy the whole MPEG directory from the CD to somewhere else, or when your CD-ROM drive path is changed.

ThumbNail Directory

Decides where to look for thumbnail BMP images. This should only be changed if you copy the whole BMP_SML directory from the CD to somewhere else, or when your CD-ROM drive path is changed. Since the viewer program often accesses those files, copying them into your hard drive may speed up the viewer. Also, for the same reason, be careful to change this path. If the path is wrong, the viewer program won't run, and you may end up having to re-install the whole thing.

BMP Directory

Decides where to look for original size BMP images. The viewer uses these to show enlarged images, so copying the images to the hard drive and changing this path may speed up the viewer a little bit. However, this directory is very big and the viewer doesn't access those images as often as it does to thumbnail BMPs. You may want to think about it only if you have too much hard drive space and are looking for a way to waste it.

DataBase File Path

Path to the Space CD database file. The setup program automatically installs a database file into your hard drive. This can be changed if you want to move the file to somewhere else. You can set it directly to the CD, too. In this way, the viewer program runs slower, but you can save 3+ MB of disk space. If you want to take this option, change it to "E:\ETC\SPACE.MDB" (assuming your CD-ROM drive is E:\).

Default Language

The setup program sets the default language to the language you chose at the very beginning of the installation process. You can change it to any other language which your version of the Space CD supports. Choose one of the languages in the **Select Language Window** of the viewer lists.

ReadMe Path

Tells where this readme file is.

6. Information About the Images in this Disk

Images contained in this CD were gathered from Internet sites of various research institutes. Pacific HiTech organized these images according to the object which the image is showing. We also converted all images to BMP so Windows users can use it easily. The descriptions of each image were collected from many sources. Some of them were bundled with the images in the ftp site, and some of them are copies of the WWW page describing it.

The images are stored in the disk in several forms besides BMP. These are:

<i>JPEG:</i>	Original files downloaded.
<i>TIFF:</i>	Also, Originals
<i>BMP:</i>	All images except movies are converted to this form. 256 colors
<i>BMP_SML:</i>	Small BMP of all images. For preview. 128x128.

7. Pacific HiTech CD-ROM Company

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FTP:

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WWW:

<http://www.pht.com/>

Mirrors:

Sunsite, Tsx-11

- Other CD-ROMs from Pacific HiTech -

This is the list of newest CDs developed by Pacific Hitech. You can use any method listed at the top of this page to order these.

Macintosh:

InfoMac CD-ROM
The MacGames CD-ROM

Hybrid:

MPEG Internet Archive

Other Operating Systems:

Linux Developer's Kit
Linux Run-Time Disk
Blowfish OS/2 CD-ROM
X11R6 CD-ROM
Best of Internet Arcade Games

Credits

Programming:

Koji Ashida, Cliff Miller

Image Collection and Organization:

Neil Daly, Koji Ashida

Translation:

Jeny Lo (Chinese), Gundi Reed (German), Petra Hein (French), Professor Mauricio Mixco (Spanish)