NEWSRDR User's Guide

November, 1991

This manual describes NEWSRDR, an NNTP-based news reader for VMS systems.

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Contents

PREFACE vii

NEW AND CHANGED FEATURES ix

CHAPTER 1 USING NEWSRDR 1–1

1.1 USING NEWSRDR FOR THE FIRST TIME 1–1
1.1.1 Cancelling a Subscription 1–2

1.2 READING NEW NEWS 1–2
1.2.1 Redisplaying an Article 1–2
1.2.2 Following a Thread 1–2
1.2.3 Reading by Subject 1–3

1.3 SKIPPING ARTICLES 1–3

1.4 MARKING ARTICLES FOR LATER REFERENCE 1–3

1.5 PERMANENTLY IGNORING TOPICS OR AUTHORS 1–4
1.5.1 Removing Ignore Settings 1–4

1.6 READING SPECIFIC ARTICLES 1–4

1.7 SAVING ARTICLES 1–5

1.8 PRINTING ARTICLES 1–5

1.9 POSTING ARTICLES 1–5
1.9.1 Followup Articles 1–6
1.9.2 Cancelling an Article 1–6

1.10 SENDING MAIL MESSAGES 1–6

1.11	PROFILE SETTINGS	1–7
1.11.1	Personal Name	1–7
1.11.2	Article Headers	1–7
1.11.3	Automatic Editing, Editor Name	1–7
1.11.4	Signature	1–8
1.12	SUBPROCESSES	1–8
1.13	KEYPAD KEYS	1–8
1.14	SETTING YOUR REPLY-TO ADDRESS	1–8
1.15	HEADER CACHING	1–9

PART II COMMAND DESCRIPTIONS

ATTACH	CMD–3
CANCEL	CMD–4
CURRENT	CMD–5
DEFINE/KEY	CMD–6
DIRECTORY	CMD–8
DIRECTORY/GROUP	CMD–10
EXIT	CMD–11
EXTRACT	CMD–12
FOLLOWUP	CMD–13
FORWARD	CMD–14
GROUP	CMD–16
HELP	CMD–17
MAIL	CMD–18
NEXT	CMD–20
POST	CMD–21
PRINT	CMD–23
READ	CMD–26
REPLY	CMD–28
SET ARCHIVE_DIRECTORY	CMD–31
SET EDIT	CMD–32
SET HEADERS	CMD–34
SET IGNORE	CMD–36
SET PERSONAL_NAME	CMD–37
SET REPLY	CMD–38
SET SEEN	CMD–39
SET SIGNATURE	CMD–40
SET UNSEEN	CMD–41
SHOW	CMD–42
SPAWN	CMD–44

STORE CMD–46
SUBSCRIBE CMD–47
UNSUBSCRIBE CMD–48
UPDATE CMD–49

FIGURES

CMD–1 Spawned editor command procedure CMD–33

TABLES

CMD–1 Header names CMD–34

Preface

USENET news has become more and more pervasive even among VMS users. There are several news-related utilities available for VMS, some of which provide full local storage of news and UUCP protocol support, and some of which provide emulation of various network news readers available for UNIX systems.

With the advent of NNTP, it becomes easier to gain access to USENET news by using one local system to store news and using ‘‘remote’’ news readers on other systems.

The NEWSRDR utility provides an interface to USENET news that should be more familiar to VMS users. NEWSRDR attempts to follow the conventions of the VMS MAIL utility in its presentation and command structure whenever possible.

Intended Audience

This manual is intended for all users of the NEWSRDR utility and system managers responsible for installing and setting up NEWSRDR.

Document Structure

This document consists of two parts. The first briefly describes how to use NEWSRDR. The second describes all of the NEWSRDR commands in detail.

Related Documents

The reader is assumed to know something about USENET news, and should probably have as a reference Internet RFC 1036, *Standard for Interchange of USENET Messages*, which explains the structure of USENET news articles. The system manager should also have RFC 977, *Network News Transfer Protocol*, which describes NNTP news service.

New and Changed Features

NEWSRDR V3.0 includes the following new features and changes:

- The PRINT, CANCEL, and STORE commands were added.
- The /EXCLUDE qualifier was added to DIRECTORY.
- Wildcard support for SUBSCRIBE and UNSUBSCRIBE was added.
- Just typing in a newsgroup name is now equivalent to GROUP *groupname*.
- Control/C can now be used to interrupt a SET SEEN/THREAD or READ/THREAD command.
- Users are now given the option of retaining the article text file on a failed or cancelled posting.
- An announcement message can now be specified.
- An initial set of newsgroups can now be set up for new users.
- Performance of new article lookup has been improved significantly.

1 Using NEWSRDR

NEWSRDR is designed to be executed as a VMS ''foreign'' command. To set up the command symbol, you need to know where the NEWSRDR executable image is located for the command:

```
$ NEWSRDR :== $disk:[dir]NEWSRDR
```

Once the symbol is set up, you can invoke NEWSRDR with the command:

```
$ NEWSRDR
```

The NEWSRDR command can take one qualifier: /[NO]UPDATE. The default is /UPDATE=FULL, which causes NEWSRDR to obtain information from the NNTP server about all available newsgroups. You can specify /UPDATE=PARTIAL, which has the same effect as the UPDATE/PARTIAL command, or /NOUPDATE, to have no updates occur at all.

You can also specify /UPDATE=BOTH, which causes a full update to occur, immediate followed by a partial update. This may be needed at some sites where the news server's ''active'' file is not kept up-to-date with the low-bound article number for its newsgroups. If you get extraneous ''new articles'' messages with the default NEWSRDR update behaviour, using /UPDATE=BOTH should eliminate those extraneous messages.

1.1 Using NEWSRDR for the First Time

If you have never used NEWSRDR before, NEWSRDR will inform you that it cannot find a NEWSRDR profile and that it will create one for you. Your NEWSRDR profile contains information about which editor you use for composing messages, which article headers you wish to see when reading articles, and which newsgroups you are subscribed to. It is by default placed in your login directory and is called NEWSRDR_PROFILE.NRPF.

To start reading news, the first thing you will need to do is to subscribe to one or more newsgroups. If you already know what newsgroups are available and which ones you want to subscribe to, you can use the SUBSCRIBE command right away to subcribe to those groups:

```
News> SUBSCRIBE newgroup [,newgroup...]
```

You can use wildcards in the newsgroup names to subscribe to a collection of newsgroups with a single command.

If you want to look at the list of available newsgroups, use the command:

```
News> DIRECTORY/GROUP/ALL
```

Once you have subscribed to the newsgroups you are interested in, you should next use the EXIT command to leave NEWSRDR and save your subscription information in your profile. When you next start NEWSRDR, you'll be ready to begin reading news.

1.1.1 Cancelling a Subscription

The UNSUBSCRIBE command (format the same as for SUBSCRIBE, above) is used to cancel a subscription to a newsgroup.

1.2 Reading New News

Once you have subscribed to some newsgroups, information about which articles you have seen in those newsgroups is stored in your NEWSRDR profile. The command

```
News> READ/NEW
```

is used to start reading news articles you have not yet seen. This command is executed by default if you simply press RETURN at the first NEWSRDR command prompt, much like VMS MAIL.

News articles are presented in a page-by-page format, also like VMS MAIL. At the bottom of each page, the message ''Press RETURN for more...'' will appear. Simply pressing the RETURN key will cause the next page of the article to be displayed. If you wish to skip to the next unseen article, you can use the READ/NEXT/NEW (or just NEXT) command. At the end of each article, just pressing RETURN will have the same effect as entering READ/NEXT/NEW.

1.2.1 Redisplaying an Article

The CURRENT command is used to redisplay the article you are currently viewing from the beginning. If the article is encoded with the ROT13 cipher (sometimes done for articles containing potentially sensitive or offensive material), you can read the encoded text with the command CURRENT/ROTATE.

