

CHRONOS

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> CHRONOS		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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Chapter 1

CHRONOS

1.1 Chronos Instructions

Instructions of use of Chronos and SetChronos commands

(c) Minas N. Miliaras - 03.07.95
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1. An idea was born: Army
2. The purpose of Chronos
3. How does it work
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1.2 An idea was born

AN IDEA WAS BORN: ARMY.

The idea of making a program to count days, was born when I was serving my duty in the Greek Army. In Greece all men are forced to join the Army for approximately 1.5 - 2 years (it depends). As you can understand every soldier is counting the amount of days till the end of his duty.

So, I made a quite simple program and named it Army, which was calculating for me, every day, the rest of my days in Army.
Today, one year after, as a civilian again, I thought to expand my little

program and make it flexible, convinient and simple in use.

(Of course I know I could have made this program better but hey! that's what the updates are for. The only thing I do ask from you is your support with your comments . Please do criticize me).

This is how the program Chronos was born.

In Greek, Chronos means "time", but it also was the name of an ancient Greek God which was the only master of time in universe. Later his position in the Greek pantheon wore taken by another God named Kronos (you may know him as Saturn).

1.3 Purpose of Chronos

THE PURPOSE.

Chronos is a very small program, for it takes only a few bytes off your disk ← and it is consuming only a tiny bit of Ram, and that for just a few seconds. That makes it convenient to run under all systems.

Its main purpose is to calculate and count how many days are left until an important (to you) date. It can be the date you become a civilian again, the date you are going to be married (if you do want to get married, you just can't wait - you count the days since the Happiest Day in your life - but some people would like to know how many days they still can spend in freedom...)

Chronos can be useful under almost any circumstances because :

- 1) it can be used for 20 different preferred-dates at the same time.
- 2) all messages which are displayed are selected by you and you can even have completely different messages for every date.
- 3) you can decide if you want to take in mind TODAY and the LASTDATE when calculating.
- 5) it returns a WARN code to AmigaDOS only when the date has reached, so as with a simple if command, you can execute whatever you want for that day (more info later)

So, as an example, you can be informed how many days are left until your girlfriend is coming back from her studies at the same time you are informed how many days you can be still free before joining the army.

The program could say, eg: "In 5 days my love will be back home" and "I have only 27 days of freedom!"

For the generic info file, or for every different date, you have to set 6 messages:

- 1) when are left more than 30 days until your preferred date
 - 1) when are left less than 30 days until your preferred date
 - 3) when there is only ONE day left
 - 4) when there is NO day left
 - 5) when TODAY is your preferred date
 - 6) when your preferred date belongs to the past
-

How does it work?

1.4 How does it work?

HOW DOES IT WORK?.

When you are running Chronos you have to give a 3lettered code name or id. After the program finds it in its prefs file ChronosPrefs.id in s: drawer, it takes all the info it needs. Then it is searching if a specific message file exists, otherwise it takes the appropriate message from a generic file in s:ChronosPrefs.mes and displays it.

For example, type from a CLI or SHELL:

```
Chronos min <return>
```

so the program will count the days for min and display the message either from specific file s:ChronosPrefs.mes.min or from the generic one s:ChronosPrefs.mes

Those prefs files are plain text files which can be edited by all text editors. However, some symbols are used, so trying to make Chronos easy to use, I also made a preference program and named it SetChronos. So, it is very easy even for someone who is not very familiar with the Amiga to use Chronos.

First of all, we have to Install those commands.

1.5 Installing

INSTALL.

The installing process is quite simple, just double-click the Install icon, which only copies Chronos and SetChronos commands in c: (all prefs files are being created first time you use SetChronos).

or just type the following commands from a CLI or SHELL :

```
copy Chronos c: <return>
copy SetChronos c: <return>
```

```
copy Chronos.guide s: <return>
```

There could be possible no problem in all that so let me explain you all those slight demands of Chronos.

1.6 Demands

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

All rights about Chronos and SetChronos are reserved by the author,
Minas N. Miliaras.

The program can be FREELY distributed as long as the name of the author is stated and nothing in the code has been edited. Noone can sell any of those files without the written permission of the author.

The author has NO responsibility for any misuse of his programs.

ATTENTION: for the use of the Greek version you must have installed in your Amiga the Greek OS which has the greek characters in ELOT 928 - ISO 8859-7 which is a copyright by:

AC SOFTWARE ENGINEERING - TSAOUSSIS P. COSTAS
84b, Themistokleous str, 184 52 Nikea, Athens
tel. +31 4962494

Dont use the Greek version of Chronos if your system has a NON legal Greek OS.

