Yapp 3.0.21 Administration Guide

Armidale Software

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Contents

Chapter 1

Introduction

The Yapp conferencing system can be accessed from Unix and from the World Wide Web. Yapp can be configured to meet the needs of your users, and to create the look and feel you want for your conferencing system.

The Yapp conferencing system is composed of a set of "conferences", each devoted to some general topic such as sports or computer games. Conferences are referenced by their name, and can only be created by a Yapp administrator. Users who have administrative control over a specific conference are called "fairwitnesses".

Within each conference, a series of "items" can exist, each devoted to some specific subject, such as "Detroit Tigers". Items are usually referenced by a number. Conferences can be configured such that items can be created by users.

Each item consists of a message followed by zero or more "responses" to the original message. Responses are also referenced by a number, and can be entered by users.

Chapter 2

Getting Started

2.1 Installing Yapp from scratch

To get started running Yapp, you need to have the following:

- a Yapp script distribution.
- a Yapp binary distribution for your platform. Binaries for several operating systems are available at:

  `ftp://armidalesoftware.com/pub/armidale/yapp/`

- a license provided by Armidale Software. To obtain a Yapp license, send email to:

  yapp@armidalesoftware.com

Once you have acquired the above items, you may proceed as follows:

1. Decide on what login to use to own Yapp files. Typically, a separate account, is created to own the bbs files. We will refer to this account as *cfadm*. Access to this account is needed for a Yapp administrator to create and delete new conferences. We will refer to anyone with access to the *cfadm* account as the "Yapp administrator".

2. Log in as *cfadm*, and uncompress and untar the generic distribution and the binary distribution in the destination directory (e.g. /usr/bbs) We will herafter refer to this directory as *bbsdir*. For example:

   ```
   $ cd /usr/bbs
   $ gunzip yapp.3.0.12-generic-dist.tar.gz
   $ tar -xvf yapp.3.0.12-generic-dist.tar
   $ gunzip yapp3.0.12-solaris-bin.tar.gz
   $ tar -xvf yapp3.0.12-solaris-bin.tar
   ```

3. While still logged in as *cfadm*, run the Install script from the *bbsdir* directory. This will prompt you for the remaining items and may give you additional information about what needs to be done. The default value will be shown in square brackets. If you wish to use the defaults shown, you may simply hit enter at the prompts.

   ```
   $ ./Install
   ```

Login to be used as bbs owner [cfadm]:
This should be the *cfadm* login, and must be the same as the login you are running the script as.

Unix login to be used as alternate user administrator[root]:
This allows for the administrator of the WWW acounts to be someone other than root. This is the person who can change passwords, enable/disable accounts, etc.

WWW login to be used as sysop [sysop]:
This is the login which will be able to access Yapp administrative functions from the web. (We will refer hereafter to this login as *sysop*.) It may be the same as *cfadm*.

Unix login used by httpd to invoke programs as [nobody]:
This is the login (typically "nobody") which httpd uses to execute CGI scripts. (We will refer hereafter to this login as *nobody*.) Its value can be found for the NCSA and Apache web servers by looking up the value of User in the web server's httpd.conf file.

Enter bbsdir [/usr/bbs]:
This is the main Yapp subdirectory, and should be the same as the current directory when invoking the Install script.

Enter wwwdir [/usr/bbs/www]:
This is the subdirectory under which Yapp will put all web-related files and CGI script directories.

Enter licensedir [/usr/bbs/license]:
This is the subdirectory which Yapp will use for your license information.

Enter confdir [/usr/bbs/confs]:
This is the subdirectory under which Yapp will look for individual conference directories.

Enter userhome [/usr/bbs/www/home]:
This is the subdirectory under which Yapp will keep home directories for web-only users.

Enter userfile [~/passwd]:
This is where Yapp will keep miscellaneous user information for web-only users. If the filename begins with a '~', Yapp will use a separate file for each web user, stored in their home directory. Otherwise, Yapp will keep a single shared file in the indicated location, with one line per web user.

Enter passfile [/usr/bbs/etc/.htpasswd]:
This is the password file used for web logins, where encrypted passwords are stored. Some web browsers create this file as world readable. For security reasons, check to make sure this file is not world readable.

Enter sendmail [/usr/lib/sendmail]:
This is the location of the `sendmail` program on your system. Yapp attempts to find the correct location itself and displays it as the default.

Enter maildir [/var/mail]:
This should be set to the system mail directory. Yapp will look for the user's mailbox there and inform the user when new mail arrives.

Allow hosts to freeze items linked to other conferences? [true]:
Yapp allows an item to simultaneously exist in multiple conferences, each controlled by their own fairwitnesses (hosts). By default, a host in any of those conferences will be able to do administrative functions on the item. You can disable this feature by answering **false**.

Allow users to censor/scribble responses in frozen items? [true]:
When this feature is enabled, users can censor, scribble, and edit their own responses in frozen items. You can disable this feature by answering **false**.

Use compressed DBM file for user information? [false]:
This refers to the "userfile" mentioned above, and is only valid when separate user files are kept per user. Answering **false** means that information is kept as plain text. Answering **true** tells Yapp to keep information in DBM format. Note that `webuser` does not currently support DBM format files.

Participation file directory? [/usr/bbs/part]:
Yapp can allow a user to log in in via either Unix or the WWW and maintain a single set of data indicating what the user has previously read. However, if such combining is used, compatibility with PicoSpan is lost. If you don't run PicoSpan, just hit return. If you do run PicoSpan, you should enter the word **work**.

If you are running the Install script after upgrading , and you are changing from using the **work** directory to a single set of data accessable from either Unix or the WWW then you will see the following message:

```
It looks like you are changing from using user-owned participation
files, to using cfadm-owned participation files.  If you wish to
retain existing information, any participation files under users' home
directories must be placed under the new directory.  Do you want
to have this automatically done now? [yes]
```

If you type *no* then you will need to manually move any files that you want to have migrated to the new directory structure.

Padding size? [78]:
Yapp allows authors to edit their item subjects and response text as long as the new text fits into the old space. The padding option tells Yapp to leave extra space when entering subjects and responses so that there is extra leeway when editing. Be aware that this will cause older Yapp binaries to display ",E" at the end of responses, so you should currently use a padding size of 0 if you require backward compatability.

Changing to cfadm-owned participation files
If you are changing from using user-owned participation files to using *cfadm*-owned participation files, and you wish to retain existing information about what users have already seen, then participation files under users' home directories must be placed under the new directory subtree. If you want the Install script to automatically do this for you, hit return at the prompt. Otherwise, answer **no**.

Once you have answered the above questions, the Install script will attempt to install the options you have requested. Afterwards, it will report any outstanding installation steps which must be performed by root. Those items are described below.

4. If directed to do so by the Install script, copy or link the file ./yapp.conf into one of the following places:

   /etc/yapp.conf
   /usr/local/etc/yapp.conf
   /usr/bbs/yapp.conf
   ~cfadm/yapp.conf

5. If directed to do so by the Install script, copy or link *bbsdir*/bin/bbs to /usr/local/bin/bbs, where it should be mode 4711, and owned by *cfadm*.

   Additionally (if directed to), you may want to copy or link *bbsdir*/webuser to /usr/local/bin/webuser. It should be mode 4711 and owned by root. (See section 3.1 on webuser for more information.)

6. The man pages for bbs and webuser are in the *bbsdir*/man directory. These web pages can be installed in a standard man directory if you wish. For example:

```
$ cp /usr/bbs/man/* /usr/bbs/man/man1
```

   You may also print the Yapp Manual by running the `printman` command in the *bbsdir*/help directory. For example:

```
$ cd \usr\bbs
$ printman | lpr
```

7. You should install the license you obtained from Armidale Software in the license directory (*bbsdir*/license). The file should be called *bbsdir*/license/registered. It should be owned by *cfadm*, mode 644.

8. Tell your web server about Yapp:

   Configuring the NCSA or Apache HTTP servers

   Add the /yapp-bin/ script alias to your server configuration file (srm.conf) where *bbsdir* is the appropriate directory for your system):

   ScriptAlias /yapp-bin/ *bbsdir*/www/cgi-bin/

   Add the /yapp-icons/ alias to your server configuration file (srm.conf) where *bbsdir* is the appropriate directory for your system):

   Alias /yapp-icons/ *bbsdir*/www/gifs/

   After configuring your HTTP server, restart the httpd daemon.

   Configuring the CERN HTTP server

   The Cern server requires a separate Exec directive for each directory containing cgi programs. So, you need to put the following lines in your server configuration file (where *bbsdir* is the appropriate directory for your system):
   Exec /yapp-bin/restricted/* *bbsdir*/www/cgi-bin/restricted/*
   Exec /yapp-bin/public/* *bbsdir*/www/cgi-bin/public/*

   Since the cgi-bin directory may not be within the directory tree for the server you may need to follow these steps:

   (a) To allow everyone with a password to access Yapp's restricted directory, set your configuration as follows.

```
Protection      YAPP {
AuthType        Basic
ServerID        yapp
PasswordFile    bbsdir/etc/.htpasswd
GetMask         All
}
Protect /yapp-bin/restricted/* YAPP
```

   If you would like to define a group of users who may have access to the restricted directory you must create a separate groupfile. For more information, see Cern's documentation at:

   http://www.w3.org/pub/WWW/Daemon/User/Config/AccessAuth.html

(b) In the Yapp *bbsdir*/www/cgi-bin/restricted directory, you must create a file called `.www_acl`. That file should contain the line:

* : GET,POST : All

This will allow all users with passwords access to the restricted directory.

