

MAKING A NEW ALT.*.NEWSGROUP

• CONTROL MESSAGE TUTORIAL •

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The main purpose of this tutorial is to explain how to create a new Newsgroup for Usenet. As well as how-to make a current newsgroup 'valid' according to isc.org rules and guidelines if your current Usenet provider refuses to host it.

If your Usenet provider simply doesn't yet host a newsgroup of your interests, you might want to first check their FAQ page/s on how you go about requesting it.

All the Usenet providers I list on my website carry the most popular newsgroups. Which is based on the most posts, and in many cases files are duplicated between multiple newsgroups. I.E Files appearing in alt.binaries.teevee will also show up in alt.binaries.multimedia.

They all offer the ability to download a listing so you can check before you even sign up.

E.G Newshosting listing can be found [here!](#)

Now how to create a totally NEW newsgroup....

Firstly, you need a news reader that allows you to post messages with "Fields".

"Fields" is a section of the post that you don't normally see when reading messages on Usenet. It contains a number of lines that keeps track of who posted the message, and its original routing (among other things).

So for the following example I will explain how to write a "control message" using the program I prefer, called Forte Agent, available from <http://www.forteinc.com/agent/index.php> You can of course use any program you like provided you can access the "Field" section of your message.

FORTE' AGENT

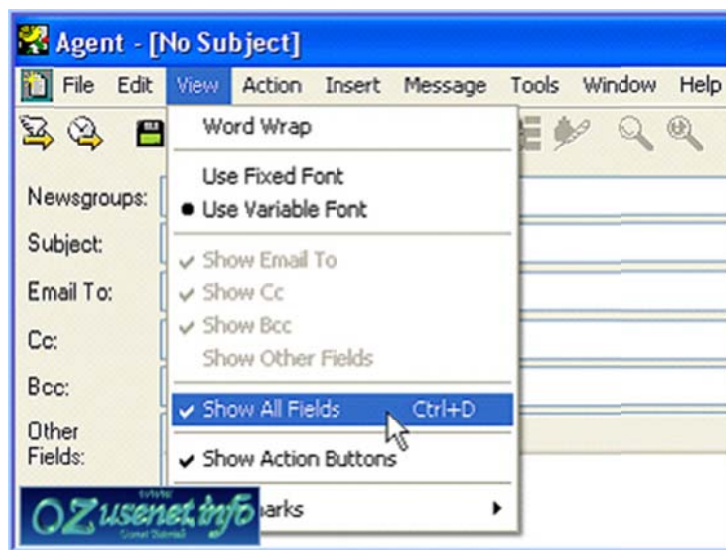
You will need to edit the **AGENT.INI** file found in the /Agent/Data directory. Open agent.ini and go to the section labeled "[message]". Below that you will see ShowAllField=0, Change it to read ShowAllFields=1, Close and save agent.ini.

You are now ready to post your newsgroup message and create your own newSgroup.

Subscribe to the newsgroup "alt.config"

Click on "New Usenet Post"

Click on "View" and "Show All Fields"



This will cause "Other Fields" section to now show up.

Click in "Newsgroup" and enter "alt.config" if it's not already there.

Click in "Subject" and enter "cmsg newgroup groupname"

E.G cmsg newgroup alt.binaries.australia

Remember: It's newgroup and NOT newSgroup

NOTE: The Subject line is in fact ignored by all server software currently in use (at least, I don't think anyone's still running B 2.10 or earlier versions) Using the above format is just a convention these days - but there's no particular reason not to stick with it. You may find certain Usenet providers reject/bounce your post with the "cmsg" command.

So entering something like Subject: newgroup alt.binaries.australia should work, but always try the **FULL** `\cmsg` command first.

"Email To:" Leave blank.

