



Downloading *Platinum Arts SandBox*
&
Importing Student Game Files

*An instruction manual for downloading the proper software
and importing game files made during C3 Cyber Club after school video game design classes*

Introduction:

Congratulations on completing one of our video game design courses! This instruction manual will now help walk you through the process of correctly downloading the *Platinum Arts SandBox* software (program). The manual will also demonstrate how to put the files and games you made during the class into the correct file directory (folder) so that you can continue to have fun with the projects from class. This process can be complicated, so we have included pictures of what your screen should look like for almost every step. Also, make sure that you follow these steps *as closely as possible*. For example, putting your files from class in the wrong place will make it so you cannot open them while using *Platinum Arts SandBox* (PAS, for short).

Before we get started, there are a few important things that you need to keep in mind:

- Make sure that you only download PAS from the Web site in these instructions. If you do not download it from the official site, your computer may also end up downloading unwanted programs (like “adware”, “spyware”, etc.) and even viruses!
- The pictures in this manual will be screen shots for most steps. However, the pictures in the instructions show the process being completed using Internet Explorer 8. If you are using a different Web browser, the Web pages should still look the same, but the way each browser downloads files may be different. For example, Google Chrome will automatically download the file into your computer’s “Downloads” folder, whereas Internet Explorer will let you choose where to download PAS to.
- You should also close all other windows while following this process. This will prevent you losing unsaved work and usually increase the download speed (the PAS file is really big – usually at least 400 megabytes – so this will help a lot).
- There is a Mac version of PAS available if you have a Mac at home, however, it is not exactly the same as the PC (Windows or Linux) versions. Feel free to use this manual as an aide anyway, but it might not include all of the information you need. For now, since we only use PC’s in our classes, this manual only includes instructions for using PAS with a Microsoft Windows PC.

What you need and/or should use while following these instructions:

- Internet connection
- Internet Explorer (suggested, but Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox work too)
- Around 450-550 megabytes of available memory

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Section 1: Downloading Platinum Arts SandBox (pages 4-<>)

- This section walks you through the process of downloading the correct version of PAS. It includes a link to the official site's download section, where to download the program on your computer, how to create a desktop shortcut, and how to run the program after it has been downloaded.

Section 2: Importing Your Personal Class Files Into Platinum Arts SandBox (pages <>-<>)

- This section walks you through the process of taking your files that you downloaded from the C3 Cyber Club Web site and placing them in the correct file directory/folder within the PAS folder that was downloaded in *Section 1*. This section is shorter than *Section 1* is absolutely essential if you wish to play or continue working on the projects and levels that you made during the video game design classes you have taken.

Section 3: Additional Troubleshooting (pages <>-<>)

- This section will review the important aspects of this manual as well as providing additional troubleshooting help. *Section 3* includes a small FAQ's (frequently asked questions) list to answer additional questions you might still have after finishing the tasks in sections 1 and 2.

Section 1: Downloading Platinum Arts SandBox

remember to close all other programs first

Step 1: Where to download PAS from

A) Open your Web browser; use Internet Explorer if you can. Highlight, copy, and paste the link below into the URL/address bar and **press ENTER**.

B) If you are viewing this document in a Web browser already, **right-click** on the link below and select **open in new tab**.

Link to the correct Web site:

<http://www.sandboxgamelmaker.com/download-sandbox.html>

Step 2: Downloading PAS

A) Scroll down until you find the section for PAS **Version 2.7.1 (fig. 2-A)**. There are three versions: Windows, Windows/Linux, and Macintosh. Look at **Figure 2-A** below to figure out which version of PAS 2.7.1 you should download.



Figure 2-A

- B) You may have a bar appear at the top of the Web page asking if you want Internet Explorer to allow downloads from this site (**fig. 2-B**). Click the bar, and then click **Download File(s)**.

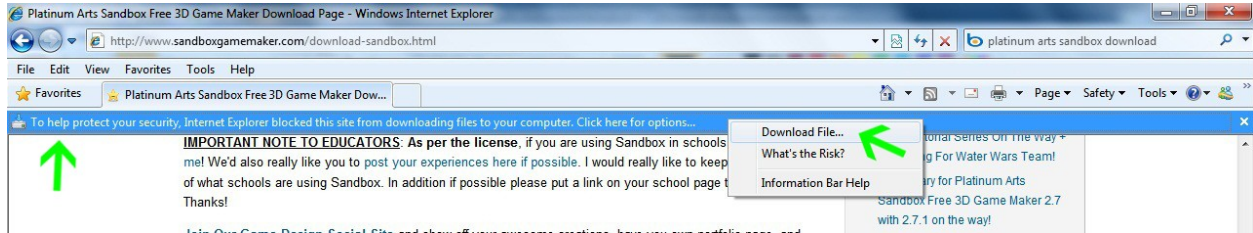


Figure 2-B

This may start downloading the file, or it may just reload the Web page. If the Web page just reloads, click on the same link as you did in **Step 2-A again**

- C) If you are using Internet Explorer, a pop-up window should appear (**fig. 2-C**) asking you if you want to **run an executable file**. Click the **Save** button instead. If you are downloading this from the link in Step 1 then it is safe to save this file.

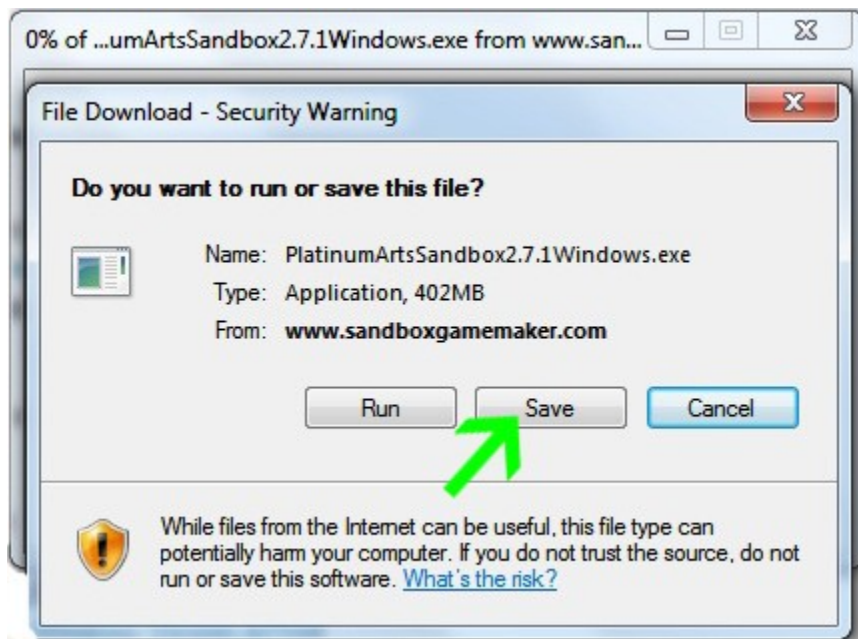


Figure 2-C

- D) Click (again) on the link you chose in **Step 2-A**. Instead of clicking “Run”, click the **Save** button. A window will appear for you to choose *where* to save the file. **Save this file to your Desktop.**

E) You are then asked to either run the file, open the folder it is in (it should be on your Desktop if you followed **Step 2-D**), or close the pop-up window (**fig. 2-E**). Click the **Close** button.

