

NesQWK

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Chapter 1

NesQWK

1.1 Table of Contents

NesQWK Offline QWKMail Reader V1.04

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Usage

Registration

Problems

System requirements

Credits

Installation

The future

Configuration

Revision history

```
----- Registered user status -----  
'Paid-up' registered users ..... 0  
People who've e-mailed us ..... 15  
-----
```

1.2 Introduction

Introduction

Welcome to NesQWK, a QWKMail Compatible Offline Reader.

Jim and Doug

hope

you find this program easy and simple to install and use.

This software is provided "AS IS", without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The author is not responsible for any damage or loss of data due to use of this program, these are solely the users concern.

If you have any problems not sorted out by this documentation, then don't forget to

drop us a line

!

Take a look at a the preview screen grab to see what NesQWK looks like.

What is QWKMail?

Why Should I Use NesQWK?

1.3 Why Should I Use NesQWK?

Why Should I Use NesQWK

NesQWK was written because it was felt that the various other offline readers were not quite as fully featured or easy to use as they could be. They all seemed to have strange quirks which could leave the user frustrated and annoyed.

The idea behind NesQWK was to create a QWKmail reader that was easy to use, and yet had all the features that you could possibly require in an offline reader. We know that there are other OLR's available with more features, but do you really want/need those features? (Let

us

know if

you do!)

Features :

o Easy to

install
and
setup

,

o Fully font sensitive - conforms to the look that you want,

o Quick and easy to use - no messing around,

o

Graphical button bar

,

o

Tag-line
and

- signature support,
- o Ease of skipping between successive message bundles.
- o Automatically reformats reply messages to a suitable width, wrapping the text and taking quoted lines into consideration.

See :

Future features

1.4 Registration

Registration

NesQWK is SHAREWARE. That means, if you like it and use it regularly, you should really think about registering it!

So, how much does it cost to register? Well, that's up to what you think it's worth. A small cash donation (£10?) to help fund NesQWK and other products that are in the pipeline, would be very gratefully accepted. If you choose to support us in this way, we can either post you the latest copy (without the 'unregistered' text), or send it to you electronically. If you wish, we can e-mail you the latest versions as they come out.

Even if you decide not to register, please send us a short note to say that you are actually using it. The same goes for magazines who want to put NesQWK on a cover disk - just let us know!

Special prize to the first person to make a donation! After 4 months, we still have yet to get one... :(

Send registration stuff to :

James Good,
NoLimits (NesQWK Registration),
15 The Meadway,
Horley,
Surrey,
RH6 9AN
UK

1.5 System Requirements

System Requirements

NesQWK will run on any 680x0 processor based Amiga, with at least 1Mb of RAM. A hard disk will certainly be an advantage, but is not necessary.

NesQWK requires that your Amiga has an operating system version of 2.04 or higher, and ReqTools. OS version 3.0 features will be taken advantage of, if available, and is the preferred system.

An

archiver

such as LHA or ZIP is also required to extract mail bundles.

NesQWK will look at it's best on a 640*512 (or higher) screen, with a 8 or more colours. It will, however, run on anything you ask it to, it just won't bring the much nicer MagicWB style buttons and logo into play until it's running on a 'hi-res interlace' style screen.

This documentation was written with an OS3.0+ system in mind; the following differences will be noticed on OS2.04 systems :

- o The help system, including the InfoHint(tm) box,
- o NesQWK's list displays will not be as pretty, or as nice to use,
- o The archiver output window will not be displayed on NesQWK's public screen (see the 'Show output' option in the
General
settings window.
- o The button bar images will not be re-mapped to the host screen's palette.

1.6 Installation

Installation

To install NesQWK, simply run the 'Install NesQWK' installer program. This will copy the relevent files to where you want to install NesQWK, as well as asking a question or two about how you would like it configured. If you indicate that you don't have MagicWB installed, NesQWK assumes you are running on a non-interlace screen and installs a suitable font for NesQWK use. If you have MagicWB installed, a sample config file with MagicWB default fonts will be setup.

And that's it! No messy assigns or anything. Once you've done that you'll need to

configure

the rest of the program to your settings, and then you're ready to go...

1.7 configuration

Configuration

The following areas have to be configured before using NesQWK :

Directories

General

Display

Directories

Bundle Archivers

Save Settings

All configuration requesters have the following three buttons at the ↔

bottom :

- Save** : This saves the options you have changed, and closes the requester. Anything you do from now on will use those settings. This does the same as selecting Save settings from the 'Settings' menu.
- Use** : This enables the settings you have changed (but does not save them), then closes the requester. If you exit NesQWK your changes will be lost. This enables you to test your configuration without having to continually save your configuration. If the changes look OK after testing them, they can be saved by selecting Save Settings from the menu.
- Cancel** : This returns you to NesQWK, forgetting any changes that you may have made to the requester. Use this if something has gone horribly wrong!

Note that whenever the setup is saved, NesQWK will also save the positions of all open windows on the screen.

Once you have configured everything, you should be able run NesQWK without any

problems

. Before you can start to read and write mail, you first need to

download your first bundle from your local BBS.

A sample bundle is included with NesQWK so that you can explore NesQWK's features.

Using NesQWK

1.8 Usage

Usage

The following sections describe how NesQWK can be used.

Windows

Menus

Tool-bar buttons

Downloading mail bundles

Storing mail bundles

Reading your mail

Posting a new message/reply

Editing/deleting a reply

Finishing a session

1.9 Downloading Mail Bundles

Downloading Mail Bundles

The way that you download QWKMail bundles will vary from BBS to BBS.

