Interfacing Front Door
With PowerBBS

First, let's get all the legal garbage out of the way . . .

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ConfMail and all related programs and files are property of Bob Hartman, copyrighted by   Spark Software.

PowerEcho and all related programs and files are property of Michael A. Miller,
            copyrighted by ROCKSoft Programming Labs.

PowerBBS and all related programs and files are property of Russel Frey.

Whew! Enough of that . . . Let's get to work.   This document will not even attempt to explain net mail, echo mail, mail tossing, mail packing, or the mail man. What this document will do is give you detailed instructions on how to interface Front Door with PowerBBS.

WARNING: This document assumes that the reader is familiar with PowerBBS and
has PowerBBS up and running. If PowerBBS is not set up and running, do so and
then come back to this document in about a week.

Programs you will need.

A FIDONET compatible echo mail processor. I use CONFMAIL version 4.00. This document will show CONFMAIL specific command lines, but with a little patience and understanding of the echo mail process, any mail processor could be used.

A FIDONET compatible front end mailing program. I use Front Door 2.02 non-commercial.   This document will give some Front Door(FD)   specific   examples,   but   with   some   patience   and understanding of how a front end mailer works, any mailer could be used.

PowerEcho - Another MUST HAVE program. This program can also be downloaded from the PowerBBS support BBS or the Last Outpost.

What is Front Door and why would I want to interface it with PowerBBS?

Front Door is front end mailing program designed to send and receive net and echo mail. Without it, there would be no way to get the mail.   Front Door takes care of calling other systems to get the mail, and it also allows other systems to call you so that they may download their mail. What it boils down to is, if you want echo mail, you must run a front end mailer program like Front Door.

Setting up PowerBBS to handle echo mail.

It is very easy setting up PowerBBS to handle echo mail (it's the other programs that are difficult). First, call up the config program that comes with PowerBBS.   Select *A - General System Setup* then go to the third screen by pressing *PgDn* twice. You will see a section called *FIDO Support Options*. Put a "Y" in the field labeled *Are you running FrontDoor(tm) or other prg?* Next, write down the path and the name of the field labeled *Temporary file to read baud rate from?* (you can change if you want, just be sure to write it down for later use).

Now, hit the *PgDn* button eight(8) times. This should bring up the screen that has the communications setup and the event setup. The event setup is the part we are interested in. Turn the event off by placing a "N" in the field labeled *Do you want the Event Activated?* You will want to write down the path and the name of the event batch file. There is a bug in PowerBBS that causes PowerBBS not to recognize a batch file/path name in lower case. Make sure the path/filename is in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.

Next, set up the forums that you want the echo mail imported into. If you don't know how to set up the forums, you should go back and re-read(or read for the first time) the PowerBBS docs. After you get the forums set up, you might want to write down the path/filenames of the message files for each forum on your handy-dandy piece of paper. Now store the piece of paper that has the temporary baud rate path/filename and the event path/filename in a cool dry place. Keep away from fire or flame. Do not store in direct sunlight. Caution : contents are fragile. This end up.

That's all that needs to be done for PowerBBS. Not too difficult. Just wait....

Creating Mail Directories

Now that PowerBBS is set up, you must now create the directories where the messages will be exported. I recommend creating a directory off of the root called ECHOMAIL. Change to the ECHOMAIL directory, and create one directory for each echo forum you set up in the PowerBBS config program. You do NOT want the PowerBBS message file to be stored in this directory. You simply want one directory for every forum you are going to echo.

Here's an example. You are going to have 3 forums support echo mail. You call one forum LOCAL Echo, another forum Humor Echo, and the third Windows Echo. Your message file for Local is C:\POWRBBS\FORUM\LOCAL, the one for Humor is C:\POWRBBS\FORUM\HUMOR and the one for Windows is C:\POWRBBS\FORUM\WIN. You would probably want to create the following directories under the ECHOMAIL directory to hold the outgoing mail.
C:\ECHOMAIL\LOCAL
C:\ECHOMAIL\HUMOR
C:\ECHOMAIL\WIN

You should not have 2 forums sharing the same directory. This will lead to cross-conference messages which will get quite a few people pretty upset. Remember, one directory per forum.

You will also need to create a directory to hold the files that Front Door receives. I recommend calling the directory C:\INFILES.

Setting up Front Door

At the time of this writing, Front Door 2.02 is the most recent version. Always use the most recent version, older versions may not be allowed in FIDONET.

Start setting up Front Door by creating a directory called FD off of the root. Unzip Front Door in this directory and set it up (if you think I'm going to walk you through setting up all of Front Door, you are obviously taking some sort of controlled substance). Front Door is a very complex program. I will not even attempt to describe fully how to set up the program. What I will do is go over the options that are somewhat PowerBBS specific. These areas are the event manager, folder manager, and errorlevels.

