

Timekeeper

Timekeeper is an open source application for people who have to keep track of when they spend their time on what. This includes people who work at home and have to report their activities to their employer. Timekeeper 1.0 has various features to make this easier and faster.

Activities

An activity is a logged period of time from begin to end. It has a self-defined category and an optional note attached. An activity can be running or done. There can currently only be one running activity in each logfile. Timekeeper provides some buttons and shortcuts to start and stop activities quickly. This reduces the overhead of logging your activities.



To start a new activity, first specify the category of the new activity in the combobox next to the start-button. Then press the start-button. You can also right-click on the system tray icon and click the start-item there. You will be asked for the category separately.



To stop a running activity, press the stop-button. There is also an option to stop the running activity in the system tray icon context menu.

Because of a small and temporary limitation, a single activity can not take longer than 24 hours (or 23:59:59 to be exact). This will be corrected in the future. But for now, you can work around it by stopping an activity that is getting close to this limit, starting another with the same category and noting this in the activity note-field.

Logfiles

Timekeeper keeps track of your activities through an xml-based logfile with (by default) the .tkl (timekeeper log) extension. You may decide where to keep this log-file and what to call it.

The log-file is automatically saved after every change. No need to save manually. And if the program crashes unexpectedly, no information will be lost.



When you start a new logfile, you are asked for the new filename, so you don't have to be asked everytime something changes.



When you reopen the program, you need to load it to continue writing information to the same file. A logfile can also be opened by providing the filename as a command-line parameter.



You can import an existing logfile into another one. Also after this change, the current log-file is automatically saved, so take care.

An activity can be running inside a logfile. This makes it possible for you to begin an activity on one machine and end it on another.

You can not import a logfile with a running activity into another logfile with a running activity.

Filter

There is a filter docking window with which you can specify which activities are visible in the window. The current filter in effect is specified in the statusbar. You can filter by date-range (from, to) and by category. There are a few buttons to influence the data-range. The first pops up a menu with the choice

to see the current day, week, month or year. The second and third move the filter to the previous or next period respectively. They don't move the filter a fixed number of days. The buttons recognize boundaries of months and years as well.

Templates and reports



It is possible you might want the activities from the logfile in a more readable or accessible format. For this purpose, Timekeeper provides the template-system.

After you click the report-button, you are prompted to give the template-file and the destination-file.

The template-file must use a simple predefined language for navigating through the log-file. Basically, the template-file can contain plain text and tokens. Plain text is sent to the output as is. Tokens have special meaning. A token is delimited by the `##` sequence, like so: `##token##`. You can use the `##` sequence as plain text by inserting a backslash: `#\#`. To use that as a literal sequence, type `#\\#`, etc.

There are now two types of token.

<code>##foreach <period> <X> [in <Y>] [of <category>]## <anything> ##end##</code>	
This walks through the period <code><Y></code> (if this is left out, the original logfile is used), dividing it into <code><period></code> slices. Each iteration, another slice is called <code><X></code> in the scope of <code><anything></code> . Optionally, only activities of category <code><category></code> are let through this foreach filter.	
<code><period></code>	One of: year, month, week, day or activity.
<code><X></code>	The new name of this set of activities in each iteration.
<code><Y></code>	The source-set of activities. If left out, defaults to the original logfile set. (all) This can also be a date-range with the syntax: <code>dd/mm/yyyy-dd/mm/yyyy</code> .
<code><category></code>	If specified, the only category let through this filter.
<code><anything></code>	What you want to output each iteration. This should contain <code><X></code> somewhere.

```
##get <Y>.<dataitem>[.<subdataitem>]##
```

This retrieves some information from activity-set <Y>. It prints either <dataitem> or <dataitem>.<subdataitem>.

<Y>	The name of the source-set. In most cases, this must contain a single activity.
<dataitem>	One of: category, start, end, duration or note. For all of them except duration, <Y> should contain a single activity.
<subdataitem>	<p>This can optionally be specified if <dataitem> is start, end or duration.</p> <p>If it is start or end, the options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• d The day as number without leading zero (1 to 31)• dd The day as number with a leading zero (01 to 31)• ddd The abbreviated localized day name (e.g. 'Mon' to 'Sun')• dddd The long localized day name. (e.g. 'Monday' to 'Sunday')• M The month as number without leading zero (1 to 12)• MM The month as number with a leading zero (01 to 12)• MMM The abbreviated localized month name (e.g. 'Jan' to 'Dec')• MMMM The long localized month name (e.g. 'January' to 'December')• yy The year as two digit number (00 to 99)• yyyy The year as a four digit number• h The hour without leading zero (0 to 23)• hh The hour with a leading zero (00 to 23)• m The minute without leading zero (0 to 59)• mm The minute with a leading zero (00 to 59)• s The second without leading zero (0 to 59)• ss The second with a leading zero (00 to 59) <p>If it is duration, you can use: h, m, mm, s or ss, with their meaning described above.</p>

And that is pretty much it. Don't try any fancy tricks, because it is as of yet a very simple template language that may be expanded upon or replaced in the future.

System tray icon

Timekeeper provides a system tray icon you can show or hide with the 'Show' menu. If it is visible, closing the program only minimizes it to the system tray. To terminate the program you have to use 'quit'.



If an activity is currently running, the system tray icon shows this with a special version of the Timekeeper logo. The tooltip will specify which category is running.



If no activity is running, another version of the logo will be shown in the system tray.

The context menu of the system tray icon provides standard operations.