

SysClock

Version 2.1

Introduction

SysClock is a Visual Basic (v3.0) program I wrote to use as an onscreen clock. In addition to the time it also gives the date and day of the week and, optionally, the percentage of free resources remaining and will warn if resources fall below 25%. In this version a number of new features have been added that provide additional functionality, such as file launching, displaying system info, and file launching. Also added in this version is the ability to set alarms and to change the time format to a 24 hr clock. The addition of these new features utilize functions present in Windows version 3.1. As a result, **this program won't run under Windows version 3.0**. For those who are upgrading from an earlier version of **SYSCLOCK** it will be necessary to replace the file **VBRUN200.DLL** with the file **VBRUN300.DLL** (available in many places) in the Windows system directory. A number of bugs have also been fixed in this version including the failure of settings to be saved permanently. If you regularly run visual basic programs, it's a good idea to run a small applet like this one on startup because this will load the **VBRUN300.DLL** into memory which will speed up loading of subsequent VB programs.

Installing and Uninstalling SysClock and FileFind

SYSCLOCK.EXE can be installed in any directory. In order for proper operation of SysClock, the file **THREED.VBX** should be present in the Windows directory or the Windows system directory. For those upgrading from an earlier version of **SYSCLOCK** it will be necessary to replace version 2 of **THREED.VBX** with version 3 included with this ZIP file. Finally, **FILEFIND.EXE** should be present in a directory that is in the PATH, in order to start it from **SysClock**. To uninstall the programs simply delete them from the directories they were installed in. In addition, **SysClock** creates the files **SYSCLOCK.INI** and **SYSCLOCK.DAT** in the windows directory. These files should also be deleted.

Using SysClock

Using this clock is straight forward. Just put it in the startup group and it will automatically come up when windows starts. I like to keep my clock in the lower right corner of the screen, so that's the way it comes up initially. If you want it to come up somewhere else just drag it to that place, double click anywhere on the clock and check the **Remember clock position** option in the dialog box and click the OK button. To configure the other clock options just double click anywhere on the clock. The resulting dialog box is self explanatory. In all dialog boxes there is a status panel that explains the function of the control that the mouse is over to make it easy for the user.

The dialog box also includes a tool panel that offers several useful functions. The **File Man** button launches the Windows File manager. The **Control** button launches the Windows Control panel. This makes it easy to set the system time. The **Find** button launches the **FileFind** utility included with **SysClock**. The **FileFind** utility allows for searching for a file or group of files or searching for files containing specified text. The files that are found can then be launched (if they are associated with a program) or

deleted. The **Launch** button will launch either a program file or a file associated with a program. The Info button displays useful system information. The **Quit** button closes the SysClock application. The **Restart** button will restart windows after querying for confirmation. The **Exit** button will exit windows after querying for confirmation.

In this version it is also possible to set alarms. Clicking the alarm clock icon brings up a dialog box that allows for the setting of alarms. Alarms can be set to both display a message and/or launch selected programs or files.

VB Programmers

For other VB programmers who are interested, there are several good examples of how to use Windows API calls to increase functionality of VB programs. As with many other learning programmers I have "borrowed" code from other sources. The "look and feel" of the clock I patterned after the AllTheTime clock program written as freeware by **Wilson Smith** and **Carole Rogers**. Their program is impressive with alot of bells and whistles. It was much more than what I needed so I wrote a leaner program. The code for dragging the form as an outline box (**GhostForm Routine**) came from an article in February/March ***BasicPro*** magazine by **Keith Pleas** (copyrighted by Keith Pleas and Fawcette Technical Publications, 1993). Finally the code for adding the time to the active window came from an article in February 1993 ***Windows Sources*** magazine by **Paul Bonner** (copyrighted by Paul Bonner and Ziff-Davis, 1993). I decided not to implement this feature in this version because SysClock is meant to be visible. I did leave the code in for anyone that's interested in it. My thanks to all of these authors. The great thing about Visual Basic is the fact that there are so many good sources of ideas and coding techniques available. In Version 2.1 of the program I wanted to add more functionality to the program. File launching capabilities were added using the Shell command and also API calls. The system info form uses many useful API functions. The alarm dialog box has some useful routines for handling dates and times. This version also uses the **THREED.VBX** in **VB3**. It definitely gives the program a better look.

The Fine Print

The program SysClock is completely free and is presented on an "as is" basis. There are no warranties, liabilities and no guarantees that it will work as described on every system. Although it is free, the code is copyrighted and cannot be used for any subsequent commercial use. The program can be freely distributed as long as it is distributed in the original ZIPPED format with no modifications. Any inquiries, comments, complaints or unwavering praise can be directed to George Lamson on CIS at 73760,2135. Please Enjoy!