

Mansion version 8 to 9 Update Notes

Mansion has undergone ALOT of changes over the past year, in addition to the new features (listed here) Mansion is no longer being written or supported by Michael Pester. The New author of Mansion is Mark Toland of ZSys Software.

This document lists all the additions and changes to how Mansion runs. Not listed here are the numerous enhancements to speed, bug fixes, displays, etc. For a complete list of everything added and or changed to Mansion in chronological order from new to old, please refer to the change history document.

Let's get started:

Mansion requires a Mansion Reg file now!

You will not be able to use all the features of Mansion-9 until you receive a Mansion Reg file!

The **Mansion Reg** file is located in the Mansion Data folder. Without the Reg file only users #1 and #2 can log on and can only use their user number to log on (no names). A 'not registered' message is displayed at various points.

Do Not try to run with a fake Reg file, you will either get the not registered message or a crash! due to an overflow error. This has been tested, and will not harm any current setup (if you are upgrading from a previous version) but will tick off your users when they will not be able to log on. All Users files will remain intact.

If you haven't upgraded before Mansion 8.07 make sure to replace both Mansion & AutoSysOp with the new versions.

Once you've upgraded, check the pull-down menus for many new commands, including Fast SysOp Login!

Note: The new textout routines no longer check for a "|" to force a RETURN. If you are using the "|" in your scripts, you should replace the "|" with a PRINT statement. Your scripts will work without changing them but any "|"s will simply be displayed as a "|", not a RETURN.

New Commands:

- There is a new command added to Mansion to allow users to do a new scan of all marked boards from the message prompt, to let users initiate their Global New Read

(GN) scan from any menu prompt, the command number is **51** and this command requires a Reference number. The Reference number is the number of the board you want the users GN scan to start on. You will probably want to make this be your main local board or BBS news board or some msg area that you want everyone to read or be involved in.

Example: ...|051|001|...

This command jumps to board #1 and begins a global new scan.

- This command will let the user list all the conferences, showing which ones are Marked and unmarked and allow them to change which are marked and unmarked from the menu! The command is **084**. Security: The conferences displayed are based on the security levels that you have set for each message area using Mansion Editor. If you have been leaving your security levels at 0 and just controlling 'who can get to where' by the security levels for each menu command, you will need to use Mansion Editor to correctly adjust security so people won't be able to mark and get to conferences that you don't want them to!

Example: ...|084|000|...

- This command lets the caller log off fast, without asking if they want to update the message pointers. Message pointers are not updated when this is used. The new command number is **85**.

Example: ...|085|000|...

- This command allows the user to search for files in a directory by a text string. The command is **114**. This command can ONLY be used in a Download area.

Example: 1|S|>-1|114|000| : [S] SEARCH for files :

- This command allows the user to search for files in ALL directories by a text string. The command is **115**. CDROM directories are not searched. This command REQUIRES that you have created a Mansion Scan file for scanning for new uploads. Explained in the manual. This command will currently search through your first 150 directories. This command REQUIRES a Reference number in the menu command. The reference number must be the reference # in your Data Header file for the line that contains the pathway for your Mansion Scan file. If your ref. number in Data Header is (for example) 112, the menu command would be as follows:

Example: ...|115|112|...

- This command allows the user to search ALL directories for files uploaded since a certain date. The new command is **116**. This command prompts the caller to enter a date to search from, then all files are displayed that were uploaded since that date. This command also requires a reference number pointing to the line in your Data Header file that contains the pathway to your Mansion Scan file. If your ref. number in Data Header is (for example) 112, the menu command would be as follows:

Example: ...|116|112|...

- Three new file commands:

DIR [VAR1] will display to the screen and remote caller, a list of files in a folder. This command will not display folders, invisible files, or any other file not normally displayed by the finder. VAR1 is the pathway to the folder that will be displayed.

Example: **DIR My Hard Disk:System Folder:**

DOWN [VAR1],[VAR2] will allow you to download a file in a directory. VAR1 is the pathway to the folder that contains the file to be downloaded and VAR2 is the name of the file.

Example: **DOWN My Hard Disk:My Folder:, My File**

Note: &0 returns the status of the transfer.

UP [VAR1] will allow you to upload a file to a directory. VAR1 is the pathway to the destination folder. The caller will be prompted for the file name.

Example: **UP My Hard Disk:My Folder:**

Note: &0 returns the status of the transfer.

- You can now access through the scripting language any user record in the user file. New syntax is **LOADUSERINFO (ID)**. **SAVEUSERINFO(ID)** is also available. If you don't do a **SAVEUSERINFO** then the LIMIT command is now unnecessary. These commands do not change the current callers user information, unless ID equals the current caller and you save with **SAVEUSERINFO(ID)**. The ID parameter is optional, for backwards compatibility with older scripts. NOTE: THE NEW LOAD AND SAVE COMMANDS ARE ALSO NOW IN AUTOSYSOP.

