

## Re: Visio should support dates earlier than 1899 in timeline

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*Source:* <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Visio/microsoft.public.visio.general/2007-09/msg00158.html>

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- *From:* Matthew <Matthew@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Thu, 20 Sep 2007 14:34:01 -0700
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Along this line, I am working on three separate projects which require dating systems that support BC and AD timelines. I want to use Visio to create them, but I can't figure a way to make it work. Trying to enter a simple linear string variable sends the program into a fit and it has crashed or hanged as a result of this. Does anyone know where to get a patch or a plug-in, preferably an OFFICIAL one, that will allow me to use a simple linear scale using the timeline charts to plot events in ancient times through modern???

This is maddening :-)

Thanks  
Matthew

"Al Edlund" wrote:

You're correct in that you would have to move the markers manually. Re: the time information AFAIK the timing is a technical thing in that under the covers it is a count of days from 0 (in this case in 1899). The limitation is how many days can be held using the definition (I believe type Long). It would be a lot easier if everyone in the world would use x64 so different (extended) data types could be used universally. Until then we are stuck with it.

Al

"Christian Scholz" <ChristianScholz@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:FFC249C4-F614-4461-BE86-87E47713F2DC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:FFC249C4-F614-4461-BE86-87E47713F2DC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

That would be fine...except that I don't think that custom-drawn timeline blocks would inherit the scaling and placement abilities of the default timeline blocks. If I draw my own and put a timeline marker on it, how does the marker know where to place itself on the timeline?

And wouldn't it be a relatively simple task for Microsoft to write a routine that can generate dates beyond what the system clock can (and why is the system clock limited to 1899...? Sounds pretty arbitrary.)

Re: Visio should support dates earlier than 1899 in timeline

Christian

"Al Edlund" wrote:

Visio uses the internal operating system clock for the timeline add-in, which has the 1899 dependency. You always have the opportunity to draw your own and apply whatever dates you want.  
Al

"Christian Scholz" <Christian.Scholz@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:327BED5C-D451-4F4E-A1FD-7B142D7A9A53@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:327BED5C-D451-4F4E-A1FD-7B142D7A9A53@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Kathleen--

Did you ever get a response from Microsoft that was useful? I am using Visio 2007, and it still has the ridiculous 1899 limit on timelines. In a stunning display of brilliance, Visio is set up to allow the user to make timelines forecasting events occurring all the way until 12/31/4095. Because people are always making timelines forecasting events two millenia in the future, as opposed to a mere 200 years in the past.

Oddly enough, my reason for wanting to have pre-1899 timeline dates was identical--I wanted to timeline Supreme Court jurisprudence as well.

Microsoft--the claim that "you would have to re-invent the wheel" is ridiculous. Just shift the timeline range down by a millenia or so--users would at least be able to capture American history that way.

"Kathleen Crouch" wrote:

Re: Visio should support dates earlier than 1899 in timeline

Please don't send me a  
workaround suggestion, I'm  
not looking for one.

It  
would defeat the purpose of  
the timeline function.

Simply put, Visio  
should  
support dates earlier than  
1899. That it does not, is  
ridiculous.

Trying  
to  
plot out the progression of  
important dates in U.S.

Supreme Court  
history

is  
quickly frustrated by the  
date limitation. I know for a  
fact that

others  
have  
the same complaint. I really  
don't understand what  
Microsoft was  
thinking  
here.

Please create a patch for  
Visio 2003, or be sure to  
add it to the next  
full  
version. thanks.

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This post is a suggestion for  
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responds to the  
suggestions with the most  
votes. To vote for this  
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Re: Visio should support dates earlier than 1899 in timeline

link to open the suggestion  
in the Microsoft Web-based  
Newsreader and  
then  
click "I Agree" in the  
message pane.

<http://www.microsoft.com/office/community/en-us/default.aspx?mid=c000c>