

Air Mail

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COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Air Mail		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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Chapter 1

Air Mail

1.1 Air Mail Documentation

Introduction - What is Air Mail and system requirement

Registration Info - how to become a registered user

Copyright Notice - some legal stuff you should read

Disclaimer - please don't sue me, read it!

Air Mail Environment - how to get around in Air Mail

Installation - how to install Air Mail

Preference Setup - preferences setup

User and Groups - address book for users and groups

File Encode/Decode - how to tell Air Mail to uuencode/uuencode

External Editor - use external editor to edit your mail

Air Mail Format - Air Mail mail format

Tags - Add tags to a message

User Mail Boxes - Create mail box for individual users

Queued Mails Feature - spool mail feature and offline reader/mailer

Sending and Replying - sending and replying to mails

Bugs and Problems - some bugs and problems

Tips - safe tips

How to save \$\$\$ - how the save money using Air Mail

TO-DO List - future enhancements

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Internet: toysoft@connect.ab.ca

WWW: <http://www.connect.ab.ca>

Documentation written by Danny Y. Wong and David Seikel

1.2 Introduction

Air Mail is a internet mailer for sending and receiving SMTP/POP3 emails. Air Mail is fully Intuitionized with a easy user interface, in and out mail boxes, user groups, automatic encoding and decoding using MIME and UU program, ARexx interface, support external text editor, message spooling, signature and tag line, time interval mail checking, mail maintenances, public screen, icon and menu interface, font sensitive and many more features. Air Mail can be used as an offline reader and with the Arexx interface you can automate your mailing.

Air Mail MUI requires AmiTCP/IP version 4.0 or higher, works with PPP, SLIP or MLink connections, Workbench 2.1 or higher and MUI v3.2 or high.

1.3 Installation

Installation is straight forward.

Double click on install.rexx script to install Air Mail.

The script basically copies the all the libs to the LIBS: directory and creates a AirMail directory in the ENVARC: The script does NOT check if your current libraries are newer. If you are upgrading to version 2.0 or higher then DO NOT run the install script.

If you did it correctly you should have a file named AirMail_mui.prefs in the ENVARC:AirMail directory.

1.4 User Registration

Air Mail is Shareware meaning that you have the rights to use Air Mail for a limited time of two weeks. After this date, you must register Air Mail if you want to continue to use it.

Registration fees are followings:

\$25.00 US per copy.

\$10.00 US for unlimited upgrades

Canadian exchange rate or the current exchange rate

\$35.00 Canadian per copy.

\$14.00 Canadian for unlimited upgrades

Contact me for group rates.

When you become a registered user, you will receive the full version of Air Mail with bug fixes, enhancements and crippled codes removed.

ALL REGISTERED USER GET ONE MAJOR FREE UPGRADE.

The following features are disabled in the DEMO version.

1. Automatic uuencode/uudecode and MIME
2. User groups
3. Mail spooling (queued mails)
4. Time interval mail checking
5. User mail boxes

Please print the registration form in the 'About' menu item in Air Mail.

This is to ensure that it will not be confused with my other shareware registrations and that you wouldn't end up getting the wrong product.

If ordering by cheque or money order please make payable to: Danny Y. Wong
and mail registration form to:

RE: Air Mail

Danny Y. Wong

131 64 Ave N.W.

Calgary, Alberta

T2K 0L9 CANADA

Thank you for supporting shareware authors.

Bug Fixes, Comments and Contact:

Home 403-498-6892 (6:00pm to 11:59pm MST)

Internet: toysoft@connect.ab.ca

1.5 Disclaimer

Disclaimer: The author makes no warranties, either expressed or implied.

This program is provided on an "as is" basis and the author will not be liable for any damages caused or alleged to be caused directly by using this program. Use at your own risk.

1.6 Copyright Notice

Air Mail is copyrighted 1995-96 by Danny Y. Wong. You as the user DO NOT have any rights to modify and/or change Air Mail in any form without written permission from the author. Air Mail can not be sold or included in any disk or electric base distribution without written permission from the author. Permission is granted to distribute the DEMO version of Air Mail as long as the archive remained unchanged.

Illegal duplication of copyrighted software is prohibited.

If you do not like Air Mail then write a better one yourself!

1.7 Tags

Tags Picture

A tag is a one line text that is included at the end of each message. Air Mail will randomly pick a tag from the Tags file. You must select the 'Include Tag' check box in the Misc preference.

1.8 User Mail Box

User Mail Boxes

The user mail box feature lets you create individual mail boxes for each user in the Address Book. Once you have created a mail box, Air Mail will automatically put incoming messages to the user mail box.

Example: Assumed you are a registered user of AirMail. To create a user mail box for me (Danny Y. Wong) you would do the following.

