What is Remote Selector?

Remote Selector is an add-on utility for PC DVD players with the following features:

- **Region free** for all supported decoders and players with any DVD drive, even region protected ones. You will never have to worry about changing the region code or upgrading the firmware of your DVD drive, which can be difficult and dangerous!
- **Disabling MacroVision** and changing video mode on TV output. Connect your DVD player to your VCR without the usual image distortion.
- **Disabling User Prohibition**, or in other words enabling of Prohibited User Operations. All buttons and menus will be enabled in your player, which will allow you to:
  - skip or fast-forward FBI warnings and other intro's.
  - change soundtracks on the fly.
  - ... and much more!
- **Disabling of forced subtitles**. Even when User Prohibition is disabled, subtitles may still appear on screen. However, Remote Selector can remove any subtitle (!), as long as it has not been hardcoded in the image.
- **Control DVD player** software by keyboard, joystick or remote control.
- **Display player info** like title, chapter and time on LCD display and Closed Caption.

Currently supported decoders and players include Creative **Dxr2**, **Dxr3** and **Inlay**, RealMagic **Hollywood+** and **Xcard**, Chromatic Design **Mpact2**, **PowerDVD** and **WinDVD**.

Remote Selector works with all versions of Windows (95, 98, ME, NT4, 2000 and XP) and has support for all versions (including the latest) of the players mentioned above.

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Supported decoders and features

Decoder	Player	Windows	Region Free	TV Mode		MacroVision Disabling
				Frame Rate	Color Carrier	
Creative Encore Dxr2	Encore V1.x/V2.x	95 and 98[1]	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
	Encore V3.x/V4.x PlayCenter	95 and 98[1]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
		98[2], NT, 2000 and XP	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Creative Encore Dxr3	Encore V3.x/V4.x PlayCenter	All	Yes	Yes[3]	Yes[3]	Yes
Creative PC-DVD Inlay (CT7160)	LuxSonor player PC-DVD player	95 and 98[1]	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
	PlayCenter	95 and 98[1]	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
TeraMovie DVD	-	95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

LuxSonor LS-220	LuxSonor player	95	No	No	No	No
RealMagic Hollywood+	DVD Station	All	Yes	No[4]	No[4]	Yes
RealMagic Xcard	Xmedia Player	All	Yes	No[4]	No[4]	Yes
Chromatic Research Mpact2	Entertainment Center	95, 98 and ME	Yes	No	No	Yes
CineMaster Software Engine	CineMaster player	All	No	No	No	No
None, player only	ATI MultiMedia Center	All (Only tested with 98)	Yes	No	No	Yes
	CoolDVD	All	No	No	No	No
	PowerDVD	All	Yes	No	No	Yes
	WinDVD	All	Yes	No	No	Yes

Notes:
1) With Win95 VxD driver, not with WDM driver.
2) With WDM driver.
3) Only NTSC, PAL and PAL-60.
4) Player itself has support for NTSC, PAL and PAL-60 TV modes.

Notes about TV Mode support:

- Frame Rate support: The ability to change 60Hz (NTSC) to 50Hz (PAL) and 50Hz (PAL) to 60Hz (NTSC).
- Color Carrier support: The ability to change the color carrier to NTSC, PAL, PAL Argentina or PAL Brazil.

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Supported player programs and features

Player	Core[1]	Remote	Display
ATI MultiMedia Center	Yes	Yes	No
CineMaster player	No	Yes	No
CoolDVD	No	Yes	No
Creative Encore V1.x/V2.x	No	Yes	No
Creative Encore V3.x/V4.x	Yes	Yes	Yes
Creative PC-DVD player	No	Yes	No
Creative PlayCenter	Yes	Yes	Yes
Creative PlayCenter 2	No	Yes	Yes
Entertainment Center (Software Dynamics)	Yes	Yes	No
LuxSonor DVD player	No	Yes	No
Media Player V6	No	Yes	No

Media Player V7	No	Yes	No
PowerDVD	Yes	Yes	No
RealMagic DVD Station and DVR Station	Yes	Yes	Yes
RealMagic Xmedia Player	Yes	Yes	No
WinAmp V1.x, V2.x and V3.x	No	Yes	Yes
WinDVD	Yes	Yes	Yes
WinDVD 4	Yes	Yes	No

Notes:
1) Core support means Region Free and disabling of MacroVision, User Prohibition and Subtitles.

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Requirements

There are no special requirements to use Remote Selector. It works with all versions of Windows and works with all DVD drives, even region protected ones.