1.2.2 Following a Thread

You can use the READ command to follow a discussion thread within a newsgroup. While reading an article, enter

```
News> READ/THREAD
```

to cause NEWSRDR to scan forward through the newsgroup, displaying those articles that contain the same subject as the article you are currently reading. Once started, just press RETURN to continue reading the thread. When there are no more articles with matching subject lines, the current article is set back to the first article in the thread, so you can continue reading where you left off.

1.2.3 Reading by Subject

If you wish to read articles on a group of topics, you can use the READ/SUBJECT command to specify one or more wildcard patterns to match subject headers. For example the command,

```
News> READ/SUBJECT=(*DEC*,*VAX*)
```

would cause NEWSRDR to scan forward through the newsgroup, displaying those articles whose subject headers contain ‘‘DEC’’ or ‘‘VAX’’.

Once the first matching article is displayed, just pressing the RETURN key will page through the article and continue the subject scan using the same patterns. If you don’t want to see an entire article, use the command

```
News> READ/SUBJECT
```

to move ahead to the next matching article. Once all matching articles have been found, the patterns are cleared and the current article is set back to where you were before doing the first READ/SUBJECT.

1.3 Skipping Articles

If you have just subscribed to a particularly busy newsgroup, you may wish to skip over all the articles already posted to the newsgroup and read only those that are posted from now on. The command

```
News> SET SEEN [/ALL] article-range[,...]
```

can be used to mark articles in a newsgroup as ‘‘seen’’, so they will not show up when you use READ/NEW. You can specify /ALL to mark all available articles as seen, or you can specify the articles to be marked by number. A range of articles can be specified by giving the number of the first and last article in the range separated by a hyphen (such as ‘‘23-45’’. Multiple numbers or ranges can be given by separating them with commas.

You can also use SET SEEN to skip over a collection of articles related to one topic. When reading an article, the command

```
News> SET SEEN/THREAD
```

can be used to skip all further articles in the newsgroup with subject text that contains the subject of the article you’re currently reading.

1.4 Marking Articles for Later Reference

If you have read an article or a group of articles that you want to come back to later, you can mark the articles ‘‘unseen’’ with the SET UNSEEN command:

```
News> SET UNSEEN [/ALL] [article-range,...]
```

If you don’t specify /ALL or any article numbers, the current article is marked ‘‘unseen’’.

1.5 Permanently Ignoring Topics or Authors

If you wish to follow a newsgroup but are not interested in a particular topic being discussed in the newsgroup, you can use the SET IGNORE command to permanently ignore articles with subject lines containing particular text:

```
News> SET IGNORE [/GLOBAL] /SUBJECT="pattern"
```

The *pattern* you specify can contain VMS wildcards. Any articles in the newsgroup with subjects matching the pattern will automatically be skipped and marked ‘‘seen’’. If you wish to ignore matching articles in any newsgroup, use the /GLOBAL qualifier.

If you wish to ignore articles posted by a particular person, rather than about a particular subject, use the /FROM qualifier on SET IGNORE:

```
News> SET IGNORE [/GLOBAL] /FROM="pattern"
```

Any article with a From line matching the specified pattern will be ignored.

1.5.1 Removing Ignore Settings

Ignore settings are kept in your NEWSRDR profile. After a particular thread or author has died down, you may wish to remove the ignore settings for a newsgroup with the SET NOIGNORE command:

```
News> SET NOIGNORE [/GLOBAL] [/FROM="pat"] [/SUBJECT="pat"]
```

You can find out what the ignore settings are for the current newsgroup with the SHOW IGNORE command.

1.6 Reading Specific Articles

To read a particular article in a particular newsgroup, you first have to select the newsgroup with the GROUP command:

```
News> [GROUP] groupname
```

(Note that the word GROUP is optional.) You can then use the READ command, specifying the number of the article you wish to read:

```
News> [READ] articlenumber
```

(Note that the word READ is optional.) If you are not sure of the article number, you can use the DIRECTORY command to obtain a listing of articles, including the article number, address of the article poster, and subject of the article:

```
News> DIRECTORY [/SEEN] [/UNSEEN] [article-number]
```

If you specify an article number on the DIRECTORY command, the directory listing begins with the specified article. Otherwise, the directory listing begins with the article you are currently reading, or, if you haven’t read any articles, the first article in the newsgroup.

Directory listings are presented in a paged format just like news articles.

1.7 Saving Articles

You can save the text of any article or range of articles into a VMS file with the EXTRACT command:

```
News> EXTRACT [/[NO]APPEND] [file-spec] [article-range[,...]]
```

If you omit the file-spec, the file name defaults to the current newsgroup name (with special characters translated to underscores), and /APPEND is turned on by default. You can specify a single article by number or an entire range or articles (see the description of SET SEEN, above, for a description of article ranges). Multiple numbers or ranges can be specified, separated by commas. If you do not specify any article number at all, the current article is copied to the file. You must specify a file-spec if you want to specify an article range.

1.8 Printing Articles

You can send any article or range of articles to a print queue with the PRINT command:

```
News> PRINT [article-range[,...]]
```

You can specify a single article by number or an entire range or articles (see the description of SET SEEN, above, for a description of article ranges). Multiple numbers or ranges can be specified, separated by commas. If you do not specify any article number at all, the current article is added to the print job.

A single print job is maintained by NEWSRDR for all articles to be printed. The print job is released when you exit NEWSRDR or you use the PRINT/NOW command. You can cancel a pending print job with the PRINT/CANCEL command.

The PRINT command has several options for controlling the print job; see the complete command description for further information.

1.9 Posting Articles

The POST command is used to post an article to one or more newsgroups:

```
News> POST [/EDIT] [/[NO]SUBJECT="subject"] [groupname[,...]]
```

If you omit the ‘‘groupname’’, the article is posted to the current newsgroup. The /EDIT qualifier is used to invoke a text editor to compose the article (see the description of the SET command, below). The /SUBJECT qualifier can be used to specify or omit a subject line for the article. If you do not use the /SUBJECT qualifier, you will be prompted for a subject line.

Once you have been prompted for the text of your news article, or if editing, you have saved the article text with the text editor, you will be asked if you really want to post the article. If you answer ‘‘yes’’, or just press the RETURN key, the article will be posted. If you answer ‘‘no’’, the article will not be posted.

If you decide not to post an article, or the article posting fails for some reason, you will be given the opportunity to keep the file containing the article text you entered.

1.9.1 Followup Articles

A followup article is a reply to a specific article which can either be posted or mailed to the author of the original article. You must be reading an article to send a reply. REPLY (or FOLLOWUP) command is used to compose and send replies:

```
News> REPLY [/MAIL] [/POST] [/EDIT] [/NOEXTRACT] [/[NO]SUBJECT="text"]
```

By using the /POST and /MAIL qualifiers, you can post your reply to the newsgroup, send it by mail, or both. If you do not specify /MAIL or /POST, the reply is posted. The /EDIT and /SUBJECT qualifiers mean the same as for the POST command. If you use an editor to compose the reply, the text of the original article is automatically placed in the reply (prefixed with greater-than signs) before the editor is invoked. The /NOEXTRACT qualifier can be used to prevent this from occurring.

1.9.2 Cancelling an Article

If you post an article that you wish you hadn't, you can have the article removed from the news system by using the CANCEL command:

```
News> CANCEL [artnum]
```

You must either specify the article number or be reading the article you wish to cancel in order to issue the CANCEL command.

1.10 Sending Mail Messages

You can use the MAIL (or SEND) command to send messages to other users, which has much the same format as the SEND command in VMS MAIL:

```
News> MAIL [/EDIT] [/TO=(address[,...])] [/SUBJECT="subj"] [fspec]
```

The only difference between this command and the VMS MAIL SEND command is the use of the /TO qualifier to specify the destination(s) of the mail message. If you omit the /TO qualifier, you will be prompted for the address(es) of the recipient(s).

