

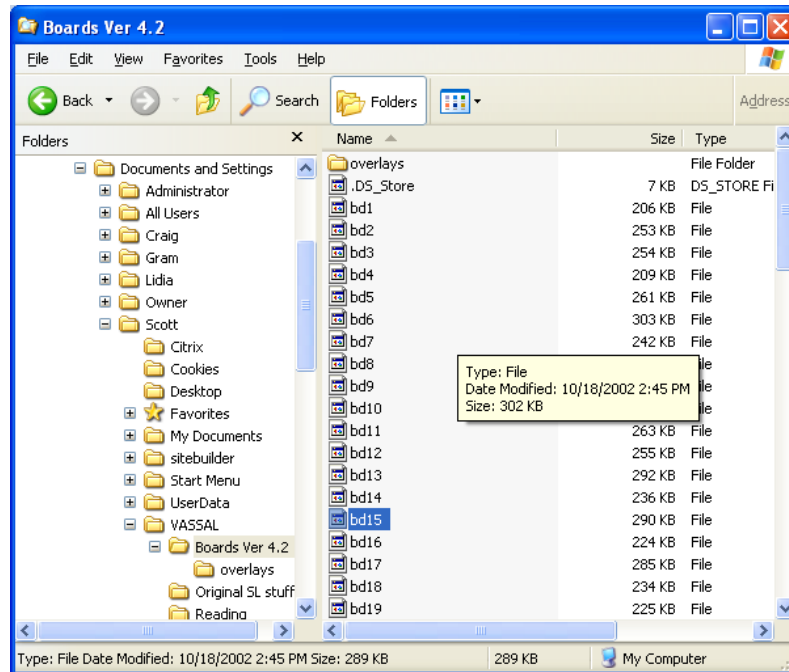
1. VSQL Survival Guide Overview
  - 1.1. The purpose of this document is to introduce Squad Leader (SL) and walk through the set-up process for Virtual Squad Leader (VSQL). A first time user can follow this guide to install VSQL and its related components.
2. Squad Leader (SL)
  - 2.1. Squad Leader is a game of WWII tactical combat in Europe. The original game included a 35 page instruction booklet, four map boards, two quick reference charts, 12 game scenarios, two dice, unit counters (die-cut cardboard pieces) representing leaders, infantry, support weapons, and vehicles. Subsequent extensions were added to the original board game. They are: Cross of Iron (COI), Crescendo of Doom (COD), and GI: Anvil of Victory (GIA).
  - 2.2. Advanced Squad Leader (ASL)
    - 2.2.1. This is NOT Squad Leader. In 1985, Advanced Squad Leader was introduced as a consolidated replacement gaming system for Squad Leader. It is another gaming system and is not interchangeable with Squad Leader. It has its own Vassal module, game rules, and unit counters.
  - 2.3. Pre-advanced squad leader (PREASL) refers to any or all of the Squad Leader games (SL, COI, COD, GIA) prior to Advanced Squad Leader.
  - 2.4. Hint: Microsoft Word may require you to hold "Ctrl" while clicking on links
  - 2.5. Hint: In this article, frequently used abbreviations are in parenthesis.
3. The over-the-internet play (OTIP)
  - 3.1. The Squad Leader board game is digitized and playable over the internet. The counters and boards are exactly replicated and it's possible to "sit down" with an opponent for face-to-face play or play by email.
  - 3.2. How to install the software is discussed below in Section 5, don't install the software discussed in Section 3 just yet.
  - 3.3. Vassal
    - 3.3.1. The software for OTIP is called Vassal and was developed independently and separately from the Squad Leader board game. This software allows for players for various games to connect via the internet and play in real time. You first need Vassal to play VSQL.
    - 3.3.2. Vassal supports multiple operating systems.
    - 3.3.3. [Vassal Web Page](#)
    - 3.3.4. Hint: Don't use the Vassal Quick launch on the Web-Page. This downloads the incorrect version. Use the VSQL 3.0 Stand Alone link below in Section 5.
  - 3.4. Modules
    - 3.4.1. The Squad Leader game was converted to software for use with Vassal. Vassal calls these converted games Modules and the files are identified by the .mod extension. Vsql.mod is the software version of the board game. This contains basic rules, charts, Line of Sight rules (LOS) and unit counters.

