



What is *Alarm Clock*?

You're sitting tapping away at the computer and you suddenly glance up at the clock and think '*Oh no - I should have been in Town half an hour ago!*' or '*I've missed my favourite ever film on TV!*'

Does this sound familiar? Then *Alarm Clock* could be just what you need. The program adds a useful feature to the Windows 95 taskbar clock. It will allow you to set alarms as one off, daily, weekly or monthly. Assuming your PC has a sound card, you can choose from several different sounds to play. If you wish, you can specify a message of up to 600 characters to show. Unlike many personal organiser programs, it is small, simple to use and will work unobtrusively in the background.

You can set up to 20 alarms in the registered version of the program. These are saved as you enter them and automatically called up when you switch your computer on again.

System Requirements

Alarm Clock requires Windows 95 and a 486 or better computer with at least 8MB of memory. All Windows 95 programs, including this one, will run better if you have 16MB of RAM.

The program's pop up menu is activated by clicking the right mouse button while the cursor is over the alarm icon in the Windows task bar.

An alarm which you want to occur only once, and which would normally be erased after it has been triggered

Installing Alarm Clock

To install *Alarm Clock* if you received it on floppy disc, first make sure that its main file has been copied into a folder your hard disc, ideally into a temporary folder (not the desktop). The name of this file is in the form ALARMxxx.EXE. In place of the 'xxx' is the version number of the program, e.g. 105 for Version 1.05.

If you have downloaded the file from the Internet then it will generally be on the hard disc anyway. Make sure your hard disc has at least 2MB of free space.

Switch to the disc or folder where this file is and double click on it. This will cause several files to be created from the program's self-extracting archive. Provided that this operation is successful, *Alarm Clock*'s setup program will then run automatically.

Note: if the original source of your copy of the program was an archive that accepts only plain ZIP files, then instead of ALARMxxx.EXE you will have a file called ALARMxxx.ZIP that needs to be 'unzipped' using a suitable utility. In this case, you need to double click on SETUP.EXE after unzipping the files.

To select the destination folder for the program, click the *Select Folder* button at the top right of the window and double click on the folder name you want to use in the folder list box.

You must use a different folder from the one the files are in, otherwise the installation will fail.

Make sure the folder has changed to the correct one before you click the *Install* button at the bottom left. The program files will then be moved to the correct directory and installed on your start button.

The program should then run automatically, and will appear in your Windows 95 system tray every time you restart your machine.

You can delete the setup program and *setup.ini* (which will be left in the source directory after a successful installation). However, you are advised to keep the archive file ALARMxxx.EXE (or ALARMxxx.ZIP) in case you ever need to reinstall.

Troubleshooting Installation

If the installation fails (because, for example, you select the same folder as your source and your destination), then unzip the files from the archive again before re-starting SETUP.EXE. You may see prompts asking if you want to overwrite existing files: you can answer Yes.

If you are updating *Alarm Clock* with a new version, make sure you close the program (not just the window) by selecting *Exit* from its pop-up menu. If *Alarm Clock* is running when you attempt to reinstall, the installation will fail.

General Information on Alarm Clock

Alarm Clock is designed to be left running all the time in the background. If you close it and restart it, it will attempt to 'catch up' and show you alarms which would have sounded in the last few minutes.

To make sure none of the alarms you have set are missed, do not close the program: leave it running all the time. Windows 95 multi-tasks efficiently, so *Alarm Clock*'s presence should have no noticeable effect on the performance of your machine.

Alarm Clock can play a sound as each alarm pops up, provided that your computer has sound facilities. If you don't like the alarm sound, change this from the Configure option on the pop-up menu. Several different sounds are provided with the program, or you can use any wave format audio file (generally any file that ends in .WAV) on your hard disc. It is possible to turn off the alarm sound altogether, but this is not recommended.

While an alarm dialog is showing, the taskbar icon will flash and change colour. This should alert you that an alarm is active if your computer has no sound capabilities, or if you are deaf.

Configuration

Set up your personal preferences from this window by choosing the *Configuration* option on the program's pop-up menu.

Enable Snooze

Tick (check) this option if you want each alarm to repeat every few minutes after it sounds initially. The alarm will then continue repeating if you click *Snooze* rather than *Done* to close the alarm dialog.

If you remove the tick from the *Enable Snooze* box, each alarm will sound only once at the time you have set for it.

When the alarm sounds

Click *Snooze* if you want the alarm to keep sounding every few minutes

Click *Done* when you don't want the alarm to sound again. (Daily, weekly and monthly alarms will still keep sounding at the interval you have chosen until you delete them.)

Snooze Minutes

Set the interval at which the alarm repeats here. This works only if *Enable Snooze* (above) is selected. The maximum number of minutes you can set here is 60, so you can create an hourly alarm by setting this value to 60 and clicking *Snooze* every time this alarm sounds.

Sound Off/On

If your machine has sound capabilities, set sound on or off using this option. Switching the sound off is not recommended: if you are typing quickly when a silent alarm appears, it is possible (if unlikely) that you could close the window before you have noticed it.

Change Sound

Select a wave file using this option. The wave files that come with *Alarm Clock* are installed in your *Alarm Clock* directory. Depending on whether you have *Microsoft Plus™* there should also be a selection of wave files in your WINDOWS\MEDIA folder; you can use any of these, or any other file in Windows wave format.

