VanceMail! For Windows NT
Version 1.03

What Is VanceMail! for Windows NT?
VanceMail! is a shareware program that will allow you to send (but not receive) mail if you have a Unix- or mainframe-based mail system instead of a PC-based mail system like Microsoft Mail. It will run on Windows NT machines that use Intel CPUs. The Windows NT machine must have a network interface card that allows access to the mail server. This version of **VanceMail!** is compiled using the March beta of Windows NT. According to Microsoft programs compiled with the March beta should be compatible with the commercial release when it is available.

Technical Details
Most Unix- and mainframe-based mail systems use a protocol called SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) to transfer mail between machines. The SMTP protocol uses a network communication mechanism called sockets. Microsoft recently added sockets to Windows, and in Windows NT they include everything that is needed as part of the operating system. Sockets are implemented using the TCP/IP protocol. **VanceMail!** uses Windows sockets to connect to the SMTP service on your mail server.

Installing VanceMail!
In order to use **VanceMail!** you must have the TCP/IP communications software installed. Windows NT does not install the TCP/IP software by default. Bring up the Network dialog box from the Control Panel. If the "Installed Software" listbox does not include a "TCP/IP Protocol" entry, press the "Add Software..." button, and install the TCP/IP software. If you need to install the TCP/IP software, you will need to restart your machine before it will be available for **VanceMail!** to use.

Once the TCP/IP software is installed, you will need to edit the HOSTS file. This file contains the IP addresses of machines that you will talk to using the TCP/IP software. The file is normally found in the C:\WINNT\SYSTEM32\DRIVERS\ETC directory, though if you have installed Windows NT on a different drive or in a different directory the path may be slightly different. The default HOSTS file looks like this:

```
# Copyright (c) 1992 Microsoft Corp.
#
# This is a sample HOSTS file used by the Microsoft TCP/IP utilities.
#
# This file contains the mappings of IP addresses to host names. Each
# entry should be kept on an individual line. The IP address should
# be placed in the first column followed by the corresponding host name.
# The IP address and the host name should be separated by at least one
# space. Additional aliases or short names for the host may be placed
# on the same line, separated by at least one space, following the
# primary host name.
#
# Additionally, comments (such as these) may be inserted on individual
# lines or following the machine name denoted by a '#' symbol.
#
# For example:
#
#      149.124.10.4      remote.host.com                 # remote MIS host
#      182.102.93.122    patches.server.com    patches   # ACME patch server
#

127.0.0.1      localhost      loopback
```

You will need to add at least two entries. One entry will be the IP address of the Windows NT machine

itself and the other is the IP address of the mail server you want to communicate with.

Once the TCP/IP software is installed and the HOSTS file is set up, just copy the file VMAIL.EXE to your hard disk. You can create an icon for **VanceMail!** by dragging the executable file from the File Manager and dropping it on a group in the Program Manager. Double clicking on this icon will start **VanceMail!**.

Setting Up VanceMail!

The first time you start **VanceMail!** a dialog box will appear that you must fill in for **VanceMail!** to work correctly. The first item in the listbox is labeled "SMTP Host:". In this field you should enter the name of the mail server machine just as you entered it in the HOSTS file.

The next field is labeled "User:". You should enter your mail ID in this field. It is usually the same as your login ID on the mail server.

The next field, labeled "Reply To:", does not strictly need to be filled in, but you will probably want to. When someone replies to one of your mail messages by default it will go to "user@NT-machine" where "user" is the contents of the previous field and "NT-machine" is the name of your Windows NT machine. Since most Windows NT machines will not have an SMTP service on them that will allow them to receive mail, the reply will not be able to be delivered. The "Reply To:" field allows you to specify a different email address which replies will be routed to (usually your mail address on the mail server machine).

The final field, labeled "Signature File:" should contain a complete path and filename of a text file. A button on the main window will allow you to append this file to the end of your mail message.

The Save button on the dialog box will allow you to save the settings to Windows NT's equivalent of the WIN.INI file. The Use button will allow you to use the changed values this session, but the next time **VanceMail!** is started it will revert to the previously saved values.

Using VanceMail!

Now that all the setup is done, I think you will find **VanceMail!** very easy to use. There is a To: field, a Cc: field, a Subject: field, and a large edit field for the body of your message. All of these work like the similar fields in other mail programs. You enter mail addresses in the To: and Cc: fields separated by spaces or commas and spaces.

The buttons on the toolbar are as follows. The Send button sends the mail message. A message box will appear telling you whether the message was sent successfully. An additional message box will appear if the mail server indicates that any of the mail addresses are invalid. Often the mail server will not indicate any address is invalid when the message is sent, and if this is the case this message box will not appear. In this case the mail server will usually reply to you with a message indicating that the addressee is unfound. The File button allows the user to select a text file, and the file is then inserted at the last position of the cursor in the message body. The Signature button appends the signature file to the end of the body of the message. The clear button erases all fields.

The Properties... menu item in the Options menu will bring up the setup dialog box at any time. The Help menu does not yet have help, but it will bring up an about box.

Known Bugs

The accelerator keys do not work yet. Tabbing between fields does not work yet either. If you have only one line in the message field the signature file is inserted before it rather than after it.

Bugs Fixed From Version 1.0 to 1.01

Some SMTP mail systems require a HELO message at the beginning of the exchange, and this has been added. Version 1.0 used the LAN Manager name of the machine rather than the TCP/IP name of the machine, and this has been corrected. The To:, Cc:, and Subject: fields in version 1.0 would only allow you

to enter as much text as could fit in the visible region. The fields now scroll allowing more text.

Bugs Fixed From Version 1.01 to 1.03
The HELO message now correctly sends the machine name. The program now correctly deals with the fact that sometimes sockets break up a line of text into two or more messages.

Sales Pitch
VanceMail! is shareware. I sincerely hope you find it very useful. I am asking that if you do, please send me $15 or more or less (depending on your opinion of the program) or unused computer equipment or musical instruments or audio CDs or CD-ROMs or anything else that you feel is appropriate along with your name, address, and email address. I will not sell or give this information out. At $15 per registered copy Bill Gates should not feel threatened by my potential of getting rich. It is just a way for you to encourage me to improve the program and write other related software. I hope to write a companion program that will allow you to receive SMTP mail at your NT machine, an SMTP to Microsoft Mail gateway service that runs under Windows NT, and possibly a similar service that will not require Windows for Workgroups clients to upgrade to Microsoft Mail 3.0. If no one registers I may lose interest. Please send non-lethal contributions to:

Vance Gloster
180 W. Duarte Rd.
Arcadia, CA 91007

I am quite willing to provide site licenses and even source code. Please email me with details of your situation for information. I can be reached via email at Vance@inference.com. I have a reasonably demanding job, so please be as brief as possible.