

# **SortMail**

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**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> SortMail		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
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**REVISION HISTORY**

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>SortMail</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	SortMail . . . . .	1
1.2	The Main Window . . . . .	1
1.3	Mailing list configuration window . . . . .	4
1.4	Configuring digests . . . . .	4
1.5	Configuration . . . . .	5
1.6	Initial configuring in ConfigThor . . . . .	6
1.7	Configuring mailing lists . . . . .	6
1.8	Mailing list processing . . . . .	7
1.9	Digests parsing . . . . .	8
1.10	Frequently Asked Questions . . . . .	8
1.11	Miscellaneous . . . . .	10
1.12	History . . . . .	10

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## Chapter 1

# SortMail

### 1.1 SortMail

SortMail 2.2b  
~~~~~  
by Eirik Nicolai Synnes

An ARexx script program for Thor 2.0 or newer to sort incoming e-mail.

Features in short:

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- o Move mailing list messages from your Internet e-mail conference to conferences dedicated to mailing lists
- o Split digests messages and move these messages to a dedicated conference in the same way as mailing lists
- o Parse AmiNet RECENT messages into the filebase and display list of files in the New Files window
- o UUDecode Amiga Report and Amiga Link using UUDecode.thor
- o Give some statistics on these operations

In other words it is not of any use for people without an Internet e-mail address.

Configuration

Frequently Asked Questions

Miscellaneous notes

History

### 1.2 The Main Window

The Main Window

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This window lets you configure some miscellaneous functions and enter the mailing list and digest configuration windows.

Change e-mail conference:

Use this to specify where your e-mail conference is.

Configure mailing lists:

Go to the mailing list configuration window.

Configure digests:

Go to the digest configuration window.

Parse AmiNet RECENT updates:

It is possible to receive daily or weekly new-files updates from AmiNet. (see how in the

FAQ

. SortMail can parse these messages into the filebase where the information will be stored for future reference. After parsing the RECENT message will be deleted, but first it will be saved to the NewFiles.txt file in the BBS's directory from where it can be viewed in the "New files" window.

Note that RECENT messages containing a "Message of the day" will not be deleted.

SortMail will not check for duplicate entries in the filebase.

AmiNet RECENT to-address:

This is where you specify the to-address of the AmiNet RECENT messages. Currently this is aminet-daily@wunet.wustl.edu or aminet-weekly@wunet.wustl.edu for daily and weekly updates respectively.

Delete AmiNet RECENT messages:

If turned on these messages will be removed from the email conference after parsing. Note that SortMail won't know if an such a message has been parsed or not, so if this option is turned off there's a risk you might parse the same RECENT message more than one time.

UUDecode Amiga Report/Amiga Link:

When enabled this will make SortMail call UUDecode.thor to uudecode Amiga Report and Amiga Link. You MUST make sure you have UUDecode.thor 2.10 or newer before enabling this! Use

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Version `GetEnv THOR/THORPATH`rexx/UUDecode.thor

in the Shell to check this.

The uuencoded message containing Amiga Report or Amiga Link will not be deleted or marked as read. You will have to do this yourself for now.

Amiga Report/Amiga Link from-address:

This is where you specify the from-address of these magazines. They seem to vary from time to time so you'll have to find them for yourself by checking the from-address specified at the top of Thor's main window.

Enable statistics

If this is turned on SortMail will produce statistics every time it is run and write these as a message to you. The statics will look something like this:

Sortmail processed 22 message(s) and found:

19 maillist message(s):

8 message(s) from "(ML) Thor"

11 message(s) from "(ML) CyberGraphics"

2 digest message(s):

2 message(s) from "(DG) Slowhand"

AmigaReport uuencoded and put in your download directory

Check comment fields

When "Check comment fields" is enabled SortMail will search the Cc:, Apparently-To: and Resent-To: fields of the message header for the to-address. This will slow down message processing a lot, so you will want to avoid it. If one or more of the mailing lists you are subscribing to allows the sender to address messages to a specific reciever, you will have to enable this. If all messages must be addressed to the mailing list server, you can disable it.

If one or more of the mailing lists have been configured to search for the "from" field in the header, "Check comment fields" must be active. Although this is slow, its the only way to make sure all mailing list message will be found.

Disable user adding

This simply kills the users added to the user database when a mailing list message has been moved. If you want to keep your user database trim & slim, activate this one. Note that this will slow down SortMail a bit.

IMPORTANT: BBSReadRexx-Handler 3.88 (distributed with Thor 2.0 and 2.01) contains a bug that will produce Enforcer hits when this option is active. This bug has been reported and fixed.

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Therefore: do not activate this option unless you have a more recent version of BBSReadRexx-Handler.

### 1.3 Mailing list configuration window

```
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Mailing list configuration window
~~~~~
Before configuring anything please read the link below.
```

```
Mailing list processing
Add to-address
```

This will let you add a to-address as a search criteria. These are the ones displayed in the box at the top of the Main window in Thor. If there is an active message CfgSortMail will pick up its to-address so you needn't type anything yourself.

