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Archive File Contents

WinFlash is distributed as an archive file, FLASH_30.ZIP (FLASH.ZIP on CompuServe), containing the following files:

ALLNFL.BMP - Companion .BMP file needed for operation of WINFLS30.FLS

BRONCO.BMP - Companion .BMP file needed for operation of WINFLS30.FLS

CHIMES.WAV - Companion .WAV file needed for operation of WINFLS30.FLS

TADA.WAV - Companion .WAV file needed for operation of WINFLS30.FLS

WINFLS30.EXE - The executable program file

WINFLS30.HLP - The help file supporting **WinFlash**

WINFLS30.REG - Information on shareware in Windows Write format

called by registration procedure

WINFLS30.FRM - Registration form in Windows Write format

called by registration procedure

WINFLS30.FLS - Sample Q&A file

REGISTER.TXT - Registration form in ASCII format

FRANCAIS.TXT - Registration form to be used by French-speaking Europeans

README.WRI - The help documentation in Windows Write format

VENDOR.TXT - Information of interest to shareware distributors and BBSs in ASCII format

FILE_ID.DIZ - Program description used by BBSs

An additional file, WINFLASH.INI, will be created by the program in your Windows directory the first time the program is executed. This file contains the information relating to your default option settings and should be considered part of the **WinFlash** file set after its creation.

Getting Started

Introduction

WinFlash was written to help in memorizing textual, graphical or audio material. It is useful in both scholastic and professional applications. The multiple mode prioritization capabilities allow concentration on problem Questions with a variety of strategies. In a lighter vein, **WinFlash** can also be used to construct and play "Trivia" type games.

Installation

If the Open Windows setup program, OWSETUP.EXE was included on the disk with FLASH_30.ZIP simply run OWSETUP.EXE from within Windows. This will take you through the procedure of installing **WinFlash** on your hard disk.

To install **WinFlash 3.0** in the absence of OWSetup, copy FLASH_30.ZIP (FLASH.ZIP on CompuServe) to your hard drive. The file should probably be placed in its own directory (\WINFLASH, perhaps), but this is not absolutely necessary. Then unzip the file using PKUnZip or other "unzipper". Install the **WinFlash** executable file, WINFLS30.EXE, in one of your Program Manager Groups using the normal Windows File|New|New Program Item sequence in Program Manager. If you are unfamiliar with this procedure, see your Windows 3.1 users manual, where it is described in detail.

What's New In WinFlash 3.0?

- **Graphics & Sound!!** - You can now include .BMP files (graphics) and .WAV files (sound) as integral components in your Q&A files. Multimedia has made it to the realm of flashcards!!
- Priority Questions From History Mode - This new operating mode keeps a record of the user's performance on each Q&A pair within the Q&A file and categorizes each Question as Unlearned, Short Term Learned or Long Term Learned. Thresholds in time and number of correct responses for promoting a Q&A pair to the next level are user configurable.
- **WinFlash** Q&A pairs can now be created using any available Windows font. Color is also supported. Now you can use the REAL national alphabets for your foreign language studies!
- New Q&A files may be created from within **WinFlash** using the NotePad editor and the current Q&A file may be edited "on the fly" for easy rephrasing, typo correction and clarification of Q&A files while they are being used.
- Background colors are now independently settable for the **WinFlash** main window, Question Dialog and Answer Dialog.
- Statistics on the current Q&A file are now available by selecting the File|File Statistics... menu item. This selection also allows screening of the current Q&A file for gaps in the sequence of Q&A numbers.
- A regular textual Q or A can be displayed concurrently with the playing of an audio Q or A.
- Improved formatting capabilities have been added. Hard carriage returns and centering are now available for improving the "looks" of your Q&A files. The new Qn= and An= format also provides for a much more readable Q&A file and the MaxQuestion entry is no longer required (a user chided me regarding having to tell the computer how many Questions there were in the file <G>).
- To assist students who are using files prepared by teachers or other third parties in their studies, it is now possible to copy the Question, Answer or both to the Windows clipboard for disposition as the student wishes (perhaps to compile a list of "need to study" Questions for further evaluation).
- Number of Q&A pairs allowed within a Q&A file has been increased to 300.
- A new database structure has been developed that stores the following information for each Q&A pair on a corresponding data line added to the end of the Q&A file:
 - Date of last "promotional" event in Ask Priority Questions From History Mode

