

**NAME**

vnews – read news articles

**SYNOPSIS**

**vnews** [ **-a** *date* ] [ **-n** *newsgroups* ] [ **-t** *titles* ] [ **-rxu** ]

**vnews** **-s**

**DESCRIPTION**

*Vnews* is a program for reading USENET news. It is based on *readnews(1)* but has a CRT oriented interface. The list of available commands is quite similar, although since *vnews* is a "visual" interface, most *vnews* commands do not have to be terminated by a newline.

*Vnews* uses the first 22 lines of the screen to display the current article. Line 23 is the secondary prompt line, and is used to input string arguments to commands. Line 24 contains several fields. The first field is the prompt field. If *vnews* is at the end of an article, the prompt is "next?"; otherwise the prompt is "more?". The second field is the newsgroup field, which displays the current newsgroup, the number of the current article, and the number of the last article in the newsgroup. The third field contains the current time, and the last field contains the word "mail" if you have mail. When you receive new mail, the bell on the terminal is rung and the word mail appears in capital letters for 30 seconds.

*Vnews* without any arguments prints unread articles.

The following flags determine the selection of articles.

**-a** [ *date* ] Select articles posted after the given *date* (in *getdate(3)* format).

**-n** *newsgroups*  
Select articles belonging to *newsgroups*.

**-t** *titles* Select articles whose titles contain one of the strings specified by *titles*.

**-r** Print the articles in reverse order.

**-x** Ignore *.newsrc* file. That is, select articles that have already been read as well as new ones.

**-u** Update the *.newsrc* file every 5 minutes, as in the case of an unreliable system. (Note that if the *.newsrc* file is updated, the **x** command will not restore it to its original contents.)

**vnews -s** prints the newsgroup subscription list.

*vnews* maintains a *.newsrc* file in the your home directory that specifies all news articles already read. It is updated at the end of each reading session unless the **-x** option was specified. If the environment variable NEWSRC is present, it should be the path name of a file to be used in place of *.newsrc*.

If you wish, an options line may be placed in your *.newsrc* file. This line starts with the word **options** (left justified) followed by the list of standard options just as they would be typed on the command line. Such a list may include: the **-n** flag along with a newsgroup list and/or the **-r** or **-t** flag. Continuation lines begin with a space or tab character.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Options can be specified in the **NEWSOPTS** environment parameter. Where conflicts exist, options on the command line take precedence, followed by the *.newsrc options* line, and lastly the **NEWSOPTS** parameter.

When the user uses the reply command, the environment parameter **MAILER** will be used to determine which mailer to use. The default is usually */bin/mail*.

If the user so desires, he may specify a specific paging program for articles. The environment parameter **PAGER** should be set to the paging program. The name of the article is referenced with a '%', as in the **-c** option. If no '%' is present, the article will be piped to the program. Paging may be disabled by setting **PAGER** to a null value.

If **EDITOR** is set, it will be used in place of the default editor on your system to edit replies and follow-ups.

If **NAME** is set, it will be used as your full name when posting news or submitting a follow-up. If it is not set, the name will be taken from the file *.name* in your home directory. If this file is not present, the name will be taken from */etc/passwd*.

If **NEWSARCHIVE** is set, a copy of any articles you post or follow-up to, will be saved in the specified file. If it is the null string, they will be copied in *author\_copy* in your home directory.

If **NEWSBOX** is set, the <filename> you specify when you save or write a file will be prepended with NEWSBOX unless <filename> is an absolute pathname.

If **NEWSRC** is set, it will be used in place of the .newsrc file in your home directory.

If **ORGANIZATION** is set, it will be used as the name of your organization whenever you post an article. The default is compiled in and is usually correct. Typically, you would only use this if you were reading news at a site other than normal. (Or if you are trying to be cute.)

## COMMANDS

Each vnews command may be preceded by a count. Some commands use the count; others ignore it. If count is omitted, it defaults to one. Some commands prompt for an argument on the second line from the bottom of the screen. Standard UNIX erase and kill processing is done on this argument. The argument is terminated by a return. An interrupt (delete or break) gets you out of any partially entered command.

In the following table, ^B is used as a shorthand for Control-B.