After adding a to-address it will be listed below the line "Add to-address". You can specify any number of to-addresses. To edit or remove an address simply select it and a requester will pop up.

```
Add to-name
```

As above, only here you specify the name instead of the address.

```
From field
```

Again, this works as above. The only difference is that you can specify only one from field.

```
Reply address
```

The reply address should be set to the mailing list's server address. CfgSortMail will try to figure out this itself, but sometimes it may fail. Always make sure this is correct. (and don't confuse it with other addresses associated with the mailing list, like request-<mailinglistname>@<domain> or owner-<mailinglist>@<domain>. Usually the correct address is simply <mailinglist>@<domain>)

### 1.4 Configuring digests

```
~~~~~
Configuring digests
~~~~~
Before configuring anything please read the link below.
```

### Digest parsing

Currently a message must be displayed in the Main Window in order ←  
for  
digest configuration to function properly.

### Add new digest

When adding a new digest you'll go through a series of requesters:

#### Conference name:

Just enter a name for the digest conference

#### Reply-address:

The reply address should be set to the digest's server address. CfgSortMail will try to figure out this itself, but sometimes it may fail. Always make sure this is correct. (and don't confuse it with other addresses associated with the digest, like request-`<digestname>@<domain>` or owner-`<digest>@<domain>`. Usually the correct address is simply `<digest>@<domain>`)

#### End-of-message-line:

A series of characters on a single line denoting the end of a message inside a digest. Usually this is a line containing - signs or similar. Make sure not to confuse it with the "End-of-digest"-line which usually occur at the very bottom of the digest.

#### Delete parsed digest:

In case some of your settings are wrong, answer "No" here. You can edit this later when you're sure your settings are correct.

### Edit digest

This will ask you for a digest entry to edit and guide you through requesters similar to the ones above.

### Delete digest

Erases a specified digest entry in SortMail's configuration. Note that its conference will still exist in Thor's database. If you want to get rid of it you will have to erase it yourself in Thor's conference configuration.

## 1.5 Configuration

### Configuring SortMail

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First of all you need to make some changes to Thor's configuration:

```
Initial configuring in ConfigThor
Then enter your e-mail conference in Thor and run CfgSortMail. ←
thor. Next
```

you will be asked to confirm that the current conference is your e-mail conference. On a negative answer the script will quit.

On the bottom of the listviews CfgSortMail uses, there is two buttons: "Ok" and "Cancel". These should really read "Configure/Change" and "Return/Exit" but alas nothing can be done about this from ARExx. Note that all changes are made immediatly; the configuration file is saved whenever the user has confirmed an action.

```
CfgSortMail's main window

Configuring mailing lists

Configuring digests
The configuration file uses a simple format and is pure ASCII. I ←
won't give
```

a description of the format, but those who prefer editing it by hand should not have a hard time understanding how to do so. Just configure a mailing list and/or digest with CfgSortMail and take a look at the result in SortMail.cfg. Note that if a function is inactive, no entry for it will appear in SortMail.cfg.

## 1.6 Initial configuring in ConfigThor

```
Initial configuring in ConfigThor
~~~~~
```

You will have to configure Thor's show mode to 'Unread'. To do this, choose this Show mode in the dock, open the Visual Options in the Windows menu and save either locally or globally.

Then configure Thor to run SortMail.thor after entering your e-mail & news system in the ConfigThor -> System Configuration -> Files/Paths window. Also see ConfigTHOR.guide.

## 1.7 Configuring mailing lists

```
Configuring mailing lists
~~~~~
Before configuring anything please read the link below.
```

```
Mailing list processing
Add new mailing list
```

This will pop up another window:

```
Mailing list configuration window
Edit mailing list
```

This will ask you for a mailing list entry to edit and pop up the

```
mailing list configuration window
.
```

Delete mailing list

Erases a spesified mailing list entry in SortMail's configuration. Note that its conference will still exist in Thor's database. If you want to get rid of it you will have to erase it yourself in Thor's conference configuration.

## 1.8 Mailing list processing

Mailing list processing

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Mailing lists might be a neat idea, but they will mess up your e-mail conference pretty fast if you subscribe to few active ones. SortMail will let you create dedicated conferences for each of these mailing lists and move all mailing list messages to the relevant conferences. Of course these mailing list conferences will only exist in Thor's message database and not on the net.

To find these messages, SortMail searches for to-addresses and to-names in the message header. As of version 2.0 SortMail can also search for the "from" in the header. With this you should be able to find all mailing list messages.