Play Sound

Click this button to preview the sound you have selected.

Persistent Sound

If you have sound on and you find you miss an alarm because a brief sound goes off while you are typing, select *Play sound until I close the alarm dialog*. This will make the sound play continuously until you click *Snooze* or *Done* on the alarm dialog. Unless you find you are missing alarms, you might not want to have this set: it can be irritating!

Setting Date and Time Formats

The program will use the global formats you select in Windows. To change the way the date or time is displayed in Windows 95, select *Control Panel*, then *Regional Settings*. The Time and Date formats are set individually from separate tabs.

For hints on the symbols to use to get the date and time displayed the way you want it, click on the '?' symbol at the top right of each window: the cursor changes to a question mark. While this question mark is showing, click on the edit box where the format text is displayed and the help text will appear.

In *Alarm Clock's* Alarm setting window, the time is always displayed in 24 hour format to avoid ambiguity. In the alarm alert box and the alarm listing, the format you set in Windows (as described above) is used.

Contacting the Author

I am interested to receive any comments or criticism of the program and will do my best to remedy any faults: but please note that support will be given primarily to registered users.

You can contact me at one of the following addresses. If you have an E-mail facility, please use E-mail rather than the postal address. This way you should get a reply more quickly.

Post ('snail mail'):

John Hudson
14 Saltwell Street
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE8 4QX
UK

E-mail: support@saltwell.demon.co.uk

Updates for the program should be obtainable from the archive you got it from originally. If you cannot find them there, try <http://www.saltwell.demon.co.uk/software/>

If you have a specific problem with the program, *please give the following information* to help me solve it:

- Size of the RAM memory in your computer (e.g. 8MB, 16MB)
- Processor in your computer (e.g. 486/66, Pentium 133, 586)
- Version of *Alarm Clock* you are using - from the *About Alarm Clock* option on the pop-up menu (access this by clicking the right mouse button on the alarm icon).

Legal Information

The program, its help file and the included wave files are copyright © John Hudson, 1997. *Alarm Clock* may be copied and freely distributed, provided that the archive file ALARMxxx.EXE (or ALARMxxx.ZIP) and the included README.TXT are copied as shown. The only charge that may be made for providing the program is to cover copying and distribution expenses. The program may not be modified in any way without my permission

When registering *Alarm Clock*, you buy the right to use the program as seen.

The program comes with no blanket guarantees: you must satisfy yourself as to its suitability for its purpose before registering it. This does not affect your statutory rights.

No liability will be accepted for any data loss. Please follow the usual advice of taking regular backups of your data, and check any foreign files for viruses before using them.

Support will be provided primarily to registered users: however, I am interested to receive comments or criticism whether or not you have registered.

Microsoft Plus[™] is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

Registration

This program is Shareware. If you find you are still using it after the 28 day evaluation period you are obliged to register it.

Registration of a single copy of the program costs £5 (five pounds) Sterling.

UK: Send a cheque or postal order for £5 Sterling.

Outside the UK: Send an International Money Order for £5 Sterling. If this is not convenient, and you want to pay in a currency other than £ Sterling, send a cheque for \$20 (20 US Dollars) or equivalent. This is more expensive, but the extra is needed to cover the high bank charges in the UK for exchanging small amounts.

Send your payment along with your name, address (and E-mail address if you have one) to:

John Hudson
14 Saltwell Street
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE8 4QX
United Kingdom
E-mail: support@saltwell.demon.co.uk

When I receive your payment, I will send you a registration number to disable the dialog which pops up when you start the program. When your copy of the program is registered, the number of alarms you can have set simultaneously will increase from 5 to 20. You will also be entitled to support for the program - but please see the [legal information](#) for a qualification to this.

Please keep a note of your registration number when you receive it. You will need this again if you ever need to reinstall *Alarm Clock* (for example, if you should have a registry problem),

If you would like to use multiple copies of the program, please contact me for details of discounted site licences.

The Alarms Window

This is the window which shows a summary of the alarms currently set. You can add, delete or edit an alarm by clicking the appropriate button in this window. To ensure that the program does not affect your system's performance, the maximum number of alarms you can have set at one time has been limited to 20 in the registered version (5 in the evaluation version).

Do not set two or more alarms to sound at exactly the same time, otherwise not all your messages from those alarms will be shown.

Adding and Editing Alarms

Use the Alarms window (activated by clicking *Alarms Window* on the program's pop-up menu) to enter the alarm information when adding or editing an alarm.

To avoid confusing the timer routines, 'One off' alarms should be set at least two minutes in the future.

Entering Your Registration Number

After receiving your registration number, click the *Register* option at the bottom of the program's pop up menu.

Once you have entered your registration number into the dialog box, the program dialogs will change to show the fact that you have a fully registered copy. The program will accept only valid registration numbers.

Troubleshooting

The only known problem is that, if you close *Alarm Clock* and try to restart it, it may occasionally refuse to run. This is because the program will allow only one instance of itself to run, and under some circumstances it may be unable to detect that you have closed it down. If this happens, you will need to restart Windows before *Alarm Clock* will run.

The remedy for this is to always run the program from the startup group (where the setup program installs it) and only close it if you have completely finished with it.

Note that selecting *Close window* from the main dialog will only close that window, and *Alarm Clock* will continue to run in the background.

If you have any other problems, please [contact me](#).

An executable file (a kind of program) which will extract compressed files from itself when run

