Yet Another NewsWatcher 2.2.0b4 Read Me

Please read all of this document thoroughly before trying to run Yet Another NewsWatcher for the first time. You should also have read and be familiar with the user guide for the original NewsWatcher program by John Norstad. More detailed information on various YA-NewsWatcher features is discussed in the user guides "YA-NW and Binary Posting", "YA-NW and Filtering", "YA-NW and Sorting", and "YA-NW and Anonymity."

Yet Another NewsWatcher is a Usenet newsreader application for Macintosh featuring binary and anonymous remailer posting, article filtering (kill files), and article sorting. Please see "Program Information" below for who to blame for what.

Version 2.2.0b4 is a beta version. It surely has some bugs. Version 2.1.8 is also available. It has fewer features but may be more stable.

What's included in this distribution:
• NewsWatcher: a fat binary version of Yet Another NewsWatcher
• a number of witty, informational text files, including this one.

You may also need to obtain one or more of the following helper or applications:
• Filter Converter: a application for converting VA-NewsWatcher or
 YA-NewsWatcher kill files to the new format used by YA-NW 2.0.4 and later
• Base64: a helper application for decoding MIME Base64 encoded
 attachments.

See Program Information" below, for the URL to the YA-NewsWatcher home ftp site.

If you are running YA-NewsWatcher after having previously used the original NewsWatcher, when the program starts you will receive an error message about preferences being not found, damaged, or invalid. This is normal. These are the preferences that YA-NewsWatcher adds for the extra features it offers.

IMPORTANT:
YA-NewsWatcher has been proven to be a stable program that runs well and reliably on most peoples' Macs. If you encounter problems, here are some things to try/look out for:

• Set a reasonable preferred memory size for the application. The default
 size seems to work for many people with full group lists up to
 about 16000 or so. Increasing the memory to 2560 kB may help for
 very large full group lists for normal day-to-day use. Please see the
 original NewsWatcher manual for a discussion of memory usage. Note that,
 if you have more than just the subject and author headers shown in
 message windows, you will probably need to further increase the amount of
 RAM allocated to YA-NewsWatcher, especially if you open newsgroups
 containing many articles. You may also need to increase the memory
 allocated to YA-NewsWatcher if you create filters that use other than the
 standard subject and author headers.
• Make sure you have your location and time zone specified correctly in the
 Map and Date & Time control panels. Setting your location is important
 for the correct operation of the various date handling routines.
• Set a reasonable maximum number of articles to fetch, such as 600,

rather than the standard default value of 15000.
• Unless you're valiantly struggling with OpenTransport, make sure you're
using the most recent version of MacTCP (2.0.6), and have installed all

the appropriate system software updates (7.5.1 for example).
• If these fail, see if disabling filtering has any effect. Also try
turning off some of the other options that have been added in
YA-NewsWatcher (showing date and time or line counts in subject windows,
etc.)
• If none of the above help, try flushing the article cache (see Additional Information, below).
• As a last resort, trash your old prefs and/or filter files, and see
if that makes any difference.

Program Information:

Yet Another NewsWatcher is free. It may not be sold for profit or included with software or other products which are sold for profit without the permission of Northwestern University. Otherwise it may be freely distributed.

Yet Another NewsWatcher was developed by Brian Clark based on the original NewsWatcher application by John Norstad. If you encounter a problem, please read the NewsWatcher manual and the Yet Another NewsWatcher readme files to see if the matter is discussed there.

The home anonymous FTP site for the Yet Another NewsWatcher program, the Filter Converter utility and YA-Base64 helper applications is:

 ftp://ftp.wwa.com/pub/mac/internet/USENET.TOOLS/ya-newswatcher/

They should also be found at Info-Mac Archives mirror sites worldwide.

