

## **Tru64 UNIX Best Practice**

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### **Configuring a News Server Using Internet Express**

**November 2001**

**Product Version:                      Internet Express Version 5.7**

This Best Practice describes how to use Internet Express (formerly Open Source Internet Solutions) to configure an InterNetNews (INN) Server for Tru64 UNIX.



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## ***Configuring a News Server Using Internet Express***

Internet Express is a collection of popular Open Source and other Internet software. Internet Express gives you the latest version of the InterNetNews (INN) Server. You can configure INN from the Internet Express Administration utility to:

- Function as a fed site that receives articles from an external news server (i.e., newsfeed). You join the INN network and make arrangements for an external newsfeed to feed your system.
- Function as a local bulletin board, where all information is local to your news server and is not propagated to the external INN network. Many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) configure news in this manner.

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### **Note**

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You cannot use the Internet Express Administration utility to configure your server to be an external newsfeed to another system in the INN network. For information on configuring your server in this manner, see the INN Web site at:

<http://www.isc.org/products/INN>

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For an overview of the news server environment, see the Best Practice document *Planning a News Server Using Internet Express*

See the *Tru64™* UNIX Best Practices Web page for more information about Best Practices documentation:

[http://www.tru64unix.compaq.com/docs/best\\_practices](http://www.tru64unix.compaq.com/docs/best_practices)

## **Is This Best Practice Right for You?**

Not all Best Practices apply to all configurations, so you must be sure that this Best Practice is appropriate for your system and circumstances. To use this Best Practice, you must meet the requirements described in the following table:

Requirement	Description
Operating System	Tru64 UNIX Version 5.0A or higher
Product Version	Internet Express Version 5.7 or higher
System Configuration	High-speed network interface. Consider multiple network interfaces for very high volumes.

If you do not meet the previous requirements, see *Alternative Practices* for information.

## Before You Begin

Before you apply the Best Practice for Configuring a News Server, you must understand some background information and perform some preliminary tasks.

- If you have not already done so, register the IP address and any IP aliases for the system and configure the network. The Internet Express installation procedure will lead you through the network configuration if necessary.
- If you need to better understand the news server environment, see the Best Practice document *Planning a News Server Using Internet Express*. It provides an overview of the Usenet and describes the various news server configuration options.
- Before you configure your news server to function as a fed site, you must contact your newsfeed server administrator. Inform the administrator which news categories, or newsgroups, you want to be fed to your server or excluded from your server. See the *Internet Express for Tru64 UNIX Administration Guide* for a list of standard newsgroups.

After the external newsfeed server administrator adds your system is added to the external server's configuration files, you must get a copy of the external newsfeed server's `/usr/news/etc/active` file. This file is usually copied over to your server when you set up an external newsfeed. The *Internet Express for Tru64 UNIX Administration Guide* provides information for updating this file.

Also, determine how long you intend to store news articles that are fed to your site. You should have extra storage capacity available to handle the surges in news volume that occasionally occur (for example, when an external newsfeed comes back on line after having been down for several days). *Table 1: Recommended Storage Capacity for News*

*Articles* lists the recommended storage capacity (spool space) for a retention periods of 4, 7, or 14 days:

**Table 1: Recommended Storage Capacity for News Articles**

Article Retention Period	Minimum Spool Space
4 days	4 GB
7 days	6 GB
14 days	12 GB

- INN is a single-instance server. Only one instance of this server is run within a cluster. The `/sbin/init.d` scripts use Cluster Application Availability (CAA) for this service.

## Applying the Best Practice

Before you configure the INN Server, be sure to follow the recommendations in *Before You Begin*.

