

Default

COLLABORATORS

	<i>TITLE :</i> Default		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY		January 2, 2023	

REVISION HISTORY

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Chapter 1

Default

1.1 AntiAlias v1.4 © 1994 Stuart `Stoo' Clark / DA

```
AntiAlias for Max's BBS by Stuart 'Stoo' Clark
for /X\|dn|ght</\LLer BBS

Version 1.4 © Digital Access November 1994
All Digital Access coding is done in 100% Assembler

Disclaimer

What is AntiAlias?

Installation

Before Polling

After Importing

Other information

About MidnightCaller
Documentation co-written by Bardia 'Budds' Housman
```

1.2 AntiAlias v1.4 © 1994 Stuart `Stoo' Clark / DA

Disclaimer

Neither Stuart Clark or Digital Access take responsibility for the performance of these programs. All outcome is at users own risk, however all our programs have been thoroughly tested and we find them more than reliable to use and hereby offer them to all our fellow sysops who may find our programs useful.

All programs must be distributed within this archive, except for BBSscans which may be freely spread if kept within it's own archive.

No money should ever be charged for this software. Permission for inclusion in any other distribution must be granted by the owners of the copyright.

Apart from that.. ENJOY!! :)

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AntiaAlias, What is it?

At MidnightCaller BBS we give our users the freedom of using an alias instead of their real name. At the same time we store the users real name in the comment string in MAX's User Editor.

When it comes to the rules and regulations that must be obeyed in conjunction to receive Max's Net, AA is the perfect utility! It searches through the packets of Max's BBS, finds an alias and converts it to the users real name, before you sent it off to the hub. But the power of AA doesn't stop here.

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Installation

The installation process is very simple, it will require three things.

Copying the files across

Modifying MAX's config

Giving each user a real name

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Copying the files across

You may put AntiAlias anywhere on your harddrive, But you must assign the directory that the files are in as AA:

eg. Assign AA: BBS:Doors/AntiAlias/

You are supplied with AA_BeforePoll and AA_AfterImport. Each one has a few significant rolls.

The AntiAlias distribution archive whould contain the following.

AA_BeforePoll - Program to run before polling

AA_AfterImport - Program to run after importing messages
AntiAlias.guide - What you are reading now
Sample.script - A sample script to look at
ResetAllComments.exe - Program to reset all comment strings

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Modifying MAX's config

To make sure the packets don't get archived until you poll the hub, go to your distribution config in Max's and take away the LZH tick away from all of them except for the top one that tells the BBS which sections go with which phone number. The 'Sect' field that contains something like 101, 102 or 103 should have LZH ticked.

(Note: This is no longer necessary as AntiAlias Version 1.4 checks messages to see if they have been converted already, and if so it will simply ignore them).

Now you've come to the time where you want to poll the hub, you should write a script if this gets done every morning, otherwise to do it manually run the above line and THEN force fido.

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Giving each user a real name

On a board where every user is using an alias for their user name, you should still keep track of who people are. At MidnightCaller we place the users real name, into their comment string in the user editor. Since AntiAlias requires these comment strings to have real name in them, you will have to make sure that this is the case.

Supplied in this distribution is BBSscan, which can display a lot of things about your users. One thing it can do is give a list of all your users names and comment strings. You should use this program to find out which users do not have a real name in their comment string, and edit that comment string to show their real name, OR to have nothing OR to have a question mark '?'.

If every single one of your users has a comment and not a real name in the comment string, then you should record the current information with BBSscan (see above). Also supplied in this distribution is a utility called:

ResetAllComments.exe

Use this program to change every users comment string to "?".

NOTE: All net messages from a user with a '?' for a real name will be deleted from the packet.

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AA_BeforePoll

This is the program that converts the alias' to real names in Max's packets.

To use simply type:

```
AA_BeforePoll [-a] <PacketName>
```

Where -a is for Automatic processing (see below). In our case it is:

```
AA:AA_BeforePoll -a BBS:FidoNet/Outbound/3.30002.50.0/3.30002.50.0.pkt
```

It's easier if you make a script instead of typing out the line above! (Check out Sample.script in the distribution)

What Packets?

Please note that AA_BeforePoll can only operate on packets that haven't been archived. So if you re-archive your packets everytime someone writes a msg then you have to make some small changes to your config so the BBS only archives the packets just prior sending them to the hub.