- Number of correct responses during the current day
 - The number of correct responses since the creation of the Q&A pair
 - Number of incorrect responses during the current day
 - Number of incorrect responses since the creation of the Q&A pair
 - Number of days that the number of correct responses needed to promote a Q&A pair from Short Term Learned to Long Term Learned has been achieved
 - The current status of the Q&A pair: 0 = Unlearned; 1 = Short Term Learned; 2 = Long Term Learned
 - Membership on the Priority List (adds 1 to entry) and Disabled status (adds 2 to entry)
- Registration validation has been simplified by adding a dialog accessible from the Register Now selection which allows direct entry of the Name and Registration Number of the user.
 - New One Pass feature in Ask All Questions Equally Often mode which keeps track of each pass through the Q&A files. After each Question has been asked once, it is temporarily disabled until each Question has been asked one time. At this point the user is given a choice of continuing or closing the current Q&A file.
 - New Numerical feature in Ask All Questions Equally Often mode which presents the Q&A pairs to the user in numerical order, rather than the normal random sequence. This option can be used in combination with the One Pass option, giving a mode where each Question is asked once in numerical order.
 - Liven up your study sessions by working "against the clock"! The Display Answer After € Seconds check box selection in the Q&A Mode dialog box gives the user up to 60 seconds to come up with the Answer, after which it automatically displays the Answer.
 - Greatly improved ability to operate the program from the keyboard for those who prefer this method of interaction to using the mouse. All standard "accelerators" are now supported.
 - New Q&A file format improves readability of the Q&A file and provides enhanced statistical capabilities. An automatic conversion program, **FlashCon**, for older Q&A files is available as a registration bonus to registered users.
 - Improved tolerance to "out of bounds" operational conditions - for instance, selecting Priority Questions From List Mode when there are no Questions **on** the Priority List no longer produces an error message. **WinFlash** merely defaults to using the Ask All Questions Equally Often algorithm until a Question **is** added to the Priority List.

Obtaining Support

Registered users of **WinFlash** may obtain support by contacting the author via US Mail (the slow way) or by e-mail at CompuServe Information Service - 75236, 3243, Internet - 75236.3243@compuserve.com or America On Line - DickBryant.

The author is a member of the Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP). ASP wants to make sure that the shareware principle works for you. If you are unable to resolve a shareware-related problem with an ASP member by contacting the member directly, ASP may be able to help. The ASP Ombudsman can help you resolve a dispute or problem with an ASP member, but does not provide technical support for members' products. Please write to the ASP Ombudsman at 545 Grover Road, Muskegon, MI USA 49442-9247, FAX 616-788-2765, or send a CompuServe message via CompuServe Mail to ASP Ombudsman 70007,3536.

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Why Register?

In addition to supporting the author's continued enhancement of **WinFlash** your registration fee will bring you:

1. The Latest Version Of **WinFlash**
2. The FlashCon Program - Converts Pre-V3.0 Q&A Files To The Latest Format
3. Free Support Via CompuServe, Internet, AOL Or US Mail For 6 Months
4. Free Registration Of The Next Major **WinFlash** Release
5. Additional Open Windows Shareware AND Freeware!!
6. Registration ID Disabling Display Of Registration Reminder Screens

Creating And Editing Q&A Files

WinFlash 3.0 is designed to operate with **WinFlash** Q&A files having a .FLS extension. These files are simple ASCII text and can be created and edited with any word processor capable of outputting pure ASCII. NotePad works very well for this purpose.

The file WINFLS30.FLS included in the archive file is a working example of the type of file you will need to create to use **WinFlash**.

The active contents of the file are reproduced below (the actual file contains additional commenting on the contents and can, itself, serve as a good introduction to the creation of your own Q&A files.

[WinFlash]

Q1=This is the first Question for WinFlash. This Question illustrates the proper method for writing longer Questions Or Answers. No "hard" carriage returns are included. Use word wrap to keep the lines displayed in the NotePad editor when writing or editing. A "hard" carriage return marks the end of a Question or Answer.

A1=This is the first Answer^ ^^ for WinFlash. It shows how to use the ^^ to generate a "virtual" carriage return in a Q or A. Note that an EVEN number of ^^'s together with no intervening spaces displays as one half of that number of ^^'s on the screen and that an ODD number of ^^'s together with no intervening spaces displays as one half of that number of ^^'s minus one followed by a carriage return on the screen. Use the Edit| Edit Current Q&&A File command now to see how this Answer appears in the WINFLS30.FLS file.

