

Online-o-Meter

COLLABORATORS

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REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

Online-o-Meter

1.1 Contents

```
Online-o-Meter
The Ultimate Call Coster
v1.5
Copyright (C) E.F.Pritchard 1994-1996.
```

Contents

Initial Material:

Introduction -- What is it man?

Requirements -- Amiga System Requirements

Installation -- Where to put it...

This Release -- *IMPORTANT* information about this release

Description:

Terminology Explained -- Zones, TimeBands, BandTimes...

The Two Faces of Online-o-Meter -- Prefs and Meters

```
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Creating Zones      -- The Basis of Billing
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OnlineMeter -- Call Meter
Startup -- ToolTypes and Arguments
Display -- Information and Sizing
Gadgets -- Top Level Control
```

```
Hotkeys -- Controlling via Hotkeys
Menus   -- Other Control Facilities
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```

Examples:

```
Using with AmiTCP
```

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```
Distribution -- *FREWARE LIVES*
The Future   -- Plans and Scams
Contact      -- Why/How to get in contact. *CHANGED!*
Thanks       -- Because its obligatory.
The Author   -- Who are you? *CHANGED!*
```

1.2 Introduction

Online-o-Meter: What is it?

Online-o-Meter is a tool to help you keep track of your phone bill when using a modem.

Once configured with your phone-company's charge data it sits in the background, counts the duration of your call and calculates the cost. All you have to do is tell it where you are calling, when the call starts, and when it ends. Using ARexx, you can get your Communications software to do this for you automatically. Online-o-Meter works out what the current charges are for itself, and takes account of all the pit-falls and tar-traps which normally make it so difficult to calculate charges correctly, such as Minimum Charges and Time and Cost rounding.

All this means that by the time your phone-bill arrives, you'll have saved up your pennies in sufficient quantity, or at least braced yourself for the shock!

1.3 Requirements

What you need to use it

Online-o-Meter has been designed to provide the maximum functionality for the minimum use of resources. Its separate Preferences Editor and dual threaded operation mean that memory and CPU usage are kept as low as possible, without sacrificing usefulness.

All that is really required is an Amiga with version 2.04 or higher of the operating system. No non-standard libraries are required.

1.4 Installation

Where do I put everything?

There are two main parts to install, the Preferences Editor, OnlinePrefs and the Meter itself, OnlineMeter.

Location of the two parts is not important. I suggest that OnlinePrefs be copied to SYS:Prefs and OnlineMeter to SYS:Utilities or SYS:Tools, but that is entirely up to you (mine's in AmiTCP:bin).

OnlineMeter requires an IFF preference file generated by OnlinePrefs. By default this is stored in the ENVARC:Online and ENV:Online drawers as Online.prefs. A ToolType or Argument given to OnlineMeter, or a command given to OnlineMeter via ARexx can load the file from elsewhere.

1.5 Online-o-Meter Terminology

What it all means...

Before we jump into all the details, I need to explain some terminology which is used to describe the the Charges database Online-o-Meter uses to calculate call costs.

The primary factor effecting the cost of a call is, of course, the destination. In Online terms, we call this a Zone. Typical Zones would be for Local calls, National and International calls. The Zone itself has three important pieces of information associated with it: the Minimum Charge the Time Rounding factor and the Cost Rounding factor.

Each Zone has a set of Time Bands associated with it, these are the tariffs for each Zone e.g. Peak, Standard and Economy, and control the cost per time unit of a call at a particular time. Time Bands have two pieces of information associated with them: the Band Day Range, which gives the range of days over which the Time Band is applicable, and the Cost per Minute of calls made in the Band, which is used to derive the actual cost of the call.

Finally, each Time Band has a set of Band Times which govern at what times in the Day Range a particular Time Band is in effect.

O.K., that's enough terminology to be getting on with... for now!

1.6 Zone Minimum Charge

Minimum Charge

The Minimum Charge is the lowest possible cost of a call to a Zone. It is levied the moment that the destination picks up the call. Once

levied the cost of the call remains at this level until the duration cost outweighs it.

To put this more clearly, if the Minimum charge were 10 pence, and each unit cost 5p and lasted a minute, then the call would cost just 10 pence until the call lasted over 2 minutes.

Minimum Charge is replaced by Unit Cost when operating in Unit mode.

1.7 Zone Time Rounding

Time Rounding

This is the time unit which your phone company uses to calculate its bills. Typically this is either by the minute or the second.

For example, if your phone company charges by the minute and you make a call of 1 minute 1 second, you would pay for 2 minutes of call, whereas if they charged by the second you would only pay for 61 seconds.

When in Unit mode all calls are rounded to the nearest Unit of time.

1.8 Zone Cost Rounding

Cost Rounding

This is the cost unit that your phone company rounds your bills to. Note that they always round up (i.e. ceiling operation).

Usually charges per unit time will include a fraction, e.g. 4.68 pence, so the cost of a call will depend on the accuracy to which your bill is rounded. For example if you make a call of 5 minutes at 4.68 pence per minute and your phone company rounds to the nearest 1 pence then it will cost you 24 pence (23.4 rounded up to the nearest penny), if they charge to the nearest 0.1 of a penny then it would cost you only 23.4 pence, which can make a lot of difference over a quarterly bill (I clocked up over 1000 minutes last quarter, so my bill would differ by 600 pence (£6.00) over this period).

When in Unit mode all calls are rounded to the nearest Unit price.

1.9 Units

Units

Some phone companies calculate not directly by the cost of a

particular unit of time, but by establishing a price per Unit, and then calculating the number of seconds for which that Unit lasts.

For example, the Unit cost might be 4.2p, this is applicable to any destination, but how long the Unit lasts is dependant on the destination and time of calling. At Standard rates a Unit might last 32 seconds when calling Nationally, but 220 seconds when making a local call.

This is all needlessly complicated but Online-o-Meter takes care of it all: all you have to do is type in the Unit cost and the Seconds per Unit for various Times and Zones and it will do the rest...

1.10 OnlineMeter and OnlinePrefs

Online-o-Meter's functionality is spilt into two separate executables for the sake of efficiency and practicality:

OnlineMeter is the actual tool used to calculate your phone bills. It provides a window with basic controls and an ARexx port for automatic interation. It reads a configuration file containing the charging information.

OnlinePrefs is used to construct Zones, TimeBands and BandTimes, and also control the default settings which effect OnlineMeter's behaviour. It saves them out to an IFF file for OnlineMeter to read and use to calculate the bills.

1.11 OnlinePrefs - Online-o-Meter Preferences Editor

OnlinePrefs is started from the Workbench by double clicking on its icon, and from the CLI by typing its name. It can take several Arguments which are explained later, but in its 'bare' state it firstly looks for a file called Online.prefs in either the ENV:Online/ or ENVARC:Online/ directories. If this file is found then the information in it is read and presented for editing in the OnlinePrefs window. If the file is not found then a default preferences instance is created in memory and presented for modification.

Preferences consist of Billing and Operational Information.

1.12 OnlinePrefs Startup Arguments

OnlinePrefs supports several arguments via either Icon ToolTypes or CLI Arguments. The keywords are the same in either case and they follow standard (i.e. Style Guide compliant) Amiga conventions:

SYNOPSIS

OnlinePrefs

```
FROM (CLI Arg only),  
ACTION (ToolType only)  
USE/S,  
SAVE/S,  
EDIT/S,  
CREATEICONS/S,  
PUBSCREEN/K
```

If OnlinePrefs is started by Double-Clicking or Multiple-Selecting a Preferences file icon then the file will be loaded into OnlinePrefs instead of the default settings.

