Balda

Help Contents

Gamos presents new computer game named Balda™. This product continues famous Gamos series of logical games. Balda is computer analog of well known folks game. The game is able to improve your analytical thinking and expand your lexicon. Furthermore it is a good entertainment at leisure time.

To learn how to use Microsoft Windows™ 3.1 Help, press F1 or choose Using Help from the Help menu.

Introduction

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Balda

Rules of the Game

   Human and computer do their moves one after another. Both of players add one letter at a time on the game pad measuring 5x5 cells. Then player marks the letters of the proposed word. The added letter must be among highlighted letters. You can see the proposed words in the window on left/right side from the game pad. The scores of each player is increased by the number of letters. The game is finished when there are no more free cells on the game pad.

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See Also

How to Play the Game

How to Keep Score

How to Play the Game

When program is loaded You can see Main Window with Control Panel placed at the bottom part. For more information about buttons on this Control Panel, move the mouse over the graphic. When the pointer turns to a hand, **click** to display information in the pop-up window. Alternatively, press TAB to highlight an area on the graphic, and then press ENTER.

Initial word is five letters long and it is placed on the middle row. You can select difficulty level by pressing **F5** key or just **click** left button on Control Panel. **F6** key turns on/off animation of computer behavior. Alternatively, press second button from left side on Control Panel. **F7** key turns on/off background music. Also You can press third button on Control Panel. If You have no ideas how to make next move or simply pass Your move You must push **F8** key or the fourth button on the Control Panel at the bottom of Main Window. **Alt**+**F4** key or the last button on Control Panel escapes to the MS Windows™ shell.

You control the game using mouse. **Click** mouse cursor in order to select position for next letter. You can input letter to drag it from letter pad and drop to selected position. Further, you must tell to computer what word you propose. For this purpose you need to mark the first word letter and than other letters in sequential order. You end selection **double-click** last letter.

In the case when computer can not recognize proposed word You will be asked in order to get Your assurance. You may put this word into dictionary pushing Yes button. If you make a mistake You may remove it pressing No button.

Note: All entered new words computer player may use in subsequent sessions.

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See Also

Rules of the Game

How to Customize Environment

Glossary

How to Play using keyboard

You cannot select cells using keyboard, but the following functional keys are active:

F1 - call Help;

F5 - choose difficulty level (four stages);

F6 - animation enable/disable;

F7 - turn sound on/off;

F8 - pass;

Alt+F4 - terminate and exit to MS Windows™ shell.

Also You can invoke menu commands using keyboard. You may press Spacebar, Enter, Alt+Backspace and Microsoft Windows™ system keys.

How to Keep Scores

The scores of each player is increased by the number of letters. So, the longer entered word, the more points are added.

If after the end of game your result is in top eight, the program will ask for your name and you will be on top score list.   Let you be a success and overthrow the Champion from his position. You can look at the result table using menu command.

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See Also

Rules of the Game

Menu Commands

How to Use Menu

   To call menu, click right mouse button anywhere in game panel. A number of menu commands doubles buttons on game panel. Another commands give You additional facilities.

Menu "**Game**" includes the following:

   "**New**" - start new game. You can press also the button on the game panel.

   "**Best Results...**" - show Top Eight results table.

   "**Undo**" - undo last move.

Menu "**Options**" includes the following:

   "**Logo**" - when checked, animated logo appears in game loading time. To terminate logo and start game You must press OK button. In other case simple logo also appears but You need not to do anything.

   "**Sound**" - turn sound effects on/off. You can press also the button on the game panel.

   "**Animate**" - when checked, You can see how computer tries to found the longest word. You can press also the button on the game panel in session mode.

   "**Save Settings**" - when checked, all game settings including window position are saved on disk and restored in next session.

   "**Prompt on Exit**" - when checked, You will be prompted to confirm choise.

   "**Cursor Shape...**" - select mouse cursor shape. Not implemented.

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See Also

How to customize Environment

How to customize Environment

Program allow You to customize game environment and save settings on disk. For this purposes choose **Save Settings** from **Options** menu. Also You can save game window position on desktop and, of couse, results. Format of file of results is fully compatible with one used in the game version for DOS and also named RECORDS. All settings are saved in file BALDA.INI.

A few words about sound. All sound effects are stored in WAVE format and use standard MS Windows™ drivers to playback.

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See Also

Menu Commands

Load/Save Game

  You can save current game on disk to continue later by loading this game from disk. All savings will record into the file with .SAV extention. If You enter file name with another extention last one will be dropped and .SAV attached. If there is no any characters entered on edit control the OK button is disabled. You can save   game only once since new game started.

  We hope You do not need our Help in using the Dialog Box controls.

Glossary

  There are some terms need to be explaned for You.

Click: Move mouse to locate mouse cursor on selected object and quickly press and release left mouse button.

Double-Click: See **Click** twice.

System menu: Appear if You **click** on left-side square in the window title bar.

Maximize: To enlarge a window to its maximum size by using the Maximize button (to the right of the title bar) or the Maximize command on the Control menu.

Minimize: To reduce a window to an icon by using the Minimize button (to the right of the title bar) or the Minimize command on the Control menu.

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Problems

There some problems that maybe or maybe not occur when You will run the game.

BWCC.DLL not found. This file had to been copied from distribution disk to MS Windows™ System directory. Another message can be displayed, "Program Manager could not find file or it's components".

Not enough memory. There are exist three following decisions: first - terminate currently unused applications; second - if You use 256 color video mode now, change to 16 color mode becouse graphics resources for this mode need less memory; third - install additional RAM chips. Another good idea to remove large wallpaper (if any used) from Control Panel/Desktop.

Some "snoring" sound when balls appear. This happend when some 16-bit wave drivers are used. Sorry, but we can't help You couse it's Mircrosoft problem or third party vendors.

Panel looks like damaged. Program do not support 1024x768 large fonts. Use another VGA or 8514 fonts.

Credits

These people have made the game for You:

Eugenie Sotnikov - Project supervisor.

Teymuras Khokhobaya, Vadim Kadyrov - Programming.

ANIKOM group - Artwork.

Konstantin Mironovich - Sound, Help.

Control Panel. Difficulty level.

Press this button to change difficulty level. There are four levels of difficulty, each one imaged by icon. Below You can see four icons for all stages correspondently in order to increase difficulty.

easy   complex   more complex   the most complex

Control Panel. Animation.

Press this button to see how computer searching for it move. Another press turn this mode off.

mode turned off   mode turned on

Control Panel. Pass.

Press this button every time when You do not have any idea how to move.

Control Panel. Sound.

Press this button to turn sound off/on.

sound turned on   sound turned off

Control Panel. Exit Game.

Press this button to terminate game and exit to Windows.