

TV Reminder 1.2.4

Description

Often we are engulfed in fascination or work while using computers. As time flies by, so can your favorite television programs. How often have you realized a program you want to watch started 10 minutes ago? TV Reminder alerts you when that great show is about to start so you don't miss a single minute. If you have the ability to import digital video, TV Reminder can even launch software on your machine that takes advantage of that ability, such as **BTV** <<http://www.btv.org.uk/>>.

Installation

Unstuff the file you downloaded. Just copy the TV Reminder folder to wherever you store applications. Launch the TV Reminder application and you're ready to go. It's that simple!

Configuration

TV Reminder is easy enough to use that just playing around for a few minutes will teach you nearly everything there is to learn. TV Reminder also utilizes balloon help, which can be activated under the "Help" menu. Once you are familiar with the program, you may want to peruse this document to make sure you didn't miss anything.

To configure TV Reminder, select "Preferences" from the edit menu. The preferences screen has three tabs, General, Warning and Launch TV.

The General tab allows you to select your television viewing application, if you have one. If you do not, just leave it blank. If you would like TV Reminder to disappear, but stay running when you switch to another application, select the "Hide TV Reminder application in background" check box. If TV Reminder needs to notify you of an upcoming show, it will still alert you even if you have this box checked.

The Warning tab allows several alerting features to be customized. TV Reminder can warn you before a show begins, you can also select how much of a warning you get. This allows you plenty of time to search for that remote control. You can also receive a warning when the show begins. Select a sound that will play when TV Reminder alerts you that a show is, or is about to start. TV Reminder can also auto dismiss an alert message and speak the warning message after a customizable time.

The warning is shown in a global floating dialog. If several warnings occur at once, they are each displayed on a separate line. The launch button in the warning dialog allows to launch your viewing application immediately.

The Launch TV tab allows you to configure if, and how far in advance TV Reminder will launch

your TV viewing application. If your viewing application is BTV you have some additional options. You can determine if BTV will switch to full screen mode and if you'll be asked about it, and you can choose to let TV Reminder set the right channel in BTV, if you use the right configuration. See the BTV View documentation for more information.

There is also a TV menu which allows quick access to several control options for your TV viewing application. If you haven't selected a viewing application, the TV menu is grayed out.

Channels

To customize the channel list, select "Channels" from the edit menu. Here you can add descriptive channel names, such as "WCCO - 4" or "Comedy Central" - it's up to you. You can also change the order in which the channels are listed using the up and down buttons. You can remove channels, or modify existing ones using the appropriate buttons.

If you use BTV View or BTV Edit as your viewing application you can also import channels by clicking the button "Import...". TV Reminder will then be able to switch to the right channel when a show is about to start.

Add Reminders

Once everything is set, you're ready to add the shows you don't want to miss. Click on the "Add" button to add your first show.

In the "New Reminder" window, you first name the show. From the pop-up list, you can select on which channel the show is. If you haven't added that channel yet, you can click on the "Edit Channels" button to be brought back to the channel list screen.

There are three pop-up menus to configure when the show airs: the day, the hour and the minutes. The day options are one day of the week, all days, weekends (airs Sat and Sun) or weekdays (airs Mon-Fri). The time is shown in military time to prevent AM/PM confusion.

The duration field allows you to enter the duration of the show. As long as the show is not finished, it will stay on top of the list of TV Reminders.

The "Record" check box is used if your TV viewing application is BTV, which supports recording. If you have not selected a BTV as viewer application, the record check box is grayed out.

The How often choice determines if the show is a one time airing such as a movie, or repeating like a sitcom.

Registration

TV Reminder is shareware. This means you can try all functions, but you have to pay for it if you use it longer than 30 days. Until you register you are limited to listing ten shows.

TV Reminder costs \$15.00 and can be registered via <http://www.kagi.com/?C17&s>.

About the Author

Eerko Vissering writes cool software, such as TV Reminder and IP Reporter and free useful applescripts. All his software is available at his website at <http://members.home.nl/vissering/>.

Legal

If TV Reminder crashes your computer or does anything else you wouldn't expect it to do and you don't like, I can't be held responsible in any way. In short: you can't sue me whatsoever. Well, at least I can say I did everything within my possibilities to create a working thing.

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Version 1.0 readme and betatesting by Jerad Hoff.

Additional betatesting by Donald Vrakking.

Version History

v1.2.4, September 11, 2001

- Added option to use 12-hour time display

v1.2.3, May 24, 2001

- Improved stability

- PPC and Carbon version

v1.2.2, May 2001

- Recompiled with RealBasic 3.2

- All texts are now anti-aliased under Mac OS X

- Small bug fixes

v1.2.1, May 2001

- Changed all the icons in the program to the new one for a more consistent look.

v1.2, May 2001

- Carbonized - runs native under Mac OS X

It's not possible to select an alternative warning sound under Mac OS X yet.

The communicating with BTV is pretty untested, because I can't run the application under Mac OS X.

- BTV View and BTV Edit are now both recognised as BTV applications

- Channels can be imported from BTV View or BTV Edit

- Added preference to change channels when launching the viewer or when the shows starts

- Launch button in reminder dialog has now balloon help

- Icon of TV application in TV Reminder window is now updated directly after saving new preferences

- Disabling of speech now works

- Added 'Move Window in Main Screen' to the Help menu to fix if the TV Reminders window is gone

- Some spelling errors corrected

v1.1, 10 April 2000

- Added a button to launch the TV Application directly from the reminder dialog

- If several reminders occur at once they are all shown in one dialog, and they are all spoken

- No longer crashes when launched from Finder if already running, or when changing appearance

themes

- Some cosmetic fixes
 - Added a "What's coming" paragraph to the ReadMe below
- v1.0.1, 22 March 2000
- Fixed a tiny bug in the registration
 - The 'AppleScript missing' warning is now mentioned only once (the program works fine without, but launching in full screen or window mode will result in a normal launch)
 - Updated the about dialog, thanks for the nice picture, Scott Rose.
 - Added balloon help for the clock-icon in the upperleft corner of the TV Reminders window (yes, it does something)
- v1.0, 20 March 2000
- Initial Release

What's coming?

I have a lot of plans for TV Reminder. I'm not certain when I have the time to implement them all, but expect some of the following features in the near future:

The convenient

- Choose between 12-hour or 24-hour display style
- Set an exact date for a show if it is not this week
- Collapse the main window so only the upcoming show is shown
- More choices for reminding, adjustable per show

The nice

- Show overlapping shows
- Hierarchical reminder lists and contextual menu support
- Drag'n'drop support, multiple reminder lists

The cool

- Support for more viewer applications: Apple Video Player to start with
- Radio Reminder? Support for AmpRadio listening and recording of Internet radio
- QTV Reminder? Support for Quicktime streams, remind of and view Steve Job's keynotes!
- Support for the new infrared controller ZephIR, see <<http://www.thezephir.com>>

The infinite

- Download of program information from the Internet, with keyword and search ability