MultiViewEPG

1.0 RC2

DRAFT

Introduction

MultiViewEPG is a TAP that provides linear and grid style EPG listing modes, Timerlist, RSS News reader, Favourites manager for perlTGD and provides a more user friendly alternative to the other existing guide TAPs. One of the key features is the ability to edit conflicting timers when attempting to set a new timer. This enables you to adjust the timers to fit rather than the usual message of can't set timer because it conflicts. Other key features relating to the guide is the ability to adjust an active recording to cover the next event, ability to remove an event from an active recording if it hasn't started and many more features.

How to install

Copy jimsguide.tap over to your unit using your prefered transfer method. *It is recommended that you install in ProgramFiles until you are satisfied with the stability

How to configure

To configure this TAP you will need to be running TSR/TAP Commander TAPs. These TAP provide a easy central location to manage the configurations of TAPs so it is the only method of configuring this TAP. Once the setup menu has been launch you will be able to configure the various sections to your preference. See Configuration Menu section later in this manual for more details.

How much RAM does this use

Memory management is a key part of this TAP. It is designed to use as little memory as possible. In Australia the RAM usage varies between 2 – 2.5 MB but in the UK this could be up to a maximum of 3.9 MB. When a dialog is launched it takes up some RAM as well so it is recommended that you need a minimum of 3-5MB for this TAP to run.

Files created and used by this TAP

jimsguide.ini in ProgramFiles/Settings/jimsguide.ini

Known limitations and bugs

Gathering of EPG data not friendly for over the air guides (May look at a better way of caching eventually)
No skinning abilities (see to do list)
Only in english at the moment (see to do list)

Is the source code avaliable

Currently the source is unavaliable to the public. The TAP is still in development and the source will be released when the first stable release is avaliable and I have had a chance to clean up the source to make it more human readable :)

Credits

Bellissimo for all his help with the description extender support and memory usage.
All the developers whose code I have used. Bellissimo, tonymy01, UK Project team members etc..
All developers that have released there source code to there TAPs.
Everyone associated with creating libFirebird, keep up the great work.

To do list

Implement DMA accross all of TAP to use as little memory as possible - (Part-Done)
Implement description extender support (Done)
Implement configurable keys for all key parts
Implement compatibility with UK 58XX range
Implement skinning support and ability
Clean up code and release under GPLV2
Create more interfaces for creation of PerlTGD favourites
Add key legend to Grid EPG - (Done)
Add key legend to timerlist - (Done)
Fully test timerlist with all the types of timers i.e. weekly, weekday, weekend etc..
Implement multi-language support as required
Implement insert ability to keyboard module and clean up
Implement favourites list to only list the required channels when in grid mode - (Done)
Create proper manual to explain all the features and usages
Implement Radio support for grid EPG
Fix the delete event and have it prompt to remove event, remove timer or cancel. Currently if event timer extends
past the buffer the leftover will be split into a new timer.

Configuration Menu

Show partial recordings/timers is for the linear EPG and whether to display an orange circle on events that are partially covered by a recording or timer.

Show time is an option for the linear EPG to display the start times in the list before the program name e.g. 18:00 – The Simpsons

Display picture in graphics is another option for the linear EPG. If selected the channel/playback currently active will be resized and placed in the top right section of the display.

Render background is an option for all the displays in the TAP. Above you see the dark blue background, when this option is setto no it will not be displayed.

Default sorting is the sort order that the linear EPG will be displayed in.

Timeout for messages is a value used to determine how long message will be displayed on the screen. The value is in ticks so 100 = 1 Sec.

Reload hour is the hour which the EPG will be reloaded. This is needed if you leave the unit on 24x7 as the TAP only gathers data once when it starts or an EPG is displayed. This is a design thing as I have noticed that sometimes the unit gets confused and all the events on some channels dissappear until they are changed to.

Startup delay is the number of seconds towait until the TAP should gather the EPG data. This feature is needed if like me you run EPG_Uploader. Setting this delay will enable EPG Uploader to finish uploading the event before the TAP gathers the EPG. This option can be disabled and if so will load the events on the first load of an EPG screen. This should take 5-10 seconds depending on the number of events.

Timeout for searches is the timeout period since the last keypress in the linear EPG to search for what you have typed when performing a search by title or description.

Fade in on opening is a option to add some eyecandy to the TAP. Setting this to yes will result in the displayed being faded in when a display is opened.

Fade out on closing is a option to add some eyecandy to the TAP. Setting this to yes will result in the displayed being faded out when a display is closed.

Gradient factor is the factor used for the gradients in the displays. Set to 0 to use no gradients and a maximum of 5 is allowed. The default value is 2.

Activation key for xxx. These are options that allow you to selected the key to activate the various

components. When the optionis selected press the key on the remote you wish to activate that component with and you will notice that it will change. The channel up/down, volume up/down and ok are unavaliable to be used.

Defaul size for grid is a option for the Grid EPG mode. The value is in minutes and sets the default size to be used.

X + Y offset is the offset required for the displays to be centred on your displays. Use the volume keys to adjust. When adjusting you will notice that the display is redrawn to help you with aligning the screens.

Timer start and end padding is the value to be used when creating/modifiy and expanding timers.

Append episode name is a feature that still needs some work but is there for anyone will to try. It works by search for the [character in the description field and create the timer name to be Show – Episode.

