Adding Custom Background Images

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Total Control Accelerator 3 software offers a large variety of *built-in* **background images** that enable installers to add a higher degree of personalization & customization to projects and the various URC Graphical User Interfaces (<u>GUI's</u>). In some cases, you may also want to add a custom background image to a project's Graphical User Interfaces.

This article details adding and using **Custom Background Images** in Accelerator 3, but the process is very similar in Accelerator 2.0, using a slightly different file path where applicable.

Custom Background Images

Any desired **Custom Background Images** should be placed into the following folder on the PC: *C:\Program Files (x86)\Universal Remote Control, Inc\URC Accelerator 3\System\BackImages*

This folder also contains the default system images .vfd file labeled as "TC Backgrounds.vfd". **This** is a compressed system file and it should not be changed or removed!

The image below shows two (2) new folders added to the existing default folders that Accelerator 3 automatically adds (Abstract, Food & Drink, Gradients, Nature, Paint, Patterns, Places and Things, and Sports). The folders labeled as **Custom Background Images & Holiday Images** have been added to the main "BackImages" folder. These folders can be labeled however you want, to allow you to locate your custom images more easily (see image below): Note: Adding these new folders may require administrator privileges! Note: If you add custom images to the same folder as the folder with the .VFD file, the custom images do not appear inline, alphabetically, but will appear at the end, after the VFD images when browsing the images.

Name	Date modified	Туре	Size
Abstract	3/24/2021 12:07 PM	File folder	
Custom Background Images	7/1/2021 3:41 PM	File folder	
Food and Drink	3/24/2021 12:07 PM	File folder	
Gradients	3/24/2021 12:07 PM	File folder	
Holiday Images	4/1/2021 8:32 PM	File folder	
Nature	3/24/2021 12:07 PM	File folder	
Paint	3/24/2021 12:07 PM	File folder	
Patterns	3/24/2021 12:07 PM	File folder	
Places and Things	3/24/2021 12:07 PM	File folder	
Sports	3/24/2021 12:07 PM	File folder	
TC Backgrounds.vfd	10/4/2019 1:38 PM	VFD File	59,212 KI

Adding a Custom Background Image in Accelerator 3:

1. After adding the Custom Background Images as detailed above, go to Step 2: Add Rooms

and right-click on the desired room where you would like to change the background image from within the Project Tree.

My Database Program Tools Communicatio 5 500 ŌŒ 050 1.Name & 2.Add 3.Add URC 4.Add Other 5.Base Station 6.Network 7 Location Rooms Devices Devices Setup Setup Project Tree 🕘 Home G Office [HDA-4100,Zopenter] <u>R</u>ename MRX-8 [Primary] 🖙 Standard Doorbe Delete TKP-9600 Scenes 4100 HDA-4100 📼 Media Player Properties IDA-IO The Information [Core]

3. This opens the main Room Properties window. Under the Background Image section, select the "Image" button to open and select the desired images folder:

Note: This new window may take a few moments to open depending on the speed of your computer and other PC related factors!

2. Select "Properties" from the fly-out.

Room Prop	erties	23	
Name	Office Room is Hidden		
Lights Off	Action	\neg	
Action			
	Do not use PRESS + HOLD Action Delete		
Status Disp	olay Items	\leq	
Item 1	NONE *		
Item 2	NONE		
Item 3	NONE		
Item 4	NONE		
-Backgroun	(Image must be 1140 X 1140) Image Delete	1	

4. Click the **"Browse"** button with the three (3) dots:



5. This opens another window that allows you to select any image folder(s) that were created earlier. You can also select any of the standard image folders if you would like to browse those images:

Browse for Folder	EZ
Select Folder.	
Select Folder.	
C:\Program Files (x86)\Univ	ersal Remote Control, Inc\URC
V Ba	ickImages 🔺
	Abstract
	Custom Background Images
	Food and Drink
	Gradients
	Holiday Images 📃
	Nature
	Paint
	Patterns 💌
	OK Cancel

6. Once the desired folder is selected, select the OK button to open and browse the images in that folder.

In this example, I have selected the "Holiday Images" folder:

Browse for Folder	23
Select Folder.	
C:\Program Files (x86)\Uni	versal Remote Control, Inc\URC
✓ B	ackImages 🔺
	Abstract
	Custom Background Images
	Food and Drink
	Gradients
	Holiday Images 📃
	Nature
	Paint
	Patterns 💌
	OK Cancel

7. You can then select the desired custom image and then press OK:



8. After pressing OK, you will again return to the main Room Properties window where you will see your image selected as the new Background Image. Press OK again to apply your new image selection:

Name	Office Room is Hidden	
-Lights Off	Action	
Action		
	Do not use PRESS + HOLD Action Delete	
	play Items	
Item 1	NONE *	
Item 2	NONE *	
Item 3	NONE *	
Item 4	NONE	
Backgrour	Image Delete Id Image Image Will be automatically cropped and/or scaled for portrait or landscape orientation when displayed on the interfaces. 2048 X 2048 min. recommended resolution and square if used for both orientations. Image Delete OK Cancel	
	OK Cancel	

Required Properties for Background Images:

• Image Location

Images can be located anywhere on your PC but it is recommended to place them in an easily-identifiable folder as shown above. This makes your custom images easy to locate when browsing inside of Accelerator 3.

