Online-o-Meter

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Contents

Chapter 1

Online-o-Meter

1.1 Contents

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          Online-o-Meter
           The Ultimate Call Coster
         v1.3
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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

    OnlinePrefs -- Preferences Editor
        Startup  -- ToolTypes and Arguments
        Settings -- Top Level Prefs

        Creating Zones      -- The Basis of Billing
        Adding TimeBands    -- Time Related Tariffs
        Listing BandTimes   -- Automatic Banding
        Setting Preferences -- Save vs. Use
        Menus               -- Other Facilities

    OnlineMeter -- Call Meter
        Startup -- ToolTypes and Arguments
        Display -- Information and Sizing
        Gadgets -- Top Level Control
```

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 of resources. Its separate Preferences Editor and duel 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 (notably British Telecom) 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 (just trying to make head-or-tail of BT's price booklet gives you a headache), 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...

Units are a new feature of version 1.1 of Online-o-Meter.

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 contruct 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 it 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=USE 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:

  Public Screen for Display

  ARexx Port Name

  Call Logging Enabled/Disabled

  Call Logging File

  Initial Window Size

  Accumulative Display On/Off

  End of Time Band Warning On/Off

1.21 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

   PUBSCREEN

1.22 Rexx Name Attribute

Using the Rexx Name 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
```

1.23 Log Attribute

```
The Log checkbox controls whether Call Logging is enabled. 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, and 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
   LOGFILE
   Log Menu
   Logging Calls
   OnlineMeter Log Environmental Variables
```

1.24 Log File Attribute

```
The Log File 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
```

1.25 Open Small Attribute

```
The Open 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 showing
just the Cost.
```

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

SEE ALSO

   SMALL
   Display
```

1.26 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.

Whatever the state of the checkbox OnlineMeter maintains both sets of
information for use in logging information.

SEE ALSO

   ACCUMULATIVE
   Accumulative Menu
```

1.27 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.

SEE ALSO

   WARN
   Warn Menu
```

1.28 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 with out
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
asthetic 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.

1.29 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, and 0.1s (tenth of a second).
A forth 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.

1.30 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 intial 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 with out 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.

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

1.31 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.

1.32 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.

1.33 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.

1.34 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

1.35 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
```

1.36 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.

SEE ALSO

   OnlinePrefs Argument FROM

```
   OnlineMeter Argument PREFSFILE
```

1.37 OnlinePrefs Edit/Reset to Defaults

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

1.38 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.
```

1.39 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
```

1.40 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.
```

1.41 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.
```

1.42 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.

1.43 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.

1.44 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

1.45 OnlineMeter Startup

OnlineMeter supports a number of 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

```
   OnlineMeter
      PREFSFILE,
      LOG/S,
      LOGFILE,
      PUBSCREEN,
      REXXNAME,
      SMALL/S,
      WARN/S,
      ACCUMULATIVE/S,
      TOP/S, LEFT/S
```

```
      NOVARS/S

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, NOVARS, TOP and LEFT, since these
are immediate operators.
```

1.46 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.
```

1.47 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
```

1.48 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
```

1.49 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
```

1.50 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
```

1.51 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 Open Small Checkbox
Display

1.52 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

1.53 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
```

1.54 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
```

1.55 NOVARS

```
SYNOPSIS

   WB ToolType  -  NOVARS
   CLI Argument -  NOVARS

FUNCTION

   Suppresses writing of Environmental variables ONLINECOST and
   ONLINEDURATION no matter what the state of the Logging flag.

SEE ALSO

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

1.56 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 only the Cost is displayed.

In both modes OnlineMeter’s Menus can be accessed.

While costing is going on OnlineMeter will display the Current (or Accumulative) cost and (in Normal mode) duration of the call(s) in the Cost and Duration boxes above the controls.

SEE ALSO

OnlinePrefs.

1.57 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 "ONLINEMETER_ARG_LOG"}, before immediately starting to cost the next call. The Start button causes the minimum charge "TERMINOLOGY_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.

1.58 OnlineMeter Menus

The OnlineMeter Menu Bar looks like this:

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

1.59 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.

1.60 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

1.61 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

1.62 OnlineMeter Zones

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

SEE ALSO

   OnlinePrefs Zone Creation

1.63 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

1.64 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.
```

1.65 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
```

1.66 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 will open its window after a SETWINDOW SHOW command from ARexx
or by sending OnlineMeter a Control-F break signal via the Shell Break
or System Monitor utility such as ARTM.

