

Sound Ideas

Copyright 1995, The Cowsert Corporation. All rights reserved.

Overview

Overview of Sound Ideas and equipment requirements

Configuration

How to configure Sound Ideas for your hardware configuration

Troubleshooting

Determining problems with your system and Sound Ideas

Registration

How to register Sound Ideas.

Overview

Sound Ideas is a powerful Microsoft Windows application that allows two people to work together efficiently over a standard telephone line. It uses DSVD to transfer information between two people. This allows not only the transfer of ideas on a traditional whiteboard but also the collaboration of those ideas through real-time audio. It supports both window capturing and standard Clipboard pasting. Simple drawing tools and text allow for marking up the contents of the whiteboard. Only bitmap images are supported for Clipboard pasting at this point in time.

Equipment Requirements:

Sound Ideas requires an IBM 80386 (or compatible) or better running: Microsoft Windows version 3.1 or better, IBM OS/2 version 2.1 or better, IBM OS/2 Warp, or Microsoft Windows 95. Also, a high speed modem with a transfer rate of at least 9600 BAUD. A 14.4K BAUD or 28.8K BAUD modem is highly recommended.

To utilize the capabilities of Sound Ideas, a Microsoft Windows compatible sound card with a microphone and speakers is required.

Less than 1MB of hard disk space is required for installation. A log of events is recorded to disk while using Sound Ideas. This file can become quite large if not deleted on occasion.

Configuration

Sound Ideas comes with an external configuration utility. This utility has its own Help File. Please consult this help file for help on configuring Sound Ideas for your system.

[Configuring Sound Ideas](#)

Troubleshooting

If you are having problems running Sound Ideas on your system, please refer to the following items. They contain solutions to some common problems. If these solutions do not solve your problem, contact our technical support. Please have as much information about your system as possible handy when you call, or submit this information with your fax or email. This information should at least include your operating system type and version, your modem type and speed, and your sound card type.

Installation search cannot find any modems.

If your modem is external, be sure it is properly connected and turned on. Be sure no other applications are running that would have already allocated the modem resources for themselves. Be sure your modem is set up properly for your operating system.

In some rare cases, your modem may not respond to the query sent out by the search algorithm. This indicates that your modem may not be Hayes compatible, thus it may not work well with Sound Ideas in general.

Sound Ideas determines that the configured port is invalid.

When Sound Ideas starts up, it attempts to initialize the modem. When this fails, it is usually because either the port configuration is invalid or the port is in use by another application. Consult the Configuration section of this help file for help on configuring the port.

Modem does not dial.

A lot of problems can cause the modem not to dial. Sound Ideas may think it is either already connected, or is in the process of connecting or disconnecting from a remote computer. Exiting and restarting Sound Ideas usually fixes this problem. The modem may not be properly connected to the phone line. Or the line might be in use by another extension.

In some cases, the modem stops responding to commands from Sound Ideas. Usually the only solution is to power down the system (and modem if it is external).

Cannot establish a connection between two copies of Sound Ideas.

This problem can indicate one of several possibilities. This is usually due to either a breakdown in the hardware layer of the connection or incompatibilities with the hardware itself. Some modems can be configured to only accept connections of certain types. Consult the hardware manuals of the modems to correct this. The phone line may be too noisy for the modems to communicate effectively. Sound Ideas gives up trying to connect after about 15 seconds.

Audio is disabled.

Sound Ideas could not locate any available sound cards installed in the system. Sound Ideas

will still be able to connect and all other features should work as normal. Check your sound card configuration and make sure no other application is using the sound card. Speech recognition software can cause this.

You hear them but they cant hear you.

Be sure your microphone is connected properly to your sound card. Sound Ideas uses a Push-To-Talk mechanism. You press either CTRL key to transmit voice to the other computer. After releasing CTRL, Sound Ideas switches to a Voice Activated mode. In this mode it only sends information when it determines you are actually speaking. When Sound Ideas receives audio data, it switches into playback mode. Holding down the CTRL key forces recorded audio data to be sent and all received audio data to be ignored.

Some sound cards support simultaneous record and playback. In this mode, you normally do not have to hold down the CTRL key unless Sound Ideas has trouble picking up your voice.

How to contact us:

The Cowsert Corporation
14515 N. Outer 40 Rd.
Suite 140
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Voice: 314-434-6600 (9-5 CST)
Fax: 314-434-6696
email: 76235,3314@compuserve.com

Registration

To upgrade to a registered version of Sound Ideas, please print out and complete the registration form included with the shareware version. (ORDER.FRM) Mail or fax the form to us with your selected payment method. If paying by personal or company check, no software will be shipped until the check is received and has cleared.

The cost of registration for Sound Ideas v2.0 is US\$ 40.00. However, since it is our desire to create products that meet the needs of users, we will do you a favor if you will do one for us.

Any registered user of Sound Ideas who submits to us an email, fax, or US Mail critique of the software will be eligible to receive a \$10.00 rebate from us. These critiques should be substantive, explaining what you like, dislike, would want to change, or how the product could better fit your needs. It is that simple. Your response should be at least 100 words for eligibility. (But if you send us 10 pages of garbage, we might charge YOU \$10)

Now, our legal people want us to tell you a few things:

1. Only one rebate per registered user.
2. We reserve sole discretion on whether or not the critique provided is substantive enough to warrant the rebate. All decisions are final. All critiques become the property of The Cowsert Corporation.

Critiques must be accompanied by your name, address and installation diskette serial number.

When registering, **BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE REGISTRATION FORM WITH PAYMENT!**
When submitting your critique, **BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR SERIAL NUMBER!**

DSVD stands for Digital Simultaneous Voice and Data. It is a technique for sending data and digitized audio over the same connection at the same time.

The act of Pasting the contents of the Global Clipboard.

Creating a link between Sound Ideas and any other Window on the Desktop. (Including the Desktop itself)

