

Remote Echo Control (REC)  
Version 1.20

User Documentation

\*\*\* NOTE \*\*\*

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INTRODUCTION

Remote Echo Control (REC) is a program that allows you to remotely control which echos you receive from your echo hub. It was written with multiple zones in mind, which is a major limitation in other software packages that perform this function. This eliminates the manual intervention required when adding or deleting echos from your feed. Your echo hub sysop installs this program, defines your system to REC, and assigns you a password. From then on, it is all up to you.

USING REC

To use REC, all you do is send a net-mail message to your echo hub's system. You address the message to the name your echo hub desires and put your password on the subject line. Make sure you mark the message private. You then list the echos you want to

start or stop. After the last echo, you put in three dashes starting in column 1, or "---". This tells REC to ignore the rest of the message, which allows you to enter comments after the dashed line. There is no limit on the number of commands you can put in one message,

Your echo hub will receive the message and process it. A reply message will be sent back to you with the results of what REC did with your message. There are various possible replies, which will be out-lined a little bit later.

For this example, we will assume that you are already receiving 5 echos: BARONS, SYSOP, GAMING, AD&D, and SCI\_FI. None of your users seem to interested in SCI\_FI, but several have asked that you get the echos for Star Trek and Ham Radio. You would send a message that would look like this:

```
-SCI_FI
TREK
HAM_RADIO
---
```

Add trek and Ham echos, remove Science Fictions echo.

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By putting a single dash in front of the echo, you are telling your echo hub to stop the echo. By simply listing the echo name, you are telling your echo hub to start sending you the echo. The dash line, sometimes called a "tear line", just tells REC to ignore the rest of the message.

After your echo hub receives the message, you will be sent a reply telling you what happened. Such a reply might look like this:

```
SCI_FI.....Removed
TREK.....Added
HAM_RADIO.....Added
--- REC 1.20 <LIVE>
```

That is really all there is to it. Once you have your password, you can begin to start and stop your echos just this easily. However, there are some security concerns that should be discussed at this point.

## OPERATIONAL NOTES

You echo hub can pick any name or names that you should address your echo change requests to. The default is "Remote Control" but that is by no means the only one your hub can use. You echo hub will

let you know what name to address your change requests to.

REC is now 100% compatible with the AreaFix program. You can use the AreaFix subject line parameters of "-R" and "-Q" if you wish, or you can use the Report commands of ":A", ":L", and ":F" if you wish.

## SECURITY

As I stated before, REC was designed to work in multiple zones at the same time. As such, it will only allow you to access echos in your own zone, within your security level, and that you have not been locked out of. However, there is an exception.

CrossZone is the exception to the above rule. If you echo hub so chooses, you can be allowed to access echos in other zones. Which

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echos you will be allowed to get from "foreign zones" is dependent on the Security and Lockout options shown next. These can be used for either CrossZone or non-CrossZone situations.

Echo Security and Echo Lockouts are at the option of your Echo Hub. Your echo hub is required to assign your system an echo security level. The echo hub then has the option of assigning security levels to individuals echos. If you request an echo with a required security higher than your own system, you are not allowed that echo.

The echo hub can also setup an echo lockout. This is simply a listing of which echos are not to be sent to a particular system. If you request an echo that you are locked out of, you will not be allowed access to the echo.

## REQUEST FORWARDING

It is possible that you may request an echo from your echo hub that is not already being received by your echo hub. At the option of your echo hub, your request can be either denied or accepted with the request also being passed on to the echo hub's feed for that zone. This is called Request Forwarding.

If this happens, you will receive a reply indicating that the echo was added and it was also forwarded. This is important because a forwarded request may take longer to start entering your system.

Your echo hub can also have a list of valid echos for each of

their echo feeds. If you request an echo that is not on this list, you will be sent a message indicating that the echo tag is not valid. You can get a copy of this list by requesting the Forwardable Echo Report, as described in the next section.

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## ECHO REPORTS

There are three reports that you can request from REC. They can be sent by themselves or as part of an echo request. One report is the Active Echo Report. This report lists all the echos that are currently being sent to your system. The second report is the Available Echo Report. This report lists all the echos currently being received by your echo hub that you are allowed to receive. The third is a Forwardable Echo Report. This is simply a copy of the list of valid echos that your echo hub has for your system.

Each report you request is sent on a different message. This way you can export the message to disk or a printer and have a nice complete printout of the report.

Requesting a report is very easy. You send a message off the REC just like you were changing your echos. A report request is indicated by a colon, ":", in column 1 followed by a single letter indicating which report you want. The Active Echo Report is the letter "A", the Available echo Report is the letter "L", and the Forwardable Echo Report is the letter "F".

REC also supports the AreaFix subject line options for generating these reports. The "-R" option will generate an Active Echo Report, while the "-Q" will generate the Available Echo Report. The Forwardable echo report can only be generated with the ":F" message command

## COMPLETE EXAMPLE

Below follows a complete example of an REC message. This example will show all the possible commands, and which messages they produce.

to: Remote Control on 1:104/435, The REC Room  
fr: Dan Fitch on 1:104/453, My Test Site  
re: password

STTNG  
TREK  
-STINKY  
:A  
-APPLES  
PLAY\_TIME  
FANTASY  
-FUNKY  
HACKER  
TROUBLE\_MAKER

---

This is a complete example.

The reply may look something like this:

to: Dan Fitch on 1:104/453, My Test Site  
fr: Remote Control on 1:104/435, The REC Room  
re: Echo Change Request

STTNG.....Added  
TREK.....Already Active  
STINKY.....Removed  
.....Activate Echo Report requested  
APPLES.....Not Active  
PLAY\_TIME.....Access Denied, Not in your Zone  
FANTASY.....Added, Request forwarded  
FUNKY.....Not Processed  
HACKER.....Access Denied, Invalid Security  
TROUBLE\_MAKER.....Access Denied, Lockout

--- REC 1.20 <LIVE>

to: Dan Fitch on 1:104/453, My Test Site  
fr: Remote Control on 1:104/435, The REC Room  
re: Active Echo Report

Below is a report of all echos active for 1:104/453:

AD&D  
BARONS  
FANTASY  
GAMING  
HAM\_RADIO  
SYSOP  
TREK

--- REC 1.20 <LIVE>

The STTNG echo was added without any problem, but the TREK echo was already being sent. The STINKY echo is no longer being sent down to you. You asked to stop the APPLES echo, but it wasn't being sent to you from this echo hub. The PLAY\_TIME echo was in a different zone from in which you are located, and your hub has not given you permission to get the echos from that zone. The FANTASY echo was added, but a request had to be sent off to the echo hub feed to receive the echo. You asked to delete the FUNKY echo, but that echo was not found on the echo hub's system. You didn't have enough security to get the HACKER echo, and you are locked out of TROUBLE\_MAKER. A report of all your currently active echos is attached to list reply.

#### POINT SYSTEMS

How a point system will be handled is up to the sysop of you echo hub. However, you MUST be careful about one concern. Make sure you send the change request to the correct address. You will receive the reply from whatever address you send the request to. If you send the request to the wrong address, your echo hub may not be able to route the reply back to you.

## CONCLUSION

That is all there is to it. The program is fast and easy to use, for both the echo hub and the echo node. If you have any problems or suggestions, please send them to your echo hub first. If necessary, your echo hub will forward them off to the author.

I hope you enjoy using the program, and find that it saves your much time and headache in controlling your echo feed. Later!

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