After configuring your HTTP server, restart the httpd daemon.

9. The following are links which you may wish to add to your own pages.

The main menu of Yapp: /yapp-bin/restricted/main

The newuser login page: /yapp-bin/public/newuser

An index of read-only conferences: /yapp-bin/public/index

Example HTML excerpt:

```
<ul>
<li><A HREF="/yapp-bin/public/newuser">Register as a new user</A><P>
<li><A HREF="/yapp-bin/restricted/main">Log in as an existing user</A><P>
<li><A HREF="/yapp-bin/public/list">View read-only conferences</A>
</ul><P>
```

10. Optionally create a mail alias to use with mailing list conferences by adding the following line to /etc/aliases.

cflink:"|/usr/local/bin/bbs -i"

Then to activate the new alias do:

```
$ newaliases
```

See section 4.4 for more information on configuring mailing list conferences.

11. If the Yapp user home directory is first created by the Install script, it will not be owned by the *nobody* login. The Install script will tell you to chown this directory if it needs to be done (e.g. "As root: chown nobody /usr/bbs/www/home"). For example:

```
$ chown nobody /usr/bbs/www/home
```

12. (Solaris only) When a script's shell is a setuid program, Solaris doesn't do the setuid. This is a problem for Yapp scripts, since Yapp must run setuid *cfadm*. A workaround is to make all Yapp scripts in *bbsdir*/www/cgi-bin/public and *bbsdir*/www/cgi-bin/restricted setuid cfadm. If you are running Yapp on Solaris, you need to make all Yapp scripts be owned by *cfadm*, mode 4755.

```
$ cd /usr/bbs/www/cgi-bin/restricted
$ chown cfadm *
$ chmod 4755 *
$ cd /usr/bbs/www/cgi-binn/public
$ chown cfadm *
$ chmod 4755 *
```

13. If the *sysop* and *cfadm* logins are different, you should immediately go through the newuser process (at http://localhost/yapp-bin/public/newuser) and create the *sysop* web account. This login will be able to access administration functions from the WWW.

14. You may wish to customize the WWW pages of Yapp. See the System Configuration section 5.3 for more information.

2.2 Upgrading from Yapp 2.X

Before doing the installation, you should make a backup of all of your Yapp files as they currently exist. This includes all files located in any subdirectories of your Yapp directory (*bbsdir*).

You will also need to obtain a new license file from Armidale Software (send email to yapp@armidalesoftware.com). Yapp 3.0 will not accept a Yapp 2.X license.

Upgrading from Yapp 2.X can then be done using the same installation procedure described in section 2.1. Your existing conferences should be unaffected by the installation process.

If you need help with your upgrade, contact your provider for Yapp.

2.3 Upgrading from Yapp 3.0 – 3.0.15

2.3.1 Preparation

If you need help with your upgrade, contact your provider for Yapp.

1. Make a backup of all of your Yapp files as they currently exist. This includes all files located in any subdirectories of your Yapp directory (*bbsdir*).

2. Determine the current version of your binary and scripts. One way to accomplish this is to go to the debug pages provided with Yapp. Check the page:

   http://localhost/yapp-bin/public/debug

3. If you are running Yapp 3.0.10 or earlier and are upgrading to Yapp 3.0.11 or later, and you are running on any of the following platforms: Solaris,... then you need to obtain a new license file (send email to yapp@armidalesoftware.com).

4. Obtain the generic distributions assocated with your current version of Yapp, and the version to which you wish to upgrade. Also obtain the binary distribution for the version you wish to upgrade. If there is no new generic distribution associated with the binary upgrade, ignore the instructions for the generic distribution upgrade. The distribution files should be available from:

   ftp://armidalesoftware.com/pub/armidale/yapp

   FTP the files to your Yapp bbs directory (*bbsdir*).

2.3.2 Upgrading the binaries

1. *Note: This next step may temporarily cause your BBS to stop functioning properly. This is because you will be in the middle of an upgrade.*

   Log in as the Yapp administrator (*cfadm*), and extract the new binary distribution in the *bbsdir* directory.

   For example if you are upgrading to Yapp-3.0.12 on a BSDI platform:

```
$ cd /usr/bbs
$ tar xvf yapp3.0.12-bsdi-bin.tar
```

2. From the *bbsdir* directory run the Install script. For example:

```
$ ./Install
```

   For more information on the Install script see section 2.1 on installing Yapp, and section 5.1 on yapp.conf. The defaults listed will be your former settings, if you had former default settings. You are running the Install script again because there may now be additional defaults that you need to set.

3. If you did not see a line similar to:

   "Successfully installed /etc/yapp.conf"

   then you need to copy the file *bbsdir*/yapp.conf to the directory where your yapp.conf file is kept. This may require you to be logged in as root. See section 5.1 on yapp.conf to see the directories in which this file may be placed.

4. Now copy or link the new Yapp binary to the /usr/local/bin directory. You may need to be logged in as root to do this.

   For example:

```
$ ln -s /usr/bbs/bin/bbs /usr/local/bin/bbs
```

   Make sure that /usr/local/bin/bbs is owned by the conference adminstator (*cfadm*) and that it is mode 4711.

   For example, to change the owner and the mode (you will need to be logged in as root):

```
$ chown cfadm /usr/local/bin/bbs
$ chmod 4711 /usr/local/bin/bbs
```

   You may also wish to copy *bbsdir*/bin/webuser into /usr/local/bin. See the section on webuser, and the man page for webuser in Appendix A for more information on webuser.

5. The man pages for bbs and webuser are in the *bbsdir*/man directory. These web pages can be installed in a standard man directory if you wish. For example:

```
$ cp /usr/bbs/man/* /usr/bbs/man/man1
```

   You may also print the Yapp Manual by running the `printman` command in the *bbsdir*/help directory. For example:

```
$ printman | lpr
```

2.3.3 Upgrading the scripts

1. While logged in as the Yapp administrator (*cfadm*), run the Upgrade script located in your Yapp directory (*bbsdir*).

   ```
   $ ./Upgrade
   ```

   If you do not have an Upgrade script, you can ftp one from :

   ```
   ftp://armidalesoftware.com/pub/armidale/yapp/Upgrade
   ```

2. You will receive a list of files which could not easily be upgraded when the script is finished. You will need to manually patch the files which are listed.

   You should view the contents of each rejected patch (filename.rej) and the file you were trying to patch at the same time. You can do this by using multiple screens, or by printing the patch file.

   While viewing a patch file (or filename.rej):

   "-" Means that the indicated line is deleted
   "+" Means that the indicated line is added
   "!" Means that the indicated line was changed

   For more infomation on reading the patch file, see the man page for diff(1). The patch file is in standard `diff -c` format.

   You will see for each change, the original entry on the top, and your changes underneith the −#,#− line. You will need to determine what the conflicts are between your changes, and the existing new file. Your original file is saved in filename.orig.

3. Manually change the distribution file to incorporate any changes you have made.

   When you are done changing the distribution file, remove the files filename.rej and filename.orig.

4. Check to make sure you have made all of your changes to the new distribution. The BBS should be working again, and you should be able to test all WWW pages, and to use the Unix version of bbs.

   If you notice a bug in the new distribution, send email to:

   `yapp@armidalesoftware.com.`

Chapter 3

User Administration

3.1 Creating WWW accounts for existing Unix users

In the binary distribution, there is a Unix command called `webuser`. Webuser without any options will create a web account for an existing Unix account. To allow all Unix users automatic access to the web using their Unix login and password, `webuser` should be run when the Unix account is created.

For more information on webuser, see the man page for webuser in Appendix A.

3.2 Deleting WWW accounts

To delete WWW accounts you should run the Unix command `webuser -r` *`login`* This will remove the directory and all account information for *login*. You must be either be root or the User Administrator which we will refer to as *usradm* if one is defined in the yapp.conf file.

3.3 Resetting the password on a WWW account

The password on a WWW account can be reset by running the Unix command `webuser -p` *`login`* . This will change only a web password for *login*. You must either be root or *usradm* to change the password of an arbitrary login.

If a Unix user executes `webuser -p` it will update the web password assocated with the user's login, as long as the web account already exists.

You may wish to create a wrapper script around the Unix command `passwd` so that whenever a user updates their Unix password, `webuser` is called to update their web password as well.

3.4 Enabling and disabling a WWW account

As root or *usradm* you have the ability to enable or disable WWW accounts. When a WWW account is created the status is set to enabled.

To disable an existing account run the Unix command `webuser -d` *`login`*. This will not perminently remove the user's files, but the user will no longer be allowed access via the WWW.

To enable an account which has been disabled run the Unix command `webuser -e` *`login`*. This will allow the user access via the WWW which was previously restricted.

