

## Introduction

Thank you for purchasing OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON. This manual explains the game interface, and provides information on hunting the cats that populate the environments.

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This product has been rated by the Entertainment Software Rating Board. For information about the ESRB rating, or to comment about the appropriateness of the rating, please contact the ESRB at 1-800-771-3772.

## Game Play

Playing OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON is straightforward—pick a weapon, pick a hunting region, and go hunting. The following sections cover the interface and game options in detail. There are four main screens in BIG CAT SEASON: the Main Menu, the Score Menu, the Camp Screen and the Game Window.

### Main Menu

The Main Menu is where you enter the game, selecting your weapon of choice and region to hunt in. Click the mouse on a menu item while it is highlighted to select that item.

If you want to get started hunting immediately, jump to the *Your First Hunt* section starting on page 8.

### Hunt

Starts a hunt with the selected region and weapon. If no region or weapon has been selected, you hunt in the default South America environment, with the default weapon, a Cal.45 Handgun. For a detailed explanation of game controls and interface, see the *Game Window* section starting on page 6. For a quick introduction to the art of big cat hunting, see page 8.

### Choose Weapon

Brings up the Select Weapon screen, where you can choose between eight weapons. Click on a weapon to select it and a representation will appear next to the weapons list. Specifications and descriptions for each of these weapons can be found starting on page 10. When you are satisfied with your weapon selection, click on Back to return to the Main Menu.

### Choose Region

Brings up the Select Region screen, where you can choose to hunt in one of four distinct regions. Each environment provides a diverse landscape, so you can pick the region that suits your taste for hunting at that particular time. Each region approximates one or two square miles of land in a unique, fictional, privately owned hunting area.



#### South American VIP Hunt

Jaguars and leopards roam these steep slopes. A veritable maze of rock walls makes this exotic Andean hunting ground extremely challenging. Visibility is limited by the imposing cliffs, and a hungry cat could be lurking around every corner!

#### African Game Reserve

The vast rolling grass of the savannah hides prides of lions and the occasional cheetah. This private reserve has little cover, allowing hunting at the range of your weapon's power. However, you are as visible to your prey as they are to you, and the tables can easily be turned.



#### Asian Jungle Compound

It is always night in the jungle, and the tigers and panthers of this Asian hunting reserve have the advantage in the environment. Thick, large-leaved undergrowth reduces visibility to mere yards. When a vicious and hungry predator can be lurking behind every tree and bush, the wise hunter is always ready to fire.

The creators of this game realized that many of the big cats are threatened or endangered species, and therefore cannot legally be hunted. The *fictional* hunting preserves depicted in this game have no known real-life counterparts. The designers of **OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON** do not encourage or endorse the illegal hunting of these magnificent animals.

### North American Private Hunt

From the heights of these snow covered slopes you can see a large portion of the surrounding terrain. The red-hued mountain lion that frequents this section of the Rocky Mountains should be relatively easy to spot, if it can be lured from the red rock ridges it prefers.



### Score

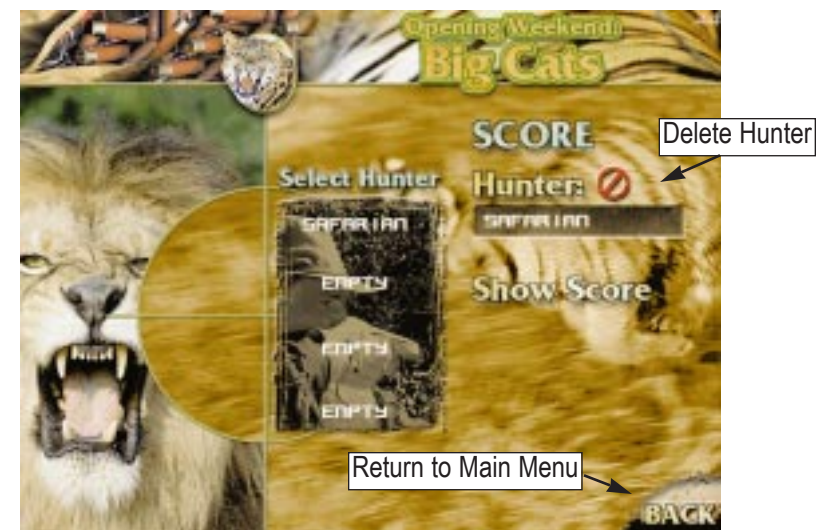
Brings you to the Score Menu, where you can review and compare the trophies and kills of all players. For more details, see below.

