
Acorn InterTalk Release Note

Packing list

Your Acorn InterTalk pack consists of the following components:

- An envelope containing a software disc (two discs in the network version – see *Network use* on page 2)
- An Owner Registration Form
- A voucher entitling you to a free upgrade including a World Wide Web browser
- This Release Note.

If any of these is missing or damaged, contact your supplier.

Software versions

The versions of the software in this release are:

- !Mail, version 1.07
- !MailServ, version 1.08

Note 1: If you're using pre-Risc PC machines, use the !Sysmerge application provided to update your existing !System to use SerialDeviceDriver version 0.22.

Note 2: You'll need version 1.33 (or later) of !Server if you're using a Level 4 Fileserver alongside the Mailserver to allow access and there are any Risc PCs on the network.

Hints and tips

The *Acorn InterTalk User Guide* tells you how to install and set up all the supplied software. Here are a few important points to note:

Providers

For use on a school site, we recommend the use of a Demon account (or similar) that allows multiple accounts to be accessed via a network and that has a static IP address allocation. This will allow you to serve Web pages in the future.

Cables

Use a standard PC cable for all machines (except for older machines such as the A440, A540 or A3000, where you'll need to obtain an 'Archimedes' cable from your supplier).

Configuration

- When you use the **Configuration/Connections...** option from the icon bar menu, details such as the password and node name that you supply are case-sensitive.
- The first time you start !MailServ, you'll see this message:
Directory '!Post_Out.Postboxes' not found
You need to supply the configuration directories using the **Configure/Directories...** option from the icon bar menu.

Network use

If you're going to use Acorn InterTalk on a networked machine, you'll need to update the Single user version of the software with the software on the Network disc. This is described in detail in the section *Enabling your copy of !MailServ for network use* in the *Acorn InterTalk User Guide*.

Obtaining and using a password

If you have not agreed a password with your Internet provider (e.g. Demon) and you omit the IP address, or Auto (as it comes configured) then don't worry – the software will attempt to set the password for you.

Memory requirements

Ensure that the amount of memory that mail and news is configured to use is less than the total free disc space.

Retries

The software is configured to retry many of the operations that it makes when communicating with the provider. The number of retries appears in the script files. For example, inside the file !MailServ.providers.demon.script you will see

```
#Demon Internet
retry 5 5 10
*NewsRetry 50
```

which indicates that it will dial out 5 times if busy and will wait 5 seconds before dialling out again. Subsequent dial outs wait 10 seconds. Then MailServ will have 50 tries at connecting with the news service before giving up and waiting till the next connect time. You can change these numbers, but be aware that your telephone operator may well have rules about the frequency of redialling.

Retrieving mail only

Under normal circumstances, !MailServ will retrieve mail **and** news at the predefined intervals set using the **Configure/Connections...** option. However, if you choose **Connect/Mail only** from !MailServ's icon bar menu, any subsequent automatic dial ups that are initiated will **only** retrieve mail for the remainder of that session (i.e. until you quit !MailServ, reboot or switch the computer off) unless you choose **Connect/Mail and news**. This can be a useful saving if you only want to download mail during the day, for example.

Setting up users

- If you are using a text file to set up a batch of users, ensure that the group to which the batch belongs has already been created.
- Don't choose a group name that is the same as a user name.
- Ensure that you have created a user called `postmaster`.
- On batch creation, ensure that the end of line character is a line feed `[0a]`, not carriage return `[0d]` by itself.
- You cannot change the parent of a group.

Setting up News

- In the News configuration window, choose an Organisation name that reflects that of your establishment (e.g. Bash Street Lower). The Address name should be the name of your news server.

- The Mailserver downloads a list of newsgroups from the service provider. If you think that you list is incorrect, or incomplete, delete the file `!MailServ.Newsgroups`, and it will download a new one.
- The Mailserver will download news that is up to 24 hours old when you subscribe to a new newsgroup.
- If you click on the menu icon on the right of the Newsgroups window, then a list of available newsgroups will appear after a short delay. Type into the writable icon at the top of the window to help selection of your newsgroups.

Usage

- If the mail bag icon appears next to the `!MailServ` icon on connecting with your provider, this could be because incoming mail has had **Acknowledge on delivery** set, triggering an immediate outgoing mail message.
- You can prevent a group of users from making any external mailing by using the censorship address `*`, but then allowing (for example) `*@bashst.demon.co.uk`.
- You need to have a text editor loaded on a machine to be able to follow up to a news article or reply to a mail message.
- Don't perform system administration tasks (such as adding new users) while actually on line, as this will slow the computer down considerably.
- You can see what's going on in a session by choosing the **Configuration/Admin/Show detailed log** option from the icon bar menu. This will tell you, for example, which news messages are being received.

Copyright © 1995 Acorn Computers Limited. All rights reserved.
All trademarks are acknowledged.
Part number 0484,856. Issue 2, June 1995.