

# STARTING OUT WITH LISTSERV



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## What is LISTSERV?

LISTSERV is a distribution list management package. It runs on IBM VM/CMS systems in the international NJE network (Bitnet/EARN). It allows groups of computer users with a common interest to communicate among themselves, while making efficient use of computer and network resources. It makes it easy for even novice users to discover, join, and participate in these interest group mailing lists. LISTSERV also provides facilities for logging and archiving of mail traffic, file server functions, and database searches of archives and files.

## What is available from LISTSERV?

There are LISTSERV lists on every subject under the sun, with names ranging from AARPUB-L (AAR Electronic Publication list) to Z3950IW (Z39.50 Implementors Workshop). LISTSERV lists are international and eclectic. You will find lists in every imaginable field, for every audience, in many different countries and in many different languages. Here are just a few examples from the more than 3500 lists in existence:

ListName	Host Computer	Title
ACDGIS-L	AWIIMC12	Geographische Informationssysteme
ADQ	UQUEBEC	Association des demographes du Quebec
AFRICA-L	BROWNVM	Forum Pan-Africa
AHC-L	DGOGWDG1	Association for History & Computing
AIB-CUR	IVEUNCC	Discussione Associazione Italiana Biblioteche
AIDSBKRV	UICVM	AIDS Book Review Journal
AIX-L	PUCC	IBM AIX Discussion List
ALBION-L	UCSBVM	British and Irish History
ALGCOMP	BRLNCC	Forum de Computacao Algebrica
AMCA-L	MCGILL1	Alumni and Friends of Croatian Universities
AMIGA-TR	TREARN	Turk Amiga'cilar listesi
ANEST-L	UBVM	Anesthesiology Discussion List
ANGLICAN	AUVM	Episcopal Mailing List
ARKNET-L	UAFSYSB	Arkansas State Network Discussions
ARTCRIT	YORKVM1	Art Criticism Discussion Forum
ASIMOV-L	UTDALLAS	Discussion of Isaac Asimov's works
AUTOCAD	OHSTVMA	AUTOCAD Autocad Discussion List
AUTOMILK	UMDD	Automated Milking Systems
AYN-RAND	IUBVM	Moderated Discussion of Objectivist Philosophy

See the LIST command in the section **How to get started with LISTSERV** for instructions on getting an up-to-date list of lists.

## Who can use LISTSERV?

Anyone who can send electronic mail to a Bitnet/EARN address can participate in a mailing list and access other LISTSERV facilities, as long as the message format is valid (according to the RFC822 standard), and has a usable return address. Every day, people use LISTSERV from HEPNET, Internet, Compuserve, MCIMAIL and many other networks throughout the world. Ask your local support people if you don't know how to send electronic mail to EARN/Bitnet.

## Where is LISTSERV?

There are more than 250 sites in over 30 countries throughout the world running LISTSERV as part of the world-wide network. Here is a list of some of the LISTSERV sites:

Host Computer	Organization	Country
DEARN	GMD Bonn	Germany
BITNIC	BITNET Network Information Center	USA
HEARN	Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen	Netherlands
PUCC	Princeton University, New Jersey	USA
CUNYVM	City University of New York	USA
ICNUCEVM	CNUCE Istituto del CNR, Pisa	Italy
UKACRL	Rutherford Appleton Laboratory	Great Britain
QUCDN	Queen's University Computing Services	Canada
FRMOP11	CNUSC, Montpellier	France
TREARN	Ege University Bornova, Izmir,	Turkey
UCHCEVM	Universidad de Chile, Santiago	Chile
TWNMOE10	Ministry of Education, Taipei	Taiwan
JPNSUT00	Science University of Tokyo	Japan
KRSNUCC1	Seoul National University	South Korea
UFRJ	Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro	Brazil
SEARN	Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan Stockholm	Sweden
ANDESCOL	Universidad de Los Andes, Bogota	Colombia
SAKFU00	King Faisal University, Hofuf	Saudi Arabia
HKUVM1	The University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
PTEARN	Faculdade de Ciencias de Lisboa	Portugal
GREARN	Institute of Computer Science, Heraklion	Greece
PLEARN	Warsaw University	Poland
AEARN	Vienna University, Wien	Austria
CSEARN	Czech Technical University, Prague	Czech Republic
HUEARN	Hungarian Academy of Sciences	Hungary
TAUNIVM	Tel Aviv University	Israel
EARNCC	EARN, Paris Office	France

## Communicating with LISTSERV

To use LISTSERV facilities, send electronic mail with your LISTSERV commands to: `LISTSERV@host-id` where `host-id` is the host computer's NJE address (eg. `TAUNIVM.BITNET`) or its Internet domain name (eg. `VM.TAU.AC.IL`). There may be some local variation on the format needed to send mail to Bitnet or Internet addresses. Check with your local support people.

