

Freetalk version 3.2

User/Developers guide, 27 August 2008

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1 Overview

Freetalk is a freely available console based Jabber client-cum-bot. It has many features, but to highlight,

- Highly extensible through ‘Scheme’ language. (see [Chapter 4 \[Customization\]](#), page 11) (see [Chapter 6 \[Extension language\]](#), page 13)
- Console based client with Readline interface featuring command line editing, history, context sensitive autocompletion etc . . . (see [Chapter 5 \[Tips and Tricks\]](#), page 12).
- Most of the features in Freetalk are fully customizable, either through command line arguments (see [Chapter 2 \[Invoking\]](#), page 2), or startup file (see [Section 4.1 \[freetalk.scm\]](#), page 11)
- With a new concept called ‘dynamic-commands’, a command can appear and disappear dynamically, based on the context.
- `history` feature records all your conversions in ‘`~/.freetalk/history/login-id/buddy-name`’.
- Finally, Freetalk is free software. This means that everyone may use it, redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License, as published by the Free Software Foundation (see [Section 14.1 \[Freetalk License\]](#), page 22)

2 Invoking

Invoking Freetalk at command prompt is very simple. The following are the possible command-line arguments supported,

freetalk [*options*]

where *options* are,

- `-j=Jabber-id | -jid=Jabber-id`
Jabber-id is your Jabber ID.
- `-s=SCRIPT-FILE | -script=SCRIPT-FILE`
Invoke script/bot mode with *SCRIPT-FILE* as the source.
- `-V | -version`
Gives the current version of Freetalk. This option does not accept any argument.
- `-? | -help | -usage`
Gives a brief help on the above options. This option does not accept any argument.

3 Freetalk commands

3.1 Freetalk command - connect

`/connect` [command]

Connect to the configured jabber server (see `/server`).

```
~\~ /connect
Connecting...
~\~
```

If server is not configured, it displays an error message and stops

```
~\~ /connect
Server not set
~\~
```

3.2 Freetalk command - disconnect

`/disconnect` [command]

Disconnect from the currently connected server.

```
~\~ /disconnect
Disconnected from server. Reason (0): User request
~\~
```

3.3 Freetalk command - server

`/server [servername]` [command]

Specify the servername which you want to connect, or display the currently set server.

```
~\~ /server
Current server:
~\~ /server jabber.org
~\~ /server
Current server: jabber.org
~\~
```

3.4 Freetalk command - jid

`/jid [user@domain[/resource]]` [command]

Specify the Jabber ID which you want to use, or display the currently set Jabber ID.

```
~\~ /jid
Current JID:
~\~ /jid avati@jabber.org
~\~ /jid
Current JID: avati@jabber.org
```

This command is meant to be used when changing accounts and quick logins.

3.5 Freetalk command - add

`/add user@domain` [command]

This command sends a buddy add request to user@domain into your buddy list.

```
~\~/ /add harshavardhanacool@gmail.com
~\~/
```

3.6 Freetalk command - allow

`/allow user@domain` [command]

Allow the user to see (“subscribe to”) your status. Note that this command does not add the user to your buddy list; if you must do that, use `/add`.

```
~\~/ /allow haddock@marlinspike.org
```

3.7 Freetalk command - deny

`/deny user@domain` [command]

Deny the user permission to see (“subscribe to”) your status.

```
~\~/ /deny cacafonix@village.gl
```

3.8 Freetalk command - quit

`/quit message` [command]

Quits Freetalk with a banner.

```
~\~/ /quit
shell$
```

3.9 Freetalk command - restart

`/restart` [command]

This command restarts Freetalk.

```
~\~/ /restart
Loading dictionary [/usr/share/dict/words]... [38619] words
Jabber ID:
```

3.10 Freetalk command - prompt

`/prompt [type]` [command]

This command sets the prompt with specified type

```
~\~/ /prompt ~qp~
~qp~
```


3.11 Freetalk command - pipe

`/pipe buddy command [options]` [command]

Pipe the output of *command* to *buddy*. *options* are passed to *command*.

```
~\/~> /pipe harsha@gmail.com ls -alh
~\/~>
```

3.12 Freetalk command - port

`/port [port]` [command]

`/port` command sets the specified TCP *port* to be used for the next `/connect`.

Example:

```
~\/~> /port 995
~\/~>
```

3.13 Freetalk command - shell

`/shell [command] [args ...]` [command]

`/shell` command executes the specified *command* with its *args*. With no arguments, `/shell` escapes to shell. You can also chat with shell as if shell is your buddy. Just type `shell` without `/` prefix.

