



Contents

The following Help Topics are available:

[Introduction](#) - A brief description of the RealAudio Player 2.1.

[Overview](#) - Descriptions of the various parts of the RealAudio Player 2.1.

[Using the RealAudio Player 2.1](#) - Step-by-step instructions for using the RealAudio Player 2.1.

[RealAudio Player 2.1 Menus](#) - Information about the options on each menu.

[Setting Preferences](#) - Information about customizing the performance of the RealAudio Player 2.1.

[Troubleshooting](#) - Answers to commonly asked questions.

For the latest information on RealAudio products and Web sites, visit the Progressive Networks home page at:

<http://www.realaudio.com>

The latest support and technical information is available at:

<http://www.realaudio.com/help.html>

For Help on Help, Press F1



Introduction

Welcome to the RealAudio Player 2.1 by Progressive Networks. The RealAudio system is the premier real-time audio delivery system for the Internet.

Using the RealAudio Player 2.1, you can listen to thousands of hours of live and pre-recorded clips, including sporting events, live radio stations, news, music, and lectures. In addition, the RealAudio Player 2.1 includes several different RealAudio Player 2.1 components and provides access to a customized Timecast World Wide Web site.

For more information, refer to our web site **<http://www.realaudio.com>**

See Also:

[RealAudio Players](#)

[Using the RealAudio Player 2.1](#)

[Troubleshooting](#)



RealAudio Players Components

In addition to the RealAudio Player 2.1, three different special-purpose RealAudio Player 2.1 components are installed on your computer. The components work with different elements within World Wide Web pages to deliver RealAudio sound in a variety of ways. The RealAudio Player 2.1 components are:

RealAudio Plug-in	The Plug-in provides access to RealAudio programming and extends the audio capabilities of your Netscape browser (Netscape Navigator 2.0 or later).
RealAudio Control for ActiveX	The Control provides access to RealAudio programming and extends the audio capabilities of your Internet Explorer 3.0 browser and Visual Basic applications.
RealAudio Xtra for Shockwave	The RealAudio Xtra for Shockwave provides RealAudio programming within a Macromedia Shockwave movie.



Overview of the RealAudio Player 2.1

The RealAudio Player 2.1 enables you to listen to RealAudio files over the Internet or over a local area network in real-time, without downloading the sound clip to your hard drive. When you click on a RealAudio link from a World Wide Web page, your RealAudio Player 2.1 automatically opens and plays the file you have selected.



Overview of the RealAudio Player 2.1

Section

Play/Pause Button

Description

This button plays or pauses a clip depending on the status of the clip.

Stop Button

Click the  button to stop the clip.

Fast Forward/Rewind Buttons

Click either the  button or the  button to fast forward or rewind the RealAudio clip in 10 second intervals.

Position Slider

The slider moves as a clip is being played. You can fast forward or rewind to a different section of the audio clip by dragging the slider.

Link to the Progressive Networks Home Page



If you are connected to the Internet, click this button to link to the Progressive Networks Home Page - the Home of RealAudio. The icon displayed changes depending on the action of the RealAudio Player 2.1. The following are the icons that can be displayed and their meanings:



(Spinning)



Indicates that the RealAudio Player 2.1 is contacting a RealAudio Server.



Indicates that the RealAudio Player 2.1 is playing an audio stream.



Indicates moderate packet loss, sound quality similar to AM radio transmission.

Indicates high packet loss, sound quality below AM radio transmission (garbled or choppy speech, skipping).

Title, Author and Copyright Text

The Content provider specifies the text in these fields; they normally describe the clip being played.

Volume Control

The volume control indicates the volume at which the clip is being played. You can increase the volume by dragging the control up, and decrease the volume by dragging the control down.

Status Bar

The status bar displays the current action of the Player. For example: *Buffering*, *Playing 28.8 Network Stream*, or *Paused*.

Elapsed Time

The Elapsed Time is the length of time that the clip has been playing.

Total Time

The Total Time is the length of the entire clip.