The Internet Express “Installation and Documentation” CD-ROM contains the INN Server and documentation, as well as other Internet software. This Best Practice recommends that you:

1. Obtain the CD-ROM from the Internet Express kit.
2. Install the INN Server subset (IAEINN) and the Internet Express Administration utility subset (IAEADM).
3. Configure your INN Server to receive news from an external newsfeed.
4. Manage client access to newsgroups on your system.
5. Manage client authentication groups.
6. Store articles and set an expiration date.
7. Create and delete local newsgroups (and bulletin boards) on your system.
8. View the contents of the standard INN Server log files.
9. Shut down or restart the INN Server.

## Obtain the Internet Express Kit

Compaq includes the Internet Express CD-ROMs with Tru64 UNIX *AlphaServer*<sup>™</sup> systems. If you need the Internet Express CD-ROMs, you

can contact your Compaq representative. The part number for the Internet Express Kit is QB-3NCAA-SA.

## **Install the INN Server**

To install the INN Server subset (IAEINN), follow the instructions in the *Internet Express for Tru64 UNIX Installation Guide*. The Internet Express installation procedure automatically selects the prerequisite subsets for installation.

## **Install the Internet Express Administration Utility**

To install the Internet Express Administration utility subset (IAEADM), follow the instructions in the *Internet Express for Tru64 UNIX Installation Guide*. The Internet Express installation procedure automatically selects the prerequisite subsets for installation.

## **Configure an External Newsfeed**

Use the Internet Express Administration utility to add, display, modify, and remove external newsfeeds:

1. From the Internet Express Administration utility Main menu, choose Manage Components.
2. Under News on the Manage Components menu, choose InterNetNews.
3. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure External Newsfeeds.

From the Configure External Newsfeeds menu, you can perform the following tasks:

- Add an external newsfeed
- Display a configured newsfeed
- Remove an external newsfeed
- Modify the default configuration data for an external newsfeed.

### **Add an External Newsfeed**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure External Newsfeeds.
2. From the Configure External Newsfeeds menu, choose Modify External Newsfeeds.

3. In the New External Newsfeed field, enter the fully qualified name of the server from which you want to receive news articles.
4. Click on Add. The Add External Newsfeed form is displayed.
5. On the Add External Newsfeed form, specify the following information:

- a. In the Excluded Hosts field, enter the fully qualified name of any hosts to which you explicitly do not want your server to send articles. Leave this field blank if you do not want to exclude any sites from receiving articles.
- b. *This step is optional.* In the Newsgroups to Propagate and Newsgroups NOT to Propagate fields, enter the newsgroups you want sent or not to be sent to your news server. The newsgroups that match the specifications in these fields constitute the subscription list for your site. Use the default subscription list to allow your news server to receive all articles from all newsgroups (except control, local.\*, and junk).

You can also use these fields to filter out articles from certain newsgroups. For example, to receive all articles from all comp newsgroups, but only the articles from the comp.sources.unix subgroup within the sources newsgroups, specify the following values:

```
Send These Newsgroups: comp.*,comp.sources.unix
```

```
Do NOT Send These Newsgroups: comp.sources.*
```

In this example, the trailing asterisk (.\*) is a required part of the pattern. Also, the result of the last match is the most important.

- c. In the Distributions field, use the default distribution to send all articles to all sites that subscribe to any of the newsgroups where the article has been posted. This field extends modifications of the Send These Newsgroups entries.  
For details on distribution lists, see newsfeeds(5).
- d. Leave the Flags and Parameters field blank.  
For information on setting flags and parameters, see the *Internet Express for Tru64 UNIX Administration Guide*. For a detailed explanation of feed types, see newsfeeds(5).

6. Click on Submit.

The news server stops and restarts the innd daemon, sets up the newsfeed using the Defaults for all Newsfeeds settings, contacts the remote newsfeed server, and copies the active file from the remote newsfeed host to your server. It may take a few minutes before the configuration of your newsfeed is complete. Depending on your access level and system usage, you may want to do this during off hours.

### **Display a Configured External Newsfeed**

1. From the Configure External Newsfeeds menu, choose Display External Newsfeeds.

The Internet Express Administration utility displays the default external newsfeed configuration that applies to all newsfeeds (that is, the values for Send These Newsgroups and Do Not Send These Newsgroups).

