User Manager 2.5

Automatic User Management System for the Hermes BBS!

User Manager gives free–time to SysOps of Hermes BBSs!

User Manager provides valuable information about the users of your BBS, automatically deletes user records which are inactive, and provides an alternative, friendly, and forgiving transfer section access control system. User Manager works unattended; safely carrying out its duties while you spend your time on things other than BBS maintenance.

User Manager is divided into four separate functions: 1) deletion of inactive user records; 2) transfer section access control, 3) user record editor, 4) Users backup.

Feature List

1]   Automatically deletes user records which are inactive for a period of time which you specify. Manual deletion can also be activated.

2]   Information about the deletions are logged in the Today Log.

3]   Control access to your transfer sections on a monthly basis.

4]   Display a list of recently uploaded files as users enter the transfer section.

5]   Special bulletins are displayed to users to keep them informed as to their transfer section status for the month.

6]   All transfer section control activities are logged to the Today Log.

7]   Remote operation. User Manager is configurable and operable either logged on locally or by calling remote.

8]   User Editor. Make global and SL range changes to your user records. SL, DSL, forum access, restrictions, and message sub q-scan can be turned on/off from UM.

9]   Automatic ANSI or TEXT display of the files.

10]   Zero QScan Pointers after installation of backup Users file. No longer do your users need to type

//QSCAN in order to reset the message pointers. This can be done for them!

11]   Monthly uploads are used to offset the downloads credited in FileControl'r. Now, uploads will be used to offset the number of downloads by a user. The calculation is [number of downloads] - [number of uploads] = [monthly credits].

Setting Up User Manager

Reminder!   **Some functions of User Manager make changes to user records and, therefore, alter the Users file. All routines have been thoroughly tested on several systems, but it is always good practice to make a backup of your Users file before installing any external which makes changes.**

1) Copy User Manager and the folder "User Manager Files" into the Externals folder and restart Hermes.

Special Files

There are a couple special files in the User Manager Files folder which you will want to look at and possibly edit for use on your BBS.

"TooManyDLS"   This file will be displayed to users if **FileControl'r** is active and they have downloaded more files than credited to them for the month. It should inform them that they have exceeded the number of download credits and what they need to do to continue downloading this month.

"ResetMsg"   This file will be displayed to users if **FileControl'r** is active and it is the first call to your BBS this month. It should inform them that the monthly credits have been reset.

NOTE! NOTE! NOTE! ALL Bulletins MUST END with a CARRIAGE RETURN. YOU MUST append ".ansi" to the end of the ANSI version and ".text" to the end of the TEXT version.

2) Log on to Hermes as User #1 and select User Manager from the Externals List.

A Note About The Automatic Operations Of AutoDelete'r, FileControl'r, and UsersBack'r…

All automatic routines commence their duties at the first opportunity after midnight. They wait until all users have logged off before starting. The operations are totally transparent to your users. Each operation has been thoroughly tested on several systems -- single-line

and multi-line -- and has been found to work as intended and completely reliably.

AutoDelete'r

AutoDelete'r contains routines for the automatic or manual deletion of inactive user records. The benefit of this is to keep your user records current and to keep the Users file from growing unneccessarily large. Each user record is approximately 3K in size. AutoDelete'r is more efficiently used if allowed to do its duties automatically once a day, but the same function can be used from the User Manager Menu.

What does AutoDelete'r do?

When AutoDelete'r finds a user record of a user who has not called for the number of days you specify, it changes the following information in the record:

1) It sets the deletion flag to TRUE -- "Deleted" check box will be checked;
2) It replaces the user name with "• UM Deleted#[user number] •".

It also writes the user name and user number of the deleted user record into the Today Log so that you have a record of its activities.

After turning on AutoDelete'r, initial processing will occur immediately when all users currently online have logged off.

If you want to use the automatic deletion procedure:

Choose "<A> AutoDelete'r Menu"

Choose "<A> Turn on AutoDelete'r"

You will be asked if you wish to turn on the AutoDelete'r feature of User Manager. If you answer "No", you will go back to the User Manager Menu. If you answer "Yes", you will then be asked to provide the number of days back from today which AutoDelete'r will use in determining inactive user records for deletion. Example: If you enter the number "90", AutoDelete'r will search through the Users file for all users who have not called your BBS within the last 90 days and will delete those user records.

