

# How to periodically perform an action using a timer

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version	1.1.0
scope	Example. This code is provided as example code for a user to base their code on.
description	How to periodically perform an action using a timer
boards	Unless otherwise specified, this example runs on the SliceKIT Core Board, but can easily be run on any XMOS device by using a different XN file.

Timers can be used to periodically perform an action. First input the current time from the timer:

```
t :> time;
```

The following loop uses the `timerafter` predicate to print a message once a second 100 times.

```
for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
    t when timerafter(time) :> void;
    time += XS1_TIMER_MHZ * 1000 * 1000;
    printstr("This message is printed once a second\n");
}
```

If you want to periodically perform an action while also responding to other events, you can use a loop containing a `select` statement:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
    select {
        case t when timerafter(time) :> void:
            time += XS1_TIMER_MHZ * 1000 * 1000;
            printstr("This message is printed once a second\n");
            break;
        // Insert cases to handle other events here...
    }
}
```

Note in the above examples the time input from the timer is discarded in the loop by inputting it to `void`. To see why this form is preferred suppose you had instead written the following:

```
for (int i = 0; i < 100; i++) {
    t when timerafter(time) :> time;
```

```
time += XS1_TIMER_MHZ * 1000 * 1000;
printstr("This message is printed once a second\n");
}
```

Because the processor completes the input shortly after the time specified is reached, the input in the loop may actually increment the value of time by a small amount. This amount may be compounded over multiple loop iterations, leading to drift over time.



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