- 3.4.2. VSQL is not VASL. There are two separate modules for Vassal, VASL is Virtual Advanced Squad Leader and VSQL is Virtual Squad Leader. These are separate modules with different unit counters and rules and are not compatible.
- 3.5. Additional files.
  - 3.5.1. Boards
    - 3.5.1.1. All the original game boards are reproduced in graphic files. They are not included in the VSQL module and must be downloaded and set-up separately.
  - 3.5.2. Scenarios
    - 3.5.2.1. VSQL scenarios are the same as in the original board game. Scenarios provide victory conditions, board configurations, special rules, and force deployments. The VSQL scenarios files have .scen extensions.
    - 3.5.2.2. Hint: The original scenarios introduced rules incrementally, play them in order to learn the rules.
    - 3.5.2.3. Hint: even better, use the Tactical Training Scenarios at [Advance Phase](#)
    - 3.5.2.4. You'll read how to download board and scenario files later.
  - 3.5.3. The difference between boards and scenarios
    - 3.5.3.1. Boards are not scenarios and scenarios are not boards. A scenario is a game played on a board or boards. In VSQL, they are loaded at different times and places. A scenario may load a board(s) automatically, but you must still have downloaded and set-up the boards file separately.
- 4. Materials for play.
  - 4.1.1. Squad Leader Rules
  - 4.1.2. Computer with internet connection.
  - 4.1.3. Java
  - 4.1.4. Vassal Software (Installed by the VSQL stand alone file)
  - 4.1.5. VSQL Software module
  - 4.1.6. Files of Boards
  - 4.1.7. Files of Scenarios
- 5. Order of Set-up for OTIP
  - 5.1. Install VSQL and Vassal in one download
    - 5.1.1. VSQL and Vassal install automatically. Click the below link to download and install Vassal and VSQL.
    - 5.1.2. Hint: If you install the directory in the default directory, send a shortcut to the Desktop. It is easy to locate the directory for downloading modules, boards and scenarios later. If you don't, you'll end up clicking through lots of sub-directories.
    - 5.1.3. The vsql.bat file starts vassal and vsql. Click on this to start the game.

- 5.1.4. Hint: If you sent a shortcut of vsql.bat to the Desktop, You can start VSQL with out changing to the vassal sub-directory.
- 5.1.5. Hint: Vassal offers a tour the first time you download it. Take the half-hour tour to get familiar with it.
- 5.1.6. Hint: Vassal offers to install a short-cut on the desktop – its a lot easier then using the start menu in windows xp.
- 5.1.7. Hint: Remember, you can't start playing SL until you've downloaded VSQL, boards and scenarios. Think of vassal as the owner of the room in which you bring your game (the VSQL module, boards and scenarios) and meet your opponent.
- 5.1.8. Create a Sub-directory and save the below file in it.
- 5.1.9. [Download VSQL](#)

## 5.2. Download the boards.

- 5.2.1. The current boards version is 5. This version is required for LOS functionality in VSQL. A great strength of VSQL is the determination of Line-of-sight so you don't need the original boards to play. The link below downloads a zipped file of many boards, including the original four SL boards.
- 5.2.2. Board version 5 are digital scans of the most recent ASL boards. A new color palate is used.
- 5.2.3. Board version 4 are digital scans of the older SL/ASL boards.
- 5.2.4. Note that different version of the board were printed over the life of SL and ASL. The digital boards are used in determining LOS.
- 5.2.5. This downloaded file is approximately 15 Meg and it is one zip file used to transport numerous boards. This transport file must be unzipped.
- 5.2.6. Later, you'll tell VSQL were to find these maps when you set your preferences in VSQL.
- 5.2.7. First, download a file containing many boards.
  - 5.2.7.1. Create a sub directory in the Vassal directory called Boards Ver 5
  - 5.2.7.2. Download and unzip the boards.zip file following the link below.
  - 5.2.7.3. Hint: This file must be unzipped because it contains several board files but the board files are not unzipped.
  - 5.2.7.4. [Download VSQL Boards from Vassal.org](#)
  - 5.2.7.5. The correctly downloaded boards look like this:



#### 5.2.7.6.

### 5.3. Download the scenarios

5.3.1. The scenario files are a playable game for VSQ. They contain units, victory hexes, start-up locations and other information.

