Version 1.040

Program Description:

T.C. Transcriber is Windows based multi-media player designed for transcribers that need to playback various media files while creating a time coded transcription in a separate program. **It will only run under Windows**. It will work on a Macintosh if you have an Intel Mac and have installed Windows XP or Vista to run under Parallels or Boot Camp.

Playback is controlled from the keyboard or mouse from within TC-Transcriber or by a serial foot pedal if operating the software while typing in another program. T.C. Transcriber supports time coded files and simplifies insertion of Time Code stamps in your transcript by automatically copying the timecode to the clipboard as you play the media with the foot pedal control. TC Transcriber can playback audio files in MP3, WAV, BWF, WMA, & FLAC format. It can also play video files in WMV, AVI, MP2, And VOB format.

It displays running time code if the file contains a time code stamp like Broadcast Wav Files or MP3 files with ID3 Time Stamps. It also allows the user to enter a time code for a file and have that time-code track as they play the file on TC-Transcriber.

Setup and Operation:

Extract the setup files from the zip file to a folder on your computer desktop. Run the Setup Program to Install.

NOTE: If installing in Microsoft Vista you must have Administration Privileges to complete installation. You must also run the program as Administrator.

After installing, Right Click on the program exe file or the start Menu Icon and click "Run as administrator"

When you launch the program from the Start Menu, it appears in a small window as shown below. The window is sizable but in this small configuration you can have it sit on top of other applications and easily access its controls and see its displays.

Smallest configuration for audio file playback

Settings & Pedal setup

Open the settings menu by clicking on the settings toolbar button.
The foot pedal settings are in the rectangle on the right.
You must choose a com port where your pedal is connected and then enable the pedal by clicking in the checkbox. The checkbox marked "Swap Rew<Play>Fwd" allows you to reverse the functions of the Rewind and Fast Forward Pedals. The speed set in the FFWD & RWD speed box sets how fast the transport moves when the Fast forward and Rewind pedals are depressed.
Once the correct com port is selected and the pedal is enabled, the Status window shows the function of the pedal When you press the play pedal it should show "Play" and when you release the play pedal it should show "Paused" etc. See the section at the end of this document on Foot Pedal Compatibility for more info.

AutoBackup

AutoBackup is a feature that will automatically backspace in the file each time you pause. Set this control by clicking in the Autobackup field. Each time you click it auto backup value will increase by 1/2 of a second. (up to 5 seconds) You can Double click on the field to turn off Autobackup

Note: AutoBackup may not function properly in highly compressed video or audio files that do not have enough index frames in them. Variable Bitrate WMV video files may not start playing immediately after file is backspaced a fixed time amount. Or the backup amount may not equal the time set in the Options menu. It may be best to just turn off AutoBackup when transcribing these highly compressed video files.

Time Code AutoCopy

T.C. Transcriber can be set to automatically copy the timecode of the file's current position to the clipboard each time the file is played or paused. This lets you insert the timecode into your transcription by hitting the paste key (Ctrl-V) when typing in your word processor. The right drop-down box lets you choose three possible functions:

TC to CB on Pause - Copies the Time Code of the current position to the clipboard each time the file is paused (pedal is released)

TC to CB on Play - Copies the Time Code of the current position to the clipboard each time the file is played (play pedal is depressed)

No TC to Clipboard - Turns off the copy timecode to clipboard function.

The left dropdown box controls the format of the time code as it will be stored on the clipboard. The choices allow you to exclude the Frames field as well as include a tab character or Carriage Return and Line feed at the end of the code. There is also a choice for placing the time code in Brackets [12:22:34].

On the left side of the settings menu are 2 checkboxes:

Use File T.O.D for TC

This checkbox tells the program to use the file's Time of Day time stamp to offset the timecode. If a file does not have a proper SMPTE time code stamp (Like a broadcast wav BWF file or an MP3 file with the time stamp in the ID3 artist Tag. Such as : "TC=12:14:33:04", the program can calculate a time-code based on the file's Time of Day stamp.