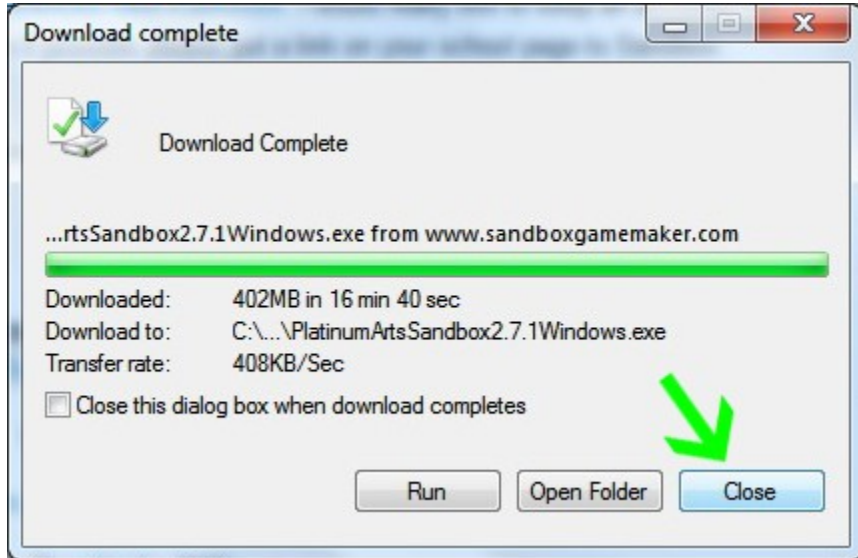


Figure 2-E

Step 3: Installing PAS

- A) Close your Web browser by clicking the red “X” on the top right of the browser window.
- B) Locate the icon for the .exe file on the Desktop (fig. 3-B) and double-click the icon. The text under this icon should say: “PlatinumArtsSandbox2.7.1Windows.exe”



Figure 3-B

C) A pop-up window should appear saying, “The publisher could not be identified. Are you sure you want to run this software?” (fig. 3-C.1), this is alright. Go ahead and click the **Run** button.

****However, another pop-up may appear (fig. 3-C.2). In this case, click **OK**, delete the file that was downloaded, and download the file again****



Figure 3-C.1

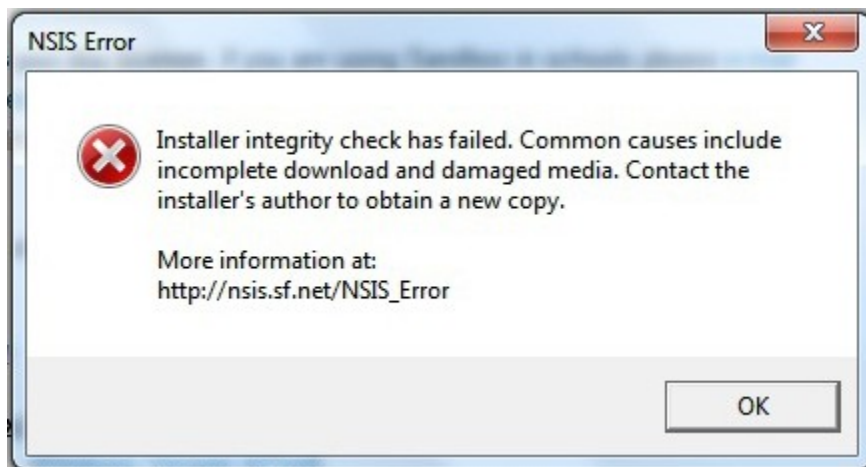


Figure 3-C.2

D) For a short moment, a small box should show up to tell you your computer is verifying the installer (fig. 3-D), this will happen automatically. When it is done, move on to the next step.

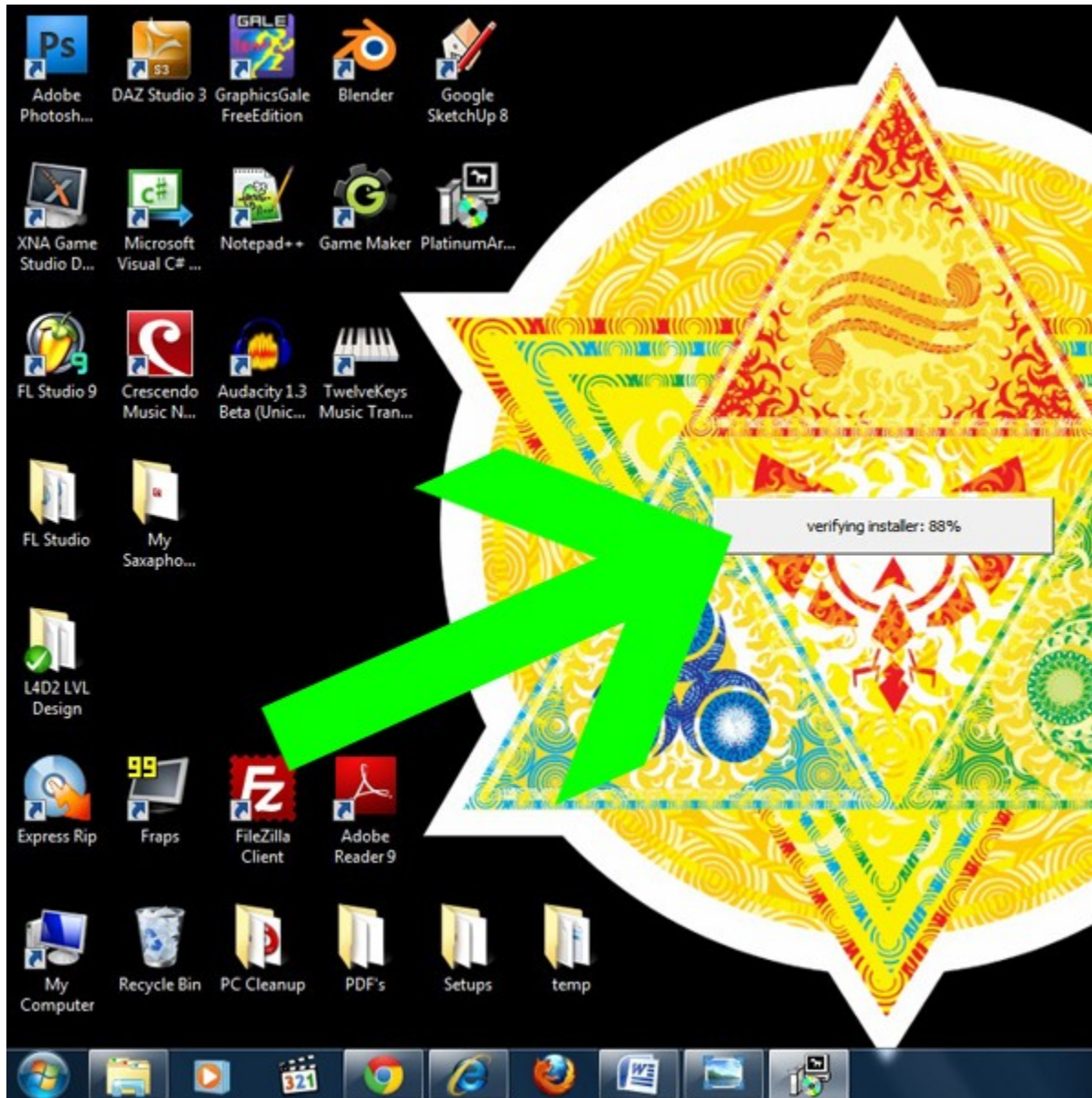


Figure 3-D

- E) A window will appear asking you which folder to save PAS in (fig. 3-E). This should already say that it will save the program to your **Desktop**. Click the **Install** button.

