



# QuickNews V2.x

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ASP Web Server Application

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## 1 Introduction

QuickNews is an easy to use and free news article application that can be integrated into any existing web site or even be a basis to start a new website. Because this is a free product, the license agreement requires that you leave the XCENT name and link intact, which appears at the bottom of every page the script generates.

**Important:** Be sure to fully read the enclosed license agreement document before you install or run this application (QuickNews). By using any of the enclosed files, you agree to be bound to the terms and conditions of the license agreement. If you do not agree to these terms, you must erase your copy of QuickNews.

## 2 Requirements

Before you install QuickNews on your server, you should be familiar with its requirements. If an ISP hosts your web site and you are not sure if the web server meets the requirements, you may want to ask your ISP directly. If you wish to confirm that your ISP has the required components installed and meets the application's requirements, you can download and run the free diagnostic utility, XcDiag.ASP from the XCENT web site at <http://www.xcent.com/downloads/>. Most ISP's or web hosts that have experience hosting interactive web server applications should easily meet most of these requirements. However, it is always a good practice to verify the requirements so you don't have any surprises once you have started your site.

### 2.1 Webserver

The sections below detail the minimum web server requirements necessary to support QuickNews.

#### 2.1.1 Microsoft IIS

The application needs to be hosted on a Microsoft Windows web server capable of running Internet Information Server (IIS) 4.0 or later. QuickNews can be installed on a Windows 2003 Server; Windows 2000 Server; or on a Windows NT Server with Option Pack 1 installed. Older servers may need critical components upgraded for best performance and reliability, so please be sure to read through all the following requirements and recommendations completely.

Critical: QuickNews cannot be run on a Linux/ Unix server. Be sure that you are using a Windows server.

#### 2.1.2 VBScript Engine

The system must have at least version 5.1 or later of the Microsoft Scripting Engine. It is recommend that you install version 5.5 or greater. The scripting engine is a central component of the IIS ASP web server. This is what actually allows the IIS web server to execute the ASP application.

Tip: You can download updates to the scripting engine used in ASP and WSH directly from Microsoft at the URL shown below.

<http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload/vbscript/scripting.asp>

### 2.2 Database

The database is an essential element of the QuickNews application. QuickNews needs to be used with a JET database. The web server applications use the Microsoft Data Access Components (MDAC/ADO) to communicate with the database. In order to be sure that

QuickNews will run smoothly on your webserver, we recommend that the web server have at least version 2.5 (or later) of the Microsoft MDAC/ADO components installed.

Tip: The current versions of the Microsoft MDAC/ADO components can be downloaded free from the Microsoft web site at [www.microsoft.com/data/](http://www.microsoft.com/data/).

### 2.2.1 JET

A Microsoft JET database is a type of database known as a flat file database. This simply means that all of the components of the database are contained in a single file. This is the MDB file that is included with the application by default. JET databases are suitable for small web sites that will not be receiving a high amount of activity in the application or will be limiting the amount of data in the database. In addition to the above, these are the requirements that are specific to running the application when using a JET database: The web server must have the JET database drivers installed in order for it to be able to use the JET database file.

Tip: JET is the term for the database engine technology. This is the same database technology used by Microsoft Access. However Microsoft Access is not required at all and does not need to be installed at all.

The JET drivers are not included with the Microsoft MDAC/ADO components after version 2.5. To make sure you have the most recent versions of the JET drivers installed on your web server, download and install the current Microsoft JET Service Pack available at [www.microsoft.com/data/](http://www.microsoft.com/data/). When installing software on a web server, sometimes an older version of the JET drivers may be installed on the server also. In the event of difficulties with a JET database, Microsoft recommends reinstalling the current Microsoft JET Service Pack. See the following FAQ article for additional details:

<http://www.xcent.com/FAQ/XclBViewItem.asp?id=336>

## 3 Basic Step By Step Installation

Below is a step-by-step guide to set up the software with the minimum number of configuration options to have the software operational. If upgrading from a previous version of the software refer to Appendix D – Updates and Upgrades for more information on upgrading.

### 3.1 Downloading the package

Download the application directly from the XCENT website at <http://www.xcent.com/downloads/>.

