



TimePunch

# TimePunch Command 3.4

User Manual

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## TIMEPUNCH COMMAND 3.4

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### Introduction

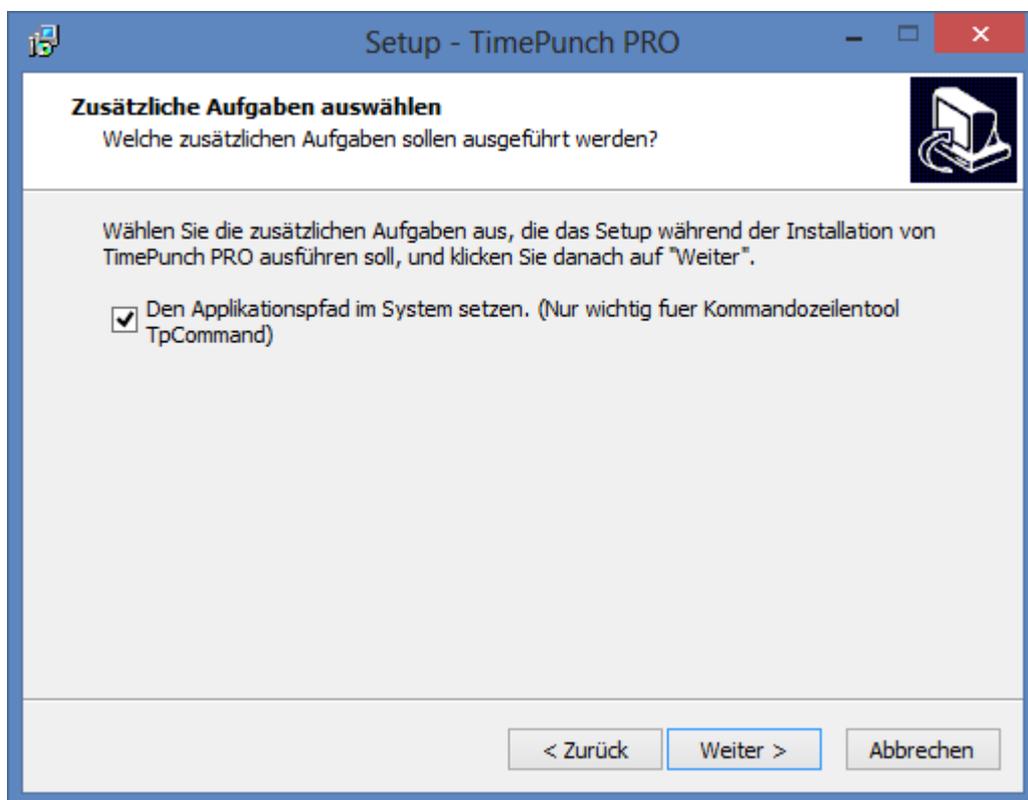
TimePunch Command is a command line tool with that the most important features of TimePunch can be used in a DOS shell. This enables one to record script controlled tasks or to start time recording for defined user actions.

Additionally it offers features that are not available in the graphical user interface (e.g. the import of CSV files).

### Installation

The command line tool “TpCommand.exe” gets installed with the default installation of TimePunch.

