

Silver Xpress Off-Line Mail/Fax/Forms System

User's Guide

Version 4.00

Disclaimer

Although Santronics Software has taken every precaution to prevent abnormal behavior of the Silver Xpress Mail System, Santronics Software will not guarantee total satisfaction. Santronics Software will not be responsible for any damages or mishaps to your system. Should the program be defective in any way, YOU (not Santronics Software) assume full responsibility for any damage which may result.

SANTRONICS SOFTWARE EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY WARRANTIES OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND MERCHANTABILITY.

Copyright and Trademark

The Silver Xpress Off-Line Mail System software and its documentation are copyrighted materials. Santronics Software reserves all rights to these materials under United States law and international copyright conventions which are not expressly granted to the user. No part of this material may be reproduced, reversed engineered, cloned or modified in any way without obtaining prior expressed written permission of Santronics Software

Opus Xpress, Silver Xpress, Gold Xpress, Xpress Windows, Xpmail, XpAdm, Xpread, Xpuser, Xpcfg, XpEdt, Xpfiles and the file extensions OPX and REP, in relationship to off-line e-mail systems, are industry trademarks of Santronics Software.

Opus, PKZIP/PKUNZIP, ARJ, LHARC, Telix, Maximus, Remote Access, QuickBBS, Fido BBS, WildCat, TBBS, TAG, RBBS, SEARCHLIGHT, PCBoard, IBM DOS, MS-DOS, OS/2, AmigaDOS, GAP, Windows 3.x, TheDraw, CC:MAIL, Da Vinci, Novell, Word, Word Perfect, Qedit, John Hancock are copyrighted by their respective owner or company.

LICENSE AGREEMENT

Any use of the product at all constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Santronics Software reserves all rights that are not expressly granted or necessarily implied by those rights which are expressly granted.

The law of the United States and of the State of Florida shall be controlling and the courts of the United States and the State of Florida shall have exclusive jurisdiction to the maximum extent permitted by international law and the law of the United States.

The Silver Xpress Mail System is fully copyrighted and is not in the public domain, nor is it "Free Ware". It is distributed under the concept of software distribution known as "shareware" which allows users to try a program package to see if it meets their needs before paying for it. Continued use beyond the authorized evaluation period requires payment of the registration fee.

Santronics Software grants an unlimited license to make and distribute unregistered copies of Xpress versions that have been released by Santronics Software, but no modification at all may be made to the program or documentation files. The only permitted modification is a change in the method of archiving. No fee may be charged by anyone other than Santronics Software for copies of Xpress, beyond the actual cost of providing such copies, without the expressed written permission of Santronics Software.

Santronics Software grants a limited license to use this product for an evaluation period of thirty (30) days. Use of this product for more than 30 days requires payment of the registration fee. Santronics Software grants to registered users an "unlimited" license to use this product, subject to the following:

- Registration is not refundable or transferable.

- Copies of registered Xpress program files may not be distributed.

- Original copyrights must be maintained and not altered.

- Unofficial software patches must not be not applied.

- The software executable files must not be tampered with in any way.

- Registration shall be automatically voided without notice by any act which is inconsistent with the rights of Santronics Software with respect to the product; i.e., purchasing the product for cloning or reverse engineering purposes. This WILL NOT be permitted and will be strongly addressed.

To Clara

Introduction to the Silver Xpress Mail System

Welcome! You have just taken your first step in using the most advanced electronic mail system available today - the *Silver Xpress Mail system!*

Silver Xpress (SX) was first designed in early 1988 as a means to automatically retrieve electronic mail from remote host services, commonly known as Bulletin Board Systems (BBS), to read mail off-line on your Personal Computer. At the same time, SX allows you to create replies and new messages, at your leisure, to later send back to the BBS.

This process, called Off-line Mailing, saves you countless hours of on-line time, and results in a tremendous reduction in phone charges. This makes Silver Xpress a very cost-effective product, and the payoff is usually realized immediately.

Required Background

To understand Silver Xpress, you will need a minimal knowledge about telecommunications software, compression software, the DOS operating system such as subdirectories, and the basic components of your computer - i.e., RAM memory, hard disk, floppy disk, keyboard, monitor, etc.

You do not need to know anything about remote host systems other than the Silver Xpress Mail System being offered on the host system.

Conventions

During the course of this manual, many references will be made to certain definitions or symbols. Most of the definitions can be found in the glossary in the appendix.

<cr>	Hit carriage return or ENTER
[]	optional parameter
< >	required parameter
%1	parameter number 1
%s	substituted parameter

NEW USER If this is the first time you are installing Silver Xpress, and you never saw Silver Xpress in action, we recommend reading "How Silver Xpress works" below. This should give a quick overview of the basic operations of the Silver Xpress Mail System.

EXPERIENCED USER If you're a veteran Silver Xpress sysop, you can jump to the installation section.

Keep in mind, Silver Xpress was designed for many bulletin boards and although each BBS works and operates in similar ways, there are dramatic differences for each model. Fortunately, the Silver Xpress Mail system is consistent on all BBS types. The Silver Xpress Reader program is the same. There is only one model of the reader, and this model works with all the different Silver Xpress Mail Systems specifically written for each Bulletin Board Service.

How Silver Xpress Works

The Silver Xpress Mail System is a system of 5 parts:

On-Line Service: This is the bulletin board system or BBS such as Remote Access, PCBoard, Maximus, RoboBoard, ProBoard, Opus, RBBS, QBBS, Wildcat, TAG or any other on-line remote host program on which the Silver Xpress QWK/OPX Mail Door, or a non-Silver Xpress, QWK-based Mail Door can be found.

Telecommunications Program: This is the program used to call the on-line BBS system to download and upload Xpress mail packets.

Silver Xpress Mail Door: This is the Silver Xpress BBS add-on program known as a door program, which is the first main component of Silver Xpress. It scans and packs mail, and allows you to download what is called the Xpress Mail Packet, a file with the extension OPX or QWK. Conversely, the mail door allows you to upload Xpress reply packets, (REP files). which is mail you created.

Silver Xpress Mail Reader: This is the second main component of the Silver Xpress mail system. This program is used to read mail off-line, and to create new mail and replies to send back to the mail door.

File Compression/Expansion Utilities: These include PKZIP, LHARC, ARJ, PAK and similar utilities. Within the mail door, you will have the option to select which is the preferred method to compress and expand mail. These utilities are offered by the sysop or administrator of the Silver Xpress Mail Door. Conversely, you must have the same utility to expand mail on your PC.

To make Xpress work for you, you will need 3 of the 5 parts:

Telecommunication program. Check off one of the following. If you have one of these or another communication package, you will be able to call a remote host and download Xpress mail.

TERMINATE	QMODEM
MS-Windows Terminal	TELIX
PROCOMM	CROSSTALK
TELEMATE	COMMO

Silver Xpress Mail Reader

File Compression/Expansion utility. If you have any one of the following 3rd party programs, you will be able to save lots of money by compressing your mail.

PKZIP/PKUNZIP	ARJ	LHARC or LHA	ZOO
ARC	PAK	PKPAK/PKUNPAK	

NOTE: You may purchase the PKZIP/PKUNZIP utility from Santronics Software directly, at a substantial discount, as a registered user of Silver Xpress.

Once you have these programs, you need to understand what would be the basic flow or operation in using Silver Xpress: The chart below illustrates the steps in the normal usage of Silver Xpress.

Usage Steps

Step 1 Use your favorite communication program to call the remote host or bulletin board. Log in by using your login name and password.

Step 2 The bulletin board will offer a menu which will say "OFF-LINE READER" or "XPRESS MAIL". If the BBS offers the Silver Xpress Mail Door or a QWK mail door system, you can begin to scan for new mail. These mail doors will compress, and begin to send, all new mail available to you. *The Silver Xpress Mail Door will allow you to "massage" the mail to reduce*

its size by using the Silver Xpress Flex Commands. The mail door will create a file, called a Mail packet. It will have an extension of OPX (for QWK systems, the extension will be QWK).

Once you finish downloading the mail packet, you may send any mail you have created from a previous session. When you are finished sending/receiving mail, log off the BBS, and proceed to step 3.

Step 3 Use the Silver Xpress Reader to unpack the downloaded mail packet, and begin reading the mail at your leisure. If you create or reply to mail, or you wish to once again download new mail, you simply restart the process and repeat step 1.

Why Silver Xpress?

If you ever call remote host systems to read electronic mail, or if you work in a business environment where your computer is linked in any way to other computers, it is likely you communicate with your co-workers or friends using an electronic mail system. Electronic mail systems are one of the fastest growing industries in the world. Everyone, whether for hobby or business, wants to communicate electronically! It is no longer a local practice. Electronic Mail holds no international barriers.

Silver Xpress is an electronic mail system which is guaranteed to save you or your business thousands of dollars but, more importantly, improve the effectiveness of your communications.

The Silver Xpress Mail System is a very effective alternative to the traditional text screen capturing method of electronic mail. Without Silver Xpress, you would have to instruct your communication program to capture incoming information with little or no control on the amount or selection of mail. Silver Xpress automates the entire process for you in an extremely easy to use fashion.

