

Praat Launcher Document (1): Setup, Update, and Deletion of the Add-In

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History

- Version 1.0 (Nov. 12, 2011)
 - Released on the web

1 Introduction

This document describes procedures for the setup, update, and deletion of **Praat Launcher** (`praat_launcher.*.xla`¹), a Microsoft Excel Add-in that launches **Praat**² from Excel worksheets. The add-in file is downloadable at:

<http://language.world.coocan.jp/scripts/?PraatLauncher>

This document does not provide descriptions of the functions of Praat Launcher. See the tutorial (`tut_prln.pdf`) and manual (`man_prln.pdf`) after the setup (these are available at the site above).

2 Operating Environments

`praat_launcher.*.xla` works on most versions of Excel: 2003 (for Windows), 2004 (for Macintosh), 2007 (for Windows). An important exception is Excel 2008 (for Macintosh); since it lacks VBA, `praat_launcher.*.xla` does not work on it³.

3 Setup

We will make preparations to use the add-in. This consists of two jobs:

- Installation of the add-in to your copy of Excel
- Testing of Praat/sendpraat in your environment

3.1 Installation of the Add-in in your Excel

Install the add-in to Excel to make the functions available⁴

¹“*” in the filename means version numbers.

²<http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>

³Excel 2010 (for Windows) and 2011 (for Macintosh) have not been tested yet.

⁴The procedure described below is not the only way to install the add-in. If you are familiar with Excel, you can install it in your own way.

1. Put `praat_launcher.*.xla` in the `AddIns` folder (one of the default add-in folders)⁵
 - In my environment⁶, the `AddIns` folder is located in the following path:
 - [Windows Vista & 7] `C:\Users\<(username)\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\AddIns`
 - [Windows XP] `C:\Documents and Settings\<(username)\Application Data\Microsoft\AddIns`
 - [Macintosh] `/Applications/Microsoft Office 2004/Office/Add-Ins`
 - [Windows] Since the `AppData` and `Application Data` folders, which contain the `AddIns` folder, are treated as *hidden folders*, you cannot see (or search) them by default. To change this setting,
 - (a) Select `Start` → `Control Panel` (Windows Vista & 7), or `Explorer's Tools` → `Folder Options` (Windows XP)
 - (b) Click `View` tab
 - (c) Check `Show hidden files and folders`
 - (d) Press `OK`.
2. Start Excel, and open the `Add-Ins` dialog box:
 - Excel 2007
 - (a) Click the `Office` button (the big round one, at the upper left of the Excel window)
 - (b) Click `Excel Options` button (at the bottom of the menu)
 - (c) Click `Add-Ins` item in the list (at the left edge of the dialog window)
 - (d) Make sure the `Manage` pulldown menu (at the bottom) is set to `Excel Add-Ins`
 - (e) Click `Go` button.
 - Excel 2003, 2004

⁵In fact, you can put the add-in file anywhere you like on your computer. If it is not located in the default folders, however, an additional procedure will be required (see Step 3 below).

⁶The location of the `AddIns` folder may vary from environment to environment.

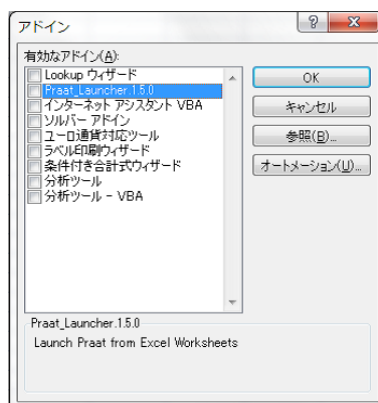


Figure 1: Add-Ins dialogue box

– Select Excel Menu’s Tools → Add-ins

3. Check “`praat_launcher.*`”, and press OK.

- If “`praat_launcher.*`” does not appear in the list, click **Browse** button, and select the add-in file.

This is the end of the installation. The menu below should now appear in your Excel window (in the case of Excel 2007, click Excel’s **Add-ins** tab).



Figure 2: Praat Launcher Menu

To see if the add-in works, select the Praat Launcher menu’s **Help** → **VersionInfo**. If the installation has been successful, the addin should show the version of Praat Launcher.

A few caveats about the add-in file:

- Do not double-click the add-in file (`praat_launcher.*.xla`) to start Excel. That would generate an error (It amounts to double execution of the same add-in).
- Do not use two or more `praat_launcher.*.xla` (any version) simultaneously. That would generate an error. When you update the add-in, you must delete the older version.

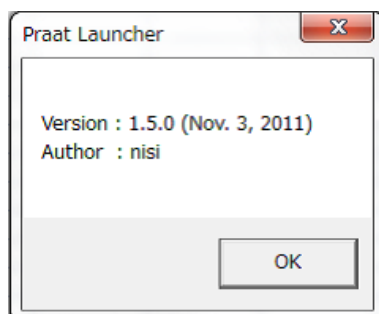


Figure 3: Praat Launcher Help: VersionInfo

3.2 Testing of praat/sendpraat in your Environment

Download the two executable files below if you do not have them yet:

- praat
 - http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/download_win.html
 - http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/download_mac.html
- sendpraat
 - <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/sendpraat.html>

Note that not only Praat, but also *sendpraat* is required (though knowledge of sendpraat is **not** required⁷). After downloading (and unzipping) them, put them in any folder you like.

(TIP) If you are a Windows user, and do not have a preference for the file locations, put `praat.exe` and `sendpraat.exe` in `C:\praat`, the default directory in Praat Launcher.

