

CSGnetReadMe.pdf

Commentary regarding CSGnet archives. By Dag Forssell April 27, 2009

CSGnet is a unique resource. I am sure it will be studied with care by future PCTers. There is a huge volume of discussion on many different topics here, and many, many fine essays by Bill Powers summing up the sometimes acrimonious discussions.

A complete, sure to be accurate, record is contained in logs and daily digests.

Mailboxes with individual mails are not necessarily complete. Accidental or deliberate deletions may have happened. The collection of attachments is probably not complete.

Downloading this pdf file, you are already at the directory, but for reference, here is how to access these files as of April, 2009:

An FTP program, such as FileZilla, <http://filezilla-project.org> is designed for direct file transfers

Using an FTP program, access <ftp.pctresources.com>
user name: pctstudent password: re5earch!

Browsers provide access to ftp sites, but you must watch the address, apparently

Using a browser and clicking on <ftp.pctresources.com> takes you to <ftp://ftp.pctresources.com/>, which leads nowhere in my experience.

For a browser, the correct address is <ftp://pctresources.com/>
user name: pctstudent password: re5earch!

(This opens the folder csgnet_archives with several subfolders. The password must contain at least six characters including numbers and punctuation marks.)

You do not have to download the 900 MB and more in this directory. You can pick and choose which files to download. For Eudora, you download mailboxes, then place them on your hard disk right alongside the mailboxes (In, Out, Trash and such) that Eudora creates when you install it. Next time you open Eudora, there they are. You do not need tables of content, .toc files. Eudora will create new ones from the mailbox .mbx files. .mbx files are the same for Windows and Mac.

Many messages include ASCII figures. Therefore, it is good to set Eudora to display messages using a fixed-width font such as Courier New. Tools / Options / Fonts / Messages Printer and Screen
Word should be set to Courier just the same.

CSGnet_Word_digests_1990_2002_159MB

This is my original archive, Word files aggregated and formatted by month. In the early years, I copied and pasted all correspondence from MCImail and any other mail program I may have forgotten into Word files. The early files contain individual mails and some of my personal mail may be included. Later, I strung digests together and used search and replace to remove repetitive headers. I formatted posts with indentation and such to my liking. I uuencoded some attachments, removed the uuencoded text from the word file and placed the attachment in a folder with the monthly Word file. These Word files cover CSGnet from the very beginning in August 1990 through July 2002. In the later years, HTML-encoded emails caused considerable duplication of text in the Word files, and I ceased spending the time to uuencode and format, so the quality of the Word files deteriorates toward the end.

CSGnet_Kennaway_1994_2001_120MB

This is a backup. Kennaway collected logs from the server and shared with me. If there is a question about the Word files, a researcher can double-check here to see if Dag made a mistake when formatting the word files.

Eudora_mailboxes_1997_2009_382MB

I have long had my subscription to CSGnet set to digests (Dag Forssell <team@forsselltrans.com>), but wised up a few years ago and subscribed (duplicate) with individual posts as well (Dag Forssell <csgarchive@pctresources.com>). A few years ago, Bruce Nevin shared his archive of individual posts back to 1997. I have sorted through Bruce's archive to remove all personal posts. I think this archive of individual posts is complete, but cannot be 100% sure.

A big advantage of this archive is that Eudora allows rather sophisticated search of the individual posts. It can still be neigh impossible to find a particular exchange you sort of remember, because even though you can search for words and phrases using Eudora, the words must be the ones used in the post, not the version you remember.

A duplicate is included in this archive in the digests folder. These are digests from my original subscription to CSGnet, continuing where the Word files end. Note that when searching in Eudora, you specify which folders or mailboxes to include. You may limit your search to a particular folder or time frame.

Eudora_mailboxes_1992_1996_74MB

Martin Taylor has provided old backup CDs with his Eudora mailboxes. Personal posts have been removed. The years 1992 through 1996 are not quite complete, but provide significant search capabilities and redundancy. Months missing are 9201, 9202, 9204, 9211, 9302, 9403, 9604 and 9612. 9306 is missing the first half and 9611 is missing the first $\frac{3}{4}$. Look to the Word file record for more, and from 1994 forward, look also to Kennaway's log files for redundancy.

Eudora_attachments_1999_2009_109MB

These are attachments to the individual posts, from Bruce Nevin's archive and mine. In the word files, and in digests, you will find UUencoded attachments. These can be extracted by creating a single file from the rather obvious block of uniform gibberish and running a UUdecode program. At one time I used Aladdin / Stuffit Expander. Here you could drag a UUencoded file to the Stuffit window and presto, it was converted back to the original attachment, file name and all.

Eudora_program_PC_7.1_17MB

This is the Eudora program for Windows; the last issue available when Eudora was placed in the public domain. Later, Open Source versions are becoming available. See <http://www.eudora.com/>

Eudora_program_MAC_6.2.4_12MB

Eudora program for the Mac. Same story.

Closed_Loop_19MB

Thrown in for good measure, here are Closed Loops in two versions for display as single pages or spreads - your choice. (I learned last year that vision impaired people have trouble with side-by-side columns. Therefore the single page version. It may also be easier to read on-screen.)

Continuing_the_Conversation_10MB

The complete series of newsletters edited by Greg Williams in 1985 through 1991.

Best, Dag