Treasure Hunt
A Point & Click Adventure Game in Alice

By Elizabeth Liang
under the direction of
Professor Susan Rodger
Duke University
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Introduction

This tutorial shows you how to create a point and click adventure game in Alice. If you are not familiar with point and click adventure games, I suggest that you download the finished world for this tutorial and play it to get a feel for what it will be like.

Point and click adventure games will rely mostly on click events to direct the story.

As we build the game, we will review scene change, parameters, functions and if statements. If any of these concepts are new to you, consider going through the topical tutorials on those topics before beginning this tutorial.

Now, let’s get started in building this world!
Playing a Click Adventure Game

For this simple game the solution involves the following:

Click on the light bulb in the lantern to pick it up. Click on the red arrow to go to the dock.

Click on the lighthouse to give it the light bulb and turn it on. Now the ship can move. Click on the sailboat and Click on the map it leaves behind.

Click on the red arrow to go back to the island. Click on the Jock to give him the map.

Click on the X that appears to reveal the treasure!

The fun in adventure games is the puzzle that the user must figure out in order to unlock the ending. In this case the goal is to find the treasure.

Step 1: Setting Up the World

The first step is to set up the world. This means positioning all the objects that we will need in our story.

There are two scenes in this game, an island and a dock. We will set up the island scene first then the dock scene. If you want to have more than two scenes in your game, review the scene change tutorial to learn how to add more scenes.

Create a new world with a water template.

This game does not have the superGround.a2c object imported unlike the scene change tutorial because we will only be using the water background. If your game requires different ground textures, you will want to see the scene change tutorial to do this.

Drop a dummy at the camera. Rename the Dummy Objects folder in the object tree to cameraViews. Expand the folder, rename dummy to islandView.
Step 1: Island Scene Objects

Add an island from the environments folder, a sailboat from the vehicles folder, and jock from the high school, students and teachers folder to the world.

Position the objects roughly as shown in the image.

If you cannot find an object in the gallery, use the Search Gallery tool.

Step 1: Lantern & Light bulb

Add a light bulb (from the light folder) and a lantern (from the objects folder). You'll notice that the light bulb is in the island.

Right click on the light bulb in the object tree, select methods, move to lantern, flame. This will move the light bulb to the lantern so that we can see it.
Step 1: Lantern & Light bulb Continued

Resize the light bulb and move it so that it is in the center of the lantern.

Glue the light bulb to the lantern by clicking on the light bulb in the object tree and going to its properties. Set the vehicle property of the light bulb to the entire lantern.

Move the lantern so that it is above the jock’s head and looks like it is being hung in the coconut tree on the island as shown.

Step 1: 3D Text

Create two 3D Text objects, one that says Congratulations! and another that is just an ‘X’. Rename them in the object tree and position as shown.

Add a ToyBox2 object from the furniture folder to the island, resizing it and positioning it on top of the X.

If an object is not visible when you add it, click on the object in the object tree and move it up 1 meter to help locate it in the scene.
Step 1: Island Arrow

In the Web Gallery, find the Triangle object in the Shapes folder. If you do not have access to the web, you can use a triangular prism colored red.

Right click on the triangle in the object tree and roll it left ¾ of a revolution. Position it in the upper left hand corner of the screen.

Rename the triangle in the object tree to islandArrow.

Step 1: Hiding the Treasure

Set the isShowing property of the sailboat, jock, toyBox2, and the two 3D Text objects to false. This is because we only want those objects to show up later.

Click on the X 3D Text object in the object tree and find the properties panel. Set the color of the X to black. We are finished setting up the island scene!
From the object tree, turn the camera left ½ revolution to find a space to set up the new scene.

Drop a dummy at the camera to save the view. Expand the cameraViews folder and rename dummy to dockView.

To switch between views, simply right click on the camera and set the point of view to the desired view.

Add a Beach Terrain object from the Beach folder into the world. Switch to quad view to position it.

You want to turn/move it from the top view so that the beach looks as shown. The beach should cover the horizon line between the water and the sky of the dock single view. The island scene view should still have open water behind it. Change the camera view back and forth to adjust until it looks correct.
Step 1: Dock Scene Objects

Add a Pier and Lighthouse from the Beach folder to the scene. Use the from the top view to move them into the dock scene and then use single view to position them.

