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Articulate Storyline Essentials

Discover Articulate Storyline's ability to enhance your e-learning by allowing you to create engaging and interactive stories

Ashley Chiasson

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BIRMINGHAM - MUMBAI

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Ashley Chiasson is an instructional designer and consultant with nearly a decade of experience developing high-quality e-learning solutions for various clients. She holds a master's of education (post-secondary studies) and a bachelor of arts (linguistics and psychology). In addition to being a small business owner, Ashley works for Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada, as their resident instructional developer. As a self-proclaimed ambassador of the Articulate software, Ashley truly believes that the only thing standing between you and your ability to create engaging and interactive e-learning projects is your imagination.

With a strong belief of creating her own professional freedom, Ashley has become a successful entrepreneur, working hard to find a place for herself in the big world of e-learning. She works hard to ensure that her clients are satisfied, because without them, entrepreneurship would be a lonely place.

This book is the first of many for Ashley, and she has thoroughly enjoyed the learning experience and has been able to add "published author" to her resume.

You can follow Ashley on Twitter (@amdchiasson) or find out more about her through her website (<http://ashleychiasson.com>).

I would first like to thank my husband, Joe, for his support, patience, and tolerance of my long-standing habit of procrastinating. Secondly, I would like to thank my parents for not pressuring me to become an over-achiever in my youth and for always supporting me. Without my editors, this book would have never gotten finished, and without the foreword of Amy Poehler's *Yes Please, Dey Street Books*, this book would have taken a lot longer to write. Finally, I want to thank Articulate for building such an awesome product and for letting me make it my muse, and the Articulate E-Learning Heroes Community for helping me grow as an e-learning professional.

About the Reviewers

Asma Shaikh is a human capital consultant with a keen interest in e-learning tools and technology. She has 7 years of experience, the majority of which is in learning and development. She has worked on various e-learning tools and is passionate about creating a new form of learning to capture user attention with minimalistic efforts.

Farhaan Shaikh graduated with a degree in computer engineering from the University of Mumbai. His final year project, a standalone learning environment that made course materials available for anyone connected on a local network, piqued his interests in using technology to train people using a combination of online tutorials and assessments.

He is currently working with a leading provider of corporate training solutions that helps its clients to identify training needs for their employees and develops learning solutions that can be deployed on client workstations to train its workforce.

Although *Articulate Storyline Essentials* is the first book on which Farhaan has worked as a technical reviewer, his journey with Packt Publishing goes far back. He has worked as a technical editor for Packt Publishing and has helped with the production of two other books – *Microsoft System Center 2012 Configuration Manager: Administration Cookbook* and *Piwik Web Analytics Essentials*.

I would like to thank my colleagues who were very understanding, helpful, and flexible about the timely delivery of my work, as my time was split between commitments at work and meeting the tight production schedules of this book. Also, it was fun to bounce around ideas about the kind of topics that can and cannot go into a book such as this, which aims to give a broad overview of the kind of functionalities that a developer might expect to be available when creating learning courses using Storyline.

Amit Kumar Soni is a dynamic professional with over 6 years of experience in instructional design and e-learning training delivery. He has remarkable experience in producing graphics and animation to support e-learning, training material, and design content. He is a creative guy, proficient with graphics tools (Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator) and authoring tools (Storyline and Captivate) to develop interactive multimedia learning courses.

Currently, he is working with an American MNC, who works with cloud technology (Salesforce, Workday, and Cornerstone). Previously, he was working with an Indian MNC, Larsen & Toubro, as an assistant manager. He received outstanding feedback during his one-year onsite experience working with a Japanese company in Yokohama, Japan.

He is a Microsoft Certified Professional and also holds a certification in Advance Instructional Design from Symbiosis, Pune. He received his bachelor's of engineering in computer science in 2008 and postgraduate diploma in marketing/HR in 2011. He has also been the recipient of the Innovative Trainer Award, 2013, from ISTD, Vadodara, India.

He is a web geek, performing all activities using the resources available on the Internet. He loves to learn new technology and skills. He has his own personal website for writing blogs on social networking sites. In addition to blogging, he enjoys taking photos and reading self-help books as a hobby. He is also a part of an NGO, SGI (Japan). He currently resides in Jaipur, India, with his wonderful wife, Deepty Verma. You can reach him on his website, amitksoni.com.