Q2=<BMP>ALLNFL.BMP

A2=<BMP>BRONCO.BMP

Q3=<WAV>TADA.WAV%Is this a TA DA or What??

A3=<WAV>CHIMES.WAV%Hot Chimes, Eh??

Q4=This is the fourth Question for WinFlash

A4=This is the fourth Answer for WinFlash

Q5=This is the fifth Question for WinFlash.

A5=This is the fifth Answer for WinFlash.

Q6=This is the sixth Question for WinFlash.

A6=This is the sixth Answer for WinFlash.

The format shown should be followed exactly (note the **square** brackets around

WinFlash).

Each Question or Answer can be up to 1000 characters in length. Use the "Word Wrap" feature when editing/creating the file to wrap multiple line entries rather than "hard" carriage returns. This will allow **WinFlash** to properly format its output text. **WinFlash** reads a "hard" carriage return as the end of the Question or Answer and the rest of your text will not be displayed.

Save your file with the extension .FLS -- this will allow **WinFlash** to list it in its FileOpen dialog box.

Start **WinFlash** and use your newly created Q&A file to help with your studies!!

Note: **WinFlash** files are limited to 63Kb in size (53Kb prior to addition of the **WinFlash** "bookkeeping" entries). You will have to use a different editor than NotePad to produce a file larger than 32Kb, since that is NotePad's limit. If you wish to work with files larger than NotePad's limit, you may wish to move NotePad to its own directory (for possible later use). Then rename a copy of the .EXE file of the editor you're using to NOTEPAD.EXE and place it in your Windows directory, in effect replacing NotePad with this editor. I personally use this approach with NoteBook, a fine shareware editor available on CompuServe. This will allow you to access the larger files from within **WinFlash** using the Edit|Edit Current Q&A File selection. For this substitution to work, the replacement editor must be able to accept a path name as a command line input.

Note: The first time you open your new Q&A file, **WinFlash** will show a dialog box announcing that "Default Priority Settings Will Be Written To Current Q&A File". This will add several lines of text to the end of your file which **WinFlash** uses to keep track of the History Mode and other settings which you adjust in the various dialog boxes within **WinFlash**. You should not need to edit this text directly, but you may remove it altogether and have **WinFlash** re-initialize the file should you accidentally alter it when making edits to the Questions and Answers in your file.

Converting Pre-V3.0 Q&A Files

Registered users of **WinFlash** will receive the program **FlashCon** which will convert Q&A files from any previous version of **WinFlash** to the V3.0 format.

Giving WinFlash To A Friend

Please pass on copies of the original FLASH_30.ZIP (FLASH.ZIP if obtained from CompuServe) when giving **WinFlash** to a friend or associate. This will allow them access to the full set of information on the program.

File Menu

New...

Selecting this option opens the NotePad editor with a copy of the file WINFLS30.FLS. This "example" file which is included in the FLASH_30.ZIP file can be used as a template and edited to produce your own Q&A files. **Remember to do a SAVE AS the first time you save your work - otherwise you will overwrite the original WINFLS30.FLS file.** Also remember to use a .FLS file extension so that **WinFlash** will be able to "see" your new file. See [Creating And Editing Q&A Files](#) for further information on this topic.

Open...

This selection brings up a Windows Open File dialog box. This dialog only allows selection of files with the extension .FLS, since, as part of **WinFlash**'s function, data is written to the file during use and at closing. This would have a very detrimental effect on some data and executable files, so **WinFlash** is designed to ONLY work with Question and Answer files with the extension .FLS. The operation of the dialog box is identical in other respects to the standard Open File dialog used by other applications.

File Statistics...

This selection produces a screen dialog which reports the statistics on the current Q&A file, including:

Number of Q&A pairs, Questions and Answers missing from the numerical sequence

Number of Unlearned, Short Term Learned and Long Term Learned Questions

Correct/Incorrect count for the day and "forever"

Exit This Q&A File

This selection closes the current Q&A file, saving all status information and returns **WinFlash**'s menus to the "no open Q&A file" state, ready to open a new Q&A file.

Exit

Selecting this menu item exits **WinFlash**, closing and saving status information for the current Q&A file if one is open.

