

MailCheck Beta 7 by Special Projects comments to pcs+macmail

MailCheck tells you if you have new andrew mail. It functions as you run word, excel, or any other mac program. MailCheck is currently in beta test. It is available from the 'Computing Services' appleshare server in the 'backbone' zone. It is on the 'Common' volume in the folder 'Beta Testing' folder MacMail.

Installation

Place the file MailCheck in your System Folder. Then choose the control panel from the apple menu. Next click on MailCheck. Set the configuration as you wish then click on update.

Uninstalling

Should you find problems with this beta software and need to remove it here is how: If when booting you hold down any key as MailCheck starts it will not be loaded. The MailCheck file should then be removed from the system folder.

Configuration

Enable mail checking turns the service on or off. The text box allow you to enter a userid of the owner of the mac. If the check box named 'Last user to run MacMail' is checked then MailCheck will switch to checking whomever runs MacMail. This is useful in a cluster so it will track each user than uses the mac.

Operation

MailCheck talks to one of two server machines and tries to figure out if you have new mail and notify you if you do. When MacMail is running MailCheck is temporarily disabled so that you are not notified twice.

Parameters

Exactly how often MailCheck checks for mail and which errors MailCheck tells you about, how to deal with loss of contact, how often to remind you, etc. are likely to be the subject of debate.

Some current (internal) settings:

- Check for mail every 5min

- Remind you again of having unread mail every 20min

- Remind you of error conditions every 20min

- Tell you of addition new mail:yes

- Tell you of no new mail once on boot:no

- Tell of loss of contact after 20min.

Beware

1. Be careful not to rename MailCheck to be alphabetically before MacTCP or it will take much longer to start up. Inits load in alphabetical order (use show by name in finder) to be sure if you rename MailCheck.

2. There is a bug in Microsoft Word 4.0 that changes the menu fonts after OK is clicked on the MailCheck notification window. MailCheck a future mailcheck may have a workaround for this.

3. With the default Andrew protections anyone anywhere on the internet can check to see if you have new mail. This has always been the case, just a reminder here in case you didn't know.

Changes since Beta 4:

Don't remind too often.

Bug/Wish List:

6. Tie into SuperClock so mail indication can be on the menu bar.

7. Figure out the System Heap size so dynamic install can be turned on again

9. Make a way for operators to do sends.

- 10 Allow the server to redirect the mac to a less loaded server.

- 11 Have finger be able to indicate where you are and if you are active.

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The remind me every XX min setting in the control panel sets how often MailCheck reminds you that you have new mail. Setting it to a low number does not make it ask the server more often.

When an error goes away or you no longer have mail the alert window or blinking apple is removed.