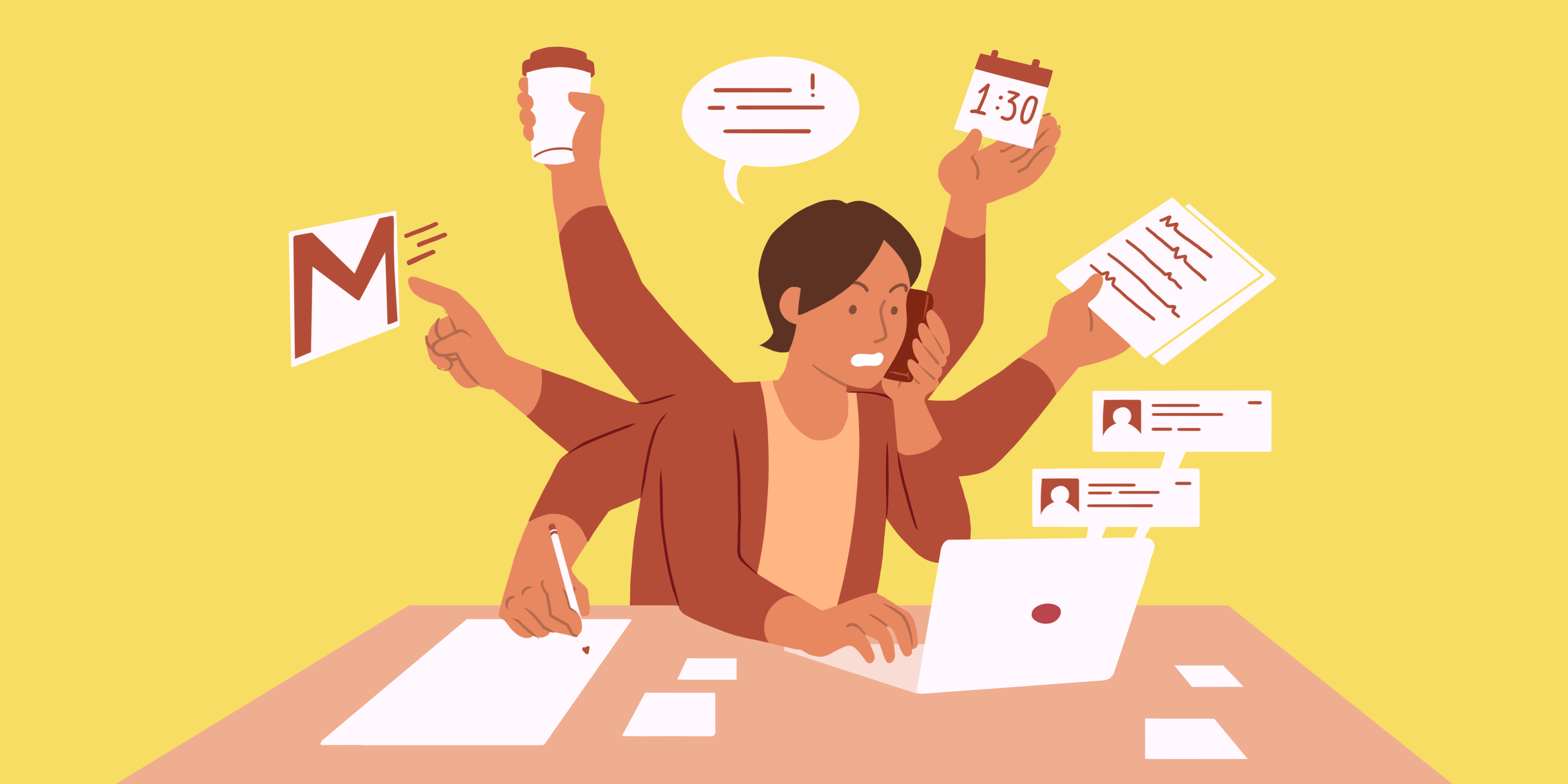
THE TIMER

The Windows timer is a versatile tool that can be used for a variety of purposes in Windows applications. It allows a program to be notified periodically at a specified interval, which can be used for tasks such as:

Multitasking: In a multitasking environment, it is sometimes more efficient for a program to yield control to Windows frequently rather than processing large amounts of data at once. The timer can be used to divide a large task into smaller pieces and process each piece upon receipt of a WM\_TIMER message.



Real-time updates: The timer can be used to display "real-time" updates of continuously changing information, such as system resources or the progress of a task. This is useful for applications that need to provide up-to-date information to the user.



Autosave: The timer can be used to prompt a program to save a user's work to disk at regular intervals. This can help to prevent data loss in the event of a power outage or other unexpected interruption.



Terminating demo versions: Demo versions of software are often limited in time. The timer can be used to terminate such applications when the allotted time has elapsed.



Pacing movement: The timer can be used to control the movement of objects in a game or animation at a consistent rate. This helps to create a smooth and realistic experience for the user.



Multimedia synchronization: Multimedia applications that play audio or video often need to synchronize the media with other events, such as on-screen animations. The timer can be used to accurately determine the playback position of the media and coordinate it with these other events.



In addition to these specific uses, the timer can be used for any general purpose that requires a program to be notified at regular intervals. The timer is a powerful tool that can be used to improve the performance, responsiveness, and usability of Windows applications.

Key Points

* *The Windows timer is an input device that periodically notifies an application when a specified interval of time has elapsed.*
* *The timer is a versatile tool that can be used for a variety of purposes, including multitasking, real-time updates, autosave, terminating demo versions, pacing movement, and multimedia synchronization.*
* *The timer can be used to improve the performance, responsiveness, and usability of Windows applications.*