2. To return to the Configure External Newsfeed menu, click on the back arrow icon at the bottom of the screen.

### **Modify an External Newsfeed**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure External Newsfeeds.
2. From the Configure External Newsfeeds menu, choose Modify External Newsfeeds.
3. From the Existing External Newsfeeds list, choose a newsfeed host.
4. Click on Modify. The Modify External Newsfeed form is displayed.
5. On the Modify External Newsfeed form, modify the data you want to change.
6. Click on Submit.

### **Remove an External Newsfeed**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure External Newsfeeds.
2. From the Configure External Newsfeeds menu, choose Modify External Newsfeed.
3. From the Existing External Newsfeeds list, choose a newsfeed host.
4. Click on Delete. The Internet Express Administration utility displays a message indicating that the newsfeed has been removed from the `/usr/news/etc/newsfeeds` directory.

5. To return to the Modify External Newsfeeds menu or the InterNetNews Server Administration menu, use the navigation bar at the top of the screen.

### **Modifying the Default Configuration Data for an External Newsfeed**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure External Newsfeeds.
2. From the Configure External Newsfeeds menu, choose Modify Newsfeed Defaults.
3. On the Modify Newsfeed Defaults form, modify the data you want to change.
4. Click on Submit.

### **Manage Client Access Groups**

The Internet Express Administration utility sets up a default client access pattern in the `/usr/news/etc/readers.conf` file to allow only hosts in the local domain to have read and post access to all newsgroups. You can set up a client access definition for every client that will access your system.

When a client attempts to access a newsgroup on your system, the news server checks the definitions to determine whether to grant or deny access to that client.

You can use wildcards in the host pattern to apply the definition to a large class of clients. For example, you can specify `*.abc.com` to identify all clients in the `*.abc.com` domain. Similarly, you can use wildcards to specify the newsgroups the clients are allowed (or not allowed) to access. For example, `alt.*` specifies all newsgroups in the `alt` category.

Use the Internet Express Administration utility to add, modify, or remove client access group definitions:

1. From the Administration utility Main menu, choose Manage Components.
2. Under News on the Manage Components menu, choose InterNetNews.
3. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Client Access.

From the Configure Client Access menu, you can perform the following tasks:

- Add a client access group.
- Modify an existing client access group.
- Remove an existing client access group.

### Add a Client Access Group

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Client Access.
2. From the Configure Client Access menu, choose Modify Client Access Groups.
3. In the New Access Group field, enter a name for the new access group.
4. Click on Add. The Add Access Groups form is displayed.
5. In the list box of existing storage patterns, click on the pattern that you want to precede or follow the new pattern in the list.
6. Click in either the Before or After selection field.
7. Enter data in the fields, as described in *Table 2: Access Groups Form Fields*.
8. Click on Submit.

The information you specify on the Add Access Groups form is stored in the `/usr/news/etc/readers.conf` file, which controls reader (client) access to newsgroups. When a client connects to the server to read a newsgroup, the INN Server first checks to see if that client's name is listed in `/usr/news/etc/incoming.conf`, the file that contains the list of newsfeed servers. If the client's name and address is not found on the servers list, the INN Server assumes that the client is a news reader and searches the `readers.conf` file for the client's name and access privileges.

See the `readers.conf(5)` reference page for additional information.

**Table 2: Access Groups Form Fields**

Name	Description
Placement	Indicates the search order of the group, relative to other groups.
For users matching	The access group of users allowed to read and post to all newsgroups specified. Users can be specified in a comma-separated list with wildcard patterns. If this parameter is not given, the access group applies to all users.