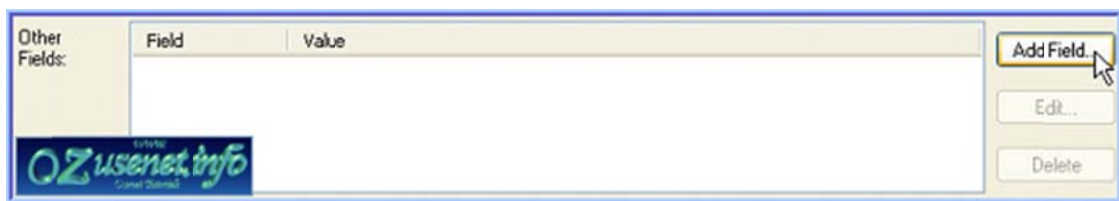
"Cc:" Enter your email to get sent a record of the post.

(Best to create a totally new email address to use to prevent possible future Usenet spam) * This email address will probably never be used again once your new newsgroup has officially been added. Unless you decide to add moderator/s later, but that's a whole different chapter, which I might write one day ☺

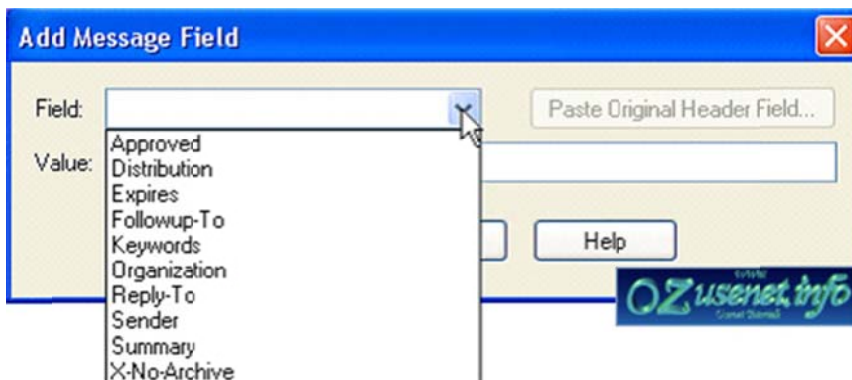
"Bcc:" Leave blank.

"Other Fields" This is the important part, for a successful control message at least the **"Control"** command and **"Approved"** command must be included. To prevent possible rejection we will send all commands.

Click the **"Add Field"** button.



It will now show...



Select Field: **"Approved"** Value: **"Your email address"** (Your new address)

Select Field: **"Distribution"** Value: **"Leave empty except for a single space"**

Select Field: **"Expires"** Value: **"Leave empty"**

Select Field: **"Followup-To"** Value: **"poster"**

Select Field: **"Keywords"** Value: **"blank, or keywords relating to newsgroup"**

Select Field: **"Organization"** Value: **"blank, or company name"**

Select Field: **"Reply-To"** Value: **"Your email address"** (Your new address)

Select Field: **"Sender"** Value: **"Your email address"** (Your new address)

Select Field: **"Summary"** Value: **"Leave empty"**

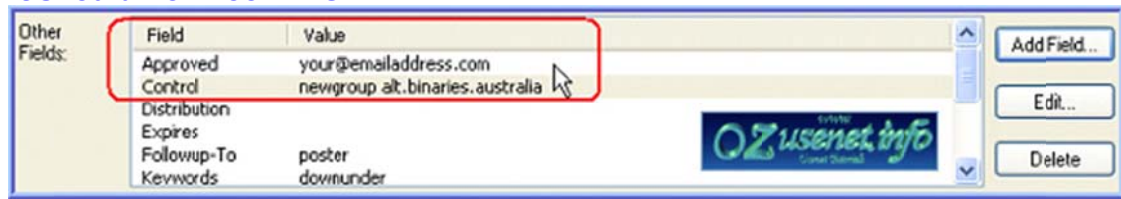
Ignore **"X-No-Archive"**

In the Field: section type **"Control"** Value: **"newgroup groupname"**

E.G Field: **"Control"** Value: **"newgroup alt.binaries.australia"**

Remember: It's newgroup and NOT newsgroup

It should now look like...



The two MAIN field commands are "**Approved**" and "**Control**". Which is the only difference between a control message and a normal message.