But Silver Xpress offers more than an electronic mail reading system. Silver Xpress is a batch mail, fax and data entry system. Batch means you can do all your reading or creation of information, "Off-Line", without being tied into a distant computer and, with the push of a button, you can send the information you created to the distant computer. This type of system is called "Store and Forward". With Silver Xpress, you can create and *store* mail, or a fax, or data entry information while on your PC, and later *forward* the information to the main host computer for processing.

Silver Xpress is an excellent Store and Forward system for (but not limited to):

Hobby or Professional BBS users and subscribers.

Retail organizations who wish to offer mail, fax and order entry capabilities for their sales force.

Educators who wish to offer mail, fax and homework questionnaires to their students electronically.

Or for anyone or organization wishing to save countless dollars in the electronic mail world! By far, Silver Xpress offers the best in electronic mail systems and integration.

Silver Xpress is - The leader in Off-line Mail Systems!

What Mail Can Silver Xpress Read?

The Silver Xpress Mail system is capable of supporting multiple mail formats. Currently, two formats have been defined with more formats to be supported in the future:

OPX Silver Xpress Mail Format.

QWK Mail format found on PCBOARD and other BBS systems.

OPX SUPPORT:

The Silver Xpress Reader supports the X.2X (X dot 2 X) mail format for Silver Xpress Mail systems. Any BBS offering the Silver Xpress Mail Door System version 2.20 or greater, is supported by the Silver Xpress Reader.

QWK SUPPORT:

Silver Xpress directly supports QWK mail packets. This allows you to benefit from the power of the Silver Xpress Mail Reader for non-Silver Xpress QWK mail systems.

QWK mail formats are not very flexible, so please keep in mind, many features may be disabled with the Silver Xpress Mail Reader when opening a QWK mail packet.

NOTE: QWK mail packets can be different from system to system. Silver Xpress is designed to understand QWK mail formats as originally designed in the QMAIL System developed by Mark Herring of SparkWare. There are many QWK systems that are derived from QMAIL, and are not entirely compatible to QMAIL. If you have problems with a QWK mail packet, and it is from a system running a program other than QMAIL, the problem is likely with the format of the mail from the system, and not a problem with the Silver Xpress Reader.

QWK mail files use the file extension QWK. If you want to support QWK, make sure you define the packet specification in the MAIL LOCATION configuration section, to include the *.Q?? file specification. The default specification is *.Q?? *.O??

Future Formats under consideration:

In the future, Silver Xpress will consider support for commercial mail formats such as MHS. MHS is a mail format found mostly on LAN systems. It was invented by Novell for its electronic mail system. Other future formats will include MAPI and VIM. (Support for MAPI and VIM will debut in Windows Silver Xpress).

Technical Support

The support policy behind Silver Xpress and Santronics Software is simple:

*If you are not happy, we are not happy!
We will do whatever it takes to make sure
you are satisfied with **Silver Xpress!***

That is the bottom line with Santronics Software. *Quality Support!*

We offer the following:

CompuServe Support: Santronics Software has a CompuServe Section in forum PCVENJ (GO PCENVJ). This section is devoted to supporting Silver Xpress for customers around the globe. All updates, patches and upgrade information and files will be made available in the Santronics Software CompuServe Library section of PCVENJ. If you are not a member of CompuServe, as a registered customer of Silver Xpress, you are entitled to a \$15 credit to become a CompuServe member. For more information, contact Santronics Software.

The Xpress Support Mail Conference is available on the FidoNet Backbone. We highly recommend finding a BBS which offers the Xpress User Support Conference. Many times, one question answered to a specific user helps others with similar questions, and there is no better way to do it than with the Xpress Support Mail Conference. The FidoNet echo tag for this conference is XPRESS_SUPPORT.

For System Operators, there is the XPRESS_SYSOP Conference on the Fido Net Backbone. We highly recommend all BBS operators to link up with this echo to get support for the Silver Xpress Mail Door.

FidoNet Net Mail Support. Sysops who have problems with Xpress, and need immediate attention can get support via net mail (FidoNet 1:135/382)

For RIME sysops and users, we offer XPRESS support on RIME. The BBS must link up with the XPRESS forum from your nearest RIME hub using the preferred QWK networking process.

Voice line support during normal working hours 9am to 7pm EST. New customers can use our 800 phone number for 1 hour of toll free support.

Xpress Priority Service Plan.

Of course, all of this can only be done within reason. There is a priority level toward support of Xpress customers, which is enumerated as follows:

1. Xpress Priority Service members.
2. Registered Users.
3. Unregistered Users.

To contact Santronics Software for support, you may:

Call 305-248-3204 between 9am and 7pm EST.

Call the Xpress Support BBS Center at 305-248-7815 (1200 or above at 8-N-1) 24 hours a day.

Xpress Priority Service Members have access to a 1-800 line for support.

This number is supplied with your registration information.

Installing Silver Xpress

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

At a minimum, you should have the following computer components:

- IBM PC or clone
- DUAL FLOPPY with minimum of 720K each
- IBM DOS or MS DOS 3.1 or better
- 512K Ram Memory
- Monochrome/Color Monitor

IDEAL SETUP

Ideally, the best setup would be:

- IBM DOS or MS DOS 3.3 or better
- Color Monitor
- Hard disk with 10 megs or more
- 640K Ram Memory with 2 Meg or more of EMS/EXT memory
- Silver Xpress located on the DOS PATH statement
- Optional, CAS based Fax Card (Intel Model 400) to use the fax system directly

QUICK START

To quickly install Silver Xpress on your personal computer, you may use the INSTALL.EXE program provided on the distribution diskette. This is the quickest way to get started, since it will search for information about your computer and properly set up the required features for running Xpress.

The INSTALL.EXE program will only install Silver Xpress on hard disk systems. It cannot be used for floppies. For floppy installation, follow the installation instructions in section 5.2.

Hard Disk System

1. Insert the distribution diskette labeled DISK 1 in diskette drive A or B.
2. Type the following from the DOS prompt:

A:INSTALL or B:INSTALL if the diskette is in drive B. Type INSTALL, if working with the package as electronically distributed on Bulletin Board systems, from a directory on your hard disk.
3. A menu will be presented at which point you can select the option to begin installation.

The install program will do the following:

1. Check for all available hard drive partitions (drive C, D, E, etc.).
2. Check for sufficient hard drive space. 1 MEG is the minimum.
3. Ask you on what drive to install Xpress.
4. Ask what directory you wish to use; default is \XPRESS.
5. Copy all files from the diskette onto the hard drive.
6. Check for the FILES= in the config.sys file for DOS. (Minimum FILES= 20).

Xpress uses 3rd party programs such as archivers and editors. It must be able to find them. You can put them in the same directory as Xpress, or they must be in the PATH.

When the install process is completed, it will automatically put you into the \XPRESS directory. You can now type XPREAD to enable the Silver Xpress Mail Reader.

Floppy Disk System

- SINGLE 5.25 360K** If you only have a single 5.25, 360K floppy, you will not be able to maximize your use of Silver Xpress. Although it is quite possible to make Silver Xpress work with a single 360K floppy system, we do not recommend it and, therefore, will not spend much time on it.
- SINGLE 3.5 720K** Silver Xpress can work on a single 3.5 720K floppy disk computer system, but you will be very limited to the size of mail packets you can download and read.

DUAL FLOPPIES SYSTEMS

Silver Xpress can be installed on a double floppy system by keeping the main files on one drive, and the mail files on a second drive.

You must ensure the DOS COMMAND.COM file be located on the same drive as Silver Xpress. This means Silver Xpress should be on a "bootable" diskette. You cannot simply copy this file over to a floppy. You must format the diskette.

The following is the minimum list of files required by Silver Xpress:

```

XPREAD.EXE
XPREAD.OVR
SXMENU.LIB
XPLANG.DEF
ARCHIVER.DEF
XPREAD.HLP
XPREAD.CLR    (only available after you start XPREAD)
XPREAD.CFG    (only available after you start XPREAD)

```

These files, plus the space used by DOS to make the floppy bootable, add up to approximately 355K. All other files found in the package are not required, but you will not have features available to you such as Xpress pick list files. Any of the additional files that you need can be placed on your mail disk.

1. To Create a BOOT diskette, use the DOS FORMAT command as follows:
FORMAT A: /S<cr>
2. Create a CONFIG.SYS file for the BOOT Diskette by typing the following:
COPY CON A:\CONFIG.SYS<cr>
FILES=20<cr>
BUFFERS=8<cr>
now press F6
3. Create a AUTOEXEC.BAT file for the BOOT Diskette by typing the following:
COPY CON A:\AUTOEXEC.BAT<cr>
@ECHO OFF<cr>
PATH A:\<cr>
SET COMSPEC=A:\COMMAND.COM<cr>
SET XOL=A:\<cr>
A:\XPREAD.EXE -MB:\ -RB:\ -WB:\<cr>
now press F6
4. Now put the copy of Xpress Files onto this diskette.
5. Format a second diskette on drive B, and label this diskette as your MAIL DISKETTE by typing:
FORMAT B:<cr>
When you use your communication diskette to call a BBS, make sure your communication program is configured to download the mail packets into DRIVE B.

