

NetCall - Release 2

Poll-handler for Fido-Net-Systems
Version 2.0c

(Last change: 02.07.95)

by Alexander Stirmlinger

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1 General informations

1.1 Features of NetCall

- Simplifies the treatment of file-requests and crash-mails (pending jobs are displayed in a list-view-gadget).
- Enables automatic polling on all lines of the destination system (if one line is *BUSY*, **NetCall** will automatically dial up the next line).
- Includes #?.REQ-file editor ('request file') to create or edit .REQ-files in the *OUTBOUND*-directory.
- Searches (even when your mailer polls already) for other lines of the destination system in the nodelist (crashing or requesting).
- Supports/simplifies multi-bossing.
- Simplifies polling on a line of your boss, which is not listed in the nodelist.
- Hides your own password when crashing or requesting.
- Supports TrapDoor in resident or in shell-mode.
- Supports automatical operation (without user-interaction).
- User-defineable toolbox.
- ARexx-interface.
- Font-sensitive GUI.
- Opens public-screen if desired.
- User-defineable menus (user-commands).
- Extensive ways to configure.
- Many shell-arguments.
- Localized (OS2.1 and better).
- Iconify-function (including *QUIET*-mode).

1.2 Copyright

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The keyfile is personalized to its owner and must not be changed, saled, hired or lended.

1.3 Warranty

NetCall is provided "AS-IS". I can't guarantee the expected work of the program.

Though, I'm always anxious to remove all bugs and misbehaviors.

Reports, hints and suggestions are always welcome. (See also Chapter 6 [Author info], Page 19.)

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1.4 Restrictions of the unregistered version

- Nerving requester
- Nerving wait-function (appears randomly)

2 Installation

2.1 Assumptions to the hardware

`NetCall` does not make any assumptions to the hardware. `NetCall` runs on every Amiga with at least 512 KB RAM.

2.2 Assumptions to the software

`NetCall` runs on Amigas equipped with AmigaOS 2.04 or later. AmigaOS 3.x is, of course, supported, too.

Additionally, you need *TrapDoor*¹ (not included in the `NetCall`-archive) as a FidoNet-mailer. Other mailers may only be used, if they use the same shell-arguments and a compatible logfile (`NetCall` needs to scan the *TrapDoor*-logfile).

2.3 Installer

The installation is easily done by Commodore-Amiga's *Installer*. Just double-click on one of the install-icons (english or german language). All needed files will be copied to your hard-disk.

After having installed `NetCall`, you'll have to configure `NetCall` to your wishes and to your FidoNet-software. Please read the configuration-chapter of this document for further information. See also Chapter 3 [Configuration], Page 7.

Installer and Installer project icon (c) Copyright 1991-93 Commodore-Amiga, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Reproduced and distributed under license from Commodore.

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¹ *TrapDoor* is copyright © Maximilian Hantsch and Martin Laubach

2.4 Execution from a shell

The following arguments may be passed if **NetCall** is executed from a shell:

```
POLLID, CALL/K, CONFIG/K, OUTBOUND/K, PUBSCREENNAME/K, NOREQ/S,
NOPOLL/S, NOCRASH/S, NOFREQ/S, ALLACTIVE/S, OPENBIG/S, TERMREQS/S,
TELL/S
```

POLLID *PollID(s)*

This is the *ID* from your bosses, where you want **NetCall** to poll. The *IDs* given here must correspond with the BOSS-entries in your ‘**NetCall.cfg**’ (case-sensitive).

You may pass a valid AmigaDOS-pattern as an argument here (‘**POLLID (BBS1|BBS2)**’ would cause **NetCall** to poll at node *BBS1* and *BBS2*).

CALL *Node/Phone*

Node- or phone-number where you want **NetCall** to poll

(example: ‘**CALL 2:246/1045**’).

CONFIG *Config-file*

Use the given configuration-file rather than the normal configuration.

(example: ‘**CONFIG Work:NetCall/Config2.cfg**’).

