076d3bd8-0

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COLLABORATORS

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WRITTEN BY	"	October 23, 2022	

REVISION HISTORY

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

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1.1 NGMan.guide

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        The News Group Manager
            Version 1.3

        © Steve Collins 17/6/95
```

NGMan is an Arexx script that should hopefully make managing your Newsgroup
file a little easier.

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~Important~~

~~Credits~~~

1.2 Features

                              NGMan 1.3 FEATURES

– Easily
              add
              ,
              edit
               or
              delete
               your current newsgroups using Reqtools
  requesters.

–

              Browse
               the
              active
               newsgroup file, or your
              new~groups
               file, and add
  groups by simply popping up a requester and entering a number.

–

              Search
               the
              active
               or
              new groups
               file with a keyword, and add any
  number of groups that come up as a match.

– Use an
              ignore
               pattern during the search to instruct NGMan to ignore
  certain entries.

– Re search the matched groups with a further keyword.

–

              Sort
               your current newsgroups aplhabetically with a click of a button.

1.3 Requirements

NGMan 1.3 REQUIREMENTS

- Arexx
- Rexxreqtools.library

Rexxreqtools also requires the following-

- Kickstart 2.04 or higher
- rexxsyslib.library
- reqtools.library, Version 38 or higher
- diskfont.library

1.4 Installation

NGMan 1.3 INSTALLATION

The only important alterations you may need to make to the script are as
follows-

1. Edit the NEWS_DIR variable to point to the directory that contains
   your 'Newsgroup' file. The default is "UUlib:"

2. Edit the NEWS_NAME variable to the name of your 'Newsgroup' file. The
   default is, surprisingly enough, 'Newsgroups'.

3. Edit the NEW_DIR variable to point to the directory that contains
   you 'Newgroups' file. The default is "UUspool:"

4. Edit the NEW_NAME variable to the name of your 'Newgroups' file. The
   default is, you guessed it, 'Newgroups'.

5. Edit the ACTIVE_LIST variable to point to your list of active news
   groups. I have set the default as 'UUlib:active.newsgroups'

In addition to these settings there are a number of other
                options
                 to enable or
disable certain features of NGMan.

 - NOTE -

Be careful not to confuse your ~Newgroups~ file with your Newsgroup file and
vice versa.

1.5 Options

NGMan 1.3 OPTIONS

The following options may be altered to enable or disable certain features-

        IGNORE
          - The default ignore pattern.

        DEF_MAX
          - The maximum number of entires to be displayed per page. I   ←
            would
    recommend no more than 13 if you are using a non interlace screen
    (i.e. 640x256 etc) as more than that and the requesters may start
    to look a little odd. If you are using DBLPAL or an interlace
    screen this can be up to 30. Note however the higher the number
    the slower the redraws.

        DEF_DAYS
          - Default days to keep messages. If you add a newsgroup it will
    automatically be set to this figure.

        CONFIRM
          - CONFIRM = 1 - Confirm any deletions
    CONFIRM = 0 - Disabled

        SORT_NEW
          - If = 1 then groups found in the new groups file will be sorted
    alphabetically when
        BROWSED
          . If = 0 groups will be displayed as
    found.

SCREEN   - Rexxreqtools will try to open it's requesters on the screen that
           called the script. Setting this to a public screen name will try
           to overide it. Be warned, it is case sensitive.

REQWIDTH - Prevents very long entries from running over the end of the
           requesters. Any characters over this figure will be replaced with
           '>>>'.

PROGTXT - Just a small modification. If set to 1 the search progress window
           will show some info on the current KEYWORD and
           IGNORE
            pattern in
    use. If set to 0 it will be disabled.

1.6   Usage

                            NGMan 1.3 USEAGE

The first requester that appears will look something like this-