1.13 FROM

SYNOPSIS

```
CLI Argument - FROM <preferences filename>
```

FUNCTION

Causes OnlinePrefs to load the given configuration file. By default, and with the EDIT argument the OnlinePrefs window will then open for editing. When used with the USE and SAVE arguments this file is used as the basis for their operations.

SEE ALSO

```
ACTION  
USE  
SAVE  
EDIT
```

1.14 ACTION

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType - ACTION=<USE or SAVE or EDIT>
```

FUNCTION

When given in an OnlineMeter Preferences file icon causes the given action to be performed after OnlinePrefs has loaded the Preferences file.

It has no effect in the OnlinePrefs Tool icon.

SEE ALSO

```
FROM  
USE  
SAVE
```

EDIT

1.15 USE

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - USE (or ACTION=USE in Prefs File)
CLI Argument - USE

FUNCTION

When used in conjunction with FROM OnlinePrefs loads the specified configuration file and saves it to ENV:Online/Online.prefs thus causing OnlineMeter to re-load and use this set of preferences for the current session.

SEE ALSO

FROM
ACTION
SAVE
EDIT

1.16 SAVE

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - SAVE (or ACTION=SAVE in Prefs File)
CLI Argument - SAVE

FUNCTION

When used in conjunction with FROM OnlinePrefs loads the specified configuration file and saves it to both ENV:Online/Online.prefs and ENVARC:Online/Online.prefs thus causing OnlineMeter to re-load and use this set of preferences, and to use them for future sessions after a re-boot.

SEE ALSO

FROM
ACTION
USE
EDIT

1.17 EDIT

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - EDIT (or ACTION=EDIT in Prefs File)

CLI Argument - EDIT

FUNCTION

This is the default option for OnlinePrefs: the configuration file will be read and presented for edit. When used with FROM the given file will be loaded, otherwise ENV:Online/Online.prefs will be loaded.

SEE ALSO

FROM
ACTION
USE
SAVE

1.18 CREATEICONS

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - CREATEICONS=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument - CREATEICONS or NOCREATEICONS

FUNCTION

By default OnlinePrefs creates icons for preference files it saves via the menus (i.e. not by the Save or Use buttons).

Specifying CREATEICONS=NO (WB) or NOCREATEICONS (CLI) turns this feature off.

1.19 PUBSCREEN

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - PUBSCREEN=<public screen name>
CLI Argument - PUBSCREEN <public screen name>

FUNCTION

By default OnlinePrefs opens on the Default Public Screen, which is usually the Workbench Screen. Using this argument OnlinePrefs can be made to open its window on another Public Screen.

1.20 Global Settings

Top-Level Preferences

OnlineMeter's default global (rather than Zone orientated) behavior can be controlled by options set from OnlinePrefs.

Facilities offered are grouped into three categories:

Window

- Initial Window Size

- Initial Window State

- Public Screen for Display

Logging

- Call Logging Enabled/Disabled

- Accumulated Call Totals Logging

- Call Logging File

Meter

- Commodities Hotkeys

- ARexx Port Name

- Accumulative Display On/Off

- End of Time Band Warning On/Off

- End of Time Band Warning Beep On/Off

1.21 Open Small Attribute

The Small checkbox controls the initial size of the OnlineMeter window. The window can either be 'Big', displaying the current Zone and call Cost and Duration with Control Gadgets, or 'Small' where the window shrinks to a small screen titlebar alternating between showing the Cost and Duration.

Checking the Small checkbox causes OnlineMeter to open a small window.

SEE ALSO

- SMALL
Display

1.22 Open Hidden Attribute

The Hidden checkbox controls whether OnlineMeter opens its window immediately on startup, or waits until it is specifically told to Show itself via a Hotkey, a Commodities Exchange program or an ARexx command.

While OnlineMeter is Hidden all operations not requiring the GUI can take place, using the Commodities and ARexx interfaces instead. In fact OnlineMeter may operate completely without ever opening its window, using the other interfaces to tell it to exit.

Checking the Hidden checkbox causes OnlineMeter to start up without opening its window.

SEE ALSO
HIDDEN

1.23 Public Screen Attribute

Using the Screen string gadget the name of the Public Screen that OnlineMeter should open on can be given.

If the gadget is blank or the screen does not exist then OnlineMeter will fall back to the Default Public screen, which is usually the Workbench screen unless this has been changed by a Public Screen management utility.

SEE ALSO

OnlineMeter Argument PUBSCREEN

1.24 Log Attribute

The Log Enabled checkbox controls whether Call Logging is turned On or Off. If it is checked then every time a call ends an entry will be made in a Log File listing the details of the call e.g. Duration and Cost. If the Vars checkbox is also checked then on exit OnlineMeter will add the accumulated cost of all calls made in the session to the environmental variables ONLINEDURATION and ONLINECOST.

SEE ALSO

Log File Attribute
Log Vars Attribute
LOGFILE
VARS
Log Menu
Logging Calls
OnlineMeter Log Environmental Variables

1.25 Log File Attribute

The Log string gadget is used to enter the filename of the file to use for OnlineMeter call information.

If the string is left blank then the default file of "PROGDIR:Online.log" will be used, i.e. the log file will be saved in the same directory as the OnlineMeter program is stored.

The logging information is only saved if Call Logging is enabled.

SEE ALSO

- LOGFILE
- Log Attribute
- Logging Calls

1.26 Log Vars Attribute

The Log Vars checkbox is used to control saving of Accumulated call information to Environmental variables.

If this gadget is checked, and Logging is Enabled, then when OnlineMeter is exited it adds the total accumulated Cost and Duration of all calls made while OnlineMeter has been running to the environmental variables ONLINECOST and ONLINEDURATION, in both ENV: and ENVARC:, thus maintaining them over reboots.

SEE ALSO

- VARs
- OnlineMeter Log Environmental Variables
- LOG
- Log Menu

1.27 ARexx Port Name Attribute

Using the ARexx Port string gadget the base name of the ARexx Port which OnlineMeter will open to accept commands on can be specified.

The first instance of OnlineMeter will use this name for its port, any subsequent and simultaneous instances will use this name plus a numerical extension, e.g. if Rexx Name is "MyOnlineREXX" then the 2nd port will be "MyOnlineREXX.1" and the 5th "MyOnlineRexx.4".

If the string is left blank then the name "OnlineREXX" will be used.

Note that when using ARexx to interact with Online-o-Meter you will need to quote the port name if it is a mixture of cases to stop ARexx converting it to upper case. e.g. address 'OnlineREXX' start

SEE ALSO

REXXNAME

External Control through ARexx

1.28 Accumulative Attribute

The Accumulative checkbox controls how OnlineMeter displays the Cost and Duration information.

When Accumulative is not checked OnlineMeter displays only the cost and duration of the current call, or the last call if OnlineMeter is Stopped.

When Accumulative is checked OnlineMeter displays the total duration and cost of all calls made since startup, including the current one.

Note that this attribute only effects the display of call information: whatever the state of the checkbox OnlineMeter maintains both Accumulated and Current call data for use in logging operations.

SEE ALSO

ACCUMULATIVE

Accumulative Menu

1.29 Warn Attribute

The Warn checkbox controls whether or not OnlineMeter displays a warning just before the end of the current band.

If the checkbox is checked then a requester is displayed 3 minutes before the current band ends, warning the user that prices are about to change and displaying some information on the current and next band charges.

SEE ALSO

WARN

Warn Menu

Beep Attribute

BEEPONWARN

1.30 Beep Attribute

The Beep checkbox controls whether or not OnlineMeter does a DisplayBeep when the Band Warning appears.

If you are away from the machine, or otherwise not concentrating when a Band Warning requester appears, and you'd rather not miss it,

checking this gadget makes OnlineMeter flash the display and/or make a sound (depending on your OS and Preferences) to alert you to the situation. It has no effect when Band End Warnings are not enabled.

SEE ALSO

Warn Attribute
BEEPONWARN

1.31 Hotkeys Attributes

The Cycle gadget immediately to the right of the Meter label controls which HotKey is being edited in the Hotkey String Gadget to its right. The Cycle has the values "Show", "Start", "Stop", and "Abort".

The String gadget must contain standard Commodities description strings, you can find a description of these in your Workbench manual, or [here](#).

SEE ALSO

OnlineMeter Hotkeys
