

Getting FidoNet working on SynchroNet 3.0 using BinkD via Internet

Prerequisites:

- Know your FidoNet Node Number (get from Net Coordinator)
- Know your FidoNet EchoMail provider's Node Number
- Get a list of available echos from your FidoNet EchoMail provider, plus a password to retrieve these echos. (*some BBSes don't use passwords here, so this is optional*)
- Have BinkD and SynchroNet downloaded and installed on your system
- Configure your BBS name, number, and information into SBBS
- Basic understanding of DOS, Windows 9x and higher, and file structures
- Basic understanding of the way Telnet and FTP work over the Internet
-

Where to go for more help and information:

- SynchroNet Website - <http://www.synchro.net>
- BinkD Website - <http://2f.ru/binkd/>

Disclaimer:

I am totally new to SynchroNet BBS and BinkD, but when I decided to get back into the BBS scene, I found that these two programs were the easiest to use, configure, and had the most features. They are also VERY simple to configure with the proper documentation.

I am still in the process of setting up my BBS, but the FidoNet mail is working great. I do have to thank Phil Simpson for spending an entire weekend helping me to get this setup and Dave Hamilton – NC for Net 229 – for getting me a Node number so quickly. Without these two great guys, I would still have my lonely, isolated BBS. Thanks...

The methods I use here may not be standard or the way some do it, but they worked for me. In my search for documentation that explained this, I found none... so I decided to write-up my own. If you have any questions with this process, please email me or visit my board. I will continue to have some help DOCS on my board regarding this as I learn.

Thanks...

Sam Alexander

Sam.Alexander@totallynerd.dynip.com

<telnet://totallynerd.dynip.com>

FidoNet 1:229/836

Suggested Order of Installation

Order of installation is really up to you, but this will list what order I followed when installing:

- 1) Install BinkD and SynchroNet BBS and create any subdirectories needed for Mail
- 2) Create Areas.BBS in C:\SBBS\DATA
- 3) Setup SBBS for FidoNet Mail and create Mail Group and Sub Folders
- 4) Configure Binkd.cfg for BinkD

Configuring Folders and Directories

Before you can start configuring SBBS and BinkD, you must setup the folder structure.

Note: These folders can be configured anyway you wish, but I will document here the way I set mine up.

Place BinkD in C:\BT and create C:\BT\OUT and C:\BT\IN for incoming mail and outgoing mail.

Verify that SBBS is installed in C:\SBBS. This is default.

Setting up Areas.BBS

Areas.BBS is the file that contains all echos you will be accessing from FidoNet. This will be provided to you by the BBS that will feed you your mail. They should send you the Echo Tag name and the Echo Description.

In the C:\SBBS\DATA directory, create an ASCII file called AREAS.BBS and use the following syntax for setting up the Echos:

BBS_TAG	BBS_TAG	FidoNet Address of your FidoNet Host
---------	---------	--------------------------------------

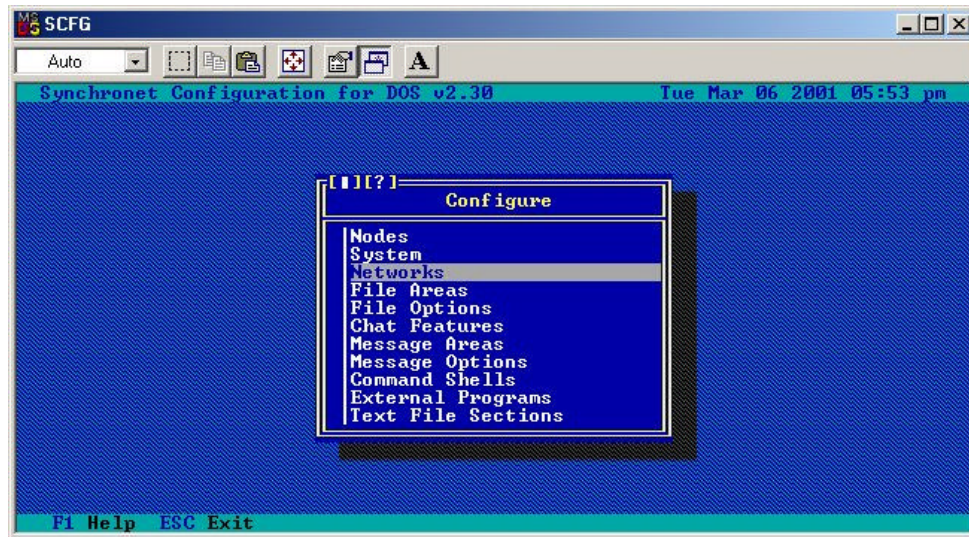
For example, say I want to get BBS_INTERNET and ASTRONOMY from 1:388/23, I'd create the following AREAS.BBS file. Just leave white space between the tags and Host node number:

BBS_INTERNET	BBS_INTERNET	1:388/23
ASTRONOMY	ASTRONOMY	1:388/23

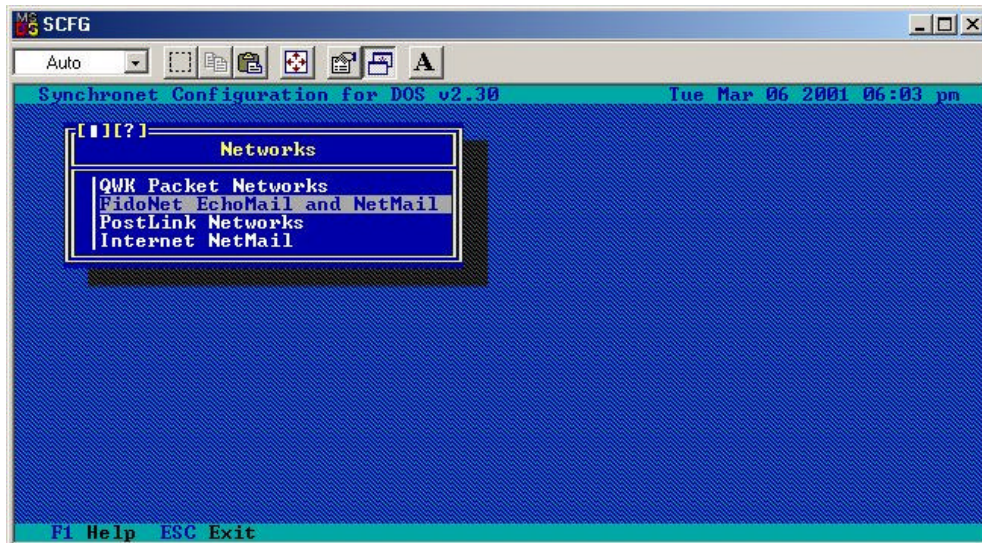
Configuring SynchronBBS

Run SBBS and go into SCFG (click BBS and choose Config). This will bring you to the main configuration console for SBBS. For Windows 9x and ME, you can use your mouse, but you must use arrow keys in Windows 2000. I have not tried them on NT yet.

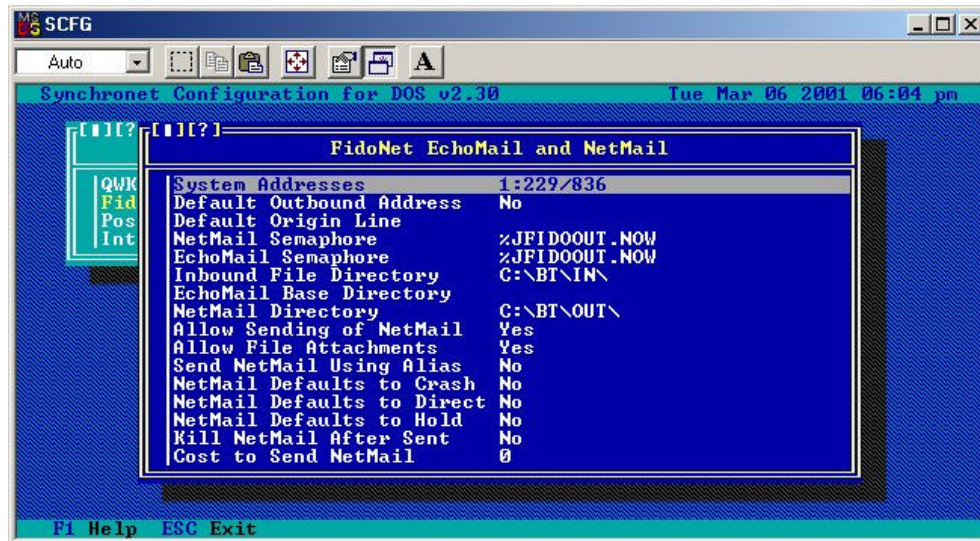
Assuming you have already configured your BBS to contain your Telnet address, Sysop Name, and BBS Name, choose **Networks**. *If you have not yet set this up, go to System and do this first.*