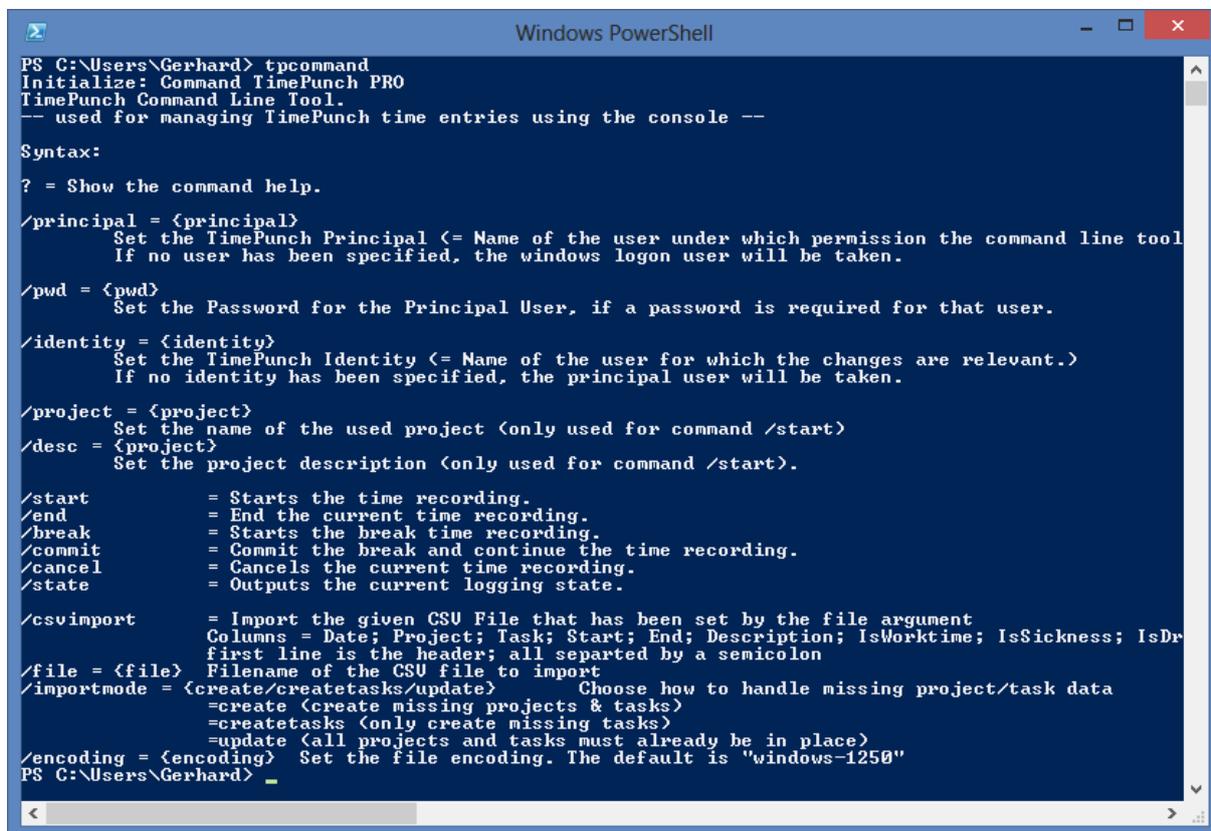
For the execution it’s important that the system path gets extended with the program path of TimePunch, so that the command line tool can be executed directly. Therefore the following option has to be checked in the setup.



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### Introduction

Executing TpCommand is really simple. When installing TimePunch, the system path gets extended in a way that allows the execution of the TpCommand directly from the Shell. When TpCommand gets called without parameter (or with /?), a short help will be output.



```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\Gerhard> tpcommand
Initialize: Command TimePunch PRO
TimePunch Command Line Tool.
-- used for managing TimePunch time entries using the console --

Syntax:
? = Show the command help.

/principal = {principal}
    Set the TimePunch Principal (= Name of the user under which permission the command line tool
    If no user has been specified, the windows logon user will be taken.

/pwd = {pwd}
    Set the Password for the Principal User, if a password is required for that user.

/identity = {identity}
    Set the TimePunch Identity (= Name of the user for which the changes are relevant.)
    If no identity has been specified, the principal user will be taken.

/project = {project}
    Set the name of the used project (only used for command /start)
/desc = {project}
    Set the project description (only used for command /start).

/start          = Starts the time recording.
/end            = End the current time recording.
/break          = Starts the break time recording.
/commit        = Commit the break and continue the time recording.
/cancel        = Cancels the current time recording.
/state         = Outputs the current logging state.

/csvimport      = Import the given CSU File that has been set by the file argument
                Columns = Date; Project; Task; Start; End; Description; IsWorktime; IsSickness; IsDr
                first line is the header; all separated by a semicolon
                Filename of the CSU file to import
/importmode = {create/createtasks/update}    Choose how to handle missing project/task data
                =create (create missing projects & tasks)
                =createtasks (only create missing tasks)
                =update (all projects and tasks must already be in place)
/encoding = {encoding} Set the file encoding. The default is "windows-1250"
PS C:\Users\Gerhard> _
```

TimePunch Command therefore uses the standard database connection, like it is used with the TimePunch Client.