For specific help on downloading a QWKMail bundle, ask your Sysop. He/she should be able to guide you through the use of the specific BBS QWKMail facility.

As a rough guide, however, the following should suffice :

- o Turn on your amiga, and boot to the Workbench. (!)
- o Start your comms package (Termite, Term, NComm etc)
- o Logon to your local BBS, and enter the QWK door.
- o Make sure you are configured to receive the correct conferences.
- o Use the QWK door to export a mail bundle (alternatively named a mail packet).
- o Download the exported mail bundle.
- o Logoff from the BBS.
- o Start NesQWK.
- o Select the
 - grab
 - option.

You are then free to

- read
- /
- reply
- to your mail.

1.10 Storing Mail Bundles

Storing Mail Bundles

When starting out using NesQWK, it may be a sensible time to decide how you want to store your mail bundles.

Some people simply store one bundle at a time, and delete it once they have read it and generated their replies from it. This method is useful if disk space is at a premium, or you are simply not interested in the mail for later reference.

Another way, is to let all the bundles that you receive build up in NesQWK's bundle directory. This way, they are always available to refer back to them at a later date. To assist you in maintaining a directory of mail bundles, NesQWK offers facilities to automatically copy the bundles from your terminals download directory and

rename
them with

sensible, unique filenames that let you know where the bundle came from, and the date it was downloaded. This process is activated by performing a

grab

.

1.11 Reading Mail

Reading Mail

Once a mail bundle has been successfully opened, the first message contained within it will displayed in the

message viewer

. The message

that is displayed in the viewer will be referred to as the 'current' message.

If the message text does not fit on screen in its entirety, you may use the up and down cursor keys, or the scroll bar to the right of the window, to scroll through it. Shift + the up and down cursor keys moves a page at a time.

Once you have read the current message, the next message in the bundle can be displayed by pressing the cursor right key, or pressing the

next message

button on the button bar. Similarly, the previous message can be ←

accessed

with either the cursor left key, or the

previous message

button.

Another convenient way to read through messages is to use the 'space bar' and 'backspace' keys. 'Space' will move forwards through messages a page at a time, automatically moving to the next message at the end of the current one. 'Backspace' does the opposite of 'space'.

There are several ways that you can change to a different message conference. Firstly, you may click on the

conference list window

button,

and select a new conference from the list of those available. Secondly, the cursor right and left keys, when used with the 'alt' key, will move to the next and previous conference.

See also :

Searching your messages

.

1.12 Posting New Messages and Replies

Posting New Messages and Replies

First, a quick introduction to how NesQWK manages your replies and new messages...

When you post (or add) a reply or new message, NesQWK will store it in a special conference named 'Replies'. This conference can be read just like any other in your message bundle, and you can keep on adding as many messages into it as you wish.

When you come to close down the bundle, however, all the messages in this conference will be taken out and placed into a special 'reply' file. This reply file (also known as the reply bundle) is then automatically compressed by NesQWK, using your specified archive utility (see

Bundle archiver settings

). It is then in the correct form for uploading

onto your local BBS, allowing other Fidonet and QWK Mail users around the world to read your messages.

If you want to know more about uploading the reply bundle onto the BBS, chat to the BBS sysop. Sysops are normally very helpful in this area...

Back to NesQWK...

Replies and new messages are treated very much in the same way. The only differences are that replies are automatically addressed back to the person you are replying to, and a few options are only applicable to replies.

To send a reply, make sure that the main screen is showing the message that you wish to reply to, and then click on the 'reply' button on the toolbar, or select 'Post reply...' from the message menu. To send a new message, simply click on the 'new message' button on the toolbar, or select 'Post new...' from the message menu. From here on, we will only describe the reply operation - new messages (as said before) are treated very similarly.

The top left of the reply window contains the addressing information : Who the message is to, your name and the subject matter. Also shown in the name of the conference that the message is to be placed into. This can be changed by clicking on the 'Set...' button, but defaults to the name of the conference that the current message is in.

The send option check-boxes are located at the top right of the window. The first tells NesQWK to make the message private or not. If you choose

to make it private, nobody but the person that you are sending the message to will be able to read it. The next option ('Keep original') applies only to reply messages, and indicates whether NesQWK should include the senders message in your reply. 'Quote type' is the next option, and only applies to reply messages that have the 'Keep original' option turned on. When set to 'xx>', the message that you are replying to will be

quoted
with the senders initials :

JG> This was the original senders message. It's
JG> not a very long message, is it?

Setting it to 'x>' will only quote with the senders first initial, and 'None' will not change the original at all.

The bottom half of the window contains the
header-text
and
tag-line
selector.

The header-text can be changed by one of two ways. Firstly, clicking on the set button to the right of the header-text string gadget will produce a list-box which can be used to select a predefined header line from the list. Secondly, you can type free-form text into the string gadget, and that will be used as the header. Leaving the header-text empty will disable the header-text feature.

The tag-line list shows all the tag-lines contained in the NesQWK.tagline file, with the selected tag-line being shown in the input line below the list. It is this selected tag-line that is appended to the bottom of the message. When the window is first displayed, a tag-line will be randomly selected for you, but you may select another by either clicking on a different one in the list, or pressing the 'Random' button. This button will randomly select a tag-line for you.

Once all the above has been filled in, click on the 'OK' button at the bottom of the window, and the message will be posted into NesQWK's reply conference ('NQ-Replies'), ready for archiving and uploading onto your local BBS. Cancel will abort the message.

