USER'S GUIDE TO
Computing

Electronic Mail at Wesleyan

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Electronic Mail at Wesleyan

1. OVERVIEW

MINT (Mail INTerface) is the new electronic mail program used on VAX systems at Wesleyan. MINT was written at Wesleyan and is still under development.[1] A second mail program, MM remains in use on the administrative DEC-20, but will soon be replaced by MINT on VAX systems.

Using MINT, members of the Wesleyan community with VAX computing accounts can send and receive messages between users at Wesleyan and hundreds of sites around the world. This guide, intended for both new and experienced VAX users, is organized into five sections:

- A typical MINT session: This section will give you an idea of what your computing interaction will be when you use MINT to read and send messages. Browse through it quickly initially. You may wish to return to this section when you are ready to try the MINT program for the first time.
- Basic Concepts: This section explains several concepts basic to using MINT. The structure of the MINT program, and addressing and referencing messages are among the topics covered.
- Getting Started with MINT: This section explains the MINT commands needed by most users to use the MINT program. Topics include: getting help, listing, reading and sending messages.
- Expanding your capabilities: This section includes topics that will facilitate your use of MINT. For example, it discusses how to create a mailing list that includes abbreviations for addresses you use frequently. It will be most useful to people who use the mail system frequently, or who send/receive many messages.
- Command Dictionary: The dictionary includes a brief explanation of MINT commands, options, and concepts. It is intended primarily as a reference; however, if you browse through it you may discover just the option for which you've been looking.

[1] Please send suggestions and problem reports to Joseph Deck, Wesleyan Computing Center, or via MINT TO: JDECK@EAGLE.

2. A TYPICAL MINT SESSION

This example begins after WGIBBS has logged in and noticed the message:

```
%MINT-I-ONENEWMSG, You have one new mail message
Please use the MINT (Mail INTerface) program to read the message.
```

WGIBBS then begins MINT by typing MINT at the VAX/VMS prompt:

```
PHYS>MINT
```

The following start-up screen is then displayed:

```
RS      1)  4-DEC FRED@LBL.BITNET   ICPEAC: NYC Library         (251)
N       2)  4-DEC KBERKNER@EAGLE    ICPEAC: 2nd mailing         (394)









File: UD:[PHYS.WGIBBS]MINT.TXT;1

MINT>
```

The top part of the screen list two messages numbered 1) and 2). The letters "R" and "S" to the left of the one numbered 1) indicate that this message has been Read and has been flagged by WGIBBS as Special. The letter N beginning the next line, indicates that this is a New message that has been received since the last time WGIBBS used the MINT program.

The bottom part of the screen has a status line and several lines for MINT commands and messages.

To read the new message, WGIBBS types READ at the MINT> prompt which is at the bottom of the screen:

```
MINT>READ
```

and the message is displayed: