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WAIS Toolkit Version 0.3

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WAIS Toolkit Error: Reference source not found

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1. Introduction

This manual describes a set of tools for preparing and searching full-text databases for computers running the Windows NT operating system. You should read it if you plan to use the searching capabilities of the Gopher Server (GOPHERS), the HTTP Server (HTTPS), or the WAIS Server (WAISS) for Windows NT. This manual assumes you have a reasonable degree of competence in the use of Windows NT, that you have read the manual for the Server software you plan to use, and that you have some experience of using WAIS (the Wide Area Information Server).

The tools in this toolkit are:

WAISINDEX   An indexing utility.
WAISLOOK   A searching utility.
WAISSERV   A Z39.50 protocol handler and search engine.

This manual covers the beta test version of the WAIS toolkit. Please direct bug reports about this version to C.J.Adie@ed.ac.uk.

The European Microsoft Windows NT Academic Centre (EMWAC) has been set up to support and act as a focus for Windows NT within academia. It is sponsored by Datalink Computers, Digital, Microsoft, Research Machines, Sequent and the University of Edinburgh. This manual forms part of the programme of EMWAC.

2. Installation

2.1. Requirements

To use the Windows NT WAIS Toolkit, you need to have a computer with the following characteristics:

- Intel or Digital Alpha processor.

- Windows NT 3.1 final release, with TCP/IP software installed. (TCP/IP is required by WAISINDEX for the -export option.)

- At least 16Mb of memory.

2.2. Installing

1. Log into your Windows NT system.

2. The WAIS Toolkit is distributed in two versions, for the Intel and DEC Alpha architectures. Select the appropriate ZIP file for your processor.

3. Unzip the file. You should have the following files:
   WAISINDX.EXE   The WAISINDEX program.
   WAISLOOK.EXE   The searching program.
   WAISSERV.EXE   The Z39.50 searching program.
   WAISTOOL.DOC   This manual in Word for Windows format.
   WAISTOOL.PS   This manual, in postscript ready for printing.
   READ.ME   Summary of new features, etc.

4. If you have installed a previous version of the toolkit, remove it by

deleting the old files, or by moving them to another directory (off the PATH) for deletion once you have validated that the new version works correctly.

5. Decide which directory you are going to put the tools in, and move the .EXE programs there. Ensure that the directory is on the PATH so that the commands may be executed from the command line.

6. If you are using NTFS for the volume on which the tools are stored, you should rename the WAISINDX.EXE program to WAISINDEX.EXE. (It is not distributed with that name, because of problems when extracting the file to a FAT volume.) The remainder of this manual assumes you have done this.

7. Determine which version of the toolkit you have. To do this, at the Windows NT Command Prompt, type the commands:
   waisindex -v
   waislook -v
   waisserv -v
and the version number for each program will be displayed. (In fact, two version numbers will be shown for WAISINDEX and WAISSERV - the first refers to the version of the freeWAIS code from which the programs were ported, the second is the number of the Windows NT version.) This manual covers Error: Reference source not found. If the programs report a later version number, you will find a corresponding later manual in the files you unpacked from the ZIP archive.

2.3. Installation Problems

The system says that WAISINDEX.EXE is not a Windows NT program

This is probably because you are trying to run an executable for the wrong sort of processor. Check you have unpacked the correct ZIP file for your processor type.

2.4. Deinstalling

To deinstall the toolkit, simply delete the files.

3. Using the Tools

Three programs are provided in the toolkit:

- WAISINDEX is a program which creates a WAIS index of all the words in a set of files. This is ported directly from the CNIDR program of the same name in the "freeWAIS" version 0.202 distribution.

- WAISLOOK is a program which takes one or more words and displays the names of those files in the index which contains those words, ranked according to frequency of occurrence.

- WAISSERV is a program which accepts WAIS protocol requests through stdin and sends back responses using the same protocol through stdout. It is designed for use with the WAIS Server for Windows NT (WAISS), and is of little use on its own.

This chapter documents the above programs. First is a short section describing how to create and search a simple index to verify that the programs are working. In the subsequent sections, the programs are formally documented.

The documentation will be expanded in future releases of this toolkit.

3.1 Creating and Searching a Simple Database

This section describes how to create a simple index using waisindex, and how to search it using waislook.

Preparation

- Create a directory to work in. Let's assume it's called C:\TESTWAIS.
- Create a subdirectory to hold the files we're going to index - say C:\TESTWAIS\FILES.
- Put some text files into the C:\TESTWAIS\FILES directory. They can be anything you like as long as they are ASCII text files.

Creating an Index

- Make C:\TESTWAIS the current directory.
- Execute waisindex, giving it parameters as shown below:
      waisindex -d myindex files*
- Observe the messages from waisindex to check that there are no errors.
- Do a DIR command on the C:\TESTWAIS directory to check that waisindex has created the seven index files, named myindex.*.

Searching the Index

- Ensure the current directory is C:\TESTWAIS.
- Execute waislook,giving it parameters as shown below:
      waislook -d myindex word
  where word should be replaced by a word which you know occurs in the files you have indexed.
- Observe the output of waislook, which will show you the names of the files which contain the word you selected.