Choose **FidoNet EchoMail and NetMail**. This is where we will configure the FidoNet components of SBBS:

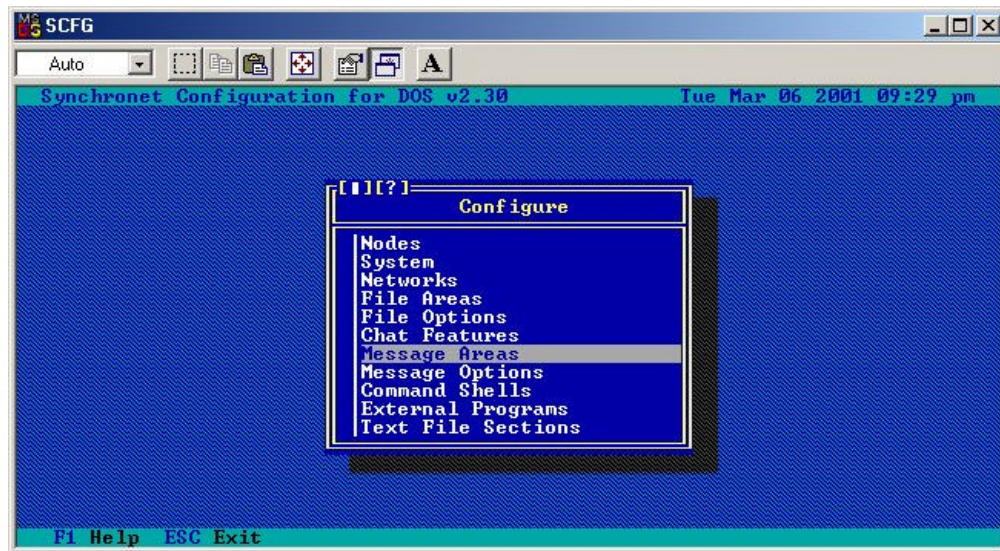


This will bring you to the FidoNet configuration screen. Choose **System Address** and type in your *FidoNet Node* number give to you by your NC (Network Coordinator). It should be in the X:YYY/ZZZ format where X is your country region, YYY is your Net, and ZZZ is your Node. Next, choose **Inbound File Directory** and change this to C:\BT\IN\ and change **NetMail Directory** to C:\BT\OUT. *If you used different directories when setting up the BinkD directories, us these instead.*

