Usenet, a worldwide network of news discussion groups, is a discussion about a particular subject consisting of notes written to a networked site and redistributed through a newsgroup. A newsgroup is a collection of user-submitted notes on various subjects that are passed to servers on a worldwide network. Each subject is a collection of posted notes.

Definitions

Usenet Newbie Project Info: \http://1g0.s.org/newbie
Usenet Info Center Info: \http://www.ibiblio.org/usenet/\home.html

Reading

2001-10-11
\http://opend.org/home/kitchin
Thomas Kitchin
Usenet News
Lecture 3
L15566
The server provides for article storage and dissemination services.

The client provides an interface to list, track and display articles.

writing user articles involves pointing a user client to a user server.

user articles are embedded to user servers as messages distributed to

article

collection of articles or collection of user addresses

position vs sender

message vs user article

user@e-mail

pushing

grabbing

There are two means which a server can receive news from an

nodes can act as "hubs".

nodes can act as "outlets".

Each news server has a finite set of peers.

There is no central server.

Between servers, news operates as a peer-to-peer network.

peers
http://newsmone.net
http://maillandnews.com
http://groups.google.com, formerly delnews

Web to news to web gateways

Free servers
Commercial servers
ISP provided
Server choice
Features, e.g., free agent for Outlook/Windows
These are specific client software packages that have addition
Built-in clients to most email packages
Client software connecting to users

When articles expire
Which articles to remove based on contents
Which server not to carry articles from
Which server to exclude
Which size the articles may have
Which client addresses may use the server
Which newsgroups they carry
Which peers to rely articles to and from
Each user must server is autonomous. Its administrator decides
USER SERVICES
The Big Hierarchy

Newsgroups are popularly said to have a hierarchical and

no more news and therefore be dead.

Technically speaking, newsgroups do not die. They may carry


Some groups were created for one only example

message called "control sequence".

A newsgroup is born when an individual sends a special

life and death

It allows for a simplified choice of what groups to carry.
Similar groups can be placed near each other.
It allows for better browsing over a long list.

The benefits of hierarchical newsgroups in this directory:
In a separate directory, each component of a name is

The component separator implies hierarchy.
Star with a letter.

- compose the letters a-z, digits 0-9 as well as the + and
- each component string separated by dots. Components
  example: foo.bar@foo.whatever

newsgroup names
North Carolina.

The idea of network news was born in 1979 when two graduate

history students, Tom Truscott and Jim Ellis, thought of using "UCPC".

The small network of three machines in

among users. They set up a small network of three machines in

to connect machines for the purpose of information exchange

student's small network of three machines in

for the purpose of information exchange

students. Tom Truscott and Jim Ellis, thought of using "UCPC".

the creation of newsgroups.

exist as a space where there are no voting rules for

the group

then no votes

2/3 of the voters have to be in favor and at least 100 more yes

If people are interested, vote takes place

Write to newsgroups and propose your group

Creating a new group in the big
RFC 1723 specifies a digest form for moderated groups

• RFC 1723 specifies the format of articles

• RFC 4727 specifies NNTP

The RFC 822 specifies the format of messages; RFC 1035 uses

Standard documents

• trumpet
• guns
• tin
• mm
• tim

m (by Larry Wall)

Numerous client programs:

Header processing system.

1992 Rich Collier implemented News Viewer (no), an automated
algorithm similar in concept. In 1992, NNTP was created, described in RFC 477.

A-C all ran on NCUP

NCUP to NNTP

1983 release is 1987 by Geoff Collier and Henry Spencer

groups

continuously updated. Later versions supported moderated

• "B" release by Mark Horman and Matt Gilchman in 1982.

1980 "A" release

Dep

Initially running on shell scripts for a load of two articles per

A - B - C