Tempus 1.0 User Manual

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1 Introduction

Tempus is a free and open source utility for displaying the current time in various time systems for astronomical purposes. It is written for the Distro Astro Linux distribution in C++ using the Qt user interface toolkit for maximum compatibility in case someone wishes to port it.

It is intended to be small and unobtrusive, unless you want it to be.

A large portion of the calculations and conversions use the AA++ library by PJ Naughter, based on Jean Meeus' book Astronomical Algorithms.

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2 Usage

This section explains a little of the ways you can use Tempus to view time.

Tempus runs as an ordinary desktop application, using familiar menus, windows, and controls. It has one window, displaying the time in a scalable view as the central information in big type. You run Tempus as you would any other program, by double-clicking its icon or running it from a command line interface.

The location obviously affects the time, so Tempus needs to know your location to calculate sidereal times and other things. You can set your location in the Location menu.

2.1 Formats and standards

The current time formats supported are:

- Local Mean Time
- Universal Time
- Universal Time, Coordinated
- Local Sidereal Time
- Greenwich Sidereal Time

City coordinates are of course points within an urban area, and therefore not more precise than so many other points. The current values are taken from the dateandtime.info web site. Currently, only the time zone values are of use for the display of local time, since a particular longitude isn't a guarantee for a matching local time.

Tempus aims to adhere to the following scientific standards:

• World Geodetic System (WGS84, EPSG:4326) - in the locations.xml file, for example

3 Troubleshooting

If Tempus does not run, check the following:

- \bullet That the execute bit is set on the application
- \bullet That the Qt framework is installed properly

4 Building

If you wish to build Tempus from scratch, you need to first obtain the source code, which may either be bundled with the application or can be obtained from Github at https://github.com/larsnaesbye/tempus by forking:

git clone https://github.com/larsnaesbye/tempus.git

For this, you will need a git client to make pull requests, and Qt version 4 or later (5.2 or later preferred) installed for compiling to work. In addition you may want to install Qt Creator to edit the base project.

5 Version History

This section is a TODO list for pre-release development. Afterwards, it'll become a version history.

5.1 pre-release

- \bullet 12/24 hour separated out from menu
- Time display, updating
- Open XML locations file
- Location setting affects time
- Chiming functionality
- SVG or hires icon

5.2 1.0

Release. This section becomes version history.

6 Links and references

- Distro Astro Linux for Astronomers http://distroastro.org
- \bullet AA++ Astronomical Algorithms in C++ http://www.naughter.com/aa.html

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