What's New in Ameol 1.22.04

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Introduction

In order to further improve and enhance Ameol, their official off-line reader, CIX have developed and released Ameol 1.22.04.

This document lists the most significant changes that have been made to Ameol since the 1.21 release. Not all changes are documented; many minor or insignificant changes have been omitted to save space.

Changes in Ameol 1.22.04

New Files

The following is a list of files that comprise Ameol 1.22.04:

`AM12204.EXE` files	This is the full registered product release. It includes all the necessary to use the latest version of Ameol.
`AM12204E.EXE` files	This is the full evaluation product release. It includes all the necessary to evaluate the latest version of Ameol.
`PATCH04S.EXE` spelling need that	This is the *minimum* necessary files needed to upgrade your registered version 1.21.02 (or earlier releases of 1.21) to the latest maintenance release. It does not include the new checker or help files. If you download this file, you will also to download AMHELP04.ZIP and AMSPEL04.ZIP to ensure you have the full set of files for Ameol 1.22.04.
`PATCH04F.EXE`	This is the full set of files needed to upgrade your registered version 1.21.02 (or earlier releases of 1.21) to the latest maintenance release. It includes the new spelling checker,

the
new British English dictionary and the new help files.

`SSCEAM.ZIP` by   This is the new American English dictionary. It is only needed by

registered users installing the small patch.

`AMHELP04.ZIP`   This is the new Ameol on-line help file. It is only needed by
registered users installing the small patch.

`AMSPEL04.ZIP`   This is the new Ameol spelling checker and British English
dictionary. It is only available to registered users installing
the
small patch.

Changes in Ameol 1.22.04

Bug Fixes and Minor Changes

1. Fixes the bug where changing the read-only status of a topic in the Conference List window did not add or remove the (R) next to the topic name until the selection was moved from that topic.

2. Pressing Esc on a mail or say window when the Save button is disabled (because not all required fields were filled in) no longer allows you the option to save the message to the out-basket.

3. Fixed the corrupted message that appears on the status bar when you highlight the Communications Settings or Custom Connect commands while Ameol is on-line.

4. Fixes a bug in the Ameol database that causes a GPF if a message is moved from a local topic and an addon deliberately prevents that message from being moved.

5. CIX Conferences with no topics are now detected during the scratchpad parsing stage and automatically deleted. The user is also automatically resigned from these conferences.

6. Fixed a bug where releasing a held object from the out-basket in the middle of a blink caused that object to be deleted at the end of the blink.

7. You can now have special options on the command line for external applications on the toolbar. (See below).

8. Fixed the incorrect behaviour of the spacebar when incrementally searching the Conference List window under Windows 95.

9. Changed the default phone number to 0181 296 1255 in the configuration files.

10. The Telnet module now properly responds to negotiation commands from foreign telnet daemons (ie. when telnetting to an address other than CIX).

11. A bug in the database related to record locking has been fixed.

External Toolbar Application Command Line Options

Ameol 1.22.04 adds configurable command line parameters to external apps on the toolbar. This facility allows you to pass either the name of the author of the current message or any selected text on the command line to any external app on the toolbar. These options begin with the % symbol and are listed below:

%s	Insert any text selected in the message window.
%a	Insert the author of the current message.
%h	If any text is selected, insert that, otherwise insert the author of the current message. In other words, if any text is selected, this option behaves like %s otherwise it behaves like %a.
%%	Insert the % character.

To use this facility, simply include either %h, %s or %a on the external app command line in the Assign Button dialog. For example:

    C:\NETSCAPE\NETSCAPE.EXE %s

would start Netscape, passing it any selected text on the command line Netscape assumes that anything on the command line is an URL address and immediately jumps to that address. So you could highlight a URL address in the message you are reading, click the Netscape button on the Ameol toolbar and Netscape would immediately jump to that address.

To include the author of the current message, use %a instead.

You can include %s and %a together, each as many times as required and mix them with other characters on the command line. The maximum length of the entire command line is 512 characters.

To edit a command line, you will need to delete the app from the toolbar and add it back again.

Changes in Ameol 1.22.03

This version has very minor bug fixes. The problem where right-clicking in an empty out-basket causes a GPF has now been fixed. In addition, the internal UUdecoding logic has been tweaked to make it more intelligent about detecting the second and subsequent parts of a multi-part UUencoded fine.

Changes in Ameol 1.22.02

In common with our policy of "Fix Bugs First", this maintenance release fixes all significant defects reported with version 1.22.01 and earlier versions. These are described in the buglist topic in the ameolnews conference. A number of minor and obscure bugs have also been fixed. And, in addition,we have decided to respond to customer feedback by incorporating a few enhancements to the product which are described below.

