

## **Blitz-Bulletin - A Bulletin reader for DLG**

**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> Blitz-Bulletin - A Bulletin reader for DLG		
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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Blitz-Bulletin - A Bulletin reader for DLG</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Blitz-Bulletin documentation . . . . .	1
1.2	What is this funky thing? . . . . .	1
1.3	How do I run this thing? . . . . .	2
1.4	The sysop editor . . . . .	2
1.5	Program status . . . . .	3
1.6	History of this program . . . . .	3

## Chapter 1

# Blitz-Bulletin - A Bulletin reader for DLG

### 1.1 Blitz-Bulletin documentation

```
B l i t z - B u l l e t i n
```

```
v1.2
```

```
(c) P. Eastham, 1995
```

```
What is it?
```

```
Setting up
```

```
Program status
```

```
Program history
```

```
!! IMPORTANT !!
```

```
You MUST edit each bulletin you have set-up. This is REQUIRED to seed  
several values in the data file which are new to v1.2!
```

### 1.2 What is this funky thing?

Blitz-Bulletin is a program which allows you to display upto 17 bulletins to your users. Features include:

- o It operates independantly of DLG's normal bulletin system.
  - o You can have as many 'sets' of bulletins as you like.
  - o Can attach a file to each bulletin. (registered only)
  - o Can set an amount of time the user must wait before they can proceed after reading a bulletin (Forced reading time!). (registered only)
  - o On-Line configuration for the sysop (Except adding of file attach).
  - o Keeps track of the date of last change to a bulletin.
  - o Keeps track of the number of times a bulletin has been read.
  - o Forces a user to read ALL bulletins before they can exit.
  - o Can display colour and many of DLG's %-Switches in the bulletin body.
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- o Can run a command after displaying a bulletin.
- o Can set a range of access levels needed to view a bulletin.

### 1.3 How do I run this thing?

To set-up Blitz-Bulletin, create a directory anywhere you wish. ↔

Put the

Blitz-Bulletin executable in this directory. Call Blitz-Bulletin as follows:

```
<path>/Blitz-Bulletin [SYSOP]
```

Blitz-Bulletin uses a system call to determine where it is, and then uses that path as the path for all the data files. This allows you to have as many copies of Blitz-Bulletin running at once, as long as they are in different directories.

By using the SYSOP parameter, you are taken to the  
sysop editor

.

You can run Blitz-Bulletin from your login.(dlg)batch, or from a menu, or both.

### 1.4 The sysop editor

When you run Blitz-Bulletin in the sysop mode, you are presented with a screen showing all possible bulletins. If no bulletin has been defined, then you are told that the bulletin is blank.

By choosing a letter, you are taken to the edit menu. The options are:

[1] Title:	Here you can edit the title of the bulletin.
[2] Read:	Here you can change the number of times it has been read.
[3] Attached:	Select or clear an attached file.
[4] Edit body of bulletin	Allows you to actually edit the bulletin.
[5] & [6]	Set the forced reading delay and format.
*[7] Optional command	Set the optional command to be run after viewing the bulletin.
[8] Change view access	Allows you to set the view access range.
[9] Kill this bulletin	Kill the bulletin and its data file.
[M] Return to main menu	Obvious!

\* NOTE: Check the optional command works correctly before putting the bulletin on-line. I have found some commands do NOT return, causing the port to hang.

The optional command is usefull to run, for example, a config program when you change something. A good example of this would be to change the list of computer types, post a bulletin with an optional command running Blitz-Config to change the users computer type.

The 'Dot progressive' forced delay option simply displays a dot each second of the delay.

When changing the view access range, you can set the low and high access level's required to view the bulletin. Only one range per bulletin is supported.

If you are calling from a remote site, you will not be able to add an attached file to a bulletin, but you will be able to clear it.

When editing your bulletin, you can include many of the DLG %-Switch codes. This is especially usefull for displaying ANSI colour's in your bulletin.

When you choose to return to main menu (option M), Blitz-Bulletin checks to see if any changes were made, and if so, saves the changes out to disk. At this point you are asked if you wish to reset the user-read list. Choosing yes will make all users have to read the bulletin again.

You are then asked if you wish to kill the backup file of the old bulletin. If you are editing an existing bulletin, a copy is made before you start editing. If you choose not to kill the file, the old bulletin will remain as a .bak file in the data directory.

## 1.5 Program status

Blitz-Bulletin is shareware! It is part of the Blitz-Utills package.

In the unregistered version file attaches and forced reading delay's have been disabled. As with most of my products, users with an access level of 255 can run the program in registered form, even if they haven't got a keyfile.

The cost is US\$20, or US\$15 if you have registered the M-Tag package.

Please send only CASH, cheque, or American Express money order. DO NOT send international money order's!

You can report bugs/enhancement ideas to me at:

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Windale, NSW, 2306	
Australia	(Snail-mail)

## 1.6 History of this program

Version 1.0 - First public release.

Version 1.1 - Now displays a different pre-prompt line if all bulletins have been read.  
- Fixed a bug that wouldn't clear the attached file if you

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- pressed [RETURN] instead of 'Y'.
- Fixed a bug which would crash the machine if you attempted to download an attached file on a local port.
- Made note of colour capabilities in feature list!
- Now prints all bulletin slots, leaving them blank if no bulletin has been installed there.

- Version 1.2
- Set maximum length of attached file specification to 69 characters.
  - Can now run an optional command for each bulletin.
  - Now has 4 different types of forced reading delay messages.
  - Now asks before updating the 'Date Posted' field.
  - Can now set a range of access level people need to view bulletin.
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