
Continuous calendar ("compact calendar")

Posted by joes - 2011/02/12 07:36

Hi,

first of all: thank you, Rainy, for this great program!

I've tried to search for this, but haven't found anything:

Is there a way to display a calendar that is continuous, e.g. there is no break between the months? I know you can show the previous and following days in the normal calendar, but these are just filling up the week grid.

What I would like to have would be similar to the "compact calendar" (examples here: <http://davidseah.com/compact-calendar/>).

Right now, I use 4 regular calendars in a vertical layout, set to show the months -1 0 +1 +2. Every calendar has its own window and shows the month and the weekdays on top, and the year on bottom (Shadow 4 skin). This uses more space than necessary, and the breaks between the months make it harder than necessary to visualize a longer time span.

I tried overlapping the calendars, but the month, weekday, and year can't be turned off and make the result a mess. ;) I might try and modify the skin to have calendars without these bits. Would that be possible?

But ideally, I'd like a single calendar that gives me the option to show -x weeks to +y weeks from current date, and have the names of the months to the left of the first day of the month (or the first monday). The months might have alternating backgrounds (e.g. 100% and 80% transparency).

This seems to be to much to ask from a skin, I guess. It would probably need a new kind of calendar. Or am I mistaken?

Any thoughts are welcome!

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Re: Continuous calendar ("compact calendar")

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/12 09:29

You are in the right way. Yes, the skin can be modified to show the month on the left side.

Showing delta weeks from today? i'm thinking this isn't possible...

Months with alternating backgrounds: if you have the last week of one month and the first on the next one, the background will be blended, is that correct?

Something more like the example you give could be done...

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Re: Continuous calendar ("compact calendar")

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/12 20:38

This isn't exactly what you want, but its kind of.

As i wrote in deviantART, a brief summary would be:

This addon for Rainlendar has 2 windows:

* A year calendar

* A three months calendar

The month name is at the same line of the 1st. day of the month.

There's no space between days.

Here's the link:

<http://jorgeluis-jorgeluis.deviantart.com/art/Compact-Calendar-1-0-197199850>

http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/images/fbfiles/images/Compact_Calendar.jpg

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Re: Continuous calendar (\\"compact calendar\\")

Posted by Rainy - 2011/02/13 05:00

You can also experiment with the "preshowcount" and "postshowcount" which will increase the number of weeks shown from the previous and next months.

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Re: Continuous calendar (\\"compact calendar\\")

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/13 12:20

Rainy... you are brilliant. Of course, you are the guy who made Rainlendar. ;) I thought that showpreexdays and showpostexdays only showed the days in the first and last week to complete the grid. i was wrong.

I've redone the Lua script to show the month name in the same line as the 1st day of month. I needed to calculate where is that day, so, i find its location by the week number. But i have some trouble with this one, because i only make it work on weeks starting on Sunday and Monday (using %W (Mon) and %U (Sun) format codes). This would be good enough on most countries in Europe and America, but not too good on Middle East.

At this moment, i'm thinking how and which name months show if there are differents pre and post weeks...

Despite this comment, the previous skin was a good start :D

Re:Continuous calendar (\\"compact calendar\\")

Posted by joes - 2011/02/14 04:50

Wow, you are fast! Thanks, Jorge Luis and Rainy!

Jorge, I tried the addon and it works fine! I tried to add a fourth month to the triple compact xml, but it is not showing. Are the 3 months somehow wired into the lua script, too?

Rainy, I found the pre- and postshowcount variables. Very cool feature! Could it be accessed with the setup dialogs, too? I guess not too many people want to mess with the xmls... I tried preshow with 4 weeks and postshow with 8 and 12 -- nice ;) Now I only need to find a way to add the months names to the left of the calendar... have to try and understand what Jorge did in his addon.

Thanks, both of you!

PS:
Jorge, your DoubleSized Shadow is great, too!
(OT) Why does the Shadow skin use bitmap fonts? Could it be done with a vector typeface?