### 3.2 Unzipping the files

You will download QuickNews as a ZIP file. You will need a zip utility such as WinZIP (available at [www.winzip.com](http://www.winzip.com)) to extract the program files. Unzip the program into it's own folder. When extracting the files from the ZIP archive file, be sure to extract the files with the folder option turned on. This option is called "Use Folder Names" in WinZip. Since the files are stored in several different folders within the ZIP file, this will create the proper set of folders with the proper files located within them.

### 3.3 Configuring the Database Connection

The first step in configuring QuickNews is setting up the database that you want to use, and setting the database connection string so that QuickNews knows where to find the database and how to communicate with it. In order to setup the database connection settings, you will need to edit the configuration file, **QNConfig.asp**. You can edit this file by opening it in any plain text editor such as Notepad.

#### 3.3.1 Configuring for JET databases

##### Set Up

If you are using a JET database, you can use the .MDB database provided. This is the **QuickNews.mdb** file that is located in the Data folder. This file will need to be uploaded to your web site. Some ISP's will provide a special folder within your site, which should be used to hold databases. If this is the case with your ISP, you will want to upload the .MDB file into that folder. Typically this might be a folder named *Data*, or *Database*.

Tip: If you upload the application to your web server using the exact same folder structure that it defaulted to when extracted from the ZIP archive, it will already be configured to use the included JET database file located in the Data folder.

##### Security Concerns

If you leave the MDB file located in the default folder as the QuickNews software, anyone could download your MDB database file by simply typing in the URL to the MDB file. For example, if you installed QuickNews in a folder called *QuickNews* in the root of your website,

and the URL to your site looked like *http://www.example.com/* then anyone could download your entire database file by using the URL *http://www.example.com/data/QuickNews.mdb*. Therefore for the security of your users and your site, it is extremely important that you do not leave your database permanently setup in the default configuration. The MDB file can be located anywhere on the web server, as long as the web server's anonymous user account can read and write to the database file. The web server anonymous user account is the account the web server uses to access all files stored on your web site. The MDB file must have Read/Write privileges by the IIS server's anonymous user account, and should have full access permissions for the folder that the MDB file is located within. If your site is hosted by an ISP, some ISP's may not provide a more secure location for you to store your database files. This typically means your only choice for proper functionality is that the MDB file be located in the same place that QuickNews is installed. In installations like this, your best chance for a secure database is to give the MDB file a new filename that is difficult to guess. For example, you could rename *QuickNews.MDB* to have a name like *QuickNewsDB-j4ndf83js89j3hw78hs.mdb*. With a filename like that, it is unlikely someone will be able to retrieve a copy of your MDB database file because they are not likely to be able to guess the correct URL.

Ideally it would be best to put your MDB file in a secure location rather than just giving it an obscure name. Moving the MDB file to a location that is not directly accessible to the browser through a URL is always your best choice for securing your MDB database. Some ISP's allow you to do that by providing you with a space located above the root of your web site in which you can install files such as databases. Files stored above the root of your web site are not accessible to users via their browsers. When you login via FTP to your web site, if you have to click on a specific folder before you can see the files that are displayed on your web site, then most likely your ISP has provided a location for you to securely store your database files. Most times the folder for your site root will be named something like: *webroot*; *html*; *public*; or *public\_html*.

### Configuration Settings

The default settings in the **QNConfig.asp** file should be correct if you are using a JET database and you have not renamed or moved the database file. However, if you ever move or rename the database, you will need to update your settings.

If you open the **QNConfig.asp** file, there are two important settings you should pay attention to. The first is the **gsConnect** setting. This is what tells QuickNews where to find the database. The default setting is (all on one line):

```
gsConnect = "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};DBQ=" &  
Server.MapPath("../Data/QuickNews.mdb")
```

If you used the renaming example above, your **gsConnect** string should look like:

```
gsConnect = "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};DBQ=" &  
Server.MapPath("../Data/QuickNewsDB-j4ndf83js89j3hw78hs.mdb ")
```

If you move the MDB file to another location on the webserver, you should specify the full path to the MDB file. For example:

```
gsConnect = "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};DBQ=C:\MyDatabases\  
QuickNews.mdb"
```

Another important setting is the **giDbType**. This tells QuickNews what type of database you are using. The default value for **giDbType**, shown below, should be used for JET databases.

```
giDbType = 0
```

Tip: For alternate connection string methods refer to Appendix C – Alternate Connection Strings.

