

MailCheck

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> MailCheck		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY		February 12, 2023	

REVISION HISTORY

<i>NUMBER</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>

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Chapter 1

MailCheck

1.1 Main

MailCheck Version 1.3

Automated e-mail retrieval with Miami and YAM

by

Robert~Wilson

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Disclaimer

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Useage

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The Future

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Copyright

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Log File

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Bugs

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Requirements

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User Scripts

Related Software

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Introduction

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Configuration

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Other Things

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~What's New

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Suggestions

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Registration

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Installation

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History

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Contact

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1.2 Disclaimer

Disclaimer

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MailCheck version 1.3 is much more than a simple update to previous versions. It has been totally re-written from the ground up and therefore may contain errors.

Whilst writing this package, all of the scripts have undergone a great deal of testing. At the end of the day MailCheck works for me, however your milage may vary!

I will not take responsibility in any way if MailCheck or any of the associated scripts fail and subsequently leave your modem on-line, trash your hard drive or blow up your monitor!

USE THESE SCRIPTS AT YOUR OWN RISK!

## 1.3 Copyright

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## Copyright

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MailCheck is released as Freeware.

You may distribute it though out the Amiga community as long as the following conditions are maintained:

- * You do not try to take credit for my work.
- * You do not sell it for profit.
- * Before including it on a compilation disk or CD you must ask me first.
- * All the files must be distributed in single archive called 'MailCheck.xxx' where 'xxx' is the archiver used e.g. lha or lzx.

The contents of this archive is...

```
MailCheck (dir)
  Data (dir)
    C (dir)
    Docs (dir)
    Prefs (dir)
      EditConfig
      EditConfig.info
    REXX (dir)
      EditConfig.rexx
      GetMCLibs.rexx
      GetMCTools.rexx
      LastCheck.rexx
      Mail2RW.rexx
      MailCheck.rexx
      MaxTime.rexx
      StopAutoAnswer.rexx
    S (dir)
      LastCheck
      MailCheck
      StartAutoAnswer
      TestModem
    Samples (dir)
      you_have_a_mailmessage.wav
    User_Scripts (dir)
      User_Script_01
      User_Script_02
      User_Script_03
      User_Script_04
      User_Script_05
      User_Script_06
      User_Script_07
      User_Script_08
      User_Script_09
  Docs.info
  MailCheck.config
  MailCheck.log
  Prefs.info
  Install
```

Install.info
MailCheck.guide
MailCheck.guide.info
MailCheckDirIcon
ReadMe1st
ReadMe1st.info

MailCheck © 1997 DCS Software

1.4 Requirements

```

                                Requirements
                                ~~~~~
Amiga          -   Funny that!

YAM            -   Amiga mailer by Marcel Beck.
Miami         -   TCP/IP stack by Holger Kruse.
RexxMast      -   ARexx server

Reqtools      -   Requester library by Nico Francois
RexxReqtools  -   ARexx function library by Rafael D'Halleweyn
RexxTricks    -   ARexx function library by Jürgen Kohrmeyer
CheckModem    -   Modem status tester by Nils Görs.
Play16        -   Sample player by Thomas Wenzel.
OkayDokey    -   Requester auto closer by Paul Huxham.
XEN.font / 8  -   Small fixed width font that comes with MagicWB.
```

All the programs required are available on the Aminet.

I would assume that you are already using Miami and YAM - if not then why did you download MailCheck? Maybe now would be a good time to change your TCP/IP stack and mailer?

In order to make things as painless as possible, I have written a couple of scripts for YAM which could be of use? Clicking on the buttons below will write a request to the Uni Stuttgart's FTPMail server to retrieve the additional programs and libraries from the main Aminet FTP site (ftp.wustl.edu).

~~ <-- Click here to retrieve CheckModem, Play16 and OkayDokey.

~~ <-- Click here to retrieve Reqtools, RexxReqtools and RexxTricks.

Once complete, all you need to do is send these mails. All being well the files will arrive, MIME encoded in your mail normally within a day.

