NetGate

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WRITTEN BY		March 1, 2023	

REVISION HISTORY			
NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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NetGate

1.1   NetGate

```
                    **************************************************

                                NetGate 1.3a

                    An Internet<=>Fidonet News and Mail Gateway

                            Written by Michael Berg
                          Copyright 1996 by Michael Berg
                              All Rights Reserved.


                    **************************************************
```

This document describes the use and functionality of the NetGate gateway
utility. Please select an item from the table of contents listed below:

```
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```

1.2 Introduction

```
            Introduction
```

NetGate is a feature packed gateway utility which allows you to use your
normal Fidonet newsreader to read Internet e-mail and UseNet news. It runs
on top of
```
            AmiTCP
             or
            Miami
             and transfers mail and news to and from your
```
Internet provider. As such it has a function similar to TrapDoor (familiar
to anyone with a Fidonet background), although in practice the two operate

very differently.

NetGate came about because at the time I gained Internet access, no
software existed which was both easy to set up and small in size. Indeed,
to achieve the level of functionality I was looking for I discovered that I
had to install (and configure – yikes!) an UUCP client, four different UUCP
utilities to allow me to collect and send things and a fifth utility to
gate to and from the Fidonet file format.

Well, perhaps this sounds like an afternoon of fun and games to some, but
not to me, and certainly not back then when Internet was still pretty much
new to me.

NetGate does away with all that. It combines everything into one, simple
program which has one configuration file. It can deliver and receive mail
and news, and does all the required Fidonet gating. The only "external"
software required is a TCP/IP protocol stack (
                    AmiTCP
                     or
                    Miami
                    ), both of
which are readily available from AmiNet and anonymous FTP servers. This
author strongly recommends that you use Miami because of its elegant
design, powerful features, ease of use and straightforward, no-fuzz
installation.

Here is a brief list of features:

* Reads and writes FTSC-1 compliant (*.PKT/*.OUT) mail and news bundles.

* Sends and receives mail and news directly from your provider's mail and
  news daemons. No intermediate, third party software required.

* Advanced UseNet news filtering

* MIME compatible, including quoted-printable and base64

* Session retrieve limits (configurable per newsgroup)

* Moderated newsgroups

* Advanced stripping/kludging of UseNet header information

* Configurable, highly detailed logging

* Handles special UseNet headers like X-FTN-To:

* Full support for mailing lists.

* Full support for incoming and outgoing file attachments!

* Spam filtering

* Automatic, configurable notification of new newsgroups on your news
  server.

* Utility to keep you notified of new, incoming e-mail

* Much more! :-)

To install NetGate, please proceed to the
                  installation section
                  .

1.3 Installation

                  Installation

NetGate runs on
                  AmiTCP
                   3+ or
                  Miami
                  . Nothing else is required, other than a
Fidonet compatible news reader (obviously) and Kickstart 2.04 or later.
Nico François'
                  Spot
                   and Pino Aliberti's
                  Mail Manager
                   are both excellent
choices here.

An installation script has been provided. To install NetGate simply click
the install icon in the installation drawer.

To install NetGate manually, execute the following steps:

* Copy the NetGate executable to somewhere on your HD. Recommended:
  AMITCP:Bin/ (if you use AmiTCP)

* Copy netgate.library to your hard disk. You may put the library in LIBS:
  or in the same directory as the NetGate executable.

* Copy NGCatchup to somewhere on your HD. Recommended: AMITCP:Bin/

* Copy NGWatch to somewhere on your HD. Recommended: AMITCP:Bin/ or possibly
  SYS:WBStartup.

* Create the NetGate.config configuration file (see the
                  configuration
                    section). Recommended: Same directory as the NetGate executable.

* Use
                  NGCatchup
                   to create entries in the active file (see the
                  configuration
                    section). Or, if you prefer, edit the file by hand.

1.4 Configuration

Configuration

To configure NetGate you will need an editor of some kind. I use CygnusEd
(© CygnusSoft Software) myself, but any ASCII editor will do. A graphical
preferences editor for NetGate is in the works.

The configuration file consists of lines of text. Blank lines and lines
starting with a semicolon are ignored. The first line of text in the
configuration file MUST BE "NetGate <ver.rev>", or NetGate will refuse to
load it.

NetGate uses the AmigaDOS ReadArgs() function to parse text lines, so you
may freely swap the order of command arguments, prefix arguments with their
template keywords, etc.

Before continuing I recommend that you load in the included sample
configuration file and have a quick look at it.

An explanation of the currently recognized keywords is included in the
following sections:

Fidonet related commands

FIDONODE/K/A/N,NET/N/A,NODE/N/A

USERPOINT/K/A/N
    Files

LOGFILE/K/A,LOGLEVEL/A/N,DISPLAYLEVEL/A/N

ACTIVE/K/A

INBOUND/K/A

OUTBOUND/K/A

DECODEATTACHDIR/K/A
    Internet connection

USERNAME/K/A

EMAIL/K/A

NEWSHOST/K/A,INNPORT/N

MAILHOST/K/A,USERID/A,PASSWORD/A,POP3PORT/N,SMAILPORT/N

NNTPAUTH/K/A,USERID/A,PASSWORD/A

SMAILHOST/K/A,SMAILPORT/N

REPLYTO/K/A
    Exporting from Fidonet

ORGANIZATION/K/A

ORIGIN/K/A

ORIGIN2ORG/S
    Importing to Fidonet

ORG2ORIGIN/S

KLUDGE/K/A

STRIP/K/A

FILTER/K/A

FROM/K/A

SUBJECT/K/A
    Special keywords

REPLYLINKING/S

NOSPAM/K/N
    NetGate control

READONLY/S,NOGETMAIL/S,NOPUTMAIL/S,NOGETNEWS/S,NOPUTNEWS/S

KEEPFIDOPACKETS/S

NOSCANNEWGROUPS/S

TIMEOUT/K/N
    Newsgroup definitions and control

NEWSGROUP/K/A,FIDONAME/A,LIMIT/N,MODERATOR

SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER/K/A
    Mailing lists

MAILINGLIST/K/A,FIDONAME/A,DEFAULTREPLY

1.5 FIDONODE/K/A/N,NET/N/A,NODE/N/A

FIDONODE/K/A/N,NET/N/A,NODE/N/A

This is the Fidonet node number of your NNTP news host. E-mails and UseNet
will appear to be coming from this node. It's obviously an imaginary

number, so anything will do.

A techincal note: Fidonet packets are created with this address as source and destination.

Default parameters: 2 99 999

1.6 USERPOINT/K/A/N

USERPOINT/K/A/N

Your local "point number" to be used with e-mails. E-mail from the mail host will be adressed to this point number. Again an imaginary number where any value will do.

Default parameters: 9 (So by default your Fidonet point address is 2:99/999.9)

1.7 LOGFILE/K/A,LOGLEVEL/A/N,DISPLAYLEVEL/A/N

LOGFILE/K/A,LOGLEVEL/A/N,DISPLAYLEVEL/A/N

The log file where NetGate will record the progress and results of NetGate sessions. The LOGLEVEL parameter specifies what level of detail should go into the log file. The DISPLAYLEVEL specifies what level of detail should appear on the console during NNTP sessions.

NetGate generates corpious amounts of log information at the lowest level, so it is strongly recommended that you limit at least the display level. If you do not limit the log file level expect to see the log file grow about 100k per session if you subscribe to 10 moderately sized newsgroups.

Levels range from 0 to 100, with the following level status:

```
 5 - Successful completion of operation
10 - Commencement of low level operation
15 - Commencement of high level operation
90 - Urgent informative messages
99 - Fatal errors
```

I'm still playing around with the meaning of range assignments so these may change in the future.

Default parameters: T:NetGate.log 0 10
(You may very well want to use 10 and 15 in stead)

1.8 ACTIVE/K/A

```
ACTIVE/K/A
```

This keyword specifies the "active newsgroups" file. This file is used to
maintain "highwatermarks" for each newsgroup, so that NetGate always knows
the number of the last retrieved article from each newsgroup you subscribe
to.

Normally you never have to mess about with this file yourself, but in case
everything goes haywire, it's pretty simple. The file consists of lines
where (again) blank lines and lines containing ';' are ignored. Each line
contains the name of a newsgroup (alt.wired for example) plus a number. The
number is the number of the last retrieved article from that group.

Default parameters: PROGDIR:NetGate.active

(I.e. NetGate.active in the same directory as the NetGate executable
itself).

1.9 EMAIL/K/A