Name	Description
Read and Post access to	<p>Indicates to which newsgroups the access privilege applies. The default is all newsgroups (*). The newsgroup pattern can be one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A specific newsgroup (for example, <code>rec.photo</code>)</li> <li>• A list of newsgroups, separated by commas. For example, <code>misc.* , alt.* , comp.*</code>. Use the asterisk (*) to indicate all newsgroups within a particular category</li> <li>• A newsgroup category or subcategory preceded by an exclamation point (!) indicates that the access privilege is not applied to that newsgroup category or subcategory. For example, the string <code>misc.* , comp.* , !rec.photo*</code> applies the access privilege to the <code>misc.*</code> and <code>comp.*</code> categories but does not apply the privilege to the newsgroup <code>rec.photo</code> and all its subcategories.</li> </ul>
Read-only access to	<p>Specifies newsgroups that only the client is given permission to read. The pattern for specifying newsgroups is the same as for the Read and Post access to field.</p>
Post-only access to	<p>Specifies newsgroups that only the client is given permission to post. The pattern for specifying newsgroups is the same as for the Read and Post access to field.</p>
Key	<p>If this parameter is present, any connection matching this authentication group will have its privileges determined only by access groups containing a matching key parameter.</p>
Masquerade as	<p>If specified, causes <code>nnrpd</code> to behave as if it is running on a server with a different name.</p>
Contact Address	<p>Specifies a contact e-mail address for the administrator of the InterNetNews Server.</p>
Date in localtime?	<p>If a <code>Date:</code> header is not included in a posted article, <code>nnrpd</code> normally adds a new <code>Date:</code> header in UTC. If this is set to Yes, the <code>Date:</code> header will be formatted in local time instead. This is a Boolean value and the default is No.</p>
Path headers stripped?	<p>If set to Yes, any <code>Path:</code> header provided by a user in a post is stripped rather than used as the beginning of the <code>Path:</code> header of the article. The default value is No.</p>

Name	Description
Bypass perl Filter?	If set to No, posts made by these users do not pass through the Perl filter even if it is otherwise enabled. The default is Yes.
Bypass Python filter?	If set to No, posts made by these users do not pass through the Python filter even if it is otherwise enabled. This is a Boolean value and the default is Yes.

### Modify a Client Access Group

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Client Access.
2. From the Configure Client Access menu, choose Modify Client Access Groups.
3. In the Existing Access Groups list box, click on the group for which you want to modify the client access definition.
4. Click on Modify. The Modify Client Access Groups form is displayed.
5. On the Modify Client Access Groups form, modify the data that you want to change. For more information on the fields on this form, see *Table 2: Access Groups Form Fields*.
6. Click on Submit.  
The Internet Express Administration utility displays a message indicating that the client access definition has been modified.
7. To return to the Modify Client Access Groups menu or the InterNetNews Administration menu, use the navigation bar at the top of the screen.

### Remove a Client Access Group

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Client Access.
2. From the Configure Client Access menu, choose Modify Client Access Groups.
3. In the Existing Access Groups list, click on the group you want to remove.
4. Click on Delete.  
The Internet Express Administration utility displays a message indicating that the client access definition has been removed.

5. To return to the Modify Client Access Groups menu or the InterNetNews Administration menu, use the navigation bar at the top of the screen.

## Manage Client Authentication Groups

Client authentication groups allow you to identify users and group them, and in conjunction with the client access groups, control what these groups of users are permitted to do. Information is stored in the `/usr/news/etc/readers.conf` file.

Use the Internet Express Administration utility to add, modify, or remove client authentication groups:

1. From the Administration utility Main menu, choose Manage Components.
2. Under News on the Manage Components menu, choose InterNetNews.
3. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Client Access.

From the Configure Client Access menu, you can perform the following tasks:

- Add a client authentication group.
- Modify an existing client authentication group.
- Remove an existing client authentication group.

### Add a Client Authentication Group

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Client Access.
2. From the Configure Client Access menu, choose Modify Client Authentication Groups.
3. In the New Authentication Group field, enter the name for a group you want to add.
4. Click on Add. The Add Authentication Groups menu is displayed.
5. In the list box of existing groups, click on the group that you want to precede or follow the new group in the list.
6. Click on either the Before or After selection field.

