QVT/Net 4.0

QPC Software is pleased to introduce the release of QVT/Net 4.0.3.

QVT/Net 4.0 is the 32-bit successor to the WinQVT/Net 3.9 product family. It is targeted for Windows 95, and also for Windows NT 3.51. It will not run under Windows 3.1, although the forthcoming release of Win32s 1.3 should remedy this.

The present release, 4.0.2, is a maintenance release that introduces a set of enhancements and bug-fixes, as described below (see 'Release Notes').

Unlike WinQVT/Net 3.9, QVT/Net 4.0 is implemented as a set of executable programs, one for each application:

- Terminal
- FTP
- Gopher
- Mail
- News
- lpr
- FTP Server
- RCP Server
- SMTP Server

There is no 'Console' window.

Upgrade Notes

For users of WinQVT/Net 3.9x:

- The QVTNET.INI file is obsolete, and not used by QVT/Net 4.0. Each application has a separate .INI file, kept in the same directory as the program executable.

- You will be able to retain your QVTNET.RC and QVTNET.ACL files. QVTNET.RC should be renamed as TERM.CFG and copied to the 'Terminal' subdirectory. QVTNET.ACL should be copied to the 'Servers' subdirectory. If you use the FTP server, your password file should be copied to the 'Servers' directory.

Each application will go immediately into 'Setup' mode the first time that it is started. We recommend that you study these dialogs carefully and make sure that the initial setups are plausible.

Also, make sure that you use the 'Setup - Printer' dialogs to select a printer for each application in which you intend to use a printer!

For further information on individual applications, consult the on-line help files.

A Note on Fonts

The QVT/Net shareware distribution comes with a DEC font which is scaled to look best on a standard VGA display (640x480). Fonts for higher-resolution displays are provided to registered users.

QVT/Term's DEC font implements the DEC Multinational Character Set. Available to registered users by request are additional fonts which implement the German National Replacement Character Set and the ISO Latin Nr 1 Character Set.

We have tried to make QVT/Net 4.0 better in every way than its predecessors. We believe that it is both more robust and more powerful than previous editions of WinQVT/Net. Enjoy!

QVT/Terminal as a Helper Application

One of the popular uses for the QVT/Net 'Terminal' module is as a 'helper' application under a web browser. If you intend to do this, and you are running Windows 95, you will need to find the file QVTNET.DLL and copy it to your \Windows\System directory. If this is not done, QVT/Terminal will not launch!

Registration Information

The registration fee for QVT/Net 4.0 is $40US, plus $5 for shipping. To register, please send your check or purchase order to:

> QPC Software
> P.O. Box 226
> Penfield, NY 14526
> USA

QPC accepts Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. To order by credit card, we will need your card number and expiration date.

Volume discounts and site licenses are available.

Contacting QPC

You can reach QPC Software at these telephone numbers:

> (716) 381-4610 (voice)
> (716) 381-1215 (fax)

QPC can also be reached via email:

> robin@qpc.com (Sales inquiries)
> chloe@qpc.com (Technical inquiries)

If mail to either of those addresses bounces, try:

> qpcsoft@frontiernet.net

To check if you have the latest release of QVT/Net, check our Web site:

> http://www.frontiernet.net/~qpcsoft

Notes on this release

1. News: the storage format for downloaded news has been changed. You should unsubscribe, then resubscribe to all of your newsgroups. The next download will establish the new format.
2. FTP Server: a bug has been fixed that made it difficult or impossible to access the root directory.
3. Terminal: a 'View' menu has been added, which allows you to selectively hide or show various window elements, such as the toolbar and status bar.
4. FTP Client: a bug in the command-line interface, that made it impossible to send or receive files from the command line, has been fixed.
5. FTP Client: a progress bar is now displayed for downloads as well as uploads.
6. FTP Client: a 'Minimize' checkbox has been added to the 'File Transfer' dialog. If you check this box prior to launching the transfer, the FTP window will be minimized during the transfer.
7. FTP Client: the 'File - Open' menuitem now remains enabled during a session, so that you can change to a new user ID after opening the session.
8. Mail: a new feature has been added which allows you to attach your own notes to locally-stored mail messages. These notes remain separate from the message itself, and are a way for you to make comments on the message which are private and for your own benefit. This new feature is accessed via the 'View/Edit Notes' menuitem.
9. SMTP Server: performance during the downloading of messages has been improved. Also, the server is now multithreaded, so that several simultaneous connections can be serviced.
10. Mail: the interface for attaching binary files has been improved. First, a default 'browse' directory has been added to the 'Preferences' dialog. This will be the first directory searched when you click on the 'Browse' button. Second, an MRU list facility has been added. The five most-recently-used filenames are saved and made available by clicking the 'MRU' button, thus bypassing the 'browse' operation entirely.
11. Terminal: support for the 'blink' attribute has been added.
12. News: download performance has been improved.
13. Terminal: a 'severity' statement has been added to the script language. By issuing the statement 'severity continue' at the beginning of a script, you allow the script to continue even if a timeout occurs on a 'wait' statement (the default behavior is for the script to abort). This in turn allows the use of a 'goto' statement to modify the flow of a script depending on whether a 'wait' succeeds or fails. The two flavors of 'goto' are 'if_err_goto' and 'if_noerr_goto', which can be used as appropriate to the situation. The target of a 'goto' must be a label, which is a line consisting of the label text preceded by a colon (':'). This format is the same as that used in MS-DOS batch files.
14. FTP Server: the name of the 'password' file is now fixed. The name of the file must be 'ftppass', and it must be located in the FTP server's working directory (as determined by the 'Properties' dialog). If you are now using a name other than 'ftppass', you must rename the file, and possibly relocate it as well.
15. News: it is now possible to unsubscribe a newsgroup even if no News session is open.
16. FTP: there is now a timeout on all FTP commands. If a command fails to complete within two minutes, the command will be aborted, and the connection will be terminated. Note that this does not mean that file transfers must complete within two minutes; the timeout refers to simple command-and-response situations, in which the client issues a command, and the server gives an immediate response (e.g., the PWD command). The general rule

is, if the client is in a state where data is expected from the server, and a period of two minutes elapses in which no data is received, then the timeout process will execute.

17. Terminal: a 'homedir' directive has been added to the [defaults] section of TERM.INI. The value of this (optional) directive will be the name of the directory where TERM.CFG and other files of this type are stored. By placing TERM.INI in the \WINDOWS directory, and including a 'homedir=' statement, you can assure that QVT/Term will be able to find its configuration files even when launched from within a Web browser (rather than from a Win 95 'shortcut').

18. News: a new menuitem - 'Harvest URLs' - has been added to the 'Articles' menu. Invoking this menuitem will cause QVT/News to search all articles in the current newsgroup for URL's. The results of the search will be displayed in a listbox. From that point, you can select a URL and hand it off to your web browser.

19. FTP Server: it is now possible (but not required) to associate an initial login directory with individual users.

20. FTP Client: you can now set up FTP so that it will not do an automatic listing of each directory that you access. This is to speed things up if you are caught in a very slow FTP session, and also to account for situations where you do not have permission to list directories.

21. News: there have been some changes in the way that articles are stored. First of all, the entire contents of each subscribed newsgroup are now kept in one file, instead of multiple files in a subdirectory. The file will have the same name as the newsgroup itself. Secondly, outgoing articles are kept in a file named 'Postings', rather than as separate files in a subdirectory. Lastly, articles that you 'Save', and extracted binary files, will be kept in a subdirectory named 'Saved Articles'.

22. News: a 'global' killfile has been introduced. This can be used to suppress articles from certain authors, or on certain subjects, regardless of which newsgroup you're reading. To store a new killfile entry in the global killfile, select '<All>' from the dropdown newsgroup list before clicking on the 'Add User' or 'Add Subject' button.

23. News: you can now delete and 'kill' a thread simultaneously. First select the thread, then press and hold the <Ctrl> key, and finally click on the 'Delete' toolbar button. All articles belonging to the thread will be deleted, and the thread itself will be added to the killfile.

