



Impulse Guide

Version 3.21

End User License Agreement (EULA)

Important:

Read this before using your copy of Stardock Corporation's Impulse.

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1. Welcome to Impulse



Impulse is Stardock's new state of the art digital distribution platform. Impulse allows you to quickly and easily find your favorite game or software and download it automatically to your PC. Through the Impulse store you can browse hundreds of software titles from various companies, including Stardock. No more hunting for an update you heard is out, Impulse monitors software you purchased for new updates and notifies you. Not only that, you can download the update (patch) through Impulse, saving you time from finding a download site with a free, fast connection and without hassles.

Impulse is not just a store, but includes start-of-the-art community features, that allow you to find friends for gaming, chatting, blogging, message forums, view rankings, achievements, and much more! This manual will explain everything you wanted to know about Impulse and more.

Features of Impulse

- Register software & view registration information in one place.
- Receive notification of software updates, and perform updates at the click of a button.
- Quick access to run programs (i.e. games, desktop applications, utilities) from within Impulse.
- Impulse does not need to run to play single player games or run software.
- Keep up on the latest news from Stardock.
- View the store, browse titles, email a friend, create a wish list and buy software.
- Participate in the Impulse community though: blogs, forums, friends list, chat, and more.
- Create a Friends List to keep in touch with what your friends are doing.
- Play games on any PC by using your Impulse logon, as long as Impulse is on the computer.
- Find hosted games to play.
- View achievements and game rankings.
- Update video drivers for ATI & NVIDIA video cards.
- The Impulse Dock, (optional, free) organize programs together regardless of source.
- Fast Downloads.

System Requirements

- Windows XP (32-bit) or Windows Vista (32-bit or 64-bit).
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0.
- [Microsoft .NET Framework Version 2.0](#).
- Athlon/Pentium III (1GHz or higher).
- 512 MB RAM.
- 1 GB HD space recommended.
- Internet connectivity to download, install and activate software.
- Impulse (Stardock.net, WinCustomize.com or GalCiv2.com) account (free to create, if you do not have one.)

Upgrading from Previous Versions

If you still have Stardock Central (or SDC) on your computer, you should consider installing Impulse since it is the newer digital distribution tool. You can easily move from SDC to Impulse, as all of your registration information will be added to Impulse automatically. Also, Impulse offers many more features over SDC and will continue to grow in the future. You can run both SDC & Impulse on the same computer, if you prefer. Then when you feel comfortable with Impulse, uninstall SDC and use Impulse solely.

Updates

Impulse is self-aware and will automatically check for updates and prompt you for permission to download & install new updates. This is configurable in [Preferences](#).

Location of Impulse

Impulse is stored on your computer in the folder:

Windows Vista (32 bit): C:\Program Files\Stardock\Impulse

Windows Vista (64 bit): C:\Program Files (x86)\Stardock\Impulse

Windows XP (32 bit): C:\Program Files\Stardock\Impulse

Support

Please contact Stardock Support at: www.stardock.com/support. On that page you will find helpful FAQs and other troubleshooting information. If you are unable to resolve your issue, please click the "eSupport System" link (or go to <http://esupport.stardock.com>) to open a support ticket to resolve your problem. Please include as much information about your computer (i.e. version of Windows, type of computer, etc.) along with the version of Impulse found on the About page under [Help](#). This will allow Support to diagnose your issue much quicker and allow for a faster response.

Resources

[Impulse: Road Map](http://frogboy.impulsedriven.com/article/345381/Impulse_Road_Map) by Frogboy (Brad Wardell, Stardock, CEO/Founder), April 7, 2009.
(http://frogboy.impulsedriven.com/article/345381/Impulse_Road_Map)

[Impulse Phase 3 Support Thread](http://zargon.impulsedriven.net/article/345331/Impulse_Phase_3_Support_Thread)

by Zargon0225 (Stardock, Director of Software Development), April 6, 2009.

(http://zargon.impulsedriven.net/article/345331/Impulse_Phase_3_Support_Thread)

[Do you really want Steam to be your only option? Are you sure?](http://frogboy.impulsedriven.net/article/339313/Do_you_really_want_Steam_to_be_your_only_option_Are_you_sure) by Frogboy, February 9, 2009.
([http://frogboy.impulsedriven.net/article/339313/](http://frogboy.impulsedriven.net/article/339313/Do_you_really_want_Steam_to_be_your_only_option_Are_you_sure)

[Do_you_really_want_Steam_to_be_your_only_option_Are_you_sure](http://frogboy.impulsedriven.net/article/339313/Do_you_really_want_Steam_to_be_your_only_option_Are_you_sure))

[Impulse Driven](http://www.impulsedriven.com) - home page.

(<http://www.impulsedriven.com>)

[Impulse Anywhere](http://anywhere.impulsedriven.com) - access software you purchased from your browser.

(<http://anywhere.impulsedriven.com>)

[Impulse Affiliate Program](http://www.impulsedriven.com/affiliates.aspx) - earn a sales commission by putting a custom link on your web site.

(<http://www.impulsedriven.com/affiliates.aspx>)

[Impulse Reactor for PC Digital Distribution](http://www.impulsedriven.com/developers.aspx) of software – for software developers..

(<http://www.impulsedriven.com/developers.aspx>)

Documentation

The version of this manual is 3.0 (4-24-09) and is based on Impulse (version 3.21.372 (phase 3)). This manual was written and is maintained by Jim Kennedy (TheProf). Please email comments or corrections regarding this documentation to: documentation@stardock.com.

Note: In this manual, the term "default" is used to tell you that a setting was checked or unchecked (in the case of a check box) when Impulse was first installed (the default setting). These default settings are what most people prefer, however you can change these settings to suit your needs.

(If viewing this as a PDF, clicking on the title below will take you to that location.)

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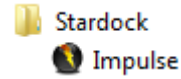
 I have questions regarding Impulse products, is there someone I can talk to? 89

2. Introduction

To run Impulse, locate & click the icon on your desktop or Impulse can be found on your Start Menu under: All Programs, then Stardock, and click on Impulse.



Desktop icon.



Icon on Start menu.

When you start Impulse, you will see a small (splash) screen as it loads into memory.





The first thing you see when Impulse runs is the "Explore" tab, which displays new and popular software from various companies.






Navigation Bar - click arrows to change pages, home icon to return to main page. Bar shows location in store.

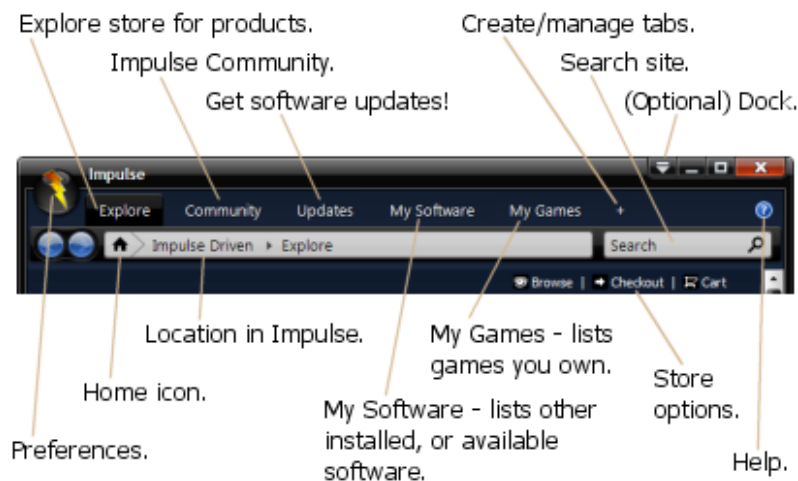


Main Menu

In the upper, left corner is the Stardock Orb  menu (for more information, refer to the [Preferences](#) section), and across the top is a tabbed menu bar, with easy access to the different areas of Impulse, including:







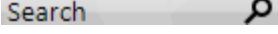

- Explore - online store with software in various categories that allow you to purchase & download a digital version immediately! Some software can be purchased as boxed retail versions as well as digital.
- Community - includes a sub-tab (bottom of screen) with My Impulse, News, Games, Achievements, Rankings, Friends list, Chat (i.e. Internet Relay Chat (IRC)), Forums, Community (i.e. blogging) and Drivers (i.e. download supported video drivers).
- My tabs - software categorized by group: My Software (i.e. non-gaming software), and My Games (Entertainment). If you are new to Impulse, you will see "My Games, then "My Software". If you had an account with Stardock or older Impulse, you will see "My Software", then "My Games". Clicking the  icon allows you to create and manage tabs.
- Help - includes: registration information, Impulse history, error log, diagnose network, FAQ, Help (i.e. this manual), and About screen.

On the "Explore" & "Community" tabs, below the menu bar is a web browser with familiar Back , Forward , Home  icons, Address bar, Search bar and Search  icon. Search allows you to browse the Stardock website from within Impulse. On the "Explore" tab, below [Search](#)  on the far right are links to: Browse (products), Checkout (buy selected products), and Cart (check your shopping cart).

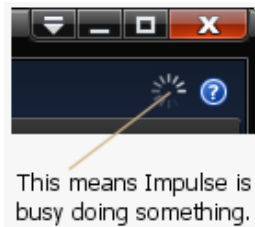


The following table explains these features in more detail:



Quick Reference

Action	What it does
	Impulse Orb - open a menu with various options, including: Preferences (sub-menu), Change log-in, Check for (software) updates, Register a product, Restore archive, Exit Impulse, and Clear registration cache. Plus additional options to: Show pre-release versions (i.e. alpha/beta software), Show freeware & demos, and Show hidden applications. The Preferences menu includes options for: General settings, Folders, Connections and Archive & Install. (Please refer to the Preferences section.)
	(If you download & installed the optional (free) Impulse Dock you will see this option.) Minimize to Dock - clicking this will minimize Impulse to a Dock on the bottom of your monitor.
	Help - includes: registration information, Impulse history, error log, diagnose network, FAQ, Help (i.e. this manual), and About screen. (Please refer to the Help section for more information.)
	(Seen only on the "Explore" and "Community" tabs.) Click to move back to the previous page.
	(Seen only on the "Explore" and "Community" tabs.) Click to move forward to the next page.
	(Seen only on the "Explore" and "Community" tabs.) Click to return to the home page for the current tab.
	(Seen only on the "Explore" and "Community" tabs.) Click on "Search", type in a keyword(s) & click  icon (or press the <Enter> key) to search Impulse.

When Impulse is busy (i.e. checking with the Impulse server, logging in, checking for updates, ...) you may see a circular animation in the upper, right corner.



Navigation


The "Explore" and "Community" tabs use a familiar web browser, allowing you to move back  & forward  by clicking the arrows. The "Updates", "My Software", and "My Games" tabs all work the same way, so it is easy to use. The "Updates" tab is only visible when there are updates available to download and install.

Impulse Account

Impulse requires you to have a (free) account that will be associated with your registration information and how Impulse knows who you are. Impulse will automatically log you in, check for software updates for installed software purchased through Impulse, display your registration information (i.e. serial numbers) log into your Friends list and more.

If you were a Stardock customer in the past, please note that your Impulse (Stardock.Net) account is different from the one you used when ordering in the store. However, you should use the same email address that you used in the Stardock Store. By using the same email address we will be able to link the accounts together so that your Impulse Stardock.Net Account will recognize your registration from the product you just purchased.

If you already have a Stardock.Net, WinCustomize.com or GalCiv2.com account there is no need to create a new Impulse account. Just logon with your existing account.

If you are new to Stardock, you can get an Impulse account free by clicking the Impulse  orb, selecting "Change log-in..." and "Create new account".

Impulse Anywhere

Impulse Anywhere allows you to access the software you purchased through Impulse via a web browser. The purpose of this is to allow those with computers either not connected to the internet or who cannot handle large downloads to install software from Impulse. This is how it works:

1. Create an Impulse account (or use an existing account) and purchase software through the Impulse store. This may include using Impulse on a computer connected to the internet, or through the web-based [Impulse Store](http://www.impulsedriven.com) (www.impulsedriven.com).
2. Using a computer connected to the internet, login to [Impulse Anywhere](http://anywhere.impulsedriven.com) (anywhere.impulsedriven.com) using your Impulse account.
3. Select the software you purchased and want to install on the other computer. Download the file, as well as Impulse itself.
4. Store the files on a USB flash drive or other device to transport to the other computer.
5. Then install Impulse and the software using the downloaded installer and any associated data file(s).

Requirements:

The computer you are installing this offline software to must have:

- Impulse installed on it. (A link to download it will be provided by Impulse Anywhere.)
- [Microsoft .NET Framework v2.0](#) is required. (A link to download it will be provided by Impulse Anywhere.)
- Some form of internet access may be required to unlock/activate your product.

Also please be aware of any system requirements for both [Impulse](#) and the software product you are purchasing, that the computer meets or exceeds those requirements.

Impulse Dock

The Impulse Dock is a free (optional) program that allows easy access to the common areas (i.e. Community, Store, running Impulse, software folders) of Impulse on a dock. A dock is like a menu bar that is located at the bottom of your monitor. By default, it will autohide, meaning when you move the cursor off of it, the dock will disappear off the bottom of the screen. Only a small portion of it will be visible and when you move the cursor over it, and the dock will slide back out - reappearing.



After minimizing Impulse to the dock, you then can quickly access programs and other features within impulse. The dock can be configured to meet your needs, including adding shortcuts to other programs on your computer, not just software purchased through Impulse. Even shortcuts to websites can be added to the dock. (For more information about the Impulse Dock, please refer to [Appendix B: Impulse Dock.](#))



Activation vs. Registration

When you purchase software through Impulse, the product may require you to Activate it with a serial number and email address. Registration is optional for all Stardock products, but allows you to get updates (i.e. patches, bug fixes, new features).

Stardock Central (SDC)

Stardock Central (or SDC) will remain in use for some time, however Impulse is the newer digital distribution tool. You can easily move from SDC to Impulse, as all of your registration information will be added to Impulse automatically. Also, Impulse offers many more features over SDC and will continue to grow in the future. You can run both SDC & Impulse on the same computer, if you prefer. Then when you feel comfortable with Impulse, uninstall SDC and use Impulse solely.





3. Explore

The "Explore" tab displays in web page fashion, all of the software sold in the Impulse online store. Clicking on the changing images (i.e. new products) will take you to the associated product information page. You can also view software sold by Stardock in various categories (seen as sub-tabs) running down the left side of Impulse. Clicking on a tab expands (opens) it displaying sub-categories. Clicking on a sub-category displays the software titles, and allows you to change between pages using the familiar  (back/previous page) and  (forward/next page) if multiple pages are available.





Navigation Bar



Under the main menu is the navigation bar which allows you to:

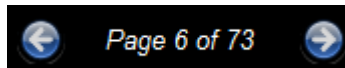
- Use back  & forward  buttons to navigate pages.
- Clicking  returns you to the front page.
- The navigation bar near the top, displays your location in the store (i.e. Impulse Driven > Explore).
- Typing keyword(s) into the "Search" box & clicking the  icon (or pressing the <Enter> key) will search the store for any matching products.
- Clicking on links (upper, right corner) to "Browse" products, "Checkout" of store, and view shopping "Cart".





