



DDT (Dark Date & Time) v.0.0.7 Help File

(Release Version 0.0.7e)



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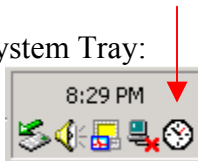


General:

DDT7 is a small utility for displaying the current date and time on your screen in an easy-to-read format. In addition, DDT7 doubles as a count-down timer, capable of accepting times from 1-99 minutes. This feature was requested by my wife who, it seems, has a difficult time getting me to stop writing code and attend to the other important events in my life.

Note that DDT7 does not show as an active Window in the Windows taskbar at the bottom of your screen. This occurs on purpose to keep the program from taking up space unnecessarily in the taskbar.

DDT7 does, however, show in the System Tray:



Note that the **Help in DDT7 is PDF Help**. This PDF Help File requires Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available [here](#).

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The Controls:

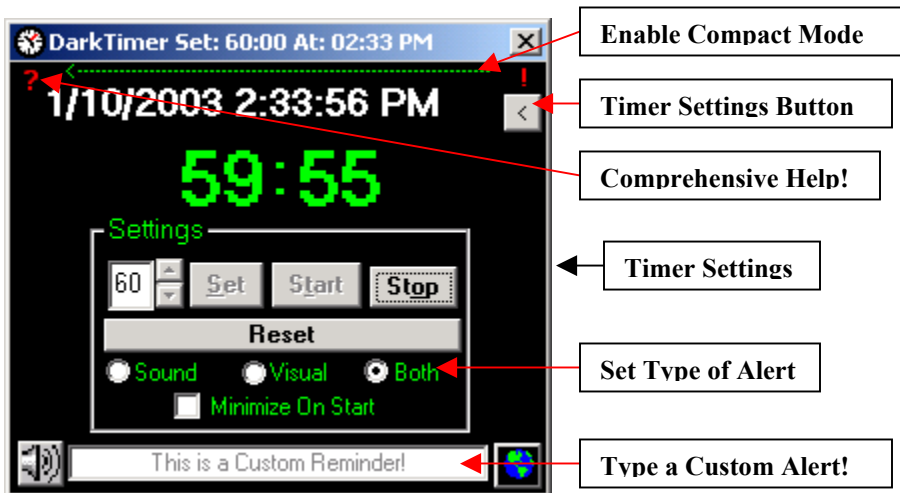


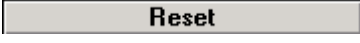

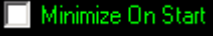







Fig. A


- 1) “Help” Icon: Clicking this icon displays Comprehensive Help.
- 2) “Enable Compact Mode” Icon: Clicking this icon enables “Compact Mode”.
 - **Note** the small “!” in the top right corner of **Fig. A**, above the Timer Settings button. This icon appears only after the “Start” button has been pressed. The purpose of this icon is to let you know that the timer is running when the window is minimized.
- 3) “Timer Settings” Button: or shows/hides the Timer Settings.
- 4) “Set” button: sets the number of minutes entered in the input textbox into the timer display.

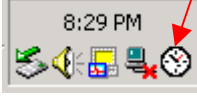

- 5) “Start” button:  starts the timer.
- 6) “Stop” button:  stops the timer, but does *not* clear or reset the timer, allowing you to resume the timer event from the current timer setting.
- 7) “Reset” button:  resets the timer. This action will Stop the timer (if it is running), reset the display to “00:00”, and set the focus to the input textbox for input of another number of minutes, allowing you to easily start another timer event.
- 8) The Alert Type radio buttons: 
 - A) Sound: This alert is audible only. A sound is played to alert you that the time has expired.
 - B) Visual: This alert is visual only. An alert box is displayed as the active window to alert you that the time has expired.
 - C) Both: This setting enables both alerts, Audible and Visual. This is the default type of alert.
- 9) “Minimize On Start” Checkbox:  When checked, after the minutes are entered and the timer is set and started, the timer will minimize and appear as it did on startup, showing only the Date & Time Display.
- 10) “Custom Reminder” Textbox:  When the DDT7 Window is maximized to show the Timer Settings, a new textbox is located at the bottom of DDT7. When you click in this textbox, the default text, “Type Your Reminder Here” disappears, waiting for you to type in a Custom Reminder which will be displayed on the Alert Window.
- 11) “About...” Button: , brings up the “About...” box.
- 12) “WWW” Button:  opens your default browser and points it to the Downloads Page.
- 13) “Compact Mode” Button:  This Button will replace the Standard View of DDT7 when running in “Compact Mode”. Clicking this button restores the Standard View of DDT7. See [Fig. 2 - When DDT is first started \(Standard View\)](#).

- 14) “Show / Hide” button:  Left-Clicking this button, located in the System Tray, will toggle DDT7 between “Show” & “Hide” Modes.

A) “Show” Mode: 

B) “Hide” Mode:  With ToolTextTip: 

- 15) Left-Clicking the “Show / Hide” button,  - located in the System Tray, will toggle DDT7 between “Show” & “Hide” Modes.

- 16) Right-Clicking the “Show / Hide” button,  - located in the System Tray, will show the “About Box” – the same as Left-Clicking the “About” button: 

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Start-Up:

You might not notice DDT7 after installation. - See Fig. 1.