### 3.4 Uploading files

You are now ready to begin uploading the files to your web server. You should upload all the files to your site using FTP or some other file transfer method. You should avoid using Microsoft FrontPage to upload your web server application and database files, because FrontPage normally sets the file modes to Read-Only. Some files (especially the MDB file and the templates) must be set to Read-Write mode. For easiest installation, you should upload the files using the same directory structure as was used in the ZIP file containing QuickNews.

Tip: QuickNews will not be operational until you completely finish the Basic Step by Step Configuration.

### 3.5 Log In to Administrator Interface

Once the files are uploaded, you should be able to type the URL of your QuickNews installation to get to the administrator page. The entry point for this is the **QNAdmin.asp** page. If you uploaded QuickNews to a folder named QuickNews on your web site, the URL to the administrator for QuickNews on your site would look something like this: *http://www.example.com/QuickNews/QNAdmin.asp*.

Of course, you will need to replace *www.example.com* with your site's domain name. When prompted for the administrator login and password, the default login is "admin" and the password box is just left blank.

#### 3.5.1 View Check Version Page

Go to the **Other** section of the left hand navigation bar and click on the **Check Version** option after logging in. You can check this page for up to date information about the installed version of the system and for notice of updates and upgrades.

#### 3.5.2 Visit XcDiag.asp Page

The XcDIAG diagnostic utility is included with all XCENT web server applications. This can be used to help diagnose problems you might encounter during installation, as well as to tell you some valuable information about your web server. If you select the **XcDiagnosis** option from the left hand admin menu, you will see a page like the one shown below. This page can help you identify which optional components are installed and available on your web server. If you find the need to contact XCENT support about a problem you are having, you should try to either include the URL to your site so that the support team can run XcDIAG on your server, or else include the output from XcDIAG in your email message. Do not worry if you do not understand everything on the page. Not everything here will apply to all installations.

**XcDiag.ASP**  
XCENT ASP Diagnostic Script Version 3.0.6

**ASP Server Information**

Item	Information
Server Name	products.dev
Script Name	/XcAuctionPro3/Auction/XcDiag.asp
Server Protocol	HTTP/1.1
Path Info	/XcAuctionPro3/Auction/XcDiag.asp
Path Translated	D:\Docs\Product Development\XcAuctionPro3\Auction\XcDiag.asp
HTTP_REFERER	http://products.dev/XcAuctionPro3/Auction/APAdminCheckVersion.asp
Server DateTime	5/22/2003 5:24:38 PM
VBScript Engine Version	5.1
VBScript Engine Build	5907

**Components on this Server**

Component	Type	Installed	Req	Opt	Information
AlphaSierraPapa AspTear	HTTP	Yes		X	
AspHelp Simple Upload	Upload	Yes		X	
AuthorizeNet SSLPost	VSOP	Yes		X	
AspSmart.aspSmartMail	Email	Yes	*		
AspSmart.aspSmartUpload	Upload	Yes		X	
Bamboo SMTP	Email	No	*		
DevGuru dgCharge	MPOP	Yes		X	
Dimac iMail	Email	No	*		
Microsoft .Net Framework	Web	Yes		X	

### 3.6 Basic Configuration Options

The next step is to edit the system configuration file, **QNConfig.asp**, also referred to in this document as the **config** or **configuration** file. The settings described below are the minimal settings necessary to get the system operational. For information on all of the possible settings available, see Appendix A – Configuration Options.

### 3.7 Conclusion

You have now completed the initial set up for QuickNews, and the application should be functional at this point. Consult the sections below for further information on the additional configuration options that are available for you to further customize QuickNews to better fit your specific site and needs. If you encounter any problems during the installation of QuickNews, please refer to the Troubleshooting section found later in this document. Most of the major obstacles encountered during installation will be outlined in additional detail there. If that does not answer your question, see the FAQ database on the XCENT web site at <http://www.xcent.com/FAQ>. The FAQ database contains the most up to date information on known issues and ways to resolve them. If you see an error message, try searching the FAQ database for portions of the error message. If you are still unable to resolve your issue, you can contact XCENT technical support at [support@xcent.com](mailto:support@xcent.com).

## 4 Additional Installation Options

Below is a list of additional installation options that are not required for the basic operation of the software.