Viewing Products

Below the main menu are a series of rotating ad's for products sold by Stardock. Clicking on any of the ad's will display the item's product information in the Impulse window. Either click the back  button (top left) or  icon to return you to the previous page or main Store page, respectively. Below the rotating ad's is an ad of a new or upcoming software release.

After clicking on a category (i.e. Games), then a sub-category (i.e. Strategy) a listing of software titles will appear under the rotating ad's.. If multiple pages are available, at the bottom of the listing click either the  or  to move between pages. If you downsize the Impulse window some columns may disappear, while expanding or maximizing the window will display more or all columns (depending on the size of your monitor and the resolution of your screen).



The listings consist of the following column headings: software icon with , Product Name, Popularity, Release Date, and Price (\$ US). Clicking the  icon will toggle between displaying all software titles on a single page vs. 10 per page. Clicking any other column heading will sort the software titles by that column. For instance, clicking "Popularity" will sort the games by the most popular to the least popular. Clicking the column again, will reverse the sort with the least popular at the top.







Under the product categories (on the left) are "New on Impulse" (new releases), and below that a list of "Top Sellers". Clicking any software title will take you to the respective product page, with information such as: title, description, price, availability, publisher, developer, genre, rating, players (how many can play), a link to support, screenshots, features, links to "Tell a Friend" & "Add to Wishlist", add to cart, system requirements, other titles (if any) from the publisher and more.





4. Community: My Impulse, News, Games, Achievements and Rankings.

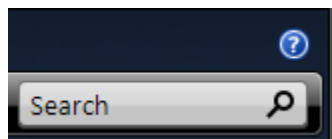
Overview

The "Community" tab includes a number of tabs on a sub-menu at the bottom of the window for getting involved with the Impulse community. My Impulse, News, Games, Achievements and Rankings tabs will be covered in this section, with the remaining tabs (i.e. Friends, Chat, Forums, Community, and Drivers) covered on the next page.

The top menu bar includes familiar web browser buttons, as seen on the "Explore" tab. Clicking  to return to the previous page and  to the next page. Clicking  returns you to the home page for the area you are in (i.e. News, Community, Friends, Forums). Where you are indicated on the navigation bar, to the right of the  icon.

Search



Clicking in the  box and typing in keyword(s), then clicking the  icon (or pressing <Enter>), will search the Impulse website related to the sub-tab you are on.

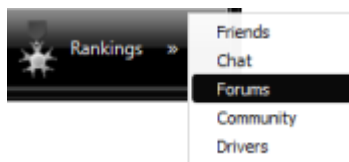


Sub-Menu

When you start Impulse and login, it also logs you into the Community website which is the same as your Impulse (Stardock.net) account. This allows you to read the latest blogs, write your own article and reply to blogs. You can also see which friends are online and what they have been involved in. Depending on the size and resolution of your monitor, you may see all of the sub-tab icons or you may not. Also if you downsize the Impulse window, that may also hide some of the menu options.



If you see these arrows  on the far right end of the sub-menu, clicking on  will open a small menu with the remaining tabs. Click on the desired option to display that tab.



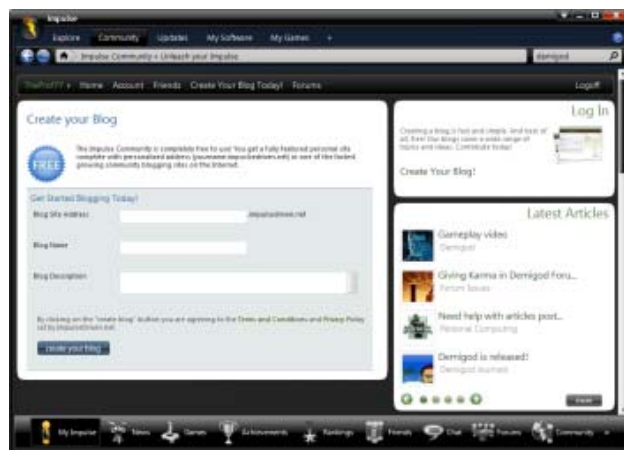
The sub-menu bar consists of the following:

- My Impulse - if you do not have a blog on Impulse, then you will see a screen to "Create your Blog". If you do have a blog on Impulse, then you will see your profile information, a list of Featured Articles, Activity Board, Activity Status, Community Activity, and Friends List.
- News - news from Stardock about new product releases and other information.
- Games - view a list of games available to join in and play against other people on the Internet.
- Achievements - lists the achievements you have earned for supported games.
- Rankings - lists player rankings for supported games.
- Friends - add friends from the Impulse community, track their activities on Impulse's blogs, forums and more.
- Chat - join in live IRC (Internet Relay Chat) with the Impulse community, friends, skinning community, and even Stardock support and developers. Supports public & private chat rooms.
- Forums - read and post messages on a number of message forums for Stardock and other software publishers, games, Windows software and computer topics.
- Community - read blog articles from the Impulse community.
- Drivers (i.e. ATI, NVIDIA) - Impulse will detect your video card and display options to download the latest video drivers from the manufacture. This allows you to keep your Windows video drivers up to date. Often times, the video drivers get out of date and are the root cause of many issues with software not running correctly. If you do not have a video card that supports either brand, you will not see this tab.

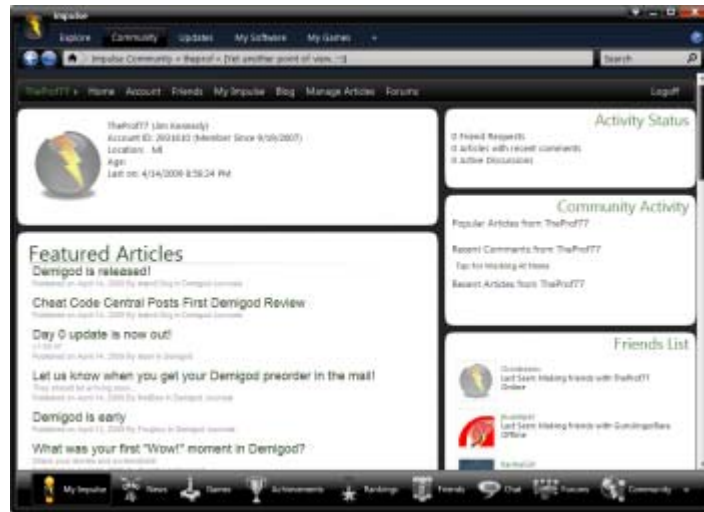
My Impulse

if you do not have a blog on Impulse, then you will see a screen to "Create your Blog". If you would like to create a blog, simply enter the "Blog Site Address" you would like (i.e. johndoe.impulsdriiven.net), the "Blog Name" (i.e. Joe's Opinions on World Politics) and a "Blog Description" describing what this blog is about. Click "create your blog" and if the address is already taken, it will prompt you to enter a different desired address. This is the address you can give to people to visit your blog site, which is a web site. Creating & managing a blog on Impulse is free.

If you would rather read the "Latest Articles", they are listed in a pane on the lower right side.



If you do have a blog on Impulse, then you will see your profile information, a list of Featured Articles, Activity Board, Activity Status, Community Activity, and Friends List. You may need to scroll down to see everything.





Near the top of the Impulse window, but below the navigation bar is a menu with these options:

Quick Reference

Action	What it does
<profile name>	Displays the Impulse (Stardock.net) username (i.e. TheProf77) currently logged into the Impulse Community website. If you have an Impulse blog, clicking your profile name (green link) will display information about your blog(s).
Home	Clicking this will return you to the main Community page.
Account	Allows you to view/edit your Impulse (Stardock.net) account, including: Profile - displays information such as: your real name, phone, address, website, other personal information, gamers tag, instant message network ID's, etc.. Login - change username and/or password. Images - avatar, personal, and desktop. Options - include displaying your email address (not shown by default), and subscribe / unsubscribe to free mailing lists. Registrations - lists purchased products with serial numbers, download links, and end date (software subscriptions).
Friends	A shortcut to your "Friends" page (same as "Friends" on sub-menu), which lists your friends on Impulse and their activity.
Create Your Blog Today!	Create a blog for display on Impulse - you will be prompted for the blog site address, name and description. (If you already have a blog, you will not see this option. Instead you will see the links "Blog" (displays your blog) and "Manage Articles" in your blog.)
Blog	Displays the blogs you have written on your Impulse based blog. (If you do not have a blog on Impulse, you will not see this option.)
Manage Articles	Lists the blog articles you have written with options to: View, Referrals, Edit and Delete the selected blog article. (If you do not have a blog on Impulse, you will not see this option.)
Forums	A shortcut to the Impulse "Forums" tab (same as on the sub-menu) displaying the forums page.
Logoff	On the far right, will log you out of the Impulse Community website. Log back in by entering your login information (i.e. Username, Password) in the upper right corner & clicking "Log In".

News

The News tab displays the latest news releases (i.e. Top Story, Latest News) and announcements from Stardock. Clicking on either the Top Story headline or "More >>" will open the full news article inside the Impulse window. After reading the full story, click the back  arrow to return the to main page or click .



Tip: Because Impulse is using a web browser, you can also right-click on a page & click the "Back" or "Forward" options.

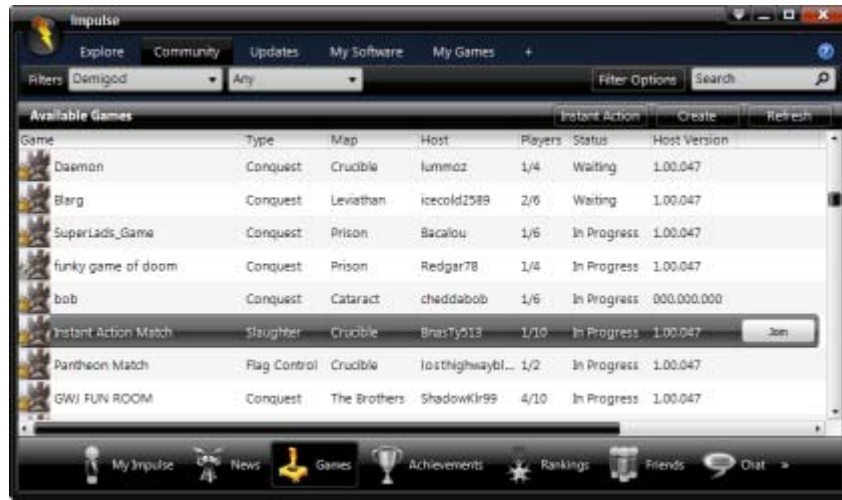
Scrolling to the bottom of the news page reveals past news articles and "Archives". Clicking on any of the news title links, will display the full news article. Clicking on any links within the news piece, will take you to that site. Clicking the "More >>" link will display past news items in an expanded view.

Games

Clicking the "Games" tab will display a list of games in progress on the Internet that you can join, if you have the game installed. This is a newer feature and will grow with time. (As of 4/09 only Demigod and The Political Machine 2008 supported this feature.) If no games are available, you will see a blank screen with a message about what to do. Some games on the internet are run on dedicated servers, which people join. While other games allow you to host your own game from your computer (server like), which allows you and people from the internet to join. The terms "host" or 'hosted games' and "server" are used interchangeably in this section.

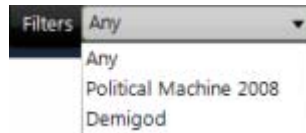
The list of Available Games (or people hosting games) includes the following columns: Game (i.e. Demigod), Type (i.e. game type within Demigod), Map (i.e. current map being played in that game), Host (i.e. name of person hosting the game), Players X/Y (i.e. number of players (X) in the game / maximum number of players (Y) server can support), and Status (i.e. Waiting, In Progress, Full, ...). Clicking on the column heading (i.e. Game, Type, Map, ...) will sort the listing by that column. For instance, clicking the column heading for "Host" will sort the Available Games list by the name of the Host in alphabetical order (A-Z), clicking it again will reverse the sort order (Z-A).

To join a game, select it and click the **Join** button. This will launch the game and connect you to that hosted game. If you do not see the Join button, the game host may be password protected or full.

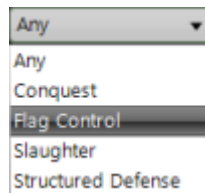


Near the top of the Impulse window are options to view which games (you have installed) to "Filter" the games by:

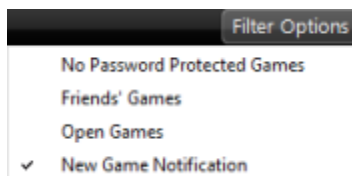
- Clicking on the pull-down menu next to "Games" will list which games (i.e. Demigod, Political Machine 2008) will be displayed in the listing. This will affect which game you join when clicking "Instant Action".



- Clicking on the pull-down menu to the right of the game menu allows you to filter by type of game (i.e. for Demigod: Any, Conquest, Flag Control, Slaughter, Structured Defense).



Clicking on the "Filter Options" menu allows you to filter (view only) the game servers with these choices:



- No Password Protected Games - if checked, filter out games not password protected. If a host requires a password, you must know it otherwise you cannot join the game.
- Friends' Games - if checked, filters out games not hosted by your friends.
- Open Games - if checked, lists only games that are not full.
- New Game Notification - (checked by default) you will be notified of new games that match your filter options while you are in chat.

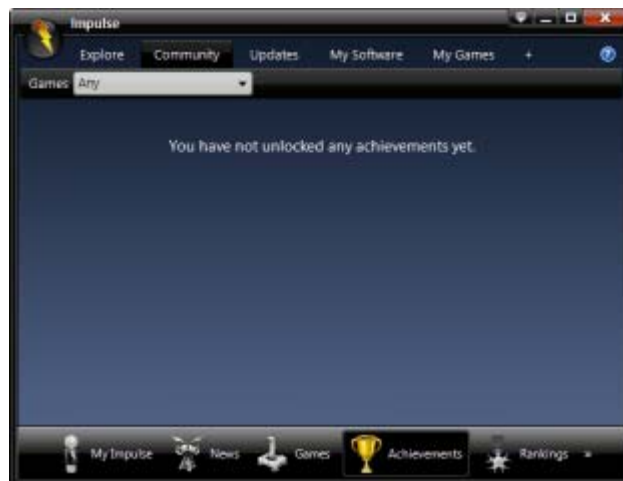
Clicking in the Search box allows you to type in a server name you want to find.

Other options include:

- Instant Action - first tries to connect to the hosted game to see if it is not full yet since the last update. Then if not full, it launches the selected game and adds you to it in multiplayer mode. For some games (i.e. Demigod) there is some match-making involved in which server it adds you too. While other games (i.e. The Political Machine 2008) just connects you to the first free game it finds.
- Create - will launch the selected game so you can host your own game server so people can join.
- Refresh - updates the list of hosted games on the internet.

Achievements

This will list any achievements you have unlocked in the selected game. If no achievements have been unlocked, nothing will be listed except a message stating that.



Rankings

This allows you to view players stats based on various filter criteria. Use filters to select the game (i.e. Demigod), and type of game (i.e. for Demigod: Overall, Tournament, Map, Entity, Team, Skirmish). The third pull-down filter menu is related to the game type. For instance, for Demigod, selecting "Map", allows you to select which map (i.e. Cactract, Crucible, Exile, ...).



