

NewsCIS (TM) CompuServe Offline Newsgroup Reader

Welcome to NewsCIS (TM), the CompuServe Offline Newsgroup Reader! With NewsCIS, you can easily get your Internet Usenet Newsgroups quickly and efficiently, saving you both TIME and MONEY. NewsCIS lets you REPLY to Newsgroup Articles while logged off the system and sends all of your replies at once, saving you MORE time and money.

NewsCIS is a shareware program that will run on both Windows and Win95. Shareware is a software category in which programs are placed online for download by the public, often with certain features disabled, for you to "try before you buy." If you like NewsCIS, please register by sending a **\$30 U.S.** check or money order to:

TorqueWare
9719 S. 92nd E. Ave
Tulsa OK 74133

Add \$2.00 if outside the U.S., or 7.5% if in Oklahoma.

CompuServe users can register directly on CompuServe using **GO SWREG**. The NewsCIS ID# is 7140.

Once registered, you will receive a file via electronic mail or by U.S. Postal mail that will restore the "unlimited download" capability that the Shareware 30-day version offers.

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Quick Start

Why don't you PRINT this! It makes it easier!

We've made NewsCIS very easy to get started with. The Quick Start guide is shown below in four sections. The first section deals with the initial setup of NewsCIS to access CompuServe and the Newsgroups you wish to view. The second section shows you how to start your first online session. The third section shows you how to read and reply to the Newsgroup articles, and the final section shows you how to transmit your replies to the Newsgroups using the "2nd pass" option.

Initial Setup

First, click on the **Settings** menu option. The **Default Session** is the only one available in this release. Enter the **Name** you use on CompuServe for electronic mail. Enter your CompuServe **User ID**. Then enter your **Password**. Enter your local CompuServe **Access Phone** number. Enter your favorite Editor (such as NotePad) in the Editor of Choice, OR, you may leave it blank. Below is a complete sample session setting. You'll have a different **Name**, **UserID**, **Password**, and **Access Phone**. You may have a different **Com Port**. Use **38400** if you have a 28800 baud modem, or **19200** if you have a 14400 or 9600 baud modem, and **2400** if you have a 2400 baud or slower modem.

Session

Default : Default Session

Name : Doug Torkelson
User ID: 76460,1305
Password : *****
Access Phone: 621-1036
Editor of Choice :

Com Port : COM2
Baud Rate : 38400
Network : CompuServe
Redial Attempts : 2

After you've finished with these settings, click on the **Modem (Alt-O)** button. These settings will generally not need to be changed. You may scroll through the list and select your modem if it is listed. If you have a 2400 baud modem, you may need to **uncheck** the HW Flow setting and check the XON/XOFF setting. If your phone system can only use rotary dialing, **uncheck** the **Tone Dial** box. If you enjoy listening to modems scream at each other, then leave the "Speaker Off" setting unchecked.

Initialize : AT
Reset : ATZ
Connect Timeout (Seconds) : 60
Port Initialize Delay (Sec) : 2

HW Flow Tone Dial
 XON/XOFF Speaker Off

Click the **OK** button or press ENTER when done with this screen, then click **OK** again to finish setting up your **Session Setting**.

Select the Post Office Settings from the **Settings** menu option to view the default settings. We recommend leaving the settings until you are more familiar with this advanced option. Click here to access the help information for this option.

Next, select the **Usenet Settings** from the **Settings** menu option. These settings define some default information that CompuServe automatically uses whenever you post articles to Usenet Newsgroups. Enter your **Usenet Name** (usually the same as your **Setup Session/Name**). Next, enter the **Organization** name you wish to use. Also enter your signature lines. This is usually a company name or possibly a company phone number. Many users also place their World Wide Web home page URL addresses here. The **Initial Articles** setting defines the number of articles to get the very first time NewsCIS **Subscribes** to each Newsgroup. Some Newsgroups have hundreds and even thousands of articles, which could take a long time to retrieve (even with NewsCIS). We suggest you use 50 or so articles initially.