OnlineMeter Arguments

1.32 Zones -- the Basis of Billing

Zones

The principle attribute for billing information is the Zone. Zones are the root of all other billing information in OnlineMeter and are created using the Zone list and associated gadgets:

Add Creates a new Zone, inserts an initial name of "«new»" into the Zone list and selects the Zone name string gadget ready for editing. See Zone Attributes for more information.

Del deletes the currently selected Zone. Note that all information is destroyed and there is no way to get it back without re-loading the preferences file by Cancelling and restarting or loading from the Project/Open... Menu.

U and D re-order the currently selected entry in the list: U moves the entry Up and D moves it Down. This is a purely aesthetic facility, unless you have more than 32 Zones, in which case you may wish to move the most used Zones to the top of the list so that they appear in the OnlineMeter Menu.

Attached to each Zone is a list of Time Bands which control the cost of calls made in the Zone.

1.33 Zone Attributes

Zone names can be up to 20 characters long and should be unique if you want to use ARexx. Any number of Zones can be entered but no more than 32 can be displayed in OnlineMeter's Menu.

Each Zone created has associated with it a Minimum Charge, Time Rounding factor and a Cost Rounding factor.

Minimum Charge is entered in the Min Charge string gadget and should be a floating point value with up to 2 decimal places. Normally this is entered so that the integer part of the number (i.e. the part before the '.') represents the smallest part of your currency, e.g. pence (p) in the U.K. and Cents (¢) in the U.S.A. Of course, what you actually enter in here is up to you (it's a free world, or so we are brain-washed into believing! C:v]). For example, if the minimum charge was 4.68p then one would enter 4.68 into the gadget.

In Unit mode the Minimum Charge gadget becomes the Unit Cost gadget.

Time Rounding is controlled by the Time Rounding cycle gadget. Possible values are Second, Minute, 0.1s (tenth of a second) and 0.01s. A fifth value allows selection of Unit mode where time (and therefore cost) is rounded to the nearest unit price.

Cost Rounding is controlled by the Cost Rounding cycle gadget. Possible values are 0.01, 0.10 and 1.00. The units are the same as those of the Minimum Cost and Cost/Min gadgets.

1.34 Time Bands

Time Bands

Time Bands form the part of the information OnlineMeter uses to decide the cost of a call. They are added to the currently selected Zone using the Time Band list and associated gadgets:

Add Creates a new Time Band, inserts an initial name of "«new»" into the Time Band list and selects the Time Band name string gadget ready for editing. See Time Band Attributes for more information.

Del deletes the currently selected Time Band. Note that all Time Band and Band Times information is destroyed and there is no way to get it back without re-loading the preferences file by Cancelling and restarting or loading from the Project/Open... Menu.

U and D re-order the currently selected entry in the list.

Attached to each Time Band is a list of Band Times which specify at which times the Time Band is active.

1.35 Time Band Attributes

The From and To cycle gadgets control the range of days over which the currently selected Time Band is active.

The range is inclusive, and effectively includes the time between midnight on the From day to one second before midnight on the To day, e.g. a Weekend band from Sat to Sun lasts from 00:00:00 Saturday morning to 23:59:59 Sunday night. If you want a band to last just one day, enter the same day for both From and To. If you want a band to last all week enter the days in reverse order, e.g. Sun to Sat.

The actual times the Band is active on the days included in the range is controlled by the Band Times settings.

The Cost/Min string gadget sets the total cost of each minute of time when the Time Band is active. This is divided into quantums of cost using the Zone Time Rounding setting, and then used to calculate the current cost of a call. e.g. if Cost/Min was 6p and Zone Time Rounding was Second, then a quantum of time would be 0.1p and this would be added to the cost every Second.

In Unit mode the Secs/Unit gadget appears in place of the Cost/Min gadget and is used to enter the number of seconds that a unit lasts in a particular TimeBand. Every time this amount of time passes the Unit Cost amount is added to the cost and a new unit is started. In this mode a whole unit is added to the cost of the call as soon as it is started, and the next unit added after Secs/Unit has expired.

1.36 Band Times

Band Times

Band Times specify when in the range of Time Band days a Time Band is active.

Add creates a new Band Time entry in the list, initializing the time range entry to be from Midnight to (effectively) Midnight minus one second. See Band Times Attributes for details.

Del deletes the currently selected Band Times range. Note that there is no way to get the information back.

U and D move the currently selected Band Times entry up and down respectively.

1.37 Band Times Attributes

The Band Times list lists the time ranges within the Time Band day range when the Time Band is active.

For example if the "Standard" Time Band lasts from 08:00 until 18:00 Monday to Friday then the Time Band entry for Standard will have "Mon" and "Fri" as its days range and the entry "08:00-18:00" in its Band Times.

Note that the band starts at exactly 08:00 and actually finishes at 18:00, i.e. after the last second of 17:59.

The currently selected entry is edited using the From/To cycle and the Hours and Mins sliders. To edit the start of the Band Time range, select "From" in the cycle and drag the sliders, and to edit the end of the range, select "To".

The times wrap round over midnight, so if a Band lasted from 18:00 until 08:00 the next day, you would simply enter 18:00-08:00 in the list.

OnlineMeter takes account of both the Time Band day range and the Band Times when deciding the current Time Band to select, so if a band wraps over midnight then the Band is only valid at and after midnight if the new day is also within the Time Band range.

1.38 Setting the Preferences

Saving and Using

Once you have created your Zones, Time Bands and Band Times, and edited all the other whatsits to your requirements you can save the settings in a variety of ways.

The Save gadget saves the current settings to the OnlineMeter standard preferences files: ENV:Online/Online.prefs and ENVARC:Online/Online.prefs. These setting will then be used for the current and subsequent sessions, even after a re-boot.

The Use gadget saves the current settings to the OnlineMeter current session preference file, ENV:Online/Online.prefs only. This will cause the current and subsequent instances of OnlineMeter to use these preferences, but the settings will be lost after a re-boot.

In both cases the ...:Online/ directory will be created if it does not already exist.

The Cancel gadget forgets the current preferences and exits OnlinePrefs. Please note that there is no "Are you Sure?" requester, so be careful. The Close Window gadget performs the same operation.

In all cases the final result of selecting these gadgets is to exit OnlinePrefs.

SEE ALSO

Save As... Menu Item

1.39 OnlinePrefs Menus

The OnlinePrefs Menu bar looks like this:

Project	Edit	Settings
Open...	Reset to Defaults	Create Icons
Save As...	Last Saved	
-----	Restore	
About...		

Quit		

1.40 OnlinePrefs Project/Open...

Open... is used to load a preferences file from somewhere other than the default locations.

It brings up a file requester which is initially in the SYS:Prefs/Presets drawer, but a preferences file may be loaded from anywhere. Remember that you can drop preferences file icons onto the ASL requester to set the path and/or file.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Argument FROM
OnlineMeter Argument PREFSFILE

1.41 OnlinePrefs Edit/Reset to Defaults

Reset to Defaults resets all the Global OnlineMeter settings to their default values. All Zone information is deleted.

1.42 OnlinePrefs Settings/Create Icons

The state of the Create Icons menu item effects whether or not icons are saved with files saved from the Save As... menu.

If checked then the files will have an Project Icon saved with them with a default tool of OnlinePrefs.

Icon files are never saved with the default preferences files (ENV:Online/Online.prefs and ENVARC:Online/Online.prefs) as created by the Save and Use gadgets.

1.43 OnlinePrefs Project/Save As...

Save As... brings up a file requester for saving the current preferences to a file other than the default preferences files. The requester initially opens in the SYS:Prefs/Presets drawer but files can be saved anywhere.

SEE ALSO