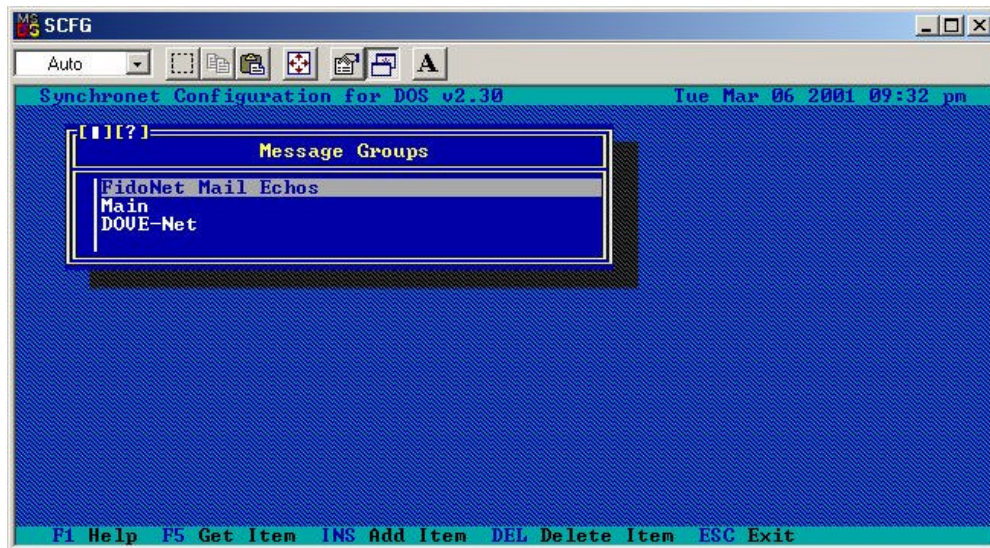


The rest of the options depend on now tight you want your NetMail and EchoMail to be. See the documentation on the SynchroNet BBS for more information on what they do. This is all we needed to change here. When Done, choose the box in the upper left corner of the window and return to the main menu.

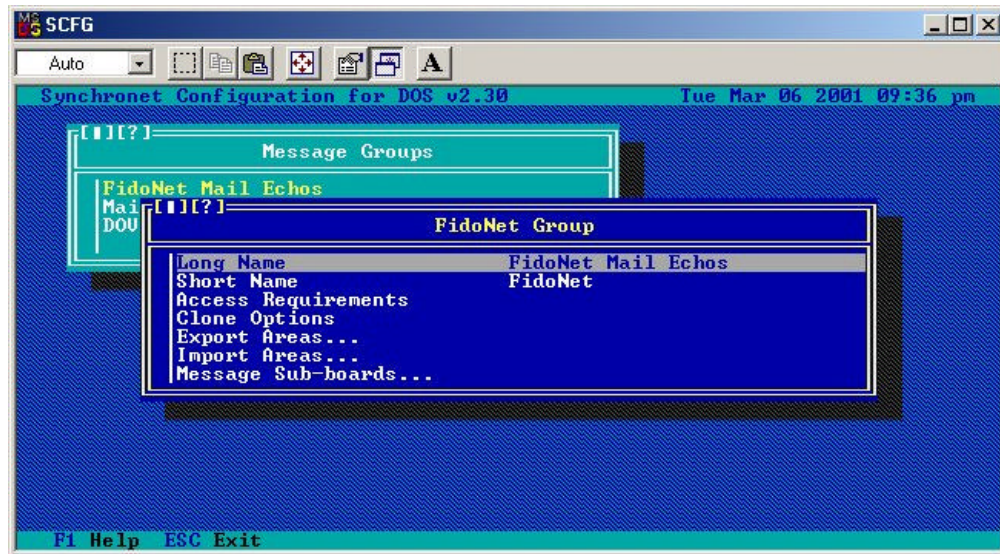
Now that we have told SBBS who you are and where the mail will be, we need to tell it what Echos we want and where to make them available to users. From the main menu, choose **Message Areas**.



