HMFC

Hindu Mythology &

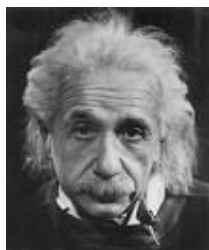# Fact Center

User Guide

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Contents

Background to project

[Albert Einstein](#)**:**

All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom.

Religion is a facet of life that permeates everything we do. It forms a pivotal cornerstone of all men and moulds the world with obstinate, unrestrainable hands. Technology and science would be reduced to dust if religion, the quintessential keeper of order, were to seize to exist. Yet; even today religious wars, crude stereotypes and blatant religious discrimination can still be seen devastating countries around the world.

Therefore, I felt it is imperative that future generations (i.e. school students) are educated about other religions in order to avoid misunderstanding ands promote tolerance and political correctness. Thus, the Hindu Mythology & Fact Center was born to provide insight to Hinduism.

Introduction to project

I have decided to **design a program which will highlight significant forms of gods and also demonstrate the symbolism** behind them and most importantly illustrate that Hindus by no means practise idol worship (which Western stereotypes portray) but in fact pray to the symbolism of which those idols and forms of Gods represent.

The aim of this project is to **simplify the religion and explain the concepts**, Gods and symbolisms to non-Hindus. It has been decided to utilise a database to store various information about the Gods, and then use the data to manufacture facts and interesting information pertaining to Hinduism. Users of the program can add entries to the database, and modify or delete existing entries.

Scope and limitations

Given the "vastness" of implementing a computerized system for all religions, this project will focus on Hinduism.

User input

While using the program, you may be required to enter data when creating a new database entry etc. The following table explains the type of data that needs to be entered.

Gods Data		
Field Name	**Data Type**	**Description**
Name	**Primary key**	Name of particular God.
Mount	Text, foreign	Vehicle or method of transport used by God
Abode	Text	Abode of particular God
Arms	**Number**	Number of arms seen with
WeaponOrInstrument	Text	Weapon or instrument associated with God.
Symbolism	Text	Symbolism in Hindu mythology and culture.
Form	Text	Form taken on Earth
Festival	Text, foreign	Festival celebrated in Hindu calendar

b)

Festivals Data		
Field Name	**Data Type**	**Description**
Festival	Primary key	Name of festival.
MonthCelebrated	Text	The month it is observed.
Days	Integer	Number of days celebrated.

c)

Mounts Data		
Field Name	**Data Type**	**Description**
Mount	Primary key	Name of mount.
MountSpeed	Integer	Speed mount can travel.
MountNature	Text	Type of mount. Animal etc.

Input screen when entering data to create a database entry.

A note on Standard entries:

The program uses a database which contains 11 standard entries or standard records. These standard entries are required for the functioning of the program and should not be deleted. Only entries that you have created can be deleted. Standard entries may be modified but it is not advised.

Output/Reports

There various ways in which data may be viewed from the database using the program.

1. Using the Database CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) –any mode

2. Viewing the tables (any mode)

3. Using the Sidebar (Story mode only)

Program requirements

Hardware

1) A **workstation** and peripheral devices.
2) **Speakers** or headphones, sound card, drivers etc. for audio playback capabilities.
3) A current entry level processor **2.0 GHZ or higher**.
4) Required: 256 MB DDR RAM Recommended: **512 MB DDR RAM**
5) Entry level hard drive (e.g. **40 GB**)
6) Monitor set at optimal resolution of **1024x768**. Note: Program may not run correctly if resolution is **less** than 1024x768.

Software

1) **Operating system**- Windows **XP/Vista** recommended. Note: Java is capable of running on multiple platforms i.e. Linux, Unix etc. may also be used but database connectivity is not warranted.
2) **Java Runtime Environment (J2RE)** - Included with the program but may be downloaded from Sun Microsystems website at http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp(15MB). To check if you have Java visit: http://www.java.com/en/download/installed.jsp?detect=jre&try=1 to verify this.
3) A Data Source administrator (**Microsoft ODBC** recommended which is built-in Windows)

Files required

1. Database file containing various tables.

2. Log file containing speeds of mounts.

3. Program files including:

   a. Java class files

   b. Jar executable

   c. Image files(.jpg)

   d. Audio files(.wav)

   e. Other necessary files included in main project folder

4. Executable/Install setup file

5. User guide

Installation instructions

The installation procedure for the Hindu Mythology & Fact Center is very simple.