Note that mail addresses within NEWSRDR are NOT the same as for VMS MAIL, but are addresses used by your Internet mailer. For example, if you use PMDF's ''IN%'' prefix to direct mail to Internet addresses from VMS MAIL, you would *not* use that prefix in NEWSRDR; NEWSRDR will tack the prefix onto the address for you automatically when sending your message through VMS MAIL. You also need to use quotation marks around addresses only if you specify them with the /TO qualifier on the MAIL command.

1.11 Profile Settings

NEWSRDR has several settings which you can change with the SET command. These settings are saved in your NEWSRDR profile, preserved between NEWSRDR sessions. You can display the current settings with the SHOW ALL command, which will also display the node name of the news server and the name of the current newsgroup.

1.11.1 Personal Name

Just as VMS MAIL allows you to set up a ‘‘personal name’’ which is included with your address on your outgoing mail, NEWSRDR allows you to do on news articles you post:

```
News> SET PERSONAL_NAME "your name"
```

You may use any name you like as your personal name.

1.11.2 Article Headers

News articles are generally accompanied by large numbers of header lines which identify various aspects of the articles, some of which you may not be interested in. The command

```
News> SET HEADERS [NO]headername[,...]
```

is used to turn on or off the display of particular header lines when you read subsequent articles. The header names you can specify are: FROM, DATE, NEWSGROUPS, SUBJECT, MESSAGE_ID, PATH, REPLY_TO, SENDER, FOLLOWUP_TO, EXPIRES, REFERENCES, DISTRIBUTION, ORGANIZATION, KEYWORDS, APPROVED, LINES, and XREF. Specifying NO in front of a header name turns off its display in subsequent messages.

1.11.3 Automatic Editing, Editor Name

If you would like to use a text editor every time you compose an article or mail message, you can use the SET EDIT command to enable automatic editing:

```
News> SET [NO]EDIT [/EDITOR=(editorname,CALL)]
```

If you use SET EDIT, the text editor will automatically be invoked for every POST, REPLY, and MAIL command, unless you use the /NOEDIT qualifier. You can turn off automatic editing with the SET NOEDIT command.

In either case, you can specify which text editor you would like to use with the /EDITOR qualifier. Any callable editor may used; TPU (a.k.a. EVE) is the default. VMS comes with one other callable editor: EDT. The VAX Language-Sensitive Editor (LSE), if installed on your system, can also be used. There may also be other callable editors available at your site.

If the editor you wish to use is not callable, you can instead set up a command procedure to be spawned as a subprocess which will invoke the editor:

```
News> SET [NO]EDIT [/EDITOR=("@command-procedure",SPAWN)]
```

The command procedure must be of the form shown in Figure CMD–1.

1.11.4 Signature

Some people like to have a standard ‘‘signature’’ be included at the end of each article they post. This signature usually contains the person’s name, E-mail address, company name, and a disclaimer of some kind. The SET SIGNATURE command allows you to specify the name of a file to be used as a signature for articles you post and mail messages you send:

```
News> SET [NO]SIGNATURE file-spec
```

The specified file should contain no more than eight lines of text, each line containing no more than 80 characters. The contents of the file will automatically be appended to every article you post and every mail message you send through NEWSRDR. Use the SET NOSIGNATURE command to disable the inclusion of a signature file.

1.12 Subprocesses

NEWSRDR provides SPAWN and ATTACH commands for creating and moving among subprocesses. These commands are patterned after their counterparts in VMS MAIL.

1.13 Keypad Keys

NEWSRDR provides a DEFINE/KEY command for defining keys to perform NEWSRDR commands. This command is also patterned after its counterpart in VMS MAIL. In addition, you can create a file containing a collection of DEFINE/KEY commands to be loaded each time NEWSRDR is executed. The file should be placed in your SYS$LOGIN directory and should be called NEWSRDR_KEYDEFS.NRKEY. Alternatively, you can place the key definitions in another file and assign the name of that file to the logical name NEWSRDR_KEYDEFS.

1.14 Setting Your Reply-To Address

Typically, when you post an article, the ‘‘From’’ address that is entered in the article is used to address E-mail for replies that are mailed directly to you. If you prefer to have replies sent to a different E-mail address, you can define a logical name containing your preferred E-mail address:

```
$ DEFINE NEWSRDR_REPLY_TO "username@hostname"
```

No syntax checking is performed on this address, so you must specify your address carefully. Also, please note that some systems do not use the Reply-To header to address replies.

1.15 Header Caching

Some NEWSRDR commands, such as READ/THREAD, require access to article headers for their operation. To cut down on network and news server load, and generally improve performance over multiple uses of these header-intensive commands, article headers are cached in memory by NEWSRDR when they are retrieved from the server. By default, up to 128 sets of headers may be cached at once. However, you can control the header cache size by defining the logical name NEWSRDR_HEADER_CACHE_SIZE to be the maximum number of sets of headers you wish to have cached. For example:

```
$ DEFINE NEWSRDR_HEADER_CACHE_SIZE 256
```

This will cause NEWSRDR to hold up to 256 sets of article headers.

Please note that the header cache works on a per-group basis only. This means that it works best when you do all your work in one group at a time, rather than jumping around to different newsgroups, reading a few articles at a time.

Part II Command Descriptions

ATTACH

Switches control of your terminal from your current process to another process in the same job.

FORMAT

ATTACH *[process-name]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/PARENT	

PARAMETERS

process-name

Name of the process to which the connection is to be made. The process must be in the same job as your current process.

DESCRIPTION

This command is a parallel to the DCL ATTACH command. It allows you to transfer your terminal to another subprocess in your job by name, or directly to the process which created your current subprocess.

QUALIFIERS

/PARENT

Specifies that your terminal should be attached to the process that created the subprocess to which your terminal is currently attached. This is the default if no process name is specified.

CANCEL

Cancels an article by sending a cancel control message to the server.

FORMAT

CANCEL *[artnum]*

PARAMETERS

artnum

Article number of the article to be cancelled. If not specified, the current article is cancelled. You should only cancel those articles for which you are the author.

DESCRIPTION

This command constructs and posts a Usenet control message that cancels the specified article.

CURRENT

Redisplays the current article from the beginning.

FORMAT

CURRENT

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/ROTATE	

DESCRIPTION

While reading an article, if you are paged part or all the way through the article, the CURRENT command will rewind the article to the beginning and redisplay the first page.

QUALIFIERS

/ROTATE

Applies the ROT13 cipher to the article text before display. Some articles are enciphered with ROT13 because they may contain sensitive or offensive material, leaving it up to the reader to determine whether the article warrants deciphering and reading.

DEFINE/KEY

Defines a key to execute a NEWSRDR command.

FORMAT

DEFINE/KEY *key-name string*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/[NO]ECHO	*/ECHO*
/IF_STATE=state-list	
/[NO]LOCK_STATE	*/NOLOCK_STATE*
/[NO]SET_STATE=state	*/NOSET_STATE*
/[NO]TERMINATE	*/NOTERMINATE*

PARAMETERS

key-name

Specifies the name of the key you are defining. Use the following key names when defining keys:

Key name	VT100 key	LK201 key
PF1	PF1	PF1
PF2	PF2	PF2
PF3	PF3	PF3
PF4	PF4	PF4
KP0, KP1-KP9	keypad 0-9	keypad 0-9
PERIOD	keypad period	keypad period
COMMA	keypad comma	keypad comma
MINUS	keypad minus	keypad minus
ENTER	ENTER key	Enter key
E1, FIND	n/a	Find
E2, INSERT_HERE	n/a	Insert Here
E3, REMOVE	n/a	Remove
E4, SELECT	n/a	Select
E5, PREV_SCREEN	n/a	Prev Screen
E6, NEXT_SCREEN	n/a	Next Screen
HELP	n/a	Help
DO	n/a	Do
F17-F20	n/a	F17-F20

string

Specifies the string you want entered when you press the defined key.

