

Path: gmdzi!unido!math.fu-berlin.de!ox.com!yale.edu!qt.cs.utexas.edu!cs.utexas.edu!uunet!decwrl!pa.dec.com!news

From: re...@decwrl.dec.com (Brian Reid)

Newsgroups: news.groups,news.lists,news.admin

Subject: USENET READERSHIP SUMMARY REPORT FOR AUG 91

Message-ID: <1991Sep1.224649.27186@PA.dec.com>

Date: 1 Sep 91 22:46:49 GMT

Sender: ne...@PA.dec.com (News)

Organization: DEC Western Research Laboratory

Lines: 392

Approved: re...@decwrl.dec.com

Xref: gmdzi news.groups:143772 news.lists:1437 news.admin:63459

USENET READERSHIP SUMMARY REPORT for Aug 91

This is the first article in a monthly posting series from the Network Measurement Project at the DEC Western Research Laboratory in Palo Alto, California.

This survey is based on a sample of data taken from various USENET sites. At the end of this message there is a short explanation of the measurement techniques and the meaning of the various statistics. The messages that follow this one show survey data sorted by various criteria.

The newsgroup volume and article counts that I post are often significantly different from the ones posted by Rick Adams, because he includes the size of a crossposted article in every group to which it is posted, whereas I charge that size only to the first-named group.

The complete set of readership data (of which this is a summary) is posted in news.lists. The software that will let your site participate in the survey is in comp.sources.d and news.admin

Brian Reid

OVERALL SUMMARY:

	This Sample	Estimated for entire net
Sites:	693	34000
Fraction reporting:	2.04%	100%
Users with accounts:	139017	6820000
Netreaders:	34385	1686000
Average readers per site:		50
Percent of users who are netreaders:		24.73%
Average traffic per day (megabytes):		22.142
Average traffic per day (messages):		9105
Traffic measurement interval:	last	28 days
Readership measurement interval:	last	75 days
Sites used to measure propagation:		692

Valid data received from these sites:

6sceng(2) 6sigma(11) abacab(6) ablnc(253) academ01(73) acheron(27)
 actew.oz.au(529) ads.com(196) adspp(27) agate.berkeley.edu(30)
 ahkcus.org(51) aidx.no(2) alba2l(5) alchemy(94) alembic(13) alfred(4)

alias(233) alpha.ru.ac.za(23) alsys.de(43) alv(147) alzabo(35)
amcvlsi(41) amdahl(333) amun-re(112) anacom1(30) anagld(66)
andrew.cmu.edu(3880) anomaly(60) apollo(2896) apple(1668)
arak.winix.tih.no(0) aramis.rutgers.edu(406) ariadne.csi.forth.gr(195)
arran.tcom.stc.co.uk(76) arthur.cs.purdue.edu(121) aspentec.com(207)
ast(37) atari(40) atlas(30) awful(8) bclwn(19) bcsfse(187) bcstec(131)
bdcsys(4) bdt(146) becker(19) bermls(6) bfmny0(1) bgsuvax(623)
bitcave(18) bjs(77) blinky(13) bonnie.ics.uci.edu(985)
bosco.berkeley.edu(125) brad(1) broлга(145) brs pyr1(59)
brubeck.uucp(16) btni(38) bu-ast(61) bu-it(249) bu-pub(772) bu.edu(112)
bucsf(649) buengc(274) buengc.bu.edu(276) buengf.bu.edu(731)
bugs.mty.itesm.mx(20) bute.tcom.stc.co.uk(86) bwdls58(1) cabezon(86)
cadreor.uucp(12) cae780.csi.com(77) caip.rutgers.edu(421) cal01(2)
camb.com(32) cambridge.apple.com(37) camco(46) carroll1(662)
cartan.berkeley.edu(145) cc-server4.massey.ac.nz(1249) cc.usu.edu(1261)
cck.cov.ac.uk(1142) cdin-1(23) cel(402) cerritos.edu(321)
cfctech.cfc.com(43) cg-atla(342) cgl.ucsf.edu(2) chance(3) cheers(4)
chyde.uwasa.fi(110) ciit85.ciit.nrc.ca(92) cis(50) cix(906) clinet(175)
clmqt(164) clsib21(0) cmgm.stanford.edu(327) cmkrnl.uucp(7) cobber(41)
cognos(192) com50(21) comm.wang.com(45) concurrent.co.uk(117)
convex.mitek.com(172) cos(175) crash(123) crayjr(8) crcc(0) crowfix(1)
cs(320) cs-col.columbia.ncr.com(57) cs.columbia.edu(650)
cs.utexas.edu(2801) csadfa(88) csam(58) csustan.csustan.edu(25)
cuff(50) cutler.uucp(26) cuuxb(342) cvman(21) cwsmk1(28) cybvax0(33)
darth(22) datacube(119) david(4) davis(163) dayton.saic.com(58) db1(46)
dbase(187) dbulm1.uucp(99) dciem(234) dcl-vitus(105) dmp.dla.mil(12)
ddsw1(131) deimos.cis.ksu.edu(191) dell(45) demon(25) desc.dla.mil(10)
df.lth.se(24) digi(557) dimacs.rutgers.edu(134) disc.dla.mil(303)
disuns2(289) dixie.com(27) dlvox2.datlog.co.uk(132) dmc.com(2)
dorm.rutgers.edu(108) dplace(0) dptspd(29) dranet.dra.com(258) drd(5)
dri500(38) druid(36) drycas.club.cc.cmu.edu(75) dsac.dla.mil(270)
dsacg2.dsac.dla.mil(160) dsacg3.dsac.dla.mil(78) dsinc(8) dsndata(20)
duke(316) dumbcat(10) dwerger(15) dycom(13) eab(2) earvax(48)
ecl.psu.edu(646) ector.cs.purdue.edu(85) edc(30) edi386(4) eff(65)
egsner(83) elan.elan.com(31) elbereth.rutgers.edu(1040)
elbrun.winix.tih.no(1) eleazar.dartmouth.edu(397) electro(22)
elements.rpal.com(36) elrond(10) elroy(55) encore.com(260) ensys(7)
eos(86) eplunix(37) ericom.ericsson.se(29) esatst(11) esleng(11)
euler.rutgers.edu(290) europe.drms.dla.mil(96) fang(35) fantasci(32)
fasfax(66) fdls(55) fermat.rutgers.edu(113) fibers.uucp(3) flab(741)
flatlin(7) fnnews(1) fnx(27) forsyth.uucp(125) foster(32) fpssun(388)
frcs(11) freedm(5) frmug(59) frog(35) froya.winix.tih.no(1)
frye.rain.com(19) fryeten.uucp(21) fts1(12) fxgrp(103) gaboon(32)
gacvx2.gac.edu(42) galaxia(14) galaxy.southpower.co.nz(281)
gang-of-four(75) garnet.berkeley.edu(3204) gauss.math.purdue.edu(257)
gauss.rutgers.edu(282) gcc.edu(63) geac(69) geovision(82)
gerbil.ladc.bull.com(38) giga(104) gistdev(48) glibli(10) goofy(131)
gouldnl(65) grad1.cis.upenn.edu(386) grasp1(20) grebyn(34) grian(12)
gtenmc(23) gtisqr(25) gypsum.berkeley.edu(175) gyre.cs.umd.edu(55)
hackes(863) hagbard(154) hardees.rutgers.edu(218)
harris.cis.ksu.edu(57) harrnl(13) harvisr(791) hawkmoon(13)
hayes.ims.alaska.edu(54) hbiso(99) hccwmv2(10) hcsrnd(110)
hemuli.tik.vtt.fi(72) henson(641) herkules.sssab.se(14)
hern.stonemarche.org(12) hexagon(45) hilbert.rutgers.edu(116)
hippo.ru.ac.za(185) hitra.winix.tih.no(1) hobbes.physics.uiowa.edu(8)
holly.stl.stc.co.uk(51) honey(509) hoptoad(65) hp835.mitek.com(168)
hpmclc(44) hpnmdla(435) hriso(77) hsi(107) hudson.stanford.edu(72)
hugpar(2) humpty.edb.tih.no(20) hybrid(7) iam.unibe.ch(80)