Clicking on a player name in the list on the left, displays detailed stat's on the right. Clicking "Website" displays the website stat's for that game.

5. Community: Friends, Chat, Forums, Community & Drivers.

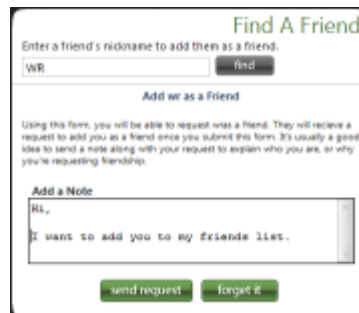
This section describes these additional tabs on the "Community" sub-menu:

- Friends - add friends from the Impulse community, track their activities on Impulse's blogs, forums and more.
- Chat - join in live IRC (Internet Relay Chat) with the Impulse community, friends, skinning community, and even Stardock support and developers. Supports both public and private chat rooms.
- Forums - read and post messages on a number of message forums for Stardock and other software publishers, games, Windows software and computer topics.
- Community - read blogs articles from the Impulse community.
- Drivers (i.e. ATI, NVIDIA) - Impulse will detect your video card and display options to download the latest video drivers from the manufacture. This allows you to keep your Windows video drivers up to date. Often times, the video drivers get out of date and is the root cause of many issues with software not running correctly. If you do not have a video card that supports either brand, you will not see this tab.



Friends

The "Friends" tab allows you to add friends so you can watch their activity on the blogs, in games, etc.. When you first use Impulse you will not have any friends, so you need to type their nickname into "Find A Friend" and click **find**. When it finds your friend, type in a short message and click **send request** (or **forget it** to cancel). The request will be sent to your friend, and stored until they log into Impulse to accept or decline the request.



When you have friends, the "Friends" tab will display anything they have blogged about, etc. on Impulse.



If you want to write a blog, click on "Create Your Blog!" link in the upper right corner. It is free to blog on the popular Impulse Community site.



Chat

Impulse includes an IRC (Internet Relay Chat) client (program) that allows you to type messages to people in the Impulse community from around the world. To join chat, you type in a nickname (your name from the Impulse login will appear, but you can change it to anything not already in use or registered) and select a "Room" (also called a "channel") you want to join by selecting it from the pull-down menu, then click **Connect**.



Your nickname can be the same as your Impulse account (i.e. Stardock.net, WinCustomize.com or GalCiv2.com) or something different. If the nickname you choose is already in use, Impulse will automatically append a number to the end of it. Two people cannot be in chat with the same name, at the same time. Some nicknames are "registered" with the server, in which case the server will change your name to something else if you do not enter the correct password within 60 seconds. To type in a password, type `/pass mypasswordhere` (without quotes). If you have not logged into Impulse yet, Impulse chat will use the user account you logged into Windows with (i.e. Bob, Administrator, Mom).

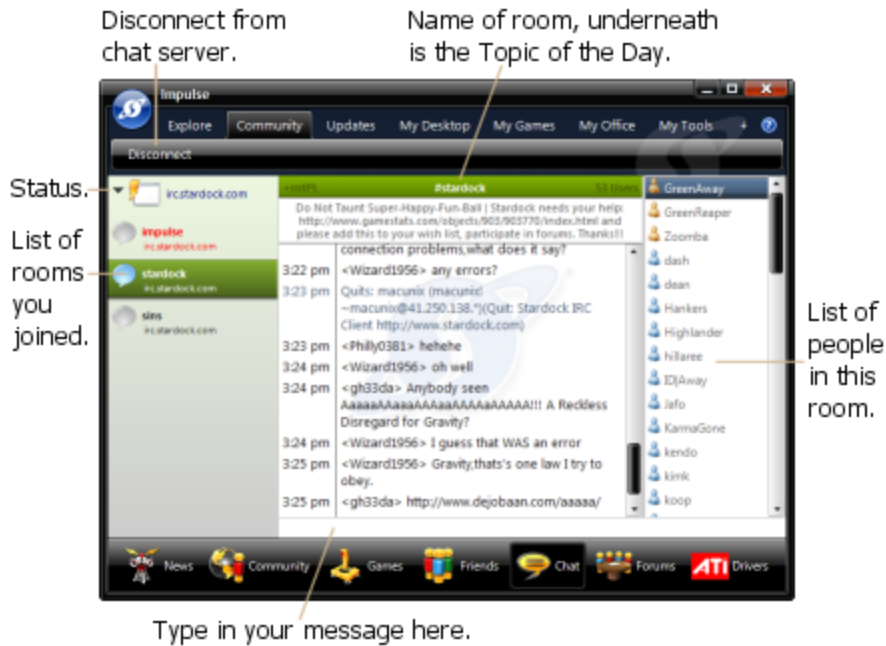
English is the language used in the chat rooms. After you have joined chat, you could create a new chat room to talk to friends in your local language. As an example, to create a new room called our_room, simply type in "/join #our_room" (without quotes). A new private room will be created (if not already in use) by that name & you will be added to it. Then you can invite others to join it by sending them a PM (Private Message), more on that later. The pound sign (#) is required in front of the room name, and there is no space between the pound symbol and the room name. There is one blank space between "/join" and "#our_room". The underscore (_) symbol is required in place of a blank space. Or you can create a room name like "ourroom". If you try to create a room name like "our room", the created room will be called "our". Blank spaces are not allowed within a room name.

Here is a list of the common rooms in Impulse Chat and the topic for each. Check the pull-down menu from time to time, as new channels are added/changed. You can also check what rooms are available once you are in chat mode, by selecting the status window and scrolling back to see the list of "...permanent channels...". If you join a room and no one is there or it is slow, you can join other room(s) simultaneously and then chat in any that you joined.

Chat Room Topics

Room	Topic
#impulse	Covers anything related to Impulse, including questions, problems, etc.. Impulse will add you to this room/channel by default, unless you select a different room from the pull-down menu before logging into chat.
#stardock	The main room where most people hang out chatting about all sorts of things.
#demigodgame	This is related to the Demigod game by Gas Powered Games & published by Stardock. Chat with other players looking for a game to join. Demigod has a built-in IRC chat client, so you can chat while in game with other players in-game, waiting or in Impulse chat. Sometimes the actual developers are in here and you can chat with them, or people from Stardock.
#galciv	Anything related to Stardock's popular "Galactic Civilization" game series.
#sins	"Sin's of the Solar" Empire game chat.
#elemental	Chat about Stardock's new game "Elemental" in development.
#joeuser	Chat with other bloggers from Joeuser.com & Impulse.
#wincustomize	Talk to skinner from the famous WinCustomize.com site where you can download thousands of free skins for your Windows computer.

After clicking **Connect**, you will see a lot of text scroll by quickly in the status window. Then Impulse will automatically switch to the desired room (i.e. #impulse). At the top of the window is the room name (i.e. #impulse) and below that maybe a Topic of the Day. In the center is where people chat with the time to the left of what they typed. Old messages scroll upward, so use the vertical scroll bar to read past (old) messages. On the bottom of the chat window is where you type in your message. Simply type it in and hit the <Enter> key to send it. You will see your nickname (i.e. TheProf77) followed by what you typed.



The chat window may seem busy with a lot of strange messages in different colors, including people chatting. Some nicknames may seem strange (e.g. [2of3], WR_Away), while others may be a variation of someone's real name (e.g. JennyT, kink).

Here are some of the messages you might see and why they appear:

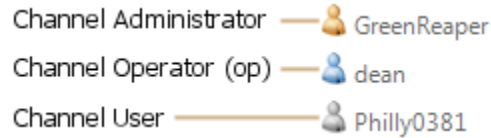
Action	What you see in chat window
Type <code>/me is shocked!</code> (without quotes), and press <code><Enter></code> .	TheProf77 is shocked!
Right-click on a nickname and select "Slap!". This is meant in fun usually, with the herring being a reference to "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" movie.	TheProf77 slaps qrush around a bit with a large herring.
Right-click on nickname and select "Tickle!".	TheProf77 tickles qrush until qrush cries uncle
Seen when someone joins the room. (<code>/join</code>)	Joins: qrush (qrush!DoctorNick@irc.stardock.com)
Seen when someone leaves the server (all rooms). (<code>/quit</code>) (Using <code>/quit some message here</code> allows you to display a message after the "Quit:" like mittens did. Ex.: Quit: bbl)	Quits: mittens (mittens!mittens@irc.stardock.com)(Quit: bbl)
Seen when someone leaves the room. (<code>/part</code>)	Parts: jsmith (jsmith!~jsmith@*.somewhere.com)
Typical chat message, simply type "hi" and press <code><Enter></code> .	<code><TheProf77> hi</code>
Channel Operator "qrush" promotes Channel User "Hippy" to a Channel Op..	qrush sets mode: +o Hippy

The messages are color-coded so they stand out from other text so it is easier to read. In addition to a message like "qrush sets mode: +o Hippy", you may see other messages like "qrush sets mode: -o Hippy" (note the subtraction symbol in place of the plus sign), which means "qrush" demoted "Hippy" from channel operator to channel user. There are various codes in chat, but you can ignore them. At the top of the chat window you may see something like "+rntPL" (without quotes) which is technical information regarding that room. Most chat rooms have a Topic under the green bar at the top. This may be used to pass on important information (e.g. Impulse is Here! `=(http://www.impulsedriven.com)=.`) or something funny. Most rooms require a channel admin. (administrator) or operator to change the topic (if a lower case "t" is seen in the title bar).

Some people use common Internet abbreviations when chatting, such as: FTW (For The Win / this is the best), IIRC (If I Remember Correctly), IMHO (In My Humble Opinion), BBL (Be Back Later) and more. (For more information on other abbreviations, check out the About.com site: <http://netforbeginners.about.com/cs/netiquette101/a/abbreviations.htm>.)

Who is in the Room?

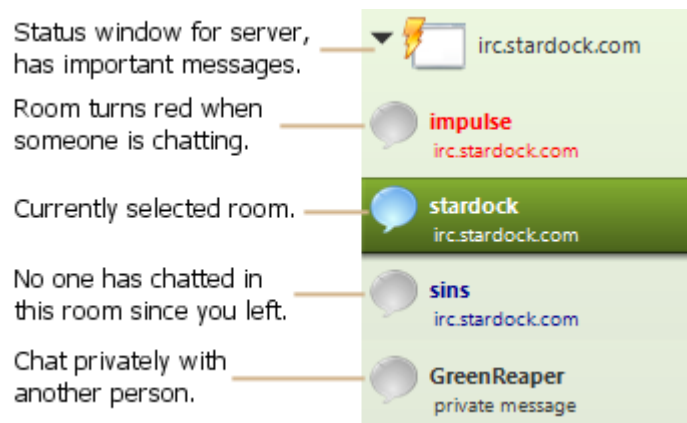
On the right of the chat window is a list of who is in the room with you. If a room has different colored avatars, here is what they mean:



The Channel Admin. (orange) is the big boss who can do anything, followed by the Channel Operator (or "op") (blue) who can remove (kick) a person from a room, mute them (so they cannot type messages), etc.. The normal user has the role of Channel User (gray). You can also find the role a person has by placing your cursor over the person's name in the list, and a popup will display their nickname & role. If you find someone causing trouble in one of the chat rooms, report it to either a channel admin. or channel operator. Some rooms may have a lot of people, but few chatting. This is because people sometimes login, then may chat in other rooms, or are away and will return later. Sometimes a person may change their nickname to show they are away, such as: KarmaGirl becomes KarmaGone. Or Zoomba is changed to Zoomba_Away. Some people use a different IRC chat client (i.e. mIRC) than the one built into Impulse.

Rooms

On the left side of the chat area is a list of the room(s) you joined. When you first join Impulse Chat, you will only see the status window at the top (i.e. irc.stardock.com) and the "impulse" room below it. If you click on the status window, it will list various system messages, including all of the text that scrolled by when you logged in. To view the text that scrolled by, use the vertical scroll bar to scroll back through the messages. It will include a list of other chat rooms, how many people are on the server, server host name, how to join other channels (rooms), and more. Clicking on the down ▼ arrow next to the status window in the list (seen below) allows you hide (or collapse) / un-hide (expand) the rooms you joined.



You can join several rooms, but you can only view one chat room at a time. However, if you miss something in another window you can scroll back. In the example (above), the green bar shows which room is selected (i.e. stardock) viewed in the chat window. Any rooms that turn red (i.e. impulse) mean that one or more people have typed in new message(s) since you left. Rooms that remain black (i.e. sins) mean nothing has changed since you changed rooms.

You can hold a private conversation with another person in one of two ways:

1. Right-click on their nickname in the list & select "Private Message". A new window will open addressed to that person. To close it, either right-click on the window (or name in the room listing) & select "Close" or type "/close" (without quotes).
2. In any chat room, use the command: /msg nickname message.
Example: /msg mittens I enjoyed your blog. (where "mittens" is the nickname of the person and "I enjoyed your blog." is the message.) You will see the message in the main chat window (i.e. >> *SlyFox* Hello) but no one else will see it. The person you typed the message too will have a new "private message" with your name appearing under the list of rooms on the left of their Impulse chat window. Clicking it, will open the private chat so they can read your message.

Tip: Clicking on a name in the chat area will select the name in the list of users on the right. Double-clicking the name will open a private message window to that person.

Chat Commands

There are a number of chat commands with some being on a right click menu and others you have to type in. If you right click on a nickname in the right pane, a small menu will appear. Two sub-menus are "Control" and "CTCP", as a channel user you only have access to the CTCP options. The Control sub-menu is reserved for Channel Operators & Channel Admin's. and will appear grayed out (inactive) to you.



List of commands in the right-click menu as shown above:

Command	What it does
GreenAway	Name of the person you right-clicked on.
Whois	Displays information in the current chat window about this person. Only you can see the listed information. Same as the "/whois" typed command (without quotes).
Private Message	Opens a private chat room between you & the person you clicked on. The other person will not see you opened private chat until you type in something & hit your <Enter> key. Then they will see your nickname in red added to their list of rooms on the left panel. Once they click on your name, they can read your message. However, Impulse will not let you know if the person read it. You will only know if that person types a reply to you.
Control (sub-menu)	If you are ever granted Channel Operator status, you will be able to use these commands: Op (promote a user to Channel Operator status), Deop (demote Channel Operator to Channel User), Voice (this person can chat even if room is moderated (shows a "+m" for room), Devoice (remove ability to chat in moderated room), and Kick (remove user from room). The Voice/Devoice options are rarely used on Impulse.
CTCP (sub-menu)	Client To Client Protocol (CTCP) is a method of sending short requests to other users chat software (client), which may or may not return information. Results of these commands are displayed in the status window: Ping (time in milliseconds (ms) from the selected user to the chat server), Time (the local time of the user), Version (name & version of their chat software), Finger (gives more info. about a user, but it is rarely used), Source (URL where the chat software can be obtained).
Slap!	Allows you to virtually slap someone in a funny way. Displays "TheProf77 slaps qrush around a bit with a large herring." in the chat window, where "TheProf77" is your nickname & "qrush" is the user you clicked on.
Tickle!	Allows you to virtually tickle someone. Display "TheProf77 tickles qrush until qrush cries uncle" in the chat window, where "TheProf77" is your nickname & "qrush" is the user you clicked on.