5.3.2. These files must be unzipped before using, in contrast to board files.

5.3.3. Create a sub-directory named Scenarios in the Vassal directory.

5.3.4. Click on the "Scenarios" link below.

5.3.5. Skip the "Submission Procedure" at the top and go right down to the Squad Leader table. It will name the Module, Source, Number and Scenario name. Go ahead and click on the number to download the zipped file.

5.3.6. Download and unzip the files at the below link into the Scenarios sub-directory you created:

5.3.6.1. [Download VSQ Scenarios from War Game Academy](#)

5.3.6.2. Focus on downloading the scenarios 1 to 12, they are replicas of the scenarios from the original Squad Leader game.

5.3.7. The Tactical Training Series provide an incremental, tactical based challenge to New Players. They are great to learn basic tactics from:

5.3.7.1. [Download TTS Scenarios from Advance Phase](#)

## 6. CONGRATULATIONS!

6.1. You've downloaded all the files necessary to play Squad Leader over the internet.

6.2. Now you have to set-up VSQ.

## 7. Setting Preferences in VSQ

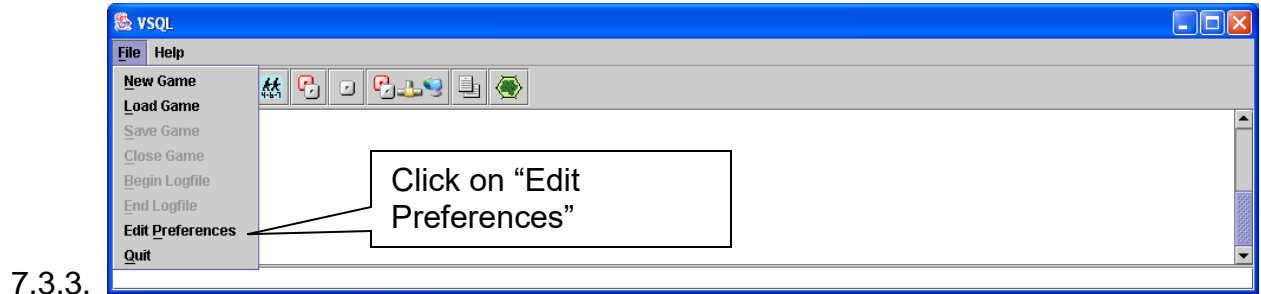
7.1. VSQ must be set-up to properly determine LOS, place unit counters and to locate boards.

7.2. Hint: if you have one monitor, check “use combined application window.”  
7.2.1. If you have two monitors try unchecking “use combined application window”