icot.or.jp(202) ics(15) ics.uci.edu(343) iecc(8) ifi.uio.no(2516)
igor(127) iitmax(889) inco(43) indigo.stl.stc.co.uk(125)
inland.com(275) innovative.com(4) inttech.com(18) investor(9)
iowasp.physics.uiowa.edu(128) ipc.uucp(66) iris.claremont.edu(5)
isaak(56) islabs(12) ispi(7) iuvax(186) ixi(37) izar(242) jabba(43)
janus.mtroyal.ab.ca(452) jato(97) jessica.stanford.edu(312) jetson(2)
jfwhome.funhouse.com(5) jjmhome(41) jodokus(17) johnny5(2)
joiner.com(69) jonlab(10) jrdzzz.jrd.dec.com(127) junkyard(23)
ka3ovk(65) kannel(420) kericks(11) khijol(36) kielo(2790) kirk(17)
kithrup(12) kjell.uucp(14) koala(18) kralizec(24) kscorp(36)
kudosl.winix.tih.no(6) kurz-ai(110) lab001(25) ladcgw(15) lance(5)
larry(11) latour(28) laverne(149) lehi3b15(9) leland(5404)
leland.stanford.edu(5645) lethe(40) linac(18) lindy.stanford.edu(525)
ll1a(1) loglule(29) lokkur(12) longs.lance.colostate.edu(3729)
loria.crin.fr(380) lpi(38) lsicom2(6) lsuc(8) lta(11) lufu(18)
lysator(149) lyxys(7) m2c.m2c.org(137) m2xenix.psg.com(110)
mach2.wlu.ca(52) madnix(107) maple(11) maple.stl.stc.co.uk(48)
mariela(0) marque(90) math(123) math.berkeley.edu(19) math.bu.edu(181)
math.ksu.edu(51) math.rutgers.edu(487) mathrt0.math.chalmers.se(201)
maths.su.oz.au(251) matilda(154) matrox(28) matrix(22)
mcclb0.med.nyu.edu(207) mcuts(85) mcdchg(31) mcgp1(51) mcmi(28)
mdtv.uucp(11) meadata(474) med.wcc.govt.nz(891) mediatex.uucp(13)
memstvx1.memst.edu(897) metasoft(49) metpage.mps.com(116) mgweed(129)
mh.nl(50) mica.berkeley.edu(81) miclon(17) mikebat(11)
mikrosys.forut.no(4) mikrosys.mikrosys.no(8) mimsy.umd.edu(460)
mips.mitek.com(134) mirror(34) mit-eddie(167) mnetor(141)
monu6.cc.monash.edu.au(3260) monymsys(3) moon(11) moria(1)
morrow.stanford.edu(13) moscom(59) mri(125) msor0(200) mtecv2(431)
mtek(3) mthvax.cs.miami.edu(70) mti(47) mtxinu(55) mudos(10)
muhthr.cdad.hlo.dec.com(68) mulberry(31) munsell(144) n8ino(3)
nanovx(20) natinst(62) natinst.com(67) nbc1(31) nbires(18) ncoast(386)
ncrcae.columbia.ncr.com(212) neon.stanford.edu(848) netagw(8)
netcom(298) news.cis.ohio-state.edu(1605) newton.rutgers.edu(86)
nightowl(8) nmrdc1(59) nms(26) nocusuhs(15) nosun.west.sun.com(35)
nplpsg(37) nrlvx1.nrl.navy.mil(246) nshore(5) ntpal(47) nttta(35)
nucleus(65) nyama(11) obdient(38) obh(11) odysseus.sssab.se(0)
ogicse(1437) oliveb(16) olivee(75) olivej(122) oliven(61) olivey(110)
omni(23) online(20) onion(12) ontek(18) orac(0) orfeo(55)
orion.arc.nasa.gov(195) orkdal.winix.tih.no(2) osdvo.winix.tih.no(6)
oucsace.cs.ohiou.edu(173) ovaltine.berkeley.edu(192) oxy(1174)
p4tustin(15) pa621a.inland.com(174) pandora.matrox.com(150)
paris.ics.uci.edu(642) park(115) park.bu.edu(115) parsely(51)
pbhya(174) pbhyb(180) pbhyc(254) pbhyd(202) pbhye(187) pbhyf(216)
pbhyg(283) peanut(3) pedagog.no(1) pedagog.syh.winix.tih.no(2)
penguin(7) pentagon-ai(25) peregrine(135) phantom(51) philpav(7)
phobos.cis.ksu.edu(396) phoenix.princeton.edu(3428) piaggio(105)
pitt(147) plains(761) planck(33) pmafire(30) polari(247) practic(21)
presto.ig.com(113) pride386(10) prism1(18) proeast.propress.com(201)
prowest.propress.com(7) psuvax1(410) ptcburp(8) ptsfa(184) pttdis(19)
pute(18) putz.uucp(9) pyramid(188) pzbaum(4) qiclab.scn.rain.com(13)
qmw-cs(336) qmw-dcs(332) quack(14) quad1(35) quagga.ru.ac.za(37)
questar.questar.mn.org(158) quick(5) quorum.com(8) radio.astro(64)
rancho(9) rducky(7) redpoll(2) remus.rutgers.edu(1008) rena(4)
rescon(6) research.canon.oz.au(42) retix.retix.com(153) rhi.hi.is(2672)
ria.ccs.uwo.ca(110) rimfaxe.sssab.se(5) rivm.nl(747) robohack(34)
rochester(243) roselin(540) rosevax(828) rtweyco(1) ruacad(375)
rucs(25) rucs2(143) rulcvx(5) rutcor.rutgers.edu(66)
rutgers.rutgers.edu(72) rwmke(3) sacred(122) sactoh0.sac.ca.us(198)