The following table details a number of common chat commands that can be typed into: a chat room, private message chat room or the status window. After typing each command, you must press the <Enter> key on your keyboard.

Common Chat Commands

Command	What it does
/me	Displays a message on the screen prefaced by your nickname. Example: /me jumps up & down! Seen in chat: TheProf77 jumps up & down!
/nick	Changes your nickname to something else, if the new nickname is not in use. Example: /nick TheRock Seen in chat: TheProf77 is now known as TheRock Some people use this to append "away" to their nickname to show they are away, eating, in a meeting, etc.: Example: /nick TheProf77_away Seen in chat: TheProf77 is now known as TheProf77_away.
/join #roomname	Allows you to join an existing room (channel) or create a new room if no room by that name currently exists on the server. Example: /join #stardock
/quit	Disconnects you from the Impulse chat server, removing you from all chat rooms. Using "/quit some message here" allows you to display a message after the "Quit:". For example, typing: /quit See you later! Displays: mittens (mittens!mittens@irc.stardock.com)(Quit: See you later)
/msg nickname message	With this you can send a private (one on one) message to another user. The person does not have to be in the same room as you to send a private message. When you send the message, it will appear in their room listing as "private message" with your nickname & flash red until they open the window (then it turns black). Example: /msg greenreaper How are you today? Seen in chat: » *greenreaper* How are you today? Note: Even though you see this in the chat window, no one else can see it, except you.
/part	Leave the room you are currently in. This will remove the room name from the room listing on the left side. This is different from changing to a different room to see what is going on there. This command will remove you from the room, so if you want to go back to it later you will need to /join it.

(Continued on next page...)

`/away` Tells other users you are away from the keyboard, however the message is not displayed in the chat room or status window. If a user is using a different chat program, there is a way to see the message, but it is not obvious. So a better way is to use the `/me` command or change your nickname to include your status (i.e. `TheProf77_away`):

Example: `/away Off to get something to eat.`

Seen in chat: (nothing)

Example: `/me is off to get something to eat.`

Seen in chat: `TheProf77 is off to get something to eat.`

`/whois` Displays information about the person, like how long they have been idle, etc.. This information is only seen by you in the chat window, no one else can see it.

Example: `/whois greenreaper`

Seen in chat:

`GreenReaper is GreenReaper@irc.stardock.com * Laurence Parry`

`GreenReaper on @#GalCiv @#impulse @#stardock @#demigod`

`@#demigodgame`

`GreenReaper using irc.stardock.com Stardock IRC server`

`GreenReaper is an IRC Administrator`

`GreenReaper is a registered nick`

`GreenReaper has sensitive ears`

`GreenReaper has been idle 00:03:06, signed on Wed Apr 15 02:36:18`

`GreenReaper End of /WHOIS list`

The first line tells his real name, second line lists what rooms he has joined, third line shows he is an administrator, fourth line shows it is a registered nick, so only he can use it. Fifth line says he has sensitive ears (swear words blocked), seventh line shows how long he has been idle and when he signed on. The last line simply states it is the end of the `/WHOIS` information.

`/msg nickserv help` This will display instructions in your status window on how to register your nickname with the chat server so other people cannot use it. You can do this if the nickname is not already registered by someone else. Registering is free, automated and requires a password. If not used within 90 days, Nick Services (nickserv) will drop it and anyone can register it. Nickserv is an automated program on the chat server.

Tip: If you changed from your registered name (i.e. `TheOne`) to something else (i.e. `TheOne_away`), then disconnected from the server and reconnected. You would not be prompted for a password, until you tried changing to your registered nickname (i.e. `TheOne`). If you were a channel operator, you may not be upgraded to ops (operator status) after entering your password for your registered nickname. If this happens, disconnect, then re-connect and your ops status will return.

/pass <password>

If you have a registered nickname on this IRC server, then you may at times be required to enter the associated password. If you do not, the chat server will automatically change your nickname after 60 seconds. This command can be entered in any room, though it is best to type it in the status window. Because if you mistype the command (e.g. pass mypassword) it will display it in the chat room! Notice the slash "/" is missing in front of the "pass" command. Making this mistake will display your password to everyone in the room!

Additional information on IRC chat commands can be found at: <http://www.inspircd.org/wiki/Commands>. IRC servers vary so you may find some commands either do not work or are disabled in Impulse chat. Not all users in Impulse chat rooms use Impulse to chat. Some people may use a dedicated IRC client program, such as: [Mirc](#), [IceChat](#), or others. Some users may chat through their IM (Instant Message) program (i.e. Trillian). Using the CTCP Version command (right click on their name) will display the name & version of their chat software in your status window.

Forums

The Impulse message forums are a great place to talk to other users about software sold by Stardock. You may find Stardock Support Staff, developers, employees and even the CEO (Brad Wardell, known as "Frogboy") in the forums & chat! You can post problems you are having with Stardock products in the Support forums and someone will reply. Or maybe you would like to talk with graphic artists who create skins on WinCustomize.com. Thousands of people use the forums from around the world everyday.



Impulse automatically logs you into the Forums which can also be viewed outside Impulse in a web browser at: <http://forums.impulsedriven.com>. Impulse makes it easier to use the forums, chat, blogs and other sites in one place.

Community Tab

The Community page (i.e. blogs) is organized into: Featured Articles, Popular Channels, Log In, Latest Articles, Leading Blogs, Active Tags, Latest Comments, Leading Users and Popular Articles.



Near the top of the Impulse window, below the navigation bar is a menu with these options:

Quick Reference

Action	What it does
<profile name>	Displays the Impulse username (i.e. TheProf77) currently logged into the Impulse Community website. If you have an Impulse blog, clicking your profile name (green link) will display information about your blog(s).
Home	Clicking this will return you to the main Community page.
Account	Allows you to view/edit your Impulse account, including: Profile - displays information such as: your real name, phone, address, website, other personal information, gamers tag, instant message network ID's, etc.. Login - change username and/or password. Images - avatar, personal, and desktop. Options - include displaying your email address (not shown by default), and subscribe / unsubscribe to free mailing lists. Registrations - lists purchased products with serial numbers, download links, and end date (software subscriptions).
Friends	A shortcut to your "Friends" page (same as "Friends" on sub-menu), which lists your friends on Impulse and their activity.
Create Your Blog Today!	Create a blog for display on Impulse - you will be prompted for the blog site address, name and description. (If you already have a blog, you will not see this option. Instead you will see the links "Blog" (displays your blog) and "Manage Articles" in your blog.)
Blog	Displays the blogs you have written on your Impulse based blog. (If you do not have a blog on Impulse, you will not see this option.)
Manage Articles	Lists the blog articles you have written with options to: View, Referrals, Edit and Delete the selected blog article. (If you do not have a blog on Impulse, you will not see this option.)
Forums	A shortcut to the Impulse "Forums" tab (same as on the sub-menu) displaying the forums page.
Logoff	On the far right, will log you out of the Impulse Community website. Log back in by entering your Impulse login information (i.e. Username, Password) in the upper right corner & clicking "Log In".

Video Drivers

If you have either an ATI or NVIDIA video card in your computer, Impulse will determine which and display the appropriate tab. This allows you to download updated video drivers from the ATI or NVIDIA manufacture web sites via Impulse. Keeping current with the latest video drivers is important for playing games & using graphic software, so Impulse allows you to stay current easily. You can either let it determine what video card is installed or manually select from the pull-down menus which card you have. Even if you use the automatic method, it is best to know which card you have in case of an error.



If you have an ATI video card, your menu will include the ATI logo instead.



If you do not have either of these video cards, you will not see this tab on your menu.

6. My Tabs

Running along the top menu are the following menu tabs: "My Software" and "My Games". When updates are available, an "Updates" tab will appear (between "Community" and "My Software"). When you start a download the "Downloads" tab will appear until the download is complete. These tabs as well as any you may create, work the same way so they will be covered in this chapter. Creating your own tabs will be covered in the next chapter on: [7. Managing Tabs](#).




(Note: If you are new to Impulse, not a previous customer, you will see the tab "My Games" to the left of "My Software". While previous customers see "My Software" to the left of "My Games", since they are used to it from previous versions of Impulse. Regardless which tab is first, you can change the order of the tabs to your preference by clicking **+** and selecting "Manage tabs...".)

When you start up Impulse for the first time and click on one of the My tabs, you will see software you purchased through Impulse listed alphabetically by title. As you buy & install software via Impulse, it will appear on these tabs. "My Software consists of non-game titles, while games are listed under "My Games". If you had Stardock Central (SDC) installed prior to installing Impulse & purchased software through it, that software will appear in Impulse. If you installed Stardock software from CD/DVD, it will appear in Impulse. Stardock demo's & freeware will appear in Impulse, unless you have that feature turned off in [Preferences](#).

The default "View" for the My tabs is "Details-view" (shown above), which includes a listing of software titles by row & column. The default sorted order is by software title in alphabetical-order. You can change the sort order by either clicking the column heading or "Organize" and selecting the desired option. You can change the view from details-view to "List-view" (similar to Tile-view) and "Tile-view" with the Information Panel (on by default, but can be hidden). If your monitor/resolution is set low, you may not see all of the columns. If you maximize Impulse, this may help or you can change the order and/or hide columns by selecting "View", then "Edit Columns".

Organize

Clicking the "Organize" button (upper left corner) will open a menu with the following options that allows you to change how the applications/games are listed on the "Updates", "Downloads", "My Software", "My Games" tabs, plus any you create with Manage  Tabs):



- by Name - (selected by default) listed in alphabetical order by product title (A-Z).
- by Status - groups programs with status messages together alphabetically.
- by Category - groups programs together by category (i.e. Shooters (Games), MyColors, Object Desktop, Strategy (Games), ...).
- by Rating - based on your ranking of the programs, sorts highest rating to lowest.
- by Updated Date - lists them from most recently updated (i.e. 4/14/2009) to oldest (i.e. 2/18/2009).
- by Last-Run-Date - displays in order by the date you last ran each program, most recent to oldest.
- by # of Times Used - the program run the most times is displayed first, followed by the least run programs.
- Show installed programs first - (checked by default) applies more to the My Software & My Games tabs where it will list installed programs near the top, and programs not installed but "Available" towards the bottom of the list.

View

Clicking the "View" button gives you a number of options to change what and how programs are listed.



Quick Reference

Menu option	What it does
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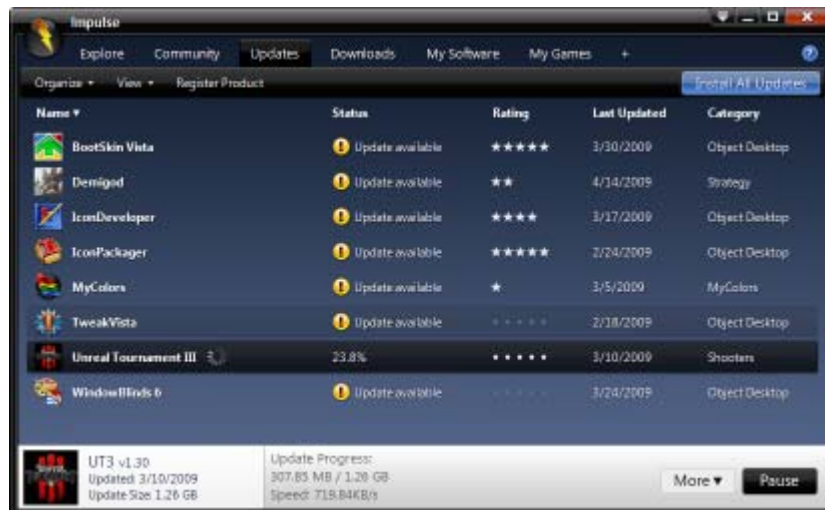
Tile-view Lists programs with a large program icon, program title and status. Also includes the information panel on the right-hand side (by default).



List-view Similar to Tile-view, but with smaller icons, text for program title, no status text, but a yellow exclamation point to show if an update is available. Also includes the information panel on the right-hand side (by default).



Details-view (Default) Removes the information panel, but adds column headings (i.e. Name, Status, Rating, Last Updated, Category, Last Run, Run Count, Size). Clicking any column heading will sort the listing by that column (i.e. Rating will sort from highest to lowest rating), while clicking it again will reverse the sort (i.e. lowest rating to highest). The default sort is by "Name" in alphabetical order (A-Z).



Clicking on a program displays detailed information on the bottom of the Impulse window, including: program icon, title (i.e. Demigod), version installed (i.e. v0.97), Updated (i.e. date of last update from software company), Update Size (i.e. size of file to download).

In the lower, right corner are two buttons **More** (options) and **Run** (selected program). The buttons change depending on the status of the program, the same as on the information panel.

(Continued on next page...)

Show freeware & demos Checked, Impulse will include freeware (free software) and demonstration (demos) programs you can download and install. (Note: To see the free (optional) Impulse Dock, this option must be checked. See [Appendix B: Impulse Dock](#) for more information.)

Unchecked, (default) freeware & demos will not be visible in the listings.

Fade non-installed applications Checked, (default) will display software titles not installed, but available for download and install as faded text. This makes the programs that are installed easier to see, quickly, because they are in bold, white text.



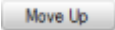
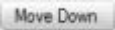


Unchecked, all programs, installed or not installed/available will be in bold, white text in the listing.

Hide non-installed applications Checked, hides programs that not currently installed, but are available for download.

Unchecked, (default) displays programs not installed, but are available.

Show information panel Checked, (default) displays the information panel on the right-hand side.

Unchecked, hides the information panel.

Edit Columns... Opens a dialog box with options to change the order of the columns shown in "Details-view" mode by selecting the column, then clicking either  (move left on menu bar) or  (move right) to change the location. You can also  and  to show previously hidden columns.






You may notice extra columns in the dialog box that you cannot see. If the width and resolution of your monitor allows, resize the width of the Impulse window (or maximize it) to see all available columns. It is possible on smaller monitors not to see all of the columns. This option allows you to hide less important columns, in favor of other ones on smaller displays. Plus you can change the order of the columns.

Refresh Checks with the Impulse server for any updates, etc..

Register Product

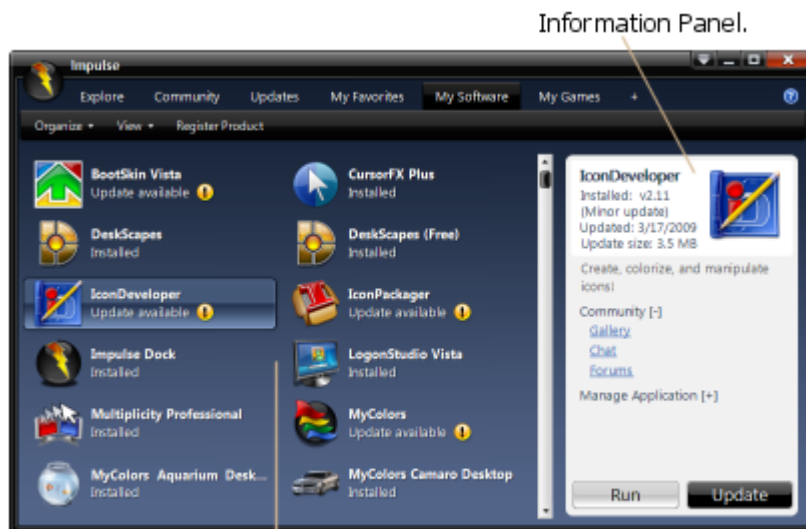
Clicking the **Register Product** button near the top, middle of the Impulse window on the "Updates", "My Software" or "My Games" tabs will open a dialog box allowing you to register products to receive updates, etc..



When you purchase products through Impulse you should not need to do this, but if you bought a retail copy this is where you can register the product. Type in the serial number, the email address of your Impulse account will be filled in, then select from the pull-down menu for "Product Category" and "Product". Then click  button. (Click  or  to abort.)

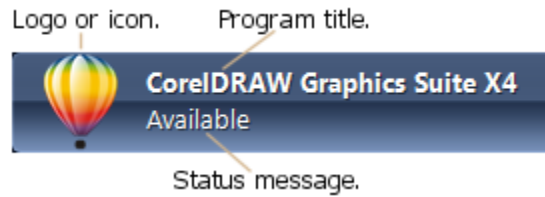
Tile View


Applications are listed by logo, title and status. Click on an application or game to select it. If needed, use the vertical scroll bar to view additional applications, or maximize the Impulse window. If the Impulse window is downsized horizontally (width), you may only see one column of software titles, while expanding or maximizing it on a widescreen monitor will show several columns.

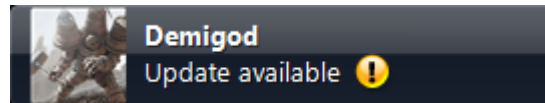




List of programs in Tile View - alphabetical order by title.

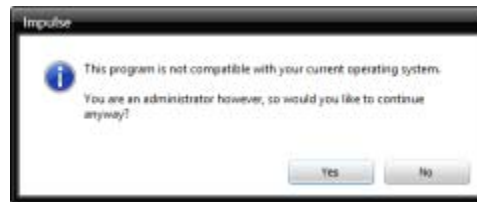
Each tile consists of the following:



If a program has an update available, you will see the status: Update available .







If you try to install a program that is not compatible with your operating system, Impulse will ask if you want to install it anyway. Click  to install it. (Click  to abort.)



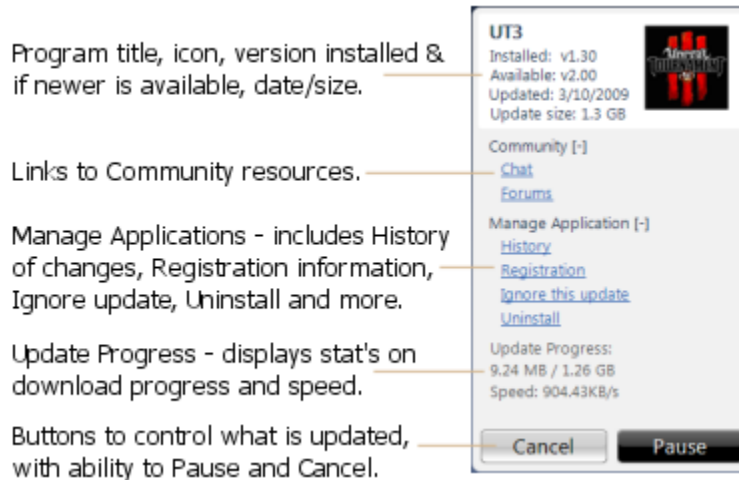
Below is a list of the more common status messages and what they mean:

Status Messages

Status message	What it means
Available	This program is available to be installed by clicking the  button.
Installed	This has been installed and is ready to use by clicking the  button.
Update available 	An update (patch) is available for download & install by clicking  . After updating an application, the program status will change to "Installed".
Downloading	Shows status of the download and installation progress.
Free version available	Program is free to use.
Demo available	A trial version is available to download & install, to try before you buy.
Error retrieving data	Some sort of server error (i.e. cannot find file).
The serial number you entered is not recognized..	Only serial numbers provided by Stardock will be accepted, check your serial number and email address for this product on the Registration screen .

Information Panel

Clicking on an application (i.e. Unreal Tournament 3) will display detailed information on the right in a Information Panel. The options available vary depending on the status of the application. For instance, applications that state "Update available" may include: name of the program & logo (i.e. UT3), "Size of Update" (i.e. 1.3 GB), "Installed Version" on your computer (i.e. v1.30), the new update as "Available Version" (i.e. v2.00), and the date of the "Latest Update" (i.e. 3/10/2009).



Alpha/Beta Testing

If you selected "Show pre-release versions" in "[Preferences](#)" and if alpha or beta updates are available, you may see an "Available Alpha" or "Available Beta" version number on the information panel. An Alpha version is an early version of the program & major features may not be working yet. After alpha, comes beta which is closer to the final release version, but can have a lot of bugs (i.e. errors, problems). Alpha/Beta versions should be installed with the understanding that this is an incomplete and/or test version of the program. It most likely includes bugs when using certain features and may even crash your computer.

These test versions are released to get feedback from people (users) outside the company. Bugs may occur on your unique computer configuration as compared to a computer used for internal testing at Stardock (or the company making the pre-release available). The feedback from you & others helps Stardock improve applications & games. However, do not install these versions if you do not want to deal with potential bugs in the program. Wait until the normal, public release (non-alpha/beta) to install an update. To avoid seeing beta versions, under "Preferences" uncheck the box for "Show pre-release versions". Normally, this option is off (by default).


Links

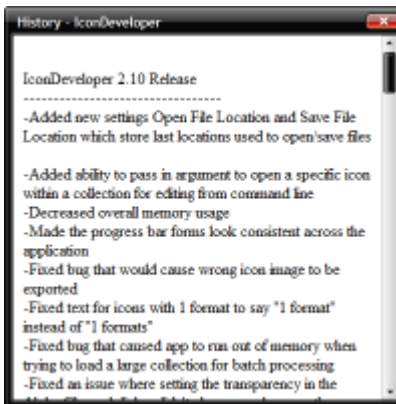
Below the information about the software are links categorized into "Community" and "Manage Application". If a [+] is next to it, this means clicking that title will expand that section, displaying links. If you see [-], clicking the title (i.e. Community) will collapse (hide) that section of links. The links under each section may vary by the type of software (i.e. desktop customization, game, utility, productivity, ...). You may not see the same links for each program.


Here is a list of links you may see under "Community" and what they do:

- Instant Game Action - this will launch the game for internet play and add you to a multiplayer game.
- View All Multiplayer Games - this is a shortcut to the "[Games](#)" sub-tab under "[Community](#)" which lists available games on the internet you can join for this game.
- Chat - is a shortcut to the "[Chat](#)" sub-tab under "Community" where you can join others and chat about this program or other subjects.
- Forums - a shortcut to the "[Forums](#)" sub-tab under "Community" which opens the Stardock message forums where you can post/read messages from other people like you. This is a good place to ask questions about the Stardock program you have, meet other people, etc..
- Gallery - displays the [WinCustomize](#) web site Gallery for the selected program. For instance, clicking "Gallery" for DeskScapes will display the available Dreams for download.





Here is a list of links you may see under "Manage Application" and what they do:

- History - displays a list of changes to this & past updates to the program. This will be displayed in a separate window with the name of the program and version number(s). Clicking  will close the history window.

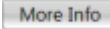
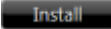
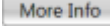
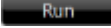
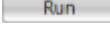
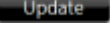
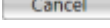
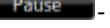
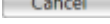
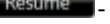


- Registration - displays the serial number for the product. If the product is part of a subscription, the "Expires On" date (i.e. 12/20/2015) will let you know when it expires and is due for renewal. Clicking [Copy Serial to Clipboard](#) will copy the serial number to the clipboard, in case you need to paste it into the program. Some games require you to do this, so it saves typing mistakes if you can just paste it in (i.e. <Ctrl> & <V> on the keyboard or right-click & "Paste" for the mouse). Click [Close](#) or  to close the dialog box.




- Ignore this update - will hide the selected program from the "Updates" tab. To un-hide it, locate it on the appropriate tab (i.e. My Games if it is a game, such as Demigod), right-click on it (i.e. Demigod) & select "Show hidden update" then the  will appear & the program will re-appear on the "Updates" tab.
- Show hidden update - if under "[Preferences](#)" you have "Show hidden updates" checked, you will still see the program you had clicked "Ignore this update" listed under the "Updates" & respective program tab (i.e. My Games if it is a game) tab, but with a darker  exclamation point. Selecting the program, then clicking on the link "Show hidden update" will fully unhide the  update.
- Uninstall - this allows you to uninstall the selected program instead of going through the Windows Control Panel to remove an application.
- Edit Registration - displays the "Registrations" window which displays all of your serial numbers, email address, and more. This allows you to edit your Impulse (Stardock.net) account or add a new registration. (The other way into the "Registrations" area is by clicking the  icon (upper, right corner) and selecting "Register a product with Impulse...") (This will be covered in more detail on the [Help](#) page.)

On the bottom of the information panel are two buttons that change depending on the status of the program:


Status message	Buttons available in information panel
Available	 - displays product information.  - downloads & installs.
Installed	 - displays product information.  - launches program.
Update available	 - launches program.  - downloads & updates.
Downloading	 - aborts download.  - pauses download.
Download Paused	 - aborts download.  - resumes download.

Right-Click Menu

Right-clicking on a program will display a menu with a number of options which vary depending on the status of the application.

Action	What it does
Update *	(If an update is available.) Downloads & updates the selected program.
Run *	(If program is installed.) Launches the program.
Pause Download *	(If downloading.) Pauses the download in progress.
Resume Download *	(If downloading.) Resumes a paused download.
Cancel Download *	(If downloading.) Cancels a download in progress or a paused download.
More Info *	Displays product information.
Uninstall *	Removes the application/game from your computer.
View History *	Displays a list of changes in this update. Not available for all programs.
Rating	Displays a sub-menu with options to rate this program from one to five stars or none (default). This is nice so you can sort programs by rating.
Ignore this update *	(If update is available.) Ignore the update by removing it from the "Updates" tab and changing the status to "Installed".
Re-Activate	Re-activates a program, which is the same as the Activation of a program when you run it for the first time.
Hide application	Makes the application disappear from the tab. Unless "Show hidden applications" is selected on the Preferences  menu, then it will appear semi-transparent. This option allows you to hide applications you do not use.
Un-hide application	Makes the semi-hidden application fully visible.
Open application folder	Opens a Windows Explorer window displaying the folder for the application.

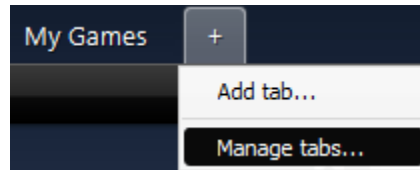
(Continued on next page...)

Archive Application	<p>(If installed) Allows you to make a backup of the software. This is useful if you want to backup the program before an update, in case you think the update may cause problems. Creating an archive packages the software into one file ending in ".impulse" (no quotes) which only Impulse can read.</p> <p>Tip: If the program is part of a subscription, this allows you to back it up prior to expiration. Once expired, if something happens to your computer you can not download it again without renewing your subscription. This way you can still use the software you purchased after it expires, however you cannot get updates which the subscription provided.</p> <p>By default, archives are stored under: Vista: C:\ProgramData\Stardock\Impulse\backup XP: C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Stardock\Impulse\backup</p> <p>To restore an archive, select "Restore Archive..." from the Orb  menu.</p>
Download and Archive	Downloads the program, then creates an archive (backup copy) of the software.
Verify Installation	Verifies the software was installed correctly and will display the results.
View Registration	Displays the serial number for this product and end date for subscription based software (i.e. Object Desktop).
Refresh	Checks with the Impulse server for an update.

* = Same as option on Information Panel (sidebar menu).

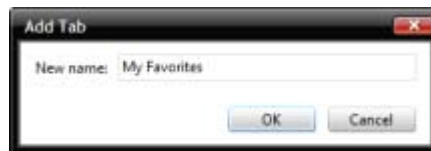
7. Managing Tabs

Impulse gives you the ability to manage existing tabs on the main menu (i.e. Explore, Community, My Software, My Games), by changing the location, hiding/showing tab(s), creating new ones, and deleting unwanted tabs. Locate the **+** at the end of the main menu & click on it to display a menu: "Add tab...", and "Manage tabs...".



Adding a New Tab





Selecting "Add tab..." opens a dialog box asking for the "New name" of the tab, after typing one in (e.g. My Favorites), click **OK**. (Click **Cancel** or **X** to abort.) The new tab will appear on the end of the main menu (far right). You can also add a new tab on the "Manage tabs..." menu.



To add programs to your new tab, click on the tab, then locate the desired icon on the desktop, in Windows Explorer, etc. and drag it onto the open tab in Impulse and a shortcut will appear. You can drag shortcuts for any program, not just those you downloaded through Impulse.




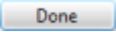

After a program is on your new tab, right clicking on it will open a small menu with the following options:

- Run - launch the selected program. This is the same as the  button in the lower, right corner.
- Rating - (None is default), allows you to give the program your own rating (1 to 5 stars), so you can sort programs by rating and keep track of good & bad ones.
- Rename Shortcut - allows you to rename the shortcut to a program you added to your tab. Change the name, then click  to accept the change. (Click  or  to abort.)



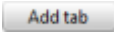

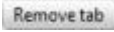
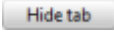
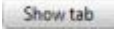


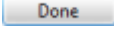

- Remove Shortcut - deletes the selected shortcut from the tab. It does not ask for confirmation.
- Refresh - checks the Impulse server for updates to software purchased through Impulse.

Manage Tabs

The other menu option is to "Manage tabs..." which allows you to change the location, hide/show tab(s), creating new ones, and delete unwanted tabs. In the screen below a new tab was added (My Favorites) and was moved to the highest position possible under "Community" (to the right of "Community" on the menu bar) by selecting "My Favorites", then clicking the  arrow. Clicking  will apply the changes to the menu, while clicking  will cancel any changes.

