

# Mic Timer for Paltalk

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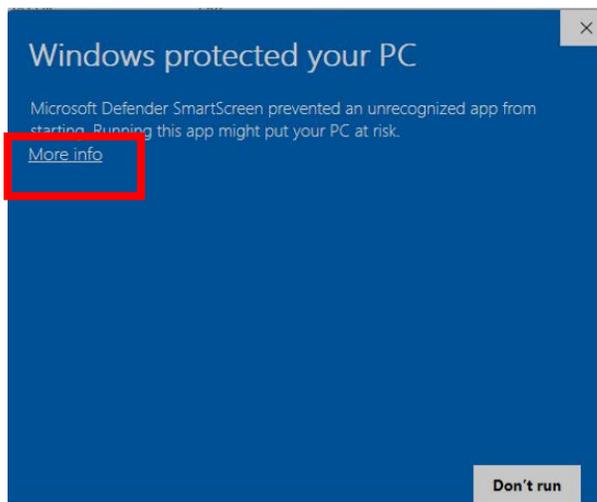
This bot ONLY works in Paltalk's Desktop version.

Several rooms in Paltalk allow those in the room to come on mic for a limited time. This bot will aid admins and users to keep track of how long someone has been on mic. The bot will note when someone gets on mic and then periodically print their time on mic in the Paltalk chat room.

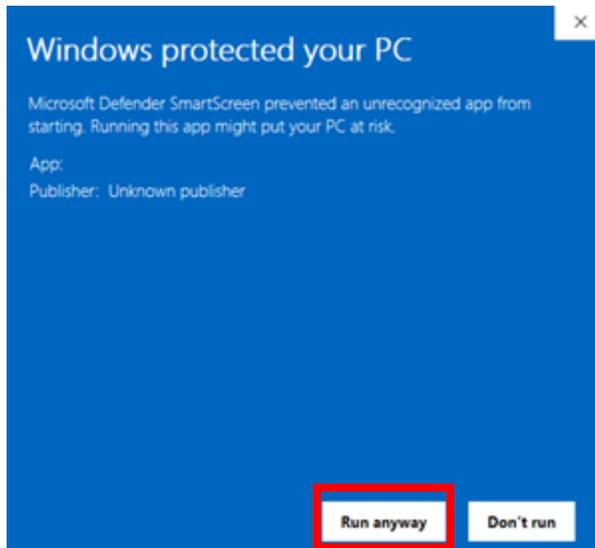
The bot takes input control whenever it writes to the Paltalk chat room so it works best when run on a dedicated computer or Virtual Machine.

## First steps.

1. Unzip the zip file by right clicking on it and pick Extract.
2. When you run for the first time, Windows 11 will give you the following warning



3. You should click on “More info” and then “Run Anyway”.



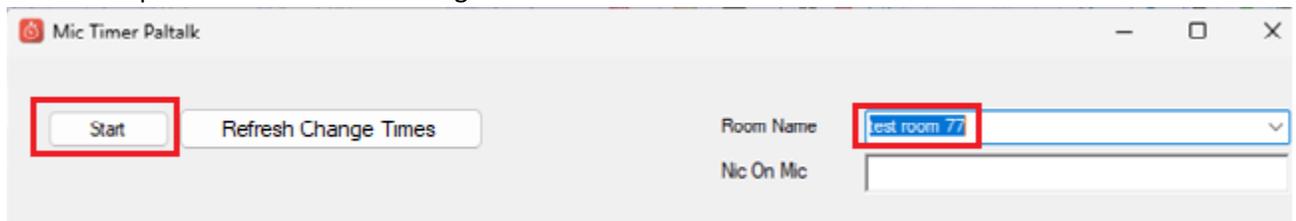
## Starting the application.

Double click on PalMicTimer.exe file.

