

```
-- Help --
>>> $Id: help-text,v 1.7 1993/05/05 00:49:43 vixie Exp $
>>>
>>> commands are:
```

```
reply <MAILADDR>      set reply addr, since headers are usually wrong
connect [HOST [USER [PASS [ACCT]]]]
                        defaults to gatekeeper.dec.com, anonymous
ascii                 files grabbed are printable ascii
binary               files grabbed are compressed or tar or both
chdir PLACE          "get" and "ls" commands are relative to PLACE
                    (only one CHDIR per ftpmail session,
                    and it executes before any LS/DIR/GETs)
compress             compress binaries using Lempel-Ziv encoding
compact             compress binaries using Huffman encoding
uuencode            binary files will be mailed in uuencode format
btoa                binary files will be mailed in btoa format
chunksize SIZE      split files into SIZE-byte chunks (def: 64000)
ls (or dir) PLACE   short (long) directory listing
index THING         search for THING in ftp server's index
get FILE            get a file and have it mailed to you
                    (max 10 GET's per ftpmail session)
quit                terminate script, ignore rest of mail message
                    (use if you have a .signature or
                    are a VMSMAIL user)
```

```
>>> notes:
```

- > you should send complaints to the ftpmail-admin address. our postmaster does not handle ftpmail problems and you can save her the trouble of forwarding your complaints by just mailing them to the right address. the "ftpmail-request" address is gone; don't use it.
- > the "index" command depends on the "SITE EXEC INDEX" feature of some ftp servers. Gatekeeper.dec.com originated this feature, and ftp.uu.net duplicated it (with a format change to the output, naturally). Wuarchive.wustl.edu also has this feature, though their index seems to be empty. The source for an ftpd that supports this feature is on Gatekeeper.DEC.COM in /pub/DEC/gwtools.
- > a password of "" or '' will be sent as a null string. if you need this you will know it, if you don't, you won't.
- > the "Subject:" of your request will be contained in the "Subject:" of all of ftpmail's responses to you regarding that request. You can therefore use it to "tag" different requests if you have more than one outstanding at any given time.
- > you must give a "connect" command, default host is gatekeeper.dec.com, default user is anonymous, default password is your mail address with a hyphen prepended.
- > binary files will not be compressed unless 'compress' or 'compact' command is given; use this if at all possible, it helps a lot. note that many files are already compressed. if you use any of the binary-file qualifiers (compress, compact, uuencode, btoa) without setting 'binary' first, your session will abort in error.

- > binary files will always be formatted into printable ASCII with "btoa" or "uuencode" (default is "btoa"). if you don't use the "binary" command, ftpmail will cheerfully try to mail you the binary data, which will absolutely, positively fail.
- > all retrieved files will be split into chunks and mailed. the size of the chunk is 64000 characters unless you change it with the "chunksize" command. CompuServe users will need to set this to 49000. there is no way to set it higher than 100000, so please don't ask.
- > if you ask for more than 10 files in a session, you will receive an error message and your entire request will be rejected.
- > VMS/DOS/Mac versions of uudecode, atob, compress and compact are available, ask your LOCAL wizard about them if you can't locate them (but try gatekeeper.dec.com in /archive/pub/VMS if you're still using a VMS system.)
- > several mail unsplitters are hiding on gatekeeper.dec.com in /pub/mail/ua/misc/unsplit. there is one in c, one in perl, and one in VMS DCL.
- > there is no way to request only certain parts of a file and we do not plan to add one in the near future, so please don't ask.
- > there is no way to delete things from the queue or to find out the status of things in the queue, and we do not plan to add either feature in the near future, so please don't ask.

>>> examples:

- > connect to gatekeeper.dec.com and get a root directory listing:
 

```
connect
ls
quit
```
- > connect to gatekeeper.dec.com and get the README.ftp file:
 

```
connect
get README.ftp
quit
```
- > connect to gatekeeper.dec.com and get the gnuemacs sources:
 

```
connect
binary
uuencode
chdir /pub/GNU
get emacs-18.58.tar.Z
quit
```
- > connect to ftp.uu.net as anonymous and get a root directory list:
 

```
connect ftp.uu.net
binary
chdir /index/master
get by-name.Z
quit
```

Ftpmail was written by Paul Vixie at the DEC Western Research Laboratory and at the DEC Network Systems Laboratory, from 1989-1993.

-- End of Help --

-- Ftpmail Submission Transcript --

<<< help

>>> Help is on the way.