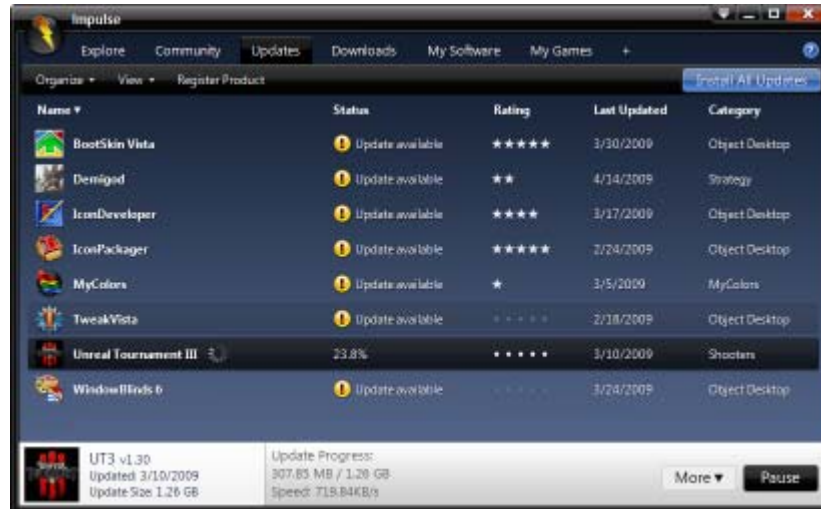


Summary of buttons on the Manage Tabs menu:

-  - add a new tab to main menu by typing in a title.
-  - allows you to rename the selected tab.
-  - delete the selected tab.
-  - hides selected tab from being seen on menu.
-  - un-hides the previously (Hidden) tab.
-  - moves the selected tab up one (to the left of the previous tab on the menu).
-  - moves the tab down one position (to the right on the main menu).
-  - click when ready to apply changes. (Click  to abort.)

8. Updates & Downloads

The "Updates" tab lists any updates for software purchased through Stardock's Impulse. When a program is listed on the tab, it will state "Update available" which means an update is ready to download & install. If looking at the other tabs (i.e. My Software, My Games), software will be listed the same as "Update available" and have the yellow exclamation point icon to draw your attention. The "Updates" tab is only visible when updates are available, otherwise the tab is hidden. Also when you start a download, any programs downloading or paused will be listed on the "Downloads" tab...again only visible when downloading. The default layout is Details-View (seen below) like the My tabs.

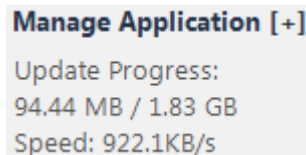


Updating

To start an update, these are the ways to start the download/update:

- Click on the desired program, then click the **Update** button in the lower, right corner.
- Right-click on the desired program, and select "Update".
- Double-click on the desired program.
- To install all update(s), click the **Install All Updates** button in the upper, right corner.

When you start the download of an update, the "Status" column will display the progress of the download.



If in "Tile-view", more information will be displayed on the information panel under "Manage Application". As seen in the example below, the set of numbers are "94.44 MB / 1.83 GB" which means that 94.44 MB has been downloaded (received) by your computer. While the 1.83 GB is the size of the total download. Below that is the "Speed: 922.1KB/s" which means the data is being downloaded at 922.1 KB per second. This number may vary depending on traffic on the internet between you and the Impulse server. Also, if

you are transferring other data from your computer (or other computers at your location) for other purposes at the same time, this may affect your speed (transfer rate).

You will also see a new tab appear on the top menu called "Downloads" which allows you to view the download progress (shown below in tile-view). The tab will disappear after the install completes.



If under "[Preferences](#)" you have "Archive Applications before updating" checked, this may increase the time to install an update. On larger programs like games, the archiving stage may take a while. While smaller programs the status messages may fly by so quickly you miss them.

As the program starts the process, a status message will be displayed under the title (in tile-view or in the Status column for details-view). During the install/update, you maybe asked if you want Impulse to create a shortcut on your desktop. Click to create a shortcut. (Click not to create a shortcut.)



After the update has completed, the application will disappear from the "Updates" tab. Recently downloaded applications will remain on the "Downloads" tab, allowing you to either run the application from there or its native tab (i.e. My Software).

Running a Program

At the bottom of the information panel are two buttons which change depending on the status of the application.

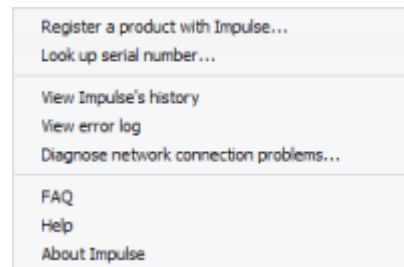
- If an update is available for download & install, the two buttons will be this program & (download & install) the update.
- For "Installed" applications, the buttons will be (displays product information) and this program (download & install) this program.
- For new programs that are "Available" (to download & install), the buttons will be (displays product information from "[Explore](#)" tab) and .

9. Help



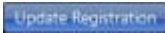

Clicking on the Help icon in the upper, right corner of the Impulse window opens a menu with a number of options to help you. You can register a product, look up a serial number (request registration information be emailed to you), view Impulse's history of changes, view error log, diagnose network connection problems, read an FAQ, view the current Impulse manual (this documentation) and see an About screen with the version of Impulse & other information.



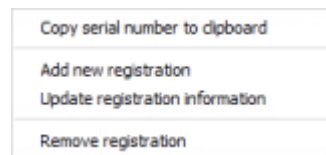
Help icon.





Quick Reference

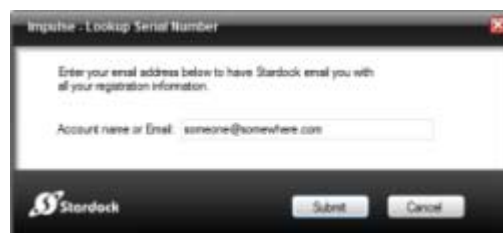
Action	What it does
Register a product with Impulse...	Opens the registration screen, listing all of the software you purchased through Impulse, including: titles categorized by type, email address associated with the product, serial number and expiration date for subscription based products.  - displays Impulse Login screen, allowing you to "Login with my existing account", "Create new account", "I forgot my account information" (prompts for email address so your information can be sent to you) and "Edit Proxy Settings" (if behind a company proxy server which may prevent you from accessing Impulse via the Internet).  - allows you to add the serial number, email address (Impulse will fill this in), Product Category and Product name. Use this if you purchased the retail boxed version at a store.  - select a product to change the information..  - displays the Impulse Store for the selected item to purchase a subscription.


Right clicking on a software product displays a menu with these options:




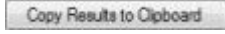




- Copy serial number to clipboard - is handy for pasting it into a program (i.e. game) that requires the serial number when new. (Option not available if no serial number is listed.)
- Add new registration - acts the same as the  button.
- Update registration information" - same as  button.
- Remove registration - deletes the selected product information.

Look up serial number... Enter the email address you used to purchase software through Impulse and Stardock will email you the registration information for those products.



View Impulse's history Displays a list of changes to Impulse in order by version number (newest to oldest). The version number can be found on the "About Impulse" screen (see below). Click  to close window.



(Continued on next page...)

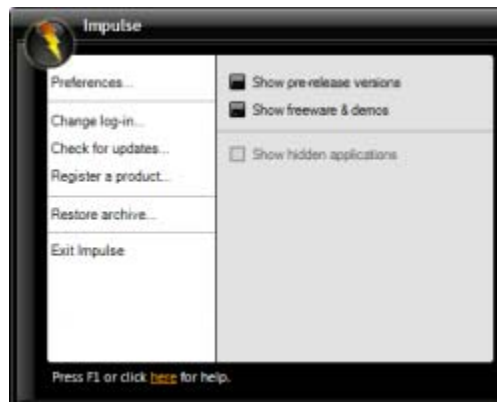
View error log	Opens a log of errors Impulse has experienced since it was installed. Newest dates are at the bottom. Copy & paste this information into an email or web form when communicating with Stardock Support, if you are having problems with Impulse. Click  to close window.
Diagnose network connection problems...	Runs a test of your connection to the Impulse network, results will be displayed which can  to be pasted into an email or web form. Typically, this is used when communicating with Stardock Support when having problems. Click  or  to close the dialog box.
FAQ	A link to the Impulse website to view Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and answers about Impulse.
Help	A link to the Impulse website to view this instruction manual.
About Impulse	Displays a window with the "Impulse version" on the top, a file listing and copyright information on the bottom. Click  or  to close the About screen.

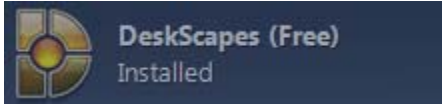
10. Preferences

Impulse offers you a number of choices to change how it operates, such as: displaying pre-release software (alpha/beta) to download, the choice to have desktop icons created when software is installed, auto-restart after Impulse updates itself, disable custom skin, archive software before installing an update, change what folder archives, temporary files & install files are stored in, edit proxy settings, force Impulse to check for updates, restore an archive and more.

Orb Menu

Clicking the Impulse  Orb icon in the upper, left corner opens a menu with a number of options. Clicking the  again will close the menu.



Action	What it does
Preferences...	Opens the Preferences window with more options (see below).
Change log-in...	Displays the log-in screen, with options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Login with my existing account. • Create new account. • I forgot my account information. • Edit Proxy Settings.
Check for updates...	Forces Impulse to check for updates to any software you got through Impulse. If update(s) are available, the "Updates" tab will be visible and the applications will be listed on that tab.
Register a product...	Opens the registrations screen, where you can edit, add new products, update and remove product registrations. (Please see the Help page for more information.)
Restore archive...	Allows you to restore an Impulse archive of an application or files. Archives are created by right-clicking on an application in Impulse & selecting "Archive Application".
Exit Impulse	Closes Impulse.
Show pre-release versions	Checked, alpha and beta pre-release versions of software will be included on the "Updates" tab. Alpha/Beta versions should be installed with the understanding that this is an incomplete or and/or test version of the program. It may include "bugs" (i.e. errors, problems) when using certain features. Unchecked, (default) alpha/beta versions will be hidden.
Show freeware & demos	Checked, will show freeware (free software) and demonstration versions of software on the Updates, My Software, and My Games tabs. (Note: If you want to download the free Impulse Dock , this option needs to be checked in order to see it on the "My Software" tab to download.) Unchecked, (default) will not display this type of software.
Show hidden applications	Checked, if you hid a program on the My Software or other tabs (right-click on program, select "Hide application") this option will show it dimmed. This option is only available if you hid an application, otherwise it's grayed out.
	
	Unchecked, (default) any hidden applications will not be visible on the software tabs.
Press F1 or click here for help.	Opens your web browser and displays this manual on the Stardock website.

Preferences



Preferences are divided between the "General" tab and "Advanced Settings" which include: "Folders", "Connection" and "Archive & Install".

General Tab

This section includes options to view test versions of software, where to place icons and other settings.



Quick Reference

Action	What it does
General	
Show Pre-Release (Alpha/Beta) Versions	<p>Checked, alpha and beta pre-release versions of software will be included on the software tabs. Alpha/Beta versions should be installed with the understanding that this is an incomplete or and/or a test version of the program. It may include "bugs" (i.e. errors, problems) when using certain features.</p> <p>Unchecked, (default) alpha/beta versions will be hidden.</p>
Show hidden updates	<p>Checked, shows any software updates you told Impulse to ignore. To ignore an update on the "Updates" tab, either right-click on the application & select "Ignore this update" or click the link under "Manage Application" & click the link "Ignore this update" and the update will be removed from the "Updates" tab.</p> <p>Unchecked, (default) updates you tell Impulse to ignore will be removed (hidden) on the "Updates" tab.</p>
Show hidden applications.	<p>Partially un-hides applications you requested to be hidden. Applications can be hidden by right-clicking on the application & selecting "Hide application".</p> <p>Checked, hidden applications will be slightly visible.</p> <div data-bbox="820 1066 1263 1171" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Unchecked, (default) hidden applications cannot be seen at all. Note: You will not see this menu option until you hide an application by right-clicking on an application & selecting "Hide application".</p>
Impulse Options	
Disable Custom Skin (requires restart)	<p>Checked, the title bar, window frame, scroll bars, etc. will follow the default Windows style.</p> <p>Unchecked, (default) will use the custom Impulse skin.</p>
Store usage (last played, etc.) data	<p>Checked, (default) Impulse keeps track of how many times you used an application & when last used. This data is displayed in "detail-view" on the software tabs (i.e. My Software, My Games). You may need to maximize Impulse to see these extra columns.</p> <p>Unchecked, Impulse will not store this data. Clicking  will reset the data stored, while  will erase any data saved.</p>

(Continued on next page...)

Remind me about expiring subscriptions	Checked, (default) Impulse will remind you when a software subscription is nearing the expiration date.
--	---

Unchecked, Impulse will not remind you.

Impulse Updating Options

Auto restart Impulse after update	This option has to do with Impulse updates, not updates to your programs. It only restarts itself, not your computer. Checked, Impulse will automatically restart itself after each Impulse update.
-----------------------------------	--

Unchecked, (default) Impulse will ask you if you want to restart Impulse after an update.

Prompt for Impulse Updates	Checked, (default) Impulse will ask you if it can update itself.
----------------------------	--

Unchecked, Impulse will not prompt you before updating itself.

Use beta versions of Impulse	Checked, Impulse will update itself with beta (pre-release) versions. Beta versions often have bugs (errors).
------------------------------	---

Unchecked, (default) beta versions of Impulse are not installed.

Folders Tab

This tab allows you to select where applications & games are installed, including temp. (temporary) files.



Quick Reference


Action	What it does
Install Locations	You can change where programs install under each of the tabs in Impulse. Click <input type="button" value="Change..."/> to select a new folder. Click <input type="button" value="OK"/> to save & exit Impulse Settings.
Prompt for install directory.	Checked, Impulse will ask you where you want to install each new program. Unchecked, (default) Impulse will use the Install Location (above) for each category.
Archive File Location.	Allows you to change the drive & folder where archives are stored. This is helpful if you have more free space on a different drive. Click <input type="button" value="Change..."/> to select a new folder. Click <input type="button" value="OK"/> to save & exit Impulse Settings. Default (Vista): C:\ProgramData\Stardock\Impulse\backup Default (XP): C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Stardock\Impulse\backup
Temporary Files Location	You can change where temporary files are stored by clicking <input type="button" value="Change..."/> . This might be handy if your C: drive is running low on free space, but you have a D: (or other) hard-drive with more room. Default (Vista): C:\ProgramData\Stardock\Impulse\Temporary Default (XP): C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Stardock\Impulse\Temporary

Connection Tab

The settings on this tab allow you to add proxy server settings. If you have trouble connecting to the internet, because your computer is behind a proxy server you can set it up here. As a rule, proxy servers are used on Local Area Networks (LAN) at businesses, while home users should not have to deal with this.



Quick Reference

Action	What it does
Proxy Settings	Unchecked, (default) Impulse will use Internet Explorer's Internet settings. Checked, "Use custom settings", use this if your computer is on a LAN (Local Area Network) using a proxy server to access the internet. Contact your Network Administrator for these settings. Click  to save & exit Impulse Settings.

Archive & Install

These options are related to creating desktop shortcuts for games, and how archives are handled.

