OmniMix, MesNews, & QuickSilver Setup

I. Send Messages to New Groups Anonymously through MesNews/OmniMix
II. Send Emails Anonymously through QuickSilver

Forward: Sending email and news messages anonymously has both pro and con arguments. Freedom of speech in America is a very coveted right that most citizens agree upon. Some people will argue that anonymous remailers will be used for evil purposes and therefore, no one should be allowed to use them. It is this authors position that no excuse should be embraced that interferes with our Constitutional rights, including our right to freedom of speech, including the freedom to speak anonymously. (See: '*Communicating Anonymously*' at end.)

Purpose of this document: This document will attempt to explain through step by step instructions how to set up the following programs that will anonymously: 1. post news to news groups using the newsreader MesNews through the OmniMix switchbox program and 2a. send emails and 2b. post news to news groups using the QuickSilver program. All of these programs are excellent free clients, however, they can be somewhat intimidating for many users to set up on their own. OmniMix can be especially intimidating because it has many abilities that do not pertain to your needs.

Preparations:

Go to the links below and download the following programs:
(Note: If you are desiring to setup to access/post to newsgroups only, you can skip downloading QuickSilver. If you are desiring to setup to send anonymous emails only, then download only QuickSilver.)

(In a PDF document, click the 'Select Text' button and then the text can be selected and copied.)

www.mesnews.net
(Click on the flag identifying your language, click on the '.download' link on the left side of the page, and click the '*click here*' button to download the MesNews program. The download file should look something like: 'setup-mesnews-1.8.2.0.exe'.)

www.danner-net.de/om.htm
(Scroll down the main web page to the 'Downloads' section. Click on the link to the right of 'Latest versions of OmniMix'. It should look something like: 'OmniMix 1.5.4 (sig)(installer with all necessary binaries)'. [The signature (sig) that can be used to verify the file's authenticity can also be downloaded, however, verifying it is beyond the scope of these setup instructions.] Do not download any other files from the OmniMix site. All the necessary files are contained in the 'Latest versions of OmniMix' downloaded file. The download file should look something like: 'OmniMix_1.5.4_Uno_Setup.exe'.)

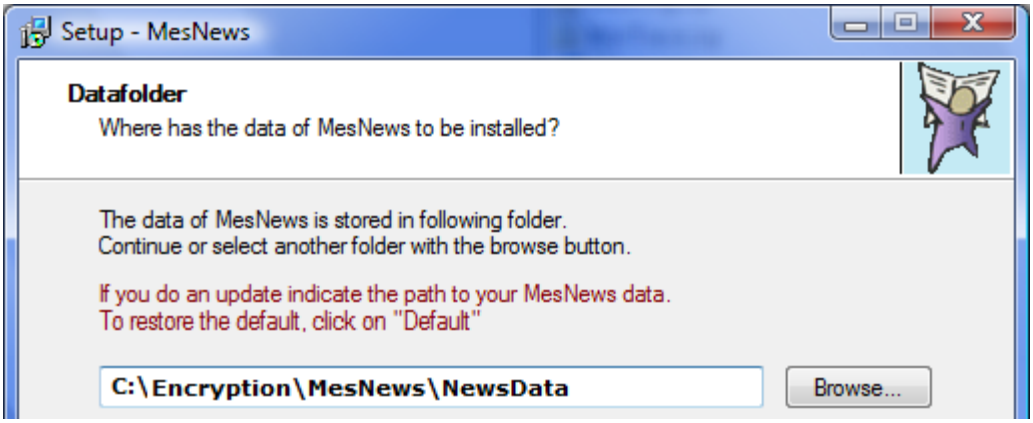
ftp.quicksilvermail.net/pub/quicksilver

(Click on '**QS1.2.7.exe**' to download the QuickSilver program. Do not download QuickSilver from any other site. The similarly named file that has the '**.sig**' appended to its end is the signature file that can be used to verify the '.exe' file. Verifying the file is beyond the scope of these setup instructions.)

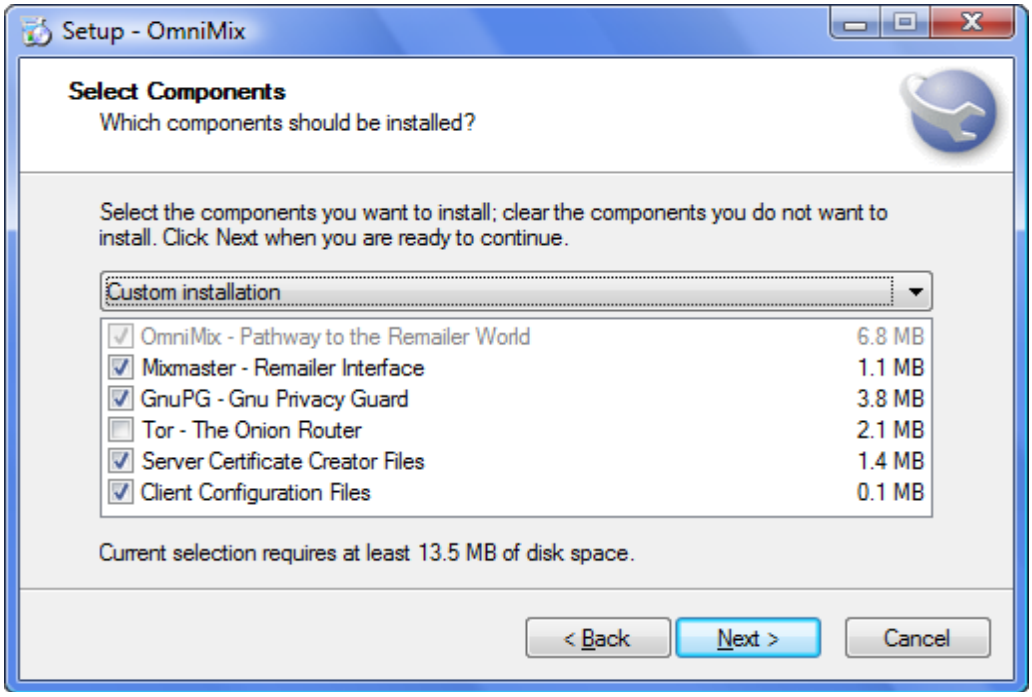
Installations:

Step 1: Install MesNews by double clicking on the '.exe'. I like to keep all my encryption programs in a special folder called 'C:\Encryption\', however, it shouldn't make any difference where you install any of these programs. Keep the programs in separate folders, however. You could use 'C:\Encryption\MesNews\' for the MesNews files.

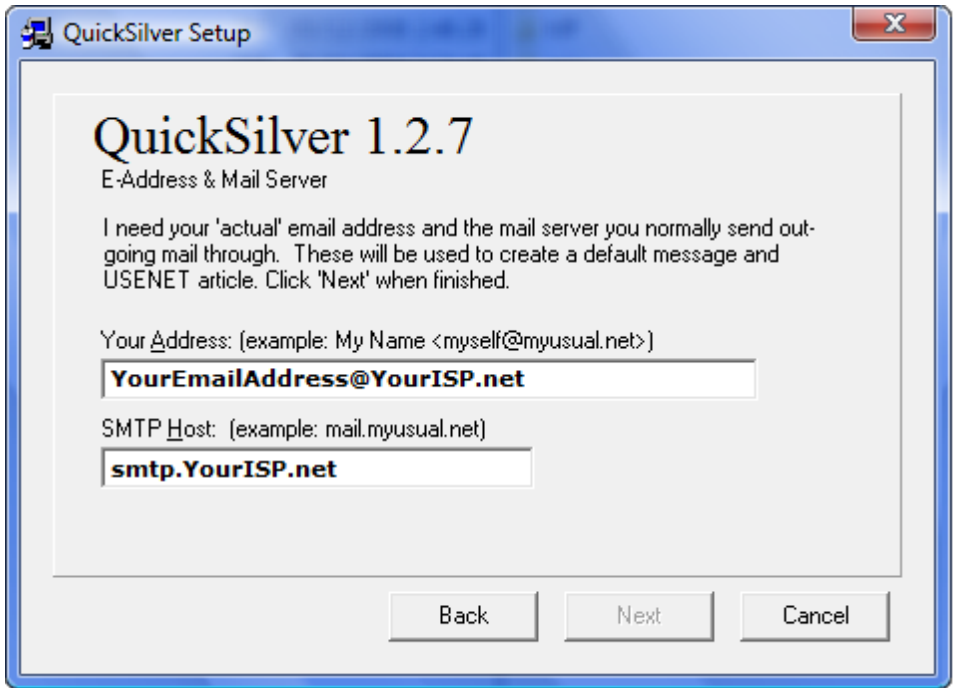
Note: MesNews likes to put the downloaded news into a folder that is outside of the folder that MesNews is installed in. I personally like to keep it in a folder within the MesNews folder as below.



Step 2: Install OmniMix by double clicking on the '.exe'. All you will need is as pictured below. You could use 'C:\Encryption\OmniMix\' for the OmniMix files.



Step 3: Install QuickSilver by double clicking on the '.exe'. While going through the setup, you will be asked for your correct email address and SMTP host. You can enter these without any problem (or you can enter fake information). Finding your SMTP Host name will be covered later.)



Step 4: You will download and install Mixmaster with the QuickSilver program. Start QuickSilver and a window will pop up concerning downloading Mixmaster. Click on the 'Get Mixmaster' button, click 'OK' on the next window, choose the 'ftp.quicksilver.net/pub/quicksilver' link in the drop down box, click the 'Next' button, click to highlight the line containing '**Mix29b39.zip**' and then click 'Next' to download the Mixmaster file. Next click the 'Run Setup' button, then click 'Next', change the path where Mixmaster is to be installed if you so desire ['C:\Encryption\Mix'], click 'Next' and finally click 'Install'. Mixmaster is now installed on your computer and QuickSilver knows where to find it.

-- End of program installation section. --

The following instructions will show you how to set up:

I. MesNews with OmniMix
II. QuickSilver

I. MesNews with OmniMix

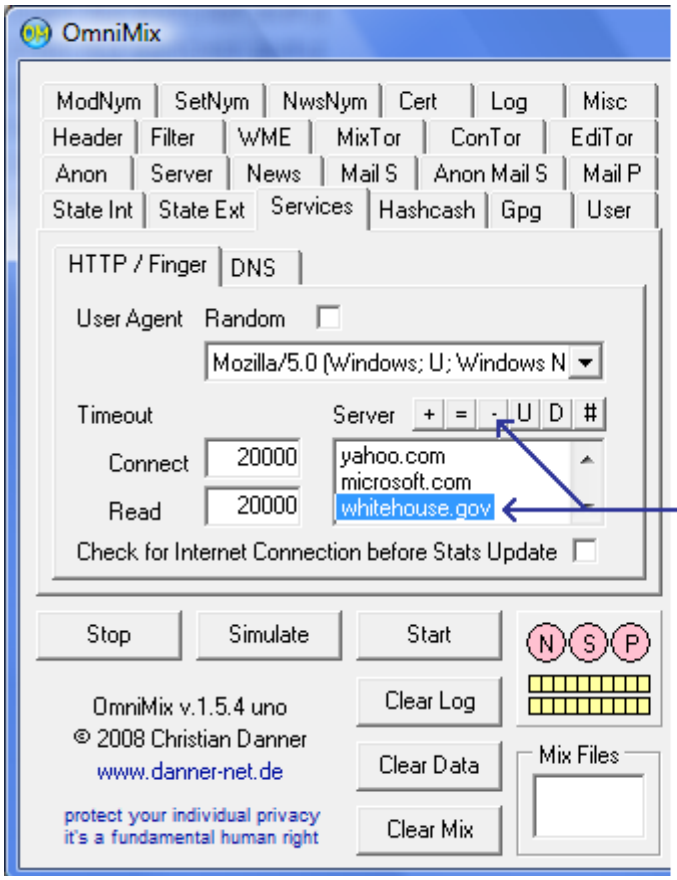
Send messages to New Groups Anonymously through MesNews/OmniMix (The MesNews program can also be used to download and read news.)

