

Manual for *Doug's Word Search*

Pdf version of Help File

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Doug's Word Search - "Play it On-Screen or Play it On-Paper"



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Revealing Words

Revealing 1st letters
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Revealing First letters

By single-clicking a word in the word list, the first letter of the word is revealed throughout the grid. These letters are displayed in a different color. This feature can be disabled in the "Options" section if you prefer not to be given such hints.

Revealing a word

To reveal a single hidden word double-click the word in the list. The word will be automatically circled in the puzzle grid and the revealed counter will be incremented by one.

Solving the puzzle

Solve button

Clicking this button causes all remaining hidden words to be circled on the puzzle grid. The revealed counter is also updated.

Editing

Edit button

Clicking this button allows the user to edit words in the list using the mouse and cursor controls. Click on "Play" or "Save" when finished editing.

Seeding

The seeding feature allows the user to place up to 10 words from the word list in any desired location on the puzzle grid. This allows the user to create a puzzle with certain words highlighted (pre-circled) in the puzzle grid. Seeding words also changes the construction of the puzzle since the remaining hidden words will tend to attach themselves to the pre-seeded words on the grid.

Seed button

Clicking on the "Seed" button produces a 16 x 16 matrix of dots on the puzzle grid.

Seeding Words

To seed a word first highlight the word in the word list. This can be done by double-clicking on single words or by clicking and dragging the cursor completely through the word or word phrase. To place the word on the grid, place the cursor on the desired starting location and click & drag the mouse in the desired direction. Releasing the mouse button will cause the word to be placed on the grid of dots. Repeat this procedure to seed additional words.

Removing Seeded Words

To remove seeded words click on the "Clear Seeded" button while in the "Edit" Mode.

License and Warranty Statement

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Douglas R. East, 3431 Florida Dr. Loveland, CO 80538

Obtaining support

We can be contacted for support in the following ways:

INTERNET:

Email: author@famcal.com

Web Page: www.famcal.com

Mailing address:

Command Line Software

3431 Florida Dr.

Loveland, CO 80538

USA

Fax:

978-383-5551

Entering Words

Creating a New Puzzle

To create a new puzzle click on the "NEW" button on the main screen. Begin entering words in the word list section of the screen. Follow each word with the "Enter" key. All words will be converted to upper case as you type. The maximum number of words is 50. Click on the "Spell" button to spell check the words in your list. Enter a title for your puzzle in the title section of the screen.

Play Button

After entering the words and title of your puzzle click on the "Play" button. The words are instantly hidden in the 16 x 16 puzzle matrix with all empty grid positions filled with random characters. The puzzle is now ready to be played on the screen or to be printed. The following choices are available:

- Circling Words
- Printing
- Edit words
- Seeding words
- Clear the Grid
- Solving the puzzle
- Saving the puzzle

Circling Words On-Screen

The puzzle is played on the screen very similar to the way you would play a word search puzzle on paper. However, rather than using a pencil to circle the words you use the mouse. To circle a word locate the 1st letter of a hidden word with the cursor and then click and hold the left mouse button while dragging the mouse thru the word (in any of 8 directions) until you reach the last letter. Release the mouse button and a circle will be drawn around the word. An audible beep will sound and the word will be indented in the word list indicating that the word has been found. The "found" counter will also be incremented by one.

If the mouse button is released before the word is fully circled or if the wrong set of letters is circled then a different sound is heard and no circle is placed around the letters.

By single-clicking a word in the word list, the first letter of the word is revealed throughout the grid. These letters will be displayed in a different color. This feature can be disabled in the "Options" section if you prefer not to be given such hints.

Double-clicking a word in the list will reveal the entire word in the grid and place a circle around it. An audible beep will sound and the word will be indented in the word list indicating that the word has been found. The "revealed" counter will be incremented by one.

Previewing and Printing the Puzzle

Click on the "Print" button on the main screen to preview and print the puzzle. A preview of the puzzle automatically appears on the print screen. The preview image can be zoomed in or out as well as dragged around the preview area. To drag the image click anywhere on the image and move the mouse while holding down the mouse left mouse button.

Note: Any words circled on the grid on the main screen will also be circled on the print screen. In this way the player can first play the puzzle on-screen and then finish later on paper. Printing a completed puzzle with all hidden words circled serves as an answer key. To immediately circle all hidden words just click on the "Solve" button before printing.

Print button

Clicking this button opens the standard Windows printer dialog. The dialog screen allows the user to select the desired printer, number of copies and possibly other unique features of your printer.

Zoom buttons

Clicking these buttons causes the preview image to increase or decrease in size. The same effect can be accomplished by double-clicking the preview image with the left or right mouse button.

Full Screen button

Clicking this button displays the preview image over the entire Windows desk top for better viewing. To return, click on the "Normal Screen" button.

Save as Picture button

Clicking this button brings up the standard Windows file save dialog screen. The puzzle image can be saved to a Windows bitmap (.bmp), metafile (.wmf) or enhanced metafile (.emf).

Setting Options

Preferences

Show first letter clues with single-click

When checked this option enables a feature that highlights all letters in the grid that match the first letter of the selected word in the list. This provides a hint that helps the player solve the puzzle.

Enable Sounds

When checked this option enables several sounds that are used within the program for effect.