Example:

```
~\/~> /shell ls -lh /tmp
total 12k
drwxr-xr-x    3 root   root    4.0k Jan  1 00:53 emacs-terminfo
-rw-r--r--    1 root   root      1 Jan  1 05:04 emacs0dVut8
drwx-----   2 root   root    4.0k Jan  1 00:13 xdvi7GIKqr
~\/~> /sh
press C-d to return to freetalk
$ rm -f /tmp/xdvi7GIKqr
C-d RET
~\/~>
```

3.14 Freetalk command - date

`/date [arguments]` [command]

This command displays the system date. Try ‘`--help`’ for complete list of *arguments*.

3.15 Freetalk command - who

`/who` [command]

This command displays the buddy list as well as their current buddy status.

Example:

```
~\/~ /who
* abindian@gmail.com (ab)
```

```

twistedlogix@gmail.com
* tejasvk@gmail.com -> [Away] (on metarnity leave)
basavanagowda@gmail.com
amarts@gmail.com (ts3)
~\/~

```

3.16 Freetalk command - status

`/status` [*online|away|chat|xa|dnd*] [*MESSAGE*] [command]

Sets or displays your current status.

Example:

```

~\/~ /status online Using Freetalk
~\/~ /status
Current status: online Using Freetalk
~\/~

```

3.17 Freetalk command - whoami

`/whoami` [command]

This command displays the currently logged in buddy info.

Example:

```

~\/~ /whoami
~\/~ /whoami
Jabber ID: avati@zresearch.com
Jabber Server: jabber.org
Status: hacking
~\/~

```

3.18 Freetalk command - version

`/version` [command]

This command displays the version information of the installed freetalk package.

Example:

```

~\/~ /version
freetalk (Freetalk) 3.2
Copyright (C) 2005, 2007 FreeTalk Core Team
...
~\/~

```

3.19 Freetalk command - logout

`/logout` [command]

This command works same as `/disconnect` but looks more meaningful.

Example:

```
~\~/~ /logout
Disconnected from server, reason(0): User request
~\~/~
```

3.20 Freetalk command - history

`/history [BUDDY]` [command]

This command displays paginated history with *BUDDY*. If *BUDDY* is not specified, it displays paginated history of only the current session.

Example:

```
~\~/~ /history ranju1111@gmail.com
```

Prints the history of messages with ranju1111@gmail.com paginated by less. ■

```
~\~/~ /history
```

Prints this history of messages of the current session.

```
~\~/~
```

3.21 Freetalk command - load

`/load [SCM]` [command]

This command loads the Scheme Extension file and executes it. *SCM* is the extension Scheme file written in Guile. This command helps for the better customization of the software.

SCM is first looked for in the current directory, followed by `~/.freetalk/extensions` followed by the global `prefix/share/freetalk/extensions`.

SCM can also be an absolute path.

Example:

```
~\~/~ /load beep.scm
~\~/~
```

3.22 Freetalk command - setup

`/setup` [command]

This command prepares a fresh '`~/.freetalk`' directory with backing up the older one.

Example:

```
~\~/~> /setup
'/root/.freetalk' -> '/root/.freetalk-backup-0'
Creating fresh state /root/.freetalk
```

NOTE: Archived previous state to `/root/.freetalk-backup-0` !!!

```
~\~/~>
```

3.23 Freetalk command - login

`/login` [command]

This command is the better interactive login than the normal login. This command should be followed by `/disconnect` if you are logged in.

Example:

```
~\~/~ /login
Jabber ID: harshavardhanacool@gmail.com
Password:
Enable TLS/SSL (Y/N)? [Y]: y
Port [5223]: 2401
Connecting...
~\~/~
```

3.24 Freetalk command - help

`/help` [freetalk-command] [command]

This command prints help information on *freetalk-command* commands interactively in a sorted way. If no argument is given it prints the help for all the commands.

Example:

```
~\~/~ /help /history
/history - /history [BUDDY]
          Display history page by page
~\~/~
```

3.25 Freetalk command - repl

`/repl` [command]

This command helps in debugging. Invokes the guile interpreter resulting in the better debugging of the freetalk Scheme extension.

Example:

```
~\~/~ /repl

guile>(define ft-get-jid "anonymous@yourchoice.com")
```

3.26 Freetalk command - urlview

`/urlview` [BUDDY] [command]

This command helps in viewing URL's in the message archive or message coming from a particular *BUDDY*. More precisely this command catches URL or URL's in the message and launches the browser to open the URL.

Example:

```
~\~/~ /urlview ksv@gmail.com
```

```
ksv: http://freetalk.nongnu.org/
```

```
~\/~
```

3.27 Freetalk command - freetalk

`/freetalk BUDDY` [command]

This command helps in checking whether the other *BUDDY* is using freetalk or not.