```
OnlinePrefs Argument FROM  
                        ACTION  
OnlineMeter Argument PREFSFILE
```

1.44 OnlinePrefs Edit/Last Saved

Last Saved restores the preferences from the last set of preferences saved to ENVARC:Online/Online.prefs.

Beware that there is no confirmation for the operation.

1.45 OnlinePrefs Edit/Restore

Restore restores the preferences from the last set of preferences saved to ENV:Online/Online.prefs.

Beware that there is no confirmation for the operation.

1.46 OnlinePrefs Project/About...

About... displays a requester with some brief information about OnlinePrefs.

Always quote the version number from this requester if you have any bug reports etc. to give the Author.

1.47 OnlinePrefs Project/Quit

Quit leaves OnlinePrefs. It has the same effect as the Cancel and Close Window gadgets.

Beware that there is no confirmation for the operation.

1.48 OnlineMeter -- The Ultimate Call Coster

OnlineMeter is started from the Workbench by double clicking on its icon, or from the CLI by typing its name. It can take several Arguments which are used to override the preferences settings set by OnlinePrefs.

Without any arguments (or ToolTypes) OnlineMeter loads the default configuration file ENV:Online/Online.prefs (or ENVARC:Online/Online.prefs) and depending on those preferences opens its window accordingly.

NOW SEE

Startup
Display

1.49 OnlineMeter Startup

OnlineMeter supports a number of arguments via either Icon ToolTypes or CLI Arguments. The keywords are mostly the same in either case and they follow standard (i.e. Style Guide compliant) Amiga conventions:

SYNOPSIS

```
OnlineMeter
  PREFSFILE/K,
  LOG/S,
  LOGFILE/K,
  PUBSCREEN/K,
  REXXNAME/K,
  SMALL/S,
  WARN/S,
  ACCUMULATIVE/S,
  TOP/N/K, LEFT/N/K
  VARS/S
  POPKEY/K
  STARTKEY/K
  STOPKEY/K
  ABORTKEY/K
  CDITY/K
  BEEPONWARN/S
  COMMENT/K
```

In case you are not familiar with CLI templates, /K means that the keyword must be specified for the argument to take effect (i.e. you cannot rely on the order of the arguments alone), /S means that the argument is a boolean switch, and /N means that the argument is expected to be an integer.

Most of these settings can be set via the preferences file using OnlinePrefs; if they are given as an Argument (or ToolType) then they override the setting in the preferences file.

The only exceptions are PREFSFILE, since OnlineMeter tries to read

ENV:Online/Online.prefs by default, and TOP and LEFT, since these are immediate operators.

1.50 PREFSFILE

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    - PREFSFILE=<preferences file name>
CLI Argument   - PREFSFILE <preferences file name>
```

FUNCTION

Causes OnlineMeter to load its preferences from the given file instead of from the default preferences file (ENV:Online/Online.prefs etc.).

The file is loaded before any other arguments are applied so that they can correctly override these preferences if desired.

SEE ALSO

Save As... OnlinePrefs Menu Item.

1.51 LOG

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    - LOG=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument   - LOG or NOLOG
```

FUNCTION

Enables or Disables Call Information Logging.

SEE ALSO

LOGFILE
OnlinePrefs Log Checkbox
Log Menu Item
Logging Calls

1.52 LOGFILE

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    - LOGFILE=<log file name>
CLI Argument   - LOGFILE <log file name>
```

FUNCTION

Specifies the name of the file to use for logging call information.

Logging only takes place if enabled.

SEE ALSO

LOG
OnlinePrefs Log File string
Call Logging

1.53 VARS

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - VARS=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument - VARS or NOVARs

FUNCTION

Controls writing of Environmental variables ONLINECOST and ONLINEDURATION when Logging is enabled.

SEE ALSO

NOSAVE option in QUIT ARexx Command.
Logging Environmental Variables
LOG
LOGFILE
OnlinePrefs Log Checkbox
OnlinePrefs Vars Checkbox
Log Menu Item
Logging Calls

1.54 PUBSCREEN

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - PUBSCREEN=<public screen name>
CLI Argument - PUBSCREEN <public screen name>

FUNCTION

Specifies the name of the Public Screen to open the OnlineMeter window.

If the Public Screen does not exist then OnlineMeter opens on the default Public Screen, usually Workbench.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Screen string

1.55 REXXNAME

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    - REXXNAME=<rexx port name>
CLI Argument   - REXXNAME <rexx port name>
```

FUNCTION

Specifies the basename for the OnlineMeter ARexx port.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Rexx Name string
OnlineMeter ARexx

1.56 SMALL

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    - SMALL=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument   - SMALL or NOSMALL
```

FUNCTION

Controls whether OnlineMeter opens a small undetailed or a large detailed window.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Small Checkbox
Display

1.57 HIDDEN

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    - CX_POPUP=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument   - HIDDEN or NOHIDDEN
```

FUNCTION

Controls whether or not OnlineMeter opens its window on startup.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Hidden Checkbox

1.58 WARN

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    -   WARN=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument   -   WARN or NOWARN
```

FUNCTION

Controls whether or not OnlineMeter should warn the user when a Time Band is about to end.

If enabled OnlineMeter will post a requester 3 minutes before the end of the current Band.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Warn Checkbox
Warn Menu Item

1.59 BEEPONWARN

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    -   BEEPONWARN=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument    -   BEEPONWARN or NOBEEPONWARN
                  or   BEEP or NOBEEP
```

FUNCTION

Controls whether OnlineMeter beeps the display when a End of Band Warning requester is posted.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Beep Checkbox
WARN

1.60 ACCUMULATIVE

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType    -   ACCUMULATIVE=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument    -   ACCUMULATIVE or NOACCUMULATIVE
```

FUNCTION

Enables or Disables display of Total Cost and Duration for the current session as opposed to display of only Current Call Duration and Cost.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Accumulative Checkbox
Accumulative Menu Item

1.61 TOP, LEFT

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType  - LEFT=<Window x Position> TOP=<Window y Position>
CLI Argument - LEFT <Window x Position> TOP <Window y Position>
               or X   <Window x Position> Y   <Window y Position>
```

FUNCTION

Sets the opening position for the OnlineMeter window. Out of range values will be limited as per Intuition rules.

Either or both co-ordinates may be specified.

SEE ALSO

SMALL

1.62 POPKEY

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType  - CX_POPKEY=<cx key sequence>
CLI Argument - POPKEY <cx key sequence>
```

FUNCTION

Sets the OnlineMeter Show hotkey.

