

News FAQ for ZipDial



Last update: 9/28/1999

ZipLink offers a news reading service consisting of over 27,000 newsgroups and growing. We receive an average of 200,000 articles per day from our 2 upstream news providers -- UU.net and savvis.net -- and peer with shore.net. This is a news *reading* service, so unlike a news feed, users log into our news server, authenticating via RADIUS, and then can read news articles from our server.

News FAQ Index

- 1) [Can we get a news feed from ZipLink?](#)
- 2) [Can we add new newsgroups?](#)
- 3) [Do I have to do anything on my end to make news work?](#)
- 4) [How do my clients connect to the news server?](#)
- 5) [Can I have news.my-domain.com point to your news server?](#)
- 6) [What if my customers or I am having problems accessing news?](#)
- 7) [Basic Support Documentation for ZipDial News](#)

1. Can we get a news feed from ZipLink?

No, we only offer news reading directly from our server at this time.

2. Can we add new newsgroups?

Yes. Contact your ZipDial account manager (or send a message to ZipLink's NOC), and they can request through our System Admin. department that the group be added.

3. Do I have to do anything on my end to make news work?

No, as all of the setup is taken care of at ZipLink's end. Since it uses RADIUS to authenticate your users, the authentication works much in the same way as when your customers authenticate for a dial-up PPP connection.

4. How do my clients connect to the news server?

They must point their newsreader at "news.ziplink.net" and enter their user login name (with realm) and password. This is the same as when they enter username/password to establish a PPP connection.

For additional information on configuring newsreaders, please see the News Support documentation (7).

ZipDial – News FAQ

5. Can I have news.my-domain.com point to your news server?

It is possible to do this, but only if you have control over the DNS for your domain, you can setup an address (news.your-domain.com) to point or alias to our news server (news.ziplink.net - 206.15.168.37).

If you are a VPHos customer, we cannot help you perform this aliasing. You need to contact VPHos to request this. In all cases, as we do not host your domain, we cannot perform this activity.

6. What if my customers or I am having problems accessing news?

Take a look at the generic News Support documentation that follows. If you require further information, call ZipLink's NOC at (978) 551-8790 or your account manager for any questions or problems you might have regarding this service.

7. Basic Support Documentation for ZipDial News:

Configuring News Clients for Username/Password Authentication

Access to newsgroup services is available via username and password authentication only. This type of access allows customers to access Usenet and newsgroups through our server from anywhere on the Internet. Please note that:

1. We do not track reading or posting habits of customers. We do, however, reserve the right to check access logs for administrative purposes.
2. The username/password you must enter to authenticate and connect to the server is the PPP login (hostname) and password you use when you dial in to connect to the Internet.

The following are step-by-step instructions to help configure some of the more popular newsreaders that are available. To set up your newsreader for username/password authentication, use the appropriate information below.

*These instructions assume that your newsreader has already been properly configured to access our news server **without** username and password authentication.*

Configuring Forte's Agent/Free Agent

- 1) Select the Options menu, then Preferences.
- 2) Under the User Profile tab, check "Server requires authorization login".
- 3) Enter your hostname in the "Username" field and check "Remember Password between sessions".
- 4) Enter your password in the "Password" field.
- 5) Click OK.

ZipDial – News FAQ

Configuring Microsoft Internet News

- 1) From Microsoft Internet Explorer version 3.x, select "Go" then "Read News" from drop-down menu.
- 2) From within Internet News, Select "News" then "Options" from drop-down menu.
- 3) Click on the "Server" tab.
- 4) Click on the "Properties" button.
- 5) Select the "General" tab.
- 6) Check "This server requires me to logon." "Logon settings" should now be enabled.
- 7) Choose "Logon using".
- 8) Enter your PPP login name in the "Account Name:" field and password in the "Password:" field.
- 9) Click "OK".

Configuring Microsoft Outlook Express

- 1) From Outlook Express, right click the news server name in the left-hand window, then select Properties from the pop-up menu.
- 2) Click on the "Server" tab.
- 3) Check "This server requires me to log on", then choose "Logon using".
- 4) Enter your PPP login name in the "Account name" field and password in the "Password" field.
- 5) Click "OK".

Configuring Netscape Communicator

- 1) From the Netscape Browser window, select "Edit", then "Preferences" on the drop-down menu.
- 2) Expand "Mail and Newsgroups" by clicking on the adjacent 'plus' sign.
- 3) Select "Newsgroup Server", then highlight the news server address.
- 4) Click "Edit".
- 5) Select "Always ask me for my username and password".
- 6) Click "OK", then "OK" again.

Configuring Netscape Navigator 3.x

- 1) From Netscape Navigator, select "Window", then "Netscape News" on the drop-down menu.
- 2) Double-click the folder labeled with the news server address.
- 3) The "Netscape User Prompt" dialog will appear. Enter your PPP login name and click "OK".
- 4) The "Password Entry Dialog" will appear. Enter your password and click "OK".

Note: Netscape Navigator 3.x does not have the ability to save your news username and password settings. Each time you close and reopen Netscape, you will need to follow the steps above in order to access the news server.

ZipDial – News FAQ

Configuring Newswatcher

- 1) With Newswatcher open, go to the "File" menu and select "Preferences..."
- 2) In the Newswatcher Preferences window, click and hold down the mouse button on "Topic:" -- the box expands to show other options to choose from.
- 3) Choose "Authentication".
- 4) In "Username:" enter your PPP login name. In "Password:" enter your password.
- 5) Choose "Save Password".
- 6) Choose "Always Authenticate".
- 7) Click "OK".

ZipLink makes reasonable efforts to ensure the information provided in this document is correct and up-to-date as of the last revision date. However, all information is provided "as is", and ZipLink makes no warranties as to its accuracy or completeness. ZipLink does not assume liability or responsibility for errors or omissions.

This document is ©Copyright 1999 by ZipLink, Inc. Information in this document may be copied, reproduced and/or distributed for personal or other non-commercial purposes only. Any commercial use or reproduction in whole or part in any form without prior written permission of ZipLink is prohibited.