1.5 Introduction

Introduction

~~~~~

When I first got connected to the Internet, I was immediately impressed with the facility that e-mail gave me. I could send a message to someone on the other side of the world and they could reply to me all within a few minutes.

Then as time went by it became so labourious having to dial up my Internet provider and check my mail regularly - that was if I remembered!

I though about this for some time and knowing that both Miami and YAM had an ARexx port I thought that it should be quite simple to write a script to do this for me. Automate the process with a scheduling program and that would be that.

Over the last few months I have had many new ideas for this package. Combining these with requests from other users (not all of which I agree with!) here you have the results of my work.

As I'm sure you can appreciate during testing I have dialled up to my Internet Provider on many occasions. I do not ask for any money from you, but if you use MailCheck you are required to register with me. I just want to know that my time and effort is not wasted.

If MailCheck does not suit your requirements, please tell me why?

A big thank you goes out to the following people for their assistance with this project:

|                  |   |                                              |
|------------------|---|----------------------------------------------|
| Jim Hines        | - | For the ARexx help and the excellent EZCron. |
| Antti Siipola    | - | For his Beta testing and ideas.              |
| Antonio Marriott | - | What happened to you, mate?                  |
| Karim            | - | For permission to distribute the sample.     |

Lastly I would like to thank everyone who has contacted me with their ideas and comments. Without these people, you wouldn't be reading this guide...! Think about it!

Only Amiga makes it possible...?

## 1.6 What's New

### What's New

~~~~~

- * RequestChoice and RequestFile are no longer used. All requesters are now handled with Reqtools. This solves the requester closing problem under 2.04. Reqtools also give better control of the requesters look and function.
 - * The Log file format has changed to a tab delimited ASCII file. This new format allows the log to be imported into almost any database or spreadsheet.
 - * The STEP switch is now no longer limited to simple toggle operation. It
-

is now possible to use multiple steps (e.g. every 6 times).

- * You can now send all mail in the 'outgoing' folder after checking for new mail. This option can be permanently set on, or with optional requesters.
- * New function to launch user scripts at various stages of execution. With this it is now possible to write 'plug-in' scripts for MailCheck.
- * New 'MaxTime' feature. This sets a maximum time limit for receiving (and sending if enabled) of mail. I decided to implement this for two main reasons:
 - #1 On several occasions I have found that YAM has got 'stuck' when it couldn't connect to the mail server. The only way I could un-freeze YAM was to disconnect from my ISP and quit Miami.
 - #2 On another occasion whilst downloading mail my HD became full and AmigaDOS popped up a requestor stating this. The problem was it just sat there waiting for user input, you know either 'Retry' or 'Cancel'.
- * New optional requester to keep Miami on-line after MailCheck has finished.
- * The LastCheck requester now gives an option to view the Log file.
- * LastCheck previously failed if the connection to the mail server failed last time MailCheck was launched. This has now been fixed.
- * MailCheck version 1.3 is far more than a simple update to previous versions. It has been totally written from scratch and is now much better structured.
- * With exception of the MailCheck and LastCheck (the AmigaDOS scripts) all other files live in a single directory, assigned as MailCheck:. As MailCheck has become more complex I think it is a better to keep all of the files together.

1.7 "

Installation

~~~~~

The installer script does not use the standard Workbench installer command. I have looked into this, but at the moment I do not have sufficient time to learn the language. I hope that some time in the future, other versions of MailCheck and my other projects will use installer.

For now the installation script is written in AmigaDOS using RequestChoice and RequestFile.

Firstly you must install the additional programs and libraries. Where possible you should follow the documentation supplied with these. In brief this is what you must do...

#1 Copy reqtools.library, rexxreqtools.library and rexxtricks.library to LIBS:

#2 Copy CheckModem and Play16 to C:

#3 Run the installer...

To install MailCheck simply double click on the Install icon from Workbench. You will then be prompted for information if and when required. All user input is done through ASL requesters. Should the installation script fail, please read the manual installation section of this guide for assistance.

The installer will make modifications to your user-startup. Before doing this it will make a back-up copy in S:, this will be named user-startup.old.

After installation you will find, appended to the bottom of you user-startup an entry similar to this:

```
;BEGIN MailCheck
Assign MailCheck: Programs:Comms/MailCheck/
Assign Miami: Programs:Comms/Miami/
SetEnv MCStep 1
;END MailCheck
```

Here's an explanation of this entry line by line:

- \* Assign Miami: <path> - If you didn't have an assign to Miami already then you do now!
- \* Assign MailCheck: <path> - Got to have that assign to your favourite mail checker!
- \* SetEnv MCStep 1 - Initialises this variable on startup.

#4 Copy OkayDokey to MailCheck:C/. This is VERY important, copying it to C: will not work. There is a good reason for this... honest!

Once installation is complete there is no need to reset your Amiga. MailCheck is now ready for use.

## 1.8 Manual Installation

### Manual Installation

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I would assume that you are reading this section because the installer has failed? If that is the case then please make a quick note of your problems and e-mail me as soon as possible! If this isn't the case then why don't you hit the "back" button now?

Firstly... Don't panic! Manual installation is easy, just follow the steps below...

- #1 Make a directory called "MailCheck" somewhere on your HD.
- #2 Copy everything from "/data" into this directory.
- #3 Copy "ReadMe" into MailCheck:
- #4 Copy "MailCheck.guide" into MailCheck:Docs/
- #5 Copy "MailCheck:S/MailCheck" and "MailCheck:S/LastCheck" into S:
- #6 Double check that the 'S' protection bit of MailCheck and LastCheck (those copied into S:) is set.
- #7 Add the following lines to your user-startup.

```
;BEGIN MailCheck
Assign MailCheck: <path>
Assign Miami: <path>
SetEnv MCStep 1
;END MailCheck
```

Where <path> is the location of the MailCheck and Miami directories respectively.

- #8 Assign "MailCheck:" and "Miami:" just like in your user-startup.
- #9 If it doesn't exist make a directory "MailCheck:C"
- #10 Copy "Wait" from C: to "MailCheck:C"
- #11 Now return to item 4 in the installation section of this guide.

1.9 Usage

Usage

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The number of scripts that make up this package has grown considerably. Trying to explain in detail what each script does, how and why would be a difficult (for me) and confusing (for you) task.

There are only two scripts which should be of interest to you, these are 'MailCheck' and 'LastCheck'. Both are AmigaDOS scripts and can be found in your S: directory.

Personally I have only tested MailCheck with Workbench 3.1. Now that MailCheck uses Reqtools, I think that I can safely say the MailCheck is 100% compatible with all OS version from 2.04 and up. If it isn't then let me know!

All requesters open on the front public screen. As I'm sure you know this will most probably be Workbench, but depending on what patches and software you have running, this may not be the case.

Below are details of each scripts function and description of operation.

```

~~
MailCheck

~~
LastCheck

```

## 1.10 MailCheck

```

MailCheck
~~~~~

```

This script can be launched from the shell, by simple typing MailCheck. Alternative usage would be with a hot-key (defined with DOpus, Tool Manager or even FKey for example) or from an automatic scheduling program such as EZCron or Recall.

Only one copy of the script can be launched at any time. Attempting to launch a second copy will result in the second script exiting immediately.

In version 1.3 the STEP switch has been enhanced to give greater flexibility. Example usage is listed below...

```

MailCheck STEP ; This will give a simple toggle operation like in v1.2.

MailCheck STEP 8 ; This will only execute attempt to check the mail
 every 8th time that MailCheck is launched.

MailCheck 6 ; Like above, but every 6th time. Please note that the
 STEP switch is not required, but I have included this
 to maintain compatibility with v1.2.

MailCheck 2 ; This will give the same results as the first example.

```

For everyone who still doesn't understand, please read the example usage described below...

Lets say EZCron is configured to check the mail every hour (on the hour). If for some reason it was not possible to connect to your Internet provider it would then be another hour before another attempt was made, not good :(.

