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Subject: Re: Humble request

Posted by [Robert Stockwell](#) on Fri, 30 Nov 2001 14:12:02 GMT

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I wholeheartedly agree!

-bob

PS yes its just a joke

Bhautik Joshi wrote:

>> Would it be too much to ask that some of us go to our NewsReader  
>> preferences and change an option to "Insert your reply ABOVE the quoted  
>> message"? For some threads, a one-line reply can be tucked into the very  
>> end of a 200-line quote that we read before. Kind of inconvenient.

>>

>

> In some newsgroups, this little issue has sparked what has come close to  
> apocalyptic flame wars. There's an interesting little FAQ about quoting  
> in newsgroups here:

>

> <http://www.uwasa.fi/~ts/http/quote.html>

>

> I'm not taking sides on the issue, but here is what the FAQ has to say  
> about it:

>

> Where is the best place to put quoted text? Above or below my comments?

>

> Above! Some more recent standard email and newsreader programs have  
> assumed a very problematic feature. They include the message which  
> you are responding to below your message. Don't allow that to happen.  
> The proper order is

>

>> Quote 1 (properly pruned)

>

>       Your response 1

>

>> Quote 2 (properly pruned)

>

>       Your response 2

>

> In other words

>   \* Put each, appropriately trimmed item that you choose to quote  
>   before each of your own comments, respectively.

>   \* Remove any remaining "postquoting". Let me emphasize. Do not  
>   leave the entire earlier posting, which you have been responding  
>   to, at the end of your own posting.

>

> Some (often obscure) Usenet newsgroups and Microsoft's own newsgroups  
> (hardly surprising!) may show and have developed different  
> preferences and practices as to the order and extent of quoting. This  
> definitely is not what to go by in general on the Usenet news. Also,  
> one of the arguments that has been posed in favor of the excessive  
> quoting is that threads may be broken and full quoting is therefore  
> imperative to be able to follow what is going on. No, that is what  
> the news repositories are for. Besides, in well-planned quoting it is  
> amply sufficient to give the essence. Concise and at the same time  
> informative quoting indeed is a skill to be practiced.  
>  
> Of course it is fair to ask why  
>  
>> Quote 1 (properly pruned)  
>       Your response 1  
>> Quote 2 (properly pruned)  
>       Your response 2  
>  
> is better than  
>  
> Your entire response  
>  
>> All old quoted  
>  
> Email and Usenet news are typically used for modern, often almost  
> real-time exchanges which can closely resemble a verbal discussion  
> rather than a correspondence by snailmail where the time between the  
> letters is days or weeks. In a good discussion one interacts, rather  
> than keeps up separate monologues. Thus it is very natural to quote a  
> point, respond, quote the second point, respond and so forth.  
>  
> Adapted from an advisory posting by Bob Gootee: Answering above the  
> the original message is called top posting. Sometimes also called the  
> Jeopardy style. Usenet is Q & A not A & Q. (The name obviously comes  
> from the game of Jeopardy, where the competitor is given the answer  
> before the question.)  
>  
> As for the Microsoft's public newsgroups even there the official  
> policy warns against quoting below your answer and against excessive  
> quoting!  
>  
> So, for all the purists out there, there you go :)  
>  
> Cheers,  
> B.  
>  
>

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