-- End of Ftpmail Transcript --

-- Full Mail Header From Request --

From 74676.1625@CompuServe.COM Sat Jun 12 22:00:51 1993

Received: by ftp-gw-1.pa.dec.com; id AA27002; Sat, 12 Jun 93 22:00:51 -0700

Received: by ihc.compuserve.com (5.65/5.930129sam)

id AA12701; Sun, 13 Jun 93 01:00:49 -0400

Date: 13 Jun 93 00:57:55 EDT

From: "Jonathan E. Smith (Jono)" <74676.1625@CompuServe.COM>

To: <ftpmail@ftp-gw-1.pa.dec.com>

Subject: help

Message-Id: <930613045754\_74676.1625\_CHL68-2@CompuServe.COM>

-- End of Request Mail Header --

DELEte, FILE, REPLY or NEXt! del

Date: 12-Jun-93 22:03 PDT

From: INTERNET:archie-errors@dorm.rutgers.edu

Subj: archie [help] part 1 of 1

Sender: archie-errors@dorm.rutgers.edu

Received: from dorm.rutgers.edu by iha.compuserve.com (5.65/5.930129sam)

id AA12930; Sun, 13 Jun 93 01:01:49 -0400

Received: by dorm.rutgers.edu (5.59/SMI4.0/RU1.5/3.08)

id AA19790; Sun, 13 Jun 93 01:01:43 EDT

Message-Id: <9306130501.AA19790@dorm.rutgers.edu>

To: Jonathan E. Smith (Jono) <74676.1625@compuserve.com>

From: (Archie Server) archie-errors@dorm.rutgers.edu

Reply-To: (Archie Server) archie-errors@dorm.rutgers.edu

Date: Sun, 13 Jun 93 5:01 GMT

Subject: archie [help] part 1 of 1

>> path "Jonathan E. Smith (Jono)" <74676.1625@compuserve.com>

>> help

Archie Email Help (Version 3.0)

HELP for the archie email server, as of 10 April, 1993.

To perform an archie search via email, send mail to

archie@<archie\_server>

Where <archie\_server> is the name of an archie host.

The current (and complete) list of archie servers can be found with the "servers" command (described below). A sample list is:

archie.rutgers.edu	128.6.18.15	(USA)
archie.unl.edu	129.93.1.14	(USA)
archie.sura.net	128.167.254.179	(USA)

archie.ans.net	147.225.1.2	(USA)
archie.au	139.130.4.6	(Australia)
archie.funet.fi	128.214.6.100	(European server in Finland)
archie.sogang.ac.kr	163.239.1.11	(Korea)

If you do not get mail back within 2 days or so, try using the "path" command described below.

Mail destined for the administration of individual servers should be addressed to:

archie-admin@<archie\_server>

To add or delete a site from the archie database, send mail to:

archie-admin@bunyip.com

To contact the implementors of archie, send mail to:

archie-group@bunyip.com

For your information anonymous FTP may be performed through the mail by various ftp-mail servers. Send a message with the word 'help' in it to:

For BITNET/EARN sites ONLY:

bitftp@pucc.princeton.edu

or (general access):

ftpmail@decwrl.dec.com

for an explanations on how to use them.

The "Subject:" in mail sent to archie is treated as part of the message body.

Command lines begin in the first column. All lines that do not match a valid commands are ignored.

Under version 3.0 the email client implements all the non-interactive commands and variables of the telnet client. However, interactive commands like "pager" are not supported as they don't make much sense in the email environment.

For a complete explanation of the the archie system use the "manpage" command to request a copy of the manual page, what follows is a short summary of the valid email commands and variables.

NOTE: The "site" command of earlier versions of archie has been disabled under version 3.0 until it can be reimplemented with the new architecture of the system.

Quick and dirty summary

-----

For those of you who want to get something done now and read the rest of this later, send the email to an archie server with the line:

```
find <foo>
```

(where <foo> is the name of the file you are looking for). You should get a message back with results of your search. If you want to be a bit more sophisticated, read on....

## Commands

-----

In the commands that follow, parameters between '[' and ']' are optional. The ellipsis ("...") signifies that the previous parameter can be repeated multiple times. A '|' character means "or".

```
help [ <topic> [[ <subtopic> ] ...]]
```

The "help" command by itself produces this message.

An optional topic and subtopic(s) may also be given. A list of words is considered to be one topic, not a list of individual topics. Thus,

```
help set maxhits
```

requests help on the subtopic 'maxhits' of topic 'set', not on two separate topics.

```
find <pattern>
```

This command produces a list of files matching the pattern <pattern>. The <pattern> may be interpreted as a simple substring, a case sensitive substring, an exact string or a regular expression, depending on the value of the variable search.

```
prog <pattern>
```

This is identical to "find" and is included for backward compatibility with older versions of the system.

```
list [ <pattern> ]
```

Produce a list of sites whose contents are contained in the archie database. With no argument all the sites are listed. If given, the <pattern> argument is interpreted as a regular expression (see the archie manual page for an explanation of regular expressions) against which to match site names: only those names matching are printed. The format of the output can be selected through the output\_format variable (described below).