With the 'STEP' mode you could configure EZCron to launch MailCheck (eg MailCheck 6) every 10 minutes. If connection on the hour was successful, the following attempts (every 10 minutes) will be skipped and no attempt would be made until one hour later. If however the connection failed then an attempt will be made to check the mail after just 10 minutes. If successful then checking will take place at hourly intervals from this time. Obviously this could be 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50 minutes past the hour.

This will continue until the connection fails, when checking will be stepped round again. And so on...

If the script was launched in between scheduled checks (with no STEP argument or with a lower value), assuming this was successful the STEP value will be reset to 1. The next scheduled check would now take place one hour from this time.

I have only discovered one downside to this "enhanced" STEP switch. If for example you have set EZCron to execute MailCheck with the STEP value of 8 every 15 minutes, it would take 2 hours from power on until your mail is checked :( I do have a few ideas on how to overcome this "problem", but for now you will have to find a 'work round' of your own. If you have any good ideas about this, please let me know.

I hope that I have explained the STEP switch well enough? Even if I haven't - lets continue... Below is a basic description of operation. In order to explain all of the functions I have assumed that all options are enabled.

The script tests that your modem is switched on and ready for use. If it is not ready or is being used by another comms program (not Miami) then MailCheck will exit, reporting an error in the Log File. It is assumed that when Miami is on-line, then it is connected to your Internet provider.

Next the script checks to see if both Miami and YAM are already running. If they are not then they will be launched automatically. When attempting to launch them, the script will wait for a maximum time of 30 seconds (each) for the ARexx port to appear before exiting and recording the error in the Log File.

If both applications are launched successfully then Miami will dial your Internet provider. Once connected YAM will check and download all new mail from the POP3 mail box. After this, if there is any mail in you outgoing folder it will be sent to the STMP server (optional). Before doing this a requester will open detailing the quantity of mail and asking you to confirm the send (optional). From this requester you can also enter 'Interactive' sending, where each mail is sent to the server after individual confirmation.

You will then be prompted, if to keep Miami on-line (optional). Selecting 'Yes' will cause MailCheck to exit leaving Miami on-line. Please note that if Miami was already on-line before MailCheck was launched, you will not be prompted to keep it on-line, neither will you be taken off-line once MailCheck has finished.

All details of connection are recorded in the log file (MailCheck:MailCheck.log) for future reference. See 'Log File' for further information on the Log File format.

Other features...

- \* MailCheck implements a "Maximum Time" feature which I've included as a 'work round' to compensate for what I feel is a great deficiency in YAM. In the config settings you must set the maximum time that YAM is allowed to download and upload (if configured) mail. If YAM has not

completed this task in the given time than Miami is taken off-line and quits immediately (even if configured not to do so in the config). The reason for my doing this is that on several occasions YAM has been unable to connect to the POP3 server and it just sits there waiting 'forever'. On another occasion my HD was full and Workbench opened a requester telling me of this, but yet again Miami is left on-line indefinitely! If you don't think that you require this feature then set this to a ridiculously high value in the config.

- \* Both the 'Send Mail?' and 'Keep Miami on-line?' requesters, default automatically after a configurable delay. The 'Send Mail?' requester can be set to send all mail or none by default. The 'Keep Miami on-line?' requester always defaults to 'No'. The 'Interactive' send requesters do not default automatically and therefore should be used with caution.

## 1.11 LastCheck

LastCheck  
~~~~~

Like MailCheck this script can be launched from the shell, with a hot-key or with an automatic scheduling program. The script opens a requester giving details of the last successful date/time of connection, the amount of mail received and options to 'Check now', 'View log' or 'Cancel'.

Selecting 'Check now' will launch MailCheck, closing the requester. If MailCheck is launched whilst the LastCheck requester is visible, upon successful connection and subsequent disconnection from the mail server, the requester will automatically close.

'View log' will show the Log File with the text viewer configured in your settings. After pressing this button the requester will automatically open again.

Obviously 'Cancel' will simply close the requester.

Like MailCheck only one copy of LastCheck can be launched at any time.

## 1.12 Log File

Log File  
~~~~~

The log file in v1.3 has changed from previous versions. The log file is now a tab delimited text file, making it suitable for importing into most database or spreadsheet applications.

