

DSTReader

Version 1.X **Beta Three**
(where X is **meaningless**)

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What's changed since beta one?

Lots, including the fixing of many bugs that caused DSTReader to lock up on many machines. Also the annoying bug of the 687 message limit per conference area. You can now read the replies you enter. An ANSI view has been added to view external files with, it is currently far to unstable and kind of kludgy to include in the internal viewer as of yet.

The printer support has been started, it has not progress very far though, vaults have been add as a method of storing mail for archival.

What's changed since beta two?

Yet more bugs stompled to death. Also a complete rewrite on taglines, you can now have infinite numbers of tag lines (well, ok, accually 2 billion and some odd). The inclusion of the maintaince code for the vaults, including renaming/numbering conferences and deleting conferences. As well as deleting messages. Also the ability to have multiple tag lines in a single message. A couple of the icons have changed, hopefully for the better. Also you can now have other archivers then pkware's zip. Added Quote header lines. Finnaly got windows to spit out the extended characters in fonts. A status bar at the bottom of the window has been added. When you search for text, the text will be highlighted when the message is displayed. The doc file was edited, and the graphics removed from the shareware version. The graphics were removed due to limited space, by the time the doc file was written, it had grown to over 8meg. A little too much to send in the distribution archive.

Exactly how may of these beta's are there going to be?

This should be the last beta, all of the major sections have been tested resonably well and seem to work. Most of the 'options' that I wanted to add have been added. And if I don't stop soon, there may just never be a final release (yes, we're up to beta 237 now, I promise soon to release the final version :-))

What's missing from the beta...

There is no help system yet. Why build the help system when you don't even have a finished product! The release version will have a comprehensive help system to accompany it.

The printing support is still being working on.

And that about sum up what's missing. Everything else found in the program is complete and working (well, maybe it works, that's what the beta is for).

Things that will be added...

There are several things that may not make it into version 1.X, among these are...

- Full color/music ANSI support in both the message viewer and editor.
- spell checker for the reply editor (I have code, can't get it to work currently).
- other mail packet type support (finally found a spec on Blue Wave Packets).
- a better message editor.

Microsoft has finally found my copy of the Windows NT SDK, so its here finally! My upgrade to Borland C++ 4.0 is also on the way. Expect to see a NT beta copy of DSTReader at the same time as the final release comes out.

A few things that aren't quite right yet...

The ANSI viewer that is included here is VERY beta, it has not been tested or tried nearly enough, that is why it is a separate program, if it explodes simply close it down and go on with the rest of your session.

I'm sure that there are several other things that are not what they are suppose to be, however, since this is a beta, I am still working on the reader.

Opps, an error occurred with the .bat file while I was installing...

Well, since you must have at least unzipped files.zip to start reading this, you are on your way already. There are several things you have to do. First, make sure that you typed all the path's correctly when installing DSTReader from its batch file.

If you still have problems installing it, then try these steps...

- 1 - unzip files.zip
- 2 - copy the dll's to your windows system directory (typically C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM)
- 3 - copy the pif files (*.pif) to the windows directory.
- 4 - copy the ini file to the windows directory.
- 5 - make a directory for DSTReader wherever you want.
- 6 - copy the exe and wri files to the directory you created in step 5.
- 7 - delete you temporary directory.

That's it, you can now add the program to program manager and run it at will.

A note on censorship

Recently around Toronto here, we seem to have had a rash of censorship occurring (I know that this seems a little bit off topic, but hey, if I can't ramble every once in a while I get bored). It absolutely discuss me. Anyone out there who is a lawyer and has nothing else to do, please take the government to court over this. It just one of those things that really needs to be dealt with. As too what they are doing, well, it's simple, they go to a BBS who has adult area's on their board and tell them to remove them, if not they will press charges.

Personally I think that something has to be done before it's too late. Censorship always crawls up from behind like this, in the guise of "the moral majority". However last time I looked, the right to free speech and freedom of expression (and the right to make horrible spelling mistakes) still existed in Canada and in fact was one of those inalienable rights the UN decided we had as human beings. But hey, I could be wrong, and if I am, it's time to leave and go somewhere else.

How do I reach DarkStar Technologies

There are several ways to reach us, you can send us snail mail at:

DarkStar Technologies
P.O. Box 1184
Stouffville, Ont.
Canada
L4A-8A2

You can call us at (905)642-4742.

You can E-Mail us at these locations...

CRS Online
Send Mail to Greg Ross or Mark Logan

CompuServe
Send Mail to Greg Ross - 73112,175

The Heavier Metal BBS (official support board)
(905)642-5015
Send Mail to Greg Ross or Mark Logan

Cerebral Excursions
(905)474-1632
Send Mail to Greg Ross or Mark Logan