## Archie: the McGill School of Computer Science Archive Server Listing Service

**Address:** none

**Email:** archie-l@cs.mcgill.ca

**Phone:** none

### Description

Archie is a central database for information about archive sites. It speeds the task of finding a specific program on the net. Archie keeps track of UNIX sites; VMS sites may be added in the near future.

Archie is a pair of software tools: the first maintains a list of several hundred Internet ftp archive sites, each of which is updated about once a month. The second tool allows outsiders to log onto the host to query the database. Archie also maintains a Software Description Database of the names and descriptions of various software packages, documents, and datasets that are kept on anonymous ftp archive sites around the Internet. The **whatis** command allows you to search this database.

### Network Access

To access archie, **telnet** or **rlogin** to **quiche.cs.mcgill.ca** (132.206.2.3) as user **archie**. The **help** command gives you information about various topics, including the commands available and how to use them. The "raw" listings of ftp sites are stored in compressed form in the directory **ftp/archie/listings**. Manual pages for archie are available in the directory **ftp/archie/doc**. The file **archie.man.roff** contains a UNIX-style manual entry in *roff format; **archie.man.txt** contains the same information preformatted for people on non-UNIX systems.

Users can ask archie to search for specific name strings. For example, **prog kcl** would find all occurences of the string "kcl" and tell you which hosts have entries with this string, the size of the program, its last modification date, where it can be found on the host, and some other useful information. This example would find archive sites that are storing Kyoto Common Lisp. Complete anonymous ftp listings of sites in the database can be obtained via the **site** command; for a list of sites, see the **list** command.

There is an electronic mail interface to archie. To receive the latest information on this interface, send mail to **archie@cs.mcgill.ca** with the word **help** in the subject line or body.

If you can't access the manual files via interactive ftp or the mail-based servers, send a message to **archie-admin@cs.mcgill.ca** asking to receive a copy of the manual by mail.

### Who Can Use the Archive

Archie is available to all Internet users.

### Miscellaneous Information

Send comments, bug reports, etc. to: **archie-l@cs.mcgill.ca**. If you know of an anonymous ftp site that archie doesn't seem to maintain, or if you have additions or corrections to the Software Description Database, send mail to: **archie-admin@cs.mcgill.ca**.

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"Satellite" archie servers are being set up in Finland and the Netherlands in order to lessen the load on the transatlantic Internet link.

The maintainers of archie strongly encourage maintainers of anonymous ftp archives to do two things:

- Send additions and corrections to the Software Distribution Database to **archie-admin@cs.mcgill.ca**.
- Maintain compressed, automated, recursive listings (ls-1R.Z files) on their machines. This lessens network loads and makes life easier for archie. Send queries for specific formats to **archie-admin@cs.mcgill.ca**.