DEMANDS.

The only thing that your Amiga must have as hardware is a battery clock so your Amiga can remember todays date, otherwise you have to set today's date every time you boot. Apart from that, Chronos is running under every Kickstart or WorkBench version, and no matter how fast or slow the CPU is.

Chronos and SetChronos are about 20Ê together, so you can install them even in a floppy disk if you don't have a hddisk.

Let see now how you will use SetChronos .

1.7 SetChronos

SetChronos.

From a CLI or SHELL type:

SetChronos ? <return>

the program will display you the following info:

SETPHONOS v2.1 EN - Preference Settings program for Chronos.

(c) ïinas ï. ïiliaras 03.07.95.

```
setchronos id (name)  to add a new id in file s:ChronosPrefs.id
setchronos mes        to create a new generic message file
setchronos mes (name) to create a specific message file for (name)
```

Lets examine all options, and as an example let me use min as an imaginary (name)

```
SetChronos id min <return>
```

will append in file s:ChronosPrefs.id your preferred date, in absolut form, along the id min, so when you ask about min this is the date the program will retrieve.

IMPORTANT NOTE: your name or code (id) has to be THREE letters or digits but do not use the fullstop (.) or the sharp sign (#)

The program will ask you the day, month and the year of the date you are interesting. You always have to reply with a two digit number. For example, the date: 17th July 1996 is: 17 07 96

```
SetChronos mes <return>
```

will create s:ChronosPrefs.mes which is the generic message file and the program asks for 6 different messages:

- 1) when are left more than 30 days until your date
- 1) when are left less than 30 days until your date
- 3) when there is only ONE day left
- 4) when there is NO day left
- 5) when TODAY is your preferred date
- 6) when your preferred date belongs to the past
(it gives you how many days have been since your date)

you can write whatever you want in each one and remember that in questions 1, 2 and 6 we can put a # sign wherever we want. This sign will be replaced by the number calculated by Chronos.

e.g. if we gave this phrase:

" There are only # days until my birthday " (without the "")

then Chronos will answer your (lets say 15 days before your date)

the following phrase:

" There are only 15 days until my birthday "

For messages nr. 3, 4 and 5 the # sign is completely useless.

```
SetChronos mes min <return>
```

It is working as the previous option, apart from the fact that all your preferred messages will be saved in s:ChronosPrefs.mes.min which is the specific message file for id min
(the Chronos command checks if a specific file for min exists. if not it

takes its information from the generic file)

Now you have made your preferences,
let's see the main program @{ " Chronos " link CHRONOS }

1.8 Chronos

Chronos.

From a CLI or SHELL type:

Chronos ? <return>

the program will display the following info:

CHRONOS - a program to count how many days are left

(c) Ìinas Í. Ìiliaras - 03.07.95.

Chronos <id> [today] [lastday].

Chronos [version].

We will continue our example with the imaginery id min

Chronos min <return>

the Chronos command after reading s:ChronosPrefs.id and s:ChronosPrefs.mes or s:ChronosPrefs.mes.min will display the appropriate message for the number of days are left and then will return to AmigaDOS.

Chronos : 1) takes in mind the leap years
2) do not count Today and Lastday
only if you DO want so.

Chronos min today <return>

Chronos' answer will include today in counting
(today is the actual day you run the program)

Chronos min lastday <return>

Chronos' answer will include lastday in counting
(lastday is the day of the date you are interested)

Chronos min today lastday <return> or
Chronos min lastday today <return>

Chronos' answer will include today AND lastday in counting

NOTE: The counting of today's day and lastday's day is optional so as to cover all needs. It depends whether we want to make the amount of days seem large or small. If you are very happy to reach that date, and you just can't wait, you don't need today and lastday to be taken in mind just to make the number bigger. But if you want to know how many days are left until you join the army, you surely want the number to seem big, so count today and lastday as days in counting.
Soldiers usually prefer "29 and today's day left" rather than "30 days left"

Chronos version <return>

just displays the version of the program

So, that was how SetChronos and Chronos is working.
Let's see how you can automatically run Chronos, every time your Amiga is booting.

1.9 WBStartup or Startup-Sequence ?

WBStartup or StartUp-Sequence;.

Apart from an occasional execution of Chronos, you would probably like to be informed the number of days left every time you boot your Amiga.