3.5 Getting a status report on a WWW account

A status report on a WWW account will show you the login, enabled/disabled status, full name, email address, and the time they last accessed their account. To get a status report on an individual account run the Unix command `webuser -s` *login*.

3.6 Listing all WWW accounts

A listing of all WWW accounts will show you the login, date of last access, email address, and full name of each WWW user. This list can be generated by running the Unix command `webuser -l`. Specifing *login* on the command line does not restrict the report to a single user.

Chapter 4

Conference Administration

4.1 Creating conferences

There are three ways to create conferences.

A. From a Yapp prompt, run the command `cfcreate` if you are logged in as *cfadm*

B. Log into Unix as the conference adminstrator (*cfadm*). Run `cfcreate` from the Unix prompt

C. From the WWW, you can access the *Create a conference* link on the *Index of Conferences* page while logged in as *sysop*.

In any method you will be prompted for the following:

A short conference name
A short name is the conference name, including the underscore to indicate the minimum name which must be typed to access the conference. For example, soft_ware could be the short name of the "software" conference. When joining the conferance "soft", "softw", "softwa", "softwar", and "software" would all be equivilent.

A one line description
The one line description is what gets displayed as the description of the conference when listing the index of conferences.

The conference directory
The conference subdirectory to be created by Yapp. This directory will house the conference related files.

Logins or UIDs of fairwitnesses
The "fairwitnesses" are the ones who administrate the needs of a conference on a day to day basis. You need not list *cfadm* as a fairwitness, since it is automatically a fairwitness in every conference.

The conference security type
The conference type is kept in the config file for a conference, and can only be changed by *cfadm*. It can be set either numerically, or with a combination of keywords.

NOTE: only the MAILLIST and REGISTERED flags are significant when a conference acl file exists. The others are obsoleted by the acl system. See section 4.3.1 or the Yapp manual on "file acl" for more information.

Type	Code	Description
PUBLIC	0	Public Conference
PRESELECT	4	Access restricted to user list (in 'ulist' file)
PASSWORD	5	Access requires password (in 'secret' file)
PARANOID	6	Use both a user list and a password together
PROTECTED	8	Public except item files are made mode 600
READONLY	20	Anyone not in ulist may observe
READPASS	21	Anyone who fails the password check may observe
READPARA	22	Anyone who fails either check may observe
MAILLIST	#+64	Mailing list conference (usually code 72)
REGISTERED	#+128	Registered mailing list conference (usually code 200)
NOENTER	#+256	Only fairwitnesses may enter new items

Keywords are:

public	0
ulist	4
password	5
protected	8
readonly	16
maillist	64
registered	128
noenter	256

A "registered" maillist conference is one in which only mail from registered users gets posted to the conference. If the sender's email address does not match the email address of some user known to Yapp, the email is silently dropped.

Let a fairwitness change the access control list? By default only the Conference Administrator can change the access control list. If you wish fairwitnesses of the conference to be able to change the security answer yes. You must answer either yes or no to this question.

Email address(es) (if the conference is linked to a mailing list)
The email addresses are the addresses which the conference will send mail to, and recieve mail from. See section 4.4 for more information on configuring a mailing list conference. The addresses must be comma separated.

When a conference is created the following things happen:

1. an entry is added to the *bbsdir*/conflist file
2. an entry is added to the *bbsdir*/desclist file
3. the subdirectory you specified is created
4. the conference config file is created, and placed in the subdirectory
5. the login file (displayed when a user logs into the conference from Unix) is created and placed in the subdirectory
6. the logout file (displayed when a user logs out of the conference from Unix) is created and placed in the subdirectory

4.2 Deleting conferences

There are three ways to delete conferences.

A. From a Yapp prompt run the command "cfdelete" if you are logged in as *cfadm*.

   If no conference name is specified after the command, Yapp will prompt for a conference name. If the conference you specify is not empty, it will not be deleted and Yapp will simply issue an error message. To delete a conference with items in it, you must first `kill` all the items.

B. Log into Unix as the conference administrator (*cfadm*) and run cfdelete from a Unix prompt.

   Yapp will then prompt for a conference name. If the conference you specify is not empty, it will not be deleted and Yapp will simply issue an error message. To delete a conference with items in it, you must first `kill` all the items.

C. From the WWW, you can access the *Delete Conference* link on the *Index of Conferences* next to the Conference name if you are logged in as *sysop*.

   The *Delete Conference* link will not appear on the Index of Conferences page while the conference still contains items. The Kill button is available on the item read page and is used to remove the items in a conference before it can be deleted.

When a conference is deleted, the following happens:

1. Its entry is removed from the conflist
2. Its entry is removed from the desclist
3. The conference directory and contents are removed
4. If a common participation file directory (*partdir*) is used, all members' participation files will be removed, and the conference will be removed from their conference hotlist if necessary.

4.3 Modifying the options on an existing conference

4.3.1 The acl file

The access control list (acl) contains the security requirements for a conference, and are modifiable by a conference administrator. The file can be change from Unix with the `change acl` command, or from the WWW from the fairwitness page. If the acl file exists, it overrides the security options in the conference type in the config file.

The acl file should consist of "r", "w", "c", and "a" lines, which may occur in any order. The "r" line specifies who may read items in the conference (and thus, who may join the conference). The "w" line specifies who may write responses to existing items. The "c" line specifies who may create new items. The "a" line specifies who can edit the acl file.

Each line consists of the type (r/w/c/a), followed by one or more fields (in any order) from the following list, each optionally prefixed with a '+' or a '-':

Field Name	Description
all	Anyone
registered	Users with accounts
fwlist	Fairwitnesses
originlist	Anyone passing an origin check
password	Anyone who knows the conference password
f:ulist	Anyone listed in the ulist file
sysop	Conference Administrators
f:observers	Anyone listed in the observers file
f:`filename`	Anyone listed in the `filename` file

Conferences which require a password as part of the security are not currently supported from the WWW.

If a +, or nothing, precedes the field, a user must satisfy the indicated condition for permission to be granted. If a - precedes the field, a user must NOT satisfy the indicated condition. In order for permission to be granted, a user must satistify ALL conditions in the appropriate line.

Example:

```
r +all +registered
w +all +registered -f:observers
c +all +registered +fwlist
a +sysop
```

In the example file above, any registered user may join the conference and read items. All registered users except those listed in the "observers" file are able to respond. Only fairwitnesses are able to enter new items, and only the Conference administrator may change the acl file. If no "a" line is included, it defaults to "a + sysop".

For more information see section 4.3.2 on the ulist file, section 4.3.3 for the observers file, section 4.3.4 for information on the origin list, and section 4.3.5 for more information on password protected conferences.

4.3.2 The ulist file

The ulist is a file containing a list of people who are authorized to be in a conference. For private conferences which have a fixed user list, this list should be created and maintained by a fairwitness. For public conferences, this file is automatically maintained by Yapp. It contains a list of logins and/or UIDs of participants separated by whitespace (spaces, tabs, or newlines). Any lines beginning with a "#" character are interpreted as comments, and ignored.

A filename may also appear in the ulist, signifying that the contents of filename should also be considered as part of the ulist. This allows for one master list to be maintained for several conferences, or for a conference ulist to be the union of the individuals listed in several different files.

For more information see `file ulist` and `change ulist` in the Yapp Manual.

4.3.3 The observers file

An observers file can be maintained for each conference, and can only be edited by a fairwitness. To edit this file from Unix, type `change observers` at the `ok` prompt. This file can also be edited from the fairwitness page on the WWW. The observers file contains a list of users, specified by either login or UID, and separated by whitespace.

A filename may also appear in the observers file, signifying that the contents of filename should also be considered as part of the observers list.

This user list can be referenced in the acl file to allow (for example) preventing the indicated users from responding in the conference. See section 4.3.1 for more information on the acl file.

4.3.4 The originlist file

The originlist file is used for conferences in which partipation is restricted to users on machines in a particular domain or IP address prefix. It contains a list of hostnames, domain names, IP addresses and/or subnet prefixes separated by whitespace (spaces, tabs, or newlines). Any lines beginning with a "#" character are interpreted as comments, and ignored. For a Unix or web user to be allowed to join the conference, their host must match one of the hostnames. This file must reside in the conference directory and can be edited from the WWW from the fairwitness page. It can also be change from Unix with the command `change originlist`.

Example	Description
ann-arbor.mi.us	allows any hostname equal to or ending with "ann-arbor.mi.us"
141.211.39.193	allows the indicated IP address
141.211.39	allows any IP address starting with "141.211.39"
141.211.38/23	allows any IP address in the indicated subnet range (i.e. any address whose high 23 bits match 141.211.38)

4.3.5 The secret file

A file named `secret` can be maintained in each conference, and should consist of a single line containing the exact password needed to access the conference. This file is only used if the conference security type warrants it, or if it is referanced by the acl file.

This file can only be changed by a fairwitness of the conference from Unix. Password protected conferences are not supported through the WWW. To change the contents of this file type `change secret` at the `ok` prompt.

4.4 Configuring mailing list conferences

A mailling conference is usually configured to both send and recieve mail. The conference is configured to send mail if the conference type includes the 'maillist' flag, and one or more email addresses are present on line 6 of the conference config file. Both of these fields are defined when a conference is created. This information can be changed by *cfadm* with the `change config` command, or by the *sysop* from the conference fairwitness page.

