

## Welcome to Mercury/32!

Mercury/32 is a version of the Mercury Mail Transport System especially re-engineered for Win32 systems. The Mercury MTS is a proven, powerful Internet mail transport originally released as a set of NetWare(tm) NLMs, designed to run on Novell NetWare file servers. This version takes full advantage of the threading and pre-emptive multitasking of systems such as Windows 95 and Windows NT to provide an extremely smooth, powerful mail transport with a host of features, yet one that has negligible impact on the system on which it runs.

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## An overview of the system

Mercury/32 is a version of the Mercury Mail Transport System especially re-engineered for Win32 systems. The Mercury MTS is a proven, powerful Internet mail transport originally released as a set of NetWare(tm) NLMs, designed to run on Novell NetWare file servers. This version takes full advantage of the threading and pre-emptive multitasking of systems such as Windows 95 and Windows NT to provide an extremely smooth, powerful mail transport with a host of features, yet one that has negligible impact on the system on which it runs.

Users will not normally interact with Mercury/32 directly - it is intended to run on a single workstation on your network, providing mail services to the network's users. Your users will normally run a compatible mail program, such as Pegasus Mail, to submit mail to and retrieve mail from the Mercury/32 system via shared directories on a server volume somewhere on your network.

Like both the original Mercury MTS and the Pegasus Mail System with which it is designed most closely to interoperate, Mercury/32 is free software, provided as a service to the broader Internet community. Please examine the License for details on the conditions of use of the Mercury/32 system.

### ***Installation***

To install Mercury/32, unpack the distribution archive in a temporary directory, then run the SETUP.EXE program you will find in it. Prior to running the setup program, you should know these things:

- \* The directory where Mercury/32 is to be installed
- \* The directory where your copy of Pegasus Mail is installed, if you intend to use Mercury/32 with Pegasus Mail
- \* Your Win32 machine's Internet Domain Name
- \* The address of a machine that can act as a mail relay (any unix system can usually do this, but make sure you get the system administrator's permission before using it)
- \* The name of a local user who is to act as your Postmaster
- \* Your time zone, relative to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT, or UTC).

Your Internet Service Provider should be able to give you the proper values for the last four items.

### ***Users and addresses***

If you are running Mercury/32 in Novell NetWare mode, then it will automatically use the NetWare Bindery to find usernames on your system (a NetWare NDS interface is under development), and will deliver mail into each user's SYS:MAIL directory on the server. No further configuration is required. You can configure Pegasus Mail to use Mercury/32 in NetWare mode using the standard Pegasus Mail PCONFIG utility. Note that Mercury/32 does not support NetWare queue submission mode, only file submission using a spool directory.

If you are running Mercury/32 as a server for Pegasus Mail in non-NetWare mode, then Mercury will automatically find and use the users you have created in Pegasus Mail.

Information on using Mercury/32 with other mail systems is beyond the scope of this document - please contact Pegasus Mail Technical Support by e-mail to support@pmail.gen.nz for more information.

By default, a user's e-mail address will be "name@domain", where "name" is his or her NetWare or Pegasus Mail username, and "domain" is whatever you give the SETUP program as the Internet Domain Name of your local Win32 system.

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*Consideration:* Where Mercury/32 is being used on its own, or where the primary mail client being used with Mercury/32 is any version of Pegasus Mail, you may use the Mercury/32 software without any fee or charge, although you may at your option choose to license manuals as described elsewhere in this guide. If you use the Mercury/32 software in an environment where the primary mail client is not Pegasus Mail, then you may use the Mercury/32 software for a period of 30 days for evaluation purposes, after which time you must either cease using it or else license manuals as described elsewhere in this guide.

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## System Requirements

Mercury/32 is not a demanding application; it will run on almost any system capable of running a Win32 operating system except Windows 3.1 with the Win32 extensions, but for best performance we recommend the following configuration:

- \* Windows 95 or Windows NT v3.51 or later
- \* Minimum 16MB RAM recommended on the system
- \* A properly-configured Windows Sockets Implementation for TCP/IP communications. Mercury/32 has been designed with dialup networking in mind, so SLIP and PPP links are fine.
- \* 1MB disk space for Mercury itself
- \* A compatible mail client, such as Pegasus Mail.

