

"No More Coffee Breaks with Icondesk 4.4!"

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If you've gotten in the habit of grabbing or even brewing a cup of coffee while waiting for the Send window to open in your ICONDESK 4.3 e-mail system, you're going to hate ICONDESK 4.4 - the Send window opens faster than you can fill a coffee pot!

After just over a month as a "user-tester" with the new ICONDESK version 4.4, I would never go back to version 4.3. Version 4.4 isn't perfect, but it is easier to use, more intuitive, and has lost most of 4.3's annoying quirks (e.g., no more of those "Are you sure?" questions when you accept mail).

An obvious change is in the function buttons on the screen. The little drawings on the buttons in 4.3 were virtually indecipherable. In 4.4, the buttons all have names. You still have to Browse messages to read them, but now the button actually says Browse, instead of leaving you to guess whether you need the tiny flashlight or the tiny letter opener.

The Send Mail function is a whole generation ahead of 4.3. There's no more scrolling through endless lists of names. I like the speed of opening the Send function (about three seconds — even faster if you've already opened 4.4). Instead of scrolling a long list of names, or repeatedly using the Query function, you can just type in the surnames of your addressees. After you write the message, attach the Attachments (both functions work as before — no spelling checker yet) and press the Send button (or use File Save),

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your message will get through, although there is usually a notice of non-delivery if there has been a problem.

You cannot be certain that a message comes from the stated originator.

3. No Forwarding, No Attachments

What you see in the message is what you get — simple ASCII text. (French and international characters are not supported.) Unless you have special software for the purpose, neither you nor the people you correspond with should use message forwarding or attachment.

4. No Directory

There is no simple, centralised listing of Internet addresses.

5. No Control

Once your address is out there, there is no easy way to limit the volume of e-mail you receive.

Addressing Outgoing Mail to the Internet

As an example, a SIGNET client at Headquarters named Mary Brown is corresponding with a Queen's University professor named John Smith. John's Internet address is:

smithj@qucis.queensu.ca

Mary types John's address in the X.400 box of ICONDESK as follows:

\$rfc-822*smithj(a)qucis.queensu.ca\$\$gc+internet\$Govmt.canada\$ca

Note: The X.400 system used by the government does not recognize some characters, so we have to change @ to (a). The system automatically changes it back to @ to suit the Internet. The process works in reverse for incoming mail.

There may be other characters in the address that X.400 has trouble with; for example, change _ (underline) to (u), % to (p), ! to (b), and " to (q).

Incoming Mail from the Internet

Everyone within SIGNET can now be reached from the outside world by a simple Internet address. Assuming that Mary's Headquarters server is LMX01, her Internet address is:

mary.brown@extott01.x400.gc.ca

Note: the Internet form is as above: first name, period, surname. All in lower case, with no spaces in between.

To adapt this address to your own account, just look up your name in the ICONDESK directory to confirm how it is spelled. For the server portion of the address, in the L.B. Pearson Building, for example, combine "extott" with your server number (e.g., LMX01 becomes "extott01").

At missions, combine your mission code with your LMX server number in the same way; e.g., LMX02 in Hong Kong becomes "hkong02".

Give only your personal SIGNET mailbox address to Internet correspondents. Organizational addresses should not be used at this time. We will advise you when full support for them is available.

¹ This connection is limited to the exchange of e-mail