At startup, the “Hide” Mode is the default Mode for DDT7. To view DDT7, Click on the “Clock” icon in the System Tray – See Fig. 2.



Fig. 1 - When the computer starts up.

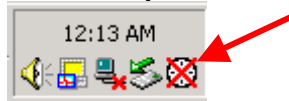


Fig. 2 – Click on the DDT7 (Clock) Icon.

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Add DDTn to the Startup Folder: (“n” is your version of DDT)

This is only necessary if you are installing DDT versions 0.0.1 – 0.0.6!

DDT7 installs with a shortcut in the “Startup” folder.

In order for DDT versions 0.0.1 – 0.0.6 to start each time you start your computer, follow these instructions:

1. Go to My Computer\C:\Program Files\DDTn\DDTn.exe
2. Right-click on DDTn.exe and drag to menu item "Create Shortcut".
3. Do not close this window!
4. Click on "Start" menu.
5. Move mouse pointer over "Programs"
6. Move mouse pointer over "Startup" folder.
7. Right-click on "Startup" folder.
8. Choose "Open" with a left-click.
9. Position this window next to the "DDTn" window.
10. Drag the Shortcut you just made ("Shortcut to DDTn.exe") from the "DDTn" folder window into the "Startup" folder window.
11. Close both windows.
12. That's it! The next time you start your computer, DDTn will start automatically!

Add DDTn as a QuickPick: (“n” is your version of DDT)

This is only necessary if you are installing DDT versions 0.0.1 – 0.0.6!

DDT7 installs with a QuickPick shortcut in the “Taskbar” folder.

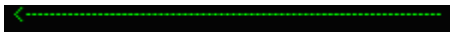

To add DDT versions 0.0.1 – 0.0.6 as a QuickPick to your System TaskBar, follow these instructions:


1. Go to My Computer\C:\Program Files\DDTn\DDTn.exe
2. Click and hold on the DDTn.exe icon.
3. Drag this icon into your System TaskBar (usually located at the bottom of your screen)
4. These icons can all be arranged at will by click-dragging any icon to its desired location and dropped into position at the point shown with a |.
5. Close all windows.



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Compact Mode:

Clicking on the Green Arrow  will put DDT7 in Compact Mode. This button () will replace DDT7 in the top left corner of your screen.

Clicking on this button () will show the default minimized view of DDT7. This feature simply allows DDT7 to take as little space as possible on the desktop area. The Timer and the Clock continue to run in Compact Mode. Compact Mode has no impact on the function of DDT7.

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Show Mode / Hide Mode:

“Show / Hide” button:  Clicking this button, located in the System Tray, will toggle DDT7 between “Show” & “Hide” Modes.

- A) “Show” Mode: 
- B) “Hide” Mode:  With ToolTextTip: 



Fig. 3 - When DDT is in “Show” Mode

By default, DDT7 will appear in the top left corner of your screen – see Fig. 3. It can be moved by clicking the Title Bar and dragging it to the desired spot on your screen. When DDT7 first starts, it is in “Minimized Mode”. This means that the Timer Settings are hidden. See Fig. 4.



Fig. 4 - When DDT is in “Show” Mode (Standard View).

Help:

Note the small red “?” in the upper left corner of DDT7. Clicking this icon “?” will start **Adobe Acrobat Reader** and display the Help File (This File).


[Get Adobe Acrobat Reader here.](#)

DDT7 includes comprehensive Help accessed two ways:

- 1) PDF Help, which is accessed through the “?” in the upper left corner of DDT7.
- 2) PDF Help File, which is accessed by opening **My Computer\C:\Program Files\DDT7** and double-click on the **DDT7-Help.pdf** icon (📄) This PDF Help File requires Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available [here](#).

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Viewing The Timer Settings:

In order to view the timer settings, you must click on the Timer Settings button on the lower right of the minimized clock: . This will show the settings for DDT7 – see Fig. 5

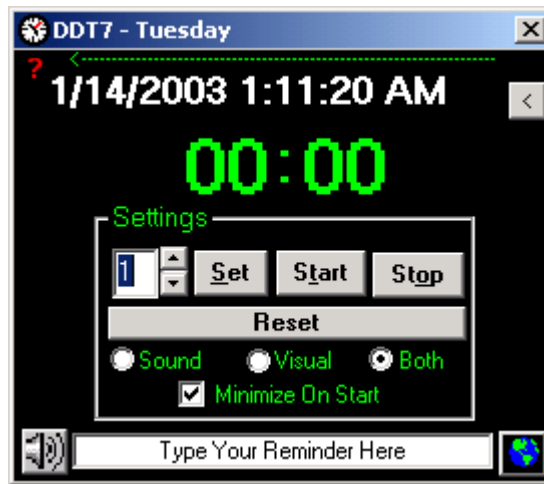




Fig. 5 - When timer settings are maximized.

Note that the settings button  now looks like this: . This allows you to manually minimize the timer settings after setting the timer if the “Minimize On Start” checkbox is *not* checked. By default, this checkbox is checked, so after the minutes are entered and the timer is set and started, the timer will minimize and appear as it did on startup.

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Setting The Timer:

Setting the timer is simple:

- 1) Enter any whole-number from 1 – 99 in the textbox. This can be done directly via the extended numeric keypad on a desktop computer, via the number keys across the top of your keyboard, or by clicking on the scrollbar next to the textbox. See Fig. 6.

