

Re: Visio should support dates earlier than 1899 in timeline

## 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/msg00163.html>

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- *From:* "Mark Nelson [MS]" <[marknel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:marknel@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 20 Sep 2007 22:08:50 -0700
- 

Visio's timeline diagram is tied to dates supported by the Windows operating system. Generally to represent dates outside that range, you need to add your own labels on top of the timeline which would cover up the timeline shape's. Of course at that point, you may decide that drawing you own timeline is easier.

—  
Mark Nelson  
Office Graphics – Visio  
Microsoft Corporation

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"Matthew" <[Matthew@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Matthew@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message <news:C528B2A8-3332-4311-BDAE-E28BA0128326@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

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

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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@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in

message

[news:FFC249C4-F614-4461-BE86-87E47713F2DC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:FFC249C4-F614-4461-BE86-87E47713F2DC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

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.)

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" <ChristianScholz@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in

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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:

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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.

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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  
Microsoft,  
and  
Microsoft  
responds to  
the  
suggestions  
with the  
most votes.  
To vote for  
this  
suggestion,  
click  
the  
"I  
Agree"  
button in  
the message  
pane. If you  
do not see  
the button,  
follow  
this  
link to open  
the  
suggestion  
in the  
Microsoft  
Web-based  
Newsreader  
and  
then  
click "I  
Agree" in  
the message  
pane.

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