For more information about these fields see section 4.1 on creating conferences.

If you wanted to create a conference linked to the Yapp mailing list, the following would be on line 6 of the Yapp conference config file:

yapp@umich.edu

In order for Yapp to post the information recieved from a mailing list to the correct conference the information in *bbsdir*/maillist needs to be updated. The file maillist specifies which incoming mail addresses go to which conference. (This is necessary because multiple incoming addresses may actually be the same list.) The maillist file is updated automatically when you create a conference, or when you change the conference configuration file.

The first line of the *bbsdir*/maillist file should be the string "!<hl01>". The second line should contain the directory of the default conference which, if it matches a conference name, will collect mail which doesn't match anything else. If it isn't a conference name, excess mail will be lost. The remaining lines should consist of an email address, a colon, and a conference name. A conference may have multiple entries in order to send multiple addresses to the same conference.

Example:

!<hl01>

lost
yapp@umich.edu:yapp
cseg@zip.eecs.umich.edu:cseg
cseg@dip.eecs.umich.edu:cseg
cseg@quip.eecs.umich.edu:cseg
amber@hagar.ph.utexas.edu:amber
oberon@amber.uchicago.edu:amber
mlist-amber@nntp-server.caltech.edu:amber

Although a conference may be configured to recieve mail, if the appropriate mail alias is not set up, or if the mail alias is not on the appropriate mailing list Yapp won't post any information to the conference. Information for configuring the mail alias can be found in section 2.1.

To be placed on the Yapp conference email list, send email to

```
yapp@armidalesoftware.com
```

Ask to be placed on the Yapp conference list, and include the email address of the alias you created to receive mail. ("yapp@umich.edu" is a mailing list maintained at an X.500 directory server. Fingering it will give the current list of members.)

Once the email address is added to the mail list of interest, your bi-directional link will be complete.

For more information on correcting problems with a maillist conference, see section 8.3.

Chapter 5

Configuring the Look and Feel of the BBS

5.1 Changing Yapp configuration parameters

Yapp configuration parameters are contained in a yapp.conf file, which is maintained by the Install script (see section 2.1 on installing Yapp). The yapp.conf file can only be changed by a Yapp administrator (*cfadm*). Yapp searches for this file in the following places (in order):

/etc/yapp.conf
/usr/local/etc/yapp.conf
bbsdir/yapp.conf
~cfadm/yapp.conf
./yapp.conf

This file consists of zero or more lines of the form:

parameter:*value*

where *parameter* is one of those listed below.

Parameter	Description	Default
bbsdir	Base Yapp directory (*bbsdir*)	/usr/bbs
byteswap	Byteswap constant (do not change)	1
censorfrozen	Whether users can censor/scribble responses in frozen items	true
cfadm	Unix login which "owns" Yapp files	cfadm
confdir	Parent directory under which new conferences should be created	*bbsdir*/confs
freezelinked	Whether fairwitnesses can freeze items which are linked to other conferences	true

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Parameter	Description	Default
licensedir	Directory holding license information	/usr/bbs/license
maildir	Unix mailbox directory	/usr/spool/mail
nobody	Unix login which httpd uses to run CGI programs	nobody
padding	Subject/response padding size	0
partdir	Participation file directory	WORK
passfile	Full pathname of the .htpasswd file in which httpd looks up web passwords	/usr/bbs/etc/.htpasswd
safe	Whether to auto set nosource for *cfadm* and set observe nosource for root	true
sendmail	Full pathname of Unix sendmail program	/usr/lib/sendmail
sysop	Web login of Yapp administrator	(same as Yapp owner)
userdbm	Use compressed DBM file for userfile?	false
userfile	Full pathname of file holding extra web user account information	/usr/bbs/etc/passwd
userhome	Base path of www user home directories	/usr/bbs/home
usradm	Unix login to be used as alternate user administrator	root
wwwdir	Base path of Yapp's www files	*bbsdir*/www

5.2 Using separators and macros

Separator strings are a way of customizing output. Separator strings can be saved in variables, many of which have default values. There are six types of separators:

Type	Description
miscsep	value applies in all cases
confsep	value applies to conference information (based on context)
itemsep	value applies to item information (based on context)
misccond	condition works in all cases
confcond	condition works for conference information only
itemcond	condition works for item information only

In general, each separator code is of the form: %#X where # is an optional number , 'z' or '^' and X is some character. The # represents the width of the field when displayed, or indicates the format of the date in date separators, or a file number when a condition references a file number by definition. See the entries on `datesep` and `date` in the Yapp Manual for more information about the date formats.

Some exceptions are:

%<var>	means expand entire variable here (the <> are literals) and capitalize it if ∧ was specified
%{var}	means expand entire variable here (the {} are literals) and capitalize it if ∧ was specified
${var}	means expand variable here without re-expanding recursively and capitalize it if ∧ was specified
%(X ... %)	means expand ... only if X condition holds (note that %E in ... functions as an ELSE clause)
%((icon op icon) ... %)	means expand ... only if the given condition holds. See syntax for the `if` command for more information.
%‘command‘	means replace with output of the given command

5.2.1 Conference separators

Conference separators are only applicable in conference separator variables. For any codes which use a number, the number defaults to 0 unless otherwise stated. A code is specified with: %Z#X where Z is an optional ‘Z’ or ‘z’ meaning print ‘No’ or ‘no’ in place of 0 # is an optional number (indicating field width or a file number), X is some character below.

Separator	Description
b	number of brandnew items
C	string text for index command
d	conference directory
f	number of first item
g	dump entire file #
i	number of items
k	number of things processed so far in the current report
l	number of last item
L	name of current conference
m	last modification date of conference (timestamp on summary file)
n	number of new (brandnew or newresponse) items
o	date of last session in conference (timestamp on participation file)
p	participation file name
q	last component of conference directory
Q	if not in a conference, print message and abort separator
r	number of newresponse items
s	name of conference
t	conference security type (number)
u	your full name in this conference
v	your login
w	your Yapp directory (usually your home directory or .cfdir directory)
y	number of unseen items

File numbers for separators which access file numbers for a conference are:

File Number	Description
0	login
1	logout
2	index
3	bulletin
4	welcome
5	htmlheader

5.2.2 Conference conditionals

Conference conditionals apply only to conference separator variables. For any codes which use a number, the number defaults to 0 unless otherwise stated. Codes inside conditionals are used only if the condition is true. A code is specified with: %(!#X where ! is an optional '!' or '~' meaning to negate the condition # is an optional number, and X is some character below.

Separator	Description
b	if there are brandnew items in the conference
B	if processing the conference you are in
C	if you are currently in some conference
f	if summary file exists (for the conference you are in ?)
F	if # file exists
i	if any items exist in the conference
j	if you just joined this conference for the first time
k	if processing the conference that is current in your conflist
l	if you are only an observer
m	if you have mail
n	if there are new (brandnew or newresponse) items
N	if # file is new
O	if you were previously in another conference this session
r	if there are newresponse items
s	if you are a fair-witness
x	if # flag is on (1=report header, 2=line in body, 4=report summary)
y	if there are unseen items

File numbers for separators which access file numbers for a conference are:

File Number	Description
0	login
1	logout
2	index
3	bulletin
4	welcome
5	htmlheader

5.2.3 Conference separator variables

Variable	Description
bullmsg	output of "display bulletin" Default :"%(1x%3g%)%c"
checkmsg	conference information for check command Default :"%(1x\nNew resp ${item}s $^{conference} name\n%) \ %(2x%(k–%E %)%(B>%E %)%4r %4b %s\ %(B (where you currently are!)%)%)"
confindexmsg	format of a conference description line for index command Default :"%20s.....%c"

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Variable	Description
confmsg	output of "display conference" Default :"%Q${conference} name : %s \n Directory : %d\n\ Participation file: %w/%p\n\ Security type : %t\n\ %(i%i ${item}%S numberd %f-%l\ %ENo ${items} yet.%)"
edbprompt	prompt to confirm response entry Default :"Ok to enter this response? "
groupindexmsg	format of a group header line for index command Default :" **%C**"
indxmsg	output of "display index" Default :"%(1x%2g%)%c"
joinmsg	output of "join" with no arguments Default :"Join: which ${conference}? \n\ %QYou are currently in the %s ${conference}."
joqprompt	prompt when deciding to become a member of a conference Default :"\nJoin, quit, or help? "
linmsg	output when entering a conference Default :"%(1x%(2x\n%) %0g%)%(2x%(3N%3g%)\ %(1x\n%)%(n%(r%r newresponse $ {item}%S%)\ %(b%(r and %)%b brandnew ${item}%S%) \n%)\ %(i%i ${item}%S numbered %f-%l\n %)\ %(sYou are a ${fairwitness} in this ${conference}.\n%)\ %(lYou are an observer of this ${conference}. \n%)\ %(jYour name is \"%u\" in this ${conference}. \n\ %(∼O%(4F\n%4g\ %E\n>>>> New users: type HELP for help. \n%)%)%)%)%c"
listmsg	conference information for list command Default :"%(1x\n${item}s sec time ${conference} \n%)\ %(2x%(B>%E %)%4i %2t%(sF%E%(lR%E %)%) %m %s%)"
loutmsg	output when leaving a conference Default :"%(1x%1g%)%c"
mailmsg	announcement when you have mail Default :"You have %(2xmore %)mail."
noconfp	main Yapp prompt, if not in a conference Default :"\nType HELP CONFERENCES for a list of ${conferences}s.\n\ Type JOIN <NAME> to access a ${conference}. \n YAPP: "
obvprompt	prompt after each item when reading, if respond is not allowed Default :"\n[%{curitem}/%l] Can't respond, pass? "
partmsg	person info, for participants command Default :"%(2x%10v %o %u%)\ %(4x\n%k participant%S total.%) \

