timer — Time sections of code by recording and reporting time spent

Syntax

Reset timers to zero

    timer clear [ # ]

Turn a timer on

    timer on #

Turn a timer off

    timer off #

List the timings

    timer list [ # ]

where # is an integer, 1–100.

Description

    timer starts, stops, and reports up to 100 interval timers. Results are reported in seconds.
    timer clear resets timers to zero.
    timer on begins a timing. timer off stops a timing. A timing may be turned on and off repeatedly without clearing, which causes the timer to accumulate.
    timer list lists the timings. If # is not specified, timers that contain zero are not listed.

Remarks and examples

    timer can be used to time sections of code. For instance,

        program tester
          version ...
          timer clear 1
          forvalues repeat=1(1)100 {  
            timer on 1
            mycmd ...
            timer off 1
          }
        timer list 1
        end

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Stored results

`timer list` stores the following in `r()`:

**Scalars**

- `r(t1)` value of first timer
- `r(nt1)` # of times turned on and off
- `r(t2)` value of second timer
- `r(nt2)` # of times turned on and off

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- `r(t100)` value of 100th timer
- `r(nt100)` # of times turned on and off

Only values for which `r(nt#) ≠ 0` are stored.

`r()` results produced by other commands are not cleared.

Also see

[P] `rmv` — Return messages