Re:Continuous calendar (

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/14 08:29

joes wrote:

Wow, you are fast! Thanks, Jorge Luis and Rainy!

Jorge, I tried the addon and it works fine! I tried to add a fourth month to the triple compact xml, but it is not showing. Are the 3 months somehow wired into the lua script, too?Yes, month-1 is static, month and month+1 are located with the script in the function Shadow4_Triple_Compact_SetMonthsPosition (using the previous month). If you add a fourth month take care of end of years. (month -2, -1, 0, 13 or 14 aren't valid) ;) I see now that i forgot to change the showpostexdays value to 1 in the last month.

Rainy, I found the pre- and postshowcount variables. Very cool feature! Could it be accessed with the setup dialogs, too?

I guess not too many people want to mess with the xmls...Yes again. You can add a variable (use skin.xml as template). You could use e.g. Pre_weeks_showed as variable name as replace in the xml files as %Pre_weeks_showed% instead of 0 or any number.

I tried preshow with 4 weeks and postshow with 8 and 12 -- nice ;)

Now I only need to find a way to add the months names to the left of the calendar... have to try and understand what Jorge did in his addon.In the addon i uploaded on deviantART the month names are located always in the same line as 1st of month. That because i only join the twelve months together :P . The problem here was join the months without leaving empty spaces.

I'm trying to do the same with pre and post, but the problem now is to find where is the 1st of each month. I tried using week numbers but the problem is that week numbers are different in Europe, America and Middle East :huh: . I've made a year working version for weeks starting on Sunday and Monday. But its more difficult to show the delta weeks version.

Thanks, both of you!

PS:

Jorge, your DoubleSized Shadow is great, too!

(OT) Why does the Shadow skin use bitmap fonts? Could it be done with a vector typeface?The Shadow4 screen has a common size, i think. It works fine on small screens but isn't good on large screens. I saw many people asking about Shadow4's scale... and i started to getting bored :laugh: . So, i did the double sized version.

You can change the element of day appearance to "font.normal" but you will see that isn't the same thing.

Thanks you! B)

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Re:Continuous calendar (

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/14 16:03

In the addon i uploaded on deviantART the month names are located always in the same line as 1st of month. That because i only join the twelve months together . The problem here was join the months without leaving empty spaces. I'm trying to do the same with pre and post, but the problem now is to find where is the 1st of each month. I tried using week numbers but the problem is that week numbers are different in Europe, America and Middle East . I've made a year working version for weeks starting on Sunday and Monday. But its more difficult to show the delta weeks version. What a liar i am!!! :blush:

I think that finally (:huh: :unsure: :dry:) made the pre-weeks and post-weeks. Also i made the year compact calendar work on every weekday start.

Again, i submitted it to deviantART: <http://jorgeluis-jorgeluis.deviantart.com/art/Compact-Calendar-1-1-197199850>

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Re:Continuous calendar (\ "compact calendar\ ")

Posted by joes - 2011/02/15 12:23

Thanks again, Jorge! This is a very nice add-on!

You can change the element of day appearance to "font.normal" but you will see that isn't the same thing.

I couldn't keep myself from trying that.... ;-) And once you start...

First I just used font.normal, then I tried another font. Then I wanted to see if it was possible to get the "shadow" with vector fonts. I found that you can have two for a . If you use levels, you can put one (darker) font behind the other, and if you use offset="+1,+2", it actually looks good.

But then I saw that there is an effect="SHADOW" used in elements.xml. This is much cleaner, of course.

So currently I've got this "compact weeks.xml":

This looks nice enough, but the special categories (like work, holidays) still use the bitmap font. It's actually a good contrast, but I'll probably try to change this, too. It might be easier to change something in the main files of shadow4. Well... this might be a complete vector shadow skin then...

One problem: the names of months and the year are not shown anymore.
I tried changing the x and y values, and the names start showing up.
So I guess some of my changes are in conflict with the lua script that calculates where to put the names?
I don't understand exactly what the script does, I've never seen lua before. It seems to break apart some strings into variables first? That could be the reason it's not working now.