1. Open the User Mail Box using the menu or Right-Amiga-B.
2. Click on the 'Add User' button.
3. Select user 'Danny Y. Wong' from your Address Book. Of course you must add user 'Danny Y. Wong' first. If you haven't done so go and open the Address Book window and create a new user name 'Danny Y. Wong' and save it.
4. You should see the user name 'Danny Y. Wong' in the left listview. Click on the Save button and close the window.

Now when ever I send you upgrades or messages, a copy will be stored in the user mail box 'Danny Y. Wong'. Also a copy is stored in the In Box.

All the user mail boxes are created in the User path specified in the Paths preference.

1.9 Preference Setup

Prefs Example

SMTP Host: The full name of the system through which you will send mail.

eg: portal.connect.ab.ca

UserID: Your user name, login id, alias, whatever you are identified as on the systems named in SMTP Host and 'Domain'. UserID@Domain is the return address used for all the mail that you write. UserID is also used to identify you to your SMTP host when collecting mail. Do not include the domain name only your user id.

POP Host: The full name of the system through which you will receive mail.

eg: mail.connect.ab.ca

Note: If you are using the same host name for retrieving and sending mails then the SMTP and POP must be the same.

eg: connect.ab.ca for both POP and SMTP.

Domain: If you are using a real SLIP/PPP connection, this is the name of your system. If you are using a fake SLIP/PPP you should make this the same as 'SMTP Host'.

Real Name: Your real name, it get's added to your return address.

Organization: If you belong to an organization then enter the name here.

Paths must be full paths and not aliases. eg: for editor use dh0:c/ed instead of just c:ed

In Box Path: A directory where your incoming mail will be stored.

Out Box Path: A directory where outgoing mail will be created / stored.

Trash Path: A directory where deleted mail will be stored.

Users Path: A directory where your address book will be stored.

Decode Path: A directory where automatically uudecoded and MIME files will be put.

UUxT Prg Path: The path, including program name, of the program to use for uuencoding/decoding.

MIME: The path, including the program of the program to use for MIME encoding and decoding.

Editor Path: The full path, including program name, of your favourite text editor. This is used to write and reply to mail.

Reader Path: The full path, including program name, of your favourite reader program. This is used to read your mail.

Reply Prefix: When you reply to e-mail and have checked 'Quote original mail', this will be put at the beginning of every line of the e-mail, which will then be loaded into the editor ready for you to edit. Usually a single > optionally followed by a space is adequate.

Delete mail on server: If this is checked, any e-mail that is transferred from your POP host will be deleted from the host.

Display dialog with new mail: If this is checked, you will get a requester after the transfer of any mail from your POP host. This requester will inform you of how much mail you have received.

Include Signature: If this is checked, whatever is in your signature will be added to any e-mail sent by AirMail.

Automatic Decode: When AirMail is transferring your mail from your POP host, it will check to see if any of it is Encoded, if it is and this box is checked, it will automatically be Decoded to the directory specified in Decode Path gadget.

Quote original mail: If this is checked, any e-mail you reply to will be quoted in your reply, with the 'Reply Prefix' at the beginning of each line.

Speech: If this is checked, AirMail will use Narrator.device to tell you what it is doing.

Append Mail: If this is checked, Air Mail will append all the retrieved mails in one single file. A different file will be created each time you check for mails on the server.

PubScr Name: This is the name of a Public Screen that you want Air Mail to open it's window on. Eg: VArts for Visual Arts

Mail Checking: Check on the check box and enter the time in minutes you want Air Mail to check for mails on the server. Air Mail must be running in order for this to work.

Tag: If checked this will add a random tag line to the end of your mail.

This is like a signature but only one line of text.

Surpress Requesters: If checked this will not display the requester when AirMail is asking for user confirmation such as deleting a mail.

File Decoding: There are three choices.

1. NONE - Do not encoding the files just include it as is
2. UUEncode - Use uuencode program
3. MIME - Use MIME

1.10 User an Groups

Show User Setup

User group name may not include the @ character. This is how Air Mail tells if the name is a user or a group.

To create a new user group do the following:

1. Click on the 'New Group' button. This will clear the listview.
2. Click on a user from the available list and hold the left mouse button.
3. Drag the user to the right listview and release the left mouse button.
4. Click on the 'Save Group' to save the new group. Once the new group is save it will appear on the available list.

1.11 Encoding and Decoding Email

To send binary files such as pictures or sound files, you will need a program that will encode the binary file into a form that can be transmitted through the modem. A generally used program is uuxt which can be found

on Aminet or your local BBS. It is recommended that you use V3.0. Older versions may also work.

AirMail also support MIME format. The recommended MIME program to use is base64 which can be found on Aminet in util/conv or your local bbs.

AirMail will automatically call uuixt or base64 to uuencode/decode program to the email. If the file is already uuencoded then AirMail will skip it. You must define the UU or MIME program in the Mail Setup before you can use the automatic decode and encode. The path to the UU or MIME program must be a complete path, DO NOT add parameters. AirMail is hardcoded to handle the parameters.

```
c:uuixt ---> invalid
```

```
c:base64
```

```
dh0:c/uuixt ---> valid
```

```
dh0:c/base64
```

Note: AirMail actually assumes that UUxT and base64 is the program used, UUxT and MIME is a single program that both uuencodes and decodes.

AirMail assumes the following formats when decoding and encoding.

UUxt 3.1 base64 1.0

Encode 1>uuixt a infile outfile 1>base64 encode mime infile outfile

Decode 1>uuixt x filename 1> base64 decode filename

1.12 External Editor

With Air Mail you can use any external editor to read, write or reply to your mails. You must check the 'External Editor' checkbox in the Mail Setup and have entered a valid path and name for you editor.

```
c:ed ---> invalid
```

```
dh0:c/ed ---> valid
```

1.13 Air Mail Format

Writing a New Mail

Since AirMail has no control over the external editor, any time you click on the New mail icon or the menu item, AirMail automatically creates a new file for the new mail. The new mail heading looks like this:

[AIRMAIL3] --> Mail keyword.

To: toysoft@connect.ab.ca, --> Must come before the TO: address/s.

From: toysoft@connect.ab.ca --> Automatically displayed. --> Must come before the DATE.

Date: Nov 24 1995 11:11:09 PM --> Automatically displayed.

Subject: Air Mail is great! --> Automatically displayed or entered.

[FILES] --> Must come before an attached FILE.

Office:Comms/Files/sushi.out, --> Optional filename to attach.

X-Mailer: Air Mail V3.1 -- Amiga Mailer By Danny Y. Wong

The above is the default New mail heading. The TO, SUBJECT, and FILES fields will be filled in automatically if you had entered anything in the respective areas in the Write New Mail window. You are required to enter the TO field, all other fields are optional and should be replaced with blank lines if you do not use them.

You can create your mail using any method but the header must be the same as described above.

You can edit the mail header but you must follow these restrictions.

1. The maximum number of characters per line in the header is 60 characters.
2. You can have as many lines in the TO: and [FILES] block.
3. A ', ' comma and space separates each email address or file.
4. A ', ' comma and space terminates each line in the [TO] and [FILES] block
5. There must be a blank line between the last line in the header block and your message.

1.14 Air Mail Environment

1. Preferences
2. Tags
3. Air Mail Icons
4. In/Out Box
5. Write/Read Mail
6. User Mail Boxes

InBox, OutBox and Trash Can

InBox contains all your new mails and the OutBox contains all the out going and queued mails. All mails are stored on directory until its deleted.

When you delete a mail it is stored in the Trash Can until its deleted. If you want to save the mails to other format, you can directly load the mail.

The file of each mail is created using the current date.

eg: today's date is June 1, 1995 and you have two news mails. Air Mail will name two new files 1995.06.01.001.AM and 1995.06.01.002.AM (year.month.day.###) respectively and append the extension .AM to identify that these files are Air Mail.

When you display either box, you get a large window with a listview containing the e-mail with a number of buttons along the bottom. Any e-mail that you have replied has an 'R' on the left of it. Any e-mail that is queued for sending has a 'Q' on the left of it. You can double click on an e-mail to read it, or single click to select it for other operations, you can also multi-select them by clicking on more. All selected e-mail has a dash '-' on the left of it.

Symbols

* - New Mail

- Email has been read

R - Replied to this email

Q - Email is queued for later sending

F - Email has been forwarded

OK: Closes the box.

Delete: Deletes the selections.

Read: Reads the selections.

Save Addr: Saves the From address/es in your Address Book.

Reply: Loads the selection into your editor, quoted if you wanted, and sends the result to the original sender.

Send All: Sends the selections to the appropriate addresses.

Forward: Pops up a requester asking you to select the address you want to forward the e-mail to.

Save: Pops up a file requester, so you can choose a file name to save the selection as.

1.15 Queued Mail Feature

You can use Air Mail as a offline reader. When you want to reply to a mail, simply type your response and save it in the OutBox. When you reconnect to your mail server and run Air Mail, Air Mail will ask you if you want to send all the queued mails now or later. If the "Surpress Requesters" is checked in the Misc Setup, AirMail will automatically send the queued mails without asking for confirmation.

1.16 How to saving online charges using Air Mail

With the Queued Mail feature you are no longer have to be connected to your mail server. For people who pay online charges you can use Air Mail to fetch all your new mails and then disconnect and use Air Mail as an offline reader to read and reply to your mails. This will save you alot of money in the long run.

1.17 Bugs and Problems

There are a couple of knowing bugs.

Bugs

1. There is a problem deleting mails from the mail boxes particularly the Outbox and the trash can.

Make sure you read the mail first before deleting, you might delete the wrong mail.

Solutions to Problems

1. Why does Air Mail display the message about default preference not found during startup.

Installation - how to install Air Mail

2. If Air Mail is in a wait state this usually means the it is waiting for a response from the host. If you have a wrong host name or the host is down, Air Mail will wait until the time out expires. Time out is depended on the host. The wait state is not a system crash.

3. If Air Mail reports a problem saving your mails then you haven't config the preferences correctly. When specifying directories make sure that they are valid.

4. If Air Mail reports that the socket.library is not found then load the library using the loadlib command. This maybe also be the case if AmiTCP has not be loaded.

1>loadlib libs:socket.library

5. Air Mail may take some time to sort out things if you are sending to a large user group. So don't panic and sit back.

6. If you can't edit or write a new mail when you select 'Edit' is because:

- a. You have specified a invalid OutBox path.
- b. There is not enough memory to start the external editor.

7. Can't view Air Mail screen shots? I you are having problem viewing the screen shots then you don't have the Display program.

1.18 Tips

1. If your Outbox/InBox is getting large try archiving the mails. By removing the mails it will speed up the search when you access the mail boxes or simply specify a new mail box.

2. If Air Mail crashes during sending and depending on how far Air Mail got before the crash. Air Mail might already have saved your mail to the OutBox. When you start up Air Mail again, you will be prompted with a message. If you don't get the message then you can resend the mail in the OutBox by selecting the mail and click on Send.

1.19 Future Enhancements

1. Print mails
2. ARexx support
3. Icon interface

1.20 Usage

Writing new mail.

Click on the 'Write new mail' gadget (the first gadget) in the main window, The 'New mail header' (see below) will open up. You will need to select a To: address, and enter a subject. See 'New mail header' below for more details.

Remember to follow the rules when editing the mail header. **Mail Format**
Sending mail.

When you start AirMail while you are online, it checks to see if there is any mail queued and waiting to be sent, if there is then you will get a requester asking you if they should be sent now. When you write or reply to mail, you can choose to send it immediately. From the Outbox window, you can click on a queued e-mail, then click on the 'Send' gadget to send it now. In any of these cases, you will see the 'Sending mail' requester, which has two gadgets, a progress bar, and a cancel gadget. You will see the various stages of the mail sending protocol happen above the progress bar, and you can cancel it at any time. The requester will go away when the mail is sent. If the mail cannot be sent for some reason, then it will be queued for later sending.

Receiving mail.

Click on the "Check for new mail" gadget (the last gadget), and you will see a requester similar to the 'Sending mail' requester described above. The 'Receiving mail' requester has two gadgets, a progress bar, and a

cancel gadget. You will see the various stages of the mail receiving protocol happen above the progress bar, and you can cancel it at any time. The requester will go away when the mail is received. If you have 'Display dialog with new mail' checked, you will now see a requester telling you how much mail you have received.

Replying to mail.

Click on the 'Reply' gadget in the Inbox window, The 'New mail header' (see below) will open up. The To:, From:, and Subject: gadgets will be filled in for you. If you have 'Quote original mail' checked, the original will be loaded into the editor (internal or external) with your reply prefix if any. See 'New mail header' below for more details.

Writing a New Mail

Whenever you are editing mail, you will get the 'New mail header' window. The various gadgets in this header are described here.

TO: If you want to send a mail to a user that is not in the address book, you can type the user's email address here.

LIST VIEWS

Users: A listview of the people in your Address Book. These names are taken from the 'Real Name' field for individuals, or the 'Email Addr' field for groups. Click on one of these names with the left mouse button and a copy of the name will attach itself to your mouse pointer, drag it over to the 'To' or 'CC' listview and release the left mouse button to drop it into the listview. The name will then move from one listview to the other. You can also drag and drop a name from any of the 'Names', 'To', or 'CC' listviews to any other.

In the middle.

To: This is the address of the person you are sending this e-mail too.

If you select a group from the address book, the mail will be sent to everyone in the group. If you are replying to mail, this will be filled in already.

CC: same as To:

Files: Used to select the names of files to be UUEncoded and attached to this mail. You can use the 'Add' button to the bottom right of this to use a file requester to select the file. Use the 'Del' button on the bottom left to delete a file from the list.

Subject: This is the subject of the e-mail, write anything here. Filled

in automatically if you are replying.

BUTTON GADGETS

Edit: The 'Edit' gadget will run your external editor and let you edit the e-mail.

Cancel: Cancel this e-mail, do not send it, do not queue it, do not save it.

Send: Send this e-mail now. This is a quick send without and body text.

Only the Subject and any files attached will be send and nothing else.

Queue: Queue this e-mail for later sending. This will queue the email will the Subject and any files attached to it. No body text is saved.