Using Thunderbird to Read and Post to Usenet

This short tutorial is meant to help users get connected to Usenet using a Newsreader.

There are many newsreaders available, but learning how to set up using one will help you understand what's going on, and you should be able to move to other Newsreaders as you wish in the future. Thunderbird was chosen due to it's availability and popularity. It is not, in my opinion, the best choice, but it will get the job done.

I will leave it to you to get Thunderbird installed, but here is a link for Windows users: <u>https://support.mozilla.org/en-US/kb/installing-</u> <u>thunderbird-windows</u>

Linux users will most likely be able to install from their package manager, and I'm sure Mac users can figure it out :)

Once installed, run it and find the menu selection 'Account Settings' and click it. Then you should see a window similar to the image below. You probably don't need to change anything on this screen:

✓ ☐ Local Folders	Account Settings					
Junk Settings	5					
Disk Space	The following is a special account. There are no identities associated with it.					
Eg Outgoing server (SMTP)	Account Name: Local Folders					
	Message Storage					
	Empty Trash on E <u>x</u> it					
	Massage Store Type: File per folder (mboy) V					
	Message store Type. The ber tolder (mbox)					
	Local Directory: /home/paris/.thunderbird/ytpgp8mg.default-default/Mail/Local Folders <u>B</u> rowse					
Account Actions ~						
Account Actions V						
Account Actions ~						
Account Actions ~						

Now, click on 'Account Actions' (lower left) and select 'Add Newsgroup Account'. This should bring you to the 'Account Wizard':



On this screen (above), you will want to fill out how you want your name displayed in posts, and to enter your email address. Once that is done, click 'Next' to proceed to the following screen:



Here you will enter the news server domain name to connect. This will be available from your Usenet provider. Some examples are 'news.i2pn2.org' or 'news.eternal-september.org'. Enter the appropriate server name and click 'Next':

es with ble lay				
Die iu.	\leq	✓ □ Local Folders	Account Settings	
5 06:5 ser cd	R	Junk Settings Disk Space	The Account Wizard V ^ X	
r hobbe obbes/		ev outgoing server (sinn)	Acco Account Name	_
3 h1 u.edu (Me Enter the name by which you would like to refer to this account (for example, "Work Account", "Home Account" or "News Account").	
.nmsu.e waiting (18G)			Account Name: i2pn2 News Server	
tp_11Ja			Mes	
.tar (2.44 N			Fold	ers <u>B</u> row
s\$ []				
olidbbs.c				
			Cancel <u>B</u> ack <u>N</u> ext	
		Account Actions V		
		段 Thunderbird Settings		
		윪 Add-ons and Themes		
	ŵ			

For Account Name (above), enter how you wish the server to be displayed in Thunderbird for you. Then click 'Next':

es with ble lav	() ()	u St. Land Falders						
5 06:5 ser	Q	Junk Settings Disk Space	ACCO	unt Settings	Account Wizard	~ ^ ×		
cd r hobbe obbes/		🕼 Outgoing Server (SMTP)	Acco	Congratulations!				
s\$wge1 3 h1 uedu(Me	Please verify that the inform	nation below is correct.			
.nmsu.e waiting			E	Account Name: Email Address:	i2pn2 News Server your.email@example.com			
(18G) [tp_11Ja			Mes	User Name: News Server Name (NNTP):	your.email news.i2pn2.org			
.tar			Loca				olders	Brow
(2.44)								
s\$ []								
olidbbs.c								
				Click Finish to save these se	ttings and exit the Account Wizard.			
					Cancel <u>B</u> ack	<u>N</u> ext		
		Account Actions V						
		錄 Thunderbird Settings						
		윪 Add-ons and Themes						
	tộ:							

Congratulations, you did it! Now click 'Next' to see the results:

es with ble law 5 06:5 cd r hobbe obbes/ s\$ wgen 3 ht u.edu (.nmsu.e		 ✓ (D) i2pn2 News Server Server Settings Copies & Folders Composition & Addressing Synchronization & Storage ✓ (C) Local Folders Junk Settings Disk Space 	Account Settings Account <u>N</u> ame: i2pn2 Default Identity Each account has an id	S - i2pn2 News Server 2 News Server dentity, which is the information that other people see when they read your mes				
waiting (18G) [Your Name: Your Name					
tp_11Ja			Email Address: yo	our.email@example.com				
.tar			Reply-to Address: Re	ecipients will reply to this other address				
s\$ []			Organization:					
olidbbs.c			Signature te <u>x</u> t: Use HTM <u>L</u> (e.g., bold)					
			A <u>t</u> tach the signature	e from a file instead (text, HTML, or image):				
		Account Actions ∨	Attach my <u>v</u> Card to	messages E <u>d</u> it C				
	额	贷 Thunderbird Settings 静 Add-ons and Themes	O <u>u</u> tgoing Server (SMTF	P): Use Default Server \checkmark Edit SMT <u>P</u> ser <u>M</u> anage Identit				