ERRORLEVELS

The most important part of setting up Front Door is setting the errorlevels. The ERRORLEVEL sub-menu is called from the MAILER option on the main menu. The errorlevels you enter here will correspond to the errorlevel Front Door exits with when a human caller connects. I would recommend stetting the 300 baud errorlevel at 240, the 1200 baud errorlevel at 241, and
continue working your way up. It would probably be a good idea to set all of the errorlevels, even though your modem may not support the higher baud rates. This way if you ever upgrade your modem, you won't have to mess with these options again.

You will also see an option labeled *RECEIVED MAIL* set this errorlevel to 255. The last option on this menu is *Create .BAT File.* Set this option to YES(Use ENTER to toggle).

EVENT MANAGER

An event is any action that you want Front Door to do at a specified time. Events can be internal to Front Door, like having FD call a BBS to send/receive mail; or they can by external, like running a batch file. If you fail to set up the events properly you will not be able to send or receive mail.

You only need to create three events to begin with. The first event should last all day. This event will define Front Door's behavior all day. To create the all day event, the start time should be 00:00 and the length should be 23:59. The second event is an external event. This will cause Front Door to exit with a specified errorlovel. This event is used to run your daily maintainence programs and to process outbound mail. The last event is an internal event that will make Front Door call your local echomail hub to get your daily mail shipment. The Front Door documentation will discuss how to set up these events.

Setting Up ConfMail

Unzip ConfMail into the Front Door directory. Next, grab your favorite text editor, create a file called AREAS.BBS in your Front Door directory. This a sample of what a simple AREAS.BBS file would look like :

The Last Outpost -Mercer, Pa   412-662-0769 ! Michael Miller
;
C:\ECHOMAIL\LOCAL   LOCAL
2601/100

```
        C:\ECHOMAIL\HUMOR          HUMOR          2601/100
        C:\ECHOMAIL\WINDOWS        WINDOWS        2601/506
```
The first line contains the system name separated from the sysop's name by an exclamation point(!). The next line is usually blank, and the remaining lines specify which echos go to which directory, the proper Fidonet name of each echo, and where you are sending/receiving the echos. In the above file, the LOCAL echo is stored in the C:\ECHOMAIL\LOCAL directory, and is being sent/received from net/node number 2601/100. There is one line like this for every echomail area.

        The second file you need to create is called CONFIG.DOG. Here is a sample file:

```
        NODE 1:2601/531
        MAIL C:\ECHOMAIL
        FILES C:\INFILES
```
The first line is your net/node number. The second line is the name of you netmail directory, and the last line is the directory where the new message packets can be found. This file will work fine as-is with the on-going example.

        Both of these files should be in your Front Door directory.

Setting up the PowerEcho Programs

        Create a directory off of the root called P_E., and unzip PowerEcho into this directory. Copy the files called EXEBBS.EXE and EXEBBS.DAT into your Front Door directory. You may have to edit the EXEBBS.DAT file. The contents of this file should be the same as the *PATH/FILE to Current Callers Info*   as defined in the node information screen in the PowerBBS config program.

        Now we want to set up the main PowerEcho Program. The first step is editing a file called POWRECHO.CFG. This file should be in your P_E directory. The file should contain 3 lines; the first line is your registration number; the secnd line is the sysop's first and last names; and the last line is your zone number. PLease remember that most echos in FidoNet require the use of real names.

        Now we want to call up the configuration mode of POWRECHO. To enter the setup mode of PowerEcho, type POWRECHO SET. After you get past the title screen you will see a menu wih 5 options. Since this is an inital installation of PowerEcho you will want to select the first menu option, A)dd a Forum. This will bring up a data entry screen. Help can obtained while you are entering data by pressing the F1 key.

        The first opion on the data entry screen is *FIDO NAME*. This is the anme of the echo you will be receiving. It is a good idea to use the proper FidoNet area name, future versions will use this field for more than a label. In the running example, this filed would be LOCAL.

Now you want to get out you handy piece of paper that you have been taking such good care of. The field labeld *Msg File* contains the name of the PowerBBS message file. Do **NOT** put the extrnsion of the file in this field. In the running example, this filed would be LOCAL.

The next option is the *Origin Line*. This a a string of 50 characters that is appeneded to the end of every message. Most people put their BBS name and phone numers here. For my BBS I would use "The Last Outpost - (412) 662-0769, but you can use anything you want.

The *Path to PBBS* is the PATH(no filename) to the PowerBBS message files. This should be written down on your handy piece of paper. In the example we are calling this field C:\POWRBBS\FORUM\ LOCAL. The *Path to Fido* is the directory specification of where the FidoNet messages are stored. This should be the same as the directory specified in your AREAS.BBS file for the same forum. To keep with the example, the filed would be C:\ECHOMAIL\LOCAL

If you chose to *Delete Imported Messages* then PowerEcho will delete the FidoNet message from the disk as soon as it si written into the PowerBBS message base. The last 4 options are for your net/node number and for your host net/node number. If you don't know what these are, then have someone who is more familiar with FidoNet to help you.