In the end, if everything fits nicely with the vector font, maybe it will be possible to use a multiplier variable for all the sizes. So if you set the size to 150 percent, it scales the font and not a picture of the small font. Do you think this could work?

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Re:Continuous calendar (\\"compact calendar\\")

Posted by joes - 2011/02/15 12:26

Hm? the code doesn't show?

Trying again...

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Re:Continuous calendar (

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/15 13:45

joes wrote:

This looks nice enough, but the special categories (like work, holidays) still use the bitmap font. It's actually a good contrast, but I'll probably try to change this, too. It might be easier to change something in the main files of shadow4. Well... this might be a complete vector shadow skin then...

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In the end, if everything fits nicely with the vector font, maybe it will be possible to use a multiplier variable for all the sizes. So if you set the size to 150 percent, it scales the font and not a picture of the small font. Do you think this could work?

As you realized, you can change to bitmaps to use fonts. I found this old post from another user talking about the scale of Digital Clock. In that moment, I thought the same as you, and made a font DigiClock:

http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/index.php?option=com_kunena&Itemid=42&func=view&catid=3&id=12788 (Mmmmmm... now I realize that I need to add the DigiClock to my Double Sized skin). For the categories, you will need to change the original elements.xml.

The idea of the code is more or less this:

Pre_weeks_number and Post_weeks_number are the names of the variables. You change these values on the Skin Options dialog. I need to recover these values to know where is the current 1st week of the month and, by the way, know the window's height (it's the same value I use on the xml file)

I need to keep in mind the values of the first week day (as said before, in Europe is usually Monday and in America is usually Sunday). Each day has a number (0 is Sunday, 6 is Saturday). So, the last day of the week will be first+6, but because after 6 goes 0, I need to take the module (%) of that number. Despite the first week day, every month starts at least 4 weeks after the 1st. Some months starts 5 weeks after, this happens if 29, 30 or 31 are on the last day of the week. Using that relation and the standard size of the bitmaps, I set the y value. If the y value goes off the window, I stop moving the names (on both directions, up and down).

I'm not sure about scaling fonts. Of course, if you change the font size (I think it's better than "percent") only need to move the names by pixels according to the size, but I leave that to you :whistle:

Don't worry... before start using Rainlendar I only know Lua by name, and that was 1 year ago. ;)

PS: I apologize if I make mistakes when I write. My English level isn't the best, but I learn every day on the forums. I hope that you understand me. :)

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Re:Continuous calendar (

Posted by joes - 2011/02/16 04:16

Thanks for explaining!

Something weird happened yesterday. All of a sudden, the months names were visible, as was the year. I thought maybe

that was because of a re-boot, but today it's back to no months and year. Hm.

I'm not sure about scaling fonts. Of course, if you change the font size (I think it's better than "percent") only need to move the names by pixels according to the size, but I leave that to you
Yes, I was thinking of changing the font size and everything. It might be a bit time consuming to find the right pixel sizes for distances and window size etc... but I'm in no hurry.

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Re:Continuous calendar (\\"compact calendar\\")

Posted by joes - 2011/02/18 06:10

Jorge,

do the months and the year show reliably on your computer?

On my system, usually I don't get to see them. Only sometimes they show up, but it seems quite random. Once they got turned on when I removed another window, but this can't be repeated.
I've returned to the defaults for shadow4 and your add-on, and reset rainlendar2.ini. But this behavior still stays the same. I'm on WinXP SP3, if that's of interest.

Cheers, Joe

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Re:Continuous calendar (\\"compact calendar\\")

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/18 08:30

Could be more specific? Which window has the problem? year window or both?

I lie to you if i say it works ok everytime, because I mostly made the skins but usually don't use them. :silly:

I have WinXP SP3 too so probably the OS isn't the problem. Do you have a good size of RAM and CPU use free?
One problem locating the months and year is the amount of task and events stored. There is a delay caused by Rainlendar drawing the icons, the bitmap colors and the layers for each event in the calendar.