<u>Install the program</u>

Insert the disc/flash drive. Setup should run automatically if you are using the CD. If it doesn't, then run the executable file "**HMFCSetup.exe**" from the disc or flash drive root directory.

Follow the installation wizard and be sure that the installation completes correctly.

Program walkthrough

After you have installed the program (See Installation Instructions), open the application by double clicking on the icon on your desktop or via the Start menu in Windows.

On execution, you will be presented with the opening screen asking you to create or open a profile or enter as visitor.
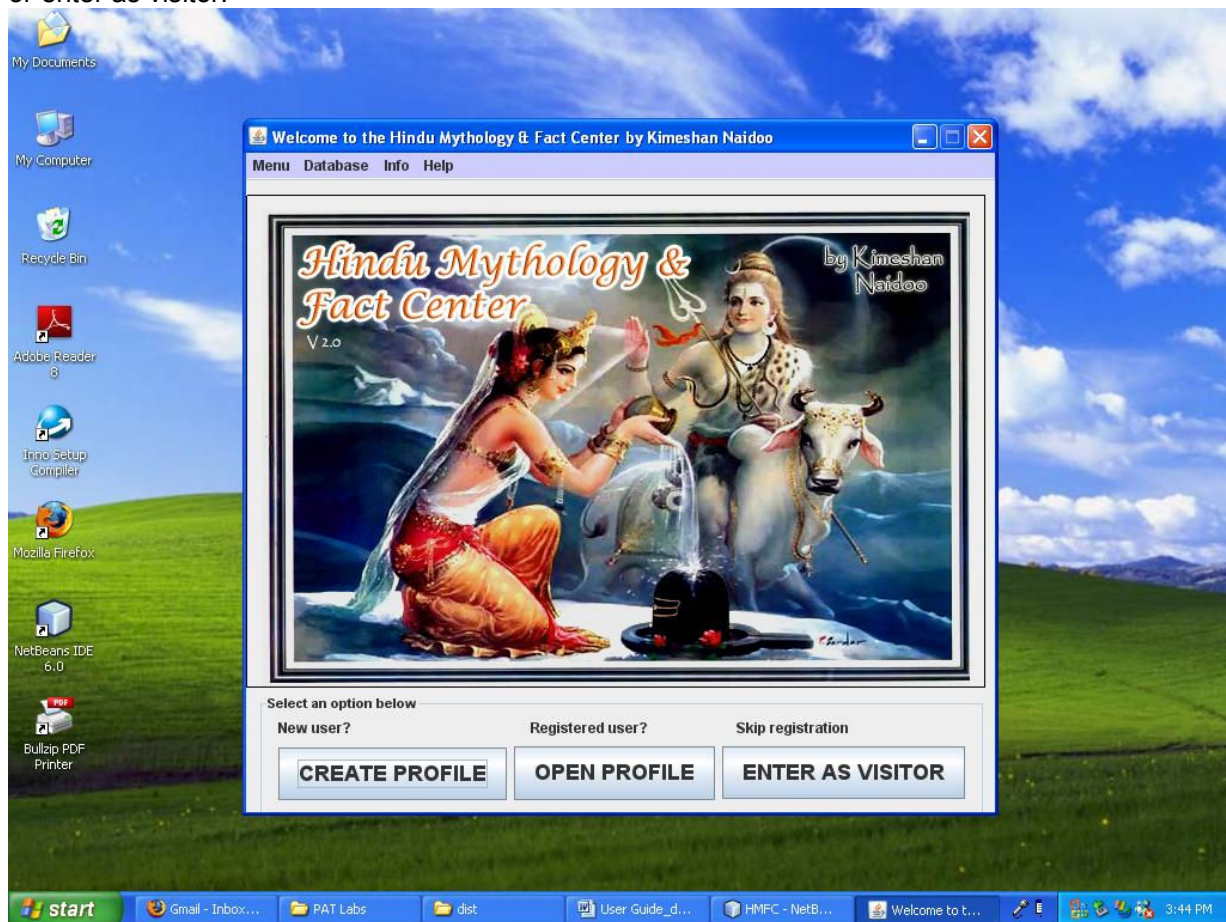
Click "**Create Profile"**. The following box should appear with various text fields.