Put the lighthouse on the right hand side of the beach and turn the pier so the wide end is facing the camera. Move the pier to the left hand side of the screen.

Also add a rock to the scene. The rock will initially be small. Move the rock to the pier and then resize it and move it to the right, in front of the lighthouse in the water.

Step 1: A Pirate Map

The next thing to add is a treasure map. Since there is no treasure map object, we will use a billboard.

Either download the pirate-map.gif from the website for this tutorial or find your own image of a treasure map.

Make a Billboard of this image and set it on the pier as shown in the figure to the right. Hint: Try moving the billboard to the pier and then moving it up and forward.

Now we will hide this map behind a sailboat.
Step 1: Another Boat

Add another instance of the sailboat and jock into your world. Move the new sailboat (sailboat2) in front of the map. Resize the boat so that the sail covers the map entirely, hiding it from your view.

Move the new jock (jock2) to the boat (sailboat2) in the dock scene.

We use two copies of the same object in the two different scenes to make it appear that the boat moves from the dock to the island. In reality one set disappears and the other set is made visible. Sometimes it is easier to trick the viewer with copies of objects rather than figure out a complicated animation to move the objects.

Step 1: Dock Arrow

Click on jock2 in the object tree and set the vehicle of jock2 to sailboat2.

Add another Triangle and position it at the upper right hand corner of the dock scene.

Rename it dockArrow.

When positioning the arrow, you may need to move the lighthouse over so that the arrow fits. In order to get the arrow pointing to the right, roll it left ¼ revolution.
To create a beam of light coming from the lighthouse, we will use the flashlight. Add a flashlight from the objects folder.

When moving the flashlight to the lighthouse you will need to resize and check in quad view so that the flashlight is inside the uppermost part of the lighthouse. The body of the flashlight should be covered as much as possible by the lighthouse with only the beam shining outward.

Set the isShowing property of the flashlight to false. You are now done with setting up the world!

The first thing to do is to create a changeScene method that we can call when the arrows are clicked on. Create a new world level method called changeScene.

In this method, create a new object parameter named cameraView.

Create a new color variable called skyColor.
Step 2: Change Scene Continued

The first thing to do in the changeScene method is to save the current color before we fade out.

Drag the skyColor variable into the method. Select set value to black. Set the duration to 0 seconds.

Click on world in the object tree and select the atmosphereColor property and drag it over the black box in the code.

Step 2: Using Fog

The next step is to fade out of the scene. Drag the world atmosphereColor property into the code and set it to black. Change the duration to 0 seconds. Drag the world’s fogStyle property into the code and set it to density. Change the duration to 0 seconds.

This activates the fog in the Alice world which we will use to cover our scene so that it looks like it is fading out. Unlike the scene change tutorial, we use fog instead of changing the world’s light to fade out. This is because we have a light object (the light bulb) in the scene and simply darkening the world’s light would not hide everything in the scene. Fog will black everything out.

Finally, drag in the fogDensity property into the code and set it to 1. Set the duration for 2 seconds.
Step 2: Change Scene Continued

Click on **camera** in the object tree and find the **camera set point of view to** method. Drag this into the code. Select expressions, **cameraView**.

Change the **duration** to 0 seconds.

By using the **cameraView** object parameter, we will be able to easily switch between scenes without rewriting code.

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Step 2: Using Fog Continued

To finish up the method and have it fade in to the new scene, reverse the commands we dragged in earlier. Drag in a **set fogDensity to 0** command with a **duration** of 2 seconds.

Set the **atmosphereColor** back to the **skyColor** we saved earlier and set the **fogStyle** to no **fog**; both commands have a **duration** of 0 seconds.

Above is the final code for **world.sceneChange**.
Step 2: Change Scene Events

Create two new ‘When the mouse is clicked on something’ events.

Set the events to happen when you click on each arrow.

Events: create new event

- When the world starts, do world.my first method
- When is clicked on islandArrow, do world.changeScene cameraView = dockView
- When is clicked on dockArrow, do world.changeScene cameraView = islandView

Change the do Nothing into world.changeScene and select the appropriate cameraView. Make sure you click on the objects in the cameraViews folder and not the island or the dock itself!

