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Introduction.

GetFAQs is an utility to extract FAQ files from a usenet mail directory as used by for example Waffle. GetFAQs has been written as an aid to convert usenet FAQ files into files which can be made available for download on Bulletin Board System (BBS).

GetFAQs has the following features:

- Extract and groups only selected FAQ files.
- Describes the files with the subjectline of the FAQ mail.
- Can handle unlimited output directories.
- Can handle unlimited NEWS groups.
- Creates FILE_ID.DIZ files
- Creates 4Dos description files.
- Creates TIC files
- Compresses the found FAQ files.
- Creates a log of unknown FAQ files.
- Ignore known FAQ files.

and more..

Two items should be found in a FAQ file to be accepted by the program. This are a Subject: line and a Archive-name: line. The later being the most likely to be missing.

The GETFAQS.CFG file.

The GETFAQS.CFG file contains a number of settings which change the way GetFAQs works. Here is a list of available options:

FAQPATH
Defines the path to the directory to search for FAQ files.

TMPPATH
Defines the path to a directory under which GetFAQs can create temporarily subdirectories.

OUTPATH
Defines the path to a directory where the resulting compressed files will be stored.

LASTCHECK
Defines the number of the last read newsfiles.
Defaults to 0. If the number is higher than the lowest available filenumber, GetFAQs will start to search for new FAQs at this number.

MAKE4DOS
If TRUE, GetFAQs will create 4Dos description files inside the compressed files and will also describe the compressed files themself.

BUFFERIO
GetFAQs uses buffers for reading and writing. On a network things sometimes go slower with these buffers than without. In that case you can turn them OFF by giving this option the value FALSE.

DELFIRST
This toggle turns on the deleting of compressed files before the compression command will be given. This can be the only way to force an update.

MAKEDIZ
This toggle determines the creation of a FILE_ID.DIZ file. The FILE_ID.DIZ is used by many programs and BBSses for describing files.

DOSORT
Sort the contents of the CONTENTS.LST file. Normally the entries are written in the order they are found.

LOWSPACE
If TRUE, the NEWS files which are found in the EXTRACT.LST are deleted after processing. In daily live this means that files which are extracted or ignored are removed, new FAQ files are kept so you can check them out (Or do a re-scan). Since the 200 files here in the \NEWS\NEWS\ANSWERS take some 7 megabytes, this can be a real

spacesaver..

LOGFILE
Defines the name of the logfile. GetFAQs will write all errors and files which are extracted to this logfile.

LOGLEVEL
There are six levels of logging. The higher the level, the more detail you will get. (And the bigger the LOG file will get..)

UNKNOWN
In this file the unknown FAQ Archive-names are written. This done in such a that it is easy to adapt them for the extract.lst file. you can easily sort this file using the DOS command:

```
SORT /n+10 <UNKNOWN.LOG >SORTED.LOG
```

COMPRESS
Defines the filename and parameters for the compressionprogram to use.

OKRESULT
OKResult defines the errorlevel the compressor should return for a compression to be considered successful. Default is 0.

For all the paths GetFAQs needs goes: if it doesn't exist, the path will be created. GetFAQs can create multi-level deep paths without problems. As long as it has the right to create directories (for networkservers!)

The MATCH.LST file.

The MATCH.LST matches Archive-name: fields with a unique short name used by GetFAQs. This short name cannot be longer than 8 characters. The Archive-name identifier should be long enough to uniquely identify a FAQ-group.

The syntax of the file is:
 <SHORTNAME> <FAQ identifier> <Description>

For example:

```
MUDS              games/mud-faq/   Req.games.muds FAQ file
ANONYM     net-anonymity/    Anonymity in the internet FAQ
DREAMS     dreams-faq/       Dreams FAQ: Everything about dreams.
!X-WIN     X-win-faq/      X-windows FAQ.
```

The MUDS faq consists out of three files. games/mud-faq/part1, games/mud-faq/part2 and games/mud-faq/part3 which are all three matched with the identifier games/mud-faq/.

You can precede the shortname with an exclamation mark (!). If done, the FAQ will be ignored. It will be recognised for what it is and not written to the UNKNOWN.LOG file, but the FAQ will not be extracted.

In the above example, the X-WIN FAQ will be recognised but not extracted.

The description field is used for the FILE_ID.DIZ and the archive 4DOS description. It's the description that will end up in the filedescription database if you import the FILE_ID.DIZ files.

If you want to send a group of compressed FAQ files to an other directory than the default OUTPATH directory (For example because of the violent contents of these files) you can also include [PATH=<alt. path>] commands into the EXTRACT.LST file. The <alt. path> will replace the default OUTPATH in that case. For example:

```
ATHEISM     atheism/overview Alt.Atheism FAQ
SCI-MATH    sci-math-faq/intro sci.math
ANINGAME  games/anime-faq Anime video games list

[PATH=E:\FAQS\CULTURE]
CANADA      canada-FAQ/              soc.culture.canada
FRANCE      culture-french-FAQ/      soc.culture.french
HONGKONG hongkong-FAQ/               soc.culture.hongkong
```

The last three files, if found, will be stored in E:\FAQ\CULTURE instead of in the regular output directory.

Tick support.

GetFAQs does also support basic TICK support. It can create a TIC file. Connected to this function there are four keywords in the CFG file and three more options for the EXTRACT.LST file. First the CFG options:

MAKETICK
Turn the TIC support on/off.

TICKAREA
Define the default name for the TIC area to use

TICKNODE
Define the default address to use for the TIC file.

TICKPW
Define the default password to use for the TIC file.

The TICKAREA, TICKNODE and TICKPW can be changed from within the EXTRACT.LST file. The same mechanism as for changing the OUTPATH is used:

[TICKAREA=<Alternative Areaname>]
[TICKNODE=<Alternative Nodenumber>]
[TICKPW=<Alternative password>]

FAQ names.

GetFAQs tries to extract a filename for a FAQ from the Archive-name field by extracting the part after the last '/'.

If this doesn't work for some reason GetFAQs follows the following methods:

- Get rid of the word FAQ in the name
- Take the part from the end backwards to the first character which is not in 'A'..'Z'.
- Delete all the characters which are not in 'A'..'Z','0'..'9'.
- Cut off everything before the last 8 characters.
- Check the leftovers, if it doesn't make a legal filename GetFAQs will generate name itself.

GetFAQs stops as soon as the filename is shorter than eight characters. Sometimes this give strange results but in general the names generated are reasonable good. Maybe in an other version, if there is enough support, I will implement some kind of system for giving fixed names determined by the operator.

Files used or created by GetFAQs.

CONTENTS.LST
This file is created inside every archive and it describes the FAQ files in a human readable form. Before sorting this file is called CONTENTS.$$$

FAQHEAD.TXT
This file is used by GetFAQs as a header for the CONTENTS.LST file. The file should be created in the same directory as the EXE file.

FAQTAIL.TXT
When you register GetFAQs, you can also use this file which will be appended to the end of the CONTENTS.LST file. For unregistered versions a standard "Unregistered copy" text will be appended.

FILE_ID.DIZ
An archive description file used by many BBS systems to import descriptions into the file-database.

EXTRACT.LST
The list of FAQ files to extract or to ignore.

UNKNOWN.LOG
The list with unknown FAQ files.

GETFAQS.LOG
The LOG file produced by GetFAQs.

DESCRIPT.ION
A 4DOS file description file.

Commandline parameters:

-NOSEARCH
Don't scan for new FAQ files.

-NOCLEAN
Don't compress and remove temp. directories.

-KEEPCFG
Don't update the CFG file. Keep the current values. (This means that the last-check pointer doesn't get updated)

-RESCAN
Ignore the LastCheck pointer and scan all the available files again for FAQs.

-DELLOGS
Delete the logfiles before anything happens. If you use loglevel 1 or 2 you better use thisone often..

-CFG=<CFG filename>
Use an other CFG file. This way you can scan more than one NEWS group, use different settings for different FAQ files etc.

Shareware

GetFAQs is shareware. This means that you have a limited time, say 30 days, to evaluate the program. After this period you have to decide if this program is useful for you, and if it is, to register. Continue to use this program without registering is illegal.

When you register GetFAQs you will get a registration key which removes the unregistered messages in the logfile and in the faq description file. It also gives you the option to use your own
FAQTAIL.TXT file instead of the hardcoded one.

Registration can be done by sending cash, international money- order or by transferring the shareware fee to my giro-account. Creditcards and cheques are not accepted. After the money and the registrationform are received a disk will be mailed. Please include a fidonet or internet address so I can crash you your keyfile.

Registration costs ƒ25,- Dutch guilders which should be send to:

G. Hoogterp
Kremersmaten 108
7511 LC Enschede
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Gironumber: 1806776

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