### Quit

Exits the game and returns you to your Windows desktop.

### Score Menu

The Score Menu keeps track of kills and accuracy for up to four Hunters. When you start a Hunt, any kills are added to the currently selected Hunter's score.





If no Hunter has been selected, when you start a Hunt, you are prompted to enter a name and that name is added to the list.

To add a new hunter to the list, click on an Empty slot, type your name in the box on the right and press **Enter**. To delete a Hunter from the list, select a name, then click on the *red* Delete symbol on the right side of the screen.

To review the scores for a Hunter, click on a name in the Select Hunter box, and click on Show Score. This brings up a screen giving that hunter's Total Kills. By clicking on the right and left arrow buttons below the Trophies box, you can scroll through the different animals that hunter has killed. A Description of each is given to the right of the cat's representation, along with the Location where that animal was shot. Its weight and the size of its head are given so you can compare the sizes of your trophies.

To clear that Hunter's score, click on the Reset Score button at the bottom of the screen.

When you are done reviewing that Hunter's score, click on Back to return to the Main Menu.

## Camp Screen

You can bring up the Camp Screen at any time during play by pressing the **Esc** key. This exits your current hunt, but any cats you have killed are added to your score. From the Camp Screen you can review your score, change weapons or hunt in a new region. Hit the sack to start a new mission or traditional hunt, or End the hunting trip to return to the Main Menu.

## Game Window

The Game Window shows you the world through the hunter's eyes. As you look and move around the region, the window view moves accordingly. The controls in *OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON* are very simple. The following sections cover the various actions and the keys to control those actions. As well, in the frame surrounding the view, many of the most common key commands are described and labeled. A comprehensive listing of game controls can be found in the *Game Controls Summary* on page 16. To exit the Game Window and return to the Main Menu, press **Esc** at any time.

## Looking Around

You can use either the mouse or the keyboard to look around. The **PageUp** and **PageDown** keys (**9** and **3** on the numeric keypad) allow you to look up or down. The *left* and *right arrow* keys (**4** and **6** on the numeric keypad) turn you left and right. If you use the mouse, moving it away from you shifts the view up, and toward shifts the view down, while moving the mouse to either side turns you in that direction.

An aiming reticle (small yellow crosshairs) appears in the center of the screen. Adjust your aim by using these same controls. If you aim for an area out of your weapon's range, the crosshairs turn red.

Binoculars give you the ability to see further than is possible with the naked eye. Using the binoculars, you can spot animals from great distances. You can raise the binoculars to your eyes by pressing **F5**. Use the **+** and **-** keys on the keyboard to zoom in and out. Lower the binoculars by pressing **F5** again.

## Movement

You can use either **E**, **D**, **W** and **R** or the **arrow** keys (**8**, **2**, **4** and **6** on the numeric keypad) to move forward and backward and turn left and right. To move in the direction you are facing, press and hold **E** or the **up** arrow key. To move opposite the direction you are facing, press **D** or the **down** arrow key.

Since you move relative to the direction you are facing, you can change direction by shifting where you are looking.

Occasionally you will need to move quickly, like when avoiding a charging panther! When you need to run, press and hold down either the **A** or **Shift** key while moving. You can also jump, to see over rises and other obstacles, by pressing **T** or **Home** (**7** on the numeric keypad).

Big cats tend to have excellent hearing, and are alert to sudden movements. You can sneak around, moving slower and more quietly, by pressing and holding the **Space Bar** while moving. You can also lower your profile and improve your chances of sneaking up on a cat by pressing the **End** key (**1** on the numeric keypad), which lowers you into a crouch. Hold down this key to remain crouched.

## Using a Weapon

When you first enter the hunting region, your weapon is raised. You can lower your weapon at any time by pressing **F4**. You can raise the weapon at any time by pressing **F4** again.

