

Overview

ProjectHero is an After Effects script that helps you organize, clean, and manage projects efficiently. It offers a range of features to automate time-consuming tasks, such as sorting media files, cleaning up unused items, and managing favorite projects. The script is designed to give you flexibility in how you manage your projects with customizable settings and preferences.

Installation (Dockable Script)

To install ProjectHero as a dockable panel in After Effects:

1. Install the Script File:

- Copy the `ProjectHero_1.0.jsxbin` file into the `ScriptUI Panels` folder within your After Effects installation directory.
- Example path on Windows: `C:\Program Files\Adobe\Adobe After Effects\Support Files\Scripts\ScriptUI Panels`.
- Example path on MacOs: `/Applications/Adobe After Effects/Scripts/ScriptUI Panels`.

2. Run the Script:

- In After Effects, go to the `Window` menu.
- Scroll down to find `ProjectHero_1.0` and click it to open the script as a dockable panel.
- You can then dock the panel anywhere in your After Effects workspace.

! ProjectHero will need to write files in your hard drive and requires the "*Allow Scripts to Write Files and Access Network*" preference to be enabled. Check this preference in `Settings > Scripting & Expressions` before running the script.

■ **Otherwise, the script will alert you to turn this preference on.**

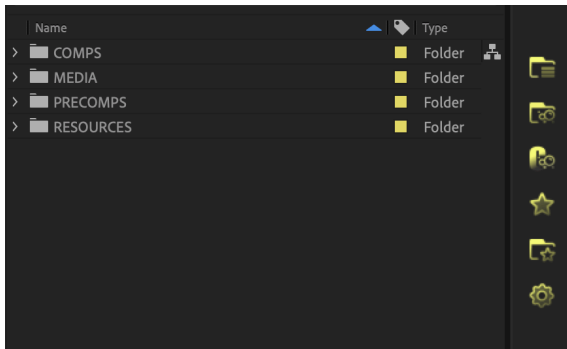
How to Set and Reset Button Orientation

Setting Button Orientation:

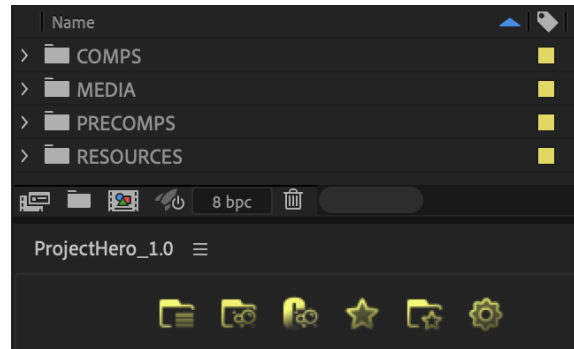
- Upon the first run, the script will ask if you want the buttons in a `vertical` or `horizontal` layout.
- This choice will be saved and applied each time you open After Effects or run the script.

Resetting Button Orientation:

- **If you decide to change the button layout later, follow these steps:**
 1. Open the Settings window by clicking the "Settings" button in the main
 2. In the settings window, find the option to **Clear Orientation Preference**.
 3. Close and restart the script. You'll be prompted to choose a new button orientation (**vertical or horizontal**).



docked buttons oriented vertically



docked buttons oriented horizontally

Detailed Features

Organize Project

Allows you to automate the sorting and structuring of your project files into specific folders. You can:

- Define custom folder names for compositions, pre-comps, media files, and other folders.
- Automatically sort media by extension (e.g., group all .mp4 files into one folder, .jpg files into another).
- Keep or delete imported folder structures depending on your preference. For instance, imported after effects projects or imported photoshop files may bring a folder structure of their own. If you prefer to maintain the folders as they were imported, you can enable this option. If not, ProjectHero will move their items into neatly organized folders.

Clean Up Project

Helps you tidy up your project by removing unnecessary elements. It offers several options:

- **Remove unused items:** Deletes empty compositions, solids or media files that aren't being used anywhere in the project.
- **Remove redundant solids and footages:** Gets rid of multiple copies of the same media, nulls and solids, keeping just one instance and referencing all items back to this single instance.
- **Remove guide layers and guide lines:** Useful for finalizing a project where guides are no longer needed.
- **Remove invisible layers and effects:** Removes invisible layers and effects that, in addition to being invisible, are not being referenced by any other layer in the project. *As explained below, this can be a risky action.* That's why it's recommended to keep the setting "Backup up project before clean up" always turned on.