sage(16) samsung(4) samt19(29) sandoz(19) satchmo(31)
saul.cis.upenn.edu(66) schoenfinkel(5) sci.ccny.cuny.edu(244)
scicom(47) scifi(31) sclcig(24) sdd550(22) sdf(73) sdr(77) sed00(75)
seer(37) seismo.css.gov(262) sequoia(122) sgfb(349) sh8810(265)
shade(1) shapetc(124) shark.edb.tih.no(1) shelby(8)
shelby.stanford.edu(9) shiva.com(70) sirius.ucs.adelaide.edu.au(78)
sis(30) sixnine(2) sjh.org(73) sjuphil(636) slcs.slb.com(162) slimer(5)
sluger(40) sma2(11) smith(4) sol.ctr.columbia.edu(274) sooner(5)
sparky(28) spatial.com(67) spcc.uucp(100) sq(63)
srchtec.searchtech.com(34) stade(8) stan(421)
starfish.convergent.com(53) stat.appstate.edu(1158)
storax.stl.stc.co.uk(12) stordlh.winix.tih.no(1) student(80) sugar(134)
sunburn.stanford.edu(168) suned1(347) surf(39) swatsun(87) swlabs(1)
tabbs(15) tac.fi(828) tahoe.cs.unr.edu(201) tahoe.unr.edu(159)
talos(27) tamsun.tamu.edu(58) tcomeng(56) tct(21) td2cad(147)
techbook(164) tellab5(101) telops.ma02.bull.com(3) teti(33)
theporch(25) thinc(3) think(729) tkou02.enet.dec.com(11) tol-ed.com(39)
torag(36) tove.cs.umd.edu(245) tricord(55) trident.arc.nasa.gov(16)
trux(200) ttidca(527) ttsi(41) tucos.utu.fi(77) tukki(1023)
tut.cis.ohio-state.edu(1562) twg(13) twinsun(35) txsil(24) uafhp(1810)
ucbarpa.berkeley.edu(450) ucse(316) ug.cs.dal.ca(301)
uhura.cc.rochester.edu(349) uk96sup(47) ukma(601) ukpoit(12)
ulla.und.slu.se(2) ulmus.sdi.slu.se(6) umd5.umd.edu(132) unicom(416)
unify(66) uniwa(135) unocal(189) ursa(147) uu.psi.com(204) uunet(91)
ux0(46) valinor(7) valinor.mythical.com(8) vax5.cit.cornell.edu(1450)
vela.acs.oakland.edu(1850) verifone.com(1003) vicstoy(16) victrola(4)
victrola.halcyon.wa.com(4) videovax.tv.tek.com(2) vidiot(1)
violet.berkeley.edu(1650) viper(1) viusys(179) voodoo(22) vsi1(76)
vtsai2.sai.vtt.fi(43) vtserf(56) wang(111) warwick(3819)
water.berkeley.edu(171) wattres(10) wb3ffv(68) weaver.berkeley.edu(301)
weitek(141) well(5754) wet(136) wgate(24) whscdp.uucp(36)
widow.berkeley.edu(272) wilbur(113) wiley(191) winixus(7) winsoft(6)
wizvax(19) wjvax(49) wolf.berkeley.edu(248) wolves(33) woodowl(33)
wrdis01(2234) wrglex(34) wrglex.uucp(109) wright(474) wshb(43) wsl(19)
wsrcc.com(2) wybbs(150) xenitec(33) xenon(432) xmws.uucp(8) xray(53)
xylogics.com(52) yetti(38) yorkohm(12) yuban.berkeley.edu(118)
zap.mlb.semi.harris.com(151) zaphod(129) zardozi.club.cc.cmu.edu(12)
zeus(29) zinn(27) zorch(36)

