

in

Alexander Lazarevic

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| WRITTEN BY | Alexander Lazarevic | June 8, 2025 | |

REVISION HISTORY

| NUMBER | DATE | DESCRIPTION | NAME |
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Chapter 1

in

1.1 TimeEvent Document

```
TimeEvent Preferences
Version 1.1
Copyright © 1994 by Alexander Lazarevic
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```

1.2 What is TimeEvent?

With the TimeEvent Preference Editor you can control the execution times of a list of programs.

You can popup a requester to remind you of a special date, start a backup every week or let your computer fetch your email during the night, because of the lower rates.

As with the System Preference Editors, there has to be an additional program to perform the settings made with TimeEvent. This program is called cron and it runs in the background.

1.3 Do I have all files?

These are the contents of the original TimeEvent archive:

Listing of archive 'TimeE1_1.lha':

| Original | Packed | Ratio | Date | Time | Atts | Method | CRC | Host | OS | L | U |
|--|--------|-------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------|------|---------|----|---|----------|
| TimeEvent_1.1/Catalogs/deutsch/TimeEvent.catalog | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 962 | 526 | 45.3% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:41:22 | -----rwed | -lh5- | C4C7 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Changes | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 346 | 231 | 33.2% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:41:28 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | E6DD | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Changes.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 463 | 206 | 55.5% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:59:00 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | D6A9 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Doc.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 632 | 280 | 55.6% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:59:00 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | 2C2E | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Doc/deutsch.guide | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Doc/deutsch.guide.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 503 | 260 | 48.3% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:58:54 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | 1004 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Doc/english.guide | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Doc/english.guide.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 503 | 258 | 48.7% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:58:54 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | 2815 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Install.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 632 | 281 | 55.5% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:59:00 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | 0526 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Install/deutsch.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 569 | 331 | 41.8% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:58:50 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | 3282 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Install/english.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 569 | 327 | 42.5% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:58:50 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | AD7E | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Install/Installer.script | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10260 | 2671 | 73.9% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:41:24 | -----rwed | -lh5- | 4D9B | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Prefs.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 724 | 352 | 51.3% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:59:00 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | C2E4 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Prefs/TimeEvent | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21448 | 11093 | 48.2% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:41:26 | -----rwed | -lh5- | E4D1 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/Prefs/TimeEvent.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 655 | 424 | 35.2% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:58:48 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | FE98 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/README | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 658 | 377 | 42.7% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:41:26 | -----rwed | -lh5- | 3743 | Unknown | | 0 | |
| TimeEvent_1.1/README.info | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 591 | 314 | 46.8% | 15-Sep-94 | 19:59:00 | -----rw-d | -lh5- | 495E | Unknown | | 0 | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 77327 | 31771 | 58.9% | 15-Sep-94 | 20:00:20 | | | | | | | 17 files |

1.4 What do I need for TimeEvent?

You need at least Version 2.04 of the Amiga OS and a cron program.

Although I recommend the use of CyberCron, TimeEvent will work with every cron program, that uses a crontab.

1.5 What is a cron program?

A cron program launches programs at certain times. When to start which program must be defined in a file, called the crontab.

During startup the cron program reads the crontab. If there occurred no errors, the cron program checks every minute, if it has to start a program. It also checks, if the crontab has been changed and reads it again.

1.6 What is a CronTab?

A crontab is a simple ASCII file. Every line in the file may be empty, a comment or a definition.

A comment will be introduced by the # character. Everthing following that character will be ignored by the cron program or TimeEvent. Be aware, that after saving (Save As...) a previously loaded CronTab every comment will be lost.

A definitionline is divided in sepcific fields, which are seperated at least by one white space.

| Field | Name | legal Values | Description |
|-------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | Minutes | 0 - 59 | |
| 2 | Hours | 0 - 23 | |
| 3 | Days | 1 - 31 | |
| 4 | Months | 1 - 12 | 1 = January |
| 5 | Weekdays | 0 - 6 | 0 = Sunday |
| 6 | Command | | |

Field 6 contains the command call as it would be typed in a shell.

There is an additional legal value for the fields 1 to 5. The character * means "always".

Multiple isolated entries in a field are seperated by comma. Ranges are defined with the minus sign.

Examples:

```
0 10-18 * * * PlaySound BigBen.8svx
Plays a Sound every hour from 10am to 6pm.
```

```
0 18 * * 1,3 RequestChoice "TimeEvent" "WakeUp+Shopping" "Ok"
Remind of a specific date at 6:00pm on Mondays and Wednesdays
```

1.7 How do I install TimeEvent?

The easiest way to install TimeEvent is to use the provided installscript, which needs the Installer program. Without it you have to do the Installation by hand.

Installation with Installer
Manual Installation

1.8 About the Installer

Commodore developed a tool, the Installer, to standardize the way applications get installed. The advantage for the user is, that the installation process is similar for different applications. The author of an application has the advantage, that he just has to include a small Installer script.

You will find the Installer archive on Fish Disk 870 or on aminet.

1.9 Installation with Installer

From Workbench

- 1) Open the Install Drawer.
- 2) Double click on the icon with the desired language.
- 3) Now the window of Installer should open up.
If instead a requester shows up with the message "Unable to open your tool 'Installer'", then you have to modify the icons Default Tool entry (Workbench menu Icon/Information) and set it to the correct path and name.
- 4) After that it will be checked, if the TimeEvent archive is complete.
Shouldn't that be the case you get a list of the missing files. In this situation you should check if you got the original archive of TimeEvent.
- 5) During the next steps of installation you can choose where TimeEvent and its documentation should be copied to.
- 6) If you want to use TimeEvent in conjunction with CyberCron, the script can add an entry to the CyberCron icon for you, so that they can work together right away.
This entry takes only effect if you start CyberCron from the Workbench or have placed its icon in the WBStartup drawer.

If you start CyberCron from a shell or from the User-Startup file, then you have to change the command by hand. Add this option to the command line

```
CRONTAB=ENV:Sys/TimeEvent.prefs
```

If you want to use a different cron program, you have consult its documentation, to know how to make it use the file ENV:Sys/TimeEvent.prefs as the crontab.

From Shell

- 1) Change your current dir to the Install drawer with `cd TimeEvent_1.1/Install`.
- 2) Start the Installer with the following line and replace `<LANG>` with the name of the language you want to use (e.g. english):

```
installer Installer.script APPNAME TimeEvent MINUSER 1 LANGUAGE <LANG> NOLOG
```

From here the Installation is the same as described for the WorkBench.

1.10 manual Installation

- 1) Open a shell window.
- 2) Change your current dir to the TimeEvent_1.1 drawer with `cd TimeEvent_1.1`.
- 3) Think of place where you want TimeEvent and its documentation to reside. Then execute the following lines. You have to substitute <TEdir> with the path TimeEvent should be copied to and <DocDir> with the path where the documentation should be copied to. A good choice for both paths would be for example Workbench:Prefs. Substitute <LANG> with the language you want to use (e.g. english).

```
Copy Prefs/#? <TEdir>
Copy Doc/<LANG>.guide <DocDir>
Copy Catalogs/<LANG>/TimeEvent.catalog LOCALE:Catalogs/<LANG>
```

- 4) Now you have to config your cron program to use the file ENV:Sys/TimeEvent.prefs as the crontab. If you use CyberCron you just have to add this line to the tool types of its icon:

```
CRONTAB=ENV:Sys/TimeEvent.prefs
```

If you start CyberCron from the User-Startup file, you have to append the above line to that call.

If you are using a different cron program, you have to consult its documentation to know how this setting can be made.

1.11 How do I use TimeEvent?

To make TimeEvent easy to use, it has the look (eg. menus) and feel of the System Preferences Editors.

Like these, TimeEvent can be started from a shell or the workbench.

It then shows up with the Selection-Window. In this window the list of programs is displayed.

Functions in the Selection-Window

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Cancel | exit the TimeEvent-Editor |
| Use | use the settings |
| Save | save settings permanently |
| New | add a command to the list |
| Del | remove a command from the list |
| Edit | switch to the Edit-Window |

In the Edit-Window you set the time of execution for a command. There are five fields: months, days, weekdays, hours and minutes. (By double clicking on an entry in the listview you also switch to the Edit-Window.)

Things to be aware of:

- 1) A field where no entry is selected equals to a field with every entry selected. (Same meaning as the * character in the CronTab)

- 2) "Impossible" time settings won't be noticed.
For example you can choose the 31.Feb. as an execution day for a command.

With Ok you choose the selected time as the new execution time and with Abort you leave the Edit-Window without changing the execution time.

1.12 Execution from Shell

Format: TimeEvent [FROM <Filename>] [EDIT] [USE] [SAVE]
[PUBSCREEN <Public-Schirm>]

Template: FROM, EDIT/S, USE/S, SAVE/S, PUBSCREEN/K

TimeEvent without any arguments or with the EDIT argument opens the TimeEvent editor. The FROM argument lets you specify a file to open. This must be a file that was previously saved with the Save As... menu item of the TimeEvent editor ←

For instance, if you have previously saved a TimeEvent configuration in a file in the Presets drawer, you can use the FROM argument to open that file. If the USE switch is also given, the editor will not be opened, but the settings in the FROM file will be used. If the SAVE switch is given, the editor will not open, but the settings in the FROM file will be saved.

Example:

```
1> TimeEvent Prefs/Presets/TimeEvent.pre SAVE
```

Loads and saves the specifications saved in the TimeEvent.pre file.

1.13 Execution from WorkBench

You start TimeEvent just by double clicking on its icon.

The following tool types are valid for the TimeEvent icon:

```
EDIT
USE
SAVE
PUBSCREEN=<Public-Screen>
CREATEICONS=<Yes oder No>
```

With PUBSCREEN you can use a different screen than the workbench screen. CREATEICONS determines the creation of icons for the files saved with the menu item Save As.... For this icons you can also use the tool types EDIT, USE, and SAVE in conjunction with ACTION.

```
ACTION=<EDIT or USE or SAVE>
```

As a default

```
ACTION=USE
```

is set. If you double click on such an icon, then the settings of that file will be used, but the TimeEvent editor won't be opened. SAVE causes the same, but also makes the settings permanent. With EDIT the editor will be opened and the settings of the file will be shown.

1.14 TimeEvent Menus

Project Menu

In the Project menu you can save the settings of the editor or load previously saved files.

| | |
|------------|--|
| Open... | Load a settings file by name. |
| Save As... | Save the current settings in a named file. The filerequester opens with the default drawer "Presets". Change the path and filename if necessary and click on OK. |
| About... | Information about the editor. |
| Quit | Exit the editor without saving. This menu item has the same function as the Cancel button. |

Edit Menu

In the Edit menu you can restore previously used settings.

| | |
|------------|---|
| Last Saved | Set back to the last saved settings. |
| Restore | Set back to the settings on editor startup. |

Settings Menu

The Settings menu just contains the item Create Icons?. This toggle item determines icon creation for saved files.

1.15 Why doesn't TimeEvent speak my language?

In this version of TimeEvent only the german and english language are supported. If somebody wants TimeEvent to use another language and is willing to do the translation, he should get in contact with me.

1.16 Legal Stuff

Unless otherwise noted, ALL files are
Copyright (c) 1994 by Alexander Lazarevic
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Without written permission of Alexander Lazarevic no part of the TimeEvent archive may be used for commercial purposes.

The complete TimeEvent archive may be distributed on disks or cd-roms from fred fish or on AmiNet cd-roms.

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1.17 About the author

If you think you found a bug, would like to see additional features, want to make a comment about the software or are willing to make a translation into a new language, this is the address I can be reached at:

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50676 Köln

Germany

If you either never trusted snail mail or think that this way of communication is too slow nowadays, try to contact me via EMail:

laza@sun.ph-cip.uni-koeln.de

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