Default: OFF --- so you need to select this and respond "Yes" if you wish to use AutoDelete'r.
Choose "<B> Set Exemption Char"

Of course, you will have users on your system which call infrequently which you do not want to be deleted from your system. Enter a restriction flag character here and also enter it into each user record

for those particular users. When AutoDelete'r (or its manual counterpart) swing into action, the users with this flag set will not be deleted.

Default: "X"

Choose "<C> Set Deletion SL"

You can set the maximum security level which AutoDelete'r will affect. This is useful in situations where you are supporting different "levels" of callers; example: subscribers and subscribers.

Default: "200"

Choose "<Q> User Manager Menu

This returns you to the main User Manager Menu.

FileControl'r

FileControl'r is a friendly and forgiving alternative to the normal Hermes ratio system.

FileControl'r works on a month by month basis. It gives appropriate information to your callers so that they understand how the system works and their obligations. Because FileControl'r resets itself each month, your users are automatically given a "second chance" each month to gain access to your transfer sections. You control the number of files a user may download in any given month. With the normal Hermes ratio system, it is often difficult for users to get back into good standing with your transfer sections once their ratio becomes unbalanced. This often will force the user to quit calling your BBS. FileControl'r "forgives" the user each month, yet holds the user to the limits of the number of files credited to their user record by you. *FileControl'r only works on transfer sections which you have decided to control access. If you do not specifically tell FileControl'r to control access to a transfer section, users will continue to have access to it whether or not access to others has been denied!*

FileControl'r looks at the number of uploads from a user during the month and uses them to continue access to the transfer section once the number of credits has been exceeded. Users who upload are given proper credit, by continuing access and by inclusion in the "Uploader's List" which is displayed to all users as they enter the transfer section.

What does FileControl'r do?

Initial Processing

When FileControl'r is turned on for the first time, it waits until all callers (including SysOp) have logged off before starting its initial processing. It then scans and processes all of the user records based upon the restriction character flags you have set.

    1) If a user record has the "Exemption" flag set or their SL is greater than the file control SL, FileControl'r passes over the record and moves to the next -- no action is taken.

    2) If the user record does not have the "Exemption" flag set or their SL is less than or equal to the file control SL, the following actions occur:

        • Upload number set to zero (0)
        • Upload kilobytes set to zero (0)
        • Download number set to zero (0)
        • Download kilobytes set to zero (0)
        • ResetMsg restriction character flag is turned on
        • File Area restriction character flag is turned on

    3) A record of all user record processing is entered into the Today Log for future reference.

Daily Processing

Each night, at the first opportunity after midnight (when no users are online) the following processing occurs:

    1) If a user record has the "Exemption" flag set or their SL is greater than the file control SL, FileControl'r passes over the record and moves to the next -- no action is taken.

    2) If the total number of downloads *minus number of uploads* is found to be greater than the number of monthly credited downloads, the "File Area" restriction character flag is turned off for the user and access to the *controlled* transfer sections is denied.

    3) If the total number of downloads is found to be greater than the number of monthly credited downloads and the number of uploads for this month is greater than zero (0), the number of uploads is credited to the user's account and access to the transfer section is continued.

    4) A record of all user record processing is entered into the Today Log for future reference.

    NOTE: The use of FileControl'r alters the number of downloads and uploads in all user records which are affected each month. FileControl'r works on a month by month basis, so capturing the number of download and uploads for periods longer than a

month is not possible.

If you want to use the automatic file control procedure:

Choose "<B> FileControl'r Menu"

Choose "<A> Turn on FileControl'r"

If you respond "No" here, you will return to the User Manager Menu. If you respond "Yes", you will toggle the current state of FileControl'r.

Default: OFF --- so you need to select this and respond "Yes" if you wish to use FileControl'r.

Choose "<B> Set Monthly Downloads"

Enter the maximum number of downloads you want credited to your users' accounts.

Default: 25

Choose "<C> Set File Area Char"

You need to enter a restriction character flag here which will be used by FileControl'r to turn on/off access to your transfer directories. The character you enter here will also need to be entered in all file directories (use the Transfers menu item under the Sysop menu and enter this character in the "Restrictions" field.) for all directories which access is to be controlled by FileControl'r. If you have directories which you always want users to be able to access, don't enter this restriction character flag in their settings. FileControl'r turns this flag on/off depending upon the users' number of monthly downloads.