3.2 The WAISINDEX Program

The waisindex program is used to build and update WAIS databases. Note that this program cannot work with a database on a FAT partition, beacuse the intermediate files it creates during the indexing process do not conform to the FAT 8.3 filename restriction.

Syntax

waisindex [-d *index_filename*] [-a] [-r]
         [-mem *mbytes*] [-register] [-export]

Description

waisindex creates an index of the words in files so that they can be searched quickly by tools such as waislook. The index comprises 7 files, and takes about as much disk space as the original text. The files comprising the index have extensions as follows:

.cat   The catalogue of the indexed files, with about three lines of information for each file indexed. This is a text file.

.dct   The dictionary of indexed words. This is a binary file.

.doc   The document table. This is a binary file. A file may contain several documents, depending on the type specified in the -t option.

.fn   The filename table. This is a binary file. The filenames stored in this table are as supplied as the final parameters to waisindex. Thus, if filenames are supplied relative to the current directory (eg files/*), they will be stored in the filename table in that form, and the resulting filenames from a database search will also be in relative form.

.hl   The headline table. This is a binary file. A "headline" is (ideally) a line of descriptive text summarising the contents of a document. The headline is normally taken from the document itself - for instance it may be the Subject: line if the document is a mail message, or it may be the first line of the file, or it may simply be the filename itself. Which it is depends on the type of the file, as notified to waisindex using the -t option.

.inv   The inverted file index. This is a binary file.

.src   The source description structure. This is a text file.

Options

-d *index_filename*

This is the base filename for the index files. Therefore if d:\wais\foo is specified, then the

	index files will be called d:\wais\foo.cat etc. Default is .\index.
-a	Append this index to an existing one. Useful for incremental additions or updates. This will only add onto an index, so that if a file has changed, it will get reindexed, but the old entries will not be purged. Therefore, to save space, it is a good idea to reindex the whole set of files periodically. If you don't specify this option, then the old index (if any) will get overwritten.
-v	Display the version number of the program.
-r	Recursively index subdirectories.
-mem *mbytes*	How much main memory (in megabytes) to use during indexing. The usefulness of this option in the Windows NT environment is unknown.
-register	The Windows NT version of waisindex cannot automatically register a WAIS database with the directory of servers. Specifying the -register option will cause the program to display instructions about how to register a WAIS database manually, using electronic mail.
-export	This causes the source description file created by waisindex to include the host-name and the WAIS default TCP port (210) for use by the clients. Otherwise the source description file contains no connection information, and is expected to be used only for local searches.
-e [*filename*]	Redirect error output to the named file, or suppresses error output if *filename* is omitted. Error output defaults to stderr (usually the console) if -e is not used.
-l *log_level*	Set logging level. Currently only levels 0, 1, 5 and 10 are meaningful: Level 0 means log nothing (silent). Level 1 logs only errors and warnings (messages of HIGH priority), level 5 logs messages of MEDIUM priority (like indexing filename info). Level 10 logs everything.
-pos (-nopos)	Include (don't include - the default) word position information in the index. This will increase the index size, but will allow search engines to do proximity.
-nopairs (-pairs)	Don't build (build - the default) word pairs from

	consecutive capitalized words.
-nocat	Inhibits the creation of a catalog. This is useful for databases with a large number of documents, as the catalog contains 3 lines per document.
-contents (-nocontents)	
	Include (exclude) the contents of the file from the index. The filename and header will still be indexed. The default is type dependant.
-T *type*	The filename table (.fn) and the catalog (.cat) created by waisindex contain a "type" string for each file indexed. This option sets the type string to *type*. The default depends on the type of file being indexed - it is TEXT in most cases. Possible values are: TEXT TEXT-FTP WSRC (WAIS .src structures) DVI PS PICT GIF TIFF HTML This type information is used only by the WAIS server. The HTTP and Gopher servers have their own mechanisms for determining the type of a file.
-t *type*	Tells waisindex the type of the files being indexed. The list of recognised types is given below. Default: text. This type information allows waisindex to derive an appropriate headline, which is stored in the headline table (.hl). It is also used to determine whether the files being indexed are deemed to consist of multiple documents.
-stdin	Read the list of filenames to index from standard input (stdin), rather than from the command line.
-keywords "*string*"	
	Keywords to index for each document.
-keyword_file *filename*	
	File of keywords to index for each document.
-M *type,type*	
	For multi-type documents.
-x *filename*[,...]	
	The filename(s) are not indexed. Two or more filenames are separated with a comma and no

space between them.

filename filename...

These are the files that will be indexed according to the arguments above. The filenames given here will be stored in the filename table. Wildcards may be used.

The document table size is limited to 16 megabytes. This limits the indexer to databases with headlines that add up to less than 16 megabytes (since that is the principal component of the table). This is typically a problem for database types where a record is essentially a headline (one_line, archie).

Synonym Files

A synonym file is used to reduce the size of an index and to facilitate more effective searching. It consists of lines of words - the first is the "datum" or basic term, while subsequent words on the line are synonyms. Lines beginning with a hash (#) are treated as comments.