At this point, you should be completely set up. If you have any problems, call the Xpress Technical Support Center and ask for assistance. We will be very happy to assist you.

Installing the Protected Mode Version

The protected mode version of Silver Xpress (Pmode Xpress) is installed in the same manner as the regular version of Silver Xpress. The difference is the name of the file, which is called XPREADP.EXE instead of XPREAD.EXE. Some additional files called DPMI drivers are required. A DPMI driver is supplied by Santronics Software. This driver is part of your protected mode install diskette and is installed manually using the PKUNZIP command.

There are two files on the protected mode diskette:

SXR400PU.ZIP Protected Mode EXE programs
DPMI110.ZIP DOS Protected Mode Server and Driver

After you have installed the regular version of Silver Xpress, type the following commands:

1. PKUNZIP -o A:SXR400PU.ZIP
2. PKUNZIP -o A:DPMI110.ZIP

After installation, the protected mode version file name is XPREADP.EXE instead of XPREAD.EXE. Run XPREADP.EXE when you want to start Pmode Xpress.

There are some special considerations to be made when using the protected mode version of Silver Xpress.

What is Protected Mode?

Protected mode is a hardware mode of operation designed for 286, 386 or 486 PC computers. It works on a 286 but more optimally for 386 or 486 machines. Protected mode uses computer memory in a linear fashion without the traditional DOS 640K limitation normally imposed by DOS-based programs. It is called protected mode, because protected mode applications are protected from each other. In other words, a protected mode program can not destroy another program running at the same time or hang the system. What does this all mean for Silver Xpress? With protected mode, Silver Xpress will utilize all of your memory up to 16 megabytes. 2 megabytes are required to use protected mode. You can download and open very large mail packets without any problems! Xpress will run faster because most operations are performed in memory and not on the hard disk which can be time consuming!

Will my Computer Run in Protected Mode?

If you have a 286, 386 or better yet, a 486 computer, with at least 2 megabytes of memory, you can run protected mode applications. In fact, if you run Windows 3.1 or OS/2 2.1, you are already running Protected Mode applications! Windows itself is a protected mode application and OS/2 is a protected mode operating system. Windows and OS/2 have built-in protected mode (DPMI) servers and drivers. Windows and OS/2 will allow applications written for protected mode to run in separate DOS windows! However, you don't need Windows or OS/2 to run the protected mode of Silver Xpress. The DPMI files from Santronics will allow protected mode Silver Xpress to run perfectly in DOS! If you have QEMM, you can run Pmode Xpress. QEMM comes with a QDPMI.SYS driver. See the QEMM manual to install QDPMI.SYS.

Tutorial: Running Xpress the First Time

Now the fun part! To begin running the reader, type:

`XPREAD<cr> or XPREADP<cr>`

Silver Xpress is pre-packaged to run correctly the first time. If you never ran XPREAD before, you will be presented with the Quick Configuration Setup. All configuration options were defined at the most common level. You have the option to select the simple quick defaults or allow XPREAD to ask you a few questions about your setup.

As soon as you type XPREAD, it will present the mail packet loader screen.

The packet loader displays all available mail packets (OPX or QWK by default) in the current directory or in the MAILBOX directory defined in the configuration section.

If you do not have any mail packets, pick some up from the bulletin board. With the original distribution Silver Xpress diskette, a WELCOME.OPX mail file is available for practice. Open the WELCOME.OPX to see how Silver Xpress works. (NOTE: WELCOME.OPX was compressed using PKZIP. PKZIP/PKUNZIP is required to see this sample OPX mail file).

The main assumption made for correctly running Xpress is that you have enough memory. You should have 300K available, at a minimum.

A second assumption made is that you have the proper archivers set up. Make sure you have the archivers stored in a DOS PATH directory. Xpress will tell you if it has a problem finding the appropriate archiver.

If XPREAD fails to run for you the first time, the odds are extremely high A) you do not have enough memory, or B) it could not find the archiver utilities. Please check these parameters before calling technical support.

If you want to change some options from the command line, see the section on ***Command Line Parameters***.

If you want to go directly into configuration, you can type XPREAD -S or, when the packet loader screen is presented, hit the Q for the QUIT option to go to the Silver Xpress Main pull down menu. See the configuration section for a complete description on the Silver Xpress options.

Command Line Parameters

You may pass parameters (command line options) to the XPREAD.EXE program to change default or pre-defined options. Silver Xpress offers the following command line options:

-Cxxxx	Use XXXX configuration file instead of default XPREAD.CFG.
-Xxxxx	Use XXXX menu file instead of default SXMENU.LIB.
-DV	Force Desqview Mode.
-V50	Force 43/50 video line mode.
-Wxxxx	Define the default work directory. Xpress will always create a directory called WORK from this directory.
-Mxxxx	Change the inbound mailbox directory. This is where your mail packet (OPX, QWK, MHS) files are located.
-Rxxxx	Change the outbound reply box directory. This is where the reply packet (REP) files are located.
-Oxxxx	DO NOT do any archiving. It was done outside. XXXXXX is not required. If provided, it should be the full path name of the OPX file. Note: HLD and BIF files are created in the path specified by XXXXX, otherwise they are created in the work directory. It is your responsibility, if you go this route, to take this into account.
-TTOff	Turn off Ticker Tape (registered user only).
-S	Go directly to the configuration menu.
-KW	Keep the work directory. Do not delete or remove it.
-Lxxxx	Directly load the mail packet file (xxxx is the file spec). If only 1 file is found, it will be automatically selected and opened.
-SFI	Start the reader with the Speech Friendly Interface.
/CHINESE	Use normal ascii characters for drawing boxes.
/VI	Special switch to make certain items more "wordy".
/MOff	Force the mouse support OFF.
/E3=XX	Switch for people (Chinese language) who want to change the default QWK message delimiter. XX is a HEX number.

Examples:

Define the mail box and reply box, located in a communication program download directory:

```
XPREAD -mc:\telix\dnld -rc:\telix\dnld
```

TIP: By default, the reply box will always follow the mailbox directory, UNLESS it is specifically defined in the CONFIG section, or via the command line switches.

If the mailbox and reply box subdirectories are permanent (they never change), you can define these directories in the MAIL LOCATION section for the configuration. This eliminates the need to use the -M and -R switches.

Show only QWK files in the packet loader. No Mouse or 50 line mode on a VGA monitor:

```
XPREAD -L*.QW? /MO -V50
```

Show only OPX files in the packet loader.

```
XPREAD -L*.OP?
```

If you have a mailbox directory defined and a reply box defined in your configuration section, the following can be used to read the packets from the current directory:

```
XPREAD -M -R
```

Load a different Xpress Mail Menu:

```
XPREAD -Xnewmenu.lib
```

Use the SXDYMENU.EXE program to design and create your own menu for the system, or modify the one distributed with Xpress. See the section on Silver Xpress Dynamic Menu System.

Configuration

When you select the configuration option, the following pulldown menu is displayed:

There are many options, as you can see. As much as possible, all of the variables and options which belong together have been placed together in their appropriate sections.

If you have a hard time finding an option, the best thing to do is to use the help search system. To make Xpress work for you, the following two items are the minimum configuration considerations needed:

Expansion and Compression in Archiver Information.

If you plan to use your own editor, the Editor Command in Editor Information should be considered.

Mail Location Options

The MAIL LOCATION section will allow you to define the location of your new mail files and the place your Silver Xpress reply files will be stored.

INBOUND MAIL LOCATION

The inbound mail location is where the Xpress Packet Loader is told to find mail packets. If this field is left blank, Silver Xpress will use the current directory or the directory defined by the -M switch on the command line. The -M switch can be used to override this setting.

View this inbound directory as the default Xpress directory of mail packets.

Typically, a good location for the inbound directory is the download directory of your telecommunications program. Typically, your telecommunications program will download files into the current directory or the directory defined as its download path. Check your telecommunications program documentation for the "download path" option.

By defining the inbound directory as your telecommunications program's download path, you can easily download mail and quickly start up Silver Xpress to display the mail files in the packet loader. For example;

INBOUND MAIL DIRECTORY: C:\TELIX\MAIL

If you do not define an inbound directory, you must copy the downloaded mail packets into the Xpress Mail Directory or you can use the packet loader to manually switch the directory to the mail packet directory location.

OUTBOUND MAIL LOCATION

The outbound mail location is where Xpress will create the REPLY files. REPLY files are the files you will send back, or upload to the BBS, to process new mail you created. If this field is left blank, Silver Xpress will use the current directory, or the directory defined by the -R switch. The -R switch can be used to override this setting.

Typically, the outbound directory is situated at a location where you can get to it easily with your telecommunications program. Often your telecommunications program will have a default "UPLOAD PATH". Setting the Outbound Mail Location to the default "UPLOAD PATH" will make uploads easier.