Installation

Just copy the file to any directory you like, it doesn't matter where you put Remote Selector. To add the program to the Windows desktop, simply create a shortcut to the file.
If you want to reuse the settings of an older version of Remote Selector, simply rename the ini file using the current version number. For instance, for Remote Selector V2.0 the ini file must be renamed to 'remselec20.ini'.

Getting Started

- Make sure your DVD player program is not running.
- Startup Remote Selector.
- Remote Selector should auto-detect your DVD player. If this is not the case you have to select it manually:
    - Select the correct decoder ('None' if you do not have any) and select the correct player.
    - Now select the Program tabsheet and disable 'Auto detect decoder' and 'Auto detect player'. Next time you start Remote Selector it will select the decoder and player you have just selected manually.
- Now select the Control tabsheet, the 'control state' will be disabled.
- Set the 'control state' to 'enabled'. Now additional items will appear on the Control tabsheet.
- Enable 'Region Free'.
- Enable 'Disable MacroVision'.
- Enable 'Disable User Prohibition'.
- If you have purchased the full version, it is a good thing to select the Program tabsheet and enable 'Start minimized' and 'Run at Windows startup'.
- Now minimize Remote Selector. If you want to access the program again, just click the logo in the system tray.
- Now start your DVD player program and enjoy!

Notes:

- Remote Selector must always be started before the DVD player program and should be kept running in the background.
- If you use the **RealMagic Hollywood+**, it is not necessary anymore to start the DVD Station player from within Remote Selector, as was the case with V1.x versions of Remote Selector.
- If you use a **Dxr3 with Windows XP**, Remote Selector will detect the Dxr3 as a RealMagic Hollywood+. The reason is simply because the Dxr3 is a RealMagic Hollywood+ and

Creative has chosen to release the reference software by Sigma Designs instead of their own software.

- If you use the RealMagic Hollywood+ or Creative Dxr3 with the **DVD Station** player, there are 3 ways to enable the Control tabsheet:
    - Type 1 is the original one and is recommended to use with Windows 95, 98 or ME and a region free DVD drive.
    - Type 2 is recommended to use with Windows NT, 2000 and XP and any DVD drive.
    - Type 3 is new in Remote Selector V2.1 and should work with any version of Windows and any drive. It is recommended to use this type only if one of the above types is not working or causing problems.

User Prohibition

The buttons and menu's of a DVD player can be enabled and disabled by the DVD. This is called User Prohibition, or Prohibited User Operations. It is used by DVD authors to make sure that we read the FBI warnings and distribution company logo's and intro's. It is also used to localize DVD's within the same region code, by forced enabling of subtitles. This is commonly practiced in Europe.

Remote Selector can disable this User Prohibition and enable all player buttons and menu's! Unfortunately, when a DVD does not have defined a function for a button or menu, activating that button or menu will still do nothing. But in most cases it will work, and don't forget that you can always use the fast-forward to skip certain scenes.

By default all buttons and menu's will be enabled by Remote Selector, but you can enable/disable each user operation yourself. Just press the 'User Operations' link on the Control tabsheet, and you will get a window with all 25 different user operations. Since the system works in realtime, changes will be immediately visible in the player user interface (at least within 1 second due to buffering).

Note: The Creative players (Encore V3.x/V4.x and PlayCenter) only update their user interface after pause/unpause or skipping to the next or previous chapter. After changing the user operations in Remote Selector, these changes are immediately active, but are not reflected in the user interface of these players. This can give some strange behavior, but the player will not crash.

Disabling Subtitles

Even with User Prohibition disabled, it is still not always possible to disable subtitles. However, Remote Selector can remove any subtitle, as long as it is a real DVD subtitle and not hardcoded in the image.

Region code information

The region code of the decoder can be compared with the region code of the DVD at several places in a DVD system:

- DRIVE: When this is the case, just use Remote Selector with one of the supported decoders and/or players. It is not necessary to upgrade the drive with a region free firmware.
- DECODER: Remote Selector can disable the region code checking of several decoders.
- PLAYER: Remote Selector can disable the region code checking of several players.
- DVD MENU: DVD's from Universal, Paramount and MGM and RCE DVD's from Columbia TriStar will check the region code of the decoder when the DVD is started. The 'Region Free' option of Remote Selector also works correctly with these DVD's.

How to use Remote Selector

How to use the keyboard as remote

The keyboard will function as a remote device when:

- the 'Enable keyboard commands' option on the Remote tabsheet is enabled and
- the selected player is running

When the keyboard is functioning as remote device it doesn't matter which program has the input focus at that moment, all keyboard strokes are redirected to Remote Selector. This also means that other programs, for instance NotePad, won't receive keyboard input and you can't use them at that moment.