Finding the correct the correct from field may be a bit difficult. It is not the address shown in the box at the top of Thor's Main window, it is the address shows in the message header. Too see this header, click on the small gadget in the upper right corner of Thor's Main window. You should be able to locate a line which say something like

```
From thor-l-request@stud.cs.uit.no Tue Aug 22 01:59:33 1995
```

This is the correct address to use. Be aware that CfgSortMail sometimes may fail to find the correct address itself, so make sure to check the message header yourself.

The messages will keep all attributes such as hazelevel, URGENT and IMPORTANT flags, etc. after the move. The reply conference will be set to your e-mail conference so you won't reply in a conference that doesn't exist on the net. In addition, the reply address will be set to the mailing list's reply address.

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## 1.9 Digests parsing

Digests parsing

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Digests are collections of mailing list messages gathered together into one message and sent to subscribers on a regular basis, usually once a day. They are found by SortMail in a similar way as ordinary mailing list messages.

When found they are parsed and the messages will be moved into a configured conference in much the same way as mailing list messages. Because of the rather caotic nature of some digests it is impossible to set the correct attributes for some fields such as recipiant's name and address, flags, message id etc., so these attributes are inherited from the original digest message.

The parsing is pretty simple: first SortMail searches for headerlines inside the digest. When found they are processed and SortMail searches for an "end of message" line (configured by the user). Usually these can be identified as lines containing - signs or similar. After that the message is saved and the process repeats itself until the end of the digest.

Most digests also have a "end of digest" line, but SortMail doesn't use these. Make sure not to confuse the two when configuring.

Important:

Be aware that MIME type digests are parsed by ParseSOUP and GetTCP so there's no need to configure SortMail to parse these. If you want these digests to be moved into their own conference, configure them as mailing lists.

## 1.10 Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ:

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Question:

How do I subscribe to the AmiNet RECENT mailing list?

Answer:

From the AmiNet README file:

=== 8< [snip-snip-snip] -----

[...]

- Mailing lists. If you want to get the list of new uploads mailed every week, send a mail with 'SUBSCRIBE aminet-weekly foo@bar.edu' in the body to listserv@wunet.wustl.edu or if you want daily updates, just use 'SUBSCRIBE aminet-daily' instead. Replace foo@bar.edu with your email address, of course. Keep the welcome mail in case you forget how to unsubscribe...

[...]

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=== 8< [snip-snip-snip] -----

Question:

How do I get SortMail to process all the read mail in my e-mail conference?

Answer:

Normally SortMail only processes unread mail, but when installing SortMail for the first time you might want to process read messages in your e-mail conference. To do this all messages must be marked as unread. The easiest way to do this is setting the last read pointer in the Mark Commands window (shortcut 'm' and then 's' for English locale). Accept the number given in the requester, leave and enter the system. All the messages in your e-mail conference should now be marked as unread and SortMail will process them automatically. (if you have configured Thor to run SortMail.thor when entering a system, that is)

Question:

How do I get SortMail to run as fast as possible?

Answer:

1. The fewer messages in the e-mail conference, the faster SortMail runs. Use Pack/Purge every once in a while with a low "Messages/Days to keep" value
2. Don't activate "Disable user adding" in CfgSortMail
3. Don't activate "Check comment fields" in CfgSortMail unless you need to. It is needed if you search for items in the comment field (which is displayed when you press the button in the upper right corner of Thor's Main window)
4. Increase the number of buffers in ConfigThor -> Database Options. Usually 2-4 buffers per conference is a good setting, but of course this will eat lots of precious memory
5. Run Maintanace in the file and user database every once in a while

Question:

HEY! "Delete duplicates" deleted almost all the messages in all my digest conferences! What's happening?

Answer:

Messages parsed from digests will get the same message ID as the "parent" message. When using the "Delete duplicates" function this will result in all messages except the first parsed for each digest getting deleted. So be careful and go through the digest conference(s) before you use this function.

Question:

When I grab my new mail some messages seem to dissappear when parsed into Thor. Does Thor or SortMail eat e-mail or what!?

Answer:

Nope, they don't. When you grab your mail you get a copy of every message you've mailed since the last time you grabbed mail. Also, if you wrote a message to a mailing list or digest you will in addition get another copy from the mailing list or digest server. All these messages are per default

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automatically marked as read when they are parsed. So they're in your message database, but you won't see them unless you use the All read-mode.

If you don't want your messages to be marked as read you can change the setting for this in ConfigThor's Conference or System configuration under Import/Export -> Database Options.

## 1.11 Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous notes:

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As of 3. july 1995 I have 12 months of military service and therefore it is unlikely there will be any major new features. Bug reports are welcome though, just don't expect them to be fixed over the night. :^)

AddSoup.thor by Magne Østlyngen and AddAmiNetList.br by Petter Nilsen were heavily used as sources for inspiration.