OUTBOUND MAIL DIRECTORY: C:\TELIX\MAIL

TEMPORARY WORK LOCATION

This is where the Xpress work directory will perform its internal work. By default, Silver Xpress will create a temporary directory off the current directory called "WORK". For example, if you are in the current directory C:\XPRESS, Silver Xpress will create a work directory called "C:\XPRESS\WORK". Keep in mind, knowledge of the internal workings of the WORK directory is not necessary. Silver Xpress will automatically create and delete this directory.

will add WORK to the work location defined. If you want to define a RAM DISK as the work path, only define the root directory of the RAM Drive. i.e., E:\

There are two reasons why you should know about the work directory:

- 1) You want to use a RAM DRIVE. You should ensure that a ram drive is at least 3 times larger than the size of the largest OPX or QWK mail packet you plan to open and read.
- 2) You are using an external editor and this editor requires you to know about the work directory for saving files.

PACKET SEARCH SPECIFICATION

The packet search specification is the mail packet search file specified to find QWK, OPX or MHS files. The packet loader will use this specification to find these files. By default, the specification is *.QW?*.*OP?. This specification is sufficient to find QWK and OPX mail packets.

If you are not using a QWK mail system, you may change the specification to speed up the search. If the specification is blank, Silver Xpress will use *.*OP? automatically.

The ? is to cover QWK and OPX files that have had their extensions incremented to allow multiple files from the same BBS. Most telecommunications programs will download files and save them on your PC using a different file extension, if a file with same file name already exists. For example;

PITTX.OPX	Wednesday's mail from Pitt Xpress BBS
PITTX.OP1	Thursday's mail from Pitt Xpress BBS
PITTX.OP2	Fridays's mail from Pitt Xpress BBS

Note: Not all telecommunications programs will automatically do this, so check the telecommunications program documentation for this option. Look for "Overwrite Existing File on Downloads". Keep in mind, overwriting an existing file may be exactly what you want to do because you are finished with the older mail packet, and do not care to save it. This is a personal file management issue.

Editor Information Options

In order to create mail, a text-based editor is necessary. A text-based editor is a program that allows you to compose or create text. Silver Xpress has an internal editor. It is not as powerful as some of the 3rd party editors such as Qedit, Word or WordPerfect, but it has the minimum basic components necessary to create and reply to mail. The internal editor in Silver Xpress is referred to as the short message editor because, for the most part, the internal editor is quite sufficient to create short messages without the loading overhead and delay required for external editors.

However, there are many situations when you would like to use your own editor, and not the one provided within Silver Xpress. You may simply be more comfortable with the editor to which you have become accustomed. Silver Xpress allows you to define your favorite editor for creating and replying to mail.

This section allows you to define your own editor, and also change some of the attributes for the internal editor, such as the window dimensions and text buffer size.

THE XPRESS INTERNAL EDITOR

The internal editor in Xpress is intended for creating quick replies and new messages. The internal editor follows the WORDSTAR standard keyboard mapping.

Internal Editor Screen Dimensions

You may change the appearance of the internal editor window dimensions by changing the parameters shown in this screen. The corners of the windows are available and can be changed to suit your appearance needs. The extra bottom row during VGA value allows you to stretch the length of the window when you are in 43 or 50 row screen mode. Xpress will use the normal bottom row value during 25 row screen mode.

Internal Editor Limits

The internal editor can hold a maximum of 64K of text. If you divide this by 80 characters per line, the result is about 820 lines.

This option allows you to change the maximum lines allowed in the internal editor. The only reason this option exists, rather than leaving it at 820, is to conserve memory. If you are not creating long messages, you can conserve memory by reducing the maximum lines to a reasonable 100 lines. This will also have a minor effect in improving performance.

DEFINING AN EXTERNAL EDITOR FOR LONGER MESSAGES

When the internal editor is inappropriate for creating or replying to mail, you may define your own 3rd party external editor.

This option allows you to define the program name for your editor, such as Q.EXE for QEDIT.

If your external editor is located on the path, all you need to do is name the editor. If it is not located on the PATH, you must provide the fully qualified path to it.

Examples:

QEDIT by SemWare.

External Editor Program Filename: C:\UTILS\Q.EXE.

Word Perfect.

External Editor Program Filename: \$C:\WP5\WP.EXE.

Wordstar.

External Editor Program Filename: \$C:\WS\WS.EXE.

Silver Xpress will always pass the full file name EMAIL.TXT to the editor. EMAIL.TXT is a flat ASCII file. For example, if you are using Word Perfect, Xpress will perform the following:

```
$C:\WP5\WP.EXE C:\XPRESS\WORK\EMAIL.TXT
```

This means you should save your message using the same file name. By doing so, you will ensure Xpress will pick up EMAIL.TXT and use it for the eventual message. Some editors or word processors such as Word Perfect or WordStar do not save files automatically as ascii files. You must ensure the word processor will save the EMAIL.TXT as an ASCII file.

A program like Word Perfect 5.1 can use the following keystrokes to save a message:

```
CTRL F5 1 (DOS) 1 (SAVE) SHIFT F10 YES
```

An explanation of the keystrokes follows:

CTRL F5 to save

1 to use a DOS file (ASCII)

1 to Save

SHIFT F10 will recall the original name

YES to replace the original document

You may wish to define a Word Perfect macro to simplify the keystrokes. The same holds true for any other word processor whose native format is not ASCII.

If your editor is very large (requiring lots of memory to run, such as Word Star or Word Perfect), it is highly recommended you use EXEC SWAPPING techniques to call the external editor. To use EXEC SWAPPING, prefix the editor command with the \$ or # sign. See the section on EXEC SWAPPING.

When you use an external editor, it can be important to know which files Xpress has created and passed to the editor. This is particularly true for editors such as Word Perfect or Word Star.

The external editor is called from the Xpress startup directory. In other words, Xpress will temporarily switch from the work directory prior to calling the editor.

Xpress will call the editor, and pass to it, a fully qualified path name to the EMAIL.TXT in the work directory; i.e., c:\xpress\work\email.txt.

EMAIL.TXT will be completely empty for a new message you are creating, or have quoted text if you are replying to a message.

When the editor is finished, Xpress will switch back to the work directory and immediately look for the file EMAIL.TXT. It is very important your editor saves the file, EMAIL.TXT, in the XPRESS WORK Directory.

Xpress will reread this file, EMAIL.TXT, and use it for creating the eventual Xpress formatted message.

THE DEFAULT EDITOR

Whenever you want to create a reply or a new message, Silver Xpress will present the MESSAGE HEADER screen. In this screen, there is a prompt that says:

SHORT MESSAGE: YES/NO

If you answer YES to this message, the internal editor will be the default, otherwise your external editor will be the default.

This default editor option allows you to define the initial state of the SHORT MESSAGE question to either YES or NO. This allows you to use one or the other a lot more quickly.

FOLLOWING THE PRIVATE MAIL FLAG

Whenever you want to create a reply to a message you are reading, you may wish to follow the PRIVATE or NON-PRIVATE status of the message. If someone writes a private message to you, you may wish to AUTOMATICALLY reply with a private message.

This option allows you to set the default setting that Xpress will offer when replying to mail.

NOTE: This option only makes sense in situations where you are allowed to change the private status. Some conferences are forced private or forced non-private (public), in which case, the FOLLOW PRIVATE FLAG option has no effect.

EDITOR TAB EXPANSION

The editor tab expansion is used to expand tabs when creating mail. If a zero value is defined, no tab expansion will take place.

INTERNAL EDITOR WORD WRAP WIDTH

When using the internal editor, Xpress will do a word wrap as you type your mail at the defined word wrap column or width. A good width is 72 characters. This allows for future mail quoting.

Archiver Information Options

One of the features of Silver Xpress which allows off-line mail processing to be very efficient, is how Silver Xpress uses archivers to compress and expand information. By compressing mail, the Silver Xpress Mail System allows you to retrieve more information from remote host systems in less time.

Archivers are 3rd party utilities which compress and expand data. Silver Xpress has the ability to dynamically check the mail packets to see which archiver is necessary. This is called the Xpress Archiver Detection System. In the file called ARCHIVER.DEF, you may declare up to 20 different compression systems. By default, the most common archivers were defined in this file. To change this file, use a text editor.

The default archivers declared in the ARCHIVER.DEF file are pre-defined and fully tested. They should work in all cases. However, they assume the archivers are locatable in a PATHed directory. For ease of use, make a directory called C:\UTILS and place all your compression utilities in it. Add ;C:\UTILS to the end of your path statement in your AUTOEXEC.BAT.

THE XPRESS ARCHIVE DETECTION SYSTEM

The ARCHIVER system in Xpress allows you to define different archivers and not be stuck with just one. This is what the Archiver Detection System (ADS) does for you. With ADS enabled, Xpress will check the compressed format of a mail packet and call the proper expansion program.

If you turn this option off, you must explicitly define the archiver for your mail packet.

