Orator V1.0 (Beta)

(c) 1992 by Nick Dyer, EvaWare UK

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Distribution

You are encouraged to distribute Orator provided that all the files contained in the archive are distributed in their original and unregistered state. You are not under any circumstances permitted to distribute a registered copy of Orator

Introduction

Orator V1.0 beta is the first version of a new Qwk mail packet reader for Windows V3.x. This programming project is the first undertaken by myself both in the PC market and in Visual Basic (The language the system was written in).

It marks the beginning of a new range of products inc BBS doors etc written by myself and marketed under the company name of EvaWare UK.

I hope that you find it as much fun to use as I found to write. Compared to the work that I have been doing before this really was an interesting program to write. If you find Orator to be useful then please be honest and register this copy. There is an order form included with this Archive. See Registration below.

Orator V1.0 beta features :-

        Unlimited Conference Quantity Handling.

        Unique Conference Sorting and Search (No More hunting thru lists)

        Ansi Viewer

        Tagline Theft

        Remote Qmail Door Configuration

        Swedish Language Version Available

plus lots more.

The unregistered version of Orator V1.0 (beta) is fully functional apart from taglines. If Orator is not registered then the following appears at the bottom of all your Mail Messages:

        þ Orator V1.0 þ [Windows Qwk Reader Unregistered Evaluation Copy]

In addition to this there is a screen that appears every time Orator is started prompting you to register the product. This can be eliminated by registration.

Included in the archive is a small program called ORATVIEW.EXE. This is the program used together with its PIF file to view files in ANSI format. I myself would confess that this program requires a little bit of work carried out on it and it will be one of the first items to receive attention in the next version.

Warranty

Although rigorous testing has been carried out you should bear in mind that this product is still out as a Beta version. Nothing can be guaranteed. Your comments and problems are welcomed as it is only through user participation that this product can be made one of the greats. See contacting the Author below.

Installation

Copy the zip file to a subdirectory on your hard drive and 'unzip' it using Pkunzip by PKware.

Add the program Orator.exe to your Windows program groups. (See Windows documentation for a description on adding program items)

When you first run Orator it will inform you that no Configuration file has been found and that it is about to create one. Click on OK and proceed to Orator Configuration below. Note Orator stops after this initial configuration and must be restarted after configuration has been completed.

Orator Configuration

A dialog box reveals the following fields to be completed. Note Orator attempts to build defaults into the fields if this is the first time you are running Orator. Make your changes as required and press (ENTER) or click on OK

Default QWK Path
Enter the full path name including drive name for where Orator can find your QWK packets.

Default REP Path
Enter the full path name including drive name for where Orator Can find and should place any of your REPly (.REP)files.

PKunzip (inc Path)
Supply here the full command including path and drive name for your chosen archiver extract command. Use %1 to represent the archive name and %2 to represent the path for the Work files eg

        C:\PKZIP\PKUNZIP %1 %2

tells Orator that the command PKUNZIP is in library PKZIP on Hard Disk C. When actually unzipping something the value of %1 is replaced with the name of the Archive to be 'unzipped' and %2 is replaced with the path to place all the files extracted into.

PKZip (Inc Path)
As above but instead give details for the Archiver Archive Command. %1 will be the Archive file to be created and %2 will be the files inc path to be added to the archive.

Orator Work Area
Full drive and path for a subdirectory to be used by Orator to place it's work files. I recommend that you do not share this directory with other readers or software.

Signature File
Is not obligatory however the contents of this text file are appended to all your replies before any tagline. Such a file might contain your name and USENET address for example.

Orator Menu/Commands

File
This menu is used to Open/Close/Delete packets, Configure Orator or exit Orator.

Window
Is only active when a packet is open. This menu is otherwise disabled.
Submenus to this menu are only enabled if the relevant information is available. For example the Bulletins menu won't be enabled if there are no bulletins included in the packet you just opened.

Welcome - Uses ORATVIEW to show the contents of the Welcome File

Session - Uses ORATVIEW to show the contents of the Session.TXT

Messages - Starts a new form to handle the reading of Mail
                    See Below

Replies - Starts a new form to Enter/Delete replies

Bulletins - Uses ORATVIEW to read any Bulletins

News - Uses ORATVIEW to read any BBS News included.

Files - Uses ORATVIEW to view the NEWFILES.DAT file.

Services - To read any BBS services with ORATVIEW

Goodbye - Uses ORATVIEW to read any Goodbye file

Door
Like Window is only active if a packet is open. At the present one can only configure Qmail doors remotely with this however future versions of Orator will definitely include remote configuring of other door types like MarkMail, RoseMail and Kmail to name but just a few. Clicking on Qmail reveals the following menu

Add a Conference
To choose a new conference for future mail downloading.

Drop a Conference
Allows you to select a conference to be dropped from future mail scans.

Reset a Conference
To select a conference and either set it's message pointer to a specific message number to begin future mail scans from or set the pointer to the highest message in that conference. You can also state a number of messages short of the highest that scanning is to begin. A dialog box appears and asks you for the number of messages you would like the pointer to be set to short of the highest message in the conference. Blank means leave the pointer at highest for conference.

Set PCBoard City.
For those Qmail doors on PCBoard systems this allows you to set the City field in your user profile on the board.

Business Phone
For those Qmail doors on PCBoard systems this allows you to set the Business phone number field in your user profile on the board.

Home Phone
For those Qmail doors on PCBoard systems this allows you to set the home phone number field in your user profile on the board.

PCBoard Page Length
For those Qmail doors on PCBoard systems this allows you to set the page length in lines in your user profile on the board.

User Password
Allows you to change your password on the BBS remotely. Remember it wont be valid until after your mail packet is uploaded.

Set Door Protocol
Allows you to change the protocol used by the door to upload and download your mail.

Reading Mail

Clicking on the Messages item in the Window Bar menu launches a new form for the reading of conferences containing mail. The form contains the following controls:

Next
Shows the next message in the current conference. The next conference is automatically opened and viewed if you are already reading the last message in the current conference.

Prev
Shows the previous message. Note if you are already reading the first message in the conference then the previous conference is NOT automatically backtracked to.

Print
Prints the current message on the Windows 3.x default printer.

List
Lists a summary of all the messages in the current conference. You can then choose from this list a message at random that you wish to read.

Steal
Orator will attempt to steal the tagline from the current message and will allow you to view it (/amend it) before adding it to its database called Taglines.ORA. Taglines can also be stolen from the middle of messages as follows

      1 - Editing the TAGLINES.ORA file with the Windows NotePad

      2 - Marking the message part containing the Tagline(s)

      3 - Cut the marked text

      4 - Paste the marked text at the end of the Taglines.ORA

Search
Allows you to search the message base for messages containing a text sample given by you. The messages found are stored under the active conferences for you to be able to read them. The current conference is automatically dropped and the found messages are shown. See the on-line help for more information. See also Conference Hopping below.

Reply
To enter a reply to the current message.

Confer
See Conference Hopping below.

Cancel
Quit reading Mail

Conference Hopping

Either by pressing the Confer button while reading messages or by pressing the 3D conference control whilst entering a Reply launches a form for selecting conferences.

The form is divided into two main parts.

> 1 - A list box called Numerical Conference Groups
> 2 - Group contents

a search button is also on the form.

> Numerical Conference Groups
> Shown here are all the conferences available on the BBS where this packet was downloaded divided into numerical groups of 250 conferences.
>
> Show also in the first position is an Active group which contains a summary of all conferences containing messages. You can select a certain conference group by positioning the mouse over the group title and clicking the button. If you launched this form by pressing the Confer button whilst reading mail then this list box is disabled as you may only select conferences from the active section.
>
> Group Contents
> Shown here is the contents of the numerical (or active) group you selected in the above List Box. You can then choose a conference to enter your reply or read messages in by finding it in the list and selecting it and clicking your mouse button.
>
> Search Facility
> Search facility prompts for a text sample to find a conference. All conference groups are searched but only the first match is shown.

Registration

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To register send a cheque or money order for 15.00 pounds sterling (17.50 pounds sterling if you live outside UK or Eire) to

Nick Dyer
EvaWare UK
No 5 Grosvenor Court
Louth
Lincolnshire LN11 9LT
ENGLAND

When your registration form is received we will despatch a Key file and the latest version of the product on diskette to you.

Being honest and registering this product will help me to be able to afford development of the next version.

Contacting the Author

I can be contacted obviously by post to the address shown above but I shall be maintaining a presence in the OFFLINE and SHWARE conferences of ILINK. I can also be contacted at USENET E-Mail address nick.dyer@almac.co.uk

I would very much like to hear your comments about the package as user feedback will enable me to know what areas are most important to the average user.

Thanks For Help

Have to go foremost to ALMAC in Scotland for such a great board whose telephone number by the way is Int +44 (0)324 665371. They put up with me uploading various spurious messages whilst testing was going on and not to mention pointed me in the right direction with regard to major requirements of a mail reader. So Thanks Guys!!!

Thanks also have to go to Michael Stewart in the Win.App.Dev conference on Ilink for helping me with a routine to convert 4 byte Basic Real to long numbers. Thanks Michael!

Thanks also to my wife Anette for putting up with my long hours of absence from the family home during this time of development.

And finally.. thanks to you for downloading this product.

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Orator	Nick Dyer EvaWare UK
Qmail	Sparkware.
MarkMail	Mark Turner.
TomCat!	Greg Hewgill.
RAMail	Randy Blackmond.
PKZip/PKUnzip	Phil Katz.
ARC	System Enhancement Associates.
PAK	NoGate Consulting.
Zoo	Rahul Dhesi.
Lha/Lharc	Haruyasu Yoshizaki.
MS-DOS	Microsoft Corporation.
MicroSoft Windows	Microsoft Corporation.