The eLearn & Go software user guide

ATA HARVEST



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Overview

A Learn & Go controller is the first step towards control without a computer. It enables pupils to progress from using a switch in a simple circuit to 'programming' a sequence of on-off switch actions to bring a picture to life and movement to models. Learn & Go can be thought of as an intelligent switch box with a memory. It is able to remember, or learn, the order in which switches are pressed, how long each switch is held down, and how long between the presses. Learn & Go can then 'play back', from memory, the sequence of switch actions that a pupil has made.

The difference between using Learn & Go and using a computer to run a sequence of actions is that Learn & Go needs button presses to teach it what to do, whilst a computer needs commands or instructions typed in. **eLearn & Go** can be used to ease the progression from Learn & Go to computer control. This software can show a program as it is created in line-by-line commands or as a flowchart, to make the link with a computer control program.

Pupils can view their sequence of switch actions as the symbols and instructions used in a computer program.



The ACEs

eLearn & Go offers a simple programming language that allows students to control the outputs of on-screen Animated Control Environments (ACEs).

When eLearn & Go is installed, the following eLearn & Go ACEs will also be installed:

	An on-screen representation of	Found in
1	Learn & Go controller	
2	Bee model	Model Pack 1
3	Traffic Light model	Model Pack 1
4	Washing Machine model	Model Pack 1
5	Fair ground model	Model Pack 2
6	Lighthouse model	Model Pack 2

The eLearn & Go model ACEs will operate as if connected to a Learn & Go controller.

The model packs are available to purchase from Data Harvest. Each pack contains 3 brightly coloured flat packed plastic models, which can be assembled in minutes.

System requirements

Computer:	IBM PC (or compatible)		
Operating System:	Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7		
	(32-bit and 64-bit compatible)		
Minimum Software:	Microsoft Internet Explorer 6.0		
	Windows Installer 3.1*		
	Microsoft .NET Framework 2*		
	Adobe Reader software (V7 or above**)		
Display:	Minimum 800 x 600 with 256 colours		
	Recommended: 1024 x 768 with High Colour - 16-bit		

*If Microsoft .NET Framework 2, Installer 3.1 is not detected during the installation set up process, they will be automatically installed prior to the **eLearn & Go** application install. This may extend the installation time significantly.

** To be able to view and print the software manuals you will need Adobe Reader installed.

Installing the eLearn & Go software

- Log on as ADMINISTRATOR (or with equivalent access rights) on the system.
- Close any open programs you may need to restart your machine for configuration changes to be made.
- Insert the eLearn & Go CD ROM into the CD Drive. Windows should detect the CD and automatically start up the eLearn & Go auto run program. If auto run fails to start, use Windows Explorer to navigate the CD ROM contents and double click on the Setup.exe file.
- Follow the on-screen instructions to complete the installation of eLearn & Go and its associated files onto the hard disk.
- An installer for Adobe Flash Player will automatically start upon finishing the Go installation wizard*. Select INSTALL.
- When the installation is complete, eject the CD ROM and store it safely. Restart your system.

A Windows installer package (.msi) of the eLearn & Go software is available. The .msi package for 32 bit systems is supplied in the i386 directory and for 64 bit systems in the amd64 directory.

(To check your system properties, click on Start, right click on Computer and select Properties).

Note: If you have a later version of Adobe Flash Player installed on your computer than that supplied with the eLearn & Go software you may get a failed to register error message e.g. 'Error 1904.Module C:\Program Files\DHG\ eLearn & Go\Flash10_.ocx failed to register'. Select OK, the installation will complete and the eLearn & Go ACEs should still function correctly.

See page 12 for information on altering the default locations for the ACEs and eLearn & Go files.

Starting eLearn & Go for the first time



Start the eLearn & Go software e.g. Start ► Programs ► Data Harvest ► and double click on eLearn & Go Software.

Selecting a user level

The first time the eLearn & Go program is run a 'select Program Level' window will automatically open.

eLearn & Go offers 2 user levels, roughly corresponding to student ages of:

- 8 10 years old Level 1
- over 10 years old Level 2

Note: In Level 1 the Pause and Single Step features are hidden, wait times are rounded up to the nearest whole number. Once opened the program level can be altered using the Level icon on the top right of the

eLearn & Go window. Click on the Level icon to cycle through the levels. The currently selected level will be saved when eLearn & Go is closed.

Connecting an ACE

The eLearn & Go program will open with the Learn & Go controller ACE connected.

Once an ACE window is connected it can be hidden from view by clicking on the **Hide ACE** icon. To restore the ACE simply click back on the **Show ACE** icon.



Close an ACE window by clicking on the **Disconnect ACE** icon.





To open an ACE click on the **Connect ACE** icon. A file dialogue box will appear allowing you to choose which ACE to open.

The ACE window

An ACE can be moved and re-sized like a standard window.



Some ACEs have a control bar, which will alter according to the features on the ACE.







To reset an ACE back to its original start condition, click on **Reset ACE** in the control toolbar.