Now begins the BODY of the message. Leave a blank line at the top of your message. You may copy/paste the rest but please pay careful attention to the formatting of the first two lines of text.

You MUST add a short description of your new newsgroup. To do this type "**For your newsgroup file:**" on one line and then on the very next line type the name of the **newsgroup**, hit the "TAB+SPACE", then give a **brief description of the newsgroup** that stays on the same line as the newsgroup name. **NOTING:** Any part that wraps around to the next line will not be part of the short description.

SPACE[enter]

For your newsgroup file:

GroupnameTAB+SPACE**Describe the newsgroup**

E.G

SPACE[enter]

For your newsgroup file:

alt.binaries.australiaTAB+SPACE**All things Australian.**

Now, under that leave a space and add a "**Charter**"

A "**charter**" describes what the newsgroup is about and what it is for. If there is any dispute in the future about the newsgroup's purpose the charter is used to dispel the myths that come with time.

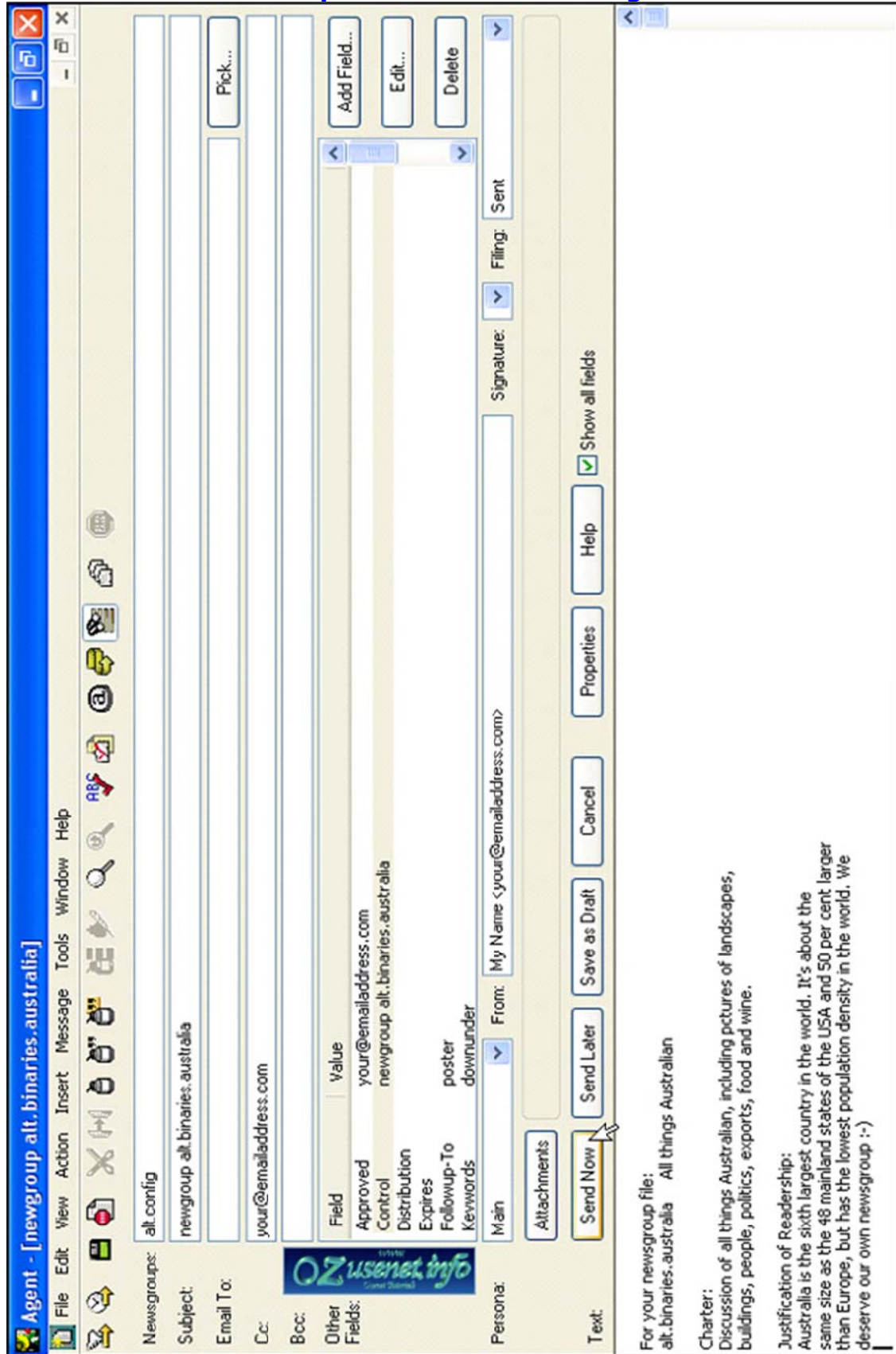
Under that, leave a space and add a "**Justification of Readership**"