Enable Timer

When checked this option enables the timer within the program. Once enabled the timer can

then be toggled on or off by the player.

Pre-circle seeded words

When checked this option automatically circles any words in list that have been seeded. When unchecked seeded words still appear in the grid where seeded but are not automatically circled.

Paper Size

Choices are Letter, Legal, A4, and Executive size papers. In each case the printed puzzle is centered on the page.

Comment

Any text entered in the comment block will appear at the bottom of the printed puzzle.

Grid Background**Background color**

The user can select a background color for the grid section of the printed puzzle. For no color in the background select white.

If a picture has been selected and the "Include Picture" checkbox is checked, the background color will not be used.

Background Picture

Click on the "Browse for Picture" button to select a background picture. The background picture will appear in the grid section of the printed puzzle. This picture is stretched to fit the entire grid area. The grid is a square. Selecting a picture that is also square will produce the best results. Otherwise, when stretched the picture may be distorted. Normally it is also desirable to use a picture with a light contrast so that the characters in the grid can be easily seen on top of the picture. Most graphics or photo editing programs provide a means of lightening pictures.

Font**Select Font**

Click on the "Select Font" button to select a font to use for the puzzle. This font is used in the Title, List and Comment sections of the printed puzzle.

Font Color

Click on the "Font Color" button to select a font color. This color will also be used for the circles in the puzzle. Normally a darker color works best.

Clearing the Grid

Clear button

Clicking this button removes all circles from the puzzle grid except for seeded words. The "found" and "revealed" counters are reset as well as the Timer.

Saving the puzzle

Save button

Clicking this button will save the current puzzle file to the hard drive. If this is the first time the file has been saved, the Windows file dialog will appear where the user can assign a file name to the puzzle file.

Program Description

Create and play your own customized word search puzzles. Play your puzzle on-screen by dragging circles around the hidden words or print it out and play it on paper. You can even start it on-screen and finish it later on paper. Download puzzles from the web directly into the program. Uses a unique "Best-Fit" algorithm to create tight professional quality puzzles. Include a background picture depicting the subject of your puzzle. Save your puzzle to a picture file and import it into other programs. Other features include a built-in spell checker, the ability to pre-seed words, an optional timer, optional hints and sounds. Written by the author of over 6000 word puzzles published in newspapers around the USA.

Order Form for "Doug's Word Search"

Print this form by clicking the PRINT button above.
Fill out the order-form and mail it along with your check.
Orders are shipped on diskette within 24 hours of receipt.

*** NOTE ****

You can also order on-line (using your credit card) and download the program immediately (saving time and shipping charges) by visiting our order page on the web at: www.famcal.com

Make checks payable to: **Command Line Software**

Prices quoted are U.S. dollars. Please remit with checks or money orders drawn on a U.S. bank.

Mail to: Command Line Software
3431 Florida Dr.
Loveland, CO 80538
U.S.A.

Name: _____

Address line 1: _____

Address line 2: _____

City: _____

State/Prov _____

Zip: _____

Country: _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

Registered Version of "Doug's Word Search" \$9.95

S/H \$2.00 (U.S. & Canada), \$4.00 intl. _____

Total _____

Please indicate where you obtained your shareware version of "Doug's Word Search".

Spell Checking

While in the "Edit" mode the list of words can be spell checked by clicking on the "Spell" button. The main dictionary of the spell checker contains over 100,000 words. If any words in your list are not found in the dictionary the word will be highlighted. In most cases a list of suggested words will be displayed. You can either "Ignore" the word (leave it as is), change it to one of the suggested words or correct the spelling manually.

The spell checker also provides an "Add" button. Clicking this button adds the highlighted word to the user dictionary. Once added this word will not be flagged in future spell checking sessions. Use this feature to add family names and other proper names to your dictionary.

Downloading puzzles from the Web

One of the unique features of *Doug's Words Search* is the ability to download puzzles from the web directly into the program. Click on "Download Puzzles" in the "On-line" pulldown menu on the main screen. This will retrieve a list of puzzle titles currently available from our web site. Select the title you wish to download and click on the "OK" button. You can also double-click your selection. The puzzle will be downloaded directly into the program and is ready to play.

In order to use this feature, of course, you must be currently connected to the internet.

New puzzles are placed on our web site on a regular basis for downloading. You are also encouraged to submit puzzles that you have created and wish to share with others. To submit a puzzle email your puzzle file(s) to author@famcal.com. After review your puzzle file will be placed on the web site making it available for others to download.

Glossary



A

A4

E

Executive

G

grid

L

Legal
Letter

S

seeded
Solve

T

timer

A4

210mm x 297mm (European paper size standard)

Executive

7.25" x 10.5"

grid

The Grid Section of the puzzle contains the 16 x 16 matrix where the words are hidden.

Legal

8.5" x 14" (US paper size standard)

Letter

8.5" x 11" (US paper size standard)

seeded

Seeded words are words selected from the list by the user and placed in a specific location in the grid before the puzzle is created.

Solve

Clicking on the "Solve" button completes the puzzle by circling all remaining hidden words in the puzzle grid.

timer

The timer can be used by the player while playing the puzzle on-screen to measure the time required to solve the puzzle.

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