Allow timer rename is a option to allow this TAP to rename the timers when you modify them using this TAP. So when you append a event to a timer if selected to yes the timer name will be Show + Show etc...

Exit TAP will stop the TAP.

Linear EPG

The layout is very simple with the events on the left, pip in top right and next timers and help in the bottom right.

To navigate using the volup and channel keys.

To set a timer press the record and a timer will be set. If the show has a timer already it will display a screen for you to edit the start/end and filename etc...

If you wish to edit a timer press record if a timer completely covers event of teletext if it is a partial timer. This will launch the dialog and allow the editing of the timer associated with that event.

A major feature of this mode is the ability to search the guide for the names of shows. Press red for a title search and green to search the description. To move to the next match press the next key on your remote and if there is another match it will be moved to.

To change the sort order of the TAP press the pause. This only effects your current session so if you wish for it to be a permanent change use th configuration menu. The sort orders are Name, Channel, Start and Rating.

To view the extended information press the info key on your remote. When viewing extended information press the exit or info key and it will be closed.

To remove a timer for an event press the white key. It will prompt you whether to delete the event from the existing timer. If the timer goes over the event by more that the buffer it will split the timer and remove the event from being recorded creating a new timer for the sections after the event and name it accordingly.

To quickly navigate the linear uses the rewind and forward keys. When in channel listing pressing these keys will move back and forward thru the channels. When listing by the name it will move to the next character.

Below is a list of the keys in the linear EPG and there actions

Channel Up/Down - Navigation up/down
Volume Up/Down - Navigation page up/down
OK - Change to events channel
Exit - Close guide
Record - Set timer/Edit timer
Recall - Reload data
Info - View extended information
White - Delete timer

Yellow - Search for next episode

Green - Search description

Red - Search title

Next - When keyboard is active i.e. searching press the Next key for the next search result

TvRadio - Display next timers when using PIG

Teletext - Edit timer

FAV - Add event to favourites list for perlTGD

Grid EPG

This mode is just like all the other TAPs that have this mode. You press red to move back a day and blue to move forward a day. Press yellow and green to move back and forward pages.

To view the extended information press the information key and exit or info to close.

Use the volume and channel keys to navigate thru the various events.

To navigate a page press the rewind and forward keys.

To record an event press the record key and it will set a timer or prompt whether to join or bring up the conflict dialog to help resolve the issues you are having.

This mode also allows you to hide the channels you wish to not see i.e. No events etc.. To do this press the sleep key when selecting the channel and it will prompt you whether to exclude the channel. If you wish to reset the excludes press the Uhf key and it will prompt you asking whetehr you are sure you want to reset the channels.

To switch between TV and Radio channels press the Tv/Radio key on your remote.

Below is a list of the keys and there actions for the grid EPG

Channel Up/Down - Navigation up/down
Volume Up/Down - Navigation page up/down
OK - Change to events channel
Exit - Close guide
Record - Set timer/Edit timer
Recall - Reload data
Info - View extended information
White - Delete timer
Red - -24 hrs
Blue - +24 hrs
Green - Prev page
Yellow - Next page
Teletext - Edit timer
FAV - Add event to favourites list for perlTGD
Number keys 1 - 5 - Change listing range to 1 = 1 Hour, 3 = 3 hour etc..
Tv/Radio – Switch between TV and Radio listing modes.

Timerlist

The timerlist dialog allows you to view, edit and manage your timers.

The timers are seperated into the days of the week which they fall i.e. Monday, Tuesday etc... Press the Tv/Radio key to view all the timers or navigate after sunday.

To edit a timer press the ok key when on a timer and it will load up a dialog for you to edit it.

To create a new timer press red and it will oad up a dialog for you to create a new timer. If this timer clashes the timer conflict dialog will propt you to allow you to see which timers it clashes with and make the required changes.

To delete a timer press the white key and it will prompt you asking whether you wish to delete the timer.

Below is a list of the keys for the timerlist and there actions

Channel Up/Down - Navigation Up/Down
Volume Up/Down - Next day/Previous day
Ok - Edit selected timer
White - Delete selected timer
Exit - Close guide
TvRadio - Show all timers
Red – Create new timer

Favourites Manager

This is a feature designed to compliment the perlTGD script that I have written for unix based devices. It allows the management and creation of the favourites on your unit.

To create a new favourite press red and it will launch the dialog for you to enter the details.

To edit a favourite press ok when selecting the favourite to change and it will launch the dialog for you to change the details the details.

Below is a list of the keys for the favourites manager and there actions

Channel Up/Down - Navigation Up/Down
Volume Up/Down – Page up and down
Ok - Edit selected favourite
White - Delete selected favourite
Exit - Close favourites manager
Red – Create new favourite
Pause – Change the sort order of the favourites
Recall – Reload the favourites file

RSS News Reader

RSS News - What is the filename and format?

Currently the name of the file is hard coded to rssnews.dat and the file must be in the ProgramFiles directory.

The format of this file is as follows

FeedName<TAB>FeedDate<TAB>FeedTitle<TAB>FeedDescription<NEWLINE>

FeedName - Maximum of 100 Characters
FeedDate - Format of YYYY-MM-DD
FeedTitle - Maximum of 100 Characters
FeedDecription = Maximum of 500 Characters

RSS News Keys

Channel Up/Down - Navigation Up/Down
Exit - Close screen
Recall - Reload rssnews.dat file