NETOutlay_2_10

COLLABORATORS

	TITLE : NETOutlay_2_10		
ACTION	*NAME*	*DATE*	*SIGNATURE*
WRITTEN BY		December 25, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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NETOutlay_2_10

1.1   NETOutlay 2.10 Documentation

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                    NETOutlay v2.10 (C)1996 Jonathan Bennett
        ----------------------------------------
          Last edited on the 4th June, 1996.

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1.2 What is it?

```
Introduction
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Program to work out BT call charges. That is, call charges charged per
second and correspond to the times:

```
Cheap rate   : 18:00 - 07:59
Peak rate    : 08:00 - 17:59
Weekend rate : Saturday 0:00 - Sunday 23:59
```

Of course, this can also be used for other communications providers as long
as the charging bands are as set above, e.g. Mercury.
All charge rates and minimum charges are configurable.

Most people will use this program when accessing the 'net. However, it will
work equally as well with any type of modem communication as it uses the
carrier detect signal of the serial port.

The main and preferences programs will run from either WorkBench or CLI.

1.3 System Requirements

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Requirements
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  - An Amiga (really?)

  - Workbench 2.0x (v37) or above

  - A correctly set clock for correct charging (if like me, you don't have
    an internal clock you must manually set the date before using, or use
    a method of getting your clock set from your service providers machine,
    e.g. with AmiTCP SYNCLOCK.)

  - A modem using the internal serial port

1.4 Copying

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Copying
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```

NETOutlay is EmailWare.

NETOutlay may be freely copied so long as the original archive stays intact.
Oh, and if you use and like it: send me some email! :)
If you don't like it, tell me why.

1.5 Installation

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Installation
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```

Copy the file NETOutlay2 along with its icon to somewhere in your
executable path.

Copy the file NETOutlay2Prefs along with its icon to where ever you
store your preferences programs, e.g. SYS:Prefs/

Run the preferences program from WorkBench or CLI to set your preferences,
default values are provided. The defaults are correct at the time of writing
for use with for BT. (4th June, 1996)

1.6 Configuration

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Configuration
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```

The preferences are stored in ENVARC:NETOutlay.prefs and
ENV:NETOutlay.prefs. I don't recommend writing to this file by hand, use the
configuration option supplied. The configuration screen allows you to set
the following options:

```
Cheap rate       : How much a call costs on cheap rate, in pence per min.
Peak rate        : How much a call costs on peak rate, in pence per min.
Weekend rate:    : How much a call costs on weekend rate, in pence per min.
Minimum charge   : The minimum cost of a call, in pence.

Add time         : By how much do you wish to increase the length of a call,
                   in secs.  e.g. if you only run the program AFTER you have
                   made a connection then you may want to guess how long
                   your modem took to negotiate.  This is generally intended
                   for people without clocks who need to dial in and get the
                   correct time before starting call logging.  People who run
                   the program before making a call should set this to
                   the length of time after connecting that they get a
                   "CONNECT xxxxx" signal, I suggest about 10 secs (i.e. the
                   modem made 10 secs worth of ZXSpectrum loading noises
                   before saying "CONNECT".

Popkey           : When the "logger" window is hidden, this key combination
                   will show the window.

Add V.A.T.       : Check this box to add V.A.T. at the given rate, in
                   percent.
Subtract discount:Check this box to subtract discounts at the given rate,
                   in percent. e.g. BT Friends and Family gives 10%
                   discount.

Show call summary:After dropping the connection on a call, check this box
                   to enable a call summary to be shown at this point.
```

```
Logger window   : The X/Y start values of the logger window.

Hide logger     : Check this box to hide the logger window on startup.

Log file        : Full path and name of a log file to log calls to.  I
                  suggest 'xxx:NETOutlay.log' where 'xxx' is the path of a
                  directory suitable for permanent log files - Don't use
                  T: !
```

1.7 WorkBench Usage

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WorkBench Usage
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Double click on the 'NETOutlay2' icon then select a function from the given
dialog box.

Call Summary will show a current run-down of calls made.
Run Logger will start the program in a 'wait for call' state.  Any
time the modem now goes on-line, a call will be registered and costed.

The program can be made to run any of its functions at startup, instead of
being asked.  Just set the tooltypes for the NETOutlay icon to ONE of the
following:

    MODE=config
    MODE=summary
    MODE=logger

The popkey used to display the logger window can be set with the tooltype:

    CX_POPKEY=........

    See the icon for examples.

N.B. If running from WB, CX_POPKEY will _override_ any popkey values entered
in the configuration section.
```

1.8 CLI Usage

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CLI Usage
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Run the program from the command line with the following parameters:

    NETOutlay2 [summary|logger]

    NETOutlay2
      Brings up a dialog box with a list of functions.