DESCRIPTION

This command is implemented by passing the entire command to the VMS Screen Management (SMG) routines for processing by SMG$DEFINE_KEY. NEWSRDR does no processing on the command.

Key definitions are not remembered between NEWSRDR sessions. To have keys defined automatically each time you run NEWSRDR, create a file containing DEFINE/KEY commands called NEWSRDR_KEYDEFS.NRKEY, located in SYS$LOGIN. Alternatively, you can call the file something else and define the logical name NEWSRDR_KEYDEFS to point to that file.

QUALIFIERS

/[NO]ECHO

Specifies whether the command line is echoed when you press the defined key. You cannot specify both /NOECHO and /NOTERMINATE. The default is /ECHO.

/IF_STATE=state-list

Specifies one or more states, any one of which must be set in order to enable the specified key definition. If you omit this qualifier, the current state is used. To specify more than one state, separate the state names with commas and surround the list with parentheses.

/[NO]LOCK_STATE

Causes the state specified by the /SET_STATE qualifier to be permanently retained when the defined key is pressed. The state is retained until changed by using another key that sets a state. If omitted or negated, the specified state is retained only until you press another key.

/[NO]SET_STATE=state

Establishes a state that is set when the defined key is pressed. A state name can be any alphanumeric string. The state lasts for one further keypress only, unless /LOCK_STATE is specified. If you omit or negate this qualifier, the state remains unchanged when the defined key is pressed. You cannot specify both /SET_STATE and /TERMINATE.

/[NO]TERMINATE

Determines whether the specified command string is executed when the defined key is pressed. If not terminated, you must press RETURN for the command to be executed. The default is /NOTERMINATE.

DIRECTORY

Lists information about articles in the current newsgroup.

FORMAT

DIRECTORY *[article-number]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/GROUP	
/EXCLUDE=(keyword=(pattern[,...])[,...])	
/FROM=(pattern[,...])	
/KEYWORD=(keyword[,...])	
/SUBJECT=(pattern[,...])	
/SEEN	
/UNSEEN	
/WIDTH=(keyword[,...])	

PARAMETERS

article-number

Number of the article which should be first in the directory listing. If omitted, the directory listing begins with the current article, or, if there is no current article, the first article in the newsgroup.

DESCRIPTION

The DIRECTORY command lists the article number, originator, and subject of articles in the current newsgroup, one article per line. Articles you have seen are marked with an ''x'' in the listing.

Specifying any of /EXCLUDE, /FROM, /KEYWORD, or /SUBJECT can narrow down the directory listing to include or omit articles matching the specified criteria. When specified in combination, only those articles matching all of the specified criteria are listed.

QUALIFIERS

/GROUP

See the description for the DIRECTORY/GROUP command.

/EXCLUDE=(keyword=(pattern[,...])[,...])

Causes articles matching the specified exclusion criteria to be omitted from the listing. Valid values for *keyword* are FROM and SUBJECT.

/FROM=(pattern[,...])

Specifies one or more patterns to be matched against each article's From header. Only those articles matching one of the specified patterns are listed.

/KEYWORD=(keyword[,...])

Specifies one or more keywords. Only those articles with Keywords headers containing the specified keyword(s) are listed.

/SUBJECT=(pattern[,...])

Specifies one or more patterns to be matched against each article's Subject header. Only those articles matching one of the specified patterns are listed.

/SEEN

Specifies that seen articles should be included in the listing. If neither /SEEN nor /UNSEEN is specified, all articles are listed.

/UNSEEN

Specifies that unseen articles should be included in the listing. If neither /SEEN nor /UNSEEN is specified, all articles are listed.

/WIDTH=(keyword[,...])

Alters the format of the DIRECTORY display. Possible values for **keyword** are:

FROM=n	Sets the width of the From-address column.
SUBJECT=n	Sets the width of the Subject column.

By default, DIRECTORY uses approximately 20 columns for other fields and spacing and divides the rest of the terminal width evenly between the From column and the Subject column. Note that it is possible to exceed the terminal width by specifying large values for this qualifier; this may produce unexpected results.

DIRECTORY/GROUP

Lists information about newsgroups available from the server.

FORMAT

DIRECTORY/GROUP *[group-pat]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/ALL	

PARAMETERS

group-pat

A group name or a pattern containing wildcards. All groups matching the specified pattern are included in the directory listing. If omitted, all groups are listed.

DESCRIPTION

DIRECTORY/GROUP lists the names of the newsgroups to which are subscribed along with the number of the first and last article available from the server in each newsgroup. Also indicated is whether or not you subscribe to the group (more useful with DIR/GROUP/ALL) and the number of articles in the group that you have not yet read. DIR/GROUP/ALL lists information about all groups available from the server.

Note: DIR/GROUP/ALL will not display any useful information unless you have done an full information update with the UPDATE/FULL command first. DIR/GROUP will not flag unmoderated groups unless you have done an UPDATE/FULL first.

QUALIFIERS

/ALL

Lists information about all available newsgroups that match, rather than just the groups to which you subscribe.

EXIT

Ends an NEWSRDR session.

FORMAT EXIT

DESCRIPTION

Ends the current NEWSRDR session, updates your NEWSRDR profile, and returns control to DCL.

EXTRACT

Copies news articles into a file.

FORMAT

EXTRACT *[file-spec] [article-range [,...]]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/[NO]APPEND	*See text.*
/[NO]HEADERS	*/HEADERS*
/ROTATE	

PARAMETERS

file-spec

Name of the file into which the selected article(s) will be copied. If omitted, the name of the file is taken from the current newsgroup name. For example, an article extracted from newsgroup ''comp.sys.belch-fire'' would be placed in the file COMP_SYS_BELCH-FIRE.TXT.

article-range

A single article number or a starting and ending article number separated by a hyphen. All articles in the specified range are copied into the file. If omitted, only the current article is copied.

The SET ARCHIVE_DIRECTORY command can be used to specify a default device and directory for extracted articles. If no archive directory is specified, and no device/directory is specified in *file-spec* the file is placed in the current directory by default.

DESCRIPTION

This command can be used to save articles into a file for future reference. One or more articles can be extracted into a file, but all articles must be in the current newsgroup. Using /APPEND causes the articles to appended to the specified file (which must already exist). Otherwise, a new file is created for the extracted articles.

QUALIFIERS

/[NO]APPEND

Causes the articles to appended to the file. The default when *file-spec* is present on the command is /NOAPPEND; when *file-spec* is omitted, the default is /APPEND.

/[NO]HEADERS

Causes the article header lines to be included in the extraction (the default). Use /NOHEADERS to cause the header lines to be omitted.

/ROTATE

Causes the article body to be deciphered, using the ROT13 cipher, when written to the file.

FOLLOWUP

This is a synonym for REPLY. See the description of the REPLY command for further information.

FORMAT FOLLOWUP *[group-name,...]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/DISTRIBUTION=(dist [,...])	
/[NO]EDIT	
/[NO]EXTRACT	
/FOLLOWUP_TO=(group [,...])	
/MAIL	
/POST	
/[NO]SIGNATURE	
/[NO]SUBJECT="subject-text"	
/TO=(user-spec [,...])	

FORWARD

Forwards a copy of a news article to a user by electronic mail.

FORMAT

FORWARD *[article-number]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/[NO]EDIT	
/[NO]SELF	
/[NO]SUBJECT[="subject-text"]	
/[NO]SIGNATURE	
/TO=(user-spec[,...])	

PARAMETERS

article-number

Number of the article to be sent. If omitted, the current article is sent.

