

Aplusix II

Installation manual

Version 1.2 – February 2009

1. Introduction

Thank you for having acquired Aplusix. This manual will help you in the installation process.

1.1. *The applications*

This package includes 3 applications:

- Aplusix which is the student's environment for learning algebra. Aplusix is also used by the teacher to observe the past activities of the students, to get statistics on the students' work, and to set the parameters.
- AplusixEditor which allows the teacher building and modifying lists of exercises and problems.
- AplusixAdmin which allows the teacher creating classes, students' accounts, and teachers' accounts.

Aplusix records the students' actions in log files. This allows seeing later the students' work (final and intermediate states) and having statistics. This requires that students have a write right in the folder that contains the students' accounts.

1.2. *The folders*

Aplusix uses 4 folders which are created during the installation process:

- The "Application" folder which contains the 3 applications and the files they need.
- The "Classes" folder which contains the classes, the students' accounts and the students' log files.
- The "Teachers" folder which contains the teachers' accounts.
- The "Exercises" folder which contains the files of exercises and problems.

During the installation, you will have to choose the location of the folders. The locations that will be proposed correspond to a basic installation with a parting of folder locations: the application folder in a sub-folder of the “Program files” folder and data folders in a folder accessible by all users and depending on the system configuration (generally the “Application Data” folder, which is a hidden folder of the “\Documents and Settings\All Users” folder). This is not always the most adapted installation. See table1 for the constraints about these folders and secured installation.

Table 1: Accessibility of the folders. The installation is secured if, when the table contains “Read mode”, the folder is not accessible in write mode by the students. “Read without write” mode is sometimes called as “Read only” mode.

Folders	Must be accessible by the students in:	Must be accessible by the teachers in:
Application	Read mode	Read mode
Classes	Read and Write modes	Read and Write modes
Exercises	Read mode	Read and Write modes
Teachers	Read mode	Read and Write modes

Remark

Note that, in case of problem, advanced installers can change the locations of these folders after the installation (see corresponding section). For non-advanced installers, it is better to uninstall and reinstall the application.

1.3. Installation Context

Several contexts are possible:

- With a CD or a file downloaded from the Internet
- On a school server of a local network or a standalone computer
- First installation or re-installation (same version or update).

1.4. Required Configuration

School Server

Computer: Pentium III, 200 Mhz, 128Mb RAM

Operating System: Windows 98 or later, including Vista

School Server, Linux Solution

This configuration requires a Linux server for Windows applications.

The installation must be done by a person who has a good knowledge of such organisation.

Standalone Computer

Computer: Pentium I, 90 Mhz, 24Mb RAM

Operating System: Windows 98 or later, including Vista

2. Installation

2.1. Start

Insert the CD in the computer. Normally, the setup application is automatically launched. If this is not the case, open the CD drive folder and double-click on SetupAplusixII.exe.

In case of a downloaded file, unzip the file if it is zipped, then launch SetupAplusixII.exe.

2.2. Installing

The installation wizard starts with a welcome message, click on "Next" to continue.

License information

Read the license. If you want to install the application, you have to accept the terms of the license agreement by clicking on the corresponding button. Then, click on "Next".

Customer information

Indicate your name and your organization then choose for what users the program will be installed: "all users" (the usual choice) or "only for me"

Destination folder

By default, the installer copies the files in the folder: "Program Files\Aplusix II". This folder is created if it does not already exist.

You may choose another folder by clicking on the "Modify" button. In that case, a dialog window appears for choosing or creating a folder.

When the folder has been chosen, click on "Next" to continue.

Ready to Install the Program

The wizard is ready for installation. Click on the "Install" button to start the installation or on "Back" to change some of your data.

Installing Aplusix II

After a click on the "Install" button, the installation process runs; you can see its evolution with the progress bar.

At the end of this phase, the "Installing Aplusix II" launches the administration application (with a "Directories selection" window) and remains open. Please, work on this new window.

Directories Selection

For standard installing, you should click on the "Ok" button.

For choosing the paths of the directories of teachers, classes, exercises and students' files, you should modify the paths below by clicking on the "Browse" button. The constraints in terms of read/write rights are written under each field. When you click "Ok", you get the "Information form" window.

In the case of a standalone installation, when some users have limited rights according to the Windows meaning, the "Classes" must be placed in "C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Documents" to be accessible by all users.

In the case of a "home" version, the installing is over. In the case of a "school" version, the installing continues as shown bellow.

Information form

Establishment Information: Input the name of your establishment, town and country.