1.13 Editing/Deleting Replies

Editing/Deleting Replies

To edit a reply message, select the message that you want to change (i.e. make sure it is displayed in the main window), and select '

Post reply
,

from the message menu, or click on 'reply' on the
button bar

.

From here on, the procedure for editing a reply is the same as creating it in the first place, except that all the details entered when the reply was

first generated are already filled in. See :
Posting replies

To delete a reply, so that it will not be included in the reply bundle,
select the message that you want to delete, and select '

Delete reply
from

the message menu. To prevent the reply message being accidentally deleted,
NesQWK will ask if you are sure first.

1.14 Finishing a session

Finishing a Session

When you have finished your NesQWK session, and are ready to quit the
program, simply click on the close gadget, or select 'quit' from the
menus. NesQWK will then close down all it's open windows, and unload
from your Amiga's memory. Don't forget to save any settings changes
before doing this!

If you have created or edited any replies or new messages, they will
automatically be saved away into a reply bundle.

1.15 NesQWK Bundle Naming Convention

NesQWK Bundle Naming Convention

When a bundle is
grabbed
, it is placed into the bundle directory, and
and renamed. This renaming process will give the bundle a file name that
consists of the following information :

A two character ID designating the source BBS,
A minus sign,
The date in the form DDMMYY,
and the extension of '.QWK'.

For example, a bundle from a BBS called
'Little Green Men'
on 24th
December 1994 will become 'LG-24Dec94.QWK'.

This means each packet for each BBS on each day (phew!), will have a
unique file name. However, if you receive more than one bundle on
each day, an incrementing ASCII character (beginning with 'a') will be
added after the date.

So, the second bundle in the above situation will become 'LG-24Dec94a.QWK'.

See :

Storing bundles

1.16 Little Green Men BBS

Little Green Men BBS

This BBS operates from a base in Smallfield, Surrey, near Gatwick airport in the UK. It provides the main support base for NesQWK. Upgrades and patches may be obtained from here, as well as a chance to talk to the authors.

It is run by Doug Roberts, with a little help from Jim Good. These names may be familiar to you ;-).

1.17 Windows

Windows

The following windows are central to NesQWK's user interface :

Main window

Message list window

Conference list window

Search window

1.18 Main Window

Main Window

The main window is where most of NesQWK's features are used from.

It consists of three main areas :

The message viewer.

The message viewer is the largest element of the window, and it is in this area that the messages are displayed.

The message header panels.

The message header panels are located about the message viewer. These panels contain information pertaining to the current message. Each item is explained below :

From : The name of the person who sent this message.

To : Whom the message is addressed to.

Subj : The subject matter of the message.

Conf : The name and number of the conference that the message belongs to.

Date : Date and time that the message was sent.

Msg : The number of this message, and the number in this conference.

Also shown next to the 'Msg' item, is the private message indicator. If the current message is marked as private for you, then the word 'private' will appear here.

The button bar.

The button bar is located underneath the message viewer. It consists of a number of buttons with graphical images in them, and they provide a quick way of accessing NesQWK's more common functions. See :

Button bar

.

There is another area that optionally appears below the message viewer, above the button bar. This is known as the InfoHint(tm) bar, and provides help on what the various parts of the main window do. As you move the mouse cursor over the buttons, and header area, a single line of text will be displayed here describing the function of the area. The InfoHint(tm) feature is enabled in the

general

config window.

1.19 Message List Window

Message List Window

This window displays a list of all the messages in the current conference. The list has three headings that show the message subject, who the message is from, and who it is to.

The current message (the message currently being displayed in the main window) is indicated by the highlighted bar. Any message in the list may be made the current message by double clicking.

The window can be resized, and the three columns will grow and shrink as the size is changed.

If the 'Auto msg list close' option is checked in the

General

setup window, the window will automatically close when a message ↔
is

selected from the list.

1.20 Conference List Window

Conference List Window

This window displays a list of all the conference areas present in the

current mail bundle.

Two 'special', NesQWK internal conferences also exist, both of which are prefixed with the letters 'NQ'. The first (named 'NQ-Personal') is only present if you have messages addressed to you, and contains all of your that are present in the other conferences. It is useful when you need to quickly scan through a bundle to check your personal mail. The other, named 'NQ-Replies', is present when your have replies (or new messages) waiting to be packed into a reply bundle.

When a conference is double clicked in this window, the first message of that conference will be made the current message, and displayed in the main window.

This window contains two columns in the list, the right hand column showing the name of the conference, and the left hand one switching between showing the conference number, and the message count within the conference. To switch between the two values in the left column, click on the little '*' button in the top right hand corner of the window.

The window can be resized, and the three columns will grow and shrink as the size is changed.

If the 'Auto conference list close' option is checked in the
 General
 setup window, the window will automatically close when a ←
 conference is
 selected from the list.

1.21 Search Window

Search Window

Searching lets you scan through all the messages within the current bundle (or through a smaller range) for given pieces of text. If a match is found, that message is made current and displayed. If you searched for a piece of text, the line that the text was found on is highlighted.

This window will multi-task with NesQWK whilst you are reading your messages.

The four areas of the message that you can search in are shown and the top of the window, along side four input lines into which you can enter the text you wish to search for :

Sender Enter the name of the person that you want to look for. Putting
 'GRAM PARSONS' in here will find messages sent by Gram Parsons.