Usenet Name : Doug Torkelson
Organization : TorqueWare
Signature : TorqueWare...
: NewsCIS CompuServe Offline Reader
: 76460,1305
: http://www.torqueware.com

Initial Articles : 50

Click **OK** or press ENTER to finish this option.

Next, you need to define which Newsgroups you wish to subscribe to. Click the **Newsgroups** menu option, then select **Edit/Add/Activate Newsgroups**. This loads nearly all of the available Newsgroups (several thousand).

Initially, the cursor is placed in a box in which you can type a word to search for in the Newsgroup listing. For example, type **computer** and click on the **Search** button or press **Alt-S**. NewsCIS will search the Newsgroup descriptions and names for "computer". Press **Alt-S** to search for the next occurrence of "computer". You can continue to press **Alt-S** until you find what looks like an interesting newsgroup. Also, you can type in the exact newsgroup name if you already know it. Once you find a newsgroup name you wish to read, click the **Add Selected** button or press **Alt-A**. The newsgroup will be added to your **Active** list box on the right side of the screen. An **x** will appear to the left of the newsgroup name signifying that the newsgroup is active and will be downloaded during the next online session (**IF** you have already **Subscribed** to this Newsgroup). If you wish to **deactivate** the newsgroup, double click on the newsgroup name in the box on the right, and the **x** will disappear, signifying that future download will **not** download articles from this Newsgroup.

Click the **OK** button when you are finished selecting newsgroups.

Now you are ready to access CompuServe and download the articles from your active newsgroups.

First Online Session

Click on the **Newsgroups** menu, then click on **Subscribe to Your Newsgroups**. NewsCIS will log on to CompuServe, access the Internet Newsgroup section, set your default settings (if you have modified them), and **subscribe** to your selected newsgroups. If you have trouble getting NewsCIS to log on to CompuServe or access the Internet Newsgroup section, please check the Troubleshooting section of this help file.

Once NewsCIS has subscribed to your active newsgroups, NewsCIS will ask "Would you like to download your Newsgroup Articles now?". Press ENTER for "Yes", and NewsCIS will download your articles. NewsCIS automatically accesses a FREE area of CompuServe and stays online after it is finished. This allows you to **manually browse** CompuServe in terminal mode.

The next time you want to download your articles, click on the **Newsgroups** menu option, then click on **1st Pass - Get Newsgroup Articles** and **All Subjects**. The **By Subjects** option is not available in this

release. (By Subjects will present a list of available article subjects once it accesses CompuServe's Usenet section. You will be able to select the subjects to download, and NewsCIS will download only the subjects that you choose.)

Read / Reply to Articles

Click on the **Newsgroups** menu, then click on **Read/Reply to Articles** or press **Ctrl-R**. You will be presented with the list of newsgroups that you have selected previously. Active newsgroups will have an **x** next to the name. Double click on a newsgroup and the first article will be shown in the text box below, with the article header information (Article number, Newsgroup, writer (From:), article subject, and date the article was posted, to the right.. The article text will appear "quoted", which is a common way of showing text that you didn't actually write inside of your reply. You can enter a reply simply by typing in the text box containing the article. Press the **Previous (Alt-P)** or **Next (Alt-N)** button or use the scroll bar between those two buttons to move from one article to the next. If you type a reply, press the **Send (Alt-S)** button to save your reply for transmission during your **2nd Pass** online session. After clicking on **Send**, you will be given a chance to verify the subject of the article.

If you want to create a new article, click the **Blank (Alt-B)** button. The article text will be cleared.

Click on the **Subjects (Alt-U)** button, and you will be presented with the list of all the subjects of the articles in the newsgroup. Double click the subject, and the full article text will be loaded.

Click on the **Find (Alt-F)** button to search the articles for specific text.

The **Editor: (Alt-E)** button will launch the your chosen text editor if you have defined one in **Setup Session Settings**. If an article exceeds 25,000 characters in size, then the default text editor will only display the first 25,000 characters. The only way to read/reply to the full text of such large articles is by using an external editor like Notepad, Write, or WordPad.