MesNews is the news agent that connects to OmniMix, and OmniMix is the encrypting / sending agent.

OmniMix Setup:

Step 1. Logon to the internet. Start the OmniMix (OmniMix.exe) program. As you can see, there are many tabs on the program's interface. You will need to click on the required tab to get to the various fields that need modifying. Set the parameters as they appear in the examples below or according to instructions.

Start by clicking on the *Services* tab and set the parameters as you see them here. I don't think that the *User Agent* drop down box choice is critical, so do your best with setting it.

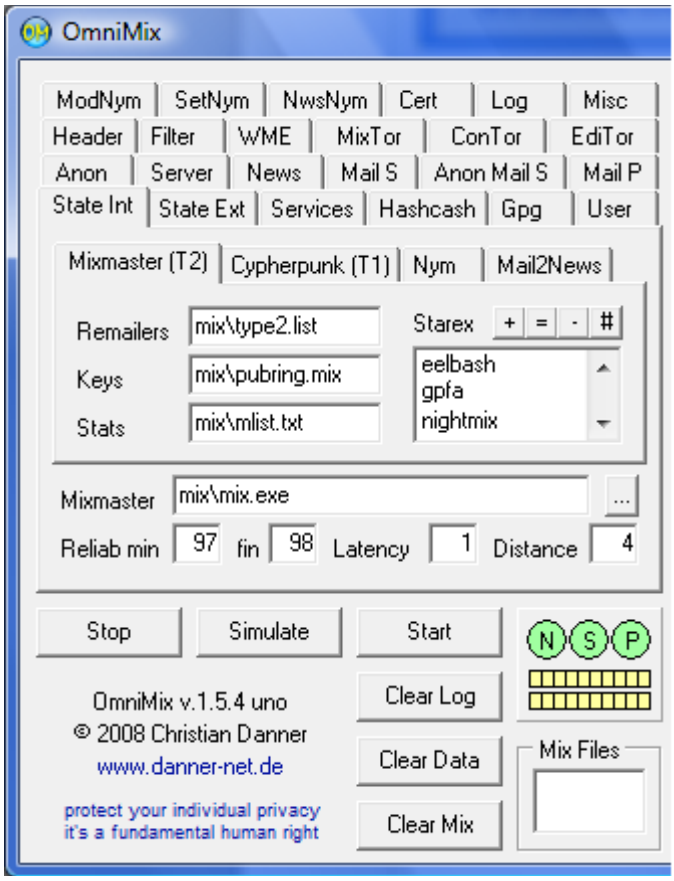


Click on whitehouse.gov to highlight, then click the minus button, and then delete this entry.

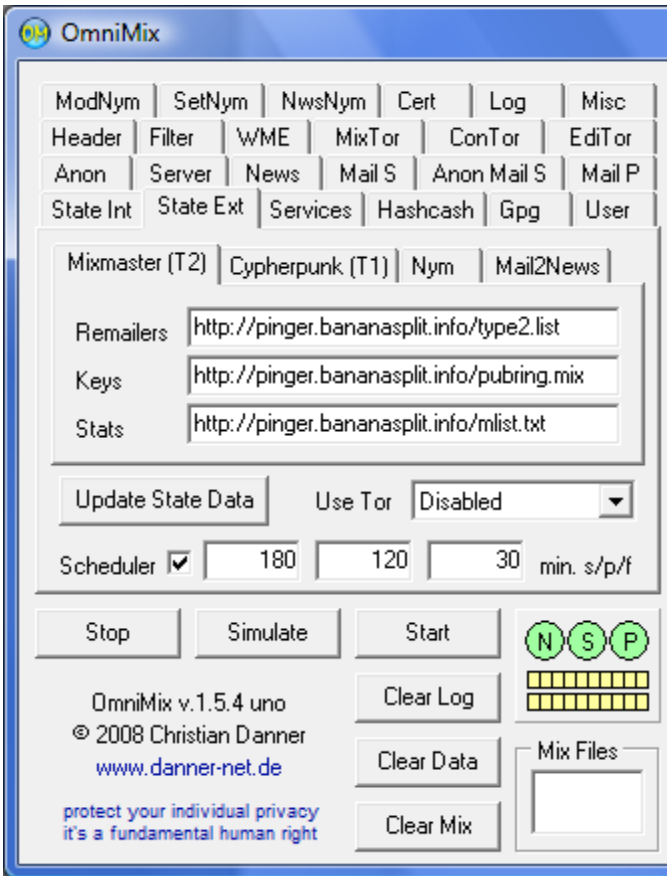
The reason for this suggestion is because of a report that the FBI is monitoring and logging every inquiry that is made to a .gov site.

Uncheck the two check boxes.

Step 2. Next clicking on the *State Int* tab and then the *Mixmaster (T2)* tab. To change the parameters in the *Starex* box, click on each individual line in the box and then click the **=** to edit, **-** to delete, or **+** to add data in the box. No changes are necessary for the other sub tabs.



Step 3. Next click on the *State Ext* tab and then the *Mixmaster (T2)* tab and change it to the parameters displayed below. No changes are necessary for the other sub tabs. After setting the http addresses, click the *Update State Data* button if it is enabled to force a statistics update. You will probably see some data being written in the window to the right of the tabs. Disregard the 'Finger error' messages on the log page.



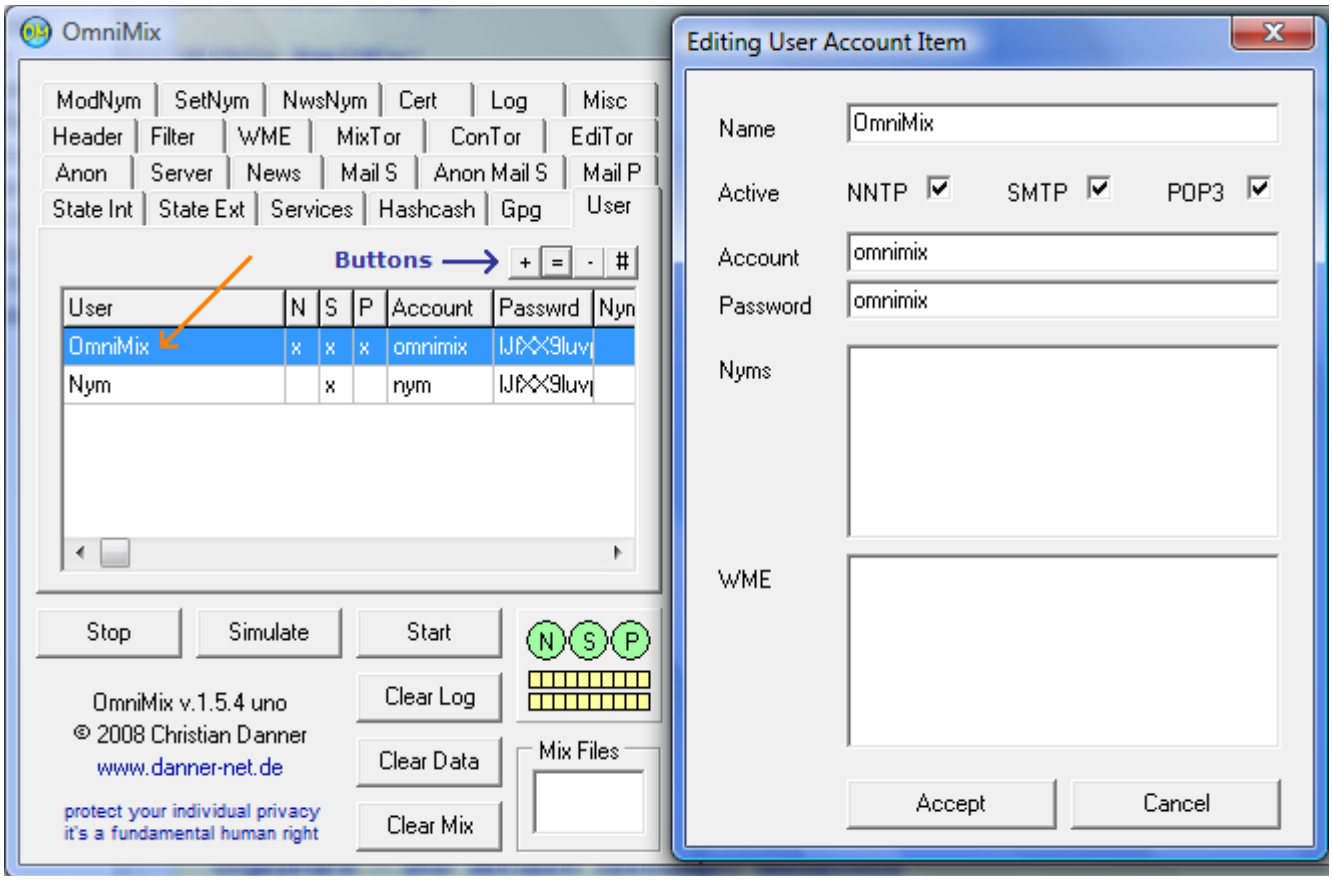
http://pinger.bananasplit.info/type2.list
http://pinger.bananasplit.info/pubring.mix
http://pinger.bananasplit.info/mlist.html

Additional: http://stats.melontraffickers.com/type2.list
http://stats.melontraffickers.com/mlist.txt
http://stats.melontraffickers.com/pubring.mix

Note: The url addresses are addresses of what are called Pingers. These are sites that run these free services that are necessary to determine if individual remailers are up and running properly. The two groups of Pingers above have proven to be very reliable over a long time period and are recommended. This could change in the future, however, and this document will be updated if and when necessary. For now, use the bananasplit pinger as shown. If you have trouble with getting statistics downloaded, ask for advise in this news groups:

alt.privacy.anon-server

Step 4. Next click on the *User* tab. Click on the OmniMix line to highlight it and then click the **=** button. Fill out the information as shown and click '*Accept*'. (If there should not be an OmniMix line already present when you click the *User* tab, then create the line by clicking the **+** button.) Note: The password is displayed in an encrypted form in the *User* tab.