Note: When playing a live stream, the Total Time value is 00:00.0.

See Also:

- [RealAudio Player 2.1 Menus](#)
- [Using the RealAudio Player 2.1 Troubleshooting](#)



RealAudio Player 2.1 Menus

The RealAudio Player 2.1 has five menus: File, View, Clip, Sites, and Help. These menus allow you to take full advantage of the RealAudio Player 2.1 features.

See Also:

[File Menu](#)

[View Menu](#)

[Clip Menu](#)

[Sites Menu](#)

[Help Menu](#)



File Menu

Commands from the File menu allow you to play RealAudio files without using your World Wide Web browser to find files on the Internet and to exit the RealAudio Player 2.1.

Menu Option	Description
Open Location	Select this option to play RealAudio files through the Internet without using your World Wide Web browser. In the Open Location dialog, enter the URL (Internet address) of a .ra or .ram file.
Open File	Select this option to play a local RealAudio file. When the Open File dialog appears, select a .ra or .ram file stored on your computer.
Open Recent	Select this option to view a list of recently played clips. You can select a clip from this list to hear the clip again.
Exit	Select this option to exit the RealAudio Player 2.1.



View Menu

Commands from the View menu allow you to control the appearance, to customize the operation, and view the performance of the RealAudio Player 2.1.

Menu Option	Description
Info & Volume	Select this option to display the volume control, and the title, author, and copyright information for the clip; a check mark appears next to the option. Select the option again to hide the information; the check mark is removed.
Status Bar	Select this option to display the Status Bar; a check mark appears next to the option. Select the option again to hide the bar; the check mark is removed. Refer to Messages for a list of messages that appear in the Status Bar
Preferences	Select this option to display the Preferences window for configuring the RealAudio Player 2.1. You can set preferences from this window. Refer to Setting Preferences for more information.
Statistics	Select this option to display the transmission quality information in the Connection

Statistics dialog. The Connection Statistics window reports the performance of the Internet connection between the RealAudio Server and the RealAudio Player 2.1.

Always on Top

Select this option to make the RealAudio Player 2.1 remain on top of all other windows, even when another window is active; a check mark appears next to the option. Always on Top is convenient for keeping the RealAudio Player 2.1 visible while you interact with your World Wide Web browser. Select this option again to allow other windows to open on top of the RealAudio Player 2.1; the check mark is removed.



Messages

Buffering - Indicates that the Player has connected with a RealAudio server and is collecting the audio stream in the buffer (holding area) until enough packets arrive to start playing the audio stream. This takes only a few seconds.

Stopped - Indicates the audio has stopped, because you selected the stop button or because the end of the clip has been reached.

Paused - Indicates the audio has stopped because you selected the Pause button.

Playing 14.4 network stream - Indicates that the RealAudio file being played over the Internet was encoded using the 14.4 algorithm.

Playing 28.8 network stream - Indicates that the RealAudio file being played over the Internet was encoded using the 28.8 algorithm,

(Clip 1 of 2) - Indicates that the first clip of a multi-clip stream is being played.

Playing 14.4 local file - Indicates that the local RealAudio file being played was encoded using the 14.4 algorithm.

Playing 28.8 local file - Indicates that the local RealAudio file being played was encoded using the 28.8 algorithm.

Playing 14.4 live stream - Indicates that the RealAudio file being played live over the Internet was encoded using the 14.4 algorithm.

Playing 28.8 live stream - Indicates that a RealAudio file being played live over the Internet was encoded using the 14.4 algorithm.

Contacting Host - Indicates that the Player is requesting a file from a RealAudio Server.



Clip Menu

Some RealAudio clips are several files played one after the other. Commands from the Clip menu allow you to move between clips in a multi-clip RealAudio (.ram) file. They are similar to the seek buttons on a CD player. If there is only one RealAudio clip at the link you are accessing, these options are not available.

Previous Clip and Next Clip are also available from the shortcut menu that appears when you right-click the mouse button in the RealAudio Player 2.1 window.