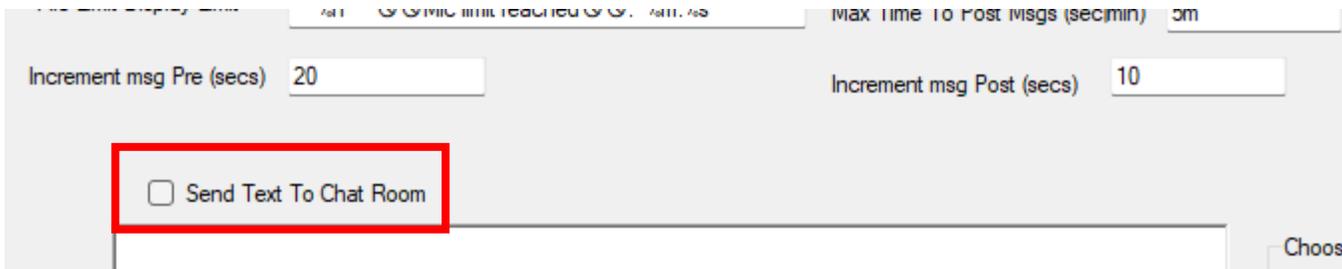
1. Start MicPalTimer.exe by double clicking on it



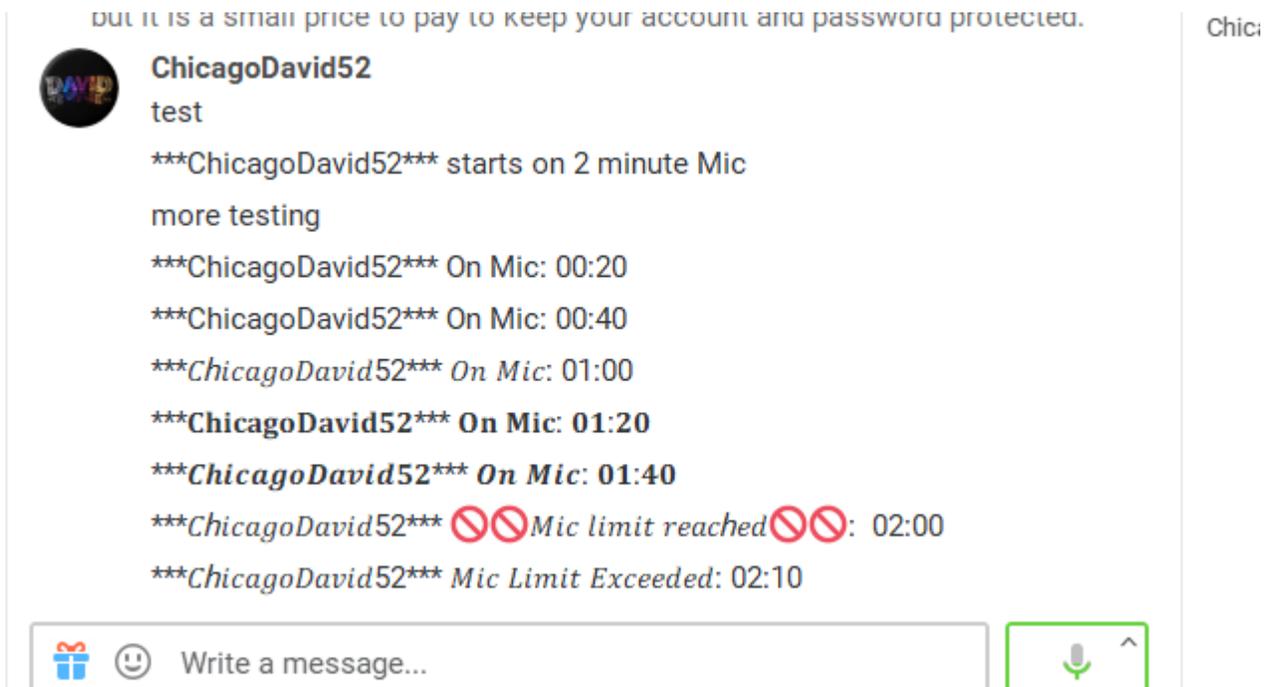
2. With your Paltalk room already open, use the pull-down menu to select your room name. My room is test room 77. Then press “**Start**” to start timing the room.



- 3.
4. “Start” will start a timer that reads whoever is on mic
5. There is a toggle to send messages into the room or keep them in the mic window screen. For *testing* you can leave the toggle off until you are ready for the bot to send messages into the room.

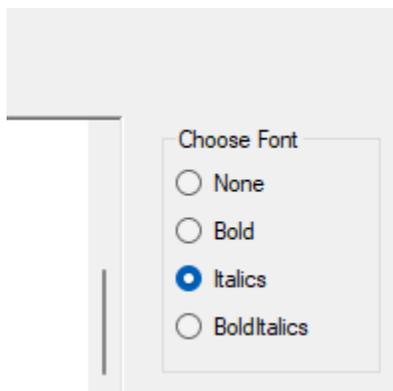


6. After pressing start and setting the toggle to send messages into the room you'll start to see messages appear in the room. After 40 seconds in the example below I play with setting different font styles (bold, italics and bolditalics).



