

How to Create Animations in Integration Designer

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A. Overview

Animations can enhance the visual appeal of various pages in Integration Designer, such as a "Please Wait" and "Welcome" pages. This tutorial demonstrates how to create a wait page for the client using an image list and animation driver.

B. Download the Animation Driver

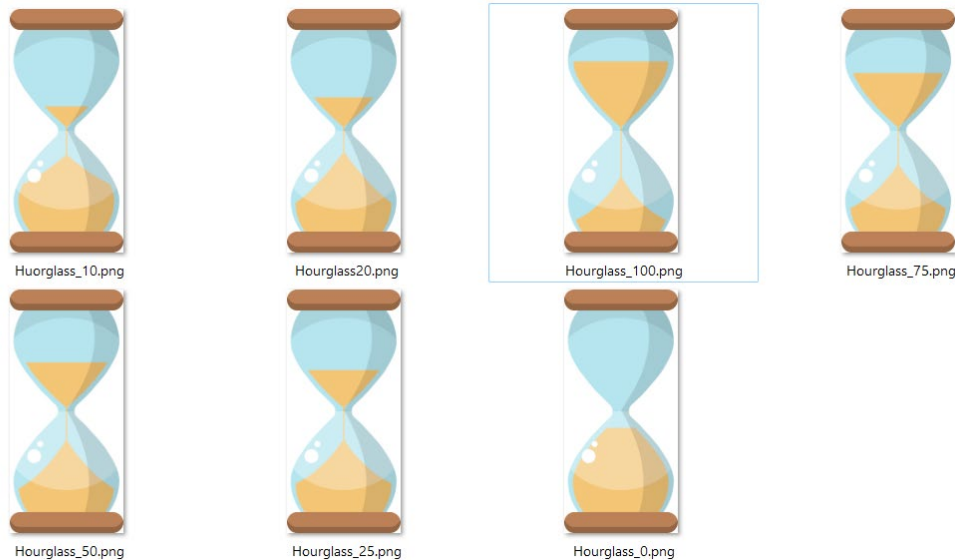
You can download the animation driver from the RTI forum under "Third-Party Drivers" or the following link: [Driver](#). Place the driver where the Integration Designer software can access it.

C. Create or Find Graphics

You can create the images for your image list if you have graphic design skills, but it's unnecessary. You can also download images from websites or use the services of a third-party graphic designer. There are plenty of images available on the Internet.

Each image in your image list represents a frame of the animation. The animation driver will display these images at specified intervals, creating the illusion of animation. While most image formats are acceptable, PNG files are preferable because they support transparency.

For example, I've found several hourglass images I want to use for my animation.



D. Create Image Lists

Creating an image list is simple and requires an XML file and file naming conventions. Give each file a name that indicates the order from start to finish, followed by ^#HIDE before the extension. These will be the final final names:

HOUR1^#HIDE.png

HOUR2^#HIDE.png

HOUR3^#HIDE.png

HOUR4^#HIDE.png

HOUR5^#HIDE.png

HOUR6^#HIDE.png

HOUR7^#HIDE.png

In Integration Designer, these image lists are merged into a single image, and an animation runs sequentially from the first image to the last. The properties of the animation driver allow you to set the timing intervals between each image and define the total number of images or frames in the animation.

We need to create an XML file to manage the image list. This XML file contains essential information for the Integration Designer software to handle the list of graphics. Once you create the XML file, you can recycle it for other image lists built in the future.

You may use a text editor like notepad to build the XML file. The file extension of the XML file needs to be *.group. Here is what the XML file looks like:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<group>
  <imagelist sample="HOUR1^#HIDE.png">
    <listimage up="HOUR1^#HIDE.png" />
    <listimage up="HOUR2^#HIDE.png" />
    <listimage up="HOUR3^#HIDE.png" />
    <listimage up="HOUR4^#HIDE.png" />
    <listimage up="HOUR5^#HIDE.png" />
    <listimage up="HOUR6^#HIDE.png" />
    <listimage up="HOUR7^#HIDE.png" />
  </imagelist>
</group>
```

The first line is a declaration that tells the XML parser that the file is an XML document using version 1.0 of the XML specification and that the character encoding of the document is UTF-8.

In this example, <group> is used to group together the elements. This can be useful for organizing data and making it easier to understand the structure of the XML document.

The <imagelist sample= specifies the start of the list and the image that should be displayed in Integration Designer to represent the image list. In this example, the first hourglass is specified. Any image that best represents the list can be chosen for the sample.

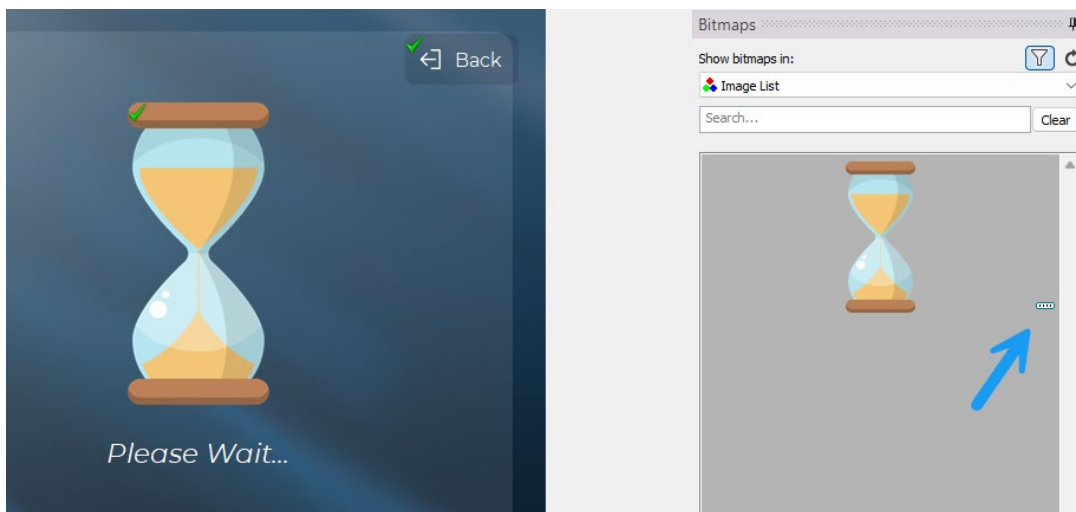
The <listimage up= indicates the state and filename of each image. While the order in this example is strictly based on the animation order, usually, these are based on the order of the feedback from a driver that requires an image list, like a weather driver using a weather image that changes based on the feedback.

Be sure to close the list with the </imagelist> and </group> ending tags to end the list. Following the format of the above list is important for the image list to work properly.

E. Importing the Image List

The following step involves importing your image list into the software. After setting the directory where the image list is stored using the Options/Set Directories feature, choose the directory from the dropdown menu in the bitmap library.

1. Navigate to the “Please Wait” source page. If it does not exist, add a “Please Wait” pageset using the “Add Workspace Item” in Integration Designer.
2. Identify the image list graphic in the bitmap library. Ensure an image list symbol is next to the image in the library.
3. Drag the image from the bitmap library to the user interface and resize and center as needed.

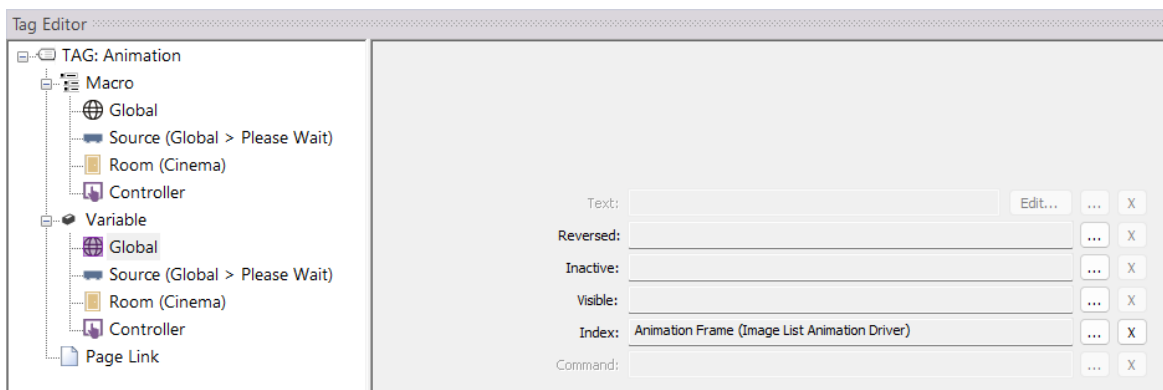


F. Configuring the Animation Driver

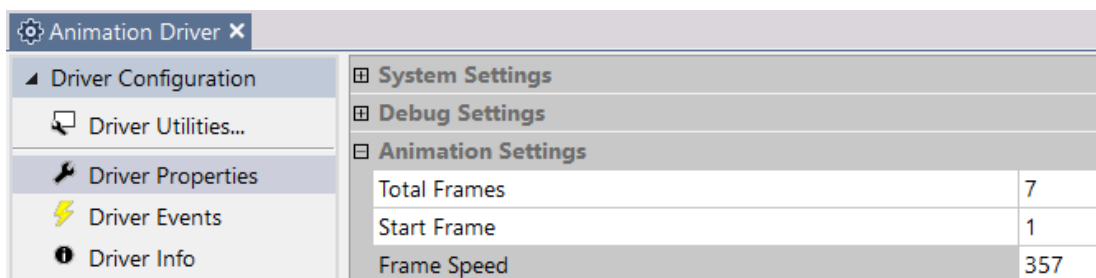
In this step, we will configure the image to use the animation driver, configure the animation driver properties, and finish up by sending a command in our activities to activate the animation.

1. Select the image, and tag the image using the tag editor. For example, “Animation” is an acceptable tag name.
2. Once the image is tagged, select the Global variable level in the tag editor, then select the ellipsis menu next to the index feedback.

3. Navigate to the animation driver and select the variable “Animation Frame.”



Next, select the Animation driver in the workspace under “Drivers.” You are going to configure the driver properties based on the projects needs.



Total Frames – Set this value to the number of images in your image list. In our example, our image list is comprised of seven different images, or frames.

Start Frame – Select the frame or image number to start from. Generally this is the first image in the list.

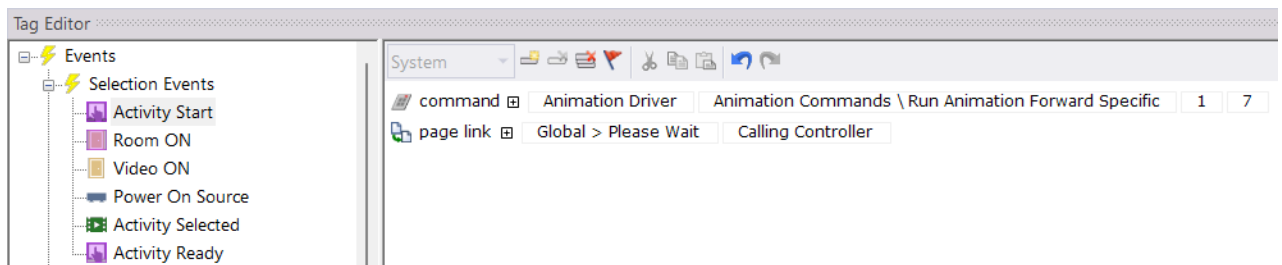
Frame Speed – This setting reflects how many seconds will pause between each frame in the animation. For example, if your macro takes 2.5 seconds to run initially, convert that value to milliseconds. (Milliseconds=Seconds×1000) Then, divide that number by the total number of frames.

In our example below, each frame will have a 357-millisecond pause between frames, which will take approximately two and a half seconds to complete.

G. Programming a Macro

In this step, we will program a macro in Integration Designer. Once an activity is selected, we will jump to the “Please Wait” page and start running the animation until this system is calibrated.

1. Select the first room in the workspace.
2. Select “Activities” and select an activity that requires a delay when calibrating the system.
3. Select the “Activity Start” command and insert a command from the animation driver to “Run Animation Forward Specific.” Then select the start and end frame.



4. Repeat the process with the rest of the rooms and activities that require this functionality.

Please be aware that not all animations are specific to this process. Some animations will require different arguments and a completely different image list. Use this feature to enhance the customer experience, no matter what the use.