Test this by playing your world and clicking on the arrows.

Step 3: List Visualization

The next thing we will do is allow the player to pick up certain objects. To do this we will use a ListVisualization that will store those objects.

In the Visualizations folder, add a ListVisualization object into your world. To initialize the list, click new item once. Then click OK to add it to the world.
Move the listVisualization into the dock scene and bring it forward until the wooden border just touches the bottom of the screen.

Move it off screen so that you can only see half of it as shown.

Set the vehicle of the listVisualization to the camera and set the isShowing property to false.

List visualizations are one of the tools in Alice to help understand how lists work. In this case we will be using it to line up the objects that the user picks up in the game. By setting the vehicle to the camera, we ensure that the objects follow the player around. This is a useful trick for games where you want the user to collect ‘items’.

Create a new world level method named pickUp.

In this method, create a new object parameter named object. This will represent the object that we want to pick up.

When we click on the object that we want to be picked up, this method will kick in to pick it up.
Step 3: Pick Up Continued

Drag into the method, an If/Else statement.

Click on listVisualization in the object tree and go to the functions pane. You will see that the listVisualization has a set of ‘list’ functions different from other objects.

Select the listVisualization contains item function and drag it into the condition of the If statement. Select expressions, object.

Step 3: Pick Up Continued

Drag the object parameter into the code after the If statement and select object say.

Have the object say ‘just a regular’ and set the duration to 2 seconds.

Create another object say command after the Else and have it say ‘you have picked up a’. Again, set the duration to 2 seconds.

Make sure that there is an extra space after the last word in each string.
Step 3: Pick Up Continued

Go to the methods of the listVisualization object and find the insert item at end of listVisualization command. This will both add the object to the list as well as move it onto the visualization.

Drag it into the Else portion of the code, above the object say command. Select expressions, object.

Step 3: Pick Up Continued

Go to the world functions tab and under string, drag the a joined with b function into the code over the two phrases the object says. Select default string for b.

Now drag the what as a string function over ‘default string’ and select expressions, object. The method is now finished!
Step 3: Pick Up Events

Create new event **When the mouse is clicked on something** events.

When the lightBulb and pirate-map are clicked on, the world.pickUp method should be called on those objects.

Step 3: Testing Pick Up

Play your world. Change to the island scene and click on the light bulb in the lantern. The light bulb should move to the bottom of the screen and say ‘you have picked up a lightBulb’. Change back to the dock scene, the light bulb should travel with you and when clicked on say ‘just a regular lightBulb’. Now we will work on the story starting with my first method.

If the lightBulb moves off screen, check that the vehicle of listVisualization is set to camera. Also try turning the listVisualization ½ revolution to the left in the set up.
Step 4: My First Method

Create a new world variable called **storeAtmosphere**.

The type should be **color**.

Drag the new variable into `world.my first method` and set the value to **black**.

Drag the world **atmosphereColor** property over the **black** box and set the **duration** to **0 seconds**.

**Step 4: My First Method Continued**

Drag the world **atmosphereColor** property into the code and select **black**. Set the **duration** to **0 seconds**.

Add in **island say** commands to give the user instructions on how to interact with the world. Remember to set the **duration** so that the text is displayed long enough.

This is the final code for **world.my first method**. Your directions may vary.
Step 4: Testing My First Method

Before we test we need to change the camera view back to the island. Right click on the camera and have it set point of view to the islandView.

Watch the animation and change the duration of the instructions if needed.

Step 5: Lighthouse On

Create a new world method called lighthouseOn.

This is the method we will call when we click on the lighthouse. We want the lighthouse to turn on if the user has picked up the lightBulb, otherwise we want to give a hint about what to do.

Drag in an If/Else statement and once again drag the listVisualization contains item function into the conditional. Select the lightBulb.
We want the lightBulb to disappear so drag the lightBulb isShowing property into the If portion and set it to false.

We also want the flashlight to appear. Drag the flashlight's isShowing property into the If portion and set it to true.

Now to lighten the sky, drag the world atmosphereColor property into the code beneath the other commands and select expressions, storeAtmosphere.

If the lightBulb is not in the list, we want the user to receive a hint. Drag in a jock2 say command into the Else portion of the code. Have him say ‘We’ll need that lighthouse to work to sail out’. Set the duration to 2 seconds. The lighthouseOn method is now complete!

