Annotated Bibliography on C News

Henry Spencer

Dept. of Zoology
University of Toronto

This is an informal list of books and papers that are of interest when running or looking at news systems in general and C News in particular. It might have been nice to include some of these things in the distribution, but it would have added considerable bulk to an already-large package.

Managing UUCP and Usenet, by Tim O'Reilly and Grace Todino, O'Reilly & Associates, 1989, ISBN 0-937175-48-X, inquiries to 'nuts@ora.com' or 'uunet!ora!nuts'. This is the Nutshell Handbook on UUCP and news. This latest edition covers C News as well as B News. It's not perfect, but until something better comes along, it is overwhelmingly the right place for a novice system administrator to start reading.

News Need Not Be Slow, by Geoff Collyer and Henry Spencer, in *Winter 1987 USENIX Technical Conference Proceedings*, The USENIX Association, 1987, no ISBN apparent, inquiries to 'office@usenix.org' or 'uunet!usenix!office'. This paper, although slightly dated, is the basic reference on how C News runs so much faster than B News. (We think, and others agree, that it's also a good paper on how to make things go fast in general.) It's also the closest thing so far to a general "philosophy of C News" paper, and gives a good—albeit somewhat selective—overview of the implementation.

Standard for Interchange of USENET Messages, by M. Horton and R. Adams, Internet RFC 1036, 1987, inquiries to 'nic@nic.ddn.mil' or anonymous FTP from nic.ddn.mil (pathname RFC:RFC1036.TXT). This is the current standard for Usenet article format and related issues. It is not complete, correct, or current, but it is nevertheless the basic document on the subject. (See our *notebook/rfcerrata* for some errata and one or two out-and-out disagreements.) Many issues are punted to RFC 822; see below.

Standard for the Format of ARPA Internet Text Messages, rev. by David H. Crocker, Internet RFC 822, 1982, inquiries to 'nic@nic.ddn.mil' or anonymous FTP from nic.ddn.mil (pathname RFC:RFC822.TXT). This lengthy and sometimes cryptic document defines the Internet mail format. The Usenet news format defined in RFC 1036 is a subversion (superset of a subset) of this, and legalistic debates over details of the format inevitably end up referring to 822. Not for the faint of heart or weak of stomach.

Requirements for Internet Hosts—Application and Support, ed. by R. Braden, Internet RFC 1123, 1989, inquiries to 'nic@nic.ddn.mil' or anonymous FTP from nic.ddn.mil (pathname RFC:RFC1123.TXT). This document updates and amends many older RFCs, notably including RFC 822 (and therefore RFC 1036).

news.software.b, various authors, Usenet newsgroup with ongoing discussion, inquiries to your local Usenet site(s). The forum for B-News-compatible software in general, including C News. The definitive source for up-to-date information, patches, bug reports, warning of forthcoming developments, debates, flame wars, and general chitchat on news systems in general and C News in particular. Read, and contributed to, by most authors of news software.

news.admin, various authors, Usenet newsgroup with ongoing discussion, inquiries to your local Usenet site(s). The forum for news administration in general, including that of both B and C News. Somewhat noisy at times, but a valuable source of information. Noteworthy for Gene Spafford's regular postings on topics such as "How To Construct The Mailpaths File".

news.announce.newusers, various authors, Usenet newsgroup with ongoing discussion, inquiries to your local Usenet site(s). (Moderated) newsgroup for regular postings of interest to new readers of news. Also quite relevant to novice system administrators.

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