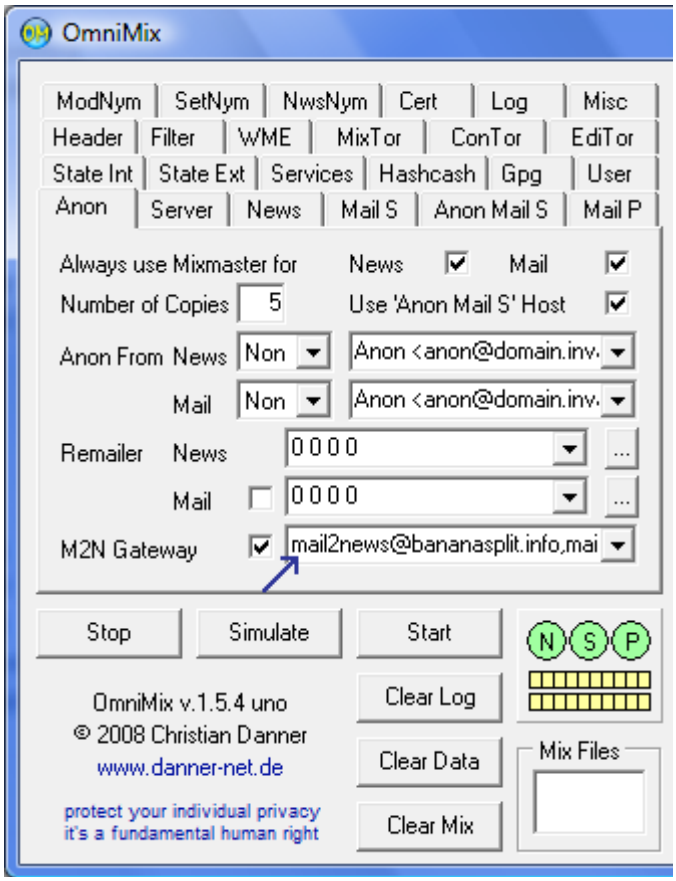


Step 5. Next click on the *Anon* tab. Set the *Number of Copies* to 3, 4, or 5. Click on the *M2N Gateway* drop down box and place the cursor at the beginning of the data therein. Then type or paste at the beginning position the following:

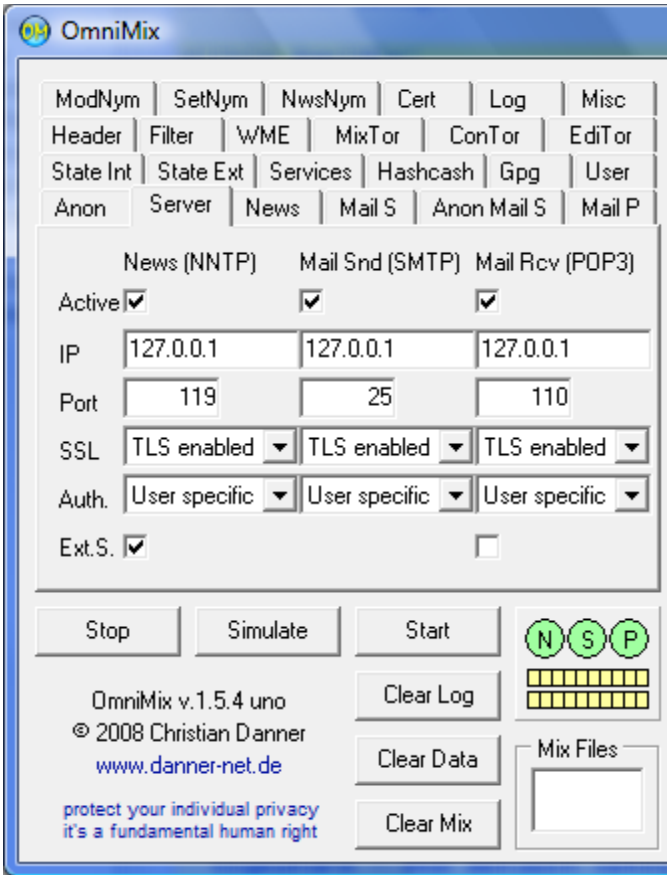
mail2news@bananasplit.info,

The complete line should look like this:

mail2news@bananasplit.info,mail2news@dizum.com,mail2news@m2n.mixmin.net



Step 6. Next clicking on the *Server* tab and set the parameters as displayed below.

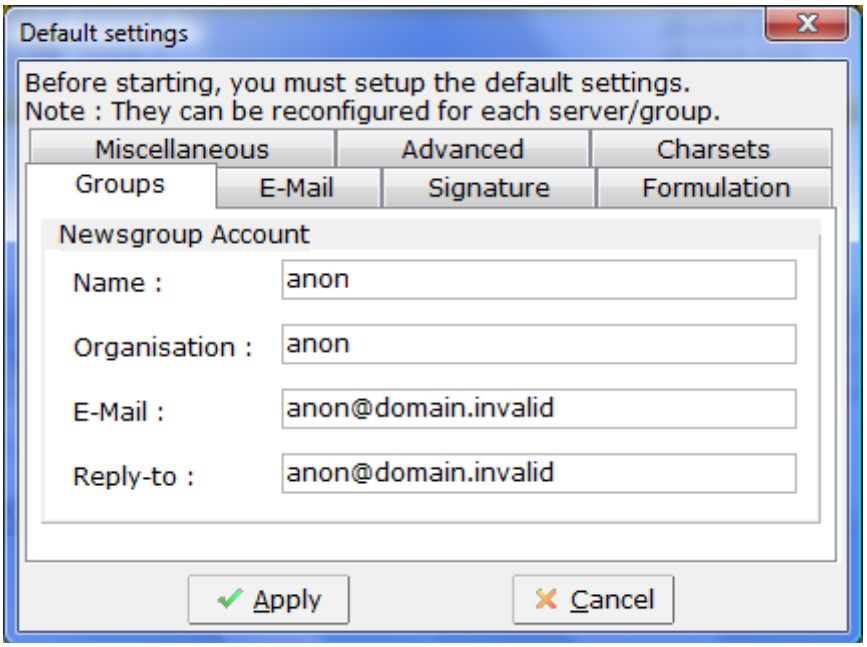


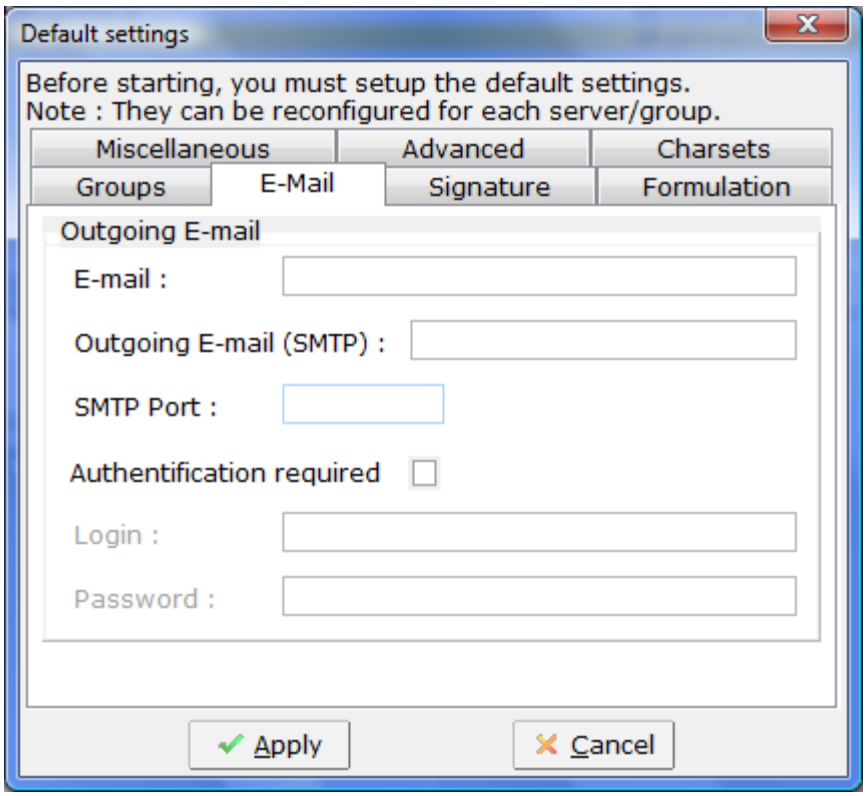
Note: When OmniMix is started, it starts in *Start* mode and displays the *N S P* circles in green. You can stop OmniMix by clicking the *Stop* button if desired (which will cause the *N S P* circles to become red), but stopping it should not be necessary. Note that when you change certain fields in some tabs, that OmniMix will automatically stop. If OmniMix stops, close the program after all your modifications and restart it.

-- End of OmniMix setup section. --

MesNews Setup:

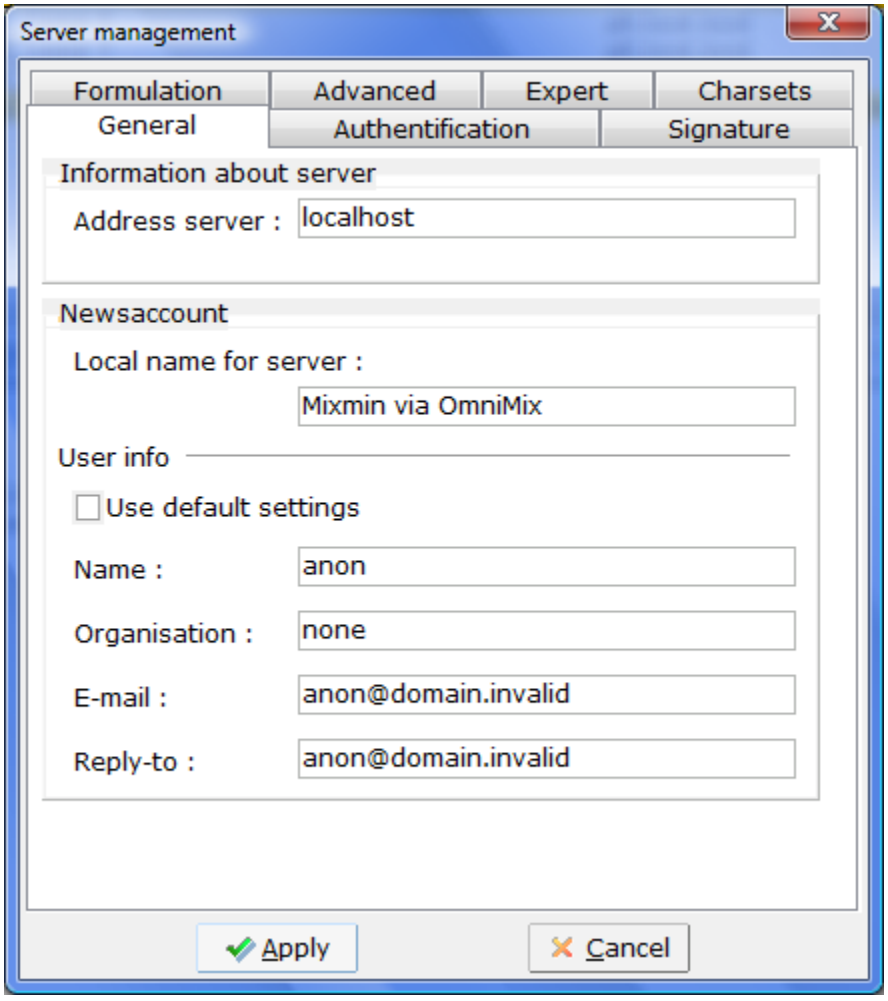
Step 1. Start MesNews and click the upper left corner menu item: '*File*' and then '*Settings*'. Click on the necessary tab and set the fields therein to:

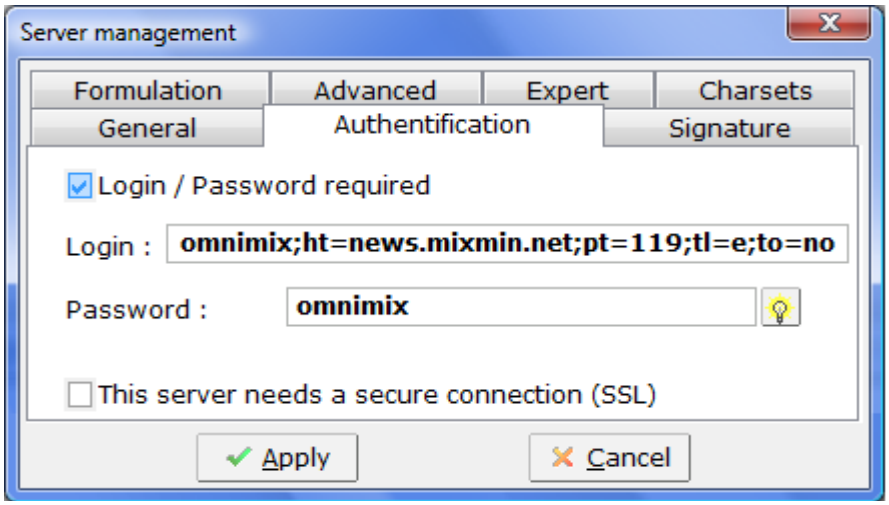




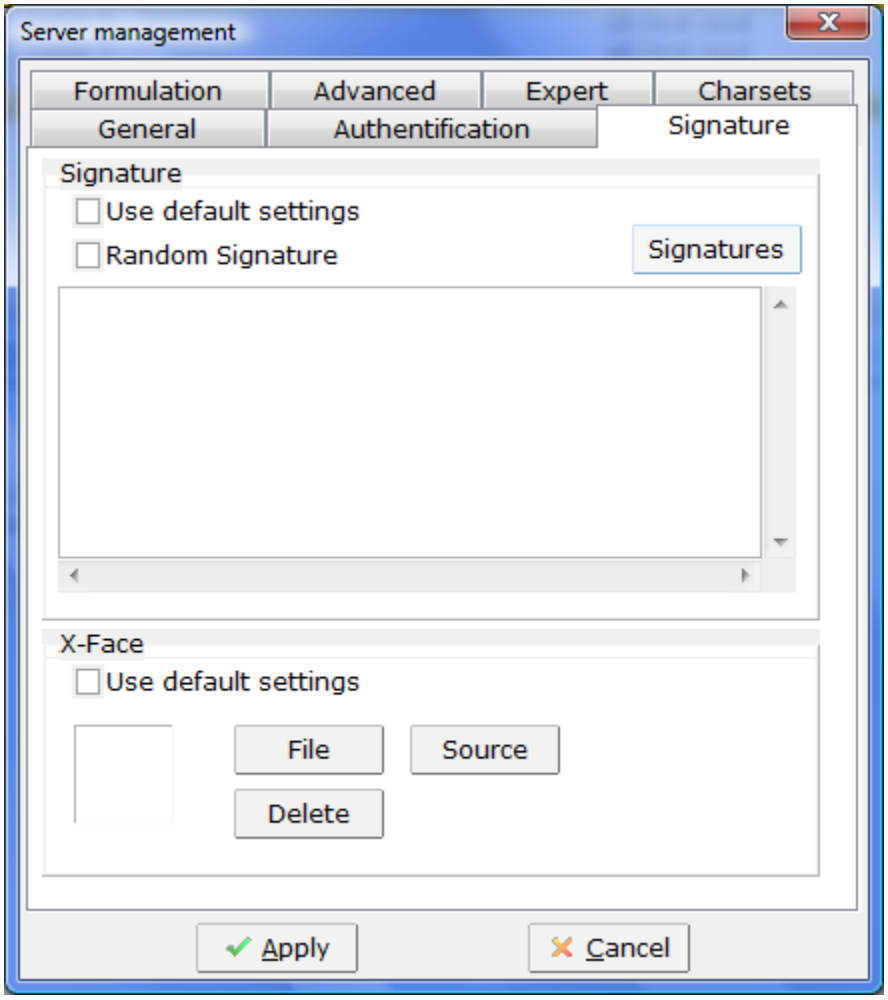
After setting these fields, click '*Apply*'.

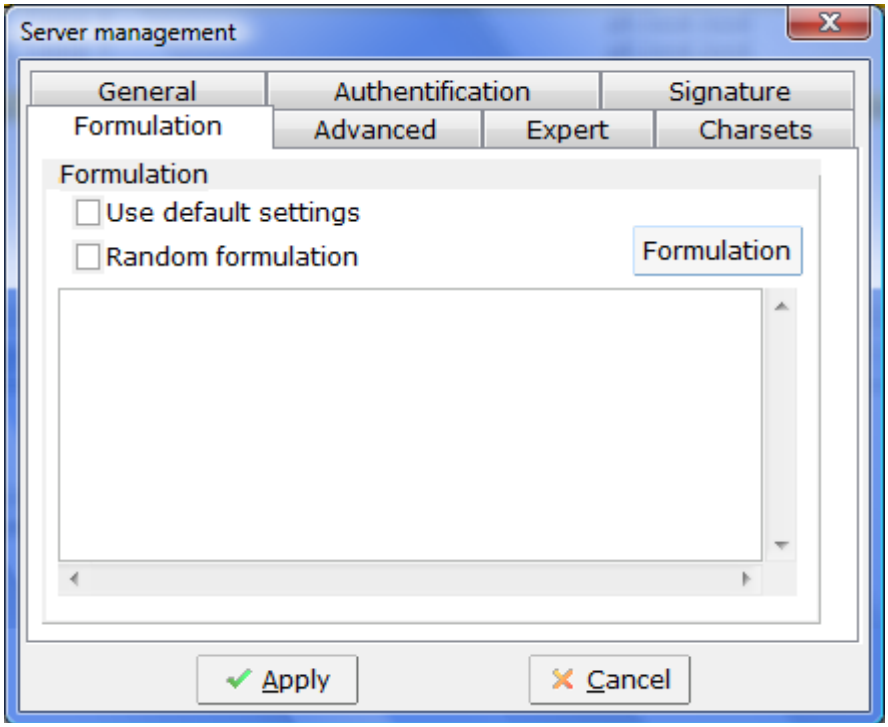
Step 2. Next click on the menu item: '*Server*' and '*New Server*'. Set the fields therein to:

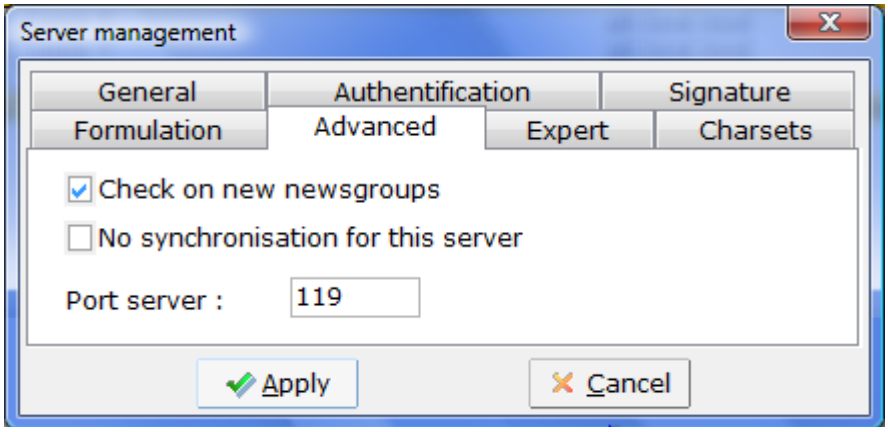


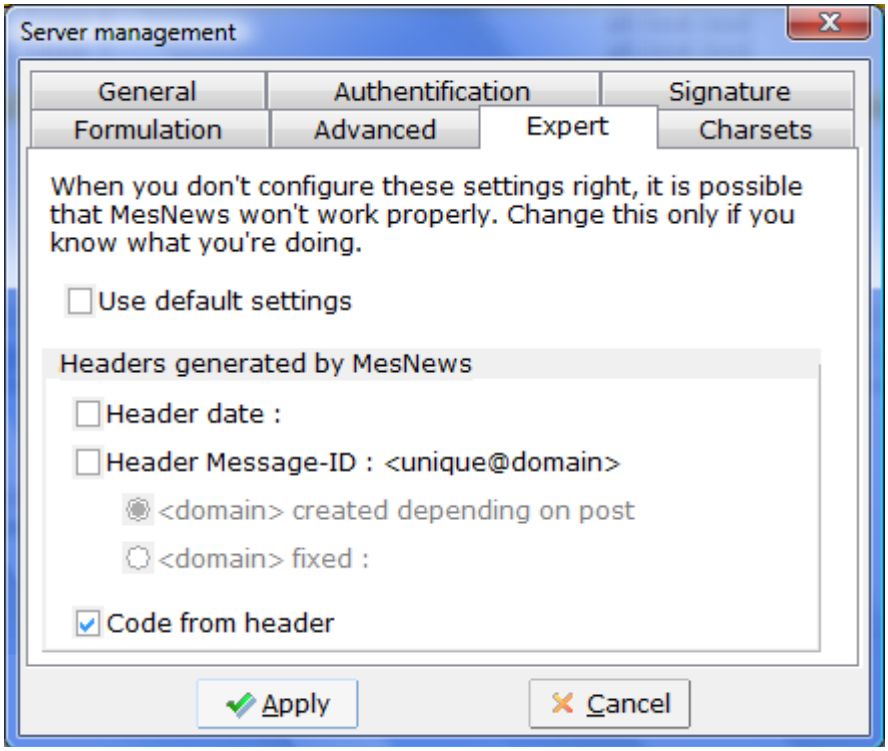


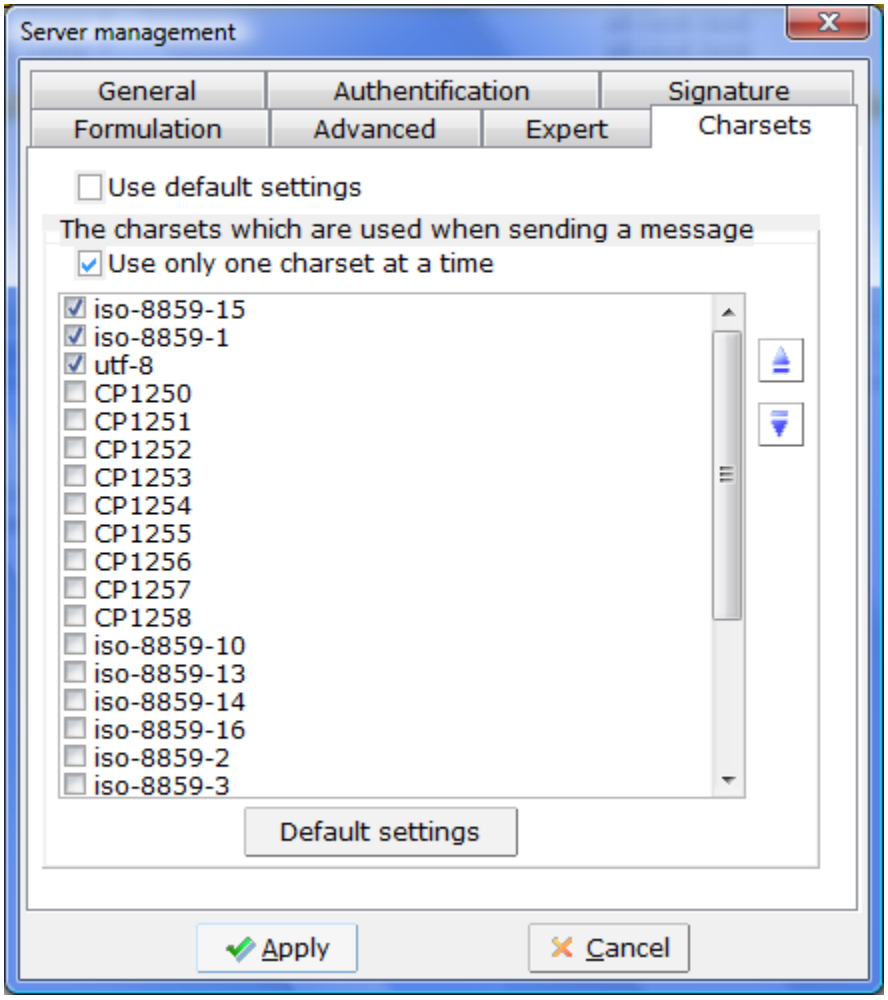
Login: omnimix;ht=news.mixmin.net;pt=119;tl=e;to=no


