- - -Time Log- - -
1.5
Shareware By:

Tim Denihan

$17.00* Registration Fee
COPYRIGHT © 1992 Timothy J. Denihan
ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED BY THE AUTHOR

Timothy J. Denihan
4807 Shadyway Dr.
Arlington, Texas 76018
CIS # 70600,745.

Overview:

Time Log is a program designed to allow you to keep track of the amount of time you spend working on any number of projects. There is a "Default" setup (configurable by you, if you choose) that the program uses if no other one is specified on the command line. You may have as many different setups, with virtually any names, that you desire. Time Log also doubles as an alarm clock so that you don't miss any appointments. The alarm is configurable as to the length of time, the sound it makes (or doesn't make) when it goes off, whether or not you want the Time Log window to "Pop Up", and of course no alarm at all. The different setups and the configurations of those setups are stored in a file named TimeLog.ini that is placed in your Windows sub-directory. You may also configure the icon that is placed in the lower right corner of the screen to be invisible. The icon keeps you abreast of the time that has elapsed since starting the current session, whether or not you have Time Log in the paused mode, and the name of the project you are currently logging time to. You may change projects at any time and multiple instances of Time Log may be used at the same time. If you forget to exit Time Log ,thus saving the project name and time spent to disk, it will automatically do that for you when you exit Windows.

Time Log was designed with the person in mind that uses a home computer to do "office work" and needs tax records as to the time spent for business use, an employee that has many repetitive tasks and needs to keep track of how much time is spent on each one over a period of time, a professional that bills by the amount of time spent on a project, and on the more devious side, someone that wants to see how much time an employee is "really" spending on the computer (thus the only use I can think of for the "Hide Icon" option).

In staying with the common Windows interface you will see underlined letters (eg.. OK) on command buttons and menu items. When this key is pressed in conjunction with the ALT key (in this case ALT + O) you simulate the action of "Clicking" on that button or menu item with the mouse. When you drop some of the menu items you will notice a note out to the side of some items like Ctrl + T which indicates that you may use the Control and T key combination to activate this feature even when the menu is not "dropped down". See your Microsoft Windows documentation for more detailed

instructions.

Limitations:

The TimeLog.Txt file has a 64,000 byte limitation. The "Clean Up Log" option (explained later) allows you to periodically "trim" it down. You may have a maximum of 99 hours 59 minutes per session and 9,999 hours and 59 minutes per TOTAL line. If the 9,999 hour limit is reached a warning screen will remind you and no changes (Totaling) of the requested project will occur. You will need to either start a new TimeLog.Txt file or manually remove this line from the TimeLog.Txt file. If the 99 hour limit per session is exceeded the amount of time written to file will automatically be 99 minutes. **Do not manually change this!** The program will not function properly. If you feel qualified, you could manually create another identical line and split the time up into increments of 99 or less but be careful... if your entry is not formatted **exactly** the way it should be, the program will not be able to use that entry in it's calculations.

Quick start

Requirements:

1). Windows Version 3.0 or higher (sound features are more advanced in Win 3.1)

2). With Win 3.1 an installed sound card, if you wish to take advantage of more advanced sounds. Speak.exe, a sound driver for the standard PC speaker available from Microsoft for free, will substitute for the sound card. On CIS type GO MSL and download it. Leave me an E-Mail message if you have trouble finding it.

3). The file VBRUN300.DLL, installed in your Windows\System directory (all Visual Basic programs written using VB version 3.0 require this, you may already have it and if you don't you will probably want / need it sooner or later).

4). The file Threed.vbx (included in the zip file) , installed in your Windows\System directory.

Installation:

1). Copy TimeLog.wav to your Windows directory.

2). Make a new directory named "TimeLog" and copy TimeLog.exe (and optionally TimeLog.wri)to it. You may alternately copy these files to your Windows directory if you wish.

3). Copy Threed.vbx to the Windows\System directory. If there already is one

there check the file dates and use which ever one is the most recent. Threed.vbx is potentially used by any program written in the Visual Basic language. Time Log is not the only program that may ultimately use this file.

4). Create a new program item (see your Windows documentation) for Time Log.

5). If you want to start it each time you use Windows include it in the Run= line in the Win.ini file. Eg... "Run=C:\TimeLog\TimeLog.exe". Just add this line manually behind whatever is already there leaving a space between the last one or use the Program Manager to have it start it for you (again see your Windows documentation for details).

