CD Alarm 2.1 Questions and Answers

1. What is CD Alarm?

CD Alarm is a 32-bit Windows program that sounds user-specified alarms by playing tracks from a CD, MIDI sequences, sound files, or any combination of the three. In other words, you can wake up to a CD in the morning instead of a radio station or remind yourself of an important event in the day simply by setting the alarm.

2. What features does CD Alarm have?

CD Alarm has many great features, including:
- Award-winning interface
- Snooze button with user-defined snooze time (1-60 minutes) and optional restriction on the number of times you can snooze
- Choice of alarms (CD, MIDI, sound file, or combination)
- Ability to start playback at any track on the CD
- Support for multiple CD-ROM drives
- Advanced volume settings, with gradual wake-up feature
- Speed Set features (including customizable presets like SpeedDial on a phone, and a timer)
- Message feature lets you enter a message to show up with the alarm
- Looping sounds
- Minimize CD Alarm to the notification area (next to the clock on the taskbar) so that it's out of the way
- Ability to leave CD running after alarm—even after you exit CD Alarm (requires Windows 95 CD Player)
- Start with the Alarm On and Start Minimized let you put CD Alarm in your Startup folder and forget it
- Fully customizable settings can be saved so that CD Alarm always works the way you want to

3. I already have 2.x. What's new in CD Alarm 2.1?

CD Alarm 2.1 is a big step up from 2.x—and most of the changes made were in response to suggestions by registered users. Your input counts!
- Support for multiple CD-ROM drives
- Advanced volume control, including gradual wake-up setting
- Integrated status bar added to the award-winning interface
- Settings saved in registry for safety and effiiciency
- Ability to change some settings while the alarm is on

4. What do I need to run CD Alarm 2.1?

Minimum requirements:
- Microsoft Windows 95 or higher
  OR
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation or Server 4.0 or higher
   (note: this version of CD Alarm will not work with Windows NT 3.1 or 3.5x)

- at least 8 MB RAM (Windows 95) or 16 MB RAM (Windows NT) – *no big deal here; this is the minimum any user should have on these platforms for good performance.*
- around 1 MB disk space—on some machines, much less.
- Windows-supported sound card (if you want to hear the alarm!)
- Windows-supported CD-ROM drive (if you want to play CD's)

5. Hey, I just registered CD Alarm. What do I get?
Besides good karma, you get several great features available only in the registered version:
- The alarm will start on any track you want it to
- Ability to play MIDI sequences as part of the alarm
- Speed Set features: fully customizable alarm presets and timer functions
- No more annoying screens when you enter CD Alarm
- Free technical support and bug fixes
- Discounts on future upgrades

6. Why should I register CD Alarm?
Well, besides getting all of the great features above—because it's the legal and nice thing to do. I have put many, many hours in to developing CD Alarm—and if you don't send me money, all my work goes to waste.

Most shareware authors operate assuming that only 10-20% of the people who use their software will register it, and so they inflate their registration fees accordingly. I don't buy in to that—I've kept the CD Alarm registration fee very low (like buying a 24-pack of coke at 7-11) in the hope that more people will register it and feel good about the product.

If you use CD Alarm for more than 21 days, you must either delete it or register it. Now, I didn't put code in to make sure that you don't use the software for longer than that, but be a nice person. If you like CD Alarm and use it often, it's probably worth 6 bucks. If not, delete it—that's what shareware is for!

7. Hints and Tips
- If CD Alarm is minimized when the alarm goes off, it immediately restores itself. Don't be worried about minimizing CD Alarm. You won't miss anything. Honest.
- The time left until alarm only shows in the title bar when CD Alarm is minimized. Why? When CD is in a normal window, you can already see how much time is left until the alarm.
- If the alarm is going off, you can press ENTER to turn the alarm off and Space Bar to snooze (if the Allow Snooze option is set.) This way, if you are using CD Alarm to get you up in the morning, you don't have to fuss with turning the monitor on and messing with the mouse—you can slam your fist on the snooze button and head back to sleep.
- Even if you have the "Save settings on exit" option turned off, you can save your settings by pressing CTRL-S.
- When you minimize CD Alarm to the notification area, it will no longer show up on the task list. To bring the main console back up, simply click on the little CD Alarm icon down by the clock on the taskbar.

