Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by gwa999 - 2012/10/06 15:04

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i've run into a case where i have recurring tasks with alarms set. at some point the alarms stopped working.

i've also noticed that this might have been fixed in version 2.10 beta 112 because there is a fixed there described as Cancelling or completing a recurring task disabled the next alarm instead just the current alarm.

however, i am now running the latest stable release, version 2.10 beta 120 and i still see the issue of my alarms for recurring tasks not popping up.

is this a case that because of the original bug that the alarm will never work for an task that was set up prior to the bug fix?

if i re-edit the task will that correct the alarm issue?

if you need to know the contents of a file (is it default.ics?) let me know and i'll clip out the portion for the last alarm that did not pop up. just let me know the first and last line that should be clipped in the text block.

thanks!

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Re: Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by Rainy - 2012/10/07 07:16

It would be better if you can give me exact steps how to reproduce the problem. E.g. what kind of recurring task should be created and what needs to be done that the alarm doesn't trigger anymore. You can move your computer's clock forward when testing so you don't have to wait for the next day for the alarm to pop up.

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Re: Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by gwa999 - 2012/10/07 10:18

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i've attached a few files in the hopes that you can solve this.

Screenshot #1.jpg and Screenshot #2.jpg are the dialogs that describe the alarm that was set up i believe in february of 2011.

assuming that i am looking at the right file that contains all of the tasks, events, etc. (Default.ics in a .rainlendar folder) the following two files contain snippets of that file

ICS (Before).txt is a snippet after the alarm should have popped (on 10/5) but before i "Completed" it.

ICS (After).txt is a snippet after i "Completed" it.

as far as your statement of what needs to be done that the alarm doesn't trigger anymore i'm not sure what you are looking for. i set the alarm up in february 2011 and at some point the recurring alarms stopped popping up which was indicative of one of the bugs fixed in the 112 beta. so there is really nothing that needs to be done from my point of view. the alarms simply do not pop up when they should.

i'm reluctant to move my clock ahead for testing for fear of messing any time dependent stuff i have installed on my system.

if i get a chance i may try to test this in a virtual environment however i'm suspecting that new tasks that are created will work correctly since the "recurring alarm bug" was fixed in beta 112. however, the question i pose is, does this fix correct the issue for already existing tasks that were set up prior to beta 112. this is one of the reasons why i attached the "Before" and "After" ICS files.

http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/images/fbfiles/images/Screenshot__1.jpg
http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/images/fbfiles/files/ICS__Before_.txt

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Re: Recurring tasks alarm bug
Posted by gwa999 - 2012/10/07 10:20

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here are the other files. i did not know if you can post multiple image files in the same post.

http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/images/fbfiles/images/Screenshot__2.jpg
http://www.rainlendar.net/cms/images/fbfiles/files/ICS__After_.txt

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug
Posted by anoob - 2012/10/07 13:35

@Rainy:
After tested, I think that the problem occurs in:
when alarm (pop-up) window visible, if directly set the task as "Completed", although the alarm window will disappear, but the item on the task-list still displays the old expiration date and no change (it should automatically become the next expiration date), so the user must set the task as "Completed" once again, and this make the displayed next expiration date is inconsistent with marked.
Hope you understand what I say.

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug
Posted by gwa999 - 2012/10/07 14:09

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sorry, i don't fully understand what you are trying to explain.

but i just noticed that i have another task in my ToDo task list for which the alarm should have popped up at 1PM (on october 7th). it did not.

the item is still in the ToDo list and if i right-click on it and do a "Completed" it will go away but in my past experience the same thing will happen in the future (that is, the item will be present in the Task list but will not pop up).

you mentioned when alarm (pop-up) window visible, however i never see the alarm pop-up becoming visible.

you also mentioned that the user must set the task as "Completed" once again. this is where you lost me. once i right-click on the task item and do a "Complete" it will disappear from the task list. how do i do it "once again" as you referenced.

what tag should i look at in the default.ics file (assuming that this is the correct file) to see if the alarm is reset correctly. for example, the alarm that should have pooped up at 1PM today is a recurring task for the 7th of each month. if you tell me which tag to look at and what it should change to i can verify it.

of course i also need you to clarify what you meant by set the task as "Completed" once again. the "once again" confuses me.

i'm not opposed to looking into the ICS file as long as you can tell me specifically what i should look for. as i mentioned, the alarm should have popped up today at 1PM (october 7th). what tag for that task in the ICS file should indicate this and what should the value be.

and after i do a "Complete" on it by right-clicking on the task what should the new value be?

oh, the alarm is recurring for the 7th of each month. please note that this is a different alarm that i originally reported the bug on so this alarm does not reflect the previously provided screen shots.

thanks!