Server management
Formulation
Advanced
Expert
Charsets
General
Authentification
Signature
Signature
Use default settings
Random Signature
Signatures
X-Face
Use default settings
File
Source
Delete
Apply
Cancel


Server management
General
Authentification
Signature
Formulation
Advanced
Expert
Charsets
Formulation
Use default settings
Random formulation
Formulation
Apply
Cancel

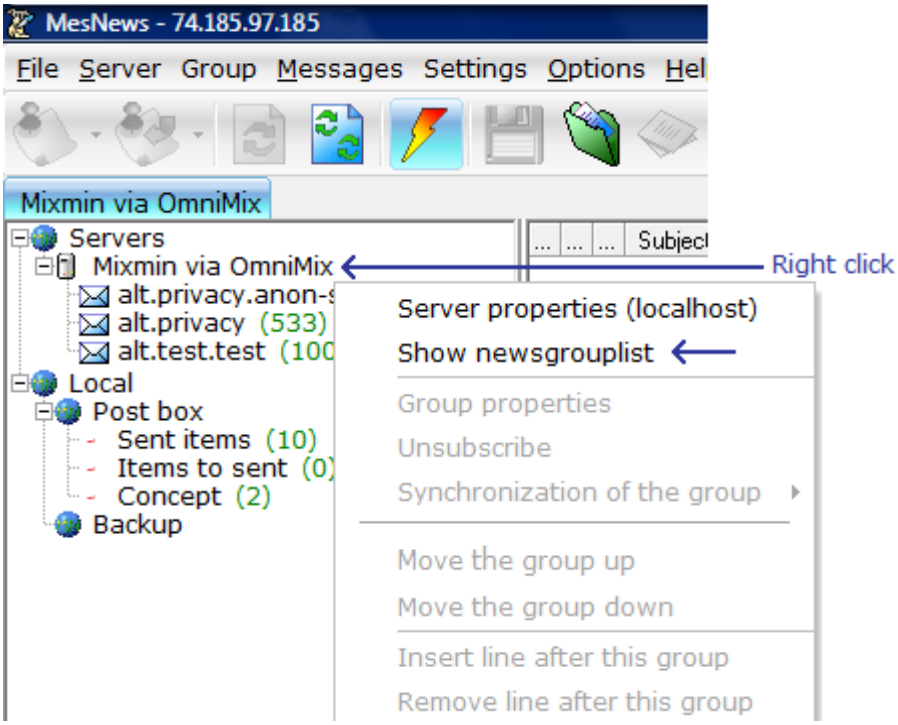

Server management
General
Authentification
Signature
Formulation
Advanced
Expert
Charsets
Check on new newsgroups
No synchronisation for this server
Port server :
119
Apply
Cancel


Server management
General
Authentification
Signature
Formulation
Advanced
Expert
Charsets
When you don't configure these settings right, it is possible that MesNews won't work properly. Change this only if you know what you're doing.
Use default settings
Headers generated by MesNews
Header date :
Header Message-ID : <unique@domain>
<domain> created depending on post
<domain> fixed :
Code from header
Apply
Cancel

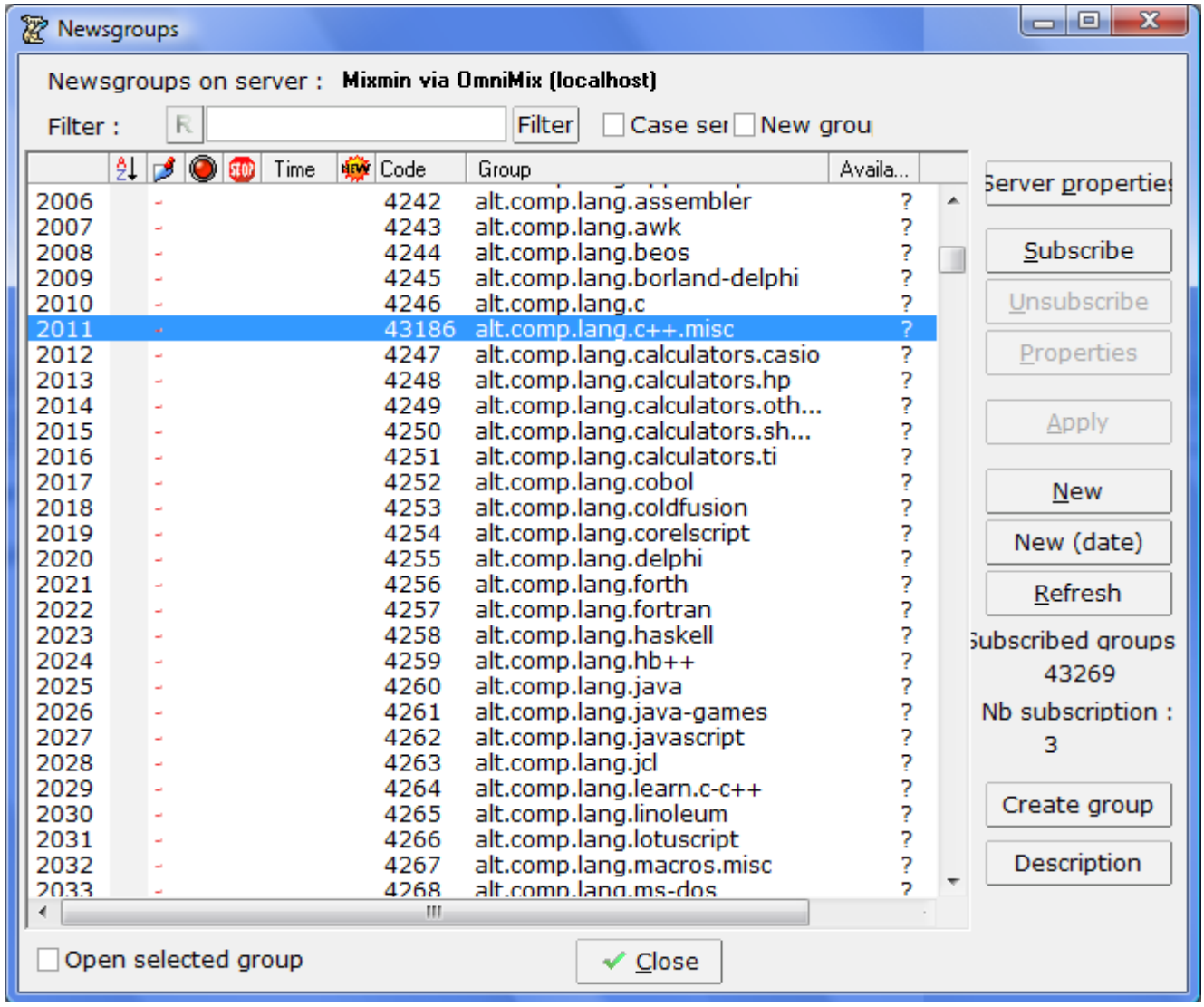


After setting these fields, click '*Apply*'.

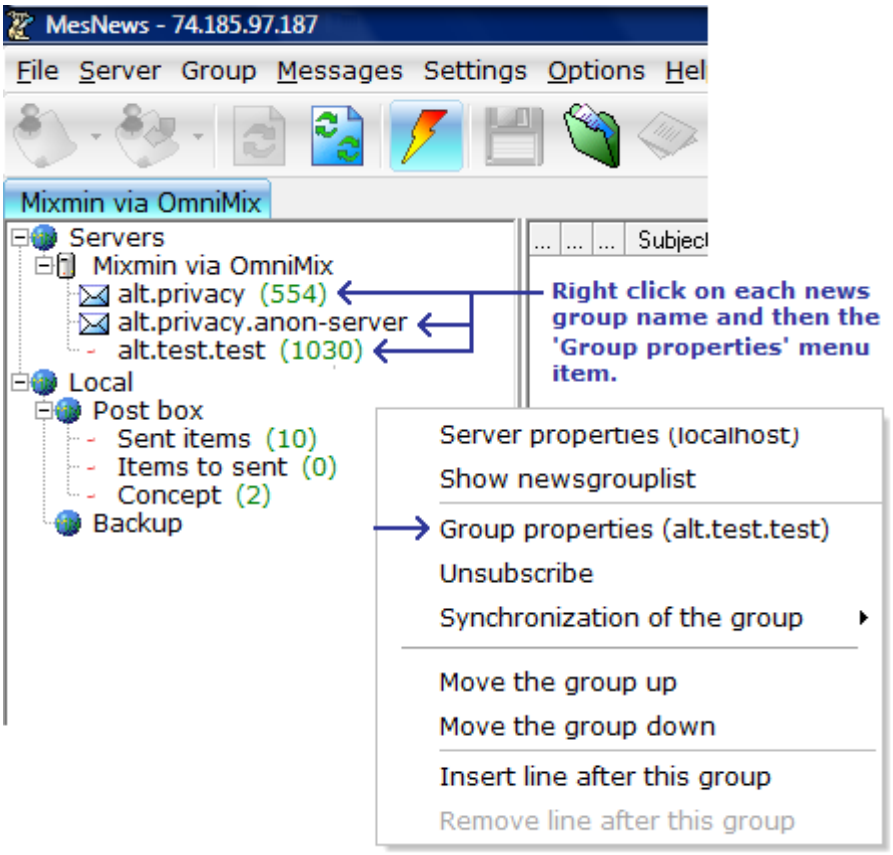
Step 3. Now you need to download all the news groups. Do this by right clicking on the '*Mixmin via OmniMix*' line and then click '*Show newsgrouplist*'.



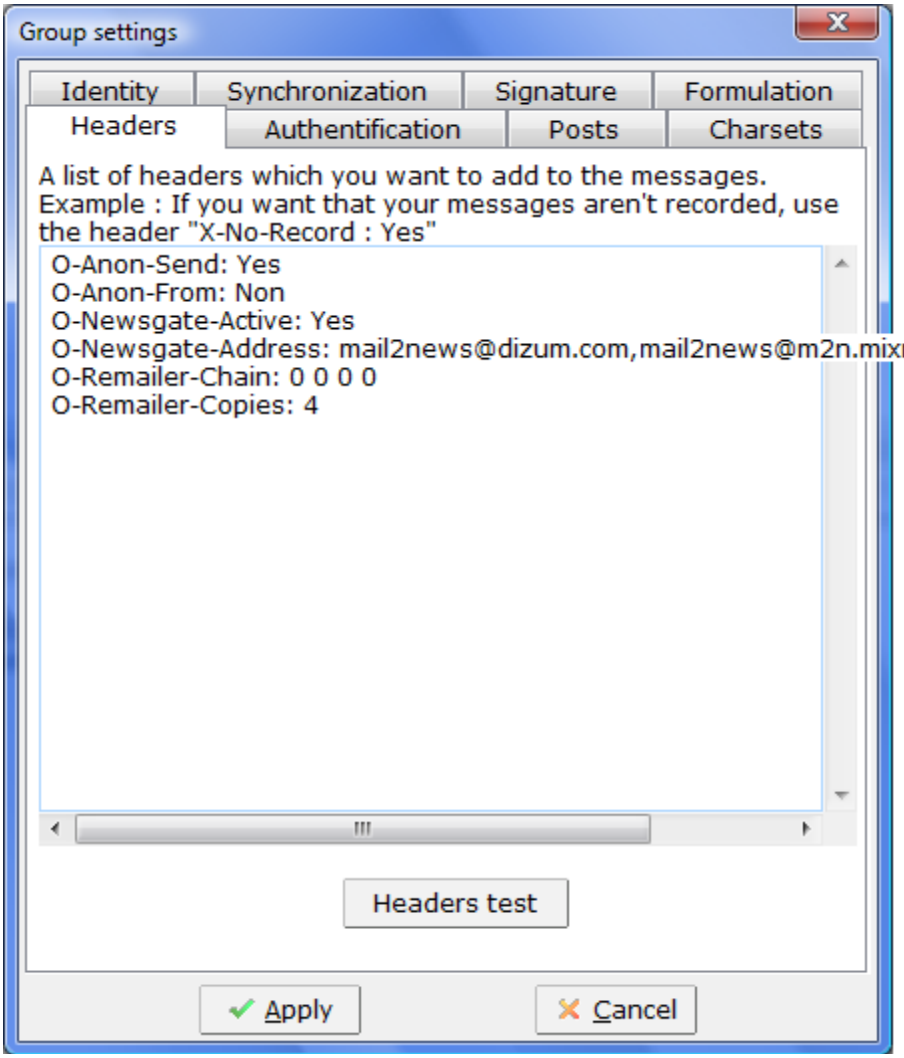
Step 4. Clicking on '*Show newsgrouplist*' will bring up the window below. After the list is built, go down and click on the group you desire to monitor. After clicking on a group, then click the '*Subscribe*' button to subscribe to that group. After making all of your selections, click the '*Close*' button at the bottom of the interface.