Most recorders that have internal Real-Time Clocks (not the SMPTE Time Code Generator) use this time to stamp the files with the current date and time, just like all files on your computer. Since the file system's time stamp usually contains the time the file was last modified, it normally corresponds to the time of day when the recording was ended. So TC Transcriber calculates the Time Code by subtracting the file's playing time from the file systems time stamp. The result can be quite accurate and will usually be within one second of the actual time of day the file was recorded. Since the file's Time of Day stamp is only recorded to the last full second, it can be no more accurate than a single second. That accuracy is certainly good enough for transcription though.

If the checkbox is Unchecked, the program will not automatically try to calculate time code from the Time of Day time stamp. The Time Code clock on TC-Transcriber will then display "Elapsed Time" from the start of the file .if no SMPTE Time-Stamp is contained within the file

Always on Top

Checking this checkbox will keep TC-Transcriber on top of all other windows open. This allows you to keep an eye on the audio Time Code or Video playback while typing in your favorite word processor. If you don't want to see the program just uncheck the box and any other window that has focus will overlap or cover TC-Transcriber. It will still playback under control of the foot pedal however even when in the background.

Default TC Rate

Use this drop down box to set the default Time code rate. And ND or DF for Non Drop Frame and Drop Frame respectively. When TC Transcriber can not detect a frame Rate for the Time Code in your media file it will use the rate set as the Default TC rate. Normally 30.00 and ND will keep the timecode in sync with normal clock time. For files with NTSC Video which runs at 29.97 FPS you may want to set that as your default rate. (Note 30.00 ND and 29.97 DF both run at the same effective rate) For PAL video use 25 FPS ND.

Audio Balance

This control allows you to control the balance Left and Right of the Audio playback.

Video Window

Click on the Show Video button to expand the player for playing video.
You can size the video window to any size by clicking and dragging the lower right corner of the Window. The "Show Video" Button toggles the window size between the minimal size for audio transcription and the normal size for Video Transcription.

When using TC Transcriber to play video for transcription that has Burn In Time Code or BITC, you probably want to synchronize the player's time code with the burn-in time code that appears in a window in the video (like the sample above). To sync the two time codes simply pause at any point in the video where a time code is visible. Click on the Set Time Code Button in the toolbar. When you do, a white Time Code Entry Box appears in the timecode window at the bottom of the TC-Transcriber Media control bar. See illustration at right.

Then type in the time code including Hours Minuets Seconds and Frames Separated by colons that match the BITC time code in the Video Window. Press Enter or Return to accept the new time code. The time code display will return with the label now reading "User Set Time Code"

TC Transcriber will calculate the new start time code based on the time at the current position. You can then check the tracking accuracy by clicking on the start of the file on the tracker control and playing back at the beginning and then at the end of the clip. If the time codes are not within a frame or 2 at both beginning and end of your clip you may have to change the Default Time Code rate in your settings screen. When you arrive at the correct frame rate for your video then the TC Transcriber time code will track properly and allow you to auto copy the time code to the clipboard each time you pause the playback. This can save many keystrokes when creating a time coded transcript.

Copy Time Code to Clipboard

Click on the copy icon to the right of the Time Code window to manually copy the timecode to the clipboard. When you click on this icon a red frame indicates that the time code has been copied to the clipboard. You can then use Paste or the windows hot key of "Ctrl-V" to paste this captured time code into any text box or text document open in another window. The format of this timecode is controlled by the settings in your Program Settings menu. You can click on this icon while the file is playing or while it is paused. When paused you can move forward and backward in the file one frame or one second at a time using keyboard cursor controls. (Left and right Arrow keys) Hold down the shift key to move in 1 second increments.

Switching Time Code Displays

The Time Code window can be switched between different representations of the time code by simply clicking on the label above the time code display. TC Transcriber usually switches and displays the type of time code it detects in the file (if any exists)

If if finds SMPTE Time Code stamp in a Broadcast Wav File the label will indicate BWF Time Code.

IF it finds SMPTE Time Code in the ID3 Tag of an MP3 file the label will read "ID3 Time Code"

If no proper SMPTE Time code is stored in the file and you have the checkbox "Use TOD for Time Code" box checked in the settings window, the file will use the file system's time stamp to calculate time code to the nearest second and the label will show "T.O.D. Time Code:" indicating that the Time Of Day stamped on the file is being used as a reference..