24. News: a 'Select List' functionality has been added. This is along the lines of a 'reverse killfile'; instead of suppressing access to listed items, only listed items will be displayed. You can build a list of subjects and/or authors which are of particular interest, and restrict the article display to only those articles which meet your selection criteria. To add items to the select list, choose the 'Edit Select List' menuitem from the 'Newsgroups' menu. Either topics or authors may be added to the list. Keep in mind that QVT/News uses a case-insensitive, partial-key-matching search logic, which means that you don't have to worry about case, nor do you have to worry about entering the full,exact topic or author. To apply the select list to the current newsgroup, first select the newsgroup for reading, then invoke the 'Show Selected Articles' menuitem from the 'Articles' menu.

25. Terminal: the window-resizing functionality has been enhanced, to take account of situations where you want to change the font size, not the number of displayed rows and columns. To apply this feature, press and hold the <Ctrl> key while you are resizing the window. When you terminate the resize operation, the font size will be changed to fit the new window size. **Note:** this feature is available only when using TrueType fonts. You can select a TrueType font via the toolbar font selector. QPC will be providing a TrueType DEC terminal font in the near future.

26. News: when reading news from servers that support the XOVER command, article headers for the entire group will be loaded all at once, rather than incrementally.

27. News: the article display format has been enhanced. Along with the article text, some key elements from the article header are also displayed. In addition, a mechanism has been added that allows you to quickly visit newsgroups which are part of an article's distribution list, but which you don't normally subscribe to. To use this new feature, simply select the newsgroup from the listbox, and click on the 'Subscribe' button; the newsgroup will be added to the subscription list for the current session, and can optionally be added to your permanent subscription list.
28. Mail: The Mail application has been substantially reorganized. We believe that the changes make it both more powerful and easier to use. Please refer to the on-line help for details.
29. FTP: a new configuration option has been added, to allow the user to specify the form of NLST command that will be used by FTP. This will be useful in situations where the FTP server doesn't understand the 'NLST -F' command.
30. FTP: bug fix - commands which return a '500' level result code will no longer cause the connection to terminate.
31. FTP Server: the format of the 'ftppass' file has been changed. This was done in order to fix some problems that were occurring with usernames and passwords. However, the changes are not backward-compatible, so existing 'ftppass' files will have to be rebuilt manually.
32. FTP Server: you can now explicitly disable 'anonymous' access.
33. Terminal: some bugs in the display of ANSI color text have been fixed. Colored text should now be easier to read, and some problems with screen corruption have been fixed.
34. Mail: a new dialog has been created for the purpose of constructing 'Cc' and 'Bcc' recipient lists. You can now build a 'Cc' list visually, using a pick list and the mouse.
35. Mail: the alias list is now sorted.
36. News: the choice of 'Server' vs. 'Local' has been moved from the 'File' menu to the 'Preferences' dialog. There is now only a single 'Open' menuitem, and the open mode will be the one shown in 'Preferences'. This change was made because the change from 'local' to 'server' and back to 'local' again may cause an unavoidable loss of information in the '.newsrc' file. You should choose the mode that best suits your situation, and stick with it.
37. Terminal: some problems with transparent printing have been fixed.
38. Terminal: the 'Save Hosts' command has been added to the 'File' menu. This allows you to update your 'hosts' file with names that are obtained during terminal sessions.
39. FTP Server: the RNFR/RNTO commands are now supported.
40. Mail: a 'Send Acknowledgement' command has been added to the 'Send Mail' menu. This allows you to quickly acknowledge receipt of a mail message, using a pre-defined text. This can be useful when you want the sender to know immediately that the message has been received and read, even if you're not yet in a position to develop a full reply. The 'Acknowledgement' function will use the contents of a user-created text file, 'qvtmail.ack', if it exists. Otherwise, a standard one-line 'boilerplate' message will be sent.
41. Mail: the 'Store' function has been extended. You can now store either the current message, or all of the messages in the current mailbox, in a different mailbox.

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5/23/96