• File Type

JPG (.jpg or .jpeg) is *recommended* but not absolutely required. The system is going to convert other formats to JPG but that means relying on the systems conversion process. To determine an image file type, do the following in Windows:

- 1. Locate your desired image.
- 2. Right-click on the image, select "Properties":



3. Select the "General" tab. The image type will be displayed (as shown below):



• Image Format

The dimensions do not *require* being square, but it is recommended. This is suggested so that a device such as a mobile device that may be in landscape or portrait orientation will look decent both ways.

The image(s) are automatically cropped and/or scaled for portrait or landscape orientation when displayed on the interfaces.



Portrait



Landscape

• Image Size

The image should be as high-quality as possible especially if using high-resolution touchpanels and mobile phones or tablets.

2048 x 2048 pixels is the minimum recommended resolution and square if used for both orientations (portrait & landscape) render properly on all system UI's.

• Color Bit Depth

16-bit and 24-bit depth images work properly in Accelerator 3. Any image above a 24-bit bit depth should be converted to 16-bit or 24-bit.

Determining an Image Dimensions & Bit Depth

To determine an image dimensions and/or bit depth, do the following in Windows:

- 1. Locate your desired image.
- 2. Right-click on the image and select "Properties" (as shown below):

	1 Julie		Por C	
	und_gree ning_spri	christmas_ball_b aubles_celebratio	easter-eggs-blu -background-sp	
arm_eas	-	en		
		eate a new video		
		it with Photos		
		it with Paint 3D		
		t as desktop <u>b</u> ackgrou	und	
	<u>E</u> d			
	Pri			
	S Sh	are with Skype		
		tate righ <u>t</u>		
	Ro	tate <u>l</u> eft		
	Ca	st to Device		>
	<u> </u>	ove to OneDrive		
	🖲 Sca	an with ESET Internet	Security	
	Ad	lvanced options		>
	🖻 Sh	are		
	Op	en wit <u>h</u>		>
	M Sci	an with Malwarebytes	;	
	Re	store previous <u>v</u> ersior	15	
	Se	<u>n</u> d to		>
	Cu	t		
	<u>C</u> o	ру		
	Cre	eate <u>s</u> hortcut		_
	👎 <u>D</u> e	lete		
	💡 Re	na <u>m</u> e		
	P <u>r</u> o	operties		

 Select the "Details" tab to view the image details (as shown below): This process allows you to determine if the image is suitable for use as a background image.

eneral Security Detai	Value		!d	
Image	1 aloc			
Image ID				
Dimensions	1200 x 794			
Width	1200 x 754 1200 pixels			
Height	794 pixels			
Horizontal resolution	96 dpi			
Vertical resolution	96 dpi			
Bit depth	24			
Compression				
Resolution unit				
Color representation				
Compressed bits/pixel				
Camera				
Camera maker				
Camera model				
F-stop				
Exposure time				
ISO speed				
Remove Properties and F	Personal Informatio			
		ancel Apply		

Acquiring Hi-Quality Background Images

Hi-quality images can be acquired from many sources, including your own camera or even your mobile phone camera.

If using a photo from your camera or phone, simply transfer that image to your PC or laptop and place it into a folder using the instructions detailed at the beginning of this article.

One source that many programmers use is **Google Images** at https://images.google.com/. This allows for a searchable database of public-domain images for use as backgrounds.



In addition, **Google Images** offers a few tools to make searching for your desired images easy.

1. After searching for you desired type of image(s), you can use the "Tools" option to narrow your search (as shown below):



39,846,783 Nature Stock Photos ... istockphoto.com

20 Nature Photos on 500px So Far ... iso.500px.com

100,000+ Best Nature ... pexels.com



39,846,783 Nature Stock Photos ... istockphoto.com

2. After selecting the Tools option, you can choose a variety of image options including the size (Any size, Large, Medium, Icon) as well as the Color, Type and Usage Rights (see image below): Note: Under "Usage Rights" you will see options for searching for "Creative Commons Licenses" & "Commercial & Other Licenses". Please observe proper usage rights.



3. Make sure to download the *original image* and not the preview image. This will assure that you get the highest-quality image possible.

You may have to visit another website to do this.

Additional Information & Resources:

Please refer to the article **Adding Custom Room Images** for additional information on adding room images in Accelerator 3.

Download the Total Control **Graphics Expansion Pack** from the URC Dealer Portal (You must first be logged-in to download the file).

Download the Total Control **Flat Vector Icon Sets** from the URC Dealer Portal (You must first be loggedin to download the file).

To learn more about Accelerator 3 configuration and programming, please see the Accelerator 3 online Programming Guide.