### TimePunch user profile with password protection

If no parameter to change the principal (=the rights holder) is used, TpCommand gets executed with the default windows profile. If that profile is password protected, the password must be set by the parameter /pwd.

/pwd

If the user profile of the principal is protected with a password, it can be set with this parameter.

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### Choose TimePunch user profile

When you start TpCommand.exe the used TimePunch profile can be set. Time recording for another user is thus simplified. As always, however, it must be distinguished between the principal (=the rights holder) and the identity (=the person for whom the times should be recorded). If no identity parameter is set, the principal and the identity are identical. The difference between principal and identity is disclosed in the notes.

/principal	This startup parameter specifies with which user account TpCommand should be started. Without parameters, the Windows Logon is used.
/identity	This parameter specifies for which user the times should be managed. Changing the identity is only possible with a principal that owns administrator rights.

Start time of acquisition for user Witzigmann (regardless of the current Windows logon)

```
TpCommand /start /project=Office /principal=Witzigmann /pwd=joke
```

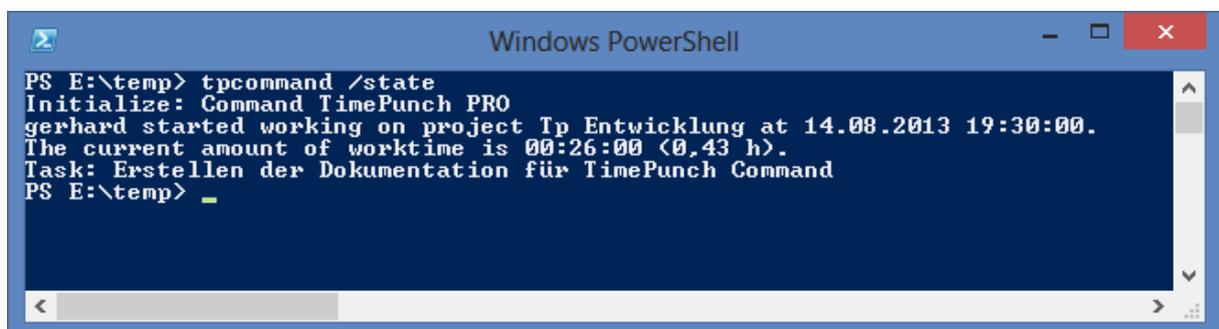
### Commands used for time recording

TimePunch command can be used for script-driven time tracking. So, for example automated processes can be logged.

### Obtain time tracking status

Using the command `/state`, the current status of the timesheet can be queried.

```
TpCommand /state
```



```
Windows PowerShell
PS E:\temp> tpcommand /state
Initialize: Command TimePunch PRO
gerhard started working on project Tp Entwicklung at 14.08.2013 19:30:00.
The current amount of worktime is 00:26:00 (0.43 h).
Task: Erstellen der Dokumentation für TimePunch Command
PS E:\temp> _
```