Recipient Place the user name of the person that you want to look for.
 Entering 'MATTHEW SWEET' will find messages sent to Matthew Sweet.

Subject Placing 'Who drank my beer?' here will search for messages with
 that subject title.

Message Text entered here will be searched for within the message body text, i.e. the message contents.

The search options are located under the above input lines. The first option ('Search range') is a cycle gadget that determines which messages will be searched. 'All conferences', 'Current conference' and 'Current message' are the self-explanatory choices you have. Next option is a check-box labelled 'From start'. Checking this means that the search will start at the very first message in the bundle, as opposed to the current message. 'Exact match', the next check-box, tells NesQWK to make sure that the text it finds exactly matches what you asked for. If this is not checked, partial matching will be enabled. This can be useful, for instance, if you are searching for a message from someone, but you are not sure of their full-name, only their first name. Entering 'RICHARD' in the 'Sender' input line will find all the messages from people with 'RICHARD' in their names. i.e. RICHARD GOOD, RICHARD JAMES or even KEEF RICHARDS.

The control buttons are located below the options. 'Search forwards' will start the search process searching forwards towards the end of the bundle, whilst 'Search backwards' will start the search process searching towards the first message in the bundle. Close will close the window.

Bear in mind that searching a large mail bundle for text in the message-body of messages in 'All conferences' can take some time...

1.22 Menus

Menus

The following list details the options available from NesQWK's menu bar :

Project

- Open bundle...
- Open last bundle...
- Close bundle...
- Next bundle...
- Previous bundle...
- Grab bundle
- Information...
- Erase bundle...
- Print
- Print as...
- About...

Quit
 Message

Post new...

Post reply...

Delete reply

Search...

UUDecode file...

Steal tag-line...

Save text...
 Window

Message list open

Conference list open
 Settings

General...

Display...

Directories...

Bundle archivers...

Edit tag-lines...

Edit header-text...

Save Settings

1.23 Tool-Bar Buttons

Tool-Bar Buttons

To make NesQWK quicker and easier to use, it has a graphical tool-bar located at the bottom of the main window. This consists of a number of buttons, which, when clicked upon, provide easy access to common menu or keyboard operations.

If the NesQWK window is resized small enough, some of the buttons will not physically fit into the window. When this happens, the buttons will disappear from the left hand side. The most used buttons are to the right, so this should cause as little inconvenience as possible.

From right to left the buttons are :

Next message

Previous message

Next conference area

Previous conference area

Message list window toggle

Conference list window toggle

Post reply message

Post new message

Close bundle

Open bundle

Font toggle

Show search window

1.24 Open Bundle

Open Bundle

Selecting this will display a file requester showing the contents of the bundle directory. After selecting a mail bundle file, and clicking on 'OK', the bundle will be opened, and ready for use. Any bundle open will automatically be closed.

Note : NesQWK can be made to automatically perform this operation on startup. See the 'Startup operation' in the General settings window.

1.25 Open Last Bundle

Open Last Bundle

This menu option will automatically re-open the mail bundle previously in use. This can be useful when NesQWK has to be closed down in the middle of a large mail reading session - simply re-start NesQWK, select this option, and continue reading from the same bundle.

Note : NesQWK can be made to automatically perform this operation on startup. See the 'Startup operation' in the General settings window.

1.26 Close Bundle

Close Bundle

Selecting this will close a mail bundle. This involves packing any reply messages and releasing the memory used to store the open mail bundle.

This will probably not be used that much due to the fact that all of the 'open bundle' operations automatically close any open bundles, as does the 'Quit' option.

1.27 Open Next/Previous Bundle

Open Next/Previous Bundle

If mail bundles are
stored
in the 'bundle directory' (see
directory settings
)
with the correct NesQWK
bundle naming
convention, then this option can be
used to open the next/previous bundle in chronological order. The current
bundle will be automatically
closed
first.

This can be useful when stepping through several bundles in date order, for example, when searching for a particular message.

1.28 Grab Bundle

Grab Bundle

This will look in your specified download directory for a mail bundle. If one is present it will move it to the bundle directory, interrogate it to find out the download date etc, and name the file accordingly.

The bundle is renamed using the
NesQWK bundle naming convention
.

This facility provides a way to store and manage large collections of mail. See :

Storing bundles
.

1.29 Erase Bundle

Erase Bundle

Selecting this option will produce a file requester, allowing you to choose the bundle that you wish to remove from your disk. Once selected, click on OK, and confirm that you wish to proceed. NesQWK will now remove the bundle file permanently.

Use this facility with care!

1.30 Next Message

Next Message

Display the next message in the current conference. If there are no more messages in the current conference, the first message in the next conference will display.

1.31 Previous Message

Previous Message

Display the previous message in the current bundle. If there are no more messages in the current conference, the last message in the previous conference will display.

1.32 Toggle Message List

Toggle Message List

If the message list window is open, this option will close it. If it's closed, this will open it.

1.33 Post Reply Message

Post Reply Message

Post a reply to the current message.

See : Posting a new message/reply

1.34 Delete Reply Message

Delete Reply Message

Delete the current reply (or new) message.

See :

Editing/Deleting Replies

1.35 Next Conference

Next Conference

Moves to the first message in the next conference.

1.36 Previous Conference

Previous Conference

Moves to the previous conference in the bundle. If the current message is not the first message in the conference then this will move to the first one, and not change the conference.