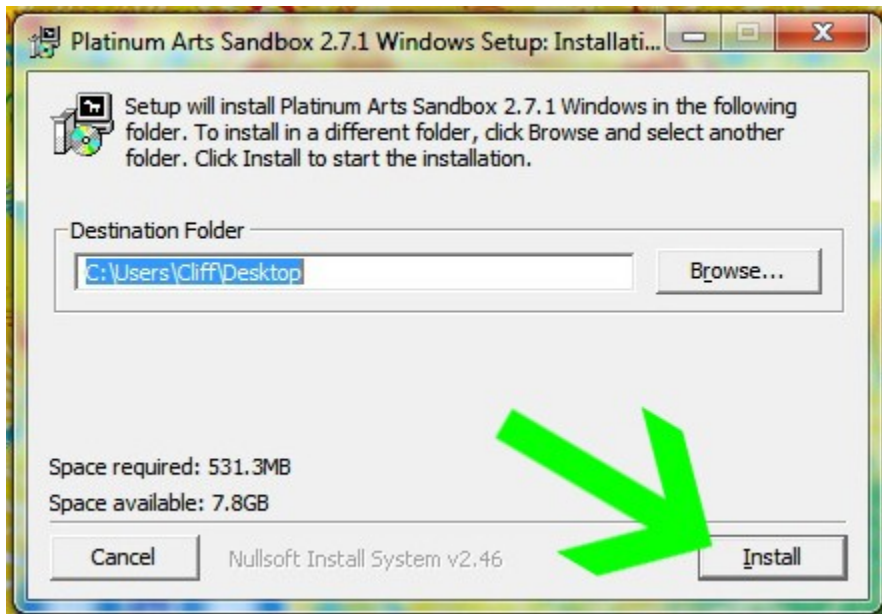


Figure 3-D

- F) *i.* When you click the **Install** button, a window will appear that looks like fig. 3-F.1
ii. When installation is complete that same window will look like fig. 3-F.2
iii. Click the **Close** button and you will see a new Desktop icon (fig 3-F.3)