Edit Menu

Copy Question To Clipboard

This selection places the current Question on the Windows clipboard. Only text is supported, i.e. what follows the Qn= entry in the Q&A file. .BMP and .WAV entries will simply have their paths copied to the clipboard, not the actual graphic or sound representations.

Copy Answer To Clipboard

This selection places the current Answer on the Windows clipboard. Only text is supported, i.e. what follows the An= entry in the Q&A file. .BMP and .WAV entries will simply have their paths copied to the clipboard, not the actual graphic or sound representations.

Copy Both Question And Answer To Clipboard

This selection places the current Question and Answer on the Windows clipboard, separated by a blank line. Only text is supported, i.e. what follows the Qn= and An= entries in the Q&A file. .BMP and .WAV entries will simply have their paths copied to the clipboard, not the actual graphic or sound representations.

Edit Current Q&A File...

This selection opens the NotePad editor and loads the current Q&A file for editing. Editing must be completed and NotePad closed before **WinFlash** can continue with its normal operation.

Note: **WinFlash** files are limited to 63Kb in size (53Kb prior to addition of the **WinFlash** "bookkeeping" entries). You will have to use a different editor than NotePad to produce a file larger than 32Kb, since that is NotePad's limit. If you wish to work with files larger than NotePad's limit, you may wish to move NotePad to its own directory (for possible later use). Then rename a copy of the .EXE file of the editor you're using to NOTEPAD.EXE and place it in your Windows directory, in effect replacing NotePad with this editor. I personally use this approach with NoteBook, a fine shareware editor available on CompuServe. This will allow you to access the larger files from within **WinFlash** using the Edit|Edit Current Q&A File selection. For this substitution to work, the replacement editor must be able to accept a path name as a command line input.

Options Menu

Colors...

This selection brings up a sub-menu allowing the choice of **Background Color For Main Window**, **Background Color For Question**, **Background Color For Answer**. Choosing one of these menu items displays the standard Windows color selection dialog, allowing the choice of any available Windows color for the selected item's background.

Fonts...

This selection brings up a sub-menu allowing the choice of **Font For Questions** or **Font For Answers**. Choosing one of these menu items displays the standard Windows font selection dialog, including color, allowing the choice of any available Windows font for Questions or Answers.

Center Text

This is a "checkable" menu entry which allows changing the default left-justified Question and Answer format to centered if that is more effective for the Q&A file being worked with.

Q&A Mode...

This selection brings up a the **Q&A Mode Selection** dialog. Select the Q&A Mode Selection Dialog below to learn more about how the four available **WinFlash** modes operate.

[Q&A Mode Selection Dialog](#)

Q&A Mode Selection Dialog

The first section of the Q&A Mode Selection Dialog allows the user to select one of the four available **WinFlash** operating modes:

Ask All Questions Equally Often

In this mode, all Questions (that are not Disabled) are asked at random. See [Answer Dialog](#) for information on Disabling Question/ Answer pairs.

Priority Questions From List

In this mode, Questions ON the Priority List (that are not Disabled) are asked with a frequency equaling the percentage in the Frequency edit box. The remaining Questions (that are not Disabled) are asked the rest of the time.

Priority Questions From Range

When using this mode, Questions whose number (in the Q&A file) is greater than or equal to the number in the From Question edit box and less than or equal to the number in the To Question edit box (that are not Disabled) are asked with a frequency equaling the percentage in the Frequency edit box.

Priority Questions From History

When using this mode, **WinFlash** keeps a record of the user's performance on each Q&A pair within the Q&A file and categorizes each Question as Unlearned, Short Term Learned or Long Term Learned. Thresholds in time and number of correct responses for promoting a Q&A pair to the next level are user configurable. Again, Disabled Q&A pairs are not included.

The second section of the Q&A Mode Selection dialog allows the user to make use of the two features described below:

Answer First, Followed By Question

This check box allows you to reverse the order of the Question/Answer sequence. This is especially useful in foreign language vocabulary drills, where you are seeking to build bi-directional recognition of the word pairs.

Display Answer After € Seconds

This check box enables the timer feature of **WinFlash**. It is usable with any Q&A mode and simply "presses" the Display Answer button for you after the number of seconds that you enter into the associated edit box. The delay value can be from 1 to 60 seconds.

The Q&A Mode Selection dialog also contains the three pushbuttons described below:

OK

This pushbutton closes the Q&A Mode Selection dialog and stores the new selections.