### 4.1 Template

QuickNews uses a template system to create the look and feel of the application. The template is a simple HTML file that frames the dynamic QuickNews content. By modifying the template file or creating your own template, you can control the look and feel of the QuickNews application and visually integrate it with the rest of your site.

**Critical:** The template file is a static html file that is never processed by the server. Even if you rename it as an .asp file, it will not be able to contain any server side processing. If you need to include dynamic server side content, there are other ways to include it. The template itself can include html code as well as client-side processing languages, such as JavaScript.

The default HTML Template file, QNTemplate.htm is located within the *QuickNews* folder. The QNTemplate.htm file is a plain HTML file that formats the content output that QuickNews generates. To create your own specialized template file, just take the HTML source from any page in your site and remove all the content from it that you do not want on the directory pages. Then, where you want the directory to appear within your template, you insert the special tag `%CONTENT%` in the source. If you are using Microsoft FrontPage or another HTML editor to create your template file, be sure to check that it does not try to reformat the code above. This special tag must not have any breaks or spaces within it for QuickNews to see it properly. Also, if your template utilizes HTML tables at all, be sure all your table tags are 100% correct. Malformed table tags can prevent the output of QuickNews from displaying properly (especially in Netscape Navigator).

If you are creating your own template, you should be sure to include the CSS definitions that are contained in the QNTemplate.htm file. These are the settings contained within the STYLE tag in the document head. CSS definitions used within QuickNews can be found in Appendix B – CSS Definitions.

**Critical:** If you change the name or location of the template file, you will need to update the **gsPageHeader** setting in the **config** file.

### 4.2 System Language Customization

QuickNews is designed to be customizable to suit the needs of your site. Whether you want to change a few words here and there or you want to translate the entire application, the following sections will help you.

### 4.2.1 Language File

The **QNLangUSEng.asp** file is the language file that contains all the short text used throughout the program, and the **QNAdmLangUSEng.asp** file contains the short text used throughout the admin interface. The language file contains mostly single words or short text messages such as form field names, error messages, titles, and so on. There is no documentation for the individual settings in the language file, because any translation should be a literal translation of the text within the file. The language file is arranged so that all settings for one file are grouped together. If you need to change the text or the style of text in a particular spot, find the part of the language file containing your file's settings, and make any necessary changes. The language file and the .HTM files contain a mixture of text and HTML. These files should be edited with a plain text editor by a person who understands basic HTML syntax (to ensure that no critical HTML code embedded within the text is changed).

Tip: If you customize the language file for your locale, you should rename it and configure the include line in your **config** file accordingly. Updates to the language file from XCENT can overwrite any changes you have made.

## 4.3 Detailed Configuration Options

For a more detailed list of configuration options refer to Appendix A – Configuration Options.

Tip: Here are some tips you may want to keep in mind when editing the configuration file. The QNConfig.asp file is an ASP file so it has special syntax:

If you want to include quotation marks within a setting that is already enclosed within quotes, you will need to use double quotes. (""")

Any lines that start with an apostrophe (') are comments, which are ignored by the program. Sometimes XCENT configuration files include more than 1 version of a setting for easy reference. Only the one that does not start in an apostrophe is the one that is being used.

## 5 Administrator Interface Features

This section describes the different features available to the administrator in QuickNews v2.x. Each of the menu options in the Administrator Interface will be described as they appear on the admin template located at <http://www.example.com/QuickNews/QNAdmin.asp> (replace [www.example.com](http://www.example.com) with your domain).

### 5.1 List Articles

The List Articles section of the QuickNews administrator interface offers options for maintaining the articles listed in the site by displaying them in list order.

#### 5.1.1 All Articles

The All Articles option displays all articles on the system in a list view that just displays brief information about the article as well as the ability to edit and delete that article.

#### 5.1.2 Expired Articles

The Expired Articles option displays those articles on the system that are expired in a list view that just displays brief information about the article as well as the ability to edit and delete that articles.

#### 5.1.3 Upcoming Articles

The Upcoming Articles option displays those articles on the system that are not yet available in a list view that just displays brief information about the article as well as the ability to edit and delete that articles. Articles with an active date that occurs in the future will be displayed in this list.

### 5.2 Detail Articles

The Detail Articles section provides the same options that the List Articles section, but displays the articles in a more detailed view while browsing.

