vTIME™

Time of Day Flag Variables
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DESCRIPTION. vTime was created because we found that we often overlooked routine housekeeping chores like changing the graphics on the calendar. Have you ever discovered that it's two weeks from Christmas, and you've still got turkey pictures stuffing the menus? Guess what *our* answer would be.

This application creates a security flag for various time markers, such as the month, day of the month, day of the week, time of day, and so forth. By using these security flags, an Excalibur sysop can define a logic check for a particular time and set an event to activate when that time is reached. The program works for the individual visitor at the time it is activated, so it does not intrude on others each time it is run.

REQUIREMENTS. This is a plug-in application created specifically for the Excalibur BBS for Windows. Any system correctly operating Excalibur will be able to use this application.

INSTALLATION. The application DLL (VTIME.DLL) is a *host*-side plug-in, and must be placed in the sysop's main Excalibur software directory with Camelot. You may put the documentation wherever you like for reference.

OPERATION. To run vTIME, the sysop must create an ACTION on an event timer or hotspot/button to run the plug-in. The command line will be VTIME.DLL, and the second text box should be left blank. If you are unfamiliar with installing and operating Excalibur plug-ins, please refer to your Merlin help file.

When vTIME runs, it will set several "variables" by time of day as user security flags. These flags all begin with a "v" to keep them grouped together in the alphabetized flag list shown in Camelot for your handy reference. The flags are as follows:

MONTH v<u>XXX</u> (v+3 letter abbreviation for month)

vJAN	vFEB	vMAR	vAPR	vMAY	vJUN
vJUL	vAUG	vSEP	vOCT	vNOV	vDEC

DATE v<u>##</u> (v+2 digit number for date)

v01	v02	v04	v05	v06	v07	v08	v09	v10	v11	v12
v13	v14	v15	v16	v17	v18	v19	v20	v21	v22	v23
v24	v25	v26	v27	v28	v29	v30	v31			

DAY v<u>XXX</u> (v+3 letter abbreviation for day of the week)

vSUN	vMON	vTUE	vWED	vTHU	vFRI
vSAT					

SPLIT DAY v<u>XX</u> (v+ AM or PM)

vAM	- 00:00 – 12:00
vPM	- 12:00 – 24:00

DAY PERIOD   v<u>Period</u> (v+"descriptive" period of the day)

vMIDNIGHT	- 00:00 - 04:00
vEMORN	- 04:00 - 08:00
vMORN	- 08:00 - 12:00
vNOON	- 12:00 - 16:00
vEVE	- 16:00 - 20:00
vNIGHT	- 20:00 - 24:00

HOUR v<u>####</u> (v+4 digit hour, as 24-hour clock)

v0000	v0100	v0200	v0300	v0400	v0500
v0600	v0700	v0800	v0900	v1000	v1100
v1200	v1300	v1400	v1500	v1600	v1700
v1800	v1900	v2000	v2100	v2200	v2300

USING vTIME VARIABLES. Because vTIME deposits these time indicators as security flags, you can do all sorts of tricks with Excalibur's conditional screen logic. (If you need details on working with conditional flags, please refer to your Excalibur documentation or contact ECI for assistance.) Following are some logic examples to give you some ideas about what you can do.

If it's February, add Valentine's graphics:

```
If vFEB
        Graphic:  Valentin.jpg
End if
```

If it's April Fool's Day, run that JOKE.DLL you found on TechKnow:

```
If ~and(vAPR, v01)
        ACTION plugin:  JOKE.DLL
End if
```

Simple ones like that should be obvious, and probably what 90% of the sysops will want to do, stuff like "show Seattle lights graphic at night, daylight harbor shot during the day".   Here's some that are more involved, just add your event:

No kids after midnight:

```
if ~and(~or(vMIDNIGHT,vEMORN),~ne(~adult))
```

Or if you prefer nesting your if's for easier reading, here's the same one:

```
If ~ne(adult)
        If ~or(vMIDNIGHT, vEMORN)
                Chainto: curfew.scr
        Else
                Chainto: kidsokay.scr
        End If
Else
        Chainto: privchat.scr
End If
```

If I'm out to lunch, it must be 11– 1:00:

```
if ~or(v1100, ~or(v1200, v1300))
```

Set a different template to give'em more online time if it's during slower weekend days:

```
If  ~and(~or(vSAT, vSUN),  ~ne(~or(vEVE,vNIGHT)))
```

It's helpful to plan ahead, too, so don't forget – with Christmas only months away, it might be time to make a screen and add a vTime event! It'll be our secret….