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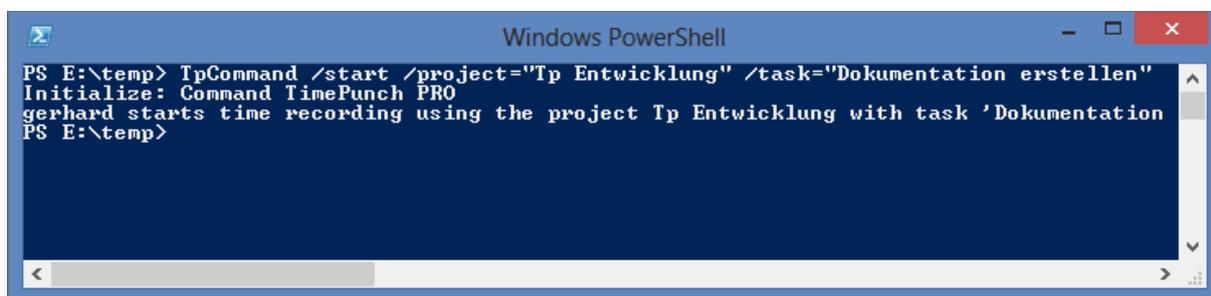
### Start, pause and stop the time recording

The time recording can be managed by using the following commands.

/start	This command starts the timesheet for the selected project. If no project is specified, the default project "NN" will be used. If a time recording is already active, it will be completed and a new time recording will be started.
/end	This command stops the time recording for the current time entry. This command does not automatically starts a new time recording afterwards. If this is wanted, it's better to use the /start command directly.
/break	This command starts the break time recording. Depending on the recording-settings of the TP-Watcher, the current time entry is completed before the pause starts, or the pause time will be directly logged within the current time entry recording.
/commit	This command ends the pause recording and continues time recording with the previously active project. If /commit is called, even though no break time recording is active, the /commit command ends the time recording.
/cancel	This command cancels the time recording. The current entry will be discarded and no further logging will be started.

The following call starts the time recording for the project "Office".

```
TpCommand /start /project=Office /desc=Schreibarbeit
```



```
Windows PowerShell
PS E:\temp> TpCommand /start /project="Tp Entwicklung" /task="Dokumentation erstellen"
Initialize: Command TimePunch PRO
gerhard starts time recording using the project Tp Entwicklung with task 'Dokumentation
PS E:\temp>
```

### Combination of commands

Commands can be combined. If TpCommand is called with multiple commands, thus commands will be executed in the way they are written (from left to right).

```
TpCommand /state /start /project=Office /state /break
```

This command series would first output the current status, then start the time recording for the office project, then output the status again and then start the break time mode.

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### Tip

A break time recording can be end with the */commit* command. In this case, the time recording will be continued with the project that was previously active.

TpCommand */commit*

## Import time entries of CSV files

With the help of TimePunch-Command CSV files can be imported. This is particularly useful, if for example Legacy data needs to be migrated to TimePunch.

The actual import can be done through the */csvimport* command.

<i>/csvimport</i>	This command starts the import of the CSV file that was passed to the <i>/file</i> parameter.
-------------------	---

The CSV file that needs to be imported must be constructed as follows.

Column	Description
1	Date of the time entry
2	Name of the project
3	Name of the task or empty, if no task shall be used.
4	Start time of the time entry
5	End time of the time entry
6	Description text
7	X = if it's work time
8	X = if it's sickness
9	X = if it's driving time
10	X = if it's leave
11	X = if it's public holiday or annual plant shutdown
12	X = if it' overtime reduction