OUTBOUND *Outbound-path*

Scan this **OUTBOUND**-directory rather than the directory specified in the configurationfile.

PUBSCREENNAME *public-screen*

Force to open **NetCall**’s and the mailer’s windows on this public-screen.

NOREQ

Use *stdio* for error-output rather than a system-requester.

NOPOLL

Do not pick up entries where **NetCall** would just poll (in other words: exclude your bosses).

NOCRASH

Exclude entries where **NetCall** would crash mails to.

NOFREQ

Exclude entries where **NetCall** would file-request from.

ALLACTIVE

Mark all entries as active immediately after **NetCall** gets started. **NetCall** will start to poll immediately.

OPENBIG

Always open **NetCall**'s big window (two list-view-gadgets, one text-gadget).

TERMREQS

Forces **NetCall** to terminate requesters (even error-requesters!) automatically. This option allows automatical operation without user-interaction.

TELL

If you are running *TrapDoor* resident in the background, **NetCall** may control *TrapDoor* via the *TrapTell*-command. To enable this option, specify *TELL* as a shell-argument and define the *TrapTell*-command in '**NetCall.cfg**'. See also Chapter 3 [Configuration of **NetCall**], Page 7.

2.5 Execution from workbench

NetCall can easily be started by double-clicking on it's icon.

The following arguments may be passed as tool-types in the program icon:

ARGS = <shell-args>

All arguments, which can be passed as shell-arguments, can be passed in the **ARGS**-tool-type, too. See also Section 2.4 [Execution from a shell], Page 4.

TOOLPRI = <priority (-127 to 128)>

Taskpriority of **NetCall**.

3 Configuration

3.1 The configuration-file NetCall.cfg

NetCall will look for its configuration-file in the following directories:

1. Mail: (if assigned)
2. The current directory
3. The directory, where the environment-variable *NETCALLCONFIG* points to
4. Shell-argument *CONFIG* (See also Section 2.4 [Execution from a shell], Page 4.)

The configuration-file of NetCall may/must include the following parameters:

OUTBOUND "Path"

OUTBOUND-directory of your mailer (example: ‘Mail:Outbound’).

NODELIST "Path"

Directory where your nodelist can be found (example: ‘Mail:Nodelist’). If you don’t have a nodelist, delete this line from your configuration-file or mark it out as a comment.

MAILER "Path/Mailer"

TrapDoor-mailer (example: ‘Mail:Bin/TrapDoor’).

TRAPTELL "Path/TrapTell"

If you want NetCall to start TrapDoor not as a shell-command, but to control TrapDoor via then TrapTell-command, you must specify the TrapTell-command here. To enable the tell-function, you have to specify *TELL* as a shell-argument to NetCall. See also Section 2.4 [Execution from shell], Page 4.

ARGAPPEND "Mailer shell-arguments"

Arguments specified here, will be passed to the mailer, directly. To work probably NetCall and not TrapDoor should be responsible for the retries. This can either be achieved by writing ‘RETRIES 0’ in your ‘TrapDoor.cfg’ or passing ‘RETRIES 0’ here as a shell-argument to the mailer. See also Section 3.2 [Configuration of TrapDoor], Page 12.

(example: ‘RETRIES 0’).

ARGAPPENDICONIFIED "Mailer shell-Arguments"

Additional shell-arguments passed to the mailer, when NetCall operates in the iconified mode (example: ‘QUIET’ would cause TrapDoor to open no windows, when NetCall is iconified).

TDLOGFILE "Path/TrapDoor-LogFile"

LogFile of TrapDoor (example: 'Mail:Logs/TrapDoor.log').

NETCALLSTART "Shell-command"

This shell-command gets executed at NetCall's startup.

NETCALLEND "Shell-command"

This shell-command gets executed at NetCall's shutdown.

AFTERSESSION "Shell-command"

This shell-command gets executed after each poll.

HELPCOMMAND "Shell-command"

This shell-command gets executed if you press the <HELP>-key when the NetCall-window is active.