It also now gives more information about the connection including the quantity of mail sent and received. This is what you get...

| DAY | DATE | TIME | DURATION | IN | OUT | MESSAGE |
|-----|------|------|----------|----|-----|---------|
|-----|------|------|----------|----|-----|---------|

---

DAY ; This field is reduced to 3 letters (e.g. Mon). Without reducing this the log became difficult to read with a text viewer as the length of the week days varies too much.

DATE ; The date (e.g. 01-Nov-97) <--- My next birthday - hint!

TIME ; This is the time that the given event took place. This field changes, depending if the connection was successful, or lets say if YAM started okay. For example if Miami failed to open, this field displays the time at which MailCheck attempted to launch Miami. If the Miami connects without problems, then this field will display the time at which YAM attempts to make a connection to the POP3 server and so on...

DURATION ; This is the total time taken to complete the event. For events such as YAM failing to run, this is always set to 00:00:00. Normally it will display the total duration for receiving and sending messages. Please note this is not the 'on-line' time, but an indication of the time that YAM has taken to receive and send the mail.

IN ; Quantity of mail received.

OUT ; Quantity of mail sent.

MESSAGE ; This field contains a message, giving details of 'how things went'. Listed below are explanations for the possible messages...

- \* "Error - Modem not ready". This means that the modem was either switched off or was being used by another program.
  - \* "Error - Failed to open YAM". An attempt was made to launch YAM, but after 30 seconds of waiting the ARexx port had not appeared.
  - \* "Error - Failed to open Miami". An attempt was made to launch Miami, but after 30 seconds of waiting the ARexx port had not appeared.
  - \* "Error - Miami failed to establish a connection". Miami failed to connect to your Internet provider. This may be because your phone line was in use, your provider was engaged or a protocol could not be established.
  - \* "Error - Connection failed to POP3 server". A successful connection was made to your provider, but the POP3 server did not respond. The server is probably out of action - I get this quite a bit!
  - \* "Time out - Connection failed to POP3 server". Like above, but the maximum time feature of MailCheck has just saved your phone bill!
  - \* "Time out - Connection to POP3 server terminated". If the log reports that 0 mail has been retrieved then the chances are that MailCheck has just saved your phone bill. If it isn't 0 then mail retrieval from the POP3 server has just been cut-off... Whoops!
-

- \* "Error - Connection failed to STMP server". A successful connection was made to your provider, but the STMP server did not respond. The server is probably out of action.
- \* "Time out - Connection failed to STMP server". Yet again, the maximum time feature of MailCheck has just saved your phone bill!
- \* "Time out - Connection to STMP server terminated". If the log reports that 0 mail has been sent then the chances are that MailCheck has just saved your phone bill. If it isn't 0 then your mail upload to the STMP server has just been cut-off... Whoops!
- \* "Error - Connection failed to POP3 and STMP servers". A successful connection was made to your provider, but the neither mail servers (POP3 or STMP) responded. Very unlikely I would hope...?
- \* "Time out - Connection failed to POP3 and STMP servers". Where would you be without MailCheck...?
- \* "MailCheck was successful". Like it says, all being well this is what you will get.

## 1.13 User Scripts

### User Scripts

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The concept behind User\_Scripts is so that it is possible to write 'plug-ins' for MailCheck. At the moment there are 8 User\_Scripts, each one being launched at key points through MailChecks execution.

IMPORTANT NOTE!!! Whilst User\_Scripts add yet more power and flexibility to MailCheck, at the same time they can be very dangerous... When a User\_Script is launched MailCheck waits for the script to return before continuing. What I'm saying is that if the User\_Script fails then so will MailCheck, possible leaving your modem on-line. Another point I must mention is that if you use the User\_Scripts to play a sound module or another function for which MailCheck does not need to wait until it returns, I would suggest that you run the player as a new process (unless it detaches itself from the CLI...?), otherwise you may stay on-line for much longer than necessary!

