

QuickStart

If you are one of those people that don't read manuals, you can just read this chapter and be on your way. Snak is designed to be accessible and easy to use, but it has a lot of features and you are likely to miss a few if you don't read the manual. Now, without further ado, on with the show:

When you first launch Snak it will perform an initial setup and make a list with all the IRC servers it knows about. While that is being done, you will see a progress bar.

Connecting

After Snak is done creating the server file, it will bring up a dialog, reminding you that it is a shareware program. Shareware means that you will eventually have to pay for it if you decide to keep using it. It will also open a window for one of the default connection records.

You will have to set up a few things in this default connection record before you can connect to a server.

Press cmd-r or use the menu to open the preferences window. It will open up and display a list of available preference panels on the left and the currently selected panel on the right. Initially that will be the Setup panel. This panel shows the existing connection records. A Connection record contains a list of servers and ports plus nickname and startup action.

A startup action is one or more commands you want the program to perform automatically when you connect, like joining certain channels.

Doubleclick on the connection record that you want to use and fill in a nick of your choice. If you want to add servers, you can do that by pressing the Add button.

If there is more than one server in the connection record, the program will try each server until it finds one that will connect.

After completing the setup you can either use the File/Open Connection menu and choose your connection record, or you can select it in the connection record list in the preference window and press the Connect button.

Then a console window is shown and the program attempts to open a connection to the server. The console window will display the status of the connection in the top left corner. To the right in the console window is the notify list.

You can create multiple Connection records and open multiple connections simultaneously, but please keep in mind that some servers consider that "cloning" and

will ban you if you overdo it.

Joining Channels

When the connection is active and the console window status is "online", you can join channels. If you didn't specify a startup action in the Connection record (like /join #macintosh or similar) you must use the File/Join menu. That will open a window where you can enter the name of the desired channel. You can also select one or more channels from the list of favorites, or add channels to the favorites.

Once Snak receives confirmation from the IRC server that you have entered the channel, the channel window comes up and you will notice the user list to the left of the main text field, as well as the input field below it.

Configuring

The Preference window is dynamic - you do not need to save changes for them to be active. Just make the change and see it take effect immediately.

In the Server panel you can edit, delete and add servers. You can also move a server from one network to another. You can store a comment with each server, and you can specify the port number to use and how long to wait for the server to respond.

The Guardian panel is intended for parents or teachers that want to limit the channels or functions that their children or students can access. Initially it can be freely accessed, but once you fill out the password you will have to provide it to access the panel. To remove the password protection and turn off the Guardian features, empty the password field.

The Personal panel stores your real name and the default quit message that is displayed when you quit or close a connection. It also provides a field to enter the text that you want the program to return when someone asks for a ctcp userinfo.

The General panel contains checkboxes to customize the way the program reacts to specific events.

In the Channel panel you can specify what channel actions you want displayed, and you can select default font and size for channel text.

The DCC panel allows you to make the program automatically accept DCC requests, either only from the nicks in the list or from everybody. This preference can be set for chat and file receive individually.

In the Sound panel you can control the individual action sounds.

In the Logging panel you can activate Automatic logging and select the logging folder.

The Color panel lets you select the colors that Snak uses for the different kinds of

messages.

In the Menus panel you can define the contents of the Tools and Contextual menus.

The Clicking panel lets you configure what happens when you double clicks in the notify list and channel userlist.

Address Book

Snak contains an Address Book that is intended to store the snippets of information that you come across as you IRC. Someones real name, email address, favorite channel. . . .

To access the Address Book use the Windows/Address Book menu. Like the preference window, the Address Book window is dynamic and you do not need to save changes to preserve them. To store information just start filling out the fields. The most important and the only required field is the nick. As soon as you select another record, make a new record or close the window the program saves the changes.

Channel List

If you want to see a channel listing, use the File/List Channels menu. That brings up the List channels window where you can set up criteria for the listing. You can specify that you want to see channels containing certain words but not others. You can specify that you want to see channels with at least 10 users but not more that 20.

Pressing OK will send the command off to the server. Be advised that on some servers, the List command will result in so much data being sent to you that the server will disconnect you . . .

As soon as the server responds Snak will begin filtering the information based on the criteria that you specified. Once a valid channel is found, Snak will open a Channel List window and display the channel name and information. When the server is done listing the channels Snak will enable the Save button in the Channel list window and you can save the listing to a file. The Channel list window supports a Find and Find Again function that will let you search the found channels.