    NETOutlay2 config
      Configure NETOutlay.
```

```
    NETOutlay2 summary
      Gives a cost/time summary of calls made using the current preferences.

    NETOutlay2 logger
      Start logging any calls made.  Run once to activate, and
      again to deactivate.  If asked to deactivate during a
      call, it will wait UNTIL THE CALL HAS FINISHED before
      exiting!
```

1.9 Whilst Running

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Whilst Running
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Once the 'logger' mode is running, it acts as a standard Workbench commodity.
Use the 'Exchange' program to show/hide its interface. Once hidden the
logger window can be displayed by using the Popkey.

Also, when running in logger mode, and the window is visible, then you can
use the menubar to hide the window, or display the current call charges.

The close gadget, will hide the window. Use the menu item 'quit' to remove
the program from memory.

1.10 Example Usage

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Example Usage
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```

For someone with a correct clock:
  1. Run the program BEFORE making a call (eg. from CLI: NETOutlay logger)
  2. Make call
  3. Do Internet/BBS stuff
  4. Disconnect
  5. Call charges automatically shown.

  Leave the program running if making more calls (it uses little CPU)
  To remove the program run again as in step 1 or click on close gadget.

For someone without correct clock (ME :( )
  Either set clock manually then follow above steps OR

  1. Make call
  2. Use connection to sync clock (eg. on AmiTCP: SYNCLOCK nn.nn.nn.nn)
  3. Run logger (eg. from CLI: NETOutlay2 logger)
  4. Do Internet/BBS stuff
  5. Disconnect
  6. Call charges automatically shown.

  Leave the program running if making more calls (it uses little CPU)
  To remove the program run again as in step 3 or click on close gadget.

NB. If I had a battery backed up clock I would run this program from
WBStartup and just leave it running, I can only wish...:(

1.11 Bugs - Not the BBC1 series...:)

Bugs/Features
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1. Not a bug: On some modems when turning them on and off when NETOutlay is
already running will cause a 'call' to be logged. The only solution is to
turn the modem on before running NETOutlay. The only way to 'fix' this is to
have a delay after detecting a carrier, then check again after the delay. If
the delay is made too large, then small connects will not be recognised. The
words "rock and a hard place" come to mind...

2. The cost summary of individual rates (peak/cheap etc.) are not totally
accurate due to minimum charge roundings etc. These individual costs are
really only for comparsion purposes. However, the total cost IS accurate.

3. Exchanges's 'disable' gadget will give strange effects if used in the
middle of a call.

1.12 Thanks To

Thanks To

The betatesters and people who 'spared a look' at this or previous versions
of NETOutlay.

Steve Lyon   Steven@lionsden.demon.co.uk
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Ta to CountB and Phil Stokes for making a link file that inspired me to write
the first version on this program, and letting me distribute a modified
version of Phil's link file.
Phil Stokes   phil@stokes.demon.co.uk

1.13 Things To Do

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Things To Do
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1. Configurable bands for other comms providers. Email me if you want this.

2. Open to suggestions...

1.14 Author

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Author
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Jonathan Bennett (who had to learn a lot of GUI programming very quickly)

Email: jbennett@hidden.demon.co.uk
Flames: postmaster@localhost

Anty on IRC (#disa)

1.15 History

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History
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  10/05/96 - (v2.0) First version.

  18/05/96 - (v2.01 released) Added tooltype support.

  22/05/96 - (v2.02) Added project menu on logger.
             Added newlook menus.

  01/06/96 - (v2.03) Cleaned up source.
             Removed "Carrier Lost - rechecking" as unnecessary.
             Cleanup on error bug fixed.
             Logger now runs as a commodity.

  03/06/96 - (v2.10) Separated Prefs and main program.
             _Really_ cleaned up the source.
             Fixed Hide/Run again crash.
             Fixed "FindTask" bug.  Hadn't done Forbid/Permit.
             All ports used now flushed of messages.  ack.
             Fixed "close window even though it's closed" bug.
             Fixed "all libs closed twice" bug.  Oh dear...:(
             On error, easyreq would be used AFTER libs had been closed.
               Fixed.
```