<u>Menu Option</u>	Description
Previous Clip	Select this option to play the previous clip in a multi-clip RealAudio (.ram) file.
Next Clip	Select this option to play the next clip in a multi-clip RealAudio (.ram) file.



Sites Menu

Commands from the Site menu allow you to access various pages at the Progressive Networks and Timecast World Wide Web sites. This feature works with popular World Wide Web browsers including Netscape Navigator, Internet Explorer, Mosaic, Spyglass Mosaic, and Spry Mosaic. If you are connected to the Internet, and your World Wide Web browser is not open, the RealAudio Player 2.1 opens it for you.

Note: You must be connected to the Internet in order to reach these sites.

<u>Menu Option</u>	Description
RealAudio Home Page	Select this option to access the Progressive Networks Home Page.
Timecast: The RealAudio Guide	Select this option to access Timecast: the RealAudio Guide. Timecast contains a list of World Wide Web sites providing RealAudio content.
RealAudio Help Page	Select this option to access the RealAudio main help page.
Scan: Show Stations	Select this option to access the RealAudio Scan Stations page. This page displays a list of the stations that will be played while scanning.



Help Menu

Commands from the Help menu provide you with online help and information about the RealAudio Player 2.1.

The latest support and technical information is available at:

<http://www.realaudio.com/help.html>

Please refer to the enclosed Technical Support Card for more information on contacting Progressive Networks Technical Support.

Menu Option	Description
Contents	Select this option to open the online help for the RealAudio Player 2.1.
About	Select this option to display the RealAudio Player 2.1 version and Copyright information.



Using the RealAudio Player 2.1

The RealAudio Player 2.1 enables you to click on a RealAudio link from your Web browser and begin playing audio instantly, without download delays. In addition, you can pause, rewind, fast-forward, stop, and start the audio at a click of a button.

See Also:

[Starting a Clip](#)

[Pausing a Clip](#)

[Stopping a Clip](#)



Starting a Clip

There are several ways to start a RealAudio clip:

- Click a RealAudio link on a World Wide Web page. Your World Wide Web browser opens the RealAudio Player 2.1 and the audio is streamed to the RealAudio Player 2.1 immediately. After storing a few seconds of audio (buffering), the clip begins.
- Access a World Wide Web site or select an action that automatically plays a clip. Your World Wide Web browser opens the RealAudio Player 2.1 and the audio is streamed to the RealAudio Player 2.1 immediately. After storing a few seconds of audio (buffering), the clip begins.
- Select **Open File** or **Open Location** from the File menu on the RealAudio Player 2.1. For more information, refer to [File Menu](#).


See Also:

[Pausing a Clip](#)

[Stopping a Clip](#)



Pausing a Clip

You can pause a clip while it is playing by clicking the  button. This halts the audio stream. If you want to resume the clip at the same point it was paused, click the



button.

If you pause a clip but do not resume playing after several minutes, the RealAudio Server may terminate your connection. The length of time you can pause a clip without your connection terminating depends on the particular RealAudio Server.


See Also:

[Starting a Clip](#)

[Stopping a Clip](#)



Stopping a Clip

You can stop a clip while it is playing by clicking the  button. The clip stops playing. To play the clip again from the beginning, click the



button.

See Also:

[Starting a Clip](#)

[Pausing a Clip](#)



Setting Preferences

You can customize the RealAudio Player 2.1 by changing the settings in the Preferences window. The Preferences control various aspects of the RealAudio Player 2.1 functionality such as the number of clips to remember, network information, and proxy information.

See Also:

[General Preferences](#)

[Network Preferences](#)

[Proxy Preferences](#)

[Advanced Preferences](#)

[Language Preferences](#)



General Preferences

The General tab in the Preferences window contains preferences for clip memory, Synchronized Multimedia support, and CPU usage.