The anonymous FTP site for the original NewsWatcher program, the user document, and the CodeWarrior C source code is:

 ftp://ftp.acns.nwu.edu/pub/newswatcher/

The helper programs used by NewsWatcher (both versions) are available via anonymous FTP at:

 ftp://ftp.acns.nwu.edu/pub/newswatcher/helpers/

except for YA-Base64 as noted above

NewsWatcher (both versions) requires a Macintosh running System 7.0 or later with 2.5 megabytes or more of memory and a hard drive. The Mac must be connected to the Internet, and MacTCP or Open Transport must be properly installed and configured. Unlike the original NewsWatcher, YA-NewsWatcher will NOT run on machines without Color QuickDraw (which includes all 68000 Macs).

NewsWatcher (both versions) is distributed as a "fat binary." This means that it runs in native 68K mode on Motorola 68K Macintoshes, and it runs in native PowerPC mode on Power Macintoshes.

For dialup use, NewsWatcher (both versions) works with the various SLIP and PPP programs, and with ARA together with an appropriately configured AppleTalk/IP gateway. It is strictly an online newsreader, and it does not support any other kind of dialup connection. The program requires an active full TCP/IP connection to the Internet. It does not support offline newsreading, and it does not support older kinds of dialup connections designed primarily for simple terminal emulation. We have no plans to add these features soon, if at all. If you need an offline newsreader or a newsreader which works with older kinds of dialup connections, you must use

some other program.

The original NewsWatcher was written by John Norstad of Northwestern University:

mailto:j-norstad@nwu.edu

If you have a comment, question, or suggestion about Yet Another NewsWatcher, please read the user documents for the program before writing to any of the authors. Most questions are answered in John Norstad's user document for the original NewsWatcher. In particular, see the "Getting Started" chapter for basic instructions on how to use the program, and see Appendix F for a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQs) and their answers. If you don't have a copy of the user document, you can get it via anonymous FTP. Hold down the Command key and click anywhere in the following line:

ftp://ftp.acns.nwu.edu/pub/newswatcher/user-doc.postcard.sea.hqx

Additional information is contained in the various user documents that accompany Yet Another NewsWatcher.

Before writing to any of the authors, also please check the FTP site to make certain you have the most recent version of the program.

For information on licensing the original NewsWatcher for commercial use (e.g., for inclusion with other commercial software, products, publications, or services), contact Andy Rosenau of Northwestern University:

mailto:ar@nwu.edu

The program is based on the original version 1.0.2 written by Steve Falkenburg of Apple Computer. John Werner of Taligent is a major contributor. Thanks also to the following people who helped test development and beta versions, helped with design discussions, and/or helped with code contributions: Apple DTS, Steven Carmody, Steve Dorner, Adam Engst, Ron Flax, Aaron Giles, Haydn Huntley, Steve Klingsporn, Jean-Pierre Kuypers, Robert Lentz, Peter Lewis, Jim Matthews, Andrea Norstad, Jeremy Norstad, Lasse Hillerøe Petersen, André Pirard, Quinn, Howard Rafal, Pete Resnick, Craig Richmond, Larry Rosenstein, Leonard Rosenthol, Jeroen Scheerder, Michael Shappe, Eric Slosser, Stephan Somogyi, Neal Trautman, Dean Yu, Mahboud Zabetian, Willem Nijenhuis, Bill Stewart-Cole, and the nice people on comp.sys.mac.comm.

The regular expression code is a slightly modified version of code by Henry Spencer. The 3-D button controls are slightly modified versions based on code by Zig Zichterman. The popup menu controls in message windows are slightly modified versions based on code by Jim Stout.

Special thanks to Steve Dorner, both for his advice and assistance, and for his "Eudora" mail program, which has served as a consistent source of inspiration for NewsWatcher in particular and as a standard of excellence for Macintosh Internet software in general.

Additional Information:

This version is NOT an "official, John Norstad" version of NewsWatcher. John can't and won't support it, and is not responsible for any bugs I've added to his code. It is also NOT supported or endorsed in any manner by Northwestern University or ACNS. All questions or comments regarding problems or support should be directed towards me and NOT John Norstad or Northwestern University or ACNS.