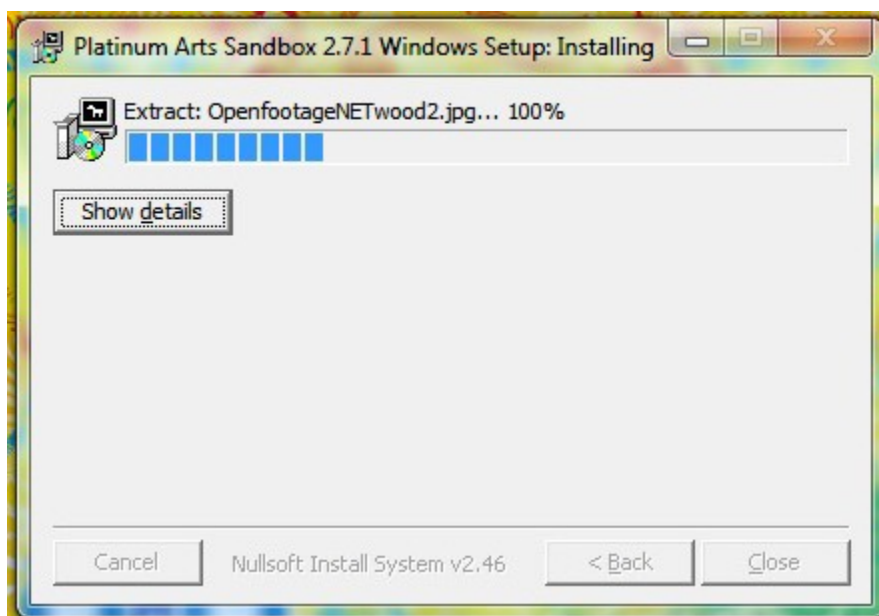


Figure 3-F.1

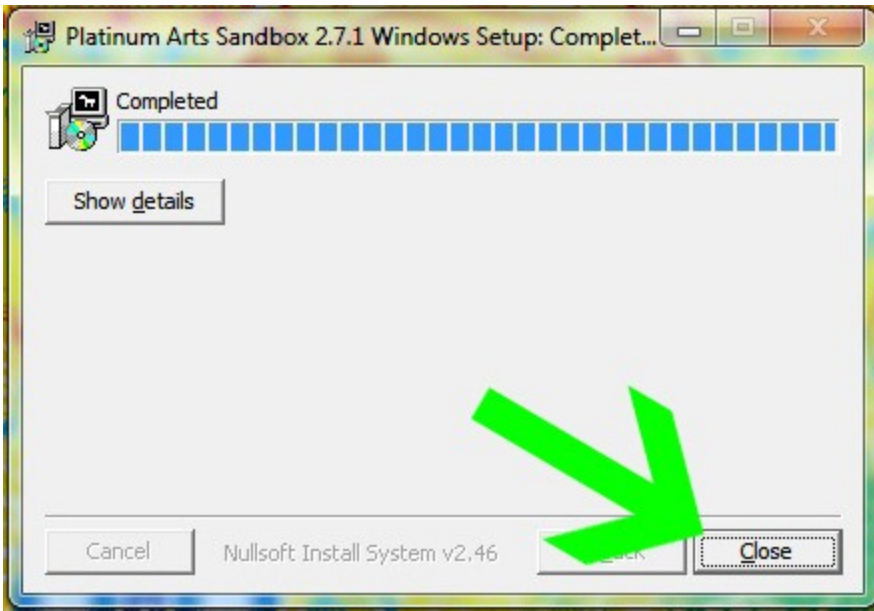


Figure 3-F.2

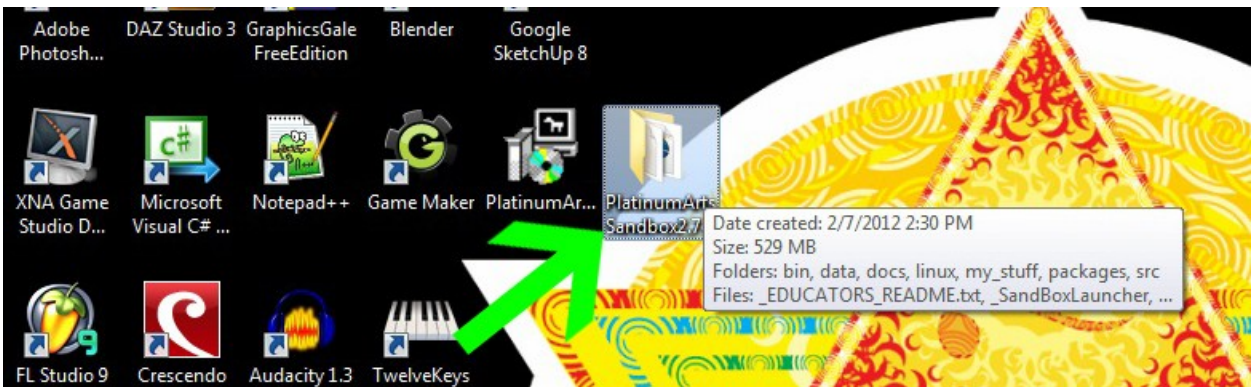


Figure 3-F.3

Step 4: Creating a Desktop shortcut for PAS

- A) To create a shortcut, **double-click** the new icon you just created at the end of **Step 3**. This will open the folder containing all of the PAS files and directories (**fig. 4-B**).
- B) Find the file named **“SandBoxLauncher.exe”** and **right-click** the file. Your screen should now look like **fig. 4-B**. When the menu appears after you right-click the file, look for an option called **“Create Shortcut”** and **left-click** it.

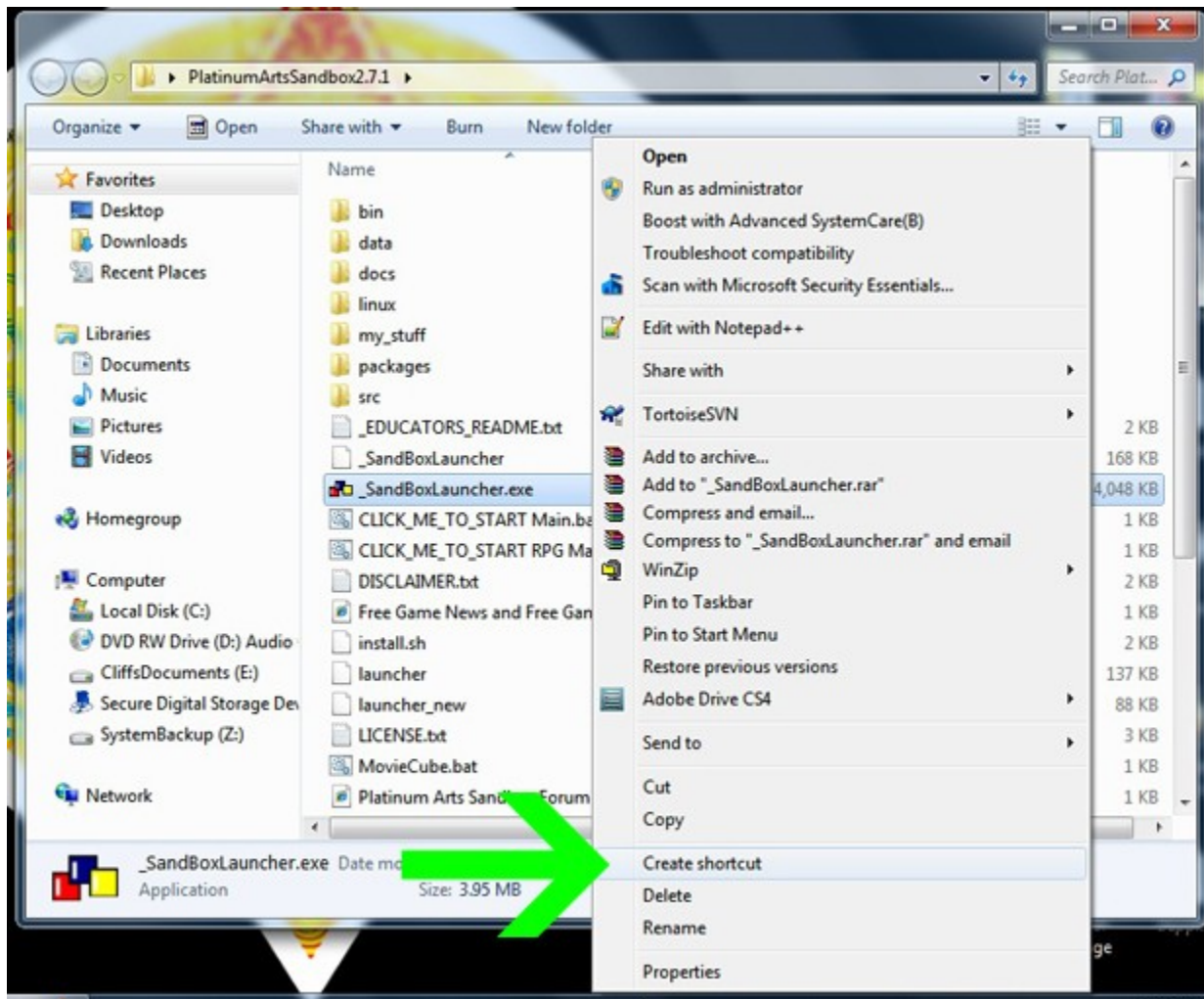


Figure 4-B

C) You should now see a new file, either right above or right below the original. It will have the same name, only the word **“Shortcut”** will be at the end of the new one you just created (fig. 4-C). Now, **left-click** the new file **and hold down the mouse button**, then **“drag”** this file onto your Desktop (fig. 4-C).

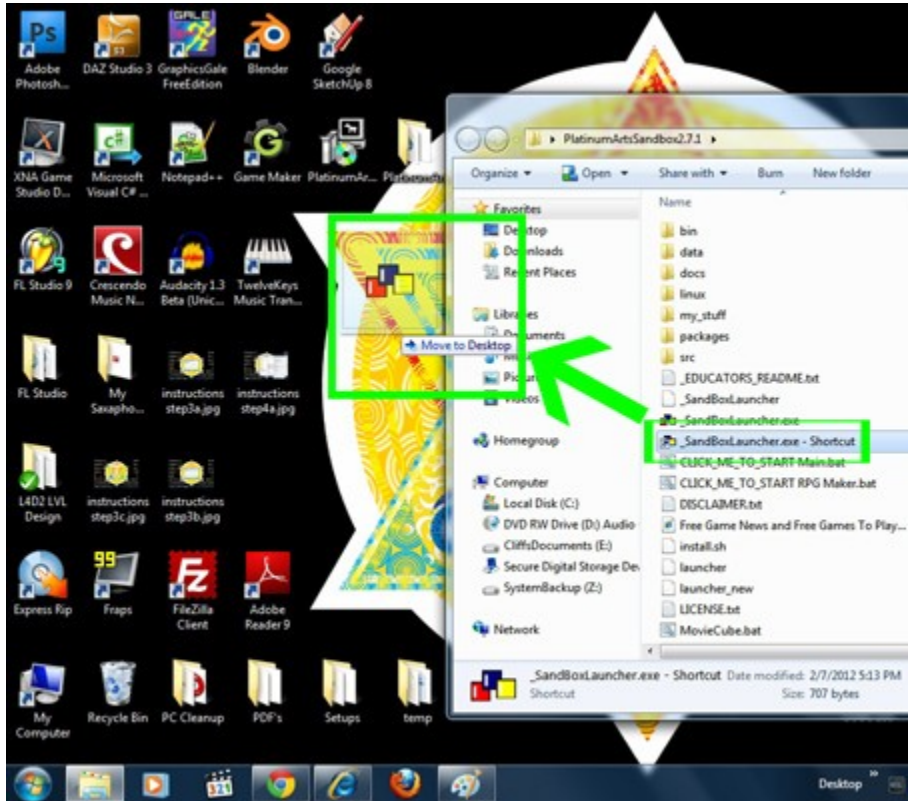


Figure 4-C

D) You should now have **three** new Desktop icons as shown in **fig. 4-D**. To open the SandBox Launcher either **double-click** the shortcut, or **left-click it and press ENTER**.