SEE ALSO

   ARexx
```

1.67 OnlineMeter Preferences/Log

```
The Log Menu Item controls whether Logging
"ONLINEMETER_LOG"} is enabled or not.

SEE ALSO

   LOG OnlineMeter Argument
   Log OnlinePrefs Checkbox
   Logging
```

1.68 OnlineMeter Project/Quit

```
The Quit Menu Item leaves OnlineMeter, terminating any calls
in progress and saving the Accumulative Totals to the logging variables.
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
```

1.69 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
    Log Menu Item

   OnlinePrefs
    Log Checkbox
    Log File string
```

1.70 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><Number/Note><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 <Number/Note> field may be set using the SETCOMMENT ARexx command,
or by stating it with an ARexx START command.

1.71 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 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 logging is enabled) the internal
Accumulated Cost and Duration values are added to these variables,
therefore for them to be accurate (and therefore 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
  Log Attribute
  GETCOST ARexx Command

1.72 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
```

1.73 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 :


   GETCOST VAR MyCost
   SAY 'MyCost =' MyCost


gives:

   MyCost = 0.00 00:00:00

whereas:


   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.
```

1.74 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
```

1.75 ACCUMULATIVE

```
SYNOPSIS

   ACCUMULATIVE ON/S,OFF/S

FUNCTION

   Changes the Accumulative display setting.

SEE ALSO

   ACCUMULATIVE Argument
   Accumulative Menu Item
   OnlinePrefs Accumulative Checkbox
```

1.76 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

1.77 LOG

SYNOPSIS

LOG ON/S, OFF/S

FUNCTION

Turns Logging On or Off.

SEE ALSO

Logging

1.78 LOGFILE

SYNOPSIS

LOGFILE FLOGFILE/F

FUNCTION

Sets the name of the file used for logging calls.

SEE ALSO

Logging

1.79 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

1.80 READPREFS

SYNOPSIS

READPREFS PREFSFILE/A/F

FUNCTION

Causes OnlineMeter to read the specified Preferences file.

SEE ALSO

PREFSFILE Argument

1.81 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

1.82 SETCOMMENT

```
SYNOPSIS

   SETCOMMENT COMMENT=COM/F

FUNCTION

   Sets the <Number/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
```

1.83 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.
```

1.84 SETZONE

```
SYNOPSIS

   SETZONE ZONE/A/F
```

```
FUNCTION

   Sets the currently selected Zone.

SEE ALSO

   Zone Menu
```

1.85 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
```

1.86 STOP

```
SYNOPSIS

   STOP

FUNCTION

   Stops the current call being costed.

SEE ALSO

   Stop Gadget
   START
```

1.87 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
```

1.88 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.
```

1.89 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
  makedir 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
```

1.90 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
```

1.91 Using Online-o-Meter with VLT

```
Sorry, no information is available at the time of writing ;^(

Will someone _please_ work this out and let me know for inclusion in
the document?

Cheers.
```

1.92 Release Notes for Version 1.3

```
This is Release 1.3

A minor bug hitter:

OnlineMeter

  · Rounding didn't always work as intended: might have helped
    if I'd actually used ceil() instead of floor() as I'd intended!
    Now correctly rounds UP to nearest accuracy setting at end of
          call.
  · Rounding was always performed on cost display even while meter
    was running, which had some strange visual results. Now only
    shows rounded cost when stopped.
  · Fixed case where Window Title Bar display could get out of
    sync with Small/Big state.
  · Cost Rounding to 0.01 currency units added.

OnlinePrefs

  · In testing font sensitivity with various fonts, I completly
    forgot to test OnlineMeter with a standard 8*8 topaz font!
    The result was that some of the BandTimes gadgets overlapped
    the BandTimes list, oops!
  · Expanded width of some Cycle gadgets after someone claimed
    that text disappeared with certain fonts.
  · Possible to select Cost Rounding to 0.01 currency units.
  · Fixed non-updating Checkboxes when loading Prefs.

Online-o-Meter.guide
```

```
  · Missing/Bogus links fixed.

Other

  · I've noticed a 'funny' to do with Preferences Icons: it seems
    that the Default Tool has to have a fully qualified path to
    OnlinePrefs if ToolType parsing is to work: I think this is
    amiga.lib/ArgArrayInit()'s fault, not mine. It's not really a
    problem since OnlinePrefs saves preferences files from the
    Project/Save As...  menu item with a full path anyway, but
    beware if you like to frig with ToolTypes like I do!