### 5.3 Administrative

The Administrative section of the QuickNews administrator interface provides a few additional features to help the administrator maintain the site.

#### 5.3.1 Add New Articles

This page provides the form for adding a new article to the system. Setting the “Active Date” to anything in the future will cause the article to not be displayed on the system until that date has passed.

## **5.4 Other**

### **5.4.1 Open QuickNews Session**

The Open QuickNews Sessions provides an easy way to begin a QuickNews session from within the administrator interface. This will open a new browser window and direct it to the front page of QuickNews on your site.

### **5.4.2 Check Version**

The Check Version page offers valuable information about the version of QuickNews and it's current status related to the most current version available. For more information see the section in this documentation titled View Check Version Page.

### **5.4.3 XcDiagnosis**

The XcDiagnosis page presents information about the server that the application is hosted on. For more detailed information about this functionality see the section in this documentation titled Visit XcDiag.asp Page

### **5.4.4 FAQ**

This link will take the administrator directly to XCENT's FAQ site where they can browse up to date information on products and helpful information on troubleshooting and diagnosing an issue with the configuration of the application.

### **5.4.5 XCENT.com**

This link connects directly to the XCENT homepage.

## 6 Troubleshooting

Most of the problems that people encounter during setup are the same for nearly everyone. The most common issues are outlined below. Many other items are listed in the XCENT online FAQ database. The FAQ is accessible on the XCENT web site at <http://www.xcent.com/FAQ/>.

- **When I click on a button or a link I receive one of the following errors:**

```
[Microsoft][ODBC Microsoft Access Driver] Could not delete from specified tables.  
[Microsoft][ODBC Microsoft Access Driver] Operation must use an updateable query.
```

This message usually occurs for one of a couple reasons. The most common is the MDB file is set to read-only mode. This file must have read/write access. This occurs frequently with users who use Microsoft FrontPage to upload the files to their web site. If you do not know how to reset file read/write permissions, you will need to ask your ISP for assistance.

This can also occur if the IIS server's anonymous user account does not have the proper permissions for the MDB file (or the folder the file is in). The anonymous user account is the NT server account the user is connecting as (typically the IUSR\_MACHINENAME account). If this is the case, you will typically need to contact your ISP to have them enable the proper permissions for your website. The folder the MDB file is located in must have FULL ACCESS permissions for this account. These permissions are NTFS permissions, not the access rights that are defined in the IIS management tool. This must be done for the folder that the MDB file is located in, not just the file itself.

If you have difficulty assigning the rights to the anonymous user account, you may need to assign FULL ACCESS rights to the NT account group EVERYONE.

- **When I visit my site I receive the following message:**

```
General error Unable to open registry key 'Temporary (volatile) Jet DSN
```

The first thing you should do is to double check that the database connection string you are using has the correct path to your database. This setting is typically named **gsConnect** and it is typically located in a file named **XXdb.asp** or **XXConfig.asp** when used in the free applications (where XX is the prefix used in the naming convention of the application you are using).

If you are sure that your connection string is correct, this message could indicate your web server does not have the proper version of Jet installed for the database version you are attempting to use. You may need to perform one of the following steps:

Install the current version of the Microsoft Data Access Components Library (MDAC). The current version can be downloaded from the Microsoft web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/data>.

Convert your MDB file to the current version of JET by using Microsoft Access. You can do this by opening the MDB file in Access and follow the prompt/directions for converting the database.

## 7 Appendix A – Configuration Options

Table 7-1 Configuration Options

Setting	Description
gsDefaultAction	This setting controls the default display of articles in QuickNews. Valid options are: <b>"LIST"</b> a list of article names and dates <b>"SHOWTOP"</b> the full display of the most recent article with a list of older articles below it <b>"DETAIL"</b> a detail display of all articles Default: <b>"SHOWTOP"</b>
gbShowNavBar	<b>True</b> or <b>False</b> value. This setting determines whether or not a navigation bar will be displayed at the bottom of the user interface pages. If this navigation bar is displayed, it will have a link to the main page as well as to a page of archived articles, which are articles that have expired. Default: <b>True</b>