If the checkbox is unchecked or there is no readable time stamp on the file "Elapsed Time" will be displayed. This is the elapsed time from the start of the file at the default Time code Frame Rate set in settings.

As you click through the various time references, if there was no imbedded time code for the chosen display it will automatically show elapsed time from the beginning of the file.

Setting Bookmarks

You can set up to 12 bookmarks in a file using the Shift key and the functions keys F1 to F12. While a file is playing or paused hold down the Shift Key and press one of the function keys F1 to F12. You can then use this function key (without the Shift Key) to return to this bookmark at any time. When you create a bookmark for a file, a bookmarks dropdown box appears in the TC-Transcriber Toolbar. The time code of each F-Key bookmark is stored in this drop down combo box. You can also jump to a bookmark by choosing that bookmark (F1 thru F12) From the Drop-Down box. If no Bookmark has been stored in an F-Key position it will contain zeros which will take you back to the beginning of the file if selected.

Bookmarks are stored in a separate file with the same filename as the source file but with the file extension ".BMK" This file will be saved in the same folder as the media file you are bookmarking.

It will automatically load and restore your bookmarks each time the media file is opened in TC Transcriber. This file will also be created if you enter a User set Time Code. Next time you load that file the User set Time Code will be loaded and used in the Time Code display.

Variable Speed Playback

TC-Transcriber can vary the speed or rate of playback for certain types of files. Only MP3, WMA, and WMV files may work with variable speed playback. To bring up the speed control click in the upper left corner of the Transcriber Program Window (Top Left of the “T.” in the Logo). This should cause the speed control to appear. You can adjust the playback speed in small increments from 10% to 200% of normal sync speed by adjusting the slider. This playback rate will be maintained until you open another file. It will then revert to normal or 100%. You can revert to 100% (normal speed) at any time by double-clicking the “Speed =” label. The player will pitch correct the off speed playback to try to maintain intelligibility. To hide the speed control just click again in the upper left corner of the logo.

File Finished

When you are finished transcribing a media file, TC-Transcriber can move it into a subfolder named "Completed". It will automatically create the subfolder within the current folder and move the current file there. It will then delete it from the original folder so as you complete files you can have them moved to the "Completed" subfolder until all the files are contained in the subfolder. When finished transcribing a file, just click on the "File Finished" Button to move the file. You will see a message box to confirm this. Click O.K to move the file or Cancel to leave the file where it is.

Registering and Unlocking TC-Transcriber.

TC Transcriber works as a fully functional application in DEMO Mode for 15 days. After that point you must pay for a registration in order to continue to use the program. Go to www.tctranscriber.com to purchase your registration. You will be sent a user name and Reg number by email that will be used to unlock the program so it can continue to be used after the demo period has expired. To bring up the registration screen before the Demo expires, click on the Help button in the toolbar (question mark logo) The about screen will appear and indicate how many days are left in the demo. By double-clicking on the (c) copyright symbol you will bring up the Fields to enter your registration info.

When you get your registration numbers by email enter the User name and Reg Number exactly as shown in the email into the fields. Then press the "Register and Unlock" Button to register your copy. From if successful you will get a popup message box that says "Registration Successful"

Foot Pedal Compatibility

T.C. Transcriber is only compatible with serial or RS232 Foot pedals. There are more than 80 different foot pedals available for transcription and most require proprietary software to support them. The 9 pin Serial foot pedal sold by ECS IN-DB9 foot pedal from Executive Communications is known to work properly with TC Transcriber.
You can find more about it or order one here:

http://www.tvps.com/Products/1ECS-IN-DB9-Foot-Pedal---New__VE-IN-DB9.aspx

IF you have a foot pedal from another manufacturer it needs to be Serial (com port Based) and compatible with Sony WavPedal software.

If you do not have a serial port on your laptop or PC you can purchase an RS232 to USB adaptor. This short cable will convert the 9 Pin Serial connector on the Foot pedal to a USB connector which will work with most laptops. These adaptors are available at most Computer or Office Supply stores. You can also purchase them online from Executive Communications at www.tvps.com If connecting to a USB adaptor make sure the USB Driver sets a COM port for the device to a number between 1 and 8. (5 is usually a good choice) These settings are available from the advanced menu in the properties page for the USB adaptor device.

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