1.37 Toggle Message Font

Toggle Message Font

Toggles between the two message fonts, specified in the 'Display Config' window. Typically, this will be a proportional (i.e. XHelvetica) and a non-proportional (i.e. Topaz) font.

1.38 Post New Message

Post New Message

Post a new message into the current conference. Once done, the new message will appear in the 'Replies' conference, where it can be further edited or deleted.

See :

Posting a new message/reply

1.39 Toggle Conference List Window

Toggle Conference List Window

If the message conference list window is open, this option will close it. If it is not open, this will make it so.

1.40 Search

Search

Open the search window.

See :

Search window

1.41 UUDecode File

UUDecode File

This option will extract files that have been attached to the message using the UUEncode protocol. UUEncoded files can generally be identified as looking something like the following :

```
begin 644 Close.iff
M1D]230``>!)3$)-0DU(1````!0`(`@``````````,"``````!86`H`````$--05``^
M``8JJJJ``````````:)*[F9F9N[N[NZJ9_[NJ1U)!0@````0`$``00T%-1P``^
M``0``I`$0D]$60``8``````````@````!U4``!@````50``!J``!@````
M`&H``!?!?__Y@````%__@__#_Y@`/``#_`^?_A.Z4[ID1:Q$%_]?_@_`*_Y_
M@`]0`#_XO_A*I_*IE5@-4%_T'_@7`F!QB/W?B!\`0/A*!O*IE?G-4%\`PO@5^
M/_V1BOON:!\#X7A*``^"IE?W?4%\%T'@`?<6!G[ZZ>!]`A7@"(J*AG=U=6!\BK
M*G@`OW4!GW^Z^!T`1+@`0`(AG[_]V!R`B1@`,`!0AG\_KV!Q54A@`&`@AC^_WZ
MR!PBI!@`#_`AG_`/V!P0"!@````AB__R!P@!!H````AE__T!Q``A@````A-
MB__R!R``1H````AD__T!P``!@````AB__R!P``!H`_A@````!\``P``
M``!@B(B(!__H````!@````!__P````!@````!__H````!@````!__/_
F__P````!@````````H````!@``````59__``````````!;
``
end
size 488
```

If you see something like this, selecting this option will decode the file. The UUDecode utility must be setup correctly for this to work, however. See :

General Settings

1.42 Steal Tag Line

Steal Tag Line

This option will attempt to locate a tag-line within the current message. If one is found, NesQWK will ask for confirmation for putting the line into the tag-line file. If you ask i.t to do this, the tag-line will be available for use when replying or creating new messages.

Tag-lines are identified by one of the following pre-fixes to the line :

... Tag-lines aren't funny...

| AnyText | Taglines are funny...

This should allow to take tag-lines from most popular messaging programs.

1.43 Save Text

Save Text

This option will save the current message text out to a file. A file requester will pop up before doing so, and ask you to supply the file name of the file to place the message into.

If the file specified already exists, NesQWK will add the message onto the end of the file that is already there.

1.44 Information

Information

This option displays a window containing information about the currently open mail bundle, and the BBS that it came from. Simply click on the OK button to close this window.

1.45 Print

Print

Print the current message to your chosen print device. For more information, see the

print as
page.

1.46 Print As...

Print As

Allows the printing options to be configured. The following settings are available :

Printer device :

This is the path to which messages will be printed. This can be a true device name such as 'PRT:', or a fully qualified path and file name, allowing messages to be printed to disk files.

Print message information :

With this option selected, an information banner will be printed at the top of each message. This banner shows useful reference information, such as the name of the sender and recipient, what conference the message came from, and what BBS the message came from.

There are also a series of buttons at the bottom of the window. Those to the right hand side are identical in operation to the save, use and cancel buttons in the standard

configuration

requesters. The 'print' button on the left, however, will perform the same operation as the

Print

menu option -

namely print the current message with the current settings.

1.47 About

About

This gives you a bit of general info about your copy of NesQWK.

1.48 Quit

Quit

This will exit the program. If reply messages have been edited / created, the reply bundle will be updated / generated automatically.

1.49 General Settings

General Settings

Message editor :

This is the path to your selected message editor. Use the SET gadget to bring up a file requester. Find and select your chosen text editor and press OK. Once you have selected the editor, command line options may be added onto the end of the path/command line.

UUDecoder :

This is the path/command line for your selected UUDecoder. This option is only relevant if you will be receiving encoded binary files within your mail bundles, and may be left alone if this does not apply to you. See :

Attached files

.

Signature file :

The

signature file

contains ASCII text, and is appended onto the bottom of all outgoing messages. If this facility is not required, leave this option empty, otherwise supply the path to your signature file using the 'Set...' button. The 'Edit...' button can be used to edit the signature file using the editor detailed above.

Startup operation :

When NesQWK is invoked, it will use the setting in this option to determine what action will be taken. The following options can be cycled through.

- o Nothing - NesQWK will do nothing.
- o Bundle open requester - Allow you to select a bundle without having to select open from the menu/tool-bar.
- o Open last bundle - Re-open the bundle in-use when NesQWK was last exited.

Auto msg list close :

With this box checked, the message list window will be automatically closed when a message is selected by double-clicking its entry in the list.

Auto conference list close :

When checked, the conference list window will automatically close itself when double-clicking a conference area.

Note : The above two options are useful if you prefer to have large list windows that cover most of the screen, as opposed to small lists that do not overlap the main window. Generally, users of lower-resolution monitors will have these options enabled.