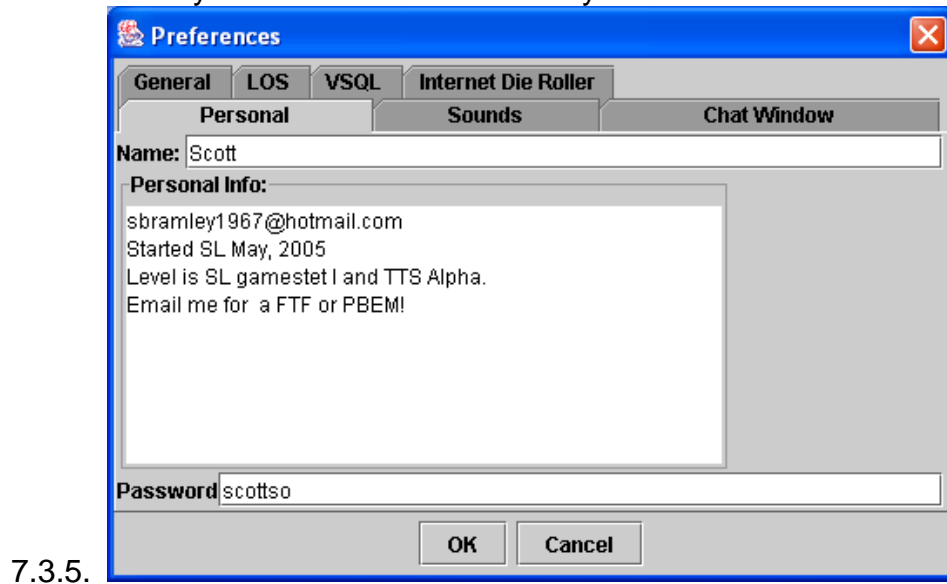
### 7.3. Setting preferences

7.3.1. Start VSQL by clicking the vsql.bat file.

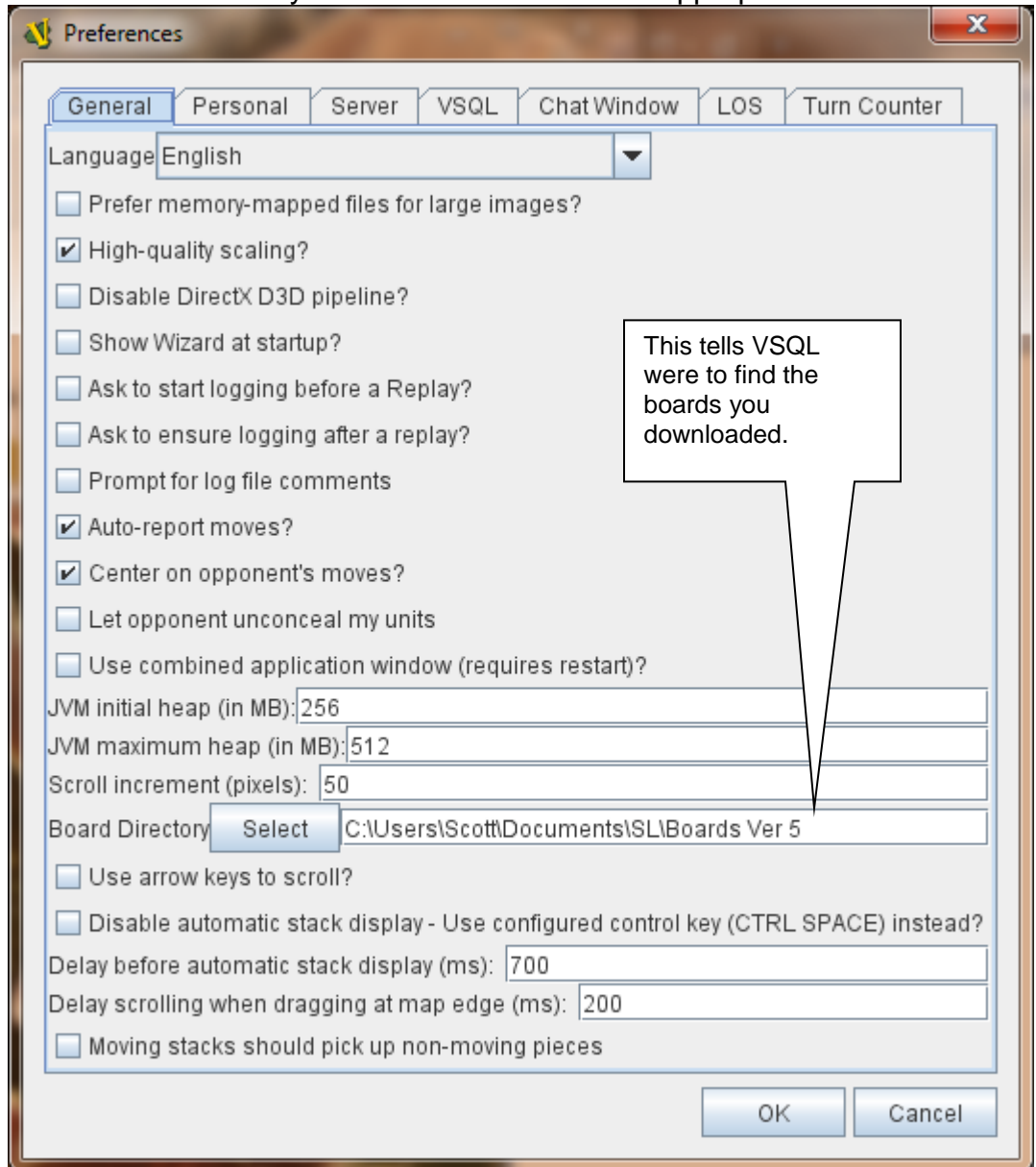
7.3.2. Go to “Edit Preferences”



