

To: You, the User  
From: Michael Odawa <odawa@kagi.com>  
Subject: The Offline Reader  
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## The Offline Reader

### Purpose

Offline is a reading program for downloaded Usenet news, email and other text. Internet subscribers who connect over dial-up lines (particularly with ISPs who charge by connect time) often find it more useful to download news with a program such as Newswatcher, and then read it offline after they have completed their connection session. This small-footprint program provides a comfortable interface for indexing and browsing through these downloaded files.

Offline is called a smart reader because it understands a lot about text, and it adjusts its own appearance and presentation based upon what you are reading. If the file you have opened is Usenet news or email, Offline will read through the file and construct an index of articles, authors, subjects, dates, etc., through which you can page to find the information you want. If the file is just plain text, Offline formats it for display as plain text.

Offline is also called a smart reader because it remembers a lot of information about your viewing habits. It knows about your favorite font, and other attributes you like to set for your reading. And it remembers where you were in any file, and scrolls to that point when you open it. If you open Offline without any documents (that is, if you double-click on the application from the finder), it will find all the documents you were reading when you last used the program, open them all, and scroll them to the last place you were reading.

This latter feature is useful, because it means you can quit the program quickly (for instance, when you need to recall memory to run Microsoft programs), then resume right where you left off at your leisure and convenience.

### Shareware

Offline is shareware. That means if you use it regularly, you must register the program and pay for it.

Paying for Offline is fairly simple. Open the Register program that accompanies Offline. Enter your name, your email address, and the number of single user licenses you desire for each program you wish to purchase (or Site or Word-Wide licenses). Save or Copy or Print the data from the Register program and send the data and payment to Kagi. Kagi handles my payment processing.

If paying with Credit Card or First Virtual, you can email or fax the data to Kagi. Their email address is sales@kagi.com and their fax number is +1 (510) 652-6589. You can either Copy the data from Register and paste into the body of an email message or you can Save the data to a file and you can attach that file to an email message. There is no need to compress the data file, it's already pretty small. If you have a fax modem, just Print the data to the Kagi fax number.

Payments sent via email are processed within 3 to 4 days. You will receive an email acknowledgement when it is processed. Payments sent via fax take up to 10 days and if you provide a correct internet email address you will receive an email acknowledgement.

If you are paying with Cash or USD Check you should print the data using the Register application and send it to the address shown on the form, which is:

Kagi  
1442-A Walnut Street #392-3RR  
Berkeley, California 94709-1405

USA

You can pay with a wide variety of cash from different countries but at present if you pay via check, it must be a check drawn in US Dollars. Kagi cannot accept checks in other currencies, the conversion rate for non-USD checks is around USD 15 per check and that is just not practical. If you have a purchasing department, you can enter all the data into the Register program and then select Invoice as your payment method. Print three copies of the form and send it to your accounts payable people. You might want to highlight the line that mentions that they must include a copy of the form with their payment. Kagi can not invoice your company; you need to act on my behalf and generate the invoice and handle all the paperwork on your end.

Please do not fax or email payment forms that indicate Cash, Check or Invoice as the payment method. As far as we know, there is still no technology to transfer physical objects via fax or email and without the payment, the form cannot be processed.

Payments sent via postal mail take time to reach Kagi and then up to 10 days for processing. Again, if you include a correct email address, you will hear from Kagi when the form is processed.

#### Instructions for Use

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Offline is pretty straightforward in its operations. The application is a fat binary, so it can run on both PowerPC and 68000 Macintoshes. Just copy it to your hard disk and run it.

Remember, Offline is a non-destructive reader, so you can't edit the text, just read it. Therefore, most of the keyboard keys have no effect. PageUp and PageDown scroll page-wise through each message, and also take you to the next message when you are positioned at the end. The space bar, return and delete (backspace) keys do the same. Enter always takes you to the next message. Up and down arrows make the text scroll line-by-line, while left and right arrows move you to the previous and next threads.

"Deleting" message does not really remove it from the file; the action just marks the message as deleted and hides it from view. If you want to reveal the item or bring it back from deletion, just select "Show Deleted Items" from the Message menu.

Play around with some of the other menus to see what they do.

#### Warranty

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This program is a work in progress, so the usual restrictions apply. We haven't seen any big problems with this version of Offline, but we haven't had enough experience that we can confidently say this program will work exactly the way it is supposed to. Be careful, and keep your data backed up. Since this is real cheap software, you get what you pay for. In any event, our liability must be limited to the amount you paid for the program.

But the good side of using beta software is that the development process is not finished, and you get to participate. If there are any features you would like to see added to Offline, or if there are any aspects of the program that particularly bother you, drop me an email, and I'll see if I can fix the problem for a future release.

#### Other Languages

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Yeah, I know the program is all in English. If you want it localized for another language, drop me an email, and let's see what we can do about it.

Saved: Monday, October 27, 1997 12:57:10 PM

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### Limitations

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When you reply to an email, or post a followup to a news article, the Offline Reader doesn't actually send the reply or post. Instead, your writing is moved into a file called "Outgoing Mail", located in the same folder as the Offline Reader program. You can copy it from there into your email program.

This is a beta restriction, imposed so that we don't screw up your email files. We'll let you mail directly, once we get more experience with people using the program.

Please send any suggestions or bugs reports directly to me, at [odawa@kagi.com](mailto:odawa@kagi.com).

I hope you enjoy Offline,

Michael Odawa  
[odawa@kagi.com](mailto:odawa@kagi.com)