WinNET News Cleanup Program

Overview

The Cleanup program is used to delete and/or archive old news articles.

It should be run whenever you wish to recover hard disk space that has been taken up by old news articles.   If you wish, you can specify "archive" files that correspond (one-to-one) to newsgroups to which you subscribe.   When cleanup runs, it will then append any news articles that are scheduled for removal to an archive file before they are deleted.   The format of an archive file is a text file format that can be opened and read by the WinNET text editor.

Using the Cleanup Program

Before you start: The cleanup program cannot run while the WinNET Mail/News main program is running, or while communications is running.   This is to insure database integrity of the system.   So please choose a time to run cleanup when you do not need to work with the other WinNET applications.

Setting the Age parameter

When you start the cleanup program, the main cleanup program screen appears.   The first field on this screen, which appears highlighted, is labeled:

```
  Cleanup/Archive files >= to: [4] days.
```

This indicates that the cleanup program, by default, will remove and optionally archive any news articles that you have that have been present on the local system for at least   4 days.   You can change the number of days specified to any number you wish between 0 and 30 days inclusive. (Setting the age parameter to 0 days will cause all news articles to be removed).

Cleanup Options

The next fields that appear on the cleanup screen allow you to configure cleanup to both cleanup and archive news articles (archiving will only be performed if you have a setup archives), archive only, or cleanup only.

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     [x] Cleanup and Archive [ ] Archive Only  [ ] Cleanup Only
```

The default is [x] Cleanup and Archive.   If you leave this choice selected, the cleanup program will go through each of your newsgroups and append each article that is scheduled for removal from the news system to its archive file, if one has been set up.   (See below for more information about setting up archiving for newsgroups).

If you instead click the [x] Archive Only button, archiving will take place, but the cleanup phase will be skipped, and no news articles will be removed from the news database.   If you run cleanup this way, the files that have been archived will be recorded, and when you run cleanup subsequently, articles that were archived previously will not be re-archived.   This avoids duplication of articles in your news archives.

If you click the [x] Cleanup Only button, archiving will not take place, and old articles will be deleted without saving any copy, even if you do have archiving set up for the newsgroup in which it is posted.   Please keep in mind that when you run cleanup this way, you will lose any articles that are expired forever.

Managing Newsgroup Archives

Before actually running the cleanup program (by clicking the START button), you can setup, modify, or remove archiving, on a group by group basis, of the newsgroups to which you subscribe.

Creating a Newsgroup Archive

To add archiving for one or more groups, click the button labeled 'Add archiving for group'.   A dialog box will appear that allows you to select newsgroups from your subscription list.   When you have selected the group for which you want to create an archive, click the button labeled 'Setup'.

After you click the 'Setup' button, another box will appear that has a place for you to type in the path and filename which will serve as the archive for this newsgroup.   Please take care to type in a path/filename which is a "legal" filename for you system -- that is, it must specify a drive that exists on your system, and the directory path and file name chosen must conform to the DOS rules for such things.   (If you make a mistake, the program will catch it). Also, the drive specified must be a hard-drive.   Floppy disk archives are not supported.   If you wish to periodically move archives to floppy disks, this is fine.   Cleanup will recreate the archive file as required when it runs if the archive for a particular newsgroup is missing because it has been copied to a floppy disk and then deleted.   Note: the path/filename you specify does not already have to exist. The cleanup program will create the necessary directories automatically.   Just be careful to specify a path/filename that is legal for your system. Example:

```
C:\WNMAIL\ARCHIVES\CLARINET\NEWS\TOP\ARCHIVE.TXT
```

When you have finished setting up your newsgroup archives, click the 'Exit' button to quit the archive setup dialog box.

Modifying a Newsgroup Archive

To change the archive file for a particular newsgroup, again click 'Add archiving for group'.   Again, select the group from the list of newsgroups.   This time, when the dialog box requesting the name of the archive file comes up, it will show the path/filename that was specified earlier.   Just change this to the new path/filename that you have in mind.   Click OK, and the archiving for that newsgroup will be switched to the file you have specified.   Note: The old archive file will not be deleted.   If you which to delete the old archive file, do so from DOS or using a utility program such as File Manager.

Eliminating a Newsgroup Archive

To remove archiving for a newsgroup, click the button labeled 'Remove archiving for group'.   A dialog box will appear that has a list of the newsgroup for which you have previously set archives, showing the name of the group, and the archive file specified.   Just select any newsgroup/archive shown in this list and click the remove button.   The disables archiving of the group selected. You may repeat this process for each newsgroup for which you wish to disable archiving.   Click the 'Exit' button when you have finished.

Running the Program

When cleanup is configured to your satisfaction, just click the START button to begin.   While cleanup is running, it is not possible to start either the WinNET Mail/News main program, or the communications program, so please choose a time to run cleanup when you will not be using other WinNET applications for a while.

When you click the START button, the cleanup program will first archive any articles that are due

to be expired to the news group archives you have set up, if any.   (This phase will be skipped if you selected the [ ] Cleanup Only configuration option).   As cleanup moves from group to group while it is archiving, the group currently being archived is shown in the 'Progress Monitor' area of the cleanup program main window.   Also, you will observe a little spinning line next to this field -- this is to provide you with some feedback that cleanup is operating properly.   (Since it can take a while to archive a newsgroup, you might otherwise think that the program has become stuck).

After completing the archiving phase, if any, cleanup will then proceed to the expiration of old news articles.   As the program moves from group to group, removing articles from the news system, the group currently being cleaned up is shown in the 'Progress Monitor' area of the cleanup program main window.   Again, the little spinning line shows that the program is active.

Aborting Cleanup

You can abort the cleanup program any time by pressing the Abort button.   Please be patient and allow the program a time to finish its current operation.   If the program is in the middle of cleaning up many articles from a newsgroup that hasn't been cleaned up for a while, **it make take several minutes before the program can properly abort**.   Do not terminate the cleanup program by pressing Ctrl+Alt+Delete (this can result in damage to the news database system).