

TextClock V1.1

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> TextClock V1.1		
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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

TextClock V1.1

1.1 TextClock.guide contents

T E X T C L O C K V1.1

This program comes with absolute no warranty, for more read
Disclaimer&Trademarks

Introduction
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Starting TextClock
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1.2 introduction

INTRODUCTION

TextClock is yet another Clock-program with special features. It shows the current time or date using your selected font and text format. The program takes advantage of fast Compugraphic Font scaling. This means that the fonts will look fine at all sizes and you will have very precise control over them.

TextClock V1.1 Copyright © July 1995 Steffen Thorsen

1.3 distribution

DISTRIBUTION

TextClock may be freely distributed as Freeware as long as:

- all files are left unmodified (they may be crunched/archived though!)
- a copy charge is less than £3. (Except for CD-ROMs where it may be £30/CD)
- it isn't included in any commercial package
- it isn't included on any magazine Coverdisk

Exceptions to these rules may be made by the author. (Contact me!)

The program is postcard-ware:

If you use this program regularly, please think of all the work (and software failures) I had making TextClock. I would be very happy if people using me program sent a postcard from their place, preferably with suggestions/opinions about the program. I would not mind if you sent something more (money) ...

If you are a programmer/artist/musician or other, I would appreciate your own work.

So go write to the author!

(When I get Internet, it will be email-ware ..., send me an email!)

1.4 features

FEATURES

- 100% pure assemblercode (=compact/fast)
- uses as little memory as possible (typically 25000 bytes)
- uses very little processor time (usually less than 1% (Amiga 1200)), but this depends on the size of the font, the rendermode and the length of the text
- direct support for scaleable fonts (with Workbench 2.1 or better)
- On-line Help, just press the HELP-key anywhere to get help

1.5 requirements

REQUIREMENTS

Required:

Amiga with:

- Kickstart and Workbench 2.04 or better
- some memory (not much), should easily run with 512k total memory

To use some more features:

- asl.library V37+ if menu item Select Font ... is selected
- diskfont.library V36+ if other fonts than "Topaz" are to be used

OPTIONAL, but recommended:

- locale.library V38+ to format/configure the time and date
 - some fonts in the FONTS: directory would be fine
 - some CGFonts for perfect fontscaling
 - bullet.library for fast CGFonts scaling
-

- Real Time Clock so that the shown time is correct.
(Use the "Time" program in the prefs directory to set the current time)
- amigaguide.library if On-line Help is desired

The libraries should be placed in the LIBS: directory, but usually they should be there as they are all standard Amiga-libraries.

1.6 Starting TextClock

STARTING TEXTCLOCK

From Shell: Just enter path and name: (e.g. DF0:TextClock <RETURN>)

From Workbench: Just double-click the TextClock icon.

Install the program (Workbench): Just move the TextClock drawer to an open window of your harddisk.

Program should be started at boot: Move the TextClock program icon into the WBStartup drawer of your Boot (SYS:) disk.

This program is usually placed in the WBStartup drawer. Typically you select a font, size and place the window, then Save Settings to Icon

The TextClock window will then appear that place later with the same colors, fonts ...

1.7 Settings Window

In the Settings Window you can configure many aspects of TextClock:

Time String is the format string for the time.

Date String is for the title date.

X Move adjusts the text within the window.

Y Move adjusts the text within the window.

Fontheight adjusts the relative font size to the window.

CG Width let you alter the width of CG-fonts.

CG Embolden X/Y is for making the font thin or thick.

1.8 keyboard

KEYBOARD

Most menuitems can be reached by pressing the right Amiga key and the appropriate shortcut key.

There are some additional keyboard options to adjust display of text/font:
The cursor keys can be used to change the place the text should be placed within the window. With very small fonts you have to press the cursor keys a long time before you notice a change. Press "Shift" or cursor key to move more rapidly, "Alt" and cursor key to move even faster.

This only gives visual effect when the "Scale Font?" option is selected:
The "+" and "-" keys will make the font bigger/smaller.

These keys combined with "Shift" or "Alt" keys will make more rapid sizing.

The cursor keys and +- can be used to let the time fill the whole window. You usually have to use "+" quite a much and adjusting with the cursor keys.

The SPACE key restores the text to its default position and size.

The HELP key can be used most times to get On-line Help.

1.9 menus

MENUS

Project-menu:

Help...
About...

Quit

Settings-menu:

Visible gadgets?
No Close Gadget?
No Depth Gadget?
BorderLess?
Lock Position?
Lock Size?

