NEWS

Starlink Online Information System

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1   Introduction

The `news` command provides access to recent topics of interest for Starlink users. There are items on the latest Starlink software releases, relevant jobs and other happenings within the astronomical community. Users are encouraged to regularly browse the `news` system to keep abreast of the latest developments within the community.

2   Using `news`

In its simplest form, `news` can be invoked by simply typing `news`. A list of titles of `news` items will be displayed in reverse chronological order, together with their submission dates. The user will be prompted to select an item to read. Any substring of the title will be sufficient to display that topic. If the substring is not unique, then all the relevant topics will be sequentially displayed. The topic can be paged through using <RETURN> or quit at any point by typing q. Some items have subtopics and these can be individually displayed after reading the main item.

Invoking `news` with the `-t` option will cause the news items to be listed alphabetically by title, rather than chronologically. If you wish to bypass the topic listing and read a topic immediately, then it is possible to type `news` < *title* >.

News items can be printed by typing p or exported to a disk file by typing e. `news -h` will give a brief help description.

2.1   New news items

`news -n` will give a listing of all `news` items posted since your last login. This should be configured by your Site Manager to run automatically during the system login procedure but you can include this in your own `.login` file if necessary.

3   Submitting a News item

`news` is a quick and effective way of your information reaching the whole UK astronomical community as it is available at all Starlink sites.

Items should be submitted via your Site Manager who will forward it on to the Starlink Project team for dissemination. `news` items should usually appear within 24 hours at all sites.

`news` items follow a simple format and you are asked to ensure that your submitted items conform to this standard:

- Line One should contain a numeral "1" followed by a space and then the title of the `news` item.

- Line Two should contain a right-justified expiry statement, giving the expiry date for the item, of the form: `Expires:   date`. The right-justification should use spaces, not `<TAB>` characters.

- The body of the text should not exceed column 75 — the news items are usually posted on Usenet.

- The numeral "1" signifies the topic title and should not appear in column one of the text apart from the first line.

- Subtopics should commence with a numeral "2" in column one followed by a title.

- Only two levels of news are readable by the `news` program.

3.1   Example news item

```
1 An Example News Item
                                            Expires: 10/7/95


This example news item demonstrates the format required for Starlink News
Items. The body of the text is restricted to 75 columns wide.  Numeral
 1 is excluded from the first column. Here I have indented it with a space.

2 This is a subtopic title

All text after this point is included in the subtopic...

...unless there is another numeral 2 in column one, like this...

2 This is another subtopic

...with its text in here.
```