



About Aeon Timeline

Aeon Timeline is an application that allows you to construct timelines to plan and analyse your models. The application is the first of its kind written and designed with writers in mind.

Model Relationships: More than dots on a never-ending line, model the relationships between events and the people, places and ideas that make that event reality. Let Aeon calculate ages for you.

Concurrent Arcs: Model parallel, concurrent arcs. Consider alternative paths someone could take, discrepancies in witness accounts, explore the intricacies of time travel, or just divide events by ideas, place or person.

Navigate and Edit: Most timeline tools are static. With Aeon, you can navigate your timeline, and add, delete, shift and edit events with unobtrusive simplicity. Lock events to prevent accidental edits.

Hidden Complexity: Filter events according to people, places, arcs, labels, and tags. Zoom in to view the time scale you wish to see. The Context Bar will ensure you never get lost.

Fantasy Calendars: Aeon Timeline is the only timeline tool available for the Mac market that allows the user to create their own custom Fantasy Calendar system.

Data Freedom:: Your timeline is your data, not ours. Export to any number of formats, or synchronize your timeline with Scrivener to keep your planning and drafting in sync.

If you are interested in using Aeon Timeline for NaNoWriMo, you can download a special version of the application from our NaNoWriMo page. If you download from this page, the trial version will remain active until December 15, giving you plenty of time to use Aeon Timeline during NaNoWriMo, with some left over to map out your completed novel after you have finished.

You can download the trial version from here:

<http://www.scribblecode.com/nanowrimo.html#nano>

Using Aeon Timeline with Scrivener

Intro Videos: We have created a ten minute introduction video that will show you everything you need to know to get started using Aeon Timeline. You can view the introduction video here:

http://www.scribblecode.com/videos/NaNo_Intro_Video.mov

Example Video: Aeon Timeline ships with two sample timelines, which you can access from the welcome screen when you launch Aeon Timeline. We have created a video that walks through the example timeline for “Murder on the Orient Express”. This timeline contains a lot of information, so the video demonstrates the features of Aeon Timeline that let you explore and filter your data without getting distracted and overwhelmed.

http://www.scribblecode.com/videos/Murder_Orient_Video.mov

Scrivener Sync: If you are reading this, chances are you are planning to use both Aeon Timeline and Scrivener for your NaNoWriMo preparations. If that is the case, you should watch our video on how to

synchronize Scrivener and Aeon Timeline to keep both projects up to date.

http://www.scribblecode.com/videos/Nano_Sync_Video.mov

User Manual: The Aeon Timeline user manual, available from the Help menu when you launch Aeon Timeline, should assist you with any questions you still have after watching the videos above. There is a chapter devoted to syncing with Scrivener projects, which you should read if you find yourself lost at any point.

How Aeon Timeline and Scrivener Work Together

The main difference between Scrivener and traditional word processors is the way it structures your writing, allowing you to separate each scene of your novel into an individual document. This allows you to plan the narrative flow of your novel by viewing your scenes in an outline, or dragging them around on a corkboard.

Aeon Timeline allows you to plan your novel with a real-world view of time. Using Aeon Timeline, you can map out your story arcs, your character's involvement in scenes within your novel, and your character's backstories long before the events of your novel take place.

There is an obvious parallel between the way Scrivener can divide your novel into scenes, and the way Aeon Timeline divides your plot into events, and there is a one-to-one relationship between many of these events and scenes.

When you sync your timeline with your Scrivener project, Aeon Timeline allows you to specify links between your Scrivener documents (scenes) and events within your timeline. Each subsequent time you sync, Aeon Timeline looks for any changes that have occurred to these Scrivener documents/Timeline events, and automatically copies those changes across to the other project. It will also allow you to create new Scrivener documents for any new timeline events that have been created, and vice versa.

Obviously, not all documents in your Scrivener project will require an event in your timeline, and not all events drawn on your timeline (eg. Character's backstory) will end up as a scene in your novel. You can choose to *ignore* these items the first time they are presented, and they will be omitted from any future syncs.

What is stored inside the Scrivener Project?

Internally, Aeon Timeline adds a number of custom meta-data fields to your Scrivener project to provide you with information about a document's corresponding Aeon Timeline event.

These fields include the following information about a timeline event:

- Event Title
- Start and End Dates
- Label assigned to the event in Aeon Timeline
- Arc the event belongs to in Aeon Timeline
- Relationships with characters (entities in Aeon Timeline)
- Any notes about the event to be displayed in Aeon Timeline.

You are free to edit any of these fields, and Aeon Timeline will automatically copy across the changes you make when you next sync the project with your timeline. Note that labels, arcs, and characters (entities) must already be created inside your project with matching names in order for your update to work, and you will need to take care to ensure the date is complete and in the correct format.

There are two additional meta-data fields that are added by Aeon Timeline that is uses to track the document/event links. These fields are coloured red, to warn you that you should not edit these fields unless you are sure of what you are doing.

What happens when syncing creates a new Scrivener document?

When you sync, there may be new events you have added in Aeon Timeline that you wish to be transferred as new documents in the Scrivener project.

Since Aeon Timeline does not know where this new scene should go in your novel (and since we don't want to upset any binder order you have carefully arranged), Aeon Timeline creates a special folder at the top level of your Scrivener binder called *Aeon Timeline Exported Events*. These documents will be created with all of the available meta-data from the Aeon Timeline event.

Once the sync is complete, you are free to move these documents anywhere you want inside your Scrivener binder and Aeon Timeline will track them the next time you sync.

What happens when syncing creates a new Aeon Timeline event?

Likewise, there will likely be times you have added a new document into Scrivener that you want to transfer to your timeline.

If you have already filled in the custom meta-data fields for the document, Aeon Timeline will automatically use the information you have provided in creating the event.

Otherwise, Aeon Timeline will create a new event using the document's title as the event title, and the start date of the timeline as the start date of the event. Once the sync is completed, you can move this event to the correct date in your timeline, and then re-sync the projects to update the date in the Scrivener document.

Is the process safe? Will I lose data?

For the reasons that apply to any data on your computer, you should ensure you backup both your Scrivener and Aeon Timeline projects at regular intervals.

Having said that, there are a number of safeguards built into the syncing process to protect your novel from data loss:

- Aeon Timeline only operates within its own custom meta-data fields. It does not touch the text of your documents, the synopsis, or the document notes.
- To ensure there are no conflicts between Scrivener and Aeon Timeline, you must always close the Scrivener project before performing a sync. This ensures everything within your Scrivener document is saved before the sync takes place.
- As an extra level of safety, whenever you perform a sync operation, Aeon Timeline performs an internal backup of the Scrivener project. This is done in a manner Scrivener will recognise, so that it can automatically recover if something unexpected happens.

NaNoWriMo Discounts

Aeon Timeline is sponsoring NaNoWriMo for the first time, and is offering the following discounts to WriMo participants:

- 40% off to NaNoPlanners - those who purchase Aeon Timeline before November 5. *Go to our web store and enter the coupon code NANOPLANMO to get your discount.*
- 40% off to NaNoWriMo winners - anyone who reaches their 50,000 word target. *Get your coupon code in the Winner's Goodies section of NaNoWriMo on December 5.*
- 20% off for all other NaNoWriMo participants. *Go to our web store and enter the coupon code WRIMO2012 to get your discount.*

<http://www.scribblecode.com/nanowrimo.html#nano>

Happy Planning!

—Matt Tobin, Aeon Timeline Developer, Scribble Code