DESCRIPTION

This command sends the specified article by E-mail to the specified user or users. The complete article, including all headers, is treated as the text of the message. You can edit the text before it is sent, if desired.

QUALIFIERS

/[NO]EDIT

Specifying /EDIT causes a text editor to be invoked so the message text can be edited before being sent. The default action for this qualifier is determined by the current SET EDIT setting (see the SET command description for more information).

/[NO]SELF

Specifying /SELF causes a copy of the message to be sent to your username in addition to the intended recipients. Specifying /NOSELF prevents the extra copy from being sent. If omitted, the default is taken from the SET COPY_SELF setting in VMS MAIL.

/[NO]SUBJECT[="subject-text"]

The /SUBJECT qualifier can be used to specify the subject for the message on the command line. Use /NOSUBJECT to omit a subject from the message altogether. If not specified, you are prompted for a subject line.

/[NO]SIGNATURE

The /SIGNATURE qualifier can be used to indicate that your ‘‘signature’’ file should or should not be included automatically at the end of the message when it is sent. The default action for this qualifier is determined by the current SET SIGNATURE setting.

/TO=("user-spec"[,...])

The /TO qualifier can be used to specify the destination users for the message. If the *user-spec* includes an at-sign (''@''), as do most Internet addresses, you must surround the address with quotation marks. Specify multiple addresses by separating them with commas and enclosing the list in parentheses. If omitted, you are prompted for the destination address list.

GROUP

Selects a newsgroup to be your "current" newsgroup.

FORMAT

GROUP *groupname*

PARAMETERS

groupname
Name of the group to be made current.

DESCRIPTION

You can use this command to explicitly select the current newsgroup, to be able to extract articles from the newsgroup, etc. Note that some NEWSRDR commands (DIRECTORY, READ) implicitly set the current newsgroup for you.

HELP

Displays help information.

FORMAT

HELP *[topic...]*

PARAMETERS

topic

The name of a topic in the help library. If omitted, a list of topics is displayed.

DESCRIPTION

This command should be relatively straightforward to use.

MAIL

Sends an electronic mail message.

FORMAT

MAIL *[file-spec]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/[NO]EDIT	
/[NO]SELF	
/[NO]SUBJECT[="subject-text"]	
/[NO]SIGNATURE	
/TO=(user-spec[,...])	

PARAMETERS

file-spec

Name of the file to be sent by E-mail. If omitted, you are prompted for the text of the message.

DESCRIPTION

This command is similar to the SEND command in the VMS MAIL utility, with three small differences:

1. You can specify the destination users on the command line with the /TO qualifier.
2. The destination usernames are assumed to be Internet-style names and are automatically sent through the system's Internet mail system.
3. After composing or editing the text of your message, you are asked for confirmation before the message is sent.

QUALIFIERS

/[NO]EDIT

Specifying /EDIT causes a text editor to be invoked so the message text can be edited before being sent. The default action for this qualifier is determined by the current SET EDIT setting (see the SET command description for more information).

/[NO]SELF

Specifying /SELF causes a copy of the message to be sent to your username in addition to the intended recipients. Specifying /NOSELF prevents the extra copy from being sent. If omitted, the default is taken from the SET COPY_SELF setting in VMS MAIL.

/[NO]SUBJECT[="subject-text"]

The /SUBJECT qualifier can be used to specify the subject for the message on the command line. Use /NOSUBJECT to omit a subject from the message altogether. If not specified, you are prompted for a subject line.

/[NO]SIGNATURE

The /SIGNATURE qualifier can be used to indicate that your ‘‘signature’’ file should or should not be included automatically at the end of the message when it is sent. The default action for this qualifier is determined by the current SET SIGNATURE setting.

/TO=("user-spec"[,...])

The /TO qualifier can be used to specify the destination users for the message. If the *user-spec* includes an at-sign (‘‘@’’), as do most Internet addresses, you must surround the address with quotation marks. Specify multiple addresses by separating them with commas and enclosing the list in parentheses. If omitted, you are prompted for the destination address list.

NEXT

A synonym for READ/NEXT/NEW.

FORMAT NEXT

DESCRIPTION

This command, a synonym for READ/NEXT/NEW, causes the next unseen article to be displayed.

POST

Posts a news article.

FORMAT

POST *[group-name,...] [file-spec]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/DISTRIBUTION=(dist-name [,...])	
/[NO]EDIT	
/FILE=file-spec	
/FOLLOWUP_TO=(group [,...])	
/[NO]SIGNATURE	
/[NO]SUBJECT[="subject"]	

PARAMETERS

group-name

Name of the newsgroup to which the article is to be posted. If omitted, the article is posted to the current newsgroup.

file-spec

File whose contents should be posted as the text of the article. You must specify **group-name** if you wish to specify **file-spec**. If omitted, and no /FILE qualifier is specified, you will be prompted for the article text.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to compose and post news articles. If you do not specify a file either with the **file-spec** parameter or the /FILE qualifier, and you are not using a text editor to compose the article, you are prompted for the article text one line at a time. Once you have entered the text of the article, you are asked to confirm the posting. If you do so, the article is transmitted to the NNTP server to be entered into the news system.

QUALIFIERS

/[NO]EDIT

Specifying /EDIT causes a text editor to be invoked so the article text can be edited before being sent. The default action for this qualifier is determined by the current SET EDIT setting (see the SET command description for more information).

/FILE=file-spec

Specifies a file whose contents should be posted as the text of the article. This qualifier can be used instead of the **file-spec** parameter to specify the article text file, if you do not wish to enter the name of the newsgroup to which the article should be posted. If omitted, you are prompted for the article text.

/[NO]SUBJECT[="subject-text"]

The /SUBJECT qualifier can be used to specify the subject for the article on the command line. Use /NOSUBJECT to omit a subject from the article altogether. If not specified, you are prompted for a subject line.

/[NO]SIGNATURE

The /SIGNATURE qualifier can be used to indicate that your ‘‘signature’’ file should or should not be included automatically at the end of the article when it is posted. The default action for this qualifier is determined by the current SET SIGNATURE setting.

/DISTRIBUTION=(dist-name [,...])

This qualifier can be used to restrict the distribution of the article to a particular area. If not specified, no restrictions are placed on the article’s distribution. Typical distribution names are "usa", "na", "ny", etc.

/FOLLOWUP_TO=(group [,...])

This qualifier can be used to redirect any followups to this article to be posted to the specified newsgroup(s). By default, followups are posted to the same newsgroup(s) as the posted article.

PRINT

Adds one or more articles to the current print job. The print job is not released to the print queue until you exit NEWSRDR or use the PRINT/NOW command.

FORMAT

PRINT *[article-range] [,...]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/AFTER=time	*no delay*
/[NO]BURST[=keyword]	*default from queue*
/CANCEL	
/COPIES=n	*1 copy*
/[NO]FEED	*default from queue*
/[NO]FLAG[=keyword]	*default from queue*
/FORM=form-name	*default from queue*
/[NO]HEADERS	*/HEADERS*
/[NO]HOLD	*no hold*
/NAME=job-name	*/NAME=NEWS*
/NOTIFY	
/NOW	
/PARAMETERS=(parameter[,...])	
/PRINT	
/QUEUE=queue-name	*/QUEUE=SYS$PRINT*
/[NO]ROTATE	*/NOROTATE*
/[NO]SPACE	
/[NO]TRAILER[=keyword]	*default from queue*

PARAMETERS

article-range

A single article number or a starting and ending article number separated by a hyphen. All articles in the specified range are copied into the print job. If omitted, only the current article is copied.

DESCRIPTION

This command adds the specified article(s) to the current pending print job. If no print job is pending, a new job is created. Using /NOW (or /PRINT) causes the current pending print job to be closed and submitted to the print queue; using /CANCEL discards the print job without printing it. If you specify attributes on the PRINT command that are incompatible with the current pending print job (such as a different value for /QUEUE), the current print job is closed and printed and a new job is opened before the articles are copied.