SEE ALSO

   Version 1.2 Release Notes
```

1.93 Release Notes for Version 1.2

```
This (was) is Release 1.2

Just a few changes since 1.1, please see Version 1.1 release notes.

Changes:

OnlineMeter

  · OnlineMeter window now opens in visible portion of screen unless
    TOP or LEFT arguments are given. Only the stated co-ordinate
    will be used if one if given, the other being the Top/Left
    edge of the visible part of the screen.

  · REALLY STUPID bugs in Online-Timer task fixed: when wrapping
          over midnight to a band which lasts all day (e.g. 00:00-00:00)
    BandWarn calculation would screw up and display continuous
    Warning requesters. Had to be seen just for a laugh!

OnlinePrefs

  · Font sensitivity is improved: it's probably not perfect yet
    though...

  · OnlinePrefs window now opens in visible portion of screen.

  · Preferences Icons are now passed and loaded by OnlinePrefs.
    See the ACTION ToolType.

SEE ALSO

   Version 1.1 Release Notes
```

1.94 Release Notes for Version 1.1

This (was) is Release 1.1

After much delay, and after an initial poor response from outsiders (1 solitary e-mail message, come on guys feedback is what gets things done!), I've eventually found time to implement more features and generally improve things.

Features new and improved for version 1.1 are:

OnlineMeter

- Accuracy is now spot on, whatever the multi-tasking load, and without costing loads of CPU. It was sometimes quite a bit out before with long calls while running demanding apps. I completely redesigned Online-Timer to achieve this: I must have been having a bad day when I originally designed it!
- 'Unit' costing option added for coping with difficult BT pricing scheme (which I hear is being phased out!).
- Small window now displays call cost information.
- Abort Menu Item and ABORT ARexx command implemented.
- SETCOMMENT ARexx command and COMMENT argument to START added.
- Hide menu option and SETWINDOW HIDE/SHOW ARexx command implemented.
    - READPREFS ARexx command implemented.
- TOP, LEFT, NOVARS ToolTypes/Args added.
- Notification of Prefs changes implemented.

OnlinePrefs

- Log File GetFile gadget now implemented.
- Edit Menu Items implemented.
- USE, SAVE, EDIT, FROM and other ToolTypes/Args implemented.

Bugs fixed:

- Display now updated once per second, whatever rounding mode is in use. Not really a bug but a design oversight.
- When toggling between Accumulative and non-accumuative modes display is now correctly updated. Note that when Stopped in non-accumulative mode the current call will continue to be displayed until you toggle back and forth to Accumulative mode.
- There were several conditions which could cause OnlineMeter to crash the machine, all to do with Illegal Prefs files. An

```
    Enforcer hit with the OnlinePrefs Open... and Save As... menu
    items was also fixed (a harmless BYTE_READ caused by passing a
    NULL string pointer to ASL.library).


OnlineMeter and OnlinePrefs have now been extensively tested using
Enforcer (since I got my '030!) and all known (and some hitherto
unknown!) Enforcer hits and bugs have been zapped.

I'm pleased to report that absolutely no crashes have _ever_ happened
to either OnlineMeter or OnlinePrefs during the course of normal
operation, for all released versions... of course it was easy to crash
it with invalid (e.g. missing Zones) prefs, but, hey, 1.0 was a beta
(see Version 1.0 beta Release Notes)!!


The rule is: use Version i.0 of your product to debug the changes
since version i-1. When the product is relatively stable again,
release it as Version i.1. The user version of this rule is: don't buy
anything until Version i.1 is released. The authorship of this rule is
in dispute [...] All I know for sure is that the inspiration came from
Microsoft. Credit where credit is due.

  -- Michael Swaine, Dr.Dobb's Journal, November 1987,
   (via The Amiga Guru Book by Ralph Babel)


This is Online-o-Meter Version 1.1  :*)

SEE ALSO

   Version 1.0 beta Release Notes
```

1.95 Release Notes for Version 1.0 beta

```
This (was) is BETA 1.0

I have released this version of Online-o-Meter so that people can play
with it and make suggestions etc. For example, is there any wierd way
that your phone company charges you? If so then I will need to make
some changes to accomodate their unnatural methods.

Of course, in its current form Online-o-Meter is perfectly usable, I
use it and it does not crash (well, hasn't for a few compiler cycles!).


Many features mentioned in this document are not yet implemented:

 ·~ARexx commands: only START, STOP, RESET, SETZONE, GETCOST, LOG and QUIT
   are currently working.

