

# Microsoft Age of Empires Expansion Trial Version Readme File

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## Welcome to the Microsoft Age of Empires Expansion Trial Version!

This file contains information to help you install the Age of Empires Expansion trial version. It also includes late-breaking information about the game.

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## A. Hardware and System Requirements

- Multimedia PC with Pentium 90 or higher processor.
- Microsoft Windows 95 or later, or Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Service Pack 3 or later.
- 16 megabytes (MB) of RAM for Windows 95 or later, or 24 MB for Windows NT.
- 45 MB of available hard disk space.
- Local bus SVGA, 256-color video display with at least 1 MB of VRAM.
- Keyboard and Microsoft Mouse or compatible pointing device.
- Windows-compatible sound card with speakers or headphones to hear audio.
- 28.8 Kbps (or faster) modem and Internet access for head-to-head play.

## B. Starting Age of Empires Expansion Trial Version

To start the Age of Empires Expansion trial version, click the **Start** button, point to **Programs**, point to **Microsoft Games**, point to **Age of Empires Expansion Trial**, and then **click Age of Empires Expansion Trial**.

## C. Getting Help

Complete information about the Age of Empires Expansion trial version is in the Manual.pdf file where the trial version was installed. You can view and print the manual using Adobe Acrobat Reader, which you can download from <http://www.adobe.com>

## D. DirectX Troubleshooting

DirectX 5.0 or later must be installed on your computer before you can play the Age of Empires Expansion trial version. If you do not have DirectX installed on your computer and you chose not to install DirectX when you installed Age of Empires, you will receive the message "A required .dll file, Dplayx.dll, was not found." To fix this problem, go to the DirectX Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/directx> and install DirectX.

If Age of Empires installed DirectX but could not update your video drivers to be compatible with DirectX 5.0, when you restart your computer you will receive the message "Age of Empires could not initialize DirectX. Make sure that DirectX 5.0 or later is installed and contact your hardware manufacturer for a video driver update." To

fix this problem, either get updated video drivers from your video adapter manufacturer or install DirectX in safe mode, which will replace the video drivers.

### To install DirectX in safe mode

1. Download DirectX from the DirectX Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/directx>
2. Click the **Start** button, and then click **Shut Down**.
3. Select **Restart**, and then click **OK**.
4. When "Starting Windows 95" appears on the screen, press and hold down the F8 key until you see a Windows Startup Menu.
5. When you are prompted to enter a choice, select Safe Mode (number 3), and then press ENTER.
6. After Windows starts in Safe Mode, open the DirectX folder on your desktop, and then double-click Dxsetup.exe to install DirectX.

If you experience sound or video problems using DirectX, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/directx>, click **Pavilion**, and then click **Games** to get the latest troubleshooting information.

You should also check with your video or sound card manufacturer for the latest DirectX-compatible drivers.

## E. Video Troubleshooting

- **Screen Corruption** -- If you experience problems such as a black screen after starting the game, black areas on the game screen, screen corruption when you press ALT+TAB to enter/leave the game, or other screen problems while playing the game, contact your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.
- **Black Screen Areas** -- Some video adapters may cause black areas on the game screen. To fix this problem, you can add the **Mfill** parameter to the command line in the Age of Empires Expansion Trial shortcut. For information about adding parameters to the command line, see "Command Line Parameters" under "Performance Troubleshooting" later in this Readme file.
- **Mouse Pointer** -- Some video adapters may cause the mouse pointer to disappear if you change the in-game screen resolution or re-enter the game by pressing ALT+TAB. To fix this problem, contact your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.
- **Intergraph Intense 3D 1000 Video Adapters** -- Intergraph Intense 3D 1000 video adapters may not allow you to view the game in 1024 x 768 resolution. To fix this problem, check with your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.
- **Matrox Millennium II PowerDesk Video Adapters** -- Matrox Millennium II PowerDesk video adapters may cause your computer to lock up when you change the in-game screen resolution to 1024 x 768. To fix this problem, check with your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.
- **Sierra Screaming 3D Video Adapters** -- Sierra Screaming 3D video adapters may cause your computer to lock up when you exit the game. To fix this problem, check with your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers.
- **Rage Pro Turbo 2X Video Adapters** -- Rage Pro Turbo 2X video adapters may only allow you to view the game in 640 x 480 screen resolution.
- **DirectX** -- If you experience video problems using DirectX, connect to the DirectX Web site for the latest troubleshooting information, as explained in "DirectX Troubleshooting" earlier in this Readme file.

## F. Audio Troubleshooting

- **DirectX** -- If you experience audio problems using DirectX, connect to the DirectX Web site for the latest troubleshooting information, as explained in "DirectX Troubleshooting" earlier in this Readme file.

## G. Performance Troubleshooting

### Command Line Parameters

You can add parameters to the Age of Empires Expansion Trial command line to customize startup or resolve problems with certain hardware configurations.

#### To add parameters to the command line in the Age of Empires Expansion Trial shortcut

1. If you are using Windows 95, click the **Start** button, point to **Settings**, click **Taskbar**, click **Start Menu Programs**, click **Advanced**, and then double-click **Programs**.  
-or-  
If you are using Windows NT, right-click the **Start** button, select **Open All Users**, and then double-click **Programs**.
2. Double-click **Microsoft Games**, and then double-click **Age of Empires Expansion Trial**.
3. Right-click the **Age of Empires Expansion Trial** shortcut, click **Properties**, and then click **Shortcut**.
4. In the **Target** text box, type the name of the parameter after the existing command line text. For example, if you add the parameters **NoStartup** and **NoTerrainSound**, the command line will read: "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Games\Age of Empires Expansion Trial\Empiresx.exe" Nostartup Noterrainsound. Parameters must be separated by a space; capitalization is not important.

#### To add parameters to the Age of Empires Expansion Trial registry for multiplayer games using the Internet Gaming Zone

1. Click the **Start** button, and then click **Run**.
2. Type **Regedit**, and then click **OK**.
3. Double-click **Hkey\_local\_machine/Software/Microsoft/DirectPlay/Applications/Age of Empires Expansion Trial/CommandLine**.
4. In the **Value data** text box, type the name of the parameter after the existing command line text. For example, if you add the parameters **NoStartup** and **NoTerrainSound**, the command line will read: "Lobby NoStartup NoTerrainSound." Parameters must be separated by a space; capitalization is not important. Do not remove the word "lobby" from the command line.

The command line parameters include:

- **Mfill** -- Fixes horizontal line problems and black screen areas that may occur with some video adapter configurations.
- **NormalMouse** -- Replaces the custom mouse pointer with a standard mouse pointer.
- **NoSound** -- Turns off all sounds, except those played in cinematics.
- **NoTerrainSound** -- Turns off all terrain sounds.
- **NoMusic** -- Turns off all music.
- **Msync** -- Fixes lock-up problem that may occur with some SoundBlaster AWE configurations.

## H. Head-to-Head Play Troubleshooting

- **Age of Empires Versions** -- In a multiplayer game, all players must be using the same version of Age of Empires. For example, if you are using the Age of Empires Expansion trial version, only trial version games appear in the multiplayer list.
- **Multiplayer Chat** -- The chat commands **!mute** and **!nomute** now affect only your computer, not all players' computers.

## **I. Age of Empires Expansion Information**

- For more information about Age of Empires Expansion, visit our Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/games/aoeexpansion>
- If you'd like to play against opponents over the Internet, check out the Internet Gaming Zone at <http://www.zone.com>