Timeconnect_English

COLLABORATORS			
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Contents

Chapter 1

Timeconnect_English

1.1 TimeConnect.guide

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                         TimeConnect (V 1.40)
                         ********************

                   Documentation for TimeConnect V1.40
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        Introduction                     Introduction to TimeConnect.
        Installation                     To install TimeConnect.
           Usage                         How to use TimeConnect.
           Future                        The future of TimeConnect.


         Thanks to                       Thanks to.
         Contact me                      My address for comments.
```

1.2 About TimeConnect...

```
INTRODUCTION
************
```

I wrote this program to find out how much my net connections were costing me,
and I think it may be useful to anyone else who wishes to do the same.

The program is based on a MUI interface; you just have to enter your
preferences, or you can even just use the existing settings. The format is
fairly simple, and the interface to the preferences program is sufficiently
intuitive for you to be able to understand at a glance what you have to do.
In any case, I have described how to construct your own preferences file in
the How to ... section.

This archive includes several preferences files : files for Germany, Denmark,
France, Italy, and Switzerland. If you would like to send me others,
including perhaps your translations of catalogue files, I would be very
pleased to include them in future versions.

The program can be controled by an AREXX script to start, stop, or reset
current values. But now – you might even say, at last, iven the number of
firm requests I have received on the subject   TC   can itself try to
recognise the start of a modem connection as well as the moment when the line
is returned. If you want this, you have to specify it in TC preferences. It's
an elegant method, since it involves reading directly the state of a bit
received via the serial port, but it doesn't always work, as I have learned
from experience, and often depends on your modem configuration. If you have
problems, don't hesitate to get in touch with me, and we can perhaps find a
solution together.

Finally, I'll say that now TC is GIFTWARE, so if you like it, some donation,
however modest, would be welcome. I'm asking for this because I believe the
program is really useful, and I've spent a lot of time on it. I reckon I
deserve a reward. I'd really like to be able to buy a CD thingy, and my bank
account is very low .. So if you could make a small contribution ... ;-)

1.3 How to Install TimeConnect...

INSTALLATION
****

Installation can be carried out by means of installation scripts in the
Install directory of the archive. Choose the language you wish for the
installation, and that choice will also determine which .catalog and which
preferences will be installed.

During the installation, you will be asked, among other things, if you wish
to copy the available arexx scripts. They are used to launch, run, or stop
 TC , and are not needed if you wish TC itself to recognise
connections. It is however wiser to install them anyway, for reasons which I
mentioned in the introduction.

If you don't want to use the installation script:

– Copy the programs TC, TCPrefs   et   TCEDLog   to wherever you want
them. Maybe it's a good idea to put them all together in a drawer called 'TC'
in 'AmiTCP:' drawer, if you use AmiTCP, that is. ;-).

– Next, copy the catalogues you want to use, either into Locale:catalogs/, or
into the drawer you created for TC. The default language is English.

– If you haven't put all the programs in the same drawer, you have to tell TC
where it can find TCPrefs et TCEDLog by entering their paths via Tooltypes.
For more details, see ToolTypes .

– Next, you must copy the preferences file you want to use into ENVARC: and
ENV: . If you don't want to use the files in ENV:, you can specify the
preferences file you do want to use by setting an environment variable :
setenv TCPREFFILE=path/file

Or you can equally well specify the file to be used by making an appropriate
entry in ToolTypes .

Installation is now complete, and you can launch TC either from CLI or from
WorkBench. If you run it from CLI without any additional arguments, and if TC
has an icon with valid tooltype settings, they will be used as if TC had been
run from the WorkBench.

You can now look at the usage .

1.4 The tooltypes for TimeConnect

The ToolTypes
****

POPUP=YES|NO   If you want the window to appear when you launch the
                       prog. Default is YES.

POPKEY=key sequence   The key sequence to make the window visible when it
                       is hidden. Default is 'ctrl alt t'

START=YES|NO   If you want start counting as soon as the program
                       starts. Default is NO.

ICONIFIED=YES|NO   If you want the MUI icon to appear when the window
                       is hidden; for this to work, the icon flag in
                       MUIprefs must have been pre-set! Default is NO.

DELAY=num   If you want the timer to start with the value of num
                       seconds. Useful if you start from a script-file, and
                       if the connection starts before TimeConnect! Default
                       value is zero.

PREFS_FILE=path/file   If you do not want to put your preferences file in
                       ENV: you can specify here where TC can find the file.
                       By default, TC looks for : env:timeconnect.prefs

TCEDLOG=path/file   Specifies the path to TCEDLog.

TCEDPREFS=path/file   Specifies the path to TCEDPrefs.

CLOSEGAD=QUIT|HIDE   If you want the close gadget to really close the
                       window, or only hide it. Default : HIDE

1.5 How to Use TimeConnect...

USAGE
*****
TimeConnect consists of three sections: a preferences section TCPrefs , a
time and cost accounting section TC , and the third part which keeps a log
file TCEDLog .

            TC   Using TC.
          TCPrefs   Using TCPrefs.
          TCEDLog   Using TCEDLog.

