

## Viewing and Creating Shockwave Files

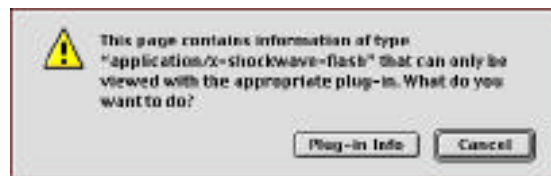
### About Shockwave

Shockwave was developed by Macromedia to enable Director files play over the World Wide Web. Shockwave delivers passive or interactive applications like animation or games, order forms, and custom business tools. Just about any project that is created in Director can be saved as a Shockwave file and played over the Internet.

### Viewing Shockwave files with a WWW browser

Shockwave files can be viewed by most browsers, provided the Shockwave plug-in is installed in the browser's **Plug-ins** folder. Some newer browsers come with the Shockwave plug-in already installed, but older browsers usually don't have it installed.

How can you tell if the plug-in is available on a particular browser? Visit a page that you know will display Shockwave content. A dialog box will usually appear stating that the plug-in is missing.



Another way to check for the existence of the Shockwave plug-in is to open up the **Plug-ins** folder located in the same folder as the browser application.



If you don't see the icon to the right in the folder, then the Shockwave plug-in is not installed.



For those browsers that don't have the plug-in, it can be downloaded from Macromedia's site and installed very easily.

To get a copy of the latest Shockwave plug-in, visit...

<http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/>

Once the installer is copied locally, double click the installer. A dialog box may appear asking where the browser is located. Navigate to the browser and continue with the installation.

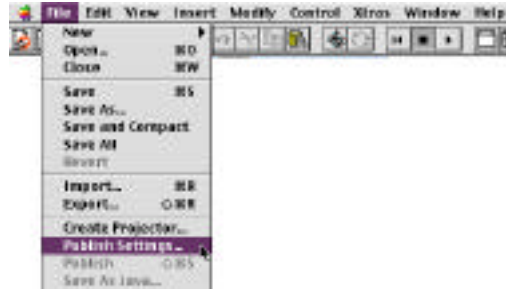
If the installer asks if it's okay to increase the RAM allocation to the browser, let it.

## Creating Shockwave files

- Open the Director movie that will be turned into a Shockwave file.



- If this movie contains audio, the sounds can be compressed to create a smaller Shockwave file. To set the audio compression, first select the "Publish Settings..." item under the "File" menu.



- Click the "Compression" tab.

Under the "Shockwave Audio:" section, check the "Compression Enabled" checkbox.

Set the "kBits/second" to some low number like 48.

Check the "Convert Stereo to Mono" checkbox.

Click the "OK" button.



- If you want Director to create the HTML file template to display the Shockwave file, then be sure the appropriate option is selected under the "Formats" tab.



- Next, set the movie playback preferences: should the movie download completely before playing or should it play immediately, a little bit at a time? This will depend on the particular Shockwave project. From the "Modify" menu select "Movie" and the submenu item "Playback..."



- When the "Movie Playback Properties" dialog opens, confirm that the "Play While Downloading Movie" checkbox is checked. This will allow the Shockwave file to start playing before it is completely downloaded. In most cases, this is what you want. You may need to specify a number of frames (default is 1) to wait to download before it begins, to ensure smooth playback. The number of frames to enter for good playback results will vary from project to project.



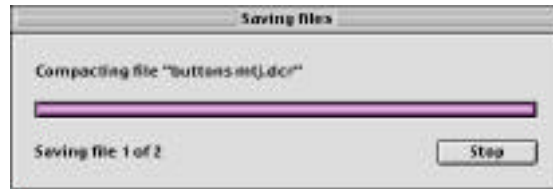
In some cases, you may prefer to download the entire Shockwave file before starting playback. In this case, de-select the "Play While Downloading Movie" checkbox instead.

Click the "OK" button.

- With the audio and playback settings in order, you are ready to create the Shockwave file. From the "File" menu select "Publish".



- Director will compact and save the file as a Shockwave file. The filename will be the name of the Director file, but with a ".dcr" extension.



If you selected the proper options under "Publish Settings..." a simple HTML file to contain the Shockwave movie will also be created.

- The shocked file will look like this. The ".dcr" filename extension alerts the browser to the fact that this is a Shockwave file.



## Creating the HTML file to view the Shockwave movie

- If you selected the option under "Publish Settings" to create an HTML file, then Director will have made a file for you.



- If not, open up a text editing application like SimpleText or Notepad. Type in the following.

```
index.html
<HTML>
<HEAD>

<TITLE> My Shockwave Movie </TITLE>

</HEAD>
<BODY>

<H1> Welcome to my Shockwave movie! </H1>

<P> I hope you enjoy it. </P>
<BR>
<BR>

<CENTER> <EMBED SRC="sample.dcr" WIDTH=400 HEIGHT=300> </CENTER>

<BR>
<BR>

</BODY>
</HTML>
```

Use the name of your Shockwave file in place of "sample.dcr" shown above, but be sure it ends with ".dcr". If the width and height of your Shockwave movie's Stage is different than the numbers used in this example, adjust them as well.

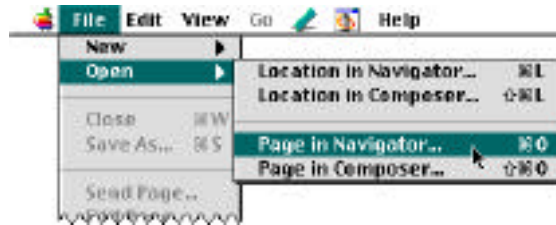
- Save the file as "sample.html" (or whatever name your project is called).
- Make sure that this text file is located next to the Shockwave file (in the same directory or folder).

## Previewing your work offline

- Open your browser.



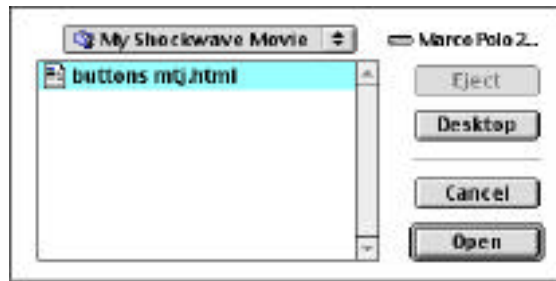
- From the "File" menu, select "Open" then the submenu item "Page in Navigator..."



- Find the file that was saved as "index.html".

Open this file.

You can also drag-and-drop the HTML file onto the browser icon, or directly into the open browser window.



- The Shockwave movie will now play within a browser's window.

If everything functions perfectly, the HTML and the Shockwave file are now ready to be uploaded to your server.