Example:

```
~\/~ /freetalk maxcohen@gmail.com
```

```
Yes maxcohen@gmail.com is using freetalk.
```

```
~\/~
```

3.28 Freetalk command - greet

`/greet BUDDY` [command]

Send IRC style greeting message to your *BUDDY*.

Example:

```
ab@jabber.org> /greet avati@jabber.org
```

```
On the other side avati@jabber.org gets a message
‘‘aaaaaavvvvvvvvvvttttttiiiiiii’’.
```

3.29 Freetalk command - burst

`/burst BUDDY MESSAGE` [command]

Explode *MESSAGE* in to multiple charactest (IRC style greeting) and send it to *BUDDY*.

Example:

```
ab@jabber.org> /burst avati@jabber.org avati
```

```
On the other side avati@jabber.org gets a message
‘‘aaaaaavvvvvvvvvvttttttiiiiiii’’.
```

3.30 Freetalk command - burst-of-romance

`/burst BUDDY COUNT MESSAGE` [command]

Send *COUNT* number of *MESSAGE* to *BUDDY* with random delays in between. This command is useful to simulate multiple hand-made kisses.

Example:

```
ab@jabber.org> /burst hackergirl@jabber.org 45 :-*
```

3.31 Freetalk command - broadcast

`/broadcast MESSAGE` [command]

Send *MESSAGE* to all the buddies

Example:

```
harshavardhana@jabber.org> /broadcast "Hello All, I am back"
```

3.32 Freetalk command - proxyserver

`/proxyserver [proxyservername]` [command]

Specify the *proxyservername* which you want to connect, or display the currently set proxyserver.

```
~\~/ /proxyserver
Current ProxyServer:
~\~/ /proxyserver tc.vip.org
~\~/ /proxyserver
Current ProxyServer: tc.vip.org
~\~/
```

3.33 Freetalk command - proxyport

`/proxyport [proxyport]` [command]

`/proxyport` command sets the specified TCP *proxyport* to be used for the next `/connect` or display the currently set proxyport

```
~\~/ /proxyport
Current Port (8080 = default): 0
~\~/
~\~/ /proxyport 8080
~\~/ /proxyport
Current Port (8080 = default): 8080
```

4 Customizing freetalk

freetalk can be customized to a great extent using Guile interface. User can herself/himself customize or extend new features in freetalk using Scheme as extension language. Most of the features are already written in Scheme.

If you want to extend freetalk yourself, you can further explore freetalk Extension Developer Guide. (see [Chapter 6 \[Extension language\]](#), page 13)

4.1 freetalk.scm

Freetalk loads the startup options from ‘`~/.freetalk/freetalk.scm`’. Right from custom settings like username, password ... to complete Scheme programming can be done in this file.

```
;; Sample ~/.freetalk/freetalk.scm
;; It sets connection parameters and tries to connect on
;; starting freetalk
(and (strings=? (ft-get-jid) "")
      (ft-set-jid! "avati@jabber.org")
      (ft-set-password! "f00b4r")
      (ft-set-sslconn! 1)
      (ft-set-server! "jabber.org")
      ;; Proxy support
      (ft-set-proxyserver! "your.proxy.org")
      (ft-set-proxyport! "8080"))
```

All entries in this file `freetalk.scm` are optional. However there is no limit of customizing this file using Guile Interface. (see [Chapter 6 \[Extension language\]](#), page 13)

4.2 init.scm

All system wide policy settings and extensions are loaded through ‘`init.scm`’. By default you can find ‘`init.scm`’ at ‘`/usr/share/freetalk/extensions/`’. To override this system wide ‘`init.scm`’ file, copy it to ‘`~/.freetalk/extensions/init.scm`’. You must be aware of what you are doing, before you mess up anything here.

(see [Chapter 6 \[Extension language\]](#), page 13)

4.3 Default Scheme extensions

Most of the freetalk features are available through Scheme extensions. To override these extensions, copy them from ‘`/usr/share/freetalk/extensions/`’ to ‘`~/.freetalk/extensions/`’ and edit them.

(see [Chapter 6 \[Extension language\]](#), page 13)

5 Tips and Tricks

You are free to use complete Readline keys inside freetalk. Frequently used Readline keys inside freetalk are,

5.0.1 Cursor motion

character	C-b	C-f
word	M-b	M-f
line up/down	C-p	C-n
line start/end	C-a	C-e

5.0.2 Editing

delete char	C-d
delete char backwards	C-h
delete word	M-d
delete word backwards	C-w
kill line	C-k
kill line backwards	C-u
character swap	C-t
word swap	M-w
paste	C-y
undo	C-_
repeat prefix	M-number

5.0.3 Case change

uppercase word	M-u
lowercase word	M-l
capitalize word	M-c

If you want to do further stunts, jump to Readline manual, See [Section “Readline” in *Readline*](#).

