

## Netiquette in Netnews articles

Netnews groups (or simply called "news groups") are excellent and fast sources of information for everyone and therefore very popular among insiders. This service also generates data traffic on the Internet and Internet service providers that should not be underestimated, as the distribution is very complex).

### Getting Started

- **Not too many groups at once!**  
Start slowly and don't choose too many newsgroups at once that you want to read along. Especially beginners often overwhelm themselves with far too many news groups at once, unconsciously expose themselves to a good portion of stress and may react quite emotionally in discussion contributions.
- **Respect other opinions!**  
There are now several thousand news groups covering almost every conceivable aspect of human interests. They represent a diversity of lifestyles, religions and cultures. Do not send offensive posts to newsgroups or mailing lists, or individual participants in these forums, if you do not share a particular opinion of a forum or cannot reconcile it with your conscience.
- **Get to know the group first!**  
First read only the contributions for one or two weeks before you write contributions yourself. This is the best way to get to know the culture, current topics of discussion and the common polite form of the news group.
- **Read The F... ing Manual!**  
Consult reference materials (manuals, journals, help files) before asking questions in corresponding news groups. Otherwise, it may happen to you that you answer with a biting RTFM ("Read The F... ing Manual").
- **System Administrator is not responsible for the contributions of others!**  
Do not blame the system administrator for the behavior of group readers; he usually only provides the resources and has no authority over the authors.
- **Everyone speaks for themselves!**  
You should always assume that individuals speak for themselves and that your statements do not necessarily reflect the opinion of their family, company or organization.
- **Friend and foe read along!**  
Keep in mind that your posts can be read by a large audience. This could include her current or future employer. Therefore, be careful with what you write. Also, don't forget that news posts are permanently archived and indexed by special search engines (for example, on Google under <http://groups.google.com/>), so your posts may be stored for a very long time in places that many users have access to.
- **What you send is sent!**  
You can no longer retrieve a submitted news post. Therefore, consider beforehand whether you want to send a news article or not. Although many news clients offer the possibility to delete (cancel) already sent contributions, this is not a deletion in the conventional sense, but a special deletion message is created, which is then forwarded from news server to news server. Whether a news server then executes such a deletion message is at the discretion of the responsible administrator.

## Addressing

- **Posting - Cross-posting** In technical jargon, "posting" stands for sending a contribution to a news group, "cross-posting" for sending a contribution to several news groups at the same time. Alert readers if your post is cross-posted or if replies have a follow-up (posting is addressed in such a way that replies to the post are automatically sent to another news group).
- **Pay attention to reply addresses when replying!**  
Be careful if you want to reply to individual news posts directly by e-mail: Some posts are addressed in such a way that replies of all kinds are sent to the sender and to the news group at the same time! They would then send a possibly personal opinion to a larger audience and possibly embarrass them.
- **Sorry if a posting was addressed incorrectly!**  
If you notice that an e-mail that was actually addressed to a person has accidentally gone into a news group, apologize to the actual recipient and in the respective news group.
- **Use valid sender address!**  
Use a valid sender address in your posts so that a reader can also reach you by e-mail. It is popular to add additions to the sender address in order to supposedly prevent the receipt of spam. However, if sender addresses are invalid, keep in mind that incorrectly running e-mails cause unnecessary data traffic and keep postmasters busy with unnecessary work.
- **Real name please!**  
Posts with pseudo- or anonymous senders are accepted in some newsgroups, but they are not welcome in most others. Material that is unsuitable for a news group with your name is at least as unsuitable with pseudo- or anonymous sender information.

## Content

- **Keep it short!**  
Contributions should be kept short and hit the nail on the head. Stay with the subject of the subject line, do not fade and do not send e-mails or news articles in which you address spelling and expression errors of other participants. This would make you, more clearly than any other action, a newbie.
- **Insert quotes in answers!**  
When replying to a published post, you should summarize the question(s) from the original post at the beginning of your post, or alternatively insert enough text from the original post to provide context. But don't just add the complete original post! Quotes ensure that the reader also understands what you are responding to. Since news posts have a complex distribution, it is possible that your reply will be published on some news servers before the actual original article.
- **No ads!**  
While advertising is welcome in some newsgroups, it is hated in most. This is another example of why they should know the audience before you write posts yourself. Unsolicited advertising with different subject lines is in most cases the guarantee that you will receive tons of Flames.



## External shape

- **Observe conventions for postings!**  
If conventions about the design of subject lines are common in a news group, you should observe them.
- **Be careful with ASCII graphics!**  
Note that many users read your post in proportional font; Charts or graphs created in non-proportional font (typewriter) may not be recognizable to some readers.
- **Maximum 72 characters per line!**  
You should write a maximum of 72 characters per line and end each line with a line break. If necessary, set up your news program so that it automatically wraps text in column 65 at the latest for outgoing news articles.
- **No HTML in postings!**  
Write news articles as natively as possible, i.e. not HTML-formatted. Many older and alternative news programs cannot interpret HTML-formatted posts. Please also make sure to set up your news client so that it sends messages only in text format and not possibly additionally in HTML.
- **Insert signature!**  
Make sure your outgoing posts include your signature file. This guarantees that even users with news programs that delete the post header (and thus also the return address) can reach you by e-mail. A signature should be separated with a signature separator (two hyphens, a subsequent space and a line break) and then not longer than four lines.
- **Do not attach files!**  
Do not attach files (not even a few bytes in size!) to your news articles if the name of the news group does not contain the keyword "binaries". Many system administrators delete posts with attached files in such forums.

## Binaries-Gruppen

- **Binaries groups and their descriptions!**  
Many "binaries" groups have a second news group for descriptions of sent files, usually marked with an appended ".d" (stands for "Description"). Therefore, post the post with the file in "Binaries" groups and the corresponding file description in the second forum with the appended ".d".
- **Attached files UU-encode!**  
Attached files in news articles are usually UU-Encoded, i.e. the file has been converted to 7-bit ASCII format. Before you can use such an encoded file, you must UU decode it. This works with many news programs, but also, for example, with the program "WinZip" on Windows platforms. If you want to send files to newsgroups yourself, you should definitely UU-encode them.

## Reaction

- **Read thread before replying!**  
Read all posts in an ongoing discussion (called a "thread") before replying. Do not send posts á la "I agree...", but only real contributions to an ongoing discussion.



- **Answer personal inquiries only by e-mail!**

If someone in a newsgroup asks you a personal question, email the answer only to that person. News articles are distributed worldwide and the rest of the world is usually not interested in a personal response from you if your reply could not help other users.

- **Personal discrepancies only by e-mail!**

Resolve personal disagreements with another participant in a news group only by e-mail and not via the news group. If you debate with a person via e-mail about points that might also be in the interest of the forum, you can always write them later as a collective post.

- **No Flames!**

Don't get involved in flame wars. Do not reply to "hot" posts by e-mail or news article.

- **No forgeries and manipulations!**

Falsifications and manipulations of posts rarely find the approval of others when they are detected and are usually a sure means of quickly making yourself unpopular.

- **Delete erroneous post!**

If you discover a thematic error in your submitted post, you should delete it as soon as possible. Most news servers allow you to delete your own posts, otherwise ask your system administrator to delete them. If your post has already been replied to in the News Group, you should no longer delete your post, but post a correction as a second post.

- **Calculate time delay in moderated news groups!**

For moderated news groups, accept a small time delay between sending and appearing your contribution in the group, as the moderator may change the subject line of your post or only edit the incoming contributions at certain times.

The Board of Directors

***Ownersegg e.V.***

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