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Variable	Description
	%(1x\n login last time on name\n%)"
printmsg	report header, for print command
	Default :"%QPrinted from ${conference} %d (%s)"
prompt	main Yapp prompt, if in a conference
	Default :"\nYAPP: "
rfpprompt	prompt after each item when reading, if respond is allowed
	Default :"\n[%{curitem}/%l] Respond, forget, or Pass? "
scribok	prompt to verify scribbling
	Default :"Ok to scribble this response? "
text	prompt while entering text (no separators allowed for this prompt)
	Default :">"
wellmsg	output of "display welcome"
	Default :"%(1x%4g%)%c"

5.2.4 Item separators

Item separators apply in only for item separator variables. For any codes which use a number, the number defaults to 0 unless otherwise stated. A code is specified with: %Z#X where Z is an optional 'Z' or 'z' meaning print 'No' or 'no' in place of 0, # is an optional number, and X is some character below.

Separator	Description
a	full name of author of current response
C	short name of current conference
d	timestamp of current response (default format is 1)
e	email address of author of current response
h	subject (header) of current item
i	current item number
l	login of author of current response
k	size in Kbytes of text of current response (rounded up)
L	text of current line of current response
n	highest response number in current item
N	current line number in current response
p	number of parent response
q	size in bytes of text of current response
r	current response number
s	number of lines of text in current response
t	timestamp of current response (default format is 0)
u	uid of author of current response

5.2.5 Item conditionals

Item conditionals apply only to item separator variables. For any codes which use a number, the number defaults to 0 unless otherwise stated. Codes inside conditionals are used only if the condition is true. A code is specified with: %(!#X where ! is an optional '!' or '~' meaning to negate the condition # is an optional number (as explicitly defined), and X is some character below.

Conditional	Description
B	if starting to process another report
D	if date flag is on
F	if numbered flag is on
I	if starting to process another item
L	if there is text at current response line
N	if current response number ¿ 0
O	if starting to process another item
p	if response is a response to another one
P	if last number output was not 1
R	if starting to process another response
T	if formfeed flag is on
U	if uid flag is on
V	if current response is censored
W	if current response is scribbled
x	if # flag is on (1=report header, 2=line in body, 4=report summary)
X	if current response is retired
Y	if current response is forgotten
Z	if current response is frozen

5.2.6 Item separator variables

Variable	Description
fsep	output of find command Default :"%(R#%i.%r %a (%l) \n%)%7N: %L"
isep	long item header (default for read command) Default :"\n$^{item} %i entered %d by %a (%l)\n %h"
ishort	short item header (default for browse command) Default :"%(B$^{item} Resps $^ {subject}\n\n%)%4i %5n %h"
nsep	new response status, for read command Default :"\n%(N%r new of %) %zn response%S total."
replysep	response included in reply mail text Default :"%(1xIn #%i.%r of the %C ${conference}, you write:%)\ %(2x> %L%)%(4x%)"
rsep	response header for read command Default :"\n#%i.%r %a (%l) "
txtsep	line of response text in read command Default :"%(L%(F%7N:%)%X%L%)"
zsep	item footer, for read command Default :"%(T^L%)%c"

Following are some of the reserved variable names. Most have default values that can be checked with `display` *variable*. Undefined variables expand to the empty string, rather than generating an error.

WWW Read/only variables

Variable Name	Description
nobody	login of account which CGI scripts run as
pathinfo	contents of PATH_INFO environment variable
querystring	contents of QUERY_STRING environment variable (note that variables sent via QUERY_STRING are automatically set for you in Yapp.)
requestmethod	contents of REQUEST_METHOD environment variable
remoteaddr	contents of REMOTE_ADDR environment variable
remotehost	contents of REMOTE_HOST environment variable
sysop	login of sysop account
wwwdir	base directory for Yapp www files

Miscellaneous Read/only variables

Variable	Description
address	mailing list email address of a maillist conference
bbsdir	bbs system base directory
brandnew	number of brandnew items indexbrandnew
cacl	access control list for creating new items in this conference
canaacl	can change access control list
cancacl	can create topics in conference according to access control list
canracl	can read conference according to access control list
canwacl	can respond to items in conference according to access control list
cflist	list of conferences in your .cflist
conflist	list of possible conferences
confname	short name of current conference
curitem	current item number
curline	current line number of response
curresp	current response number
cursubj	current item subject
email	your email address
exit	exit status of last Unix command executed
firstitem	first item number
fromlogin	login of current response author
fromname	full name of current response author
fullname	your full name in this conference
fwlist	list of fairwitnesses in this conference
highresp	highest response number in range specified
home	your home directory
hostname	hostname of local system on which Yapp is running
isbrandnew	is the current item brandnew
isnew	is the current item brandnew or contain a new response
isnewresp	does the current item contain a new response

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Variable	Description
lastitem	last item number
lastresp	number of responses in current item
login	your login
lowresp	lowest response number in range specified
mode	current prompt index
newresp	number of newresponse items
nextconf	next conference in your .cflist with new items
nextitem	next item in specified range
numitems	number of items
partdir	directory containing your participation files and .cflist
pid	current Yapp process id
prevconf	previous conference in your .cflist with new items
previtem	previous item in specified range
racl	access control list for joining and reading current conference
seenresp	highest response number seen
status	current internal status flags
uid	your uid
unseen	number of unseen items
wacl	access control list for writing responses in current conference
work	your Yapp work directory

Extra variables imported from environment variables

Variable Name	Description
alpha	Value is value of ALPHA environment variable
beta	Value is value of BETA environment variable
gamma	Value is value of GAMMA environment variable
delta	Value is value of DELTA environment variable

For more information on separators and conditionals see the entries on `miscseps`, `confseps`, `itemseps`, `miscconds`, `confconds`, `itemconds`, `fileseps`, and `dateseps` in the Yapp Manual.

5.3 Customizing WWW output and options

An rc file containing global commands and definitions for the WWW is located in *bbsdir*/www/rc. It contains the default WWW settings.

If you would like to customize these defaults you may change them by accessing the *Configure System* link from the Main Menu page while logged in as *sysop*. The modifications will be stored in the rc.*yapp-bin* file, where *yapp-bin* is the directory alias used by httpd. See chapter 2 on Getting Started for more on information setting up the directory alias.

For more information on the separators used in the default macros, see section 5.2 on Separators and Macros.

5.3.1 Using the Configure System page

The Configure system page allows the *sysop* to configure the system for the WWW. From this page you can change the following types of items: System Identification, Configuration Options, Terms, Page Format,

Text Format, Return Buttons , Other Buttons, and HTML Tags in Responses.

SYSTEM IDENTIFICATION

Local Host Name in URLs
This is your WWW host name to be included in URLs.

Local HTTP port in URLs
Port number to include in URLs for your host.

URL of welcome page
This is the URL of the page you wish users to see when they follow the "Return to welcome page" link.

TERMS

Here, you can redefine some of the terms used in messages and on WWW pages to be more understandable to your users.

You can redefine the terms:

Variable	Default Value
conference	conference
fairwitness	fairwitness
item	item
subject	subject

See section 5.4.1 on Yapp configuration variables for more information on these terms.

CONFIGURE OPTIONS

Do you wish users to be able to enter responses using a pseudonym?
If you do not allow pseudonyms, the user's full name in the conference will always be used when entering responses from the web.

PAGE FORMAT

Each web page is essentially divided into three pieces: the header, the body, and the footer. Here you can define:

Variable Name	Description
header	Standard page header
footer	Standard page footer

To customize the body of a page, you will need to edit the template associated with the page. The templates are located in the *bbsdir*/www/templates directory. See section 5.3.2 for more information on the templates.

TEXT FORMAT

This is where you define text formats for specific pages.

Variable Name	Description
ishort	Format of the list of topics inside a conference - Changes appearance on a Conference Welcome Page
isep	Format of a topic header - Changes appearance on a Read Item Page
rsep	Format of a response header - Changes appearance on a Read Item Page
censored	Format of a censored notice - Changes appearance on a Read Item Page
scribbled	Format of a scribbled notice - Changes appearance on a Read Item Page

NOTE: A Conference Welcome Page is the first page you come to when entering a conference. Normally the contents of the conference htmlheader file are displayed at the top of the page.

A Read Item Page, is the page you get when you follow the link to any of the items/topics on a Conference Welcome Page.

RETURN BUTTONS

Here you define the buttons which can be used to return to other pages.

Variable Name	Description
confreturn	Return to the ____ conference
mainreturn	Return to the main menu
welcreturn	Return to the welcome screen

OTHER BUTTONS

Here is where you redefine the buttons such as:

Variable Name	Description
help	Help Button
cnext	Next conference
cprev	Previous conference
znext	Next topic
zprev	Previous topic
enter	Enter new topic
zfreeze	Freeze/Thaw
zforget	Forget/Remember
kill	Kill item button
zretire	Retire item button
retitle	Change subject
zcensor	Censor
zuncensor	Uncensor
zscribble	Scribble

HTML TAGS IN RESPONSES

Here is where you can restrict which HTML tags you want users to be allowed to use, and on which tags you want sanity checking. Users will not be able to use any HTML tags which you list as illegal, and sanity

checking will be done on the tags which you specify must be matched. A sample entry of tags which should match:

```
H1 H2 H3 H4 H5 H6
A UL OL DL PRE BLOCKQUOTE
EM CITE CODE KBD SAMP
STRONG VAR B I TT BLINK
FORM SELECT TEXTAREA SUP SUB
DIV FONT CENTER NOFRAMES FRAMESET
TABLE TD TR D
```

A sample entry of HTML tags to restrict would be:

```
HTML BODY HEAD TITLE ADDRESS ISINDEX BLIN
```

5.3.2 Modifying templates

In addition to the standard WWW marcos, you can also change templates to determine what is displayed for each form and on each page. Shown below is short description of when each of the templates is used, and default actions upon sucessful or unsuccessful completion of Yapp commands.

Template Name	Description of Template
browse	Display list of topics in a conference, change name in conference, etc
browse_ok	Results of browse (go to browse screen)
cfadd	Results of cfadd (go to createlist screen)
cfconfig	Sysop configuration parameters
cfcreate	Form to collect information to create a conference
cfcreate_ok	Results of cfcreate
cfonce	Change information in users cfonce file (go to userinfo)
change_get	The initial file change form
change_invalid	When response contains invalid text, let user edit
change_ok	Results of change command (go to browse screen)
changelist_get	The initial .cflist change form
changelist_ok	Results of changelist command (go to browse screen)
chfn_get	Fill out form for changing fullname/email address
chfn_ok	Results of changing fullname/email address
conf_timeout	A timeout screen with "Return to ... conference" link
createlist	Create a conference list
edit_get	Edit a responce form
edit_invalid	When invalid text is entered from edit, let them edit again
enter_get	The initial item entry form
enter_invalid	When item contains invalid text, let user edit
enter_ok	Results of enter command (go to browse screen)

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Template Name	Description
error	Generic screen displayed when an error occurs
find	Form to enter a keyword search
find_ok	Results of a keyword search
forget	Results of forget command (go to browse screen)
freeze	Results of freeze command (go to browse screen)
index	List of conferences and create conference command
kill	Results of kill command (go to browse screen)
list	List of all conferences
main	The main menu
main_timeout	A timeout screen with "Return to main menu" link
newuser_get	Step 1 of newuser registration (select a login)
newuser_get2	Step 2 of newuser registration (enter user info)
newuser_ok	When a user successfully registers a new login
newuser_unix	Display when a user chooses an existing Unix login
participants	Display all participants in a conference
passwd_get	Fill-out form for changing password
passwd_ok	When password is successfully changed
preserve	Result of preserve (go to browse screen)
public_browse	Display list of topics in public readonly mode
public_find	Form to enter a key word search when not authenticated
public_main	The main menu when not authenticated
public_read_footer	Item footer in public readonly mode
public_read_header	Item header in public readonly mode
read_footer	Item footer in a normal conference
read_header	Item header in a normal conference
remember	Results of remember command (go to browse screen)
respond_get	The initial response form
respond_invalid	When response contains invalid text, let user edit
respond_ok	Results of respond command (go to browse screen)
retire	Results of retire command (go to browse screen)
retitle_get	Form to change the title of an item
sysconfig	WWW configuration page for Sysop
sysconfig_ok	Result of sysconfig changes (go to main menu)
sysop	Sysop Menu
thaw	Results of thaw command (go to browse screen)
unretire	Results of unretire command (go to browse screen)
userinfo	Display User Info screen

Modifying the templates will cause system wide changes, not conference specific changes. Feel free to experiment with the templates to create the enviornment you feel will best meet the needs of your system.

Standard separators and macros are imbedded in the templates by default. The standard WWW macros can be redefined from the System Configuration page. Often the macros are the only thing that will need to be updated to make your page appear the way that you wish. See section 5.3 for more information on changing these macros.

Although the templates are system specfic, the macros can be defined within each conference, to give each conference a unique feel. Any changes for a specific conference need to be made to the conference rc file. By default this file is empty, so it will require some work to redefine any macros.

5.4 Customizing output from Unix and global options

The most basic of the rc files is the Yapp rc file *bbsdir*/rc. This file will be executed whenever Yapp is run. The definitions in this file can be overridden by any other rc files which are executed.

The Yapp rc file should contain commands that will be executed by everyone when Yapp is started. In general, these are to define global aliases and customize output. See the section on "define" in the Yapp Manual for more information on the `define` comand.

Example:

```
def editor 258 vi
def pager more
def helpcmd 'help commands'
def who 9 'unix who
def write 9 'unix "/usr/local/bin/write"
def talk 9 'unix "/usr/bin/talk"
def dir_ectory 9 'unix "/bin/ls"
def type 9 'unix "/bin/cat"
def pwd 9 'unix "/bin/pwd"
def chat 9 'unix "/usr/local/bin/write"
def shell 9 'unix "/bin/csh"
def noconfp "Type HELP CONFERENCES for a list of conferences \n\
Type JOIN <NAME> to access a conference.\n\n> %c"
```

Each user with a Unix account can create their own aliases and customized output. For more information on the rc files that a user can create, see the section in the Yapp manual for *cfonce* and *cfrc*.

You can also redefine separators in the rc file. See section 5.2 on seperators for a description of the Item Seperators you can define in the rc file.

The following is an example definition of isep.

```
define isep "\nConference:%confname\nResponse: %{curitem}.%{curresp}\nItem\
%{curitem} was entered %d by %a (%{fromlogin}) \nSubject: %{cursubj}\n"
```

5.4.1 Changing the Yapp default settings

The following are the Yapp default settings. To change a default setting globally, you should redefine the associated variable in the Yapp rc file (*bbsdir*/rc). To check the values from within Yapp, type `display` *variable*. Undefined variables expand to the empty string, rather than generating an error. See section 5.4 on rc files for more information on globally redefining variables.

Variable	Default	Description
bufdel	";"	buffer delimiter (only first character is significant)
cmddel	";"	command delimiter (only first character is significant)
conference	"conference"	what to call a conference/forum/etc
editor	"/bin/ed"	Unix command to invoke editor
escape	":"	escape character in text entry mode (first char significant)
fairwitness	"fairwitness"	what to call a fairwitness/host/etc
gecos	","	GECOS separator in password file (first character significant)
helpcmd	""	default command to execute at Ok prompt when user hits return
item	"item"	what to call an item/topic/etc

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Variable	Default	Description
mailbox	""	filename to use as your mailbox
pager	"/usr/bin/more"	Unix command to invoke pager
shell	"/bin/sh"	Unix command to invoke as the shell
subject	"subject"	what to call the subject/title/etc of an item
visual	""	Unix command to invoke visual editor
censored	" <censored>"	response is censored notice
scribbled	" <censored & scribbled>"	response is scribbled notice

For more information on variables, see the entry on variables in the Yapp Manual.

Chapter 6

Special Cases

6.1 Running multiple virtual systems on the same machine

Yapp allows for multple virtual systems to be run on the same machine. The virtual systems use the same conflist, desclist, participation files, and other Yapp files. Virtual systems can be used to make your system appear differently depending upon how it was accessed. Each virtual systems can have a different set of default information and templates.

A virtual system can be very useful if you wish to experiment with the global macros and templates, but you don't want to impact your current users.

To create a virtual system, you need to add another set of information to your httpd files.

For example if you were to add

```
ScriptAlias /test-bin/ {\em bbsdir}/www/cgi-bin/
```

to your NCSA or Apache HTTP srm.conf you would have a virtual test system which you could access a Sysop page to reconfigure without upsetting your regular system.

Chapter 7

Yapp Files

7.1 Overview of Important Files

Following is a list of all important files used by YAPP. You can get more info on the format of a file with "help file < *filename* >", where < *filename* > is the string in the right column below.

7.1.1 Yapp General Files

Parameter	Description	Default
/etc/yapp.conf	local YAPP configuration information	yappconf
bbsdir/censored	log of all censoring and scribbling	censored
bbsdir/conflist	mapping from conference names to directories	conflist
bbsdir/desclist	mapping from conference names to descriptions	desclist
bbsdir/errorlog	log of all YAPP errors encountered	errorlog
bbsdir/maillist	mapping from email addresses to conference names	maillist
bbsdir/rc	commands to execute when starting bbs	bbsrc
licensedir/registered	license information	registered

7.1.2 Conference files

Parameter	Description	Default
confdir/_#	an item file	item
confdir/acl	access control list	acl
confdir/article	highest article number in a nresgroup conference	article

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File	Description	See Yapp Manual:
confdir/bulletin	shown when entering conference, if file is new	bulletin
confdir/config	conference configuration file	config
confdir/htmlheader	conference header displayed from WWW	htmlheader
confdir/index	displayed with "display index" command	index
confdir/log	kill/link/freeze/thaw/retire/unretire log	log
confdir/login	displayed when entering conference	login
confdir/logout	displayed when leaving conference	logout
confdir/observers	optional user list to be referenced by acl file	observers
confdir/originlist	optional list of hosts/addresses allowed to join	originlist
confdir/rc	commands to execute when entering	rc
confdir/secret	conference password (if any)	secret
confdir/sum	conference information summary file	summary
confdir/ulist	list of participants in the conference	ulist
confdir/welcome	shown when joining conference for the first time	welcome

7.1.3 User files

File	Description	See Yapp Manual
homedir/.cfdir/	if exists, this is *workdir*. Otherwise *workdir* = *homedir*	cfdir
homedir/.cfjoin	commands to execute when joining a new conference	cfjoin
homedir/.cflist	list of conferences for check & next commands	cflist
homedir/.cfonce	commands to execute when starting bbs	cfonce
homedir/.cfrc	commands to execute when entering a conference	cfrc
homedir/.CONF.cf	conference participation file	partfile

7.2 Log Files

7.2.1 The error log

The error log is located in the *bbsdir* directory, and contains a list of the Yapp errors. This file may need to be removed periodically since it can grow without bound. If you are experiencing any problems with Yapp this file may contain the information you need to diagnose the problem.

7.2.2 The usage log

The usage log is located in the *bbsdir* directory, and contains a history of the number of times Yapp was accessed from the WWW on a given day. The entry is can be read as:

```
Date:  Number of Accesses
```

For example:

```
Mon Sep 11: 34
Tue Sep 12: 97
```

```
Wed Sep 13: 90
Thu Sep 14: 79
Fri Sep 15: 37
```

Monitor this log if you are worried about exceeding the maximum number of WWW hits per day alloted with your license. You can get the current number of hits from the debug pages. See section 8.2.1 for more information on the debug pages. The useage log file can grow without bound, and should probably be deleted periodically by a system administrator.

7.2.3 The censor log

All censored, scribbled, and edited text is appended to *bbsdir*/censored along with a record of by whom and when. This file can grow without bound, and should probably be deleted periodically by a system administrator.

For more information, see the Yapp Manual entries on `censor`, `scribble`, and `edit`.

7.2.4 Logging other events

In addition to error logging, the following other events can be logged:

Event Name	Description
censor	A response was censored
cfcreate	A new conference was created
cfdelete	A conference was deleted
edit	A response was edited
enter	A new item was entered
freeze	An item was frozen
join	A user entered a conference
kill	An item was killed
leave	A user left a conference
newjoin	A user joined a conference for the first time
resign	A user resigned membership in a conference
respond	A response was entered
retire	An item was retired
retitle	The subject of an item was changed
scribble	A response was scribbled
thaw	An item was thawed
unretire	An item was unretired

The message form and content, as well as a log file name for each event are specified in the Yapp rc file. The syntax for constructing a log line in the Yapp rc file is :

`log` *event* `filename sepstring`

The default entries in Yapp rc file are as follows:

```
log thaw     '%{confdir}/log' '%D %{login} thawed %{item} %{curitem}'
log retire   '%{confdir}/log' '%D %{login} retired %{item} %{curitem}'
log unretire '%{confdir}/log' '%D %{login} unretired %{item} %{curitem}'
log kill     '%{confdir}/log' '%D %{login} killed %{item} %{curitem}'
log retitle  '%{confdir}/log' '%D %{login} retitled %{item} %{curitem}'
log enter    '%{confdir}/log' '%D %{login} entered %{item} %{curitem}'
log edit     ''               ''
```

```
log respond  ''              ''
log censor   ''              ''
log scribble ''              ''
log join     ''              '%D %{login} joined %{confname}'
log leave    ''              '%D %{login} left %{confname}'
log resign   ''              '%D %{login} resigned from %{confname}'
log newjoin  ''              '%D %{login} newly joined %{confname}'
log cfcreate ''              '%D %{login} created %{confname}'
log cfdelete ''              '%D %{login} deleted %{confname}'
```

If either the `sepstring` or the `filename` are empty the *event* will not be logged. Only the events freeze, thaw, retire, unretire, kill, retitle, and enter are logged by default. All of these events are recorded in a log file which is located in the appropriate conference directory.

Each event can only have one entry in the Yapp rc file. If you try to create multiple definitions for an event you will get the following error:
Can't redefine constant '*event*log'
Can't redefine constant '*event*logsep'

An alternate format for specifying the log `filename` or `sepstring` for a particular *event* is:
constant *event*log `filename`
constant *event*logsep `sepstring`

The *constant* declaration means that once the value has been asigned it can not be changed. For more information on logging events, see the Yapp Manual entries on `file bbsrc`, `constant`, and `log`.

Chapter 8

Troubleshooting

8.1 Resolving license-related error messages

There are a number of error messages associated with the Yapp license:

License registration information not found
: You need to install the license you received from Armidale Software in the Yapp license directory (*bbsdir*/license/). The license file should be *bbsdir*/license/registered. It needs to be owned by the Yapp administrator (*cfadm*) and mode 644.

Got error 13 (permission denied) in opening /usr/bbs/license/registered

1. Make sure that the bbs binary is owned by the conference administrator (*cfadm*) and that it is mode 4711.
2. Make sure that *bbsdir*/license/registered is mode 644 and owned by the Yapp administrator (*cfadm*).

Invalid Checksum
: Make sure your license file has the four lines which were mailed to you with no information or blank lines preceeding the "Registered to:" line.

There are already *xxx* copies being used. Try again later.
: You have exceeded the number of simultaneous unix users which are upgrading to a larger license.

The Yapp license limit on hits/day has been exceeded. Try again in *hh* hours *mm* minutes.
: You have exceeded the number of hits from the WWW allowed by your license. You should consider upgrading to a larger license.

8.2 Troubleshooting web page access problems

To be filled in.

8.2.1 Using the debug pages

There are two debug pages for Yapp, one is in the public directory, and the other is in the restricted directory. There are links to these pages from the System Configuration page. You may be able to access the debug pages even if you cannot get to other Yapp pages. If you need to get to the debug pages, and you cannot get to the System Configuration page, the URLs are:

```
http://localhost/yapp-bin/public/debug
http://localhost/yapp-bin/restricted/debug
```

These files contain the version of Yapp you are running, and the version of the scripts you are using. They also contain process information, host information, user information, browser information, conference information, the extra environment variables, the last 10 lines of the Yapp error log, and the number of web hits per day for the last 10 days.

8.2.2 The server encountered an internal error or misconfiguration...

There are many possible causes for the "internal error or misconfiguration" error message from the WWW. The most frequent cause of the error is when the bbs executable file is not owned by *cfadm* or is not running setuid.

You might get more information by viewing the source of the page you tried to access from the appropriate debug page. You can view the source of pages which do not require authentication from `http://localhost/yapp-bin/public/debug` and the source of pages requiring authentication from `http://localhost/yapp-bin/restricted/debug`

Yapp is not running setuid

To determine if your bbs executable file is correct, first locate the directory (probabaly /usr/local/bin) where the executable is found.

```
$ which bbs
/usr/local/bin/bbs

$ ls -l /usr/local/bin/bbs
-rws--x--x  1 cfadm  bin  532541 Jan 17 17:29 /usr/local/bin/bbs*
```

If your file does not have the premissions as shown in the above example you should do:

```
$ chown cfadm /usr/local/bin/bbs
$ chmod 4711 /usr/local/bin/bbs
```

Missing License or other license errors

Make sure that you have a license file, and that it is installed in the correct directory. You should have a file called `registered` in the directory you choose to hold your license. By default this directory is *bbsdir/license*.

```
$ cd /usr/bbs/license
$ ls -l registered
-rw-r--r--  1 cfadm  wheel  82 Jan 18 04:11 registered
```

If you do not have a license file, or if you are having problems with your license contact:

```
yapp@armidalesoftware.com
```

Yapp scripts not setuid for Solaris

If you are running Solaris, make sure that you have changed all of the yapp scripts to be owned by *cfadm* and mode 4755. You may need to be logged in as root to do this.

```
$ cd /usr/bbs/www/cgi-bin/restricted
$ chown cfadm *
$ chmod 4755 *
$ cd /usr/bbs/www/cgi-binn/public
$ chown cfadm *
$ chmod 4755 *
```

8.3 Troubleshooting mailing list conferences

If you are having problems with your maillist conferences recieving mail, first make sure that Yapp is configured correctly. Save a piece of mail you have received as a file with all of the header information. Edit the piece of mail such that the "To:" line contains the mailling list address to which the conference is linked. Make sure that there is a "From:" line as well as a "Date:" line in the header of the message. While logged in as *cfadm*, send the message to `bbs -i`.

