

Creating Custom Character Poses



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Character poses are transparent photo images of a male and female actor in various poses suitable for using in your Lectora titles. Lectora users access these special character images using Lectora's Media Library. The images are arranged under descriptive subcategories within the Character Poses category in the Media Library. This guide describes how to create custom characters that can be added and shared in the Media Library.

For details about adding and configuring characters in a title, see the subtopic "Working the Characters" under "Working with Images" in the "Working with Objects" section of the *Lectora Information Center*.

View these topics for more information:

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Integrating Custom Characters into Lectora

You can integrate your own character poses so that you can access them within Lectora and added them to your titles. To add a character, you must create a separate *.png* image file for each of the 15 poses. Additionally, you must follow a specific naming convention when creating each pose image and place each file in a similarly named subdirectory within your */Program Data/Trivantis/<Lectora Product>/MediaLib/Character Poses* directory. For example, if you are creating a new character named Bob, you must create subdirectories for each character pose and include the file with the name of the character, an underscore, and the name of the pose (*Arms Crossed/bob_armscrossed.png*, *Happy/bob_happy.png*, *OK Sign/bob_oksign.png*, and so on).

Create an image for each of the following character poses. Name the image and place the image within your Lectora Program Data folders as specified below:

Character Pose	Image Name	File Location
Arms Crossed	<name>_armscrossed.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Arms Crossed\
Happy	<name>_happy.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Happy\
OK Sign	<name>_oksign.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\OK Sign\
Pointing Down Left	<name>_pointingdownleft.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Pointing Down Left\
Pointing Down Right	<name>_pointingdownright.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Pointing Down Right\
Pointing Middle Left	<name>_pointingmiddleleft.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Pointing Middle Left\
Pointing Up Left	<name>_pointingupleft.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Pointing Up Left\
Pointing Up Right	<name>_pointingupright.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Pointing Up Right\
Sad	<name>_sad.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Sad\
Thinking	<name>_thinking.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Thinking\
Thumbs Down	<name>_thumbsdown.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Thumbs Down\
Thumbs Up	<name>_thumbsup.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\<Lectora Product>\Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Thumbs Up\

Waving	<name>_waving.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\ <i><Lectora Product></i> \Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Waving\
Writing	<name>_writing.png	C:\ProgramData\Trivantis\ <i><Lectora Product></i> \Media-Lib\CharacterPoses\Writing\

Sharing Custom Character Poses

Custom character poses can be added and shared in the Media Library for all Lectora users to add to their titles. You add them by editing an install script template provided by Lectora. The template generates an install file that copies the character *.png* file to the appropriate location within the Character Poses category of the Lectora Media Library.

Custom characters consist of two files: a *.png* file that delivers the character's vector graphics and an associative *.xml* file needed for the character. Details for creating and updating these files are contained in the guide.

A Nullsoft Scriptable Install System (NSIS) install script template is provided. Details for updating the install script template are also provided for generating an install file. When generated, the install file will copy the *.png* file to the appropriate location within the Lectora Media Library's Character Poses. The *.png* file for the character will be placed into the *plugin.xml* which is also located in the same directory within Lectora as the existing characters.

Creating the Installer

This section describes the steps for creating an installer that places your custom character pose into the corresponding location within Lectora. You use the installer to download and install the NSIS environment that is needed for installing your custom character pose. After you install NSIS, your computer will be ready to build the installer.

Follow these steps for creating the installer:

1. Download and install the NSIS at <http://nsis.sourceforge.net/Download>. View the *Release Notes* for additional information about downloading and installing NSIS.
2. Download the sample installer from the Trivantis Website.
3. The downloaded zip file contains a "Sample1" folder. Each character pose in this "Sample1" folder is represented by a folder, such as "Happy" and "Sad". Replace the *.png* file in each of these folders with your custom character poses. Be sure to keep the proper naming convention for your *.png* files. For example "Sample1_happy.png" would be changed to "<MyCharacter>_happy.png" where <MyCharacter> is the name of your character.
4. Edit the file *PosesPlugininstall.nsi* in a text editor like Notepad and change all of the *.png* file references in the **Installer Sections** of the *PosesPlugininstall.nsi* file with the names of your *.png* files from the previous step. You must have one *.png* file for each character pose. For example, if your happy character pose file is named *Bob_happy.png*, you would change the lines as follows:

From:

```
File ".\Sample1\Happy\Sample1_happy.png" ;You should change this to handle your new Character Pose files!!!!o:
```

```
File ".\Sample1\Happy\Bob_happy.png" ;You should change this to handle your new Character Pose files!!
```

Note: If you change the name of the folder "Sample1", be sure to update the *.nsi* file to reflect this new file path.

5. Compile the NSIS file and create a *setup.exe* install file. To do so, right-click the *PosesPluginInstall.nsi* file in Windows Explorer and select **Compile NSIS Script** from the right-click menu.
6. Double-click the newly created *setup.exe* file in Windows Explorer and follow the instructions on the screen.