No CGFonts?
Scale Fonts?
Fix Width?
JAMl Rendering?
Flush Font?
Date in Title?

Select Font...
Set Settings...

Save Settings
Save Settings to Icon

1.10 help

Help...

Selecting Help brings up this document, you may get help by pressing the HELP-key anywhere in the program, if you need help on any menu-item, just press HELP when you are browsing the menus.

1.11 about

About...

This brings up program version, copyright and author information.

1.12 quit

Quit

Guess what? Use this when you don't want that annoying clock anymore...

1.13 gadgets

Visible Gadgets?

When selected TextClock opens a window with visible gadgets, that is, like all normal workbench windows. If unselected there will not appear to be any gadgets, but they do exist. The Close gadget is in the upper left corner, the depth gadget in the upper right corner and the sizedgadget in the lower right corner. The rest of the window is a big dragbar to move the window to another location.

1.14 noclose

No Close Gadget?

When NOCLOSE is selected there will be no close-gadget in the TextClock main window. This is useful if you all the time close TextClock by accident.

1.15 nodepth

No Depth Gadget?

NODEPTH removes the Depth-gadget from the TextClock window.

1.16 borderless

BorderLess?

Normally the window has a border, but by setting this option, this border will disappear. BEWARE: This may be a bit confusing on the screen sometimes. Both "Borderless?" and Visible Gadgets? can't be selected at the same time!

1.17 lockpos

Lock Position?

When LOCKPOS is selected the TextClock window can't be moved, use this in conjunction with the LOCKSIZE option to have the TextClock window static some place on your screen.

1.18 locksize

Lock Size?

When LOCKSIZE is selected the TextClock window will have no size-gadget, so you can't adjust its size. This option is often very useful in conjunction with the LOCKPOS gadget.

1.19 nocgfonts

No CGFonts?

Normally TextClock will check if the chosen font is a Compugraphic font or not. If it is, it will load the "bullet.library" or similar library to handle scaling of fonts. This library will then calculate and scale the font. This is usually done in about 1 second or less.

Select "No CGFonts?" only if you:

- have no CGFonts in your system (or don't use them at all)
- have made a bitmap of the CGFont in the appropriate size using the "Intellifont" or "Fountain" program.

Scaling of CGFonts when "No CGFonts?" is selected will take quite a while, because it uses the diskfont.library.

This also limits font height to 125 pixels.

1.20 scale

Scale Font?

When unselected TextClock will only use the size you specified when you selected the font. When selected, the font is scaled to the current window size. It will be scaled every time you size the window. Such scaling is best suited for CGFonts because they are by nature scaleable.

NOTE: Standard Amiga fonts are limited to 125 pixels.

1.21 fixed

Fix Width?

With some proportional fonts a "1" and a "0" will be of different sizes: That means 11:11:11 will take less space than 00:00:00. When "Fix Width?" is selected these will be of the same (fixed) width. Each number will always be at the same place, as opposed to the when "Fix Width?" is unselected. (Try Diamond.font 20 to see how it works!)

"Fix Width?" selected also has the benefit that it uses less CPU-time, because only the numbers that have changed are actually drawn. The display will flicker less as well.

1.22 jam1

JAM1 Rendering?

JAM1 Rendering is an alternative way of drawing the text to the screen. It's slower and sometimes flickers more than the normal way (JAM0).

You should use this if the display seems corrupted as the clock goes. Some "weird" or very big fonts that look like handwriting, etc. should be used with JAM1-rendering.

1.23 flushfont

Flush Font?

When FLUSHFONT is selected the font is flushed immediately after it has been loaded, it will have to be reloaded every time needed and is therefore slower if you change the shape/size of the font often.

If you don't alter the TextClock window much you will gain some memory (about 37000 bytes) if you let this option on.

This option only affects with CG-fonts.

1.24 date

Date in Title?

When this and the Visible Gadgets? option are selected, the date formatted using your DATESTRING will appear in the window title.

1.25 Set Settings... menuitem

Set Settings...

This brings up the Settings Window.

1.26 Select Font... menuitem

Select Font...

This brings up the standard Asl-fontrequester. Use this to select the font, size, text and field color.

1.27 Save Settings to default settingsfile

Save Settings

Choose this to save your current settings in a file called "TextClock.Prefs". These will be saved to the program's homedirectory, if that didn't work it will try to save to ENVARC: and ENV:

Everything but the PUBSCREEN will be saved to this settingsfile. To save this as well, select "Save Settings to Icon" instead.

