



Hindu Mythology & Fact Center



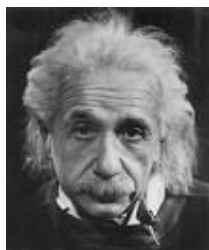
User Guide

Kimeshan Naidoo

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Background to project



Albert Einstein:

All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom.

Religion is a facet of life that permeates everything we do. It forms a pivotal cornerstone of all men and moulds the world with obstinate, unrestrainable hands. Technology and science would be reduced to dust if religion, the quintessential keeper of order, were to cease to exist. Yet; even today religious wars, crude stereotypes and blatant religious discrimination can still be seen devastating countries around the world.

Therefore, I felt it is imperative that future generations (i.e. school students) are educated about other religions in order to avoid misunderstanding and promote tolerance and political correctness. Thus, the Hindu Mythology & Fact Center was born to provide insight to Hinduism.

Introduction to project

I have decided to **design a program which will highlight significant forms of gods and also demonstrate the symbolism** behind them and most importantly illustrate that Hindus by no means practise idol worship (which Western stereotypes portray) but in fact pray to the symbolism of which those idols and forms of Gods represent.

The aim of this project is to **simplify the religion and explain the concepts**, Gods and symbolisms to non-Hindus. It has been decided to utilise a database to store various information about the Gods, and then use the data to manufacture facts and interesting information pertaining to Hinduism. Users of the program can add entries to the database, and modify or delete existing entries.

Scope and limitations

Given the “vastness” of implementing a computerized system for all religions, this project will focus on Hinduism.

User input

While using the program, you may be required to enter data when creating a new database entry etc. The following table explains the type of data that needs to be entered.

Gods Data		
Field Name	Data Type	Description
Name	Primary key	Name of particular God.
Mount	Text, foreign	Vehicle or method of transport used by God
Abode	Text	Abode of particular God
Arms	Number	Number of arms seen with
WeaponOrInstrument	Text	Weapon or instrument associated with God.
Symbolism	Text	Symbolism in Hindu mythology and culture.
Form	Text	Form taken on Earth
Festival	Text, foreign	Festival celebrated in Hindu calendar

b)

Festivals Data		
Field Name	Data Type	Description
Festival	Primary key	Name of festival.
MonthCelebrated	Text	The month it is observed.
Days	Integer	Number of days celebrated.

c)

Mounts Data		
Field Name	Data Type	Description
Mount	Primary key	Name of mount.
MountSpeed	Integer	Speed mount can travel.
MountNature	Text	Type of mount. Animal etc.

Hindu Mythology & Fact Center Database

HMFCDatabase Menu

CRUD

Create Record

Read Record

Update Record

Delete Record

Data View

Name

Mount

Abode

Arms

Weapons/Instrument

Symbolism

Form

Festival

Festival Table

Status...

Enter Festival & Mount Info

Reset Fields

Reset All

Close Database

CLOSE

Previous/Next Record

^ Next Record

v Previous Record

To view records in the database click "Read Record" and use the Next/Previous buttons to scroll all records.
 To CREATE a new record, click "Reset All" complete all fields above and then click "Create Record".
 To modify a record, go to that record, make your changes and then click "Update Record".
 To delete a record, go to that record, then click "Delete Record".
NB: Creation of new records may only affect the HMFC Fact Center. Story mode will not change.
Updates made to records will affect both the StoryMode and Fact Center.

Input screen when entering data to create a database entry.

A note on Standard entries:

The program uses a database which contains 11 standard entries or standard records. These standard entries are required for the functioning of the program and should not be deleted. Only entries that you have created can be deleted. Standard entries may be modified but it is not advised.

Output/Reports

There various ways in which data may be viewed from the database using the program.

1. Using the Database CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) –any mode

Hindu Mythology & Fact Center Database
HMFCDatabase Menu

CRUD

Create Record
Read Record
Update Record
Delete Record

Data View

Name: Krishna
Mount: Chariot
Abode: Gokula
Arms: 2
Weapons/Instrument: Flute
Symbolism: Joy & Freedom
Form: Human Avatar
Festival: Janmaashtami

Festival Table
Status...
Enter Festival & Mount Info

Reset Fields
Reset All

Close Database
CLOSE

Previous/Next Record
Next Record
Previous Record

To view records in the database click "Read Record" and use the Next/Previous buttons to scroll all records.
To CREATE a new record, click "Reset All" complete all fields above and then click "Create Record".
To modify a record, go to that record, make your changes and then click "Update Record".
To delete a record, go to that record, then click "Delete Record".
NB: Creation of new records may only affect the HMFC Fact Center. Story mode will not change.
Updates made to records will affect both the StoryMode and Fact Center.

