Remote Echo Control (REC)
Version 1.20

Revision History

*** NOTE ***
Beta test copies are only to be distributed to persons
that I have authorized as REC Beta Testersand not
made available for download or file request or
any other means of file transer.

Remote Echo Control   Revision History

     Below is the list of the important changes in REC development.
Any version ending in a letter is a Beta Test Release.   Any Beta
Releases that have been skipped never made it past Alpha Test on my
own system (for whatever reasons!).

                              1.20
                        Automatic Cleanup
                        Echo Tag Validatio

     ** BUG FIXES **

     Local message areas listed in areas.bbs could be created but
never dropped. Now you can drop them as well.

     REC keeps track of the longest board and echo tag found when the
echo control file is loaded.   If you used the BOARD command, TAG
command, or forwarded an echo, and thus created a board or an echo tag
that was was longer than the longest one found before, the echo

control file was not formatted properly. Now it will work correctly.

     Messages generated by REC didn't have a null-terminating byte,
and every line ended in a hard carriage return. Fortunately, no one
had any trouble with this bug, but has been corrected.   Now the
messages are legal according to FTS-0001 Revision #14.

     I had tear lines in the middle of the messages, and my little
identifier line AFTER the tear line. I have cleaned that up so that
my identifier line shows up next to the tear line, and is at the end
of the message.   The messages are also properly "null-terminated".
(FTS-0001 Revision #14)

     If you created a Local Only echo using the batch commands, a
network address showed up as a feed using zone -9876. This bug has
been squashed.

     Any extra spaces at the end of the echo tag names on incoming
messages are now removed before that message is processed. Some less
sophisticated message editors would automatically put a space at the
end of the line, and that would make REC not recognize the echo tag as
valid.

     All messages that are created by REC are marked as Normal instead
of Crash.   This way you can use full normal routing as you would with
any other net-mail.

     ** NEW FEATURES **

     A new configuration parm has been added, ExtraNotify.   This
statement will allow you to notify systems other than you have listed
as you Echo Nodes.   You must specify an address, and a To: name is
optional. Please see the documentation for exact syntax.

     More than one name can be used as the Access Name for REC, with
the default still being "Remote Echo Control".   You can specify as
many different names as you want.

     A new option is added to the EchoHub statement. You can put a
file name containing a list valid echos for that hub. Any forwarding
requests will be checked against this list. If they exist, they will
be forwarded, otherwise they won't.   If the list is not used, not
found, or empty, the request will be automatically forwarded.

     A new report, the Forwardable Echo report, has been added. In a
nut shell this report lists every echo listed in the Valid Echo List
for the echo node's echo hub.

Areafix Commands are now supported on the subject line of your message. The -R command produces the Active Echo report, and the -Q option produces the Available Echo report. The Forwardable echo report is available only via the ":F" REC command.

Automatic Cleanup Mode Processing is available. It works for echo hub that are automatic, meaning they user AreaFix or REC or the like. Please read the Sysop Instructions in the doc's on this feature. Improper use of this feature could delete the wrong echos!

A Re-Address configuration statement has been added. This will allow you to change what REC finds for the "from-address" incoming messages. Read the doc's for more information and restrictions.

The "ALL" option can now be used on the Lockout statement to lockout entire zones, nets, or private nets from any echo you wish. Read the doc's for more information and restrictions.

A new command line parameter has been added, "/?". This will force REC to display its execution syntax and abort any processing.

REC now exits with ErrorLevels depending on what was processed. A complete chart is in the Sysop Documentation.

For those interested in running REC is the smallest amount of memory possible, you can put a /M parameter on REC and it will tell you how much memory is used by the program. Read the doc's to understand what is and is NOT included in this check.

** IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING FEATURES **

EchoHub data is now stored dynamically, instead of static memory. This means that there is no limit on the number of EchoHub statements you have.

Batch Commands are processed in the order entered, including Create commands. This means that you can create a new echo and add nodes to the echo on the same batch command file, instead of on two separate runs.

Message and Batch commands are now stored dynamically, instead of static memory. This means there is no real limit on the number of commands that can be place on a single message or batch file.

