

timer

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> timer		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

timer

1.1 Timer V1.03 Documentation

TIMER V1.03 (c) HooverSoft 1993
Freely distributable
19-Apr-1993

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1.2 PUBLIC LICENSE

PUBLIC LICENSE

This program comes to you as "freeware", that is to say you can use it free of charge. If you find this program useful I ask you to consider donating a small amount of money (or large amounts if you can afford it :) to your favourite charity like Greenpeace or the FSF, for example. Note that this is not obligatory if you decide to use this program on a regular basis. You can put this program on Internet FTP sites of public BBS'es for downloading as long as people are able to obtain the full archive *free of charge*. Permission is granted to Fred Fish to distribute the program as part of his AmigaLibDisk series. German PD sellers charging more than 4 DM per disk are expressively *not authorized* to distribute this program or parts of

it in any form whatsoever.

You, the end user, are allowed to hack the source, remove parts from it, make it bug free, use parts in your own projects, tear the hardcopy of it to pieces or anything else that comes to your mind as long as you don't make money of it or try to charge people for something that they could actually have obtained *for free*. And, of course, you may not pretend that you wrote it.

1.3 Introduction

INTRODUCTION

"Timer" is intended for use as a little utility for timing purposes on a per-second basis. The binary is about 13kb, and runtime memory consumption is somewhere around 17kb. Its main purpose is for use with terminal programs such as Vlt that lack the ability to inform you about your total online time. I'm a poor father and student (bad combination!:) and yes, I am worried about my telephone bills as charges in Germany are comparatively high.

I wrote this little program as my first "project" after having upgraded to KickStart 2.04 / Workbench 2.1 on my '87 Amiga 500. What made me program such a utility was the fact that my favourite terminal package (Vlt, cheers Willy!) lacks the ability to keep me informed about my logon time. I was too lazy to write something up in AREXX that might have done the job, and being in the right mood for programming anyhow (Sunday afternoon :), I decided to do something about it myself.

1.4 Usage

USAGE

Launch Timer from CLI or an AREXX script like this (case is important):

```
Timer <options>
```

where <options> can be any of the following:

```
-interval <n>
-firstscreen
-autostart
-log
-x <pos>
-y <pos>
```

<n> is the interval (in minutes) that your telephone company charges you for (I don't know about American habits, but over here in Germany you get charged a fixed amount per every eight or twelve minutes for local calls).

-firstscreen tells Timer to open up its window on the frontmost Intuition Screen (important if you want Timer to appear on Vlt's screen).

-autostart instructs Timer to launch timing after startup without you having to click the start gadget explicitly.

-log enables the logging function which logs online times to a file called "S:Timer.log". The entry will inform you about how long you were logged in and how many units you were charged for the call according to the current value of the interval parameter. If you want to start a new log, rename the old file to something else or delete it. Timer will append the new data to the log file when you click the close gadget.

The -x and -y parameters determine where Timer will open its window on the selected screen. If you don't change these parameters, the default will be -x 10 and -y 10. Make sure that you stay inside the screen boundaries or the Timer will be unable to open its window.

To stop timing temporarily, click on the stop gadget once. Another click resets the timer to zero. Click on the Close gadget to exit the program and save statistics to the log file if logging is enabled.

Currently those options can only be set if you launch Timer from a CLI process. Running the program from the Workbench will make Timer retain its default settings if you don't change them by hand. Those are:

```
interval: 8 Minutes
autostart: disabled
firstscreen: Workbench
logging: disabled
x: 10
y: 10
```

Timer comes with an AREXX Vlt macro to launch Timer on the Vlt Screen that can be used in your login script. My script looks somewhat like the following:

```
wait "CONNECT 2400"
rx {address command "Timer -autostart -firstscreen"}
... #further login stuff
```

but of course there are other (and maybe better :) ways to start the program.

1.5 Restrictions

RESTRICTIONS

- Dragging the Timer window around a lot can result in incorrect timekeeping as the process is halted while the window is being moved about.

- This program has not been tested under Kickstart 1.3, but I don't expect any problems as it contains no KS2.0-specific functions.
- the gadget stuff is not yet font independent, but I'll work on that one once I get my new RKM's. Things might look a bit messed up if you use a non-standard font.

Please send bug reports & suggestions to the address below (email preferred if you have access). This little program is not going to turn into my lifetime project, but I'd like to hear about your opinions anyhow. I really enjoy getting mail, you know... :-)

1.6 Credits

CREDITS

Many thanks go to the people listed below as without them I would not have been able to write this program.

-Mike Meyer, Author of "mclk". Without access to your source I would not even have thought about writing this thing.

-David Gay for the fantastic job he did in porting GNUemacs; that posed one of my main reasons to finally upgrade to 2.1. Cheers!

-Willy Langeveld for Vlt and the great support he gives on the net. Keep up the good work, mate!

-Udo Schuermann (walrus@wam.umd.edu) for beta testing and pointing out the font problem to me.

-My wife & son for (still :) allowing me with more than enough time with this wonderful machine.

If there's anyone else out there thinking he/she deserves an entry here, please contact me via email and I'll see what I can do. :-)

I would not really call myself one of those real Amiga advocates, but this machine is truly fantastic: It's over six years old, and here I sit typing away on a VT320 terminal connected to the serial port running GNUemacs on the Amiga while my wife is having a game of Interstel Empire on the console next to me. This leaves me with about 500 kb free, but everything works flawlessly so far. Anyone expected this of a 7Mhz machine? :-) Long live the Amiga! ;-)

1.7 How to contact me

AUTHOR

I am 26 years old, study Physics at Bielefeld University and like stargazing a lot. "Timer" was written using SAS C 5.10b on an Amiga 500 with 2.3 MB of RAM, KS 2.04 and an 80 MB Quantum HD with Evolution Controller hardware/software. I hate cars, love bicycles, and I like to get postcards from places where no (wo)man has gone before, so drop me a line or two if you feel like it.

You can reach me at one of the following addresses:

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Enjoy,
hoover

1.8 History

HISTORY

The following rubbish is a short overview of the history of an even shorter program. :-)

V1.0 11-Apr-1993

First public release to comp.sources.amiga.

(Well, it never made it due to the lazyness of the current moderator...actually *nothing* has made it down this group for about half a year now 8-P

V1.01 11-Apr-1993 (date looks familiar, doesn't it?)

Managed to get homogenous display string to work: Time is now shown as 00:00:00 no matter how many seconds timer has been running. Fixed a bug with the minutes display: used to show minutes = secs / 60, changed that to minutes = (secs / 60) % 60 (how embarrassing! :)

V1.02 12-Apr-1993 (another familiar date! Can you tell it's Easter?)

Added a simple logging function that logs online times to "S:Timer.log". Option is "-log" on startup. Added -x and -y options to position window on screen.

V1.03 Removed a tiny bug that would write an online time of 0 mins to the log file if logged on for less than a minute.

V1.04 12-Aug-93

First Version to use the SAS detach init code. There is no need to 'run' timer any longer.

Version released to the net after three months of testing.
