

UTCclock

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Users Guide

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Introduction

UTCclock is a simple utility to display the current UTC time, the current local time, or both on your desktop. It also includes a programmable count-down timer. The display is fully customizable. You can select between several display arrangements and you can change the colors of the clock display.

Installation

To install **UTCclock**, run the installation package, **UTCclockSetup.exe**. This will install the program, documentation, and all necessary supporting files on your computer. The installer will suggest a directory that the program and documentation files will be installed in. You may change the location or leave it at the default directory.

Program Operation

When you start the program for the first time, it will come up with the default display configuration (arrange vertically w/small secondary clock) as shown in Figure 1.

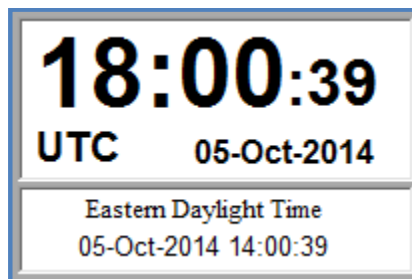


Figure 1 -- Default Display

The following display configurations are also available:

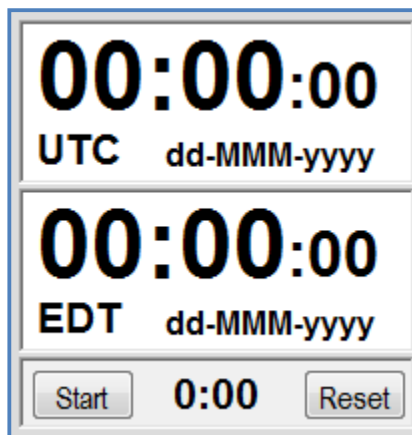


Figure 2 -- Arrange Vertically w/Large Secondary Clock

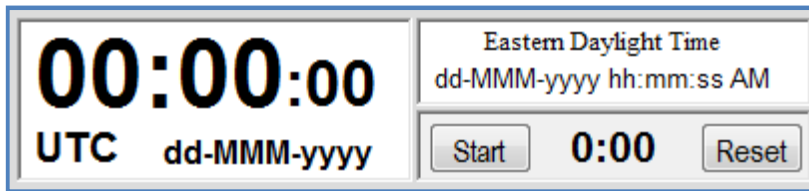


Figure 3 -- Arrange Horizontally w/Small Secondary Clock

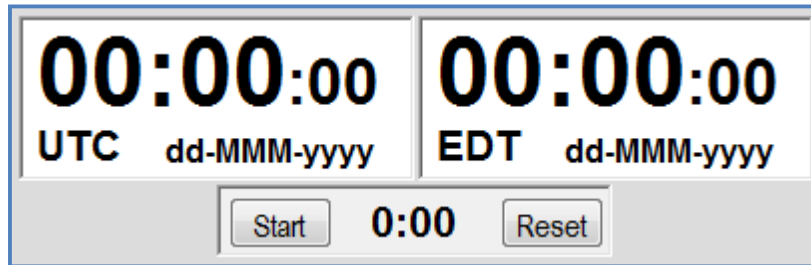


Figure 4 -- Arrange Horizontally w/Large Secondary Clock

Toolbar

To use the countdown timer or to change the display settings, right-click anywhere on the display (avoid the large numbers) and a toolbar will appear along the bottom edge of the display as shown in Figure 2.

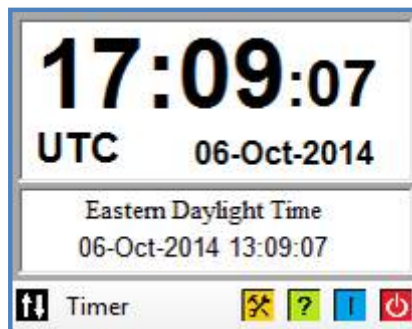







Figure 2 -- Display with Toolbar

On the toolbar, you can do the following:

- Click on  to switch the primary display between UTC and local time.
- Click on **Timer** to display or hide the countdown timer.
- Click on  to open the setup dialog.
- Click on  to display the documentation using Acrobat Reader .
- Click on  to display a window with basic information about the program.
- Click on  to close the program.