Cancel

This pushbutton closes the Q&A Mode Selection dialog and any changes made while in the dialog are ignored.

Set Options Specific To Selected Mode...

This pushbutton brings up a dialog tailored to the current Q&A mode that allows setting options specific to that particular mode. Select the mode of interest below to see a description of the Options dialog associated with the corresponding Q&A mode:

[Ask All Questions Equally Often](#)

[Priority Questions From List](#)

[Priority Questions From Range](#)

[Priority Questions From History](#)

Ask All Questions Equally Often

The Options For Ask All Questions Equally Often Mode dialog contains the following controls:

The **Repetition** section allows the choice of one of the following modes:

One Pass

In this mode, **WinFlash** keeps track of each pass through the Q&A files. After each Question has been asked once, it is temporarily disabled until each Question has been asked one time. At this point the user is given a choice of continuing or closing the current Q&A file.

Continuous

This mode allows every non-Disabled Q&A pair to be available on each selection. Q&A pairs can be reviewed indefinitely.

The **Order** section allows the choice of one of the following modes:

Numerical

In this mode **WinFlash** presents the Q&A pairs to the user in numerical order, rather than the normal random sequence.

Random

In this mode **WinFlash** selects each Q&A pair to be presented randomly.

Re-enable All Questions In This File

This pushbutton clears the Disabled flag from any Q&A pairs that have been previously Disabled, making all Q&A pairs available for subsequent selection.

OK

This pushbutton returns to the Q&A Mode Selection dialog, storing the current values selected.

Cancel

This pushbutton returns to the Q&A Mode Selection dialog, ignoring any changes that were made while in the dialog **except Re-enable All Questions In This File which takes effect as soon as the pushbutton is pressed.**

Priority Questions From List

The Options For Priority Questions From List Mode dialog contains the following controls:

Frequency

This edit box contains the percentage of time the Questions on the Priority List will be asked.

Clear All Questions From Priority List

This pushbutton resets the Priority List associated with the file, but does NOT re-enable Disabled Questions. This occurs immediately, without waiting for OK to be pressed.

Re-enable All Questions In This File

This pushbutton clears the Disabled flag from any Q&A pairs that have been previously Disabled, making all Q&A pairs available for subsequent selection.

OK

This pushbutton returns to the Q&A Mode Selection dialog, storing the current values selected.

Cancel

This pushbutton returns to the Q&A Mode Selection dialog, ignoring any changes that were made while in the dialog **except Clear All Questions From Priority List and Re-enable All Questions In This File which take effect as soon as the pushbutton is pressed.**

Priority Questions From Range

The Options For Priority Questions From Range Mode dialog contains the following controls:

Frequency

This edit box contains the percentage of time the Questions within the Range will be asked.

The **Range** section allows setting the following values:

From Question

The entry in this edit box establishes the lower end of the range of Q&A pairs to be used. The Range **includes** this Q&A pair.

To Question

The entry in this edit box establishes the upper end of the range of Q&A pairs to be used. The Range **includes** this Q&A pair.

Re-enable All Questions In This File

This pushbutton clears the Disabled flag from any Q&A pairs that have been previously Disabled, making all Q&A pairs available for subsequent selection.

OK

This pushbutton returns to the Q&A Mode Selection dialog, storing the current values selected.

Cancel

This pushbutton returns to the Q&A Mode Selection dialog, ignoring any changes that were made while in the dialog **except Re-enable All Questions In This File which takes effect as soon as the pushbutton is pressed.**

Priority Questions From History

The Options For Priority Questions From History Mode dialog contains the following controls:

The **Frequencies - Percentage Of The Time To:** section allows setting the following values:

Ask An Unlearned Question

This edit box contains the percentage of time Questions in the Unlearned category will be asked.

Ask A Short Term Learned Question

This edit box contains the percentage of time Questions in the Short Term Learned category will be asked.

Ask A Long Term Learned Question

This edit box contains the percentage of time Questions in the Long Term Learned category will be asked.

The **Range** section allows setting the following values:

From Question

The entry in this edit box establishes the lower end of the range of Q&A pairs to be used. The Range **includes** this Q&A pair.

To Question

The entry in this edit box establishes the upper end of the range of Q&A pairs to be used. The Range **includes** this Q&A pair.

Use Entire File

When this checkbox is checked, **WinFlash** uses the entire contents of the Q&A file, regardless of the values of **From Question** and **To Question**.