2. Viewing the tables (any mode)

HMFC Story Mode
Menu Story Mode Database Info Help

Info from HMFC Database
Database
View Gods Table

Ganesha

General Symbolism Festival

Name	Mount	Abode	Arms	Weapon/Instrument	Symbolism	Form	Festival
Shiva	Bull	Mount Kailasa	2	Trident	Mercy & Compass...	Divine Avatar	Shivarathri
Krishna	Chariot	Gokula	2	Flute	Joy & Freedom	Human Avatar	Janmaashtami
Sai Baba	Car	Prasanthi Nilayam	2	None	Love	Human Avatar	Baba's Birthday
Ganesha	Mouse	Mount Sabari	4	Mace (Iron Hook)	Hope & Prophecy	Elephant God	Ganesha Chaturthi
Hanuman	Flight	Himalayas	2	Club	Loyalty & Respect	Monkey god	Hanuman Jayanthi
Durga	Lion	Keeladri	8	Sword	Courage & Power	Mother Goddess	Durga Puja
Vishnu	Eagle	Vaikuntha	4	Discus	Sustainability	Divine Avatar	Putrassi
Lakshmi	Owl	Mount Vankata	4	None	Fortune & Wealth	Mother Goddess	Varalakshmi Vrat...
Rama	Feet	Ayodhya	2	Bow & Arrow	Chivalry & Righte...	Human Avatar	Diwali
Saraswati	Peacock	Kashmir	4	Vina	Knowledge & Wis...	Mother Goddess	Navarathri
Muruga	Peacock	Palini	2	Spear	War & Patron	Human Deva	Kavady

Festival:
Festival Length: 10 days
Festival Month: September
Fest Season: Spring

Go to Fact Center

As god of wisdom he is invoked at the beginning of books and may be shown holding a tusk as a pen. In Hindu mythology Ganesha is identified as the son of Shiva and Parvati (See Durga).

Ganesha Bhajans
How did Ganesha get an elephant head?
Read the Story

Jump to page: Ganesha
Previous Next
More images: IMG 1 IMG 2 IMG 3

3. Using the Sidebar (Story mode only)

Info from HMFC Database
Database
View Gods Table

HMFC

General
Name: Shiva
Mount: Bull
Abode: Mount Kailasa
Arms: 2
Weapon: Trident
Symbolism: Mercy & Compassion
Form: Divine Avatar
Festival: Shivarathri

Mount details
Name: Shiva
Mount: Bull
Mount spec: 22 inch
Mount natu: none

Festival details
Name: Shiva
Festival: Shivarathri
Festival Length: 10 days
Festival Month: September
Fest Season: Spring

Go to Fact Center

Program requirements

Hardware

- 1) A **workstation** and peripheral devices.
- 2) **Speakers** or headphones, sound card, drivers etc. for audio playback capabilities.
- 3) A current entry level processor **2.0 GHZ or higher**.
- 4) Required: 256 MB DDR RAM Recommended: **512 MB DDR RAM**
- 5) Entry level hard drive (e.g. **40 GB**)
- 6) Monitor set at optimal resolution of **1024x768**. Note: Program may not run correctly if resolution is **less** than 1024x768.

Software

- 1) **Operating system**- Windows **XP/Vista** recommended. Note: Java is capable of running on multiple platforms i.e. Linux, Unix etc. may also be used but database connectivity is not warranted.
- 2) **Java Runtime Environment (J2RE)** - Included with the program but may be downloaded from Sun Microsystems website at [http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp\(15MB\)](http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp(15MB)). To check if you have Java visit:
<http://www.java.com/en/download/installed.jsp?detect=jre&try=1> to verify this.
- 3) A Data Source administrator (**Microsoft ODBC** recommended which is built-in Windows)

Files required

1. Database file containing various tables.
2. Log file containing speeds of mounts.
3. Program files including:
 - a. Java class files
 - b. Jar executable
 - c. Image files(.jpg)
 - d. Audio files(.wav)
 - e. Other necessary files included in main project folder
4. Executable/Install setup file
5. User guide

Installation instructions

The installation procedure for the Hindu Mythology & Fact Center is very simple.

Install the program

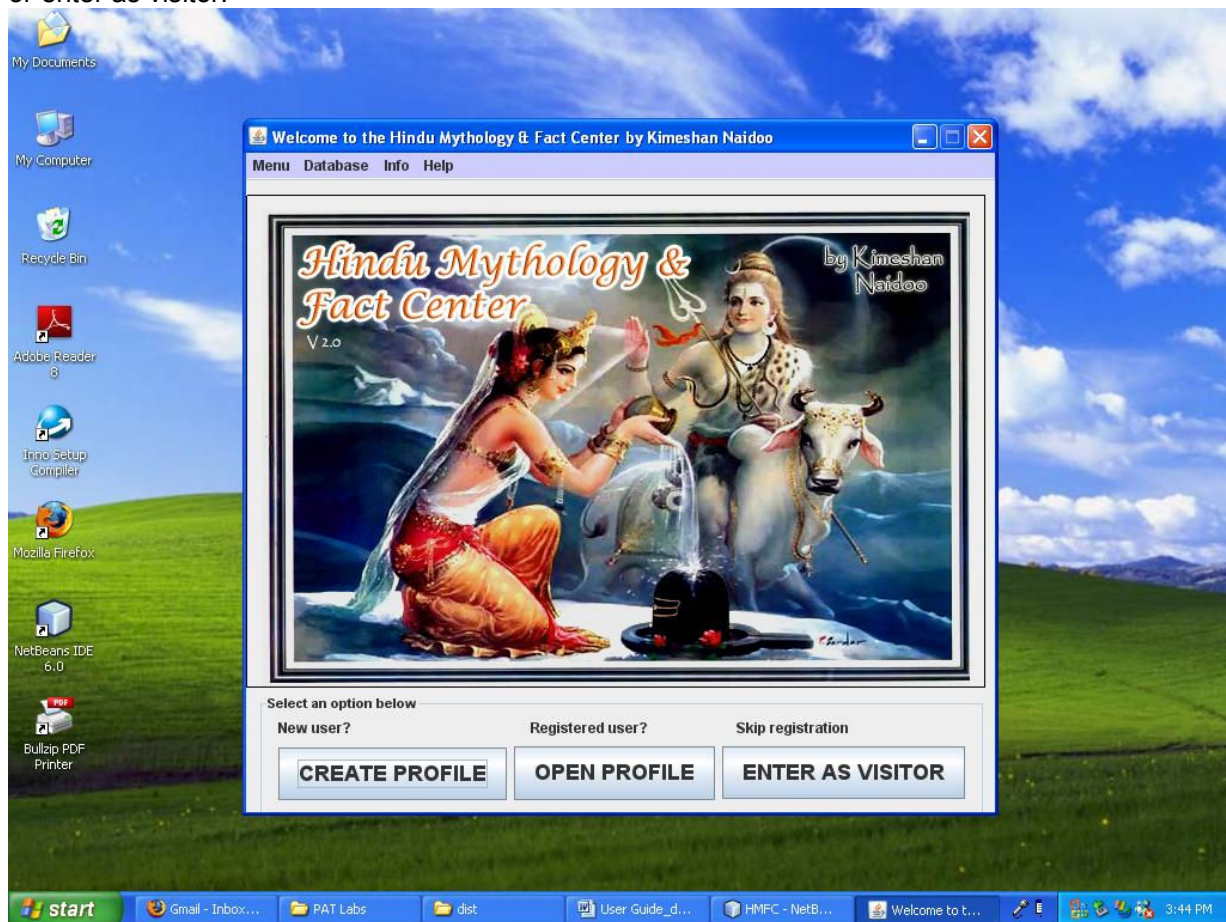
Insert the disc/flash drive. Setup should run automatically if you are using the CD. If it doesn't, then run the executable file "**HMFCSetup.exe**" from the disc or flash drive root directory.

Follow the installation wizard and be sure that the installation completes correctly.

Program walkthrough

After you have installed the program (See Installation Instructions), open the application by double clicking on the icon on your desktop or via the Start menu in Windows.

On execution, you will be presented with the opening screen asking you to create or open a profile or enter as visitor.

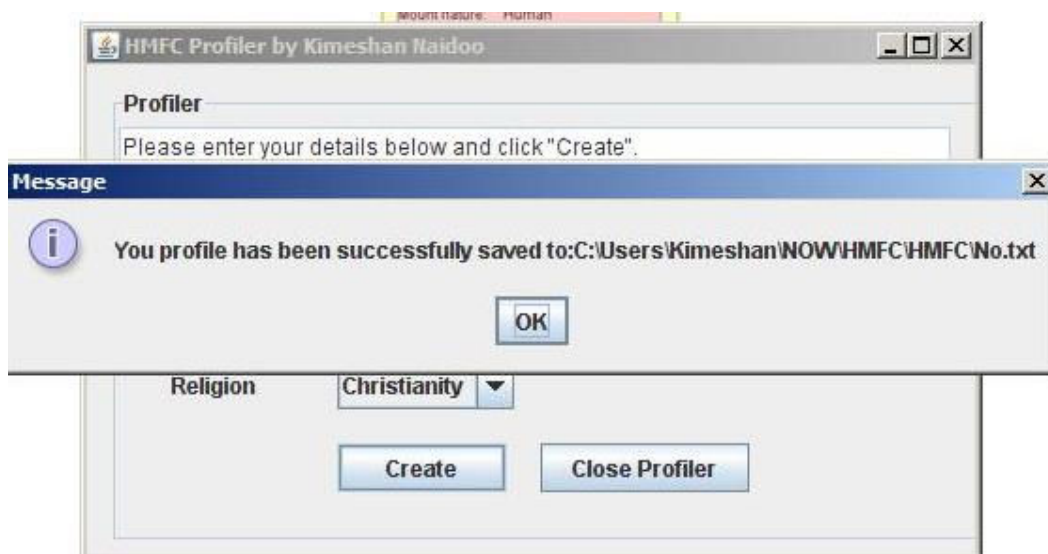


Click "**Create Profile**". The following box should appear with various text fields.



The image shows a window titled "HMFC Profiler by Kimeshan Naidoo". Inside the window, there is a section labeled "Profiler" with a text box that says "Please enter your details below and click 'Create'". Below this text box are four input fields: "Name", "Surname", "Age", and "Religion". The "Religion" field is a dropdown menu currently showing "Christianity". At the bottom of the window are two buttons: "Create" and "Close Profiler".

Enter your appropriate details in the “Name”, “Surname” and “Age” text fields and select your religion from the drop down menu. When you have completed this, click “**Create**”. You should see a dialog box pop up like the one **on the next page** with difference in the address.



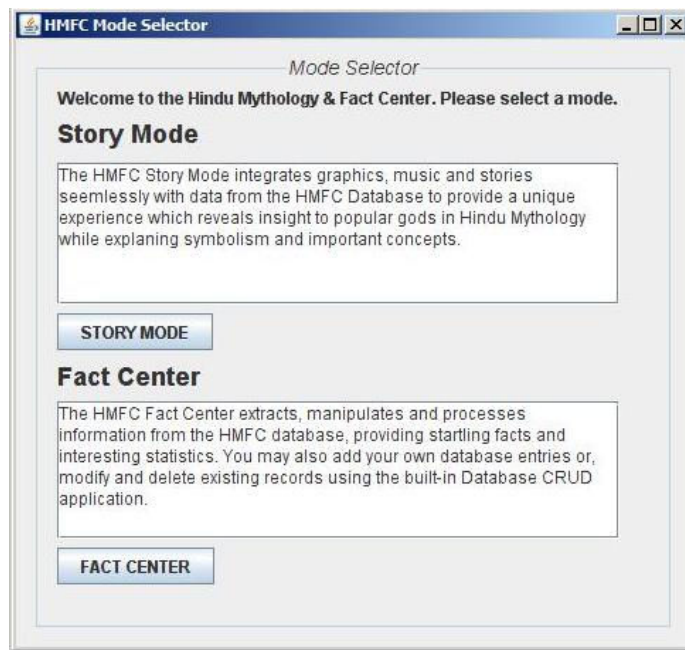
Before clicking “OK”, remember the location where your profile has been saved. You will need to know this for the next time you use the program in order to open your profile.

Click “**OK**” and then “**Close Profiler**”. The HMFC Mode Selector should now appear. It provides two option or two modes to select from with descriptions of each mode.

Story Mode is essentially the crux of the program, and this is what you will want to see most. So the rest of the walkthrough assumes that you will be using Story Mode.

If you select “Fact Center” then you will see that it is extremely simple to use. Simply click the various buttons on the screen, to reveal interesting statistics and facts about various aspects in Hinduism.