Note: The ACEs designed to work with the **Go** control program can be used with **eLearn & Go** but may not have keyboard control and may have inputs which cannot be controlled.

The eLearn & Go screen layout



The toolbars can be positioned at the top, bottom or left of the window. To move, position the mouse pointer over the dotted line on the left of the toolbar, when it becomes a \triangleleft symbol, ٦ click hold down and drag to its new position. Nev



Running a control program



Once your control program has been created it can be run either by clicking on the Go/Stop icon or the **Go** button on the screen Learn & Go. As it runs the symbols will highlight as they become active.



To stop a program running, either click on the Go/Stop icon or the Learn button on the screen Learn & Go.



When you stop a control program from running it may stop leaving outputs still on. Click on the Reset ACE icon before you next run your program to set the ACE back to its original start condition.

Creating a program

A computer controlled system needs a sequence of commands, this is called a program. The program should give commands in the correct order to tell the computer exactly what to do and when to do it.

While in Learn mode (when the Start Learn icon is highlighted) each time an output or motor is switched On or Off a command will appear in the flowchart and text area with a wait command to record the time between each switch On or Off.



The different ways to 'Learn' and run a program

The screen Learn & Go and the Learn & Go ACE simulate the way the Learn & Go controller is used to create a sequence. The icons on the toolbar operate in the same manner as the **Go** control program.

Learn mode

You can **start** Learn mode either by selecting the **Learn** icon **the screen** Learn & Go or the Learn & Go Controller ACE.

You can **stop** Learn mode either by selecting the **Stop Learn** icon **stop** or by selecting the **Go** button on the screen Learn & Go or the Learn & Go Controller ACE.

When you stop Learn mode a flow line will automatically loop from the last command back to the first switch output command. This loop will make the program run continuously. To make a program run only once, click on the Don't Loop Program icon. The loop will be replaced by a Stop command at the end of the program.

Start and Stop

When you have created your program you can run it by either by clicking on the **Go**/Stop icon by the **Go** button on the screen Learn & Go or Learn & Go Controller ACE.

To stop a program from running either click on Go/**Stop** icon or the **Learn** button on the screen Learn & Go or Learn & Go Controller ACE.



When you stop a control program from running it may stop leaving outputs still on. Click on the **Reset ACE** icon before you next run your program to set the ACE back to its original start condition.

1. Using the Learn & Go Controller ACE



- If the Learn & Go Ace isn't already open select **Connect ACE** then select the Learn & Go ACE file from the eLearn & Go ACEs files folder.
- Click on the LEARN button on the ACE the status light will stay lit solidly.
- Switch the outputs on or off as required (see below) to create your program.
- Click on the GO button on the ACE to finish the program the status light will flash.
- Click on the **GO** button on the ACE to run the program the status light will stay lit solidly as the program runs.
- Click on the **LEARN** button on the ACE to stop the program running the status light will flash. To run the program again, click on the **GO** button on the ACE.

2. Using the screen Learn & Go on an ACE

- Click on the LEARN button the status light will stay lit solidly.
- Switch the outputs on or off as required (see below) to create your program.
- Click on the GO button to finish the program the status light will flash.



Screen Learn & Go

- Click on the **GO** button to run your program– the status light will stay lit solidly as the program runs.
- Click on the **LEARN** button **to** stop the program running the status light will flash. To run the program again, click on the **GO** button.

3. Using the Learn and Go/Stop icons on the control toolbar



- Click on the Learn icon.
- Switch the outputs on or off as required (see below) to create your program.
- Click on the Stop Learn icon supress to finish.
- Click on **Go**/Stop or to run your program.
- Click on Go/Stop to stop your program running. Click on Go/Stop to run the program again.

Switching Outputs on and off

The outputs on the **eLearn & Go** ACEs can be controlled using the left-hand mouse button and keyboard numbers. To switch more than one output on at the same time use the keyboard numbers.

1. Using the mouse on an ACE: - move the mouse pointer to the area of an output, when it's over the hot spot it will change to the hand symbol. Click in the output's hot spot to switch it on, keep the mouse button held down and it will stay on, release the button and it will switch off.



 Using the mouse on the screen Learn & Go: - click with the mouse in the output's hot spot area on the screen Learn & Go to switch it on, keep the mouse button held down and it will stay on, release the button and it will switch off.



The Output's hot spot areas

 Using keyboard numbers: - Press the number key for an output to switch it on, keep the key held down so it stays on, release the key and it will switch off.

Note: If the number keys fail to respond click with the mouse on the ACE (the mouse cursor has to be positioned within the ACE window). If you are using a numeric keypad check that Number Lock is on.



The Wait command

The Wait command will make the program delay doing anything for an allotted amount of time. It is created:

- When the mouse button or number key is held down so keep the button held down for the length of time you want an output to be on.
- Between mouse button clicks or number key presses so wait the required length of time before you select the next output.
- Between the last mouse button click or key press and stopping Learn mode.