Table 7-2 Misc. Settings

Setting	Description
giTableWidth	This setting is a numeric value which controls the width of the tables used in the QuickNews content display. Default: <b>600</b>
giltemsPerPage	This setting is a numeric value, which controls the number of news articles displayed per page. Default: <b>10</b>
gsEmbeddedCode	This setting contains the tag that is used in the QuickNews template file to determine where to place dynamic content that is generated by the user interface. You should not normally need to modify this value. Default: <b>"%CONTENT%"</b>
gsPageHeader	This setting contains the location of the template file used to display the user interface in QuickNews. <div> <p><b>Note:</b> If you create a new template file for QuickNews, this setting will need to be changed to reflect your modifications.</p> <p>Default: <b>Server.MapPath(".\QNTemplate.htm")</b></p> </div>

Table 7-3 Database Settings

Tag	Description
gsConnect	<p>This setting controls the path used to connect to your database. If you change the database name or move its location, you will need to update this setting. This is a standard ADO connection string.</p> <p>Default: <b>"Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};DBQ=" &amp; Server.MapPath("../Data/QuickNews.mdb")"</b></p>
gsSQLDateDelimiter	<p>This setting defines the character that is used to delimit a date when a date/time value is passed to the database. There are two options, one of which is commented out and not active.</p> <p><b>Chr(39)</b> - The default value suitable for most databases.</p> <p><b>Chr(35)</b> - The value for some older versions of the JET database drivers.</p> <p>Default: <b>Chr(39)</b></p>
giSQLDateFormat	<p>This setting determines how QuickNews will pass date values to the database engine. This setting has absolutely nothing to do with how dates are displayed and formatted on your site. <b>Do not</b> change this setting in an effort to get dates to display differently on your server. That is not what this setting does. The default setting of 0 (zero) works for most servers.</p> <p><b>0</b> = The Date Format will be generated in a format suitable for most database engines.</p> <p><b>1</b> = The Date Format will be forced to a format recognized by Microsoft SQL Server.</p> <p><b>2</b> = The Date Format will be forced to a MDY format recognized by the JET database engine. This setting may be required for servers running a JET database file regardless of the format dates are displayed in the web browser. If you are using a JET database and items do not seem to be showing up or expiring at the proper date/time, then your server may need to be changed to this value. This normally only occurs with some non US-English servers running some versions of the JET database engine.</p> <p><b>3</b> = The Date Format will be forced to a DMY format recognized by the JET database engine. This setting is not normally used.</p> <p>Default: <b>0</b></p>

Table 7-4 Color Settings

Tag	Description
gsCellColor	<p>This setting controls the color used for tabs and the bottom navigation bar.</p> <p>Default: <b>"#2B71B7"</b></p>
gsEmptyCellColor	<p>This setting controls the color used for the cell to the right of the tab. If you make this setting the same color as the <b>gsCellColor</b> setting, then there will be no tab on the application pages. A solid bar will be displayed as described above. Otherwise this value should be the same</p>

	as the <b>gsPageBGColor</b> setting to give the tabbed interface look. Default: <b>"#FFFFFF"</b>
gsPageBGColor	This setting controls the color used for the background for QuickNews content. Default: <b>"#FFFFFF"</b>
gsLineColor	This setting controls the color used for thin lines around table header and footer. Default: <b>"#000080"</b>
gsTableHeadColor	This setting controls the color used for the top cell in tables used in QuickNews. Default: <b>"#C0C0C0"</b>
gsColorONE gsColorTWO	These settings are for the alternating line colors when a list is displayed. If you do not want the colors to alternate, set these to the same value. Default: <b>"#E9E9E9", "#FFFFFF"</b>

Table 7-5 Font Settings

Tag	Description
gsFont	This setting contains the name of the font(s) that will be used throughout the system. Default: <b>"Tahoma, Arial, Sans-Serif"</b>
gsPlainTextOpen gsPlainTextClose	These settings control the default text display for the program.
gsFormTextOpen gsFormTextClose	These settings control the text prompts on forms where users enter information or labels for display pages.
gsTitleOpen gsTitleClose	These settings control the title text in each page's title.
gsArticleDetailsOpen gsArticleDetialsOpen	These settings control the text used for displaying the content of each news article.
gsTableHeadOpen gsTableHeadClose	These settings control the text used in title cells for tables displayed in the program.
gsNavOpen gsNavClose	These settings control the text in the navigation bar at the bottom of each page.
gsPagingOpen gsPagingClose	These settings control the navigation used for the View News Articles page if there are more news articles than can be displayed on one page.
gsErrorTextOpen gsErrorTextClose	These settings control the font used to display error messages to the user, such as if they leave a required field blank.

