POPWatch – Use POP to watch for mail

POPWatch is a POP3 (Post Office Protocol) client program for Os/2 Warp's Internet Access Kit and/or IBM's TCP/IP package. It interegates the specified POP server at a user specified time interval and notifies the user of Mail/New Mail by changing the cursor and/or a message box.

INSTALLATION

Copy the POPW.EXE to the /iak/bin directory, or /tcpip/bin directory. You also need the emx run-time DLLs. You can get these from

ftp-os2.cdrom.com:/os2/32bit/unix/emx09a/emxrt.zip

Make sure the emx run-time DLLs are in a directory in your LIBPATH.

Make a program object in your Internet Access Kit or TCP/IP folder for the POPW.EXE with the working directory being /tcp/etc or /iak/etc (this will be where the popw.ini file is created). If the file contains the line

You should run the program from this object without the */n* command and fill in the details of your POP server. When you run the program without the */n* switch you can change the default configuration to suite your own tastes.

Personally I configure POPWatch with

"MsgBox notification", "Notify New Only", "Quiet", "Query Cursor",
"Alt Pointers"

via the CheckBoxes, and use the */n* parameter in my Program Object's "Parameters" section to stop the Dialog Box appearing everytime the application is run.

Ending POPWatch

POPWatch once running in the background will shut itself down if it fails to obtain two socket connections in a row (ie the server is unavailble as you have ended the SL/IP connection). You can disable the *AutoExit* option to stop this - but then you have no way of exiting the program.

CONTACTING THE AUTHOR

POPWatch is email-ware, which means if you use it I'd like some mail. Suggestions are appreciated and may be acted on. I can be contacted as Peter Childs <pjchilds@apanix.apana.org.au>.

OPERATION

There are several ways to run POPWatch.

You could, by disabling the *AutoExit* option, place a shadow of the object in you startup folder.

If you use a SCRIPT for your slip connection you could start it from there.

Alternatively, you can start the program manually via a Program Object.

OPTIONS

The program has the following checkboxes, and command line switches.

Command Line Switch - */n*

Don't prompt for POP server details. This option suppresses the dialog box. You can use this once your options are set - the are saved in/loaded from the popw.ini file.

CheckBox - *AutoExit*

AutoExit. With this option POPWatch will automatically exiting after two consecutive socket connection fails. If you diable this you will only be able to stop the program by shuting down the machine.

CheckBox - *Quiet*
: Quiet operation. POPWatch won't beep on mail/new mail, or when exiting.

CheckBox - *Notify New Only*
: POPWatch will only do a five-second cursor change for new mail. (ie. a change since the last query). Combined with the *MsgBox Notification* option when new mail is detected you will get a message box with the relevant details.

CheckBox - *MsgBox Notification*
: POPWatch will use a message box in addition to cursor change to give details on mail (or new mail if used with *Notify New Only* switch).

CheckBox - *Error Notification*
: POPWatch will use a message box to notify of errors that it would otherwise ignore - like unsuccessful attempts to lock the mailbox, incorrect/unknown usernames, and incorrect passwords etc.

CheckBox - *Port109*
: Use POP port 109. The default for POP3 is using port 110. This options tells POPWatch to use port 109.

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This program was written with EMX 0.9a using the sockets.c/sockets.h code written by Carl Harris <ceharris@cs.vt.edu>. It was inspired by POPBiff written by Michele Marziani (marziani@vaxfe.fe.infn.it).

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