To make sure the packets don't get archived until you poll the hub, go to your distribution config in Max's and take away the LZH tick away from all of them except for the top one that tells the BBS which sections go with which phone number. The 'Sect' field that contains something like 101, 102 or 103 should have LZH ticked.

Now you've come to the time where you want to poll the hub, you should write a script if this gets done every morning, otherwise to do it manually run the above line and THEN force fido.

A script is supplied for converting.

YOU CAN NOT DO THIS TO THE NETMAIL.PKT, since it is structured a little differently. See

Other information
for more on this.

Output

When you run the program you will see on the screen what is happening, the program will also output a report file in your AA: assigned directory called AA_BeforePoll.Report. Information on the message include: date, TO (read below) and FROM.alias --> FROM.real name.

TO.alias --> TO.realname

Another feature of AA_BeforePoll is, besides changing the person's alias that wrote the message to their real name, it will also look at the person that the message is TO and it will change their name to their real name so just incase they use their real name on another BBS, they get the msg.

No Real Name (Comment)

When it looks into the comment string for a user, it expects to find their real name, but if it finds a ? or a null (no string) then it will ask the sysop to manually enter the name. If a name is not entered at all then the message can be deleted. A prompt will ask if you would like to delete that particular message, saying no will require you to enter the user's real name manually.

Automatic Option (-a)

There is an Automated option, which will delete all messages where the user has no real name. This option is particularly good for inclusion in a script, to execute before polling. There is no user interaction with option set, so you would need to be sure that most or all of your users have a real name in the comment string, else alot of messages will be deleted from the packet. BUT it is good for those SYSOPS who wish not to poll anytime or get up early in the morning and watch this program convert names. :)

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AA_AfterImport

You have polled the hub, have imported all the messages and they are now in your message base. But what use is a message that's say addressed to: Stuart Clark, when he uses the alias Stoo on the BBS. This is where AA_AfterImport comes in.

It's very simple to operate, all you have to do is run:

```
AA:AA_AfterImport
```

AA_AfterImport will scan each message and will change the FROM field to an alias if the real name it is from exists on your BBS. Another feature of it is that it changes the TO field as well if the real name addressed to exists on your BBS.

Output

All output that is displayed on the screen during conversion, is

also sent to AA:AA_AfterImport.report for viewing later. Output from this program for each message include: message no., section no. and section name, FROM.realname (--> FROM.alias if they are on your bbs) and TO.realname --> TO.alias.

Data file

Please note that AA_AfterImport maintains a file called AA.data that is stored in the AA: assigned directory. This contains the last message in your message.data that was checked by AA_AfterImport and the message number is stored as a binary number. Do not touch this file. This file will have to be deleted if you restart you message base.

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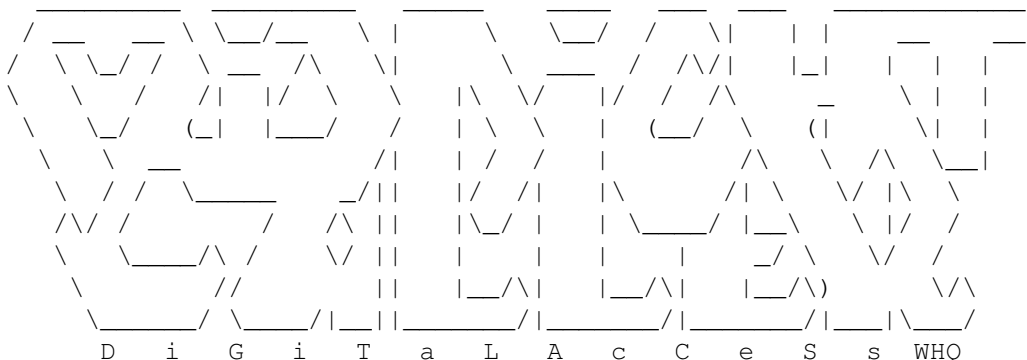
Other information

Netmail seems to be in a different format to that of normal packets, and at no time should AntiAlias be used on it. Since a netmail message is a private message anyway, using an alias name in it should not effect anyone else, hence the net moderator probably wont ever see the message.

Problems?

Anyway that's about all that I can think of at the moment about AntiAlias. It's a great program and we've had a lot of Max's sysops that like to give their users the freedom of using an alias asking about it. I've never come across a bug in the program, but should you ever have any problems, notice any bugs or have any questions/suggestions about it contact Stuart or myself on MidnightCaller BBS.

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SySopS - Budds `n` Stoo