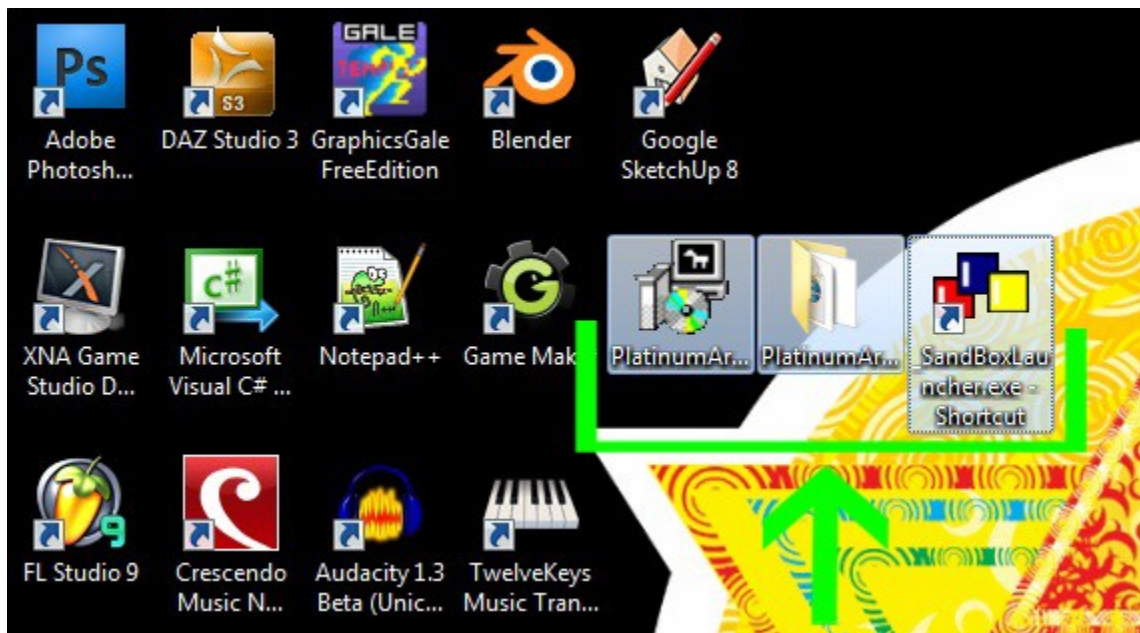


Figure 4-D

You are now done installing PAS and you also have a convenient shortcut on your Desktop!

SECTION 2: IMPORTING YOUR FILES INTO THE CORRECT PAS DIRECTORY/FOLDER

Step 5: Creating and Naming a New Folder

- A)** Close or minimize all other windows. Place your cursor (mouse) on a blank section of your Desktop and **right-click**. From the menu, select **New**, and from the next menu, select **Folder** (**fig. 5-A**).
- i. **Rename** this folder as something like “My PAS Levels” (**fig. 5-A.i**)
 - ii. **Open** this folder (**fig. 5-A.ii**)

