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WELCOME TO "Interplanetary Explorer"

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The year is (sometime in the future). The place is planet Earth. The mission is to be the first human to visit all of the planets in the solar system and return safely to Earth. There has not been a more dangerous and exciting journey as this one since the great space moon mission of Apollo 11. If you are accepted by completing the astronaut training exam then you will get to board the Interplanetary Spaceship. This ship is a newly designed starship capable of speeds up to 100,000 miles per hour. It has a gravity making living area, a landing module, a large supply area, bucket seats and a CD player. You and your co-commander "Eon" the robot will spend many years exploring the planets and moons of our solar system.

Welcome to an exciting interactive educational adventure. This is much more than a children's book on the solar system. This CD is a fully interactive experience with music, pictures, sound, video and interactive games that encourage even the most difficult of students to learn. This CD "book" will ask students questions on information that they have read, testing their reading comprehension as well as filling their heads with lots of information about the solar system. You can have the program read you the text information if you have a Windows compatible sound card.

In addition to the information there is the game component to this software. The game can be quite challenging, especially on the more difficult levels. But is very easy for even young children to navigate through. The planets move at their relative speeds and are positioned at their relative distances. The student (astronauts) must decide which planet to go to and adjust their speed to go the maximum distance. As with real space ships the faster you go the more fuel you will use. The slower you go the more oxygen and food you will need. You do not have enough room for supplies to take you to all the planets and back, so we have sent food, oxygen, and fuel pods in robot ships to all of the planets. You must find these pods to complete your mission. Traveling between planets is relative, so when you decide to go to the outer planets be prepared for a long wait. Fortunately you do not have to wait for the actual time to pass because a few seconds for you will be a month for the space ship. Your mission is to visit all of the planets and return to the Earth. There are also several bonus radio transmitters that will send information you have discovered back to the Earth. Find the transmitters and you will have access to bonus games that will enhance your score and may help with your supply search. Good luck...

************************ FEATURES ************************

* Space station: Students can roam around the space station collecting

oxygen, food, and fuel that they will need for their journey. Also move
the mouse around the walls of the space station to find special bonus
questions there are three bounus questions per planet.

* Reading comprehension: as students learn about the planets and moons
they are tested before they can continue. They only acquire supplies if
they answer the questions correctly, encouraging them to pay attention.

* Real photos and video from space missions

* Information: You will find more information about the solar system
here than in most children's books on the subject.

* Games: The entire program is one large game, but there are other
smaller bonus games that will help you complete your journey. These
games are also designed to educate and teach about the solar system

* True Windows compatible program: This is not a DOS program running in
Windows DOS shell, like many other programs.

* Runs totally from your CD-ROM drive. This program will not take up
megabytes on your hard disk as many programs do. The only hard disk
space that required is for a program icon and group, as well as an
EXPLORER.INI file used to save options and games, we also give you to
Video for Windows that is needed to play the video in the program.

*********************** OPTIONS ************************

COMPUTER SPEED:
If the program feels sluggish, put it into a fast mode in the options
menu. You may also want to disable the video, so you can move faster in
the space station.

VIDEO ON OR OFF:
Turning the video off only disables the video when you are walking
through the space station. All of the informational video clips are
still available even if video is turned off. Turn video off if you want
to speed up the play in the space station.

ABOUT VIDEO:
The video uses the Video for Windows drivers. This requires 1.1E or
better

GAME MODE:
Game mode is a mode of play that allows you to disable all the
questions. When you are in game mode, you automatically get any object
that would normally have asked you a question. in other words it is
like answering every question correctly. In order to play in game mode
you must use the password. The password is only given to you once you
have fully completed the program. Game mode also gives you the ability
to play any of the bonus games. Once you enter the game mode password
you can go to level 2 in the space station and play any of the games.

LANGUAGE:
This program supports English or Spanish. Click the pull down arrow

from the options menu and select ESPANOL for Spanish. Depending on your
CD-ROM drive this could take a few minutes to load the new language so
be prepared for a wait.