The files that are included in the package are as follows:

- - - TimeLog.wav - - -
The sound file that makes the alarm sound. This file should be put in your Windows directory .

- - - TimeLog.exe - - -
The main program file. You can drag it to a folder on the desktop and make it a program item. See your Windows manual for details.

- - - Threed.vbx - - -
The library file that gives the forms and radio buttons the 3-D effects. If you already have a copy of this check to see if this one is more recent. This file should go into the Windows\System sub directory.

- - - TimeLog.wri - - -
The file you are currently reading.

You will also need **VBRUN300.DLL** in your Windows\System directory but due to it's size and proliferation I have not included it in this package. You can obtain it free if you have a CIS account. Look in the Microsoft Basic forum (GO MSBASIC) in library #1, VBRUN3.ZIP,(as time goes on you might need to look in library #5. That is where the other VBRUN dll's are kept). Time Log gives the best results if you are using Windows Version 3.1 or greater. This is due to the sound capabilities of 3.1. If you have not yet upgraded I strongly urge you to do so... many other advantages are available.

Operation:

When you start Time Log a series of checks are made looking over your system. Appropriate dialog boxes are presented if it has any problems or questions. A file named "TimeLog.ini" is written to your Windows directory the first time you start Time Log. This file must stay in that directory if you wish the program to "remember" your preferences each time you start it. When the program's main window comes on the screen it contains the following items:

Command Line Options:

When starting a Windows program (that's been appropriately programmed) from a "command line" you may issue a command (or "argument") that sets or determines some options as to how the program will start or what it will "load" when it is run. For example many word processor programs allow you to issue the name of a document you wish to place into the program as it is loading. If you had Word for Windows and a document named Tims.doc you could start WinWord and have Tims.doc ready for editing by this "command line". C:\winword\winword.exe Tims.doc (in this example "Tims.doc" is the "Command line argument).

In the case of TimeLog the command line argument will be the SetUp that is loaded when you start the program. Let's say you have 3 or 4 different setups you wish to use, one for Business(named Work), one for Lotus 123 projects(name 123), and one for several News Letters(named DTP) your responsible for writing monthly. You could create 3 separate program items and as the title under them you would indicate which TimeLog SetUp is associated with each and include the setup name as the argument. For example "Time Log 123" for the icon title you click before starting your Lotus sessions. Under the properties setting for this icon where you would put the command to start TimeLog you might do it this way... C:\timelog\timelog.exe 123   Notice the "command line argument" (123) is spaced away from timelog.exe by one blank space. This would start Time Log and load the 123 SetUp automatically (assuming you have a setup named 123 in your TimeLog.ini file). See your Windows documentation for further information on "Command Line Arguments".

The "SetUp" Window:

The "SetUp" window is where you identify how certain items will appear or options should act when using a specifically named Time Log SetUp. The name of the currently displayed (or "loaded") SetUp is given at the top of the Window. The following is a description of each of the configurable areas:

 Project #:
Here you have 6 areas that you may use to type in the name of the different projects that you wish to include in this configuration. You are limited to 25 characters in each area (this includes spaces). Should you attempt to exceed the 25 character limit a reminder screen will come up. In order to redo an entry that has reached the limit you must remove some characters by highlighting and over typing them, backspace over them, or using the Delete key (this works just like any Windows type word processing program). There also are some limitations as to the first character you may use for the first letter of a Project name. Most notably you may not use a blank space character or an exclamation point (!). A warning screen will present itself to notify you if this is going to be a problem.

 Icon:

Here you may specify whether you want the icon to be visible or invisible,

and when it is visible if you want it to "Stay on Top".

Have Icon Disappear:

With this option is marked, when you click on the "OK" button in the Main Window, instead of the program displaying it's icon it shows nothing. In order to make the Main Window reappear you must "restart" the program as though it has not yet been started. This may be done by clicking the Icon you have designated to be Time Log's program item or going to the file manager and double clicking the TimeLog.exe file name. When ever you have the Time Log program running in the "Invisible" state you can not start another instance of it. When you start it again the "hidden" version simply reappears. As I stated earlier, for this type of a program a "hidden" icon option has few if any uses but has been included for those that may need it.