To fire a raised weapon, press the **Ctrl** key or press the **left** mouse button. The weapon fires once for each time you press the key. In the upper left corner of the Game Window is the ammo counter. This shows how much ammunition is left in your weapon and decreases

The best way to control the virtual hunter is by using a combination of keyboard and mouse. Place one hand on the mouse and your other hand on the arrows on the keyboard. Use the up and down arrows to move forward and backward while using the mouse to turn and look up and down. It takes some practice to get used to this coordinated movement, but it allows you to move and aim very quickly.

with each shot. When you run out of ammunition, you must exit the hunt (hit **Esc** to return to the Main Menu) and select your weapon and region for a new hunt.

Each weapon has a different range and ammunition, see the *Weapons* section beginning on page 10 for detailed information.

Depending on the type of weapon you are using, it may take more than one shot to drop a big cat. Take your time and choose your shots wisely. Don't be hesitant to use the scope if you are taking aim at a distant target.

If you are equipped with a long-range weapon, you may want to use a scope to improve your aim. Big Cat can be hard to see at greater distances. To use the scope, first raise the weapon and then press **F1** or the **Right** mouse button. Use the **+** and **-** keys to zoom the scope appropriately. To remove the scope, press **F1** again. Note that you cannot lower your weapon while looking through the scope—you must first remove the scope, and you cannot use the scope while moving.

## Your First Hunt

This section is provided to give you a quick start in hunting with OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON. For details on options and techniques presented in this section, see the appropriate section of the manual.

### Starting the Game and Entering a Hunt

1. Start OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON by clicking the appropriate icon in the Opening Weekend program group of the Windows **Start** menu.
2. From the Main Menu, select the weapon you want to use, and the region you want to hunt in.
3. Click on Hunt to enter the selected region.

## Looking for Signs of Big Cats

1. Once you are in the environment, slowly turn in a circle, looking for animals in the immediate vicinity. If you spot one, jump ahead to the *Getting a Shot* section.
2. Notice the wind direction and move into or at right angles to the wind, looking for signs of big cats (usually droppings). If you find any signs, note their location and continue moving perpendicularly to the wind until you find other signs of cats. Don't forget to use **PageUp** / **PageDown** or the mouse to look up and down.
3. Once you've found a second sign of a cat, look around for the last one. Imagine a line between your current location and that sign. The line indicates a possible cat's path.
4. You can follow that path, looking for more signs of the cat, or you can find a suitable spot *upwind* from the path to sit and wait for a cat. If you decide to wait, crouch down, put on camo, or hide behind foliage to avoid scaring the cat. Placing bait (**F2**) will draw any nearby cats to your location. Watch your back!

## Getting a Shot

If you have difficulty finding a cat, you can press **M** to enable animal pointers. Arrows will appear in the sky above the locations of any animals in the region.

1. Once you spot a cat you must get close enough for your current weapon to hit it. See the **Weapons** section starting on page 10 for actual ranges.
2. Observe the foliage around the animal and determine the best place to take a shot, whether it is from a nearby ridge, a tree, or simply a few yards closer. Keep the wind direction in mind.
3. Approach the cat in stages, occasionally stopping to watch its reaction. Be prepared for it to charge.
4. When the animal is within range, jump to the *Taking the Shot* section.

## Taking the Shot

1. When the animal is within range, raise your weapon (**F4**) and optionally use the scope (**F1** or **Right-click**).
2. Position the sights or cross hairs on the cat's center of mass, generally in the chest region. Use the mouse when aiming to be more precise.
3. Fire (**Ctrl** or **Left-click**) when you have a clean shot, but be ready to quickly adjust your aim and shoot again to ensure a kill.

Remember that you can hold down the **Shift** key and quickly move backward as a big cat charges you. However, skilled hunters stand in place, shoot straight, and drop the lion without running backward.

## Being Defensive

1. As soon as you are perceived as a threat the cat will charge you. Be prepared to send a hail of lead his direction.
2. Occasionally when the cat takes a shot, he reacts to the hit by varying his approach and running sideways for a bit. Be prepared for this action and keep him in your sights.
3. If you still have the bait, quickly backpedal and drop the bait in front of you. If the cat is not sufficiently enraged he will grab the bait and retreat, offering you several free shots.
4. Continue shooting until the cat dies.

## After a Kill

The other cats in the environment remain active even after you have killed one. Keep alert or you may be attacked while admiring your kill! After killing an animal, continue hunting the other big cats in the region until you run out of ammo. When your ammunition is used up, or you tire of hunting, press **Esc** to bring up the Camp Screen. (See page 5 for more information.)