The saved file may be renamed or moved so that it won't be loaded by default. You can then load this by starting TextClock with the SETTINGS=filepath/name Shell argument or Workbench tooltype.

The format of this settingsfile is currently private and binary, but future versions of TextClock should be able to load it.

If you previously have saved settings to icon you will have to delete these settings from the icon, pressing Shift while selecting Save Settings to Icon from the menu.

1.28 Save Settings to Icon

Save Settings to Icon

Choose this to save your current settings in the icon-file TextClock was started from. This item is only available if you loaded TextClock from a Workbench icon.

This item is very useful if TextClock is in your WBStartup.

Deleting icon settings:

By selecting "Save Settings to Icon" while any Shift-key is pressed, TextClock will delete all the settings from this icon.

1.29 Date String

"Date String"

The datestring is displayed in the windows title if both the DATE (Date In Title?) and the GADGETS (Visible Gadgets?) options are selected. This is a string that is sent to the locale.library for formatting. See TIMESTRING for some formatting sequences.

1.30 Time String

"Time String"

This is the formatting string for the main window. Here you can select how you want the current time to be displayed. The formatting strings can be found in the locale.library autodoc file or in an ANSI C-manual describing the "time.h" standard library.

All options are % with a following letter in the range a-z and A-Z, where %a and %A are not the same.

The most useful ones are:

format	description	example
%a	abbreviated weekday name	Mon
%A	full weekday name	Monday
%b	abbreviated month name	Aug
%B	full month name	August
%c	full time and date	Mon Aug 07 23:45:09 1995
%d	day in month (leading 0)	07
%e	day in month (leading space)	7
%H	24 hour clock	22 or 03
%q	24 hour clock (no leading 0)	22 or 3
%J	12 hour clock	10 or 03
%Q	12 hour clock (no leading 0)	10 or 3
%m	month in decimal	8
%M	minute	45
%p	used with %J	PM or AM
%S	seconds	09
%x	date	07/08/95
%X	time	22:45:09
%y	year without century	95
%Y	Full year	1995

use %% to display a % sign, other letters may give other results, try it!

EXAMPLES POSSIBLE RESULT (may vary with locale)

```
%H:%M:%S 09:15:44
%H%M%S   091544
%H:%M    09:15
Time: %x Time: 09:15:44

%y%m%d   950807
```

%A %e %B %Y Monday 7 August 1995

1.31 relx

X Move

This adjusts the horizontally placement of the text within the window.
(Default 0%, 0 as startup option)

1.32 rely

Y Move

This adjusts the vertically placement of the text within the window.
(Default 0%, 0 as startup option)

This is useful to center the text within the window.

1.33 relsize

Font Height

Use this to adjust the relative size of the font within the window, this only works when the Scale Fonts? is selected.

This defaults to 100%, which is the same as 256 as startup option.

1.34 fontwidth

CG Width

This adjusts the width of the font, this can be used to get the font to fit properly within the window. (Default 100%)

This will only affect CG-fonts.

1.35 embolden

CG Embolden X/Y

The EMBOLDENX and EMBOLDENY values thicken or thin any scaleable CG-font in the X and Y directions respectively, try it out! (0% is default for both)

This will only affect CG-fonts.

1.36 Window Position and Size

By using the three startup values LEFT, TOP, WIDTH and HEIGHT you set the position and size of the Main TextClock window.

This will position the TextClock at the upper right of the 640x*** Workbench screen:

```
LEFT=500
TOP=0
WIDTH=140
HEIGHT=20
```

1.37 Font

The FONTNAME and FONTSIZE Startup Options are for choosing the font TextClock should use in its main window, displaying the time. The Select Font... menu selection does the same thing from inside the program. If the selected font can't be found, TextClock will revert to the Screen Font.

1.38 Color selection

The PEN and BACK Startup Options set the text and background colors of the main TextClock window. Currently there is no option of selecting palette values for these colors, you have to choose among what is already there.

From inside TextClock you select these colors in the fontrequester (You find Select Font... in the Settings Menu)

On a normal Workbench these options will give you black text on a white background:

```
PEN=1
BACK=2
```

1.39 pubscreen

The PUBSCREEN is only available as a startup option. Specify this if you want to open TextClock on another screen than the default public screen (usually Workbench).

1.40 settings

Specify SETTINGS=xxx if you want to use some dedicated settings to TextClock, rather than go with the defaults.

This must be a settings-file saved by the "Save Settings" menu item, not an icon containing tooltypes.

SETTINGS=0 forces TextClock to ignore any previously saved settingsfile.