7. Enter data in the fields as described in *Table 3: Client Authentication Groups Menu Fields*.
8. Click on Submit.

*Table 3: Client Authentication Groups Menu Fields* describes the fields that appear on the Add Authentication Groups and Modify Authentication Groups menus.

**Table 3: Client Authentication Groups Menu Fields**

Name	Description
Placement	Indicates the search order of the group, relative to other groups.
Hosts	Indicates the names of the hosts for which users in the group belong. Enter the host name or list of hosts of the users who are controlled by this group; for example, *.myco.com. Use a comma-separated list for several hosts.
Unresolved Connections identified as	Enter a replacement name; for example, default@myco.com. If no user resolver command has been specified for this group, this value is used to identify this connection when searching for an associated Access group entry. This can be almost anything, for example; "localuser". Alternatively, use the Key field. This is an optional field, and can be left blank.
User Resolver Command	Specifies the command line of a program to be executed to resolve the identity of an incoming connection. Enter the full path to the command, beginning with /usr/bin/news/auth/resolv/. This is an optional field and can be left blank.
User Authentication Command	Specifies the command to be executed to authenticate the user making the connection request. Enter the full path to the command, beginning with /usr/bin/news/auth/passwd/. This is an optional field and can be left blank.
Key	A parameter used to check the identity for some specific access groups against the users: parameter. Enter a key name.

### **Modify a Client Authentication Group**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Client Access.
2. From the Configure Client Access menu, choose Modify Client Authentication Groups.
3. In the Existing Authentication Groups list, click on the name of the group you want to modify the client authentication group definition.
4. Click on Modify. The Modify Authentication Groups menu is displayed.
5. In the list box of existing groups, click on the group that you want to precede or follow the new group in the list.
6. Click on either the Before or After selection field.
7. On the Modify Client Authentication Groups form, modify the data you want to change. For more information on the fields on this form, see *Table 3: Client Authentication Groups Menu Fields*.
8. Click on Submit.

### **Remove a Client Authentication Group**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Client Access.
2. From the Configure Client Access menu, choose Modify Client Authentication Groups.
3. In the Existing Authentication Groups list, click on the group you want to delete.
4. Click on Delete.

### **Configure News Article Storage**

Use the Cyclic News File System (CNFS) as the storage method for news articles. Configuration information is stored in the `/usr/news/etc/cybuff.conf` file.

Use the Internet Express Administration utility to add, modify, or remove news articles:

1. From the Administration utility Main menu, choose Manage Components.

2. Under News on the Manage Components menu, choose InterNetNews.
3. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Storage Options.

From the Configure Storage Options menu, you can perform the following tasks:

- Add a CNFS entry.
- Modify a CNFS entry.
- Remove a CNFS entry.

#### **Add a CNFS Entry**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Storage Options.
2. From the Configure Storage Options menu, choose Configure the CNFS Storage Method.
3. Choose Modify CNFS Entries. The Modify CNFS Entries page is displayed.
4. To add a `cycbuff` entry:
  - a. Enter a name in the New Cycbuff field.
  - b. Click on Add. The Add Storage Method menu is displayed.
  - c. In the Path to buffer field, enter the fully qualified path to the buffer in which articles will be stored; for example `/var/news/spool/bigbuff`.
  - d. In the Size field, enter a value (in kilobytes) for the size of the buffer.
  - e. Click on Submit.

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#### **Note**

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The buffer will be automatically created if it does not already exist and if it is the size specified.

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5. To add a `metacycbuff` entry:
  - a. Enter a name in the New Metacycbuff field.
  - b. Click on Add. The Add Storage Method menu is displayed.

