Documentation to Counter Ver. 1.0
By L. D. Math        July, 1991
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***************Disclaimer and Legal Mumbo Jumbo:*******************
Counter is FREE. It may be sold if you can find somebody naive enough
to buy it, but no payment is required or requested. If you think that
Counter is so great that you can't sleep at night without sending me some
money, then feel free; my address is:

    L. D. Math, 2936 NE 178th St., Seattle, WA. 98155-4023

$5.00 would be plenty.
Counter is not guaranteed in any way, shape, or form. You use Counter
at your own risk, regardless of any possible consequences that may
occur before, during or after it's use. I will not be held liable for
any damages that result from using Counter.
My Own Two Cent's Worth: Counter has been tested pretty well before it was
released. No known "bugs" or "undocumented program features" exist as of
this release. That doesn't mean there aren't any, just that there are none
that I know of. Counter uses approved programming techniques and does not
fool around with your system hardware at all. Counter simply reads a seconds
register and does a quickie-calculation to see how much time is left.
Counter does not write to your hard drive, nor does it alter any data or
system parameters. Nonetheless, I won't be responsible if you misuse it
and somehow cause the Earth to split in half.


**********Overview:

Counter is a handy little Visual Basic program that will countdown to a
time you specify and then sound an alarm. Counter is useful for those long
up/download sessions. After your file transfer has begun, simply note
how long it will take, and set Counter for a few minutes less. As your
file transfer nears the end, Counter will time-out and give you a few
moments notice so you can prepare for the end of the transfer. Counter
may also be used for any other application that you see fit.


**********Requirements:
Any AT or better capable of running Windows 3.0 in Standard or Enhanced
mode, about 20K of disk space and the VBRUN100.DLL file, available on most
Public Domain BBS's for free.

**********Controls:

"START" Button
Starts Counter if a time has been input. Activated (optionally) by the
<SPACEBAR> when Counter is paused. Changes to "CONTINUE" when Counter
is paused.

"STOP" Button
Pauses Counter. Activated (optionally) by the <SPACEBAR> when counting.
Changes the "START" button into a "CONTINUE" button.

"CLEAR" Button
Clears any remaining time in Counter and resets to 00:00:00.
Also stops the alarm sound when it is going off.

"QUIT" Button
Quits Counter after first confirming that you really want to quit.

HOUR, MINUTE and SECOND Controls
Located beneath the Time Display, these are used to enter or change the
counter time. Maximum = 23:59:59. These allow for fast, easy setup of
the time value. May be changed when Counter is paused or stopped.

Menu Bar:

"About"
Shows info on Counter.

"Exit"
Quits Counter *NOW*, doesn't pester you by asking if you're sure.

**********Features:

Once Counter is started, it may be toggled on and off (paused) with the
<SPACEBAR>. When the alarm sounds, it may be silenced with the <SPACEBAR>
or by the CLEAR button.
When Counter is minimized to an icon, it displays the time remaining
in the icon caption.
Counter uses only one timer function in the operating system, so it
won't load down your system with a lot of extra overhead.
Counter uses the bare minimum of system resources.
Counter will keep correct time even if it can't read the system clock for
extended periods of time.
If Counter is minimized, Counter will return to it's normal size when the
alarm goes off.

**********Etcetera
The Up/Down Time Set controls seem to work upside down, but that's
function of Visual Basic, not wierd programming on my part. When I
figure out how to correct it, I'll put it in ver. 1.1.  Actually, I should
claim this is a program feature, in that it puts the "UP" buttons (which
you are more likely to use than the "DOWN" buttons) closer to the START/STOP
buttons. But I won't.
The numbers Counter uses may look blocky, depending upon your system.
A version that allows you to pick your own font may follow this release.
Future versions of Counter will probably include the ability to time an event
and perhaps run a program or a sound file you provide. Sound support for
Visual Basic is bleak at the moment, but this is expected to improve before
long. If you have an idea for something you would like to see in Counter,
write me and let me know. If it's reasonable, I'll try to put it in.

If you find a bug in Counter, write me and describe the problem. I will
fix the bug (or die trying) and send you back an updated version.
Please try and include as much information about the problem as you can.
(e.g. "When I count past midnight, Counter makes the Earth split in half,
and Counter also loses several seconds.")