

Paperboy for Windows

An offline mail and newsreader

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Requirements

Paperboy requires Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later. Paperboy requires VBRUN300.DLL and COMMDLG.DLL, which most systems already have. A SOUP packet generator is required on your mail/news host, usually UQWK. All these files can be grabbed from where you obtained Paperboy, see **Location** section below for details.

Location

Paperboy is available by anonymous FTP at ftp.clark.net (168.143.0.2). Paperboy is in /pub/vart/pboy###.zip, where ### is the latest version (204 as of this printing). The Microsoft files VBRUN300.DLL and COMMDLG.DLL, as well as the source code for UQWK 1.8, can also be found in this directory. Various Offline FAQs are archived as well. Paperboy will be distributed to other major FTP sites (CICA), if you can't reach ftp.clark.net.

Installation

After downloading the appropriate files, create a directory for Paperboy and it's files (i.e. C:\PAPERBOY). Unzip the archive into this directory. If you don't already have a CMDIALOG.VBX in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory, copy the one provided into that directory.

Sample

A sample offline packet is included with Paperboy as SAMPLE.ZIP. To check your setup, open this file from the **File Open...** menu choice, or at DOS:

```
C:\PAPERBOY> PAPERBOY C:\PAPERBOY\SAMPLE.ZIP
```

After you've bored with the sample packet, you should add an item for PAPERBOY.EXE into Program Manager, delete the sample feed (AREAS, *.MSG) and try reading your own mail and news packets.

Downloading SOUP packets

To read your mail and news, you need to create a “packet” on the host machine. Paperboy uses a common message exchange format called a SOUP packet, which is typically a .ZIP file holding many mail and news messages. Typically, your host administrators will have installed the necessary scripts to do most of this for you. If not, try the following:

First we need to gather up all your mail and news. A program called UQWK (see [Location](#) section above) is often used to create the SOUP packet.

```
unixhost% uqwk +m +n +r +L
(get mail, get news, read-only, SOUP format)
(drop the +r if you want UQWK to remember what messages you've seen before)
```

Next, we need to get these files down to your PC. To save space and time, we ZIP them up into a “packet”

```
unixhost% zip -m SOUP.ZIP AREAS *.MSG
```

then we transfer this file to our PC (here we use the zmodem program sz, but your system may have another utility installed)

```
unixhost% sz SOUP.ZIP
```

Once the file is on your PC, unzip it into the Paperboy directory, and select Open Areas... from the File menu.

Using Text Editors

Paperboy can use any external ASCII editor for message creation. The external editor supports quoting of messages and signatures (placed in SIG.TXT in the \PAPERBOY directory). Once a message has been “Sent,” you *cannot* alter the .MSG file without corrupting it!

Uploading SOUP replies

Similar to Downloading a SOUP packet, to upload a SOUP packet containing messages you've written.

On your PC...

```
C:\PAPERBOY> pkzip -m REPLY.ZIP REPLIES PB*.MSG
C:\PAPERBOY> sz REPLY.ZIP
```

On your host...

```
unixhost% rz
unixhost% unzip -U REPLY.ZIP
unixhost% uqwk -m -n +L -RREPLIES
(Don't forget to delete reply.zip back on your PC)
```

Folders

Paperboy can store messages into permanent folders. Simply create and delete folders from the File menu, and transfer messages to and from via the Edit menu. Whenever you create a message, it is automatically saved into a folder.

Keyboard Shortcuts

To rapidly read messages, several keyboard shortcuts are available. To quickly view messages one screen at a time, press the spacebar. To skip to the next message, press N, previous message, press P. The standard keyboard scrolling keys (Page Up, Page Down, Down Arrow) are also supported. Many popular menu items have shortcut keys too.

Configuration

Paperboy can be configured mostly through it's menus. Esoteric configuration options are hidden in the PAPERBOY.INI file.

Limitations

The find feature is barely functional, and often lies. The use of MMDF mail files isn't supported. Threading isn't as good as it could be. Paperboy is a packet, not databased, newsreader.

Acknowledgements

The Simple Offline USENET Packet Format (SOUP) Version 1.2 is Copyright © 1992-1993 Rhys Weatherley (rhys@cs.uq.oz.au). Thanks Rhys!

