

ComTimer 1.12a

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**What
is
ComTimer
?**

ComTimer
is
a
simple
utility
intended
to
aid
you
in
keeping
track
of
the
cost
of
your
use
of
Intenet.

**If
you
are
updating
from
a
previous
version
to
v
1.
12
read
section
later
in
this
document
!**

**How
to
use
ComTimer
?**

*The
first
time*

you're
going
to
run
ComTimer,
you
have
to
start
ComTimer
before
your
dialer,
so
that
ComTimer
can
be
able
to
determine
the
configuration
of
your
system
correctly
without
any
interference
from
the
dialer.
It's
also
recomended
that
you
read
the
contents
of
the
helpfile
UKComTimer.
Hlp,
prior
to
setting
up
ComTimer.

If
you
use
a
winsock
utility
like
the
one
included
in
Windows

95,
then
you
either
start
ComTimer
before
the
dialing
or
after
it.
If
you
use
an
utility
which
uses
scripts,
like
Trumpet
Winsock
x.
x,
then
place
ComTimer
as
one
row
in
the
script,
so
that
it's
loaded
after
the
connection
has
been
opened.

You
can
define
the
cost
per
minute
and
eventual
monthly
minimum
cost.
(
Some
netoperators
charge
a
monthly
minimum

fee
which
includes
a
certain
time
of
use.
ComTimer
takes
this
in
account
when
it
keeps
track
of
your
net-
usage.
)

ComTimer
logs
the
total
cost
and
time
spent
surfing.

If
you
use
for
example
Win95's
original
Dial-
up
Networking
and
start
ComTimer
before
dialing,
then
you'll
have
to
define
an
average
time
before
connecting
to
your
server.
About
30
seconds
is

usually
enough
for
this.
ComTimer
will
wait
for
this
amount
of
time
before
it
starts
counting.
If
you
start
ComTimer
after
the
net
session
has
begun,
then
you
define
this
average
time
as
0.

ComTimer
has
been
heavily
improved.
This
version
is
able
to
handle
quite
sophisticated
monitoring
of
costs.
Look
at
the
'history'
section
of
this
document
to
see
what
v1.
12

is
able
to
do
and
for
information
on
how
to
use
all
goodies,
read
the
helpfile
UKComTimer.
Hlp,
for
English,
SComTimer.
Hlp
for
Swedish
and
SFComTimer.
Hlp
for
Finnish.
As
there
seem
to
be
as
many
different
policies
for
charging
as
there're
ISPs,
I
can't
cover
everything
in
ComTimer.
With
the
possibilities
offered
by
ComTimer
most
people
will
be
able
to
create
a
combination

suited
for
their
needs.

ComTimer
logs
the
usage
with
date
and
total
time
in
a
file
named
COMTIMER.
LOG.

This
is
found
at
Your_Windows_directory.

You
can
watch
and
edit
this
file
with
the
separate
utility
COMLOG.
EXE.

ComTimer
takes
into
account
and
logs
sessions
lasting
1
minute
or
longer
by
default
You
can
disconnect
this
feature
if
you
want,
so
that
ComTimer
will

log
all
sessions
regardless
of
length.
ComTimer
rounds
by
default
all
seconds
to
0
at
shutdown,
but
this
feature
can
be
disabled
too.
If
you
enable
the
logging
of
sessions
shorter
than
1
minute,
then
the
rounding
will
be
automatically
disabled.
ComLog
allows
you
to
watch
the
logfile
if
ComTimer
is
running,
but
won't
allow
you
to
edit
it.
Read
the
helpfile's
contents
for

more
information
on
how
to
tune
ComTimer
to
suit
just
your
particular
needs.

If
you
right-
click
on
ComLog's
main
window,
you'll
be
able
to
copy
all
or
selected
entries
from
the
log
to
the
clipboard.
All
changes
of
settings
done
under
ComLog
will
not
be
effective
in
ComTimer
at
once,
instead
ComTimer
must
be
restarted
after
the
changes've
been
made.
If
you

make
changes
in
ComTimer,
they'll
be
effective
at
once.

ComTimer
is
designed
to
be
run
minimized
on
the
taskbar,
therefore
might
someone
find
the
window
with
the
digital
counter
to
be
somewhat
big.
This
window
is
intended
to
be
seen
only
when
you
want
it
to
be
seen.
The
window
itself
isn't
displayed
until
the
modem
is
activated.
Until
this
happens,
you
can't

open
this,
as
ComTimer
is
looking
for
the
modem
and
nothing
else.

As
soon
as
ComTimer
detects
any
kind
of
activity
over
the
modem,
it
opens
the
main
window,
which
you
can
minimize
if
you
wish
to.