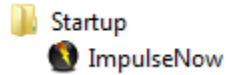


Quick Reference

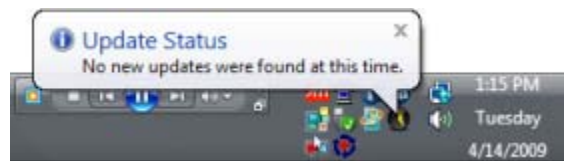
Action	What it does
Desktop icons for newly installed games	This allows you to tell Impulse how you want desktop icons handled: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask me to create a desktop icon - (default) Impulse will ask when installing, if you want it to place a icon on the desktop.• Always create a desktop icon - Impulse will put an icon on the desktop & not ask you.• Never create a desktop icon - Impulse will not put an icon on the desktop & will not ask you. To run the program, either run it through Impulse or from the Windows Start menu.
Archive Applications before updating	Checked, programs will be backed up prior to being updated. If an update does not work right, you can restore the archive to revert to the older version. Unchecked, (default) programs will not be backed up before updating.
Overwrite existing Archives on Update	Checked, (default) a newer update will overwrite (erase) the previous archive (backup) of the program, with a newer archive before applying the update. Unchecked, old archives will be saved on your hard-drive. This may take considerable space, if old archives are never deleted.
Change Install Folders	Shortcut to the "Folders" tab under Advanced Settings to change folders.


11. ImpulseNow

Impulse includes a feature called ImpulseNow that starts when Windows loads. You will notice the Impulse icon (tray applet) in your System Tray (systray), located in the lower, right-hand corner of your monitor next to the clock. (Unless you changed the location of your Task Bar.) ImpulseNow checks with the Impulse server for software updates and gives you quick access to the features of Impulse in a compact form. ImpulseNow in your Startup folder on the Start menu:



You can have ImpulseNow check for updates, the results of the check will be displayed in a balloon message.

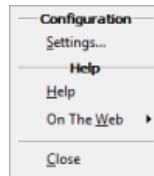


When there is an update for your software, the ImpulseNow icon in the system tray will flash . (Only software you get through Impulse will be checked for updates.)

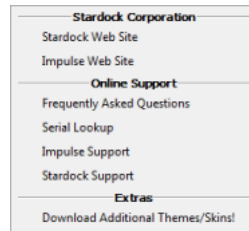


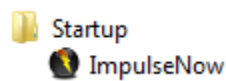
Right Click Menu

When you right click on the ImpulseNow icon, a menu will appear allowing you to select from: Settings, Help (this manual on the web), On The Web (sub-menu) links to Stardock web sites, and Close (ImpulseNow).



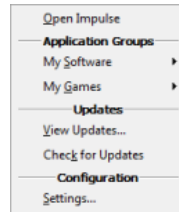
Quick Reference

Action	What it does
Configuration	
Settings...	Opens a tabbed dialog box with various options for controlling how ImpulseNow works. (More information on Settings will be covered later in this chapter.)
Help	
Help	Launches your web browser (i.e. Internet Explorer) and displays this manual.
On The Web	Displays a sub-menu of links to Stardock web sites:
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stardock Web Site - displays Stardock web site. • Impulse Web Site - displays Impulse site. • Frequently Asked Questions - displays the Stardock FAQ with common questions and answers. • Serial Lookup - displays the Stardock Support page for retrieving your serial number if you lost it. • Impulse Support - displays Impulse Support web site. • Stardock Support - displays Stardock Support web site. • Download Additional Themes/Skins! - displays the popular WinCustomize.com web site where you can download thousands of free themes and skins for various software products. Skins are graphic elements that replace portions of your Windows computer for a new & different look.
Close	This will stop ImpulseNow from running and remove the icon from the system tray. To re-run ImpulseNow, locate the shortcut on your Windows Start Menu, under All Programs, then Startup and click on the ImpulseNow icon.



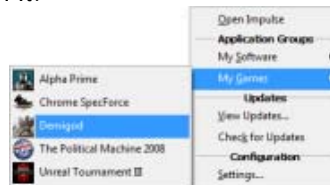
Left Click Menu

When you left click on ImpulseNow, you will see a different menu appear from when you right clicked on it. The options allow you to open Impulse, allows you to see all of your software in Impulse with the ability to run it, view any programs that have updates ready for download, check for updates and change settings.

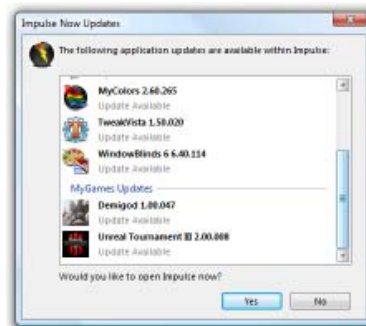


Quick Reference

Action	What it does
Open Impulse	Opens Impulse, unless it is already open.
Application Groups	
My Software (sub-menu)	Displays a list of installed software on the "My Software" tab in Impulse. Click on an application to run it.
My Games (sub-menu)	Displays a list of installed software on the "My Games" tab in Impulse. Click on a game to run it.



Updates	
View Updates...	If any updates are available for download, this will display a list of those programs in a window.

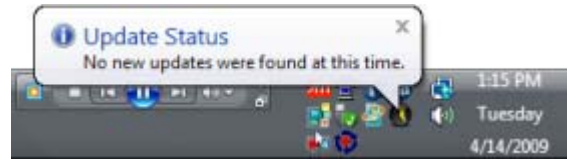


If you would like to open Impulse to see details and download update(s), click . (Click or to abort.)

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Check for Updates

Forces ImpulseNow to check for updates, a status message will be displayed with the results.



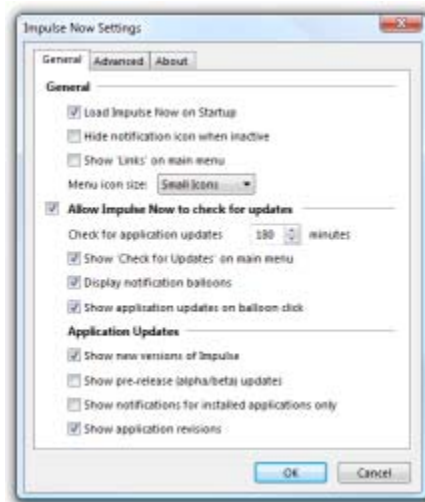
Configuration

Settings...

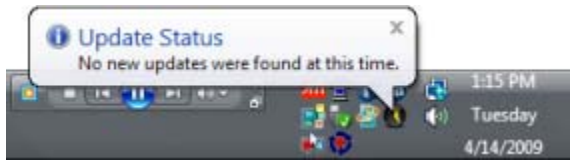
Opens a tabbed dialog box with various options for controlling how ImpulseNow works. (More information on Settings will be covered next.)

Settings

The "Settings" in ImpulseNow allows you to make a number of configuration changes to how it operates. There are three tabs (i.e. General, Advanced, About). General has to do with icons, links and updates. Advanced allows you to hide or show categories of software and add/change proxy settings if your computer is behind a proxy server (i.e. business network). The About tab displays the version of ImpulseNow and other basic information.



General Tab - Quick Reference

Action	What it does
General	
Load Impulse Now on Startup	<p>Checked, (default) loads ImpulseNow when Windows starts up (i.e. after you turn on the computer or restart Windows).</p> <p>Unchecked, ImpulseNow will not automatically run when Windows starts.</p>
Hide notification icon when inactive	<p>Checked, hides the notification icon when inactive.</p> <p>Unchecked, (default) notification icon is visible when inactive.</p>
Show 'Links' on main menu	<p>Checked, links to News, Community and Chat appear on the left-click menu.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News - launches your web browser and displays the Impulse News site. • Community - launches web browser and displays Impulse Community blogging web site. • Chat - opens Impulse on the Chat window (under Community). <p>Unchecked, (default) these links will not appear on the menu.</p>
Menu icon size:	<p>Allows you to change the size of the icons for the programs listed under "My Software" and "My Games" to: <input type="text" value="Small Icons"/> (default), Medium Icons or Large Icons.</p>
Allow Impulse Now to ...	
Allow Impulse Now to check for updates	<p>Checked, (default) allows ImpulseNow to check for updates by default every 180 minutes. You can change the number of minutes between updates.</p> <p>Unchecked, grays out all update related checkbox options and keeps ImpulseNow from checking for updates.</p>
Show 'Check for Updates' on main menu	<p>Checked, (default) option "Check for Updates" will appear on the left click menu.</p> <p>Unchecked, this option will not appear on the menu.</p>
Display notification balloons	<p>Checked, (default) when updates are available a balloon message will appear over the system tray notifying you.</p>
	
	<p>Unchecked, balloon messages will not be seen. If you manually select "Check for Updates", you will see a balloon notification with the results of your request.</p>

Show application updates on balloon click	Checked, (default) when the notification balloon appears about updates, if you click inside the balloon it will open the list of programs with software updates available for download.
---	---

Unchecked, clicking inside the balloon will not open the updates box.

Application Updates

Show new versions of Impulse	Checked, (default) you will be notified if a new version of Impulse is available for download.
------------------------------	--

Unchecked, you will not be notified.

Show pre-release (alpha/beta) updates	Checked, alpha and beta pre-release versions of software will be included on the "Updates" tab. Alpha/Beta versions should be installed with the understanding that this is an incomplete or and/or test version of the program. It may include "bugs" (i.e. errors, problems) when using certain features.
---------------------------------------	---

Unchecked, (default) alpha/beta versions will be hidden.

Show notifications for installed applications only	Checked, you will not be notified of programs not installed, only for installed software.
--	---

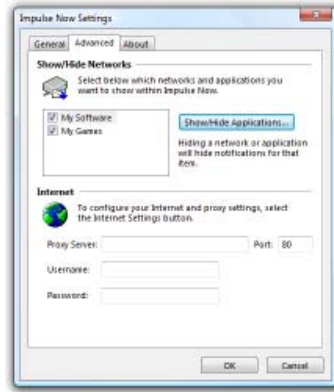
Unchecked, (default) you will be notified of updates for installed programs as well as software you own, but have not installed yet.

Show application revisions	Checked, (default) ImpulseNow will display what has changed in the update (if available).
----------------------------	---

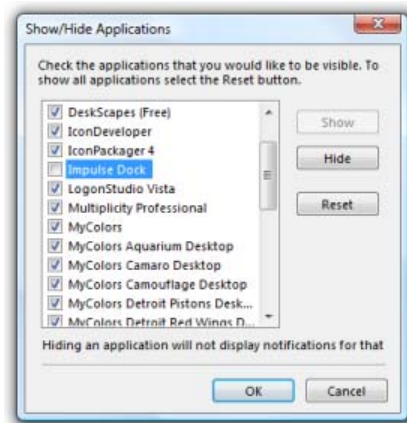
Unchecked, you will not be show the list of revisions.

Advanced Tab

The Advanced tab includes options to show/hide tabs, or applications in Impulse. You can also configure proxy settings if your company uses a proxy server to allow access to the internet. Contact your network administrator for the name of the Proxy Server, Port number (default is 80), Username and Password. As a rule, proxy servers are not used in home (residential) settings, so you should not have to deal with this.



Un-checking the box for "My Software" or "My Games" will hide it on the left-click menu under "Application Groups". Checking either box (default) will display it. You can also show/hide specific applications by clicking the **Show/Hide Applications...** button. This will open a dialog box with a list of all of the applications you have access too in Impulse. This works the same way, by un-checking an application will hide it. Checking it will show it (all checked by default).






- To hide an application, either uncheck the box next to the application or select the application then click the **Hide** button.
- To show (un-hide) an application, check the box next to the hidden application or select it & check the **Show** button.
- To change all of the applications back to the way they were when you first installed Impulse/ImpulseNow (the default setting), click the **Reset** button.
- To save any changes, click **OK**. (Click **Cancel** or **X** to abort.)

About Tab

The "About" tab includes the name of the parent application (i.e. Impulse) which ImpulseNow is a part of. You can also find the version number (i.e. Version 1.00.00) of ImpulseNow, Lead Developer, copyright information, who Impulse is registered to, and web links to the Stardock Support & Impulse Driven web sites.



To save any changes, click . (Click  or  to abort.)

Appendix A: Installation

Downloading Impulse

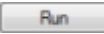
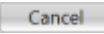

To download & install Impulse, there are two options:

[Impulse Client \(Web Installer\)](#) - is a smaller file (7+ MB), that will download the rest during installation.


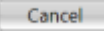
[Impulse Client \(Full Install\)](#) - is the full install of Impulse (apprx. 26 MB).

The file sizes may change as new features and changes are made to Impulse. After the initial install of either version, Impulse may download an additional update.

Installation Instructions

On Vista if you get the Security Warning, "Do you want to run this file?", click . (Click  or  to abort.)



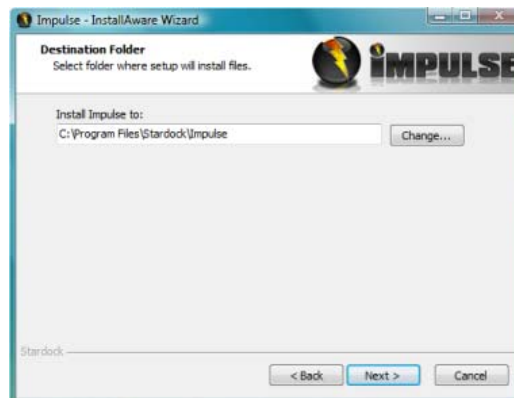
If Vista asks "A program needs your permission to continue", click "Continue". On the Impulse - "InstallAware Wizard" Welcome to Setup Wizard screen, click  to continue. (Click  to abort.)



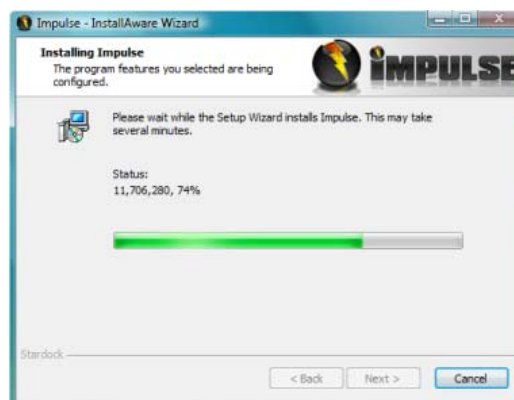
After reading the "License Agreement", check the box for "I accept the terms of the license agreement" and click **Next** to continue. (Click **Back** to return to the previous screen or Click **Cancel** to abort.)




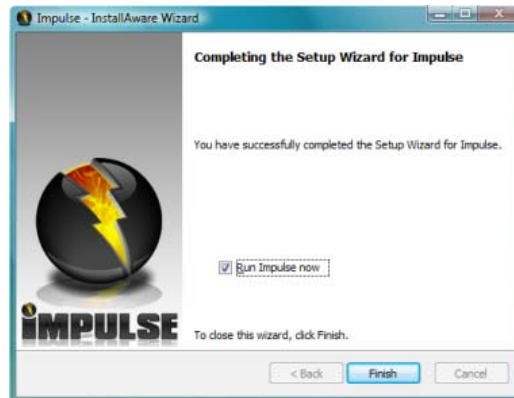
For "Destination Folder", either click **Next** to accept the default path. (Or click **Change...** to select a different folder, then click **Next** to continue.) (Click **Back** to return to the previous screen or click **Cancel** to abort.)



The next screen will start the actual installation, with a status bar and messages as it installs Impulse on your computer. If you are installing the "Web Install", some of the messages will say 'downloading files', while the "Full Install" will say 'installing files' from the file you downloaded. (Click **Cancel** to abort.)