Note that the numerical (IP) address associated with a site name is valid at the time the site was last updated in the archie database, but may have changed subsequently.

```
mail <address>
```

Mail the results generated up until this command to <address>. This must be a valid email address.

manpage [ roff | ascii ]

Return the archie manual page. The optional arguments specify the format of the returned document. "roff" specifies UNIX troff (or nroff) format, while ascii specifies plain, preformatted ASCII output. With no arguments it defaults to ascii.

motd

Re-display the "message of the day", which is normally printed at the start of the returned message.

path <address>

Set the return address to <address>. This overrides the default path which the system automatically generates by looking at the incoming mail header. This is actually an alias for "set mailto <address>" (see "Variables" below), and is included for backwards compatability.

servers

Display a list of all publicly accessible archie servers worldwide. The names of the hosts, their IP addresses and geographical locations are listed.

set <variable> <value>

Set the specified <variable> to <value>. See "Variables" below.

show [ <variable-name>...]

Without any parameters, display the status of all the user-settable variables, including such information as its type (boolean, numeric, string), whether or not it is set and its current value (if its type requires a value). Otherwise show the status of each of the specified arguments. Useful for finding out what the default settings at a server are.

unset <variable>

Unset the specified <variable>. The subsequent value of the variable is defined on a <variable>-specific basis.

version

Print the current version of the email interface.

whatis <substring>

Search the Software Description Database for the given substring, ignoring case. This database consists of names and short descriptions of many software packages, documents (like RFCs and educational material), and data files stored on the Internet.

Note that this database is currently maintained by hand and may not be completely up-to-date.

Variables

-----

The archie email system has 3 types of variables.

## 1) Numeric

-----

Numeric variables may have preset internal ranges in which the value of the variable must lie.

`maxhits` Allow the "find" command to generate at most the specified number of matches (permissible range: 0-1000)

`max_split_size` Approximate maximum size, in bytes, of a file to be mailed to the user. Any output larger than this limit will be split in pieces of about this size. This can be set by the user in the range 1024 to ~2Gb with a default of 51200 bytes. Some mail gateways will not allow results of over 100Kb and so care should be taken when setting this limit.

## 2) String

-----

String variables may have a predefined range of values.

`compress` The kind of data compression the user can specify when mailing back output. Currently allowed values are "none" and "compress" (standard UNIX compress program) with a default of "none"

`encode` The type of post-compression encoding the user can specify when mailing back output. Currently allowed values are "none" and "uuencode", with a default of "none". Note that this variable is ignored unless compression is enabled (via the `compress`) variable.

`language` Allows the user to specify the language in which the help, etc. is presented. Individual servers may be configured for a range of languages.

`mailto` A valid address to mail the results back to. This overrides the address automatically generated by the archie system from the incoming mail header. Setting this variable is equivalent to using the "path" command.

`output_format` Affects the way the output of "find" and "list" is displayed. User settable, with valid values of "machine" (machine readable format), "terse" and "verbose", with a default of "verbose".

`search` The type of search done by the "find" (or "prog") command. The list of valid values is given below in order of increasing search times. The given search string may match a directory or filename in the database.

`exact` String has to match exactly (including case)

subcase	Substring match. Case sensitive.
sub	Substring match. Case insensitive.
regex	Regular expression (see ed(1)) search. Case sensitive. The archie manual page gives examples of regular expressions.

There are also compound searches made up of combinations of the above search methods in sequence:

exact_sub	Try "exact". If no matches found use "sub".
exact_subcase	Try "exact". If no matches found use "subcase"
exact_regex	Try "exact". If no matches found use regex.

Note: unless specifically anchored to the beginning (with ^) or end (with \$) of a line, regular expressions (effectively) have ``.\*' prepended and appended to them. For example, it is not necessary to type

```
find .*xnlock.*
```

because

```
find xnlock
```

In this instance, the regex match is equivalent a simple substring match which should be used instead.

server The archie/Prospero server to which the email interface connects when "find" or "list" commands are used. Usually defaults to "localhost" on most archie systems.

sortby Set the method of sorting to be applied to output from the "find" command.

The five permitted methods (and their associated reverse orders) are:

none	Unsorted (default; no reverse order, though 'rnone' is accepted)
filename	Sort files/directories by name, using lexical order (reverse order: 'rfilename')
hostname	Sort on the archive hostname, in lexical order (reverse order: 'rhostname')
size	Sort by size, largest files/directories first (reverse order: 'rsize')
time	Sort by modification time, with the most recent file/directory names first (reverse order: 'rtime')



### 3) Boolean

-----  
Currently the email interface to the archie system has no variables of type "boolean".

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Archie Email Help (Version 3.0)

HELP for the archie email server, as of 10 April, 1993.

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