Show output :

This toggle button selects and deselects the display when unpacking mail bundles. When the output is turned off, the display is less cluttered,

but turning it on can help when trying to sort out problems with unpacking mail bundles, because you can see any errors that the archiver may display.

Show InfoHint(tm) box :

The InfoHint(tm) box is located at the bottom of the main window and displays a brief description of each part of the main window when the mouse pointer is moved around.

With this option turned off, the box is not displayed.

1.50 Display Settings

Display Settings

Display settings determine how NesQWK will appear visually.

All the fonts that NesQWK uses can be changed, as can the type of screen that you want it to use.

Main font :

This font is the main font used by NesQWK, and is used to render all of the buttons, lists, check boxes etc in the windows, as well as the information boxes in the main window. This can be either a fixed or proportionally spaced typeface.

Proportional scroller font :

Used to display the message body text. This does not have to be proportional.

Fixed width scroller font :

Similar to the above option, but we suggest setting it to a fixed width typeface.

List font :

This font is used by all of the lists. For example, the message and conference lists. This can only be a proportional font.

Note : When you change any of the above font settings, NesQWK will perform a quick check to make sure that the font is not too large for the current screen. If it is too large, the previous setting will be re-instated.

Custom screen :

When checked, this checkbox will tell NesQWK to open onto it's own (custom) screen, as opposed to the Workbench (or default public) screen. It will display the screen mode name currently selected next to the checkbox. This screen mode can be changed by clicking on the 'Set...' button to the right of the mode name, and selecting a new mode from the list.

Once created, the custom NesQWK screen is made public, with a name of 'NesQWK'. Other programs can then open themselves on the NesQWK screen.

When the box is not checked, NesQWK will open on the default public

screen, which is usually (but not always) the Workbench screen.

1.51 Directory Settings

Directory Settings

NesQWK needs to know where you store your mail, and where you comms package puts its uploads and downloads.

To change any of the directories used by NesQWK click on the 'SET...' button next to the relevant directory setting. This will bring up a file requester. Select the directory you want to use for that option (they are all explained below) and click on the OK button.

Work directory : (Default : 'Ram Disk:NesQWKTemp/')

This is the directory NesQWK uses for its temporary work files as it opens and closes bundles. There should be enough room on this drive to store the complete uncompressed mail bundle. This may be as small as a 1K, or as large as several megabytes, so make sure there is sufficient space available.

Bundle directory : (Default : NesQWK program directory)

This is the directory in which you store all your mail bundles. Some people keep just one bundle and delete it once read, others keep every single bundle they receive for reference. See :

Storing bundles

Reply directory : (Default : 'Ram Disk:')

This is the directory you want to place your reply files. This will usually be set to the same location as your chosen comms package's upload directory.

Download directory : (Default : 'Ram Disk:')

When you download a QWKmail bundle from the BBS your comms software places that file in its download directory. You should set this option to that directory. If downloaded QWKmail bundles are placed in this directory, the

grab

option can be used to automatically copy them into your NesQWK bundle directory, renaming them in the process. See : operating principles.

Saved text directory : (Default : 'Ram Disk:')

This is the directory messages will be placed in when you save them as text files.

1.52 Bundle Archiver Settings

Bundle Archiver Settings

The archiver settings are vital to the operation of NesQWK - without at least one of the archiving types correctly setup, NesQWK will be unable to

take any messages out of message bundles.

NesQWK does not attempt to handle the archiving itself - it relies on external utilities to do the work for it. It is in this settings window that you tell it what commands to execute to use these external utilities.

The first step to take is to find out what archiving type you need to use. Your BBS sysop should be able to help with this matter, but it will most probably be LHA on most Amiga based BBS's, or Zip on PC based systems. To further confuse the issue, most BBS's will let you select other archivers.

Each of the four archiving types (LHA, Zip and Arc) that NesQWK supports has a 'Pack' and 'Unpack' string gadget, as shown below :

	Pack	Unpack
LHA
Zip
Arc
LZX

These gadgets must be filled in with the commands that NesQWK should execute to perform the pack (extracting messages from the bundle) and unpack (adding replies to a reply bundle) operations. Please note that the full path to the command must be given.

As an example, lets say that our BBS requires us to use the LHA method. We know that the LHA utility resides in the 'SYS:Tools/' directory on our hard disk. We also know that to add (pack) files into an archive, we need to give the 'a' parameter to LHA. Similarly, an 'x' parameter is used to remove (unpack) files from an archive. So, knowing these details, we can enter the following into the settings window :

	Pack	Unpack
LHA	SYS:Tools/LHA a....	SYS:Tools/LHA x....
Zip
Arc
LZX	SYS:Tools/LZX -Xa a	SYS:Tools/LZX x....

On a more technical note, when packing a bundle, NesQWK will attempt to add the name of the bundle followed by the name of the uncompressed .MSG file to the pack command string. When unpacking, it will just add the name of the bundle. This method of archiving should be compatible with most archivers.

Note that LZX requires the '-Xa' option added to the pack command (before the 'a') so that it doesn't append .lzx onto the reply file name. Check this if you have problems reopening reply bundles with LZX.

1.53 Edit Tag-Lines

Edit Tag-Lines

This option will invoke your message editor to edit the 'NesQWK.taglines' file (located in the NesQWK program directory), where all the tag-lines

are stored. This is a plain ASCII file, so all text-editors will be able to cope with it (with a bit of luck!).

Obviously, for this option to function correctly, your message editor must be properly configured in the general settings settings window.