If you want to send E-Mail, click on the **E-Mail (Alt-M)** button. If you were reading/replying to an article, the correct **Address** of the **Author** will be put into the "To:" location. **Do NOT modify this if you want to send E-Mail to the Author.** If the Author is a CompuServe member, NewsCIS will correctly enter JUST the Author's CompuServe number in this field for you (the CompuServe numbers may be separated by either a period OR a comma). If the Author is **NOT** a CompuServe member, then the correct Internet address scheme has been used:

INTERNET:recipient name@domain address
(spaces added for effect).

Again, do **NOT** modify this unless you want to send E-Mail to someone other than the Author, in which case you **MUST** follow the Address scheme as mentioned above. Failure to enter the correct address **can** result in NewsCIS being unable to send your E-Mail.

The "Subject:" will also be **automatically loaded** with the **subject** of the article that you are viewing. The only limit for the Subject (per CompuServe) is that it **cannot be more than 40 characters long**. NewsCIS will truncated this for you on entry, and will again truncate it if need be when it actually sends your E-Mail to CompuServe.

You can **Print** an article, or E-Mail by clicking on the **Print (Alt-R)** button. If you are creating E-Mail, then NewsCIS will print the E-Mail you are creating, otherwise it will print the Reply/Article you are reading/replying to.

When you finish reading, replying, and sending E-Mail, close the windows or click the **Cancel** button.

Second Online Session

To send any replies or new articles you've created, click on the **Newsgroups** menu, then click on the **2nd Pass - Send E-Mail and Replies**. NewsCIS will log on to CompuServe, send any pending **E-Mail** you have created, access the Internet Newsgroups section, and upload all your **replies** to the applicable Newsgroup(s). Once finished, NewsCIS automatically accesses a FREE area of CompuServe and stays online.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Please read the [Troubleshooting](#) section of this help file if you have any problems using NewsCIS. This Quick Start section does not include explanations on all the features that NewsCIS provides. This Help file contains more information on using NewsCIS features, accessing CompuServe, and Internet Newsgroups.

Online With CompuServe

When connecting to CompuServe to download articles, NewsCIS quickly escorts you through a set of menus and reaches the Usenet area. It then counts the number of articles to download for each Newsgroup that you have **activated**, and begins retrieving articles. At this point, you will see a different screen that shows the current status of the download process. The Newsgroup name, subject, and text being downloaded are displayed. At this point, you have the ability to "hide" the text (which will speed up the download process slightly), "Skip One Article" (but continue receiving articles **after** this from the **same** Newsgroup, "Skip One Newsgroup" (skip all **remaining** articles for **this** Newsgroup, but continue downloading **other** Newsgroups that are active and have articles), or "Skip All Newsgroups", which will all remaining articles and Newsgroups.

When uploading **replies** to articles, you will see a very similar screen, with the same options available to you.

Post Office Settings

The Post Office Settings tell NewsCIS how to handle certain article and file handling procedures. The first item instructs NewsCIS how many articles to download from **each** active Newsgroup during a download session. Enter a **number**, or **ALL** if you want to get every available article from each Newsgroup. **Caution:** downloading ALL articles may take quite a while if there are several hundred or more articles per Newsgroup!

If you designate a particular number, say 25, then the next two choices tell NewsCIS how to handle the **remaining** articles in the Newsgroup if there are more than the number you requested to download.

If you choose "Clear...", then NewsCIS will tell Usenet to "unload" extra articles after it has downloaded the number you requested. You will not be able to read these articles. This method is handy if you have an active Newsgroup that you haven't accessed for a period of time, and it has grown to contain a **lot** of articles that you don't want to read.

If you choose "Leave remaining articles...", then NewsCIS simply grabs the number of articles you designated, and skips over the remaining articles, leaving them on the Internet for you to download and read some other time.

Lastly, NewsCIS keeps a separate file for each active Newsgroup on your hard-disk, and keeps adding articles to them when you perform downloads. This can eventually eat up a lot of disk space, so we provide you with an option to "PURGE" these files by entering a maximum number of articles to allow in each file. When this limit is exceeded by 25%, NewsCIS will warn you when you attempt to read articles from the Newsgroup, and ask you if you want to PURGE the extra files from your disk. All of the articles, when PURGED, are actually copied into a file called "Articles.All" which is located in a subdirectory called "mailbox". You can occasionally delete this file to regain your hard-disk space.