¹

¹ When you press *TAB* twice at freetalk prompt you can see all the possible commands and buddy names.

6 Extension language

An *extension language* is a programming language interpreter offered by an application program, so that users can write macros or even full-fledged programs to extend the original application. Extension languages have a C interface (it is usually C, but it could be any other compiled language), and can be given access to the C data structures. Likewise, there are C routines to access the extension language data structures.

This uses GNU extension language - *Guile* (which can stand for “GNU Ubiquitous Intelligent Language Extension”). Guile started out as an embeddable Scheme interpreter, and has rapidly evolved into a kitchen-sink package including a standalone Scheme interpreter, an embeddable Scheme interpreter, several graphics options, other languages that can be used along with Scheme (for now just `ctax` and `Tcl`), and hooks for much more.

7 Variables

Freetalk avoids sharing of variables between C and Scheme environment. Everything is done through primitive procedures for clarity and control.

8 Procedures

The following are the list of freetalk procedures that are exported to Scheme. Now you are able to call the procedures from Scheme that are written in C.

8.1 General procedures

- ft-load** *filepath* [primitive]
 Loads and evaluates *filepath.scm* from mentioned path or from ‘~/freetalk/extensions/’ or from ‘/usr/share/freetalk/extensions/’.
- Example:

```
(ft-load "beep.scm")
```
- ft-add-buddy!** *buddy* [primitive]
 Adds *buddy* into your contact list.
- Example:

```
(ft-add-buddy! "vikasgp386@gmail.com")
```
- ft-get-jid** *jabberid* [primitive]
 Gets *jabberid* from the console.
- Example:

```
(and (string=? (ft-get-jid) "") ...)
```
- ft-set-jid!** *defaultid* [primitive]
 Set *defaultid* as the Jabber ID to be used on the next connect.
- Example:

```
(ft-set-jid! "anand.avati@gmail.com")
```
- ft-get-conn-status** [primitive]
 Gets the status of the connection from the server. 0 - Not connected. 1 - Connected, Not authenticated. 2 - Authenticated. (usable for IM)
- Example:

```
(display (ft-get-conn-status))
```
- ft-get-password** [primitive]
 Gets the currently set *password*.
- Example:

```
(and (string=? (ft-get-password) ...) ...)
```
- ft-get-server** [primitive]
 Get the *servername* configured for the next connection.
- Example:

```
(and (string=? (ft-get-server) "") ...)
```

ft-set-sslconn! *boolean* [primitive]

Set the *value* such that login is in SSL mode or not.

Example:

```
(ft-set-sslconn! #t)
```

ft-send-message *buddy message* [primitive]

Sends *message* to the *buddy*.

Example:

```
(ft-send-message "abindian@gmail.com" "had breakfast? or was it lunch?")■
```

ft-display *message* [primitive]

Prints the *message* in the console. Unlike the **display** primitive, this procedure takes care of printing *message* asynchronously keeping the readline state as-is.

Example:

```
(ft-display ("I am proud of freetalk"))
```

ft-bind-to-ctrl-key *char command* [primitive]

Binds CTRL+ given *char* to arbitrary scm *command*. Allows for displaying roster or whatever by just pressing a key even during composition of new messages, keeping the readline state as-is.

Example:

```
(ft-bind-to-ctrl-key #\a "(/who \"all\")")
```

8.2 Configuration procedures

8.3 Hook related procedures

¹

ft-hook-return [primitive]

Makes the calling procedure return immediately after running the hooks.

Example:

8.4 Utility procedures

These are general purpose utility procedures written completely in Scheme.

²

¹ Info awaiting coming soon....

² utility procedures are loaded through /DATADIR/freetalk/extensions/ and you are free to hack for cool undocumented procedures

9 Hooks

Through Hooks facility Freetalk lets you steal its control at various important junctures during execution.

ft-message-send-hook *buddy message* [hook]

Hook procedure is called with *buddy* and *message* as arguments on every send message operation.

Supporting primitives:

see [ft-hook-return], page 16

Example:

ft-message-receive-hook *buddy message* [hook]

Hook procedure is called with *buddy* and *message* as arguments on every receive message operation.

Supporting primitives:

see [ft-hook-return], page 16

Example:

ft-presence-receive-hook *buddy message timestamp* [hook]

Hook procedure is called with *buddy*, *message* and *timestamp* receive the presence.

