Your Guide to the WORLD PERCUSSION NETWORK: Part Three
Working With Files by Norm Weinberg

One of the most valuable features of the World Percussion Network is its file transfer system. With file transfer, the WPN gives you the ability to transmit files of any type from one computer to another over the telephone.

USING THE FILE TRANSFER SYSTEM

To use the file transfer system, log on to the WPN as you would normally, and execute the FILES command by typing "F". You'll see a message indicating that the files system is active, followed by a text message offering a brief description of the FILES area.

PROTOCOLS

There are many different "protocols" for transferring files to and from your computer. At times, these protocols can be confusing with names like "Xmodem", "Ymodem", Kermit, and "CRC Xmodem". By far, the most common protocol is Xmodem. Without going into too much detail, once you select your protocol with your software, and tell the WPN computer which protocol you're using, you shouldn't have to worry about this setting. It is strongly recommended that you tell your communication software that you want to use the Xmodem protocol. When the WPN's computer asks you to select a protocol type, select Xmodem. Once you get comfortable with uploading and downloading files, you may wish to change your protocol.

Special note for Macintosh users: There is a special type of Xmodem protocol called "MacBinary". If you upload or download Macintosh specific programs or files (such as a DA or a HyperCard stack), you should instruct your communication software to use the MacBinary protocol (check your manual for instructions). This particular protocol simply inserts a few additional lines of code which tells the Macintosh System software what type of icon to use on the desktop. The host computer of the WPN needs no special instructions when sending or receiving files in the MacBinary protocol.

FILES SYSTEM COMMANDS

Accessing the FILES system presents you with a new command prompt and a new set of commands. The new prompt works the same way as the WPN's main command prompt; it allows you to enter commands by typing the first letter of the command or by scrolling through the commands with the spacebar and backspace keys (if you're using the ANSI display). Don't forget that you can access the "Help" command at any time, and it will display an explanation of each command when the F1 key is pressed. Any time you wish to return to the message area of the WPN, use the "Quit" command (type "Q").

Just as the WPN stores information in various subboards, different types of files are kept in separate directories. At this time, the WPN has the following directories:

Directory	Types of Files
ARTICLES	Article Reprints from Publications
CATALOGS	Manufacturers'/Publishers' Catalogs
COMM	Communications Programs
EXCHANGE	Users' Files Exchange Area
LIBRARY	Text Files and Papers
MACMUSIC	Musical Applications for MACS
MACUTIL	Utility Programs for MACS
MIDI	MIDI Apps. and Sample Files
MUSIC	Music Apps. for IBM Compatibles
UPLOADS	New UPLOADS
UTIL	DOS Utility Programs

Let's get started by covering a few of the most important commands in the FILES area of the WPN. To move from one directory to another, you'll want to JUMP.

Jump (Type "J")

This command is used to move between the various file directories available on the WPN. Type the name (or partial name) of the directory you want. To see the list of available directories, either type "?" in response to the Jump command's prompt, or use the LIST command.

List (Type "L")

The List command gives you a list of available directories. In order to view or download files in a specific directory, you normally move into that directory. Do this by responding to the List command's prompt with the directory name, or by using the Jump command. Once you've moved to the directory of your choice, you'll want to see the types of files that are stored in the directory. That's when you call up the FILES command.

Files (Type "F")

The Files command displays a listing of files available for downloading in the directory. The list shows the filename, the date the file was uploaded, the file's size in Kilobytes, the number of times the file has been downloaded, and a short description of the file. This command prompts you to enter the "Starting Filename or Wildcard" of the directory you wish to view. Here are two ways to respond to this prompt: Pressing "Return" without typing anything gives you a list of all files in the current directory. Typing a filename, or the first few characters of a filename, lists files in alphabetical order starting with the filename you entered. Another method of finding files is the NEW command.

New (Type "N")

The New command allows you to get a listing of "new" files since the last time you logged on, or since any specified date. To use the New command, answer the prompt with the desired target date. The date shown in brackets, which is the date you last logged on, is used as the default date if you press RETURN. A second prompt appears, "Scan all directories (Y/N)"—if you enter Y, all directories will be searched for new files, otherwise only the current directory is searched.

Here's a great idea: Call up the "New" command by typing "N", and select a target date of 1-1-91 (this is before the WPN started). Then tell the WPN's computer that you wish to scan all directories. You'll get a listing of all the files in all the directories. You can print this file and read it at your convenience. Then, once a week or once a month, use the "new" command to see all the newest additions in all the directories.

Download (Type "D")

The Download command is used to transfer files from the WPN to you. To begin downloading, type "D", press "return", and enter the name of the file you wish to receive. When the WPN displays the message "Ready to send", the file transfer is ready to begin. However, before you can receive the file, you must give your computer the proper command. Usually, this is done by selecting an option to receive files from a menu in your communication program. Depending on your computer's software, this command may be called "Receive File", "Get File", or "Download". Check your software's manual for information regarding downloading files.

There is a short file in the "Library" directory called "Download.TXT". This is a test file that you can download to check if everything is operating as it should be. "Download.TXT" takes less than thirty seconds to transfer from the WPN computer to your computer. Once it's in your computer, you can load the file into your word processor and read it.

Type (Type "T")

The Type command allows you to read a text file without downloading it to your computer. The output will pause every 24 lines and can be controlled with pause (^S) and break (^C) keys, just like when you read messages and other text. You should only try to type files that contain text. Typing other files (such as programs and applications) usually results in "garbage" characters being sent to your computer's screen. If this happens, press ^C to abort the file.

Upload (Type "U")

The Upload command is used to send files from your computer to the WPN. At this time, you can only upload into two directories: the EXCHANGE and the UPLOAD directories. By limiting uploads to these areas, the WPN Systems Operator can check for viruses and insure that the materials you exchange on the World Percussion Network are safe. To begin uploading, type "U", then "Return", and enter the filename of the file you wish to send. You must enter a legal MS-DOS filename (8 character filename with optional 3 character extension). Before the file transfer begins, you will be prompted to enter a short and long description of the file to be displayed so that others will know what information the file contains. When the WPN is ready to receive your file, it will display the message "ready to receive". What happens next depends on the communication software that you use. In most cases, you must give a command to your software that tells it to load the file and begin sending it. Depending on your software, that command might be called "Send File", "Upload File", or "Upload". Refer to your program's manual for specific information about uploading files.

Quit (Type "Q")

When you have finished uploading and downloading, the Quit command returns you to the World Percussion Network Main Menu.

Well, there you have it! See you all online with the **World Percussion Network!**