

MM 319 Program Two

Purpose

When you have completed this program, you will know how to import information from text files into the Director® environment, and use the imported information to control program behavior..

Scenario

Presentation software such as **PowerPoint** has been around for a long enough time that most packages are loaded with many features that one might not need for everyday use. One can make a simple presentation package using a program like Director (or Authorware, or any other authoring tool) that reads a file with the presentation text and builds a presentation. The file can have some embedded commands to control things such as section headers and breaks to subsequent screens. A mouse click is used to advance through the presentation. The second part of Lab Seven was a starting point for such a package. Your job is to finish a presenter with the following specifications:

Screen dimensions are 800 x 600

There are three text areas: one for title, one for screen heading, and one for body text

Body text is 24 to 28 points, screen header is 36 points, and title is 48 to 60 points.

Color scheme has sufficient contrast to be easy to read.

Each mouse click advances one line through the presentation.

When the number of lines in the body exceeds six, begin a new screen.

The following embedded commands are allowed:

Command	Meaning
~ti	This line is the text for a full-screen title
~ns	This line should begin on a new screen with the same heading
~nh	This line is a new heading. Display as heading and blank the body.

Commands are the first word in the line. If the first character of a line is the tilde, remove the first word and use it to determine what action to take.

Do some design work *before* you start coding, and this will be fairly easy. Decide what information is needed to control progress through the text, and keeping track of when to start a new screen. Decide on the names of your variables in advance and stick with them—choose well or you'll get confused while you are coding (don't call the number of lines presently on the screen something like **fileCount!**)

Note that if you have really long lines of text in your presentation, the screen will fill long before the arbitrary six lines in the specifications. Don't worry about this now—it's a little tough to handle this one.

Extra Features

Once your presenter is working, save a backup some place safe, and choose one or more of these enhancements to add. To earn full credit, your program should do everything above plus one of these extras. (Without the feature, you'll get 5-1/2 out of 7).

The user can make a line tab in 5 spaces by adding a vertical bar (|) at the beginning of a line, and tab in 10 spaces with two bars (||), and so on.

The user can choose between two or three color schemes with some special encoding as the first line of the file.

The user can back up to the previous screen by pressing a key or double-clicking. (Warning, this is tough).

The user can display a picture with a special command and the name of an image file.

You may add other features, but check with me first.

Turning in the Program

Name your director file ***nameP2.dir***, where *name* is your name, and copy it to the drop box folder on my guest account. **Important**—copy the file from the lab computer to mine, *don't* "Save As" from Director, because this is very likely to corrupt the file.