The Available echo and Active Echo reports have been slightly reformatted. Both reports show if you are the echo's feed or already receiving the echo.

The Active, Available, and Forwardable echo reports now come out as their Own separate messages. This will done to simplify the replies sent to the downlinks. Too bad it didn't simplify the program as well <grin>.

The Dead-End Echo Listing on the Sysop's Status Report still lists dead-end echos from both automatic and manual echo hubs. However, the manual echo hubbed echos are indicated with a '**' in front of them. Echos marked in manner CANNOT be automatically deleted via CleanUp mode processing. You will have to manually cancel and drop them.

The Address configuration statements have been made dynamic so there is no limit on how many you can have.

The "from-address" that REC uses on messages it creates (notifies, forwarding, cleanup) are selected more accurately. The local addresses are search for a zone/net match, and then a zone match, with the last option being the first Address listed.

If an echo node is listed first on an echo, that echo node is considered the "feed" for the echo. With this version, an echo node can remove itself from an echo even if it is the feed. The next address listed will become the feed.

The size limit on the Echo Tag area name has been increase from 20 to 50 characters. The size limit on the board name has been set to 50 characters.

     ** UTILITIES **

The AREALIST will now generate a list of valid echo tags along with a the 3 column report of all echo tags. This list can be used as the Valid Echo List if should you need to generate it.

Because of the increase in the maximum length of the echo tag names, I have changed for format of the Area List report. Instead of getting a 3 column report, you will a horizontal listing of the echo tags, very similar to the AreaRpt report. It may not look as nice, but there was no real other way to do it at time time. If possible, I will improve it in REC 2.0.

The EchosOut program will now display (correctly, this time), 6x6 addresses. In other words, you can have up to a 6-digit net and a 6-digit node address and it will display correctly.

     WARNING!! You must erase the ECHOSOUT.TRK file from the previous
          version before you starting running the new version. The
          program will crash, and likely lock up your computer, if you
          do not. I had to change the record layout for the above

change, and the two layouts are NOT compatibile.

** SYSOP DOCUMENATION **

The ExtraNotify configuration parameter has been added.

More than one name can be used as the AccessName.

Remote Echo Control   Revision History

   The Valid Echo Filename has been added to the EchoHub statement, along with an entire section on Echo Tag Validation.

   A new section has been added, which breifly describes the various reports that can be generated. Areafix compatibility with the subject line parameters has been added.

   A new section has been added on CleanUp processing. PLEASE READ THIS SECTION CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO IMPLEMENT IT.

   The messages from CleanUp processing have been added, and the changes to the messages for Message processing have been incorporated.

   Address, LockOut, and ReAddress statements have been added or changed accordingly.

** USER DOCUMENTATION **

   Various errors and typos have been cleanup in the documentation.

   The Forwardable Echo Report has been added.

   The AreaFix compatibility has been added.

1.10
First Live Public Release!!

** BUG FIXES **

Only one bug needed squashing for this release. If an incoming
message had over 50 commands on it, the program would go nuts. While
the internal physical limit was 50, the program would try to process
through 51. You can guess what happened. This limit should go away
with release 1.20 which will use almost total dynamic memory.

** UTILITIES **

The ECHOSOUT utility has been modified total correctly, and
automatically scan all of the outbound directories in one run. Totals
by zone and a final total are also produced. You should note that the
program counts bytes, but reports by Kbytes. In other words, if one
system has 1800 bytes and another system has 2500 bytes, they will
show as 1K and 2K respectively. However, since the total of the two
systems is 4300 bytes, the total of the two systems will be 4K. It
was either that or expand the report for 132 columns, so guess which
one I chose <grin>.

** DOCUMENTATION **

As usual, a few more spelling, gramatical, and puncuation errors
were corrected.

The ECHOSOUT utility has been changed to reflect the new program.

Under ZMAIL Flavors, words were added to clearly show that flavor
commands on the Echo Hub statement work in the same way as the Echo
Node Statement.

Under Point Systems, I changed my recommendation from using
Private Net addressing to use Point Reference addressing. This change
was not because of changes to REC, but because I changed my mind
because it works better on my system. You still can use any of the
methods.

End of document.