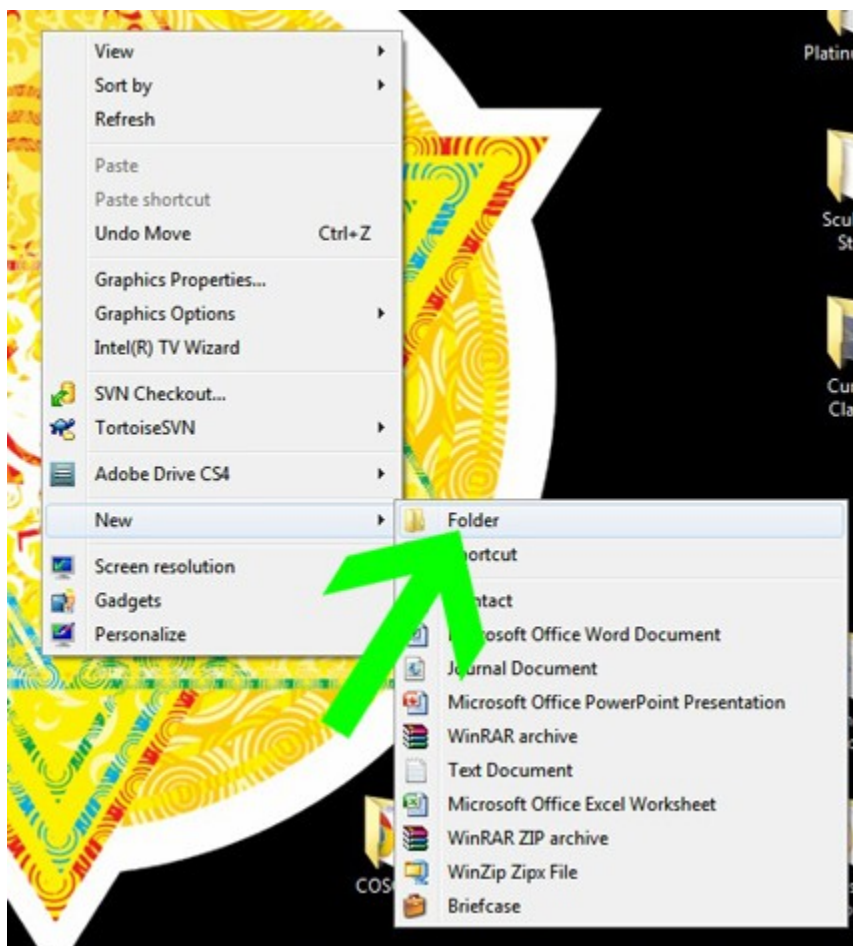


Figure 5-A

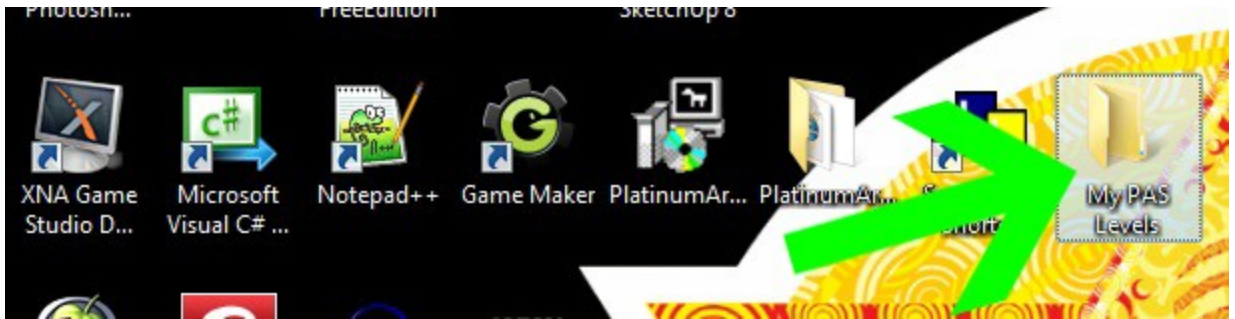


Figure 5-A.i

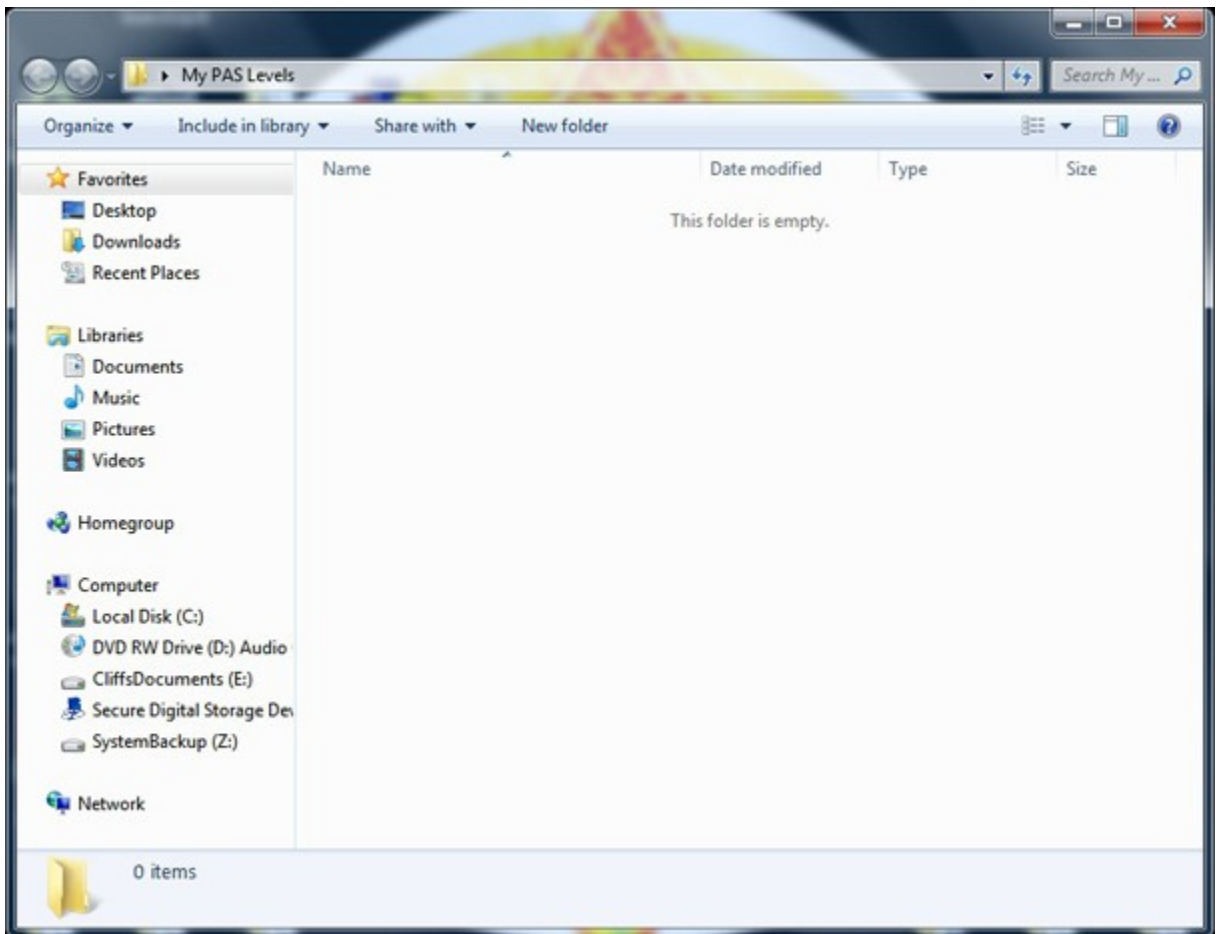


Figure 5.A.ii

Step 6: Downloading Your Files from Our Web Site

make sure you download your files to your Desktop

- A) Open your Web browser again and type “www.C3CyberClub.com/myfiles” into your Web browser’s address bar and **press Enter**.
- B) Scroll down the page to find the “Retrieve Your Files” section. Here you will find instructions on how to download your files.
- C)
 - i) Click on the **Mobile Computer Classes** link.
 - ii) You will see a link, or links, with the year and season. Click the one that is *the same as when you took our class*.
 - iii) Click the name of **your school**.
 - iv) Click the name of the course **you took**.
 - v) Click the link that says “**Download**” (fig. 6-C)