```
        AREXX functions
             Menus
          How to ..
```

1.6 How to use TCPrefs...

```
TCPrefs V1.20
```

The interface consists mainly of two lists, with editable boxes. The object
of   the   lists   is   to display dates, days, and billing periods of
communications. The days are the days of the week, while the dates are
particular days. For example, December 25 may fall on a Wednesday, which lies
within the week's billing zone, or it may be the case that there is a special
rate for holidays.

The first list lets you set current actions for dates and days. Editing is
very easy. The second list allows the same actions but this time on
timetables for a date or day. For further details, refer to the How to ... .

Below the lists are items which deal with 'less important' preference
settings.

Other Preferences:
    Here you can determine the use of a log file. You can :
      – Set up a file
      – Choose whether or not all actions are to be logged
        – Decide if the file must be saved after the logging of each entity,
          which is useful if you have frequent gurus, so that you never lose
          track of the session count.

It is also in this section that you chose whether TC is to detect
connections; you must also give it a set interval of time for a periodic
connection check. You need to know that there is an internal time lapse of
two seconds between the moment of detecting the connection and the effective
start of time measurement. This is why it may be a good idea in any case to
set up a starting delay.

Alarm:
This part allows you to set various alarms which you can attach to given
periods of time. These alarms serve in every case to inform the user that a
certain number of sessions, arbitrarily assigned by the user, has been used
up. You can moreover personalize the alarms with messages or even with the
emission of a sound. The alarms for each period are determined at the time of
editing the period.

Telephone Numbers:
This part allows you to define various telephone numbers which can be
selected and thus saved in the log file. This allows you to differentiate
between calls. In fact, TC can be used for different purposes, not only for
net work, but also for telephone calls or for any terminal use.

Ecoplan:
This part is really only intended for French users, for myself in particular.
This allows you to assign the number of telephonic sessions for which you

have contracted with your supplier of telecommunication services. In this
way, as soon as the timer starts, TC can deduct the number of sessions you
use, helping you to manage your connection times better. For example, I have
access to 870 units at a very interesting price, but only at certain times.
This is why, in editing time zones, you can determine whether or not a
deduction is to be made from your total of allowed sessions.

See also: TC .

1.7 How to use TC

TC V1.40

The TC program is particularly easy to use : the interface contains only four
gadgets:

Start: to start the timer. Elapsed time and the cost of the
communication are displayed in the lower boxes. To obtain further
information, you only have to click on the popup gadget. If you start the
timer manually when you have asked for an automatic detection of connections,
TC will no longer locate an 'end of line'. This is explained by the fact that
if TC has detected nothing, there is a strong chance that it will stop the
timer immediately, which you do not want to happen, since you have just
requested that counting should start.

Stop: to stop the timer. If a log file is operating, the cost of the
communication is saved; if, as well, all actions are to be recorded, then the
start, end, length, session number, and the cost of the connection are saved.
In version 1.40, if telephone numbers have been set up in TCPrefs, then the
caller, the number, and the purpose of the call are also saved. The number
saved is the one which is chosen in the 'Telephone number' menu.

Initialise: to reset the timer and the current cost to zero. The length
and the cost of the current connection are saved in the log file if there is
anything to save, and if the timer is operating.

See also: TCPrefs , TCEDLog .

1.8 How to use TCEDLog...

TCEDLog V1.20

This part is used for maintenance of the TC log file. You can in fact carry
out the following editing operations on this file.

- Add an entry. Note that if you do not observe the format used by TC, the
outcome is unpredictable, and the effects could be unwelcome.

- Delete one or more entries at the same time. By using multi-selection, you
can chose the entries to be deleted.

At each of these operations, the data which are indispensible to TC, such as

the total cost and the number of sessions, are updated.

You can now also write logging sub-files. When you receive your telephone
bill, the dates of billings are often different from those shown in the TC
log file. So now you can choose, by multiselection from the list of entries,
a first entry to indicate the start of the sub-log and another which will
indicate its end. Then all you have to do is select the 'open sub log' menu
for a new window to appear. It is almost identical to the first, except that
you can choose directly how this file is to be saved.

Also in this version you can save the logging file in two formats :
  – the standard TC format, the only one which TimeConnect understands;
  – The NComm format, which can be read by PhoneBill, and which can therefore
  be used by users of that program.

See also: TC , TCPrefs .

1.9 The AREXX functions ...

AREXX
*****

The AREXX functions are:

'start'   to start the timer.

'stop'   to stop the timer.

'reset'   to reset the timer.

'show_status'   to display complete feedback info.

'iconify TRUE|FALSE'   to iconify the window or not.

'select_phone NUM/A'   to choose from the telephone number menu the
                        sub-menu NUM. If NUM is greater than the current
                        sub-menu number,the latter is activated.NUM must be
                        greater than zero to have any effect.

'load_prefs FILE/A'   to load the preferences file; useful when you have
                        several accesses available.

'quit'   to leave.

Three examples of ARexx script are supplied in the archive, to launch TC,
start the timer, stop the timer:
                        launchTC.mrx , start.mrx, stop.mrx
So if you do not use automatic line detection, you can use these scripts to
set up TC.

1.10 The menus...

