Remote Echo Control (REC)
Version 2.00

Beta-I Release Notes

     With any luck, I've fixed all of the problems with the last 2
beta's and got the last of the little features in and working. The
automated registration processed has been completed as well. Please
read this in it's entirety before you apply 1.99-I to your system.

     Contents

     This archive (REC_199I.ZIP) contains only the files that have
been updated.   The magic name of RECBETA will get you this archive,
and it has also been hatched in to the SDS SOFTDIST file area. You
need to apply the files in this archive on top of either version 1.99G
or 1.99H.   If do not have either of these versions, you will need to
file request REC_199G.ZIP from either my own system or through the
nearest SDS file distribution node carrying the SOFTDIST file echo.
Please note that I have NOT included the doc's in Beta-I like I did in
Beta-H.   There weren't enough changes to warrant doing so, and I
probably shouldn't anyways.

     The updated files are listed below:

     REC.EXE   Executable program
     REC.OVR   Executable overlay
     SAMPLE.CFG   sample configuration
     BETA-H.PRN   previous beta changes (for reference)
     BETA-I.PRN   This file

     Bug's fixed

     Unfortunately, I introduced a couple of bugs with beta-H. The
FeedFirst option on the Sort Statement put the feed first like it was
supposed to, but it didn't put the nodes in the same zone/net as the
feed right after the feed address. That has been fixed.

     In nearly all cases, when an Echo Node requested an echo that was
forwarded on, the record of that forwarded request was lost before the
echo could be AutoStarted by REC.   I have located the problem and
fixed it, which involved a slight change to the format of the
FORWARD.CSV file.   The conversion from the old to the new format will
be done automatically with the first run of REC Beta-I.

     The EchoSource statement didn't work in the majority of cases, so
it has been fixed.   This caused a slight change in the syntax of the
statement, which is shown below:

     ECHOSOURCE {source-addr},{echo-tag}[,echo-tag...]

     You can put in a single EchoSource statement for an address
followed by multiple echo tags. This will simply the config file as
well as improve the program's processing speed.

     Registration

     The Automated Registration process has been completed for REC, so
registration is once again a firm expectation and a requirement. For
those of you that have already registered under previous versions of
REC, you have received your registration key with the routed net-mail
announcement.

     If you have registered but did not receive a registration key,
please contact me via net-mail and I will send your key to you
directly.

     In either of the above cases, you should put your key in to REC
and make sure it works, meaning that all messages and reports created
by REC will show a "Reg" on the tear line when registered, or an
"Eval" if not registered.   Once you have done this, run the REGISTER
program and send me a registration update message.

     If you have NOT registered previously, you are asked to do so at
this time.   You can do this by following the instructions in the
REGISTER.PRN file on how to submit your registration. It should take
less than a minute, even on a slow computer.

     Please read the REGISTER.PRN file for full instructions on how
and when to run the REGISTER.EXE program.

     Operation

     Only one new feature was added with this release, that being the
"Re-Order" option or "/O" (not zero) command line parameter. What
this statement does is force a complete resort of the entire echo
control file, both echo areas themselves and their echo downlinks.
Ideally you only need to use this feature 1) the first time you run
Beta-I, or 2) after you've made significant manual changes to your
echo control file.

     Above all, do NOT add this option to your regular runs of REC.
It will slow down the program noticeably with a decent sized echo
control file.

Program Support & routed Net-Mail

It is sad that I must discontinue the use of routed net-mail to
announce new releases of REC. I have been informed that the powers in
charge most likely will not be as tolerant of 60 or more such messages
in one shot as they were with 15 - and I can understand that. So this
type of "broadcasting" will cease after this run announcing Beta-I. As
I do not charge for REC, I simply cannot afford to send that much mail
at my own expense.

Individual programs can still be addressed via net-mail, either
routed or direct. My replies will still go out via routed net-mail
unless I feel the answer should be sent direct. However you should
realize that my primary means of support for REC is not net-mail.

There is software support echo called REC_SUPPORT that is already
on the MetroNet backbone. Any and all members of MetroNet are
encouraged to pick up the echo from there regular MetroNet echo
source.   I have not received any support for getting my echo to the
FidoNet backbone for Zone 1 much less any other Zone, and for that I
need your help.

To get the echo on to the FidoNet backbone, I need at least 2
REC's to request the echo within two weeks of when I asked for it to
be placed backbone.   So I ask each of you that are using REC to ask
your NEC or your REC to get my support echo on to the FidoNet
backbone.   I will be making the request for the echo to be backboned
on Thursday October 8, and hopefully this process will not take very
long.

In the mean time, anyone that wishes to pick up the support echo
directly from my system is welcome to net-mail me for a feed. In
fact, I highly encourage all beta-testers to do so. The other way
FidoNet can refuse to backbone the echo is if the traffic levels don't
meet their requirements.   The backboning of this echo is critical to
the support of REC, and I need your help.

All that I ask is that you poll at least once a week so you can
stay current. There isn't much volume in the echo right now, but with
your help I'm sure the traffic level can be raised to the required 25
messages per week. Thanks.

Conclusion

The testing of Beta-H was very successful, with only one major
bug. As long as the re-order option and registration process work

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smoothly, I expect to release the full copy of version 2.00 by the end
of October.

    Thanks again to every one using, and beta-testing, REC. Later!

    Dan Fitch, Author of REC

    1:104/435@FidoNet