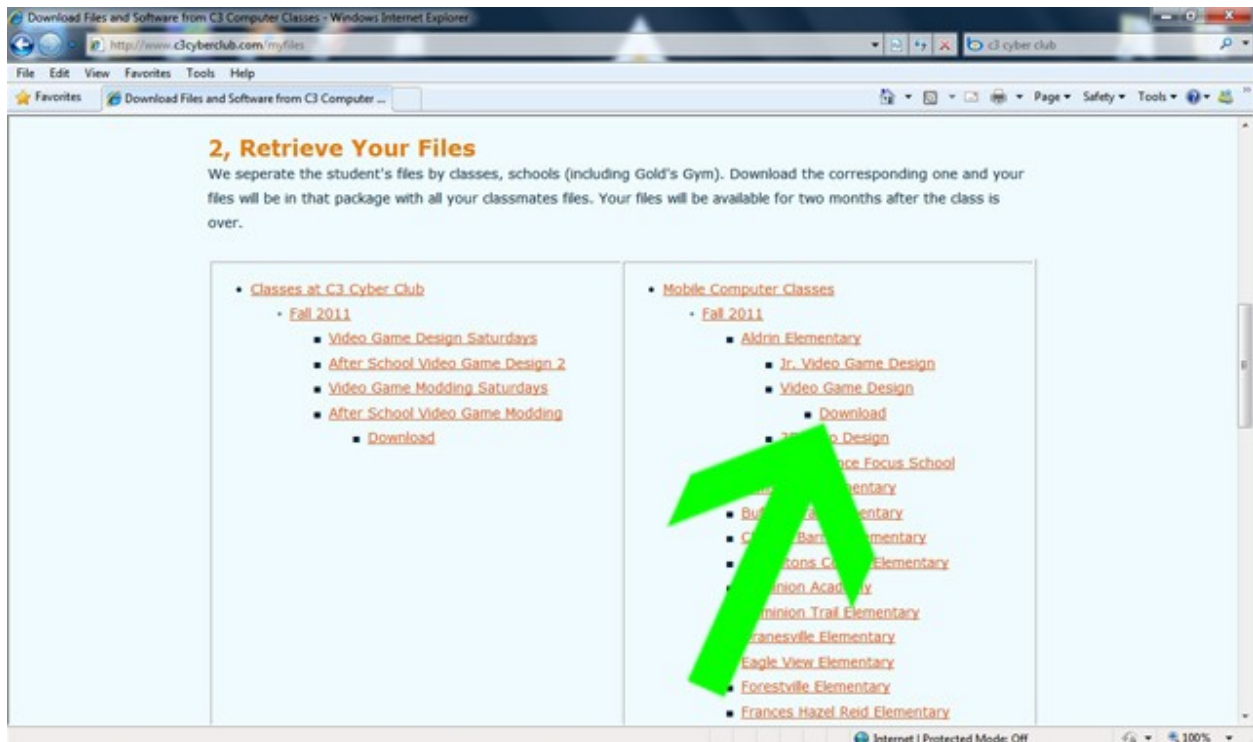


Figure 6-C

Step 7: Moving Your Files to the New Folder (fig. 7)

- A) Select your files from your Desktop.
- B) Click and drag your files into the folder you made in Step 5.

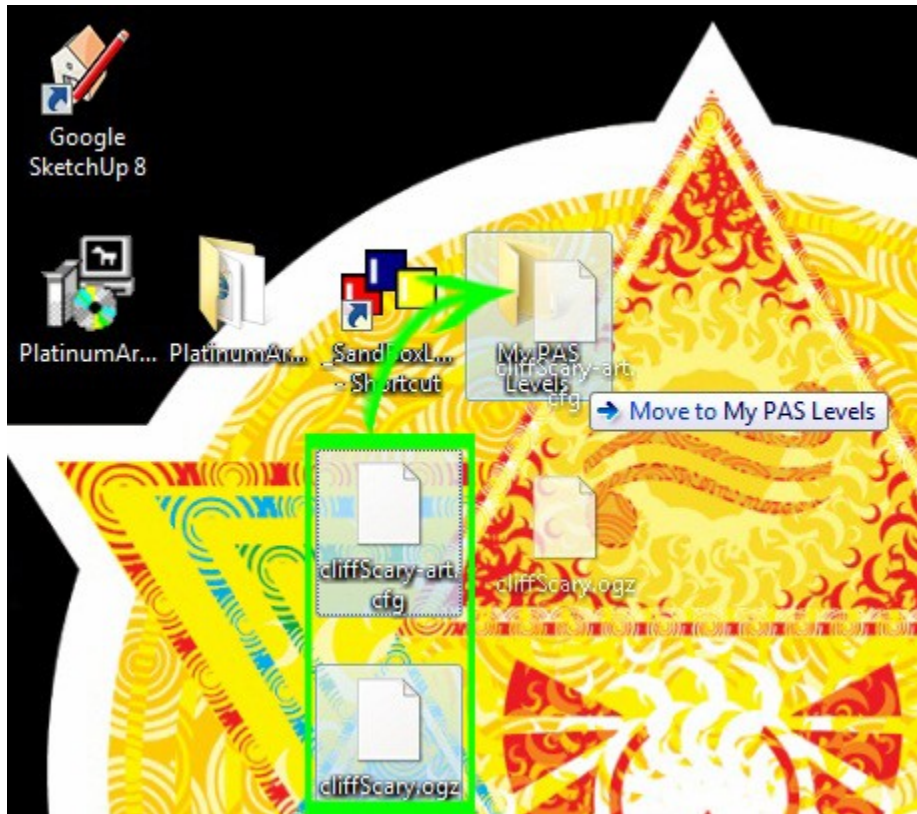


Figure 7

Step 8: Finding the Right Place to Put Your Files

- A) Open the **folder** on your Desktop named **PlatnumArtsSandBox2.7.1**
- B) Open these three folders **in this order**:
 - i. "my_stuff"
 - ii. "packages"
 - iii. "base"

C) Right-click inside the “base” folder and create a new folder (fig. 8-C.1) and name the new folder “fps” (fig. 8-C.2).