```
NGMan 1.3

     - 4 Newsgroups found in UUlib:Newsgroups-


                View

                Add

                Browse

                Search

                About

                Save~&~Exit

                Abort
```

1.7 View

```
                         NGMan 1.3 VIEW
```

Selecting view from the initial requester will present you with the current
newsgroup requester.

If you have any current newsgroups in your Newsgroup file they will be listed
alongside an index number. Depending on how many groups are found and what
figure you have set the
                DEF_MAX
                 variable at, there may be more than one page.
The keys at the extreme ends of the button bank will enable you to page back
and forward through the list. If all your current groups fit on one page then
these buttons will be ghosted and disabled.

Example..

  NGMan 1.3

        (1) comp.sys.amiga.announce 2
        (2) demon.ip.support.amiga 2
        (3) demon.announce 2
        (4) comp.sys.amiga.programmer 2
        (5) alt.sex.bestiality.hamster.duct-tape 7

            5 shown, 0 remaining

            >>

            Leave
```

```
Edit

Delete

Sort

Add

<<
```

1.8 add

```
                          NGMan 1.3 ADD
```

Selecting ADD from the initial requester or the current newsgroup requester
will enable you to enter a new news group manually. Just enter the full name
of the news group followed by the number of days you wish to keep the
messages. Just pressing return will cause the 'days to keep' to be set to your

```
              default
               setting.
```

BE WARNED..

News groups are case sensitive. Just one incorrect character and you will fail
to link to the news group.

1.9 edit

```
              NGMan 1.3 EDIT
```

Selecting EDIT from the current news group list window will allow you to edit
the entry.

First you will be presented with a requester to edit the name of the group
followed by the days to keep. Simply pressing return will cause the original
value to be used.

1.10 delete

```
              NGMan 1.3 DELETE
```

Selecting DELETE from the current news group list window will allow you to
delete a cuurent news group from your Newsgroup file.

You will be presented with a requester showing your current groups listed
along side an index number. Enter the number of the group you wish to delete.

Setting the CONFIRM variable to '1' in the script will result in a
confirmation requester enabling you to cancel deletion. Set the variable to
'0' to disable the requester.

1.11 Browse

                                     NGMan 1.3 BROWSE

Selecting BROWSE will enable you to 'page' through the entries in either your

                active
                 news group list, your
                new
                 groups list or the
                hitlist
                .

The requester will look something like this..

   NGMan 1.3

          Browsing active newsgroups
          PAGE 1

          1) linux.jobs
          2) tw.bbs.sports.volleyball
          3) tw.bbs.alumni.kavalan
          4) fj.rec.games.mahjong
          5) linux.dev.raid
          6) chi.politics
          7) chi.internet
          8) rec.music.makers.dulcimer
          9) alt.uniwue.infoIII
          10) alt.marketplace.funky-stuff.forsale

        ~
                >>
                ~ ~ADD~
                <<
                If there are more than one page of entries you can move back and ←
                   forward
through the list using >> or << , or the <CR> and <Esc> keys.

Each entry in the list will be shown alongside an index number. To add any of
the listed groups just press ~add~
to add to your current
                NewsGroups
                 file.

1.12   Search

                              NGMan 1.3 SEARCH

Selecting search will present a requester giving you three choices of files to
search.

 NGMan 1.3

      Search which file..

                  Active

                  Hitlist

                  New
                  You will then be prompted to enter a keyword. Only one keyword may ←
                        be used,
any additional words will be ignored. The Active file is the default response
and can be selected by pressing <CR>.

Once you have entered the keyword, you will be asked to confirm the search and
will also be given an opportunity to edit either the keyword or the ignore
pattern.

Once started the progress indicator will show the character '*' if a match is
found, and '-' if a match is found but subsequentley ignored when compared to
the
                  ignore
                   pattern.

Pressing 'Control C' at anytime will abort the search, still enabling you to
view any matches found up to that point.

1.13   hitlist

                              NGMan 1.3 THE HITLIST

The hitlist is a file of matched entries created by the
                  search
                   option, and is
held in your T: directory. Immediately after a succesful search it is renamed
hitlist.tmp.old and is then available for further searching.