1.54 Edit Header-Text

Edit Header-Text

This option will invoke your message editor to edit the 'NesQWK.headers' file (located in the NesQWK program directory), where all the header-texts are stored. This is a plain ASCII file.

Obviously, for this option to function correctly, your message editor must be properly configured in the general settings settings window.

In this file, any lines that are pre-fixed with a ';' character are taken to be comment lines, and are not used at all by NesQWK. Comment lines can be seen at the top of the supplied header-text file, explaining what the various expansion macros do.

Expansion macros are used to tell NesQWK where in a header line to insert the various bits of message information. For instance, the macro '%n' is replaced with the full-name of the sender of the original message. The following expansion macros are available :

- %n - Full name of sender,
- %r - Full name of recipient,
- %N - First name of sender,
- %R - First name of recipient,
- %s - Subject matter,
- %d - Date present on original message,
- %D - Todays date.

1.55 Save Settings

Save Settings

This operation will save the settings that are currently in use to a file named 'NesQWK.config' in the program directory. Once this has been done, NesQWK will use these settings everytime it is started up.

1.56 What is QWKMail?

What is QWKMail

QWKMail is an offline message format. Using QWKMail allows you to call a BBS, collect all waiting messages, transfer them to your computer, and read them after you have logged off of the BBS.

You can then read them with a QWK compatible message reader such as NesQWK. New messages can be edited with your favourite text editor. Some of the advantages of using QWKMail include:

- * Collecting all waiting messages into a QWKMail bundle usually takes only a fraction of the time it takes to read messages online, resulting in lower phone bills.
- * Since your replies are edited offline, you can take as much time as you need to enter and reply to messages. You also have the advantage of using tools that may not be available when using BBS editors, such as spelling and grammar checkers.
- * You can easily save or print messages for future reference.

The QWK format was created in 1987 by Mark 'Sparky' Herring. It is based on Clark Development Corp.'s 'PC-Board' Version 12.0 BBS message base format. The QWKMail format is now supported by most BBS programs either internally or by an external 'door' program.

1.57 Header-Text

Header-Text

'Header-texts' are usually found in the first line of a reply message. A typical header line would look something like this :

On 08 Jul 95, James said the following to me, regarding NesQWK :

As can be seen from the above example, it provides a brief resume on the message that this message is a response to.

NesQWK provides support for maintaining a selection of Header-texts in a standard ASCII file, called NesQWK.headers. A few sample headers are supplied, but you may easily add your own using the

Edit Header-Text
option from the Settings menu.

1.58 Tag-Lines

Tag-Lines

Tag-lines are optionally added onto the end of a reply (or new) message. Most people use witty sayings and statements, and they serve no-purpose but to brighten up the message a bit.

NesQWK stores all its tag-lines in a plain ASCII text file, and it allows you to build up a library of them by 'stealing' from other peoples messages. Only single line tag-lines are supported.

1.59 Signatures

Signatures

You will see that many people have a set signature that appears on all of their mail. This often includes details such as their various mailing addresses, BBSs they run, signatures made up of ASCII characters and even miscellaneous quotes.

Large signatures are normally frowned upon, and can lead to some unwelcome mail along the lines of "I'm fed up of continually downloading 50 megs worth of your signatures." Four lines or so seem to have become the acceptable limit.

1.60 Quoting

Quoting

When following up to an article, many offline readers provide the facility to quote the original article with each line prefixed by '> ', as in

```
In article <1232@foo.bar.com>, sharon@foo.bar.com wrote:  
> I agree, I think that basketweaving's really catching on,  
> particularly in Pennsylvania. Here's a list of every person  
> in PA that currently engages in it publicly:
```

```
: :e:tc : : :
```

This is a severe example (potentially a horribly long article), but proves a point. When you quote another person, edit out whatever isn't directly applicable to your reply.³ This gives the reader of the new article a better idea of what points you were addressing. By including the entire article, you'll only annoy those reading it. Also, signatures in the original aren't necessary; the readers already know who wrote it (by the attribution).

1.61 Credits

Credits

The NesQWK Offline QWKMail reader was created by NoLimits Software :

```
James Good      Conceptual design and programming,  
Doug Roberts    Graphics and documentation.
```

See :

Contacting us

.

We would also like to thank our team of highly experienced beta testers for their help and support :

Graham Rockett (Sorry Graham, couldn't get the brain encoded! May the V8 be with you! ;-))
Iain Guy (For finding more bugs than anyone else! And for actually asking to use NesQWK - we had to press-gang everyone else!)
Genom (Wow! 1500cps on IRC to Mexico! Thanks for the enforcer help!)
Nick Loman (It was your QWK door that prompted us to write NesQWK!)
Philip Vedovatti (For the most excellent NewIcon images... Ta!)
Pauli Vauhkonen (The first person outside of NoLimits software to run NesQWK!)
Dougs Cat 'Git' (For knocking huge piles of disks off Dougs desk, and walking over our keyboards as we tried to finish NesQWK!)
Neil Young (He didn't really have anything to do with NesQWK, but his music was a great help, and it's cool to have his name in these docs!)
Steve Coe (The man who came up with the great name for this product.)

So, all of you, 'Thanks very much!'...

And a big hello to Andrew H and Alison G!

The following software was used in NesQWK development :

HighSpeed Pascal 1.20 from Hisoft, D-House and Christen Fihl
(The compiler + editor used to generate NesQWK code),
DPaint 4.5 by Electronic Arts
(Used to draw the icons and logos),
Designer 1.51 by Ian OConner
(For converting the IFF graphics into source code, and for pre-development mock-ups).