NOTE: In order for the ADS system to work, Xpress must find the ARCHIVER.DEF file. It will check for this file in the same directory as XPREAD.EXE. If not found, the ADS system is shut off and you cannot use this intelligent archiver detection system.

PACKET LIST FILE CHECK

The Xpress Packet Loader will use the defined packet search specification to search and display the packets to be opened. For example, a packet specification of *.O?? will display all files with an extension beginning with the letter O.

Sometimes this extension will result in files being displayed, which are not true Xpress Mail packets. If the Packet List File Check is enabled (YES), Xpress will use the archiver detection system to check for true Xpress Mail Packets.

If you are very sure you do not have any other files existing with extensions of O?? other than Xpress Mail Packets, turning this option off will speed up Xpress.

PACKET EXPANSION/COMPRESSION COMMANDS

The expansion and compression commands are used to decompress Xpress Mail Packets and compress Xpress Mail Reply files. It is very important these commands are defined correctly.

If the Archiver Detection System is ON, it does not matter what you type here. The EXPANSION and COMPRESSION commands will be automatically retrieved from the ARCHIVER.DEF file.

If the Archiver Detection System is OFF, you must define an EXPANSION COMMAND and a COMPRESSION COMMAND.

One way to speed up Xpress is to be specific with the archiver you are using, and shut off the archiver detection system. For example, if you are only using the PKZIP utilities to compress and expand mail, shut off the Archiver Detection System, and hardcode the following expansion and compression commands:

```
EXPANSION COMMAND      :      PKUNZIP -O %1
```

```
COMPRESSION COMMAND   :      PKZIP -M %1
```

INTERNAL UNZIPPER

This option is only available in the protected mode version of Silver Xpress. The internal unzipper is a decompression system which supports the PKZIP version 1.1x compression format. Please note this does not support the PKZIP 2.04g format. If you are using PKZIP 2.04g format, you must turn this option off. Please note, the internal unzipper is not as fast as PKUNZIP.

Quoting Mail Options

When reading messages, you can reply to the message and include parts of it in your reply. A very popular feature in electronic mail conversations is to quote part of the original message with the author's initials marked with a >.

WHEN TO QUOTE MAIL

This option gives you three choices:

- | | |
|--------|---|
| NEVER: | Will set the QUOTE MESSAGE to NO at the message header screen as a default. The prompt will be skipped. |
| ALWAYS | Will set the QUOTE MESSAGE to YES at the message header screen as a default. The quote prompt will be skipped. |
| PROMPT | Will set the QUOTE MESSAGE to YES at the message header screen as a default, however, you will be allowed to change it for a given reply. |

QUOTING CHARACTERS

If the Quoting characters are blank, the original author's initials for the message you are replying to are used for the quote characters.

If the quote characters are not blank, it will be used for the quoting characters when replying.

The most common quote character used is the author's initials with a >, because it gives a little history on who wrote the message. But " > " is also a common quote character.

QUOTE WIDTH

When Xpress quotes messages, it must format the paragraph to prefix the paragraph with the quote characters. To do this, it must have a quote width, which appears on the right side margin of the screen.

The recommended value is 72-75.

DEFINING YOUR OWN MAIL QUOTE SYSTEM

Silver Xpress offers the ability to define your own quoting system. If you define a quote program, Silver Xpress will call this program instead of using the internal quoting logic. If you define a quote program, Silver Xpress will create an ASCII version of the original message and pass it to the quote program. It is the quote program's responsibility to read this file, and properly message and rewrite the file, using the same file name.

If you have or find a quote program and wish to use it, put the program name in this option and add the %1 parameter to it. For example:

```
QUOTE PROGRAM      :      QUOTE.EXE %1
```

Xpress will substitute %1 with the fully qualified file name to EMAIL.TXT which will be stored in the work directory. Xpress will then call this quote program. When it returns, Xpress will use the same file name for the resultant quoted message, and take you immediately to your editor.

The EMAIL.TXT file Xpress creates for quoting will have the following format:

XQF-1 (c) copyright statement

DATE: YYMMDDHHMMSS

FROM:

TO:

SUBJ:

<blank line>

TEXT

The date YYMMDDHHMMSS is formatted to allow for easy data interpretation.

YY-Year

MM-Month

DD-Day

HH-Hour (military 24 hr basis)

MM-Minutes

SS-Seconds

REPLY HEADERS

Reply headers allow users to better identify participants in a message thread. These headers are particularly useful in replying to messages posted to ALL, or interjecting comments in a message posted to someone else.

A short pick list file of reply headers called REPLYHDR.LIS is available, and it includes icons called "Xpress Tokens" for creating your own customized list of reply headers. When you reply to a message, you will be given an option to select a line from predefined reply headers.

Define the file name of the reply header file. Prefix the file name with the @ character. Once you have defined a file REPLYHDR.LIS, your customized list will appear after completing the information in a message header dialog screen. Highlight the header you wish to use and it will appear at the beginning of your reply message.

For example, a typical reply header may said:

On Dec 25, 1993, Andrea Santos said to Gary Petersen the following:

Silver Xpress has the intelligence to customize reply headers based on the author and the recipient of the message using what are called Xpress Tokens. For example, the reply header given above was defined with a reply header selected from the REPLYHDR.LIS:

On @D@, @AN@ wrote to @RN@:\n

The @D@ puts the date of the message, the @AN@ puts in the author's name and the @RN@ puts in the recipient's name. The \n will add a carriage return and line feed. There is a long list of reply tokens. See APPENDIX E, "Xpress Tokens," for a full description of the available Xpress Tokens which can be used to construct different reply header lines.

Printing Mail Options

Silver Xpress will allow you to print mail to your local printer or device defined. When you are reading mail, you can use the P key to begin printing the message. You may also print messages you created, or use the Xpress Search Facility to print mail in a group.

WHEN TO EJECT THE PAPER

When printing mail to a printer, it is sometimes desirable to eject the paper before or after the message is printed, or to not eject at all.

This option gives you three choices:

NEVER Send a form feed.

AFTER Send a form feed after the mail is printed.
 BEFORE Send a form feed before the mail is printed.

There are other ways to tell Xpress when to send form feeds. You may define a print device PICK LIST file and device names having special qualifiers. See PC Printer Device Port.

Note: For faxing mail using a print device, you do not want to issue a form feed. See *Sending a Fax using a Print Option*.

THE PC PRINTER DEVICE PORT

Silver Xpress allows you to define the printer device name to print mail. A Printer Device Name is a symbol a PC uses to identify a printer.

For an IBM PC or compatible, there are usually 4 printer devices: LPT1, LPT2, LPT3, LPT4. PRN is a special printer device name and usually means LPT1. However, you are not limited to using the printer device names. Some PC setups use a serial device to print, such as COM1, COM2, etc.

Do not use a serial device name such as COM1, COM2 in Silver Xpress.

If you need to use a serial device name, use the DOS MODE command to tell DOS to substitute the COM device name with a LPT device name, such as LPT2. Then tell Xpress to use LPT2.

PRINTER DEVICE PICK LIST

If you want to display a list of printer devices from which you can choose, use @FILENAME. Using this option is one way to FAX mail. @FILENAME is a list of devices or files to print, formatted like other list files. The default pick list name for this option is PRINT.LIS.

If you use a list file to display printer devices, Xpress will follow the form feed option defined. However, you can override the form feed option by using the following qualifiers for the device names in a pick list:

/N Never issue a form feed.
 /B Issue a form feed before the print.
 /A Issue a form feed after the print.

For example:

```
%EXTRACT
LPT1        - Your Default Printer
LPT2/N     - Fax card on LPT2/No form feed
CASFAX/N   - Special keyword for direct CAS-based faxing
FILE.PRN/A - Send Printout to File
```

SENDING A FAX USING THE PRINT OPTION

Silver Xpress has an internal method for faxing mail using the Intel CAS Fax standard. This is a growing standard and more fax cards are adopting CAS as a standard. See the section on Faxing with Silver Xpress.

This section will show you how you can FAX mail you are reading or creating using a PRINT DEVICE NAME. Since Xpress has print options at nearly every point in the program when reading or creating mail, this is one powerful way to trigger a fax.

Most fax cards come with TSR (Terminate and Stay Resident) software or a fax device driver which allows you to fax anything that is sent to the printer. Usually it is set at LPT2 because LPT1 is reserved for your normal printer.

If you want to fax a message you are reading or creating, there are 3 things you can do:

Hard Code the PRINTER DEVICE NAME to LPT2 or whichever is your FAX print Device name.

Use a Pick List file @FILENAME to define a list of print devices from which to choose. Include the FAX print device name among

your normal print device name, and this gives you the option to easily choose one. Use the optional qualifier /N to tell Xpress not to send a form feed. This will save a page of fax.

If you have a fax card supporting CAS, you can use the special Xpress printer device name CASFAX in your printer device list.

Reader and Viewer Mail Options

MAIL WIDTH WHEN VIEWING MAIL

When Xpress is going to display a message in the Read Mail Session, you can change the width of the view with this option. The default setting is 80, and for most situations, you will not need to change it.