In short, what I am saying is this... Ensure that you test your scripts thoroughly - you have been warned!

User\_Scripts must be placed in MailCheck:User\_Scripts. Each one must be named User\_Scripts\_xx - where 'xx' is the script number (01 to 08).

Each User\_Script is an AmigaDOS script and therefore expects DOS commands to execute. If you need to launch an ARexx script simply run this from the DOS script (e.g. sys:rexxc/rx rexx:BBSOffLine.rexx).

Below are details of when each script is executed and an example of how this could be used...

- \* User\_Script\_01 - This script is launched before your modem is tested.



Could be used to take your BBS off-line before testing the modem.

- \* User\_Script\_02 - This script is launched just once a day, after 6am. I originally set this for midnight, but found it to be annoying if I was working (or playing!) into the early hours. Could be used to automatically write a FTPMail request to get a directory listing or the Aminet RECENT list, like I do :)
- \* User\_Script\_03 - This script is launched once Miami is on-line, just before YAM attempts to check the mail. Could be used to play a sample.
- \* User\_Script\_04 - This script is launched if after successful checking, no new mail was received :( Could be used to play another sample...?
- \* User\_Script\_05 - This script is launched once YAM has checked the mail, and new mail has been received. Could be used to launch an ARExx script to process incoming mail.
- \* User\_Script\_06 - This script is executed after outgoing mail has been sent. Yet again, could play another sample...?
- \* User\_Script\_07 - In the event that MailCheck fails in any way :( Not another sample, I'm running out of ideas!
- \* User\_Script\_08 - This script is launched, just before MailCheck exits. Could be use to put your BBS back on-line.

## 1.14 Configuration

### Configuration

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New to v1.3 is a configuration file. Although MailCheck still uses several environmental variables internally, all configuration settings are stored in this file (MailCheck:MailCheck.config).

When I began work on v1.3 I intended that the user (you!) would have to edit this file by hand, in a text editor. At the last minute I decided to write a config editor using ReqTools...! It could still do with a bit of work, but it serves the purpose it was written for. If you would like to write an editor with a nice MUI interface then I will not be offended.

The config editor ('EditConfig') can be found in MailCheck:Prefs. On opening this you will see a window, displaying the current configuration and buttons to change these settings. Below are details each the options.

- \* A - 'Send mail in outgoing folder'. Speaks for itself does this?
  - \* B - 'Request confirmation to send'. When set to 'YES' you will be asked to confirm sending of your mail. Note: option 'A' must be enabled for this option to have any function.
  - \* C - 'Default requester to "Send"'. Sets default response for option 'B' to either 'Send all' or 'Cancel'.
  - \* D - 'Quit Miami when finished'. If set to 'YES' assuming that Miami is
-

off-line when MailCheck has finished, then Miami will quit.

- \* E - 'Request to keep Miami on-line'. When set to 'YES', if MailCheck put Miami 'on-line' then you will be asked if to keep it on-line when MailCheck has finished. This requester automatically defaults to 'NO'.
- \* F - 'Play sample on receipt of mail'. Speaks for itself does this?
- \* G - 'Use date names substitution'. If set to 'YES' then the date shown in the LastCheck requester will be substituted with "earlier today", "yesterday", "on Monday" and so on where possible.
- \* H - 'Serial device driver'. Where's your modem connected to? This is a string requester and not a file requester as devices don't always live in DEVS: 'duart.device' for my Multiface III lives in the ROM :(
- \* I - 'Serial unit number'. Normally set to 0 unless you have a Multi I/O Zorro card or a PortPlus.
- \* J - 'Sample name'. Hmm, tricky one is this! Has no function if option 'F' is not enabled.
- \* K - 'Requester default action time'. Sets default response time for options 'B' and 'E'.
- \* L - 'Maximum send & receive time'. Sets "Maximum Time" period, see Usage for more info on this setting.
- \* M - 'Log viewer'. Select your favourite text viewer, such as "More"... not!!!
- \* ? - 'About'.
- \* Quit - Exits the editor.