Command	Meaning
CR	A carriage return prints more of the current article, or goes on to the next article if you are at the end of the current article. A SPACE is equivalent to CR.
^B	Go backwards count pages.
^F	Go forward count pages.
^D	Go forwards half a page.
^U	Go backwards half a page.
^Z	Go forwards count lines.
^E	Go backwards count lines.
^L	Redraw the screen. ^L may be typed at any time.
b	Back up one article in the current group.
c	Cancel the article. Only the author of the article or the super user can do this.
d	Read a digest. Breaks up a digest into separate articles and permits you to read and reply to each piece.
e	Erase. Forget that this article was read.
f	Submit a follow-up article. You will be placed in your EDITOR to compose the text of the follow-up.
h	Go back to the top of the article and display only the header.
l	Redisplay the article after you have sent a follow-up or reply.
n	No. Go on to the next article without printing current one. "." is equivalent to "n". This is convenient if your terminal has a keypad.
p	Show the parent article (the article that the current article is a follow-up to). This doesn't work if the current article was posted by A-news or notesfiles. To switch between the current and parent articles, use the - command. Unfortunately, if you use several p commands to trace the discussion back further, there is no command to return to the original level.
q	Quit. The .newsrc file will be updated unless -x was on the command line.
r	Reply. Reply to article's author via mail. You are placed in your EDITOR with a header specifying To, Subject, and References lines taken from the message. You may change or add headers, as appropriate. Add the text of the reply after the blank line, and then exit the editor. The resulting message is mailed to the author of the article.
s [ <i>file</i> ]	Save. The article is appended to the named file. The default is "Articles". If the first character of the file name is ' ', the rest of the file name is taken as the name of a program, which is

executed with the text of the article as standard input. If the first character of the file name is '/', it is taken as the full pathname of a file. If \$NEWSBOX (in the environment) is set to a full pathname, and the file contains no '/', the file is saved in \$NEWSBOX. Otherwise, it is saved relative to \$HOME.

- ug Unsubscribe to the current group. This is a two character command to ensure that it is not typed accidentally and to leave room for other types of unsubscribes (e. g. unsubscribe to discussion).
- v Print the current version of the news software.
- w Write. Like save "s", except that the headers are not written out.
- x Exit. Like quit except that .newsrc is not updated.
- y Yes. Print the current article and go to the next.
- [n]A Go to article number *n* in the current newsgroup.
- D Decrypts a joke. It only handles rot 13 jokes. The D command is a toggle; typing another D re-encrypts the joke.
- H Print a very verbose header, containing all known information about the article.
- K Kill (mark as read) the rest of the articles in the current group. This is useful if you can't keep up with the volume in the newsgroup, but don't want to unsubscribe.
- N [*newsgroup*] Go to the next newsgroup or named newsgroup.
- [n]+ Skip *n* articles. The articles skipped are recorded as "unread" and will be offered to you again the next time you read news.
- Go back to last article. This is a toggle, typing it twice returns you to the original article.
- < Prompt for an article ID or the rest of a message ID. It will display the article if it exists.
- # Report the name and size of the newsgroup.
- ? Print an short help message.
- ! Passes the rest of the command line to the shell. The environment variable \$A is set to the name of the file containing the current article. If the last character of the command is a "&", then the "&" is deleted and the command is run in the background with stdin, stdout and stderr redirected to /dev/null. If the command is missing, the shell is invoked. Use the | command (or essentially any other command) to turn on the display after the program terminates.

## EXAMPLES

- vnews** Read all unread articles using the *visual* interface. The *.newsrc* file is updated at the end of the session.
- vnews -n all !fa.all -r**  
Read all unread articles except articles whose newsgroups begin with "fa." in reverse order. The *.newsrc* file is updated at the end of the session.
- vnews -n all -a last thursday**  
Print every unread article since last Thursday. The *.newsrc* file is updated at the end of the session.
- vnews -p > /dev/null &**  
Discard all unread news. This is useful after returning from a long trip.

## FILES

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| /usr/spool/news/newsgroup/number | News articles                                |
| /usr/lib/news/active             | Active newsgroups                            |
| /usr/lib/news/vnews.help         | Help file for <i>visual</i> interface        |
| ~/newsrc                         | Options and list of previously read articles |

## SEE ALSO

checknews(1), postnews(1), readnews(1), recnews(8), news(5), newsrc(5)