Field	Description
Remember the [] Most Recent Clips	Enter the number of clips that you want the RealAudio Player 2.1 to remember and display when using the Open Recent option from the File menu.
Synchronized Multimedia	<p>Click this box to enable Synchronized Multimedia; a check mark appears in the box. When this option is enabled, the RealAudio Player 2.1 can trigger new World Wide Web pages during a RealAudio Synchronized Multimedia clip, thus providing a narrated slide show.</p> <p>You can disable this option by clicking the field again; the check mark is removed. When this option is disabled, the RealAudio Player 2.1 is unable to display visual content in Synchronized Multimedia sound clips.</p>
Audio Quality versus CPU Usage	You can move the slider to control the Audio Quality versus CPU Usage. To achieve the best sound quality from the RealAudio 28.8 algorithm, your computer needs to quickly process a large quantity of Internet data. If your machine experiences a decrease in performance while playing a RealAudio file, slide this bar to change this setting. You will need to experiment to discover the best setting for your machine and Internet connection.



Network Preferences

The Network tab in the Preferences window allows you to customize your network connection for the RealAudio Player 2.1.

The descriptions of these preferences assume a basic knowledge of Internet protocols and firewalls. For more information about firewalls, refer to our World Wide Web site at <http://www.realaudio.com/firewall.html>.

Field	Description
Receive Audio Via	Select UDP (User Datagram Protocol) or TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) as the method for receiving audio. By default, the RealAudio

Player 2.1 receives data packets using UDP. If you cannot receive UDP packets because you are behind a packet-filtering firewall, set this preference to TCP.

Note: If you use TCP with a modem, you may experience gaps in the audio stream.

Use Specified Port

Click this field if you want to configure the packet-filtering firewalls to receive UDP through one specified port. Enter the port number. The RealAudio Player 2.1 can receive UDP packets through any designated port between 1000 and 9999. Your firewall administrator should tell you what port to specify.

Note: RealAudio TCP packets are only received through Port 7070.

Server Timeout

Enter the maximum number of seconds the RealAudio Player 2.1 should wait to connect to a RealAudio Server. If it does not connect within the specified time period, a Retry/Cancel message is displayed. A value of 0 means that the RealAudio Player 2.1 never times out.

Send Statistics

Click this field if you want the RealAudio Player 2.1 to send connection quality statistics to the RealAudio Server after playing a clip.

This feature helps connection providers assure transmission quality. This information is basically what you see in the Connection Statistics dialog and includes the number of packets received, lost in transmission, arrived late, arrived early, and arrived out of order.

Note: The RealAudio Player 2.1 does not access or send the Server any information about your identity (your user name or e-mail address).

Loss Correction

Click this field if you want the RealAudio Player 2.1 to compensate for packets lost in transmission between the RealAudio Server and your RealAudio Player 2.1. You may hear a momentary warble in the audio stream if packets are missing.

When Loss Correction is unchecked, the lost packets are dropped, causing a skip.



Proxy Preferences

A proxy is a server that acts as an intermediary between a company's protected LAN and the Internet. For more information about proxies and firewalls, read <http://www.realaudio.com/firewall.html>. The proxy server insures that all data transmission between the Internet and a user on the LAN is authorized. The RealAudio Player 2.1 can be configured to work with proxy servers by setting the proxy preferences. If you set the Proxy preferences, you must enter a RealAudio Proxy and a HTTP Proxy.

Field	Description
Use Proxy	<p>Click this box if the RealAudio Player 2.1 should connect to the Server using a proxy; a check mark appears in the field. Otherwise, do not click this box.</p> <p>Note: If you are behind a firewall and do not know the host name or port number of your proxy server, ask your firewall administrator.</p>
RealAudio Proxy	<p>Enter the domain name or IP address of the RealAudio proxy server and port number that the RealAudio Player 2.1 should use to communicate with the proxy server and stream the audio.</p> <p>Note: For information on RealAudio Proxy, read http://www.realaudio.com/firewall.html</p>
HTTP Proxy	<p>Enter the domain name or IP address of the HTTP proxy server and port number that the RealAudio Player 2.1 should use to communicate with the proxy server and the World Wide Web server. This should be set to the same port as your browser, check your World Wide Web browsers proxy configuration.</p>
No Proxy for: [Host 1, Host2...]	<p>If you have specified that the RealAudio Player 2.1 should be connected to the Server using a proxy, you can specify certain local hosts (domain names or IP Addresses) with which you do not need to communicate using the proxy server. Enter these hosts in this field. This field is only available if you have enabled the Use Proxy option.</p> <p>Your firewall administrator can provide you with this information, if appropriate.</p>



Advanced Preferences

Options on the Advanced tab of the Preferences window override the RealAudio Player 2.1 defaults for sound card compatibility. You dont need these options unless you are having troubles with sound quality.