## 1.15 Suggestions

### My Suggestions

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This is how I use MailCheck. I have included this section as I thought that it may be of use when configuring MailCheck for your own needs.

Both Miami and YAM are configured (in the MUI settings) to start iconified, with an entry in the Tools menu only. This prevents them from suddenly popping up when I'm working on something else.

I have configured EZCron as follows:

LastCheck is executed in my Startup-Sequence. This way every time I reset (or switch on) my Amiga I can see when my mail was last checked.

LastCheck is also configured to run every hour between 19:00 and 24:00 during the week. This helps to keep the phone bill down in the week.

MailCheck is configured to run every half hour (day and night) at the

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weekend. This is when I'm most likely to be at my computer. I use the STEP switch with a value of 4. With this, all being well my mail is checked every 2 hours.

With DOpus 5.6 I have an Internet start menu where amongst everything else there are a couple of buttons. One to launch MailCheck and the other to view the log file. Also I've configured a global hot key to launch LastCheck.

I hope this gives you some ideas?

#### Your Suggestions

~~~~~

I'm always looking for ideas and ways to improve my work. If you've got any comments, be them good or bad - let me know.

If you have found a bug with any of the MailCheck scripts, please read the "Bugs" section before mailing me.

Do you have any good quality samples which are suited to MailCheck? If the answer to this question is "yes" then send them to me. Please note that you must have permission from the copyright owner, otherwise I will not be able to include these in any future versions.

## 1.16 The Future

#### The Future

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Over the last couple of months my thoughts on the future of MailCheck has changed numerous times...

The main objective of MailCheck is to automatically retrieve e-mail as safely and efficiently as possible. This will always be my prime concern!

I do however believe that I can develop the package far beyond this simple task. Below are some details on my changing thoughts for this package...

Still to do

~~~~~

- \* Automatic encryption and forwarding of incoming mail to another address.

I have already written an ARexx script to do this and intend to release it as a User\_Script very shortly.

- \* Automatic reply to incoming mail (kind of like an answerphone) - thought this may be useful if you go away?

Haven't started this one yet, but would be VERY easy to write as a User\_Script.

- \* Optional use of DOpus requesters, instead of Reqtools.

This would have to be incorporated into the main script, but wouldn't be

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too difficult. I just love those Magellan backdrops!

\* A new config editor.

This really should be at the top of the list, but hopefully someone will do this for me...?

\* Option to forward a list of all new mail to a different address.

Would be easy to write as a User\_Script. This would be nice as I could let MailCheck regularly check my mail through the day and then send me a list when I'm at work, so I can see what's arrived.

\* RAD disk option.

Much work on this is already done...! I do in fact have a 99% working version for MC v1.2. More details another time!

Not to do!

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\* Retrieval from multiple mail boxes.

Put this to one side until I see YAM 2.0 as it is supposed to be able to handle up to 16 POP3 boxes!

If you like what you see here, then let me know. Further development of this project is reliant on YOU.

## 1.17 History

### History

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- Version 1.0 - Not released, my personal use only.
  - Version 1.1 - Scripts cleaned up (a bit) and quick docs written. Distribution with EZCron.
  - Version 1.2 - Scripts cleaned up - again!  
 New STEP mode.  
 Sample playing.  
 Last Check script added.  
 Install script.  
 AmigaGuide docs.  
 No longer requires RexxTricks.  
 Uploaded to the Aminet.  
 Distribution on the 'EZCron' website.
  - Version 1.3 - Major update, totally re-written from scratch!  
 Multiple STEP now available.  
 Send Mail option.  
 User\_Scripts added.  
 Config File added, no more environmental variables.
-

Config Editor - bit rough at the moment! :(  
Now uses Reqtools.  
Needs RexxTricks again!  
Maximum Time feature.  
New options.  
More requesters.  
Mail buttons in guide fixed.  
New Log File.