```
EMAIL/K/A
```

Your e-mail address.

Default parameters: nobody@nowhere (you probably want to change that :-)

1.10 USERNAME/K/A

```
USERNAME/K/A
```

Your real name.

Default parameters: "nobody". Change it ASAP :)

1.11 INBOUND/K/A

```
INBOUND/K/A
```

The inbound directory for your Fidonet tosser.

Default parameters: MAIL:Inbound

1.12 OUTBOUND/K/A

```
OUTBOUND/K/A
```

The outbound directory where your Fidonet tosser places mail bundles to be exported.

Default parameters: MAIL:Outbound

1.13   NEWSHOST/K/A,INNPORT/N

```
NEWSHOST/K/A,INNPORT/N
```

This tells NetGate which NNTP host to collect and retrieve news from.

Default parameters: news.host 119

You probably want to change the host name but the port number is pretty much standard. Ask your provider if necessary.

1.14   NNTPAUTH/K/A,USERID/A,PASSWORD/A

```
NNTPAUTH/K/A,USERID/A,PASSWORD/A
```

This keyword enables you to specify a userid and password to be used with your news server.

If your news server does not require NNTP authentication, then don't use this keyword, or the news server may slam the door in your face.

The news userid and password are not necessarily identical to your POP3 (mail) userid and password. Ask your service provider if necessary.

If you try to use this feature on a server which does not support NNTP authentication, you will receive a warning from NetGate but the news session will continue. However, remove the NNTPAUTH keyword from your configuration file as soon as possible.

Default: Do not use NNTP authentication

1.15   DECODEATTACHDIR/K/A

```
DECODEATTACHDIR/K/A
```

This keyword allows you to specify an alternative path for storing incoming attachments. If you do not use DECODEATTACHDIR then NetGate places all incoming attachments in the
                inbound directory
                     .

Default: Nothing (i.e. use the inbound directory)

1.16 MAILHOST/K/A,USERID/A,PASSWORD/A,POP3PORT/N,SMAILPORT/N

              MAILHOST/K/A,USERID/A,PASSWORD/A,POP3PORT/N,SMAILPORT/N

This tells NetGate where to retrieve and send mail. You are required to
supply your user id and password for the site. Without these the host will
not allow NetGate do retrieve mail. Ask your provider if necessary.

Note that using the
              SMAILHOST
               keyword it is possible to specify an
alternate SMTP host for outgoing mail. However, for compatibility reasons
you may still specify an SMTP port number here, and the mail host name you
specify will also serve as the SMTP host name until you redefine it with
SMAILHOST (pretty confusing, huh? :-)

Default parameters: mail.host nobody SECRET 110 25

Again, you probably want to change the host name, user name and password.

1.17 SMAILHOST/K/A,SMAILPORT/N

              SMAILHOST/K/A,SMAILPORT/N

This tells NetGate where to send mail. This keyword was introduced in
version 1.1 due to the fact that some users have different POP3 and SMTP
hosts.

The SMAILPORT value you specify here will override any previous setting of
the SMTP port number (i.e. as specified using
              MAILHOST
).

If you do not use the SMAILHOST keyword in your configuration file, the
mail host name specified with MAILHOST will serve as the SMTP host.

Default parameters: Same as you specified previously with MAILHOST.

1.18 REPLYTO/K/A

REPLYTO/K/A

This keyword allows you to use a reply address other than your normal
e-mail address. When people reply to a mail or an article written by you it
will be sent to the address specified here rather than your own mail box as
it would normally do.

Default parameters: None, i.e. no special reply address.

1.19 ORGANIZATION/K/A

ORGANIZATION/K/A

If you wish you may supply a string here which will be included in the
'Organization:' header line of articles and mail written by you.

Default parameters: None (i.e. no Organization: line will be generated,
except if you use ORIGIN2ORG, see below).

1.20 ORIGIN/K/A

ORIGIN/K/A

This line specifies what to put in the Fidonet ' * Origin:' line in
imported news articles.

The default is to use the host name of your news news server (unless you
use the
                ORG2ORIGIN
                 keyword)

1.21 ORG2ORIGIN/S

ORG2ORIGIN/S

This tells NetGate to use the Organization: header string on incoming news
and mail as the Fidonet ' * Origin:' line. This overrides the
                ORIGIN
                keyword.

The default is not to use the UseNet Organization: header line for the
Origin: line.

1.22 ORIGIN2ORG/S

ORIGIN2ORG/S

This keyword tells NetGate to use your Origin: line when generating
an Organization: UseNet header line. This overrides the
                ORGANIZATION
                keyword.

The default is not to use the Origin line for generating an Organization:
UseNet header line.

1.23 READONLY/S,NOGETMAIL/S,NOPUTMAIL/S,NOGETNEWS/S,NOPUTNEWS/S

READONLY/S,NOGETMAIL/S,NOPUTMAIL/S,NOGETNEWS/S,NOPUTNEWS/S

These are control level flags which tell NetGate what to do in a session.

READONLY means that any news and mail retrieved will not be deleted or, in the case of news, updated in the active file. This allows you to retrieve the same mail and news articles several times, which in turn is useful for setting up your configuration so that one mistake doesn't mean you will loose news or mail.

NOGETMAIL tells NetGate not to collect e-mail.
NOPUTMAIL tells NetGate not to send your netmails.
NOGETNEWS tells NetGate not to collect news/echomail.
NOPUTNEWS tells NetGate not to send any echomail.

Note: Echomail in moderated areas count as news and not as e-mail, even though it eventually ends up as such (i.e. as e-mail to the newsgroup moderator). This means that if you subscribe to moderated newsgroups, NetGate may need to connect to your host's mail server even if you specify NOPUTMAIL. Use NOPUTNEWS to hold back news.

Default parameters: None (I.e. don't do READONLY, do mail and do news.

1.24 TIMEOUT/K/N

TIMEOUT/K/N/S

This keyword allows you to specify the maximum number of seconds that NetGate should try to make a connection or wait for data from the mail or news server.

Default: 30 seconds, and you do not need to change that unless you experience timeout errors.

1.25 KEEPFIDOPACKETS/S

            KEEPFIDOPACKETS/S

This keyword instructs NetGate not to delete processed outbound Fidonet packets when a session ends. This is normally done to prevent the same articles and e-mails from being sent twice (i.e. in a later session). This works fine when you are sending out both news and mail at the same time.

But if for some reason you wish to send news and mail seperately (using the

            NOPUTMAIL
             and/or
            NOPUTNEWS
             keywords), then, after a session ends, the
processed Fidonet outbound packet(s) are still deleted even if some or all

of the packets contain unsent news or mail!

This keyword provides a means of preventing the deletion of outbound
Fidonet packets. It may be specified in the configuration file but is
probably most useful as a command line argument to NetGate.

Default: *Do* delete processed Fidonet outbound packets after a session.

1.26   NOSCANNEWGROUPS/S

                       NOSCANNEWGROUPS/S

This keyword tells NetGate not to scan for new newsgroups on your news
server when you poll for news.

If you are using the facility to scan for new newsgroups then you can use
this keyword directly on the command line when invoking NetGate. In that
case it will suppress the scan for just that session. This is useful if you
are running several simultaneous NetGate sessions and want to avoid getting
several identical lists of new newsgroups :-)

Default: *Do* scan for new newsgroups. Also see
             SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER
                .

1.27   KLUDGE/K/A and STRIP/K/A

KLUDGE/K/A
STRIP/K/A

These two commands allow you to strip or kludge header information from
incoming mail or news. Strip in this context means exactly what you think,
and kludge means the header line will be included but hidden with an IFNA
kludge. I suggest you take a look at the sample configuration file to form
an idea of what to strip and what to kludge.

Note: UseNet headers are generally HUGE. If you want to keep the size of
the generated Fidonet packets down, you need to strip out at least the
"xref: ", "newsgroups: " and "path: " headers.

Default parameters: None.

1.28   SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER/K/A

                       SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER/K/A

Using this command it is possible to limit the scan for new newsgroups on
the news server to a few keywords of interest. For example, if you are
really only interested in receiving notification about when new amiga
groups are created, you could use the following filter:

```
SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER "#?amiga#?"
```

You may define as many filters as you like:

```
SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER "#?amiga#?"
SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER "comp.#?"
```

If you do not define any filters at all you will receive notification about
every single newsgroup that is created on the news server (
                NOSCANNEWGROUPS
                notwithstanding).

Note: Although NetGate internally launches as many as ten subprocesses
(threads) in order to retrieve newsgroup descriptions as efficiently as
possible, it can still take a long time for the descriptions to download,
especially in situations where houndreds of new newsgroups have been
created on the server overnight. Setting up filters which block out
irrelevant newsgroups also prevents descriptions for these groups to be
downloaded and so saves you a lot of online time.

Default: Notify about all new groups.

1.29 NEWSGROUP/K/A,FIDONAME/A,LIMIT/N,MODERATOR

                NEWSGROUP/K/A,FIDONAME/A,LIMIT/N,MODERATOR

The NEWSGROUP keyword tells NetGate which UseNet newsgroups you wish to
receive, and their equivalent Fidonet echomail area names. Only newsgroups
listed with the NEWSGROUP keyword will be processed in news sessions.

Ideally there should be exactly one line in the 'active' file for each
newsgroup defined with the NEWSGROUP keyword. If more exist the extraneous
highwatermarks are simply ignored. This allows you to temporarily
disconnect from a newsgroup but keep the highwatermark in the active file
for when you later re-subscribe.

If a newsgroup is missing from the active file, a highwatermark of zero is
automatically created. This means that when you next poll for news you will
receive the entire range of spooled articles from that newsgroup. This may
be thousands of articles! So when you subscribe (add a new NEWSGROUP
keyword to the configuration file), you probably want to use the
                NGCatchup
                command to set the highwatermark for the new newsgroup.

The LIMIT parameter defines a byte-count session limit for this particular
newsgroup. That is, NetGate will only collect approximately this much news
during any single session. Useful for keeping overall session lengths down.

The MODERATOR parameter should be used in moderated newsgroups. Any Fidonet
echomail you post into a moderated area will be sent as e-mail to the
moderator of the newsgroup rather than into the newsgroup itself (which is
generally not allowed).

Default parameters: None. See sample configuration file.

1.30 MAILINGLIST/K/A,FIDONAME/A,DEFAULTREPLY

MAILINGLIST/K/A,FIDONAME/A,DEFAULTREPLY

NetGate has full support for mailing lists. This feature allows you to gate
mail from and to any e-mail address (mailing list) into a Fidonet echomail
area. This is especially useful if you subscribe to a large number of
mailing lists and you do not want your e-mail area cluttered with all sorts
of strange stuff from the lists.

The MAILINGLIST parameter should be the e-mail address of the mailing list
itself.

The FIDONAME parameter defines which Fidonet echomail area should be used
for this mailing list.

The optional DEFAULTREPLY parameter allows you to specify an alternative
reply address for mail TO the mailing list. If you do not specify this,
outbound mail goes to the mailing list address itself.

Examples:

; AmiNet daily
MAILINGLIST aminetd@wuarchive.wustl.edu AMINET.DAILY
; Physics news
MAILINGLIST physnews@aip.org PHYSICS.NEWS
; A private mailing list
MAILINGLIST bgr@datashopper.dk DATASH.BGR bgrmgr@datashopper.dk

Default parameters: None. See sample configuration file.

1.31 REPLYLINKING/S

                    REPLYLINKING/S

This keyword enables the reply-linking feature. What this means is that
echomail replies will be correctly chained into the thread you're replying
to, so that UseNet news readers will pick up the fact that your reply is a
part of an existing thread and not a new subject being raised.

The Fidonet "MSGID" and "REPLY" kludges serve a similar purpose but the two
formats are not directly compatible. To accomplish reply linking anyway
NetGate abuses the the MSGID and REPLY kludges in a way which has been know
to choke some Fidonet scanners. This is not really their fault, since these
two fields were never intended to be used in this manner.

                    Spot
                     and
                    Mail Manager

are known to work reliably with the reply linking
feature, so if you use one of these be sure to specify REPLYLINKING.
Otherwise, experiment to see if your Fidonet scanner can handle it. As of
this writing, the only two systems I know of that do not support
REPLYLINKING is the Foozle tosser and the Xenolink BBS system.

This keyword is similar to AmiGate's NAUGHTYREPLY keyword, and the same
restrictions and warnings apply.

Default: Off (i.e. do not use reply linking).

1.32 NOSPAM/K/N

NOSPAM/K/N

This keyword controls the NetGate spam filtering facility. Spam is the
nickname for UseNet news articles which are crossposted to a vast number of
newsgroups for advertizing purposes. This is the source of much frustration
for those of us who read a newsgroup for its content and not to "call
1-800-HOT-SEXX for phone sex" or to participate in worthless pyramid
schemes to "make money fast".

A reasonable value to use for the NOSPAM keyword is 5. This means that any
article crossposted into 5 or more newsgroups will be filtered out. This
will also catch a number of genuine news articles, but if a thread has
reached a point where it is cross-discussed in 5 different newsgroups it
has typically deteriorated to a point where it is more or less off topic
anyway, or about something completely different from what the Subject: line
suggests.

Default: 50000 (or, for all practical purposes, no spam filtering :-)

1.33 FILTER/K/A

FILTER/K/A

NetGate has advanced news filtering which allows you to eliminate
irrelevant or uninteresting articles at poll-time, saving you online time
and money on the phone bill.

The FILTER keyword denotes the beginning of a news filter. The argument is
the name of the newsgroup for which this filter applies. Wildcards are
permitted, so the following specifications are all valid:

FILTER "alt.folklore.computers"
FILTER "alt.#?"
FILTER "#?erotica#?"

Or indeed:

FILTER "#?"

Overlapping filters are allowed. In the above case, the first filter
specifically catches "alt.folklore.computers" while the next filter catches
the remaining newsgroups in the alt.* hierachy.

To specify WHAT to filter, use either the
                FROM
                 or
                SUBJECT
                 keywords.

1.34 FROM/K/A

                FROM/K/A

This keyword may be used only in connection with a preceeding
                FILTER
                keyword. It allows you to specify that articles posted by someone ←
                   should be
filtered out. Wildcards are allowed. Example:

FILTER "alt.#?"
FROM "#?@aol.com#?"

What this means is that for all newsgroups in the alt.* hierachy, you do
not wish to receive articles posted by anyone on AOL (I have nothing
against America Online, I am merely making an example).

FILTER "#?"
FROM "#?mberg@post3.tele.dk#?"

FILTER "#?(sex|erotica)#?"
FROM "somebody@nic.nac.foobar.auc.dk"
FROM "#?.au#?"

The first filter specifies that NetGate should filter out articles from all
newsgroups, written by myself (mberg@post3.tele.dk). This is a convenient
way to avoid receiving one's own articles.

The second filter specifies that for all newsgroups containing the string
"sex" or "erotica", NetGate should filter out articles from
"somebody@nic.nac.foobar.auc.dk" OR from any site in Australia (those
usually end in ".au").

Note that the FROM filter matches the entire From: header string. So to
match "mberg@post3.tele.dk" it may be necessary to specify a filter of
"mberg@post3.tele.dk#?" in order to match my address including name, as in
"mberg@post3.tele.dk (Michael Berg)".

1.35 SUBJECT/K/A

                SUBJECT/K/A

This keyword may be used only in connection with a preceeding FILTER
keyword. It allows you to specify that articles with a given subject should
be filtered out. Wildcards are allowed. Example:

```
FILTER "alt.#?"
SUBJECT "#?longest thread#?"
SUBJECT "#?100#?"
```

This will filter out articles in the alt.* hierachy with subject lines
containing either the string "longest thread" or the string "100".

The "longest thread ever" thread has been running in various alt.* groups
for years, and while at first it is amusing to read, the novelty soon wears
out. I use the above filter myself.

The "100" filter is useful to eliminate the bulk of the infamous "make
money fast" posts which all too often pop up in various newsgroups. Most of
these contain the string "$100.000" or similar which is why this filter
catches them. Granted, it's a bit general and will also catch things like
"A review of the book '100 C bugs'". It works for me, though.

The
                    FROM
                     and SUBJECT filters may of course be combined:

```
FILTER "alt.#?"
FROM "#?@aol.com#?"
SUBJECT "#?100#?"
```

This eliminates all articles in the alt.* hierachy with a subject
containing the string "100", or posted by anyone on AOL.

Here's another great filter:

```
FILTER "alt.binaries.pictures.#?"
SUBJECT "~(#?(.gif|.jpg|.jpeg|video|mpeg|.mpg|.avi))#?"
```

This filter eliminates all the usual chit-chat which makes for about 80% of
the flow in the binary groups (this took me very much by surprise when I
first gained access to these groups). With this filter you only get the
actual images ;-)

1.36 Usage

                    Usage

To use NetGate all you have to do is run it, either from a CLI or from
Workbench. In either case you may supply a couple of parameters.

From CLI:

```
NetGate CONFIG,
                READONLY/S
                ,
                NOGETMAIL/S
```

```
                ,
                NOPUTMAIL/S
                ,
                NOGETNEWS/S
                ,
                NOPUTNEWS/S
                ,

                KEEPFIDOPACKETS/S
                ,WAIT/S,LOGID/K,
        NOLIMIT/S,
                NOSCANNEWGROUPS/S
                ,NEWSGROUP/M
        DEBUG/S
```

The CONFIG parameter allows you to specify the name of NetGate's main
configuration file. This would normally be 'PROGDIR:NetGate.config'. If you
do not specify a configuration file name, netgate will first try PROGDIR:,
then ENV:, then
                ConfigPath
                , then Mail: and finally ENVARC:. You can put
your configuration file in any of those locations without specifying the
location when launching NetGate.

The WAIT parameter tells NetGate to wait for any concurrent NetGate
sessions to complete before returning. This is useful if you invoke NetGate
many times to poll asynchronously for mail and news, but still need some
cleanup action afterwards. In this case you simply add the WAIT keyword to
the final NetGate command, which will then not complete until every other
NetGate session has completed.

The LOGID parameter allows you to prefix log entries from this particular
session with an identification string of your choice. All NetGate instances
that use the same configuration file also share the same logfile, and this
naturally leads to some confusion when you later try to read the log file.
Using LOGID you can mark each log entry with an identification string and
so more easily trace the log activity of one particular session.

The NOLIMIT switch allows you to temporarily disable all newsgroup
byte-count limits (see
                NEWSGROUP
) so that you may collect all unread
articles from the news server, regardless of volume.

The DEBUG switch enables debugging output to be produced (in a file called
NetGate.debug). If you experience inexplicable problems receiving mail or
news, the debugging data produced this way will be invaluable to me in
determining the cause.

Note: Performance takes a heavy hit when debugging is enabled. Don't use it
unless you have to. Also, the files produced tend to grow very large
(typically 5 times the size of the incoming data), so try to limit the
number of articles or mails received when producing debugging data.

The remainder of parameters may be used to temporarily override the
settings specified in the configuration file. For a closer look at what
these mean, please refer to the section on

configuration
, elsewhere in
this guide file.

From Workbench:

Click on the icon. That's it.

If you wish to supply initial parameters you may do this using tooltypes.
The template is the same as from CLI. I.e. each tooltype entry must match
the CLI ReadArgs template (see above) to be recognized. Unrecognized
tooltypes are ignored.

In addition to the standard CLI arguments you may specify a WINDOW tooltype
to define the size and shape of the log window NetGate opens and uses for
session log information. Also, you may specify names (patterns, really) of
selected newsgroups. NetGate will then only collect news from those
newsgroups.

It might be a good idea to examine the included NetGate icon here (use the
Information menu option in Workbench).

Once running, NetGate will connect to the various mail and news servers,
retrieving and posting as required. As NetGate works its way through the
various phases, you will be able to check progress in the console window
(assuming a nonzero display log level of course). An NetGate session is
always initiated with a "Begin NetGate session" and terminated with an "End
NetGate session". This allows you to see how long the entire session took.

While on the subject of speed, be warned that this sort of mail and news
processing is rather slow. MUCH slower than for example TrapDoor, if you
have a Fidonet background. For UseNet messages it is not uncommon that each
article takes about a second on average to retrieve. Sometimes faster,
sometimes slower, depending on things like what hardware your Internet
provider uses, the current user load etc. And of course the size of the
message. Some groups, like the assorted sexual groups, contain uuencoded
images which may take anywhere from 1 to 10 minutes each to retrieve.

So why is it so slow? Is NetGate a bad program or what? Perish the
thought! :-) I'll try to explain it.

In Fidonet individual nodes create and archive mail bundles ready for other
nodes and points to collect. When a node or a point calls to collect
netmail and echomail, it has already been neatly packaged and needs only to
be transferred to the callers machine over the phone line. Much like a
regular download via a terminal program.

A UseNet or e-mail session is quite different, in that articles and mail
must be "prompted" online. It cannot be pre-bundled as such. When NetGate
connects to an INN daemon for UseNet processing, for example, it has to ask
the INNd to go to a specific group, to go to a specific article, to list
that article, to go to the next article, to list that article, etc, until
no more articles remain. Then it has to ask INNd to go to the next group...
ad libitum, ad nauseum. With INNd you might say everything is "realtime".
Nothing has been prepackaged for you, and a substantial amount of time is
wasted to protocol overhead just getting the INNd daemon to locate and then
list each article. Changing to the next article takes time. Changing to the

```
next group takes time.
```

It's a shame it has to be this way, but there you have it. My only advice
to you is to try to limit yourself when it comes to UseNet newsgroups, or
perhaps to look for a provider with faster hardware. Or, to not use NetGate
at all, but go for a QWK converter for example, which can create QWK
bundles for you to collect, much like Fidonet bundles. But then again you
will likely loose essential things like header-line control – on top of all
the other deficiencies of the QWK format. Personally I use NetGate, and I'm
not about to change, even if it is a bit slow.

See the
                 performance section
                  for tips on how to speed things up a bit.

1.37   ConfigPath

```
ConfigPath
```

If you set this environment variable to a valid pathname, then NetGate will
also search there for its configuration file.

1.38   Known Bugs and Limitations

