

# **NPNS**

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**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> NPNS		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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**REVISION HISTORY**

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# Chapter 1

## NPNS

### 1.1 New

New Post News Spool 5.5

Nick d'Alterio - May 1996

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### 1.2 Introduction

Introduction

This pair of programs provide a method of spooling news so that you can write your articles while offline and then send them off once you go online.

The original version was based on PostNewsSpool by James Burton, but this has long been left behind in terms of features. The latest version now no longer requires an external posting agent.

AmiTCP only

### 1.3 Installation

Installation

Copy sendnews and postnews to somewhere on your path and set the appropriate environment variables described below.

postnews should be the program that is called by your news reading program to post the news. This will spool the article so that you can use sendnews to send it off when you go online.

### 1.4 Updating

Updating From Previous Versions

Updates from 5.2 to 5.5 :-

Read the docs since both sendnews and postnews have new arguments

Updates from 4.x to 5.2 :-

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1. sendnews now posts news to the nntp server itself so the env variable PNS\_POSTNEWS now has no use. If your news server requires authorisation DO NOT use the latest version. Authorisation is not supported - at least until someone tells me the procedure for authorisation.
2. Env var PNS\_OFFLINE has been changed to NNTPALWAYSQUEUE in line with SMTPPost.
3. Option -n has been changed to -Q same reason as above.
4. If using Inet225 DO NOT upgrade. If there is enough demand I will create a version for this stack.

Updates from 3.c to 4.x :-

1. postnews argument -from has now changed to -f.

Updates from 1.x, 2.x to 3.x :-

1. From version 3 sendnews will attempt to send any article in the spooldir no matter what the name is. So if your news reader produces a fully formed news article with header you can drop it straight into the spooldir without using postnews.
2. You should remove the seq file if you had it in your spooldir and the env variable PNS\_SEQFILE

## 1.5 Online

Online Check

Since version 4.2 npns uses an environment variable ONLINE to determine if the machine is online or not. If this variable is set to 0 then you are assumed to be offline anything else indicates you are online.

If this variable does not exist then both postnews and sendnews assume that you are offline.

This variable should be setup in the startnet and stopnet scripts for best use.

NOTE: Since 5.5 this is not used at all but it is probably a good idea to keep for online detection by scripts.

## 1.6 sendnews

sendnews

sendnews now accepts arguments in the standard Amiga readargs format.

Usage: sendnews ALL/S,HELP/S,A=ARTICLES/M sendnews

If sendnews is run without arguments then it will behave the same as in previous versions and send all articles in the spool directory to the news server.

A=ARTICLES/M Following this option should be a list of article filenames that you want posted to the server. If this option is used the spooled articles will not be sent unless the ALL option is used

ALL/S If this switch is used then both the articles in the spool directory and those specified on the command line will be sent.

HELP/S Print a small amount of usage information after which the spooled articles will be sent.

sendnews will send off the articles to the news server if online. If the posting fails for any reason the failed article will be appended to the end of the failed archive indicated by PNS\_FAILED\_ARC ( AmiTCP:Usr/Spool/sendnews.failed by default ). Each file in the failed archive will be separated by a line containing the date and time sendnews failed to post the article.

sendnews requires that the environment variable NNTPSERVER is set so to be able to post the article.

Usage Examples

sendnews Sends spooled articles sendnews ARTICLES file1 file2 Sends file1 and file2 sendnews ARTICLES file1 ALL Sends spooled articles and file1

## 1.7 postnews

postnews

This spools a news article ready for posting when online. The article can be complete with header (as prepared by tin) or in its component parts, in which case postnews puts them together so that the article is ready for posting (Grn style).

It places the article in the spool directory PNS\_SPOOLDIR (AmiTCP:Usr/Spool/News by default). The spooled filename has the format msg.##### where ##### is a number which refers to the time of writing.

If online at the time of writing the article then postnews immediately executes sendnews (which must be on the path) to send off the article. To stop postnews from sending the article create an environment variable called NNTPALWAYSQUEUE. This feature has been removed in 5.5 it may return if there is anyone really wants it.

postnews now uses the standard amiga readargs command line arguments.

Usage: postnews FROM/K,HELP/S,DEL/S,HEAD/K,BODY/K postnews FROM/K,DEL/S,HEAD/K < article postnews

If postnews is run with no arguments it expects the fully formed article to be input via stdin.

FROM/K Add a line to header specifying the sender

HELP/S Print some help then exits

HEAD/K Get the article header from the file specified. If this option is not used the entire article including header should be in file BODY/K or on stdin

BODY/K Read body of article from this file or complete article if HEAD/K option is not used

DEL/S Delete HEAD/K and BODY/K files if posting was successful. Otherwise leave them untouched.

If BODY/K option is not used, postnews expects to read the body from stdin.

Usage Examples

postnews BODY article Spools fully formed article

postnews < article Spools fully formed article from stdin

postnews BODY article DEL Spools article then deletes original

postnews BODY bod HEADheader Spools article made from header and body

postnews BODY bod HEAD header DEL As above but deletes the original files

e.g. For tin I use

```
set TIN_POST amitcp:bin/postnews FROM "nagd@doc.ic.ac.uk (Nicholas d'Alterio)" BODY %s
```

for Grn try

```
amitcp:bin/postnews BODY .article HEAD .header DEL
```

## 1.8 History

History

5.5 - sendnews now has command line options - postnews command line now uses readargs - Now uses only ADOS functions - Compiled with no startup to make 300% smaller - postnews does not call sendnews anymore - Removed various bugs in sendnews  
 5.1 - Now posts news to server itself (AmiTCP only) - PNS\_NNTPPOST removed (redundant) - PNS\_OFFLINE changed to NNTPALWAYSQUEUE - option -n changed to -Q - Split up into separate source files - Minor bugfixes, optimizations - Made amigaguide documentation 4.2 - Various bugs in online check (schlonz@xantilon.ame.osn.de) Online check system redesigned, should work for any system now. - Remove -a option. No longer had any purpose. - Doesn't bother with DOS library opening anymore (let SAS handle this) - sendnews can now appear anywhere on the path instead of amitcp:bin 4.1 - Postnews - New command line options -R, -x (for Grn users), -a - Postnews - Changed check for onlineness - Postnews - Improved command line checks 3.2 - New environment variable PNS\_OFFLINE 3.1 - Now uses ADOS functions - seq file no longer needed - ANY file in the spooldir will be sent - the failed archive entries are separated by a line containing the time the file failed. - new env variable PNS\_NNTPPOST allows user to specify program to post news 2.1 - Added support for environment variables 1.x - Internal test versions

## 1.9 Bugs

Bugs

There are currently no known bugs.

## 1.10 Conditions

Conditions of Use

Use it how you like just remember I accept NO liability for ANYTHING that happens.

Let me know of what you think of it, bugs, etc

## 1.11 Future

Future Plans

- Improve networking code - Improve user interface, add more options/control - Maybe link with SpoolWatch

Give me some suggestions for other stuff

## 1.12 Thanks

Thanks

Thanks to James Burton for the original idea and code. Jeroen T Vermeulen for some new ideas.

## 1.13 Author

Me - Nick d'Alterio

I have just completed a Physics degree at Imperial College, London and I currently studying for a MSc Computer Science.

I have several other programs on Aminet:-

SpoolWatch - Mail/News Spool monitor comm/net nnn - Back propagation Neural Network misc/sci complex - Complex number functions in C dev/c matrix - Matrix functions in C dev/c

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