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# attoClock™ 1.3.1

The way-tiny, minuscule, little clock program.

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## What it is

attoClock is a very small application (7494 bytes) for System 7 that displays a digital clock in a small window. It has intentionally few features. It displays the hour and minute, respecting the time format you have set in your control panels. It doesn't display seconds or the date or ring chimes or display movies or pictures or animations. Just the time.

The motivation for creating attoClock was that I like having a clock on my screen, but I don't want to give up a lot of memory or disk space for the function. I could use the Alarm Clock desk accessory, but it has a larger window, and, if placed at the bottom of the screen, must be moved to access its extra functions. Also, I distrust the extensions and control panels that put a clock in the menu bar. Even with the best efforts of the authors, conflicts among complex extensions occur. A small application that obeys Apple's programming guidelines is the least obtrusive way to provide a simple function like this.

To keep attoClock as small as possible, it supports System 7 (including 7.0.1 and 7.1 and presumably future versions) only. It will silently quit if it is launched under earlier systems. The name is taken from the metric-system prefix atto-, which means one quintillionth (10<sup>-18</sup>). That's very small, but it should not be confused with an attaBoy, which is a small word of praise.

## Installation

attoClock may be placed anywhere on your hard disc or floppy disk (!). A particularly good place for it is in the Startup Items folder within your System folder. Placing it or its alias there will cause the program to open whenever you start your system. If you used a previous version of attoClock, you need to throw its preferences file away if you want it to have its new icon. This step is optional.

## Other features

Drag the small window by clicking and dragging anywhere inside it. attoClock will remember where you place the window and open it there on subsequent usage. I like to put my clock in the lower right hand corner of my screen, just below the Trash icon. If you really, really want attoClock to tell you the date and seconds, choose "About attoClock™ ..." from the Apple menu.

To change the way attoClock displays the time, use the General control panel (Date & Time is the control panel to use for System 7.1). Your changes will be visible when the minute next changes.

If attoClock runs out of memory, it will notify you, then quit. Also, it understands the "quit" AppleEvent.

attoClock brings the Finder to the front, but if the Finder launches other applications in the Startup Items folder, then one of them will come to the front instead.

To turn Unplugged-VCRmode on or off, choose the Unplugged VCRcommand in the File menu. This mode dishonors the evil genius who decided that 1)VCRs should not have battery backup for their clocks, 2)that a flashing 12:00 AM was a good way to indicate that the power had been off (how about a steady 88:88 instead?), and 3) that the human interface for setting the clock on a VCR should be cryptic, opaque, and onerous.

#### Limitations and requirements

attoClock uses features that at present are available only in System 7 (this includes 7.0, 7.0.1, and 7.1). It should work on any Macintosh computer that runs System 7. If it doesn't, let me know. attoClock has been briefly tested on a Centris 650 running System 7.1.

If what you have on the Clipboard leaves under about 60 bytes free in attoClock's memory partition, it will fail and crash with a system error. This is an inherent limitation of the Macintosh operating system and programs cannot work around it. You can avoid this occurrence by putting attoClock or its alias into your Startup Items folder (within the System folder). Then attoClock will launch when your Macintosh starts up and nothing is on the Clipboard.

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