

# SMSCaster E-Marketer User Manual

## On Scheduler & Responder

### For Version 3.6

## SCHEDULER

The scheduler is used to perform automatic sending and receiving of SMS. It works like the "Start Button" is being pressed at a specific time. You can also control when a schedule should stop by specifying the stopping time of schedule. It has been re-designed to accommodate multiple schedules. There are two types of schedule: One time and Daily.

### **One Time Schedule**

It is a simple schedule type which runs one time only. You can specify a starting time and optionally a stopping time. If the stopping time is omitted, it runs until the Outbox is all cleared.

### **Daily Schedule**

It is a repeated schedule type which runs according to the days of week (Mon, Tue...). It has a starting time and an optional stopping time. For example: starting time = 8am and stopping time = 6pm means the running time is from 8am to 6pm in one day. If the stopping time is earlier than the starting time, it means an overnight time period. For example, starting time = 6pm and stopping time = 8am means the running time is from 6pm to the next day's 8am.

### ***Creating a Schedule***

Select "Scheduler" on the left and click "New" at the toolbar. A "New Schedule" dialog appears. Choose the schedule type (One Time/Daily), schedule task (Send & Receive/Send Only/Receive Only) and fill in other information. Press OK when done.

## ***Saving the Schedules***

Schedules are saved as program settings automatically upon program exit. Therefore, no explicit saving by the user is required.

## ***Waiting for a Schedule to Run***

When you expect a schedule to run soon, make sure the project file you want is opened and the Outbox contains the SMS you want to send out by the Scheduler. Also check the phone connection by pressing the "Update Button" at the Phone Information window. If everything is fine, you can just leave SMSCaster running without extra intervention. Do not close SMSCaster or the schedule will not be run.

## ***Icon Meaning***



A colorful icon means an active schedule



A grey icon means an inactive schedule



A green arrow icon indicates the next due schedule

# **RESPONDER**

The Responder is used to reply to the sender of an incoming SMS automatically. This is done based on pre-set keywords and reply messages. You may store the keywords either in a project file or in an external text file.

## ***1. Store the keywords in a project file***

By default, when you add keywords and reply messages from the user interface, they are stored in a project file. This means that they are saved together with the Inbox, Outbox and Sent Box. This allows you to have different set of keywords and reply messages with different project files.

## **2. Store the keywords in an external file**

To enable an external keywords file, specify the file location at Tool->Options->Responder. It is a text file, encoded in ANSI, UNICODE, UNICODE (Big Endian) or UTF8 with the BOM mark. There is no user interface within SMSCaster to edit the keywords stored in an external file. The simplest way to create one is by using Notepad. Another way is to prepare the data in Excel and "Save As" a CSV file.

It can be considered as an interface to control the Responder: by producing the keywords text file from another program, you can automate the Responder. The file will be checked periodically for any changes and will be reloaded when necessary.

External keywords file is available to all projects and considered as global. Keywords are case insensitive. If the same keyword appears both in the project file and in the external file, the one in the project file will be used.

For the file format, each line contains a keyword and reply message pair, for example:

```
Health, "Thank you for your inquiry..."
Win, "Please call 800-989-9877 for your chance to win"
*, "Sorry, we do not have the information you want"
```

The asterisk means matching anything and serves as the default reply message when no keyword is matched. It should be put at the last line of the file or it will override other keywords below it.

You may also put several keywords for the same reply message in one line, for example:

```
Diet, Food, "Please call 800-989-9877 for info on food and diet"
```

## **3. Enable and disable the Responder**

Click the "Enable" button on the toolbar of the Responder Page to enable the Responder. It does not work until the "Start" button is pressed. See "Persistent Connection" if you need continuous auto-respond.

## **4. Send long and flash reply message**

You may reply in long SMS or flash SMS (but not both). Go to Tool->Options->Responder for these settings.

## **5. *Blacklist File***

A blacklist file contains blocked phone numbers which you do not want to reply to. It is recommended that you enter the phone number of your SIM card into the blacklist to avoid potential infinity reply-to loop. It is a plain text file with each phone number on a new line.

## **6. *Log File***

This is to log successfully replied phone numbers to a file for reference.

## **7. *Others***

### **Persistent Connection**

If you want the Responder to work continuously, you should set "Persistent Connection" at Tool->Options->Connection Tab. It will wait for incoming SMS and reply automatically until the "Stop" button is pressed.

### **Delete Received Message from Phone**

To avoid responding to incoming SMS saved at the phone again and again when you re-start SMSCaster, you should enable "Delete received message from Phone" at Tool->Options->Receive Tab.

### **Problem with Nokia Phones**

It is a known problem that recent Nokia phones do not allow other software to retrieve SMS stored in the phone. For the Responder to work, you need phone from other brands like Sony Ericsson and Motorola.