That's it for setting up PowerEcho. Just repeat the above steps for echo forum you want to echo. Information on how to use PowerEcho is in the PE_DOC.WRI file.

Creating Batch Files

Your batch files are very important. They are what tie all of the other programs together. Probably the easiest way to describe how to set up the batch files would be to show a completed series of files. If you have copied the actions in this document, the following batch files should work without modification. All of the lines starting with a semicolon(;) can be deleted, and are for reference only.

Filename : C:\POWRBBS\EVENT.BAT

```
; change to the C drive
C:
; make the Front Door directory the active directory.
cd\fd
; LOOP is a label
:loop
  c:
  cd\fd
```

```
; execute Front Door
  FD
;check the errorlevel Front Door exited with
    if errorlevel 255 goto inmail        ; Front Door received mail
    if errorlevel 246 goto board         ; Human caller logged on at 19,200
baud
    if errorlevel 245 goto board         ; 9600 baud
    if errorlevel 244 goto board         ;4800 baud
    if errorlevel 243 goto board         ;2400 baud
    if errorlevel 242 goto board         ;1200 baud
    if errorlevel 241 goto board         ;600 baud
    if errorlevel 240 goto board         ;300 baud
    if errorlevel 230 goto local  ;User defined key in FD to generate an
errorlevel of 230 for LOCAL
    If errorlevel 150 goto daily  ; External event errorlevel for daily
maint.
    if errorlevel  10 goto userbrk        ; EXIT the BBS
    if errorlevel   4 goto fatal    ; Front Door fatal error
    if errorlevel   3 goto dspace        ; Low disk space
    if errorlevel   1 goto fatal    ; Front Door fatal error
  goto Loop                  ; Front Door exited with an unknown errorlevel.
start over
;Front Door creates a batch file called DoBBS.BAT.  This will execute
that file.  Change to
;  LOCK.BAT if running a locked com port.
:board
  dobbs
; run daily maint
; process on-line games
:Daily
cd c:\doors\yt
ytmaint
cd c:\doors\oo
maintoo
ooiitop
cd c:\doors\ec
ecmaint
cd c:\doors\cr
campedit
;return to front door
goto loop
:inmail
  del c:\echomail\local\*.msg   ;clear out the message directories.
  del c:\echomail\local\*.
  del c:\echomail\humor\*.msg
  del c:\echomail\humor\*.
```

```
  del c:\echomail\windows\*.msg
  del c:\echomail\windows\*.
  c:
  cd\powrbbs
  powrpack c:\powrbbs\forum\local=100   ;power pack the message
bases(IMPORTANT!)
  powrpack c:\powrbbs\forum\humor total=200
  powrpack c:\powrbbs\forum\win total=300
; change back to the Front Door directory and run ConfMail to import
FidoNet messages
  c:
  cd\fd
  Confmail Import areas.bbs -k -n -f echotoss.log -m -a arce
  Confmail Import areas.bbs -k -n -f echolist.log -m -a pkunzip
; change to the PowerEcho dir.
  c:
  cd \P_E
  PowrEcho BOTH ; import and export the new messages into the
PowerBBS msg bases
; change back to the Front Door directory and run ConfMail to export
new FidoNet Messages
  c:
  cd\fd
  Confmail Export areas.bbs -a pkzip
  c:
  cd \powrbbs
  powrpack c:\powrbbs\forum\local total=100    ; PowerPack the
message bases(IMPORTANT!)
  powrpack c:\powrbbs\forum\humor total=200
  powrpack c:\powrbbs\forum\win total=300
; all done!  start over and load up Front Door
  goto loop
:local
  local
:userbrk
   rem ---User break
   cls
   echo User break.
   goto done
   rem ---Disk space error
:dspace
   cls
   echo                       FrontDoor reported insufficient disk space
   goto hang
   rem ---Fatal condition
:fatal
```

```
  cls
  echo                          FATAL error reported by FrontDoor.
  goto hang
:done
  stop
:hang
  Echo  ***FATAL ERROR***
  @echo off
:lockit
  goto lockit
```

You will also need to create two(2) more batch files. One is for Local mode and the other is for exiting the BBS. They are only one line each.

Filename : C:\FD\LOCAL.BAT

EXEBBS LOCAL

Filename : C:\FD\STOP.BAT

EXEBBS EXIT

LOCKED COM PORTS

If you are running a locked com port, you must make a a small change to the EVENT.BAT file given above. Change the DOBBS.BAT to LOCK.BAT in the EVENT.BAT file. You must also create a new batch file called LOCK.BAT. If your com port was locked at 19,200 baud your LOCK.BAT would look like this:

EXEBBS 19200

Just replace the 19200 with the rate at which your com port is locked.

That's it. Those are the only batch file you need.

ALL DONE

That's it for adding echomail capabilities. If you have any questions or comments, I can be reached at the Last Outpost BBS at (412)-662-0769. My FIDONET number is 1:2601/531.   Enjoy.

Michael Miller
1:2601/531
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