Default: "Z"

Choose "<D> Set Exemption Char"

The restriction character flag you enter here will be used to determine whether or not FileControl'r has any effect upon a user. If you wish certain users to never be effected by FileControl'r, set this flag in those users' records.

Default: "X"

Choose "<E> Set ResetMsg Char"

This is a restriction character flag which is used by FileControl'r to display the ResetMsg to the user on their first call of the month to your BBS. Once they have read the ResetMsg, the flag is turned off and they will not be displayed the message again until next month.
Default: "R"

Choose "<F> Set File Control SL"

You can set the maximum security level which FileControl'r will affect. This is useful in situations where you are supporting different "levels" of callers; example: subscribers and subscribers.

Default: "200"

UsersBack'r

UsersBack is a backup system for your Users file.

UsersBack'r works automatically like AutoDelete'r and FileControl'r. It allows you to keep up to seven days of consecutive backups or the Users file. The backups are renamed by appending and extension to their names.

If you want to use the automatic file control procedure:

Choose "<C> UsersBack'r Menu"

You are presented a prompt which asks you to enter the number of days worth of backups you want UsersBack'r to keep.

Default: 3 days --- type '0' if you want to turn UsersBack'r off.

You next are presented a prompt which asks you to enter the pathname to where you want UsersBack'r to save the backups. Do not enter the filename; just the pathname ending with a colon.

SUGGESTION: Just backing up your Users file isn't often enough. For real backup of your BBS try "Auto Backup". This external will back up all the important files on the BBS and can use the Stuffit Engine to significantly save on the amount of disk space backups take.

UserEdit'r

UserEdit'r is a user record edit system .

UserEdit'r allows you to make global or security level specific changes to the SL, DSL, forum access, restrictions, and message sub q-scan settings of your callers. This is a very powerful tool and will save you much time when you need to do restructuring of your user records.

SUGGESTION: Before doing major re-mapping of your setup, do careful pre-planning.

Choose "<D> UserEdit'r Menu"

Global Editting

These three menu items allow you to turn ON or OFF settings for ALL of your callers.
You will be presented familiar prompts for which to enter your choices.

NOTE: Do not use these commands when users are online. It will interfere with their session.

Security Level Regulated Editting

These four menu items allow you to turn ON or OFF settings for callers based upon a range of SLs
which you enter. You will be asked to provide the LOW and HIGH SLs which you want to change.
The changes will occur for those callers with SLs EQUAL to or GREATER THAN AND EQUAL TO
or LESS THAN the LOW SL you enter.

NOTE: Do not use these commands when users are online. It will interfere with their session.

"<G> Backup Users File"

This will allow to manually backup the Users file. You only need to use this if you are not using
UsersBack'r.

NOTE: Do not use this command when users are online. It will interfere with their session.

"<H> Delete Inactive Callers"

You will now be asked to enter the number of days since a user has called your BBS. The deletion
process will delete those users who have not called your BBS since this number of days.

NOTE: Do not use this command when users are online. It will interfere with their session.

"<I> Zero QScan Pointers"

This will do the same operation as "//QSCAN" does when typed at the Main Menu. But it does it on
all user records.

NOTE: Do not use this command when users are online. It will interfere with their session.

Using User Manager

Once you have the automatic features (AutoDelete'r, FileControl'r, and UsersBack'r) set up, they do not need any further attention and will operate *trouble–free*!

Uploader's List

You can display a list of recently uploaded files, the uploader's name, and the filesize when a user enters the transfer section. This can be done whether or not you are using FileControl'r!

Choose "<F> UL File Display"

If you respond "No", you will return to the User Manager Menu. Your BBS name will be displayed in a header message prior to the display of the Uploader's List.

> **NOTE: The Uploader's List is created by a special routine in *Auto FileList*, another *Hubris Software Extension***
>
> **The Uploader's List needs to be stored in the User Manager Files folder and MUST be named UPLOADERS.**

3) That's all there is to setting up User Manager! Let me know the creative ways you use it!!

Problems & Suggestions

Support for all Manager Series Extensions can be found on two locations. The **primary** support location is Mulligan's Valley, the **secondary** support location is Olympus. Any problems should be reported to me either on Mulligan's Valley (203) 772-4485 or the Hermes Support BBS (206) 643-2874.

Thanks!

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