Clean Up Composition

This feature works similarly to the above one, except it is specifically designed to clean up a single composition within the project. This tool lets you:

- Remove guide layers and guide lines from this single composition.
- Remove invisible layers and effects that, in addition to being invisible, are not referenced by any other layer in the project. *Check below the importance of keeping backups* to understand more about this feature.

Importance of Keeping Backups



Why You Should Backup Before Removing Invisible Layers and Effects:

ProjectHero is designed to intelligently detect when invisible layers or effects are referenced elsewhere in the project, such as being a parent layer, used as a matte, or linked by an effect (e.g., Set Matte, CC Composite). It also identifies if an expression references an invisible layer, ensuring that layer isn't removed. Most expressions will be recognized and rewritten during the Clean Up process. For example:

- `thisComp.layer(2).transform.opacity`
- `thisComp.layer("test").transform.position[0]`
- `comp("Comp 1").layer(2).transform.opacity`

However, unanticipated syntax or references might lead to unintended results, so it's recommended to always enable the **Backup project before cleanup** option in the settings.

Where are my backups saved?

ProjectHero saves your backup projects in the **same folder where your current project is located**. It also adds a timestamp to the project's name so you can identify exactly when the backup was saved. Like so:

- MyProject_Backup_Date_Time.aep
- MyProject_Backup_1015_0230pm.aep (backup saved on Oct 15 at 02:30 pm)

★ Save Favorite Project

Allows you to mark a composition as a favorite for quick access. When saving a favorite project:


- A thumbnail image is captured from the selected composition, and this image is stored alongside the project.
- You can add comments about the favorite project, making it easier to remember its purpose or key details.
- Favorite projects are stored in a folder you can specify in the settings. More about this in the last section of this document.

ProjectHero - Save Favorite Project

Is this the still frame that best represents this project?

Project: ProjectHero_Release.aep
Composition: ProjHero_Splash
Frame: 0

Favorite Project Preview



Add comment:

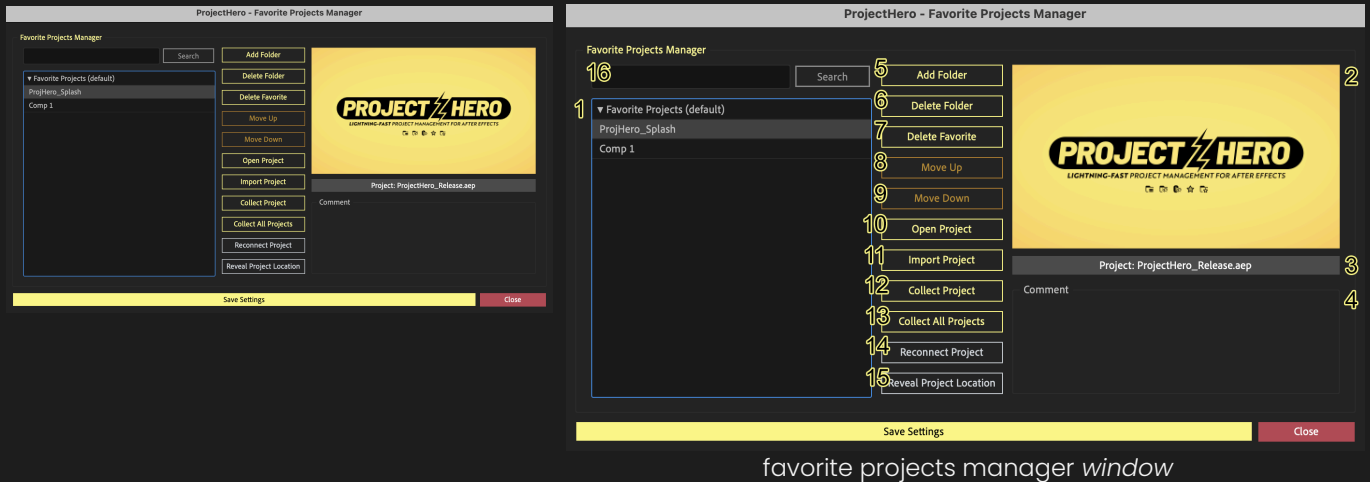
Project created for the script's release