More than one command can be sent to LISTSERV in the same mail message. Each command must be on a separate line. LISTSERV will ignore the `Subject:` line of the mail header.

For Bitnet/EARN users, interactive messages are the fastest and most convenient way to send commands to LISTSERV, but bear in mind that interactive messages only work when the links between your computer and LISTSERV are up; if the message fails, you can always send your command via mail. To send interactive messages from an IBM computer running VM/CMS, the format is:

```
TELL LISTSERV AT node_id listserv_command
```

On a VAX VMS system, the format is:

```
$ SEND LISTSERV@node_id "listserv_command"
```

The LISTSERV command must be in quotes.

### NOTE:

To join a list, you send a message with your `SUBscribe` command to LISTSERV. To make an announcement to the members of a list, you send mail to the list address. For example, to join the EARN Users Group list (list name: `EARN-UG`, host site: `IRLEARN`), send a `SUBscribe` command to: `LISTSERV@IRLEARN.BITNET`. This can be done interactively, from VM:

```
TELL LISTSERV AT IRLEARN SUB EARN-UG Name Lastname
```

or from VMS:

```
$ SEND LISTSERV@IRLEARN "SUBEARN-UG Name Lastname"
```

or by mail, to `LISTSERV@IRLEARN.BITNET`, with the line:  
`SUB EARN-UG Name Lastname`

in the text of the message.

To send a message to all list members, send mail to:  
`EARN-UG@IRLEARN.BITNET`

## How to get started with LISTSERV

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The first thing you'll want to know is what lists are of interest to you. Then you'll need to know how to get onto those lists. If you want to leave a list, you can do it quickly and automatically. You can also get more detailed information on the setup and members of a list. LISTSERV is also an excellent repository for files. You can ask LISTSERV to send you files which it has stored.

Use the **LIST** command to find out what LISTSERV lists are available.

```
LIST
LIST GLOBAL
LIST GLOBAL string
```

Send the command **LIST** with no parameters to find out what lists are run locally. For example, to find out what lists are available at EARNCC, send mail (or an interactive message) to `LISTSERV@EARNCC.BITNET` with the word **LIST** in the message body. Send the command **LIST GLOBAL** to get a listing of all the lists in all the LISTSERVs throughout the world. This command should be sent to your closest LISTSERV (since all LISTSERVs have the same global list). Note that this file is rather large (over 3500 lines). To get a subset of the global file, send the command: **LIST GLOBAL *string***. You will get a listing of all lists which contain *string* in the listname, host computer, or title.

Use the **SUBSCRIBE** command to join a list.

```
SUBSCRIBE listname Your Full Name
```

Note that you do not send your electronic mail address. LISTSERV automatically determines your electronic mail address from your mail (or interactive message.) For example, if you want to join the list EARN-UG which is based at the BITNET node IRLEARN, and your name is Bill Clinton, then you would send the command:

```
SUBSCRIBE EARN-UG Bill Clinton
```

to `LISTSERV@IRLEARN.BITNET`. Actually, you can send this command to any LISTSERV. They all know where the various lists are located, and they will forward your command to the appropriate machine for you.

For most lists, subscription requests are accepted automatically. For others, the request is forwarded to the list manager for approval.

Use the **UNSUBSCRIBE** command to leave a list.

```
UNSUBSCRIBE listname
```

For example, to leave the EARN-UG list, send the command:

```
UNSUBSCRIBE EARN-UG
```

to `LISTSERV@IRLEARN.BITNET`

Use the **REVIEW** command to get the parameters of a list and the names and addresses of the list members. For some lists, the names and addresses of the members are not available to non-members.

```
REVIEW listname
REVIEW listname SHORT
REVIEW listname NOHEADER
```

If you add the **SHORT** parameter, you will get only the list parameters without the list members. With the **NOHEADER** parameter, you will get the list of members without the list parameters.

Use the **GET** command to get a file from LISTSERV.

```
GET filename filetype
```

The names of the files follow the IBM VM/CMS convention: the two parts of the name are each one to eight characters in length, separated by a space. No matter how you send your GET command (e-mail or interactive message), LISTSERV will automatically send you the file in the most appropriate way. For example, to get the text version of this brochure, send the command:

```
GET LSVSTART MEMO
```

to `LISTSERV@EARNCC.BITNET`

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Detailed documentation on LISTSERV, and related services, is available from: `LISTSERV@EARNCC.BITNET`

For a list of available documents send the command: `INDEX DOC`

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The **EARN** Office, Paris, France - February 1993