```
              Known Bugs and Limitations
```

While NetGate doesn't have any known bugs as such, there are a few things
you need to know before using the program on a more regular basis. In no
particular order, these are:

– Deleting fidonet outbound packets

  Not really a bug, but something you need to be aware of nonetheless.

  After NetGate has successfully completed processing of a fidonet packet,
  it is deleted. This is necessary to avoid having the same articles and
  e-mails sent out again in subsequent sessions.

  However, if you specify
                 NOPUTMAIL
                  or
                 NOPUTNEWS
                 , then most likely some of
  the contents of the Fidonet packet will not be sent. But it will still be
  deleted when the session ends! (again – to prevent sending out the same
  e-mail and articles twice)

  So, if you do mail and news in seperate NetGate sessions, use the

                 KEEPFIDOPACKETS
                  keyword until the final session. Or, use it in every session
  and clean up your Fidonet outbound directory by hand when you're done.

The WAIT command line argument will help you here. See the
                  Usage
                    section for a description of this.

- Breaking via Ctrl-C

  It is possible to interrupt NetGate by pressing Ctrl-C, but it is not
  entirely failsafe and may produce a shower of bogus error messages. The
  problem is being looked into.

- The '---' sequence...

  Do not post messages with '---' at the start of any line. NetGate
  recognizes this as the terminating tear line of a FidoNet message and
  then simply skips the rest of the message.

  I will try to make the end-of-message detection code in NetGate somewhat
  more robust in future releases.

- Remember to turn reflowing OFF in your fidonet scanner. Most UseNet
  mailers and news readers do not have reflow capability.

- Dupes

  If you are using
                  Spot
                    (and possibly also other Fidonet readers) then you
  may occationally encounter what looks to be dupes during import. The
  articles in question are NOT dupes however. Due to length limits in the
  dupe checking routine in Spot some articles look identical because the
  first 20-25 characters of their References: identification look identical
  to that of a previously imported article, even if the last part of it
  does not.

  There is no known workaround for this problem, other than to tell Spot to
  toss dupes in BAD in stead of deleting them. Then you still have a chance
  to see the mails and possibly cross reply them into the correct area.

                  Mail Manager
                    should not have such a problem. If the MSGID kludge is
  present it uses that kludge for the dupe checking (there shouldn't be
  two messages with the same MSGID), is the MSGID is not present it
  performs a CRC check on the first 256 bytes of the message.

1.39   Using To:

                  Addressing Internet from FidoNet

The Fidonet To: field has an inherent length limitation of some 36
characters or so. While this is more than enough in FidoNet where the To
field is used only to hold the real name of the recipient, it is nowhere
near enough in the Internet world where the field is used to store e-mail
addresses as well as real names.

To overcome this, NetGate looks in the top of the body of the message for
an alternative "To:" line. If it finds one, it will override the contents
of the native FidoNet to-field with the address it finds after the To:
keyword. This allows you to mail people with arbitrarily long e-mail
addresses.

You may format the To: e-mail address anyway you like as long as part of it
is a valid address in the form 'user@domain'. For example:

To: mberg@post3.tele.dk
To: Michael Berg <mberg@post3.tele.dk>
To: "Michael Berg" <mberg@post3.tele.dk>
To: <mberg@post3.tele.dk>
To: mberg@post3.tele.dk (Michael Berg)

If you use
                Spot
                 or
                Mail Manager
                 you can set all this up automatically, so
that you can enter the e-mail destination address directly in a new field
in the message header GUI when you exit your text editor.

With Mail Manager you can enter the e-mail destination address directly in
the destination address field in the message header GUI which Mail Manager
pops up when you exit your text editor, all you have to do is to enclose the
address within '<' and '>'.

Please consult your Spot or Mail Manager documentation for further details
on how to accomplish this.

1.40   File attach

Attaching Files

NetGate has full support for "gating" between incoming Internet and
outgoing Fidonet file attachments. You can send files using normal Fidonet
file attaching and you can receive files from any MIME multipart compliant
Internet mailer, be it Amiga or PC based. You can send and receive files to
and from PC users using mail software like Eudora or NetScape's Mozilla,
for example.

To attach a file you simply select the "File attach" option of your Fidonet
scanner and select the file to attach. In Spot, for example, you click the
"File Attach" checkbox in the message header, select the file from the file
requester and click Ok. That is all you have to do, NetGate will do the
rest.

Note: While Spot does not support file attaching in echomail areas, other
mailers such as Mail Manager do. NetGate does support file attachments in
echomail areas.

So how does it work? Well, without getting too technical, NetGate uses the
MIME multipart format combined with base64 encoding for outgoing file
attachments. Incoming attachments are recognized if they are in MIME

multipart format, and any base64 encoded part (file) is automatically
decoded and placed in your inbound directory. Several files may be attached
to the same mail or news article, and NetGate will process and decode all
of them.

NetGate also includes a line in the accompanying mail or article, in which
it tells you precisely where it decoded the file.

Note: It is NOT LEGAL to send two or more files with identical filenames
located in different directories. All files sent during a session must have
different filenames, or the wrong files may be sent to the wrong persons.
This is related to the way Fidonet works, not because of restrictions or
limitations in NetGate.

1.41   Maximizing performance

                    Maximizing performance

Polling for UseNet news can sometimes appear to be a very slow procedure.
So slow in fact that at times the modem appears to be completely idle. This
is because the news host's InterNet News Daemon (INNd) is busy changing
newsgroup or retrieving the next article header. Insufficient hardware or
an overloaded host system often has this effect on news clients.

You can compensate at least partly for this by initiating two or more
simultaneous news sessions. When you do this you minimize the chance of
wasting modem bandwidth, because while one session is changing newsgroups,
the other is transferring data, and vice-versa. If you run three or four
simultaneous news sessions you should be pretty well covered as far as
bandwidth utilization is concerned, no matter how slow your news host may
be.

The following example demonstrates the technique. You may use the Run
command to run NetGate three times in the same shell window, but the
displayable log information will be very confusing to look at. So here we
open three new shell windows and execute a NetGate command in each. The
first command gets all new articles in the alt.* hierachy, the second gets
all new articles in the comp.* hierachy and the last one gets new articles
from everything but the alt.* or comp.* hierachies:

1> NetGate logid " alt" nogetmail noputmail noputnews "alt.#?"
2> NetGate logid "comp" nogetmail noputmail noputnews "comp.#?"
3> NetGate logid "othr" nogetmail noputmail noputnews "~(alt|comp).#?"

The LOGID parameter causes session log entries to be prefixed with the
specified string. See the
                  Usage
                   section for more info on the LOGID
parameter.

Note: If you are using the SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER to scan for new newsgroups
you should use the NOSCANNEWGROUPS keyword on all news sessions except the
last one. Otherwise you will receive several identical lists.

If you have a lot of mail traffic, the following may help you as well:

```
1> NetGate nogetnews noputnews nogetmail
2> NetGate nogetnews noputnews noputmail
```

While one session is busy sending out e-mail, the other is receiving
e-mail. Because modem connections are fully duplexed you can do this with
virtually no performance degration. That is, each NetGate session will
finish at approximately the same time as if you had run it alone.

You can of course get really advanced and combine both of the above two
techniques with yet another session where news is sent out (it isn't in any
of the above commands), However, if you do this you need to use the

                 KEEPFIDOPACKETS
                  keyword to make sure NetGate doesn't prematurely delete
your outbound packets. Then, as a part of some global post-session cleanup
procedure, you can manually delete the files from your outbound directory.
The WAIT command line argument will help with that. See the
                 Usage
                  section
for a description of how this might be up.

Experiment for best results.

Finally a word on filter performance. The rule is that collecting news from
a newsgroup matched by any defined filter will be slightly slower than
otherwise. This is because NetGate needs to obtain the headers of
individual articles twice to be able to apply the filters. In future
releases this may change.

If you use
                 spam filtering
                  expect to see some performance loss on those
newsgroups where you have no other filters defined. Already filtered
newsgroups will not suffer.

1.42 Credits

                 Credits

In no particular order I'd like to thank the following individuals for
their helpful assistance:

- Brian Munk Jacobsen (brj@boble.ping.dk) for his inspiring AmiGate utility
  and for assistance with the MIME support, beta testing and suggestions.

- Pino 'Mail Manager' Aliberti for
                 Mail Manager
                  and invaluable beta testing

- The betatesters in general for testing NetGate

- Pieter Hollants (fxmts205@rz.uni-frankfurt.de) for a German installation
  script

- Francesco Dipietromaria (dpm@ns.sinet.it) for an Italian installation
  script

- Holger Kruse for his brilliant Miami TCP/IP protocol stack.

- Nico François for
                Spot
                - Bjarne Riis for winning the Tour

1.43   Registering

                Registering

NetGate is being released under the concept of shareware. All features are
available in the unregistered version, but with a few restrictions:

   - You are presented with a small shareware reminder before each
     NetGate session.

   - There is a 3 second forced delay for each e-mail retrieved.

   - You cannot retrieve news from newsgroups in the alt.* hierachy.

To register your copy of NetGate fill out the registration form and mail
it, along with the registration fee, to me at the address mentioned
                here
                   .

I can only encourage you to register. Development of this program not only
took a lot of time and efford, it also cost me a considerable amount of
money since a great deal of testing had to be done while online. You can
help repay some of that, as well as fund the testing yet to come, by
registering.

By registering you support not only a shareware programmer, but also the
Amiga in general. Quality shareware is one area where the Amiga still has
an edge on other platforms and here is your chance to keep it that way.

1.44   Author

Author info

I may be reached at any of the following addresses:

                E-Mail: mberg@post3.tele.dk (Preferred)

                Fidonet: 2:238/ 24.28
               AmigaNet: 39:140/101.28

             Snail-mail: Michael Berg
                         Lyngens Kvarter 20 st.
                         7400 Herning

```
                              DENMARK
```

If you have comments, suggestions or bug reports, feel free to write
anytime.

1.45   New versions

How to obtain the latest version of NetGate

NetGate is available from any AmiNet mirror, for example ftp.wustl.edu,
ftp.doc.ic.ac.uk or ftp.luth.se. For example:

AmiNet:comm/net/netgt13a.lha

If you prefer a FidoNet File Request, the latest version of the program may
be requested from 2:238/24.0 under the magic name NETGATE.

1.46   History

```
                History
```

Below is a listing of the most signifficant changes in this and previous
versions of the program. The most recent version is listed first.

```
Date          Version   Notes
----          -------   -----

08.12.96      1.3a      Added new
              DECODEATTACHDIR/K/A
                keyword.

                        NNTP authentication fixed. It should now work in every case.

                        Problem with detecting incorrect highwatermarks on
                        the news server fixed. This problem would cause
                        NetGate to retrieve all articles in a newsgroup even
                        though the new highwatermark was set to the last
                        article number in that group. [Rainer Meisel & others]

                        Added some code to compensate for malformed e-mails that do
                        not terminate properly. NetGate 1.3 would choke on this and
                        abort with a timeout error, preventing you to retrieve
                        subsequent mails from the mail server.

                        Added a
                   FAQ section
                    to this document.

