

YA-NewsWatcher and Sorting

In original NewsWatcher, article threads in subject windows are only sorted by the article number of the first article in a thread. In YA-NewsWatcher, threads can be sorted in a number of ways: article number, subject, author, date, label, line count, and score. Note that in both versions the order of articles within a thread is determined by article number. This article number is determined by when an article appears on your news server, and not when the article was posted. It is therefore common to find that articles in threads are in random and not chronological order.

Sorting by subject does just that, threads are sorted by the canonical (ignoring Re:, etc.) subject of the thread. The other sorting methods are equally self-explanatory. They are available when the matching header has been selected for downloading when the newsgroup was opened. For example, to sort by author you need to have "Show Authors" checked in the Subject Windows Option part of the preferences dialog.

When sorting by author, etc. the contents of threads are examined. A thread containing posts by Clark and Xanthus would be placed above a thread with posts by Norstad and Spindler when sorting by author using the normal order, since the first posts would be sorted according to "Clark" and the second by "Norstad." In this case choosing "Sort in Reverse Order" would not reverse the order of the threads, since the first thread would sort by "Xanthus" and the second by "Spindler." When "Sort Labeled to Top" is enabled, articles in subject windows are first sorted by label color, and then by the regular sorting criterion (author, subject, etc.) Note that the reverse sort option does not affect sorting by label.

"Normal" sorting order is defined as follows:

- When sorting by author, threads are sorted according to the normal alphabetical ordering by the last name of the authors.
- When sorting by subject, threads are sorted according to the normal alphabetical ordering by the canonical subject line.

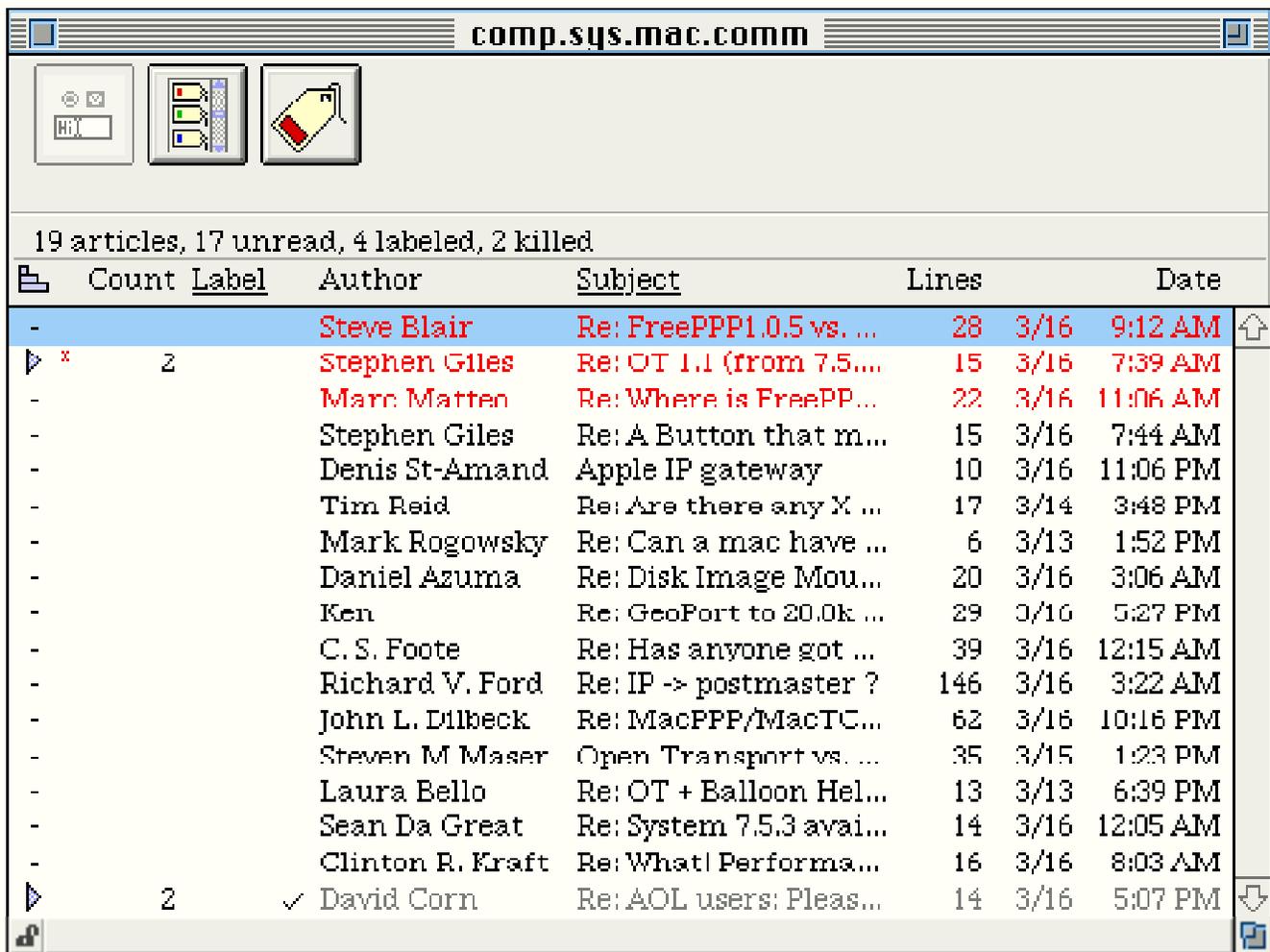
When sorting by Lines, threads with long articles are sorted to the top.

- When sorting by dates, threads with more recent articles are sorted to the top.
- When sorting by score, threads with high scoring articles are sorted to the top.

Sorting is accomplished by selecting one of the options using a hierarchical Sorting menu item under the News menu, or by clicking on the appropriate column label in the Subject window (when labels are shown). The label is underlined to indicate the sorting mode. Shift clicking the currently underlined marker switches sorting to by article number (and no column labels with the possible exception of Label are underlined).

Note that Labels in subject windows can be enabled or disabled on the fly using the "Show Labels/Hide Labels" item in the Edit menu.

Changing the sort order when a Subject window is frontmost will resort the articles in that Subject window. The order of sorting can be reversed by selecting that option in the hierarchical Sorting menu, or by clicking on the stacked blocks icon in the leftmost column label (when labels are shown).



Any new Subject windows use the default sort method chosen in the "Subject Window Options" portion of the preferences dialog. This is also where the choice is made regarding which article headers to download and show when creating a new subject window.

NewsWatcher Preferences

Topic: **Subject Windows** ▼



Show Authors

Show Labels

Show Lines

Show Scores

Show Dates

Show Times

Collapse Threads

Horizontal Scrollbar

Remove Read Messages

Show Column Labels

Initial Default Sort Mode: by **Subject** ▼

Sort in Reverse Order

Sort Labeled to Top

Cancel

OK