

Play a Macromedia Flash animation in PowerPoint

Applies to: [Microsoft Office PowerPoint 2003](#)

If you have an animated graphic that was created with Macromedia Flash® and saved as a Shockwave® file (.swf file extension), you should be able to play it in a PowerPoint presentation using a specific ActiveX control and the Macromedia Flash Player. To run the Flash file, you add an ActiveX control to the PowerPoint slide and create a link from it to the Flash file. You also have the option of embedding the file in the presentation.

The ActiveX control, called Shockwave Flash Object, must be "registered" on your computer for you to play the Flash file within PowerPoint. If it is registered, it will appear in the list of controls opened from the **Control Toolbox** (detailed in the steps below). If it is not registered, download the latest version of the Macromedia Flash Player from the Macromedia Web site; this will register the control on your computer.

Older versions of the Shockwave Flash Object may be registered on your computer. To guarantee that complex animations run properly, we recommend that you install the latest version of the Macromedia Flash Player.

To play a Flash file in your presentation, follow these steps:

1. Install the Macromedia Flash Player on your computer.
2. In normal view in PowerPoint, display the slide on which you want to play the animation.
3. On the **View** menu, point to **Toolbars**, and then click **Control Toolbox**.
4. In the **Control Toolbox**, click **More Controls** (the button with the hammer and wrench icon).
5. In the list, scroll down and click **Shockwave Flash Object**, then drag on the slide to draw the control. You can resize the control at any point by dragging the sizing handles if you need to adjust it to the size of the animation.
6. Right-click the Shockwave Flash Object, and then click **Properties**.
7. On the **Alphabetic** tab, click the **Movie** property.
8. In the value column (the blank cell next to **Movie**), type the full drive path including the file name (for example, C:\My Documents\MyFile.swf) or Uniform Resource Locator (URL) to the Flash file that you want to play.

9. To set specific options for how the animation plays, do the following, and when you're done, close the **Properties** dialog box:
- Make sure the **Playing** property is set to **True**. This plays the file automatically when the slide is displayed. If the Flash file has a Start/Rewind control built into it, the **Playing** setting can be set to **False**.
 - If you don't want the animation to play repeatedly, in the **Loop** property, select **False** (click the cell to get a down arrow, click the arrow, and select **False**).
 - To embed the Flash file so you can pass this presentation on to others, in the **EmbedMovie** property, click **True**. (In order for the Flash file to run, however, the Shockwave Flash Object control must be registered on any computer that runs this presentation.)
10. To run the animation: With the slide displayed in normal view, click the **Slide Show** button in the lower left of the PowerPoint window (or press F5, or, on the **Slide Show** menu, click **View Show**).
11. To exit the slide show and return to normal view, press ESC.

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