## Becoming an Expert Hunter

The keys to becoming an expert hunter are simple: know your weapons and equipment, know your prey, develop patience and practice your aim.

### Weapons

There are eight weapons to choose from in BIG CAT SEASON. Below are given details on the weapons, so you can judge their relative effectiveness.

#### .45 Cal Handgun

**Damage:** Light **Range:** Short



It takes a lot of nerve to hunt a panther with only a handgun. You need to be close, accurate or lucky to take down your target, preferably all three. Be ready to run for your life if your first shot doesn't kill!

#### 9mm Rifle

**Damage:** High **Range:** Long



This is a high powered, bolt-action rifle with considerable range and stopping power.

#### 30-30 Lever-Action Rifle

**Damage:** Medium **Range:** Medium



This gun's cartridge has less powder, and as a result, fires a bullet with less force, distance and accuracy than the 9mm, making the hunt more of a challenge.

#### Shotgun

**Damage:** High **Range:** Medium



A lightweight, low recoil gun, with a smooth bore. Shotguns are loaded with a cartridge containing a large slug for lion hunting. Although the range isn't as great, the bullet has a great deal of force behind it.

#### 049 Side-by-side

**Damage:** Very High **Range:** Short



A classic shotgun, this weapon packs an awesome punch. Two breach-loading barrels give the gun its power, but its limited range means you have to get dangerously close to a big cat in order to use it.

#### Crossbow

**Damage:** High **Range:** Long

Modern crossbows easily have the range and stopping power of a common rifle. Reload time is slow in comparison, but cats are unlikely to spook at the sound, allowing you to fire at multiple targets.



#### Longbow

**Damage:** Light **Range:** Short

The ultimate test of stalking skill is to hunt with a long bow. Range is limited by the strength in your arms, forcing you to get very close to your target. In addition, you are allowed to wear camouflage while bow hunting, making the stalking process easier.



#### Compound Bow

**Damage:** Medium **Range:** Medium

Compound bows still require a great deal of strength and stealth, but their power and range have been increased by a system of pulleys. In addition, you are allowed to wear camouflage while bow hunting, making the stalking process easier.



## Hunting Accessories

OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON provides several accessories for you to take on your virtual hunt. Most of these items are always with you; you do not have to select them before you begin hunting. However, you can choose not to use these items if you want to make your hunt more challenging.

### Binoculars

Binoculars give you the ability to see further than possible with the naked eye. Using the binoculars, you can spot cat traces and even live cats from great distances. Press **F5** to look through your binoculars. Use the + and - keys on the keyboard to zoom in and out. You cannot move while looking through the binoculars.

### Bait

Most cats spend a significant amount of time searching for food. The concept of bait relies upon the cat's hunger, drawing him toward the tantalizing smell of raw meat. Dropping bait in a large clearing and positioning yourself upwind is a great way to attract and attack a cat. However, the bait's smell is compelling enough to attract cats in all directions, so be sure to watch your back!

### Wind Indicator

The direction of the wind is always shown by the indicator in the upper right of the hunting window. Use this indicator to help you determine the correct angle to approach a cat. Note that if the wind is blowing toward the cat it will be able to smell you from longer distances, while having the wind blow toward you will impede the ability of the cat to smell you, even at close range.



### Scent Mask

If you need to approach a cat more closely, but the wind is unfavorable, you can use this chemical which masks your scent by pressing **F3**. This

usually prevents a cat from noticing you, but they may still spot you if you move or make a lot of noise. Keep in mind that the chemical used wears off quickly. A message at the top of the screen notifies you when it fades.

### Camouflage

Camouflage helps you conceal yourself in the natural terrain around you. Using camouflage, you are all but invisible to the keen eyes of the cat. However, since it is illegal to wear camouflage while hunting with a gun, camo is only available when bow hunting. If you are using a bow, press **F12** to suit up in camo.

## About the Big Cats

All the big cats are aggressive creatures, prone to protecting their home turf from challenging threats-- such as a human wandering around within their territory. The cats you will be hunting are extremely dangerous animals, exceptionally vicious for their species. The type of cats you may encounter varies by the individual hunting reserve.