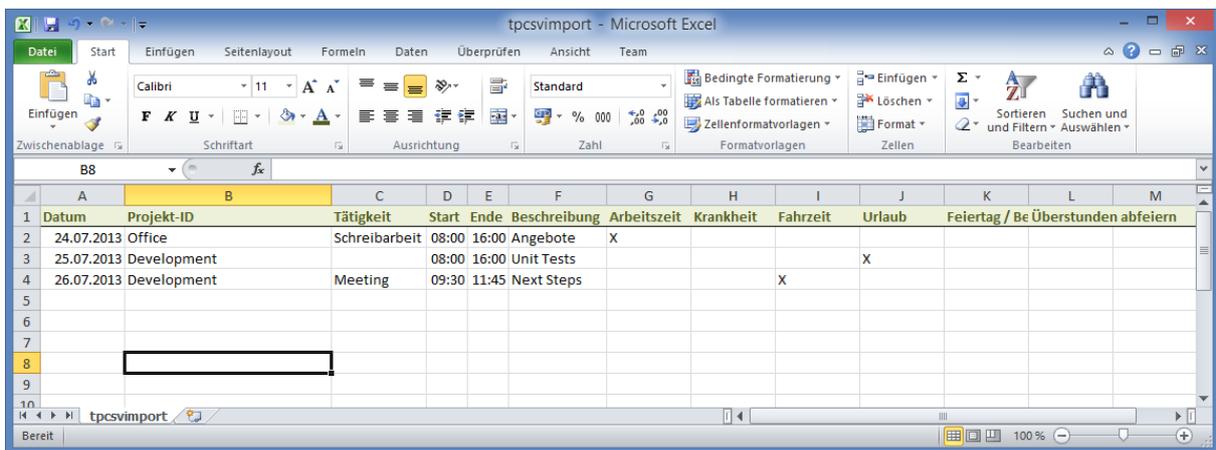
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Starting from column 6 all further columns are optional, which means that they are not needed within the CSV file.

**Important:** The first row of the CSV file is always the header row and may not contain data.

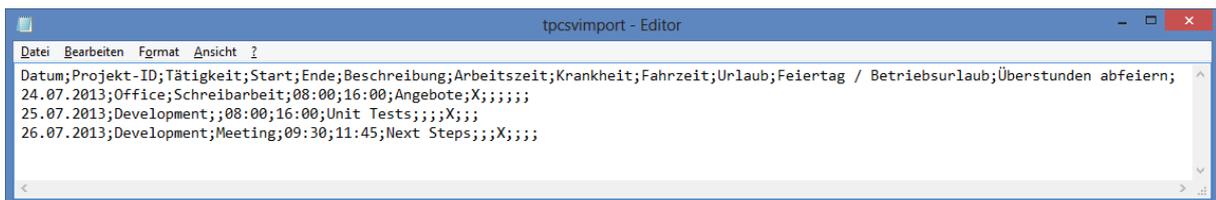
### Excel Template

Microsoft Excel is the perfect tool to edit CSV files or create files from Excel. An Excel template might look as follows.

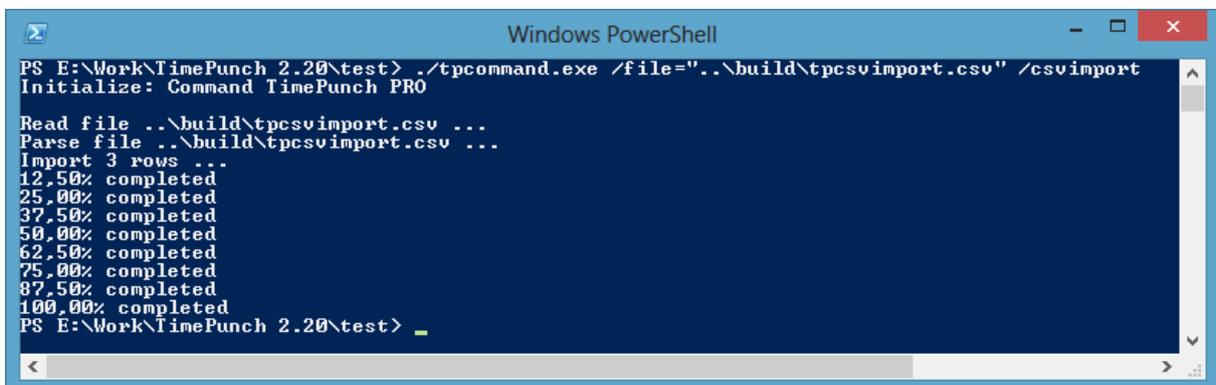


1	Datum	Projekt-ID	Tätigkeit	Start	Ende	Beschreibung	Arbeitszeit	Krankheit	Fahrzeit	Urlaub	Feiertag / Be	Überstunden abfeiern
2	24.07.2013	Office	Schreibarbeit	08:00	16:00	Angebote	X					
3	25.07.2013	Development		08:00	16:00	Unit Tests				X		
4	26.07.2013	Development	Meeting	09:30	11:45	Next Steps			X			
5												
6												
7												
8												
9												