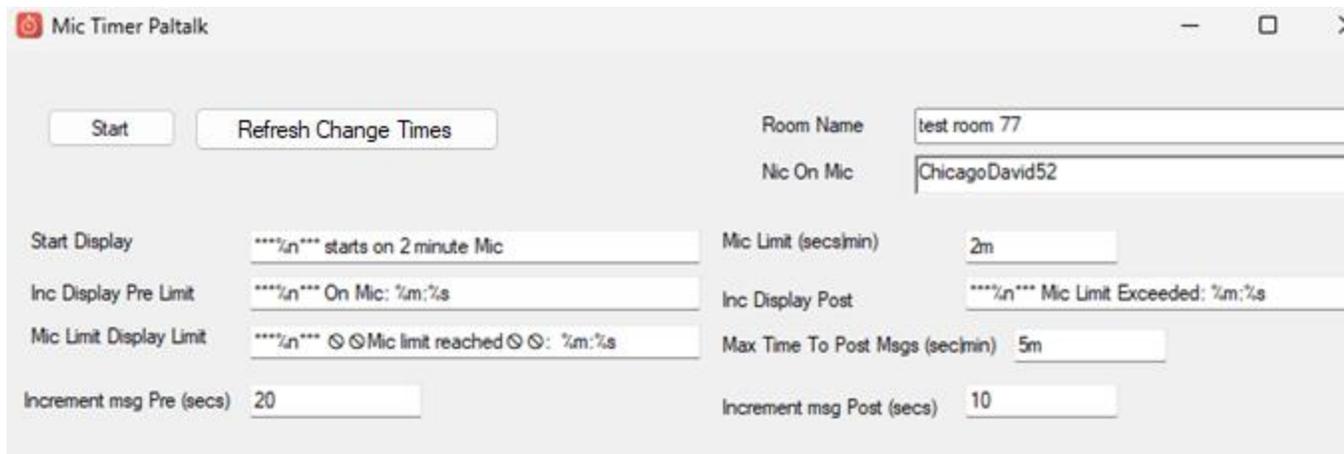
### Setting Font Styles:

To set a font style for output select among the styles to the right.



Note that the Font Styles are not actual font styles, they merely look like styles. They are Unicode characters and they will NOT show up correctly for anyone running Paltalk Classic. If someone complains they can't view the timer lines it maybe they are running Classic. They should run Paltalk for Desktop in your room if they want to see the timer lines. If you want timer output to be viewable by Paltalk Classic you'll have to use boring "None" above. However, with None if you insert Emoji into the output fields of the bot those emoji will likely fail to show in the room. In my example settings I use the 'prohibited' 🚫 emoji character when a mic limit is reached.

### Application Options explained:



From left to right, top to bottom.

**Start** – Starts the bot. There is no Stop. Close the window or toggle stop sending text into the room to stop.

**Refresh Change Times** – Although the time limit is set at 2 minutes above, there is a file (explained elsewhere) that can be used to override that time limit on a per Nic basis. If you change the file while the bot is running, clicking on this button will reload the file with the new times.

**Room Name:** This is the name of the room the bot will use to check mic time.

**Nic On Mic:** This just reports what name the bot is seeing on mic. It is not used for anything.

**Start Display:** This is the message that is played when someone first gets on mic. You change it to anything. There are 4 variables whose values will be inserted. They are:

%n – the nic of the person on mic, e.g., ChicagoDavid52

%m – the number of minutes the person has been on mic

%s – the number of seconds (within a minute) the person has been on mic

%time – This returns <n>-minutes (or seconds) depending on the value in the mic limit field. So, for example, if the mic limit is 2m, %time will be “2-minute”. If the mic limit is 10m, %time will be “10-minute”.

**Mic Limit (secs | min):** The number of seconds or minutes a person is limited to on mic. If you enter just a number it will be seconds. If you enter a number followed by “m” it will be minutes. So, a mic time of 2 minutes can be entered as 120 or as 2m.