> *It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas:* if ~and(vDEC, v25)

REGISTRATION. Remember, you're obligated to register vTIME if you find it worthwhile and wish to continue using it. It will quit working eventually otherwise.
To register, please purchase on-line by Visa/MC, call us directly or write to our address below.
The registration fee is US$10.00 for this product.

We're pleased to accept personal checks and money orders drawn on US banks, though we must also unfortunately charge a $25 fee on NSF checks. If you're an institution, organization or entity interested in PO's or a term account, please contact Joe Adamson at the telephone number above to get started.

We cheerfully cooperate with law enforcement officials in the prosecution of credit card theft, wire fraud and bogus checks.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT. Everything you need to know you already know or can learn pretty easily from your Excalibur documentation. vTIME's greatest strength is that it uses BBS functions you're probably already familiar with, and if you need help, ECI is right there behind their software ready to help you.   We can't teach you how to use your BBS software, but you can always write us at the e-mail address above or call our BBS if you get stuck – we'll be glad to help you.

ABOUT DUPLICATORS AND IMITATORS. The Excalibur sysop community has suffered immeasurably from those individuals who use their abundance of time, energy and talent to create clones of other plug-in modules. Arguments to this will soar to the heavens on such justifying ideas as competition improving product quality or reducing prices or increasing 'fairness' by allowing apparently under-funded sysops the opportunity to have similar software for far less, which is often for free. By the time you read this, it is quite probable that one or several clones of vTIME will have been produced, and released for free, and nasty e-mail will be all over for daring to call this to question.

If you see any of that, ask yourself these questions.   What is there to improve about the quality of this software that's worth discouraging the original developer?   Since this is a $10 plug-in, is a rip-off really benefiting anyone significantly by discouraging the original developer? Why didn't the cloner write this already, and why is he bothering to waste his time now writing it all over again?

The cloners hate these questions, because time has finally revealed the great lie: there are fewer developers producing fewer products every month. Dozens of developers are gone, folded up and sold out because the community let them down. No reasonable person can now deny that the dozens of rip-off "me too" products – perhaps even well-intentioned at the time – have contributed greatly to the loss of commercial-quality software. Isn't the cloner's point really just to discourage other developers while acting like a big shot?   Who does that really hurt?

There is a difference between imitators and innovators. I encourage everyone to support other innovators like you've supported VR Software the past few years.

Thank you all, we appreciate every one of you!

Joe Adamson,   Ken Adamson,
"Sysop Lemming"   "Sidekick Lemming"

VR Software Labs
Oklahoma City, OK
USA

Other VR Software Products & Stuff

VR Best Sellers List

Extra!

Put a scrolling text display box on your Excalibur screen. Stretch to fit, select text and background colors to blend into your layout, and pick the text file you want to show. Change text files on the fly with this inexpensive "must have" design tool.

Launch Pad

This smash hit has supercharged Excalibur systems world-wide! In one step, sysops go from "same-old, same-old" to one-stop, one-button powerhouses of on-line success. A "Swiss Army Knife" application, it sends, installs, manages, operates and makes use of files with the true power of client/server computing. Unbelievably easy to use, the possibilities for your system are virtually endless!

Prelude

Thirty-two tracks of ass-kickin' digital stereo! Prelude is the first client/server "MOD" player for Windows-based IIS. Flexible command options allow the sysop the freedom to control every aspect of operation, playing MOD, MTM, M15, S3M and XM sampled song files on the client. No fancy sound cards needed.

Real Times Publisher Pro

The ease of world-wide web hypertext link at blazing speeds. Specially designed for online use, Real Times provides a complete hypermedia document publishing system that is both incredibly fast and wondrously easy. ONE SINGLE COMMAND is all you need to know to put the power of online document publishing to work for your business or information distribution needs. Convert existing documents directly to online use. Smaller, faster than PDF!

Super RetroRoids

One minute you're sitting at an Interstellar Net Cafe, the next you're waking up "Shang-Hai'd" in a one-man fighter craft out in the deep reaches of the unexplored frontier. Your mission? Disintegrate the asteroids, rocks and space debris between your current position and home. Easy, or is it? Eight-channel digital mix-down with a great original thumping backtrack. Independent scoreboards for best all-time high and best high. Already a raging favorite in the community.

On-Line Entertainment

RollAway

Roll your time and money away with this dice classic that has you betting you can hit near a mystery point. Great fun!

Super Lemming Progressive Slots

Multi-player jackpot increases as callers join the multimedia slot machine action. Just like the one-armed bandits in Vegas! Animation, music, digital sounds, even joystick support all contribute to this virtual slots pit.