When indexing a database, the synonym file (if it exists) is read into a table. Each word from a document to be indexed is translated using the table to the corresponding datum value, and the translated word is recorded in the database instead of the original word.

When a database search is performed, the search word(s) are similarly translated using the synonym file before the search is performed.

The synonym file has the same name as the database, but must have the extension .syn. It must be located in the same directory as the rest of the database files.

If the waisindex program does not find a synonym file, it will issue a warning message.

Here is a sample synonym file:

```
# First word is base term, rest are synonyms
boat ship yacht launch galleon destroyer dinghy
shoe slipper boot sneaker trainer
```

File Types

This is the list of types which the waisindex program parses. (Further detailed explanation of these types will be included in a later edition of this manual.)

bibtex	BibTeX / LaTeX format.
bio	Biology abstract format.
cmapp	CM applications from Hypercard.
dash	Entries separated by a row of dashes. At least twenty dashes must be present in order for a line to be recognised as a separator. Each entry is indexed as a separate document.
dvi	DVI format.
emacsinfo	The GNU documentation system.
first_line	First line of file is headline.

filename	Uses only the filename part of the pathname for the title.
ftp	Special type for FTP files. First line of file is headline.
gif	GIF files, only indexes the filename.
html	Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). The text within the <TITLE> element is the headline.
irg	Internet resource guide.
jargon	Jargon File 2.9.8 format.
listserv_digest	
	LISTSERV mail digest format.
mail_digest	Standard Internet mail digest format.
mail_or_rmail	
	Mail or rmail or both.
medline	Medline format.
mh_bboard	MH bulletin board format.
ms_kbase	MS Knowledge Base format.
netnews	Netnews format.
nhyp	Hyper text format, Polytechnic of Central London.
one_line	Each line in the file is a separate document.
para	Paragraphs separated by blank lines. Each paragraph is a separate document.
pict	Pict files, only indexes the filename.
ps	Postscript format.
refer	Refer format.
rn	Netnews saved by the [rt]?rn newsreader.
server	Server structures (.src) for the directory of servers.
text	Simple text files. (This is the default.)
tiff	Tiff files, only indexes the filename.
URL what-to-trim what-to-add	
	This type has been superceeded by the html type, which should be used in preference.

3.3 The WAISLOOK Program

The waislook program is used to search WAIS databases. It is executed automatically by the GOPHERS and HTTPS servers when they need to search WAIS databases, but it may also be executed manually from the console. In the latter case, many of the options listed are not relevant.

Syntax

waislook [-d *dbname*] [-h *hostname*] [-p *port*] [-debug]
[-v] [-http¦-gopher] [-t *title*]
search words ...

Description

This program searches an index for documents which contain the search words. It ranks documents according to the frequency of occurrence of the words, and according to whether they occur in the document headline. If more than (by default) 40 documents are found, only the 40 with the topmost ranking are returned.

The program generates either an HTML document or a Gopher menu containing the result of the search, or else displays the names of the documents and their corresponding headlines on the console.

Options

-debug	Enable debugging. In this mode, debugging information is send to stderr.
-v	Display the version number of WAISLOOK.
-h *hostname*	Specifies the name of the host to quote when generating HTML output or Gopher menu output. Not used in interactive mode. No default value.
-p *port*	Specifies the number of the TCP/IP port to quote when generating HTML output or Gopher menu output. Not used in interactive mode. No default value.
-d *dbname*	Specifies the name of the WAIS database to search. The name should not have an extension or a trailing dot. Defaults to .\index. It is almost always necessary to use this option.
-http	Specifies that the program has been invoked from the HTTP Server and should output the results of the search in HTML. May not be combined with -gopher.
-gopher	Specifies that the program has been invoked from the Gopher Server and should output the results of the search as a Gopher menu. May not be combined with -http.
-t *title*	Specifies the title to use in the output HTML document if the -http option has been selected. If the title contains spaces, enclose it in double quotes.
search words ...	One or more search words are specified after all the options. The first search word may not begin with a hyphen (to distinguish it from the options). If more than one search word is given, documents which contain any of the search words will be returned. Note that boolean combinations of search words are not (yet) supported.

3.4 The WAISSERV Program

The waisserv program is used to search WAIS databases. It is executed automatically by the WAIS Server (WAISS) when it receives an incoming call from a WAIS client. It may also be executed manually from the console, but is not particularly useful in this mode.

Syntax

waisserv [-d *directory*] [-e *file*] [-v] [-l *level*]

Description

This program reads WAIS protocol requests from its standard input (stdin) and writes the response to standard output (stdout). Like waislook, it ranks the documents it finds according to the frequency of occurrence of the words, and according to whether they occur in the document headline. If more than 40 documents are found, only the 40 with the topmost ranking are returned.

Options

-v	Display the version number of the program.
-d *directory*	Specifies the directory containing the WAIS databases. The name should not have an extension or a trailing dot. Defaults to the current directory.
-e *file*	Specifies that log information should be written to *file*. Defaults to NUL:.
-l *level*	Specifies the amount of logging information to write to the file. The *level* is a number from 0 (no logging information - the default) to 10 (full information).