Stay on Top:

This option allows you to keep the icon, which tells you how much time has passed since starting the current project session, on top of any other form you might bring to the screen. It is automatically displayed in the lower right corner of your screen and may be "dragged" anywhere you choose. To "drag" the Time Log icon simply position the mouse's arrow over the icon and press down on and hold down the left button and move the icon to another position. Wherever you release the left button is the place at which the icon will stay, until you move it again. When using this option with Windows version 3.0 you may get unpredictable results. Win 3.1 uses different, and more complex, instructions in order to make this work. Most of the Beta testing was done on 3.1. If you get unexpected U.A.E.'s (**U**nrecoverable **A**pplication **E**rrors) disable this feature.

Alarm:
Here is where you set the Alarm options.

Pop Up:

When this option is marked the Main Window will "Pop Up" or become visible when the alarm goes off. This gives the same results as though you double clicked the icon except that it comes to the top of what ever you are working on and stays there until you click on the "Off" button in the "Alarm" section of the Main Window. Regardless of how the above "Icon On Top" option is set the, Main Window will come to the top.

Audible Alarm:

If this option is marked, when the time limit has been reached, and the alarm goes off, what ever sound is in the TimeLog.wav file, in your Windows directory, will play. The sound supplied with Time Log, in the file named TimeLog.wav, is a boatswain's whistle. You may use any sound file (with a ".wav" extension) that you want by simply changing it's name to TimeLog.wav and putting it in your Windows directory.

Default Minutes:

Here you may enter any number from 1 to 999. This will be the

number of minutes that the alarm timer uses. This number only indicates what will appear, by default, on the Main Window in the "Minutes:" box and may be changed on a session by session basis on the Main Window.

Set Up Name:

This is where you will type the name you want for the configuration you are currently working on. You are limited to the same character limitations in this field as in the "Project" field (see "Project #", above, for character limitation instructions).

Text Editor:

In order to view the TimeLog.txt file you need to specify which text editor you wish to use. By default the Windows Notepad program is used. If you choose to have a different one make sure you give the complete path name. For example: C:\NDW\DESKEDIT.EXE would use the program deskedit.exe in the NDW directory on the C: drive. Make sure that the program you specify is capable of reading plain ASCII text files because this is the format in which Time Log saves the information.

OK:

Clicking this button saves the current information to the TimeLog.ini file and loads this information into the Main Window, which will automatically come up.

Cancel:

If you decide to terminate the changes you are making, and not save it to file, then press this button and you will be returned to the Main Window and the SetUp that was loaded before you choose the SetUp option.

The Main Window:

The *Exit* Menu Item:
Clicking this item closes Time Log and records applicable time to the file TimeLog.txt. Double clicking the minus (-) sign in the upper left hand corner produces the same results.

The Edit Log Menu Item:

Total Log:
This option brings up a list of the current projects in your TimeLog.txt file that you have spent time on and have not been totaled yet. Select the one you wish to total the time to date spent on and click the OK button (you may also double click the name to accomplish the selection in one motion). In addition to adding up all of the time you have spent on that particular project it will also add

that total to any previous amount of time totaled for that project. When you open TimeLog.txt you will be able to determine which lines have been totaled because they will be preceded by an exclamation point (!). The totals for those projects will be preceded by two, right facing arrows (>>) and the word TOTAL. This line lists the earliest and latest dates you have worked on the project and the total amount of hours and minutes you have spent on it. All of the project total lines always appear at the end of the TimeLog.txt file and the very last one is the most recently totaled project. It is important that you use the same name on a project each time you use TimeLog so that this feature gives you accurate information.

Clean Up Log:

This removes all lines that have been totaled (preceded with the exclamation point). The only lines that will be left are the ">>TOTALED" lines (lines containing totals for time spent on a particular project), ">TOTAL" (lines containing totals for a particular day), and any lines that have been added, but not yet totaled. If you have added any lines manually to the file (<u>not really a recommended practice </u>) they will not be copied over to the "Cleaned Up" file. The TimeLog.txt file has a 64,000 byte limitation and this option allows you to periodically "trim" it down. It also will speed up the totaling operation. You may have a maximum of 99 hours 59 minutes per session and 9,999 hours and 59 minutes per TOTAL line. If the 9,999 hour limit is reached a warning screen will remind you and no changes (Totaling) of the requested project will occur. You will need to either start a new TimeLog.Txt file or manually remove this line from the TimeLog.Txt file. Make sure that you no longer wish to do any "Day Totaling" before using this option. Once you have removed the lines preceded with the exclamation point they can no longer be used in the "Day Total" function, described below.