@MENU = the menu id of the last menu accessed. When calling a script from a menu, this is the menu that you called the script from.

@ITEM = the symbol (I.E., the letter or what have you) that you pressed at the menu to run the script. This constant will only contain valid data when the script is run from a menu.

@ITEMREF = the data that you pressed in the reference column of the menu item that you used to run the script. This constant will only contain valid data when the script is run from a menu item.

@CARD = the card color of the current caller.

@LASTNAME = the handle of the last caller, which is taken from the userlog. If nothing is in the userlog then nothing is returned in this constant.

@LASTFROM = the city and state of the last caller. This information is taken from the userlog and if nothing is in the userlog then nothing is returned in this constant.

@HANDLE = this is the handle of the current caller.

@USERNAME = this is the real name of the current caller.

@BBS = this is the name of the bbs as set by the editor.

@SPEED = this is the speed of the current call in bps.

New Options Files:

- One of the many new commands in Mansion is the option for the user to logoff automatically after a download, at this prompt there is a "?" to display help. You must have a text file named "**Fastoff**" in the Help folder in order for help to be displayed.
- Another new feature is the displaying of the Last 5 Callers to your BBS at logon, if you do not wish this information to be displayed, you can turn off the Last 5 callers display. Just create a text file (anything or nothing can be in it), name it "**NoLast5**" (no quotes) and place it in your MPrefs folder.
- Any file sections you select can be "Free", meaning... that any area you set up as a free area, the downloads the user makes from this area aren't charged to them. Their download counter isn't incremented. All you need to do is create a file named "**Free**" (no quotes) in any directory you want this feature to occur in. The file can be a text file,

anything or nothing can be in it, it just must be named Free. This option is great for sysops that have ratios for downloading but have an area for new users to get the files they need to make them "go". Thus, they can download these from a Free area and not have them count against their download ratio. Users can't upload a file named Free!

- Time Compensation for posting. After installing, log on and go to a message area and post a message and save it. You will see a new line telling that you have been compensated 3 minutes for posting. If you want a value other than 3, open the **MinsComp** file, located in the MPrefs folder, and change the value to what you want.
- New **Terminals** and **Terminal Menu** files. Replace your existing ones. (Terminals in Mansion Data folder, Terminal Menu in text folder)
- **Mansion Logo** display changes. At logon, Mansion now has 3 choices of what it will display as the Mansion Logo file. All these files reside in the Mansion Data:Text folder

1 - DAY - If a file named **Mansion Logo MM-DD** (space - 2 digit month - hyphen - 2 digit day) and the month/day match the current month/day, this will be displayed. Allows you to set up a Logo file for any special dates in the year.

2 - MONTH - If #1 is not found, Mansion will check to see if there is a file named **Mansion Logo MM** where "MM" is a 2 digit month number. This will be displayed if it exists and the #1 example is not found. Allows you to set up a new Logo file for each month.

3 - If neither #1 or #2 are found, the standard **Mansion Logo** file is displayed.

- Added ability for SysOp to assign selected conferences as ALWAYS being Marked. This allows you to assign boards of special interest to all users' marked board list. I use it to mark my main, local conferences and if I add a new conference that I want activity in, I add it to the required conference list. It's also great for new users. They will automatically have these boards marked for them without having to go through and do it themselves. They can use the GN and NB commands as soon as they are validated! This feature is OPTIONAL. If you don't set anything up, Mansion will run normally.

Setup:

1) Make a list of any conference NUMBERS that you want required. You can use the conference edit command (**084**) to see the conference numbers easily.

2) Create a text file. Name it "**RequiredMarked**" (without the quotes). This text file MUST be located in your Mansion Data folder. Each line of this text file must contain a conference number of a board you want required. After you enter the last number, press Return. The last line of your file must be blank with the cursor on the left most side of the line with nothing following it!

Tech Info:

Users can unmark these required boards but the next time they log on, they will again be marked. There is a max. of 100 required boards. I don't recommend this!!! You should only have 4 or 5 required boards and let your users decide what else they want.

- The SysOp is allowed to select a black on white screen by inserting a blank text file in the MPREFS folder that is called **NO BLACK**. If this file is not present it will display the standard white on black.

Other changes to be aware of:

- Added **/S** for instant save in the editor! See the sample editor menu enclosed, you may want to edit yours. Enter a **/s** in the editor and the message is saved without going to the editor prompt.
- You can use any combination of ALERT sounds for the actual page command. Mansion looks to the system for sounds named **ALERT**, **ALERT 1**, or **ALERT 2**. If all three are installed, they all will play in order.