Mercury/32 has support for Novell NetWare but does not require it - it can be used as a standalone mail server for (for example) a Windows for Workgroups or Windows NT network.

## The configuration file, MERCURY.INI

Mercury reads and stores the majority of its configuration information in a file called MERCURY.INI, which must reside in the same directory as MERCURY.EXE itself. MERCURY.INI is a plain text file and can be edited using any standard editor (for example, the Windows NOTEPAD applet). The Mercury Setup program will usually create a basic MERCURY.INI for you, but you can customize it either by editing it directly, or more normally using the dialogs on the "Configuration" menu within Mercury itself.

The layout of the various sections of the MERCURY.INI file is described below, but you should also see the explanatory help within Mercury itself for other information.

The [General] Section

The [Mercury] Section

The [Domains] Section

The [Rewrite] Section

The [MercuryC] Section

The [MercuryS] Section

The [Groups] Section

The [Maiser] Section

Aliasing

Template files

Setting up Automatic Replies

## The [General] Section

The [General] section contains settings common to all modules;

*Myname*: Domain name for your server; Mercury can derive the server's IP number from the OS, but it cannot derive the name. Enter here the name which your Name Server returns as the IN A entry for this file server. Unlike Charon, Mercury ONLY requires MX entries if you wish to provide aliased names for your servers.

*Mailqueue*: The name of the queue into which outgoing mail should be placed. is the queue directory (or *spooler*) into which Pegasus Mail and compatible clients will place mail for processing.

*Timezone*: The timezone string the Mercury modules should add to Date: fields in messages. This string must not be longer than 10 characters.

Example:

"timezone: +1100"

yields the date

"Mon, 29 Mar 93 23:10:33 +1100"

*SMTPQueue*: The name of the queue directory in which the SMTP client should look for jobs to send off-server. This can be the same as the mailqueue, and usually should be except n exceptionally busy servers.

*Newmail\_path*: In non-NetWare mode, this is the path used by Mercury to locate the new mail folder for each user on your system. If you are using Pegasus Mail as a mail client, then you should locate the directory that contains the file PMAIL.USR (and which should also contain all your users' new mail directories) then use that as your newmail\_path value, with the characters "~\~8" added onto the end.

Example: PMAIL.USR is in C:\PMAIL:

You would enter "newmail\_path: C:\PMAIL\~8"

## The [Mercury] Section

The [Mercury] section of MERCURY.INI contains settings for MERCURY.EXE, the central delivery engine. MERCURY.EXE is responsible for examining mail in the mailqueue and deciding whether it is to be delivered locally (which it will then do), or else passed to the SMTP client to be sent off-server. It also contains a simple Mail Server, and the aliasing and synonym mechanisms.

*Failfile, Confirmfile:* Template files, the first for Delivery failure notifications, the second for Delivery confirmations. Sample versions of these files are provided and can be used without changes. The template file format is described later.

*Aliasfile:* Points to a file of aliases. Aliases are equations for full addresses, and are created and maintained with MALIAS.EXE. The alias file may be updated while Mercury is running - for an example of the format of the source file used for aliasing, see the file ALIAS.SRC.

*Syn\_file:* Points to a synonym file. Synonyms allow a user to have a From: address in messages which is different from their local username (which is the normal mail address when using Mercury and Pegasus Mail). Synonyms might allow user "DAVID", for instance, to use the address "D. Harris". Synonyms are created and maintained using the Pegasus Mail PMGRANT program, and the synonym database is created using CH\_SYN.EXE, or NSYNONYM.EXE if you are running in NDS mode. The difference between Synonyms and Aliases is that Synonyms are bi-directional - that is, Pegasus Mail uses it in outgoing messages and Mercury recognizes it in incoming messages. Aliases usually only work in one direction. A user may have only ONE synonym, and need not have any if you choose not to use them.

