

Getting Connected: E-mail

There are several ways that you can access the mail which is sent to your D.C. FreeNet account. Which of the methods you use should be a matter of which is convenient and suits your needs best.

Mail Forwarding

The first option is to have your FreeNet account “forward” its mail to your regular dial-up account. For example, let’s say I usually access the Internet through an Erol’s account with the E-mail address *jeffcarl@erols.com*. My FreeNet domain is called *www.richmondfree.net*. I can notify *help@dcfree.net*, and they will make sure that all mail which comes to any address at *@richmondfree.net* is automatically forwarded to the account *jeffcarl@erols.com*. That way, I will see the mail each time I log in and check for mail normally. This option does not require you to change any of the settings in your mail-reading program of choice.

Note that the “mail forwarding” method can be split up in several ways. For example, I could request that all mail going to any address *@richmondfree.net* be sent to *jeffcarl@erols.com* and *jcarl@servint.com*. Or, I could say that mail sent to *info@richmondfree.net* would be forwarded to *jeffcarl@erols.com*, and all other mail sent to any other *@richmondfree.net* address would go to *jcarl@servint.com*.

To request mail forwarding, simply contact us at (703) 847-1381 during business hours, or send E-mail to *help@dcfree.net*. We can also answer any questions you may have about what is possible with mail forwarding.

Telnet Access

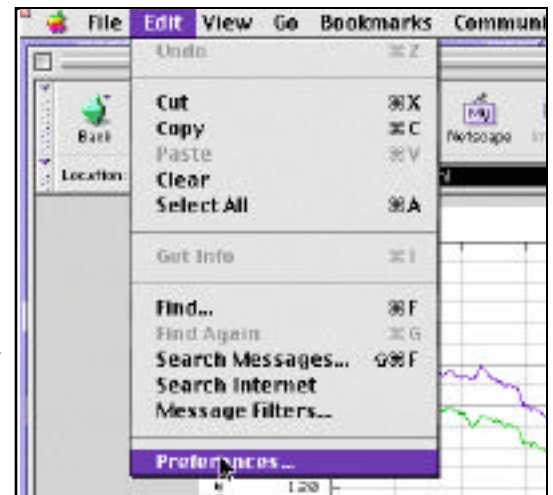
You can access your mail on your D.C. FreeNet by initiating a Telnet connection, logging in, and using a program like Pine to read and send mail directly from your account. For information on using Telnet, see the next section; for information on using Pine (and other Telnet commands), see the *ServInt Virtual Hosting User’s Manual*, where it is covered in depth.

Note: The only way that you will be able to *send* mail from your D.C. FreeNet account is by sending it through a Telnet access session as described here. To prevent unscrupulous Internet users from using our servers to send junk E-mail (“spam”) through, we have set up the FreeNet server so that only users coming from “inside” the system can send mail from it. This is *not* to say that you can’t respond to mail sent to your domain; it merely means that if you download your mail to another account (as described in the Mail Forwarding section above or the POP Access section below), any mail you send out will come *from* that address, rather than the address of your FreeNet account. For example, if I have mail from *@richmondfree.net* forwarded to *jeffcarl@erols.com*, any mail I send out will read From: *jeff - carl@erols.com*, rather than From: *jcarl@richmondfree.net*. Using telnet mail access, however, I can send mail “from” my FreeNet account.

POP Access

A third option is through direct “POP Mail” access of your FreeNet account. This requires a little work with configuration, but is probably the second most commonly-used option, after mail forwarding. It has the benefit of allowing you to keep your FreeNet account’s mail separate from your regular account’s mail.

For the following example, we will describe setup for reading mail using the **Netscape Communicator 4.0** web browser/E-mail and news client. This software is available from <http://home.netscape.com>, and is available for Macintosh, All versions of Windows, and some versions of Unix. Since



Selecting Netscape Preferences (Macintosh).

the process is roughly the same for all platforms, we will not describe each one separately; however, we are including screen shots taken from both Windows and Macintosh platforms.