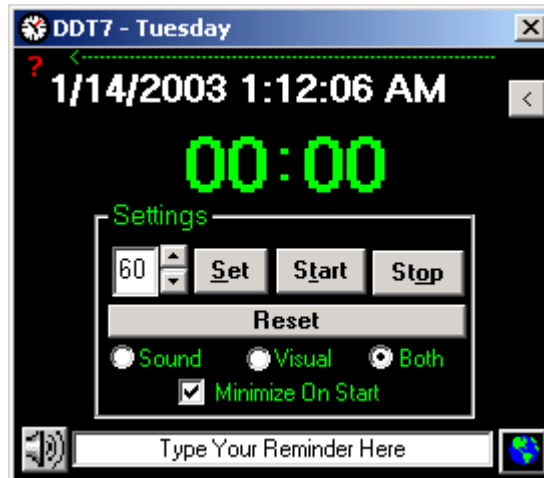


Fig. 6 - After number of minutes has been entered.

After the correct number of minutes has been entered, click the “Set” button to set the timer to the number of minutes you have entered into the textbox. See Fig. 7.

Note that the display has changed from “00:00” to the number of minutes you entered.

Note that if you do *not* click the “Set” button before clicking the “Start” button, an error will occur and you will be prompted to click the “Set” button before clicking the “Start” button.

The reason for this is that many times, you will want to *start* the timer some time after you have *set* the timer. The “Set” button allows this to happen. Otherwise, there would be no “Set” button and the timer would start immediately after entering the minutes in the textbox and clicking “Start”.

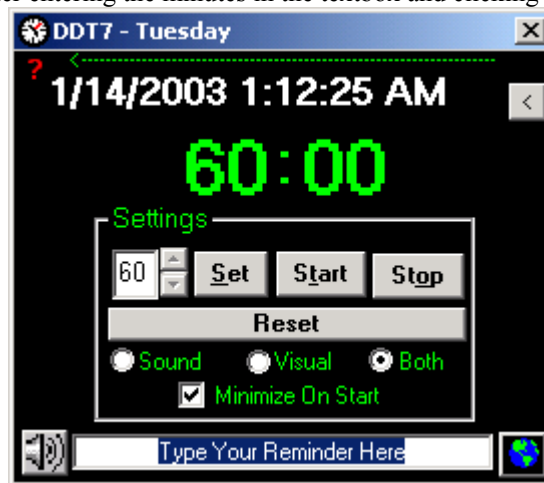


Fig. 7 - After pressing the “Set” Button.

Note that in this version (DDT7), a new textbox is located at the bottom of the Timer Settings. This textbox is used for a custom reminder you type in, which will appear on the Alert Window under the “Close Window” button to remind you why you set the timer.

This feature only works when either of the “Visual” or “Both” radio buttons is selected, but not when the “Sound” radio button is selected. See Fig. 9.

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Starting The Timer:

The timer is started by clicking the “Start” button. Several things occur when this button is pressed:

- 1) The window may resize, depending on the status of the “Minimize On Start” checkbox.
- 2) The small “!” in red appears above the timer settings button to alert you that the timer is now running.
- 3) The Titlebar of DDT now displays “DarkTimer Set: (with the number of minutes you entered in the input textbox) At: (with the time of day you clicked the “Start” button). Note the difference in the Titlebars in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 – before and after starting the timer.

If you do *not* un-check the “Minimize On Start” button, the timer settings will be hidden and only the clock will be visible. See Fig. 8.



Fig. 8 - After pressing the “Start” Button, when “Minimize On Start” is checked.

If you *do* un-check the “Minimize On Start” button, the timer settings will *not* be hidden. See Fig. 9.

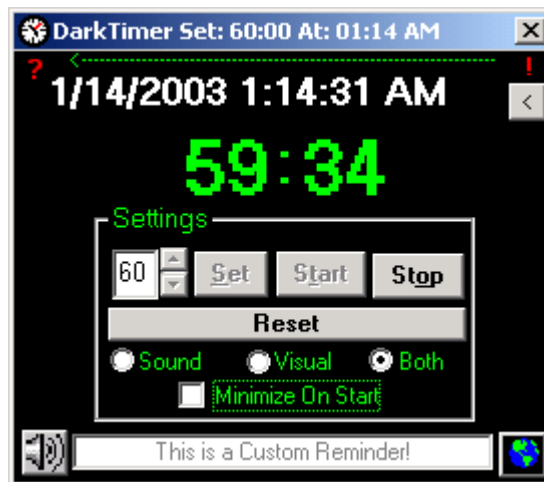



Fig. 9 - After pressing the “Start” Button, when “Minimize On Start” is NOT checked.

Note the small “!” in red above the timer settings button. This icon appears only after the “Start” button has been pressed. The purpose of this icon is to let you know that the timer is running when the window is minimized.

Timer Startup Shortcut

When you first view Timer Settings, after clicking the  button:

- 1) **Enter the number of minutes.**
- 2) **Press the “Tab” key.** This moves focus to the “Set” button.
- 3) **Press “Enter”.** This sets the timer.
- 4) **Press the “Tab” key.** This moves focus to the “Reminder” textbox and highlights it for input.
- 5) **Type in your Custom Reminder.**
- 6) **Press the “Tab” key.** This moves focus to the “Start” button.
- 7) **Press “Enter”.** This starts the timer.

