

07c8e0f8-0

Case

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WRITTEN BY	Case	July 22, 2024	

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Chapter 1

07c8e0f8-0

1.1 WATCHER v1.00 by Case

Case of Energy Telecommunications Presents:

WATCHER v1.0

The C-Net/3 Subboard Activity Monitoring System

Contents of this documentation:

Overview~~~~ - What WATCHER does and what it's good for
Installation - Put this here and that there to make it go
Operation~~~ - How to use WATCHER for best results
Version~Info - When was what released and what was done.
The~Future~~ - What is to come from WATCHER and Case???
Contact~Me!~ - How to get in touch with the author.

1.2 Overview of WATCHER

Most of my releases for C-Net have been to make a complex task easy to do and requiring little effort from the SysOp. This comes from my own way of doing things, namely the LAZY WAY! :)

WATCHER follows in this tradition, making a difficult task easy. This time my utility allows you to find out at a moments notice which of your areas are the MOST POPULAR with your users.

While for some System Operators this may be an easy task I have found it a very difficult one. When you carry a number of networks and really don't have the time to watch your users online it's hard to know what areas are being utilized and which aren't. Sure, you can see in your logs when someone makes a post, but what about when the users are just READING in the area? You are stuck not knowing what is going on with what.

Introduce WATCHER. This program automatically records when users enter a subboard and keeps track of how popular your subboards are. It works both from the new scan at logon and when users are physically in the Base area. WATCHER generates a graphical report that presents you three types of ways to check out the information it has collected.

First, it will give you a numerical figure telling you how many times the sub was entered by users. Next, you get a percentage report that lets you know what percentage of the total entries that sub is responsible for. Finally you have a neat bar graph that shows how that sub compares to your most popular sub.

WATCHER maintains it's own data file for the most part. It is easy to edit if you want to remove a sub or test something. In addition the data file is only as large as the users make it. Subs that aren't entered are not recorded at all in the data.

I'll save the more technical explanations of operation later on in the Operation section of this documentation. Now it's on to the Installation portion of this thing-er-mijig!

1.3 Installation of WATCHER

Installation of WATCHER is relatively painless as long as you follow the instructions carefully. I've tried to make most of the routines as compact as possible to make the thing as fast as possible, so if you edit any of the Arexx programs please be careful with what you do!

NOTE: The examples used are using the default of "PFILES:BBS/" so when that is referenced place where YOU are installing it instead.

The { is really a CONTROL+Q, and the \ is CONTROL+Y!

1. Select a place to install WATCHER's Arexx files.

If installing to PFILES:BBS/ you can skip step two and head for three!

2. Edit watcher.rexx with a text editor, and change the PATH setting in the file to reflect where you want to install the files.
3. Copy watcher.rexx and watchermain.rexx to where you decided to put them.
4. If you want to be able to generate a report with the command WATCH, edit the BBSMENU file and add it as a Maintenance command.

Add this to your BBSMENU file:

```
WATCH | {#0 PFILES:BBS/watchermain.rexx SORT}
```

5. To generate a report nightly, add a new event to the Event scheduler that is:

```
Command: RunArexx
Args: pfiles:bbs/watchermain.rexx SORT
```

```

Ports: Whatever port you use as your maintenance port
Type: Immediate--system idle or not
Time: Whenever you want it to run
Valid: 5
Interval: 0
Iterate: 1

```

6. Edit CNET:BBSTEXT and make the following changes:

```

Line 791: Add before everything, new line should be:
{#Opfiles:bbs/watcher.rexx}\nl\c7*%s:

```

```

Line 816: Add before everything, new line should be:
{#Opfiles:bbs/watcher.rexx}\nl\caLast visit was %s\nl

```

7. Reload the TEXT and MENUS using the pull down menu on the C-Net control panel.

8. You are ready to go!

1.4 Operation of WATCHER

Operating WATCHER at current is pretty easy to do. The program takes care of all files (god willing! :) so you really shouldn't have much in the way of maintenance to do.

There are, however, a few operation notes that you should be aware of to make the maximum use of WATCHER.

- WATCHER records information for users ENTERING subs. It does not keep track of posts, responses, or any of that. You can do that with logs.
- Users scanning with the NS command are also counted by WATCHER, as well as users entering the subs while they are in the Message Base.
- WATCHER launches itself into the background when a user enters a sub. This way there is minimal delay while the user is online. All updates are done with the main routine.
- WATCHER *DOES NOT RECORD* any area a user enters that they do NOT HAVE POST ACCESS FOR! You can keep file areas from being included on your list in this area if you'd like. Just edit your file areas so that no access groups have post access in them. This was done to prevent the datafile from growing out of control.
- To restart WATCHER, simply delete the data file which is listed below. A new one will be generated the next time the program is run online.
- Extreme amounts of MCI commands within a subboard name might mess up the display of the graph a bit. The program attempts to strip the MCI as best as I could figure out in as short a space as possible, so...
- The TOTAL of the PERCENTAGES sometimes will not total 100%. This is normal, as the decimal places are dropped for the display. The output of 00% is expected if you only have one sub in the database!
- You MUST have the AmigaDOS command "SORT" in your command path! If you don't have this, get it fast. It is included with Workbench 2.0 so if you are running C-Net you should already have this.

If you installed the BBSMENU command "WATCH" you can type this at any prompt to generate a new subboard activity report. This is also done by the

SYSTEM EVENT that is supplied in the documentation. Both versions accomplish the same thing: Generate and display the data file.

The files you should be aware of:

SYSDATA:watcher.data	<-> The data file used by WATCHER
SYSDATA:watcher.report	<-> The report generated by WATCHER
RAM:watcher.temp	<-> File for sorting/deleted after use

The "watcher.report" file is in standard MCI format so you can adopt it as a Gfile or whatever you would like to do with it.

1.5 Version/Release Information

Version & Release Information

Version 1.00 28-Feb-1995: FIRST PUBLIC RELEASE OF WATCHER

~~~~~

- Looking forward to your comments and ideas!

## 1.6 The future of WATCHER

The future of WATCHER is up to you! I have a ton of ideas for this program, and it can be used for a variety of functions now that the basic shell is done.

However, in order to make it the best for EVERYONE, I would like some feedback as to what you would like to see added into the program as it develops.

Some of my ideas:

- AUTOMATIC DELETION OF AREAS: The little accessed subs stay in the list forever with this version (unless you edit the data file yourself) and an automatic purge could possibly be added.
- SEPARATE REPORTS: How about a separate SUBBOARD, UDBASE, and PFILES activity graphs?
- LIMITING THE DATA FILE: Allow a pre-determined amount of subs to be tracked, deleting the least popular subs when a new sub comes online.

Contact me and let me know how you feel about the future! :)

## 1.7 Contacting the Author (CASE! ME!)

You can contact me, Case, via the following methods:

ELECTRONIC MAIL:

case@energytele.com (Internet Mail) PREFERRED

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case@1:129/265.0 (FidoNet Mail)

BULLETIN BOARDS:

Future World 313-255-2466 <C-Net HQ, E-Mail me at "Case">  
Energy Telecommunications 412-339-0591 <My BBS! Six Nodes! 24.0k Line>  
<Free INTERNET MAIL \* A3000/25>

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Please contact me with any suggestions or bug reports!