('SYS:Utilities/AmigaGuide HELP:english/NetCall.guide PUBSCREEN NETCALL').

STARTUPDELAY seconds

Time that should delay before NetCall starts the poll-process. This delay allows you to deselect unwanted list-entries. This option is only active when *ALLACTIVE* is given as a shell-argument. ('STARTUPDELAY 0' means no delay).

REDIALDELAY seconds

Time that should delay if all lines are *BUSY* at the end of the poll-list.

REDIALDELAYENTRY seconds

Time that should delay after each entry in the poll-list. This option is useful for modems with redial-restrictions.

MAXRETRIES retries

After having reached this amount of retries, NetCall will automatically deactivate all active list-entries. (Use 'MAXRETRIES 0', if you don't want automatical deactivation).

MAXRETRIESCOMMAND "Shell-command"

This AmigaDOS-command gets executed, if the amount of MAXRETRIES is expired.
(example: 'rexx:rx 'address NETCALL QUIT'')

(This example sends the ARexx-command *QUIT* to NetCall. This will quit NetCall.)

If MAXRETRIESCOMMAND is not specified, NetCall will deselect all entries in the poll-list.

MULTILINE

This keyword will cause NetCall to search for other nodes of your destination system(s) in the nodelist. The search will be performed by a second task, so no delay of the polling-task should be noticeable. Use *NOMULTILINE* if you don't want this option.

AUTOQUIT

NetCall will be automatically terminated as soon as all jobs are processed. Use *NO-AUTOQUIT* if you don't want this option.

MAILERABORT (ABORTNETCALL|CONTINUE|REQUEST)

If you quit your mailer (user-break, <ESC>), NetCall may:

- be quitted, too (**MAILERABORT ABORTNETCALL**)
- poll at the next node (**MAILERABORT CONTINUE**)
- open a requester (**MAILERABORT REQUEST**)

SAVELASTPOLLDAT

If this option is enabled, NetCall will display the date of the last successful call to each of your bosses in the listview-gadget. NetCall will store the needed data in a file called ‘NetCall.polldates’, which can be located in your ‘Mail:-’ or in the current directory at NetCall’s startup. (**NOSAVELASTPOLLDAT** if you don’t want this option).

OPENPUBSCREEN "Screenname" Width Height Depth ScreenModeID

Force NetCall to open its own public-screen. All values must be given in decimal format. To specify the *ScreenModeID*, you may use the ScreenModeViewer-Utility (example: ‘NETCALL 640 256 2 167936’).

PUBSCREEN "Screenname"

Open NetCall on this public-screen. If NetCall can’t find this screen to open on, NetCall will open its window on your workbench. If you wish NetCall to open its own public-screen (**OPENPUBSCREEN**) you must specify the same name at **OPENPUBSCREEN** and **PUBSCREEN** (example: ‘NETCALL’):

SCREENTOFRONT

If **SCREENTOFRONT** is specified, NetCall will automatically bring the screen where the NetCall-window is opened to the front. (**NOSCREENTOFRONT** if not desired).

BACKDROPWINDOW

NetCall can optionally open an invisible backdrop-window on its own public-screen. If you enable this option, you are able to select NetCall’s menu even if you clicked outside the NetCall main-window. This option becomes only active, if NetCall opens its own public-screen. Opening a backdrop-window does **not** need any memory, but it could slow down window-refreshing (esp. if many windows are open). Use **NOBACKDROPWINDOW** if you don’t want a backdrop-window.

PUBSCREENMAILER "Screenname"

You can optionally force the mailer to open its windows on this public-screen (example: ‘Workbench’).

WINDOW X/Y/Width/Height

Window-position/-size (big NetCall-window, incl. list-view-gadgets and text-gadget) (example: ‘30/30/400/180’).

WINDOWZOOM X/Y/Width/Height

Window-position/-size of the zoomed (little) NetCall-window. If you specify *AUTO* rather than a decimal value as the height, NetCall will automatically adapt its window-height to your actual font-size (example: ‘30/30/400/AUTO’).