The **Learning Threshold Settings** section allows setting the following values:

Promote An Unlearned Question After Correct Answer(s)

This edit box contains the number of correct responses that must be accumulated within one day to promote a Q&A pair to the Short Term Learned category. The allowed range of values is 1 through 9.

Promote A Short Term Learned Question After More Correct

This edit box contains the number of correct responses that must be accumulated within one day for that day to count as one of the days (set in the **Answer(s) Occurring On At Least More Different Days** edit box) required to promote a Q&A pair to the Long Term Learned category. The allowed range of values is 1 through 9.

Answer(s) Occurring On At Least More Different Days

This edit box contains the number of days that must be accumulated, each with at least the number of correct responses indicated in the **Promote A Short Term Learned Question After More Correct** edit box required to promote a Q&A pair to the Long Term Learned category. The allowed range of values is 1 through 9.

Note: As an example, using **WinFlash's** default values:

Promote An Unlearned Question After 2 Correct Answer(s)

Promote A Short Term Learned Question After 2 More Correct

Answer(s) Occurring On At Least 2 More Different Days

As I work with the file, the first time a Q&A pair is answered correctly twice in the same day it is promoted to the Short Term Learned category. No more progress can be made on that Q&A pair that day. Starting the with the next day, I have to respond correctly at least twice on two more **different** days to promote the Q&A pair to Long Term Learned status.

If an incorrect response is entered for a Q&A pair at any time, that pair's status is demoted to Unlearned and any accumulated correct responses towards promotion are cleared. Statistics for total correct responses remains intact.

Since **WinFlash** uses the computer's clock to determine the day, the day changes at midnight.

Tip: When working with larger files, you may wish to "set back" the Frequency values for Short Term Learned and Long Term Learned until several Q&A pairs have been promoted. Otherwise the first few promoted pairs will appear to be coming up too frequently. See [Problems?](#) for a more detailed discussion of this phenomena.

Reset All Questions In This File To Unlearned

This pushbutton resets all of the Q&A pairs to Unlearned status and clears any accumulated "Correct Today" scores as well as removing any incremental days that had been accumulated towards Long Term Learned status for Q&A pairs that were in the Short Term Learned category.

Re-enable All Questions In This File

This pushbutton clears the Disabled flag from any Q&A pairs that have been previously

Disabled, making all Q&A pairs available for subsequent selection.

OK

This pushbutton returns to the Q&A Mode Selection dialog, storing the current values selected.

Cancel

This pushbutton returns to the Q&A Mode Selection dialog, ignoring any changes that were made while in the dialog **except Reset All Questions In This File To Unlearned** and **Re-enable All Questions In This File** which take effect as soon as the pushbutton is pressed.

Help Menu

Contents

This selection calls the Windows Help application and loads the main index for **WinFlash**'s Help file. From here you can explore the on line documentation for **WinFlash**. Pressing F1 at any time while the **WinFlash**'s main window has the focus will also bring up the Help file.

Help On Using Help...

This selection displays the standard Windows help file that describes how to use the on-line Help system itself.

About...

This selection displays the About box for **WinFlash**, showing the program version and author contact information.

Question Dialog

This dialog box displays the current Question. In addition it contains the button described below:

Display The Answer

Pressing this button brings up the Answer Dialog box containing the Answer to the Question being displayed.

Answer Dialog

This dialog box displays the Answer to the current Question. In addition it contains the five buttons described below:

Correct

Pressing this button records the current Question as having been correctly answered and displays the next Question.

Incorrect

Pressing this button records the current Question as having been incorrectly answered and displays the next Question. If in the Priority Questions From History mode, the Q&A pair is demoted to Unlearned and any accumulated correct responses towards promotion are cleared. Statistics for total correct responses remains intact.

Show The Question Again

Pressing this button returns to the Question half of the Question/Answer pair, for review or re-examination.

Add Question To Priority List

Pressing this button adds the Question to the Priority List stored in the current Q&A file. The Question remains on the list until the entire list is cleared. If you attempt to add the LAST Question not on the Priority List to the list while in the Priority Questions From List mode, the Priority List will be reset - the assumption being that under these conditions all Questions have again become "equal".

Disable This Question

Pressing this button Disables the current Question/Answer pair. The pair remains Disabled until the entire list is re-enabled. If you attempt to Disable the last Question in the file, **WinFlash** will reset the Disabled List - the assumption being that under these conditions all Questions have again become "equal".