- c. From the Uses `cycbuff` entries list box, choose the `cycbuff` entry to be associated with the new `metacycbuff` entry.
- d. Choose either Interleave or Sequential mode.
  - Interleave mode stores articles into each `cycbuff` in a round robin way.
  - Sequential mode stores articles sequentially into one `cycbuff` until it is filled up.
- e. Click on Submit.

### Modify a CNFS Entry

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Storage Options.
2. From the Configure Storage Options menu, choose Configure the CNFS Storage Method.
3. Choose Modify Storage Method Entries. The Modify CNFS Entries menu is displayed, showing the currently defined CNFS entries.
4. To modify a `cycbuff` entry:
  - a. From the Existing Cycbuff Entries list box, choose the `cycbuff` entry you want to modify.
  - b. Click on Modify. The Modify CFS Entries menu is displayed.
  - c. In the Path to buffer field, enter the fully qualified path to the buffer in which articles will be stored; for example `/var/news/spool/bigbuff`.
  - d. In the Size field, enter a value (in kilobytes) for the size of the buffer.
  - e. Click on Submit.
5. To modify a `metacycbuff` entry:
  - a. In the Existing Metacycbuff Entries list box, choose the `metacycbuff` entry you want to modify.
  - b. Click on Modify. The Modify Storage Method menu is displayed.
  - c. From the Uses `cycbuff` entries list box, choose the `cycbuff` entry to be associated with the `metacycbuff` entry.
  - d. Choose either Interleave or Sequential mode:

- Interleave mode stores articles into each `cycbuff` in a round robin way.
  - Sequential mode stores articles sequentially into one `cycbuff` until it is filled up.
- e. Click on Submit.

### Delete a CNFS Entry

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Configure Storage Options.
2. From the Configure Storage Options menu, choose Configure the CNFS Storage Method.
3. Choose Modify Storage Method Entries. The Modify CNFS Entries menu is displayed, showing the currently defined CNFS entries.
4. To delete a `cycbuff` entry, choose a name in the Existing Cycbuff Entries list box and click on Delete.
5. To delete a `metacycbuff` entry, choose a name in the Existing Metacycbuff Entries list box and click on Delete.

### Set News Article Expiration Dates

News articles can accumulate quickly, depending on the newsgroups to which you subscribe and the amount of news traffic for those newsgroups. As a result, a significant amount of disk space can be consumed in a short time. Most news articles fed to you do not contain an expiration header, or time limit, after which the article is purged from your system.

When you use the Cyclic News File System (CNFS) as the storage method, expiration dates are unnecessary because when the storage file is full, older articles are automatically overwritten.

For more information about the CNFS storage method, see *Configure News Article Storage*. For information on using other methods for setting article expiration definitions, see the *Internet Express for Tru64 UNIX Administration Guide*.

### Add or Delete Local Newsgroups

A local newsgroup organizes articles at your site that are not intended to be read by the wider Internet community. Local newsgroups are designated by the `local.category`. Internet Express is configured not to send any `local.*` newsgroups outside the local user environment.

Use the Internet Express Administration utility to add and delete local newsgroups:

1. From the Administration utility Main menu, choose Manage Components.
2. Under News on the Manage Components menu, choose InterNetNews.
3. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Add/Delete Local Newsgroups.

From the Add/Delete Local Newsgroups form, you can perform the following tasks:

- Add a local newsgroup.
- Remove a local newsgroup.

### **Add a Local Newsgroup**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Add/Delete Local Newsgroups. The Add/Delete Local Newsgroups form is displayed, showing the existing local newsgroups (if any).
2. On the Add/Delete Local Newsgroups form, enter name of a new local newsgroup.

When you create a local newsgroup, use the prefix `local.` to exclude it from external newsgroups. Choose a name that describes the purpose or content of the information offered by the newsgroup; for example, `local.org.research`. Do not use spaces in newsgroup names.