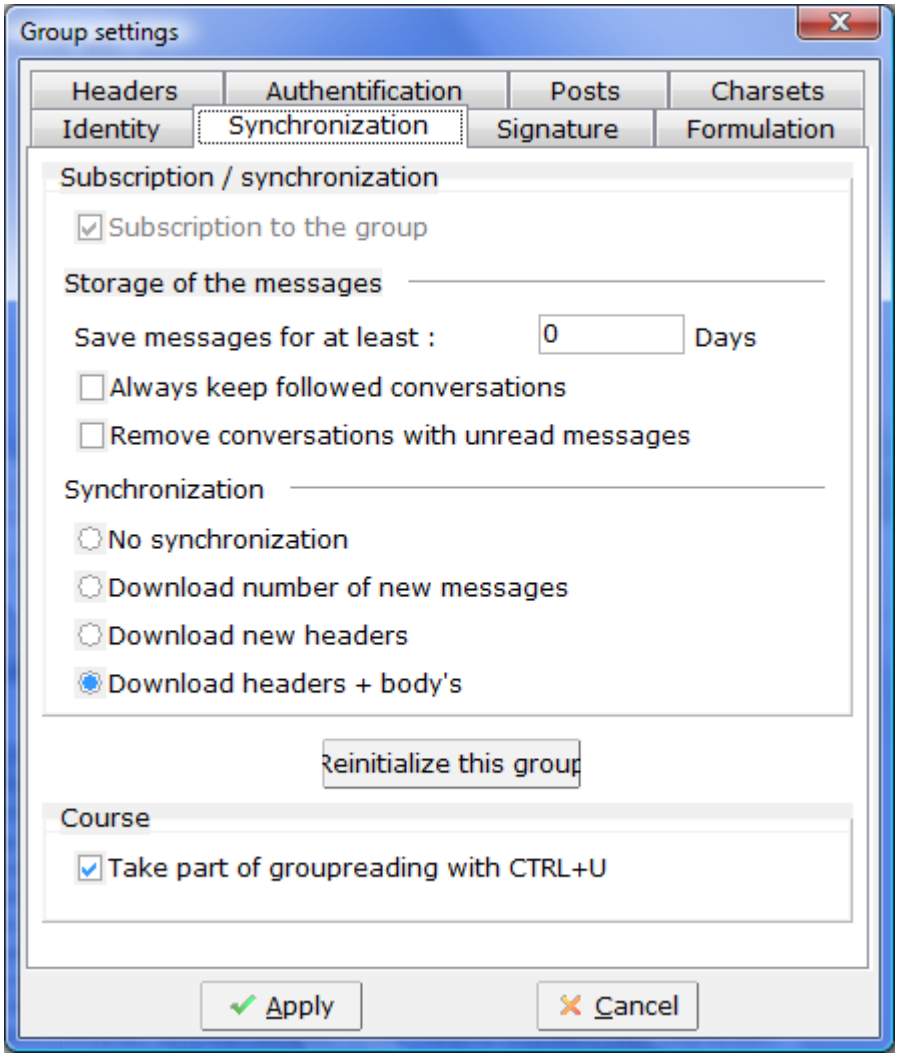
Step 5a. There is one final step that has to be done to each of the newsgroups you have chosen. Right click on each of the news group names and then click the '*Group Properties (unique.group.name)*' menu item. This will bring up the window in Step 5b.



Step 5b. Type (or copy from below and paste) the information you see into the '*list box'* window found in the '*Headers*' tab and then click '*Apply*'. Again, this needs to be done for each news group that you choose in Step 4, so now go back to Step 5 and do the same any additional news groups that you have selected.



O-Anon-Send: Yes
O-Anon-From: Non
O-Newsgate-Active: Yes
O-Newsgate-Address: mail2news@dizum.com,mail2news@m2n.mixmin.net
O-Remailer-Chain: 0 0 0 0
O-Remailer-Copies: 4



After making these changes, click '*Apply*'.

You should now be ready to use MesNews with OmniMix to view and answer news articles. Be sure that OmniMix is running when you start MesNews.

-- End of MesNews setup section. --

Thanks to the author of OmniMix for helping with this setup.

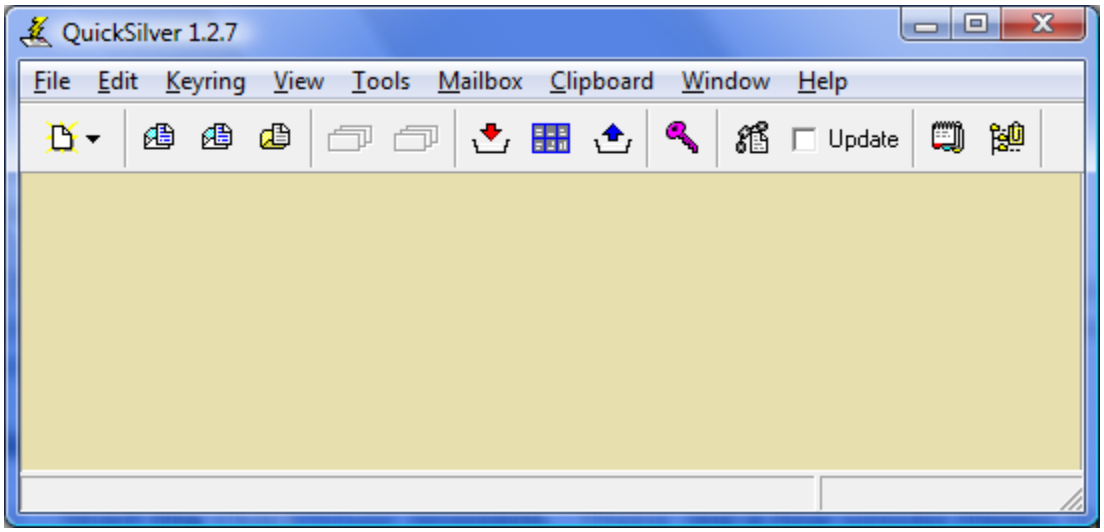
II. QuickSilver

Send email messages to other email addresses anonymously and
Send messages to newsgroups with anonymous mail2news messages

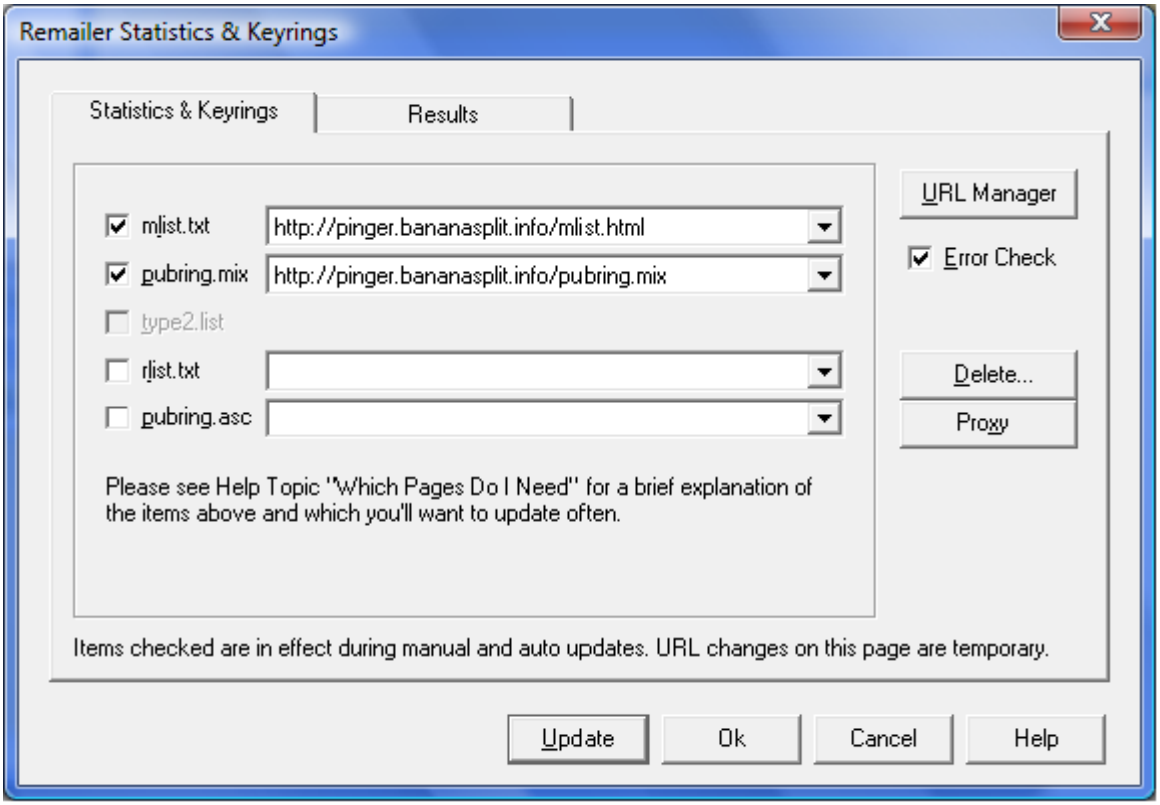
(The QuickSilver program can be used to send anonymous email messages to other email addresses and news messages to news groups, but it does not have the capability of receiving mail or news. In this setup, QuickSilver is a completely independent program and is not connected to MesNews or OmniMix.)