DISPLAY SEEN-BY LINES.

This option is normally turned off.

Seen-by lines are network information normally passed along with mail. Xpress sysops usually don't pass on this information to you, as you don't need it, and it reduces the size of your mail packet if it is not passed.

However, if the sysop has passed it on, you have the option to display it or not. If your Sysop is not passing it, this option has no effect.

SKIPPING XPRESS WINDOW COMMANDS

Xpress DOT Commands are special mail commands that will draw windows and play music. Sometimes you don't want to be bothered with the Xpress dot commands. If you have this option off, you will instead see the dot commands in uninterpreted format. If you want to see them all the time, leave this option ON.

If you turn it off and you do encounter a message with DOT commands, you have the option of hitting the letter W on your keyboard to temporarily turn the Xpress DOT Commands ON while you are reading MAIL. This toggle will remain active until you press "W" again, at which time it will be OFF for reading. This toggle has no permanent effect. When you start the reader next time, the settings in the Reader/Viewer Options will be in effect again.

SKIP MAIL KLUDGE LINES.

Echo Mail contains information other than the SEEN-BYs listed above. Often, there are what are called KLUDGE LINES. These lines contain additional network information. Among the more common uses are MSID, PID and the INTL lines. All kludge lines begin on column 1 and have a CONTROL A character at the start of the line. If you want to SEE these hidden lines, turn this option ON. For a cleaner look, turn it OFF.

VIEWING ANSI MAIL

Xpress has a very fast, built-in ANSI driver to view ANSI mail. If you turn this option on, Xpress will send the mail text through the built-in ANSI interpreter. ANSI messages have ANSI escape sequences to create fancy and colorful displays. This type of mail is usually found in host systems participating in the PCRelay Network (PCBOARD).

NOTE: If you create Ansi mail using THEDRAW or a similar program, you must set the save width to 80 characters or less. Otherwise, Xpress will truncate your mail.

NOTE: If you turn this option off and you encounter a message with ANSI characters, you can turn it on for that message by pressing Ctrl-A or A while reading.

It is recommended that you leave this option set to OFF, and use the ALT-A or A keyboard switch when you encounter ANSI mail. As a rule, ANSI mail is STRICTLY FORBIDDEN in Fido Net Echoes. As such, you will usually see ANSI mail only in Echoes specifically designed for ANSI mail. The reason ANSI mail is not generally allowed in Fido Net Echoes, is that some BBS software can not handle the special characters but, more importantly, they carry a huge overhead.

AUTO ADVANCE WHEN TAGGING MAIL

Xpress has two tagging mechanisms in the read mail session: (T)ag and (K)ill. If you set this option ON, tagging mail will automatically advance you to the next available message. Since most people TAG with one of these options when they are finished reading the current message, ON is the default. If you do not want to auto advance, set this option OFF.

STRIP REPLY TOKEN

Whenever you reply to a message you are reading, Silver Xpress will retain the original subject line for the new message you are creating. Normally, it will add the prefix "Re:" to the subject line to indicate it is a reply.

For example:

The original subject: "Using Silver Xpress" will have "Re: Using Silver Xpress" in a reply message.

If you do not want this behavior, set "STRIP REPLY TOKEN" to yes. It is recommended you keep this option off or set at NO. This will allow you to keep a better history of mail.

TAB EXPANSION VALUE

When Silver Xpress displays a message to read, sometimes it will find a tab character embedded in the message. TABS will show up as a block character with a dot in the middle of it (ASCII value 8). By setting the TAB EXPANSION VALUE to a non-zero value, Xpress will "expand" the tabs. Expanding means the tab characters will be replaced with spaces, the amount indicated by this option. The typical tab expansion value is 5, 6, 7 or 8. Recommended value is 5.

Mail Search Options

DIRECT AND KEYWORD MAIL

When on, DIRECT MAIL with Urgent option will, as part of the GET PERSONAL MAIL on the Mail Menu, gather mail addressed directly to your name. This OPTION defaults to ON, and you will generally have no reason to set it OFF.

When on, KEYWORD MAIL with Urgent OPTION will include mail that matches your KEYWORD list when you download mail from the remote host. By turning this option OFF, you can read only your direct mail, without the added overhead of the KEYWORD mail.

SKIPPING MAIL ALREADY READ

This option tells Xpress to skip mail you've already read or received in the Xpress Reader. It allows you to read a mail packet, and stop. When you come back to continue, this option will hide the mail you have already seen. This makes it easier to read mail you have not yet read. If you want to go back and see the mail you have read, you will have to turn this option OFF, SAVE, and exit and restart the Reader.

SKIPPING MAIL ALREADY MARKED KILLED

This option works like the SKIP MAIL ALREADY READ, except it only effects mail that you have TAGGED with the KILL option in the Read Mail Session.

SEARCHING ONLY SELECTED AREAS

Xpress will allow you to select mail areas with the AREA PICK LIST by hitting the space bar.

If any conferences are selected, and this option is ON, Xpress will only search these areas when looking for mail. Otherwise, all areas are searched for mail.

File Cabinet Options

Silver Xpress now offers a flexible file cabinet system designed to augment the storage and retrieval of mail. You can file mail you are reading or mail you create! To use the file cabinet system, you must define a FILE CABINET PICK LIST file. ON is provided, by way of example with this package, as CABINET.LIS.

Xpress uses a simple, built-in method of saving mail in ASCII format in the file cabinet. As an OPTION, you can define your own file cabinet system by defining a FILE CABINET PROGRAM and a FILE CABINET VIEWER.

FILE CABINET PICK LIST

This is the default pick list for popping up a list of file cabinet names. When you want to save a message using the built-in File Cabinet System in Xpress, hit the F2 key to pop up the list when Xpress prompts you for a file name to save the message. Modify the included CABINET.LIS, sticking to the format shown, to add/remove cabinets.

FILE CABINET EXTENSIONS

This field defines the default file cabinet file name extension to use. The items in the list file, CABINET.LIS, are file names for each file cabinet. If only the file name portion is provided, this extension will be used.

FILE CABINET DIRECTORY

The file cabinet directory is used as the default location to save your file cabinet files. A typical location would be:

C:\XPRESS\CABINET\

Note: XPRESS does not create this directory. You have to create it before you define it. You can use the Shell to DOS on the Services menu to drop to DOS to quickly add the directory, and type EXIT to return to Xpress.

If no directory is defined, the default startup directory is used as the file cabinet directory.
DEFINING YOUR OWN FILE CABINET SYSTEM

Filing Mail

Silver Xpress effortlessly allows you to integrate 3rd party software with the Xpress Mail system. If you define a file cabinet program, Xpress will call this program instead of using the built-in file cabinet system. This allows you to provide an alternative mail/filer management system.

When you hit the **S** key (save message) while reading mail, Silver Xpress will create an ASCII file called EMAIL.TXT (fully qualified to the work directory) and pass it to the defined file cabinet program. It is the responsibility of the 3rd party file cabinet program to take this EMAIL.TXT file and act accordingly.

Enter the name of your 3rd party program, if you plan on using one in the following format:

SAVE FILE CABINET PROGRAM:FILENAME.EXE %1

Viewing Mail

By defining a file cabinet viewer, Xpress will call this program instead of using the built-in internal editor to view stored mail.

If you provide a file cabinet viewer, there is no need to provide a %1 after the program name. Xpress will call the viewer and pass the name of the cabinet from the Cabinet Pick List.

If you save lots of mail to your file cabinets, you may want to define an editor here that can handle large files. The internal editor can handle files up to 64k. If you save a lot of mail to a cabinet, it can quickly exceed 64k. In this case, define an editor you know can handle larger files. One that can handle very large files is QEDIT or KEDIT. For simply viewing with options to mark and extract, use V. Bueg's LIST program.

Signatures and Taglines

Silver Xpress has the ability to append to the bottom of your newly created message or reply, signatures and taglines. Signatures are normally your name, where taglines are fancy sayings.

Signatures

You can put your signature into mail you create by defining a signature file. Signatures are placed at the bottom of your text. The following is an example:

Hector Santos, Fidonet 1:135/382

If you have more than one line of signature information, you may use the @ prefix and include a file name, for example, @SIGN.LIS. Xpress will pop up a list of signature files from which to select. Once the selection is made the entire selected file will appear at the bottom of the message. A signature file is a normal ascii text file. Xpress will not add any blank lines before or after the signature information is read. You should take this into account.

For example, in a SIGN.LIS file, you can have something like this:

```
%TITLE Signatures for Mail
YOURNAME      - Use your default user name as supplied by the BBS
YOURALIAS     - Use your default alias name as supplied by the BBS
<HEC>        - My traditional signature
xpress.sig    - signature with Xpress Support Information
```

Note: If you want a multiple line signature file, and want to avoid the pop up list, use the %ITEM keyword in your signature list file. See the section Silver Xpress Pick List System.

Taglines

Taglines are those sayings you often find in public access electronic mail systems, at the bottom of messages.

If you want to display a list of signatures, define a tagline pick list file and prefix the list file name with an @ character.