Field	Description
Use 8-bit Only	Click this field if you want to force your sound card to play only 8-bit sound; a check mark appears. Use this option only if there is evidence of compatibility problems with your sound card. The RealAudio Player 2.1 normally delivers 16-bit audio to the sound card. The RealAudio Player 2.1 should automatically detect if the sound card only supports 8-bit audio, and then deliver 8-bit audio.
Use 11 kHz Only	Click this field if you want to force your sound card to play only 11 kHz sound; a check mark appears. Use this option only if there is evidence of compatibility problems with your sound card. The RealAudio Player 2.1 normally delivers 8 kHz audio to the sound card. If your sound card does not support the 8 kHz sampling rate, the audio may sound high-pitched or too fast. When this option is selected, the RealAudio Player 2.1 changes audio to 11 kHz before delivering it to the sound card. This option increases CPU usage slightly.



Language Preferences

The setting on the Language tab of the Preferences window determines the language used within the RealAudio Player 2.1.

Field	Description
Current Language	This field displays the language being used within the RealAudio Player 2.1
Installed Languages	Select the language you want to use within the RealAudio Player 2.1 menus and windows. Note: Please contact Progressive Networks regarding information on languages available for the RealAudio Player 2.1.



Troubleshooting

For the latest information on RealAudio products, visit the Progressive Networks home page at:

<http://www.realaudio.com>

A technical knowledge base, frequently asked questions list and technical library are

available from our web site at:

<http://www.realaudio.com/help.html>

Please refer to your Technical Support Card for more information on contacting Progressive Networks Technical Support.

See Also:

[How do I configure my browser to support RealAudio?](#)

[What's wrong when the sound is poor?](#)

[Why doesn't my RealAudio Player 2.1 have a Volume Control slider?](#)

[What causes RealAudio clips to occasionally skip?](#)

[Why can't I play RealAudio clips on my computer at work?](#)



How do I configure my browser to support RealAudio?

With most browsers, the RealAudio Player 2.1 installation configures the browser to support RealAudio. If you change your browser and it stops recognizing RealAudio files, reinstall the RealAudio Player 2.1. To manually configure your World Wide Web browser, do the following:

1. Open the Options or Preferences or Settings menu.
2. Select the **Helper Applications** or similar option.
3. Look for "audio/x-pn-realaudio" in the File type list. If an entry exists, select the entry.

Otherwise, click **New Type**. Enter **audio** as the Mime Type. Enter **xpnrealaudio** as the Mime SubType. Click **OK**.

4. Enter **ra,ram** in the Extensions field.
5. Select the Launch Application option. Browse and find the directory in which the RealAudio Player 2.1 is installed.
6. Select RealAudio (raplayer.exe) as the application to launch.



What's wrong when the sound is poor?

The sound quality should be similar to FM mono. If the sound quality is below AM radio transmission (garbled or choppy speech, skipping, etc.), use the following to isolate and correct the problem. If the audio quality was poor when the "Setup is Complete" file was played (during the RealAudio Player 2.1 installation), try configuring the RealAudio Player 2.1 or your sound card.

If the audio quality was poor from a particular site, use the Connection Statistics window in the RealAudio Player 2.1 to check for lost packets. If the packet loss is high, it may be due to a busy network. Connect to the site at a later time.