If you want NewsCIS to automatically PURGE files without warning you, then click on the "Warn before purging articles" option until the "x" disappears.

Troubleshooting

1. Be sure to set your PURGE count (in Post Office Settings), to a number higher than the number of articles you receive for each Newsgroup during download sessions. If you don't, NewsCIS might attempt to "purge" articles that you **just** downloaded!
2. After activating a Newsgroup, be sure to **subscribe** to your Newsgroups again. This tells the Usenet area to tag articles in that Newsgroup for you to read.
3. If you see a message such as ***** NewsCIS Cancelled Article ***** at the bottom of an article, this simply means that this is the point where you clicked on "Skip One Article", "Skip One Newsgroup", or "Skip All Newsgroups" while downloading articles.
4. When creating E-Mail, be sure to have the **correct address** entered in the "To:" area. If you were viewing an article when you pressed Alt-M, NewsCIS automatically builds the **correct** address and loads this into the field for you. Do **not** modify this, unless you want to send E-Mail to a different person. Be sure to use the following format for E-Mail addresses:

CompuServe member:

#####.#####

(comma OR a period is acceptable)

Other:

INTERNET:recipientname@domainaddress

5. The E-Mail "Subject:" is limited (per CompuServe) to **40 characters**. NewsCIS will truncated this for you if need be when it actually sends your E-Mail to CompuServe.

This must be followed absolutely, or NewsCIS may be unable to send your E-Mail.

Web Page Support

We are in the process of building our World Wide Web page. Here, you will be able to download the current "Newsgroup Names" file (UseNames.ALL in your directory), common questions and answers, bug fixes, VBRUN300.DLL, THREED.VBX, and the full blown copy of NewsCIS. You can find us with a web browser of your choice, at:

<http://www.torqueware.com>

Be watching for us...

Disclaimer

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NewsCIS uses a default built-in text editor. You can replace this editor with your favorite ASCII text editor (most word processors can handle ASCII text), such as Write, Notepad, Brief, or WordPad.

HW Flow is short for "Hardware Flow Control". Later model modems have special hardware that can automatically detect when data is being transferred at a speed which is too fast for the computer to handle. This special hardware will stop the data until the computer is able to catch up, then signal to continue transmitting. If you have a 14400 or higher speed modem, you probably have HW Flow capability and you should "X" the box.

XON/XOFF is short for Transmit ON/Transmit OFF. Older modems without Hardware Flow Control (HW Flow) can send special characters that tells the other computer to stop transmitting or resume transmitting information. This is used when the computer receives data faster than it can process it. If your modem is 9600 baud, and your computer is very slow, you may need to "X" this setting. Otherwise, leave it unchecked.

The World Wide Web (WWW) is a system of computers linked using a simple method of point and click access. The WWW uses both text and graphics in "pages" of information, all linked together by a common system of communication over the Internet.

URL (*Universal Resource Locator*) is another name for "World Wide Web Address". For example, my URL is: <http://www.torqueware.com>
This URL is entered into a WWW browser (viewer) such as Netscape or Spry Mosaic.

Subscribing to Usenet Newsgroups simply means that you will read the articles in that newsgroup. Before you can download articles from a newsgroup, you must **subscribe** to it.

Accessing CompuServe using its ASCII menu system is known as "Terminal Mode". When NewsCIS puts you in terminal mode, you may navigate around CompuServe by using [GO] commands, etc. Try [GO MAIL] and see if you have any mail pending (possibly a message from TorqueWare thanking you for your registration?).

The ">" appearing at the beginning of each line is known as a "quote" character. This is a common method of showing text in a reply that you didn't actually write. Although the entire article is shown quoted, you should only quote the portions of the original article that are relevant during your reply. Delete the portions of the original article that you do not want to include in your reply. Quoting entire messages is considered impolite, since others will have to wade through the entire quoted article to find what you wrote.

Arrgh. Nothing here yet...