WINDOWFILEREQ X/Y/Width/Height

Position/size of the REQ-file editor window.

(example: ‘50/40/190/240’).

WINDOWFILEREQZOOM X/Y/Width/Height

Position/size of the REQ-file editor window in zoomed state.

(example: ‘50/40/200/100’).

WINDOWTOOLBOX X/Y/Width/Height

Position/size of the toolbox. NetCall will ignore the *Width* value and adapt the window-width to the actual screenfont and to the gadgets.

(example: ‘50/40/0/100’).

WINDOWACTIVATE

Activate the NetCall-window when opened (use *NOWINDOWACTIVATE* if you don’t want to activate).

WINDOWFONTNAME "Fontname"

The Font that should be used for the list-view-gadgets (example: ‘topaz.font’).

WINDOWFONTSIZE Height

Font-size used for the list-view-gadgets (example: ‘8’).

LVITEMHEIGHT Pixel

Space between the list-view-entries (given in pixel) (example: ‘1’).

OPENBIG

If you specify *OPENBIG*, NetCall will always open its big window, no care if there are file-requests or crash-mails in your *OUTBOUND*-directory. Use *NOOPENBIG* if you don’t want this option.

SEARCHOPTS 5/6

Search-options (for *MULTILINE*). Leave it be...

SEARCHPATTERN "Pattern"

Pick up all nodes with this fido-flags to the ToDo-list. A valid AmigaDOS pattern can be given here. If you specify ‘~(#?ISDN#?)’ NetCall will pick up all fido-nodes without ISDN. If you don’t specify *MULTILINE*, this keyword will have no effect.

SUPPRESSREQ "TrapDoor error"

NetCall may suppress/terminate some of its error-requesters automatically. You may specify any amount of *SUPPRESSREQ*-commands here. (Note the “#?...#?”). (example: ‘“#?NO CARRIER#?”’).

COMMAND "Name of the menu-entry" "Shell-command" ASYNC GADGET GAP

With this keyword you are able to define your own menu-entries in the **NetCall**-menustrip. You may specify any number of **COMMAND**-keywords here. If you add **ASYNC**, **NetCall** will launch the command as an separate process. (example: ‘**Test1 SYS:Prefs/Time**’).

If you want this entry appear in the toolbox, you have to append **GADGET**. You can insert a gap after the gadget if you specify **GAP**. (example: ‘**Test1 SYS:Prefs/Time GADGET GAP**’).

If you want to send ARexx-commands to **NetCall** itself, you have to use the **ASYNC**-flag. Otherwise this will cause a deadlock of **NetCall**. (**NetCall** would wait until the ARexx-command is finished, but the handling of the command can’t start while **NetCall** is waiting). (example: ‘“**Quit NetCall**” “**rexx:rx ’address NETCALL QUIT’**” **ASYNC GADGET**’).

BOSS ID(*) Node/Phone MyAddr Password Retries BeforeSession AfterSession

With the **BOSS**-keyword you can define all lines of your own fido-bosses. You may specify any number of **BOSS**-keywords. By using several different **IDs** you can configure your system for multi-bossing. Entries with a * behind the **ID** will be displayed in the **NetCall**-window (list-view-gadget). You may use different amounts of retries for each line of your boss (optional). If the line is **BUSY**, **NetCall** will automatically retry this line (if **retries** is specified). You can specify phone-numbers rather than node-numbers if your boss has unlisted lines. **BeforeSession** and **AfterSession** can be scripts, which will be executed before and after the mailer-call to the corresponding **BOSS** (optional).