1.62 Problems

Problems and Trouble Shooting

Problem : NesQWK won't start up.

Solutions : Well, there are quite a few reasons why this could happen. Firstly, check to see how much memory (RAM) is available in your Amiga. NesQWK only requires about 350 Kb to run, but more will be needed once you open a message bundle.

If a window pops up saying that 'only one copy of NesQWK may be run at a time', and you definitely don't have another copy

lurking away in the background (press left Amiga-M to cycle through all the screens open just to check), please check the following. Using the CLI or a directory manager such as DirWork or DOpus, check to see if NesQWK's work directory

already exists. This may happen if another program ← has locked

it (some text editors have a habit of doing this), and the directory will need to be removed before NesQWK will start up. A reboot is a sure-fire way of fixing this!

Problem : NesQWK won't let me read any of my bundles.

Solutions : Check your archiver settings ... This is probably the most common cause of failure in this area. Also check that you have enough available RAM, especially if your work directory is located in a RAM disk. Don't forget that a large message bundle can easily be as large as 1.5 Mb. Try turning on the 'Show output' option in the General settings window.

Problem : I replied that I didn't have MagicWB when installing NesQWK, and thought that I would see NesQWK's font in my font requester. Why do I not see it?

Solution : Are you running a font list cache program? If so you will have to re-create the font list by running a utility that re-scans the font directory. See your font list cache programs documentation.

Problem : NesQWK crashes your Amiga, or interferes with other programs.

Solutions : Really?! Lets us know about it, or it'll never be fixed!
See :
Contacting us
.

1.63 contact

Contacting NoLimits Software Corp.

Contact Jim at 'jim@amidev.demon.co.uk' or as JAMES GOOD in the Amiga programming Fidonet echo, or 'Alfy' on IRC.

Contact Doug at 'doug@nolimits.demon.co.uk' or on the Little Green Men BBS (he's the sysop). Doug also hangs on as 'Bizzmo' on IRC.

For our address, see the registration page.

1.64 The Future

The Future of NesQWK

Well, this depends on you! Let us know what you want in the package, and we will do our best to oblige. Of course, registering is a sure way of securing NesQWK's future, but we don't want to keep on about it!

Here is a list of possible things for the next release :

- o Implement a database of messages. When you download a message bundle, it will be added into this database - so that all your messages are in one place, not spread across many individual bundles.
- o Copying of messages to the clipboard.
- o Address book of names that are frequently used (complete with aliases).
- o Twit lists.
- o Much more comprehensive printing options.

Plus much more that we don't want to list incase 'a competitor' steals the ideas before we get to use them!

1.65 NesQWK Revision History

Revision History

V1.05 (22/10/95)

Tidied up the search facility a little bit (although still more work could be done - it now highlights the line where the match was found. Added the archiver type used into the bundle information window. Fixed bug where bundles could not be opened if they were located on 'ram disk:', thanks to Dave Naylor for reporting that one. Fixed silly bug that crept in with V1.04 where it would still ask for confirmation for deleting replies when editing reply messages. Added LZX archiver support. Fixed problem with searching where it wouldn't search the current message if the scope was set to anything other than current message. Not quite enough of the message window was being scrolled - now fixed.

V1.04 (25/09/95)

Small fix to allow messages with lines over 255 chars long to be loaded. Changed the way extracting bundles worked slightly - NesQWK now changes the CD to the temporary directory before extracting replies, and no longer adds the name of the dest dir (temp dir) to the end of the extract cmd line. This allows NesQWK compatability with more archivers (namely Unzip). When creating a new message, header text is now initially set to nothing, since its not normally needed on new msgs. Changed the text

displayed in the conference field for the private and reply areas - it now displays what area the message is in... Removed confusing 'P' in header text, to the word 'private'. Header text is no longer applied when editing replies. Fixed problem reported by Jacek Trzebunia whereby the message list window tick in the menu got out of sync with the window state. Added an 'are you sure?' requester when deleting replies.

V1.03 (02/07/95)

Fixed bug where keyboard activated gadgets in reply window would still be active if a new message was being entered. Message scroll bar arrows now sized according to screen aspect ratio. Added header text support. Added message when unable to unarchive a bundle due to not being able to find archiver. When reformatting the quoted reply message, NesQWK no longer outputs quote symbols on blank lines. Added bundle erase option to file menu. Fixed arrows in open & close button images - you can stop bugging me now, Doug!

V1.02 (28/06/95)

Fixed bug reported by Dale Frameli where NesQWK was getting stuck in a loop whilst trying to read the message index from the MESSAGES.DAT file. What was happening was that the 'Number of Blocks' field in the bundle was not left justified - even though my docs said it would be. This caused NesQWK to read the message as 0 blocks long, and get stuck in the loop. I now strip all spaces from both sides of strings in the message headers. Also fixed bug where public, non-read messages were being shown to be private.

V1.01 (24/06/95)

Shortened the evaluation text line. Fixed a small bug where changing fonts caused the scroller to flick to the top, the next time you scrolled. Added suggestion from Iain + Teijo Liiri - space bar to read thru msgs page by page, and go to next msg at end of page. Also added backspace key to do reverse of this. Fixed bug reported by Jure Vrhovnik where mail bundles with spaces on the end of the conference numbers in CONTROL.DAT, and null message records in the MESSAGES.DAT files caused gurus.

V1.00 (17/06/95)

Added pattern matching to file requester. First release to Aminet!