First teacher account: Input the login (with at least 4 characters), the Family name, the First name, the Email address (not mandatory), the Password (with at least 6 characters) and the repeated Password of a teacher who will also be an administrator (it will be possible later to create other administrators). When you click “Ok”, you launch the Administration Assistant.

Administration Assistant

The Administration Assistant allows creating classes, teachers' and students' accounts. Such creations can be done later with the AplusixAdmin application. It is recommended to create at least one class. Before creating a class, it is recommended to create the account of the teacher of this class.

Creation of a class

A “class form” window appears. Enter a name of the new class and check the box, or not, of the corresponding teacher, then click “Ok”.

Creation of a teacher's account

A “teacher” form appears. Input the login, first name, family name and email address (not mandatory).

Check the “administrator” box if you want to give the administrator rights to the new teacher.

Click on the “Input of Password” button, fill in the “password” and the “repeat the password” fields, then click “Ok”.

Click on “Ok”.

Creation of a student's account

A “Student form” appears. Input the login, first name, and family name.

Click on the “Input of Password” button and fill in the “password” and the “repeat the password” fields, then click “Ok”.

Select the class in the list.

Click on “Ok”.

At the end of this phase, you can click on “Quit” to return to the installation wizard and to finish the installation, or you can launch the AplusixAdmin application which has general functions for managing

classes and teachers' accounts. Note that this application can be launched later with the "Start" menu of Windows.

When you quit the "Administration Assistant", the installation ends. Click on the "finish" button and Aplusix is ready to run.

2.3. Access to the applications

The 3 applications and their documentations are accessible with the "Start" menu of Windows.

In the case of a "home" version, you can log in the AplusixAdmin with the login "prof" and password "prof".

3. Uninstalling Aplusix

For uninstalling Aplusix, we recommend using the Add/Suppress program of the Configuration Panel of Windows. Select "Aplusix II" in the list of programs then click on the "Suppress" button. A dialog box appears with a confirmation message. Click "yes". The uninstalling starts and ends after a few minutes. Aplusix has been removed from your system. The folders containing data have not been removed. A further installation may use these folders.

If you want to totally remove Aplusix, you have to delete manually the installation folder (generally the "Aplusix II" sub-folder of "Program files") and to delete manually the data folders. You can find the location of the data folders as indicated below in the "Modification of the location of data folders" section.

4. Reinstalling Aplusix

When Aplusix has been uninstalled, it can be reinstalled by launching the setup application. If Aplusix has totally been uninstalled, the new installation is identical to a first installation. If Aplusix has been uninstalled, but the Application folder (with the "LesChemins.txt" file) and the data folders have been preserved, the new installation will use these elements, thus the teachers' and students' accounts, and the existing exercises will be used.

In all cases, the installation process proposes to create an administrator account, which solves the loss of an administrator password.

5. Updating Aplusix

In the case of an update, for installing a new version of Aplusix, please:

- Uninstall Aplusix; if you want to preserve the teachers' and students' accounts, and the existing exercises, you only need to launch the Uninstall application of Windows; if you want to remove all the existing data, you have to delete manually the installation folder and the data folders.
- Reinstall Aplusix with the new Setup.

6. Modification of the location of data folders

The data folders are "Classes", "Teachers" and "Exercises". Note that their names can have been changed during the installation. The paths of these folders are recorded in a file located in the Application folder (generally the "Aplusix II" sub-folder of "Program files"), with the path "AplusixSystem\Ressources\LesChemins.txt". This file can be edited and the paths of the data folders can be changed. The paths are either relative paths beginning at the location of the applications (inside the "AplusixSystem" folder) like:

..\..\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Aplusix\Classes

or absolute paths beginning with a volume name, like:

C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Aplusix\Classes

or absolute paths beginning with a server name, like:

\\server\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\Aplusix\Classes

The location of the data folders can be changed; their paths must be indicated without error in the file "LesChemins.txt".

After any modification of the location of the data folders, it is necessary to verify that: (1) Aplusix can be launched by a student, (2) a student can solve an exercise until the end, and (3) a student's account can be created with the "New student" button of the Start window of Aplusix.

In the case of a blocked situation, please call an advanced user of Windows or uninstall and reinstall Aplusix.

7. Administrator lost passwords

Let us recall that in a “home” version, AplusixAdmin is accessible with the login “prof” and the password “prof”.

In the case of a “school” version, if the administrator password is lost, it is possible to create a new administrator account by uninstalling and reinstalling Aplusix.