A "**Justification of Readership**" describes why the newsgroup is being created and why there needs to be yet another group dedicated to whatever topic it is you are creating the newsgroup about.

Example...



A screen shot of a completed "control message"... ☺



Once you're happy with it, Click the "Send Now" button.

If you have correctly sent the "**control message**" through to your Usenet provider you should **NOT** see it appear in the "**alt.config**" newsgroup. It goes directly to "**control.newsgroup**". You should also be able to see the message has been sent from Forte' Agents log. (Tools/Task Manager)

You now need to check to see if the '**control message**' has gone through to isc.org. (ISC houses the Usenet newsgroup list and control message archive)

You can find a copy of it, after a short wait (maybe an hour or two) at...

<ftp://ftp.isc.org/usenet/control/alt/newsgroupname.gz>. Provided all goes well, and it is accepted it will then appear in the control message archive directory (maybe 12-24hrs)

"<ftp://ftp.isc.org/pub/usenet/control/alt/newsgroupname.gz>"

- Replace "[newsgroupname.gz](ftp://ftp.isc.org/pub/usenet/control/alt/newsgroupname.gz)" with your newsgroup name, as in my example it would be "<ftp://ftp.isc.org/pub/usenet/control/alt/alt.binaires.australia.gz>"

You will need WinZip to open the Unix zip file and read it with the WinZip's viewer.

If your "**control message**" fails to appear above, then you need to check the log files for the date that you sent the message at

<ftp://ftp.isc.org/usenet/CONFIG/LOGS/>

With hopefully explaining the reasons why, you may need to also ask your Usenet provider for assistance. Also, check that you haven't used any incorrect syntax.

If successfully, you will then need to contact your Usenet provider and ask them if they would be kind enough to get your new newsgroup. Usually a "POST" in their support newsgroup would suffice. Some even offer that ability via online tools.

Booster Message

Once your group is created, it can need some help propagating across usenet. This can be done with a "**booster message**" - basically it means sending the control message again so newsadmins who missed it before might see it this time.

It's not something I would automatically do. Give it a *few* weeks, if you don't see your new group showing up at all the major Usenet providers retention checkers then you might want to send one.

Go through the same process as you did to send the original control message, except at the beginning of the body of the message (where you added a space), you put the word "**Booster**" on a line by itself. Send the booster control message to "**alt.config**" newsgroup and to the group it is boosting.

These days I find there are already enough newsgroups out there. But sometimes your Usenet provider doesn't carry the newsgroup you want. (Majority of the time because it isn't a valid newsgroup showing up at isc.org) Or, there simply isn't a newsgroup already created for the purpose on your interests.

So if you want your Usenet provider to carry a certain newsgroup, follow my help file on how to format a "**control message**", and in the "**Charter**" section you may also wish to explain the newsgroup **does** currently exists but needs to be a valid newsgroup for your Usenet provider to carry it. Adding in the "**Justification of Readership**" any stats you might be able to get. I find you can obtain that easily from using a retention checker from a major Usenet provider that does carry the newsgroup.

One last thing...