```
    The Menus
    *********
        The menus of TC are:
        'Project'
          'Hide'                       to iconify or hide the window.

          'icon when hidden            if you wish to have  a  MUI  icons  when  the
                                       window is hidden;

          'Edit configuration...'      To   enter  the  configuration  section.  You
                                       cannot modify  the  configuration  while  the
                                       timer is active.

          'Edit log file...'           To  edit  the  log   file,  with   the   same
                                       observation as for loading  TCPrefs .

          'Reload prefs'               To  relaod  prefs;  this can be useful if you
                                       use an environment variable to load prefs for
                                        TC  . If you want to change
                                       the value of the ENV: variable,  TC  will  be
                                       able  to reload the prefs. Otherwise it takes
                                       as a default  the  file  it  was  given  when
                                       launched.

          'About...'                   About me... see  address .

          'Quit'                       To leave the program.  If the timer is active
                                       you will be asked to confirm that you wish to
                                       leave,  and  if you wish to save your currect
                                       time in the log file.
```

The 'telephone number' menu only appears if any have been defined in the
configuration file. Then you are given the list of defined numbers. You must
choose the one to be used as the source of information for the log file. You
can select it either directly with the mouse or by using an AREXX function.

```
        The TCPrefs menus are :
          'Project':
            'Clear'                    To remove the currently loaded configuration.
                                       If it has not been saved, TCPrefs asks you if
                                       you wish to continue.

            'Open ...'                 To load a new configuration. Same comment  as
                                       for the 'Clear' menu.

            'Save as...'               To  save the configuration under a name other
                                       than 'timeconnect.prefs'.

            'About...'                 Still about me.

          'Preferences'
            'Single cost'              So that you only have to set the  cost  of  a
                                       session once. Thus in the time-yable  editing
                                       window,  you  need  only enter the cost once,
                                       and  it  will  be  used  in  all  the  other
                                       timetables.
```

```
        'Single alarm'              The  same  option as above, but this time for
                                    the alarms.

        'Last values saved'

                                    To reload the 'ENVARC:timeconnect.prefs' file.
                                    If you are  not  using preferences  from  an
                                    environment file this menu has no effect.

   TCEDLog menus are:
        'Clear'                     To clear the current contents of the list  of
                                    entries in the log file.

        'Open...'                   To open a new log file.

        'Save as'
          'TC Format...'           To save in TC format, the only one recognised
                                    by TC.
          'PhoneBill Format'       To  save  in NComm  format,  compatible with
                                    PhoneBill.

        'Open sub file'             To open a sub file.  See  TCEDLog .

        'About...'                  About me again.
```

1.11   How to..