06.10.96      1.3       Added automatic notification of new newsgroups as they
                        are created on your news server. See the new

                   NOSCANNEWGROUPS
```

 and
SCANNEWGROUPSFILTER
 keywords.

        When sending e-mails NetGate now includes the e-mail
        address of each receiver in the log output.

        Fixed a bug that could cause mail packets to be deleted
        from your outbound directory if a connection to the news
        or mail server could not be established.

        Added
REPLYTO
 keyword.

        Improved timeout error handling when sending mail.

        Included all-new
NGWatch
 utility.

        Added
TIMEOUT
 preferences keyword (default is 30 seconds)

        Moderated newsgroups have not worked since the
        release which included the new mailing list features.
        Very few people must be using this feature, or it
        would have been reported months ago :-) Fixed.

        NetGate now looks for the configuration file in the
        ConfigPath environment variable and in Mail: before
        giving up. (So the order is: PROGDIR, ENV, ConfigPath,
        Mail:, ENVARC:)

        NetGate did not always escape a single dot (.) on a
        line by itself, which could cause various problems.
        Fixed.

        Added support for NNTP authentication, as required by
        some servers. New keyword:
NNTPAUTH/K/A,USERID/A,PASS/A
.
        Note: Do not use this unless your news server
        actually requires it.

        Enforcer hit when connecting to some SMTP servers fixed.

        Added a
DEBUG
 switch.

        NetGate now uses quoted-printable rather than 8bit encoding
        when posting news articles.

        Normal UseNet news headers are now correctly appended
        when sending mailing list "articles". Previous versions

                              would fail to pick up and include things like organization
                              and x-newsreader.

                              Added support for
                      file attachments
                      . This new facility
                              enables you to send and receive files over the Internet
                              just like normal Fidonet attachments. Uses standard
                              mime multipart and base64 encoding, which allows you
                              to exchange files with PC based software like Eudora
                              and NetScape's Mozilla mailer.

                              Fixed a bug in the tooltype parsing code.

                              Numerous minor bug fixes, optimizations and enhancements.

                              The unregistered version of NetGate now shows the
                              "please register" banner only at the beginning of a
                              session. Further, the forced delay of 5 seconds on
                              incoming and outgoing e-mails has been reduced to a 3
                              second delay only on incoming e-mails. There is no
                              delay on outgoing e-mails.

20.04.96   1.2a   NetGate was unable to handle very long POP3 and SMTP
                      server id strings. Internal buffer size increased. Bug
                      introduced in version 1.2.

                      Added some more information to this guide about Mail
                      Manager and how to configure it for use with NetGate.
                      [Pino Aliberti]

07.04.96   1.2   When importing "articles" to a mailing list area,
                      NetGate now always sets the REPLYADDR field to the
                      poster's address. That should make matrix replies a
                      great deal easier.

                      NetGate would crash the system if an incoming news
                      article had a From: field with '@domain (user name)'
                      (i.e. a malformed address without the username part
                      before the '@'). The routine responsible for this was
                      also called at the wrong time. Fixed. [Lars Lindström]

                      Recompiled with SAS/C 6.56 (was using 6.55 before)

                      The internal "content-transfer-encoding" field was
                      not being cleared between mails, which meant that if
                      you received a MIME encoded mail followed by a mail
                      with no content-transfer-encoding header, NetGate
                      would attempt to de-MIME the latter anyway.

                      Increased internal read buffer size for news imports.
                      This should theoretically improve NNTP performance
                      but the effect may not be that obvious because of
                      slow news servers etc.

                      Rephrased a few log- and status messages

NetGate now examines both the From: and the Reply-to:
lines when checking for mail from a mailing list.

If a mail had an incorrect Lines: header, causing
NetGate to miss the end-of-mail token and a timeout
error to occur, NetGate would flag this as a fatal
error and leave the mail on the POP server for later
retrieval (the error would obviously repeat itself in
every subsequent session). It now only warns about
this and deletes the mail from the mail server
anyway. [Pino Aliberti]

Fixed a major bug in the TCP/IP server interface
routines. An internal character buffer was set too
short and frequently overflowed, causing system
lockups and similar havoc. It has now been quadrupled
to allow for any imaginable scenario.

The Fidonet TOPT kludge now does not not include a
colon. [Pino Aliberti]

The AREA: tag now does not have any blanks between
itself and the Fidonet echomail area name. This
was causing various problems for Mail Manager users
(and others as well, I'm sure). [Pino Aliberti]

When looking for incoming mail to a mailing list,
NetGate was incorrectly examining only the reply
address header line (if present), ignoring the "From"
line. This could cause problems with some mailing
lists. NetGate now looks at both the From:, To: and
the Reply-to: lines when testing a mail for mailing
list relevance. [Lars Lindström]

NetGate refused to send out anything from mailing
list echomail areas if you had not defined a default
reply address. Fixed.

NetGate now uses HELO when sending e-mails. That
should solve the problems some people have reported
to have with various mail servers and put an end
to authentication warnings.

NetGate now knows how to handle ESMTP greetings.

German installation script kindly provided by
Pieter Hollants (fxmts205@rz.uni-frankfurt.de).

Italiano installation script kindly provided by
Francesco Dipietromaria (dpm@ns.sinet.it)

02.03.96   1.1   NetGate was creating fidonet AREA: with an IFNA
                    kludge. This is technically incorrect and would
                    cause some mailers to import echomail into the
                    netmail area. Fixed. [Jonas Kjellin]

                    The log entry for connects to the mail server

incorrectly displayed the name of the news server
in stead of the mail server. Fixed.

Session connect time is now reported.

Fixed a few minor logging problems.

Improved ^C handling.

Mailing list support! (popular request)

Changed shareware restrictions a bit. Please consult
the section on
how to register
 for details.

Internal state machines cleaned up and optimized.

Fixed a bug with moderated newsgroups that could cause
some areas not to be processed for new articles.

Improved timeout code to prevent NetGate from waiting
indefinitely for UseNet news articles in some
situations.

Added a WINDOW tooltype.

NetGate now allows different POP3 and SMTP hosts.
See the new
SMAILHOST
 keyword (also see the old

MAILHOST
 keyword).

One some server types NetGate did not work properly
and typically failed with a shower of very peculiar
error messages. The problem has been identified and a
fix is now in place. [Paul Brownlow and others]

NGCatchup now logs events like NetGate does.

And because of that, NGCatchup no longer has a
VERBOSE template keyword.

Numerous minor fixes and improvements.

Note: From the exceptionally low number of registrations I have
received so far (two, over a two month period), I am beginning to
think that there really is no need for this kind of program. I am
seriously considering to drop any further public releases, because
if nobody feels it's worth buying, then I really don't see why I
should keep spending precious online time testing and developing it
for you guys. I'm not made of money, you know.

24.01.96   1.0   First public release. Enjoy! :)

19.11.95   1.0ß   Internal beta releases

1.47 The NGCatchup Utility

                    Using NGCatchup

NGCatchup is a small utility which is used to maintain the active-file (see
the
                    configuration section
                    ), which contains a list of newsgroups and their
respective highwatermarks (numbers of the last retrieved articles from each
newsgroup).

As explained elsewhere in this document, the active-file is a regular text
file and may be edited using any text editor. However, in most cases you do
not know the range of articles at your news server, so you do not know what
to enter as highwatermarks. This is what the NGCatchup utility is for. It
polls your news server and lets you update your highwatermarks using
numbers relative to the server's own highwatermarks ("set the highwatermark
so I will receive the 20 most recent articles").

NGCatchup may be run from CLI only at the moment. A Workbench/GUI version
is in the works.

When run, NGCatchup first reads your NetGate configuration file to
determine the name of your news host, which newsgroups you subscribe to, et
cetera. It then opens the active file and updates highwatermarks according
to your commandline arguments.

NGCatchup uses the following CLI template:

NGCatchup CONFIG/K,NEWSGROUP/A/M,BELOW/N,NEW/S

The CONFIG parameter allows you to specify the name of NetGate's main
configuration file. It defaults to 'PROGDIR:NetGate.config'.

The obligatory NEWSGROUP argument tells NGCatchup which newsgroup or
newsgroups to process. Wildcards are valid, and "#?" matches all
newsgroups. As indicated by the /M modifier it is possible to enter
multiple arguments, for example:

  NGCatchup NetGate.config "alt.#?" "comp.#?" BELOW 50

  (Note: The quotes are there to allow non-dos shells like Csh to parse the
  line without expanding the arguments)

The BELOW argument tells NGCatchup how many messages below the news
server's own highwater mark you want to set your own highwater mark. In
other words, how many messages you want to receive when you subsequently
poll for news.

  Example:

  NGCatchup NetGate.config "#?" BELOW 50

This will set the highwatermarks of all configured newsgroups to 50 below
the server's internal highwatermarks. When you poll next, you should
receive the last 50 articles in each of the newsgroups you subscribe to.

Note: If your existing highwatermark is higher than (more recent than) 50
below the server highwatermark, it will be set back anyway. This means
you may receive some articles again! See the NEW keyword for a way to
avoid this.

The NEW switch tells NGCatchup never to move your highwatermarks back in
time (i.e. subtract from it). This is especially useful in connection with
the BELOW keyword, for example in a situation like this:

  NGCatchup NetGate.config "#?" BELOW 50 NEW

This will set the highwatermarks of all configured newsgroups to 50 below
the server's internal highwatermarks, but only if your existing
highwatermarks are even older (smaller) than that.

The above example is what you typically do if like me you only poll every
once in a while, like once a week or so. In this case it will set the
highwatermarks so that you receive maximum 50 new articles from every
newsgroup you subscribe to. Highwatermarks for newsgroups which are not
very active and have only received a few new articles will remain
at their current levels. Highwatermarks for very active newsgroups which
have had a flow of more than 50 new articles since you last polled will
be advanced to 50 below the server highwatermarks, skipping all articles
between that and your existing highwatermark.

When you add a new newsgroup to your configuration file, you probably want
to catch up to the most recent articles and threads in that group. You can
do that in the following way:

  NGCatchup NetGate.config "<the name of the new newsgroup>" BELOW 100

Note: To point out the obvious, NGCatchup only updates your newsgroup
highwatermarks. To actually receive articles you need to use NetGate
itself (duh!).

1.48 The NGWatch Utility

             Using NGWatch

NGWatch is a small supplementary program designed to continuously scan for
new incoming e-mail.

When launched NGWatch connects to your mail server, and if it finds any
mail for you it displays a requester and optionally executes a command of
your choice. It subsequently proceeds to scan for new mail at fixed
intervals, displaying a requester and optionally executing another command
as soon as new mail is detected.

NGWatch is a standard Commodities Exchange object and as such may be
controlled via the "Exchange" system utility. The only other way to stop
the program is by running it again (i.e. it works as a toggle or a switch

if you like).

NGWatch will function without the TCP/IP network, in which case it does
nothing. This means that you can launch it from your startup sequence or
from WBStartup even though you may not have started a TCP/IP protocol stack
such as
                    AmiTCP
                     or
                    Miami
                     at that time. NGWatch will only do its stuff when
the TCP/IP network is up.

NGWatch may be run from a CLI or Shell script, or from the Workbench. When
run from Workbench any parameters must be passed via tooltypes, all of