Enter your appropriate details in the "Name", Surname" and "Age" text fields and select your religion from the drop down menu. When you have completed this, click "**Create**". You should see a dialog box pop up like the one **on the next page** with difference in the address.

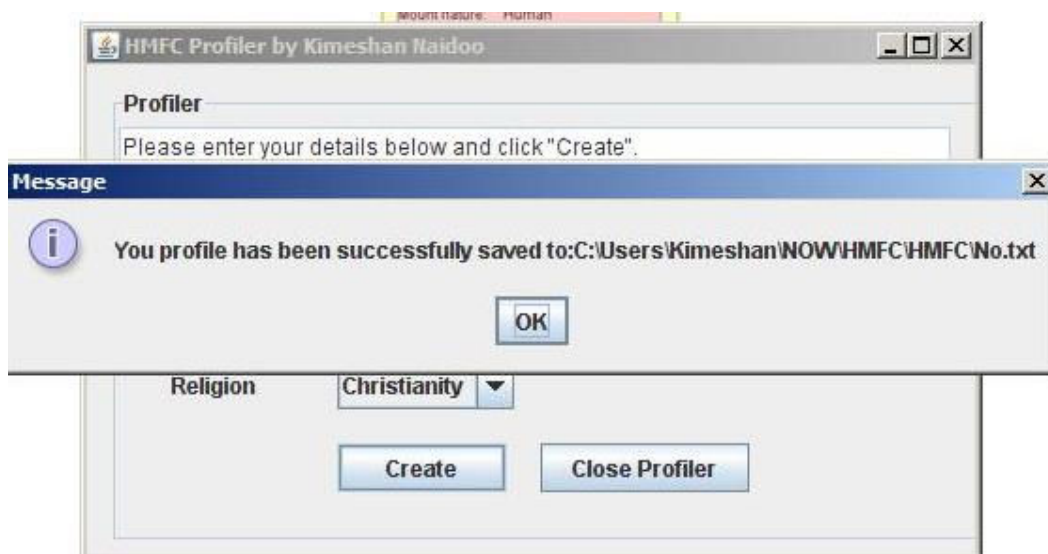Before clicking "OK", remember the location where your profile has been saved. You will need to know this for the next time you use the program in order to open your profile.

Click "**OK**" and then "**Close Profiler**". The HMFC Mode Selector should now appear. It provides two option or two modes to select from with descriptions of each mode.

Story Mode is essentially the crux of the program, and this is what you will want to see most. So the rest of the walkthrough assumes that you will be using Story Mode.

If you select "Fact Center" then you will see that t is extremely simple to use. Simply click the various buttons on the screen, to reveal interesting statistics and facts about various aspects in Hinduism.

Click "**Story Mode**". (The rest of this walkthrough focuses on Story Mode as Fact Center is extremely simple)
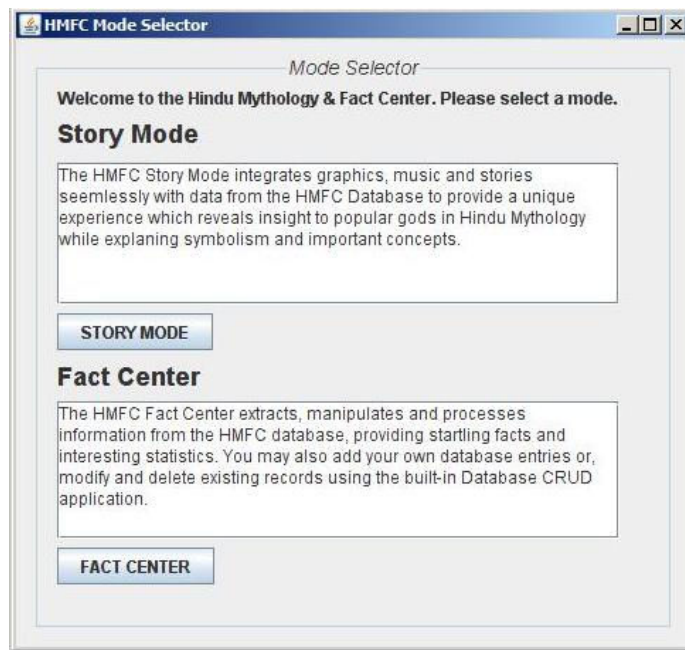
The first Story Mode screen will appear which is all about Lord Ganesha accompanied with audio:

The various components on the screen will now be explained in addition to how they work and may be used.