Now, let us see if praat and sendpraat work successfully.

1. Quit Praat if it is running.
2. Open the Command Prompt (Windows) or Terminal (Macintosh).

⁷ For the functions of `sendpraat`, consult the Praat's Help menu, or <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/sendpraat.html>.

[**Windows**] Start → All Programs → Accessories → Command Prompt

[**Macintosh**] Macintosh HD → Applications → Utilities → Terminal

- [Macintosh] (if you are a Windows user, skip this step) Type the following command on the Terminal to assign the execute permission to sendpraat [sendpraat.ppc or sendpraat.intel] (**N.B.** you have to change the paths in the examples below to suit your environment):

```
chmod +x /Applications/sendpraat.ppc
```

N.B. Nothing happens even if it is successful.

- [Testing of Praat] Type the following command on the Command Prompt/Terminal to see if Praat gets started successfully (**N.B.** you have to change the paths in the examples below to suit your environment):

- Windows⁸:

```
c:\praat\praat.exe
```

- Macintosh (**N.B.** “&” is required):

```
/Applications/Praat.app/Contents/MacOS/Praat &
```

N.B. If Praat gives a warning immediately after it gets started, Praat Launcher does not work. Suppress the warning in some way or another (for example, in the case of the warning below [in Macintosh], download phonetic fonts from the Praat download site (see above), and put them in an appropriate folder).

- [Testing of sendpraat] With Praat running, go back to the Command Prompt/Terminal, and type the following command to see if Praat gives a message “Hello, world!” in the Info Window.

- Windows:

⁸In Japanese environments, “\” may be represented as “¥”.

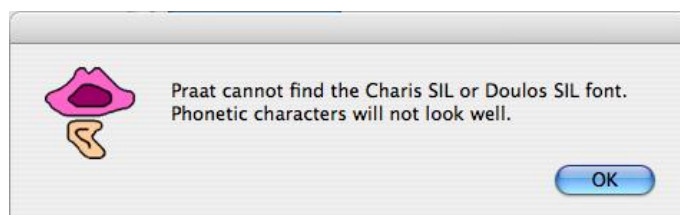


Figure 4: Praat Warning (in Macintosh)

```
c:\praat\sendpraat.exe praat "echo Hello, world!"
```

- Macintosh (**N.B.** Single (not double) quotations should be used):

```
/Applications/sendpraat_ppc praat 'echo Hello, world!'
```

This is the end of the testing of Praat/sendpraat. You have to remember the paths of praat and sendpraat, which will be used later.

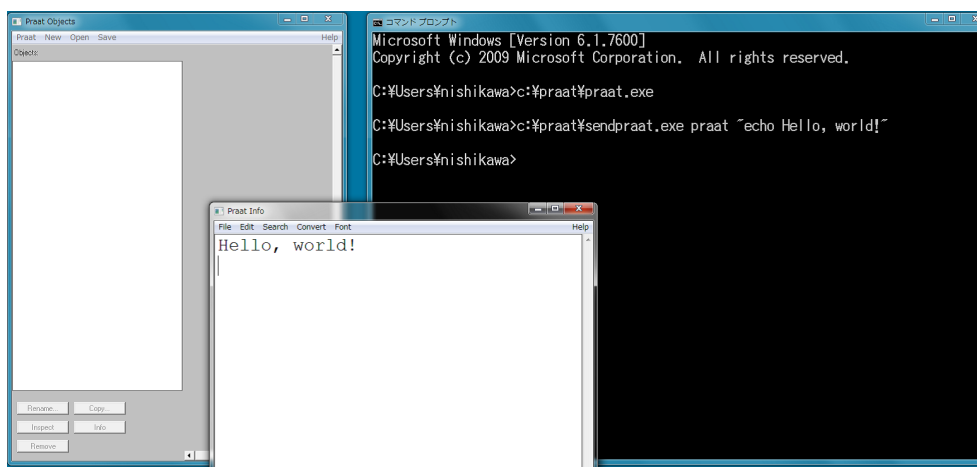


Figure 5: “Hello, world!” in Praat Info Window (in Windows)

If Praat/sendpraat do not work well in Step 4 and 5, Praat Launcher will not work well, either. If this is the case, consult the error messages on the Command Prompt/Terminal and retry Step 4 and 5 until they work.

Now, you are ready to launch. Try the tutorial ([tut_pr1n.pdf](#)).

4 Update

(Skip this section if you are reading this document for the first time.)

To update the add-in, delete the existing one first (see §5 below). Then, install the new one (see §3.1 above).

5 Deletion

(Skip this section if you are reading this document for the first time.)

If you do not need the add-in any longer, you can delete it.

1. Start Excel (if it is not running), and open the Add-Ins dialog box (see p.3)
2. Uncheck “`praat_launcher.*`”, and press “OK”.
3. Quit Excel.
4. Delete (remove) the add-in file (`praat_launcher.*.xla`) manually, which has been put in the `AddIns` folder (see p.3).
5. Start Excel again. If Excel gives a message “`praat_launcher.* not found`”, press “OK”.
6. Open the Add-Ins dialog box again (see p.3).
7. If “`praat_launcher.*`” appears in the Add-Ins dialog box, try to uncheck it. Then, Excel will ask if you wish to delete it from the list. Press “yes”.

6 Disclaimer

The author expressly disclaims all liability, loss or risk incurred as a direct or indirect consequence of the use of Praat Launcher.