### Leopards and Jaguars



The leopard, *panthera pardus*, and the jaguar, *panthera onca*, are close cousins of one another. Their distinctive pattern of large dappled

rosettes is unmistakable. Both can be found in a variety of environments, from mountains to woodlands

to swamps. They are the largest cats in the Americas,

ranging from two to four hundred pounds. Leopards tend to be slightly larger and slower, with a yellowish cast to their fur. The night-loving jaguar has more of a reddish tone, and is much more aggressive, a fierce and proficient hunter.



### Lions and Cheetahs

The african lion, *panthera leo*, has symbolized leadership and nobility throughout history. Tending to gather in groups of several cats, called

prides, the females of the species perform the majority of the hunting, while the majestic, dark-maned male lions protect their territory from intruders. They can be extremely hostile to invasion, since incursions from jackals and other scavengers are a



part of everyday life on the savannah. Even other large cats will flee when the lions approach.



Their companions on the grasslands of Africa, the cheetahs, are quite different. *Acinonyx jubatus* is famed as the fastest land animal, capable of reaching speeds of up to 70mph for short distances. Built for speed, not combat, the graceful cheetah is more likely to avoid than to confront strangers in its territory, such as humans with guns.

However, hunger can overcome this native caution, and an unwary hunter being stalked by this amazing creature has little chance of escaping.



### Tigers and Panthers

The largest members of the cat family, the tiger, *panthera tigris* can weigh over seven hundred pounds, almost twice the weight of most other species. The remaining tigers in the wild can be found near the edges of the jungles of Asia, where the play of light and shadow renders their striking orange and black stripes an effective camouflage. Secure in their place at the top of the food chain, tigers are not highly aggressive hunters, despite their man-killer reputation. A certain somnolence and their solitary lifestyle make them easier targets than more active and hostile big cats. That said, an angered tiger is a fearsome power best avoided.



Sharing the jungle darkness with the tigers are the *panthers pardus orientalis* members of the same family as the leopards. Panthers, as the Asian variety are

called, tend to have longer legs, and thicker fur than their South American counterparts. Many are almost black in hue, allowing them to be nearly invisible in the depths of the forest. When seen up close, the panther's fur still shows the rosette pattern of the leopard, but due to the cat's aggressive nature, you'll be too busy firing to admire its beauty!



### Mountain Lions

The *felis concolor* is the most common large cat in North America, and its preferred habit gives it its name, the mountain lion. Its fur tends to be red or brown in hue, to match the rocks of the terrain in its area. Much smaller than the big cats of other continents, the mountain lion is a proficient hunter, but tends to shy away from humans and other threats unless pressed. When angered, it lays its ears back and pounces in a manner not unlike an overgrown housecat.



### Finding Big Cats

At the start of each hunt, your chosen region is populated with cats of various sizes. The animals all behave realistically, stopping to eat, drink, or simply roam around the landscape. While wandering around the region, take note of where you have seen cat droppings to determine a likely path that the cat may be following. Keep in mind that there are several animals in each area—stay alert to avoid having one cat take you by surprise while you are stalking another. With their keen senses, the cats are quite capable of detecting your presence, even if you do not detect theirs. A hunter caught unaware is easily killed.

## Avoiding Detection

One of the keys to successful hunting is patience. It is much easier to bulls-eye a cat from twenty feet than twenty yards. If you are using a weapon with a severely limited range, the art of moving stealthily is vital.

Big cats can notice slight movements and generally perceive sudden movement as a distinct threat. Your best bet is to observe from a distance with the binoculars. Staying on high ground will help you spot distant cats and identify the best path to approach them. When moving in for the kill, try to use natural terrain to block the animal's sight until you get close enough for the kill. You can dodge among rock outcroppings, trees and bushes when closing in on your prey, but take care, it is difficult to keep track of where the animal is, and you don't want to be surprised by a lion!

Sudden and sharp noises will alert nearby cats to your presence. Unfortunately, the environment in *OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON* tends to compel you to move around. Move slowly, or even sneak (hold down the **Space Bar** while moving) when you know there are cats in the area.

If a cat realizes you are there, be prepared for it to attack you. In a close range battle, the odds are not in your favor, so if a cat charges you, and you aren't sure of a shot, you can try running away (hold down the **A** or **Shift** key while moving). Some big cats can move with remarkable speed though, if they are riled. You can try throwing down bait (**F2**) to distract it while you make your getaway.