which are provided in template form in the distribution icon.

The following command line template is used:

NGWatch CONFIG/K,NEWMAIL,OLDMAIL,INTERVAL/N,NOREQ/S,WINDOW/K

The CONFIG parameter allows you to specify the name of NetGate's main
configuration file. It defaults to 'PROGDIR:NetGate.config'. Note that if
you put NGWatch in WBStartup you may need to specify the correct location
of the configuration file.

The NEWMAIL parameter is any valid executable shell command. If specified
the command will be executed when new mail on the mail server is detected.
Command redirection is allowed.

The OLDMAIL parameter is any valid executable shell command. If specified
the command is executed if new mail on the server is detected when NGWatch
is first launched. Command redirection is allowed.

The INTERVAL parameter allows you to specify the delay (in seconds) between
mail checks. It defaults to 60 seconds. Values less than 30 seconds are
generally not recommendable.

The NOREQ parameter allows you to suppress all requesters. Useful for
unattended operation.

The WINDOW{uu} parameter allows you to specify the window used to display the ←
    output
from commands executed by NGWatch.

Examples:

1> Run NGWatch oldmail "execute >nil: mail:rexx/import" interval 40

2> Run NGWatch "NetGate >nil: nogetnews noputnews noputmail"

3> Run NGWatch

In the first example NGWatch is used to launch a script called 'import' if
mail is present at the mail server when the program is launched.
Subsequently you will be notified by requester when new mail is ready on
the mail server (but no command is executed).

The second example shows how to retrieve mail as soon as it appears on the mail server. In an actual setup you would probably want to launch your mail scanner and begin the import, too.

The third, very simple example will keep you posted about new mail by using requesters. No commands are executed.

1.49   Tips & Trix

Some ideas for the advanced NetGate user

This section is intended to provide "advanced" users with helpful information on how to use the NetGate in ways which aren't immediately obvious. The section is a bit meager at the moment but as YOU write me with stories on how you managed to do something creative with NetGate I will include these stories here, so others may also benefit from your experiences.

1. Tip: Gating multiple newsgroups into the same fidonet echomail area

It is possible to direct news from different newsgroups into the same echomail area. This is useful in connection with the alt.binaries.* hierachy where you can collect all the files (files, pictures etc) in a single echomail area for easy managing within your Fidonet scanner.

The same tip applies for mailing lists. It is also possible to direct the flow from both mailing lists and newsgroups into the same area.

One thing to bear in mind, however, is that any replies you make to one such "common" echomail area will go to some unpredictable destination. Typically it is the first defined "feeder" into the area, but that may change. So the technique is most useful with areas where you generally do not reply to anything.

1.50   FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When posting news I keep getting a strange message about the date format being incorrect. What do I do?

A: You are using a time zone setting that your news server does not understand. This is often a problem when using Workbench locale. There are a number of possible fixes to this problem, the two most common being:

1. Remove the environment variable ENV:TZ:

    1> Delete env:tz

2. Set the environment to a standard value such as CET or GMT:

    1> setenv TZ "GMT"

Q: How do I get a list of all available newsgroups on my news server?

A: Load in the file NetGate.active and locate the line that reads
   "lastpoll". Change the pseudo highwatermark to 0 so that the line reads:

   lastpoll 0

   Note that you must be using NetGate 1.3 or later for this to work. Also
   note that the available newsgroups will be mailed back to you in the
   form of a very, very, very, very long mail which is going to take a
   very, very, very, very long time to retrieve.

   Alternatively you may opt to talk directly to the news server and ask it
   to list the newsgroups on the console:

   1> letnet my.news.server 119
   ACME News server V99.99 ready
   xgtitle *
   [Huge list of newsgroups appear]

   The '*' above is a wildcard pattern and it allows you to inquire only
   about newsgroups that match whatever search criteria you define. For
   instance, if you only want to know which groups exist in the alt.*
   hierachy you enter 'xgtitle alt.*'.

Q: How do I register?

A: Interestingly enough this seems to be a FAQ. The information is readily
   available in the document "registration form" which is in the
   "registering" directory.

   Q: Isn't $20 a bit much?

   A: No. Anyone who has seen the telephone bills I received during the
      development of NetGate will say that $20 is too little :-)

1.51 NetGate Error Messages

                    Typical NetGate Error Messages

When using NetGate you will undoubtedly receive error messages from time to
time. Most of these should be pretty obvious, but a few deserve a more
detailed description.

No socket.

   This TCP/IP related error message usually means you are running short
   on memory. In any event, the TCP/IP protocol stack cannot create
   a connection handle for use with later mail and news connections.

Unable to locate <mail/news> host.

   The news and/or mail host you have specified in your NetGate
   configuration file does not exist. You probably misspelled it.

Another less likely reason is that the DNS configuration in your TCP/IP
protocol stack is incorrect or that the DNS is down for some reason.

Unable to connect to <mail/news> server.
or
Service currently unavailable at <site>

The news and/or mail host does exist, but does not allow a mail-
and/or news connection to be made at this time. Pick up the phone
and dial your Internet provider and ask them what's going on.

No TCP/IP service available.

NetGate requires a TCP/IP protocol stack such as
          AmiTCP 3+
           or
          Miami
           .
Demo versions of both are available from AmiNet.

Invalid password.
or
Invalid UserID.

The user-id and/or password in your NetGate configuration file are
incorrect. Most likely you've made a typing error.

Note: News- and mail hosts are generally picky regarding case in
usernames and passwords. Be sure to spell your username and password
EXACTLY as instructed by your Internet provider.

Mail error: <error code here>!
or
News error: <error code here>!

Something's gone completely haywire during transmission. Re-run
NetGate with the same parameters, and if that does not fix things try
shutting down and restarting the TCP/IP connection before attempting
again.
See the
          Bugs section
           for some possible alternative reasons.

Unable to create inbound fidonet packet.

NetGate can't create a Fidonet packet. Most likely you misspelled the
name of the Fidonet inbound directory in the NetGate configuration
file. Alternatively it may be one of the more trivial errors such as
insufficient disk space, write-protected disk etc.

Group highwatermark incorrect on news host

This warning may appear during news polling and indicates that the
highwatermark for the current newsgroup points to an article which for
some reason no longer exists on the news server (news articles are
deleted regulary to free up disk space).

After this message NetGate begins to scan the newsgroup to find the
next valid article. This takes a short while and is concluded with the
following acknowledgement:

Group highwatermark changed from <X> to <Y>

Where X represents the previous highwatermark and Y the new one located
by NetGate.

Group session limit reached, articles may remain.

If you define a bytecount-limit for a newsgroup (see the
            NEWSGROUP
                configuration keyword in the
            configuration section
            ), you will get this
warning when approximately said amount of bytes have been retrieved,
and NetGate will proceed to the next newsgroup.

You may receive the remainder of articles (or the next chunk of
articles) by polling again.

Warning: Null operation.

You have activated NetGate with a set of command line arguments that
tell NetGate not to do anything at all. I.e. not deliver or retrieve
either news or mail. What were you thinking? :-)

Note: It is possible to invoke NetGate with only the WAIT parameter.
See the
            Usage
             section for a description of the WAIT parameter.

1.52 Miami

Excerpts from the Miami docs:

Introduction
****

   Miami is an integrated TCP/IP system for AmigaDOS, that allows you
to access the Internet by modem in a very simple way.

   Miami is based on the latest version (4.4BSD V2) of the official BSD
networking code, i.e. Miami contains a "true" and complete TCP/IP
stack, not just an emulation that only supports parts of the TCP/IP
standard.

   The application programmers' interface of Miami is compatible with
that of AmiTCP 4.x (bsdsocket.library), i.e. most of the programs
written and compiled for AmiTCP 4.x will work with Miami without any
modification and without recompiling.

   In addition, Miami has a built-in dialer that can be used both in
script-driven and interactive mode, an implementation of the (C)SLIP

and PPP protocols, a graphical user interface for program control and
configuration.

    Miami also has a built-in implementation of inetd, the "Internet
super-server", with several built-in services including "fingerd" and
"identd", a built-in implementation of TCP:, the AmigaDOS stream
handler for TCP/IP, and a built-in implementation of usergroup.library,
the interface to manage users and user groups.

    Unlike other general-purpose protocol stacks Miami is specifically
targetted towards users who use a modem to access the Internet. The
configuration process is made as simple as possible: most of the
configuration parameters are determined by Miami automatically. Miami
also supports preconfigured settings that can be distributed by
Internet providers.

    Miami uses MUI 3.3 or higher for its user interface, i.e. you must
have MUI installed before you can use Miami.

[...]

Usage / Copying
****

    Miami is shareware. In this case this means that a personalized key
file is required to use the full functionality of Miami.

[...]

Support
****

    There are several ways to get technical support, updates etc.:

email
     kruse@mail.nordicglobal.com

snail mail
     Holger Kruse
     12006 Coed Drive
     Orlando FL 32826
     USA

WWW
     http://www.nordicglobal.com/Miami.html

mailing list
     send "SUBSCRIBE miami-ml" in the body of a mail to
     "amiga-lists@mail.nordicglobal.com".

1.53 AmiTCP

From the AmiTCP FAQ:

4> Where can I get AmiTCP?

AmiTCP is available from several places:

Any Aminet mirror :- ftp.wustl.edu, ftp.doc.ic.ac.uk and ftp.luth.se
And from: ftp.demon.co.uk, ftp.funet.fi via Anonymous FTP.

    Aminet:comm/net/AmiTCP-demo-40.lha

    ftp.funet.fi:pub/amiga/net

The home site for AmiTCP is kampi.hut.fi:AmiTCP/ and this is where the
current version is available from.

5> Where is the AmiTCP Documentation?

The documentation is included in the commercial version of AmiTCP/IP.

6> How can I order the commercial version of AmiTCP/IP?

Read the file "HowToOrder" included into the AmiTCP/IP 4.0 demo version
archive.

7> Where is the list of AmiTCP applications?

These are available from gopher:

    <gopher://gopher.tky.hut.fi/00/.publish/puhuri/AmiTCP/NetAppList.txt>

and World Wide Web:

    <http://www.hut.fi/~puhuri/Amiga/NetAppList.html>

Updates to this list should be mailed to:

<Markus.Peuhkuri@hut.fi>

8> What is the latest version of AmiTCP?

The latest release version is AmiTCP 4.0 demo version. The commercial
version of AmiTCP/IP will be available in November 1994.

9> How do I contact the AmiTCP author's?

The AmiTCP author's can be Contacted via email at: amitcp-group@hut.fi

----

Please only contact the group on AmiTCP matters, if you have a problem with
a client or a server with AmiTCP contact the author of that program.

1.54 Spot

Spot

Spot is just about the best Fidonet mail scanner/tosser available for any
platform. It combines tonnes of powerful features with a flexible and easy
to use graphical user interface. If you are a Fidonet point, there's just
no way around Spot.

With NetGate, Spot suddenly becomes equally superior for reading UseNet
news. That's partly why I wrote it :-)

Anyways, here's a bit from the Spot documentation file:

Features
****

* Requires Kickstart 2.04 or higher.
* Supports new 3.0 features (newlook menus, memory pools,...).
* Fully localized (Workbench 2.1 or higher).
* Style Guide compliant.
* Supports all current and future monitor modes.
* Completely font-sensitive, user may select which fonts to use.
* Keyboard short-cuts for most menus and gadgets.
* All settings can be easily changed from within Spot.
* Fast importing/exporting.
* Automatically creates new areas for you, no tedious work.
* Special fast message base format with only a few files per area.
* Optional - fully transparent - message base crunching.
* Message list with powerful functions (e.g. search body text).
* Message thread linking based on subject and MSGID kludge.
* Excellent support for multiple character sets (LATIN-1, IBM,...).
* Built-in, fully asynchronous, Fido file request.
* Multi-bossing and multi-domain capable.
* Userlist editor. Every domain has its own userlist.
* ARexx port.
* Clock

Some of these features are only available in the registered version.

Author Info
****

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        Corbielaan 13
        B-3060 Bertem
        Belgium

        Internet: <nico@augfl.be>
                  <nico.francois@scala.com>
        FidoNet : 2:292/603.10