Supporting primitives:

see [ft-hook-return], page 16

Example:

ft-disconnect-hook [hook]

Supporting primitives:

see [ft-hook-return], page 16

Example:

10 Learning further

The following are the URLs where you can find useful manuals for Guile and Scheme.

<http://www.gnu.org/software/guile/>
<http://www.schemers.org/>
ftp://ftp.cs.utexas.edu/pub/garbage/cs345/schintro-v14/schintro_toc.html
<http://www.informatik.uni-kiel.de/~scheme/>
<http://freespace.virgin.net/david.drysdale/guile/tutorial.html>
http://nis-www.lanl.gov/~rosalia/gnudl-doc/learn_libguile_toc.html
http://theoryx5.uwinnipeg.ca/gnu/guile/guile-user.html#SEC_Top
http://www.nada.kth.se/~mdj/guile-ref/guile-ref_toc.html
<http://www.red-bean.com/guile/guile/old/3540.html>
<http://nis-www.lanl.gov/~rosalia/mydocs/guile-user.html>
<http://www.cs.utexas.edu/users/lavender/courses/scheme/>
http://www.cstr.ed.ac.uk/projects/festival/manual/festival_8.html#SEC24
<http://www.cs.ccu.edu.tw/~dan/tutorials.html>
<http://www.wcug.wvu.edu/~randyman/COMPUTERS/SCHEME/start.htm>
<http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Programming/Languages/Lisp/Scheme/Teaching/>
<http://www.cs.caltech.edu/~cs181/doc/>
<http://cis.csuohio.edu/~hysockel/Links/Documents.html>

11 Authors

We believe in Software Freedom and Ethics, the GNU's way.

11.1 FreeTalk Contributors (sorted alphabetically)

11.1.1 Core team

1. Anand Avati avati@zresearch.com
2. Anand Babu ab@zresearch.com
3. Harshavardhana harsha@zresearch.com
4. Vikas Gorur vikas@zresearch.com

11.1.2 Documentation

1. Harshavardhana harsha@zresearch.com

11.1.3 Packaging

11.1.4 contact point

1. FreeTalk freetalk-dev@gnu.org

12 URLs

Homepage [URL]

<http://www.gnu.org/software/freetalk/>

Download [URL]

<http://savannah.gnu.org/download/freetalk/>

CVS [URL]

To know project information like Bugs, Updates, Support, Patches, Tasks, News, Development Status, Activity Percentile, Project Activity visit

<http://www.gnu.org/software/freetalk/>

Mailing list [URL]

Freetalk has its own mailing list. The mailing list is for support, reporting bugs, mailing announcements. You are welcome to subscribe.

To Subscribe/Unsubscribe visit, <https://savannah.gnu.org/mail/?group=freetalk>.

Bugs [URL]

You are welcome to send bug reports about freetalk to <https://savannah.gnu.org/bugs/?group=freetalk>

The bugs that you think are of the interest to the public (i.e. more people should be informed about them) can be Cc-ed to the above mailing lists.

Before actually submitting a bug report, please try to follow a few simple guidelines.

1. Please try to ascertain that the behavior you see really is a bug. If Freetalk crashes, it's a bug. If freetalk does not behave as documented, it's a bug. If things work strange, but you are not sure about the way they are supposed to work, it might well be a bug. Don't predict that there is a Bug try to find it and report.
2. Try to repeat the bug in as simple circumstances as possible.
3. Find where the bug is, fix it and send the patches. :) (see [Chapter 13 \[Guidelines for submitting a patch\]](#), page 21)

Send your specific queries to Vikas Gorur vikas@zresearch.com

13 Guidelines for submitting a patch

1. Copy the latest CVS version of **freetalk** directory as **freetalk-hack**.
2. Make changes in your **freetalk-hack** directory.
3. Create patch using
diff -pruN freetalk freetalk-hack > freetalk-patch-title
4. Mail the patch file '**freetalk-patch-title**' to the mailing list with subject prefixed with 'PATCH:'.
Please send only text mails with patch as a part of the message body. Don't update 'ChangeLog' file, instead add your comments at the beginning of the body.

14 Portability

Since freetalk uses GNU Autoconf for building and configuring, and avoids using ‘special’ ultra-mega-cool features of any particular Unix, it should compile (and work) on all common Unix flavors.

Various freetalk versions have been compiled and tested under GNU/Linux. However freetalk can be easily ported to any POSIX complaint platform with Guile and Readline ports. If you compile it on an architecture not listed here, please let us know so that we can update it. (see [Chapter 12 \[URLs\]](#), [page 20](#))

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Version 2, June 1991

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