*Listfile:* The name of the "List of lists" - a file defining mailing lists managed by Mercury. For more information, see the section below entitled Mailing lists.

*Logfile:* The name of a file where Mercury should record mail traffic. The sender, addressee, time, date and size of the messages are stored. If you do not specify a logfile field, no logging will be done.

*Logwidth:* Optional integer specifying the maximum width of address fields in the log file. The default value is 30 characters for each field.

*BitnetHost:* Mercury can perform limited, simple-minded address rewriting of BITNET addresses, which many smart mailers cannot mail directly. If you specify a value here (in the sample file, for instance, it is "cunyvm.cuny.edu"), then addresses in the form "USER@HOST.BITNET" will be sent as "USER%HOST.BITNET@cunyvm.cuny.edu".

*Poll:* How often (in seconds) Mercury should check for new jobs in the mailqueue. Once every ten seconds is a good setting.

*Broadcast:* An integer value (1 or 0, default 1). If you are using a Network support module (such as Mercury's NetWare support file), then it may be possible to send broadcast messages directly to a user's workstation. These broadcast messages are usually received either in dialogs, or under Windows 95, using the WINPOPUP program. If this setting is 1 and broadcast messages are supported on your network, Mercury will send a broadcast message to users if they are logged in when new mail arrives.

*Receipts:* An integer value (1 or 0, default 1). If 0, then Mercury will not send broadcast messages about the arrival of messages which simply advise "confirmation of reading". The mail itself will be delivered, but no broadcast message will occur. By default, Mercury will send broadcast messages for every new mail message which arrives. As with the *Broadcast* keyword, this option depends on your network supporting broadcast messages.

*Gullible:* An integer value (1 or 0) which determines whether or not Mercury should check that a message has a valid From: address before delivering it. If Mercury is to operate in Gullible mode (1), then it will accept any message and attempt to deliver it.

*Scratch:* Where Mercury can create temporary files. Usually the location in which you store your template files is a good choice.

*Returnlines*: How many lines Mercury should write from the original message when it encounters the ~G substitution in template files.

*Postmaster*: The local username of the user on this server who is to receive messages delivered to Postmaster. This cannot be an alias or synonym.

*Note*: *PostMaster* is a **MANDATORY** setting. Mercury will **NOT** run correctly if it is omitted. **DO NOT AUTOFORWARD THIS ACCOUNT!**

*PM\_Notify*: An integer value (1 or 0, default 1) which determines whether or not Mercury should send copies of all delivery failures to the postmaster defined on the server. If set to 0, then Mercury will only return the error to the sender, not to the postmaster. Use this option with care - Mercury sends failure information to the postmaster for a reason, since it can indicate possible configuration errors on your system. If your postmaster is not prepared to field these messages, you should possibly consider appointing a new postmaster.

*Change\_owner*: An integer value (1 or 0, default 0) which controls whether or not Mercury should change the ownership of mail it delivers to the recipient. If set to 1, then mail will count against the recipient's disk quota on the SYS: volume. This option should be used with care since in pathological cases it can result in loss of mail. This feature will only work on networks (such as Novell NetWare) that support the idea of file ownership.



## The [Domains] Section

The [Domains] section is used to tell Mercury about the possible names by which your server might be known to other machines on your TCP/IP network. You must list in this section every domain name (the portion of an address following the '@' symbol) which might be used to mail to your server, since Mercury determines whether or not an address is local based on this information. Omitting server domain names from this section will almost certainly result in mail loops. Entries in the [Domains] section bind a particular domain address to a particular local system (for instance, a NetWare file server, or in non-NetWare mode, a workgroup). You must supply at least one domain for Mercury to function. The format of the Domains section is:

*Server\_name: domain\_name*

As an example, if you have a NetWare server for which the NetWare name is THALIA, and the Internet name is URANIA.PMAIL.GEN.NZ, then your [Domains] entry will look like this: