APPENDIX B

Resources

Tutorials and Other Online Resources

You'll find that the sites listed here are great places to expand your knowledge. In addition, most have links to other similar sites.

Adobe

`www.adobe.com/support/flash/`

You can't beat going straight to the source. Also, be sure to check out the Macromedia Exchange, where you can find more components (www.adobe.com/exchange/flash) as well as Adobe Labs (http://labs.adobe.com/) where you can download yet-to-be-released software for testing.

AS3 Code Library

`http://code.google.com/p/as3corelib/`

Although it's a bit geeky, if you get into programming, this code library can save you a ton of time.

Chattyfig

`http://training.figleaf.com/resources/`

You'll find several Flash related email listservs at the top of this page. They're definitely the most active lists on Flash available.

Community MX

`www.communitymx.com`

This subscription-based educational site is dedicated to several Macromedia products.

OS Flash (Open Source Flash)

`http://osflash.org`

This site is rich with information on Flash including the FlashCoders Wiki.

Flash Kit

`www.flashkit.com`

This site offers downloadable tutorials so you can see the .fla source files as well as click through the tutorials. It offers sounds as well. Keep in mind that because this site has been around a long time, some of the downloads are older and may not work in the new version of Flash.

ActionScript.org

`www.actionscript.org`

This site offers lots of samples and news.

ActionScript.com

`www.actionscript.com`

This site has mostly news and discussions.

Flash Magazine

`www.flashmagazine.com`

This site provides articles and news about Flash.

FlashComponents.net

`www.flashcomponents.net`

This site offers tons of useful (and free) Flash components.

Fuse Kit

`http://www.mosessupposes.com/Fuse/`

This free tool handles sequences of scripted animation effects.

We're Here
www.were-here.com

This is probably the most active web forum on Flash.

Ultrashock
www.ultrashock.com

This site has everything from tutorials to an active forum.

Content Sites

Generally, creating custom graphics and sounds will provide the closest match to the message you want to convey. However, plenty of sites contain clip media that you can use in your practice files.

Keep in mind that there really is "no free lunch." Some clip media that may appear free often aren't. Copyright laws are no joke either. If you are using any kind of artwork or sound in a movie that you make money creating, it's important that you pay for it. Often, the value an artist brings to a project will easily offset the cost. Sometimes the cheapest route is the one that appears most expensive.

Audio/Sound Sites

Here are a few sites where you can pick up sound clips.

ACIDplanet.com
www.acidplanet.com

ACID is a loop-based music creation tool made by Sonic Foundry (www._sonic-foundry.com). It frequently has remix contests where you can compete by combining samples by a particular artist that Sonic Foundry provides.

Winamp
www.winamp.com

This is primarily a site with shareware software, and you'll also find clip sounds here.

Wavcentral
www.wavcentral.com

This site offers WAV files and much more. It's a good place to find sound (WAV only) as well as miscellaneous effects.

Images/Photos

These sites include photos and clip art; some that are free and some for a fee.

Clip Art Connection

`www.clipartconnection.com`

This is a site for free clip art.

GettyOne

`www.gettyone.com`

GettyOne is an umbrella site that offers a host of sites from high-end (expensive) to low-end (cheap) image options. It's a powerful resource, but you can't legally get free images. Images are divided into royalty-free and licensed images. Keep in mind that royalty-free is not actually free—it means that you pay only once; in contrast, with a licensed image, you have to pay every time you use it.

Photodisc

`http://photodisc.com`

A site that is accessible from GettyOne, Photodisc is a searchable site that offers low-cost, low-resolution files.

istockphoto

`http://istockphoto.com`

The prices on this site seem very reasonable, and it's a very easy site to use.

Fonts

These two sites include fonts that look legible when they're displayed very small.

Miniml

`www.miniml.com`

Here you'll find bitmap fonts that look great at small sizes. Make sure that you follow the directions explicitly; otherwise, you'll get antialiased (blurry) looking text.

Fonts for Flash (FFF)

`www.fontsforflash.com`

This is another site where you'll find some great-looking small bitmap fonts.

Third-Party Products

It's unlikely that you can make a great Flash site using only Flash. Here are a few links to some of the most popular and powerful software tools that can enhance Flash. I've tested all these, but there are many others I haven't listed here.

ActionScript Viewer

`http://buraks.com/asv/`

ActionScript viewer lets you view and recover elements contained in a .swf. It's a great product that includes some invaluable plugins such as the Shared Object Viewer. You'll also find a Flash video captioning tool, Captionate, at buraks.com.

Papervision3D

`www.papervision3d.org`

This technology is the most powerful and exciting runtime software 3D in Flash to date.

Swift 3D

`www.swift3d.com`

Swift 3D is a full-blown 3D modeling, animation, and rendering product. The primary focus is to let you create .swf stills and animations with 3D that you can import into Flash. This site also has supporting tools for some other popular 3D creation tools.

Toon Boom Studio

`www.toonboomstudio.com`

Toon Boom Studio has its roots in conventional cell animation. Unique features include color styles (where you can replace all uses of a particular color), rotating the Stage to help you draw (as in real life), and camera movements to simulate 3D. Plus, Flash can import source Toon Boom Studio work files.

Wildform

www.wildform.com

Wildform makes a really nice tool called Wild FX that helps you create sophisticated text animations automatically. It also has a Flash video encoder called Flix Pro that was sold to On2 (the makers of the new Flash video codec). You can find Flix at http://flix.on2.com.

SWF Studio

www.northcode.com

This Windows-only product adds powerful functionality to standalone projectors created in Flash. For example, you can create files on the user's machine to save bookmarks.

Zinc

www.multidmedia.com

This is another product that adds features to projectors.

Screenweaver

www.screenweaver.com

Screenweaver is similar to the other projector-making products. Its community site is very active.

Jugglor

www.flashjester.com

Similar to SWF Studio, this product adds features to projectors.

mProjector

www.screentime.com/software/mprojector/

This project works on Macintosh as well as Windows. Be sure to check out the Red Rubber Ball sample.

Zoomifyer

www.zoomify.com

There are several versions of this product, but you should definitely check out the demo. It lets you display super-high-resolution photos in a Flash movie.

Camtasia Studio

www.camtasia.com

This screen recorder (from TechSmith) outputs small and super-clear .swf movies.

Statistics

Although Flash is practically universal, it doesn't hurt to know exactly how popular it really is. This page on the Macromedia site gives a running census of how many people have the Flash and Shockwave players installed:

www.adobe.com/software/player_census

This is especially useful if you need to report to a third party, such as a client, how compatible a Flash piece is with the general public.