Now click on 'Server Settings' (upper left):

es with							
ble lav	Ī	∨ ⊕ i2pn2 News Server	Server Settings				
5 06:5 ser	9	Server Settings Copies & Folders	Server Type: News Server (NNTP)				
cd r hobb∉		Composition & Addressing	Server Name: news.i2pn2.org				
obbes/ <mark>s</mark> \$ wge1		Local Folders					
3 h1 u.edu (Junk Settings Disk Space	Security Settings				
.nmsu.e waiting (18G) [tp 11Ja		🗟 Outgoing Server (SMTP)	Connection sec <u>u</u> rity: None V				
.tar			Server Settings				
(2.44)			<u>C</u> heck for new messages at startup				
s\$ []			Check for new messages every 10 — minutes				
olidbbs.c			\checkmark Ask <u>me</u> before downloading more than 500 \checkmark messages				
			Always request authentication when connecting to this server				
			Message Storage				
			Message Store Iype: File per folder (mbox) ~				
			News.rc File: /home/paris/.thunderbird/ytpgp8mg.default-default/News/newsrc-news.i2pn2 Brow				
			Local Directory: /home/paris/.thunderbird/ytpgp8mg.default-default/News/news.i2pn2.org				
		Account Actions V	Default Text Encoding: Unicode (UTF-8) 🗸				
		鏱 Thunderbird Settings					
		සිං Add-ons and Themes					
	鏱						

On the screen above, you can change some settings for security, etc. You probably want to click 'Connection Security', and change to 'SSL/TLS', which should automatically change 'Port' to 563.

Then click 'Always request authentication when connecting to this server'. This is not always required, but for some servers, such as 'news.eternalseptember.org', this is critical to be able to access all the groups. It's fine to click it for any Usenet server:

es with							
ble lav		✓ ⊕ i2pn2 News Server	Server Settings				
5 06:5	0	Server Settings	Server Settings				
ser	P4	Copies & Folders	Server Type: News Server (NNTP)				
r hobbe		Composition & Addressing Synchronization & Storage	Server Name: news.i2pn2.org				
obbes/ s\$ wae1		✓ ☐ Local Folders					
3 h1		Junk Settings					
u.eau (.nmsu.∈		Disk Space	Security Settings				
waiting (18G) [Connection sec <u>u</u> rity: SSL/TLS V				
tp_11Ja							
.tar			Server Settings				
(2.44)			<u>C</u> heck for new messages at startup				
s\$ []			Check for new messages every 10 iminutes				
olidbbs.c			\checkmark Ask <u>me</u> before downloading more than 500 \bigcirc messages				
			Always request authentication when connecting to this server				
			Message Storage				
			Message Store Iype: File per folder (mbox) \vee				
			News.rc File: /home/paris/.thunderbird/ytpgp8mg.default-default/News/newsrc-news.i2pn2 Brow				
			Local Directory: /home/paris/.thunderbird/ytpgp8mg.default-default/News/news.i2pn2.org				
		Account Actions V	······································				
			Default Text Encoding: Unicode (UTF-8) ×				
		鎔 Thunderbird Settings					
		සිං Add-ons and Themes					
	2						

Now click on the 'Local Folders' tab, and you should see something like:



Right click on your news server name (here it's 'i2pn2 News Server') and click 'Subscribe'. This should bring you to:

os vitk		+ New Message	0 *	Subscribe	~ ^ X
ble lav		i2pn2 News Server	<u>A</u> ccount:	li2pn2 News Server	~
5 06:5	O	ン 🛅 Local Folders 前 Trash	Show items that contain:	Q	
ser cd r hobbe obbes/ s\$ wge1 3 h1 u.edu (.nmsu.e waiting (186) [tp_11]2 .tar (2.44) s\$ []	£	₩ Trash	Select the Visername Password	ew Groups News Server Username and Password Required Please enter a username and password for i2pn2 News Server: Use Password Manager to remember this password. Cancel OK	bscribe ubscribe dresh Stop
olidbbs.c			Connected to news.i2pn2	2.org Cancel	ок
			About Mozilla	Thunderbird	
			Thunderbird is th calendaring client secure and becon pay for infrastruc	e leading open source, cross-platform email and t, free for business and personal use. We want it to stay ne even better. A donation will allow us to hire developers, ture, and continue to improve.	Thunderbird is funded by users consider making a donation. Th remains available is to <u>make a do</u>
			Resources		
	Ŕ		* Explore Featur	res 💿 Support 🛛 😵 Get Involved 🔍 Developed	r Documentation

where you will enter your credentials provided by your Usenet provider. If you do not click the box to save the password, you may be asked for it very often, but it's up to you. Enter the info, then click 'Next':

