

NPNS

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	<i>TITLE :</i> NPNS		
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REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

Contents

1	NPNS	1
1.1	New	1
1.2	Introduction	1
1.3	Installation	1
1.4	Updating	1
1.5	Online	2
1.6	sendnews	2
1.7	postnews	2
1.8	History	3
1.9	Bugs	3
1.10	Conditions	3
1.11	Future	4
1.12	Thanks	4
1.13	Author	4

Chapter 1

NPNS

1.1 New

New Post News Spool 5.1

Nick d'Alterio - May 1996

[Introduction](#) [Installation](#) [Updating](#) [Online check sendnews postnews](#) [History](#) [Bugs](#) [Conditions of Use](#) [Future Plans](#) [Thanks](#) [The Author](#)

1.2 Introduction

Introduction

This pair of programs provide a method of spooling news so that you can write your articles while offline and then send them off once you go online.

The original version was based on PostNewsSpool by James Burton, but this has long been left behind in terms of features. The latest version now no longer requires an external posting agent.

AmiTCP only

1.3 Installation

Installation

Copy sendnews and postnews to somewhere on your path and set the appropriate environment variables described below.

postnews should be the program that is called by your news reading program to post the news. This will spool the article so that you can use sendnews to send it off when you go online.

1.4 Updating

Updating From Previous Versions

Updates from 4.x to 5.x :-

1. sendnews now posts news to the nntp server itself so the env variable PNS_POSTNEWS now has no use. If your news server requires authorisation DO NOT use the latest version. Authorisation is not supported - at least until someone tells me the procedure for authorisation.

2. Env var PNS_OFFLINE has been changed to NNTPALWAYSQUEUE in line with SMTPPost.
3. Option -n has been changed to -Q same reason as above.
4. If using Inet225 DO NOT upgrade. If there is enough demand I will create a version for this stack.

Updates from 3.c to 4.x :-

1. postnews argument -from has now changed to -f.

Updates from 1.x, 2.x to 3.x :-

1. From version 3 sendnews will attempt to send any article in the spooldir no matter what the name is. So if your news reader produces a fully formed news article with header you can drop it straight into the spooldir without using postnews.
2. You should remove the seq file if you had it in your spooldir and the env variable PNS_SEQFILE

1.5 Online

Online Check

Since version 4.2 npns uses an environment variable ONLINE to determine if the machine is online or not. If this variable is set to 0 then you are assumed to be offline anything else indicates you are online.

If this variable does not exist then both postnews and sendnews assume that you are offline.

This variable should be setup in the startnet and stopnet scripts for best use.

1.6 sendnews

sendnews

Simply run the program and it will send off all messages in the spool directory indicated by the environment variable PNS_SPOOLDIR (AmiTCP:Usr/Spool/News by default).

sendnews will send off the articles to the news server if online. If the posting fails for any reason the failed article will be appended to the end of the failed archive indicated by PNS_FAILED_ARC (AmiTCP:Usr/Spool/sendnews.failed by default). Each file in the failed archive will be separated by a line containing the date and time sendnews failed to post the article.

sendnews requires that the environment variable NNTPSERVER is set so to be able to post the article.

1.7 postnews

postnews

This spools a news article ready for posting when online. The article can be complete with header (as prepared by tin) or in its component parts, in which case postnews puts them together so that the article is ready for posting (Grn style).

It places the article in the spool directory PNS_SPOOLDIR (AmiTCP:Usr/Spool/News by default). The spooled filename has the format msg.##### where ##### is a number which refers to the time of writing.

If online at the time of writing the article then postnews immediately executes sendnews (which must be on the path) to send off the article. To stop postnews from sending the article create an environment variable called NNTPALWAYSQUEUE.

The order of the command line options below is not important. However if the option -R or the article is specified more than once then the last occurrence will be used.

Command line options:-

-f "someone@somewhere" Add a from line to the header of article.

-Q Don't call sendnews if online (equivalent to NNTPALWAYSQUEUE)

-R filename Get the article header from the specified file.

-x filename Delete file if posting is a success.

-h Prints some help

If the parameter for options f, R and x is skipped then the program will print an error message and exit. (The exception here is if the parameter is skipped and the article name is the next thing on the command line).

The option -x can appear up to 16 times on the command line after which any additional usage will be ignored. (This isn't a delete program!!!)

Usage Examples -----

postnews article Spools fully formed article

postnews < article Spools fully formed article from stdin

postnews article -x article Spools article then deletes original

postnews body -R header Spools article made from header and body

postnews body -R header -x header -x body As above but deletes the original files

e.g. For tin I use

```
set TIN_POST amitcp:bin/postnews -f "nagd@doc.ic.ac.uk (Nicholas d'Alterio)" %s
```

for Grn try

```
amitcp:bin/postnews .article -R .header -x .article -x .header
```

1.8 History

History

5.1 - Now posts news to server itself (AmiTCP only) - PNS_NNTPPOST removed (redundant) - PNS_OFFLINE changed to NNTPALWAYSQUEUE - option -n changed to -Q - Split up into separate source files - Minor bugfixes, optimizations - Made amigaguide documentation 4.2 - Various bugs in online check (schlonz@xantilon.ame.osn.de) Online check system redesigned, should work for any system now. - Remove -a option. No longer had any purpose. - Doesn't bother with DOS library opening anymore (let SAS handle this) - sendnews can now appear anywhere on the path instead of amitcp:bin 4.1 - Postnews - New command line options -R, -x (for Grn users), -a - Postnews - Changed check for onlineness - Postnews - Improved command line checks 3.2 - New environment variable PNS_OFFLINE 3.1 - Now uses ADOS functions - seq file no longer needed - ANY file in the spooldir will be sent - the failed archive entries are separated by a line containing the time the file failed. - new env variable PNS_NNTPPOST allows user to specify program to post news

2.1 - Added support for environment variables 1.x - Internal test versions

1.9 Bugs

Bugs

There are currently no known bugs.

1.10 Conditions

Conditions of Use

Use it how you like just remember I accept NO liability for ANYTHING that happens.

Let me know of what you think of it, bugs, etc

1.11 Future

Future Plans

- Improve networking code - Improve user interface, add more options/control - Maybe link with SpoolWatch

Give me some suggestions for other stuff

1.12 Thanks

Thanks

Thanks to James Burton for the original idea and code. Jeroen T Vermeulen for some new ideas.

1.13 Author

Me - Nick d'Alterio

I have just completed a Physics degree at Imperial College, London and I currently studying for a MSc Computer Science.

I have several other programs on Aminet:-

SpoolWatch - Mail/News Spool monitor comm/net nnn - Back propagation Neural Network misc/sci complex - Complex number functions in C dev/c matrix - Matrix functions in C dev/c

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