Example:

BOSS S0*	2:246/2248	2:246/2248.20	test	3	Export	Import
BOSS S0	2:246/2249	2:246/2248.20	test			
BOSS CDS*	2:246/1045	2:246/1045.11	test	0	Export	Import
BOSS CDS	2:246/1046	2:246/1045.11	test			
BOSS CDS	2:246/1047	2:246/1045.11	test	3		
BOSS CDS	07131167890	2:246/1045.11	test			

CALL ID(*) Node/Phone MyAddr Password

The **CALL**-directive can be used to add fido-nodes to **NetCall**’s ToDo-list, which are no personal bosses. This might be useful if you call a system regularly, to receive data put on hold for you. The password is optional.

Example:

CALL ID1*	2:246/1234	2:246/1045.11	test
CALL ID2*	2:246/5678	2:246/1045.11	

ADDNODE NODE ADDNODE...

With the **ADDNODE**-variable you can specify additional node- or phone-numbers of nodes which are currently in **NetCall**’s list. This might be useful to call lines which

are unlisted in the nodelist. Please notice that this additional nodes/phonenumbers are not displayed in the upper list-view-gadget. They are only displayed when their *NODE*-entry is selected.

Example:

```
ADDNODE 2:246/1045 07131/123456 07131/987654
ADDNODE 2:246/2248 07141/123456
```

3.2 The configuration of TrapDoor

You should set the amount of *RETRIES* in your ‘TrapDoor.cfg’ to 0 (‘*RETRIES 0*’), because NetCall will do this from now on.

NetCall will call each line of the desired destination-system, if the other lines are *BUSY*.

3.3 The usage of NetCall with Spot

To use NetCall with *Spot*¹ as optimized as possible, you should configure *Spot* as follows:

Execute NetCall *only* from your first boss-entry in the *Spot*-configuration (Settings -> System...). Enable the *asynchronous*-button.

```
NetCall >NIL: OPENBIG
```

All other NetCall-entries of *Spot* should be cleared.

If you press the NetCall-button of *Spot*, NetCall will be started.

If you have multiple bosses, *Spot* will no longer ask you where to poll. You can choose this directly in the NetCall-window.

¹ *Spot* is copyright © Nico François

3.4 The usage of NetCall with UMS

If you want to use `NetCall` with *UMS*² you don't have to change anything in your '`ums.config`'.

`NetCall` can easily be started by double-clicking its icon on the workbench or executing it in a shell.

3.5 The usage of NetCall with MailManager

Just like at the usage of `NetCall` with *UMS*, you have to change nothing in your configuration of *MailManager*³ if you want to use `NetCall` with *MailManager*. See also Section 3.4 [The usage of `NetCall` with *UMS*], Page 13.

`NetCall` can easily be started by double-clicking its icon on the workbench or executing it in a shell.

² *UMS* is copyright © Martin Horneffer

³ *MailManager* is copyright © Pino Aliberti

4 ARexx-interface

The ARexx-interface of **NetCall** can be reached via the public port **NETCALL**.

The interface knows the following commands:

ABORTDELAY

abort the actual delay-loop (if there is one).

ABORTMAILER

cancels the mailer, if he is currently active. If **NetCall** is in a delay-loop, this loop will be canceled, too.

BEEP flashes the screen of **NetCall**.

DESELECTALL

deselects all the active entries in the list-view-gadget. The poll-process of the active entry will not be stopped. (like the menu-item 'deselect all').

HELP call the help-function of **NetCall** (just like the 'help' menu-item).

ICONIFY iconifies **NetCall**.

ISICONIFIED

returns **warn** (5) if the user-interface of **NetCall** is currently open or **ok** (0) if **NetCall** is iconified.

NETCALL2FRONT

brings the screen of **NetCall** to the front.

NODEMANUAL NODE,ACTIVE/S

Adds a node to **NetCall**'s poll-list. The poll-process will be started, if you specify **ACTIVE**.

Example: '**NODEMANUAL 2:246/1045 ACTIVE**'

When no parameter ist specified, **NetCall** will open the 'add node manual'-window.

QUIT terminates **NetCall**. The poll-process will be terminated, too.

REQUESTFILE

open the file-requester (just like the 'request file...' menu-item). This command has no effect when **NetCall** is in **ICONIFY**-mode.