SEE ALSO

OnlineMeter Hotkeys
STARTKEY
STOPKEY
ABORTKEY
CDITY

1.63 STARTKEY

SYNOPSIS

```
WB ToolType  - STARTKEY=<cx key sequence>
CLI Argument - STARTKEY <cx key sequence>
```

FUNCTION

Sets the OnlineMeter Start hotkey.

SEE ALSO

OnlineMeter Hotkeys
POPKEY
STOPKEY

ABORTKEY
CDITY

1.64 STOPKEY

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - STOPKEY=<cx key sequence>
CLI Argument - STOPKEY <cx key sequence>

FUNCTION

Sets the OnlineMeter Stop hotkey.

SEE ALSO

OnlineMeter Hotkeys
POPKEY
STARTKEY
ABORTKEY
CDITY

1.65 ABORTKEY

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - ABORTKEY=<cx key sequence>
CLI Argument - ABORTKEY <cx key sequence>

FUNCTION

Sets the OnlineMeter Abort hotkey.

SEE ALSO

OnlineMeter Hotkeys
POPKEY
STARTKEY
STOPKEY
CDITY

1.66 CDITY

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - CDITY=<YES or NO>
CLI Argument - CDITY or NOCDITY

FUNCTION

Enables or Disables the OnlineMeter Commodities exchange interface.

SEE ALSO
OnlineMeter Hotkeys
POPKEY
STARTKEY
STOPKEY

1.67 COMMENT

SYNOPSIS

WB ToolType - COMMENT=<Comment String>
CLI Argument - COMMENT <Comment String>

FUNCTION

Sets the Comment which is saved with all Log-File entries.

Only the first 20 characters are significant.

SEE ALSO
Log File
SETCOMMENT ARexx Command

1.68 The OnlineMeter Display

OnlineMeter has two modes of display, Normal and Small. The Zoom gadget in the Top-Right hand corner controls the size, as do the OnlinePrefs settings and the OnlineMeter ToolTypes.

In Normal mode it displays the Current (or Accumulative) call Cost and Duration, and the currently selected Zone, and provides call control Gadgets.

In Small mode the OnlineMeter window is 'Zoomed' to the height of a window title-bar, and the display alternates between showing the Cost and the Duration of the call.

In both modes OnlineMeter's Menus can be accessed.

SEE ALSO
OnlinePrefs.

1.69 OnlineMeter Front Panel Gadgets

OnlineMeter provides the basic manual control function as front panel gadgets:

Start starts costing a call, using the cost information of

the currently selected Zone. Pressing Start whilst a call is already in progress will terminate the call, performing any rounding necessary and making a Log entry if enabled, before immediately starting to cost the next call. The Start button causes the minimum charge or Unit cost to be added to the call cost immediately.

Stop finishes a call in progress and makes a Log entry if Logging is enabled.

Pressing Reset once resets the cost and duration of the current call to zero, but continues costing the call from that moment if OnlineMeter's timer is running. Double-Clicking on Reset resets the cost and duration of the current call and the accumulated total. Both function will effect any logging information saved; be especially careful with the Double-Click function.

1.70 OnlineMeter Hotkeys

OnlineMeter now installs as a Commodity and it's essential features can be controlled by Hotkeys.

OnlineMeter therefore appears in Commodities Exchange utilities and can be Hidden/Shown, and Removed using the Commodities exchange facilities. The Enable/Disable control does not effect OnlineMeter itself but just it's hotkeys.

Hotkeys exist for Showing the OnlineMeter interface if it is Hidden (or you can't find it!), and Starting, Stopping and Aborting the Meter.

The Hotkey definitions are fully configurable using OnlinePrefs or through OnlineMeter Arguments/ToolTypes.

Hotkey strings, use the standard Commodities specifiers, i.e.:

- (l|r|%)shift, (l|r|%)amiga , (l|r|%)alt, control|cntl,
- f1..f10
- numpad
- esc, backspace, enter, home, insert etc.
- alphanumeric keys

For example, to map a command to right-shift+control+. on the numeric keypad, you would use the string:

```
rshift control numpad .
```

If you find a sequence doesn't work, it's probably because some other program has already used it: I'm afraid it's up to you to find out which!

SEE ALSO

Hotkeys Preferences
Hotkeys Arguments

1.71 OnlineMeter Menus

The OnlineMeter Menu Bar looks like this:

Project	Meter	Preferences	Zones
About...	Reset	Accumulative	Zone List
-----	Reset All	Warning	
Hide	Abort	Log	
Jump	-----		
Quit	Information...		

1.72 OnlineMeter Project/About...

About... displays a requester with some brief information about OnlineMeter. It is displayed asynchronously with OnlineMeter's operation.

Always quote the version number from this requester if you have any bug reports etc. to give the Author.

1.73 OnlineMeter Meter/Reset

Reset resets the cost and duration of the current call to zero. It has the same effect as pressing the Reset Gadget on the front panel.

SEE ALSO

Reset Gadget

1.74 OnlineMeter Preferences/Accumulative

Accumulative controls whether OnlineMeter displays the total Accumulative cost and duration of all calls made in a session, or just the cost and duration of the current call.

SEE ALSO

ACCUMULATIVE OnlineMeter Argument
Accumulative OnlinePrefs Checkbox

1.75 OnlineMeter Zones

The Zone Menu lists up to 32 Zones for selection of the current Zone for charging information.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs Zone Creation

1.76 OnlineMeter Meter/Reset All

Reset All resets both the cost and duration of the current call, and of the Accumulated calls this session to zero. It has the same effect as Double-Clicking the Reset Gadget on the front panel.

SEE ALSO

Reset Gadget

1.77 OnlineMeter Meter/Abort

Abort terminates and cancels the current call, as if it had never been, made. No Logging is performed and the meter is left in a Stopped state.

This is very useful if you have set Online-o-Meter up with in a script and fail to connect to the remote modem, for example if it is engaged.

1.78 OnlineMeter Preferences/Warning

The Warning menu item controls whether or not OnlineMeter displays a requester warning of an approaching Time Band end. If checked a warning is generated 3 minutes before the band ends.

SEE ALSO

WARN OnlineMeter Argument
Warn OnlinePrefs Checkbox

1.79 OnlineMeter Project/Hide

Hide closes the OnlineMeter window, but leaves OnlineMeter running in the background.

While in this state OnlineMeter can be controlled by ARexx and its Hotkeys. OnlineMeter will open its window when it receives a SETWINDOW SHOW command from ARexx, or if you press the POPKEY

hotkey or select Show on a Commodities Exchange program, or if you send OnlineMeter a Control-F break signal via the Shell Break command or a System Monitor utility such as ARTM.

SEE ALSO

ARexx

1.80 OnlineMeter Preferences/Log

The Log Menu Item controls whether Logging is enabled or not.

SEE ALSO

LOG OnlineMeter Argument
Log OnlinePrefs Checkbox
Logging

1.81 OnlineMeter Project/Jump

The Jump Menu Item causes OnlineMeter to close its window and attempt to open on the next Public Screen it can find using the NextPubScreen() intuition function.

Continually selecting this option will make OnlineMeter move across all public screens currently open; if only Workbench is open, OnlineMeter will reopen there.

The size of the window will be maintained across jumps.

