

IE's Finger V0.97
by Imagination's End
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The End Productions
Spotware

ALMOSTFREEWARE -- If you like this program you have to send me email saying you like it in order to continue using it. Otherwise may my wrath forever haunt your computer. Also send me suggestions and comments. See end of file for my address. This ALMOSTFREEWARE state may disappear with Version 1.

I hope you remembered to download all the DLLs this requires (those are the Borland 4.02 DLLs)

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[Manual Usage]

Type the sitename, or user@site in the edit box beside the go button then press enter or press the go button. A little while later the information will be retrieved. While doing the finger request a little status box will appear at the bottom portion of the screen. Inside it will be one of the following letters (for manual request normally a big box will appear with the full status string):

R - Resolving Hostname
C - Connecting to Host
***** - Receiving Information
? - Unknown state... be worried or reduce the number of connections.

To cancel a request just click on the status box.

[Batch]

To use a batch request type all the line that you would normally type into the edit box into a standard text file. One address per line. Choose the batch option, select the batch file and select the output file.

If possible use IP addresses in your batch file instead of site names because it will greatly increase performance.

[INI settings]

Not all the INI settings are listed here. If they aren't listed it basically means you aren't meant to change it manually.

File: IEFINGER.INI

Section: [SETUP]

TIMEOUT=n	n specifies the seconds to wait for a connection
TOTALTIMEOUT=n	n specifies the total time to wait to receive data
MAXSOCKS=n	n specifies the maximum number of connections to have. Multiples of 3 look nice.
DELAY=n	n specifies number of seconds to guarantee delay between socket destruction and creation
NOBUFDELAY=n	n seconds to wait upon No Buffer Space error
STAGGER=n	n Time ticks (currently 250ms) to stagger requests by
VIEWER=program	program is the name of the external viewer to use
DAEMON=1/0	1 = Load Finger Daemon 0 = Don't load finger daemon

Section: [Finger Daemon]

Section: [DNS Lookup]

[Finger Daemon]

The finger daemon is quite simple right now. It responds to requests on the finger port by sending back files.

default.fng	The default file to send back (when no name is specified)
badreq.fng	The file that is sent back when the user isn't found.
username.fng	The file sent back when a particular username is fingered.

Tag Expansion

The .fng files should be a standard text file, NL or CRLF to finish line. A CRLF combo will be sent back if requested with CRLF or a NL sent back if requested with NL.

Tags will be filled in as follows:

1. Format Specifiers

[%[*,&][[-,+]*x*]token

The field will be as wide as specified by *x*.

+ Indicates right align padding with 0's

- Indicates left align padding with spaces

The default alignment is right aligning

* converts the field to uppercase letters

& converts the field to lowercase letters

2. Token Expansion

%%	Literal %
%l	colon ':'
%s	Shell program
%k	Task manager
%v	IE's Finger Version x.xx?
%x	Turn off tag expansion (only effective tag is %X)
%X	Turn on tag expansion
%z	Expands to nothing
%d?	Current Day #
%dw	Week day

%dm Month day
 %dy Year day
 %m Current Month #
 %y Current Year #
 %D? Current Day Name
 %Ds Current Day Name (short)
 %DI Current Day Name (long)
 %M? Current Month Name
 %Ms Current Month Name (short)
 %MI Current Month Name (long)

%c? Tags to express current time
 %cs Second Portion
 %cm Minute Portion
 %ch Hour Portion
 %cd Daylights savings (DST or STD)

%t? Tags to express time since windows started
 %tu Millisecond portion
 %ts Second Portion
 %tm Minute Portion
 %th Hour Portion
 %td Day Portion

%f? Tags to express time since finger daemon started
 %fm Millisecond portion
 %fs Second Portion
 %fm Minute Portion
 %fh Hour Portion
 %fd Day Portion

%w Windows information
 %wv Windows version x.xx
 %wi Screensaver timeout

\\ Literal \
 \n Untranslated LF
 \r Untranslated CR
 \a Audio Bell
 \t Tab
 \f Formfeed
 \e Escape Character
 \xxx A decimal character specification, requitese 3 digits

3. Conditional Expansion

%?condition:true:false:

If condition is true formats whatever is declared as true, otherwise evaluates to false. The true and false fields may be empty. **DO NOT USE EMBEDDED CONDITIONALS.** That is do not put conditionals inside conditionals. The programs behaviour is undefined if you do this.

Conditions:

WINDAYS	Has Windows been running for a day yet?
FINGDAYS	Has the daemon been running for a day yet?
FINGHOURS	Has the daemon been running for an hour yet?

RANDxxx Random result with xxx% success.
SCREENSAVERACTIVE Is the screensaver active?

[Planned Improvements / Additions]

Fixing of bugs.

Expanded and more versatile Finger Daemon.

Proper finger responses for networked system.

[Known Bugs & Limitations]

The connection just stops while receiving data.

PROBLEM: Unknown, I am unable to reproduce this problem.

The maximum number of questions is just over 100.

This varies from system to system. The only reason there is this limit is because of the way Windows decides to handle messages. But 100 should be sufficient.

CANNOT OPEN FILE -- FIXED

It should no longer happen. If it does, well, it just shouldn't. Almost everything is done in memory and if this error does occur your system is going to crash soon anyways...

NO BUFFER SPACE AVAILABLE -- FIXED

This is quite a common error that results from too many connections in too little of a time frame. You options to rid yourself of this problem are:

1. Increase the number of IP buffers in your Winsock implementation*
2. Reduce the maximum number of connections. (DEFAULT: 6)
3. Increase the delay between requests. (DEFAULT: 0)
4. Reduce the length of the batch files.

***TRUMPET USERS:** Go into the trumpwsk.ini file and increase the ip-buffers entry. I don't know how much memory it uses, but I have mine set to 512, which is overkill.

[History]

19950318	Original program creation from Ver0.0 to Ver0.7
V0.5	Original program
V0.6	Added ability to use IP addresses
V0.7	Changed status bar and made combo box for entries
19950324	
V0.8	Changed code to allow simultaneous finger request Made a configure dialog box Improved output display of batch requests
19950325	
V0.81	More control over request timing View batch results (Internal/External)
19950328	
V0.82	Dynamic allocation, allows around 100 simultaneous connections New status window.
19950401	
V2.65	Unlimited finger requests Automatic chat with users, finger daemon greatly enhanced, automatic fingering of those who finger you, DNS lookup --

both ARP and DNS, nameserver friendly.
Improved Interface: Full speech control
Have a good April Fool's day...
V0.90 Batch DNS lookup
Basic Finger Daemon
19950408
V0.95 Cosmetic Improvements
Finger Daemon tag expansion
V0.951 Bug fixes [Daemon tag \, Iconic Save Pos]
Additional tags for Daemon
V0.96 Internal changes -- No more out of file errors
Changed everything to streams
V0.97 Conditional tag expansion and more tags

[Credits]

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