Problems?

Some of the problems users have encountered are listed here. If your problem isn't addressed, please feel free to contact me as described in the [Obtaining Support](#) section.

I'm trying to use .WAV file as a Question, but I don't get any sound from my computer when this Question comes up.

There are MANY possible reasons that this can happen. To make sure that your computer is set up properly to play .WAV files, try double-clicking on the file CHIMES.WAV in your WINDOWS directory. This should open the Sound Recorder Windows applet. Play the file by pressing the > button. If this also does not produce a sound, see your Windows documentation on loading drivers to support system sounds.

If you don't have a sound card or speakers but would like to use **WinFlash**'s sound capabilities, Microsoft publishes a public domain driver that uses the PC's own speaker that can be obtained from many bulletin boards. Obviously the quality is not very high, but it's a start. A copy of this driver is included on the disk sent with the **WinFlash** registration package.

I'm trying to include a .BMP or .WAV file as a Question or Answer, but I get an error message saying "The .BMP (or .WAV) Path Referenced In Question #... In [name of the Q&A file], [name of the .BMP (or .WAV) file] does not exist".

This error is most often caused by not specifying the entire path to the file. Unless you are keeping your .BMP and .WAV files in the same directory as the Q&A file that uses them, you must specify the complete path - e.g. C:\WINFLASH\MYBMPS\THEBMP.BMP. Also check that the spelling of the path and filename is completely accurate.

*I'm creating my own .BMP files with the Windows PaintBrush applet, but when I try to use the file in **WinFlash**, the image either does not appear or only a portion of it appears, even though the size of the **WinFlash** dialog box is more than large enough to display my image.*

PaintBrush saves a very large file by default, not knowing how large the "white space" included with your image is. To keep down the .BMP file size and have your image centered within it, select the rectangular Cut tool (the scissors with the rectangular dotted box) and position a box that encloses your image the way you wish to see it framed in **WinFlash**. Next select Edit|Copy To from the menu and enter the filename you wish to use for the .BMP file. This will result in a compact file that will display properly in **WinFlash**.

I'm using the Priority Questions From History mode and I seem to be getting a particular Question much more frequently than seems reasonable. The computer seems to "think" a long time whenever this Question comes up.

You may want to adjust the default settings in the **Ask A Short Term Learned Question** and **Ask A Long Term Learned Question** edit boxes in the Options For Priority Questions From History Mode dialog. When there is just one Q&A pair in the Short Term Learned and/or Long Term Learned category, this is the ONLY pair that **WinFlash** can pick when it's that category's "turn". This is also why it takes a long time to find... **WinFlash** is always picking from the ENTIRE range and then checking to see if the Q&A pair matches the desired qualifications for that "turn".

With a larger Q&A file, say 100 pairs, the 80%,10%,10% default frequency settings will result in a single pair in the Short Term Learned category being asked 10% of the time, while each Unlearned pair is only asked .8% of the time. Trimming the settings back to 98%,1%,1% until there is a larger population in the promoted categories will balance things out nicely.

WinFlash Revision History

WinFlash 3.0

is a major upgrade adding the following new features and capabilities:

- **Graphics & Sound!!** - You can now include .BMP files (graphics) and .WAV files (sound) as integral components in your Q&A files. Multimedia has made it to the realm of flashcards!!
- **Priority Questions From History Mode** - This new operating mode keeps a record of the user's performance on each Q&A pair within the Q&A file and categorizes each Question as Unlearned, Short Term Learned or Long Term Learned. Thresholds in time and number of correct responses for promoting a Q&A pair to the next level are user configurable.
- **WinFlash** Q&A pairs can now be created using any available Windows font. Color is also supported. Now you can use the REAL national alphabets for your foreign language studies!
- New Q&A files may be created from within **WinFlash** using the NotePad editor and the current Q&A file may be edited "on the fly" for easy rephrasing, typo correction and clarification of Q&A files while they are being used.
- Background colors are now independently settable for the **WinFlash** main window, Question Dialog and Answer Dialog.
- Statistics on the current Q&A file are now available by selecting the File|File Statistics... menu item. This selection also allows screening of the current Q&A file for gaps in the sequence of Q&A numbers.
- A regular textual Q or A can be displayed concurrently with the playing of an audio Q or A.
- Improved formatting capabilities have been added. Hard carriage returns and centering are now available for improving the "looks" of your Q&A files. The new Qn= and An= format also provides for a much more readable Q&A file and the MaxQuestion entry is no longer required (a user chided me regarding having to tell the computer how many Questions there were in the file <G>).
- To assist students who are using files prepared by teachers or other third parties in their studies, it is now possible to copy the Question, Answer or both to the Windows clipboard for disposition as the student wishes (perhaps to compile a list of "need to study" Questions for further evaluation).
- Number of Q&A pairs allowed within a Q&A file has been increased to 300.
- A new database structure has been developed that stores the following information

