

Newsreader Documentation

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A newsreader is the software that lets you access newsgroups, similar to how web browsers let you access the World Wide Web, and email clients access e-mail. See the instructions below for detailed instructions on configuring your newsreader to access the [CS Newsgroup Service](#).



cs.test newsgroup

After you've successfully configured your newsreader, you might want to join/subscribe to the [cs.test](#) newsgroup. Feel free to post test messages and replies in that group to confirm your newsreader is setup properly, and to see how your posts will look.

Specific Client Instructions

- [Mozilla Thunderbird](#) - multi-platform email and newsreader, very popular
- [Outlook Express](#) - or Windows Mail, Windows Live Mail variants
- [Outlook](#) - Outlook doesn't natively do news, but there are some options
- [Terminal-based news readers](#) - usually run from a Unix shell, such as from CSIL or EWS.

Generic Instructions

Users should point their newsreaders to use [news.cs.illinois.edu](#) as the news server. If an extra configuration toggle is required to enable authenticated connections, set it. The CS newsgroup server requires a secure, SSL connection (on port 563 or STARTTLS on the traditional news port, 119).

Most clients, when connecting to a server that requires authentication, will prompt the user for their login and password. Your login is your university NetID, and your password is your [Active Directory password](#) (the same password used for CSIL, EWS, Netfiles and more).

The security/SSL and the authentication are the only "abnormal" configurations for a newsreader. Once you're authenticated, everything should function like normal within your newsreader.

Most UNIX text based newsreaders obey the NNTPSERVER environment variable to use as their news server. So, if you're running tin, trn, nn, rn, slrn, etc. you can set your news server by running:

```
From tcsh: setenv NNTPSERVER "news.cs.illinois.edu"  
From bash: export NNTPSERVER="news.cs.illinois.edu"
```

Newsreaders that don't natively support SSL/NNTPS connections may still be used via something like stunnel to establish the secure connection. See our [newsgroups stunnel instructions](#).

Specific Instructions

- [Archiving newsgroup messages](#) - saving newsgroup messages locally to your system
- [newsgroups stunnel instructions](#) - setting up stunnel with newsreaders that don't support SSL