## 8 Appendix B – CSS Definitions

QuickNews uses a number of Style Sheet settings within the template to control the formatting of text and links. The versatility of Style Sheets allow for a more centralized configuration of the text and formatting that is displayed on your site. With the majority of browsers supporting the use of Style Sheets, they are a very powerful feature that can be used to control the look and feel of your website.

For more information on style sheet syntax, you can consult:  
<http://www.htmlhelp.com/reference/css/>.

**Table 8-1 CSS Definitions**

Tag	Description
QNNavBar	Navigation bar at the bottom of each page. Usage: system wide
A	Format all links. Usage: system wide

## 9 Appendix C – Alternate Connection Strings

Different servers may require different connection strings depending on the drivers those servers have installed. Here are some examples of alternate connection strings that may be useful when troubleshooting any database connection problems.

### 9.1 JET Connection Strings

- This is the default connection string format for JET databases used by XCENT, without DSN

```
gsConnect = "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};DBQ=" &
Server.MapPath("../Data/QuickNews.mdb")
```

- This connection string format is similar to the default format used in XCENT applications, but the path to the database is explicit.

```
gsConnect = "Driver={Microsoft Access Driver (*.mdb)};DBQ=c:\website\Data\QuickNews.mdb"
```

- OLE connection string format.

```
gsConnect = "PROVIDER=MICROSOFT.JET.OLEDB.4.0;DATA SOURCE=" &
Server.MapPath("../Data/QuickNews.mdb")
```

- File DSN connection string format. This format is used with a File DSN being created on the server where the website will be hosted. If your site is hosted with an ISP, then you need to contact them if you wish to use this type of connection string.

```
gsConnect = "FILEDSN=ADSN"
```

Important: To create your own DSN connections refer to this Microsoft Knowledgebase Article <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;165866>.

- DSN connection string format without username and password.

```
gsConnect = "DSNname"
```

- DSN connection string format with username and password.

```
gsConnect = "DSNname","username","password"
```

## 10 Appendix D – Updates and Upgrades

From time to time, XCENT will release minor version updates to our products. These updates may include bug fixes as well as revisions and additions to the functionality of the program. Updates can be obtained directly from XCENT's website by downloading the Free application again from the <http://www.xcent.com/downloads/> page.

When you download an update from XCENT, what you will receive is a ZIP archive file that contains the latest version of all the files used within the entire application. You do not need to reinstall the application from scratch for a minor update.

In order to know which files you need to upload, you need to be familiar with which version of the application is currently running on your site. If you aren't sure, you should use the Check Version option in your administrator interface.

Within the Documentation folder of the ZIP archive file that you downloaded, are one or more **Updates** documents. The Updates documents are your guides to knowing which application files need to be updated in between updates. When you view an Updates document, you will see that it is organized by the application version, with the most recent one on top down to the oldest for that major version. Each version and each application has its own table of files that have been updated. This includes the file name and a brief description on what has been updated. You only need to install the files listed for versions newer than the version you are already running on your site. For example, if the current release is version 3.5.4 and your site is running version 3.5.2, you would need to upload all the files listed for version 3.5.4 and also those listed for version 3.5.3.

We anticipate that many of our users make changes to the Configuration and Language files associated with our applications. If we've updated these files, the Updates file will list the settings we've added to those specific files. You can then just add these settings to your existing file.

If you have made customizations to any other files, the best thing to do is to save a backup version of each file and then reapply the customizations to the updated file. However, if you have updated any Email Templates or HTML Templates, you may want to look at the new versions of these files to see if you want to incorporate any changes that have been made.

### 10.1 Upgrades

When significant functionality is added to one of our products, we may issue a major version upgrade. A major version upgrade is when the major version number changes. For example, going from version 2.x.x to version 3.x.x. Upgrades for Free applications can be obtained by downloading the application directly from XCENT's website.

Installing a major version upgrade usually requires a complete fresh install of the various .asp, .htm, .txt etc files that are used within the application. However, XCENT will provide tools to upgrade your database if necessary. So you will be able to transition to the new version without losing any data from the previous version.