Thread Linking Lines in Display

Ameol now supports the display of thread linking lines. Thread linking lines connect together messages in the same thread, thus more clearly showing the relationship between a message and comments to this message.

By default, thread linking lines are not enabled. To enable them, go to the Display

Settings dialog and turn on the Show Thread Linking Lines option.

You can adjust the depth of each thread by altering the Thread Indentation setting in the same dialog. A larger value increases the width between each thread but reduces the number of threads that can be shown at once unless you resize the thread column.

Revised Say and Comment Windows

The Say and Comment editor windows have been slightly revised to tidy up the input fields at the top of the editor window. The previously 'staggered' buttons have now been arranged vertically for greater consistency with the Microsoft Design Guidelines.

Scratchpad Download Directory Now Configurable

A new entry in the Directories Settings dialog now allows you to choose the destination directory to where all scratchpads are downloaded. You could, for example, point it to a faster disk such as a RAM disk or a local hard disk while the rest of your directories are located on a slower disk drive.

New Report v4.11 Utility

The Report addon has been modified to incorporate the following improvements:

- Report is no longer invoked from the Utilities menu but is now in the Help menu and can be invoked with a configurable key sequence.
- The configuration parts of Report have been moved to a separate Properties dialog which is invoked by clicking the Properties button on the Report window.
- The key sequence used to bring up Report is now configurable.
- The destination conference and topics for each type of report can now be configured from within Report, rather than needing to manually edit the REPORT.INI file.

Display Settings Dialog Revamped

The Display Settings dialog has been revamped to make the layout more logical. It also has two new options related to thread linking lines as discussed above. Other changes are: The "End of Topic Beep" option has been renamed to "Beep When End of Topic Reached", and the "Small" and "Standard" display size options have been renamed to to "Small Font" and "Large Font" and the accompanying description has been reworded.

New "Maximum Message Size" option

There is now a new option in the CIX Settings dialog where you can specify the maximum size of any message filed to your scratchpad. If you have a slow modem and you know you won't be interested in messages longer than 32,000 characters, then you can enter 32000 in this field and any messages longer than this will be truncated at the 32,000th character.

Author and version description now displayed for selected addon

In the Utilities Settings dialog, there are now two new fields which show, for the selected addon, the name of the author and the current addon version number.

Telnet Communications Settings Dialog

There is now a new "Telnet Binary" option in the Telnet pane of the Communications Settings dialog. If you are experiencing problems with your telnet connection, especially during ZMODEM uploads and downloads, try disabling this option.

There is also a new "Timeout" option to set telnet timeout. This is separate from the timeout specified in the Ameol Communications pane which is for modems only.

Out-basket now allows multiple selections

You can now select multiple items in the out-basket for deleting, holding or keeping. Simply hold down the Ctrl key to extend the current selection to the cursor point, or the Shift key to add the item at the cursor to the current set of selected items.

Conference List window no longer self-centering

The Conference List window no longer centers the selected conference/topic in the window, which eliminates the spurious jumping caused by the self-centering.

New Modems Database

A larger database of modem configurations prepared by Ameol Technical Support is now included, listing many more modems than before.

Changes in Ameol 1.22.01

The only significant change between Ameol 1.22.01 and Ameol 1.22 is the change to the mail conference whereby messages sent by you are now shown with the recipient name prefixed by 'To:' in the thread window.

Otherwise 1.22.01 fixes a few bugs in 1.22. See the buglist topic in the ameolnews conference for a list of bugs fixed.

Changes in Ameol 1.22

Ameol 1.22 (also known as M03) represents the most significant release of Ameol. CIX have spent two months tracking down reported defects in the product and making many minor improvements to ease usability. Not all suggestions made by registered users were incorporated into Ameol 1.22.01. Instead, the emphasis has been on fixing defects, whether serious or cosmetic.

Support for Telnet to CIX

Ameol 1.22 now incorporates the long-awaited telnet module which allows CIX users with internet access to connect to CIX via TCP/IP rather than a modem. You

will need the version 1.1 of WINSOCK.DLL which should be supplied with your TCP/IP package or downloadable from the files topic of the tcpip conference.

To enable telnet access, choose the Communications command from the Settings menu and select Telnet from the Connection list. The settings displayed are the default for connecting to CIX and you should not need to make any alterations. Leaving the telnet option selected, click OK to close the Communications Settings dialog.

Now when you next connect to CIX, it will use the telnet module rather than the modem.

Recipient Name Shown for Outgoing Messages in Mail

When you send e-mail to somebody else, Ameol now shows the recipient's name, prefixed by To:, in the mail messages topic. This makes it easier for you to locate messages sent to certain users since the Ameol Find command will now locate messages sent to a user as well as messages received from them.