Super RetroRoids

Rockin' single-player video action comes to Excalibur in this heart-pounding remake of the classic arcade favorite. Multi-track digital sound mixing and an original soundtrack makes this game stand out and slam the wimpy turn-based games everyone else is stuck with. Grab your helmet and blast into action!

System Utilities

AFCP

Another Fine Credit Plugin from VR, this module allows for charges or credits to he applied to the caller's account according to his selections.

Extra!

This module places a definable scrolling text display box on your Excalibur screen. Text, font, size and colors are all selectable in this hit product!

Launch Pad

Our number one best seller! Install and operate browsers, chat clients, ftp, e-mail software and more. Add multimedia to your system, like AVI, MIDI, WAVs, including playlists and a multimedia jukebox. Display and print documents on the caller's system, or refer them to custom help files or other materials you've prepared. An absolute must for professional systems or operators wanting to become Internet Service Providers!

Order Entry

Produced as a "no fuss" replacement for Excalibur's order entry system, this friendly, low-cost order entry applet makes callers love to shop!

Prelude

Digitally-sampled CD-quality music player that gives your system musical excitement! Completely unique among online services, this is an application that will get your callers talking… and coming back for more. Easy command options keep your nose out of the docs and your ears on the tunes.

Real Times Publisher Pro

Intranets and business-owned professional support systems often have mounds of information to make available to their technicians or field employees, but lack a good delivery system. Real Times Publisher Pro is ideal for on-line document retrieval, especially for technical data, maps, surveys, logistics and sales support in the field. In use by federal and state government agencies to provide hypertext document retrieval of timely or sensitive data, as well as large companies supporting field servicemen and remote executives. Like most VR professional products, there is virtually NO learning curve. If you can use a basic word processor, you can have world-wide-web hyperlink documents in moments. Existing documents are easily converted, with only a single command required.   Designed specifically for on-line use, Real Times Publisher Pro is the fastest means of on-line publishing available.

VR Event Calendar

The month's affairs available on a large, clickable display which provides details for any events listed. A long-time favorite of the community.

vTIME

vTIME sets flags according to time, like the month, day, date, hour, etc. By checking for these flags with conditional logic in your screens, events can be set-up to trigger at pre-defined times.

Other Products

Screen Caffeine Pro CD-ROM

A tool kit for screen and web designers who want to upgrade the visual appeal of their projects. This CD-ROM consists of 106 image groups with 636 textures, backgrounds, and example graphics, hundreds of buttons, Macromedia Director™ code and more!

Java Beat CD-ROM

A collection of more than 250 royalty-free music files for multimedia, web page, screen, video and presentation designers. Use Java Beta wherever you need interesting music. Files are supplied in five different formats: AIFF, WAVE, MIDI, QUICKTIME™, and Redbook (CD) audio.

Pro Designer Bundle CD-ROMs

The Pro Designer bundle is our three CD-ROM set for pro designers, including both Java Beat and Screen Caffeine Pro at unbelievable savings.

Corel Clip-art and Stock Photo CD-ROMs

VR provides the full line of Corel products, including dozens of CD-ROMs full of clip-art and royalty-free photography and other graphic images. Please contact us for additional info.

VR News Services

VR Software Labs provides several publications to compliment the use of our products by producing packaged, cost-effective content not otherwise available or affordable to hobby-oriented system operators or start-up Internet providers. All materials are suitable for multi-platform use, available in plain-text format, Excalibur's EXT, generic RTF, Real Times' RTC, and HTML. Graphics are available in standard BMP, GIF, and JPEG formats.

Daily Horoscope

A sure hit with New Age and Gen-X callers, a profitable future awaits those who subscribe!

Infotainment Pack

Great for predominately female audiences. Soap Operas Digest, Horoscope and the Hollywood & Glamour Report, published daily.

VR NewsWire

Everybody's got those "ticker tape" things, and nothing to say. Here's News Headlines, Business News and Entertainment News ready to go!

VR SportsWire

Sports on your ticker tape? You bet -- Sports Headlines, Scores, Stats, Sportsticker news, ready to hit your scroller.

This is TRUE!

Real articles from today's news, stories like "Deputy Kills Man with Hammer." Each week, you can rip out a new rib over this hilarious look at world events.

VR News Magazine

The whole show, rolled up and ready to make your system content rich without getting pocket poor. News, Business, Entertainment, Soaps, Horoscopes, Weather summary, Travel Weather for everywhere anybody cares to go, forecasts, NEXRAD Doppler Radar images, graphics, sports headlines, scores, stats and more! Compare this to other similar offerings costing a hundred bucks a throw. No joke! We're kicking the industry's butt, come join us!