When saving in CVS file format you'll get the following file, which can be directly imported by TpCommand.exe.



```
Datum;Projekt-ID;Tätigkeit;Start;Ende;Beschreibung;Arbeitszeit;Krankheit;Fahrzeit;Urlaub;Feiertag / Betriebsurlaub;Überstunden abfeiern;
24.07.2013;Office;Schreibarbeit;08:00;16:00;Angebote;X;;;
25.07.2013;Development;;08:00;16:00;Unit Tests;;;X;;
26.07.2013;Development;Meeting;09:30;11:45;Next Steps;;;X;;;
```



```
PS E:\Work\TimePunch 2.20\test> ./tpcommand.exe /file="..\build\tpcsvimport.csv" /csvimport
Initialize: Command TimePunch PRO

Read file ..\build\tpcsvimport.csv ...
Parse file ..\build\tpcsvimport.csv ...
Import 3 rows ...
12,50% completed
25,00% completed
37,50% completed
50,00% completed
62,50% completed
75,00% completed
87,50% completed
100,00% completed
PS E:\Work\TimePunch 2.20\test> _
```

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### Import file

About the parameter `/file`, the CSV file can be specified to be imported. If the `/file` information is missing, then the import will be directly terminated because no import file is specified.

<code>/file={file name}</code>	Defines the file that shall be imported.
--------------------------------	--

### Import Modus

For the import can be defined how unknown projects and activities must be treated.

In this case, there are three different types of import.

<code>/importmode=create</code>	Using this parameter unknown projects and activities will be created in TimePunch.
<code>/importmode=createtasks</code>	This mode creates not yet known tasks. For unknown projects, the import will be aborted with an error message.
<code>/importmode=update</code>	In this mode, all projects and tasks must be already defined in TimePunch. If the file contains projects or tasks that are unknown in TimePunch, the import will be canceled with an error message.

### File encoding

Text files can be saved in Windows with different encodings. In Central Europe the encoding "windows-1250" is usually used. This is the default and is used if no other encoding is specified.

By selecting the correct file encodings ensures that special characters are correctly imported into TimePunch.

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### Appendix

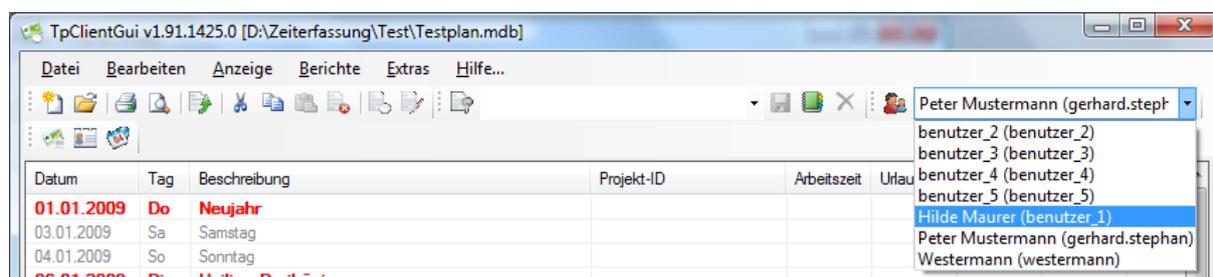
In the appendix the distinction between rights holders (principal) and identity (identity) will be discussed.

#### Principal und Identity

Normally between rights holders (principal) and identity (identity) is not distinguished. That means, the TimePunch-user and the identity are identical.

Only TimePunch administrators can change their identity in order to manage data of other users in TimePunch.

The change of the identity is most easily done in the TimePunch-Client on the user selection list in the upper right of the toolbar.



In TimePunch Command the identity can be set using the parameter /identity. E.g. to import the data of another user or to query the current status of his time recording.

# End of the Document