for each Q&A pair on a corresponding data line added to the end of the Q&A file:

- Date of last "promotional" event in Ask Priority Questions From History Mode
- Number of correct responses during the current day
- The number of correct responses since the creation of the Q&A pair
- Number of incorrect responses during the current day
- Number of incorrect responses since the creation of the Q&A pair
- Number of days that the number of correct responses needed to promote a Q&A pair from Short Term Learned to Long Term Learned has been achieved
- The current status of the Q&A pair: 0 = Unlearned; 1 = Short Term Learned; 2 = Long Term Learned
- Membership on the Priority List (adds 1 to entry) and Disabled status (adds 2 to entry)

Registration validation has been simplified by adding a dialog accessible from the Register Now selection which allows direct entry of the Name and Registration Number of the user.

New One Pass feature in Ask All Questions Equally Often mode which keeps track of each pass through the Q&A files. After each Question has been asked once, it is temporarily disabled until each Question has been asked one time. At this point the user is given a choice of continuing or closing the current Q&A file.

New Numerical feature in Ask All Questions Equally Often mode which presents the Q&A pairs to the user in numerical order, rather than the normal random sequence. This option can be used in combination with the One Pass option, giving a mode where each Question is asked once in numerical order.

Liven up your study sessions by working "against the clock"! The Display Answer After € Seconds check box selection in the Q&A Mode dialog box gives the user up to 60 seconds to come up with the Answer, after which it automatically displays the Answer.

Greatly improved ability to operate the program from the keyboard for those who prefer this method of interaction to using the mouse. All standard "accelerators" are now supported.

New Q&A file format improves readability of the Q&A file and provides enhanced statistical capabilities. An automatic conversion program, **FlashCon**, for older Q&A files is available as a registration bonus to registered users.

□ Improved tolerance to "out of bounds" operational conditions - for instance, selecting Priority Questions From List Mode when there are no Questions **on** the Priority List no longer produces an error message. **WinFlash** merely defaults to using the Ask All Questions Equally Often algorithm until a Question **is** added to the Priority List.

WinFlash 2.1

WinFlash 2.0

WinFlash 1.1

WinFlash 2.1

was an interim upgrade adding the following new features and capabilities:

- Ability to ask the Answer first, followed by the Question. This relatively minor change adds so much to the program's capabilities as a vocabulary exerciser that I felt it should be released immediately, rather than waiting six more months for the next major upgrade
- Added more detail to the dialog and menu descriptions in the Help documentation
- Changed the display of the name of the Q/A file in the Question and Answer Dialogs' title bars from the full file path to the 8/3 filename at the suggestion of an esthetics-minded user.
- Minor cosmetic adjustments to the dialog boxes.

WinFlash 2.0

was a major upgrade adding the following new features and capabilities:

- Customized dialog boxes provide easy-to-understand operation
- Priority List associated with each Question/Answer file tracks Questions which the user desires to be asked more frequently
- Questions can be added to the Priority List when viewing the Answer
- Questions can be Disabled for future use when viewing the Answer
- Both the Priority List and the Disabled Question Settings can be reset from the Priority List Options dialog box
- A Range of Questions from the overall Question/Answer file may be asked more frequently. This is useful when the file has been segmented into topic areas or when new Questions have been added to the file
- The Frequency with which Questions on the Priority List or within the Range are asked can be varied from 1 to 99 percent of the time in the Priority List Options dialog box
- The current Question file name is displayed in the Question and Answer Dialog title bars

WinFlash 1.1

was an interim release adding the following new feature:

- Ability to re-display the Question after viewing the Answer. Allows for checking for understanding of the Question or another attempt at the Question and subsequent check of the Answer. This cycle can be repeated as many times as the user wishes