Taglines are considered a privilege on the remote host. Taglines can be disabled by the remote host operator, either at the forum level, or altogether. What this means is even if you define a Tagline pick list, Xpress will not pop up the list or allow you to add one if Xpress is told by the remote host not to allow it. Check with your remote host sysop before talking to Santronics Software about this option.

JOHN HANCOCK Tagline Support

If the tagline is @JH?.REP, Silver Xpress will automatically grab it and use it for the tagline whenever you save the message you are creating. If you define a TAGLINE PROGRAM, Silver Xpress will first run this program before grabbing the JH?.REP. JOHN HANCOCK will allow you to pick a tagline and store it in a file called JH?.REP.

For JOHN HANCOCK support, define the following in Xpress (assuming you have JH3.EXE in the directory C:\JH3):

```
TAGLINE or @PICKLIST   :   @JH?REP
TAGLINE PROGRAM       :   $C:\JH3\JH3.EXE
```

Please note, if you don't have enough memory to run JH3.EXE, prefix the command with the \$ sign for exec swapping as in the above example.

See the section Silver Xpress Pick List System for further details on working with Xpress list files.

Mail Pick List File Options.

When you are creating mail, Xpress will present a message header. In the message header, you will have a TO, FROM, SUBJECT, and other fields to fill out. In each of the fields, you can hit the F2 key to display a PICK LIST for that particular field. For instance, suppose you want to send a message to a person you send mail to frequently. You can put the person's name in a pick list and define the pick list filename in the TO FIELD pick list option. This is the same for all other fields in the message header. Pick List files allow you to select the items from a pre-defined pick list to quickly create mail. See the section on Silver Xpress Pick List System for information on creating or modifying a pick list.

IMPORTING TEXT

This is the default pick list for popping up a list of pre-defined files you may wish to automatically include in a message. If you use this option when creating or replying to mail, Xpress will skip the editor and simply include the file in the message. To add to or change the included file, select EDIT when the popup list of options appears.

RECIPIENT/TO FIELD LIST FILE

This is the default pick list for popping up a list of names to whom you want to send mail. It can be a standard addressee list.

If the mail conference is a NET MAIL mail area, Xpress will present a message header screen with additional fields for entering net mail information.

FROM FIELD LIST FILE

This is the default pick list for popping up a list of names to use in the FROM WHOM field when you are creating or replying to mail. Note: You may not have the opportunity to edit or change the name of the person who is the author of the message, such as yourself. This is only allowed in conferences where anonymous mail is available.

SUBJECT FIELD LIST FILE

This is the default pick list for popping up a list of common subjects.

FAX FIELD LIST FILE

This is the default pick list for popping up a list of Fax Numbers. The fax field will only appear when your remote service offers an off-line fax service.

NET MAIL NAME AND ADDRESS

This is the default pick list for popping up a list of names to whom you want to send net mail. It can be a standard net mail addressee list.

Note: This option is only available to users who have net mail access, as provided by the remote host.

NET MAIL ATTRIBUTE FIELD LIST FILE

This is the default pick list for popping up a list of net mail attributes for sending net mail. See the documentation for assistance in generating a NETFLAGS pick list file.

Note: This option is only available to users who have net mail access as provided by the sysop.

Defining Hot Keys

Silver Xpress allows for 6 hot keys to be defined. These hot keys can be used to call an external program at anytime during the program or, if any are available, it will use the internal operations of Xpress. Although these hold no special meaning, the 6 hot keys designated are somewhat of a standard, in terms of their use in the PC Market. The following are the specified hot keys and their usages. They may be substituted with your own program.

NOTE: Hot Keys are not available while you are shelled to DOS, or in an external program.

ALT C

Typically, ALT-C is defined for calling a communication program such as TELIX.EXE. For example:

ALT C PROGRAM: C:\TELIX\TELIX.EXE

ALT J

Typically, ALT-J is defined for shelling to DOS temporarily. ALT J will shell to DOS when there is nothing defined. EXEC Swapping does not take place. If you want EXEC SWAPPING to take place so that Xpress leaves you with all of your memory to shell to DOS, use the following command:

ALT- J PROGRAM: \$C:\COMMAND.COM

ALT E

Typically, ALT-E is defined for calling an external editor such as Qedit. For example:

ALT E PROGRAM: !Q.EXE ?

If no editor is defined, Xpress will use the internal editor. Xpress will prompt you for the file name before calling the editor. If you define an external editor and you want Xpress to prompt you for a file name, provide a question mark (?) as a parameter to the editor program.

ALT V

This is your VIEW FILE key. At any time, you can hit ALT V and Xpress will ask you for the name of a file to view. If nothing is defined for this key, Silver Xpress will use the internal viewer. If you wish to use an external program, define the name of the program you wish to use. If you want Xpress to prompt you for the file name before calling the external viewing program, provide a question mark (?) as a parameter to the viewing program. For example:

ALT V PROGRAM: \$VIEW ?

ALT P

This is your PICKLIST Editor Key. Silver Xpress uses many pick list files throughout the system so you can select information during various operations, i. e., tags.lis for taglines, signs.lis for signatures, replyhdr.lis for reply headers, cabinet.lis for file folders, etc. See the section on Silver Xpress Pick List System. When you hit ALT P during any point, Xpress will present the special file

PICKLIST.LIS which is a list of all the picklist files used by Silver Xpress. This will allow you to select a picklist file to edit.

If nothing is defined for the ALT P key, Silver Xpress will use the internal editor to edit a pick list file you select. If you would like to use your own editor, define an editor in this field:

ALT P PICKLIST PROGRAM: \$Q.EXE

ALT B

This is your BOSS key. If nothing is defined for this key, Silver Xpress will display the file called BOSS.BSV when this key is used.

To change it to do something more productive, use something else like so:

ALT B PROGRAM: \$C:\123\LOTUS.EXE

Miscellaneous File and Program Paths

XPRESS SYSTEM PATH

This is the directory where Xpress will find new system files such as list files, if they are not found in the current directory, the same directory as Silver Xpress, or on the DOS PATH directories.

If a new file (list file) is being created, Xpress will use the Xpress System Path as the location to store the new file.

This definition is most useful when you are sharing your Xpress system with other people on the same machine or on a network. Each user can define a system path and store it in their personal configuration. If you go with this method, use the -C switch parameter to define the XPREAD.CFG file that belongs to you. For example:

XPREAD -Cc:\jaclyn\xpread.cfg

However, please note there are other recommended methods for sharing Xpress with other people on a LAN. It is OK to copy Xpress to a common directory but each user should have his or her own directory and before calling Xpress, the user should switch to his personal directory. Xpress will always look in the current directory first, unless the Xpress System Path is defined.

XPRESS LOG FILE

This is the name of the file that will keep a record of Xpress Activity. If you are having difficulties, the log can be useful for finding and solving problems. Most of the time, you will not want it. Define a FILENAME, or put the word NULL if you don't want a log file. If left blank, Xpress will use the name XPREAD.LOG.

FILE ATTACHMENT STORAGE DIRECTORY

This is the directory where FILES which are attached to you will be stored when extracted from the OPX. The location of this directory should not be on a RAM drive or in a WORK directory, as the attached files will be deleted from the OPX, and if placed in the WORK directory or on a RAM Drive, they will be lost. Ensure you define a directory on your HD or a FLOPPY Drive; i.e., your standard upload or download directory.

SPELL CHECKER PROGRAM

Silver Xpress allows you to define a program which can be called from the SAVE MAIL menu after you create a new message.

Although generic in concept, meaning this can be any program, it is currently listed as a spell check option.

Silver Xpress has no built-in spell checker as of yet, but you can use any other spell check program. A good one available is ShareSpell Version 2.3. Xpress defaults to having the entry for running ShareSpell defined. If you want to use another Spell Checker, use the default entry as a guideline.

Spell Checker Program : \$c:\spell\ss.exe %1

MAIL PROCESS PROGRAM

This is yet another power feature in Silver Xpress. If you hit the D key while reading mail, you can process the message by sending it to the MAIL PROCESS program, if defined.

If you have more than one mail process to execute, you may define a list file. The default list file is @MAILPROC.LIS

%EXTRACT :

Q.EXE %1 : Edit the File
 SENDFAX %1 : Fax The File

The possibilities here are endless and only Silver Xpress offers this feature!

CRASH CALL DIRECTORY

This subdirectory is where Silver Xpress will create the special XPRESS.CLO file. If no subdirectory is provided, Xpress will create this file in the start up directory.

The XPRESS.CLO is a special file which interfaces with Gold Xpresso, other communication programs and the CRASH CALL option on the packet loader. See the section on the Packet Loader, CALL option.

Gold Xpresso is a communication program which will regulate your mail and reply packets more efficiently. It is designed to understand mail management, such as when to transfer, delete or file mail.

If you are a registered user of Silver Xpress Plus, you can purchase Gold Xpresso at a substantial discount.

