

## NEWSLIST

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A program to assist HTTP browsing of newsgroups

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WWW browsers such as NCSA Mosaic allow the user to read newsgroup articles by specifying the group name in a URL eg 'news:comp.answers'.

To browse through many groups, though, (and there are several thousand of them) you really need a page or pages containing links to all the groups. There are some good ones out there, for example,

<http://info.cern.ch/hypertext/DataSources/News/Groups/Overview.html>

is the standard one at CERN, but it only shows the groups available there, which may be rather different from those available on your machine.

Newslist is a program which creates a hierarchy of pages for you based on the groups available from YOUR server. It is written in python - a splendid interpreted object-oriented language which I suggest you get right now from the directory /pub/python at ftp.cwi.nl, if you haven't already got it.

You should be able to see some sample output by looking at:

<http://pelican.cl.cam.ac.uk/newspage/root.html>

Descriptions of newsgroups can be added from a file with one group per line. eg:

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alt.foo  Articles about foo
comp.bar Programming in 'bar' and related languages
```

A suitable list detailing most groups can be found at ftp.uu.net in /uunet-info/newsgroups.gz.

Make sure you read the information at the beginning of the program source and configure the variables before running.

In addition to python, you need:

- An NNTP-based news feed.
- A directory in which to put the pages.

The programming is not very beautiful, but it works! It comes with no warranty, express or implied, but with the hope that some others may find it useful.

Comments, improvements & suggestions welcomed.  
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<http://pelican.cl.cam.ac.uk/people/qs101/me.html>

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