Yes, save this favorite project No, I'll save this favorite project later

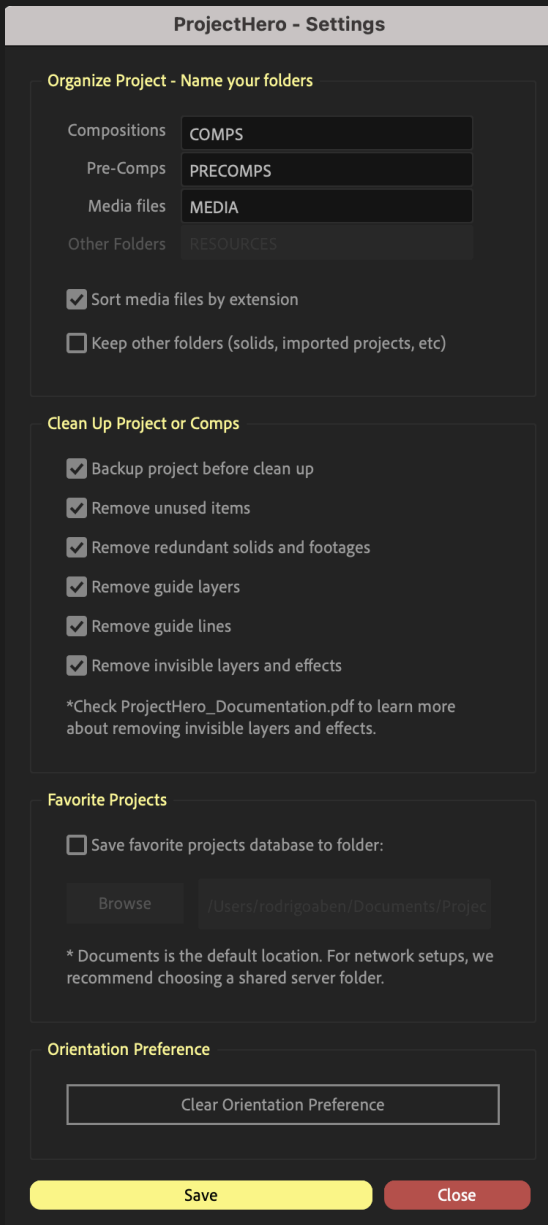
save favorite project dialog window

Manage Favorite Projects

Provides a user-friendly interface to browse, edit, or delete favorite projects.



- 1. Treeview:** List of all your folders and favorite compositions.
- 2. Thumbnail:** Image captured from your favorite composition.
- 3. Project Name:** Name of the project where the composition comes from.
- 4. Comment:** Comment saved along with favorite composition.
- 5. Add Folder:** Add a customized folder to the treeview.
- 6. Delete Folder:** Delete the selected folder from the treeview. **Note:** Deleted folder's content will be automatically moved to **Favorite Projects (default)** folder. **Default folder cannot be deleted.**
- 7. Delete Favorite:** Delete the selected project and its thumbnail image from the treeview. **Note:** Project will not be deleted from your system. Button only deletes from your list of favorites.
- 8. Move Up:** Move the selected favorite or folder up in the list.
- 9. Move Down:** Move the selected favorite or folder down in the list.
- 10. Open Project:** Open the selected project.
- 11. Import Project:** Import the selected project into the currently open project..
- 12. Collect Project:** Collect the selected favorite project.
- 13. Collect All Projects:** Collect all projects on the list.
- 14. Reconnect Project:** Moved projects will be listed as *Missing*. Click this to reconnect the project.
- 15. Reveal Project Location:** Reveal selected favorite project location in explorer (*Windows*) or finder (*MacOS*).
- 16. Search:** Locate a favorite composition in your list.



Settings dialog window provides complete control over the script's behavior. All settings are saved in a text file, which is stored in a folder named `/ProjectHero_Settings`. This folder is automatically created in your system's `/Documents` directory.

- Path to settings file on Windows:
`C:\Users\[Username]\Documents\ProjectHero_Settings\`
- Path to settings file on MacOs:
`/Users/[Username]/Documents/ProjectHero_Settings/`

ProjectHero will not execute any other functions until the settings have been defined and saved. If settings are not configured, the script will prompt you to save them first.

To share your settings across multiple machines, simply copy the `/ProjectHero_Settings` folder and its contents to the same directory on the other computer.

How to share my favorite projects across multiple machines?

Just like the settings, your favorite projects list and their thumbnails are stored in the default `/Documents` folder. To share your favorites in a network setup, do the following:

- Enable the **Save favorite projects database to folder** checkbox.
- Select a shared server folder in the browse window.
- In case you already have some favorite projects saved, **ProjectHero will automatically move them to the new location.**

PROJECT HERO

For feature requests or bug reports, please contact us at

hero.support@abenathar.com