HELP MODE:
Eon the robot is your co-pilot and guide for this program. He appears
to give you information on any new section of the program you encounter.
If you are already familiar with all the sections of the program you may
decide you do not need his help anymore. You can set Help Mode to "No
Help" in the options menu of the program.

DIFFICULTY:
By default the difficulty option is set to "Medium". You can make the
game more difficult by selecting "Difficult". You can make the game
easier by selecting "Easy". Easy gives you more fuel and supplies as
well as a larger supply areas for holding more supplies.

*********************** **FILE** ***********************

You can save and load your games in Interplanetary Explorer. The games
are saved in an .INI file on your hard disk and take very little space.
When you save your game you will be taken back to the Main Menu.

*********************** **MAIN MENU** ***********************

The Main Menu is the centerpoint of the program. From this point you
can go to either the Space Station or the Space Ship. The "Main Menu"
button is available from almost any point in the program.

******************** **Troubleshooting** ********************

PROGRAM TAKES A LONG TIME TO LOAD:
This program has many variables to load especially when changing to
spanish version.

PROGRAM GIVES GENERAL PROTECTION FAULTS:
This may be caused because you do not have the latest video driver. Get
the latest video driver from your video card manufacturer. Video
standards have changed recently so the driver could make a significant
difference. To prove that the problem is video, set the Video driver to
standard VGA mode. This will cause the program to run in 16 colors but
this driver is very stable. If you still get these errors then the
problem may be memory related.

PROGRAM APPEARS UNSTABLE:
If the program behaves strangely (changing colors when it should not)
then it may just be Windows having memory trouble or it may be that you
do not have the latest video driver.   Sometimes Windows may become
unstable causing strange problems. Exit the program and exit Windows,
then restart Windows and the program. If problems persist, make sure
that you are not running any other programs when you run Interplanetary
Explorer.

4 MEGS OF RAM:
If you are running with 4 meg of memory then expect the program to run
slowly. The program may also give you General protection faults. This

program was designed to run with 8 Megs of RAM. You can try setting
virtual memory on. To do this go to control panels, double click on the
EMM386 icon. Create a permanent swap file. This will allow Windows to
think that it has much more memory than it does by using the hard disk
as a memory storage area.

AUDIO CUTS OUT WHEN VIDEO IS PLAYING:
If your audio does not play well or cuts out while playing you may need
to set "skip video frames" in order to make the audio keep up with the
video. To do this go to control panels in the "Main" group. Select
drivers, then double click on MCI Video for Windows. You should see an
option to drop video frames.

I AM USING SMARTDRV.EXE:
This program tends to run better without smartdrv.exe installed. If
program appears to run slowly, take smartdrv.exe out of your
autoexec.bat or config.sys by addinf REM & a space before the smartdrv
line in your autoexec.bat or config.sys.

VIDEO RUNS SLOWLY:
Make sure your video card is a good one. VESA local bus with one meg of
memory. Video card can be a significant bottleneck in multimedia
applications. Check with your video card vender for general MIDI
drivers for your video card.

I DON'T HEAR ANY MUSIC:
Music should be running throughout the program. If you do not hear any
music then you may not have a Windows supported MIDI compatible audio
card, or your card may not support General MIDI. Check with your sound
Card vender for general MIDI drivers for your sound card.

***************************** HINT *************************************
IF YOU COMPLETE THE GAME BY GOING TO ALL THE PLANETS AND MOONS AND THEN
GO BACK TO EARTH YOU WILL SEE THE EXPLORER SECRET CODE:
****************** THE TIC-TAC-TOE IS THE KEY *************************

      If none of the above suggestions help you then call:
************** Multimedia Studios Technical Assistance **************

Have the following information available:

Name and type of computer including MHz
Name of video card
Date of video card driver
Version of Video For Windows
Amount of memory you have
Name and type of audio card you have
Detailed description of the problem

Once you have this information call:
                              (714) 256-7276
and ask for DON in Technical Support for Interplanetary Explorer

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