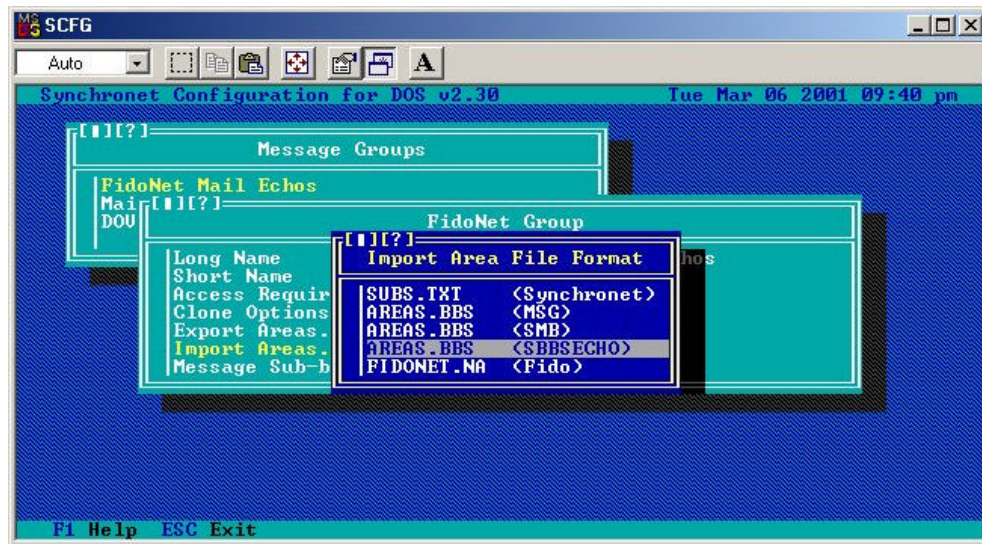
You will get a list of the default Mail Groups. SBBS has *Parent Groups*, then *Sub-Boards* under each group. By default, you should have Main and Dove-Net. We need to add a third. Press **Insert** and type in *FidoNet Mail Echos* (or whatever you want your user to see when they browse the groups on your system).



Choose the new Group you created to see the properties of this group. This is where we will setup Sub-Groups:



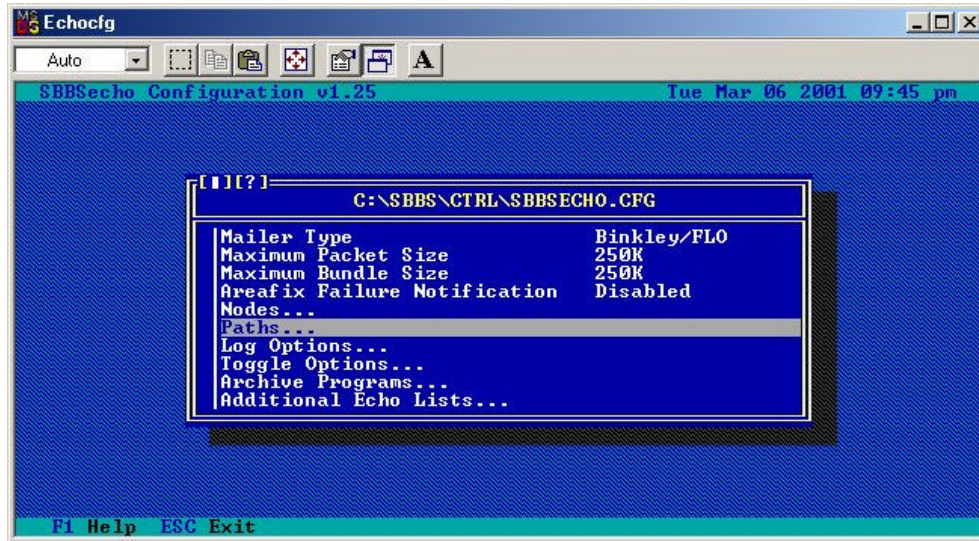
Since we have already created the Areas.BBS containing our Echo list, we now need to import this into SBBS. Choose Import Areas and click AREAS.BBS (SBBSECHO). This will find C:\SBBS\DATA\AREAS.BBS and import these in as Sub-Boards.



When this is complete, it should say how many Echos it imported in. When done, choose Message Sub-Board to see them. You should see all Echos listed in Area.BBS. *FYI - If you wish to change the configuration of all the Echos, make the changes to the first one and choose Clone Options under your group properties for them to carry down to all echos.*

Once done, press the box in the upper left corner of each window until you back totally out of SCFG. Click Yes to Exit.