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug
Posted by anoob - 2012/10/08 03:49

Oh, I just describe that I found this problem happened at what time (maybe have other time).
However, I try to explain your questions:
you mentioned when alarm (pop-up) window visible , however i never see the alarm pop-up becoming visible.
My mean is, in past days, when alarm window correctly pop-up, e.g. the alarm of first-time.

you also mentioned that the user must set the task as "Completed" once again . this is where you lost me.
look following describe and image:

when alarm window pop-up
http://cdn0.qoooo.com/img/3/22546-2.png

set "Completed"
http://cdn0.qoooo.com/img/3/22547-2.png

alarm window disappear, but the item on To-Do list not has change.
http://cdn0.qoooo.com/img/3/22548-2.png

so, I must set "Completed" 'once again' to change it become next.
http://cdn0.qoooo.com/img/3/22549-2.png

what tag should i look at in the default.ics file (assuming that this is the correct file) to see if the alarm is reset correctly.
for example, the alarm that should have pooped up at 1PM today is a recurring task for the 7th of each month.
.....
and after i do a "Complete" on it by right-clicking on the task what should the new value be?
the correct ICS will be like:(for 2012-10-07, important part only)

COMPLETED:20120907T180000Z
X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK:20120907T182838Z

and if you do a "Completed", the new value should be:

COMPLETED:20121007T180000Z
X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK:20121007T183818Z

Explain:
COMPLETED: Last "Completed" time. will affect the display on the to-do list.
X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK: Last alarm marked time. will affect the time that next alarm is triggered

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug
Posted by gwa999 - 2012/10/08 09:56

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thanks for the additional explanation.

however, in your example you showed an alarm window that has popped up and how you have to do the "Completed" action twice. it appears that you are able to do this because the alarm window did pop up. keep in mind that i can not do this "Completed" action twice since i never see the alarm popping up for recurring alarms. when i do click on "Completed" (without ever seeing the alarm popup) the task does get removed from the task list.

i am not sure what release you are testing with or what release your test alarm was added with. this may have something to do with this bug.

keep in mind that when i say that the alarm never pops up for recurring alarms i am referring to alarms that most likely were added before the bug that crept that was eventually fixed in beta 112. i do not know if this plays a part in it, that is, it was an existing alarm (whose alarm date/time might have gotten messed up due to this bug) rather than a brand new test alarm.

what shows up in the ICS file for my example of an alarm (recurring) that should have popped up on 10/7/12 at 1PM before i click on "Completed" is:

```
COMPLETED:20120907T170000Z
X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK:20121007T170000Z
```

however, what shows up after i clicked on "Completed" is:

```
COMPLETED:20121007T170000Z
X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK:20121107T180000Z
```

while the COMPLETED date is correct, the LASTALARMACK date is wrong from what you said it should be. for both the before and after values listed above the date is one month more than what you indicated it should be.

here is the complete section for this task (i'm assuming that the task blocks go from a BEGIN:VTODO to an END:VTODO) after i did the "Completed" on it:

```
BEGIN:VTODO
DTSTAMP:20101128T001658Z
STATUS:COMPLETED
UID:{150cf248-1daa-7142-9ec6-614784ed4fc8}
SUMMARY:Check thermostat for low battery
CATEGORIES:Chores
CLASS:PRIVATE
DUE:20111107T180000Z
RRULE:FREQ=MONTHLY
PRIORITY:0
COMPLETED:20121007T170000Z
X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK:20121107T180000Z
X-MOZ-LASTACK:20121107T180000Z
LAST-MODIFIED:20121008T141246Z
BEGIN:VALARM
ACTION:AUDIO
TRIGGER;VALUE=DURATION:PT0S
END:VALARM
END:VTODO
```

i then re-edited the alarm to set a new "Due date" to next month (11/7/2012) to see what happens (do not get confused as the original due date was 11/7/2011):

```
BEGIN:VTODO
DTSTAMP:20101128T001658Z
STATUS:NEEDS-ACTION
X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK:20121107T180000Z
X-MOZ-LASTACK:20121107T180000Z
UID:{150cf248-1daa-7142-9ec6-614784ed4fc8}
SUMMARY:Check thermostat for low battery
CATEGORIES:Chores
CLASS:PRIVATE
LAST-MODIFIED:20121008T143547Z
DUE:20121107T180000Z
RRULE:FREQ=MONTHLY
PRIORITY:0
BEGIN:VALARM
ACTION:AUDIO
TRIGGER;VALUE=DURATION:PT0S
X-RAINLENDAR-ALARM-TYPE:alert
END:VALARM
END:VTODO
```

what is interesting is that the LASTALARMACK date was not changed while the COMPLETE value is no longer present.

according to the previous post:

COMPLETED: Last "Completed" time. will affect the display on the to-do list.

X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK: Last alarm marked time. will affect the time that next alarm is triggered

i'm guessing that because the LASTALARMACK date is not being reset correctly that that is what is causing the next alarm to not pop up correctly.

does my data and analysis of the problem seem to bear this out?

thanks!

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by Rainy - 2012/10/12 10:16

There are two separate issues here. The first one which anoob found is that the COMPLETED date is not set if the task is currently shown in the alarm window. The second is that the ack time for the alarm is always increased from its previous date when the task is completed so if you somehow manage to set it to a future date you will never see the alarm for the task anymore. I'll try to fix the problems in the next build.