SELECTALL

selects all the entries in the list-view-gadget. This may start the poll-process (like the menu-item 'select all').

UNICONIFY

opens **NetCall** after **ICONIFY**.

5 User-interface

The mainwindow of **NetCall** displays two list-view-gadgets and one text-gadget.

All nodes, which should be called are displayed in the upper list-view-gadget. This are the nodes from your *BOSS*-entries (marked with an '*'), the nodes from your *CALL*-entries and eventually nodes where you want to crash mails to or where you want to request files.

You can select those entries by clicking on them with the mouse or pressing one of the function-keys (F1-F10). Selected nodes appear in the lower list-view-gadget.

Selected entries are displayed with all their lines (if they do have more than one line, of course). You can deselect individual entries by clicking on them with the mouse.

The entries in the list-view-gadgets have the following meaning:

```
CRP *> 2:246/1045 (CDS Port #1)

C : Crashmail ready for this node
R : File-request waiting for this node
P : This node waits to be polled (f.e. your boss)
* : This entry is selected
> : This entry is actually active, in other words: your mailer calls
     this node right now
```

The text-gadget displays actual information of the program.

6 Author information

You can always reach me as follows:

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Werner Senden

Eric Wick

Appendix A How to register

If you want to use **NetCall** regularly, you have to register! If you register, you can use **NetCall** without any shareware-reminders. See also Section 1.4 [Restrictions of the unregistered version], Page 2.

Once registered, you are able to use all forthcoming versions of **NetCall** without shareware-reminders; your keyfile will be valid forever.

NetCall is shareware and costs 10,- DM (10.- US\$).

The following data is required for registration: your name, street, ZIP-code, city, telephone-number and your email-address(es).

You may pay the share as follows:

1. Euro-cheque: DM (Deutsche Mark), payable to Alexander Stirmlinger.
2. Wire bank transfer: Please give **NetCall** as a comment. Please send me your address etc. via email or mail.
3. Cash: DM or US\$ - at your own risk.

If you wish to get your keyfile PGP-encoded, send me your PGP-public first.

If you want to get your keyfile by mail, please send me a blank disk and a self-addressed and stamped envelope. See also Chapter 6 [Author info], Page 19.

Bank:

Kreissparkasse Heilbronn

Account : 190 3780

BLZ : 620 500 00

Thank you for supporting shareware!

Appendix B Support/Updates

You can always file-request or download the most recent version of NetCall at the *CyberDyne System*, Heilbronn, Germany (magic: *NETCALL*).

Registered users will receive release-notes as carbon-copies via email, if new NetCall-releases are available.

CyberDyne System (24h online):

Node 1: +49-7131-176169 * 2:246/1045 * 1200 - 16800 BPS
V.32B V.42B ZYX

Node 2: +49-7131-161614 * 2:246/1046 * 1200 - 14400 BPS
V.32B V.42B HST

Node 3: +49-7131-167890 * 2:246/1047 * 1200 - 28800 BPS
V.32B V.42B V.FC

Node 4: +49-7131-950371 * 2:246/1048 * 64000 BPS BLASTER
X.75 V.110 ISDN

Node 5: +49-7131-950372 * 2:246/1049 * 64000 BPS ELINK
X.75 V.110 ISDN

Appendix C History

C.1 NetCall - Version 2.0

- First public release.

C.2 NetCall - Version 2.0a

- English documents included.
- New config-variable: MAXRETRIES.
- Minor ALLACTIVE-bug fixed.
- New shell-argument: TERMREQS. Supports automatical operation.

C.3 NetCall - Version 2.0b

- New config-variable: CALL.
- Minor bug fixed: no text was displayed in the text-gadget on startup under some conditions.
- New config-variable: BACKDROPWINDOW.
- New config-variable: STARTUPDELAY.
- Minor bug fixed: NetCall opened two requesters on exit (instead of exiting) under some conditions.
- Minor bug fixed: font adaption problem of the text-gadget solved.
- #?.REQ-file editor ('request file') added.
- New config-variable: WINDOWFILEREQ.
- New config-variable: WINDOWFILEREQZOOM.
- New config-variable: AFTERSESSION.
- Now supports TrapDoor in resident mode, too.
- New config-variable: TRAPTELL.
- New shell-argument: TELL.
- New config-variable: SCREENTOFRONT.
- New config-variable: SUPPRESSREQ.