SEE ALSO

PubScreen Argument
PubScreen Attribute

1.82 OnlineMeter Meter/Information...

The Information... Menu Item pops up a requester telling you information about the Current and the Next Time Bands.

The requester tells you the state of the meter (RUNNING or STOPPED), the current Band's name, how it is charged, and when it ends, and name and information for the Band which will become active after the current one. In addition, if the meter is running, it tells you at which time the current call was started.

A typical display might look like this:

```
Meter is RUNNING.  
Started Sunday 18/06/95 18:49:11
```

```
Current Band is 'Weekend' at 90.00 Seconds per Unit
Band ends Monday 19/06/95 00:00
Next Band is 'Economy' at 50.35 Seconds per Unit
```

1.83 OnlineMeter Project/Quit

The Quit Menu Item leaves OnlineMeter, terminating any calls in progress and saving the Accumulative Totals to the logging variables if this functionality is enabled.

The Window Close Gadget has the same effect, as does the QUIT ARexx command and sending OnlineMeter a Control-C via the CLI break command or a System Monitor utility.

SEE ALSO

Logging

1.84 Call Logging

Probably the most important and useful feature of OnlineMeter is its ability to generate log information for all the calls it has costed. This enables you to keep track of all the calls you have made and to predict what your next phone bill will be.

Log information consists of two parts:

The Log File and the Logging Environmental Variables.

SEE ALSO

OnlineMeter
LOG Argument
LOGFILE Argument
VARS Argument
Log Menu Item

OnlinePrefs
Log Enabled Checkbox
Log Vars Checkbox
Log File string

1.85 The OnlineMeter Log File

The Log File contains an entry for each call OnlineMeter has costed; each entry consists of a line in the following format:

```
<Zone Name><Comment><Date><Time><Duration><Cost>
```

e.g.

```
National B1      0813173333      06-Jul-94 17:32:25 00:42:38      72.1
Local          Mum              07-Jul-94 09:11:55 00:03:57      4.2
<- 20 characters -> <- 20 characters ->
```

The log entry is created at the end of each call (if Logging is enabled), signified either by Stopping OnlineMeter's timer or Starting another call.

The file will grow to fill all available space, so I suggest you purge the last quarters bill when you pay it!!

The <Comment> field may be set using the SETCOMMENT ARexx command, or by stating it with an ARexx START command. It can be set initially using the COMMENT OnlineMeter Argument.

1.86 OnlineMeter Log Environmental Variables

The environmental variables Online/ONLINECOST and Online/ONLINEDURATION keep track of the total costs of all calls made, depending on whether Call Logging and Variable saving is enabled at exit time. They have the same format as the OnlineMeter display i.e. uu.ff and hh:mm:ss.

Every time OnlineMeter is exited (and var logging is enabled) the internal Accumulated Cost and Duration values are added to these variables, therefore for them to be accurate (and thus useful) beware of using the Reset facility and of switching the machine off without quitting OnlineMeter. The variables are saved to both ENV: and ENVARC: so they survive a re-boot.

Their values can be read and set using the CLI commands e.g.

```
getenv Online/ONLINECOST
getenv Online/ONLINEDURATION

setenv Online/ONLINECOST 342.00
setenv Online/ONLINEDURATION 00:00:00
```

SEE ALSO

```
GETCOST ARexx Command
Log Attribute
  Vars Attribute
  VARS Argument
```

1.87 External Control through ARexx

OnlineMeter has the ability to be controlled by ARexx making interfacing with most Communications packages easy.

The default ARexx port name is "OnlineREXX" although this can be changed via Preferences and OnlineMeter Arguments.

OnlineMeter provides the following commands:

```
ABORT
ACCUMULATIVE
GETCOST
LOG
LOGFILE
QUIT
READPREFS
RESET
SETCOMMENT
SETWINDOW
SETZONE
START
STOP
WARN
```

The syntax matches that used for CLI ReadArgs() arguments:

```
/S - Switch argument. e.g. ON and OFF
/N - Numerical (integer) argument.
    /A - Required i.e. argument must be specified for command
        to work.
/F - Argument includes rest of line including spaces.
```

SEE ALSO

Getting Results

1.88 Getting Results from ARexx Commands

Some OnlineMeter ARexx commands return results which can be used by the calling program.

Results can be passed back in two ways:

- As a variable string with multiple arguments separated by spaces.
- As a structured variable with each argument making up a field.

IMPORTANT Remember to specify 'OPTIONS RESULTS' in your ARexx script when expecting results or you will see nothing!

For example GETCOST COST, DURATION :

```
OPTIONS RESULTS
GETCOST VAR MyCost
SAY 'MyCost =' MyCost
```

gives:

```
MyCost = 0.00 00:00:00
```

whereas:

```
OPTIONS RESULTS
GETCOST STEM MyCost.
SAY 'Cost =' MyCost.cost
SAY 'Duration =' MyCost.duration
```

IMPORTANT The '.' after the variable name is required!

gives:

```
Cost = 0.00
Duration = 00:00:00
```

STEM is probably the more useful of the two.

1.89 ABORT

SYNOPSIS

ABORT

FUNCTION

Aborts the current call, Stopping OnlineMeter and not making a Log Entry or adding the call information to the Accumulated call data.

SEE ALSO

Abort Menu Item.
Logging

1.90 ACCUMULATIVE

SYNOPSIS

ACCUMULATIVE ON/S, OFF/S

FUNCTION

Changes the Accumulative display setting.

SEE ALSO

ACCUMULATIVE Argument
Accumulative Menu Item
OnlinePrefs Accumulative Checkbox

1.91 GETCOST

SYNOPSIS

GETCOST ACCUMULATIVE/S

RESULTS

COST, DURATION

FUNCTION

Returns the current cost and duration from OnlineMeter.

If the ACCUMULATIVE argument is given returns the Accumulated rather than the Current Call cost. If a call is in progress this is the sum of the two.

SEE ALSO

Getting Results
Display

1.92 LOG

SYNOPSIS

LOG ON/S, OFF/S

FUNCTION

Turns Logging On or Off.

SEE ALSO

Logging

1.93 LOGFILE

SYNOPSIS

LOGFILE FLOGFILE/F

FUNCTION

Sets the name of the file used for logging calls.

SEE ALSO

Logging

1.94 QUIT

SYNOPSIS

QUIT NOSAVE/S

FUNCTION

Quits OnlineMeter.

If the NOSAVE option is given then OnlineMeter will not save the Accumulated totals to the environmental variables.

SEE ALSO

Logging Environmental Variables

1.95 READPREFS

SYNOPSIS

READPREFS PREFSFILE/A/F

FUNCTION

Causes OnlineMeter to read the specified Preferences file.

SEE ALSO

PREFSFILE Argument

1.96 RESET

SYNOPSIS

RESET FULL/S

FUNCTION

Resets the OnlineMeter totals to zero.

If FULL is specified then both the Current Call and Accumulated values are reset, otherwise only the Current Call is reset.

SEE ALSO

Reset Gadget

1.97 SETCOMMENT

SYNOPSIS

SETCOMMENT COMMENT=COM/F

FUNCTION

Sets the <Comment> field that will appear in the OnlineMeter Log File for subsequent calls, including the current one, if any.

Up to 20 characters will be used in the Log File, remember to quote the argument if you wish to preserve the case in ARexx.