Is there any error on the log file?

With a totally clean profile (without calendars installed, if you have severals move to another folder before loading Rainlendar or refresh it after moving) and only the Compact addon installed, still the months doesn't show?

EDIT:

Are you using the bitmap addon i've made or using the font mod?

Here you have more info about the RAM use

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Re:Continuous calendar (

Posted by joes - 2011/02/19 15:51

Jorge_Luis wrote:

Could be more specific? Which window has the problem? year window or both?

Both.

I lie to you if i say it works ok everytime, because I mostly made the skins but usually don't use them. :silly:

he he.

Do you have a good size of RAM and CPU use free?

One problem locating the months and year is the amount of task and events stored. There is a delay caused by Rainlendar drawing the icons, the bitmap colors and the layers for each event in the calendar.

I think you may have found the problem!

I've deleted old events and suddenly the months appear. But later, when I switched from another program to the desktop (I've set Rainlendar to on the desktop , they were gone again. So I disabled my "birthdays" calendar - and the months reappeared. But this wasn't stable, also - I had to disable my "holidays" calendar also, to get the months back the next time. When the months are showing, I tried re-enabling one of the other calendars, and it still showed the months. So it seems that I'm either right on the edge with regard to memory usage, or it's connected to something else, too.

My RAM is 2 GB, which isn't very much... But even when no other program is running, according to Win Taskmanager, Rainlendar only takes about 20-25 MB and another 16-18 MB virtual memory.

Could this be a problem already?

Is there any error on the log file?

No error, except for looking for a license.r2lic

With a totally clean profile (without calendars installed, if you have severals move to another folder before loading Rainlendar or refresh it after moving) and only the Compact addon installed, still the months doesn't show?

I didn't try that, since the months show up after disabling a calendar. I've got 3: default (work etc), birthdays, and holidays. All are in .ics format.

Are you using the bitmap addon i've made or using the font mod?

This is only using your bitmap-addon.

Re:Continuous calendar (

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/19 16:58

I suppose that you are using the latest version of the addon (v1.1, the previous one v1.0 is completely different).

I've deleted old events and suddenly the months appear. But later, when I switched from another program to the desktop (I've set Rainlendar to on the desktop), they were gone again. I've set it too as "On the Desktop". According to what you said, looks like the names reappears only after a redraw. The script is executed every time the window is refreshed/redrawn including the first time the window shows up. Hiding and showing a calendar is the same as changing the current month and go back. But that's weird because I think that the windows aren't redrawed when you change between apps (except clocks' hands but these are updated every second in the background).

Re:Continuous calendar (

Posted by joes - 2011/02/20 11:59

Jorge_Luis wrote:

I suppose that you are using the latest version of the addon (v1.1, the previous one v1.0 is completely different).
Yes.

According to what you said, looks like the names reappears only after a redraw. Yeah, it seems like that. It don't think it's (only) a memory issue, somehow it doesn't draw the months at first start. There were no months when I started my PC today, but I had only one calendar activated. When I turned ON another calendar, the months were shown, too.

But that's weird because I think that the windows aren't redrawed when you change between apps

Hm, I think that part might have been a memory issue. I was working a while in different programs, and when I switched back to desktop, there might have been less memory left for Rainlendar.

Re:Continuous calendar (

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/20 16:20

Try playing with the script file. There are 2 lines (in each Initialize function):
Rainlendar_SetEventHandler(Shadow4_Weeks_Compact_SetMonthsPosition, 13, window)
-- Shadow4_Weeks_Compact_SetMonthsPosition(nil, skin .. ":" .. window, nil)
The first set a handler to run the function when the window is started or refreshed. If you change 13 to 14 the handler will check when the window is about to be redrawn, but you NEED to run the function AFTER and not BEFORE. So, the only valid option is 13. (Check for this in the Rainlendar's Help file)
The -- means that its a comment line. If you uncomment that line the function will be forced to be executed (the problem is that the function will be executed twice, forced and by the event handler).