The toolbar is automatically hidden when you select any action from the toolbar. You can also hide the toolbar by right-clicking anywhere on the display.

Countdown Timer

Click on **Timer** on the toolbar to display or hide the countdown timer. The countdown timer display is shown in Figure 3.

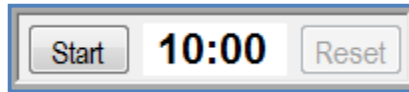


Figure 3 -- Countdown Timer

Clicking on "**Start**" will start the countdown period and the word "**Start**" will be replaced with the word "**Stop**".

Clicking on "**Stop**" will stop the timer.

Clicking on "**Reset**" will reset the timer and start a new countdown cycle.

When the timer has counted down to the "Warn At" time, the colors used to display the time change to black letters on a yellow background as shown in Figure 4.

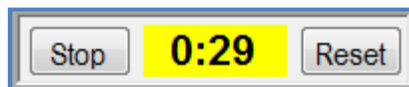


Figure 4 -- Timer Display after Warn Time

When the countdown timer reaches "00:00", then the time display is replaced with a user-defined message displayed with yellow letters on a red background as shown in Figure 5.




Figure 5 -- Timer Display after Time Out

The default message is "**IDENT**", but can be changed in the setup dialog.

If selected, an audible alarm will sound when the countdown timer reaches "00:00". The sound can be silenced by clicking on either "**Stop**" or on "**Reset**".

Program Setup

Clicking on  on the toolbar will open the setup dialog shown in Figure 6.