SEE ALSO

Log File
START

1.98 SETWINDOW

SYNOPSIS

SETWINDOW SMALL/S, BIG/S, HIDE/S, SHOW/S, X/N, Y/N, PUBSCREEN

FUNCTION

Changes the OnlineMeter window:

PUBSCREEN moves the OnlineMeter window to the named Public Screen,

SMALL and BIG toggle the Zoomed state,

X and Y position the window,

HIDE closes the OnlineMeter window leaving it running in the background and SHOW opens it again.

More than one argument may be specified at the same time, with (hopefully!) predictable results.

SEE ALSO

PUBSCREEN Argument
SMALL
OnlineMeter Hide Menu Item
TOP and LEFT ToolTypes/Arguments.

1.99 SETZONE

SYNOPSIS

SETZONE ZONE/A/F

FUNCTION

Sets the currently selected Zone.

SEE ALSO

Zone Menu

1.100 START

SYNOPSIS

START PREINC/N, COMMENT=COM/F

FUNCTION

Starts OnlineMeter costing a call.

If PREINC is specified then the duration of the call is advanced by PREINC seconds, this is useful when there is a delay between actual call connection and being able to issue a command, as there most often is with comms programs.

The COMMENT argument can be used to set the <Number/Note> field in the OnlineMeter Logfile.

SEE ALSO

Start Gadget
STOP
SETCOMMENT
Log File

1.101 STOP

SYNOPSIS

STOP

FUNCTION

Stops the current call being costed.

SEE ALSO

Stop Gadget
START

1.102 WARN

SYNOPSIS

WARN ON/S, OFF/S

FUNCTION

Sets the status of Time Band end warnings.

SEE ALSO

WARN Argument
Warn Menu Item
Online Prefs Warn Checkbox

1.103 Using Online-o-Meter with AmiTCP/IP

AmiTCP/IP (a fine product btw) uses two scripts for controlling the connection, startnet and stopnet thus it is rather easy to customize it to use OnlineMeter through ARexx.

Example startnet Script

Example stopnet Script

I have my own IP address from Dircon (as opposed to a dynamic one) and use the excellent dialer.device by Iain Hibbert (dial_1.lha on ftp.demon.co.uk) so connection times are pretty predictable.

Unfortunately there (still, as of version 4.0 (demo) of AmiTCP/IP) seems to be no method of detecting the success of the AmiTCP:bin/online command in a script: it does not set a return code. Therefore OnlineMeter can get started even though the modem failed to connect (e.g. if the line was busy). If this happens we can just use the Abort Menu or ARexx ABORT link "ONLINEMETER_AREXX_ABORT"} command to cancel the call.

In the examples Online-o-Meter additional lines are marked with ***

comments. Although the scripts come from the AmiTCP/IP 4.0 demo the lines for Online-o-Meter are the same for all other versions.

1.104 AmiTCP/IP 4.0 startnet Example

```
.key IPADDRESS
.bra {
.ket }
.def IPADDRESS xxx.yyy.zzz.aaa

; log in
AmiTCP:bin/login -f name
AmiTCP:bin/umask 022
AmiTCP:AmiTCP
WaitForPort AMITCP

; *** Run Online-o-meter if not already around ***
IF `rx "say show('P','OnlineREXX')"` EQ 0
    run <>nil: OnlineMeter
    WaitForPort OnlineREXX
ENDIF
; *** Set Zone ***
rx "address 'OnlineREXX'; setzone 'National B1'; setcomment 'Dircon'"

; Configure loop-back device
AmiTCP:bin/ifconfig lo0 localhost

; Assure that ENV:Sana2 exists
if not exists ENV:Sana2
    mkdir ENV:Sana2
endif

; Create cslip0 configuration file
echo "dialer.device 0 38400 0.0.0.0 MTU=1006 CD 7WIRE EOFMODE" >ENV:Sana2/cslip0. ↵
    config

; Configure cslip0
AmiTCP:bin/ifconfig cslip0 {IPADDRESS} xxx.yyy.zzz.aaa netmask 255.255.255.0

; *** start Online-o-Meter timing ***
rx "address 'OnlineREXX' start 19"

; Add IP address entry for this host
rx "address AMITCP; 'ADD HOST {IPADDRESS} host'"

; Add route to this host
AmiTCP:bin/route add {IPADDRESS} localhost

; Add route to the default gateway
AmiTCP:bin/route add default xxx.yyy.zzz.aaa
;setenv HOSTNAME `AmiTCP:bin/hostname`
Assign TCP: Exists > NIL:
IF Warn
    Mount TCP: from AmiTCP:devs/Inet-Mountlist
EndIf
```

```
; Start the internet 'super server'
run AmiTCP:bin/inetd
```

```
;start the SMTP daemon
run UUCP:c/SMTPd
```

1.105 AmiTCP/IP 4.0 stopnet Example

```
.KEY FLUSH/S
.BRA {
.KET }

; $Id: stopnet,v 3.1 1994/05/27 07:08:39 jraja Exp $

rx "address AMITCP; KILL" ; Send "KILL" to AmiTCP
rx "address 'OnlineREXX' stop" ; *** stop Online-o-Meter ***

If {FLUSH}
  Wait 2 secs
  If 'rx "Say Show(ports, AMITCP)"` EQ 0
    Avail >NIL: FLUSH
  EndIf
EndIf
```

1.106 Release Notes for Version 1.5

This is Release 1.5

Just a few fixes and one major enhancement:

OnlineMeter

- Fixed two minor memory leaks I noticed:
 - one which I introduced in 1.4: OnlineMeter would loose around 20-80 bytes every time it read the preferences: I wasn't freeing the Hotkey strings...
 - one which must have been around since early versions: OnlineMeter would loose 464 bytes every time the window was closed. The problem lies in the fact that gadtools.library CreateMenus() allocates all its menus in one big lump, and if you subsequently add some, they don't get freed on a FreeMenus() as you'd think they would. You wouldn't believe how long this took me to trace! An interesting combination of CodeWatcher/owner/lvo/wedge/VLT/cpr & Artm eventually found it...
- Made space allowance for font width slightly more generous to fix lost characters with some fonts.
- Quitting OnlineMeter while the meter is running now acts as if Stop was pressed before exit, i.e. a log entry is made if enabled.
- Crash recovery:
 - If machine crashes while OnlineMeter is running or before ENV:

vars are saved, running OnlineMeter again after reboot will recover the call values and ask if you wish to log them (if logging is enabled). Uses OS compliant KickTags mechanism.

- Slight Adjustment to layout should work better with some fonts.
- Online2NComm log file converter and source included.

OnlinePrefs{ub}

- Fixed identical problem with memory leak on preferences read.

SEE ALSO

Release Notes for Version 1.4

1.107 Release Notes for Version 1.4

This is Release 1.4

Some nice features added and several bugs which people have noticed recently (and which have been there since 1.1!) fixed.

OnlineMeter

Bugs Fixed

- Shell Template corrected (missing commas!).
- Nasty bug with REXXNAME Shell argument fixed.
- Bug regarding ONLINEDURATION when ENVARC:ONLINECOST is write-protect fixed. Now always tries to save to ENV: whatever happens.

New Features

- When Minimized, Window Title alternates between Cost and Duration display.
- Band Warning enhanced to show relative costs of Current and Next Band.
- Information on Current and Next Band is available via Menu Item.
- Menu Item to jump between Public Screens.
- Installs as a Commodity:
 - Can be Hidden/Shown/Removed via Commodity Exchange Program.
 - HotKeys for Show, Start, Stop and Abort Meter.
 - Commodity Interface disable option.
- Interface Hideable on startup.
- ONLINEDURATION and COST variables can be enabled/disabled from Prefs.
- Switchable DisplayBeep with End of Band Warning.
 - Creates icon for Online Log File.
- Initial Logging Comment can be specified on Command Line or via ToolTypes.