QuickSilver Setup:

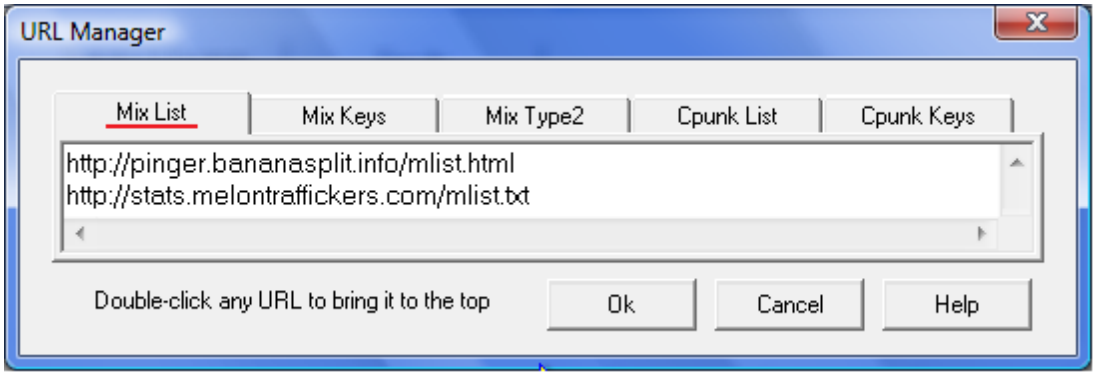
Step 1. Start the QuickSilver program. There are a few simple things that must be set for QuickSilver to work properly.



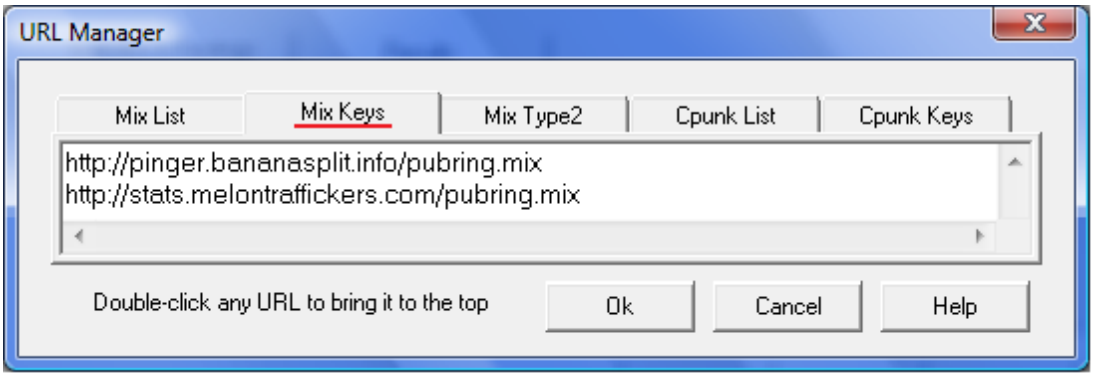
Step 2. Click on the '*Tools*' menu item and click the '*Remailers*' menu item. You are going to only use what is called the Mixmaster system so only the '*mlist.txt*' and '*pubring.mix*' check boxes need to be checked. The Vista operating system will not write out the required information properly unless the '*Error Check*' check box is checked, so be sure it is checked. If you do not check the '*Error Check*' check box, then the '*type2.txt*' check box needs to be checked.



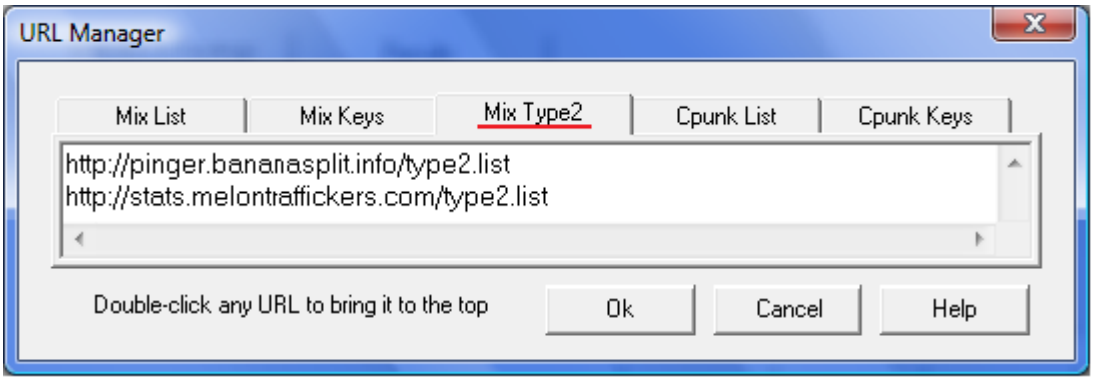
Step 3. Next click on the '*URL Manager*' button. Click through the first three tabs, '*Mix List*', '*Mix Keys*', and '*Mix Type2*', and replace the entries with the entries shown below.



http://pinger.bananasplit.info/mlist.html
http://stats.melontraffickers.com/mlist.txt



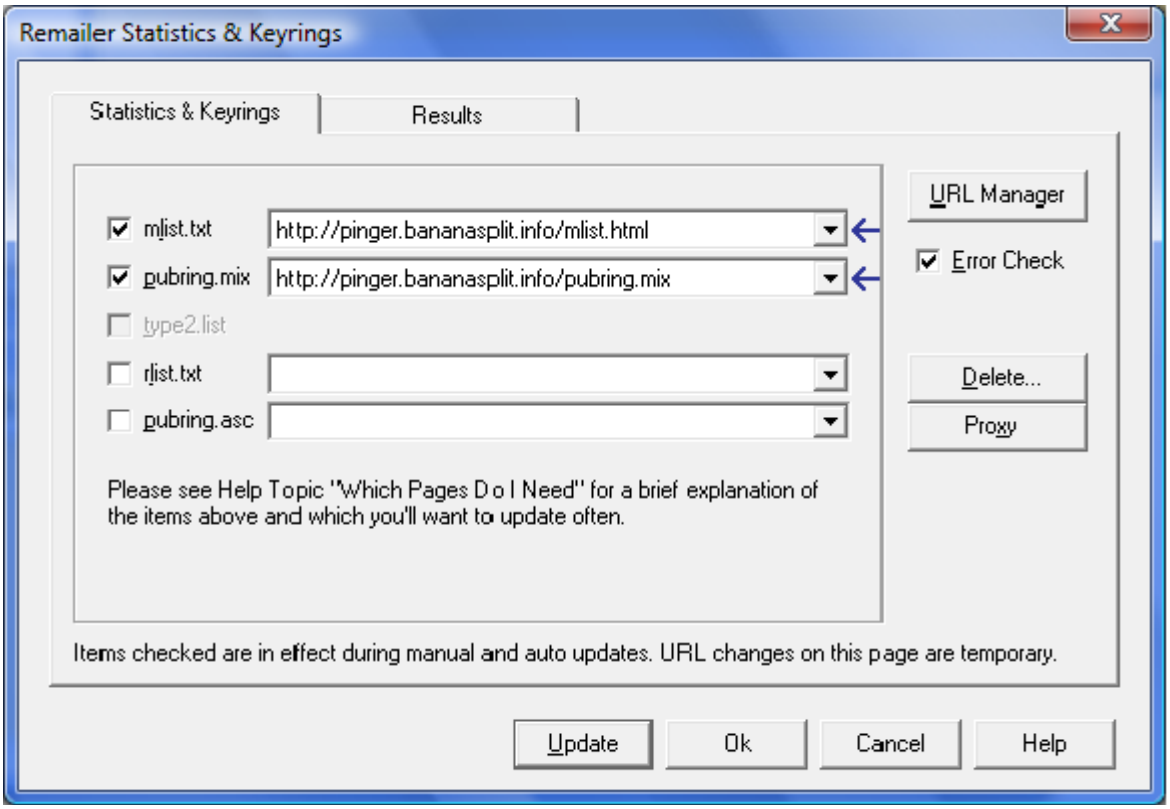
http://pinger.bananasplit.info/pubring.mix
http://stats.melontraffickers.com/pubring.mix



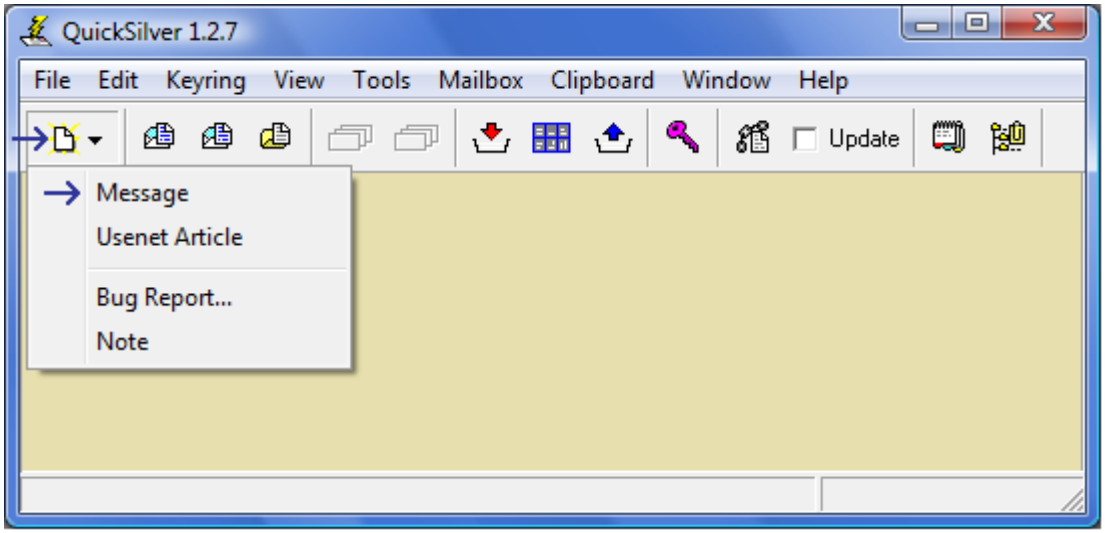
http://pinger.bananasplit.info/type2.list
http://stats.melontraffickers.com/type2.list

After making the entries, click '*OK*'.

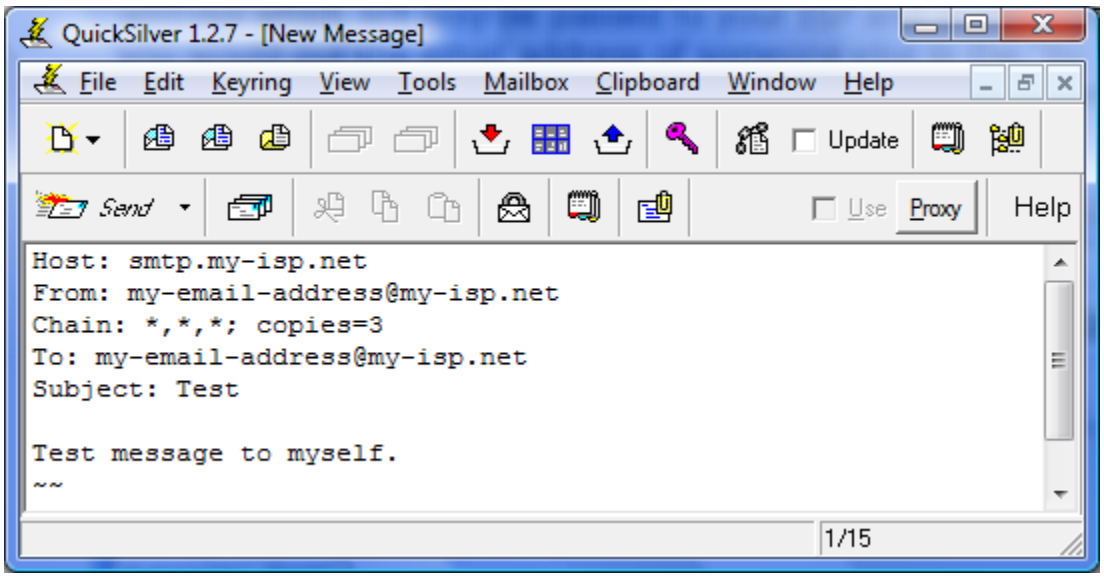
Step 4. Next select the respective 'pinger.bananasplit.info' addresses in the mlist.txt and pubring.mix drop down list if they are not already present. Then click on the '*Update*' button. You must be connected to the internet when doing the update. You should then see the required information being downloaded. Click '*OK*' after the download ends to close out the window and get back to the QuickSilver main interface.