Note: You do not need this particular version or package if you are familiar with configuring mail clients. This process is just as easy to perform on **Microsoft Internet Explorer** or **Qualcomm's Eudora**; the steps are just a bit different.

Configuring Your Mail Client

Start Netscape by clicking on its icon on the desktop or in your start menu. When the netscape window pops up, you will see a group of four icons at the bottom, right-hand corner of the window. The second icon from the left is the mail icon. Click this icon

A mail window will pop up. If any additional dialog boxes pop up, showing errors or asking you for information, close them by clicking each of their cancel pushbuttons.

From the mail window, click the 'Edit' menu at the top of the window, then select 'Preferences' from the bottom of the drop down menu's selection list.

A new 'Preferences' window will pop up, containing a 'Category' listbox. Within this listbox, the selection, 'Mail & Groups' will be highlighted. If it is not for some reason, click it until it shows a sub-list of choices.

Begin configuring your client by clicking the 'Identity' selection under the 'Mail & Groups' listing. To the right of the 'Category' listbox will be entry fields for the related options. See figure 6 for an example for entering information. Enter

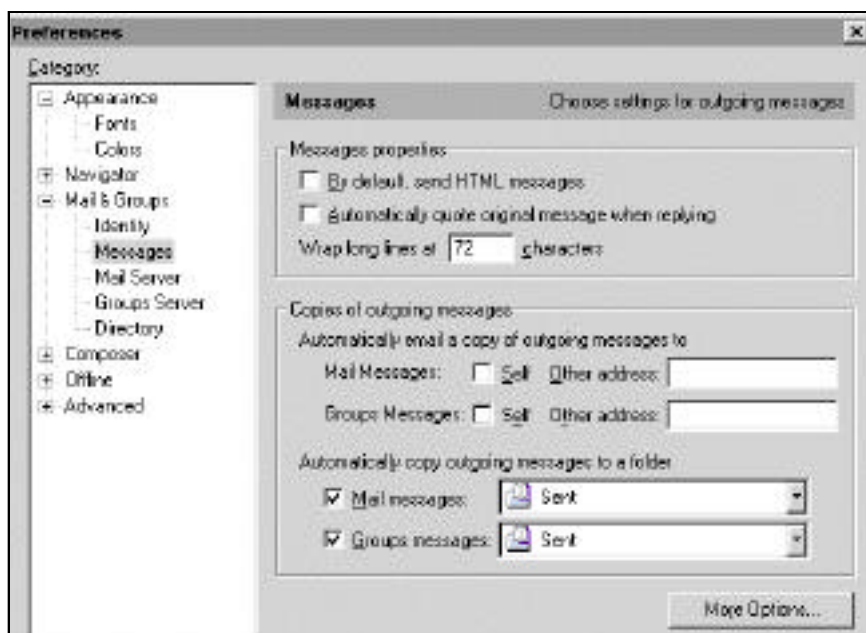


Fig. 7: Setting up "Message" Preferences, Netscape for Windows.

