

# Update to the Microsoft Agent Final Commercial Release

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Microsoft Corporation

## Merlin with Sound Effects

We've posted a special version of our Merlin character that includes sound effects. To use the .ACS version of the file, simply download it to your character's directory and load it using the path to the file. Play animations as you normally would and make sure that the Play Sound Effects option is set in your property sheet. You can disable sound effects for your client application using the **SoundEffectsOn** property. This turns off sound effects only when your application is controlling the character. This property setting also does not override the user setting. The .ACS file for the Merlin character with sound effects can be downloaded from our Character Animations download page.

To load the Merlin with sound effects character from an HTTP address, follow the normal procedure for loading the character and animation files. The .ACF version of the Merlin character with sound effects can be accessed using the following URL:  
<http://agent.microsoft.com/characters/merlinsfx/merlinsfx.acf>.

Note that for the sound effects to play, your system must have a Windows®-compatible sound card and drivers. You must also have the Microsoft ADPCM and PCM audio compression support installed so that the sound effect files can be automatically uncompressed when they are loaded.

The Merlin with sound effects character has the same animation set as the non-sound effects version, with one exception: **GetAttention** has a companion animation, **GetAttentionContinued**, that enables you to repeat the animation from the current position.

## Bug Fixes in the Update

We've issued a minor update to fix a couple of reported problems:

- There was a conflict between Agent and other applications trying to access the MIDI device. The server now locks the device only when the speech input listening tone is playing.
- The setting for the speech-input listening (MIDI) tone was not maintained when Agent was shut down and then restarted.
- Speech recognition could sometimes stop working for no apparent reason.
- Including a tilde character (~) in a pathname or URL was not supported.

## **Download and Version Information**

The update release is backward-compatible with existing pages. However, you should ensure that users get this release by changing the CODEBASE parameter's version number in your HTML <OBJECT> tag. This will automatically download the latest release from the Microsoft object store. If you wish to directly download this release, go to our download page. There you will also find further information about what number to insert in the CODEBASE parameter.