The flowchart symbols



The **Start** symbol is used at the beginning of a flowchart. When **eLearn & Go** is opened a Start symbol is automatically placed in the flowchart area. When New is selected the existing program is cleared and replaced by a new Start symbol ready for a new program.

The **Output** symbol is used to switch an output or motor On or Off. A motor output is switched Forward (Fwd) or Reverse (Rev).

The **Wait** (process) symbol is used to make the flowchart delay doing anything for an allotted amount of time e.g. to keep an Output switched on for 2.8 seconds.

Wait times are rounded up to the nearest whole number when **eLearn & Go** is set at Level 1, or to one decimal place at Level 2.

The flow line connects the symbols in the correct sequence and direction of flow.

The Stop symbol is used to stop a program running

Stop

Loop program

When you stop Learn mode a flow line will automatically loop from the last command back to the first switch output command. This loop will make the program run continuously.

To make a program run only once, click on the Don't Loop Program icon. The loop will be replaced by a Stop command at the end of the program.





Level

To check a control program

A control program normally runs very quickly. When **eLearn & Go** is set to Level 2 there are two features which can be useful when evaluating or 'talking through' a program. These are:

- 1. Pause used to temporarily stop a program running
- 2. Single Step to advance one step at a time through the symbols in a program.

Pause and single step

- 1. Click on the Start/Stop icon to start your program running.
- 2. When it gets to the part you want to check click on the **Pause** icon running.

- 3. Click on the **Single Step** icon step at a time through the symbols in the program.
- 4. To return to running a paused program normally, click on the Resume icon.

If you wish to single step through the program from the very beginning, click on Single Step rather than the **Start**/Stop icon – this will automatically start and pause the program on the first symbol.

Transfer to Go

Transfer to Go (from the File menu) can be used to transfer your program to the Go Control software if it is installed on your computer.

Notes:

- The eLearn & Go program will remain open.
- Any ACE that was connected in **eLearn & Go** will not automatically be connected in Go.



Toolbar display options

- Small Toolbar Icons
- Display Toolbar Text

These options let you choose whether to see small or large icons, and whether the icons show text. Removing the text and using smaller icons can be useful on low resolution displays, as it gives more space back to the main edit area.

Grid

Use this option to switch a background grid on and off in the editing area.

Colours

Click on the change button alongside the item whose colour you wish to change. A colour palette will open. Select the colour required and click on OK.

Click on Reset to reset the colours to the default palate.

Show Flowchart / Show Program

Use the Show/Hide Flowchart icon or select from the Settings menu to show or hide the flowchart representation of the program.

Use the Show/Hide Program icon or select from the Settings menu to show or hide the textual view of the program.

Printing



Print

The full range of print options is available via Print in the File menu. They will allow you choose what you wish to print, and how it will be fitted to the page.

The options are:

- Page Setup use this option to select your printer, paper size and orientation, etc.
- Print Flowchart select whether to:
 - Print everything on one sheet the program will be scaled to fit on one sheet
 - Everything full size to separate sheets will print the program at 100% scale on separate sheets of paper
- Print Preview Flowchart the print options window will open. Make your choice and select OK to view the printout before printing.
- Print Program use to print the textual representation of the program.
- **Print Preview Program** use to preview the textual representation of your program before printing.









Page Setup Print Flowchart Print Preview Flowchart Print Program Print Preview Program

Saving and Opening files



Save

To save your control program either click on the Save icon or select Save or Save As from the File menu.

Save As: A dialogue box will open to allow the file to be saved using a filename and destination of your choice. Files are saved in the **.eGo** file format.

Save: Providing the file has been saved previously, the information will be automatically saved retaining the name given the first time it was saved.

eLearn &Go will default to saving the .eGo file in the currently logged on users My Documents folder (My Documents\eLearn & Go Program files) but the standard windows file dialogue box can be used to save to another location. See below for altering the defaults.



Open

To open your previously saved control program either click on the Open icon or select Open from the File menu. Locate the correct .eGo file and click on Open.

Go will default to showing the .eGo files in My Documents\eLearn & Go Program files but the standard windows file dialogue box can be used to locate files saved in another location. See below for altering the defaults.

If your control program was saved with an ACE open, it will automatically be re-loaded along with the program.

Altering the default configuration for ACE and eLearn & Go files

The default locations for the local data or ACE directory can be altered by changing the AppConfig.txt file, located at C:\Program Files\DHG\ **eLearn & Go** \Objects.

The default locations are: LocalDataDirectory=[MyDocuments]\eLearn & Go Programs LocalAceDirectory=[ProgramFiles]\DHG\eLearn & Go ACE Files

Once the AppConfig.txt file has been altered it should be saved.

If the ACE files are to be stored onto a shared area on your network (rather than the local machine) then the AppConfig.txt file must be altered on all computers running **eLearn & Go**.

Edit the configuration file as follows:

- 1. Open the C:\Program Files\DHG\ eLearn & Go\Objects\AppConfig.txt file into Notepad
- 2. Locate and change the line **LocalAceDirectory=** to point to the folder you wish to set as the new default.

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