1.41 Startup Options

STARTUP OPTIONS

All of these options may be specified following the "TextClock" command from the Shell: (e.g. "TextClock FONTNAME=diamond.font FONTSIZE=20" will use the Diamond font, size 20.) These options may also be specified in the tooltypes, just select the TextClock icon from the Workbench and choose "Icons->Information..." from the Workbench menu. Here you can specify any of these options. For Tooltypes, always use CAPITAL letters! The best way to get these tooltypes as wanted is to start TextClock from its Workbench icon, configure TextClock and select "Save Settings to Icon" as this will set the tooltypes for you.

Template from the Shell: ("TextClock ?")

LEFT/N, TOP/N, WIDTH/N, HEIGHT/N, FONTSIZE/N, PEN/N, BACK/N, RELX/N, RELY/N, RELSIZE/N, FONTWIDTH/N, EMBOLDENX/N, EMBOLDENY/N, OBLIQUE/N, FONTNAME, TIMESTRING, DATESTRING, GADGETS/S, BORDERLESS/S, NOCGFONTS/S, SCALE/S, FIXED/S, JAM1/S, DATE/S, NODEPTH/S, LOCKPOS/S, LOCKSIZE/S, NOCLOSE/S, FLUSHFONT/S, PUBSCREEN/K, SETTINGS/K

/N means a number, /S a toggle, /K means keyword required before argument

Most of these options will be ignored if the program finds a settings-file, use SETTINGS=0 to prevent loading of such a settings-file.

Those options in full

Window position/Size

LEFT
TOP
WIDTH
HEIGHT

Font name/size/position/colors/CG-specific

FONTNAME
FONTSIZE

RELSIZE
RELX
RELY

PENS
BACK

FONTWIDTH
EMBOLDENX
EMBOLDENY
OBLIQUE This option is currently not implemented ... Sorry :-)

These are the same as chosen in the Settings Window:

```
TIMESTRING
DATESTRING
```

These are the same as in the options in the Settings Menu:

```
GADGETS
NOCLOSE
NODEPTH
BORDERLESS
LOCKPOS
LOCKSIZE

NOCG FONTS
SCALE
FIXED
JAM1
FLUSHFONT
DATE
```

These two are only available as startup options:

```
PUBSCREEN opens TextClock on public screen
SETTINGS selects another settingsfile than the default
```

1.42 Known Bugs

KNOWN BUGS

- No error message if the TextClock.guide file can't be found after user requested help. Place TextClock.guide in the same directory as TextClock!
- "Please insert volume ENV: in any drive" while starting TextClock. The program searches the ENV: directory to find settings, not really a bug, but could be avoided by choosing Save Settings from the menu or select the startup-option "SETTINGS=0" in the Workbench Tooltypes or the Shell Template.
- If you set the time backwards (e.g. from 23:00 to 22:00) TextClock will appear to stop completely, but it will start again if you activate the window and click the menu-button. This bug isn't my fault: Time is not running backwards! (Yes, I know daylight saving ...)
- Some of the rendering routines not of the highest quality, you may see this when you size the window or bring obscured parts of the window into front.

1.43 Next Version

POSSIBLE FEATURES OF THE NEXT VERSION:

-
- Alarm options (selected time, every hour, every x minute) unlimited
- Commodity support
- Localized: TextClock will use your language
- your suggestions

1.44 The Author

THE AUTHOR

Since I don't yet have a modem, nor Internet access, the best way to contact me is at this address. Use it for bug-reports, suggestions, gifts, and POSTCARDS:

Steffen Thorsen
Fjordg 8A
N-4300 Sandnes
NORWAY

(I will have Internet access September '95, so just include your email address if you have one)

1.45 disclaimer

Standard DISCLAIMER: (very interesting ...)

THIS PROGRAM "TEXTCLOCK", AND OTHER FILES PROVIDED WITH IT ARE PROVIDED ON AN "AS IS" BASIS, NO WARRANTIES ARE MADE, EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. IN NO EVENT WILL THE AUTHOR BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES ARISING FROM ANY USE OR MISUSE OF THIS PROGRAM. THE ENTIRE RISK AS TO THE RESULTS AND PERFORMANCE OF THIS PROGRAM IS ASSUMED BY YOU.

Short disclaimer:

Don't blame me if you destroy your Amiga and harddisk while TextClock is running!

TRADEMARKS

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Amiga and Workbench are/were trademarks of Commodore-Amiga (now Escom?)

Have fun, Amiga is the one and only!

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