ComTimer 1.1

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What is ComTimer ?

ComTimer is a simple utility intended to aid you in keeping track of the cost of your use of Intenet.

How to use ComTimer ?

The first time you're going to run ComTimer, you have to start ComTimer before your dialer, so that ComTimer can to be able to determine the configuration of your system correctly without any interference from the dialer.

If you use a winsock utility like the one included in Windows 95, then you either start ComTimer before the dialing or after it. If you use an utility which uses scripts, like Trumpet Winsock x.x, then place ComTimer as one row in the script, so that it's loaded **after** the connection has been opened.

You can define the cost per minute and eventual monthly minimum cost. (Some netoperators charge a monthly minimum fee which includes a certain time of use. ComTimer takes this in account when it keeps track of your net-usage.) ComTimer logs the total cost and time spent surfing.

If you use for example Win95's orginal Dial-up Networking and start ComTimer before dialing, then you'll have to define an average time before connecting to your server. About 30 seconds is usually enough for this. ComTimer will wait for this amount of time before it starts counting.

ComTimer isn't yet able to calculate the cost of net-usage if your ISP uses different rates at different hours. Please mail to the author a table over your ISP's fees, as I'll need to learn the policy of several ISPs before I add such features to ComTimer. Enter in this case the value for cost per minute as 0.00, and you can run ComTimer as a simple timer without any costmonitoring.

ComTimer logs the usage with date and total time in a file named COMTIMER.LOG. This is found at Your_Windows_directory. You can watch and edit this file with the separate utility COMLOG.EXE. ComTimer takes into account and logs only sessions lasting 1 minute or longer, as all operators I know about charges for sessions lasting 1 minute or longer. If you use one that doesn't do this, mail me and I'll alter this feature. ComLog allows you to watch the logfile if ComTimer is running, but won't allow you to edit it.

ComTimer is designed to be run minimized on the taskbar, therefore might someone find the window with the digital counter to be somewhat big. This window is intended to be seen only when you want it to be seen. The window itself isn't displayed until the modem is activated. Until this happens, you can't open this, as ComTimer is looking for the modem and nothing else. As soon as ComTimer detects any kind of activity over the modem, it opens the main window, which you can minimize if you wish to.

If you rightclick with the mouse upon this window, you'll get a popup menu where you can enter the settings for your netconnection, ie cost per minute, minimum fee and eventual average time of connecting to the net. Here you see where the modem is found, too. If you look at the statistics and ComTimer is showing 2 values of which one is in brackets, the later means that's the real amount you've used. The first value in this case is your monthly minimum fee.

ComTimer saves the last position of it's main window upon exit and will use this the next time it's activated.

How to setup ComTimer ?

ComTimer can be run from any directory, therefore isn't any setup-program included with the package. I've in this way kept down the size of the zip-file.

ComTimer does automatically detect your modem. ComTimer looks into the Registry and checks out the location of your modem. It works well as long as everything has gone well when you did setup Win95 on your system. Otherwise you might be asked to manually configure ComTimer. See more about this in ComTimer's helpfile and later in this document (see NOTE).

IF YOUR DIALER COMPLAINS ABOUT ANOTHER APPLICATION USING THE MODEM:

Use either ComTimer or ComLog to open the 'Settings' dialog. Click upon the dialog's icon. Choose 'ComTimer refresh' from the system menu. This will allow you to change the interval in milliseconds used when the program checks for the modem. Enlarge the value shown here. The smaller the value is that you use, the more likely is it that a confilct between the checking routine and your dialer is born. If you used ComLog to change this value, then you'll have to restart ComTimer for the change to be effective. ComTimer will wait the specified amount of time before it tries to check if the modem is in use, giving the dialer ample opportunity to establish contact, before ComTimer pokes around.

IMPORTANT:
Never run ComTimer together with another application of this type, as this might cause an conflict between these 2 applications that might screw up your system.

NOTE:
If you've installed more than one modem in your PC, and ComTimer chooses the one you don't want to use, you can correct this by adding the following to ComTimer.ini:

[modem]
port=COMx

x is the number of the com-port used by the modem.

This forces ComTimer to use a specified modem, and is useful in case if ComTimer chooses faulty modemsettings, too.

System requirements:

Any PC equipped with a modem and running Windows 95.

History:

1.0   The first
version

1.0a   English is used
as default instead of Swedish

                                                                                            Animated icon
added on the taskbar

                                                                                            Altered the
window to be non-sizeable

1.1   Added the
possibilty to close down ComTimer before the dial-up procedure has taken place.

                                                                                            Added a
possibilty to change the interval between checkouts of the modem, in case of possible

                                                                                            conflict with
dialer.

                                                                                            Changed the
way calculated cost of usage is shown at the mainwindow and the Statistics-dialog.

statistics shown to reality, not anylonger frozen as before.

of the code, resulting in smaller size and less usage of resources.

ComTimer to wait for the specified average time before starting to count time.

that kept ComTimer from finding the modem, if ComTimer was run after the started.

Linked the

Rewrote some

Made

Corrected a bug
dialer was

Other products:

Check out with the author for more products, for example SetFileDate 1.02.
This utility changes the date & time stamps of multiple files selected in Explorer.

Credits to:

The digits used in ComTimer are designed by Alberto Garcia Alvarez, Spain; e-mail: agarcia@etsiig.uniovi.es

I thank all the people who've told me their opinion about ComTimer.

All product names mentioned here are either such or registered such of their respective owners.

Disclaimer

The author denounces any responsibilty for anything that might be caused by the use of ComTimer.
The author doesn't give any kind of warranty for this software. The user uses ComTimer at his
own risk.

Files included in the package:

ComTimer.EXE	the timer itself
ComLog.EXE	the logutility
SComTimer.hlp	helpfiles
SFComTimer.hlp	
UKComTimer.hlp	
Setup.txt	textfile with setupinstructions
Readme.doc	this file