Custom Reminder:

In versions DDT6 & DDT7, a new textbox is located at the bottom of the Timer Settings. **Note** that this feature only works when either of the “Visual” or Both” radio buttons is selected, but not when the “Sound” radio button is selected.

The textbox containing the text, “Type Your Reminder Here” is for a custom reminder which will be displayed on the Alert Window when the time expires and the timer alerts you *Visually*. Simply click on the textbox and it will clear the default text, allowing you to enter a custom reminder. See Fig. 8.

Note that this reminder can only be 28 characters in length.

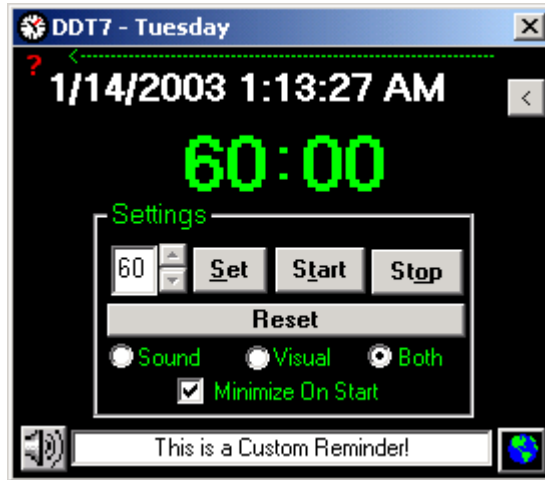


Fig. 10 – Typing in a Custom Reminder.

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The Alert Window:

When the set time has expired and the *Visual* Alert radio button or the *Both* radio button is selected, DDT7 will show an alert window. See Fig. 11.

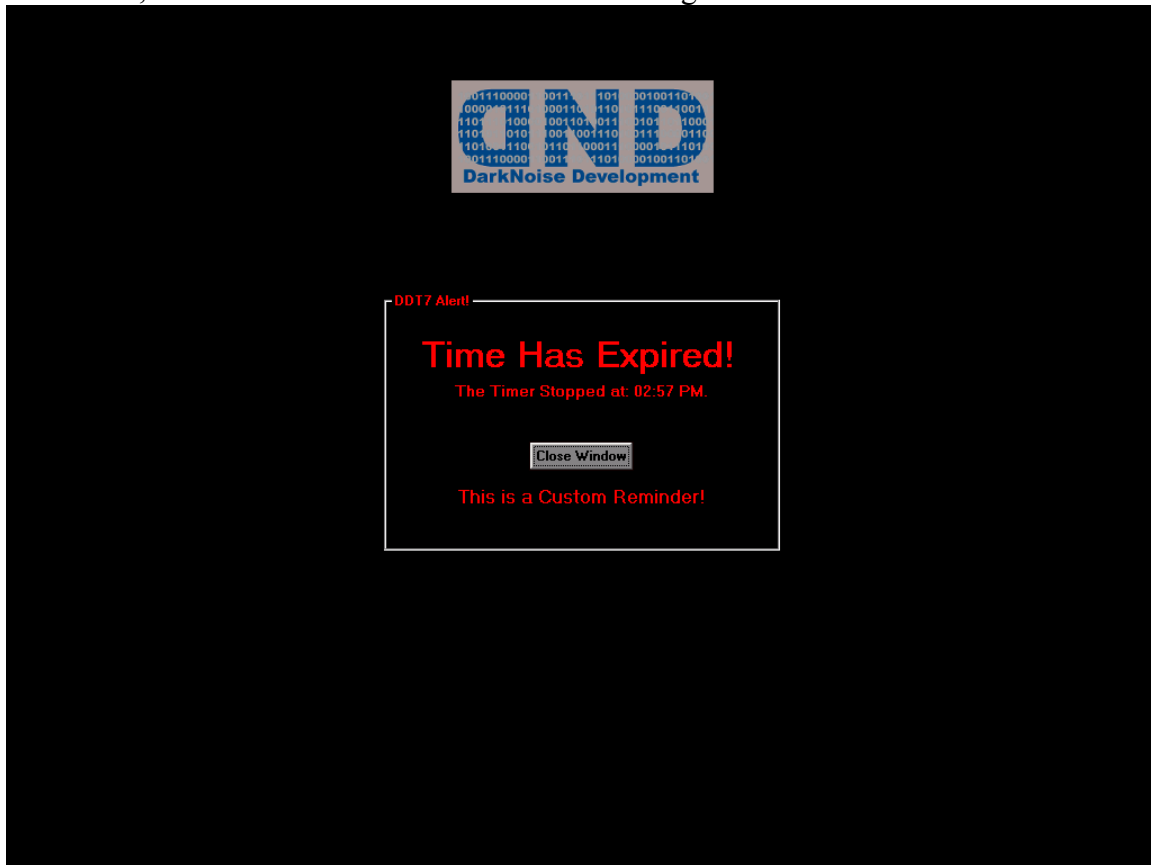


Fig. 11 – The Visual Alert Window with a Custom Reminder..

In Fig. 11, the text “This is a Custom Reminder” is the same reminder typed into the Custom Reminder Textbox in Fig. 10.