If
you
rightclick
with
the
mouse
upon
this
window,
you'll
get
a
popup
menu
where
you
can
enter
the
settings
for
your
netconnection,
ie
cost
per

minute,
minimum
fee
and
eventual
average
time
of
connecting
to
the
net.
(Look
into
the
helpfile
for
more
information
about
all
options
that
ComTimer
offers
you
to
monitor
costs.
)

Here
you
see
where
the
modem
is
found,
too.
If
you
look
at
the
statistics
and
ComTimer
is
showing
2
values
of
which
one
is
in
brackets,
the
later
means
that's
the
real
amount

you've
used.
The
first
value
in
this
case
is
your
monthly
minimum
fee.

ComTimer
saves
the
last
position
of
it's
main
window
upon
exit
and
will
use
this
the
next
time
it's
activated.

How
to
setup
ComTimer
?

ComTimer
can
be
run
from
any
directory,
therefore
isn't
any
setup-
program
included
with
the
package.
I've
in
this
way
kept
down
the

size
of
the
zip-
file,
as
larger
files
need
more
time
to
be
downloaded.

ComTimer
does
automatically
detect
your
modem.
ComTimer
looks
into
the
the
Registry
and
checks
out
the
location
of
your
modem.
It
works
well
as
long
as
everything
has
gone
well
when
you
did
setup
Win95
on
your
system.
Otherwise
you
might
be
asked
to
manually
configure
ComTimer.
See
more
about

this
in
ComTimer's
helpfile
and
later
in
this
document
(
see
NOTE
)
.

IF
YOUR
DIALER
COMPLAINS
ABOUT
ANOTHER
APPLICATION
USING
THE
MODEM:

Use
either
ComTimer
or
ComLog
to
open
the
'Settings'
dialog.
Click
upon
the
dialog's
icon.
Choose
'ComTimer
refresh'
from
the
system
menu.
This
will
allow
you
to
change
the
interval
in
milliseconds
used
when
the
program
checks

for
the
modem.
Enlarge
the
value
shown
here.
The
smaller
the
value
is
that
you
use,
the
more
likely
is
it
that
a
conflict
between
the
checking
routine
and
your
dialer
is
born.
If
you
used
ComLog
to
change
this
value,
then
you'll
have
to
restart
ComTimer
for
the
change
to
be
effective.
ComTimer
will
wait
the
specified
amount
of
time
before
it
tries

to
check
if
the
modem
is
in
use,
giving
the
dialer
ample
opportunity
to
establish
contact,
before
ComTimer
pokes
around.

IMPORTANT:

Never
run
ComTimer
together
with
another
application
of
this
type,
as
this
might
cause
an
conflict
between
these
2
applications
that
might
screw
up
your
system.

NOTE:

If
you've
installed
more
than
one
modem
in
your
PC,
and
ComTimer
chooses

the
one
you
don't
want
to
use,
you
can
correct
this
by
adding
the
following
to
ComTimer.
ini:

```
[modem]  
port=  
COMx
```

x
is
the
number
of
the
com-
port
used
by
the
modem.

This
forces
ComTimer
to
use
a
specified
modem,
and
is
useful
in
case
if
ComTimer
chooses
faulty
modemsettings,
too.

**IMPORTANT
NOTE
FOR
USERS
OF
EARLIER
VERSIONS**

:

Logfiles
written
by
an
earlier
version
will
appear
when
viewed
with
a
'>
,

in
the
begining
of
each
row,
to
notify
the
user
that
the
marked
rows
doesn't
contain
all
data
needed
by
the
new
ComLog
to
work
properly.

You
are
able
to
update
your
logfile
by
running
the
included
tool
TuneComTimer,
which
is
intended
to
be
run
only
once.

This tool will analyze your logfile, and add the missing data to all entries.

System requirements:

Any PC equipped with a modem and running Windows 95.

Multilingual support:

ComTimer supports Finnish, Swedish and English. Choose language by pressing upon the appropriate flag.

History:

1.0 first version

The

1.0a is used as default

English

instead
of
Swedish

Animated

icon
added
on
the
taskbar

Altered

the
window
to
be
non-
sizeable

1.
1
the
possibility
to
close
down
ComTimer
before
the
dial-
up
procedure
has
taken
place.

Added

a
possibility
to
change
the
interval
between
checkouts
of
the
modem,
in
case
of
conflict
with
dialer.

Added

the
way
calculated
cost
of
usage
is
shown
at
the
mainwindow
and

Changed

the
Statistics-

Linked

the
statistics
shown
to
reality,
not
any longer
frozen
as
before.

Rewrote

some
of
the
code,
resulting
in
smaller
size
and
less
usage
of
resources.