 · Notification of preferences changes: Sorry, but if you change the
   preferences at the moment you will have to re-start OnlineMeter.

 · Icon passing to OnlinePrefs: not advertized, but this is intended.
```

- OnlinePrefs Arguments and ToolTypes: just haven't done this yet.

- OnlinePrefs File Selector Gadgets (Log File & Screen) and the Edit menu items (Reset to Default etc.).

- Hide option on OnlineMeter/Project menu. Nor does the hot-key.

- No sanity checking is performed on OnlinePrefs Band Times, don't do silly things. Especially don't start OnlineMeter with no valid prefs set!

- The documentation could do with improving, but it's not bad for three months work ;-)

Numerous other behavioral things need to be fixed/clarified: this is somewhere you can contribute, let me know how it should work.

If there are any features advertized but not implemented that you need in a hurry, let me know so that I can allocate priorities.

1.96 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. (")
- 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+...
- David Drabek for the infomative font-sensitivity bug report and the 'BadLinks' program (by Roger Nedel).
- Rainer Krause for his observations.
- Stefan Metzger for his prefs and suggestions.
- Others who've sent me thanks and bug reports: cheers!

disrespect to:

- The Commodore management for several years of Amiga neglect and ineptitude, culminating in liquidation.

hopeful thanks to:

- Whoever buys the Amiga and thus saves us from a Microsoft dominated world; gee, I hate monopolies, especially crap ones. Diversity must survive or we die from a starvation of new ideas.

· Hey Dave P., GET A MOVE ON!, (and gis a job!!)

1.97 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!!

The current version of Online-o-Meter is 1.3 (See RELEASE)
and the archive Online1.3.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
       Mercury                         Mercury.info
       Telekom                         Telekom.info
       Presets.readme                  Presets.readme.info
  Docs.info                       Presets.info
  OnlineMeter                     OnlineMeter.info
  OnlinePrefs                     OnlinePrefs.info
  OnlineMeter1.3.readme           OnlineMeter1.3.readme.info
```

Online1.3.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!

1.98 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 3 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).

- Localization (of course). I've now got enough info on how to do this, so if foreign users want to get in touch, I'll do it. This is now looking very likely if I have some time to spare.

- I thought that some kind of crash-proofing might be useful just incase the system dies while a call is in progress. e.g. a Resident Structure to save the current call costs which can then be retrieved by OnlineMeter after a crash.

- 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

1.99 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... initial versions should be out in a month or so, if you'd like to be a beta tester, drop me a line.

SEE ALSO
  Why/How to get in contact

1.100 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. Even if it's just
to say you downloaded Online-o-Meter and liked/didn't like/threw up
all over it (delete where applicable), I'd like to know.

I'd especially like to receive any preferences files you knock up so
that they can be distributed with future archives, but feel free to
just upload them yourself if you like...

The how is easy too:

By e-mail (checked every couple of days, normally):

  efp90@nuke.dircon.co.uk

By snail-mail:

  E.F.Pritchard,
  Forest View,
  Whitehouse Road,
  Porchfield,
  Newport,
  Isle of Wight.
  PO30 4LL
  United Kingdom.

I also try to read Usenet News, groups comp.sys.amiga.datacomm/programmer
etc., but direct e-mail is safer.

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

Hi, this is the personal bit.

I'm Ellis Pritchard a 23 year old Surrey born Computer Scientist,
although I currently live on the Isle of Wight and work as a Software
Engineer (;^) super cheeky huh?)

I've been an Amiga user and fan since my first A500 in 1990
(coincidently 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,
and currently work for Siemens Plessey Systems, Cowes, Isle of Wight
where I work with PC's and 8086 card sets: and you wonder why I'm an
Amiga fan??!!

My career aspirations are a) to leave my current work and b) to do
absolutely whatever I feel like doing and getting paid well for it...
this makes me just one of the 10 billion+ people on the planet with
exactly the same aspiration!

Regular followers of Online-o-Meter may wonder 'What happened to the

Ph.D?', well if anyone can suggest anything interesting to do, and come up with some finance, I'm still interested, however due to the lack of anything remotely gripping I'm now looking for a job I actually enjoy rather than one I struggle to tolerate!

P.S. I've changed my mind again, until further notice Surrey Estate agents of the Single-Female-Stacks-of-Cash variety are once again welcome in my abode... as are those with all above attributes except the Estate Agent bit. =:*)