VR News Magazine, RT Pro Edition

The most comprehensive collection of timely content available, published in the universal Real Times (RTC) compressed document format

Other Services

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Bulletin Board (VR hosted, Private Area)  6 mos minimum, monthly                $50.00 /unit
Bulletin Board (Complete system)          Must be quoted                        as quoted
Web Site (VR "Virtual Hosting")           6 mos minimum, monthly                $100.00/unit
InterNIC Address Registration (name.com)  Set-up + 2  yr minimum, $50/yr        $110.00


Graphics Design                           1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments         $ 7.50 /unit
Graphics Design (BBS/Web)                 1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments         $12.50 /unit
Graphics Design (Presentation)            1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments         $12.50 /unit
Newsletter                                Must be quoted                        as quoted
Photography (General)                     Must be quoted                        as quoted
Photography (Digital)                     Must be quoted                        as quoted
Photography (Studio)                      Must be quoted                        as quoted
Printing (Large-format B&W)               Must be quoted                        as quoted
Printing (Color)                          Must be quoted                        as quoted
Printing (Large-format Color)             Must be quoted                        as quoted
Printing (Canvas, Vinyl, Plastics)        Must be quoted                        as quoted
Printing (Web Press, Binding)             Must be quoted                        as quoted
Scanning                                  Varies; set-up plus storage medium    as quoted
Scanning (35mm Film Positive/Negative)    Varies; set-up plus storage medium    as quoted
Scanning (Raw OCR Image-to-text)          90%+ Correct                          $ 1.00 /page
Scanning (Proofed OCR Image-to-text)      100% Hand-corrected                   $ 3.50 /page
Software (Internet/BBS on Diskette)       Prep cost + Quoted on Volume          as quoted
Software (Internet/BBS on CD-ROM)         Prep cost + Quoted on Volume          as quoted
Speaking (See topics list)                No cost; *necessary expenses only     no cost*
Tech Support for Your Callers (Dial)      $50/mo, $10 per incident              varies by use
Tech Support for Your Callers (Toll-free) $75/mo, $12 per incident              varies by use
Technical Writing                         1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments         $12.50 /unit
Training Materials                        1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments         $12.50 /unit
Training (Individual)                     1 Hr minimum, ½ hr increments         $30.00 /unit
Training (Classroom)                      1 Hr minimum, ½ hr increments         $40.00 /unit
Training (Presentation)                   1 Hr minimum, ½ hr increments         $50.00 /unit
Travel (intrastate)                       Free in OKC; others, normal time billing  time/unit
Travel (interstate)                       Portal-to-portal travel, per diem prepaid as quoted
Video (General)                           1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments         $25.00 /unit
Video (Digital Still Capture)             1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments         $25.00 /unit
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Video (Real-Time Digital)                     1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments            $25.00 /unit
VR News Service                               6 mos minimum, weekly                    $ 7.50 /unit
Web Site Design                               1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments            $12.50 /unit


Consultation                                  1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments            $12.50 /unit
Consult. (Bid Issue/Review/Mgt)               1 Hr minimum, ½ hr increments            $35.00 /unit
Consult. (Internet Systems Design)            1 Hr minimum, ½ hr increments            $40.00 /unit
Consult. (Network Systems Design)             1 Hr minimum, ½ hr increments            $45.00 /unit
Consult. (Project Review/Cost Analysis)       1 Hr minimum, ½ hr increments            $50.00 /unit
Consult. (Project Management)                 10% final project cost, expenses         percentage
Computer Equipment Procurement                10% quoted/wholesale cost, expenses      percentage
Install/Config (Simple Software/Hardware)     1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments            $10.00 /unit
Install/Config (Advanced Soft/Hardware)       1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments            $12.50 /unit
Programming                                   1 Hr minumum, ¼ hr increments            $20.00 /unit
Programming (Consumer Electronics)            "Smart" Pocket PC's, Set-top Consoles    $35.00 /unit
Programming (Database Project)                ½ down, ¼ "beta", ¼ finalized            as quoted
Programming (Large Project)                   ½ down, ¼ "beta", ¼ finalized            as quoted
Service (General Software/Hardware)           1 Hr minimum, ¼ hr increments            $10.00 /unit
Travel (intrastate)                           Free in OKC; others, normal time billing time/unit
Travel (interstate)                           Portal-to-portal travel, per diem prepaid as quoted
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