

Heartily sick of staring at Arial 10 text in Exchange, and needing an example of an Exchange client extension for a book I'm writing, I've written a utility to give Exchange ".signature" capability, a configurable read-font, and traditional prefixed replies, and in so doing make it a slightly more comfortable Internet mail client. While it isn't complete, it is stable and usable, and I have to get to other tasks; so I'm releasing it now, as-is.

I call the extension "Internet Idioms," because that's what it contains: little bits to patch and otherwise band-aid Exchange into a semblance of a traditional, idiomatic Internet mail client. (Alternately, if you don't like it you can call it "Internet Idiots.")

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REQUIREMENTS AND CONTRAINDICATIONS

The Exchange Internet Idioms package requires Microsoft Windows 95, with Exchange and MAPI installed, of course.

It will not work with Office 95 Wordmail, since the Wordmail forms don't support client extensibility; anyway, if you're using Wordmail, you don't need my extension, since Wordmail already contains most of the Idioms in one fashion or another. (You do need a memory upgrade, but that's not my department.)

It doesn't currently work on NT 3.51. I'll get around to it.

If you read messages courtesy of the Internet Mail Connector component of the RC1 Microsoft Exchange Server, Idioms cannot change the read font.

INSTALLATION

Copy the DLL *inetxidxm.dll* into your `\windows\system` directory. Check your `\windows\system` directory for the file *msvrt40.dll*; if you lack this, download the necessary zip file from <http://www.halcyon.com/goetter/widgets.htm>, unzip it, and move the extracted file into `\windows\system`. Finally, feed the file *inetxidxm.reg* to **regedit**. (Double-clicking it in Explorer will do this.)

DE-INSTALLATION

(How thoughtful of me.) Exit and log out of Exchange. Fire up regedit, open the key

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software
  \Microsoft
    \Exchange
      \Client
        \Extensions
```

and delete the "Internet Idioms" tag and its value. Delete the file *inetxidxm.dll* from `\windows\system`.

USAGE

On **Tools.Options**, you will see a new property page tab, "Idioms."

The "Font" button allows you to specify the default read font. Once set, any message from a non-rich-text-using sender will appear in this font, as opposed to Arial 10. I recommend Courier 10. Should you forward or reply such a message, your added text will appear in a different font, specified on **Tools.Options.Read**; I recommend that you set this to Courier 10 as well.

The checkbox, if set, lets you enter a chunk of boilerplate text into the following edit field. By default, Exchange will append this text to every message you send or reply, for as long as you keep the checkbox set. You may clear the checkbox to disable this behavior.

Another checkbox lets you enter a reply prefix string. If set, Exchange will change the format of its replies to prefix each line of text with this string. Note that if the original message consisted of Exchange-style paragraphs, this function will quote the entire paragraph with only a single prefix character: it will not break the paragraph into lines. When faced with a very long message, or one containing Exchange-style paragraph lines in its first few lines, Idioms will offer to use the native Exchange reply format.

On the menu of a send note you will find a new command, **Format.Use signature**. Set its checkmark to append the signature to any particular message, or clear it to suppress the signature. You may place this command on the toolbar, if you like. Note that the setting of Use signature is the setting of the checkmark on the Options.Idioms pane. By default, Exchange signs only new messages and replies - not forwarded messages.

At the bottom of the page rests my vanity About UI.

Note that Idioms keeps all its settings per-profile. If you have been using a 0.1.x version of Idioms, you may now delete the registry key

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software
  \Angry Greycat Designs
    \Internet Idioms
      \0.1
```

which an earlier version used.

KNOWN SHORTCOMINGS AND BUGS IN THIS RELEASE

There are plenty of these. This *is* sample code, after all.

Signatures always appear at the end of the message body, after any included message text in a reply. Even when Exchange indents reply text, only rich-text capable recipients will be able to differentiate the included text from the signature of the replying sender. Use the reply prefix feature to change the shape of a reply into something that works well with signatures.

Some users have reported seeing signatures enjamb against the end of their message when they didn't end the message with a carriage return. Other users report that their signature loses all its preceding blanks. These are bugs in the MAPI rich text engine. To work around them, eschew leading whitespace, or else never include rich text in your messages.

Signatures must not exceed 4K characters.

Read-font settings notwithstanding, all signatures appear in Arial 10. (This doesn't matter if the recipient isn't using rich text.)

There's no way to specify "Auto" when selecting the color of a read-font.

A read-font, once set, overrides any font the user may have selected in **Tools.Options.Send**. (Reply fonts still work, however.)

Replies that use prefixes throw a lot of rich text into the message. This can double the size of the message in your local store.

The reply prefixing function is extremely slow when invoked on long messages.

Internet Idioms is available only in English. When used with a non-English-language Exchange, it will generate reply text consisting of a mixture of English and the localized language.

Some Russian correspondents have reported that read-font mapping won't offer Cyrillic scripts.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In what language did you write this?

C++, though C would work as well..

I want the extension to handle <feature>. Will you add this feature?

No, sorry. This is sample code; I'm deliberately keeping it simple.

I want the extension to handle <feature>. Can I have the source to implement it myself?

No, sorry. The source is part of my book. I can't give it away.

Book? What book?

My book [Developing Microsoft Exchange Applications with C++](#), ISBN 1-57231-219-x, covers developing Microsoft Exchange and Microsoft Exchange Server client applications with MAPI in C and C++. I'm currently working on it furiously so that Microsoft Press can publish it in 1996. If this interests you, check out the MAPI documentation included in the Win32 SDK, "Windows Extensions" section.

CONTACT

If you find bugs, mail me at goetter@halcyon.com. Please first check the web page <http://www.halcyon.com/goetter/widgets.htm> to see that you have the most recent version, and reread this file, or (better) the web page to confirm that you've installed it correctly. I try to answer all of my mail, but can't guarantee anything.

I'll keep the latest versions of this and anything else I cook up on <http://www.halcyon.com/goetter/> or somewhere nearby.

I hope somebody else finds this of use.

*Ben Goetter
Angry Greycat Designs*