OnlinePrefs

- Window opens within visible portion of screen, just like OnlineMeter does.
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- ASL requesters now have pattern gadgets and ignore icon files, plus appear in a sensible position.
- Editing for New Preferences added.
- 0.01s time rounding added (required for new BT structure).
- GUI reviewed, I think it looks nicer...

General

- Preferences file format modified for new preferences items and better future expandability: backwards compatibility maintained!

I was hoping to include a preferences file for BT's new charging structure (they are switching from Units to Seconds in July), but they've failed to send me any details, despite me registering for their Pricing Information Service (they're probably too busy giving out huge pay-rises to their chairman and sacking the people who actually do the work :*)). I'll stick it out on the net just as soon as I get the information.

1.108 Thanks...

A quick burst of respect to:

- AmiTCP/IP group
- Usenet c.s.a and irc #amiga people.
- Mercury Communications Ltd. (as a satisfied customer)
- The Direct Connection Ltd. for providing a consistently good service.
- The ex-Commodore engineers for making the Amiga great.

and thanx to:

- Richard Ambridge for prompting some updates, and for completely shutting up for a while leading me to believe that there were no more problems ;*)
- The authors of GadToolsBox and ARexxBox for these excellent utilities, although GTB could do with updating for V39+...

- In strict alphabetical order :^) :

- Roberto Agria for his enthusiasm and comments, especially driving me to implement the Crash Recovery after all these years!
 - David Drabek for the infomative font-sensitivity bug report and the 'BadLinks' program (by Roger Nedel).
 - John Fuller for the idea for Online2NComm.
 - Mark A. Gotz for his observations and PTT prefs.
 - Rainer Krause for his observations, especially on the 0.01 bug!
 - Stefan Metzger for his Telekom prefs, suggestions and 1.5 testing.
 - Steve Van Nieuwenhoven for his Belgian prefs.
 - David Simpson for his ideas, which form many of the changes for version 1.4.
 - Roger F. Thorpe for his Nynex prefs & comments.
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- Others who've sent me thanks and bug reports: cheers!

1.109 Distribution Notes

Online-o-Meter is FREeware. There are no restrictions to its distribution so long as no charge is made (above material and administrative costs).

Magazines or other organisations wishing to distribute Online-o-Meter as part of a profit making venture may do so only with my prior written permission and at a negotiated fee, however they are actively encouraged to do so... I crave fame!!

Online-o-Meter Source, Code and Data are Copyright E.F.Pritchard 1994-1996. All rights reserved.

The current version of Online-o-Meter is 1.5 (See RELEASE) and the archive Online1.5.lha should contain the following files:

```
Online-o-Meter (dir)
  Docs (dir)
    Online-o-Meter.guide           Online-o-Meter.guide.info
  Presets (dir)
    BT                             BT.info
    BelgaCOM                       BelgaCOM.info
    Mercury                        Mercury.info
    Telekom96                      Telekom96.info
    Nynex                          Nynex.info
    PTT                            PTT.info
    Presets.readme                 Presets.readme.info
  Online2NComm (dir)
    Online2NComm                   Online2NComm.info
    Online2NComm.c                 Online2NComm.c.info
    Online2NComm.doc               Online2NComm.doc.info
  Docs.info                       Presets.info
  OnlineMeter                     OnlineMeter.info
  OnlinePrefs                     OnlinePrefs.info
  OnlineMeter1.5.readme           OnlineMeter1.5.readme.info
```

Online1.5.lha will be stored on Aminet in /pub/aminet/comm/misc. For those without Internet access, you can obtain the latest version from me if you send me a disk and postage costs, stating the version you already have. If there isn't a newer version available, I'll send one when it becomes available: if this is going to be more than a couple of weeks then I'll send you a postcard to tell you... if there is never going to be another version ever again, I'll send the disk back!

1.110 Online-o-Meter Plans

The Online-o-Meter project has been running since January 1994 but because I have been in full time employment (as a Software Engineer)

since October 1993 development time has been limited to the evenings and the weekends, when I'm not on The Net or playing Gravity Force 2 or Hired Guns or watching Babylon 5 or Ren&StimpY or going to a Rave...

I now consider Online-o-Meter finished... and I've thought this for the last 5 releases! Apart from any further bugs and wierdnesses that turn up there are a few things I could add (but only if demand is high: I'm working on an other project now).

- Someone has suggested that I add a facility to watch the Carrier Detect line of the serial port and use this to determine call termination (and starting?). Apparently there is a program which does this.
- Some kind of Phone Book/Data base for looking up numbers and deciding the Zone for itself. This could either be a 'frequently used numbers' look-up type thing or something smarter.
- A few utilities for Logged calls, e.g. a number/Zone/comment orientated totalizer. Of course you could just use awk ;-)
- Someone asked for some Log File compatibility with other programs such as PhoneBill...

Naturally, I'm open to suggestions, as well as any incentives you might wish to send me (although I really don't expect or require anything).

SEE ALSO

Why/How to get in contact
The-other-project

1.111 The-Other-Project

The-Other-Project

- MetaTool an Amiga MIME GUI. 100% cool and froody
metamail/mailto replacement: MUI, Drag and Drop, 3.0 datatypes, mailcap orientated... version 40.x is now available on Aminet, (comm/mail/MetaTool.lha) check it out!

SEE ALSO

Why/How to get in contact

1.112 Why/How to get in contact

The why is easy:

Any messages, bug notes, suggestions, cash, hardware, software, firmware, ~liveware (?) etc. you'd like to send me.

The how is easy too:

By e-mail:

ellis@cam-ani.co.uk (instant during UK work hours Mon-Fri)

efp90@nuke.dircon.co.uk (read at least weekly)

By snail-mail:

Forest View,	Cambridge Animation Systems,
Whitehouse Road,	20 Cambridge Place,
Porchfield,	CB2 1NR
Newport,	United Kingdom.
Isle of Wight.	
PO30 4LL	
United Kingdom.	

I now have a WWW Home Page where I will be providing support for Online-o-Meter and other projects:

<http://www.users.dircon.co.uk/~nuke/>

Due to the stupidly huge volume of Usenet News these days, I've given up~reading it, so try e-mail!

1.113 ...could it be the mild mannered janitor?

Hi, this is the personal bit.

I'm Ellis Pritchard a 24 year old Surrey born~Computer Scientist.

I've been an Amiga user and fan since my first A500 in 1990 (coincidentally just~before I found the Internet and went to University) and a programmer since I~was 9 (TI99/4a and CBM 128 in the mean time).

I hold a First Class degree in Computer Science from the University of~Southampton, which runs probably the best damn course in the country, as well~as having unlimited Internet access even in 1990 :*)

I currently work at Cambridge Animation Systems who produce the world~beating~Animo® Animation Software as used by Warner Bros. and Stephen Spielberg's~DreamWorks Studio for NeXTStep and SGI platforms.

I'm also the author of several other things you may find on Aminet,~including:

- MetaTool - The Amiga MIME GUI
- CardMemLast - Speed up your PCMCIA memory only system!
- ARexx.guide - AmigaGuide version of the South West Amiga Groups original ARexx docs.

I'm dedicated to FREEWARE because without it we'd all be either extremely poor~or have no software, simple as that.