John has worked very long and hard to make NewsWatcher a powerful, reliable, and easy to use newsreader. He has also been very generous in making the source code to his version freely available for non-commercial use. Because of this, it's relatively easy to add features to NewsWatcher and have the result work well: John has already done most of the work, and his code is easy to work with. The restrictions imposed by John Norstad and Northwestern University regarding the use, distribution, and modification of NewsWatcher also apply to YA-NewsWatcher.

New or Changed Features in Yet Another NewsWatcher
This section documents the features in YA-NW that are either entirely new or which are different from those found in original NewsWatcher.

1) A number of small cosmetic changes have been made. The spinning beach ball cursor has been replaced with a color animated cursor (the small NewsWatcher newspaper icon, with a spinning globe). The panel area of windows is drawn in light gray. The icon pseudo-buttons in message windows have been replaced with genuine icon checkbox controls that are drawn in a 3-D style (as are the other buttons in the panel area).

2) The dialog to select folders has been changed to satisfy the Apple Human Interface Guidelines, and it's now a little smarter about aliases to volumes.

3) The subject line to file name routine has been changed to be more intelligent and to provide less mangled file names when saving articles to disk which try to maintain part (n/m) numbers in the file name.

4) The detection of Base64 encoded binary files has been added, with decoding via a new helper application "Yet Another Base64 Decoder." Unlike MPack, this new decoder will handle (indeed it requires) the concatenation of all parts of the original message, and it will run in the background without user interaction after being sent an apple event. Posts with Base64 attachments will now be handled just like those with uuencoded or binhexed attachments.

5 A new item has been added to the Special menu to disable or re-enable the truncation of messages that seem to be binary posts. Sometimes the logic used to detect binary posts fails, causing normal text messages to be truncated. This menu option lets you (presumably temporarily) disable truncation so that the message can be read, or printed or ...

6) The time that articles are kept in the cache has been reduced from 60 to 30 days.

7) The option to flush (empty) the article cache when quitting by holding down the option key when selecting Quit has been added. There's a confirmation dialog so that you can change your mind about emptying the cache. A large cache can cause some out of memory errors, since the number of articles actually added to a subject window for processing and actual display is the number fetched PLUS the number in the cache. The latter number

can be very large, causing apparently inexplicable memory problems. Note that, if you have the option to backup your prefs file enabled, you can "undo" the cache

flushing by using the backup prefs file the next time YA-NW is launched (the article cache is stored in the prefs file).

8) The ability to save or extracting binaries from multiple open windows, or send messages in multiple open windows has been added. By holding down the shift key while selecting Save from the File menu, all open windows of the same kind as the topmost window will be saved. For example, if a subject window is topmost, all the selected articles in all open subject windows will be saved to disk. If a user group window is topmost, all the user group windows will be saved. Similarly, if shift is held down when choosing Extract Binaries, all selected articles in all open subject windows will have their binaries extracted. In all cases, the way this works is that the topmost window is processed normally, then the windows are cycled through one by one, until you're back at the original window. During the cycling, whenever the new topmost window is the same kind as the original topmost window, the save or extract binaries operation is performed on it. Note that this all happens sequentially. There is still no thread manager support for doing multiple tasks simultaneously.

Similarly, you can send all the open message windows by holding the shift key when clicking on the Send button or selecting Send from the News menu. This works by rotating through the open windows as described above. The difference, of course, is that each message window is closed after it is successfully sent.

9) Full support for binary posting has been added. See the "YA-NW and Binary Posting" document for more information.

10) The ability to filter articles has been added. See the "YA-NewsWatcher and Filtering" document for details.

11) Article sorting in subject windows was added. See the "YA-NewsWatcher and Sorting" document for details.