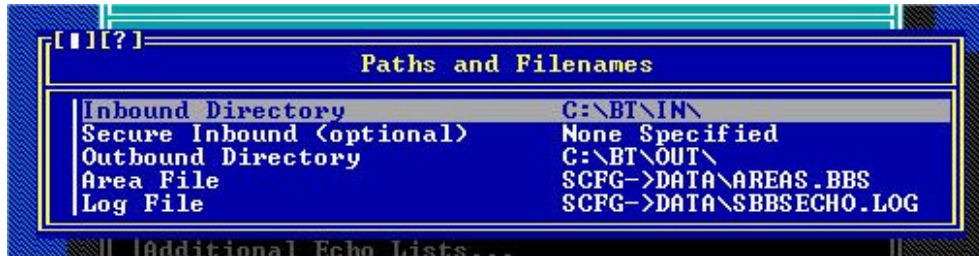
Next, execute **C:\SBBS\EXEC\ECHOCFG**. From this point, I have not done my homework to find out what each of these options do, but I set mine up like this and it works:



Choose **Nodes**, hit **Insert** and type in **ALL** to allow all nodes.



Finally, Choose **Paths** and verify they are set correctly:



Configure Binkd.cfg for BinkD

BinkD connects to your FidoNet host via FTP and downloads all mail for your system. You need to open C:\BT\BINKD.CFG in your favorite text editor and make some changes. I suggest Notepad or DOS Edit.

First, change all paths relating to Outgoing Mail to **C:\\bt\\out** and all Incoming Mail to **C:\\bt\\in** (yes you need the double slashes – not sure why).

I believe there is one line for IN and one line for OUT:

```
#
# Your FTN domains:
#     domain <name> <main-outbound> <default-zone>
# or
#         domain <new-name> alias-for <name>
#
domain fidonet c:\\bt\\out 1
domain fido alias-for fidonet
domain fidonet.org alias-for fidone
```

- and -

```
#
# Inbound directory for secure and non-secure links
#
inbound c:\\bt\\in
inbound-nonsecure c:\\bt\\in
```

Next, look for the following strings and change it to suit your FidoNet Node Number, BBS name, your name, and your location.:

```
#
# Your addresses, 4D or 5D:
#     address <addr1> ...
#
address 1:338/999@fidonet
#
# The name of your system, it's location, and your name
#
# ** Change these to suit your system **
sysname "My BBS"
location "Anytown, USA"
sysop "John Doe"
```

Finally, go all the way to the bottom of the scrip. Here, you will enter the FidoNet BBS where you get your email. This is the site you will FTP into on a set schedule to exchange mail. The syntax is:

```
node [FidoNet Host's Address]@fidonet "Fidonet Host's Telnet Address" Password
```

For example, say I was getting my mail from Fun BBS at telnet.fun.com. Fun BBS's FidoNet Node is 1:388/23 and the password for my system is FAROUT. The code would be:

```
node 1:388/23@fidonet "telnet.fun.com" FAROUT
```

You can read through the comments of binkd.cfg to see what other switches are available, but this should be all you need. Also, whatever address you used in AREAS.BBS needs to be the same here. If not, then email will not send.

Commands used to send and receive email

Now that you have SBBS setup for echo mail, your echos selected, and your BinkD configured to transfer mail, you need the commands to do this.

Once you create mail on your BBS, to compact it and place it in the C:\BT\OUT folder, enter:

```
C:\SBBS\EXEC\SBBSECHO /inf
```

To transmit that mail using BinkD, enter:

```
C:\BT\BINKDWIN -p -P 1:388/23 binkd.cfg
```

Once the mail has transmitted and you have received mail to post onto your BBS, us this command to import it into your mail system:

```
C:\SBBS\EXEC\SBBSECHO /es!
```

You can place these in a batch file to run at a scheduled interval.

Conclusion

I apologize for not being too specific in some areas.... But I've only been using SBBS and BinkD for about two weeks. This is a quick and dirty way of getting it up and going, so I do recommend printing out all documentation for these programs and reading through them.

If you have any questions about this or if I have written something incorrectly, please let me know. As I get more familiar with BinkD and SBBS, I will be revising this with more accurate information. Come by my site or email me.

Thanks for having an interest in FidoNet and please email me or one of the other many FidoNet Sysops... we are always looking to get more boards up and on the Net – the FidoNet that is ☺

Sam Alexander
SysOp – Totally Nerd BBS
telnet://totallynerd.dynip.com
Internet: Sam.Alexander@totallynerd.dynip.com
FidoNet: Sam.Alexander@1:229/836