

Paperboy for Windows  
An offline mail and newsreader

Copyright © 1995 Michael H. Vartanian  
vart@clark.net

Version 2.06  
May 1995

---

#### License

Paperboy is protected under the GNU Public License, version 2 or later. See the file COPYING for details.

*This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.*

*This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY; without even the implied warranty of MERCHANTABILITY or FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. See the GNU General Public License for more details.*

*You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along with this program; if not, write to the Free Software Foundation, Inc., 675 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139, USA.*

#### Requirements

Paperboy requires Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later. Paperboy requires VBRUN300.DLL and COMMDLG.DLL, which most systems already have. A SOUP packet generator is required on your mail/news host, usually UQWK. All these files can be grabbed from where you obtained Paperboy, see **Location** section below for details.

#### Location

Paperboy is available by anonymous FTP at ftp.clark.net (168.143.0.3). Paperboy is in /pub/vart/pboy####.zip, where #### is the latest version (206 as of this printing). The Microsoft files VBRUN300.DLL and COMMDLG.DLL, as well as the source code and executables for UQWK 1.8, can also be found in this directory. Various Offline FAQs are archived as well. Paperboy will be distributed to other major FTP sites (CICA, SIMTEL), if you can't reach ftp.clark.net.

#### Installation

After downloading the appropriate files, create a directory for Paperboy and it's files (i.e. C:\PAPERBOY). Unzip the archive into this directory. If you don't already have a CMDIALOG.VBX in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory, copy the one provided into that directory.

## Sample

A sample offline packet is included with Paperboy as SAMPLE.ZIP. To check your setup, open this file from the File Open... menu choice, or at DOS:

```
C:\PAPERBOY> PAPERBOY C:\PAPERBOY\SAMPLE.ZIP
```

or

```
C:\PAPERBOY> PAPERBOY C:\PAPERBOY\AREAS (if you've already unzipped  
SAMPLE.ZIP)
```

After you've bored with the sample packet, you should add an item for PAPERBOY.EXE into Program Manager, delete the sample feed (AREAS, \*.MSG) and try reading your own mail and news packets.

## Downloading SOUP packets

To read your mail and news, you need to create a "packet" on the host machine. Paperboy uses a common message exchange format called a SOUP packet, which is typically a .ZIP file holding many mail and news messages. Typically, your host administrators will have installed the necessary scripts to do most of this for you. If not, try the following:

First we need to gather up all your mail and news. A program called UQWK (see Location section above) is often used to create the SOUP packet.

```
unixhost% uqwk +m +n +r +L
```

(get mail, get news, read-only, SOUP format)

(drop the +r if you want UQWK to remember what messages you've seen before)

Next, we need to get these files down to your PC. To save space and time, we ZIP them up into a "packet"

```
unixhost% zip -m SOUP.ZIP AREAS *.MSG
```

then we transfer this file to our PC (here we use the zmodem program sz, but your system may have another utility installed)

```
unixhost% sz SOUP.ZIP
```

Once the file is on your PC, unzip it into the Paperboy directory, and select Open Areas... from the File menu.

SOLAR users: Paperboy can only accept Unix mail messages, it cannot currently handle MMDF messages. In the SOLAR.CFG, use "mail-type=m", not "mail-type=M". Please contact me if you're having difficulty with SOLAR, as compatibility has not been thoroughly tested.

More comprehensive information about creating SOUP packets is discussed on the USENET newsgroup alt.usenet.offline-reader. Subscribers to this newsgroup have been very helpful to the courteous.

## Using Text Editors

Paperboy can use any external ASCII editor for message creation. The external editor supports quoting of messages and signatures (placed in SIG.TXT in the \PAPERBOY directory). Once a message has been "Sent," you *cannot* alter the .MSG file without corrupting it!

## Uploading SOUP replies

Similar to Downloading a SOUP packet, to upload a SOUP packet containing messages you've written.

### On your PC...

```
C:\PAPERBOY> pkzip -m REPLY.ZIP REPLIES PB*.MSG  
C:\PAPERBOY> sz REPLY.ZIP
```

### On your host...

```
unixhost% rz  
unixhost% unzip -U REPLY.ZIP  
unixhost% uqwk -m -n +L -RREPLIES  
(Don't forget to delete reply.zip back on your PC)
```

## Folders

Paperboy can store messages into permanent folders. Simply create and delete folders from the File menu, and transfer messages to and from via the Edit menu. Whenever you create a message, it is automatically saved into a folder. You are limited to 20 folders, unless you recompile Paperboy yourself.

## Keyboard Shortcuts

To rapidly read messages, several keyboard shortcuts are available. To quickly view messages one screen at a time, press the space bar. To skip to the next message, press N, previous message, press P. The standard keyboard scrolling keys (Page Up, Page Down, Down Arrow) are also supported. Many popular menu items have shortcut keys too.

## Configuration

Paperboy can be configured mostly through it's menus. Esoteric configuration options are hidden in the PAPERBOY.INI file.

## Limitations

Version 2.06 is a minor patch. 2.05 users need not bother, unless they're having serious upload problems. The find feature is barely functional, and often lies. The use of MMDF mail files isn't supported. Threading isn't as good as it could be. Paperboy is a packet, not databased, newsreader.

## Acknowledgments

The Simple Offline USENET Packet Format (SOUP) Version 1.2 is Copyright © 1992-1993 Rhys Weatherley (rhys@cs.uq.oz.au). Thanks Rhys!



*“Usenet is like a herd of performing elephants with diarrhea -- massive, difficult to redirect, awe-inspiring, entertaining, and a source of mind-boggling amounts of excrement when you least expect it.”—Gene Spafford*