

## Introduction

BulkRate is an offline reader for FirstClass® BBSs. Using BulkRate, you can quickly capture all new mail and messages, then read and reply to them while "offline," or no longer connected to the BBS. This minimizes the amount of time you spend online, which has two benefits: One, if the BBS you call is a toll call for you, you save money. Two, if the BBS is a busy one, the line is freed up for another's use more quickly.

BulkRate works only with FirstClass® BBSs. You must have an active account on a FirstClass® BBS before using BulkRate with that BBS.

BulkRate connects to the FirstClass® BBS via FirstClass's CLUI (Command Line User Interface). Not all FirstClass® BBSs support this, though most do. If yours doesn't, you cannot use BulkRate with it.

Unlike some offline readers for use with other BBS systems, BulkRate does not compress messages and mail or employ error checking, so it is subject to line noise and random errors. If, however, you have a relatively clean phone line and/or a modem that supports data compression and error correction, this should not present much of a problem.

BulkRate is © 1991-1996 by Greg Neagle. Versions prior to 2.0 were free (I asked users to send me a postcard). They still are, but I have discontinued all support for versions prior to 2.0. Versions 2.0-2.5 and any subsequent versions of BulkRate are SHAREWARE. I ask \$25 US for a single user license.

See the [Registering BulkRate](#) chapter for more options and details.

BulkRate 2.5 was created using Staz Software's FutureBasic II and Program Generator. FutureBasic II is a BASIC compiler for the Macintosh, and Program Generator is a interface designer/application framework/function library rolled into one.

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