Made

ComTimer
to
wait
for
the
specified
average
time
before
starting
to
count
time.

Corrected

a
bug
that
kept
ComTimer
from
finding
the
modem,
if
ComTimer
was
run
after
dialer
was
started.

1.
11
possibility
to

Added

disable
dialog
showing
total
cost
at
end
of
session.

Corrected

a
bug
in
ComLog,
that
didn't
zero
the
total
time
used
when
you
removed
all

Allowed

the
user
to
enter
cost/
min
with
3
decimals
instead
of
2.
This
change
was
made
for
in
the
UK
and
other
countries
with
"strong"
currencies.

Possible

to
copy
all
or
selected
entries
from
ComLog
to
the
clipboard.

1.
12
to
disconnect
default
rounding
downwards
of
seconds
when
session
is
terminated.

Possible

to
enable
logging
of
sessions
shorter
than
1
minute.

Possible

to
disable
the
monitoring
of
costs
and
instead
use
ComTimer
as
a
simple
timer.

Possible

to
log
connections
<
1
min
as
failed
tries,
costing
you
the
charge
for
1
min
of
usage.
Some
ISPs
are
greedy
indeed
)

Possible

.
the
shortcut
Ctrl
+
Insert
to
copy
items
to
the
clipboard.

Activated

the
price
of
each
session
to
appear
together
with
each
row
copied
to
the
clipboard.

Added

tabs
into
the
data
copied
to
the
clipboard,
to
make
the
data
better
suited
for

Added

to
adjust
how
often
ComTimer
updates
the
value
for
charge
per
minute
if
you
use
the
options
for

Possible

monitoring
of
costs.

Changed

the
order
of
buttons
in
confirmation-
dialog
for
'delete'
in
ComLog.

tool
TuneComTimer
intended
to
update
old
logfile
for
use
with
v
1.
12.

Included

handling
of
different
rates:

Advanced

Define
x
hours
of
use
for
totally
\$
y,
thereafter
\$
z
per
hour.

1.

Define
\$
x
for
the
first
minute,
thereafter
\$
y

2.

per
minute.

3.

Allows
4
different
rates
to
be
defined
for
periods
down to
15
min.

4.

If
needed,
define
each
day
differently
from
the
rest
of
week.

5.

Graphical
interface
for
definition
of
rates.

6.

Possible
to
force
ComTimer
to
use
Sunday
rates
on
holidays.

7.

If
wanted,
an
indicator
on
the
tray
showing
if
you're
paying
economy,
medium
or
expensive
rate
at
the

moment.

1.
12a
a
bug
in
the
part
handling
initial
rates.

Corrected

users
will
recieve
an
additionl
DLL
for
ComTimer.

Registered

Known
quirks:

If
you
use
a
faxmodem
and
have
the
fax
always
activated
waiting
for
faxes,
then
ComTimer
will
identify
the
modem
to
still
be
active,
thought
you've
closed
down
your
internet
connection.
An
activated
faxfunction
might
interfere
with
ComTimer

in
other
ways,
too.

When
you
copy
data
to
a
spreadsheet,
you
might
have
to
format
the
column
with
dates,
depending
on
your
settings,
it
might
read
dd.
mm.
yyyy
00.
00
or
something
like
this,
as
the
spreadsheet's
automatic
formatting
is
playing
it's
tricks.

Users,
who
have
used
earlier
versions
ought
to
read
the
note
"IMPORTANT
NOTE
FOR
USERS
OF
EARLIER

VERSIONS"

Please
report
any
anomalities
to
the
author,
so
that
I
can
investigate
them.

The
programmer
who
claims
that
his/
hers
code
is
entirely
bug-
free
is
<censored>

.
A
program
is
never
completely
bug-
free,
it
only
seems
to
be
working
quite
well.

Other
products:

Check
out
with
the
author
for
more
products,
for
example
SetFileDate
1.
02.

This utility changes the date & time stamps of multiple files selected in Explorer.

Credits to:

The digits used in ComTimer are designed by Alberto Garcia Alvarez, Spain; e-mail: agarcia@etsiig.uniovi.es

I thank all the people who've told me their opinion about ComTimer.

All product names mentioned here are either such or

registered
such
of
their
respective
owners.

Disclaimer

The
author
denounces
any
responsibility
for
anything
that
might
be
caused
by
the
use
of
ComTimer.

The
author
doesn't
give
any
kind
of
warranty
for
this
software.
The
user
uses
ComTimer
at
his
own
risk.

Files
included
in
the
package:

ComTimer.
EXE
timer
itself
ComLog.
EXE
logutility
SComTimer.
hlp
SFComTimer.
hlp

UKComTimer.
hlp
Setup.
txt
with
setupinstructions
Readme.
doc
file