- New config-variable: SAVELASTPOLLDATE.
- New menu-item: Rescan outbound.
- New menu-item: Add node entry.
- Expanded BOSS-config-variable.
- Changes in the OUTBOUND-directory will immediately become visible in the listview-gadgets of NetCall (notify-function).
- All entries in the listview-gadget can now be selected with the function-keys, too.

C.4 NetCall - Version 2.0c

- 'CONNECT'-requester in TELL-mode removed.
- The old config-parser had problems with spaces in the BOSS-entry ("BeforeSession" and "AfterSession") -> fixed.
- MAXRETRIES didn't work correctly -> fixed.
- New config-variable: ADDNODE.
- Toolbox: **NetCall** features a window with user-defineable gadgets within. The functions of these gadgets can be defined by the user (start programms/scripts, send ARexx-commands etc.). Use the COMMAND-variable to configure the toolbox.
- New config-variable: WINDOWTOOLBOX.
- ARexx-interface (port: NETCALL).
- Installer-script will not overwrite the old NetCall.cfg now.
- If **NetCall** gets started a second time, a requester will appear (to bring the old screen of **NetCall** to the front).
- The list-view-gadget in the 'Select node...'-window ('Request file') uses now 2-column output (looks nicer). (OS3.0 and above)
- Improved handling of very big fonts (GUI).
- **NetCall** now needs extacy.library >= V3.78.
- New config-variable: MAXRETRIESCOMMAND.
- New config-variable: REDIALDELAYENTRY.
- *NodeListUpdate*-script included in the archive.

Index

A

ARexx.....	15
ARexx-interface	15
Assumptions to the hardware	3
Assumptions to the software	3
Author information	19

C

Configuration	7
Copyright	1

E

EMail	19
Execution from workbench	5

F

Features of NetCall	1
FidoNet	19

G

General informations	1
GUI.....	17

H

History	27
---------------	----

I

Installation	3
Installer	3

K

Keyfile	23
---------------	----

M

MailManager	13
-------------------	----

N

NetCall.cfg	7
NetCall.polldates	7
No warranty	2

P

Paramenter	4, 5
PGP	23

R

Restrictions of the unreg. version	2
--	---

S

ShareWare.....	23
Shell.....	4
Shell-arguments.....	4
Spot.....	12
Support	25

T

Tool-types	5
Toolbox	10
TrapDoor	3, 12
TrapDoor.cfg	12

U

UMS	13
Updates	23, 25
User-interface.....	17

W

Warranty	2
Workbench	5

Table of Contents

1 General informations	1
1.1 Features of NetCall.....	1
1.2 Copyright	1
1.3 Warranty	2
1.4 Restrictions of the unregistered version	2
2 Installation	3
2.1 Assumptions to the hardware.....	3
2.2 Assumptions to the software.....	3
2.3 Installer.....	3
2.4 Execution from a shell.....	4
2.5 Execution from workbench	5
3 Configuration	7
3.1 The configuration-file NetCall.cfg.....	7
3.2 The configuration of TrapDoor	12
3.3 The usage of NetCall with Spot	12
3.4 The usage of NetCall with UMS	13
3.5 The usage of NetCall with MailManager	13
4 ARexx-interface	15
5 User-interface	17
6 Author information	19
7 Acknowledgements	21
Appendix A How to register	23
Appendix B Support/Updates	25
Appendix C History	27
C.1 NetCall - Version 2.0	27
C.2 NetCall - Version 2.0a	27

C.3	NetCall - Version 2.0b	27
C.4	NetCall - Version 2.0c	28
Index	29	