**Inc Display Pre Limit:** The message that is played periodically before the person on mic reaches the limit.

**Inc Display Post:** This is the message that is played after the mic limit has been reached.

**Mic Limit Display Limit:** This message is played when the person on mic reaches their limit. If the increment is not evenly divisible by this limit time, then the message won't be shown. For example, if the increment is 50 seconds and the limit is 2 minutes, a message will be output at 50, 1min 40, and at 2min 30. There will be no message at 2 minutes.

**Max Time To Post Msgs:** This is the maximum amount of time to post messages about the person on mic. For example, if the mic limit is 2 minutes, one might set this to 4 minutes to stop the bot from annoying people in the room with messages for someone who will be on mic for 15 minutes.

**Increment msg pre:** Before mic limit is used, this determines how often a pre limit warning message is printed out. For example, if set to 30, it will output a message after 30 seconds.

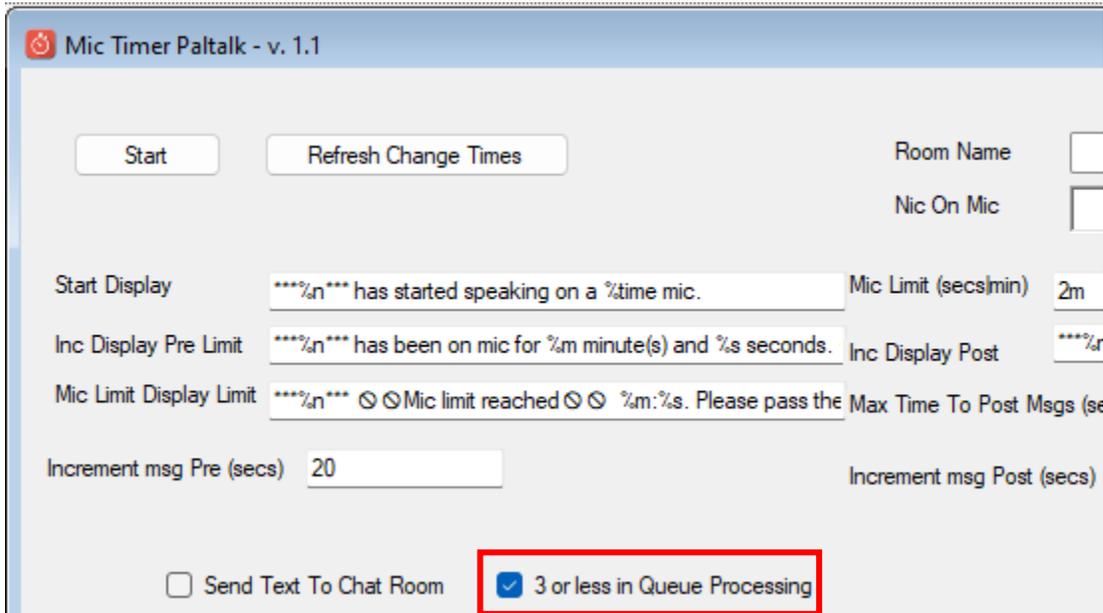
**Increment msg post:** After mic limit is reached, this determines how often a post limit warning message is printed out. So, the warning could be 20 seconds before the mic limit is reached, but switched to 10 seconds when the mic limit is reached. The 20 second setting is “Increment msg pre”. The 10 second setting is this field.

**3 or less in Queue Processing:** See below. Used in Clear Cut Politics room to give extra time if there are 3 or fewer hands up in the Queue.

### 3 or less in Queue Processing.

This is only relevant to the Clear Cut Politics room where special timing rules occur when 3 or fewer people are in the queue. An extra minute of mic time is given unless a 4<sup>th</sup> person gets in the queue.

If you don't want this special processing then uncheck the box.



### Overriding the room mic time limit.

There are circumstances when the room owner may want certain individuals to have a different mic limit than others. For example, the room owner might want to give admins more time, or might want to reward certain valued chatters with more time than normal. There is a file (called changetimes.txt) in the bot folder that is read in for this purpose.

Each line in the file consists of a full nickname followed by a command and digit(s) that correspond to minutes of time that nickname is allowed. Below is an old example from the Clear Cut Politics room:

```
Olly1969,3  
Duchess Of Chat,9999  
xClassy Conservative,3  
xmoomoolaka86,3  
xSleekIcyFresh,3
```

In this example, although the room gets 2 minutes on mic, Olly1969 gets 3 minutes. Since the file requires a full nickname, when a person goes back to a 2-minute mic I put an "x" in front of their name so that I can quickly put them back to 3 minutes by removing the x.