This change occurs once you have upgraded to Ameol 1.22. It does not work retrospectively on your old mail messages.

Terminal Emulator Improved

Major problems with the Ameol terminal emulator which came to light when using the CIX World Wide Web (WWW) system have been fixed. These include random General Protection Faults and failures to draw the screen properly when filling out on-line forms. Similar problems caused by accessing other internet services, such as Gopher and IRC have been fixed.

New Spelling Checker

The latest version (v3) of Sentry Spelling Checker is now included. Because the dictionary format has now changed to allow support for foreign languages, your original compressed dictionaries will no longer work. However you can continue to use any custom dictionary you have created.

The latest spelling checker DLL and dictionaries for British English only are included in the patch release. To avoid confusion, the filename of the spelling checker DLL has been changed from SSCEWD.DLL to SSCE16.DLL (or SSCE32.DLL in the Ameol32 version). The supplied British English dictionary has been updated to include many words missing from the original dictionary which was a major source of criticism. We will continue to update the dictionary with new words when and as required.

The American English dictionary will be uploaded separately. Dictionaries for other languages can be purchased at extra cost. Contact CIX for more details.

A further minor change has been made to the Spelling Checker dialog. The short-cut keys have been altered to be compatible with those in Microsoft's products.

New Report Addon

This revision of Ameol now includes Report v4 which permits posting reports relating to addons as well as to Ameol. A configuration option now allows you to

fine-tune your system configuration as detected by Report.

Read-Only Topics Shown In Conference List

Read-only topics are normally identified by the (R) next to the conference/topic name in the message window for the topic. Ameol 1.22.01 now shows the (R) in the Conference List window next to these read-only topics. Read only topics with a file list are shown as (FR).

Full Topics Detected

Ameol now detects and displays (TOPIC FULL) on the message window of those topics which have become at least 90% full.

Export Now Permits CR-LF to LF Translation On Output

In order to permit Ameol exported scratchpads to be imported into other off-line readers which fail to properly handle the message size for CR-LF delimited scratchpads, the Export command has been extended to include an 'Expand LF to CR/LF' option which is enabled by default. Disabling this option forces Ameol to terminate the lines in the exported scratchpad with linefeeds (LF) only, instead of both carriage return and linefeed, and to adjust the message size as appropriate.

Support For Topics With No Signature

Ameol now includes (None) as an option in the list of available signatures for those topics where you do not wish to have an automatic signature.

Intelligent Popup Menu In Message Window

If you highlight a conference name or a filename in the message window, then click the right mouse button in the window to bring up the popup menu, Ameol automatically adds *Join Host Conference* and *Download File* to the menu, allowing you to select a conference for joining or a file to be downloaded without having to use the menu bar or the toolbar.

Conference Level Signatures

It is now possible to set a signature for all topics in the conference. In previous versions of Ameol, signatures applied to topics only and any new topics added to the conference would inherit the global signature by default. Now new topics will inherit the conference signature.

When you run Ameol 1.22 for the first time, it will create the conference signature by scanning the signatures for all topics. If the same signature is used for all topics in the conference, then it is used as the conference signature. Otherwise the conference signature is set to the global signature.

Support For Non-CIX Usenet Scratchpads

Ameol will now accept scratchpads containing Usenet messages from a source other than CIX. Such scratchpads differ in that they do not use the Article header

field to identify the newsgroup to which the message was posted.

In addition, Ameol now pays attention to the Sender and Reply-To fields in the Usenet messages and interprets both in precedence to the From field, with Reply-To being the ultimate arbiter of the name of the sender.

Ameol Can Now Obtain Your List Of Newsgroups

Two frequent problems associated with using Ameol to access CIX's Usenet gateway were the lack of any built-in method for finding out to which newsgroups you are joined, and the inability to resign a newsgroup if that newsgroup is not in the Ameol messagebase.

To overcome these, Ameol now has a built-in command to obtain the list of newsgroups to which you are joined, and it will ensure that these all appear in your Conference List.

Can Now Limit The Size Of Your Usenet Scratchpads

Usenet scratchpads can be very large, and their size cannot always be predicted in advance. Therefore Ameol now provides an option in the Usenet Settings dialog to limit the size of your Usenet scratchpads. By default, no limit exists.

Set Your PC Local Time From CIX

A new script is now included which allows you to set your PC clock from CIX. The CIX clock is set from an atomic clock and is guaranteed to be accurate to 1 minute. Once you have installed the patch release, choose 'Get PC time/date from CIX' from the list of scripts.

On-Line Help Updated

The Ameol on-line help has been fully updated, and missing help topics have been restored. It is hoped to eventually complement the on-line help with a tutorial.

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