Helen Tyson is an experienced trainer of instructional designer and e-learning developer. She has been involved in training for over 15 years, focusing specifically on e-learning since 2006. She has worked in a variety of industries, including telecommunications, e-mail order retail, financial services, and clinical software production.

After using several other content development software packages, Helen found Articulate Studio in 2009 and has not looked back since then. This led her to take part in the very first Articulate Certified Training course held in the UK for Articulate Studio.

Currently, Helen is an e-learning consultant and the lead trainer for Omniplex Ltd., a company that provides a comprehensive range of e-learning solutions to customers across the UK, Europe, North America, and Asia. Omniplex is the only Articulate Certified Training Partner in the UK and Ireland, and a large part of Helen's role is to deliver the Articulate Certified Program for Storyline, Studio, and Instructional Design.

In addition to training, she also manages a team of trainers, works on content development projects, course consultancy, and implements LMS portals. She has previously reviewed *Learning Articulate Storyline*, Packt Publishing, by Stephanie Harnett.

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Preface

Have you ever wondered how e-learning developers create such powerfully effective and creative learning solutions? With Articulate Storyline, you don't need to wonder anymore. Storyline is a powerful authoring tool that allows you to take your creativity to the next level and easily author your own stories. It is an e-learning authoring tool that allows you to leverage built-in development functions to quickly create interactive and engaging learning experiences.

What this book covers

Chapter 1, Building Your Story, familiarizes you with the Storyline interface and teaches you how to add new scenes and slides to begin your storytelling journey.

Chapter 2, Using Content to Tell Your Story, explains how you can easily use text, images, and characters to tell your story.

Chapter 3, Using Content to Enhance Your Story, teaches you simple ways of taking your storytelling abilities to the next level by adding small amounts of interactivity throughout your story.

Chapter 4, Making Your Story Come to Life, provides you with a basis for growing your knowledge of triggers, states, and hotspot interactions to create an engaging story.

Chapter 5, Making Your Story More Realistic, explains how you can create a more realistic story through the use of audio and video features.

Chapter 6, Testing Your Learners, identifies basic assessment concepts and explains how you can easily test your learners using Storyline's built-in assessment features.

Chapter 7, Sharing Your Story, teaches you how to create a customized learning experience by modifying the Storyline default player and explains publishing options available to share your story.

What you need for this book

To ensure you reach your full potential in following along with this book, it is recommended to have:

- An Articulate Storyline 1 or Articulate Storyline 2 license or trial
- Any amount of creativity you can muster.

Refer to Articulate's website for a full list of hardware requirements recommended for operating Articulate Storyline.

Who this book is for


This book is intended for anyone and everyone interested in working within Articulate Storyline to develop engaging and practical e-learning projects. From novice users to experienced users wanting to brush up on the basics, this book lets you learn how to easily navigate Storyline to build and publish your very own story.


Conventions

In this book, you will find a number of text styles that distinguish between different kinds of information. Here are some examples of these styles and an explanation of their meaning.

Code words in text, database table names, folder names, filenames, file extensions, pathnames, dummy URLs, user input, and Twitter handles are shown as follows:
"This option allows you to import a previously developed Storyline project template (.storytemplate)."

New terms and **important words** are shown in bold. Words that you see on the screen, for example, in menus or dialog boxes, appear in the text like this: "To add a new scene, select the **New Scene (1)** icon from the **Home** tab."

[ Warnings or important notes appear in a box like this.]

[ Tips and tricks appear like this.]

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1

Building Your Story

Let's get you up and running with Storyline! This chapter provides all you need to know about getting started with your e-learning project.

In this chapter, we will discuss the following topics:

- Introducing Articulate Storyline 2
- Getting started with Articulate Storyline
- Navigating the Storyline interface
- Adding new scenes and slides
- Working from templates
- Importing content
- Saving your story file

Introducing Articulate Storyline 2

Alright! You've installed Articulate Storyline 2, and you are either testing out the trial version or you're interested in using Storyline and want to find out how easy (or hard) it's going to be. Don't fear; I'll make things super easy for you! I can assure you that Storyline is a powerful tool that will likely address all of your e-learning development needs.