## Improving Your Accuracy

The only way to improve at anything is to practice. If you really want to work on your aim, shoot at the occasional deer, or other small targets in the environment, first with, then without a scope. When you can bulls-eye a fleeing deer at the limit of your weapon's range, without a scope, you'll know you've become an expert marksman.

## Tips From Expert Hunters

- You may wish to change into camo (**F12**), or apply chemicals to mask your scent (**F3**) to avoid detection when stalking a cat. Avoiding open areas where you can be easily spotted by your prey is also recommended.
- Depending on the type of weapon you are using, it may take more than one shot to drop a cat. Take your time and choose your shots wisely. Don't be hesitant to use the scope if you are taking aim at a distant target.
- When cats are eating, they stand still, use this to your advantage.
- If you drop bait between you and the cat it usually attracts the cat to your location. Be careful however, for while the bait is more of a tempting snack, the cat will still attack you if you remain too close to the bait.
- Watching wind direction is very important. Get used to checking the indicator often, especially when approaching a cat.
- If you have difficulty finding cats, you can press **M** to enable cat pointers. Arrows will appear in the sky above the locations of cats.

## BIG CAT SEASON Game Controls Summary

### Key Command

<b>E</b> or Up Arrow or NumPad 8	Move Forward
<b>D</b> or Down Arrow or NumPad 2	Move Backward
<b>W</b> or Left Arrow or NumPad 4	Turn Left
<b>R</b> or Right Arrow or NumPad 6	Turn Right
<b>S / F</b> or < / >	Sidestep Left / Right
<b>T</b> or Home or NumPad 7	Jump
<b>End</b> or NumPad 1	Crouch ( <i>hold to stay crouched</i> )
<b>A</b> or Shift + Direction	Run
<b>Space Bar</b> + Direction	Sneak
<b>F4</b>	Raise / Lower Weapon
<b>Ctrl</b>	Fire weapon ( <i>weapon must be raised</i> )
<b>F1</b>	Raise / Lower Scope ( <i>weapon must be raised</i> )
<b>F5</b>	Raise / Lower Binoculars
<b>+ / -</b>	Zoom Binoculars and Scope
<b>Page Up</b> or NumPad 9	Look Up
<b>Page Down</b> or NumPad 3	Look Down
<b>F2</b>	Drop Bait
<b>F3</b>	Mask Scent
<b>F12</b>	Wear Camouflage ( <i>must be hunting with bow</i> )
<b>M</b>	Locate Big Cats
<b>F6</b>	Take Picture of Current Screen
<b>F7</b>	Change Display Resolution
<b>Esc</b>	Quit Hunt and Return to Main Menu

### Mouse Command

<b>Move Left</b>	Moves View / Aim Left
<b>Move Right</b>	Moves View / Aim Right
<b>Move Away From You</b>	Moves View / Aim Up
<b>Move Toward You</b>	Moves View / Aim Down
<b>Left Button</b>	Fires Weapon ( <i>weapon must be raised</i> )
<b>Right Button</b>	Raise / Lower Scope ( <i>weapon must be raised</i> )

### Action(s)

Move Forward
Move Backward
Turn Left
Turn Right
Sidestep Left / Right
Jump
Crouch ( <i>hold to stay crouched</i> )
Run
Sneak
Raise / Lower Weapon
Fire weapon ( <i>weapon must be raised</i> )
Raise / Lower Scope ( <i>weapon must be raised</i> )
Raise / Lower Binoculars
Zoom Binoculars and Scope
Look Up
Look Down
Drop Bait
Mask Scent
Wear Camouflage ( <i>must be hunting with bow</i> )
Locate Big Cats
Take Picture of Current Screen
Change Display Resolution
Quit Hunt and Return to Main Menu

### Action(s)

Moves View / Aim Left
Moves View / Aim Right
Moves View / Aim Up
Moves View / Aim Down
Fires Weapon ( <i>weapon must be raised</i> )
Raise / Lower Scope ( <i>weapon must be raised</i> )

## Troubleshooting

This section provides information that should help you solve some common technical problems.

