

Microsoft Pandora's Box Trial Version Readme File

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Welcome to Microsoft Pandora's Box Trial Version!

This file contains information to help you start playing Pandora's Box Trial. It also includes late-breaking information about the game.

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A. Hardware and System Requirements

- Multimedia personal computer with a Pentium 100 or higher processor.
- Microsoft Windows® 95 or later, or Windows NT® 4.0 Workstation with Service Pack 3 or later.
- 16 megabytes (MB) of RAM (32 MB recommended).
- 32 MB of RAM on Windows NT (64 MB recommended).
- 35 MB of available hard disk space for CD Trial; 17 MB for download Trial.
- 20 MB of available hard disk space for CD Trial swap file; 15 MB for download Trial swap file.
- Super VGA video display with 1 MB of VRAM.
- Keyboard and Microsoft Mouse or compatible pointing device.
- Sound card and speakers or headphones (recommended to hear audio).

B. Starting Pandora's Box Trial

To start Pandora's Box Trial, click the **Start** button, point to **Programs**, point to **Microsoft Games**, point to **Pandora's Box Trial**, and then click **Pandora's Box Trial**.

C. Getting Help

You can get Help for Pandora's Box Trial in these ways:

- For help with any game screen or puzzle, click the **Quick Help** button in the upper-right corner of the screen.
- For help with specific screen elements in the game, hold your mouse pointer over the area you want help with. Information appears at the bottom of the screen.

D. DirectX Troubleshooting

DirectX 3.0 or later must be installed on your computer before you can play Pandora's Box. If you do not have DirectX installed on your computer and you chose not to install DirectX 6.1 when you installed Pandora's Box Trial, you may experience problems. To fix these problems, make sure you have DirectX installed.

To install DirectX 6.1

- Go to the DirectX Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/directx> and install DirectX.

If Pandora's Box Trial installed DirectX but could not update your video drivers to be compatible with DirectX 6.1, when you restart your computer you will receive a message indicating that Pandora's Box Trial could not initialize DirectX. To fix this problem, either contact your video adapter manufacturer for updated video drivers or install DirectX in safe mode, which will replace the video drivers.

To install DirectX in safe mode

1. Go to the DirectX Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/directx/> and download DirectX onto your desktop.
2. Click the **Start** button, and then click **Shut Down**.
3. Select **Restart**, and then click **OK**.
4. When "Starting Windows 95" appears on the screen, press and hold down the F8 key until you see a Windows Startup menu.
5. When you are prompted to enter a choice, select Safe Mode (number 3), and then press ENTER.
6. After Windows starts in safe mode, open the DirectX folder on your desktop, and then double-click Dxsetup.exe to install DirectX.
7. Shut down your computer and restart as usual.

If you experience sound or video problems using DirectX, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/directx/> for the latest troubleshooting information.

You should also check with your video or sound card manufacturer for the latest DirectX-compatible drivers.

E. Video Troubleshooting

- **DirectX** -- If you experience video problems using DirectX, go to the DirectX Web site for the latest troubleshooting information, as explained in "DirectX Troubleshooting" earlier in this Readme file.
- **STB Velocity 128** -- If you experience slight screen corruption with this adapter, contact your video adapter manufacturer for the latest drivers to fix this problem. If you have a Dell computer with a Dell Velocity 128 video card, download updated drivers from the Dell site (www.dell.com). Installing drivers for the Dell Velocity 128 other than those offered on the Dell site may put your computer in an unstable mode and cause video corruption.
- **ATI 3D Rage Pro** -- If you experience problems with this adapter, contact your hardware manufacturer for updated drivers. If you encounter problems updating the drivers, try removing the old drivers before installing the updated ones. To remove the old drivers, click **Add/Remove Programs** in Control Panel, and then remove ATI Mach 64 drivers.
- **Graphics Blaster Exxtreme** -- If you experience unusual screen behavior after using ALT+ TAB to leave and return to the game, contact your hardware manufacturer for updated drivers, which will fix the problem.
- **Creative Labs Graphics Blaster 3D (Cirrus Logic)** -- To improve game speed, turn off animation in puzzles that include this option by deselecting the **Animate** button in the lower-right of the puzzle screen.
- **Hercules Stingray 128/3D Series** -- If you experience problems when you exit and then restart Pandora's Box, contact your hardware manufacturer for updated drivers to fix this problem.
- **Older video adapters** -- Some older video adapters may cause brief screen corruption when you start the game or switch between game screens.

F. Audio Troubleshooting

- **DirectX** -- If you experience audio problems using DirectX, go to the DirectX Web site for the latest troubleshooting information, as explained in "DirectX Troubleshooting" earlier in this Readme file.
- **Aztech Direct** -- This sound card may cause sound to be scratchy. If you experience audio problems using this sound card, contact your hardware manufacturer for updated drivers.

- If you experience audio problems, you can turn off the sound and music for Pandora's Box. On the main menu, click **Options**, and then turn sound and music off.

G. Performance Troubleshooting

Windows taskbar or Pandora's Box Trial title bar visible -- The Windows taskbar or Pandora's Box Trial title bar may become visible after you use ALT+TAB to leave and return to the game. This may happen if the Microsoft Office toolbar is docked at the right or bottom of your desktop. To fix this problem, turn off the toolbar, or position it somewhere else on your desktop. Alternatively, use the Pandora's Box Trial **Minimize** menu option and the Windows taskbar to leave and return to the game instead of using ALT+TAB.

H. Pandora's Box Information

For more information about Pandora's Box, visit our Web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/games/pandorasbox/>