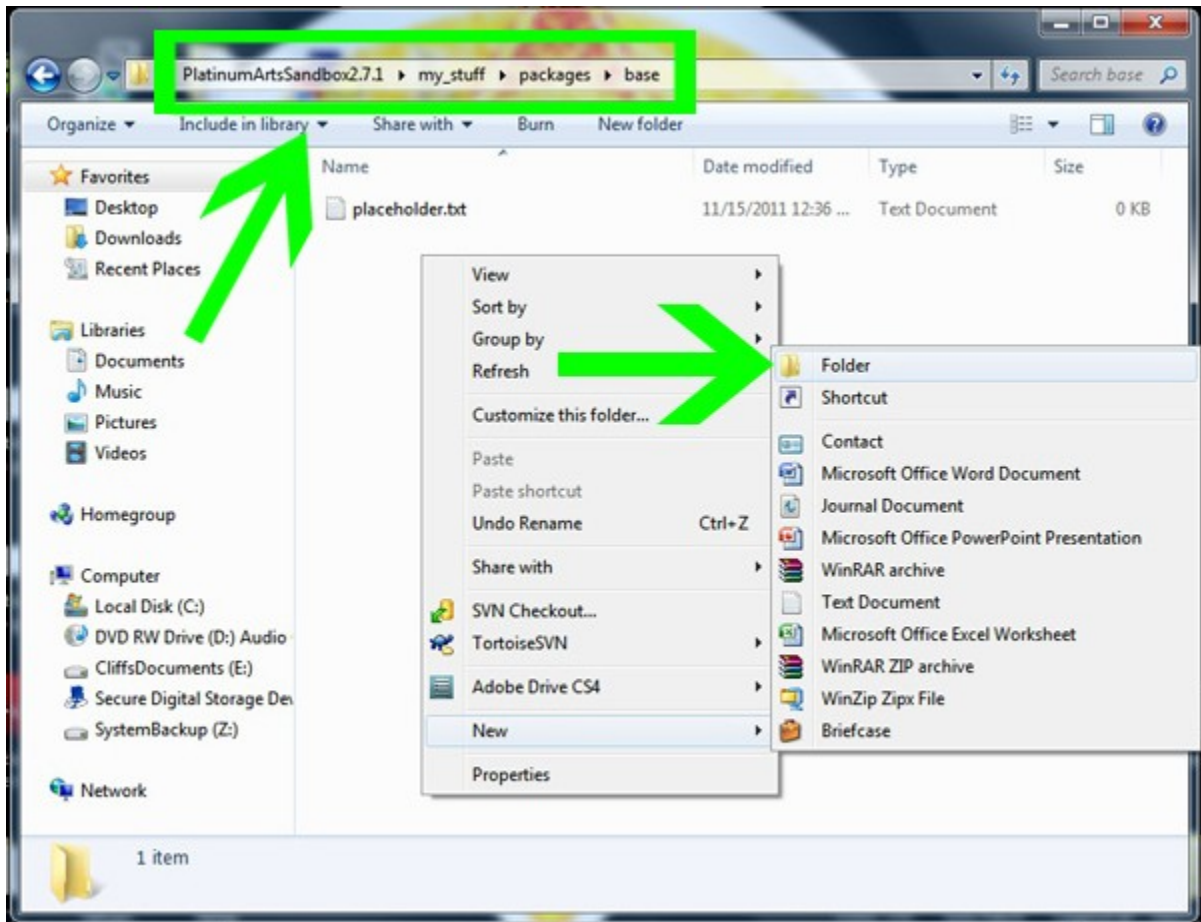


Figure 8-C.1

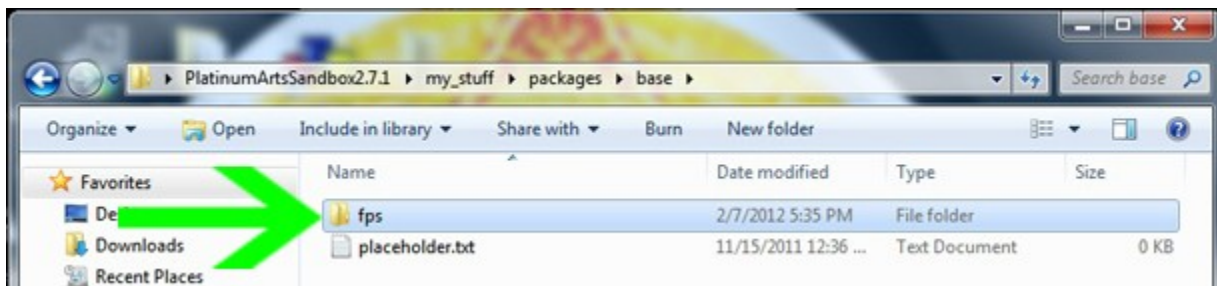


Figure 8-C.2

D) Copy the files from the folder you made in **Step 5** into the folder you just made and named “fps” (fig. 8-D)

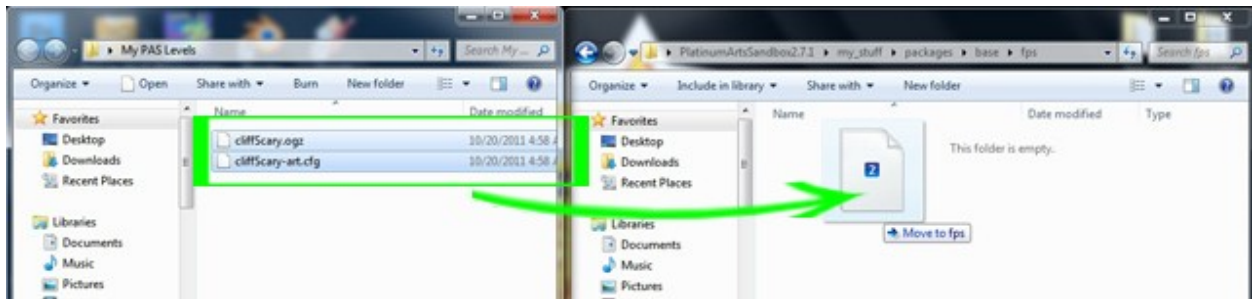


Figure 8-D

Step 9: Playing Your Level in PAS

A) Open the **launcher** and click the **Launch** button. The launcher should already be set to **FPS mode**. If it is not, look at the tabs above the Launch button and select the one with the letters “FPS” in it.

B) Once the game has opened, press the **ESC key** and select **Load Map** (fig. 9-B).



Figure 9-B

- C) Click on the **My Maps** tab, and look at the list of levels on the left (fig. 9-C). Your files will appear on this list, you may need to scroll down a little to find them.
- i. On the list your levels will show up with **"fps/"** before the level/file name



Figure 9-C

CONGRATULATIONS! You have now installed PAS on your computer and can play and edit the levels you made during our classes!!

SECTION 3: Troubleshooting and Frequently Asked Questions

Hopefully this instruction manual has helped you successfully install *Platinum Arts SandBox* and import your files from class. If you are still having trouble or something is not working, make sure that you have followed **every** step above. If the problem continues, browse the information below for more help.

Remember, the information and pictures in this tutorial are based on following the instructions on a computer using Internet Explorer, Windows 7, and *Platinum Arts SandBox* Version 2.7.1. If you are using something different, the instructions and pictures may not always look like what is on your screen during some of the steps, but this is OK. Following these instructions will usually install PAS correctly anyway.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Why won't the Platinum Arts SandBox setup file (ends in ".exe") I downloaded run?**

There are a few things that may have gone wrong. Either you did not download the file from the correct Web site (the file may be corrupted or contain viruses) or the setup file did not download completely/correctly. If an alert pops up to notify you of something called an "NSIS error", it is most likely that the PAS setup file did not download completely. **The solution** to either problem is to *delete the file you downloaded and try downloading it again*.

2. **I have a PC, but I don't have Windows 7, can I still install PAS?**

Yes! You most certainly can. On the same Web page that these instructions tell you to download PAS from, they have links to download older versions of the software. To determine which version is best for you, check the system requirements for each of the previous versions until you find one that will work on your computer.

3. **Are the files mentioned in the instructions safe for me to download?**

Definitely. The PAS setup file is located on the creators' official Web site, and your personal class files were put on C3 Cyber Club's official Web site straight from the laptop you used in class to make them.

4. **How can other people play my levels?**

The actual process necessary for disabling **edit mode** (which allows your level to be played as a game without letting the player enter edit mode) is actually very lengthy and involves complicated tasks like scripting. *However*, you can still take your levels with you anywhere, like to a friend's house, by using an external memory device like a **flash drive**.

The same way that you moved files during the instructions in this manual, insert your flash drive into the USB port, open the flash drive's folder, and drag the PAS folder you should still have on your Desktop into the flash drive's folder. Before you take out your

memory device, make sure you close the folder and “safely remove” the device. To run PAS from your flash drive, open the PAS folder and open the file named “SandBoxLauncher.exe”. If that does not work, copy the PAS folder onto the Desktop of the computer you are using and then try opening the same file again.

5. Why is PAS running so slowly on my computer?

PAS, like other level editing software, can be very demanding on your computer’s processor and video card. This means that if PAS is running slowly your computer might not be powerful enough to run the program.

ALSO, different versions sometimes work better when installed on computers with specific operating systems. For example, if you downloaded a multiplatform version but you only use Windows, the version you downloaded may run slower than if you had downloaded the Windows-only version.

6. Where can I find help outside of class if I have problems editing/using PAS in the future?

There are official forums for PAS located here:

<http://forum.sandboxgamemaker.com/>

Here you will find many people willing to help you with any trouble you may be having. The creators of PAS also try to answer as many questions as they can, all you need to do is create an account and post a question in the appropriate section and someone usually responds to your questions quickly.

Another good source for help is the PAS wiki, which can be found here:

http://www.sandboxgamemaker.com/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page

While it may not answer more advanced questions, there is *a lot* of useful information here about basic editing.