

Remote Echo Control (REC)
Version 2.00

Beta-I Release Notes

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With any luck, I've fixed all of the problems with the last 2 beta's and got the last of the little features in and working. The automated registration processed has been completed as well. Please read this in it's entirety before you apply 1.99-I to your system.

Contents

This archive (REC_199I.ZIP) contains only the files that have been updated. The magic name of RECBETA will get you this archive, and it has also been hatched in to the SDS SOFTDIST file area. You need to apply the files in this archive on top of either version 1.99G or 1.99H. If do not have either of these versions, you will need to file request REC_199G.ZIP from either my own system or through the nearest SDS file distribution node carrying the SOFTDIST file echo. Please note that I have NOT included the doc's in Beta-I like I did in Beta-H. There weren't enough changes to warrant doing so, and I probably shouldn't anyways.

The updated files are listed below:

REC.EXE	Executable program
REC.OVR	Executable overlay
SAMPLE.CFG	sample configuration
BETA-H.PRN	previous beta changes (for reference)
BETA-I.PRN	This file

Bug's fixed

Unfortunately, I introduced a couple of bugs with beta-H. The FeedFirst option on the Sort Statement put the feed first like it was supposed to, but it didn't put the nodes in the same zone/net as the feed right after the feed address. That has been fixed.

In nearly all cases, when an Echo Node requested an echo that was forwarded on, the record of that forwarded request was lost before the echo could be AutoStarted by REC. I have located the problem and fixed it, which involved a slight change to the format of the FORWARD.CSV file. The conversion from the old to the new format will be done automatically with the first run of REC Beta-I.

The EchoSource statement didn't work in the majority of cases, so it has been fixed. This caused a slight change in the syntax of the statement, which is shown below:

```
ECHOSOURCE {source-addr},{echo-tag}[,echo-tag...]
```

October 6, 1992

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Page 2

You can put in a single EchoSource statement for an address followed by multiple echo tags. This will simply the config file as well as improve the program's processing speed.

Registration

The Automated Registration process has been completed for REC, so registration is once again a firm expectation and a requirement. For those of you that have already registered under previous versions of REC, you have received your registration key with the routed net-mail announcement.

If you have registered but did not receive a registration key, please contact me via net-mail and I will send your key to you directly.

In either of the above cases, you should put your key in to REC and make sure it works, meaning that all messages and reports created by REC will show a "Reg" on the tear line when registered, or an "Eval" if not registered. Once you have done this, run the REGISTER program and send me a registration update message.

If you have NOT registered previously, you are asked to do so at this time. You can do this by following the instructions in the REGISTER.PRN file on how to submit your registration. It should take less than a minute, even on a slow computer.

Please read the REGISTER.PRN file for full instructions on how and when to run the REGISTER.EXE program.

Operation

Only one new feature was added with this release, that being the "Re-Order" option or "/O" (not zero) command line parameter. What this statement does is force a complete resort of the entire echo control file, both echo areas themselves and their echo downlinks. Ideally you only need to use this feature 1) the first time you run Beta-I, or 2) after you've made significant manual changes to your echo control file.

Above all, do NOT add this option to your regular runs of REC. It will slow down the program noticeably with a decent sized echo control file.

October 6, 1992

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Page 3

Program Support & routed Net-Mail

It is sad that I must discontinue the use of routed net-mail to announce new releases of REC. I have been informed that the powers in charge most likely will not be as tolerant of 60 or more such messages in one shot as they were with 15 - and I can understand that. So this type of "broadcasting" will cease after this run announcing Beta-I. As I do not charge for REC, I simply cannot afford to send that much mail at my own expense.

Individual programs can still be addressed via net-mail, either routed or direct. My replies will still go out via routed net-mail unless I feel the answer should be sent direct. However you should realize that my primary means of support for REC is not net-mail.

There is software support echo called REC_SUPPORT that is already on the MetroNet backbone. Any and all members of MetroNet are encouraged to pick up the echo from there regular MetroNet echo source. I have not received any support for getting my echo to the FidoNet backbone for Zone 1 much less any other Zone, and for that I need your help.

To get the echo on to the FidoNet backbone, I need at least 2 REC's to request the echo within two weeks of when I asked for it to be placed backbone. So I ask each of you that are using REC to ask your NEC or your REC to get my support echo on to the FidoNet backbone. I will be making the request for the echo to be backboneed on Thursday October 8, and hopefully this process will not take very long.

In the mean time, anyone that wishes to pick up the support echo directly from my system is welcome to net-mail me for a feed. In fact, I highly encourage all beta-testers to do so. The other way FidoNet can refuse to backbone the echo is if the traffic levels don't meet their requirements. The backbonening of this echo is critical to the support of REC, and I need your help.

All that I ask is that you poll at least once a week so you can stay current. There isn't much volume in the echo right now, but with your help I'm sure the traffic level can be raised to the required 25 messages per week. Thanks.

Conclusion

The testing of Beta-H was very successful, with only one major bug. As long as the re-order option and registration process work

October 6, 1992

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Page 4

Remote Echo Control

Beta-I Release Notes

smoothly, I expect to release the full copy of version 2.00 by the end of October.

Thanks again to every one using, and beta-testing, REC. Later!

Dan Fitch, Author of REC

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