For example:

```
$ /usr/local/bin/bbs -i < newmail
```

Check to see if the message appears in the conference linked to the mailing list.
If the message does **NOT** appear in the conference:

1. Check the maillist file to make sure that you have told Yapp where to send mail which is addressed to the mailling list. See section 4.4 for more information on the format of the maillist file.
2. Make sure you were logged in as *cfadm* when you sent the message.
3. Make sure that bbs is owned by *cfadm* and mode 4711.

If the message **DID** appear in the conference, but you are not receiving any mail from the maillist:

1. Make sure there is a line in /etc/aliases which looks like:
   cflink:"|/usr/local/bin/bbs -i"
2. Make sure you are registered on the mailling list to receive mail.

If the mailer-daemon bounces email for a mailing list conference with:
"unknown mailer error 2"
This typically means that `bbs -i` was not invoked by root, daemon, or the Yapp owner (*cfadm*). Make sure that bbs is mode 4711.

*NOTE: Yapp3.0.10 and earlier versions only accept the -i option if they are executed as root or the Yapp owner(*cfadm*). Mail aliases will only work with Yapp3.0.11 and higher, since sendmail executes programs (by default) as daemon.*

If you conference doesn't seem to be sending mail, make sure that the conference security type includes the 'maillist' flag, and that there is an email address specified on line 6 of the conference configuration file. See section 4.1 for more information on creating conferences.

Chapter 9

Frequently Asked Question

1. `Why does an unlimited license get more support hours than other licenses?`

   The larger (higher-usage) sites usually have a lot more questions and customization they want to do.

2. `Does "Simultaneous" users refer to "http sessions"?`

   Since Yapp doesn't run in between hits on a web page, http sessions usually count as 0. Simultaneous refers to the number of Yapp processes running.

3. `Why do I feel like a beta tester? Should I be asking for an accomodation in price, support, or some other form?`

   There are new features included in the version you have, and essentially those caused problems. New features (such as simpler administration) tend to make your life easier in the long run, but sometimes have bugs, so essentially yes you have a beta version of code.

   If you'd rather stay away from beta releases, that's okay too. There's no difference in price either way.

4. `If I purchase a license and find out later it's too little, can I add users/hits later? Is there a price penalty?`

   Yes you can always upgrade , for only the cost of the difference in licenses.

5. `Can I buy additional support time if needed?`

   Yes, such support is usually handled by ILC in San Francisco, who do Yapp customer support and reselling for us. Their people are really good, too.

   You can do this either if you've used up any "with support" hours, or if you have a "no support" license .

6. `How do I set it up so that a conference emails all the members of conference with the new content in the conference as it's posted? And so that they can reply to specific topics by email?`

   At the moment, you have to link the conference to a mailing list. Section 4.4 shows how to do this.

7. `Is it possible to select a particular user in a public conference, and prevent them from posting responses, but allowin them to read the discussion while others may read and post? In other words, can you put an individual on "read-only" in a given conference?`

   Yes. In each conference you have the option of creating an observers file, and setting the conference access control list (acl) options such that they do not have permission to respond.

8. `Which systems are the Yapp conferences linked to?`

   The Yapp conference is intended to be for discussion about Yapp itself, and is linked between a number of systems around the country. It's open to anyone running Yapp who wants it. Do "finger yapp@umich.edu" and you'll get the list.

9. `How much customization by conference is possible?`

   Conference customization is not quite as easy as global configuration. You can put commands in the conference rc file by going to the bottom of the conference host page and selecting "rc: conference configuration commands", or from inside Yapp in Unix with "change rc".

   Each of the macros defined in the templates can be modified for each conference. Examples include, but are not limited to the buttons at the top of the page. If there is something which is not currently a macro but you want to be modifiable by conference, create a macro definition for it so that it can be modifiable by conference.

   The tricky part is that you have to know what you want to define. For example, to specify an alternate gifs directory, you would add: `define gifs /new/full/path/name` to the conference rc file.

10. `What is the problem when topics refuse to age? They keep on coming up on the new list, despite the fact that there have been no new posts to that topic; on viewing only the topic header is shown.`

    This is probably related to clock troubles and the consequent post-dated posts; they are disappearing as we catch up with them.

Appendix A

Man pages

YAPP(1) YAPP(1)

NAME
webuser - allows administrative functions to be performed for web accounts.

SYNOPSIS
webuser [-dehlprsuv] [login]

DESCRIPTION
webuser without options creates a local web account for login, if one doesn't already exist, and sets the web password to be the same as the Unix password for login. If no login is specified, then an account is created associated with the current Unix user.

OPTIONS
The following options tell webuser the administrative function you wish to perform:

-d Disables the ability to login into the account for login or the current Unix user

-e Enable ablity to login into the account for login if specified, or the current Unix user, if the account has previously been disabled

-h Displays the usage information for webuser.

-l List the assocated login for all web accounts

-p Change the password for login if one is specified, otherwise it will change the password for the web account associated with the current Unix user.

-r Remove the web account for login or the current Unix user. Only root or the User Administrator if specified in the yapp.conf file may do this.

-s Show the account information for login or for the web account assocated with the current Unix user. This will print the Web login, Status (Disabled or Active), Full name, Email address and the time the user last read information.

-u Create or update the a web account assocated with the current Unix user, or login if specified. The user's web password will now be the same as their Unix password.

-v Show the version of webuser.

If webuser is being run by a user, either no login should be specified or the user must specify their own login.

If webuser is being executed by root, nobody, or the User Administrator if specified in the yapp.conf file, any login may be specified on the command line.

USAGE

The Yapp newuser command runs webuser if the login of the web account newuser has been asked to create already exists as a Unix login. See the Yapp Manual for more information on newuser.

You may wish to create a wrapper script for the Unix command passwd, and have it run webuser whenever a user changes their Unix password.

You can also incorporate webuser in the process of creating a Unix account if you wish all Unix accounts to automatically have web accounts as well.

webuser is also used for the administrative functions of removing web accounts and resetting a web password.

ERROR MESSAGES

webuser: Permission denied

```
            You  are  running  webuser with the login option, but
            you do not have permission to access the password  of
            the   explicitly  listed  login.  Try running webuser
    without login specified, or run webuser as root.

       This program must be installed setuid root
            webuser has not been installed as setuid root.   Make
            sure  that the  owner  of webuser is root, and it is
            mode 4711.

      webuser: no such login
            webuser was given a login which does not exist in the
            Unix password file.

      webuser: cannot create a web account with root access
            webuser was given a root login, and will not create a
            web account for such logins.


      webuser:login is already enabled
            The account for login was already  enabled for  use.
            You  can check the status of the account using the -s
            option.

       webuser:login is already disabled
            The account for login was already disabled.  You  can
            check  the status of the account using the -s option.

       getting host name
           webuser was unable to get the fully qualified  domain
           name for the current host.

       rename
           webuser  was  unable to rename the temporary password
           file to the actual password file.


SEE ALSO
       yapp(1), passwd(1)
       YAPP Manual.


BUGS
       Please report any bugs to yapp@armidale.ann-arbor.mi.us


NOTES
       webuser must run setuid root so that  it  can  access  the
       encrypted form of the user's password when shadow password
       files are used.
```

```
Source code is distributed with the binary distribution.
```

NAME

bbs, yapp - text conferencing system

SYNOPSIS

bbs [-qulosn] [-x program-file] [[-j] conference]

DESCRIPTION

Yapp is a customizable conferencing system for Unix, with both text-based, and WWW-based access capabilities. It is backward compatible with PicoSpan, an older, widely-used commercial conferencing system, and contains many additional features.

OPTIONS

If no conference is specified, yapp looks for the file .cflist in the user's .cfdir directory if it exists, then in the user's home directory. If the file is found, the first conference listed is used as the startup conference. Otherwise, the default conference specified in the yapp rc file is used as the startup conference.

-q Quiet mode. Don't display any prompts or superfluous text. Useful when writing Yapp scripts.

-u Turn off output buffering. If output is unbuffered, yapp ignores the setting of the pager variable.

-l Start in ``no conference'' mode. When starting in limbo, yapp ignores the user's .cflist file and the default conference setting in the system conflist file.

-o Force observer status in all conferences. For the duration of the current yapp session, the user will not be allowed to enter responses in conferences.

-s Strip non-printing characters from input.

-n Don't source conference rc files.

-x program-file
Read commands from the file program-file instead of from standard input.

-j conference Start in the conference named conference

```
                    instead of the system default or  the  first
                    conference  specified  in the user's .cflist
                    file.

FILES
       $HOME/.cfdir         personal directory  for  storing  yapp
                            files.   If this exists, this is WORK,
                            otherwise, WORK is HOME.
       $WORK/.cflist        list of conferences you're  interested in
       $WORK/.cfonce        file  of  commands executed at startup time
       $WORK/.cfrc          file of commands executed when  entering
                            a conference
       $WORK/.*.cf          conference participation files
       /usr/bbs             base directory for yapp files
       /usr/bbs/rc          global start-up file
       /usr/bbs/conflist    mapping  between  conference names and
                            locations

SEE ALSO
       cfcreate(1), cfdelete(1), YAPP Manual.

       yapp  is  found in  /usr/local/bin/yapp,  as  a  link  to
       /usr/local/bin/bbs.

                            21 September 1995
```

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