The time of day when the timer stopped is shown, in case you were away from your computer when the time expired.

Note that when a visual alert is selected by checking either the “Visual” or “Both” radio buttons, the following items *will not be available*:

- The Desktop
- The “Start” menu
- The Windows Taskbar
- Any other running program

This ensures you notice the timer Alert and take action by either

- Clicking the Close Box on the “Alert” window
- Clicking the “Close Window” button on the “Alert” window

As soon as either of these actions takes place, the black screen will disappear and all disabled features mentioned above are enabled again.

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“About...” Button:

This button, , brings up the “About...” box:



WWW Button:

This button, , opens your default browser and points it to the Downloads Page.

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Installation Instructions:

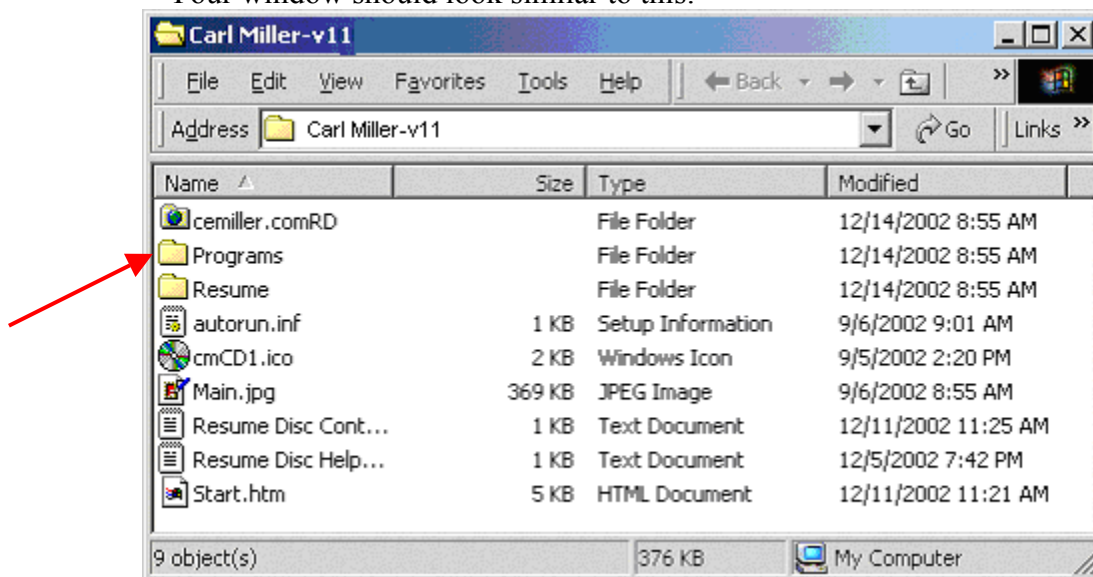
Please follow these instructions carefully to ensure a worry-free installation:

(These are Programs for the Windows Platform.)

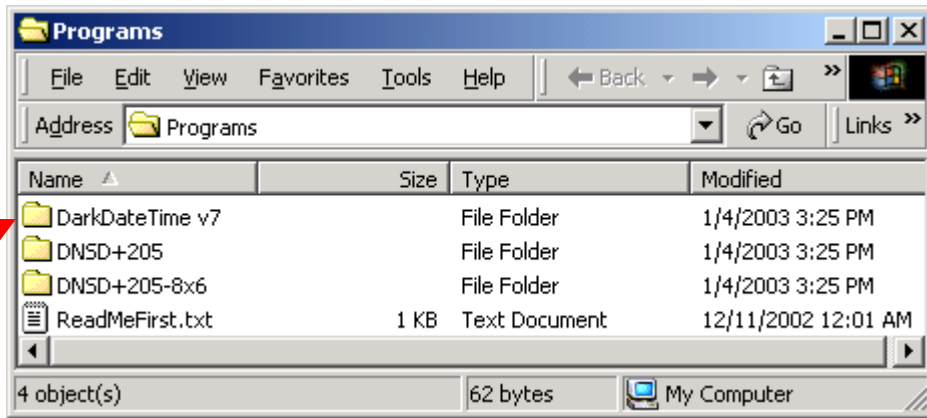
- [Installing DDT7 from a CD-ROM](#)
- [Downloading DDT7 from the WWW](#)
- [Installing DDT7 From the Downloaded .zip File](#)

Installing DDT7 from a CD-ROM:

- 1) Hold down the “Shift” key as you insert the CD containing DDT7. Keep holding the “Shift” key until the CD-ROM drive spins up.
- 2) After the CD-ROM drive spins up, Double-Click on “My Computer”.
- 3) Right-Click on “Carl Miller-v11 (n:)", where “n” is the Letter of your CD-ROM drive.
- 4) Choose “Open” from the menu that appears.
 - Your window should look similar to this:

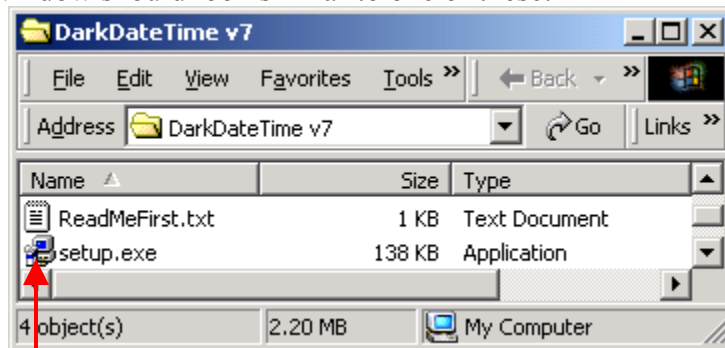


- 5) Double-Click the “Programs” folder.
 - Your window should look similar to this:

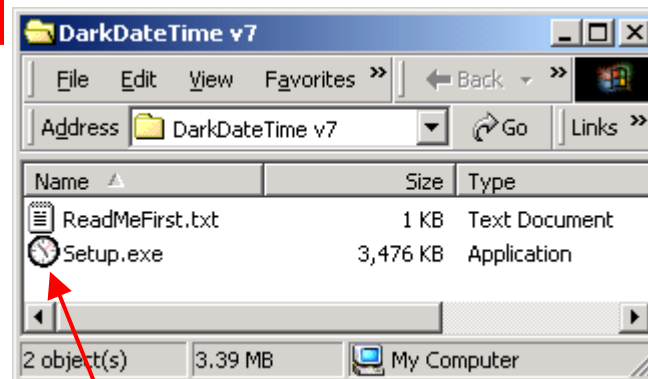


6) Double-Click the “DarkDateTime v7” folder.

- Your window should look similar to one of these:

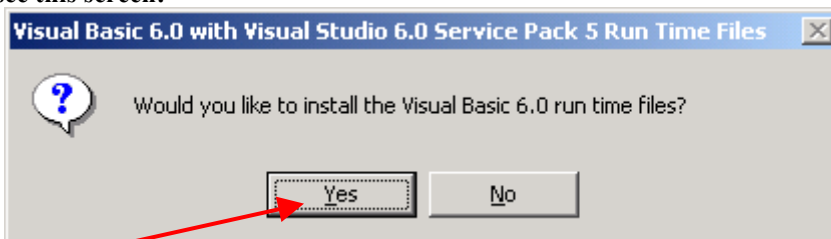


OR this:



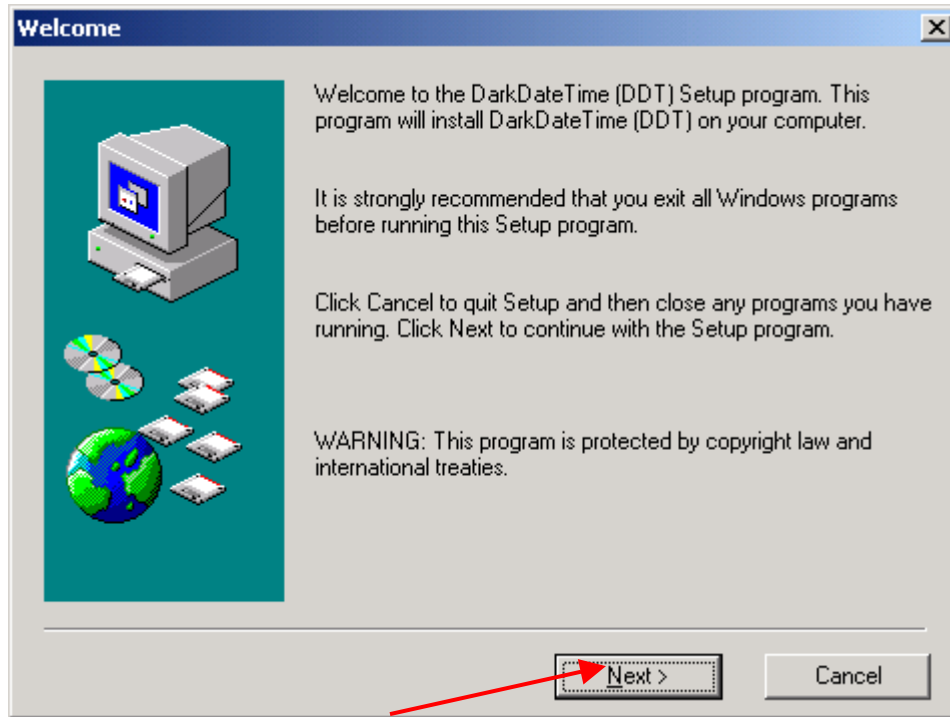
7) Double-Click the “setup.exe” file.

If you see this screen:



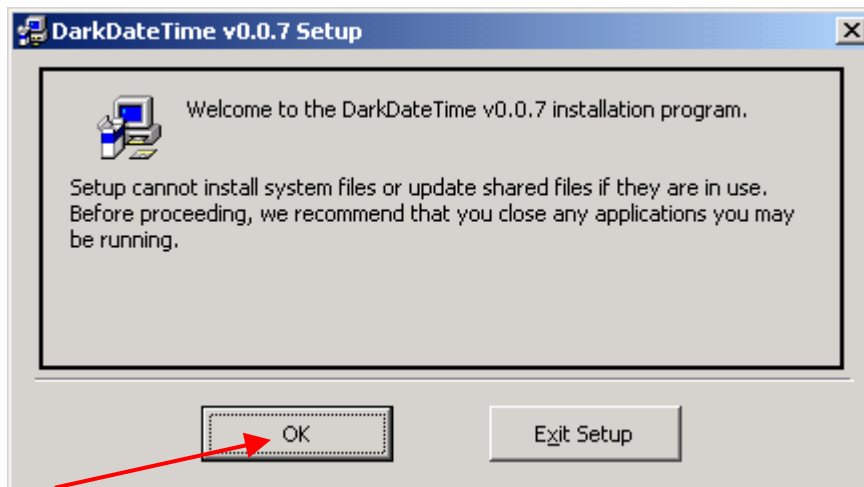
Click “Yes”

- Your window should look similar to one of these:



- 8) Click “Next” and follow the onscreen prompts.
- You should choose all default settings to simplify installation.

