LISTSERV
QUICK
REFERENCE

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What is LISTSERV?

LISTSERV is a distribution list management package that 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.

Communicating with 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.

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 "SUB EARN-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
```

LISTSERV Database Facilities

The archives of mailing lists, as well as certain other databases, can be searched using LISTSERV's database facilities. To find out what databases are accessible at a LISTSERV site send the command: `DATABASE LIST`

To perform a database search, you send mail to LISTSERV containing a *batch command job* with your database query. In addition, EARN/Bitnet users on VM or VMS systems can access the database facilities interactively via the LDBASE program.

For more details on the LISTSERV database facilities, send the command: `INFO DATABASE`

LISTSERV Commands for General Users

CAPITAL letters indicate acceptable abbreviation; angle brackets: < > indicate an optional parameter; vertical bar (|) indicates a choice of parameters. Format of parameters is given at the end. There are two basic versions of LISTSERV in use: "LISTEARN 1.3" and "Revised LISTSERV 1.7". The two versions differ only in certain command parameters. Parameters marked with a (°) are

for "LISTEARN 1.3" only, those marked (*) are available only in "Revised LISTSERV 1.7". To find out which version is installed at the server you wish to use, send the command: `SHOW VERSion`

List subscription commands

Command	Parameters	Description
SUBscribe	listname full_name	Request to subscribe to a list. Change your name if already subscribed
SIGNOFF **UNSubscribe**	listname | * <(NETWIDE>	Remove yourself from a list or from all lists
SET	listname | * <options>	Alter your distribution options for a given list
	Mail/NOMail	Toggles mailing from a list
	DIGest*/INDex*	Ask for an index or digest rather than getting messages as they are posted
	Files/NOFiles	Toggles files from a list
	ACK/NOACK/MSGAck	Sets acknowledgment sent for mail that you send to the list
	REPro/NOREPro	Toggles copy-to-yourself of the mail you send to the list
	FULL/SHORT/IETF/DUAL*	Toggles the type of mail header FULL Includes Message-id: DUAL shows poster in mail body
	CONCEAL/NOCONCEAL	Reveal/Hide yourself from the "REView" command
	TOPICS:* ALL (+/-) topic	Change topics you're subscribed to (add/remove one, replace list)
CONFIRM	listname | *	Renew your subscription

Informational commands

Command	Parameters	Description
Help		Obtain a list of commands
Info	<topic>	Order LISTSERV documentation Omit <topic> for a list of topics
List	<options> Detailed Global </string>	Obtain a description of local lists. All lists worldwide or all with 'string' in listname or title
Query	listname | *	Review your distribution options for a given list (or all lists)
	File fn ft	Get filelist info on file

RELEASE		Show the version and and who maintains the server
REVIew	listname <(options)	Review the contents of a list
	LOCal	
	Countries	
	Short	
	NOHeader	
	Msg	
	BY Name#	Sort by lastname/firstname
SHOW		Display requested information:
	ADmin° nodeid	Node administrators
	ALIAS nodeid	Node's Internet (orBitnet) name
	LINKs+ nodeid	BITNET links
	NODE nodeid	Node info from BITEARN NODES
	OWNer° list | *	Owners of list(s)
	PATHs+ snode node1 <node2..>	BITNET path between nodes
	TRee° nodeid <depth>	Network links of node
	PEer° country	LISTSERVs in given country
	User° pattern	Entries from LISTSERV's signup file containing pattern (in name or address)
	VERSion	Information on LISTSERV and operating system version

File and filelist commands ////////////////////////////////

AFD   Automatic File Distribution

Functions requiring a password:

ADD	fn ft <filelist <prolog>>	Add file to your AFD-list
DELete	fn ft <filelist>	Delete file(s) from your AFD-list

Functions not requiring a password:

List		Displays your AFD-list
Query		Synonym for AFD-List
GET	fn ft <filelist>	Sends a list of people subscribed to the file (for file owners)

FUI   File Update Information

Functions requiring a password:

ADD	fn ft <filelist>	Add file to your FUI-list
DELete	fn ft <filelist>	Delete file(s) from your FUI-list

Functions not requiring a password:

List		Displays your FUI-list
Query		Synonym for FUI List
GET	fn ft <filelist>	Sends a list of people subscribed to the file (for file owners)

GET **SENDme**	fn ft <filelist>	Obtain the specified file
GIVE	fn ft <filelist> TO u@n	Sends the file to the user
INDex	<filelist>	Sends you the desired FILELIST Same as GET xxxx FILELIST.

Other commands //

MAIL	any_listserv_command	Force response via e-mail
PW	ADD new_password	Define yourself a password
	CHange old_password new_password	Change your LISTSERV passwd
	DELete old_password	Delete your LISTSERV passwd
REGister	full_name	Add or change your name in LISTSERV's signup file.

Parameter description //////////////////////////////////////

*	= all lists
userid	= Any valid RFC822 network address not longer than 80 characters. If omitted, the node defaults to the command sender's node
full_name	= first_name middle_initial surname (*not* "userid at node")

For each command that causes the server to send you a file, a file format option can also be specified by adding "F=format" to the end of the command. Acceptable formats are:

Netdata	Card	Disk	Punch	LPunch	UUe
XXE	HEX°	BTOa°	VMArc°	EBCdic°	Split°
VMSdump+		MIME/text+		MIME/Appl+	

For example, to get the file PCPROG ZIP in XXE format the command is: `GET PCPROG ZIP F=XXE`

//

The list of command included in this document is not exhaustive.

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

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