Information tabs
The middle of the screen contains information about the particular God. The information is split into three sections or tabs namely: "General", Symbolism" and "Festival". To view and read the various information simply click the tab on the top of the text pane. For example, the screenshot below shows the "Festival" information after the "Festival" tab has been clicked.

Click the tabs to toggle between various information

Image buttons

On the right hand side of the screen, an image of the particular God is shown. This is not the only image available. At the right hand bottom corner of the screen there are three buttons which, when clicked, reveal additional images of the particular God. Click the buttons "IMG1", "IMG2" and "IMG3" to view the images.

The screenshot on the left shows the HMFC ImageDisplayer. This has appeared after "IMG 1" button was clicked.

Audio control

You will have noticed that each screen is accompanied by audio which begins playing automatically. You may control the audio by using the "**Play/Stop**" push button. When pushed or activated, the music will stop playing. When clicked again, the music will start playing again. i.e. use it to toggle the music on and off.
It is located at the bottom right corner.

Navigating screens

At the middle of the bottom of the screen, the navigation bar can be found. This contains the buttons to go to the next screen or the previous screen.

Story Mode contains 11 different screens of the following Gods:

Ganesha, Krishna, Rama, Shiva, Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Sai Baba, Hanuman, Vishnu, Muruga. You simply have to click "Next" in each screen to navigate to the next or previous to go back. e.g. At the Ganesha screen, when you click "**Next**" you will go to the Krishna screen and click "Next" on the Krishna screen will take you to the Rama screen and so on…

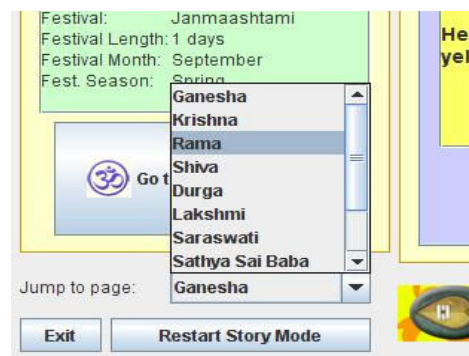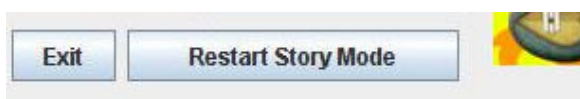The Krishna screen appears when "**Next**" is clicked on the first screen (Ganesha).

If you want to "jump" to the screen of a specific God, use the "**Jump to Page**" combo box in the left hand bottom corner of the screen.

To restart Story Mode and go back to the first screen (Ganesha), simply click the '**Restart Story Mode**' button.

The exit the program and return to Windows, click "**Exit**".

User troubleshooting

1) If you find **screens** in the program behaving oddly or not responding try refreshing it by Minimizing/Maximizing the screen.

2) If you receive an error message stating that the program cannot **connect to database**, check that you have the database file. Check that the name of it is "hmfc" and not anything else.

3) Confirm that Java is installed on the system. Its is included with the program or can be downloaded at http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp (15MB). To check if you have Java visit: http://www.java.com/en/download/installed.jsp?detect=jre&try=1 to verify this.

4) If images do not show or audio does not play, check if you have all the files required. Re-install the program if necessary.

5) If the program does not execute via the .exe file, run the jar file instead which can be found in the root (immediate) folder in program files.

Future Developments

∉ Increase multimedia capabilities. e.g. videos

∉ Better customization for users

∉ Include more standard records in database

∉ Integrate the program with other software of M.S.A and S.C.A (see *Solution*) to create a comprehensive system of all religions

∉ Information was gathered using the following methods

Acknowledgements

The various information used in the program was procured through the following websites which are acknowledged below:

http://www.sanatansociety.org/hindu_gods_and_goddesses.htm
http://www.iloveulove.com/spirituality/hindu/hindudeities3.htm
http://www.sathyasai.org/intro/message.htm

Many thanks to **Sun Microsystems** for the permission to distribute the Java software included on the disc.