

Timer Key 1.0

Documentation

Timer Key is an FKEY resource to help create log files that record your use of the Macintosh. Timer Key will record the information on use in a tab-delimited, TEXT file format that allows for input into most databases and spreadsheets. Timer Key records the following information:

Date Opened;	(format: 10/12/86)
Time Opened;	(format: 13:45)
Description;	(format: text)
Code;	(format: text, up to 4 characters)
DateClosed;	(format: 10/12/86)
TimeClosed;	(format: 13:45)
Minutes	(format: 23)

Description and Code are chosen by the user; both are text, although you might well want to restrict your "Code" entries to numbers. If you don't specify a code, "Code" will be inserted.

Installing Timer Key. Timer Key can be installed using Dreams of the Phoenix's FKEY Installer, or with ResEdit. As supplied, the FKEY resource ID is 7 but this can be changed without problems.

Using Timer Key. Invoke Timer Key like any other FKEY, pressing command-shift-# where # is the ID you have used to install it -- 7, if you didn't make any changes. Timer Key will present you with the standard SFGGetFile Box, showing all files of type TEXT. If you want to use a preexisting file (you usually won't, the first time), open it in the normal way. If you want to start a new file, choose "Cancel". This will present you with an SFPutFile box and you will be prompted for the name of the new file.

When you start a new file, or when you use an old file that is in "closed" status, you will be presented with a dialog box in which you can enter the description and code information. When you are satisfied with that, click "OK" and Timer Key will record, in the file, the starting date and time and description and code. [It will also, for its own use, record the number of characters in the current entry; this will be deleted when you Close the entry.] Finally, it will mark that file as in an "opened" state. If you decide you don't want to start an entry, just click "Cancel" and Timer Key will exit without doing anything.

When you reopen a file that has an opened entry in it, you will be presented with a dialog box asking whether you want to close the entry. If you do, click "OK"; if you don't, click "Cancel". If you click "Cancel", Timer Key will exit without doing anything; if you click "Okay", Timer Key will record the closing date and time, and the number of minutes between the starting and closing times, and mark the file as "closed". Thus the next time you use Timer Key on that file you will again see the dialog box, and so on.

Files created by Timer Kay contain tabs after each field but the last one, and contain a carriage return after the last field. They are of type TEXT, and can be read by any word processor and by most databases and spreadsheets. For example, a sample file might read as follows:

10/13/1986	09:46	Recompile	Code	10/13/1986	09:47	1
10/13/1986	09:51	Install in System	Code	10/13/1986	09:53	2
10/13/1986	09:54	728-0633 CIS	911	10/13/1986	09:58	4

This shows that all the entries started and stopped on October 13. The first one began at 9:46; I labeled it "Recompile," and didn't select anything for the "Code" entry. I closed the entry (by reinvoking Timer Key) at 9:47, after one minute. And so forth.

You can keep more than one file with Timer Key and switch among them at will. For instance, you might want to keep one file to time your telephone calls, another file to record your general Macintosh usage (business or pleasure), and yet another file to record billing information for specific clients.

Shareware

This is not public-domain software; it is "shareware". What that means is that I am asking those of you who use it for more than a couple of weeks to send me \$5 for it. (If you send me \$10 I will send you a copy of the latest version and documentation on a disk. I should note, however, that I don't expect to do many updates (although I hope to fix any bugs I can) and the chances are that all your extra \$5 will get you is a disk with the same version you already own). If you use it, please register: you can easily spend more than the \$5 registration fee on a big lunch at MacDonalds, and it has cost me considerable time (and some money in upload charges) to develop the program.

If you do register, I would appreciate knowing which version you have and where you got it. This will help me to get upgrades distributed.

My address is:

Loftus E. Becker, Jr.
41 Whitney Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Delphi LOFTUSBECKER — CompuServe 70206,67 — MCI Mail LBECKER

Users' groups and others distributing disks may freely distribute Timer Key under three conditions: (1) you distribute this documentation file along with the FKEY; (2) you aren't charging users significantly more than your costs of duplication and distribution for the disks you distribute; and (3) if you charge anything for the disks, you let me know (by postcard, electronic mail, or otherwise) that you are distributing Timer Key, and which version you are distributing.

Timer Key may be posted on any **bulletin board** without my prior permission so long as the documentation file is posted along with the FKEY.

Individuals may make as many copies of Timer Key as they want for their own use, and as many copies as they want for other people as long as the documentation file is always included with the FKEY on copies they make for others.

Bug Reports. I do not now know of what are doubtless a number of bugs in the distributed version of Timer Key. I would like to hear of the ones you find. Please send bug reports to me at the address above (or by electronic mail) — whether or not you have registered your copy.