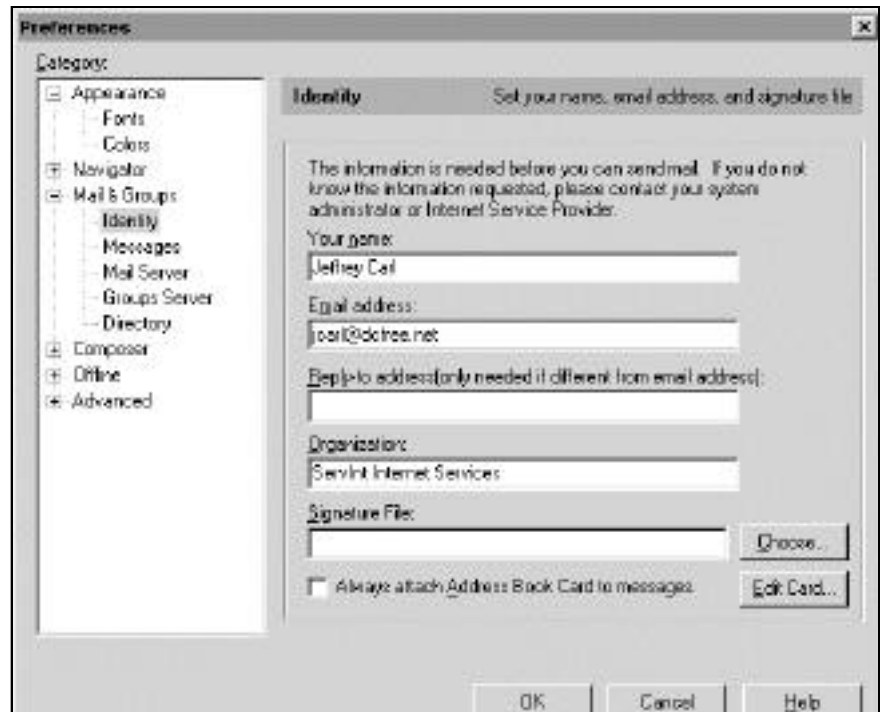


Fig. 6: Setting up "Identity" Preferences, Netscape for Windows.

your name in the 'Your Name' field. Enter your dcfree net E-mail address in the 'E-Mail Address' field. You may leave the 'Reply-to' address field blank. Enter the name of your organization in the 'Organization' field. You may leave the 'Signature File' field blank.

Now click the 'Messages' selection from the 'Category' listbox. This will bring up options related to how your browser interacts with the dcfree net server. Change all fields to match the selections in figure 7.

Click the 'Mail Server' option in the 'Category' listbox. Enter your dcfree net user name in the 'Mail server user name' field. This allows Netscape to log into your account to retrieve your mail. In the next field, 'Outgoing mail (SMTP) server', enter the name of your ISP's mail server. This is the name of the server that you use when sending mail via your nor-

mal dial-up account. In the 'Incoming mail server' field, enter dcfree.net. This lets Netscape know what machine to look for in order to find your mail. Copy the rest of the information from figure 8, into the remainder of the 'Mail Server' entry fields.

Note: as mentioned before, you can *retrieve* mail (POP or incoming mail) from your D.C. FreeNet account, but you cannot *send* it (SMTP or outgoing mail). This feature has been turned off to keep unauthorized users from using our servers to send junk E-mail. So, while you can change your POP/incoming mail to dcfree.net, you cannot use dcfree.net as your SMTP/outgoing mail server.

Click the 'OK' pushbutton at the bottom of the preferences page. Your Mail client is now configured.

Note: you will have to switch your preferences back to their original settings the next time you want to view your mail from your regular ISP account. Simply repeat the process, but enter the information your ISP gives you for POP mail. For information on easier switching, see the note below.

Using Your Mail Client

From now on, you may view your dcfree.net mail simply by opening Netscape and clicking the Mail pushbutton at the bottom right of the Navigator window. This brings up the mail window. Netscape will prompt you for a password. Enter your dcfree net password here. Netscape will then connect to the dcfree net server and download all of your mail. You may then browse it in the Mail window.

Note: the newest version of **Netscape Communicator** (version 4.6) and **Internet Explorer** (5 for PCs, 4.5 for Macintosh), allows more options. With these browsers, you can specify multiple POP servers, as show in figure 9. This should allow quick switching back and forth between user POP accounts, and may be worth while for you to use if you will need to switch between your FreeNet account and your ISP account frequently.