Total Per Day(s):

This option allows you to select two dates and shows how much total time you have logged on the computer on any and all projects for that time period. The dates used are "inclusive", meaning that the program will total projects that have either of the dates you enter and anything in between. If you wish to have a total for just one day type the same date in both text boxes. You are given the option of just viewing this result and/or writing it to your Timelog.Txt file for later reference. It is important to note that the only project dates that this feature can total are those still present in TimeLog.Txt. Even if they have been previously included in a totaled project (signified by the ! in front of the project name) they will still be used by this feature. Make sure you have performed all "Day Totaling" required before using the "Clean Up Log" feature.

The *SetUp* Menu Item:

Edit Current SetUp:

This brings up the "SetUp" screen and loads the selections you have made for the SetUp you are currently using. You may change any of the items and save them under the same name or change the SetUp name and write a new SetUp to the "TimeLog.ini" file. Any changes you make will be reflected in the main window of Time Log that will reappear when you quit the SetUp screen

by using the "OK" button.

Edit Default SetUp:

At all times there is a "Default" SetUp in the TimeLog.ini file that is used if no other one is specified (see command line options). Selecting this item allows you make changes to it and save it to disk.

New SetUp:

Selecting this item allows you to create an entirely new SetUp.

Load Different SetUp:

Selecting this item allows you to load a different SetUp. A list of all SetUps currently available in the TimeLog.ini file is presented and you may double click one to "load" on to the main form or click on it and select "OK".

Delete A SetUp:

This allows you to remove a SetUp from the TimeLog.ini file that you no longer wish to use.

The *About* Menu Item:

Brings up the "About" window that tells about the author and version number of your program.

Projects:

You have 6 choices available for selection that you may predefine (See SetUp Window above) and a seventh that will always come up blank and allows you to type in a project that may not be one you work on often enough to include in the upper six. Simply click on the "Radio Button" that precedes the item you will be working on and wish to "log" in the TimeLog.txt file. Remember that in order to make full use of the totaling capabilities it is necessary that you use the same names for your projects from session to session. When you use the "blank one" it might be wise to "view" your TimeLog.txt file first so you may use the same name you did the last time. If you plan on using that project name very often configure it under one of the "fixed" ones.

Alarm:

You may choose whether or not you wish to have the Alarm feature on or off and the number of minutes you wish to specify before it activates. When the alarm activates you must click on the "off" radio button to stop it.

Start Time/Elapsed Time:

These areas indicate the time which you started on the currently selected program (**Start Time**), and how long you have been working on it (**Elapsed Time)**. The Elapsed time is also indicated on the icon that is displayed when you press the "OK" button and start the timer.

Change Projects:

Once you have selected the project you wish to work on, and thus log your time to, and select "OK" you are "locked" into that project (all other project names are "grayed out") until you either quit Time Log or press "Change Projects"(in fact most of the options are "grayed out" once Time Log is started. To reactivate any of these you must "Change Projects"). When this button is pressed the time spent on the currently selected project is written to the file "TimeLog.txt" in your Windows sub-directory and all of the "Projects" are activated ("ungrayed") so that you may select another one and start again.

Pause:

This allows you to stop the timer without quitting Time Log. For example when you temporarily switch to another program or get a phone call or an unsolicited visitor that has nothing better to do than "chat" your time away. When "Pause" is pressed the button caption changes to "Resume" to remind you that the meter is not running. Also the label that indicates the amount of Elapsed time is changed to "Paused!", in the color red. If you click on "OK", which shrinks the window to an icon, a warning screen comes up to remind you that you are still in the paused mode. If you select "YES" and proceed, in place of the text "Elapsed Time" the line "Paused At" appears on the top of the icon and shows you how many minutes have passed "thus far" in the current session. When the "Resume" button is pressed the timer starts up again. The amount of time that has passed while in the paused mode is deducted from the indicated "Elapsed Time" but the time limit set for the timer continues uninterrupted.

Ok:

This is the button that actually starts the timer working and shrinks the window to an icon (or hides it if that option is selected on the "SetUp" form).

View Log:

By pressing this button you can view the file "TimeLog.txt". In order for this to work properly you must make sure that 1). You don't change the name of "TimeLog.txt". 2). "TimeLog.txt" is in your Windows sub-directory. and 3). The text editor indicated on the SetUp form is located where you have indicated and that it is capable of reading ASCII text files.