Create a new ‘When the mouse is clicked on something’ event. When the lighthouse is clicked, lighthouseOn should happen.
Play your world.

First try clicking on the lighthouse without the light bulb. The jock in the dock scene should give the hint. Then pick up the light bulb and click on the light house. The sky should lighten and the beam of light should appear from the lighthouse.

To make it more interesting, we will have the light beam turn round and round in the lighthouse.

Drag the flashlight into the Events Editor and select When the world starts. This will create an event under the heading ‘flashlight’.

An object event, like an object method, should only involve the object. If you save the object that the event is tied to, the object’s events will go with it. Since this event only involves the flashlight, it makes sense to have it as an object event.

Right click on the new When the world starts event to change it to a While the world is running BDE event.
Drag a flashlight turn command into the During part of the BDE. Have it turn left 1 revolution.

Set the duration to 2 seconds and the style to abruptly so that there is no pause between each rotation.

Play the world again and get the lighthouse to light up. You should see the beam of light should be spinning the as long as the world is running.

Step 6: Sailboat Move

Once the lighthouse is on, we want the sailboat to be able to move to the island when it is clicked on. If the lighthouse is not on, then we want the jock to give another hint.

Create a new world level method called sailboatMove. Drag an If/Else Statement into the new method.

Drag the flashlight isShowing property into the condition of the If statement.
Drag a sailboat2 move forward 10 meters command into the If portion of the code, this will move the sailboat off screen.

Drag in a Do together and set make the sailboat2 and jock2 disappear by setting the isShowing property for both to false. Make the sailboat and jock on the island scene appear by setting their isShowing property to true. Change the duration for all four commands to 0 seconds.

In the Else portion, have the jock2 say that ‘It’s too dark to navigate’. Set the duration to 2 seconds.

We’re now done with this method!

Create a new ‘When the mouse is clicked on something’ event to run the sailboatMove method when sailboat2 is clicked on.
Step 6: Testing Sailboat Move

Play the world. Try clicking on the sailboat without the lighthouse on. The jock should give the hint.

Turn the lighthouse on and move the boat away. It should allow you to click and pick up the map. If the map is too big you may need to resize it.

Go back to the island scene and make sure you can now see the jock and sailboat in that scene.

Step 7: Find X

Once the jock is on the island, we want to be able to ‘give him’ the map so the X will appear and the treasure can be found. If the user hasn’t picked up the map, we want the jock to give a hint.

Create a new world level method called findX. Drag an If/Else Statement into the new method.

Under the listVisualization’s functions, drag the contains item function into the conditional. Select the pirate-map.
Step 7: Find X Continued

Set the `isShowing` of the `pirate-map` to `false` and the `x` to `true` in the `If` portion.

In the `Else` section, have the `jock` say ‘I wish I had a map’ as a hint. Set the duration to 2 seconds.

Step 7: Find X Event

Create a new ‘When the mouse is clicked on something’ event and run the `findX` method when the `jock` is clicked on.

Test the world by clicking on the `jock` on the island with and without the `pirate map`.
Step 8: Show Treasure

Once the X is revealed, the user will click on it to show the treasure and end the game. We have one more method to write to do this.

Create a new world level method called showTreasure.

Drag in the toyBox2 isShowing property and set it to true. Then drag in a jock say command and have the jock say ‘There’s the treasure! Thanks for your help!’ Set the duration to 2 seconds. Finally drag in the isShowing property of Congratulations! and set it to true. We’re almost done!

Step 8: Show Treasure Event

Create a new ‘When the mouse is clicked on something’ event and run the showTreasure method when the x is clicked on.

These are all the events in this world. You will see that nearly all of them are click events. This is after all a click-adventure game!
Congratulations!

Play your world one last time and test out the story to the end, making sure that the treasure chest appears at the end.

Congratulations on finishing this tutorial and creating a click-adventure game!

Click adventure games become more fun with the more items that you add into the world for the user to interact with. We did just the bare minimum but you can always add other click events to give hints (for example, clicking on island could say that the treasure is here somewhere...).

Create your own adventure game with a new story line. Don’t forget to add click events to interact with the world and if statements to check if the story should be advanced!