```
How to create a new configuration
*********************************
```

I am going to try to explain how you can make a new configuration.

First, select the menu 'edit config' in the first window (see   the menus).
The configuration editor's window appears.

Now, either a configuration is already loaded, or all the listviews are
empty; in the first case, you have to select the menu 'clear'; if the
configuration wasn't saved, the prog will ask you if you want to really want
to lose the settings you have given.

When all the listviews are empty, you can start editing: just press the Add
gadget of the first listview named 'Day', so that a new day or date will be
created.

- A date is used for special days : Christmas, January 1st... You have to set
the value of the day with two sliders: one for the month, the other for the
day. There is also the possibility of adding a comment, which in fact serves
only to help you to recognise the entry in the days list. The usefulness of
the dates lies in the fact that most of the time special charges apply for
special days, while the weekday itself has other charges. This year Christmas
Day is a Wednesady, and Wednesday is a day like any other day. So to indicate
that this Wednesday will not be an ordinary one but a special one with its
special charges, you need to create a special date entry.

- A day is used to define generic entries - every Saturday, every Wednesday,

and so on, and these, of course, have a lower priority than the 'dates'. This means that notice is first taken of the dates, and if no 'date' exists for the current day, then merely the 'day' becomes active. Selection is very easy since there appear seven gadgets corresponding to the days of the week, annd you merely have to choose the required days.

It is then at the moment of creation that you have to choose whether you want a date or a day. It is of course recommended that you start with the days, since the dates are, in fact, supplementary.

When you have finished editing the entry, press 'Ok' if all is well, otherwise choose 'Cancel'.

If all is well, the new entry appears in the 'day' listview. Now you have to set hours for this day or date. Press the add gadget in the second listview which is now enabled. The 'Select hour' window opens. Choose the time for the start of the period. Each day or date MUST begin with a '00:00' hour, which is normal, because each day begins at midnight! So for the first time entry you create you do not need to set the time value. The length of that period of time is in fact determined by the second period. If you have only one entry for the day, the period will last 24 hours. The second period can of course be set to any hour you want, but don't forget that the first one is '00:00'

ex: the first is '00:00'
    the next is '06:00'
so the first lasts 6 hours, and the second 18 hours...until midnight!

You now have to set the duration and cost of the first session, and for the other sessions; the two durations are in seconds; the two costs are in 1/100 of your local currency - do not use more than four figures after the decimal point. I have separated the first session from the others because I know that in some contries, you only have to pay the first one. In that case, you need to set a '-1' in the length field of that session, to indicate that the length of the session is unlimited.

ex:
    First session
      Duration: 180 -> 180 seconds.
      Cost: 0.742   -> 0.742 francs.

    First session
      Duration: -1 -> infinite : you pay for the first session only.
      Cost: 0.742   -> 0.742 francs.

It is in your interests to add a comment, since not only in the timing list but also in the TC feedback cell it serves to show you the current period as well as the length and cost of the session.

You can also choose, if you wish, to make the period active for ECOPLAN .
But don't bother with that to start with.

You can choose an alarm for this period too, if you want to receive warnings. You specify a certain number of sessions that you wish not to go beyond for a given connection. Then, when you get to the last session, you are warned by a message or even by a sound. This is useful if you make connections at times that have exhorbitant charges. However, you can only set an alarm for a

current period if you have already set some alarms. All that remains is to
select 'Ok' or 'Cancel'.

So, all being well, you have just created your first entry. Now you can go on
and create all the entries you need, so that all days are described. Just
repeat the preceding operation. The easiest way to do this is to copy the
entry you have already made, and then just change the values. If, moreover,
all sessionies have the same value, you can simply use the 'Single cost'
menu, and then all entries will have the same session cost.

One piece of advice. When you have finished, don't forget to save! :-)

1.12   Perhaps, if I've time...

   The future of TC
   ****
I've still got a few ideas to put in place, for greater user-friendliness.
But I've got~started on programming another application, which keeps me very
occupied, and I doubt whether I'll be able to do any more work on TC...

1.13   Thanks...

Remerciements
****

   I want to thank the following people in particular :

 - Alain Gaspard   (_AG_) for his constant encouragements, and for his his
   tests, always clear, but they made me tear my hair out at each new
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   E-Mail: agaspard@mail.atlantic-line.fr

 - Henrik Jensen for the Danish catalogues and for his good ideas.
   E-Mail: hkjensen@mail.teledanmark.dk

 - Francesco Mancuso for the Italian catalogues and for documentation
   E-Mail: mcfrank@mediatel.it

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   E-Mail: bjoern@baer.franken.de

 - John Collett: he writes this doc in real english. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
   E-Mail: JCOLLETT@waikato.ac.nz

Apologies for all those not in this list. I thank them for messages of
encouragement and support which they have sent me. I am thinking in
particular of the people on #amigafr - all those people I get to test TC and
to send me bug reports. ;-)

So, a big THANKS to you all..

JFP.

1.14 My Address ...

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ADDRESS
*******

 You can contact me at the following address:

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