

## Re: NewsHound newsreader add-in for Outlook

**Source:** <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Outlook/microsoft.public.outlook.general/2004-05/1423.html>

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**From:** Don Caton ([support\\_at\\_shorelinesoftware.com](mailto:support_at_shorelinesoftware.com))

**Date:** 05/10/04

Date: Mon, 10 May 2004 08:10:47 -0700

"Bob" <Bob@null.net.com> wrote in message  
news:Ov5wKtnNEHA.3124@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl:  
> *major flaw. Does it allow only the message headers to be retrieved? Is there*  
> *an option for this hidden somewhere?*  
>  
> *IMHO this would be a waste of money unless you restricted yourself to just*  
> *moderated groups. Even then, very few groups really warrant downloading the*  
> *body of every message. For unmoderated groups, you'd be wasting a hell of a*  
> *lot of bandwidth & time downloading crap you'll never look at.*  
>  
> *Bob*

No, in the initial release Newshound does not support downloading headers only. The reason is because of the way Outlook/MAPI handles headers-only messages: it will only display them in the inbox folder, and you cannot move them to another folder. That of course, would be virtually unusable for newsgroup articles because every new article in each group you're interested would all be lumped together in the inbox.

So I have to come up with a mechanism to allow headers-only items outside of the internal Outlook/MAPI mechanism. It isn't an insurmountable problem and it's on my to-do list for a subsequent (and free) upgrade, but I didn't want to delay the release of this any longer.

However, whether downloading the body of every message is a waste of time or not really depends on your particular circumstances. First, if you are on a high speed connection, the time it takes to download all articles is largely irrelevant. Unlike Outlook Express, NewsHound does not make you wait until it has finished downloading before you can begin reading new articles, it happens in the background. Second, it depends on the percentage of articles that you actually read. If you end up marking and subsequently downloading a lot of headers, you could actually be wasting time because you have to do a second operation to retrieve the message body. Here as well, the speed of your connection is a factor. Also, it takes a bit of time to make that decision; the speed of your own neural network is a factor <g>.

And finally, an article's subject does not always reflect the real content of the conversation, so you may choose to ignore messages that actually would be of interest to you. I have picked up numerous useful tidbits over the years reading articles that would probably not have interested me based on the header, at least in the programming-oriented groups, so I don't use headers even when I used OE.

As an aside... second only to email spam, internet newsgroups could be the poster child for wasted bandwidth. The practice of mindlessly quoting every preceding article in a conversation wastes huge amounts of bandwidth and disk space, not to mention the NNTP headers that often contain lots of useless information. A simple "thank you" message in an otherwise interesting thread could have thousands of bytes worth of regurgitated quotes, but you wouldn't know until you actually downloaded the message and read it. Usenet is many things, but an efficient use of bandwidth or disk space isn't one of them.

In any case, I appreciate the feedback. Headers-only is a feature that will be implemented, and feedback will determine the priority of features for the next release.

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Regards,  
Don