```
      AmigaNet: 39:120/102.10
```

```
   "And the lake sings,
    And the dogs don't,
    They are quiet for Adda Lee" - Frank Black
```

1.55   Mail Manager

```
Mail Manager
```

```
Like Spot, Mail Manager is another excellent Fidonet package that you must
be sure to try out if you are a Fidonet point. It is functionally more
sophisticated than Spot and has an array of options that undoubtedly makes
it the preferred choice for advanced Fidonet users. It is a fast, reliable
scanner that will work very well with NetGate.
```

```
From the Mail Manager documentation:
```

```
    Mail  Manager  is  a  Full Integrated Tosser, Scanner, Editor and Tick
    Processor for Nodes and Points using the Amiga Computer.
```

```
    The  Mail Manager project was born two years ago with one big aim:  to
    create the Mail Management Program that Amiga users have always dreamt
    about:   easy  to use as Spot, complete as EMS, smart and intuitive as
    Point  Manager.  I don't know if Mail Manager has already reached this
    aim,  but  I've worked a great deal on it and I hope you will like the
    result.
```

```
    Mail  Manager uses the MagicUserInterface (MUI) by Stefan Stuntz, this
    gives to Mail Manager a unique Graphical User Interface.
```

```
  Features
 ----------
```

```
    Mail Manager...
```

```
    ... is able to manage both a Point or a Node in Fidonet Technology.
    ... is able to manage Tick Files.
    ... is able to manage Echo File Attached.
    ... is able to automatically create new Echo Areas.
    ... is able to manage 4 different types of message bases.
    ... is able to manage 3 different types of Mail Packets.
    ... is able to use full 5 dimensional addressing.
    ... has a powerful ARexx interface.
    ... has a powerful OnLine Help.
    ... has a powerful Threads management.
    ... has a powerful NetMail Routing management.
    ... has a powerful support for UUCP gates.
    ... has incredibly powerful Search/Sort/Show functions.
    ... has powerful Quoting routines.
    ... supports multiple character sets.
    ... supports the Nodelist and the Userlist.
    ... uses fast Memory Pools functions.
    ... uses fast asynchronous I/O functions.
```

```
        ... is a  MUI  Application !!!!
        ... is fully localized ( Kickstart 2.1 or higher).
        ... is Faaaaaaaast.  Up to 3 times faster than Spot or EMS.
        ... is easy to configure.
        ... has many many other features !

Author info:

-------------------------------------------------------------
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 67016 Paganica (AQ) ITALY    Amiganet: 39:102/10.0@amiganet
-------------------------------------------------------------
```