1.14   The Ignore Pattern

NGMan 1.3 THE IGNORE PATTERN

The ignore pattern is a series of keywords used by NGMan during the
                search
                routine. Any entries matched during the search will be compared to ←↩
                    each
element of the Ignore pattern, and if any are found to match the entry will be
ignored.

This can be very useful for filtering out usenet groups for which you may have
no interest in. For example as an Amiga user you might like to set the default
ignore pattern to '.atari .acorn .ibm' ;)

Obviously the larger the ignore pattern the slower the search, but the ignore
routine is only called when a match is found. Two or three entries will only
have a mild effect on the speed of the search.

The ignore pattern can be changed at any time via the search requester. If you
have just carried out a search using an ignore pattern it makes sense to
disable or alter the ignore pattern if you then search the
                hitlist
                . (As all
the entries in the hitlist will have already been checked against the current
ignore pattern)

1.15 Sort

NGMan 1.3 SORT

Selecting SORT will simply sort your current news groups aplhabetically.

1.16 >>

NGMan 1.3 PAGE FORWARD

The >> button will page you forward through the list of entries. Pressing <CR>
(that's CURSOR RETURN) will have the same effect.

If you are on the last page, or there is only one page the button will be
displayed as
                ~-~
                    .

1.17 <<

NGMan 1.3 PAGE BACK

The << button will page you back through the list of entries. Pressing the
<Esc> key will have the same effect.

If you are on the first page, or there is only one page the button will be
displayed as
                    ~-~
                        .

1.18 Ghosted Buttons

NGMan 1.3 GHOSTED BUTTONS

If the function of a button is disabled it will be displayed as ~-~

1.19 Save & Exit

NGMan 1.3 SAVE & EXIT

Selecting Save & Exit will save all changes, by copying the temporary file
held in your T: directory over the original Newsgroup file, and then exit.

1.20 Abort

NGMan 1.3 ABORT

Exit NGMan and ignore any changes that may have been made.

1.21 Newsgroup file

NGMan 1.3 NEWSGROUPS FILE

The Newsgroups file instructs the NNTP transfer routine as to which USENET
groups it should collect news from. It will usually be found in UUlib:

1.22 Active newsgroups file

NGMan 1.3 ACTIVE NEWSGROUPS FILE

This is a file, available by FTP from Demon, which lists all available active
newsgroups.

'ftp.demon.co.uk   /pub/news/active'

1.23   New groups file

NGMan 1.3 NEW GROUPS FILE

If you use the Arexx script
                Plink
                , instead of the original 'link' script, you
will probably be aware that it can be configured to save a list of any new
news groups each time you 'Plink up'. NGMan can
                browse
                 this list and allow you
to easily
                add
                 any groups from the list.

Otherwise you may have configured your setup to save information of New groups
to a seperate file. Providing this is either just a straight list of groups,
or , like the Plink type, just a list of groups with a date/time line in the
format '16/06/95-06:38:56' then NGMan will be able to use it.

If you save your newgroups in a different format, let me know and I'll amend
the script.

By default the file NewGroups can usually be found in UUspool:

1.24   Plink - What is it

NGMan 1.3 PLINK
     (Plink by Phil Stewart-Jones / phil@curve.demon.co.uk)

 "Plink 2.1 is a ARexx dial-up program, designed specifically for use with
  AmiTCP-DIS installed systems, but which should be adaptable for any dial
  up system using AmiTCP. It can be dropped in in place of the original
  "link" program, or indeed in place of Plink 1.0."

  Plink is available via FTP from Demon "plink21.lha amitcp/utils"

1.25   Important

                        NGMan 1.3 IMPORTANT

NGMan is freeware. Feel free to use it, distribute it or hack it about to your
hearts content, but I cannot be held responsible for any damage or loss caused
through it's use, you use it at your own risk.

