Readme for *Mplayer* Beta 3

Thanks for agreeing to participate in the beta testing of the Mplayer service. We believe you will enjoy your free use of the current version, but this version is still being tested and you may experience the unexpected or find our servers temporarily out of service.

Your feedback can help to improve and refine all aspects of our service and we're here to help. Please report problems and request support through the technical support form on our Web site, www.mplayer.com/help/tech/tech-form.html, or email support@mplayer.com. For non technical issues, send email to feedback@mplayer.com. Please monitor our Web site for more current information.

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1) Tips for voice-chatting using a Sound Blaster or compatible sound card

If you have a Creative Labs Sound Blaster or fully compatible sound card properly installed in Windows 95 and your microphone in the right jack, these hints will help your voice sound clearer to others on Mplayer.

a. Double-click on the speaker symbol located in the lower right corner of your screen on the Windows 95 Start Bar. This should bring up a Volume Control Dialog Box. (If you see only a volume dial you didn't double-click fast enough.)

b. From the Options Menu, select Properties.

c. Select the radio button "Recording", and under "Show the following volume controls", make sure "Microphone" is checked. Then click on OK.

d. From the Options Menu, select Properties again.

e. Select the radio button "Playback", and under "Show the following volume controls", make sure "Microphone" is checked there also.

f. On the volume control panel, at the bottom of the Microphone volume control, make sure "Mute" is checked. This does not prevent others from hearing you – it prevents your speakers from feeding back into your microphone.

g. Under the Options menu, look at the Advanced Controls option and make sure it is checked. If it is not checked, select it, otherwise leave it alone.

h. Move the Microphone Volume bar to its highest setting. Click on the button underneath labeled Advanced.

i. At the bottom of this dialog box is a checkbox labeled "AGC for WaveIn" or "Microphone Boost." Check this box, and Select Close.

j.   From the Options menu, select Properties again.

k.   This time, select the radio button for Other, instead of Recording, and click OK.

l.   Again, move the Microphone Volume slider to its highest setting. Click on the button underneath labeled Advanced.

m.   Check the "AGC for VoiceIn" or "Microphone Boost" box, then click on the Close button.

n.   That's it. You are done adjusting your microphone volume settings, so you can close the dialog box and go back to playing games.

2)   Windows 95 patches for improving your TCP/IP support

On the Mplayer Sneak Preview CD, you will find the directory called Microsoft Updates. In this directory is the Windows 95 Service Pack #1 as well as Exchange and kernel patches. We recommend installing all three patches before using Mplayer. One of the patches corrects a memory leak problem in Dial-Up Networking that can cause Mplayer and other Internet applications to fail after an unpredictable period of use.

3) TCP/IP driver not bound to Dial-Up Adapter if already present

While you are setting up your system to use PSINet, help screens normally appear asking you to check that the TCP/IP protocol is installed and bound to the Dial Up Adapter. However, if TCP/IP support is already installed, these help screens will not appear. This behavior usually gives the right result. If, however, TCP/IP is bound only to a LAN adapter and you plan to use PSINet to connect to Mplayer instead, for example, because your company's firewall blocks Mplayer access, then you will need to manually bind TCP/IP to the Dial-Up Adapter as follows:

a.   Open the Control Panel.

b.   Double-click the Network icon.

c.   Select "Dial-Up Adapter."

d.   Click the Add button.

e.   Select Protocol.

f.   Click the Add button.

g.   Under "Manufacturers", select Microsoft.

h.   Under "Network Protocols", select TCP/IP.

i.   Click the OK button to close the window.

j.   Click OK again to close the Network Window.

4) Mplayer and Firewalls

Mplayer game play is usually fastest over a direct Internet connection. If you want to use Mplayer

through a LAN that has a direct Internet connection, you need to confirm that your LAN's firewall is not blocking access to the Mplayer game servers. A firewall is a system that acts as a gateway monitoring all traffic between your company's LAN and the Internet, to prevent authorized traffic in either direction. Many firewalls can selectively block access on certain "ports," and disable certain "protocols." Mplayer requires access to ports 8000-8999 and the TCP/IP and UDP protocols. If a firewall is blocking access, you may find that you can reach the Mplayer Web site, but that when you perform an action that starts the Mplayer client, to play a game or enter a chat room for example, that the connection will fail before your software can be checked to see that it is up to date. Check with your system administrator to see if blocking of Mplayer ports and protocols can be removed.

5) Adding Microsoft Internet Explorer after set up is complete.

To add Microsoft Internet Explorer after Mplayer is already installed or to reinstall it later, find and run the program MSIE20.EXE from the Mplayer CD-ROM.

6) Configuring email and news programs for your PSINet account

If you have set up PSINet as your Internet service provider, you will probably want to configure an email package, such as Microsoft Exchange, Eudora, or the mail features in Netscape, and possibly a news reader program, for use with PSINet. The following information will help you configure these programs for your PSINet account. To configure software for a different Internet service provider, you will need to obtain similar information from that provider. PSINet has recently announced that it will use distributors to handle consumer account. This change may affect contact or server information given below and in the Mplayer software.

If you need help during this process, contact PSINet at

Email: support@interramp.com

Phone: (717) 770-1705

- Your InterRamp email address is in the form <account number>@interramp.com where <account number> is your login id. (example: us000000@interramp.com).

- Your POP server for receiving mail is pop3.interramp.com.

- Your SMTP server for sending mail is smtp.interramp.com.

- Your usenet news server is usenet.interramp.com. The server does not require a separate log in procedure or other authentication.

- Your email account on the mail server is your normal account number (example: us0000000)

- Your password for receiving email is the same password associated with your account number that you use to log in.

If you use Microsoft Internet Explorer, be sure to configure it to use the email and news software you just set up as the default programs.

7) Coming Soon to Mplayer

In the coming months, we will be introducing new games to Mplayer. We've provided two

samples on the Mplayer National Preview CD-ROM: id Software's Quake shareware and Domark's Big Red Racing demo. Both games' Readme files include installation and game play instructions. Practice as much as you can so you will be ready for the Mplayer versions when they become available. For the latest information on upcoming games, check the Coming Soon page at our Web site, www.mplayer.com.