Note: THIS FILE IS JUST A COPY OF http://www.wendzel.de/?sub=softw&ssub=wendzelnntpddocs

WendzelNNTPd Documentation

– For WendzelNNTPd Version 1.4.x, © by Steffen Wendzel, 2010 –

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Quickstart (if it is already installed)

If WendzelNNTPd is already installed, you more or less only need to know the binarys and how they're used for. More details about everything and about the configuration are described later in this documentation.

The Binaries

`wendzelnntpd` - the server program

`wendzelnntpadm` - the console admin tool

`wendzelnntpgui` - the graphical admin tool (not required)

Other Files

wendzelnntpd.conf - the server configuration (located in /usr/local/etc or /etc under *nix-like systems)

Installation and Upgrade

Windows

The **installation** under Windows systems is quite easy. Just download the setup programm, start it and follow it's instructions on the screen.

The **upgrade** under Windows is easy too. Save a copy of 'usenet.db' and 'wendzelnntpd.conf' before running the installer. After the installation is done, copy both files back to the WendzelNNTPd directory.

To **start the server** (under Unix it is called a "daemon process"), you should run the start_daemon script what makes it possible to view error messages if an error occured on startup.

To **administrate the server**, you can use the WendzelNNTPGUI programm what is very easy to use. But you can also use the console version of this programm (wendzelnntpadm).

Linux/BSD (Please also read the file 'INSTALL')

Under Linux/BSD systems you have to make sure that all needed libraries and development tools are installed on your system (sqlite3, bison, flex, gcc, glibc, pthreads, binutils, header files and optional Qt4 for the GUI). Now extract the downloaded tar.gz file.

```
$ tar -xzvf wendzelnntpd-(version).tar.gz
```

Now change in the new directory of WendzelNNTPd and run these commands:

```
$ ./configure
$ make (you need to use gmake under OpenSolaris instead)
```

If you <u>also want to compile the GUI</u>: Follow the instructions in the 'INSTALL' file.

Now you need super user access to the system. This means that you need to become the root user (if you're not already root). This is normaly done by running `su` or executing the following command line input with the command `sudo`.

HINT: If you want to **upgrade** you need to do two additional tasks: Make a copy of your existing wendzelnntpd.conf and copy it back after the installation. Also copy the "usenet.db.TIMESTAMP.bkp" backup file (generated by 'make install') back to the original position after you ran 'make install'.

On distributions that use `sudo` by default (like Ubuntu) run:

```
$ sudo make install
```

On all other distributions (Debian, Slackware, ...) run these command:

```
$ su
# make install (you need to use gmake install under OpenSolaris instead)
```

Configuring WendzelNNTPd

The WendzelNNTPd is configured via the config file *wendzelnntpd.conf*. You can edit this file by using a normal text editor (or by using the GUI administration tool <u>wendzelnntpgui</u>).

<u>For *nix users:</u> If the wendzelnntpgui tool prints out many errors on startup, you should run it as root user since it needs write access to the config file and to the database.

The configuration is quite easy:

- All characters from a '**;**' up to the end of a line are only comments.
- The TCP port to listen on is specified by the command **port**. It is important to specify the port before using the **listen** command. If you don't specify a port in the configuration file, WendzelNNTPd uses the default NNTP port 119. (*Yes, should be possible to listen on different ports ...*)
- IPv4/IPv6 addresses to listen on are specified by the keyword **listen**, for example `listen 10.0.0.1`
- If you want to use <u>authentication</u> you have to enable it by using the command **use-authentication**
- If you don't want to have users host names included in the message ID field you can also simply use '**enable-anonym-mids**'.
- If you want to use <u>XML output</u> (what means that the server will write the 10 latest postings into an xml file you can use for the integration in websites and such things), you have to activate the xml output by adding the **use-xml-output** (up to v.1.4.2 this feature was named **use-rss-output**) command to your config file.
- If you have activated <u>XML output but you want to use a custom filename and path</u> for this file, you can specify this path by adding a **xml-file FILENAME** (up to v.1.4.2 this was named **rss-file FILENAME**) line to your config file. The <u>default xml output files</u> are:
    - In v. 1.4.3 or newer:
        - Win32: *wendzelnntpd.xml*
        - *nix/Linux/BSD: */var/log/wendzelnntpd.xml*
    - Up to v. 1.4.2:

- Win32: *output.xml* in the current working directory of the server
- *nix/Linux/BSD: */var/log/wendzelnntpd.rss.xml*

- If you need detailed debug information (maybe because you want to submit a bug report) you should use the keyword **verbose-mode**. The sample config file includes more information about this feature.

Here is a sample configuration file:

```
; wendzelnntpd.conf

; port to listen on (default is 119, if no port command is used)
port    119

; network addresses to listen on
listen  127.0.0.1      ; listen on IPv4 localhost
listen  ::1            ; listen on IPv6 localhost
listen  192.168.0.1    ; listen on IP 192.168.0.1

; activate authentication
use-authentication

; activate xml output
use-xml-output

; if you want to use your own file location (not the default one)
; you can uncomment this:
xml-file /my/path/myfile.xml

; Uncomment 'verbose-mode' if you want to find errors or if you
; have problems with the logging subsystem. All log strings are
; written to stderr too, if verbose-mode is set. Additionaly all
; commands sent by clients are written to stderr too (but not to
; logfile)
;verbose-mode

; This prevents that IPs or Hostnames will become part of the
; Message-ID generated by WendzelNNTPd what is the default case.
; Uncomment it to enable this feature.
; enable-anonym-mids
```

Starting WendzelNNTPd

Run `wendzelnntpd`. In some cases (depends on your $PATH and the installation destrination you choosed) you should start it by running `/usr/local/sbin/wendzelnntpd`.

Setting up Newsgroups

To create/delete a newsgroup, you simply run the programm `wendzelnntpadm` with the wanted command ("create" or "delete") followed by the newsgroup name and a 'y' (what currently takes no real effect).

Create a new group:

```
# wendzelnntpadm create news.software.wendzelnntpd y
```

Remove an existing group:

```
# wendzelnntpadm delete news.software.wendzelnntpd
```

Listing newsgroup information

`wendzelnntpadm` is able to print out a list of all created newsgroups by using the `listgroups`

parameter. The output comes in this order: newsgroup, posting allowed flag, number of postings.

```
# wendzelnntpadm listgroups
```

Authentication

If you enable `use-authentication` in the configuration file, you need to create some users in the database. You can do this by using the command '`wendzelnntpadm adduser [username]`'.

```
# wendzelnntpadm adduser Steffen.Wendzel
Enter new password for this user:
done.
```

Security Note: *The **Windows** version includes a security hole: The usenet.db file is readable by all users on the system. Since this file includes the password information too, you should remove read-access for all other users than the user that runs the Usenet server.*

For Developers/Administrators only: If you want to create users using a script you can pass the password of a user account as a 3rd parameter too: '`wendzelnntpadm adduser [username] [password]`'.

To delete an existing user, you can use the command '`wendzelnntpadm deluser [username]`' instead.

You can take a look in the list of available users by using the command '`wendzelnntpadm listusers`'.

Hardening

To have a secure WendzelNNTP installation you can use the authentication mechanism described above.

But you can also do additional hardening like putting WendzelNNTPd in a **chroot environment** or letting it run under an **unpriviledged user account** (the user than needs write access to */var/spool/news/wendzelnntpd* and read access to */etc/wendzelnntpd.conf*!). An unpriviledged user under Unix-like systems is also not able to create a listen socket on the default NNTP port (119) since all ports up to 1023 are reserved. This means that the server should use a port >= 1024 if it is started by a non-root user. *Note: Some Unix systems may have another priviledged port configuration.*