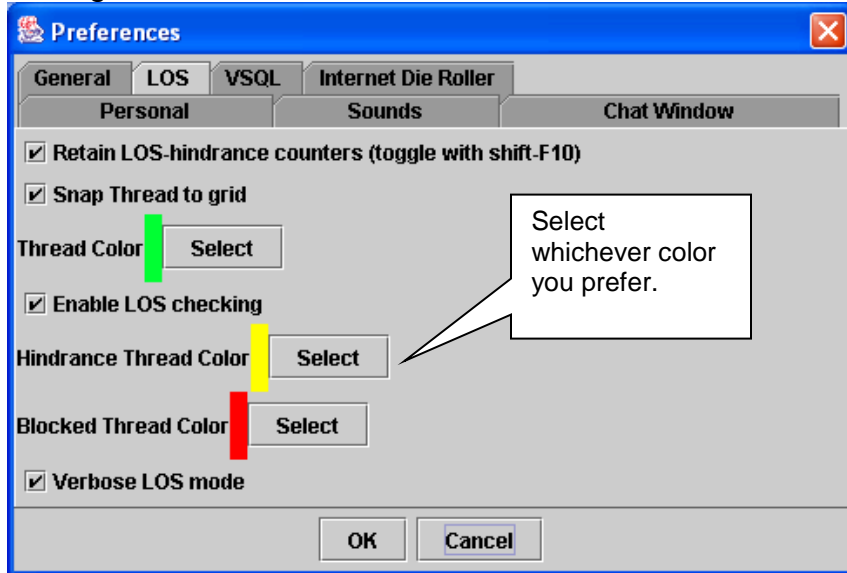
7.3.4. Enter your name and information you want others to see.



7.3.6. Enter the location of your boards and check the appropriate boxes.

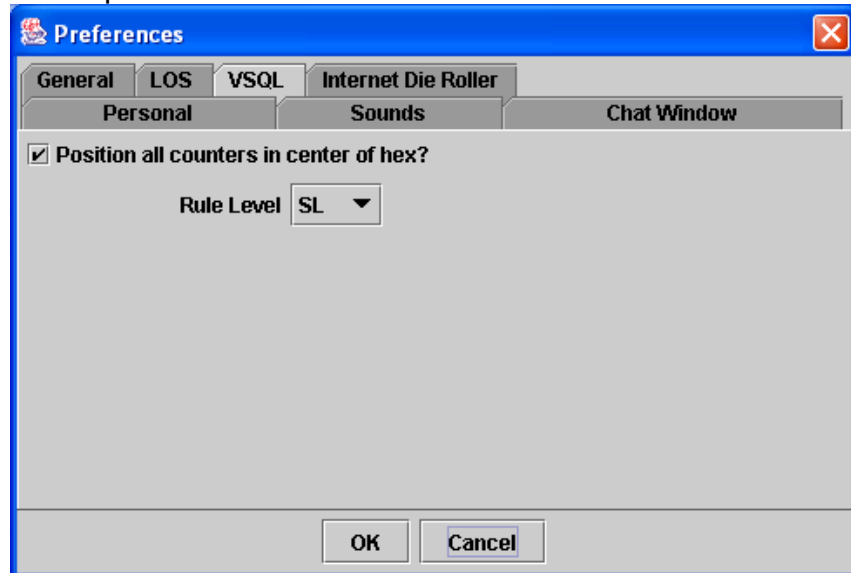


### 7.3.8. Setting the LOS



7.3.9.