		+ New Message	🧔 🖈	Subsc	ribe		~ ^ ×	
es with ble lav		i2pn2 News Server	Account:	ai2pn2 News Server			~	
5 06:5		✓ Image: View Constraints >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	Show items that contain:	2				
cd r hobbe obbes/ s\$ wget 3 ht u.edu (.nmsu.e waiting		Cutbox	Current Group List Not Select the newsgroups to $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \Im dfx$. $\bigcirc \Im dfx.d3d$ $\bigcirc \Im dfx.test$ $\bigcirc \bigcirc \Im aga$	ew Groups subscribe to:			bscribe	e Filelin
(18G) [tp_11Ja			aaa.inu-chan		C		efresh	
.tar (2.44 №					C C C C		Stop	
s\$ []			 ✓ ⊕ abg abg.allgemein ⊕ abg.amiga 		C			
			abg.comp			Cancel	ОК	
			About Mozilla	Thunderbird				
			Thunderbird is the calendaring client secure and becon pay for infrastruct	e leading open source, cro , free for business and pe ee even better. A donation ure, and continue to imp	oss-platform email and rrsonal use. We want it t n will allow us to hire dev rove.	o stay o elopers, i	Fhunderbird i consider mak remains availa	s funded by users ing a donation . Th ble is to <u>make a dor</u>
			Resources					
	Ś		🏷 Explore Featur	es ③ Support	@ Get Involved	🖏 <u>Developer (</u>	Documentatio	2

Here you can now see all the available groups, and you may subscribe to whatever you wish.

HINT: If you do not see many (or any) groups, click 'Refresh'. If you still do not, check your authentication (username/password), and that you have checked 'Always request authentication' in a previous step.

Once you can see groups, click the box to the right of each newsgroup that you wish to subscribe to:

es with		+ New Message	🥌 🖈	Subscribe		~ ^ ×	
ble lav		i2pn2 News Server	Account:	li2pn2 News Server		~	
5 06:5 ser	Q	Trash	Show items that contain:	♀ rec.music.		0	
cd r hobb∉ obboc/		E Outbox	Current Group List Ne	ew Groups			
s\$ wge1			Select the newsgroups to	subscribe to:			
3 h1 u.edu (.nmsu.e waiting			 rec.music.artists.b rec.music.artists.b rec.music.artists.d rec.music.artists.d rec.music.artists.e 	each-boys ruce-hornsby ebbie-gibson mwJou-harris		<u>S</u> ubscribe <u>U</u> nsubscribe	& Fileli
(18G) [tp 11Ja			rec.music.artists.e	xtreme		Refresh	
			rec.music.artists.k	ings-x iss			
.tar			rec.music.artists.li	ttle-feat	Ō	Stop	
(2.44 1			rec.music.artists.m	ariah-carey aul-mccartney			
s\$ []			rec.music.artists.q	ueensryche	Ö		
			rec.music.artists.re	eb-st-james			
olidbbs.c			rec.music.barbers	hop	ğ		
					Cancel	ок	
			About Mozilla	Thunderbird			
			Thunderbird is the calendaring client secure and becom pay for infrastruct	e leading open source, cross-platform email a , free for business and personal use. We want ne even better. A donation will allow us to hire cure, and continue to improve.	nd : it to stay developers,	Thunderbird consider mai remains avail	is funded by users king a donation. Th able is to <u>make a dor</u>
			Resources				
	ţ		X Explore Featur	es ⑦ Support	Novel	oper Documentatio	n

Then click 'OK':



Now you should see those groups listed below the server name (upper left of window).

Then, double click on a group name to show the articles:



To Reply to an article, click 'Followup'. (Clicking Reply may try to send

email to the user instead, but 'Followup' will send your post to the group:



To create a new thread, click 'New Message':

🗇 🕂 New Message \cdots	r.m.	🔊 Send 🛛 🖄 Encryp	t 島 Spelling マ と Save マ 題 Contacts ① Att	ach 🗸 🛛 🛛 ili d
 ✓ (1) i2pn2 News Server (1) r.m.a.beach-boys (2) r.m.a.kiss (1) r.m.a.kiss (1) T.m.a.haul-mccartney (1) Local Folders (1) Trash (2) Outbox 	台 合合合合	F <u>r</u> om Newsgroup <u>S</u> ubject	Your Name <your.email@example.com> I2pn2 News Server > Followup-To >> rec.music.artists.paul-mccartney</your.email@example.com>	
	Fror New Subj			面 Dele
	I li OK. it a call when Paul			
		_		

This brief tutorial is meant to hopefully get you started using Usenet the way it was meant to be used.

If you have questions or need help, just ask in a group such as 'news.software.readers' or contact your Usenet provider.