Step 4. Now you need to do a test to see if you need to do Steps 6 and 7. The test is to send a test email to yourself. Click on the the *new message* button and then click the '*Message*' menu item.



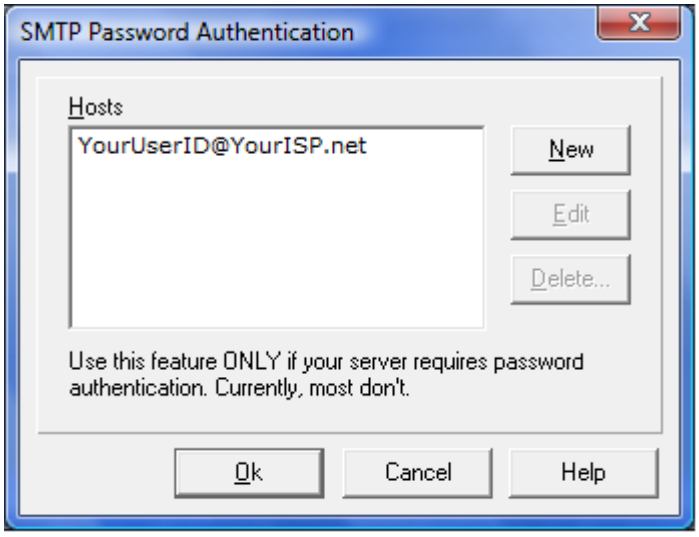
Step 5. A small window will be placed inside of the QuickSilver main interface that is the mail window. Maximize this inner window for better viewing. Replace the lines that come with QuickSilver with the lines displayed below. Then modify the 'Host: ' line to your ISP's smtp name (see step 7 below for more information on finding out what your ISP's smtp name is). Note that there must be a space between the colon ': ' and data entry of each parameter. Modify the 'From: ' line to your email address, which will only be passed to your ISP and is required. Normally you would put the email address of someone else in 'To: ', however, since you are sending a test email to yourself, place your own email address in the 'To: ' field. Now put in 'Subject: Test', and your email message. Note that there is a space before and ~~ after your message.



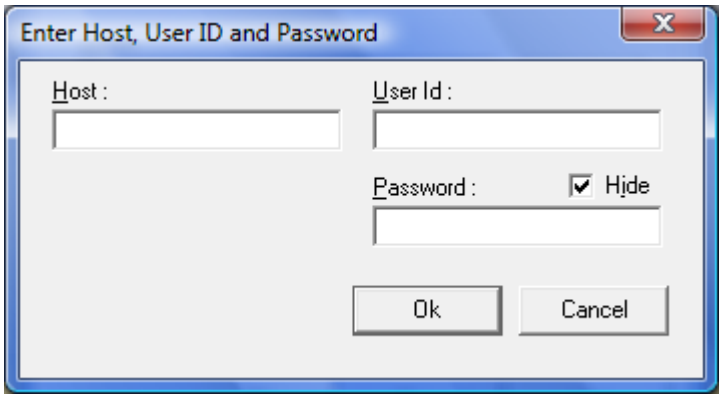
```
Host: smtp.my-isp.net
From: my-email-address@my-isp.net
Chain: *,*,*; copies=3
To: my-email-address@my-isp.net
Subject: Test

Test message to myself.
~~
```

Now click the '*Send*' button to see if the message will be sent. If the message is sent, success! Go to Step 8. Otherwise, go on to Steps 6 and 7.

Step 6. (Skip Steps 6 and 7 if Step 5 worked.)
Click on the '*Tools*' menu item and then click on the '*Smtp Authentication*' menu item. The host window should be empty. After setting up the parameters, there should be an entry somewhat similar to the example below.



Step 7. Next click on the '*New*' button which will bring up the following window.



You may need to put in your Internet Service Provider's smtp address[1] in the '*Host:*' box. If you do not know what the address is, you can usually find it through your ISP's support web page concerning email account/client setup. You might need to simply call them and ask what the smtp address is. You may also need to put in your '*User Id:*' and '*Password:*'. Even if you are connect directly to a cable modem, you will need to find out from your ISP what these are if you don't know them. After making these entries, click the OK button.
Note: your '*User Id:*' may be your short user ID (my-userid) or you might have to use your long user ID (my-userid@my-isp.com).

([1] You might try smtp.*my.internet.provider* as your '*Host:*' parameter. example: smtp.microsoft.com)

Further suggestions: Things can be different with different ISPs. If you still can not send messages after filling out the information in the above window, then try leaving out the '*User Id:*' and '*Password:*', leaving the '*Host:*' name intact. Go back to Step 4 and 5 and try sending again after each of these modifications.

Step 8. Further QuickSilver instructions and examples:

QuickSilver must be updated at least once a day with current Pinger information. You can do this manually by clicking through the menu items '*Tools*' / '*Remailers*' and then click the '*Update*' button. If you are not sending many emails, you can check the '*Update*' check box on the QuickSilver main interface and the program will automatically update QuickSilver with the current Pinger information before each message is sent.

To send an email, use the following format. The 'To: ' field is the address of the recipient. Remember, there must be a space between the colon ': ' and the parameters.

```
Host: smtp.my-isp.net
From: my-email-address@my-isp.net
Chain: *,*,*; copies=3
To: someones-email-address@their-isp.net
Subject: Email subject

Message goes here.
~~
```

To send a message to a news groups with QuickSilver, use the following format. 'Newsgroups: ' should be the newsgroup you are sending a message to. You can specify multiple groups by placing a comma between the group addresses.

```
Host: smtp.my-isp.net
From: my-email-address@my-isp.net
Chain: *,*,*; copies=3
To: mail2news@bananasplit.info
Newsgroups: alt.privacy,alt.privacy.anon-server
Subject: Subject of my news message

Message goes here.
~~
```

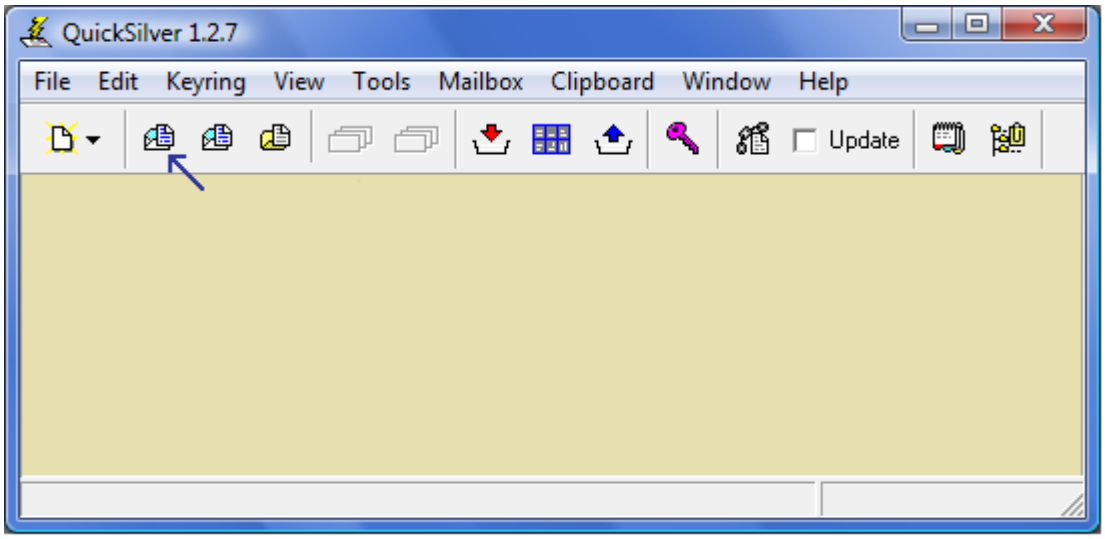
To send a reply to a news message in a news groups with QuickSilver, use the following format. You will have to find the 'Message ID:' number in the MesNews article header that is displayed above the article and place it in the 'References: ' line as shown below. `(Example: Message ID: <c8c9fc1@u18g2000pro.googlegroups.com>`

```
Host: smtp.my-isp.net
From: my-email-address@my-isp.net
Chain: *,*,*; copies=3
To: mail2news@bananasplit.info
Newsgroups: alt.privacy
References: <c8c9fc1@u18g2000pro.googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: Same subject line that you are replying to

Message goes here.
~~
```

If you would like to keep a copy of the email and news messages you send, then place the 'Fcc: Outbox' parameter above the 'Host: ' line. Note that QuickSilver has been known to begin to malfunction if there are too many Fcc messages in the database, so you will need to clean it out periodically. This may be a Vista problem only. You can get to your mailboxes through the '*MailBox*' menu item.

```
Fcc: Outbox
Host: smtp.my-isp.net
From: my-email-address@my-isp.net
Chain: *,*,*; copies=3
To: someones-email-address@their-isp.net
Subject: Test

Message goes here.
~~
```

If you would like to keep templates for emails and news messages, build your template in a mail window and then save the template by clicking on the '*File*' and '*Save as Template*' menu items. To access your templates, click on the template button.



-- End of QuickSilver setup section. --

Communicating Anonymously

There are occasions when people might need to communicate anonymously with others, such as a woman who has had to go into hiding from an abusive mate and needs some ability to communicate with other family members. A good way to communicate anonymously is through the use of a newsgroup called '***alt.anonymous-messages***'. This news group can be easily used as a drop box for messages. Parties can send messages to this group through QuickSilver. The parties would use the same 'Subject' line (with possibly slights variations) in order to easily identify their communication headers. Messages sent to '***alt.anonymous-messages***' will *have to be encrypted* before being sent to the news group so that others will not be able to read your messages.

Below are two free encryption programs that can be easily set up and used to encrypt your messages.

EMail-Security using GnuPG for Windows
http://www.gpg4win.org/
(Click the Download picture at the top of the page. Read the instructions on setting up the program and its use. Use the tray program WinPT.exe that comes with GnuPG to easily encrypt your data.)

PointCrypt (Blowfish 64 – strong but not as strong as the GnuPG.)
http://cdn.simtel.net/pub/simtelnet/win95/secencr/PointCrypt.zip

A last note concerning communicating anonymously with the police. If you found this to be absolutely necessary, you could ascertain the email address of the police department involved through the web or by phone, and send them an email through the remailer system that contained the information you wanted to convey. At the bottom of the email, you could include a password and a Subject: of your making, and ask the police to contact you, if necessary, by sending their reply to the news group '***alt.anonymous-messages***'. Ask them to use a particular 'Subject:' and give them a password which they are to use to encrypt their reply, using one of the two encryption programs mentioned above. You would then continue to communicate with them through the remailer system while continuing to receive their replies via ***alt.anonymous-messages***.

At the bottom of your initial remailer email to the police, you could write:

Please send any replies to the news group: ***alt.anonymous-messages***
Make your Subject line: *whatever you decide*
Encrypt your message with either of these programs:
    http://www.gpg4win.org
    http://cdn.simtel.net/pub/simtelnet/win95/secencr/PointCrypt.zip
Use conventional (symmetrical) encryption using password: *whatever you decide*

For further help with setting up these programs, or any questions concerning anonymous email, anonymous news posting, and remailers, inquire at the news group below.

alt.privacy.anon-server