### 7.3.10. VSQI preferences



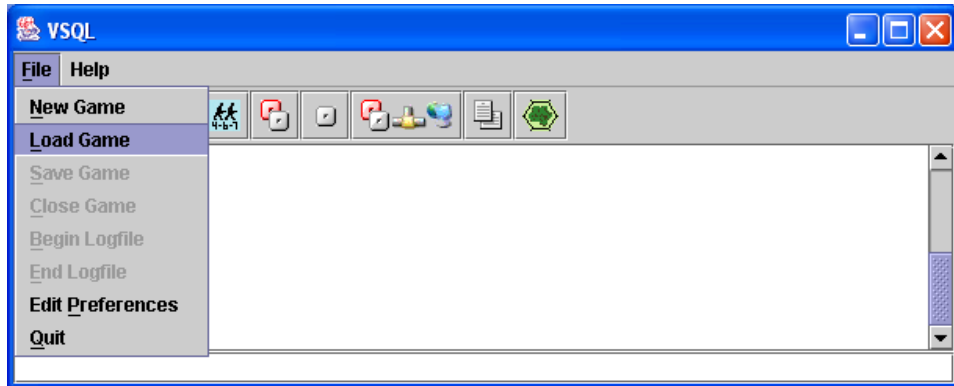
7.3.11.

## 8. Scenarios

8.1. Finally, the last piece of the set-up.

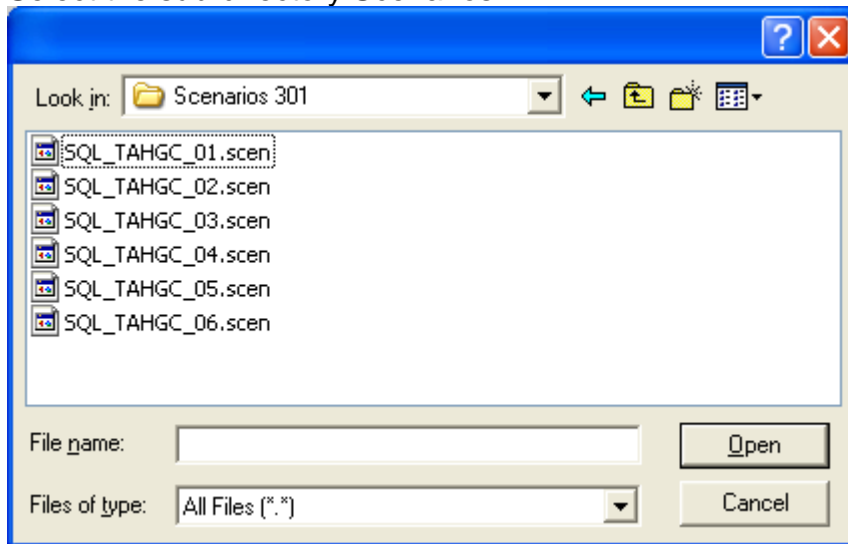
8.2. By now, VSQI should be running and configured per the above.

8.3. In VSQI open the file menu and load game.



8.3.1.

8.3.2. Select the sub-directory Scenarios



8.3.3.

8.3.4. Click on the scenario file (ending in .scen) you wish to play.

8.3.5. The map and initial placement should appear on the screen.

8.4. Click the info button on the VSQL toolbar for story, special rules, victory conditions and game turns.

8.5. Note: VSQL 3.0 contains new counter (squad, leader, vehicle) which track movement. You may have to update the counter to 3.0 if the tracking feature does not work.

9. Saving Scenarios games.

9.1. Simply create another directory, for example Saved scenarios and save the file to that directory

9.2. Hint: Don't save scenarios in progress using the original file name, you'll overwrite the scenario file.

10. Summary Table

Link	Comment
<a href="#">War Game Academy</a>	Great site for SL, Look for the Officer Candidate School.



<a href="#"><u>Advance Phase</u></a>	Great site for the beginner/intermediate player. Many articles on tactics, including the TTM series
<a href="#"><u>Download VSQL</u></a>	Download VSQL and Vassal
<a href="#"><u>Officers Candidate School War Game Academy</u></a>	Download many Boards in just one zip file.
<a href="#"><u>Download TTS Scenarios from Advance Phase</u></a>	Download training scenarios.
<a href="#"><u>Download Scenarios from War Game Academy</u></a>	Download original SL scenarios.