

What is Usenet?

Written by Administrator

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Usenet is a world-wide distributed system of discussion groups. It is made up "newsgroups" which are classified hierarchically by subject.

People post messages to these newsgroups, which are called "articles" in the Usenet's jargon. This messages are posted to a single usenet server usually provided by a commercial service, like [Giganews](#) , but they are also commonly provided by your ISP, or your local Universities.

Just imagine a popular message board or forum you know, but instead of being a web based application, it has its own protocol for distribution, as well as for reading and writing to the messages posted to the newsgroups.

So, you usually don't read and post messages to the newsgroups using a web browser. You need an special type of program called " [News Reader](#) ". However, there are several website that provides a web interface to the Usenet's newsgroups. One of them is Google groups.

When you post a message to your Usenet provider's server, it is then broadcasted to others Usenet's servers, which in turn send the message to others Usenet's servers and so on. If for any reason, you post some wrong information in a message on a Usenet newsgroups, you most likely won't have a chance to stop it, nor ask to the administrators for deletion, because it will be forwarded to other servers within minutes.

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