Click “**Story Mode**”. (The rest of this walkthrough focuses on Story Mode as Fact Center is extremely simple)



The first Story Mode screen will appear which is all about Lord Ganesha accompanied with audio:



The various components on the screen will now be explained in addition to how they work and may be used.

Information tabs

The middle of the screen contains information about the particular God. The information is split into three sections or tabs namely: "General", "Symbolism" and "Festival". To view and read the various information simply click the tab on the top of the text pane. For example, the screenshot below shows the "Festival" information after the "Festival" tab has been clicked.

Click the tabs to toggle between various information



Image buttons

On the right hand side of the screen, an image of the particular God is shown. This is not the only image available. At the right hand bottom corner of the screen there are three buttons which, when clicked, reveal additional images of the particular God. Click the buttons “IMG1”, “IMG2” and “IMG3” to view the images.



The screenshot on the left shows the HMFC ImageDisplayer. This has appeared after “IMG 1” button was clicked.

Audio control

You will have noticed that each screen is accompanied by audio which begins playing automatically. You may control the audio by using the **“Play/Stop”** push button. When pushed or activated, the music will stop playing. When clicked again, the music will start playing again. i.e. use it to toggle the music on and off.

It is located at the bottom right corner.



Navigating screens

At the middle of the bottom of the screen, the navigation bar can be found. This contains the buttons to go to the next screen or the previous screen.



Story Mode contains 11 different screens of the following Gods:

Ganesha, Krishna, Rama, Shiva, Durga, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Sai Baba, Hanuman, Vishnu, Muruga. You simply have to click **“Next”** in each screen to navigate to the next or previous to go back. e.g. At the Ganesha screen, when you click **“Next”** you will go to the Krishna screen and click **“Next”** on the Krishna screen will take you to the Rama screen and so on...

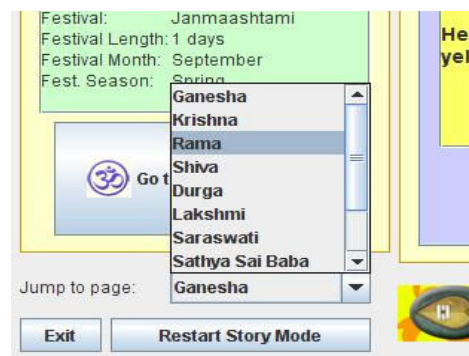
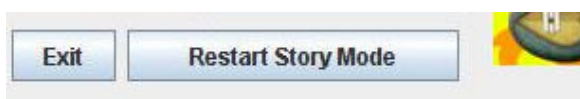
The Krishna screen appears when **“Next”** is clicked on the first screen (Ganesha).



If you want to **“jump”** to the screen of a specific God, use the **“Jump to Page”** combo box in the left hand bottom corner of the screen.

To restart Story Mode and go back to the first screen (Ganesha), simply click the **‘Restart Story Mode’** button.

To exit the program and return to Windows, click **“Exit”**.



User troubleshooting

- 1) If you find **screens** in the program behaving oddly or not responding try refreshing it by Minimizing/Maximizing the screen.
- 2) If you receive an error message stating that the program cannot **connect to database**, check that you have the database file. Check that the name of it is “hmfc” and not anything else.
- 3) Confirm that Java is installed on the system. Its is included with the program or can be downloaded at <http://www.java.com/en/download/index.jsp> (15MB). To check if you have Java visit: <http://www.java.com/en/download/installed.jsp?detect=jre&try=1> to verify this.
- 4) If images do not show or audio does not play, check if you have all the files required. Re-install the program if necessary.
- 5) If the program does not execute via the .exe file, run the jar file instead which can be found in the root (immediate) folder in program files.

Future Developments

- ∄ Increase multimedia capabilities. e.g. videos
- ∄ Better customization for users
- ∄ Include more standard records in database
- ∄ Integrate the program with other software of M.S.A and S.C.A (see *Solution*) to create a comprehensive system of all religions
- ∄ Information was gathered using the following methods

Acknowledgements

The various information used in the program was procured through the following websites which are acknowledged below:

http://www.sanatansociety.org/hindu_gods_and_goddesses.htm
<http://www.iloveulove.com/spirituality/hindu/hindudeities3.htm>
<http://www.sathyasai.org/intro/message.htm>

Many thanks to **Sun Microsystems** for the permission to distribute the Java software included on the disc.