

## Calibra - hints and tips

Calibra is a clock program with some of the usual features plus one new one - the very useful ability to regularly update the system clock to correct for 'drift' over time. In later versions, a variety of clock or watch faces will be available, including some true scale replicas. Also, registered users will be able to print them to a colour printer - at the printer's resolution (fineness of detail).

To install Calibra for continuous use, drag calibra.exe from the File Manager to your StartUp program group. If you do not have a StartUp group, create one by using File | New from the Program Manager main menu.

Main menu items:

### File | New Timepiece

This brings up the familiar file selection dialog, and displays all the .clk files that are available. The clock face you saw when you first ran this program was constructed from the file tp.clk. All other clocks and watches that become available will also be .clk files.

### File | Exit

Exits the program.

### Functions | Set Time

Selecting this menu item brings up a dialog box with separate input boxes for hours, minutes, seconds plus 2 'radio' buttons for am and pm. Simply type in the required values, click on 'am' or 'pm' if necessary and press <Enter> to set the time.

This is how the calibration feature of Calibra works:

- If you set the time *more than once in a 24 hour period*, the correction factor used by the program is reset to 0. This means that the clock will behave as if you were not using Calibra at all. That is, the system clock will 'drift' just like it used to. (This will also happen the very first time you run Calibra.)
- If you set the time *more than 24 hours after you previously set it*, the correction factor is updated. This enables the program to correct the system time when Calibra is started up, but at most once per day. So if you are in and out of Calibra several times during the day, the system clock only gets changed the first time. On the other hand, if you do not run Calibra at all for several days, it is smart enough to take account of this when resetting the system time.

It is recommended that you wait at least 2 - 3 weeks before you reset Calibra, to average out variations in the system time. (Electricity generators have their frequencies set from time to time, and this may affect the system time - if there are any experts in this area out there, I would be interested to hear from you.)

If you reset Calibra yet again, after several weeks, this will 'fine tune' the correction factor. But it may not be necessary - the whole idea is to save you the bother of resetting the time!

### Functions | Set Alarm

Calibra has a basic alarm facility. The dialog box that comes up allows you to

- turn the alarm on or off by clicking the appropriate 'radio' button.
- set the time of the alarm, just like setting the time in Functions | Set Time.
  - set the number of beeps and how long they will sound, when the alarm triggers.

The 'beep' will be whatever sound has been assigned to the 'system beep' in the Windows Control Panel. If you have not altered this, it will just be a normal system beep. In any case, whenever the alarm has triggered, the title bar of the window will flash until you move the cursor anywhere over the window.

### **Options | Second Hand**

Selecting this menu item will place a tick (check) symbol beside 'Second Hand' and start displaying a moving second hand on the face of the clock. Selecting the menu item again will remove the tick and remove the second hand.

Animated vector graphics such as a moving second hand are fairly heavy on system resources, so on some systems a rectangular area will flicker each time the hand moves. Four things affect this:

- i) processor speed (faster the better)
- ii) math co-processor (helps do the calculations quicker)
- ii) a lower screen resolution (VGA will be better than SVGA)
- iii) a graphics accelerator card (redraws the screen quicker).

In future versions of Calibra, further optimisation will be done to reduce the flicker.

### **Help | Hints and Tips**

Displays this file.

### **Help | Order Form**

This displays an order form, ready to print out so you can mail your registration of this program.

### **Help | Registration Information**

This displays a registration information file for you to browse.

### **Help | About**

This menu item brings up a small dialog box with the version number, a copyright notice and the name of the author.

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Remember, *registered* users may contact the author for a free upgrade when they notice a new version of Calibra on the market. This offer applies once only, but the upgrade may be any future version of Calibra.

Simply write to:

TOPline Software  
PO Box 66  
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AUSTRALIA

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