

# Usenet

What da fuck is Usenet

When you torrent, you download and seed a movie and eventually everybody has a complete copy of the thing you're all trying to download. Torrents can be very slow or very fast, depending on the amount of people seeding. Torrenting can also be risky because content providers (MPAA, RIAA, et al) and movie studios monitor popular torrents and collect IP addresses, they then send notices to your ISP and your ISP is like "Hey, cmon." and if that happens too many times they may disconnect your service.

(This is why you use a VPN)

With usenet, someone uploads a file to a Usenet service and it is shared among thousands of Usenet servers all over the world and users can then download that file.

Free Usenet access used to come with a lot of ISPs, but most of them put the kibosh on that. Now of days, most everybody has to pay for Usenet access. The advantage of Usenet here, though, is that you have little chance of being caught / fined, unless you are one of the people uploading content and even then its not bloody likely, mate.

So basically, Usenet **does not rely on seeders**, provides **very fast speeds**, any **files there often exist for much longer times than people care to seed them**, and **all newsgroups are free of ratios** and restrictions and stuff like that.



Usenet used to be like this system of message boards where people discuss things. On Usenet, these boards are called newsgroups, or groups. There are groups covering everything from technology to support groups. Some of those newsgroups not only have text posts, but are intended for file posts (binaries) instead. Much like how you attach a file to an e-mail.

Posts to newsgroups are often retained for quite some time – several months, or even years. (which makes it a great resource for finding old/uncommon stuff) When choosing a usenet provider, you'll want to look for the retention, or how long the server keeps shit around.

Usenet isn't nearly as popular today as it once was due to the ubiquity of message boards, social networks and torrenting. However, you can still purchase Usenet access from a variety of providers, and people are still uploading shit all the time. So what the fuck.

Unlike torrents, where you lose access to the data if a torrent loses its "seeders", a file on Usenet doesn't go away until the Usenet server's **retention period** ends, which can be years. Giganews, for example, has a retention period of 4.8 years for binaries (files).

Downloading things from usenet requires the following:

### **A Usenet Provider - These guys provide the actual usenet service**

Things to look for in a Usenet provider: how many days of retention do they offer, the price and how many groups they index. Usenet providers use a handful of different “backbone servers” which may offer different files depending on factors like retention and DMCA takedown requests. If you’re new to usenet, I recommend Newshosting, as it comes with its own client.

[Newshosting](#)

[Eweka](#)

[GigaNews](#)

[EasyNews](#)

[NewsLeecher](#)

*Note: **binaries** (files) are made up of several parts called **Articles**. It is possible in some rare instances you may encounter an incomplete download due to missing articles. You can cover your bases by subscribing to two providers on different backbones.*

### **An Indexer - These guys list the files**

Indexers are like torrent sites, in that they display a list of shit you can download. Usenet is huge, with tons of files, so indexers put all those files on a nice looking website and make it all searchable.

[DrunkenSlug](#)

[NZB Geek](#)

[NZB.su](#)

[NZBPlanet](#)

## A Download client

[Newshosting](#)

[SABnzbd](#)

[NZBGet](#)

[NewsLeecher](#)

So basically we just browse our indexer for what we want to download, download the .nzb file from the indexer, open that in our download client and bingo bango.

## Advanced: Automate your downloads with Arr\* Apps

These apps are collection managers for Usenet and BitTorrent users. They can monitor RSS feeds for new content and will grab, sort, and rename files for you. They can also be configured to automatically upgrade the quality of files already downloaded when a better quality format becomes available.

[Lidarr](#) - Lidarr is a music collection manager

[Radarr](#) - Radarr is a movie collection manager

[Readarr](#) - Readarr is an ebook collection manager

[Sonarr](#) - Smart PVR for newsgroup and bittorrent users

More info [here](#) and in this other guide [here](#)