However if you do find NGMan useful then, eternal optimist that I am, I am
offering the opportunity to register, yes that's right register.

Gasp! Shock! Horror! Register? An Arexx script? Who the hell does this guy
think he is?!

Well hold on a second. All I'm asking for is one measley pound. Just sit and
think for a second about what you can get for a pound these days? A bag of
chips.... a couple of minutes on a mobile phone.... 2 succesful connections to
Demon on a weekday evening... And just look at what you'll get for your
quid..

In return I will forward you the latest versions of
                NGmerge
                 and
                ALMan
                . Note
these versions are NOT freeware, and will not be placed in the Public Domain.
I will also email you direct any future releases of NGMan before anyone else
gets there grubby hands on them.

So, on the assumption that anyone has actually got this far how about sticking
a shiny gold coin in an envelope and winging it towards-

                    Steve Collins
                    125 St.Johns Road
                    Tunbridge Wells
                    Kent TN4 9UG

.. include your email address and ALMan and NGmerge will be on there way to
you quicker than a very very quick thing.

Even if you don't feel like coughing up, still drop me a line if you have any
suggestions, critiscisms, bug reports etc... just don't expect a reply..;))
only kidding!

    email: steve@stuffs.demon.co.uk
    WWW: http://metro.turnpike.net/C/cheeky/INDEX.HTML

The latest version of NGMan can always be obtained from my mailserver. Just
write to 'mailserver@stuffs.demon.co.uk' with the text 'GET NGMan.lha'. All I
ask is that if you request it from my mailserver, please drop me line at the
same time.

I will also upload it to both the Demon and Aminet ftp sites.

1.26 History

                              NGMan 1.3 HISTORY

1.0 - Simple ADD/REMOVE/DELETE options.

1.1 - Added SEARCH

1.2 - Added
                IGNORE
                 pattern option, and search progress indicator.

1.3 - Completely rewrote entire script..

- Default responses made much more 'intuitive'

- Added BROWSE

- Now possible to page back and forward through pages of entries
  using just the
                <CR>
                 and
                <Esc>
                 keys.

-

                Control-C
                 now aborts search routine.

- Now handles very long entries correctly via
                REQWIDTH
                 variable

- Added option to sort your current newsgroups alphabetically

- Added handling of a
                Newgroups
                 file, including the Newgroups file created by

                Plink
                .

- All adding/deleting/editing is now carried out on a copy of
                NewsGroups
                 held in T:

-

                Initial~requester
                 now shows total changes made.

- Now possible to search the
                Hotlist
                 created from a previous search.

1.27   NGmerge

                              NGMan 1.3 NGMERGE

NGmerge is an Arexx script that will automatically merge your
                  Newgroups
                   file
with your
                  Active
                   newsgroups file and then re-sort it alphabetically.

1.28   ALMan

                  NGMan 1.3 ALMan

ALMan is an ARexx script which will enable you to manage your mail Aliases in
the same way NGMan manages Newsgroups.

1.29   Credits

                  NGMan 1.3 CREDITS

  Thanks are due to the following people-

  -Rafael D'Halleweyn for the excellent Rexxreqtools.library
  -Phil Stewart-Jones for Plink
  -Edd Dumbill for Heddley (used to create this guide)
  -Dominic Ramsey for Mailserver

   and also,
  -DAz (william@ryker.demon.co.uk)
  -Peter Stokes (peter@bumpkin.demon.co.uk)
  -Jeff Crawford (sorrow@cadderly.demon.co.uk)
  -James Savage (bryce@gothic.demon.co.uk)
  -Neil Campbell (neil@kurai.demon.co.uk)
  -Guy Tanner (bgt@cvget.demon.co.uk)

  for your interest and suggestions in the developement
  of NGMan and ALMan.

1.30   Index

                  Index of database 076d3bd8-0

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~-~

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<<

<CR>

<Esc>

>>

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