QUALIFIERS

/AFTER=time
Requests that the job not be printed until the specified date/time.

/[NO]BURST[=keyword]
Controls whether a burst page is printed at the start of the print job. Valid keyword values are ALL and ONE; if omitted, ALL is assumed. Note that either value has the same effect, since NEWSRDR combines all printed articles into a single file before printing.

/CANCEL
Cancels the current pending print job.

/COPIES=n
Indicates the number of copies of the job to be printed.

/[NO]FEED
Controls whether form feeds are automatically inserted at the end of a page.

/[NO]FLAG[=keyword]
Controls whether a flag page is printed at the start of the print job. Valid keyword values are ALL and ONE; if omitted, ALL is assumed. Note that either value has the same effect, since NEWSRDR combines all printed articles into a single file before printing.

/FORM=form-name
Specifies the name of the form that you want for the print job.

/[NO]HEADERS
Controls whether the article headers are included with the text in the print job.

/[NO]HOLD
Controls whether the job is held in the queue prior to printing.

/NAME=job-name
Specifies a name string to identify the job.

/NOTIFY
Indicates that you should be notified by a broadcast message when the job has been printed. May be specified on the PRINT and PRINT/NOW commands.

/NOW
Closes the pending print job and submits it for printing. You may specify the /NOTIFY qualifier on this command.

/PARAMETERS=(parameter [,...])
Specifies up to eight optional parameters to be passed to the print queue with the job.

/PRINT
Synonym for /NOW.

/QUEUE=queue-name

Specifies the name of the print queue to which the job should be submitted.

/ROTATE

If specified, the text of each article will be deciphered using the ROT13 cipher.

/[NO]SPACE

Specifies that the output should be double-spaced.

/[NO]TRAILER[=keyword]

Controls whether a trailer page is printed at the end of the print job. Valid keyword values are ALL and ONE; if omitted, ALL is assumed. Note that either value has the same effect, since NEWSRDR combines all printed articles into a single file before printing.

READ

Displays a news article.

FORMAT

[READ] *[article-number]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/NEXT	
/PREVIOUS	
/NEW	
/FIRST	
/LAST	
/GROUP=group-name	
/SUBJECT[=(pattern [,...])]	
/THREAD	

PARAMETERS

article-number

The number of the article to be read. Should be omitted when using any of the qualifiers except /GROUP.

DESCRIPTION

This command displays a news article. You can select the article to be read by number, or by using one of the selection qualifiers.

The READ command name may be omitted only if reading a specific article that you specify by number.

QUALIFIERS

/NEXT

When used without /NEW, causes the next available article in the newsgroup to be displayed, even if you have seen it. When used with /NEW, causes the next article you have not yet seen to be displayed.

/PREVIOUS

Causes the next-lowest-numbered article in the newsgroup to be displayed.

/NEW

When used without /NEXT, causes the first article in the newsgroup you have not yet seen to be displayed. When used with /NEXT, causes the next unseen article after the article you are currently reading (if any) to be displayed.

/FIRST

Causes the first available article in the newsgroup to be displayed.

/LAST

Causes the last available article in the newsgroup to be displayed.

/GROUP=group-name

Makes the specified group the current group and selects articles from that group. If omitted, articles are selected from the current group.

/SUBJECT=(pattern [,...])
/SUBJECT

Causes NEWSRDR to scan forward through the newsgroup until it finds an article matching one of the specified wildcard patterns. If no patterns are specified, the search is continued using the patterns last specified. If there are no more matching articles, NEWSRDR displays a message and clears the patterns, resetting the current article back to the first matching article.

/THREAD

Causes NEWSRDR to scan forward through the newsgroup until it finds another article with the same subject. Continued use of READ/THREAD can be used to view all articles on one subject, following the thread of conversation. If there are no more articles in the thread, NEWSRDR displays a message and the current article is reset back to the first article you read in the thread.

REPLY

Posts a follow-up article and/or sends a reply message to the author of the current article.

FORMAT

REPLY *[group-name,...]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/DISTRIBUTION=(dist [,...])	
/[NO]EDIT	
/[NO]EXTRACT	
/FOLLOWUP_TO=(group [,...])	
/MAIL	
/POST	
/[NO]SELF	
/[NO]SIGNATURE	
/[NO]SUBJECT="subject-text"	
/TO=(user-spec [,...])	

PARAMETERS

group-name

The name of the newsgroup to which the follow-up article should be posted. The groups you specify override the groups listed in the Followup-To or Newsgroups header of the message to which you are replying.

If you are not posting your follow-up article, this parameter is ignored.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to compose and post and/or mail a follow-up article to the article currently being read. Just as for the MAIL and POST commands, you can use a text editor to compose the message, or be prompted for the message text. Once you have finished entering the message, you are asked to confirm the sending of the reply. Once confirmed, the follow-up message is sent to the NNTP server to be entered into the newsgroup and/or sent through the Internet mailer to the author.

For posted replies, if you do not specify one or more group names on the REPLY command, the ‘‘Followup-to:’’ header in the original article determines the newsgroups to which the follow-up is posted. If there is no ‘‘Followup-to:’’ header, the follow-up article is automatically entered into the same newsgroup(s) as the original article.

For mailed replies, the ‘‘Reply-to:’’ header in the original aritcle determines the destination of the reply message. If there is no ‘‘Reply-to:’’ header, the address in the ‘‘From:’’ header is used instead.

QUALIFIERS

/DISTRIBUTION=(dist-name [,...])

This qualifier can be used to restrict the distribution of the article to a particular area. If not specified, no restrictions are placed on the article's distribution. Typical distribution names are "usa", "na", "ny", etc.

/[NO]EDIT

Specifying /EDIT causes a text editor to be invoked so the article text can be edited before being sent. The default action for this qualifier is determined by the current SET EDIT setting (see the SET command description for more information).

/[NO]EXTRACT

If a text editor is used to compose the follow-up message, the current article text is automatically extracted with greater-than signs placed in front of each line of text, to be used as part of the reply. You can use the /NOEXTRACT qualifier to prevent this extraction from occurring. Note that /EXTRACT has no effect if you do not use a text editor for composing the follow-up.

/FOLLOWUP_TO=(group [,...])

This qualifier can be used to redirect any followups to this article to be posted to the specified newsgroup(s). By default, followups are posted to the same newsgroup(s) as the posted article.

/MAIL

Specifies that the reply is to be mailed to the author of the original message. If neither /MAIL nor /POST is specified, /POST is assumed. A reply may be both mailed and posted.

/POST

Specifies that the reply is to be posted as a follow-up article. If neither /MAIL nor /POST is specified, /POST is assumed. A reply may be both mailed and posted.

/[NO]SELF

For mailed replies, specifying /SELF causes a copy of the message to be sent to your username in addition to the intended recipients. Specifying /NOSELF prevents the extra copy from being sent. If omitted, the default is taken from the SET COPY_SELF setting in VMS MAIL.

/[NO]SIGNATURE

The /SIGNATURE qualifier can be used to indicate that your ''signature'' file should or should not be included automatically at the end of the article when it is sent. The default action for this qualifier is determined by the current SET SIGNATURE setting.

/[NO]SUBJECT[="subject-text"]

The /SUBJECT qualifier can be used to specify the subject for the message on the command line. Use /NOSUBJECT to omit a subject from the message altogether. If not specified, the subject of the message is determined as follows:

- If there is no subject line in the original message, or the subject line is the text ''(none)'', no subject is added to the message.

- If the subject line in the original message begins with ‘‘Re:’’ (upper or lower case), it is copied verbatim to the new message’s subject line.
- Otherwise, the new subject line is the original subject line with ‘‘Re:’’ added at the beginning.

/TO=("user-spec"[,...])

