

WorldTime

The Windows Clock For Any Time Zone

WorldTime is a Windows 3.0 application which will display a small digital clock for any time zone in the world, based upon input in a user-supplied parameter file.

Normal Execution

WorldTime initially displays a dialog box containing all time zones which the user has entered into the parameter file. Select the desired zone then click on OK (or double click on the zone name) to start the clock running.

Alternately, WorldTime can be started with a command line parameter to automatically select the desired zone. For example, **WorldTime Chicago** would automatically start a clock with the time in the zone 'Chicago'. Case is not important for the parameter, and only the first eight characters are actually used (for reasons explained below). If the zone requested by the parameter has not been defined in the parameter file, the program continues as if no parameter was entered.

WorldTime File

The parameter file is named **WorldTime.DAT**, and must be located in the main Windows WorldTime. Each line of the file contains the zone name in quotations followed by a comma and the 'offset hours. For example,

```
"Chicago", 1
"San Francisco", 3
```

The offset hours represent the number of hours difference between the base zone that you are in and the zone that you wish to report. Negative amounts are WorldTime.

I do not provide a facility for creating or editing the parameter file; you may use any text editor such as EDLIN or the DOS 5.0 EDIT for this purpose.

Automatic Running

I wrote WorldTime with the parameter option so that I could automatically load a clock for Melbourne, Australia when I booted Windows each morning. I then discovered that the *LOAD* and *RUN* options in **WIN.INI** do not allow for command line parameters. As a work around, you can do the following:

- Establish a 'relation' in **WIN.INI** for the extension '.tim' as follows:

```
tim=WorldTime.EXE ^
```

- Create an empty file named *zone.Tim*, where *zone* is the first eight characters of the parameter you wish to start with (this file does not have to be empty, but the contents are never used).

- Put *zone.Tim* on your *LOAD* or *RUN* lines in **WIN.INI**

For example, to automatically start Windows with a WorldTime clock icon for

Melbourne, create an empty file named **Melbourn.Tim** and put the following in **WIN.INI**:

```
LOAD=Melbourn.Tim
.
.
.
tim=WorldTime ^
```

Note that, since DOS filenames can be no longer than eight characters, if you use the parameter method for two time zones that have the same first eight characters then the first of the two would always be selected. Also, if the time zone name contains spaces (e.g., "West Coast"), replace the spaces with "_" on the parameter line and in the file name (e.g., West_Coa.Tim").

Background

WorldTime is written in Microsoft Visual Basic. It has been tested on an IBM PS/2 model 50 and a PS/2 model 70, under DOS 4.01 and DOS 5.0.

WorldTime is distributed with the following files:

- WORLDTIM.EXE - the actual program. Note that VBRUN100.DLL is also required!
- WORLDTIM.DAT - a sample parameter file
- MELBOURN.TIM - a sample 'dummy' file
- WORLDTIM.WRI - this text file

If you find WorldTime useful and feel inclined to support my humble programming efforts, please send \$10 to: Jim McCaffery/257 Raymond Drive/Dalton MA 01226.