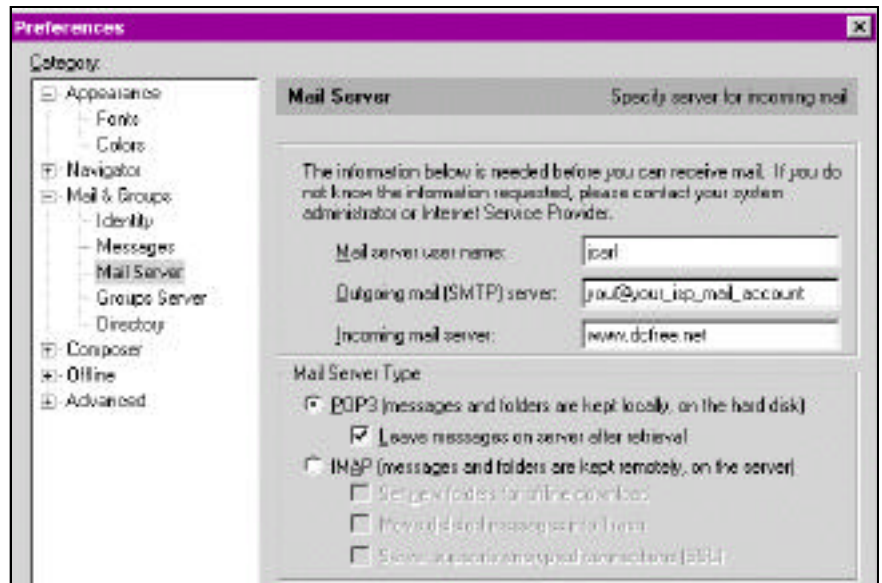
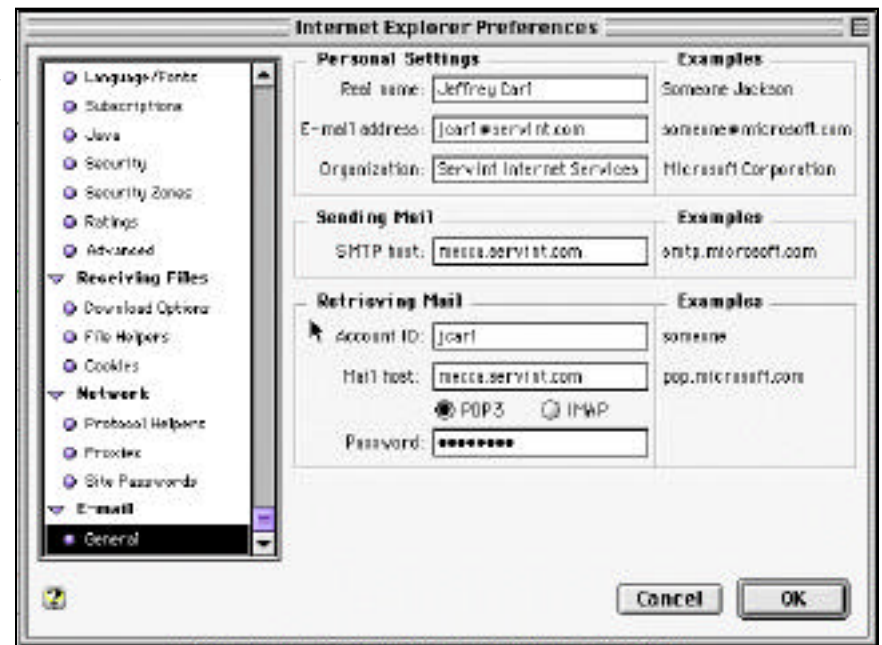


Fig. 8: Setting up "Mail Server" Preferences, Netscape for Windows.



Setting Mail Preferences in Microsoft Internet Explorer for Macintosh.

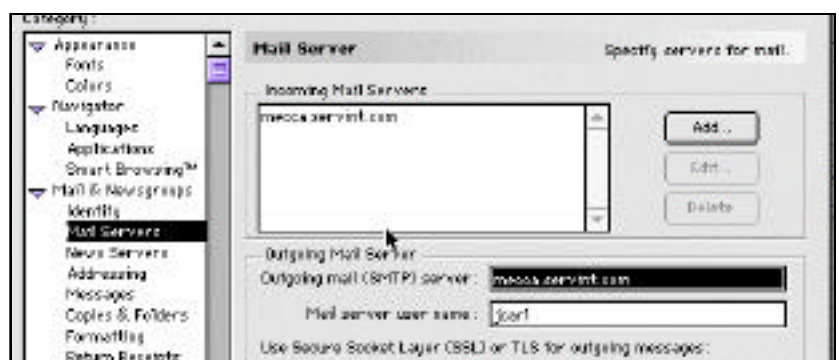


Fig. 9: Netscape Communicator 4.6 allows you to specify multiple POP servers.