

GNU/Linux Administration - Support #982

Automated Display Power Saving on a Raspberry Pi

06/28/2025 04:25 PM - Daniel Curtis

Status:	Resolved	Start date:	06/27/2025
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:	Daniel Curtis	% Done:	100%
Category:	Workstation	Estimated time:	0.50 hour
Target version:	Debian	Spent time:	0.00 hour

Description

This is a guide on using systemd timers to automatically turn on and off an HDMI display at specified times.

Setup the Timers

Display Off Timer

- Create a service file to turn off the display:

```
sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/display-off.service
```

- Add the following:

```
[Service]
ExecStart=/usr/bin/vcgencmd display_power 0
```

- Create a timer file to turn off the display:

```
sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/display-off.timer
```

- Add the following:

```
[Unit]
Description=Run display power off at 10pm Everyday

[Timer]
OnCalendar=*-*-* 22:00:00

[Install]
WantedBy=timers.target
```

Display On Timer

- Create a service file to turn on the display:

```
sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/display-on.service
```

- Add the following:

```
[Service]
ExecStart=/usr/bin/vcgencmd display_power 1
```

- Create a timer file to turn off the display:

```
sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/display-off.timer
```

- Add the following:

```
[Unit]
Description=Run display power on at 7am Everyday

[Timer]
OnCalendar=*-*-* 07:00:00

[Install]
WantedBy=timers.target
```

- Reload systemd, then start and enable both timers:

```
sudo systemctl daemon-reload
sudo systemctl enable display-off.timer
sudo systemctl enable display-on.timer
sudo systemctl start display-off.timer
sudo systemctl start display-on.timer
```

- Verify the timer is added to the timers list:

```
sudo systemctl list-timers
```

Resources

- <https://wiki.archlinux.org/title/Systemd/Timers>
- <https://seb.jambor.dev/posts/systemd-by-example-part-5-timers/>

History

#1 - 06/28/2025 04:27 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated

#2 - 06/28/2025 04:27 PM - Daniel Curtis

- % Done changed from 0 to 100

- Status changed from New to Resolved

#3 - 06/28/2025 04:29 PM - Daniel Curtis

- Description updated