Error Messages:

! ERROR READING TIMELOG.INI ! Time Log Tried To Access A SetUp Name That Does Not Exist. You Will Need To Restart Program!:

Time Log reads TimeLog.ini file to obtain the names of the different setups created by you. If TimeLog.ini does not contain the setup name that TimeLog is looking for this message comes up. Causes for this include a corrupt TimeLog.ini file, manual editing jof the TimeLog.ini file while the program is running, or an incorrect "Command Line Argument".

The Past Total For The Selected Project, Exceeds The Program's Limit of 9,999 Hrs. and Cannot Be Increased!

The total hours accrued to the project you just tried to retotal exceeds the 9,999 hour limit. See "Clean Up Log" and "Limitations" items above for solutions.

The Time Spent On The Current Project Was ?? Hrs. And Exceeds The Program's Limit of 99 Hrs. Per Session And Cannot Be Written To File! 99 HRS. Will Be Used."

See "Clean Up Log" and "Limitations" items above for explainations/solutions.

Your TIMELOG.TXT File Has Exceeded The Size Limit Of 64,000 Bytes! This Proceedure Cannot Be Performed.

See "Clean Up Log" and "Limitations" items above for explaination and solutions.

Time Log Tried To Access A SetUp Name That Does Not Exist. (See TimeLog.Wri for Details). Do You Wish To Create A Setup:

Same error as the first one mentioned in this listing but this time it occurred at a time which the program is capable of allowing you the choice of creating a new one with this name rather than having to terminate the program. If you choose "YES" the SetUp screen will appear, if you choose "NO" Time Log will automatically load the "Default" setup, if you choose "CANCEL" the program will terminate itself.

Hints:

If you want a different alarm sound to play in place of the one I have included simply select the one you want, copy to the Windows directory and rename the files to TimeLog.wav, and it will play in place of the one that came with the program.

Many thanks go out to the many willing helpers on the MSBASIC forum on CIS for their patience in answering my questions when the manuals and many books I've purchased failed to help.

Registration:

Time Log is a COPYRIGHTED © ShareWare program and I'm asking what I think is a very reasonable $17.00* to register it directly from the Author (or if you wish to use a charge card, for $19.50 from the Public software Library, see ***** below). This is a **fully functional** program. Upon registering the program you will receive the code necessary to eliminate the "buy me" screen (known to some

of us as aggravation screens). The registration number is written to the TimeLog.ini file. DON'T LOSE THIS NUMBER!! If you delete TimeLog.ini, or it becomes corrupt and requires that you delete it and rebuild it, you will need to reenter this number. Through these moneys authors like myself make a living by giving you small specialized programs that otherwise would never be written by the large software companies. Please send your registration fee to:

Timothy J. Denihan
4807 Shadyway Dr.
Arlington, Texas 76018

Sometime in late November or early December 1993 my address and phone number will be changing so please feel free to contact me by E-Mail on CompuServe, my number is 70600,745.

After December 1, 1993:
Timothy J. Denihan
3721 Lake Crest Dr.
Grapevine, Texas 76051

*For an additional $2.50 ($19.50 total) you may register this program from Public (software) Library, in Houston Texas, using your Master Card, Visa, American Express, or Discover Card by calling 1-800-242-4PsL (1-800-242-4775). From overseas: 713-524-6394 or by FAX to 713-524-6398 or by CompuServe to 71355,470, ask for TIMELOG (item/product #10995). These numbers are for ordering only. The Author (Timothy J. Denihan) can NOT be reached at those numbers. To contact Author for information about dealer pricing, volume discounts, site licensing, the status of shipment of the product, the latest version number or for technical information, or to discuss returns, call or write the Author at the address and phone number listed above.

Registered users (or those genuinely interested in registering if a question is answered) may call me at 817-468-8237. Please make the call in the evenings or on weekends prior to 9:00PM Central time.

Warranty:
No warranty is expressed or implied. I have tested Time Log on my own, and other machines for several months. I strongly urge you to get Windows 3.1 as soon as possible. While I have written this program to work on 3.0 or 3.1 some of the features(and or my programming) pushes 3.0 to the max. Most of the beta tests have been on 3.1. Myself and several Beta Testers have had no problems with it. **Please realize that you use Time Log at your own risk.**

Thanks for trying and hopefully buying Time Log!!

Sincerely,
  Tim