## 1.18 Bugs

### Bugs

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None known at the moment. If I didn't believe in my work, I would not have uploaded it yet!

Even so, there may be problems...? MailCheck works for me with the following configuration:

#### Software

- \* Workbench 3.1 (40.42)
- \* Miami 2.0g
- \* YAM 1.3.4

#### Hardware

- \* A1200 (Commodore)
- \* Kickstart 3.1 (40.63)
- \* Blizzard A1230 IV
- \* Zorro II busboard
- \* CyberVision 64 3D
- \* Multiface III
- \* 16 MB Fast Ram
- \* SurfSquirrel
- \* 33,600 'no name' DVF modem

Before mailing me try and remove any patches or hacks that are installed on your Amiga. If it works now then it's not my fault!

When submitting a bug report to me, please give a brief description of your Amiga configuration (similar to that above). Be sure to explain exactly how you are using the scripts, be it manually or with a scheduling program.

I will try and answer all mails within a couple of days.

## 1.19 RelatedSoftware

### Related Software

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As mentioned elsewhere in this guide there are a couple of schedulers which you may like to take a look at.

EZCron by Jim Hines

This can be found on the Aminet. I would however suggest that you visit the following site for the latest version.

[http://www.iolinc.net/~hines\\_j](http://www.iolinc.net/~hines_j)

ReCall by Ketil Hunn

This can be found on the Aminet together with a free keyfile. No longer in development as far as I'm aware - I think he's now concentrating on Win95 projects.

One of these Win95 projects is NewMail, which I just can't get to work - I did mail Ketil about this, but he wasn't very helpful!

There are some free samples on this page intended for use with NewMail, but they are also ideal for use with MailCheck.

<http://www.sis.pitt.edu/~ketil/>

Another place to look for alternative samples could be here...

<http://slonet.org/~rloomis/mailcall.html>

## 1.20 Other Things

### Other Things

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So what other masterpieces have I created? Listed below are my Aminet releases to date....

- \* DOpus Double Click - This is an AmigaDos and Arexx script for Directory Opus 5. The purpose of this is so you can type DDC <filename> at the shell and simulate double clicking on a file in the DOpus lister. Since writing this I have learnt so much (through writing MailCheck) and will probably write an update very soon. DDC is excellent when used with YAM - see the DDC docs for more information.

biz/dopus/DDC.lha

- \* PGS Tool Box - Do you think the standard toolbox that comes with Photogenics v2 looks crap? I think that it really lets this wonderful program down. If you agree with me then check this out!

gfx/edit/PGS\_ToolBox.lha

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I also have loads of scripts for use with Photogenics V2 - if your interested let me know. They all need a bit of tidying up before I would consider uploading them as a package, but if you want the odd one or two - they can go "as they are!"

I'm afraid that this is it! I've got so many ideas, but so little time to spend tapping away on my Amiga. If you have an idea for an ARExx script, but have no idea how to do it then why not mail me and I will see (no promises) if I can help.

## 1.21 Registration

### Registration

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If you use MailCheck then you are required to register its usage with me.

Firstly, like I've already said... MailCheck is free (100%). I do not ask for any money from its users, but just like to keep track of things.

Registration is VERY easy... :) It's so easy that you only have to do one thing, and that's use MailCheck! Yes you've read this correctly MailCheck registers itself automatically (cool, eh?).

When registering a small amount of information about you and your Amiga is gathered together and mailed to me. I promise not to disclose this information to another party without your consent. So why do I need to know all of this...?

I hope that this information will enable me to construct a database of MailChecks' users and help me to gauge the future development. Another bonus is that you will receive priority information about new versions and bug fixes (not that there should be any :) should there...?) before they are released.

Do you need another reason?

## 1.22 Contact

### Contact

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I can be contacted by e-mail at the following address.

robert.wilson@bigfoot.com

~~ <-- Click here to send me mail with YAM.

MailCheck v1.3 has taken me a little longer than I had hoped and consequently has delayed work on my homepage... :(

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I now hope to have it up and running within the next few weeks.

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