Once installation is complete, you will see the following message. By default, the box is checked for "Run Impulse now". (If you want to run Impulse later, uncheck the box.) Click the  button.

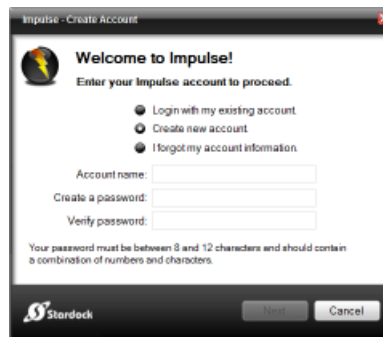






Creating a Login

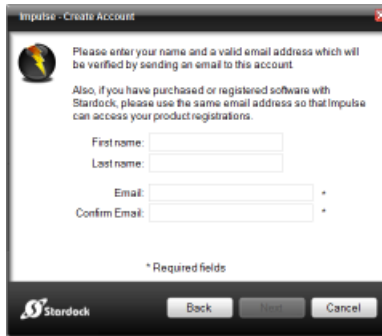
When running Impulse for the first time, you will see the Impulse splash screen appear.


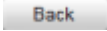
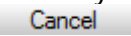



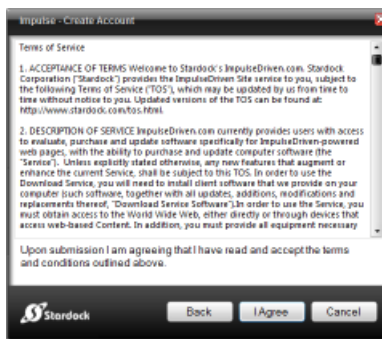
Then the login screen will appear, asking you to create a new account. the options are as follows:


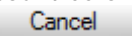



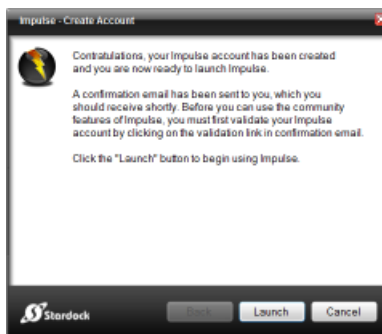
- Login with me existing account - if you already have a Stardock.Net, WinCustomize.com or GalCiv2.com account there is no need to create a new Impulse account. Just click on this option and logon with your existing account.
- Create new account - type in the desired login name as the "Account name", this can be a shortened version of your real name or an alias of your choosing. Then create and verify your password by re-typing it, then click . (Click  to return to the previous screen. Click  or  to abort.)
- I forgot my account information - if you already have an account (i.e. Impulse, Stardock.Net, WinCustomize.com, GalCiv2.com), but forgot your username and/or password, select this option & type in the email address for the account. Your account information will be emailed to that address.



The next screen is the Terms of Service which you must agree too by clicking . (Click  to return to the previous screen. Click  or  to abort.)



The last screen is the Congratulations screen which means you have finished the setup of your Impulse account. Impulse sends a verification email to the email account you gave. You must open that email & click the link to verify your account before you can use any of the Community features. Click the  button to run Impulse. (Click  or  not to run Impulse.)

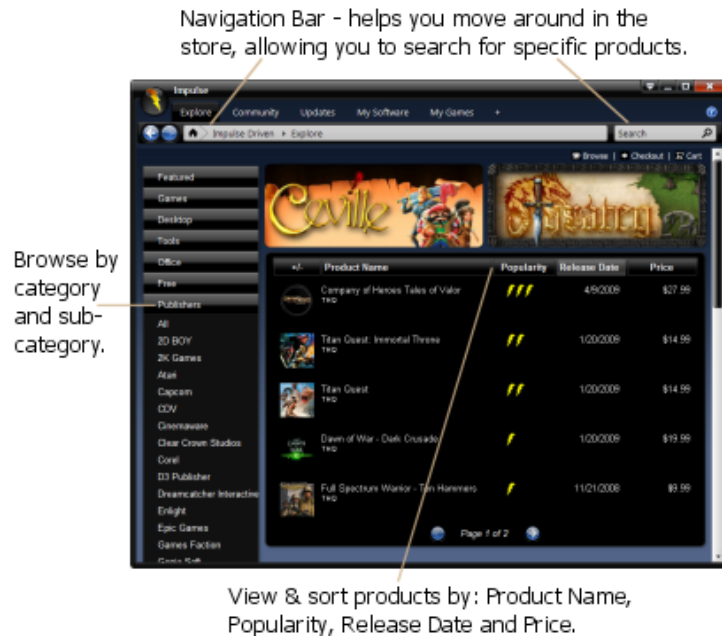


Running Impulse

When running Impulse for the first time, you will see the Impulse splash screen display & disappear.



Then the actual Impulse program will appear, displaying the "Explore" tab. Impulse will flash status messages as it logs in and checks for updates via the internet.



Status messages are displayed in the lower, left-hand corner of the Impulse window. The messages will flash by as Impulse checks with Stardock for any updates, messages may include: Retrieving latest information, Downloading Impulse update, Impulse update ready, and other messages may appear.

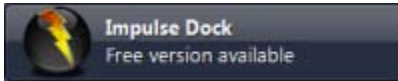
When an Impulse update is ready to apply, you will be prompted to restart Impulse. This will not restart your computer, only the Impulse application. Click to restart Impulse & apply the update(s). (Click to keep Impulse open. The update(s) will not be applied until you close & restart Impulse.)




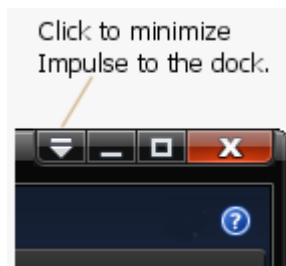
After restarting Impulse, you will see the familiar splash screen, with status messages inside the small box. Impulse will then be displayed and is ready to use.

Appendix B: Impulse Dock

You must have Impulse installed, then you will see the option to download the optional "Impulse Dock" on the "My Software" tab as a free download. (In "Preferences" you must have "Show freeware & demos" checked (default) to see Impulse Dock as an application to download.)





The Impulse Dock is a way to keep some of the best features of Impulse on your desktop, but in a more compact fashion. Plus with autohide turned on (by default) it slides neatly off your desktop until you want to see it. In Impulse (after installing the Dock), click on the "Minimize to Dock"  icon in the upper, right hand corner of the Impulse window.



The Impulse window will disappear and be replaced by a Dock on the bottom of your monitor.



If this is the first time minimizing, you will see a small message box welcoming you to the Impulse Dock. If you do not want to see this screen again, check the box "Do not show me this message again", then click  or  to close it.



The Impulse Dock consists of five icons divided by a Separator (vertical bar used to separate groups of icons). To the left of the separator are three Shortcut icons (i.e. Community, Store, Impulse) which launch an application when left clicked on. The four remaining icons to the right of the separator are Category icons which when left clicked on, open a Drawer above it with Shortcut icons to programs. If a drawer has no shortcuts, it will say "Empty" when the category icon is clicked on.

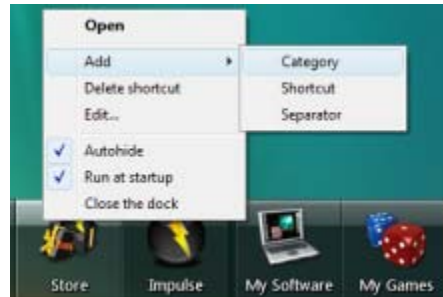


Summary of what happens when you click each icon:

- Community - launches your web browser and loads the <http://www.impulsedriven.net/> website displaying the Impulse blogging site.
- Store - launches your web browser and loads the <http://www.impulsedriven.com> website displaying the Impulse Store.
- Impulse - runs Impulse (maximizes) itself, and the dock continues to run.
- My Software - opens a drawer above it with shortcuts to installed applications from Impulse's My Software tab.
- My Games - opens a drawer with shortcuts to installed games from Impulse's My Games tab.



Modifying the Dock

You can modify the Impulse Dock by right-clicking on it which opens a menu. The choices on the menu vary depending on what you click on (i.e. category icon, shortcut icon on dock, shortcut icon in a drawer, separator). You can add new category, shortcut and separators to the dock. It is recommended to use the separator(s) to keep the categories separate from your shortcuts to help avoid confusion.






You can name the new icons anything you like and add shortcuts to any program on your computer, not just software from Impulse. You can also move icons & separators around your dock by dragging and dropping. You can only add shortcuts to drawers. You can move any of the icons (i.e. Community, Store, Impulse, My Software, My Games) to a different position on the dock. When you launch Impulse, only the category icons (i.e. My Software, My Games) and any you created in Impulse's Manage Tabs, will also change the order of the tabs in Impulse to match. The following table explains each menu option in detail:


Quick Reference

Action	What it does
Open	If a shortcut is clicked on, selecting "Open" will launch (run) the program. If a category is clicked on, selecting "Open" will open (expand) the drawer.
Expand	Opens the drawer for that category icon.
Contract	Closes the drawer for that category icon.
Add	If a shortcut, category or separator on the dock is clicked, the "Add" menu will include options to add a new: Category, Shortcut or Separator. If a shortcut in a drawer is clicked, the "Add" menu will give you the option to add a new Shortcut to the drawer.
Hide shortcut	Hides the selected shortcut from being visible.
Delete category	Deletes the selected category.
Delete shortcut	Deletes the selected shortcut.
Delete separator	Deletes the selected separator.
Edit...	If a shortcut, allows you to rename it. If a category, allows you to change the icon & change the name.
Autohide	Checked, (default) when the cursor is moved off the dock, it will slide off the monitor revealing a slight edge so you know it is there. Unchecked, the dock will remain visible on the desktop regardless of where the cursor is.
Edge activation	Works in conjunction with "Autohide", in that the dock will slide back out (open) when the mouse is at the edge of the screen.
Run at startup	Checked, (default) the Impulse Dock will automatically run when Windows is started. Unchecked, the dock will not load at startup. To run the dock you must click the  icon in Impulse.
Close the dock	Exits the dock. To restart, in Impulse click on the  icon.

Adding a Category

To add a new Category, right-click on the dock where you want it to be placed and select "Add", then "Category". (You can always drag it elsewhere later, if the location is not right.) A dialog will open asking you for the "Title" of your new category icon. After typing that in, select an icon from the selection below and click . (Click  or  to abort.) You can always change this later, if you decide you want a different title or icon. To make changes, right-click on the category to change and select "Edit".

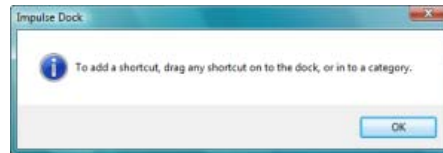


To delete a category, right click on the icon & select "Delete category". Click "Yes, Delete this category and all its shortcuts". (Click "No, Do not delete this category" or the  button to abort.) Check the box "Don't ask me this question again" to avoid this prompt in the future.

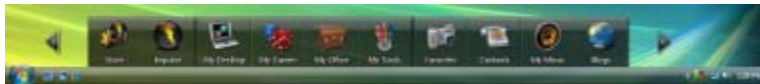


Adding a Shortcut

If you right click on the dock & select "Add", then "Shortcut", the message box (below) will be displayed. Click or to close it. To add a new shortcut to the dock, locate the file on your computer & drag it onto the category you want the shortcut to appear under or onto the dock to the desired location. If you do not get it right, simply right click on the icon and drag it to where you want it or into a drawer.



You can drag icons off the desktop, off the Quick Launch bar (use right-click drag to make a copy of the shortcut, left-click will remove it from the Quick Launch menu), drag out of Windows Explorer, etc.. Eventually if you add enough icons to your dock, it will display arrows on each end so you can scroll through the icons. Click the left arrow to scroll the icons to the right and click the right arrow to move them to the left.



To delete a shortcut, right click on the icon & select "Delete shortcut". Click "Yes, Delete this shortcut". (Click "No, Do not delete this shortcut" or the button to abort.) Check the box "Don't ask me this question again" to avoid this prompt in the future.




You can also drag the desired shortcut off the dock to delete it, you will be asked to confirm it. Click "Yes, Delete this shortcut". (Click "No, Do not delete this shortcut" or the button to abort.) Check the box "Always use this answer" to use the same answer (Yes), every time you delete a shortcut by dragging it off the dock.



Adding a Separator

To add a separator, right click where you want it to be placed and select "Add", then "Separator". You can right click on it & drag it to a different location, if desired.



To delete a separator, right click on it and select "Delete separator". Click "Yes, Delete this separator". (Click "No, Do not delete this separator" or the  button to abort.) Check the box "Don't ask me this question again" to avoid this prompt in the future.



Appendix C: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)


1. [I cannot access the Internet using Impulse at work, what is wrong?](#)
2. [I cannot find the Impulse Dock to download, where is it?](#)
3. [I have a computer with a dial-up modem that takes too long to download large programs. Do you sell software on CD/DVD?](#)
4. [I have AVG Anti-Virus installed & Impulse, but I get an error when running Impulse.](#)
5. [I have questions regarding Impulse products, is there someone I can talk to?](#)

Answers:

I cannot access the Internet using Impulse at work, what is wrong?

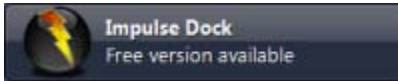
Some companies use what is called a Proxy Server (or just "Proxy") as a part of their Local Area Network (LAN) to control traffic to & from the Internet. This can be a proxy server or the proxy is a part of other network equipment. There is a way for you to setup Impulse to work with a proxy, but you need to talk to your Network Administrator/Engineer to get the following information: Address of proxy (e.g. proxy.stardock.com), Port (e.g. 80), Username, and Password. Adding this to Impulse may resolve the connection problems you are experiencing.



1. Click on the Impulse Orb  icon in the upper, left corner.
2. Click on "Preferences", then Under "Advanced Settings", click on "Connection".
3. Check the box labeled "Use custom settings", and type in the information provided to you by your Network Administrator (or Network Engineer): Address, Port, Username and Password.
4. Click the OK button to save changes. Then close Impulse & reopen and it will use the proxy settings to access the Internet.

I cannot find the Impulse Dock to download, where is it?

You must have Impulse installed, then you will see the option to download the optional "Impulse Dock" on the "My Software" tab as a free download. (In "Preferences" you must have "Show freeware & demos" checked to see Impulse Dock as an application to download.)



Please refer to [Appendix B: Impulse Dock](#) for more information.

I have a computer with a dial-up modem that takes too long to download large programs. Do you sell software on CD/DVD?

Some programs are available in boxed retail versions on CD/DVD, check the Impulse store for such versions. An alternate method is to use Impulse Anywhere. For more information, please refer to [2. Introduction - Impulse Anywhere](#).

I have AVG Anti-Virus installed & Impulse, but I get an error when running Impulse.

Disable "Web Shield" it will allow you to run Impulse without an error.

I have questions regarding Impulse products, is there someone I can talk to?

Online resources include our [Sales FAQ](#) and the [Impulse Support](#) page.

You can also contact Sales at: sales@stardock.com.