12) Support for scrolling digest articles to the next subject has been added. When reading an article, the 'b' key now scrolls to the first line beginning with "Subject: " following the current insertion point. If the "Spacebar digest shortcut" item in the Newsreading Options preference dialog is checked, digest processing is also mapped to the space bar. For both keys, the default space bar processing occurs if no "Subject: " lines are found. (Note that digest processing requires that the Main Keyboard Shortcuts" preference be selected.)

13) Added support for posting or mailing messages using anonymous remailers. Please read the document "YA-NewsWatcher and Anonymity" for information on this subject.

14) Improved marking as read of cross-posted articles. In original NewsWatcher, only articles that were opened ha cross-posts also marked as read. Now this also occurs when an article is saved to a file (including binary extraction) subject window.

15) Improved the handling of the .newsrc file. Added a dialog when there is a failure trying to automatically send a list to a remote host. You are given the option of ignoring the failure (which allows the group window to be closed w sending the group list to the remote host), or proceeding normally (which means you get a second dialog explaining error occurred, and the group window is not closed). If you often experience network problems when fetching or se the group list, you probably should not have these operations done automatically. But if you do keep this option en and you encounter errors sending the group list to the remote host, you can now close the group list window w successfully sending the to the remote host. If you haven't saved the group list locally, you'll see the usual dialog as you want to save your unsaved changes.

Also, in original NewsWatcher the .newsrc file would be ftp'd back to your host system only if it had unsaved chang course, f you saved the group list on your Mac, and then made no further changes, the .newsrc file was

considered unchanged and was not automatically ftp'd back to your host system when the group list window was c
You had to manually send the .newsrc back in this situation. This behavior has been changed. What happens now is th
.newsrc file will be ftp'd back if it has changed since it was last ftp'd. In addition, if you also save the user group
your Mac, you will get the usual unsaved changes prompt even if the .newsrc has been ftp'd to your host machine. In
the state of saved or unsaved changes is handled separately for ftp'ing the .newsrc file and the local user group file

16) Added an option to modified the behavior of the "Next Group" command (and other commands that translate t
such as pressing the enter key. Previously, even if there were still unread articles in the group (because there were
article that the number fetched from the news server), the next newsgroup in the list would be opened. Now, wh
"Next Group Command Ignores Unread Articles" option in Newsreader Options is not checked, this only happens i
are no unread articles in the current group. If there are unread articles, a new subject window for the current newsgr
reopened with newly fetched unread articles.

17) Added the "Get FAQ for this Newsgroup" command to the Special menu that may be used to get the FAQ for
newsgroups via the Ohio State web server using your specified http helper application.

18) You can change the text in STR# 128 number 272 to modify what YA-NW puts at the end of the Path: heade
default value is !user.

19) Changed the labeling for icon buttons. When "Show Icon Labels" is enabled, and the mouse is over an icon butt
group, subject, or message window, a prompt explaining the function of the button is displayed in the area below th
buttons.

20) Added the option to have a horizontal scroll bar in subject windows. In previous versions, the width of the subje
truncated as needed o fit all the displayed fields within the subject window. The narrower the window was made, the
severely the subject was truncated. There's now a new subject windows options preference to instead use a horizontal
bar, and maintain the full subject width (or at least he first 79 characters of the subject).

21) If "Show line counts" is enabled for Subject windows, when saving a file (binary or otherwise) to dis
NewsWatcher Status dialog will show progress information (i.e. "Saving File 1 of 2 line 200 of 566").

22) Added the option to hide the status window (except at startup, since he window is shown before the preferenc
read). When the status window is hidden, and there's therefore no cancel button to press, you can still cancel a long p
by pressing command-period.

23) Increased the maximum length of header that can be fetched from the server from 255 to 4095 characters. Th
help to alleviate a problem some people have encountered when trying to filter using the References: header (fi
failed when the long header was truncated at 255 characters).

24) Added a checkbox to Subject Window Options preferences dialog to have read messages removed from s
windows when they are refiltered.

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Special thanks to John Norstad for all his hard work on original NewsWatcher.

Brian Clark