### System Requirements

Please be sure your system meets the following requirements:

- Pentium 233 MHz IBM PC or compatible (266MHz Recommended)
- 32 MB of RAM (64 MB Recommended)
- Windows® 95 or 98 - NOTE: This game cannot be played on Windows® NT systems. Multitasking is not recommended when playing OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON.
- An uncompressed hard drive with 60MB free
- 4X CD-ROM drive or faster (8X Recommended)
- 16-Bit Windows compatible sound device
- 16-Bit Color and PCI Bus 3D graphics accelerator (2nd Generation PCI Bus or AGP 3D accelerator Recommended)

In addition to the basic system requirements, the game requires that DirectX 6.1 be installed to your hard drive. The option to install DirectX 6.1 appears during the game installation. At the end of installation, you are prompted to register BIG CAT SEASON electronically.

### Copy Protection

In order to play OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON, the original game CD must be in the CD-ROM drive.

### Uninstalling the Game

To uninstall the game, select that option from the Autorun menu, or choose Settings from the **Start** menu, and select Control Panel. In the Control Panel, select Add/Remove Programs, left-click on OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON, and click on the Add/Remove button. The game and all of its components are removed from your hard drive, except for your saved scores.

## Sound and Video Cards

Some sound and/or video cards are not supported by Windows and DirectX. If you do not have one of the following Sound or Video cards, the game may not work.

**DirectX Supported Sound Cards:** *Banshee, Creative Labs, Sound Blaster, Yamaha*

**DirectX Supported Video Cards:** *ATI, Diamond, Matrox, NVIDIA, S3, Voodoo*

## Graphics Problems

If you are having difficulties with the graphics in the game (blurred or pixelated textures, shadows, colors, etc.) first be sure that your graphics card meets the minimum system requirements, and that it is DirectX 6.1 compatible. If you meet all requirements, but the graphic glitches persist, you may not have the latest drivers for your card. These can often be downloaded directly from the manufacturer's website, or by contacting their technical support.

If your graphics and gameplay are slow, but otherwise fine, reducing the screen resolution by toggling through the choices (400x300, 512x384, 640x480, and 800x600) with the F7 key, usually solves the problem. If you continue to have difficulty running the game satisfactorily, check to make sure your system fulfills the minimum requirements.

## DirectX 6.1 Setup

This game requires DirectX 6.1 or higher. If you do not have DirectX 6.1, it can be installed or reinstalled from the CD. Installing DirectX 6.1 is an option when installing the game. It can also be installed by exploring the game CD, and opening the DirectX folder. Double click on Dxsetup.exe to start the DirectX 6.1 install. Using either the Install DirectX 6 button from the Autorun menu or Dxsetup.exe, you can install DirectX 6.1, reinstall DirectX 6.1, test your drivers certification, or reinstate your previous audio and video drivers.

## DirectX Disclaimer and License

OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON utilizes Microsoft's DirectX sound and video drivers. DirectX is a programming tool created by Microsoft, and the installation of DirectX may cause video problems and system anomalies with computers using video drivers that aren't DirectX compliant. DirectX is a Microsoft product, and as such, The Learning Company cannot be responsible for changes that might occur to your computer system due to its installation. For DirectX related problems that cannot be fixed by updating to your video card's latest Windows driver set, you must contact either Microsoft or the manufacturer of your video card for further technical support or service.

Microsoft retains all intellectual property rights to DirectX. The user has been granted a limited license to use DirectX with Microsoft operating system products.

## Verifying DirectX Video/Sound Card Drivers

To verify that your sound and video drivers are DirectX 6.1 certified, follow these steps: Click on the Windows Start button (usually found in the lower-left corner of your screen). Click on Run. In the open field type the command: C:\program files\directx\setup\dxinfo.exe then click on OK. Make sure all drivers say Certified next to them.

If any of your drivers are not DirectX certified you should contact the hardware manufacturer and see if they have certified DirectX 6.1 drivers.

## Reinstalling Windows Video Drivers

If you find that there is a problem with your display after you have installed DirectX 6.1 you can reinstall your old video drivers by following these instructions: Click on the Windows Start button and click on Run. In the open field type the command: C:\program files\directx\setup\dxsetup.exe then click on OK. Click on the Restore Display Drivers button. This may require that you have the disk containing your original drivers.

## Contacting Technical Support

If you are having problems, please consult the rest of this Troubleshooting section before contacting The Learning Company Technical Support. We've put many of the solutions to the most common problems in this area. If you are sure that you meet the OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON system requirements and the game still does not run, please make certain that you are using the latest drivers for your system.