My collection of scripts for Thor can be found at

[http://www.oslonett.no/~eirikns/thor\\_scripts.html](http://www.oslonett.no/~eirikns/thor_scripts.html)

or alteratively

<ftp://ftp.oslonett.no/user/eirikns/>

Praisings, bug-reports, suggestions and fast cars can be sent to me at [eirikns@oslonett.no](mailto:eirikns@oslonett.no). Please note that I have 12 months of military service coming up in July 1995, so don't expect a quick answer.

## 1.12 History

History

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1.0 (23.2.95):

- New: Separate configuration script and new config format (not backwards compatible)
  - Parses digests
  - Implemented new AmiNet RECENT format
  - Supports multiple to-addresses when parsing mailing list msgs
  - Checks Cc: field when searching for mailing list msgs
  - Only scans messages available at login in the current read mode
  - No longer parses grabs automatically
  
  - Fixed: Deletes AmiNet recent msgs after they have been parsed
  - Sets proper reply addresses
  - Skips mailing list msgs with no body text
-

## 1.1 (27.2.95):

New: This short documentation  
CfgSortMail uses ENV:THOR/THORPATH to find Thor's rexx directory

Fixed: Always checked for Cc: field  
One headerfield ended up in the message display in digests  
Only updates the message list if user is in the e-mail conference  
Sometimes messages would end up in the wrong conf  
Message ID and references could end up wrong

## 1.2 (5.3.95):

New: Digest messages can be deleted after parsing by replacing  
DelDigest: NO  
in the configuration file with  
DelDigest: YES  
This must be done for each individual digest

Fixed: Digest parser should now be able to understand even the most obscure  
From: lines  
More detailed documentation

## 1.3 (9.4.95):

New: The configuration file is written to ENV:THOR/SortMail.cfg if no  
Rexx/ subdirectory is found in Thor's directory  
Redesigned CfgSortMail's user interface using listviews (as suggested  
by Petter Nilsen). The configuration can now be edited  
No need to edit the DelDigest: line by hand any more  
Now also checks the Apparently-To: and Resent-To: fields if CheckCC  
is turned on  
Uses UUDecode.thor 2.10 or higher to uudecode Amiga Report. Make sure  
you have the correct version of UUDecode.thor before enabling this!!  
AmiNet RECENT parser uses message creation date to set a date for  
files  
The whole header is preserved when moving mailing list  
messages  
SortMail.thor is now designed to be run upon entering a system. You  
should configure Thor to do so in the System configuration  
Readme converted to .guide and revised a bit

Fixed: Digests weren't deleted, even if DelDigest was set to YES  
AmiNet MOTD messages would provoke an error message  
Some other minor bugfixes

## 1.4 (2.5.95):

New: Writes statistics as message to the user (optional)  
Writes a message to the user when Amiga Report has been uudecoded  
Quicker (uses copyback buffer)

Fixed: Some inconsistencies and bugs fixed in both scripts

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## 1.5 (18.5.95):

New: Optionally disable user adding for mailing list messages (as suggested by Petter Nilsen)

Fixed: SortMail didn't like e-mail messages without header information  
The Abort button didn't work  
Statistics were displayed even if disabled in config  
Better error handling in SortMail.thor

## 2.0 (29.5.95):

New: Optionally search for "from" field in header (the best way to find mailing list messages)  
Changed CfgSortMail's user interface again  
UUDecoding of Amiga Link  
Doesn't read the whole config file if there's no messages to sort

Fixed: Some bits and pieces here and there

## 2.1 (29.8.95):

New: Statistics gives info each mailing list / digest  
On-line help in CfgSortMail and new structure in SortMail.guide  
Note that the on-line help requires MultiView (AmigaGuide won't suffice)  
Skips mailing list messages and digests marked as superunread  
Makes better use of the copyback buffer (should be a tad quicker now)

Fixed: Not all types of from fields were recognized in both scripts

## 2.1a (30.8.95):

Fixed: Fixed some bugs related to statistics  
Now doesn't process any message marked as superunread at all

## 2.1b (10.9.95):

Fixed: The path to SortMail.guide was hardcoded in CfgSortMail  
You couldn't abort when choosing e-mail conference

## 2.2 (16.9.95):

New: You can now choose whether you want to delete AmiNet RECENT messages or not  
Supports support for MIME digests in Thor 2.1 :^) (not 100% yet)

Fixed: HELP didn't work in all of CfgSortMail's menus

## 2.2a (30.9.95):

New: It is no longer necessary to specify a reply address

Fixed: Improved MIME messages support

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2.2b {29.11.95}:

Fixed: Reply-address would sometimes not be set correctly  
Supports new AmiNet RECENT format

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