

# NautNews Beta Version Installation Instructions

## The Easy Way:

Go and check out the Strombus Software home page at <http://www.xmission.com:80/~strombus/> where you can find a set of step by step instructions, as well as the latest poop on how things work in the testers' FAQ. Better documentation will come in the future, provided the market shows that this is a product worth working on....

## Files Included:

NautNews Beta is distributed as a zip file: nn0xxb.zip contains all of the files for NautNews Version 0.xx Beta, including support files and all required dynamic link libraries. Unfortunately it's a pretty big file, so you may want to download the various components separately. The ftp directory "components" includes:

nn0xxbx.zip - just the executable files for version 0.xx beta, plus the documentation files that change from release to release.

nnsuppt.zip - various dynamic link libraries, custom controls, etc. that will usually not change from release to release.

vbrun300.zip - vbrun300.dll which you may have from other sources.

msajt110.zip - msajt110.dll which you may have from other sources.

You will need the contents of all of these files, but you may already have portions of this distribution from earlier releases or other sources. If you run into problems, please download the full set to make sure you are current.

Unzip the distribution file(s) into a directory which will be the root of your news file system. You will find several exe files, which should reside in this directory. There are also several vbx files, several dll files, and the file ipport.lic, which Microsoft says should be installed in you windows system directory. (But the programs will run just fine if you leave them where they are.)

There is also the file `ipport.hlp` which describes the `ipport.vbx` custom control. (You can ignore it unless you are interested in programming winsock applications with Microsoft Visual Basic.)

## **Setting Up:**

Drag the file nautnews.exe from the file manager into a window of the program manager to create an icon for the program, which will run NautNews from the directory where it was installed. Nautnews will treat all file references as relative to the directory in which it was installed. This means that you can move the entire NautNews tree intact without disrupting anything. It also means you can setup multiple separate news trees if you want to, provided you are careful about search paths so that NautNews can find the other programs.

Run NautNews, select the options/configuration menu and edit the entries specifying your name, organization, email address, NNTP server address, and SMTP server address. Save the configuration. This will create the file nautnews.ini.

Now select the group/add news group menu item to add several newsgroups to the grid. The group name should be a valid, standard news group name like "comp.lang.basic.visual.misc". So far there is no checking for validity. Alternately, you can check Retrieve/Names of all groups, then Retrieve/Selected, and NN will download a list of valid groups from your server - this is probably a long list and will take some time, so be patient. Then you can choose from the group list.

The group directory is the path from the NautNews directory to the directory where messages and indexes for that group will be stored, like "comp\lang\vbmisc". NN will automatically suggest a path based on the group name. Do not include drive specifiers or a leading backslash.

Leave the latest message set to 0, and select "Articles" under "Retrieve from Server" to download full messages.

Establish a net connection through your winsock driver. Select retrieve/news from all groups from the menu to go out and get your news, then you can drop the net connection.

Now double click on a group or select group/read from the menu to start reading the articles in the group. Most of the functions should be self explanatory. 'News/Post New News' and 'News/Followup News' will create files with names of the form "POSTnnnn.PST" in the NautNews directory. 'Mail/Reply' and 'Mail/Forward' will create files with names of the form "MAILnnnn.MAI" in the NautNews

directory.

Next time you establish a net connection, choose send/both from the menu. Post will try to post those articles to the NNTP server, and will delete the POSTnnnn.PST files if (and only if) it succeeds. Mail will try to send those articles to the SMTP server, and will delete the MAILnnnn.MAI files if (and only if) it succeeds.

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