The Learning Company technical support department is available to assist you with any issues regarding the product you purchased. Technical support can be reached via e-mail, U.S. mail, fax, or phone. The technical staff supports the entire family line of products from The Learning Company.

When contacting technical support, please provide as much information as you can about your computer system and the problem you are experiencing. The following information is necessary to providing you with technical assistance:

- Your first and last name.
- Phone number, fax number, mailing address and e-mail address.
- Name of the product, version, platform and format. **Example:** OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON/version 1.0/Windows 95/98/CD-ROM
- A brief description of your problem.
- Type of computer including name brand. (Mac or PC) If you cannot find the name of your computer say IBM PC Clone. **Example:** Dell PC Pentium 200 MHz
- Amount of memory. **Example:** 64 MB of RAM
- Size of hard disk. **Example:** 12 GB hard disk
- Type of video card. **Example:** ATI Matrox Milenia 8 MB video card
- Type of CD-ROM Drive. **Example:** 4x Panasonic CD drive
- Type of DVD-ROM. **Example:** 2nd generation Phillips DVD-ROM drive
- Type of Sound Card. **Example:** Creative Labs 16 bit sound card
- If using a network please mention the type of network being used.
- Modem type and speed. **Example:** US Robotics 56K Flex internal modem

- Version of Windows or Macintosh operating system.
- If you are having a printing problem specify the name, make, and model of the printer you are using. **Example:** HP Deskjet 870 CSI

Check our Web site, <http://www.learningco.com>, for answers to frequently asked questions and other technical support information. Go to the Support section to get FAQs, downloads, patches, and other useful files.

### Technical Support Call Center

**24 Hour Automated 800 Support:** (800) 409-1497

This service allows our customers to find commonly asked questions to products and their answers free of charge.

**24 Hour Technical Support Fax Line:** (319) 395-9600

**Main Technical Support Number:** (319) 247-3333

Technical support representatives are available between 9:00AM and 9:00PM Central Standard time, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). Please be at your computer when you call.

### Online Technical Support

**Technical Support E-mail Address:** [Help@tlcsupport.com](mailto:Help@tlcsupport.com)

**Online Technical Library:** [www.learningco.com/support](http://www.learningco.com/support)

If the game about which you are inquiring has been out for more than 90 days, you'll want to visit the Web site to be sure you are running the latest version of the game before contacting Technical Support.

### Mailing Address

The Learning Company  
1700 Progress Drive  
PO Box 100  
Hiawatha, IA 52233-0100 USA  
Attn: OPENING WEEKEND: BIG CAT SEASON

**Note:** When corresponding via mail please include the information requested above.

## Credits

### ManMachine Team

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<b>Parser:</b>	Volker Kleiper
<b>3D Engine:</b>	JC Lotter
<b>2D Art:</b>	Justin Martin, Zak Donelly, Paul Adarr
<b>3D-Models:</b>	Cabbott Sanders
<b>3D-Weapons:</b>	DUB Media Inc.
<b>Level Design:</b>	Paul Addarr, Andreas Vahsen
<b>Hunting Consultant:</b>	Curtis La Bansky
<b>Project Manager, Game Design:</b>	Andreas Vahsen
<b>Special Thanks to:</b>	Steve Schaefer, Kelly Marshall and Benjamin Milstead and Macmillan Digital Publishing.



### The Learning Company

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<b>Marketing Manager/Director:</b>	Todd Sitrin
<b>PR Director:</b>	Karen "KC" Conroe
<b>Support Personnel:</b>	Andrea Akmenkains, Sarah Taylor
<b>Layout and DTP:</b>	Epicentric

### QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS?

If you encounter disk or system related problems you can reach us through several methods: Telephone (319) 247-3333 between 9:00am and 9:00pm Central Standard time, Monday through Friday, holidays excluded, Tech Support Fax: (319) 395-9600 Attn: Technical Support, calling our automated services at (800) 409- 1497, Filling out our online support form at: [http://store.learningco.com/dev/support\\_form.asp](http://store.learningco.com/dev/support_form.asp) (or the game's web page, which is listed in the manual), Email: [Help@tlcsupport.com](mailto:Help@tlcsupport.com) (please list the game's name as the message's subject), You can also write to us at The Learning Company, Attn: Technical Support, 1700 Progress Drive, PO Box 100, Hiawatha, IA 52233-0100 USA (include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply).

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