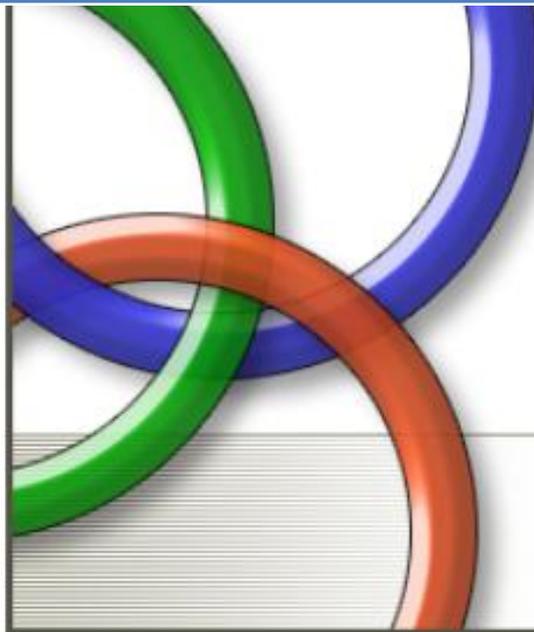


2011

Live Performance Track Player - Manual



Live Performance Track Player

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David Allen

D+S Studios

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Why create this application?

My wife is a Contemporary Gospel singer and recording artist. As her sound engineer I was seeking a better way to present the background music that she sings to. She was not happy with the time lags and glitches we were having during her performances and I was frustrated as well. Constantly having to monitor the audio playback was taking away my attention from running the overall sound system. I had previously tried CDs and then my Microsoft Zune mp3 player (I love my Zune) but it was hard to work with when moving from song to song where you typically need to pause to allow the performer to speak, but the player wants to continue on. I decided that I would switch to using my Netbook (mini laptop) computer with a pro-audio interface connected to it, but I found that common programs such as Windows Media Player did not have an option to stop or pause after each song, which is commonly needed in live performances.

Since my primary job is a software engineer at a large IT corporation, I decided to write my own software. I started small with some very basic features and would have been pretty happy with that until my brother-in-law, Mark, saw the program and decided it would make the perfect audio-book player if I just added a few more features... and then a few more... and more.... and finally some more. After using it for several performances I added a few of my own and the product is where it is at today. Many hours have went into creating this application. It is my hope that it enhances your audio playback in whatever form that may take. I make a plea to you: Please pass it on to anyone who you think would be interested but **DO NOT GIVE AWAY YOUR REGISTRATION KEY!** That would be stealing my hard work and any future for this application in the marketplace.

Thank you for trying out the Live Performance Track Player (subtitled Mark's Audio-Book Player)

How to use this application

Registering your application

The application will allow you to test it out in demo mode where only three tracks may be played. Should you decide to purchase the application you will receive a registration code which will activate the full functionality of the application.

The application checks for registration status every time it is loaded. You will be prompted as to whether you would like to register the application. Select "Yes" to register the application.

You will be presented a small screen where you may enter the registration code and activate the full functionality of the application. From this point on you will no longer be asked to register.

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Working with audio files

Supported Audio Files

The application can play any audio file that Windows Media Player can play on your PC. The most common types are Windows Media Audio files (wma), MP3s and Wav files.

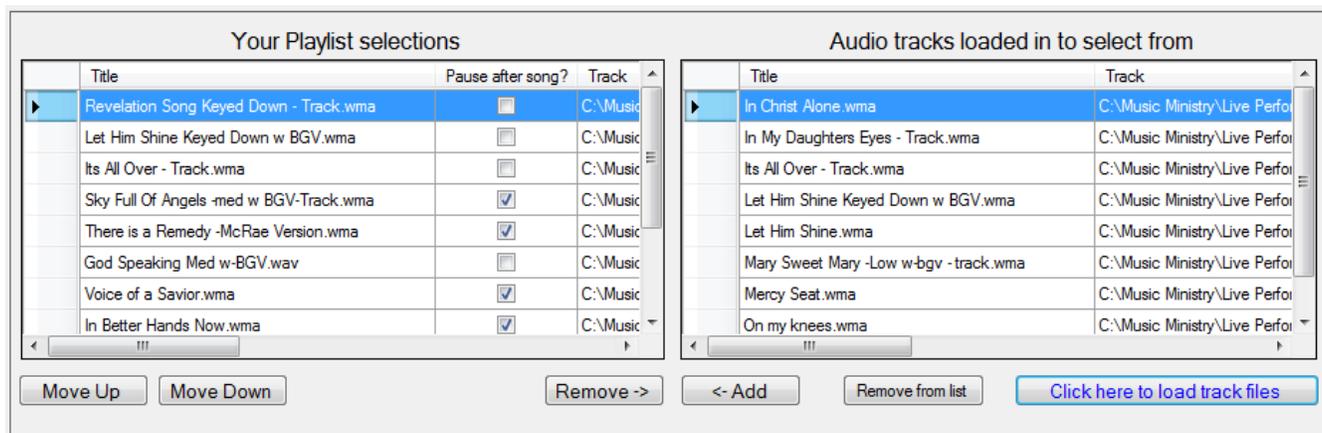
To get audio files onto your hard drive you may use a variety of methods. Here are a few:

1. Windows Media Player can be used to rip the audio tracks from CDs to your hard drive.
2. The Apple iTunes application will also rip audio from CDs to your drive.
3. There are many other free programs on the internet that will also rip and manage audio files on your computer.
 - a. A very excellent program for extracting high-quality audio files from CDs is called "AudioGrabber". You can find it with a quick search on the Internet.