The /TO qualifier can be used to specify the destination users for the message, when the reply is to be mailed. If the *user-spec* includes an at-sign (‘‘@’’), as do most Internet addresses, you must surround the address with quotation marks. Specify multiple addresses by separating them with commas and enclosing the list in parentheses. If omitted, the destination address is obtained from the Reply-To header in the article (or the From header, if there is no Reply-To header).

SET ARCHIVE_DIRECTORY

Establishes a place where extracted articles should be stored.

FORMAT

SET [NO]ARCHIVE_DIRECTORY *[devdir]*

PARAMETERS

devdir

A device and/or directory specification. This value will be used as the default device/directory for subsequent EXTRACT commands.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to specify where extracted articles should be stored if no device/directory is specified on EXTRACT commands. If no archive directory is set, or you remove the archive directory setting with SET NOARCHIVE_DIRECTORY, EXTRACT defaults to placing files in the current directory.

SET EDIT

Changes the auto-edit setting and text editor.

FORMAT

SET [NO]EDIT

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/EDITOR=(editor [,type])	

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to turn on or off the automatic use of a text editor for message composition. The setting can be overridden on the POST, MAIL, and REPLY commands with the /[NO]EDIT qualifier.

QUALIFIERS

/EDITOR=(editor [,type])

This qualifier can be used to specify the editor to be used, which can be either callable or spawned as a subprocess. If **type** is CALLABLE, then **editor** must be the name of a callable editor. NEWSRDR can use any callable editor for message composition that meets the following calling standard:

- The callable editor's shareable library name must be xxxSHR.EXE, where ''xxx'' is the name by which the editor will be called. The library must reside in SYS$SHARE or must have an exec-mode logical pointing to the library elsewhere.
- The shareable library must contain an entry point which called xxx$EDIT, which must take the input file-spec and output file-spec, both character strings passed by descriptor, as the first two arguments. If there are optional arguments, the xxx$EDIT routine must not rely on having more than two arguments present.

The Digital-supplied editors TPU, EDT, and TECO, and the (layered product) VAX Language-Sensitive Editor (LSE) all follow this calling standard.

NEWSRDR uses LIB$FIND_IMAGE_SYMBOL to map the editor into the process's virtual address space at runtime.

If **type** is SPAWN, then **editor** must be a command string for invoking a command procedure that follows of the form in Figure CMD–1.

Figure CMD–1 Spawned editor command procedure

```
$! Command procedure to invoke an editor for NEWSRDR
$!
$! To use, put your edit command below and in NEWSRDR use
$! the command:
$!
$!  News> SET EDIT/EDITOR=("@device:[dir]filename.COM",SPAWN)
$!
$! Inputs:
$!
$!   P1: input file name
$!   P2: output file name
$!
$! P1 may be a null string.
$!
$! The example below is for using TPU (for which you should
$! really use the callable interface).
$!
$ DEFINE/USER SYS$INPUT SYS$COMMAND:
$ EDIT/TPU/OUTPUT='P2' 'P1'
$ EXIT
```

SET HEADERS

Selects the header lines to appear in article displays.

FORMAT

SET HEADERS *[NO]header-name[,...]*

PARAMETERS

header-name

The name of a header line to be included or, if preceded by ''NO'', excluded from subsequent article displays. You may specify more than one header name by separating them with commas. Table CMD–1 lists the valid header names and their meanings.

Table CMD–1 Header names

Header name	Meaning
FROM	the "From:" line, which indicates who sent the message
DATE	the "Date:" line, which indicates when the message was originally posted to the network
NEWSGROUPS	the "Newsgroups:" line, which identifies the newsgroups to which the message belongs
SUBJECT	the "Subject:" line, usually a brief description of what the message is about
MESSAGE_ID	the "Message-ID:" line, a unique identifier for the message
PATH	the "Path:" line, which shows the path the message took to reach the current system
REPLY_TO	the "Reply-to:" line, which indicates where mailed replies should be sent
SENDER	the "Sender:" line, which identifies the entity responsible for submitting the message to the network
FOLLOWUP_ TO	the "Followup-to:" line, which indicates the newsgroup(s) where follow-up articles should be posted
EXPIRES	the "Expires:" line, which indicates a suggested expiration date and time for the article
REFERENCES	the "References:" line, which identifies the message(s) that prompted the submission of the messages
DISTRIBUTION	the "Distribution:" line, which indicates the distribution scope of the message
ORGANIZATION	the "Organization:" line, which identifies the organization to which the sender belongs
KEYWORDS	the "Keywords:" line, which may include some keywords related to the content of the message
SUMMARY	the "Summary:" line, a brief summary of the message

Table CMD–1 (Cont.) Header names

Header name	Meaning
APPROVED	the "Approved:" line, indicating the moderator that approved the message
LINES	the "Lines:" line, which indicates the size of the message
XREF	the "Xref:" line, which identifies cross-postings

DESCRIPTION

This command can be used to omit uninteresting header lines from article displays, to provide more room for article text. The setting has no effect on articles saved into files with the EXTRACT command. Note that not all articles have all the header lines you can specify on this command; the header line types are provided for completeness.

SET IGNORE

Establishes or removes a criterion for permanently ignoring articles.

FORMAT

SET [NO]IGNORE *group-name*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/GLOBAL	
/FROM=pattern	
/SUBJECT=pattern	

PARAMETERS

group-name

The name of the newsgroup to which the ignore criterion should be added. Not specified when /GLOBAL is used. If omitted, the current group is used.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to add or remove an ignore criterion (sometimes called a ''kill file'') for a single newsgroup or for all newsgroups. The criterion can be based either on the author of the article (/FROM) or the subject of the article (/SUBJECT), but not both. Any articles matching the criterion will automatically be marked as seen and will not be displayed when READ/NEW is used.

Use SET NOIGNORE to remove an erroneous ignore criterion or when the subject or author you wish to ignore is at a more reasonable activity level.

Ignore criteria are stored in your NEWSRDR profile and are retained between NEWSRDR sessions.

This command should be used sparingly and with caution.

QUALIFIERS

/GLOBAL

Makes the ignore criterion effective for all newsgroups.

/FROM=pattern

Bases the criterion on the author (From line) of an article. The *pattern* may contain VMS wildcards. Any From line matching the pattern will be ignored. You may not specify both /FROM and /SUBJECT for a single criterion.

/SUBJECT=pattern

Bases the criterion on the subject of an article. The *pattern* may contain VMS wildcards. Any subject line matching the pattern will be ignored. You may not specify both /FROM and /SUBJECT for a single criterion.

SET PERSONAL_NAME

Establishes a "personal name" to accompany your return address.

FORMAT

SET [NO]PERSONAL_NAME *["name"]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/EDITOR=editor-name	

PARAMETERS

name

Any readable text string, not including quotation marks or backslashes, to be used as your personal name.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to set up or remove your personal name. The name is added to your return address for articles you post and mail messages you send.

SET REPLY

Sets the default sending mechanism for REPLY commands.

FORMAT

SET REPLY *reply-type [,...]*

PARAMETERS

reply-type

Either POST or MAIL, depending on whether you want your replies to be posted to the newsgroup or mailed to the article poster. You can specify more than one reply type by separating them with commas.

DESCRIPTION

This setting is used to determine whether replies are posted, mailed, or both, when you do not specify either the /POST or /MAIL on a REPLY command.

SET SEEN

Marks an article or group of articles as “seen”.

FORMAT

SET SEEN *[article-range[,...]]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/ALL	
/THREAD	

PARAMETERS

article-range

A single article number or a starting and ending article number separated by a hyphen. All articles in the specified range are marked ‘‘seen’’.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to mark articles as having been seen, even if you haven’t read them. This prevents them from being displayed with the READ/NEW command.

QUALIFIERS

/ALL

Causes all articles in the current newsgroup to marked.