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by gwa999 - 2012/10/12 11:03

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rainy,

is there a workaround until you get it fixed?

preferably is there a way to just re-edit the task so that the alarm will pop up? i tried resetting the due date as i explained previously but this not seem to update the tag/values correctly to what 'anoob' said they should be.

if not, can i edit the ICS file manually for my recurring alarms so that they will pop up in the future? and if so what tags should i edit or remove?

one thing i am puzzled about is i that thought that this alarm pop-up issue was fixed in beta 112 yet i am still seeing it. is this because i already had existing alarms?

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2012/10/12 12:50

What I test was when the alarm dialog is shown, checking it as "Completed" doesn't mark it as Completed, instead is more like a Discard. It updates the alarm.ini file with the same values as X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK and X-MOZ-LASTACK, but not the Completed tag, even if it already exists, not only on new one.
To "update manually" the alarm these 3 values are need to be changed, but the problem still there when the next time the alarm dialog appears.

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by anoob - 2012/10/12 13:13

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gwa999, this is my workaround :
Re-setting due date as the next date that alarm should pop-up.
Deleted old alarm setting, then re-setting a new alarm.

Jorge_Luis, if "update manually", except need to change these 3 values, also need to clear the alarm.ini content.

one thing i am puzzled about is i that thought that this alarm pop-up issue was fixed in beta 112 it was fixed another

alarm pop-up bug.

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2012/10/12 15:38

The line with the last alarm time for the task (for @gwa999, search for the same UID code) need to be removed. But making this cause the task can't be marked as completed when the alarm dialog appears.
I mean, the next time the alarm window will appear. And then, the problem will arise again (unless the fix arrives before next time)

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by gwa999 - 2012/10/12 16:00

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thanks!

i guess i'll wait until a fix arrives.

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by Rainy - 2012/10/13 11:35

Here's a brief explanation how the recurring tasks work:

The "DUE" property always defined the due date of the first instance of the task. This does not change even if you mark the task completed and Rainlendar shows the next due date in its UI. The current due date is calculated from the COMPLETED property which defines when the task was set to completed. So, the due date Rainlendar shows is the one which comes after the COMPLETED date.

The X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK defines when the alarm was dismissed the last time (this information is also stored to the alarms.ini file as anoob mentioned). You will only see the alarm if the X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK is set before the alarm time for the task's current due time.

When a recurring task is set completed the COMPLETED date is set to the current due date so that Rainlendar will start to show the next due date (or actually it is set to the previous due date from the current time but that's a minor detail). The X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK is also set so that you don't get the alarm for the completed task anymore. In the current build this was done just by increasing the last alarm ack time which caused the problem. In the next build the X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK will be set just before the alarm for the current due date should be shown which hopefully fixes the problem.

I'm not sure if this clarified things or made everything just more confusing but the thing to note is that even if the problem should be fixed in the next build it won't automatically affect the existing tasks which already have the X-RAINLENDAR-LASTALARMACK set to a future date. So, you need to set the task at least once to completed so that the ack time gets set to a proper value.

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Re:Recurring tasks alarm bug

Posted by gwa999 - 2012/10/13 15:01

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rainy,

thanks for the explanation. a little confusing as what goes on unless one sits down to really understand as to how all of the time tags are being used. and at this point i'm not going to try since it sounds like you have a fix figured out.

just for the record, i created 2 new daily recurring alarms yesterday to test this. since these were new tasks they both

popped up the alarms as scheduled. for the first i left the alarm displayed but clicked on "Completed" from the task list. as 'anoob' (i think it was him) previously described the pop-up disappears but the task remains in the task list. clicking "Completed" a second time on the task list removes the item from the list.

for the second pop-up i dismissed the alarm pop-up first and then clicked on "Completed" in the task list. in this case the task was removed immediately.

for both cases the alarms reappeared in the task list for the next day (i.e. today). however, when the pop-up alarms should have displayed today neither did. so this confirms that this bug does not just pertain to just preexisting tasks but even to new tasks added.

sort of amazed that others have not seen this issue and reported it.

rainy,

it was reported that the bug fix in beta 112 fixed a different type of alarm bug. did that fix introduce the bug that i am now seeing (and presumably everyone else)? and if not, do you know when this bug crept in, not that it really matters? i know when i first started using Rainlendar that the recurring alarms did work because i use them pretty extensively for recurring tasks. and at some point the bug i am now seeing appeared. i just don't know exactly when since i usually only update the software for the official releases.

BTW, i asked for an enhancement regarding putting some sort of indicator in the task pop-up (i.e. when you hover over a task item). right now what shows up are the tags Due, Priority, and Status. i had suggested adding a new one called Recurrence where it would would list at least the time recurrence (i.e. Daily, Weekly, etc.). this would be extremely useful since i want to simply delete one-time alarm occurrences. however, for recurring tasks (and alarms) i want to do a "Completed" so that the task gets re-scheduled for the next time period. right now, if i am not familiar with how the task was set up (recurring vs. non-recurring) i always have to go into Edit to check.

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