PDSpeed Help File

Installation

PDSpeed.exe can be unzipped to any convenient location and run from there. There is no installation procedure.

Launching

You can run the program before or after you launch PowerDirector. Nothing happens until you use the PDSpeed features while using PowerDirector, except that you will see an icon marked with a capital H in the system tray. You can right click on that icon for options including "exit" at any time.

Closing

Either use the icon in the system tray or type the backslash key \ at any time.

Using PDSpeed

PDSpeed is intended to make timeline editing a little faster. It automates frequently used operations, using lowercase keystrokes as follows:-

Spacebar

Play or pause using "movie" mode (no need to switch to movie mode first)

Alt/Spacebar

Play or pause using "clip" mode (no need to switch to clip mode first)

Ctrl/Spacebar

Roll back five seconds and play using "movie" mode. Useful if you have just made some adjustments to a clip or transition and you wish to review how it now looks.

n [for "next"]

Jumps to the start of the next clip, rolls back five seconds, and plays using movie mode. Handy for jumping quickly through your project to review edits and transitions.

p [for "previous"]

Jumps backwards to the preceding clip, rolls back five seconds, and plays using movie mode.

s [for "split"]

Splits the clip beneath the cursor

d [for "delete"]

Splits the clip beneath the cursor, and deletes the portion to the left of the cursor. *The s and d keys can be used one after the other to delete a central part of a clip. Use s to split at the beginning of the bit you want to delete, the use the adjacent d key to split at the end of the part you want to delete and automatically delete the section and close the gap. The process is perhaps a bit like using the "multitrim" window.*

i [for "in"]
or
[

Trim the clip beneath the cursor from the cursor to the start of the clip, closing the resulting gap. *This is the same as using the [key in the Trim window, without needing to have the trim window open.*

o [for "out"]
or
]

Trim the clip beneath the cursor from the cursor to the end of the clip, closing the resulting gap. *This is the same as using the] key in the Trim window, without needing to have the trim window open.*

j k l

These three keys can be used for playback - k - and frame back - j - and frame forward - l - thus enabling easy placement of the cursor for editing. *You may find it handy to use these keys in conjunction with the i and o keys, for finding the right spot and then trimming a clip while keeping your fingers in one area of the keyboard.*

z x c

These three keys can be used for playback - x - and frame back - z - and frame forward - c- thus enabling easy placement of the cursor for editing. *You may find it handy to use these keys in conjunction with the s and d keys, for finding the right spot and then cutting out the middle of a clip while keeping your fingers in one area of the keyboard.*

Notes

All of these keys can be used "on the fly" during playback. You don't have to stop first.

If the clip you want to edit is on track one then you don't have to be in "clip" mode to use keys like "[" or "]" to trim the clip.

The ctrl/space keystroke can be used repeatedly to keep stepping back five seconds without stopping first, either to replay an earlier portion or to keep replaying the same portion several times.

The keys will only work in PowerDirector's main window and will not affect editing titles, or using other programs.

A small exercise

The "nature.mpg" sample clip that comes with PD9 can be used to try out these keys. It has three sections which can be described as "Clouds", "Corn", and "Lake". Drag that clip onto the timeline in a new project.

Using the s d z x c keys, try cutting out the middle "Corn" section from the clip. Then use ctrl/spacebar to review the edit.

Using the i o j k l keys, try cutting away the "Clouds" and "Lake" sections, leaving only the "Corn" section of the clip.

You can use these same keys in storyboard view too, although timeline view is probably easier.