/THREAD

Causes each article in the current newsgroup, from the current article onward, to be marked as seen if the subject of the article matches the subject of the current article.

SET SIGNATURE

Establishes a "signature" file.

FORMAT

SET [NO]SIGNATURE *[file-spec]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/[NO]AUTOMATIC=(send-type [,...])	*/AUTOMATIC=(POST,MAIL)*

PARAMETERS

file-spec

Name of the file in which you have stored your signature.

DESCRIPTION

This command can be used to establish a ''signature'' file. The contents of the signature file (up to 8 lines of text) is appended to messages you send and articles you post, and can contain information such as your name, company, E-mail address, etc. Use SET NOSIGNATURE to clear the signature setting.

QUALIFIERS

/AUTOMATIC=(send-type[,...])
/NOAUTOMATIC

Specifies when the signature file should be automatically appended: on mail messages, on article postings, or both. Possible values for **send-type** are MAIL and POST. The default is for automatic signature inclusion on both mail and article postings. Specify /NOAUTOMATIC to prevent automatic inclusion of the signature file.

This setting can be overridden by using the /[NO]SIGNATURE qualifier on the FORWARD, MAIL, POST, and REPLY commands.

SET UNSEEN

Marks an article or group of articles as "unseen".

FORMAT

SET UNSEEN *[article-range[,...]]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/ALL	

PARAMETERS

article-range

A single article number or a starting and ending article number separated by a hyphen. All articles in the specified range are marked ''unseen''. If omitted, the current article is marked unseen.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to mark articles as having been unseen, so they can be recalled the next time you use READ/NEW or READ/NEXT/NEW. This can be useful for long articles you want to skip in the current NEWSRDR session but would like to come back to later.

QUALIFIERS

/ALL

Causes all articles in the current newsgroup to marked.

SHOW

Displays profile settings and other information about the NEWSRDR environment.

FORMAT

SHOW { *ARCHIVE_DIRECTORY* | *CURRENT_GROUP* | *EDIT* | *GROUP* | *HEADERS* | *IGNORE [/GLOBAL] [/LOCAL]* | *PERSONAL_NAME* | *SERVER* | *SIGNATURE_FILE* | *ALL* }

PARAMETERS

ARCHIVE_DIRECTORY
Displays the current archive directory setting.

CURRENT_GROUP
Displays the name of the current newsgroup, along with the number of the first and last available article in the group.

EDIT
Displays the current SET EDIT setting and the name of your selected text editor.

GROUP
Displays the name of the current newsgroup, along with the number of the first and last available article in the group. (Same as SHOW CURRENT_ GROUP.)

HEADERS
Displays the current SET HEADERS setting.

IGNORE
Displays the ignore criteria for the current group (/LOCAL) and/or the global ignore criteria (/GLOBAL). The default is /LOCAL.

PERSONAL_NAME
Displays the current SET PERSONAL_NAME setting.

SERVER
Displays the Internet host name of the NNTP news server machine.

SIGNATURE_FILE
Displays the current SET SIGNATURE setting.

ALL
Displays all of the above information.

DESCRIPTION

This command can be used to look at any of your profile settings as well as some information about your NEWSRDR environment. See the description of the SET command for more information about profile settings.

SPAWN

Creates a subprocess of the current process. The context of the subprocess is copied from the current process. You can use the SPAWN command to leave NEWSRDR temporarily, perform other functions, and then return to NEWSRDR.

FORMAT

SPAWN *[command]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/INPUT=filespec	*/INPUT=SYS$INPUT*
/[NO]LOGICAL_NAMES	*/LOGICAL_NAMES*
/OUTPUT=filespec	*/OUTPUT=SYS$OUTPUT*
/PROCESS=subprocess-name	
/[NO]SYMBOLS	*/SYMBOLS*
/[NO]WAIT	*/WAIT*

PARAMETERS

command

Specifies the DCL command string that executes in the context of the created subprocess. When the command completes, the subprocess terminates and control is returned to the parent process. If this parameter is not specified, a subprocess is created that transfers control to DCL command level.

QUALIFIERS

/INPUT=filespec

Specifies an input file containing one or more DCL command strings to be executed by the spawned subprocess. If you specify a command string along with an input file, the command string is processed before the commands in the input file. Once processing is complete, the subprocess is terminated.

/[NO]LOGICAL_NAMES

Specifies that the logical names of the parent process are to be copied to the subprocess. When you do not want the subprocess to use the logical names of the parent process, enter the qualifier /NOLOGICAL_NAMES. The default is /LOGICAL_NAMES.

/OUTPUT=filespec

Identifies the output file to which the results of the SPAWN operation are written. Whenever you use the /NOWAIT qualifier, you should also use the /OUTPUT qualifier to specify a new output destination. Doing so prevents output from being displayed while you are specifying new commands. If you omit the /OUTPUT qualifier, output is written by default to the current SYS$OUTPUT device.

/PROCESS=subprocess-name

Specifies the name of the subprocess to be created. The default name of the subprocess is ''USERNAME_*n*''.

/[NO]SYMBOLS

Determines whether the system passes DCL global and local symbols to the subprocess. The default is /SYMBOLS.

/[NO]WAIT

Controls whether the system waits until the subprocess is completed before allowing more commands to be specified. The /NOWAIT qualifier allows you to specify new commands while the specified subprocess is running. If you specify /NOWAIT, you should also use the /OUTPUT qualifier to direct the output stream to a file, rather than displaying it on your terminal. Doing so prevents your terminal from being used by more than one process simultaneously.

STORE

Forwards a copy of a news article to yourself by VMS Mail.

FORMAT

STORE *[article-number]*

PARAMETERS

article-number
Number of the article to be sent. If omitted, the current article is sent.

DESCRIPTION

This command sends the specified article by VMS Mail to yourself. The message subject is automatically set to the subject of the article being forwarded.

This command could be used to store articles of interest into VMS Mail, where you could organize them into mail folders.

SUBSCRIBE

Adds one or more newsgroups to your subscription list.

FORMAT

SUBSCRIBE *newsgroup[,...]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/CONFIRM	

PARAMETERS

newsgroup

Name of a newsgroup you wish to subscribe to, or a wildcard pattern. All available newsgroups matching the specified patterns will be added to your subscription list.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to begin following one or more newsgroups. The newsgroup name and information about articles you have seen in the group are stored in your NEWSRDR profile.

QUALIFIERS

/CONFIRM

When specified, NEWSRDR asks for confirmation before adding a newsgroup to the subscription list.

UNSUBSCRIBE

Removes one or more newsgroups from your subscription list.

FORMAT

UNSUBSCRIBE *newsgroup[,...]*

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/CONFIRM	

PARAMETERS

newsgroup

Name of a newsgroup you no longer wish to subscribe to, or a wildcard pattern. All newsgroups matching the pattern will be removed from the subscription list.

DESCRIPTION

This command is used to end your participation in a newsgroup. The group is removed from your NEWSRDR profile, and you will no longer see any articles in that newsgroup.

QUALIFIERS

/CONFIRM

When specified, NEWSRDR asks for confirmation before adding a newsgroup to the subscription list.

UPDATE

Updates NEWSRDR's newsgroup information from the NNTP server.

FORMAT

UPDATE

Command Qualifiers	Defaults
/PARTIAL	

DESCRIPTION

This command can be used to discover further available unread articles since the last update. This is done automatically for you at the start of a NEWSRDR session, but if you have spent a long time in NEWSRDR, this command should be used. A message is displayed for each newsgroup in which unseen articles are found.

Information about all active newsgroups is provided, unless you specify the /PARTIAL qualifier.

QUALIFIERS

/PARTIAL

Only information about newsgroups to which you are subscribed is obtained. This qualifier should generally not be used, since the information from a full update is needed for some other NEWSRDR commands to work properly.