

VOX CLOCK Copyright 2001 Bob Alkire

Windows only (tested on 98, NT, 2000, XP, 7, 7(64bit))

32 bit Taskbar app that speaks the time using half-life game sounds. This was written in C++ using wxWidgets and Cygwin. It does write to the registry but creates no files. This program, voxclock.exe is licensed under creative commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License see: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/> for license text. It is not for commercial use, must include this document unchanged with the license and the code is not to be modified. It's binary anyway and I lost the sources.

Installing

Unzip the file archive to Program Files or Program Files(x86). Launch the app by double click on the voxclock.exe file. The md5 sum for the voxclock executable

```
33a542c231954943e53a94d5173f33e3 *voxclock.exe
```

To start when the computer boots, make a shortcut of voxclock.exe file in voxclock directory and move shortcut to Startup menu.

On Windows 7, this is located

```
<HARDDRIVE>:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Windows\Start Menu\Programs
```

You will also need a folder of sound files in .wav format containing spoken numbers.

Uninstall

Delete the voxclock directory and shortcut in startup menu. You can also delete the registry entry located at HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\wxWindows\VoxClock.

Getting the sound files

Sound files can be downloaded from the web and should have counting numbers: zero, one, two... nineteen, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty... It helps if it has time phrases like oclock, the time is, am, pm, etc. Since I was motivated by the sounds in half-life, I'll describe how to get them.

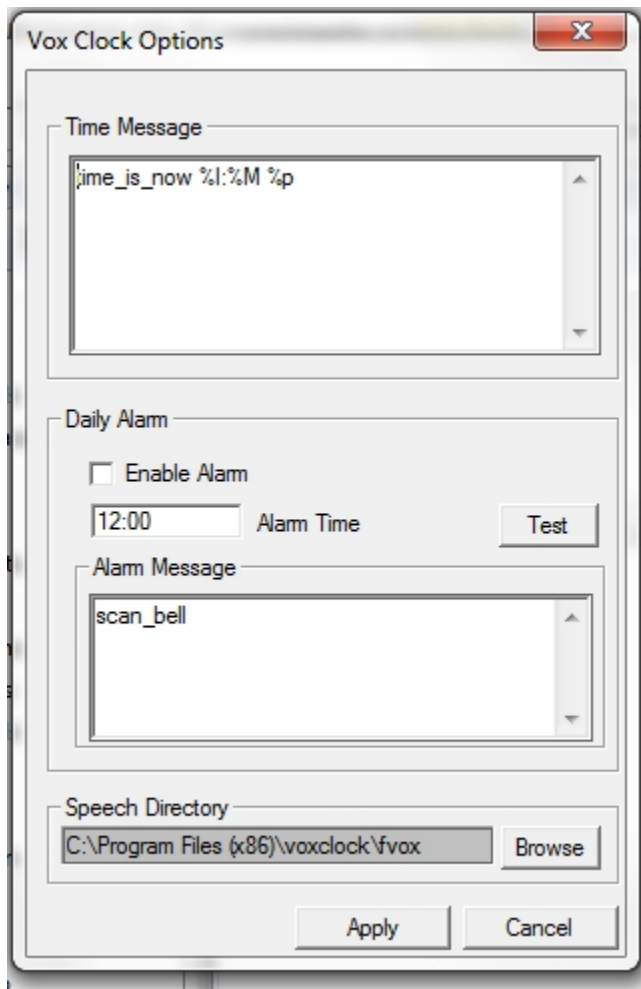
You need a copy of half-life. It was originally made by Sierra and will require a CD and key. It must be installed and authenticated to get to the pak0.pak file containing the sounds. Half-Life franchised is now owned by Valve. It can also be bought and downloaded using Steam from Valve. Once downloaded, go to the Steam folder in Program Files or Program Files(x86) and the steamapps directory. Inside of steamapps is a file half-life.gcf.

You will need a gcf or pak file extraction tool. These can be found on the web. I used the Nem's GCFscape found here <http://nemesis.thewavelength.net/index.php?p=25> . Launch GCFscape and open the half-life.gcf file. Browse the valve folder then sound folder. Inside of sound, there should be two folders: fvox and vox. Drag these folders to the voxclock program folder.

Setting up the clock

The clock can be launched by double clicking on the voxclock.exe app and a little lambda clock icon will show up in the taskbar. In Windows 7 you may have to customize the task bar to show icon and notifications. Right clicking the icon will show a menu, select option...

This brings up the following window.



In the Speech Directory, browse to the fvox or vox directory to set the path to the sounds you want to use.

Next set up the phrase you want it to say. The phrase is made of the filenames without the .wav extension separated by spaces. So type "danger" (without the quotes) and press test. It should play the file "danger.wav". Type "danger deactivated", it should play danger.wav followed by deactivated.wav. They do not have the same phrases, so each has to be tailored to the voice. Both do have numbers,

one.wav, two.wav... nineteen.wav,... thirty... and so on. The program uses a subset (numbers only) of the [strftime syntax](#) for constructing the date and time phrases. Instead of filename, use %<letter> from here:

%l	Hour in 12hr format (1 - 12)
%H	Hour in 24hr format (0 - 23)
%M	Minute (0 - 59)
%S	Seconds (0 - 59)
%p	AM or PM
%m	Month as a decimal number (1-12)
%y	Year as last two digits (00 - 99)
%d	Day of the month (1 - 31)

If the current time is 1:32pm, if the phrase is "%H hours %M minutes", it will play one.wav, hours.wav, thirty.wav one.wav minutes.wav.

For female voice, "time_is_now %l %M %p" for twelve hour time.

For male voice, " time is %H hours %M minutes %S seconds" for 24 hour time.

Left clicking the taskbar icon will play the time. Menu items for help is completely useless and about is almost as useless. You can exit the voxclock with the exit menu item.

I found other sound files in other games too that might work.