If your Amiga has an OS older than 2.0 you can just add the Chronos command in s:startup-sequence of your boot disk with the format you prefer, e.g. Chronos jan today
so, every boot Amiga will display you the number of days left for jan

If your Amiga has 2.0 or newer, it will be better to use WBStartup. That is why an icon with the name Chronos-Auto exists. With a text editor you can edit this batch file and make it according to your needs. Then place this file in WBStartup drawer of your boot disk, and the program will be executed every time your Amiga boot.

Apart from that you can have the Chronos-Auto outside the WBStartup drawer and double click it every time you want to be informed.

Description of Chronos-Auto

Before executing Chronos-Auto (or placing it into WBStartup), you have to make it for your actual needs. So, edit it with a text editor (e.g. Ed, Memacs, Ced etc).

The batch file says:

```
setfont couriergr 13
```

```
echo " "  
  
c:Chronos XXX  
  
if WARN  
!!!!!!!  
endif  
  
wait 1
```

First command (setfont) is just to change the font, so as bigger and prettier font will be displayed, if you do hate topaz as much as I do.
More information about setfont you will find in AmigaDOS manual.

Then just a simple echo command for aesthetic purposes.

In next line, just replace \$\times\$\$\times\$\$\times\$ with your id or add any ↵ options as you have already seen.

The next three lines, let you execute a command ONLY when the date we are interested comes. This is how it works: Chronos returns to AmigaDOS a return code of 0 if everything has been alright and a return code of 10 (FAIL) if something wrong happens. In case the desired date is today, the command Chronos just after displaying the appropriate message returns to AmigaDOS with a return code of 6 (WARN). So, with an if command it is possible to run a special command, such as displaying a picture or playing a module, when - at last - the final day arrives.

e.g. you may type:

```
if WARN  
multiview MINAS.iff  
endif
```

then ONLY when the desired date arrives, apart from the message, the command multiview will be executed and will therefore display a picture - MINAS.iff
As you can see, you may run whatever you want.

Next line, the wait command, just forces the system to wait 1 sec, so as you can have time to read Chronos' message. Replace 1 with the value you want.

Next version...

1.10 Versions

Next version of Chronos will be released some day, I hope.
Here are some of the changes:

- * Chronos command will manage to run DIRECTLY a program, an AmigaDOS command

or even an Arexx script, when you want so.

- * SetChronos will be under GUI (graphic user interface), or even better under MUI (magic user interface).
- * Chronos will be executing under WorkBench (no batch files). That means that you will have NO deal with CLI or Shell.
- * a new command should be added to Chronos. That is an silent (Í) option, so as to force Chronos not display anything if the days remaining are more than Í.

Versions:

version 1.0 29.06.94 (Army)

version 2.0 15.06.95 (beta version)

version 2.1 EN 03.07.95 (can be found on the Aminet)

version 2.1 GR 03.07.95 - // -

As you may have seen there is also a Greek version for both of Chronos and SetChronos commands. That means that all messages both commands issue, e.g. when fail to run, are in Greek. Read the 11th chapter of this guide for more Info.

If you feel like seeing those commands in your language, don't hesitate to ask it - it is easy and costless, just write me how the messages are in your language and if any 'strange' characters occur, write me their ASCII codes.

I am looking forward to receiving your opinion and comments

1.11 Comments

In fact, Chronos is my first attempt to work on programming on Amiga enviroment ← and that means that it is sure someone could have done this better.

That is why I would feel obliged if all of you could share your opinion with me good or bad critisism, and any thoughts you may have, so I can be improved.

Problems? that's what e-mail is for...

I hope that this documentation hasn't tired you. I made it so detailed mainly because there are a lot of Amiga users who need all those infos. Unfortunately, we face a lack of proper coprehensive documentation on the Amiga. Please sent me e-mail with your comments about this document.

A message with e-mail cost you almost nothing. But that is my ONLY payment.

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Thank you

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[About Greek version...](#)

1.12 GREEK VERSION?

If you are interested for the Greek version of Chronos,
the solution is quite simple, just download it.

However, to run properly,

You have to install in your Amiga the:

Greek Amiga OS and the Greek WorkBench,
which have the Greek characters according to ELOT 928 and ISO8859-7 standards

which are copyrights

by A C S O F T W A R E E N G I N E E R I N G.

For more information about the Greek WorkBench, please do contact:

AC SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
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184 52 Nikaia, Athens - GREECE

or call at: +31 49.62.494 (ask for Mr. Tsaousis Costas)

or even better email him at: ktsaou@acropolis.gr
