

ReadMe for Our Times Sampler, 1996 Edition

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Welcome to the Our Times Sampler!

With the Our Times Sampler you can enjoy highlights from Our Times, The Multimedia Encyclopedia of the 20th Century! We have included the 1940s decade in its entirety to give you a glimpse of the Our Times product.

Please find below tips to help you with product installation and usage.

To order the full version of Our Times, visit your local retailer or call 1-800-465-6543 extension 8100. The full version includes a \$10 certificate towards your next Our Times CD-ROM purchase, as well as a free study guide entitled "Fun Ways to Use Your Our Times Multimedia Encyclopedia."

We are sure that you will find the Our Times Sampler useful, fun and fascinating!

--The Vicarious Team

Installing / Running Our Times for Windows

You don't need to install Our Times in order to use it--you can run it directly off the CD. Simply run OURTIMES.EXE in the root directory of your CD-ROM drive. If you'd like to install Our Times, you can do so by running SETUP.EXE in the root directory of your CD-ROM drive.

Our Times requires the QuickTime for Windows version 2.03.51 (or newer). If you don't have QuickTime or are running an older version, Our Times will automatically detect it and help you run the QuickTime installer. The Our Times installer will also help ensure that you have the correct version of QuickTime.

Notes on 16-bit and 32-bit versions

There are actually two Our Times executables on your CD-ROM in the Windows directory:

- OT16.EXE, a 16-bit Windows application
- OT32.EXE, a 32-bit Windows application

OURTIMES.EXE in the root directory acts as a small "launcher" program; it decides which executable to run based on which operating system you're using. By default, it runs the 16-bit version on Windows 3.1 and Windows 3.11, and the 32-bit version on Windows 95 and Windows NT--although you can change which is used by running the Our Times Control Panel (see below).

The 16-bit version of Our Times will run under any version of Windows, but as a 16-bit program it will run out of memory sooner and run more slowly than OT32.EXE.

The 32-bit version of Our Times runs only under Windows 95 and Windows NT. (It does *not* run under Win32s.) Note that since there is no native NT version of QuickTime as of this time, QuickTime-related features (mainly tours, movies, and the opening and closing credits) will not work while running the 32-bit version of Our Times under Windows NT.

The Our Times Control Panel

Our Times comes with the Our Times Control Panel, which is used for configuring how Our Times works on your system. It can be run directly from the CD (OTCPANEL.EXE) or from where you installed Our Times. For most users, you won't need to touch the Our Times Control Panel, as many of its options are designed to help you with technical support difficulties.

The Our Times Control Panel allows you to configure the following:

- * Whether you use the 16-bit or 32-bit version of Our Times (the 32-bit option is disabled under Windows 3.1 or 3.11)
- * Whether or not you use QuickTime
- * What directories Our Times should use for the program and data files

This last option should be of particular interest to network users, who can install the Our Times software on a server and access it over the network. You can specify UNC filenames and network-redirected drives as well as local drives for the Our Times program and data file locations.

The "Undefined Dynalink Error"

This is a known problem with Apple QuickTime for Windows. If QuickTime is improperly installed on your machine, you may experience a program failure when running the Our Times Sampler--Our Times will report an "Undefined Dynalink Error" and exit. This improper installation is generally due to older programs that install QuickTime for Windows incorrectly.

The current version of QuickTime, version 2.03.51, comes with an installer that will delete all previous versions of QuickTime. If you experience the "Undefined Dynalink Error", merely run the QuickTime installer that came with the Our Times Sampler (it's the file WINDOWS\QTW\QTINSTAL.EXE), and when it prompts you for whether or not it should delete a previous version, always choose the "Delete" button. Your older programs which use QuickTime will continue to work properly, and Our Times will no

longer report the "Undefined Dynalink Error".

Known bugs with Our Times for Windows

Printing is unsupported in the sampler; it uses the wrong fonts, and the page footer may not print correctly. This will be corrected for the full release of Our Times.

If you run Our Times under Windows 3.1 or Windows 3.11, and open a large number of windows at once (twenty or so), or otherwise use a large number of resources at once, you may get unexpected results, including crashing / rebooting. (This is when the program has run out of resources; it does not always handle this condition properly.) In normal use this should not be a problem. Future revisions of Our Times will handle this condition more gracefully.

QuickTime does not work with the 32-bit version of Our Times when running under Windows NT. Apple has announced a 32-bit version of QuickTime for Windows; we will support this following their final release in the fall of 1995.

If your machine has only four megabytes of memory, or is otherwise low on memory, you may experience dropouts (sporadic pauses) the first time through any particular tour or decade movie each time you run Our Times. This is due to the memory requirements of Our Times and Apple QuickTime, the way they interact, and how Windows handles virtual memory. The tours and movies should play fine the second time through; the only other solution is to install more memory in your system.