The keyboard will return to function as normal after:

- the selected player is closed, or
- Remote Selector is closed, or
- the 'Enable keyboard commands' option on the Remote tabsheet is disabled, or
- the 'Enable keyboard' option of the menu of the system tray icon is disabled.

How to use an infrared remote control

- Remote control with native support:
    - Connect the infrared receiver to a free serial com port.
    - Disable or uninstall the software that came with the remote control.
    - Select the used remote type.
    - Select the correct serial com port on which the ir receiver is connected.

- Other remote controls (Animax Multimedia Magic, Packard Bell Fast Media and X10 MouseRemote):

- Install remote receiver and the included software according to the with the remote supplied manual.
- Select the used remote type in Remote Selector.
- Select the name of the device button on the remote to use with Remote Selector.
- Select the selected device on the remote:
    - Animax: Press 'AUX2' on the Animax remote.
    - X10: Press the 'PC' button followed by the selected device button on the X10 remote.
- Most keys of the remote will now be rerouted to Remote Selector.

The remote functions will only work when you keep Remote Selector running in the background.

How to set the TV video mode (BrookTree tv chip with VxD driver)

The following is only valid for the Creative DXR2, Creative PC-DVD Inlay and TeraMovie when used with the Windows 95 VxD driver. Using this device driver, Remote Selector can directly access the registers of the BrookTree tv chip, which is used on these boards. Because of the direct access, the settings are not permanent. Therefor it is necessary to refresh the video settings by pressing the 'Refresh' button (or the refresh function on the remote) or by enabling the 'Automatic refresh' option (when available).

- The tv video mode is determined as a combination of framerate and color carrier of the TV.
- Disc type is NTSC for 30 frames/sec (60Hz) or PAL for 25 frames/sec (50Hz).
- MultiSystem TV type selects the original video mode as it would be without Remote Selector.
- 7.5 IRE Setup changes the blacklevel and controls the brightness. This can be used to switch between daytime viewing (on) and nighttime viewing (off).
- When the 'Automatic Refresh' option is enabled, the tv video mode settings will be automatically set when a disc is started or stopped, or a menu is entered or left. This option only works with the Creative player software V3.x and Creative PlayCenter and only when Remote Selector is running in the background. It is recommended to enable this option when it is available.
- With the 'Refresh' button (or refresh function in the remote part) the TV video mode can be set manually.

Running Remote Selector in the background

Remote Selector must be kept running in the background:

- To enable the core control functions.
- To use the remote functions.
- To use the LCD display for title, chapter and time info.
- To use the region and macrovision support for the RealMagic Hollywood+. It is also necessary to start the DVD Station player from Remote Selector.

- To use the automatic video mode refresh (DXR2, PC-DVD Inlay and TeraMovie with VxD driver only). This is necessary when you want to use PAL TV mode or want to disable MacroVision.

Minimizing Remote Selector

The Remote Selector window can be minimized (but this is not necessary) when running in the background. In that state Remote Selector can be accessed using the Remote Selector icon in the system tray (in the right lower corner of the screen). Clicking the icon with the left mouse button restores the Remote Selector window. Clicking the icon with the right mouse button brings up a menu, which lets you control the 'Enable keyboard' option.

When the 'Start minimized' option on the Remote tabsheet is enabled, Remote Selector will not display the window on startup, but only adds the Remote Selector icon to the system tray. This is useful when you want to include Remote Selector in your Windows startup.

How to use Winamp3 with Remote Selector

You need to install the Winamp 2.x Plugin Manager.

Trouble Shooting

Remote Selector does not startup

If Remote Selector does not startup, so no window appears, you most likely have a virus scanner like McAfee VirusShield active. Disable it and try again.

Remote Control does not work in Win2K

Most likely Win2K has detected the receiver of the remote control as a mouse and installed a mousedriver. The solution is to disable (not remove!) this mousedriver.

Unable to enable the 'control state' with Dxr3

Most likely you have also a SoundBlaster Live and you have installed the Creative RemoteCenter. The solution is to disable the RemoteCenter Manager. Go to Start > Programs > Creative > Creative RemoteCenter > Creative RemoteCenter Manager. Choose tab "RemoteCenter Player" and disable "Always run RemoteCenter Player when RemoteCenter is enable". Save then Exit, restart computer and Remote Selector will be working again.

Copyright and credits

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Remote Selector is written by Erwin van den Berg.
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