If the audio quality is poor on every site, do the following:

1. Check the actual modem connection speed. This may be shown in the lighted display for external modems, or through an information window if you have an internal modem (check the user manual for your modem). Sometimes service providers use a lower rate connection speed such as 14.4, so even though you are dialing in on a 28.8 modem, you are only receiving data at 14.4 Kbps.
2. For a 14.4 connection on an Apple Duo, go to the modem properties window and turn off the compression control. Compression uses CPU cycles that the RealAudio Player 2.1 may need. Since RealAudio files are already compressed, this utility is not necessary. Turning off compression will not affect your computer's other operations.
3. If you are using an external modem with a Windows PC and the Connections Statistics window shows minimal packet loss (10% or less), there may be a problem with the speed at which packets are transferred between the modem and serial card. Try setting the port speed higher (at least twice the modem speed).



Why doesn't my RealAudio Player 2.1 have a Volume Control slider?

Be sure a check mark appears next to the Info & Volume command on the View menu. If the check mark does not appear, select **Info & Volume** from the View menu.

If the sound card installed in your computer does not support volume control, the Volume Control slider does not appear on the RealAudio Player 2.1.



What causes RealAudio clips to occasionally skip?

There are two possible reasons:

- Starting or quitting large applications while playing RealAudio can cause a brief disruption of the playback.
- When you use PerfectPlay mode with a live stream, occasional gaps in the audio will occur when your RealAudio Player 2.1 skips to keep up with the network.



Why can't I play RealAudio clips on my computer at work?

If you're on a local area network which is attached to the Internet, and are unable to play RealAudio files from remote Web sites, it's possible that your company's firewall is preventing the RealAudio stream from reaching you. Users can receive live and on-demand audio from the Internet without exposing their company's network to security risks.

If your computer is behind a firewall, please see Progressive Networks firewall page for more information: <http://www.realaudio.com/firewall.html>

Play/Pause Button


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Stop Button

Click the  button to stop the clip.

Fast Forward/Rewind Buttons

Click either the  button or the

 button to fast forward or rewind the RealAudio clip in 10 second intervals.

Position Slider

The slider moves as a clip is being played. You can fast forward or rewind to a different section of the audio clip by dragging the slider.

Link to the Progressive Networks Home Page

If you are connected to the Internet, click this button to link to the Progressive Networks Home Page - the Home of RealAudio. The icon displayed changes depending on the action of the RealAudio Player 2.1.

Volume Control

The volume control indicates the volume at which the clip is being played. You can increase the volume by dragging the control up, and decrease the volume by dragging the control down.

Status Bar

The status bar displays the current action of the RealAudio Player 2.1. For example: Buffering, Playing 28.8 Network Stream, or Paused.

Elapsed Time/Total Time

The Elapsed Time is the length of time that the clip has been playing. The Total Time is the length of the entire clip.

Note: When playing a live stream, the Total Time value is 00.00.0.

Title, Author and Copyright Text

The content provider specifies the text in these fields; they normally describe the clip being played.

File

Commands from the File menu allow you to play RealAudio files without using your Web browser to find files on the Internet and to exit the RealAudio Player 2.1.

View

Commands from the View menu allow you to control the appearance, to customize the operation, and view the performance of the RealAudio Player 2.1.

Clip

Commands from the Clip menu allow you to move between clips in a multi-clip RealAudio (**.ram**) file. They are similar to the seek buttons on a CD player. If there is only one RealAudio clip at the link you are accessing, these options are not available.

Previous Clip and Next Clip are also available from the shortcut menu that appears when you click the right mouse button anywhere in the RealAudio Player 2.1 window.

Sites

Commands from the Site menu allow you to access various pages at the Progressive Networks and Timecast World Wide Web sites. This feature works with popular World Wide Web browsers including Netscape, Internet Explorer, Mosaic, Spyglass Mosaic, and Spry Mosaic. If you are connected to the Internet, and your World Wide Web browser is not open, the RealAudio Player 2.1 opens it for you.

Note: You must be connected to the Internet in order to reach these sites.

Help

Commands from the Help menu provide you with online help and information about the RealAudio Player 2.1.