XPRESS NODELIST PATH

The Xpress Nodelist Path is only used when creating FidoNet Netmail messages. The Xpress Nodelist will give you the ability to double check FidoNet Netmail addresses and to create netmail carbon copies. You may create netmail or netmail carbon copies without the Xpress Nodelist file, however, you must know the FidoNet Netmail addresses of the people to whom you are sending mail.

Before you may use netmail, the sysop must be a member of the FidoNet Network and he must give you access to a FidoNet Netmail conference.

In order to use the Xpress NodeList, the sysop must be able to create the Xpress NodeList File using a package called XLAXNODE on his system, and he must enable the Xpress NodeList system specifically for you. If he enables it for you, the Xpress Nodelist will automatically be sent to you via the mail packets you download.

To use the Xpress Nodelist, you must be at the FidoNet Netmail Message Header Dialog Screen. This is a special screen designed specifically for FidoNet compatible systems.

When you are at the TO WHOM or NETMAIL ADDRESS fields in this special netmail dialog screen, you may hit the ALT-F2 key to verify the name or FidoNet address you typed. If the name is correct, Xpress will automatically adjust the netmail address. If you type in a netmail address and hit ALT-F2, Xpress will adjust the recipient's name. If either is incorrect, nothing will happen. If a FidoNet member has more than 1 address, you will be shown a list of multiple addresses from which to select.

Talk to your sysop for more information on FidoNet NetMail.

VIRTUAL DISK DIRECTORY

This is a special optional directory you may define to store the temporary virtual disk file Silver Xpress will create. This file is only required for the real mode version of Silver Xpress. If you are using the protected mode version of Xpress, you will not see this option. It is not required for Protected Mode.

If you are using the real mode, you may define a directory on a RAM drive to speed up operations. However, it is recommended you leave this option alone (blank) unless it is absolutely necessary.

Video , Mouse , Sound and Color Options

CUSTOMIZING THE COLOR AND SOUND SYSTEM

The entire color and sound system in Silver Xpress can be customized. This section will allow you

to change the colors for each part in Xpress, or you can use a pre-defined COLOR FILE as configured by an Xpress user.

Picking a Pre-defined Color File

A color file is a pre-defined color set, as defined by Xpress users. Xpress will display all color files (*.CLR) in a pick list with a description for each one. You can select one and use it as your color set. If you wish to customize colors in Silver Xpress, use the SXCOLOR.EXE program. With SXCOLOR.EXE, you can customize and create new color files for yourself and for other Xpress users.

SETTING THE VIDEO MODE

Silver Xpress now works with 3 different video modes, 25 line mode or 43/50 line mode. 43 line mode is found on EGA monitors while 50 line mode is found on VGA monitors. Xpress will change its presentation of windows and pick lists to better fit in a large screen space.

You can temporarily switch to 43/50 line mode by using the -V50 command line switch option.

USE THE MOUSE WITH SILVER XPRESS

If this option is ON, and a mouse is available, Xpress will turn on the mouse system. If you have a mouse, but are not interested in using it with the reader, set this option OFF.

If the mouse is enabled for Silver Xpress, a diamond block will be seen on the screen. This is your mouse cursor. When you first start Xpress, the mouse will be placed at the top left hand position of the screen.

SOUND CONTROL

Silver Xpress allows you to change the sound frequency and delay of sound. You have the option to make Xpress completely void of noise, or just turn off certain parts of the sound system.

Xpress Music Player

This option will allow you to decide if you will hear the special Xpress Windows Dot Commands "SOUNDS" in your mail. If someone wrote a message using Xpress Window Dots sound commands, and do not want to hear the sound, you may opt to turn this off. However, you can temporarily hear the sound for the particular message, but hitting the **W** key while reading the message.

Standard Bell

Xpress normally has a standard bell sound at various spots in the system to signify special prompts or events. This option will allow you to define whether you will hear this bell sound or not.

Sound Frequency/Delay

You can change how you hear the standard bell by changing the frequency and delay of the internal sound system.

Direct Mail Beeper

If this option is ON, Xpress will ring a little beeper whenever it encounters mail addressed to your name.

SCREEN SAVER OPTION

The Xpress screen saver, if enabled, will blank out the screen after so many minutes of keyboard inactivity, and present one of several screen displays.

SCREEN SAVER TIME:

To enable the screen saver, type in a non-zero time value. The time is in seconds, so if you want a screen saver in five minutes of inactivity, enter 300 seconds.

SCREEN SAVER PASSWORD:

If you want to enable a password for the screen saver, type in a password. If no password is defined, anyone can hit ANY KEY and the screen saver is deactivated to bring back Silver Xpress.

If a password is defined, you must type in a password to get Silver Xpress back.

SCREEN SAVER ART:

There are several art types the screen saver will display when activated.

- 0 Xpress will blank out the screen.
- 1 Xpress will randomly display different colors and characters.
- 2 Xpress will display the file called SSAVER.BSV which is a binary save file. You can create BSV files with utilities such as THEDRAW.EXE. The SSAVER.BSV is a static file, and is not

recommended if the period of time that the screen will be blanked is lengthy.

Miscellaneous Options

SAVING THE LAST REP CREATED

When you create or reply to new messages, Xpress will create a reply file with the extension REP. In this file, Xpress will save and compress your newly created messages. If one existed before it creates a new one, turning this option on will tell Xpress to create a backup of this old file. The file will retain the original name with the extension R\$\$.

This option also applies to HOLD files as well.

The bookmark facility allows Xpress to save information regarding where you left off reading mail. Set this OPTION ON, and Xpress will return you to the place you left off reading if you had quit, and later came back, to read an area.

SORTING MAIL

The sort facility in Xpress will determine the order in which mail is listed or read. You have the option to sort mail in the following manner:

NUMBER	sorted by message number,
DATE	sorted by date the message was created,
AUTHOR	sorted by the FROM field of the message,
RECEIPT	sorted by the TO field of the message,
THREAD	sorted by topic.

When sorting by THREAD, Xpress will present mail to you in a "threaded" fashion. This means the original message of a certain subject would appear first, followed by replies to the message.

AUTOMATICALLY JOIN MAIL CONFERENCES

Auto join allows you to automatically jump into the next available conference with messages, once you reach the end of a mail list in a single conference. Move the cursor RIGHT 3 times at the end of an area, and Xpress will automatically move to the next area message list.

SKIP AUTO BULLETINS

By turning this option ON, you can skip the automatic bulletins which are displayed when you first open an Xpress mail packet.

Note: You cannot avoid or bypass the first viewing of these bulletins. This option is only available when the same mail packet is opened subsequent times.

KEEP BBS INFORMATION

Keep BBS Information allows you to store information about a remote host so you can use features available only to Gold Xpresso. If this option is ON, Xpress will create files with the extension BIF for each mail packet. We recommend you keep this option ON to maximize your use of Silver Xpress.

DEFAULT SAVE MAIL OPTION LOCATION

The SAVE MENU appears after you have created mail with the editor. The Save menu presents the options available to further work on a newly created message. This option allows you to define the default position (where the highlighted option is first placed).

Some users may want the spell checker to be the default option, while others may like the VIEW MAIL option.

READER SCROLL BAR

While you are reading mail with Silver Xpress, you can use your arrow keys to move around the screen. Xpress will display a scroll bar and move it up and down when you use the up and down arrows. The purpose of the scroll bar is so you can mark the line for quoting or for grabbing the current line to store as a TAGLINE, "stealing taglines".. Some people call this adopting a tagline.. This option will tell Xpress where to initially place the scroll bar when you first start reading a message. If you answer YES to this question, Xpress will start the scroll bar at the top. Otherwise it will display it at the bottom of the page. Keeping it off will allow you to use the down arrow to quickly start reading the second page of text.

DOS SHELL PROMPT

When you shell to DOS, this option will change the DOS PROMPT command to reflect a Silver Xpress PROMPT line. This prompt will remind you that you are currently in a SHELL so that you

begin a large application and forget about Silver Xpress. See your DOS manual on the PROMPT command.

CLEAR SCREEN WHEN CALLING DOS

Whenever Xpress performs a call to a 3rd party program, it will clear the screen first. If you say NO to this option, Xpress will not clear the screen. This saves about 4K of memory. However, some messages will speed by very quickly, and may be disconcerting to you.

MINIMIZING PROMPT DELAYS

In several areas of Silver Xpress, there is a delay when Xpress displays a message signifying the completion of an operation. You can turn off the delay with this option.

USING SHORT TITLE PICK LIST

The Conference Pick List window will display, by default, the long titles of the mail conferences. You can both speed up the display and save some memory by turning ON this option. You may want to keep this off until you are familiar with the list of conferences on the host system. When you are comfortable, turn it on to speed up operations.

USING THE XPRESS REP EXTENSION LOGIC

Silver Xpress offers a unique method for matching REPLY files with MAIL PACKET files. The default extension for OPX and QWK mail for reply files is REP. However, when you have two mail files which only differ by 1 or 2 letters in the extension, Xpress will try to match the extension of the REP file. For example:

Xpress Packet	Extension matching	No Extension Matching
----------------------	--------------------	-----------------------