

DmChat.run
Bill van Melle

DmChat is a version of Chat that emulates a Datamedia-2500, but with a 60-line screen. Thus it is suitable for chatting to hosts that are smart enough to provide display service for Datamedias.

Requirements. DmChat uses a fixed-width, 12x7 font for display. Its preference is to use the font Snail10.al for normal output and Snail10b.al for enhanced output (bold or blink mode). If you have only the former, DmChat will fake the bold. If you have neither font, DmChat will use your SysFont, which must be fixed-width 12x7 (e.g., Gacha10.al). Snail10 contains printing characters in the control-character range compatible with Stanford AI Lab's character set; if you are chatting to SU-AI you can give that system the command "TTY DM128 60" to make use of the full character set. If you are talking to a conventional ascii system, Gacha10.al will probably suffice.

Operation. DmChat is run the same way Chat is run. It accepts most of the command line switches that Chat does, where they make sense. While DmChat is running, the top-blank key sends null (ascii zero); bottom-blank is an edit shift (characters typed while edit is down have their 200b bit set). Middle-blank continues to be the command escape character. There are a few additional commands that DmChat recognizes:

B -- blanks the screen, sets roll mode.

L -- prompts for a number, sets screen length to that many lines.

R -- toggles roll mode.

<BS> -- toggles the state of BS printing. When DmChat receives the character 177b, it normally throws it away, but if this switch is on it treats it as a printing character. This is mainly useful in talking to SU-AI. In Snail10, 177 prints as "BS", squashed into one character.

Profile. If you have a [CHAT] section in your user.cm, it will be parsed as usual, though sections irrelevant to DmChat are ignored. In addition, you may have a [DMCHAT] section, in which the following are recognized:

FONT: fontname -- sets the plain font

BOLDFONT: fontname -- sets the bold font

LENGTH: n -- sets screen length to n lines (maximum 60).

RUBOUT: ON|OFF -- sets the state of rubout printing (see above). Default is OFF.

Differences between DmChat and Datamedia-2500:

When DmChat receives a carriage return, it does not supply the automatic linefeed until the next non-bell arrives. This allows scroll-holding on Maxc to work correctly; the ultimate appearance of the output is still identical to a Datamedia's.

Blink mode is implemented as boldface. Protected mode also appears as bold face, but the "protected data fields" are not actually protected.

DmChat supports the escape convention for printing control characters used by DMWAITs terminals, and a small set of DM3025 escape commands (specifically: A, C, E, H, J, K, M, O, P, Q, V, W, Y).