OR this:



- 9) Click “OK” and follow the onscreen prompts.
- You should choose all default settings to simplify installation.

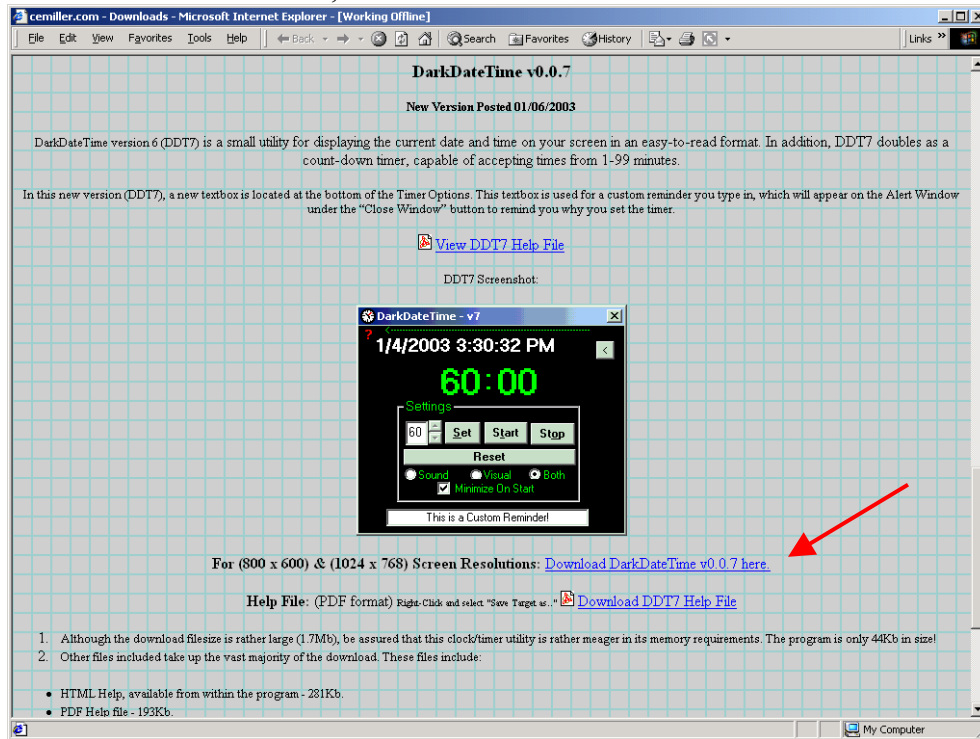
10) Other Information:

- By default, DDT7 installs to a folder path of:
My Computer\C:\Program Files\DDT7
- By default, DDT7 installs to:
My Computer\C:\Program Files\DDT7\DDT7.exe

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Downloading DDT7 from the WWW:

- 1) You can download DDT7 directly from this document!
 - **Live Link!** → [Download DarkDateTime v0.0.7 here.](#) ← **Live Link!**
- 2) Or, from the WWW, point your browser to:
 - **Live Link!** → <http://www.cemiller.com/downloads.htm>. ← **Live Link!**
 - Click on the link, “Download DarkDateTime v0.0.7 here”.

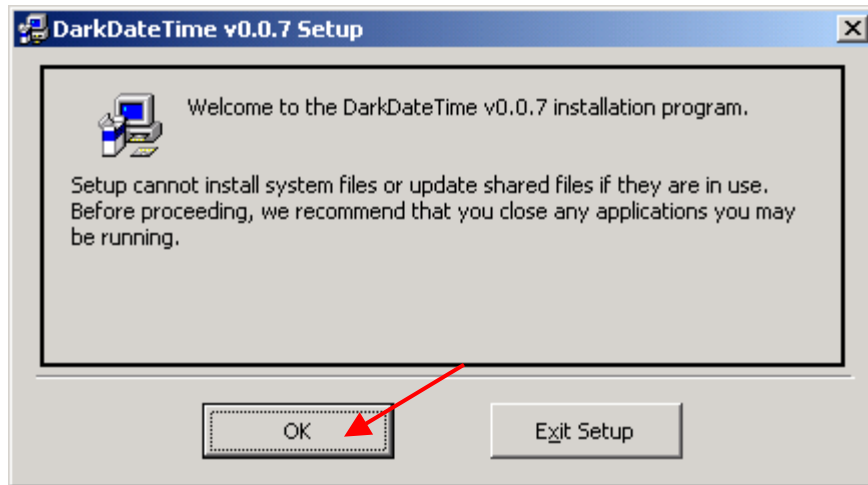


- 2) Save the file to a sensible place, such as “Downloads” or to the Desktop.

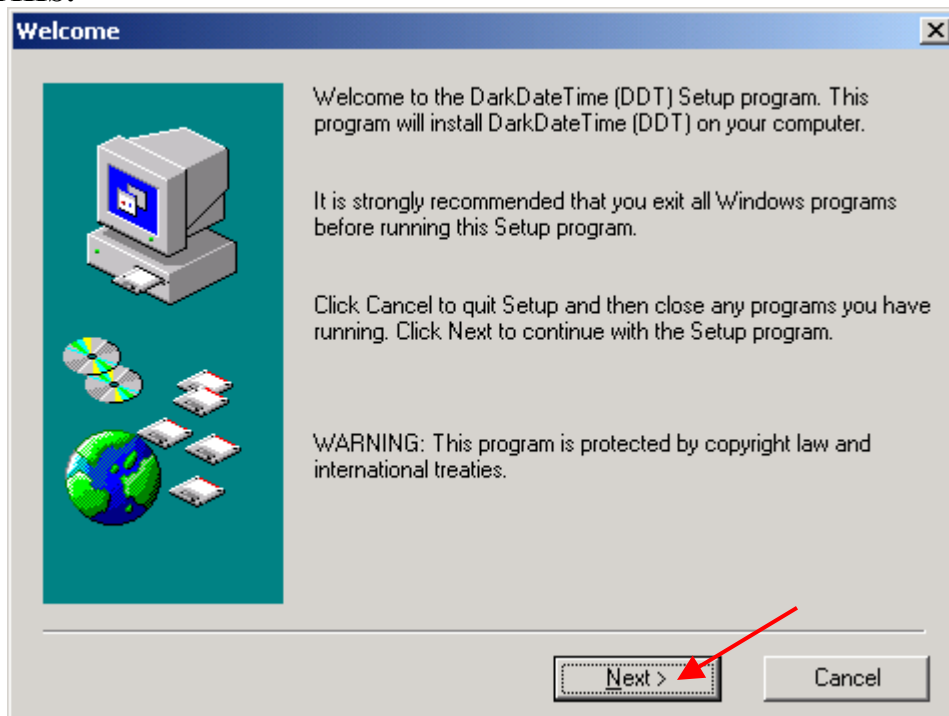
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Installing DDT7 From the Downloaded .zip File:

- 1) Unzip the file DDT7.zip with a ZIP Utility such as WinZip.
 - [Click here to download WinZip.](#)
 - Depending on your settings, your ZIP Utility may automatically start the Installer. If this happens, the window shown in Step 3 will appear, skipping Step 2.
- 2) If your ZIP Utility did not automatically start the Installer, locate and open the “Unzipped” folder named “DDT7”.
- 3) Double-Click the “setup.exe” file.
 - Your window should look similar to one of these:



OR THIS:



- 4) Click “OK” or “Next” and follow the onscreen prompts.
 - **You should choose all default settings to simplify installation.**
- 5) Other Information:
 - By default, DDT7 installs to a folder path of:
My Computer\C:\Program Files\DDT7
 - By default, DDT7 installs to:
My Computer\C:\Program Files\DDT7\DDT7.exe

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Other Information

Version History:

- v0.0.2, 11-03-02: Add Timer, Window States
- v0.0.3, 11-05-02: Many bug fixes; Title swap for timer, reset focus from **settings** button, fix Reset button execution.
- v0.0.4, 11-12-02: Heavy testing & minor bug fixes.
- v0.0.5, 11-22-02: Fix Installer, repair corrupted Install File.
- v0.0.6, 12-10-02: Add Custom Reminder TextBox
- v0.0.6a, 12-13-02: Add Form3 for background
- v0.0.6b, 12-16-02: Remove Form3 for background - Resize Form2, Streamline code, add "Alert Always On Top" code.
- v0.0.7, 01-03-03: Move to top right, options for show in tray, min to tray
- v0.0.7a, xx-xx-xx: Remove: Move to top right, options for show in tray, min to tray
- v0.0.7a, 01-03-03: Add "Compact Mode", "About..." Button & Form, "WWW" Button, streamline code, new Help file.
- v0.0.7b, 01-08-03: Add "About..." & "WWW" buttons.
- v0.0.7c, 01-10-03: Tweak & Test
- v0.0.7d, 01-12-03: Add System Tray Icon, De-Bug & Test
- v0.0.7e, 01-12-03: Add Day of Week to Form1.Caption
- v0.0.7e, 01-14-03: Add 4 second Timer to frmAbout and Call to cmdRestore on "Show"

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Support:

Other than this "Help" document, there is no support available for this product, although an occasional check at <http://www.cemiller.com/downloads.htm> for a newer version would be a way to ensure greater compatibility, more functions and options, and possibly an expanded "Help" file.

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Disclaimer:

Neither "DarkNoise Development" nor Carl Miller can or will be held responsible for any damages caused by the installation, use, abuse, or other application of this software product, whether directly, indirectly or consequentially related to any subsequent system, hardware, or software problem which may occur. Be aware that this software product has been tested on Windows 98 and Windows 2000 Professional, but *not* tested on Windows 95, Windows ME, or Windows XP, although there are no system-specific programming techniques incorporated in this program.

For Jim, Saad, and all the Code Warriors who share ideas.

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