Important Note when ripping CD tracks to your PC:

It is recommend that you look into the options of whatever program you are using and select the highest audio file quality. Usually this is called "Lossless". If you do not do this then the audio files may be compressed to save space on your hard drive, but this also reduces their audio quality and will show up as distortion when played over professional audio equipment in a live performance or recording setting.

Loading Audio files from your hard drive



Press the "Click here to load files" button to open up a file dialog box. In this box you can navigate to the folder on your computer where you have your audio file and choose one or more file to load in the player.

Once you have loaded the files they will be displayed in the "Audio tracks load in to select from" list.

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Loading the Playlist

To load the playlist, select one or more of your loaded audio files and click on the “<-Add” button. This will move the tracks from the loaded tracks list over to the “Your Playlist Selections” list.

Ordering your Playlist

To reorder the files in your Playlist, select one or more files and use the “Move Up” and “Move Down” buttons to move them to the desired location.

Removing files from the Playlist

To remove a file from the Playlist simply select it by clicking on it and click the “Remove->” button to move it back to the “Audio Tracks Loaded..” list.

The “Pause After Song” Checkbox

Each row in your playlist selections has a “Pause after song” checkbox.– This is one of the most useful features of the player. When this is checked (it is checked by default) and a song ends, the next song will queue up but will be paused. This does away with the need for the audio engineer/artist/user to constantly be monitoring playback in order to catch the next song before it starts. When this is unchecked, the next song will start playback immediately after the previous song finishes.

- *Note: This setting can be changed while playback is in progress also. As an example: If I am cued by my vocalist that they are not going to be speaking before the next song as planned, I will uncheck this setting and allow the next song to play.*

Removing files from the “Audio Tracks Loaded..” list.

To remove a file from the list of available songs simply select it by clicking on it and click the “Remove from list” button.

Starting a Performance

To start the performance you click on the “Prepare playlist for playback” button. This loads your playlist into the audio player and prepares it for playback. You then simply click on the play (“>”) button on the player to start playing the first audio file in your playlist.

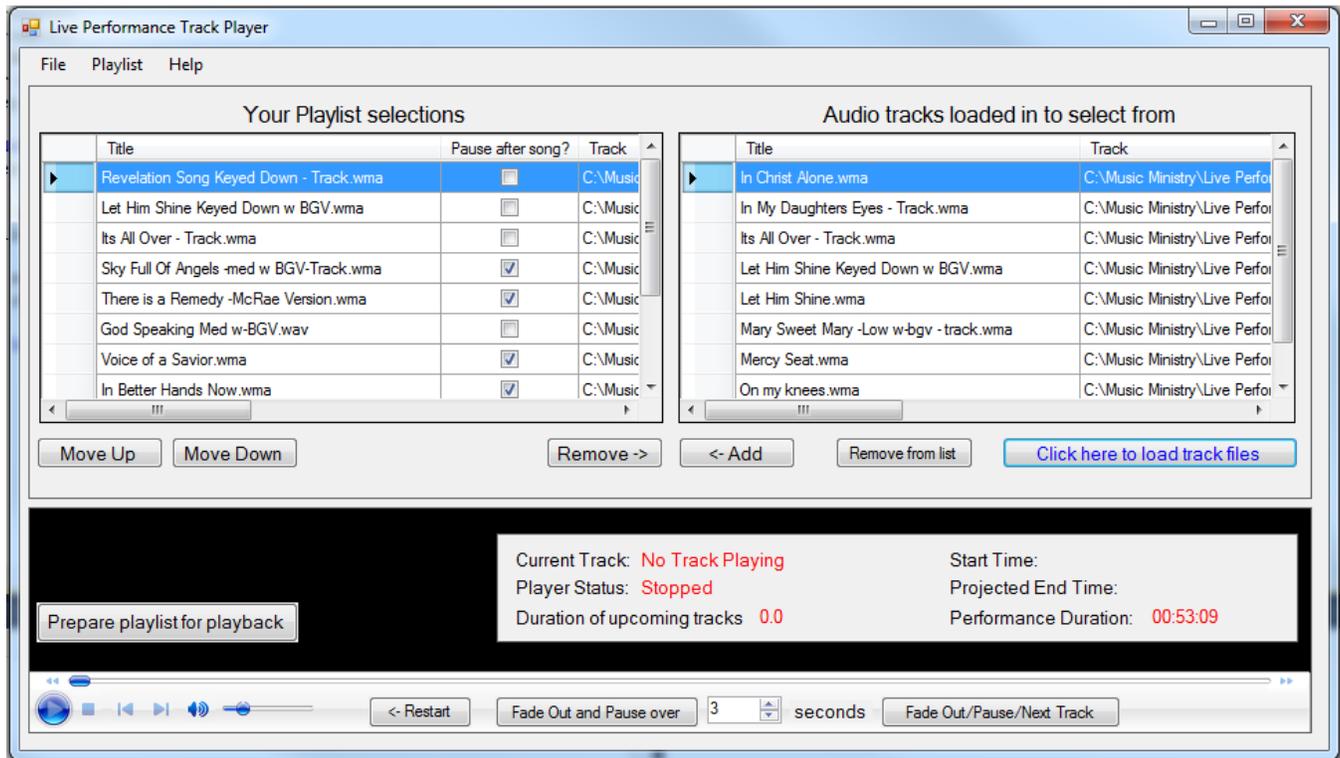
You will see that the player provides valuable feedback to the user. The purpose is to give the Audio Engineer/Artist/User information as to when the performance was started, how long it is predicted to last, and whether the performance on track to finish on time. Here are the displayed statistics:

- The currently playing audio file name
- The current status of the player. Is it stopped, paused, etc.
- The remaining duration of all of the upcoming songs including the remaining time of the currently playing song. This is updated every second.
- The actual starting time of the performance when you first clicked the “Start Playing” button.
- The predicted end time of the performance based on the start time plus the total duration of your playlist songs. This does not change once set. It is there for a reference as to whether you will finish on time when compared to the remaining duration.

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- Total performance duration calculated at start based on all of your playlist songs.

Current Track: Hold On Track with BGV	Start Time: 6:39:29 PM
Player Status: Playing	Projected End Time: 7:13:11 PM
Duration of upcoming tracks 00:29:53	Performance Duration: 00:33:42



Controlling Audio File playback

As the audio files are playing you may control playback in a number of ways.

1. Pressing the “Spacebar” will pause and un-pause the currently playing file if the media player bar has focus.
2. You may also click on any of the media player buttons to pause, play, stop, jump to next or previous title, mute the sound, adjust the volume, or skip forward and backward in the currently playing file.

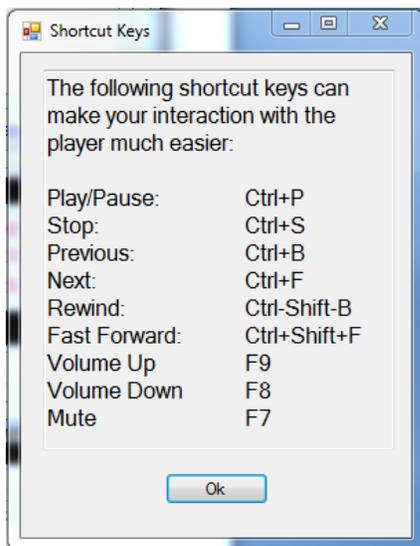


3. There are several special buttons added to the media player
 - a. “Restart” – Restarts the currently playing audio file.
 - b. “Fade Out and Pause Over X seconds” - This button will slowly fade out the currently playing file and pause it. The fade-out occurs over the duration of user selected seconds. The default is “3”

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seconds. It is user adjustable by typing in a number, or clicking the small up and down arrows next to the number. *Note: Once Paused the song may be continued by clicking on the play button or pressing the spacebar. The original volume will be restored to pre-fade levels.*

- c. Fade Out/Pause/Next Track” – This button performs the same function as the “Fade Out and Pause Over X seconds” button, but it additionally switches to the next track in the playlist. This is very handy if the currently playing track as a length tail on it and you want to move to the next track smoothly.
 - d. Visualizations – If you see lines moving around in the media-player during playback it is because there is a visualization turned on in Windows MediaPlayer which this program uses internally to play back audio. Turning off visualizations in Windows MediaPlayer will turn them off in this application as well.
4. Double clicking on an item in the Playlist will immediately stop playback and switch the player to that item.
 5. There are numerous shortcut keys that work with the player. This screen can be opened from the help menu and left open during usage. The shortcuts are listed:



Working with Playlist files

Playlist features

Playlists allow the user to save performances for latter reuse. A saved Playlist remembers not only the songs/tracks in the list but also the last playing song as well as the position in that song.

Saving a Playlist

Once you have a Playlist created you can click on the “Playlist” menu at the top left of the application and select the “Save” menu item to save a playlist file for later playback.

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When a Playlist is loaded and you close the, you will be prompted as to whether you would like to save the Playlist for later reuse.

Loading a Playlist

Saved Playlists can be loaded by selecting the “Playlist” menu and then selecting the “Load” menu item. You will be presented with a dialog box to locate and select a Playlist file.

Each time the application is loaded, it will ask you whether you would like to reload the last Playlist you were working with, and also whether you would like to restart at the last position you were playing in the list.

Recently Used Playlists

The five most recently used Playlists are listed in the “File” menu. You may select one to load it.

Technical Support

If you have any questions, problems or suggestions for features you would like to see added to the player please email me at david.c.allen.mi@gmail.com Thank you so much for supporting this product!