EDIT:
In the compact weeks.xml and compact year.xml, try changing the value of y="-100" of the month items to a positive value e.g. 40 or 50, to show the month names inside the window when the skin is drew for the first time.

EDIT 2:
I update Compact Calendar to version 1.2, adding the buttons to change the current month and the current year.

Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by joes - 2011/02/23 11:07

When I change the "y=-100" in the xml to a positive value, all the months are shown one over each other at the same place. They only get moved to the right places when everything is redrawn. Pressing "refresh" does not do it.

I uncommented the line in the script file and left the number at 13. This seems to have no effect.

Thanks for the buttons in v1.2!

Some more ideas:

Is there an "abbreviated month" in rainlendar? I'd like to have the space used as small as possible. So I would love to just have the first three letters of the months shown. Also, I'd align them to the right - because that's closer to the calendar.

Another idea: right now, if the previous weeks shown are 4, we get 4 whole weeks of January but since the 1st of January is 5 weeks away, the label "January" is not shown.

So maybe the months should be next to the first Monday of a month?

Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/23 15:08

From now on I only will update the addon. About the problem of month location, sorry, i have no idea.

I understand what you want. There's a way to show only three letters months names, but that needs to use font elements.

About alignment, the pictures have a standard size and the month name is center inside the picture. So align it in the skin would do nothing... well, yes, will do a totally mess.

UPDATES ON VERSION 1.2.1:

Yes, you're right about month names beyond window size. I added an option to show the name of the previous month always (set to 1 to show the month name, by default is 0)

I added too an option to show the month names on the right side of the calendar.

Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by joes - 2011/02/24 16:39

Jorge_Luis wrote:

From now on I only will update the addon. About the problem of month location, sorry, i have no idea.

That's OK. I guess I can live with it: I now press "Pos1" and it gets redrawn with months. Maybe a newer computer will

make the problem go away... :)

I understand what you want. There's a way to show only three letters months names, but that needs to use font elements.

About alignment, the pictures have a standard size and the month name is center inside the picture. So align it in the skin would do nothing... well, yes, will do a totally mess.

Thank you for the info! I should have looked at the images before asking a silly question.

But now I've gone and played with the vector-font version of your compact calendar. I've only changed the "week" version. See attached 7z file (Do not use this with your normal Shadow 4 skin... I've changed the "elements.xml", too).

I tried the "abbreviated" Months and aligned them to the right.

I've also moved the buttons a bit -- but the Buttons still are bitmaps and look out of place. Is there a way to use the "" of the vector font for buttons?

UPDATES ON VERSION 1.2.1:

Yes, you're right about month names beyond window size. I added an option to show the name of the previous month always (set to 1 to show the month name, by default is 0)

I added too an option to show the month names on the right side of the calendar.

Thanks a lot! It's getting better all the time!

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Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by joes - 2011/02/24 16:41

Ah, can't attach 7z. So here's a Zip instead http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/images/fbfiles/files/comp_week_vector_001.zip

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Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by joes - 2011/02/24 16:47

Just thinking, I haven't tried something like this:

Instead of

is it possible to write this:

%Scale% could be the scaling factor that's in the skin already, or a new variable.

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Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/02/24 18:06

When I have more time I will take a look at your font vector version.

Yes, you can do that with %Scale% (default="1") and %Font_name% (default="Calibri"). Just remember to not set any window in the skin.xml file. That will be a global variable for all windows of the skin.

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Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/03/21 13:53

joes:

I don't know if the problem still, but you can try this:

http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/index.php?option=com_kunena&Itemid=42&func=view&catid=3&id=14789&limit=6&limitstart=6#14810

The idea is to add the line `Rainlendar_Redraw(1, window)` in the Initialize functions. Tell if this solve the problem.

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Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by joes - 2011/04/10 08:37

Hi Jorge,

I just tried that - and it seems like it solved the issue! Great!
Thank you very much for the help!

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Re:Continuous calendar

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/04/10 09:41

Thanks you for your answer. :)
I will update the file in the deviantART folder.

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