Flan Local-Access Notifier

Manual Edition 1.2
Flan Version 1.2, July 2026

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This is edition 1.2 of the manual for Flan Local-Access Notifier, Version 1.2, last updated on 21 July 2026.

Home page: `http://www.ocelot.cascaded.org/~anton/flan.html`
Documentation: `http://www.ocelot.cascaded.org/ocelot/share/doc/flan/`

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1 Introduction

The Flan Local-Access Notifier (aka Flan) is a free digital calendar signage software, originally written for use at the University of Akron's College of Business. Flan is maintained by Anton McClure (`http://www.ocelot.cascaded.org/~anton/`) <anton@ocelot.cascaded.org> (`anton@ocelot.cascaded.org`).

1.1 Downloading Flan

Flan is freely available at `http://www.ocelot.cascaded.org/~anton/flan.html`. It is released under the GNU General Public Licence version 3 or later. See the file `COPYING` for details.

Tarballs downloads are available from Ocelot's FTP server over either the FTP (`ftp://ftp.ocelot.cascaded.org/users/anton/flan/`), HTTP (`http://ftp.ocelot.cascaded.org/users/anton/flan/`), and HTTPs (`https://ftp.ocelot.cascaded.org/users/anton/flan/`) protocols.

1.1.1 Requirements

Flan requires the following packages:

- Build-time
  - GNU Make
  - C compiler with C89 support (e.g., GCC)
  - X11 development headers and library
  - XPM development headers and library
  - ical development headers and library
- Run-time
  - Xorg-compatible display server
  - X11 library
  - XPM library
  - ical library

1.2 Running Flan

Assuming that you've got a Flan configuration file set up already, simply run the command:

```
$flan /optional/path/to/config
```

If your are not currently using X11, you should run it with xinit like so:

```
$xinit flan /optional/path/to/config
```

If all goes well, Flan should open on your current TTY. If you want to automate Flan, you may use the included systemd service file to do so. By default, the systemd script is configured to use TTY7 as Flan is intended to run standalone without an underlying desktop environment or window manager.

If you need to set up your config file, the next chapter, "Settings", goes over all of the settings categories and options that you will find in the standard issue sample config.

2 Settings

A sample configuration file may be found at `http://www.ocelot.cascaded.org/ocelot/share/doc/flan/flan.cfg`. The settings are described below as follows. At the end of the chapter is all of the settings as they will appear in the sample configuration file.

2.1 Main Settings

These, long with ICS files, were the first editable options in Flan, with the goal of making it useful for more than just room 101 at the University of Akron College of Business.

refresh

Time between data reloads.

days

Number of days shown on-screen.

logo

XPM image file used as on-screen logo.

title

Title of calendar/organization.

regex

Expression used to separate title and subtitle

2.2 Font Settings

All of the fonts must be written using the X Logical Font Description (XLFD) format.

m

Primary calendar font

a

Secondary header font

l

Primary header font

d

Secondary calendar font

i

Info bar font

2.3 Color Settings

t_bgc
: Header background color

t_txt
: Header text color

b_bgc
: Calendar background color

b_txt
: Calendar text color

s_bgc
: Info bar background color

s_txt
: Info bar text color

c_bgc
: Cell background color

2.4 Text Settings

Text is just written with the left and right sides separated by '\\'. This is not the default text, but Anton did not like how the PDF copy formatted it when the default text was used here.

'`Left side text\\Right side text`'

2.5 ICS Settings

Calendars are just written as title=link.

'`Test 1=ftp://ftp.example.cascaded.org/cal/test1.ics`'

2.6 All Together

All of the default settings as intended may look something like this:

```
; SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-3.0-or-later
;
; Sample flan.cfg for Flan
; http://www.ocelot.cascaded.org/~anton/flan.html
;
; Copyright (C) 2025-2026 Anton McClure
;
; Author: Anton McClure <anton@ocelot.cascaded.org>

[main]
refresh=3600
```

```
days=3
logo=/usr/local/share/flan/default.xpm
title=Planning Flan
regex=^(.+)[[:space:]]?--[[:space:]]?(.*)

[fonts]
m=-*-helvetica-medium-r-normal-*-20-*-*-*-*-*-*-*
a=-*-times-bold-r-normal-*-24-*-*-*-*-*-*-*
l=-*-new century schoolbook-bold-r-normal-*-34-*-*-*-*-*-*-*
d=-*-helvetica-medium-r-normal-*-17-*-*-*-*-*-*-*
i=-*-new century schoolbook-medium-r-*-*-17-*-*-*-*-*-*-*

[colors]
t_bgc=#4A6B8C
t_txt=#FFFFFF
b_bgc=#CCD3D7
b_txt=#224466
s_bgc=#3A5B71
s_txt=#E3E3E5
c_bgc=#FFFFFF

[text]
This is the planning flan\\This is test text
Save this to /etc/flan.cfg\\and edit as needed.

[ics]
[ics]
Test 1=/usr/local/share/flan/test1.ics
Test 2=/usr/local/share/flan/test2.ics
Test 3=/usr/local/share/flan/test3.ics
```

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