EXPLANATION OF THE MEASUREMENTS AND STATISTICS

Survey data is taken by having one person at each site run a program called "arbitron", which looks at the news or notes files and determines the newsgroups that the user has read within a recent interval. To "read" a newsgroup means to have been presented with the opportunity to look at at least one message in it. Going through a newsgroup with the "n" key counts as reading it. For a news site, "user X reads group Y" means that user X's .newsrcc file has marked at least one unexpired message in Y. If there is no traffic in a newsgroup for the measurement period, then the survey will show that nobody reads the group. For a notes site, "user X reads group Y" means that user X has been in the notesfile with the sequencer in the last 14 days. The "14 days" interval for notesfiles corresponds to "unexpired" for news.

The "arbitron" program is periodically posted to comp.sources.d, or is available from me (decwrl!reid). The notesfiles version of the program should be available through standard notesfiles software distribution channels as well.

SITES SURVEYED IN THIS SAMPLE

"This Sample" means the set of sites that have sent in an arbitron report within the past "Readership measurement interval" days. In every case the most recent report from each site is used. At the moment, some of the readership reports are several months old. In future postings those reports will have expired and will not be included.

The number in parentheses after the site name is the number of users that the site reported. A value of (0) usually means that the software has been configured to use the wrong technique for counting users at that site; a report showing 0 users but 6 readers of rec.humor.funny is statistically meaningful.

One might argue that the sample is self-selected, and thereby be biased. It does in fact have a certain self-selection factor in it, because we only get data from sites at which someone participates in the survey. However, we do not require the participation of every user at a site, only one user. The survey program returns data for every user on the system on which it was run. Since there are an average of 30 people per site reading news, there is a certain amount of randomness introduced that way. Of course, the sample is biased in favor of large sites (they are more likely to have a user willing to run the survey program) and software-development-oriented sites (more likely to have a user *able* to run the survey program).

NETWORK SIZE

I determine the network size by looking at the set of sites that are mentioned in the Path lines of news articles arriving at decwrl. This number is consistently higher than the number of sites that posted a message (as measured and posted from uunet) because it includes passive sites that are on the paths between posting sites and decwrl. Each month I store the names of the hosts that are named that month, and for this report I used the past 10 months worth of data.

There are 33831 different sites in the Path lines of articles that arrived at decwrl in the last 10 months. There are 11277 different sites in the comp.mail.maps data, but comp.mail.maps tends to include only one or two machines for each organization, leaving the rest unmentioned. Also a large number of sites participate in USENET without participating in UUCP.

I believe that 34000 is the best estimate for the size of USENET. Because it is actually a measurement of the number of sites that have posted a message or that are on the path to a site that has posted a message, it will be slightly smaller than the number of sites that actually read netnews. Any site that believes it is not being counted can just ensure that it posts at least one message a year, so that it will be counted.

NUMBER OF USERS

The number of users at each site is determined in a site-specific fashion. Sometimes it is done by counting the number of user accounts that have shells and login directories. Sometimes it is done by counting the number of people who have logged in to the machine in some interval. Sometimes other techniques are used. This number is probably not very accurate--certainly

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