- If you are actually wanting to start a completely NEW newsgroup it is highly advisable to first post a message in "**alt.config**" with the Subject: **[PROPOSAL] groupname** and your reasons to follow in the TEXT area. Then allow a week or two of discussion. You can then make reference to this in your "**Justification of Readership**" paragraph.

Good Luck with your endeavours and Happy Usenet'ing ☺
Kind Regards, Glenn Thomson



"Wow! I've got one from someone I know!"

Website: www.ozusenet.info or [Email Me!](#)



Feel free to link to my web site ☺

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HOW TO FIND A USENET PROVIDER

If you are unlucky enough not to have a Premium Usenet supplied by your ISP you will need to find one yourself (**No ISP in Australia currently re-sells Usenet access**).

These Usenet providers in the USA that offer re-occurring monthly accounts all vary on Pricing, Retention, and Quota. I've listed the top providers below for value; so simply [click the links](#) or via [Ozusenet.info](#) for the sign-up specials. They also offer European server farms.

You basically have three choices with Usenet Providers, either pay for a monthly re-occurring subscription fee based on a limit, or unlimited account, a once a year plan, or, pay for blocks of quota (PAYG).

NEWSHOSTING

(My recommendation, use the free Browser/Client as well)

The screenshot shows the Newshosting website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Newshosting logo and links for 'SUPPORT | CONTACT'. The main content area is titled 'Newshosting Usenet Browser' and lists several features:

- Yours, for Free!**: The Newshosting Usenet Browser is free to all new subscribers.
- Easy Setup**: No configuration needed, just enter username and password.
- Easy to Use**: Search, Preview, and Download with ease.
- Integrated Search**: Search results are fully integrated into the client.
- Automatic Repair**: Files are automatically repaired at the end of a download.
- Automatic Decompression**: Files are automatically decompressed after download.
- Video Previews**: Preview video content before downloading.
- 24/7/365 Support**: Dedicated support staff available 24 hours a day.
- Automatic Updates**: The browser is automatically updated to the latest version.

On the right side, there is a promotional banner for a 'FREE Usenet Browser' offer. It features two pricing options:

- 1 MONTH Unlimited Plan**: 33% OFF, priced at \$9.99 (Retail: \$14.95/mo).
- 1 YEAR Unlimited Plan**: 44% OFF, priced at \$99.99 (Only \$8.33/mo).

Both options include a 'Sign Up Today!' button. Below the banner, there are images of the Newshosting Usenet Browser interface on a laptop and desktop monitor, showing a list of news articles with thumbnails and titles.

USENETSERVER



UsenetServer Lifetime Discounts

Unwrap Unbeatable Savings

- ✓ Unlimited Downloads
- ✓ Uncapped Speed
- ✓ Encrypted SSL
- ✓ 1222 Days of Retention
- ✓ 20 Connections
- ✓ 99% Completion
- ✓ Referral Credit
- ✓ 24/7 Live Support

1 MONTH
High-Speed Plus Special
\$10.00 SIGN UP

SAVE 44% EVERY MONTH

1 YEAR
High-Speed Plus Special
\$95.40 SIGN UP
That's Only \$7.95 a Month!

SAVE 55% EVERY YEAR

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- ▶ 1200 Days Binary Retention

Sign Up Now

USENET-NEWS



Lifetime Block download accounts

Block size	Cost/block	(Payable in USD, EUR or GBP)
2 GB	€ 2.00	1.00 USD/GB
5 GB	€ 3.00	0.60 USD/GB
10 GB	€ 5.00	0.50 USD/GB
20 GB	€ 8.00	0.40 USD/GB
30 GB	€ 10.00	0.33 USD/GB
50 GB	€ 15.00 12.00	0.24 USD/GB --> New lower price!
100 GB	€ 22.00 15.00	0.15 USD/GB --> New lower price!
200 GB	€ 27.00 22.00	0.11 USD/GB --> New lower price!
500 GB	€ 65.00 52.00	0.105 USD/GB -> New lower price!
1024 GB	€ 92.00	0.09 USD/GB --> New block size, 1 Terabyte!