There is a special code "9999". That doesn't mean 9999 minutes, but rather it is used to time the individual but not to say they have any particular time on mic and it doesn't declare them ever overtime. In this example it is for the room owner who needs more time to talk about administration issues in the room and to announce new features. To change a time for an individual simply edit the file, for example with Notepad, enter the nickname and mic limit digit, save it out, and press the "**Refresh Change Times**" button to reload the file with the updated times. This file is also used to set the %time variable so that the timer can say the caller is on a 1-minute mic, or 2-minute mic, or 3-minute mic, etc.

## Timer Issues.

1. The timer will stick to whoever is on mic. If the person leaves the mic and then comes back seconds later the timer will continue where it left off. In order to reset the time for that individual some other person has to come on the mic. This has plusses and minuses and I could change it some day so that if you are off mic for many seconds, you get reset.
2. Currently the timer assumes that the Paltalk cursor is set in the type-in field of the Paltalk room. If you move the cursor out of that field, to another part of the Paltalk chat room window such as the search button, the timer may stop sending text into the chat room. The fix is to left click in the Paltalk room type-in field.
3. If you make any change to any field of the timer bot, that change will be remembered when you exit the application to appear again the next time you start it. If you don't want a change to be permanent, you'll have to change it back.  
If you want the timer to have two or more visual interfaces (i.e. different text) for different purposes you should make multiple copies of the timer exe file. For example I have copies with different text for a special Thursday timing, for room trials, and for streaming special events to the room.
4. The timer has run for weeks without issues but in one odd very odd case it starting printing a time for some previous chatter between valid times. Hitting the "Start" button fixed it for me, but you might have to restart the timer.
5. If the timer misbehaves you should 1) click on the type-in window 2) make sure the room is open and the bot is attached to the room with the room name in the upper right-hand corner 3) hit the Start button, or 4) as a last resort, close the bot application and reopen and Start it.

## Common Examples.

1. There is a limited time on mic of 2 minutes. You want to play a progress message every 20 seconds and after the mic limit is reached, play every 10 seconds.

The screenshot shows the 'Mic Timer Paltalk' application window. It features a 'Start' button and several configuration fields. The 'Room Name' is set to 'test room 77' and the 'Nic On Mic' is 'ChicagoDavid52'. The 'Mic Limit (secs/min)' is set to '2m'. The 'Start Display' is '\*\*\*%n\*\*\* starts on 2 minute Mic'. The 'Inc Display Pre Limit' is '\*\*\*%n\*\*\* On Mic: %m:%s'. The 'Inc Display Post' is '\*\*\*%n\*\*\* Mic Limit Exceeded: %m:%s'. The 'Mic Limit Display Limit' is '\*\*\*%n\*\*\* ☹☹Mic limit reached☹☹: %m:%s'. The 'Max Time To Post Msgs (secs/min)' is '5m'. The 'Increment msg Pre (secs)' is '20' and the 'Increment msg Post (secs)' is '10'.

2. In a music room you have a 15 minute limit on time on mic. You'd like to warn the person after 14 minutes, and then in one-minute intervals after the 15 minutes. After 25 minutes, stop warning.

The screenshot shows the 'Mic Timer Paltalk' application window. It features a 'Start' button and several configuration fields. The 'Room Name' is set to 'test room 77' and the 'Nic On Mic' is empty. The 'Mic Limit (secs/min)' is set to '15m'. The 'Start Display' is '\*\*\*%n\*\*\* starts on 2 minute Mic'. The 'Inc Display Pre Limit' is '\*\*\*%n\*\*\* On Mic: %m:%s'. The 'Inc Display Post' is '\*\*\*%n\*\*\* Mic Limit Exceeded: %m:%s'. The 'Mic Limit Display Limit' is '\*\*\*%n\*\*\* ☹☹Mic limit reached☹☹: %m:%s'. The 'Max Time To Post Msgs (secs/min)' is '25m'. The 'Increment msg Pre (secs)' is '14m' and the 'Increment msg Post (secs)' is '1m'.

## Changes.

V1.1 Introduce a mode for 3 people or fewer in Queue