3. Click on Add.

The Internet Express Administration utility does not support the creation of external newsgroups. To create a newsgroup that can be accessed by other systems on the INN network, you must use UNIX commands on the command line. See the following Web site for more information:

<http://www.isc.org/products/INN>

### **Delete a Local Newsgroup**

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Add/Delete Local Newsgroups. The Add/Delete Local Newsgroups form is displayed.
2. In the Existing Local Newsgroups list box, choose the newsgroups you want to delete.

3. Click on Delete.

The Internet Express Administration utility displays a message indicating that the selected newsgroups were deleted.

4. To return to the InterNetNews Administration menu, use the navigation bar at the top of the form.

## View INN Server Log Files

To examine INN Server log files, follow these steps:

1. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose View Reports and Log Files.
2. From the View Reports and Log Files menu, choose one of the INN Server reports or log files described in *Table 4: INN Server Report and Log Files*:

**Table 4: INN Server Report and Log Files**

Report or Log File	Description
news Log File	Displays the date and time news articles were sent, whether the article was accepted or rejected, the host machine that sent the article, and the article's message-id.
news.crit Log File	Displays any critical error messages, including the date and time of the error, and the host machine where the error occurred.
news.notice Log File	Displays batch file transfers, which provide information on articles fed downstream and changes to the status of innd
nntp.send.log Log File	Displays information on innxmit, which provides insight into the transmission of news articles to other newsfeeds.
innstat Information	Displays current statistics on the INN Server, including current server status, disk usage and the percentage of disk space available, batch and log file sizes, lock files, and current server connections.

## Controlling the INN Server

Use the Internet Express Administration utility to shut down or restart the INN Server:

1. From the Administration utility Main menu, choose Manage Components.
2. Under News on the Manage Components menu, choose InterNetNews.
3. From the InterNetNews Administration menu, choose Start/Stop the INN Server. The Start/Stop the INN Server form is displayed.
4. Depending on the current status of the INN Server (shown at the top of the screen), choose one of the following tasks:
  - Stop the INN Server — Available when the current status is “running”. When you click on Stop, the INN Server is immediately stopped.
  - Start the INN Server — Available when the current status is “stopped”. When you click on Start, the INN Server is immediately restarted and the configuration files are reloaded.
  - Restart the INN Server — When you click on Restart, the INN Server is restarted after one minute.
  - Reload the INN configuration files — When you click on Reload, the INN configuration files are immediately reloaded. Use this function whenever you modify INN configuration data.

## Verifying Success

After you apply the Best Practice for Configuring a News Server, you can verify whether it was successful.

- You can receive news articles from an external newsfeed.
- You can create and read local newsgroups.

If the Best Practice was not successful, see *Troubleshooting* for information about identifying and solving problems.

## Troubleshooting

If you determine that the Best Practice was not successful, as described in *Verifying Success*, consider the following suggestions:

- Browse through the `/usr/news/log/errlog`, `/usr/news/log/news.err`, and `/usr/news/log/news.notice` files for information about what might be causing the failure. Using the Internet Express Administration utility, review the configuration steps and data that you entered.
- Assure that the host you are trying to reach is available.

## Alternative Practices

Although this Best Practice is the recommended method for configuring a news server, if your system does not meet the requirements described in *Is This Best Practice Right for You?*, you can use an alternative method.

While this Best Practice recommends using the Internet Express Administration utility to configure your news server, you can manually configure your news server. The INN Web site (<http://www.isc.org/products/INN>) allows you to download and configure INN software. Instructions for manually implementing a news server can be found in the *INN Implementation Guide* at the following URL:

<http://web.inter.nl.net/users/Elena.Samsonova/unix/INN/v2.3/implementation.html>

In addition, performance tuning information for the INN server packaged with Internet Express can be found at the following URL:

[http://www.tru64unix.compaq.com/internet/inn\\_wp.htm](http://www.tru64unix.compaq.com/internet/inn_wp.htm)

## Comments and Questions

We value your comments and questions on the information in this document. Please mail your comments to us at this address:

[best\\_practices@zk3.dec.com](mailto:best_practices@zk3.dec.com)

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