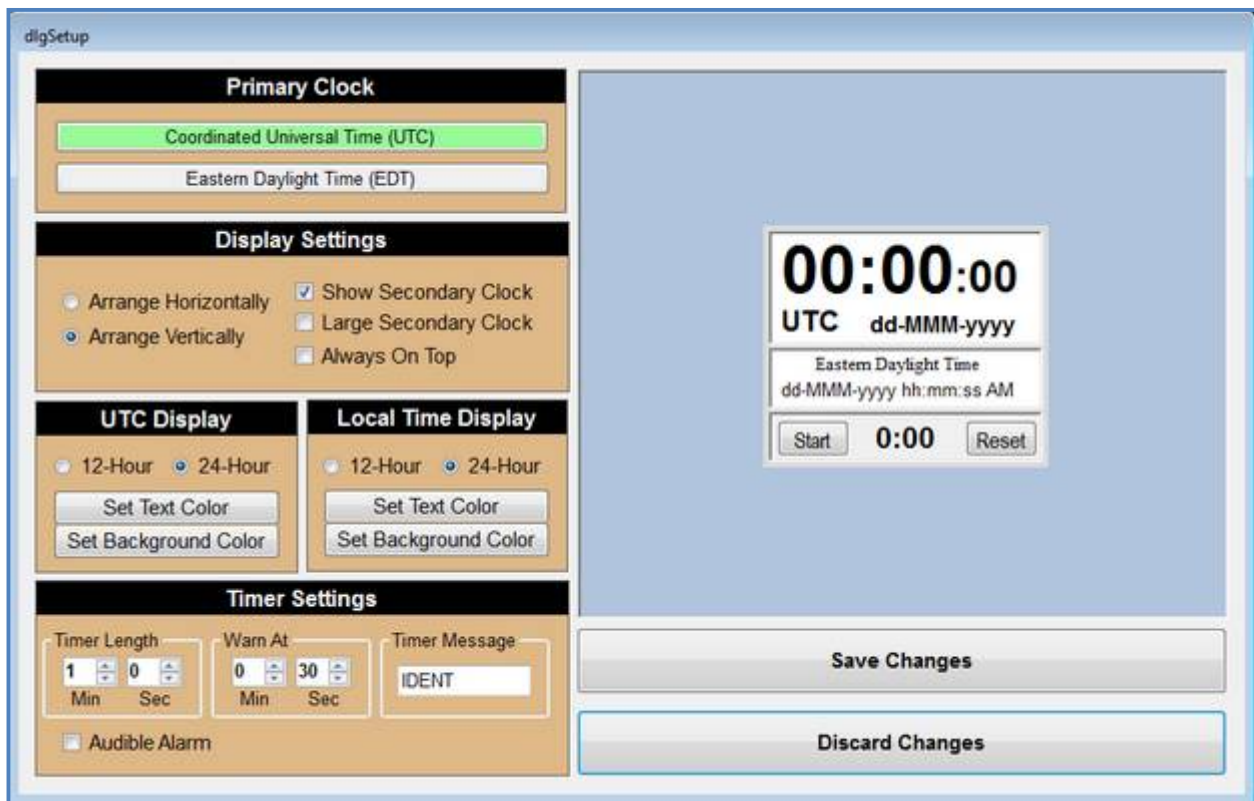


Figure 6 -- Setup Dialog

This dialog will allow you to customize the clock display to your preferences of display arrangement, text & background colors, and countdown timer settings.

Primary Clock

This area of the dialog allows you to select which time (UTC or local time) is displayed in the primary clock.

Click on the appropriate bar to select to select the desired time. The selected time will have a light green background.

Display Settings

This area of the dialog allows you to set the following options:

- **Arrange Horizontally** -- Click on this option to display the secondary clock to the right of the primary clock.
- **Arrange Vertically** -- Click on this option to display the secondary clock below the primary clock.
- **Show Secondary Clock** -- If this box is checked, the secondary clock will be displayed. If it is unchecked, the secondary clock will be hidden.
- **Large Secondary Clock** -- If this box is checked, the secondary clock display will be the same size as the primary clock.
- **Always On Top** -- If this box is checked, then **UTCclock** will be displayed on top of any other windows you may have open.

UTC Display & Local Time Display

These two areas of the dialog allows you to customize how the UTC time and the local time is displayed.

- **12-Hour** -- Click on this option to have the time displayed as a 12-hour clock (12:59 PM).
- **24-Hour** -- Click on this option to have the time displayed as a 24-hour clock (23:59:00).
- **Set Text Color** -- Click on this button to open a dialog where you can select the color of the text in the clock display.
- **Set Background Color** -- Click on this button to open a dialog where you can select the color of the clock display background.

Timer Settings

This area of the dialog allows you to change the countdown timer settings.

- **Timer Length (Min & Sec)** -- These two numbers allow you to set the length of the timer to any value between 00:00 and 59:59.
- **Warn At (Min & Sec)** -- These two numbers allow you to set the countdown timer warning time to any value between 00:00 and 59:59. When the timer reaches the warning time, the background of the timer display changes to yellow. Setting the warning time to 00:00 will turn off the warning.
- **Timer Message** -- This text box allows you to set the message that is displayed when the timer reaches 00:00. The display only has room for 3-5 characters. The default value of "**IDENT**" will just fit.
- **Audible Alarm** -- If this box is checked, an audible alarm will sound when the timer reaches 00:00.

Save Changes & Discard Changes

Click on the "**Save Changes**" button to save your changes and close the setup dialog.

Click on the "**Discard Changes**" button to close the setup dialog without saving your changes.

About the Author

UTCclock was written by Ray Andrews, K9DUR.

Ray holds an Amateur Extra class license and was first licensed in April 1960. He currently resides in West Terre Haute, IN, and is a retired electronic design engineer and software developer. He operates a small custom software consulting business just to keep him out of mischief between camping trips.

For more information, visit Ray's web pages:

<http://k9dur.info>

<http://www.rnaconsultingservices.com>

Revision History

v1.0.0 – Jan 23, 2015 -- Initial release.

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