8. CD Alarm (or CD Alarm Setup) tells me that a necessary file, VB40032.DLL cannot be found. Help!!
VB40032.DLL is a library file that many Windows program require to run correctly. Because the

majority of people already have this file on their computer, and because the file is rather large, I (like many other shareware authors) have decided not to include it in my download.

If you get the error message about not having this file, you will need to download VB40032.DLL and put it in your \WINDOWS or \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory (or on NT, \WINNT or \ WINNT\SYSTEM32)..

You can download this file from almost anywhere on the Internet that has shareware, as well as from the file libraries of AOL, MSN, Compuserve, Prodigy and most other online services.

Some places to get this file on the Internet:

- http://www.windows95.com/
- http://www.pcwin.com/
- http://www.shareware.com/

Or, grab it from my own site:

- http://www.thenerve2.com/cdalarm/vb40032.zip

9. I am a registered user and now it is asking me for my registration code again. What gives?

Registration information is stored in a file called CDALRM20.INI. If this file gets removed, moved, or corrupted, CD Alarm will create a new one without your registration information in it. Simply re-enter your registration information (like you did the first time) and all should be well again.

10. A couple of words about Microsoft's PowerToy FlexiCD and CD Alarm.

First off, let's establish that FlexiCD and CD Alarm aren't the best of friends. In fact, FlexiCD doesn't have many friends at all. Like the little brat that takes the ball away and won't give it back and whose mother could care less, FlexiCD has a penchant for grabbing control of the CD device and not giving it up. Not to me, not to you, not to Microsoft's own Windows CD Player, and not to CD Alarm. If you want to run FlexiCD while you have an alarm set, you may want to also set an alarm sound to go off with the CD, as there's no telling whether or not CD Alarm will be able to wrestle control of the CD Player away from FlexiCD. A better solution is to get rid of FlexiCD (or at least to exit it) and to switch back to another Windows CD player. I did. :)

11. I'm having a problem with CD Alarm. Help!

Before you ask for technical support, there are a couple of things you can do that might make CD Alarm work without assistance.

1. Make sure that you have VB40032.DLL in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM or \WINDOWS directory
2. Reinstall CD Alarm. Another program may have written over an important system file.
3. Make sure that your sound card is functioning and that your CD player works with other programs

If you've tried these things and are still having trouble, you can get in contact with the author (my humble self in a couple of different ways).

E-mail to **jensen.harris@yale.edu**:

This is the preferred method of technical support. Please send your name and registration code, a brief description of the problem, a description of your system (type of computer, sound card, etc.), and any other information you think might be relevant. I will get back to you as soon as is humanly possible.

Snail Mail:
If you don't have e-mail (or would rather not be supported that way) you may address your problems to me on paper. Please, in addition to the requirements under e-mail above, send a printout of your WIN.INI, SYSTEM.INI, AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files. I will get to written technical support requests as quickly as I can, but expect slower service than with e-mail.
Phone:
If you really, really have an urgent problem I may ask you to call me. Please inquire by e-mail first, though, with a subject of something like "MAJOR URGENT CD ALARM PROBLEM PLEASE HELP!!!!!!!!!!!!" or something, so that I read it right away. :)

12. I'm having problems unlocking CD Alarm. What can I do?
First, make sure you are entering your registration code and name EXACTLY as it was sent to you. The name and registration code are case-sensitive. If you have tried all this and it still doesn't work, or if your name was somehow maligned, please contact me (see above) and I will give you a new registration code.

13. Aaaargggh!!!! This program BITES!!! I need to uninstall it. How should I do this?
Bites? Really? That bad?
You can uninstall CD Alarm 2.1 from the Add/Remove Programs applet in the Control Panel.

14. I found a major (or minor or annoying or stupid) bug! How do I report it?
Please send all bug reports and comments to the author, Jensen Harris. He can be reached at *jensen.harris@yale.edu*.

15. Are there any plans to port CD Alarm to Amiga, Atari 2600 or TRS-80 Color Computer?
No.

16. How do I stay in contact with the newest CD Alarm developments and fixes?
Stop by the CD Alarm Home Page. You can find it at http://www.thenerve2.com/cdalarm/ (or choose *CD Alarm on the Web* from the Help menu)**.**

17. Can I be a beta tester or submit requests for new features?
If you're a registered user, please feel free to e-mail with ideas for new features. As always, please always include your registration code when writing to me. New features for CD Alarm will be selected from the ones that are suggested to me.
If you want to be a beta tester, let me know. Beta testers are selected from registered owners of CD Alarm.

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