

ASPARAGUS WAVES

Version 1.0

Introduction

Asparagus Waves is a duel role program. You can use it as a quick and easy way to play .WAV sound files by simply double clicking the name of the sound you want to hear. However, the real use of Asparagus Waves is to play a random .WAV file whenever you start and exit Windows.

Of course you could always just use the Sounds option from the Windows Control Panel to play a .WAV file at startup and shutdown, but then it will always be the same. I thought it would be nice to hear a different file every time! Asparagus Waves can handle both 8 and 16 bit .WAV files, so if you are itching to use your new 16 bit sound card, then go ahead!

See also:

[Requirements](#)

[Setup](#)

[Using Asparagus Waves](#)

[Disclaimer of Liability](#)

[Shareware Registration](#)

System Requirements

Asparagus Waves requires Windows v3.1. If you are running an older version of Windows, then you should probably consider upgrading.

A sound card (such as Sound Blaster or Pro Audio Spectrum 16) or the Microsoft PC-Speaker driver is required in order to hear any digital sound files in Windows. This program is no exception. If you don't have a sound card, then look on your local BBS for the PC-Speaker driver.

RAM requirements are minimal. About 30k is all you have to devote to running this program! Disk space is small as well. About 40k or so of your hard drive is required to store the program.

Setup

Setting up Asparagus Waves is simple. Create a directory on your hard disk and copy the Asparagus Waves program files into it. You can even copy them right into your Windows directory if you want. It's really up to you, but I'd recommend a separate directory.

If you have not started Windows yet, do that now. Once Windows is loaded, the first thing you should do is make sure that the Control Panel is not already set to play Start and Exit Sounds. To do this, open up the control panel group, and double click on the Sound Icon. Set Windows Start and Windows Exit to <none>. If you do not do this, then you will be hearing overlapping multiple sounds at startup and exit. The result is not pleasing.

Now you are ready to setup Asparagus Waves. Open your StartUp group in the Program Manager, then Select New from the Program Manager's File Menu. Choose New Program Item, and then use the browse button to find the directory where Asparagus Waves is located. The file name you want to add is ASPWAVES.EXE. Select this then choose OK. Now enter Asparagus Waves v1.0 into the description box and then select OK.

You should now have an icon that resembles a bundle of Asparagus in your StartUp group. Double click this icon and the Asparagus Waves program will start up. The program is minimized when you start it, so you will have to double click it's icon at the bottom of your screen in order to change the settings.

The first time you use the program, it will look for .WAV files in your WINDOWS directory.

Using Asparagus Waves

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Left List Box:

The box on the left of the screen is for choosing the directory to use for playing WAV files. Double click on the Directory name in order to change to it. Double click on ".." to go back a level in your directory tree.

Right List Box:

As you change directories, the right list box shows all of the WAV files that exist in the current directory. If you would like to listen to one of these files, simply double click on the name of the WAV file. Asparagus Waves can play back both 8 and 16 bit digital sound files. When you start up or exit Windows, one of the WAV files from the right list box will be chosen at random and played.

Current Path:

This is a status box that shows you the full path to the directory you are viewing. This is where Asparagus Waves will choose its random WAV file to play.

OK Button:

Once you are satisfied with the directory for WAV playback, select the OK button to save the new configuration. Asparagus Waves will minimize itself and appear as an icon at the bottom of your screen, waiting for Windows to exit (or you to double click it again and change the configuration or listen to more WAV files).

Cancel Button:

If you make an unwanted change to the WAV directory configuration or you simply wanted to play back a few WAV files without permanently changing the setup, you can choose Cancel and the changes will not be saved.

Help Button:

The Help button starts up the Windows Help System, and provides you with information on setting up and using Asparagus Waves.

System Menu:

You can access the System Menu in a number of ways. Either press Alt on your keyboard, click on the square box in the upper left hand corner of the main window, or click on the minimized icon of Asparagus Waves.

Using the system menu, you can access standard Windows commands for Restore, Move, Minimize, and Switch To. Additionally, if you want to quit Asparagus Waves you can select Close from this menu. If you do this, then there will be no sound played when you exit Windows. It's best not to do this. Asparagus Waves consumes very little memory, and half the fun of it is the Windows Exit sounds!

Choose About... to display an information box that lists important notices regarding the program and version number.

Disclaimer of Liability

Asparagus Waves comes with no warranty of any kind. Neither NeoPoint Technologies or the author of this software (hereafter "The Company") shall be held liable for any direct, special, incidental, or consequential damages or other similar claims, even if The Company has been specifically advised of the possibility of such damages - This includes but is not limited to, loss of profit, loss of data, or loss of productivity.

The Company specifically disclaims any form of warranty, either express or implied, including but not limited to, any implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. The Company does not make any representation or warranty that this software is fit for any particular purpose, or use.

We have put considerable effort into the development and testing of this software. If you do experience any abnormality or "bug" in the software program(s), we would appreciate hearing about them so as to fix them in later releases.

Shareware Registration

Asparagus Waves is distributed under the Shareware concept. This method of distribution lets you try out a program and see if it is useful to you before paying for it. It is convenient method for evaluating software. This does not mean that the programs are free.

Now, I don't suppose that everyone who reads this will actually support the shareware concept. I would appreciate you hearing me out though! Many of you think that "Hey! I already have it. Why pay for it now?" That is a valid question, and probably a good topic for an intro philosophy course. In a nutshell, you should pay just to be a good person! By supporting shareware authors, you will encourage us to produce other useful programs. Would you rather have the computer industry dominated by Mega-Corporations that would never produce something unless it could be justified by their accountants, or have a wide variety of software available at reasonable prices and for a variety of niches and interests?

Here is the good part. I only want two dollars for this program. That's \$2, two measly bucks. If you use Asparagus Waves and get some use out of it, you can surely afford to send me that much! Shove a couple of bills in an envelope, maybe add a letter to let me know who I should direct my gratitude toward, and send it to:

Colin Adams
P.O. Box 2281
Winnipeg, MB
Canada R3C 4A6

If you live outside the U.S. or Canada, then send me whatever currency you have that roughly equals two U.S. dollars!

Trust me... You'll feel better about using Asparagus Waves and life in general. Well, maybe the world won't seem cheerier, but at least you can't possibly feel like I'm ripping you off!