OFP.info Team Eyes Only News posting Tutorial

If you're looking at this thread you are either looking to refresh your memory about something or you are a new news poster in need of a reference about posting news on OFP.info. This is exactly what this post is about, **news posting.** Cervo and I have decided that one thing that would assist news posters in their "quest for news" is a news posting reference, something complete so Cervo or anyone else don't have to spend hours upon hours teaching new news posters how to post. Well now that you know what this is about let's get started.
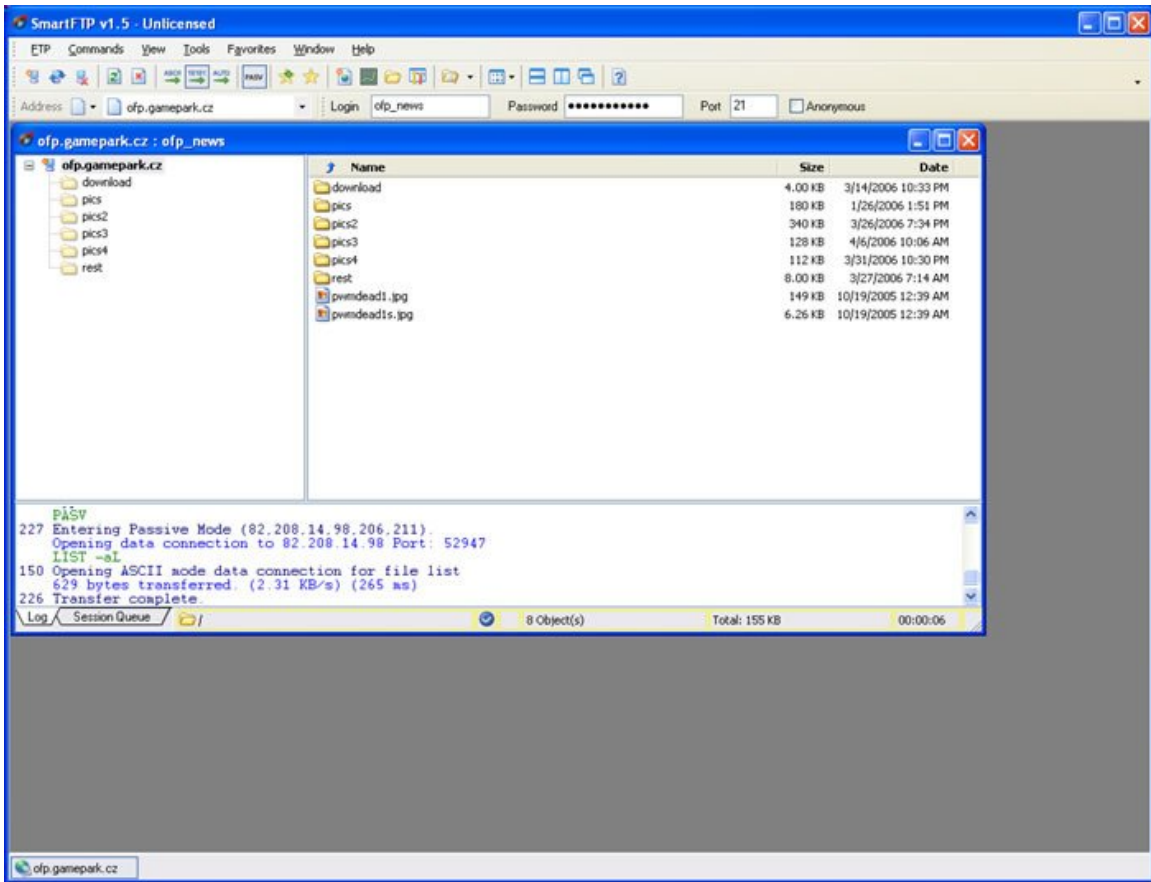
News posting consists of three major parts:
1. Downloading Files/Videos/Addons and Acquiring Images
2. Resizing images
3. Uploading Images/Files -> Renaming what needs to be renamed
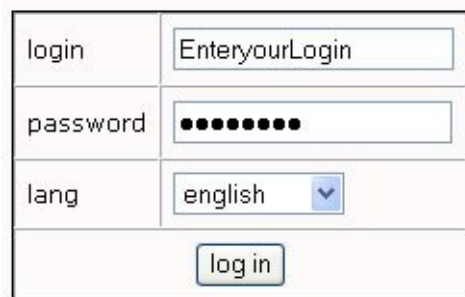4. Writing The News
5. Posting the News + Touch ups

Let's begin with the first and most important part of the news posting process; setting up a FTP program so you can access and upload files. The first thing you have to do is get a program that can handle FTP related "business". During the tutorial I'm going to talk about "SmartFTP," which is the program I currently use. You can use any other one, the process is very similar, just with a different interface.

Preliminary Setup/FTP Setup:
Upon booting up SmartFTP you can see the "Address Bar" at the top... this is the vital part of the program, where you specify where the program will connect to. In the email Cervo has sent you can see a list of the passwords and usernames. The first thing you want to do is select a server such as the Addons server. You input a name (this can be anything, just so you know which is which), and then you put the **Login** and the **Password** in the corresponding fields. **Make sure the text is EXACT or else you will not be able to connect.** Spaces also count. The port at the end shouldn't matter unless you have a firewall. If you do you can set your firewall to allow SmartFTP and open up the port SmartFTP is using. When you're done with this just hit Ctrl + B to connect. You should be able to connect and a window will pop up with server contents. To upload files you can just select and drag a file in the correct folder.

After the FTP is setup your next step is to setup the Admin console, so you can post the news after you write it. Open an IE window or Firefox or whatever else you use, and connect to http://www.ofp.gamepark.cz/admin, upon connection it will prompt for a username and password, these are the ones provided by Cervo. Just insert each into the corresponding field and hit OK, also make sure you check "Remember my Password", so you won't have to enter it next time. This next page prompts for your Username and Password, the one that you set up with Cervo. Enter these, and your language that you post in and continue. This is the main admin console. For news posting just click on News. This page shows all the news posted and has some other features. Clicking on "Web" will show the news on the homepage. Del, as you can guess will delete the news. Imp. Means important and this tells you if the news posted is marked as important or not. Important news will appear at the top of the homepage and it will remain there. News is important when there is official news, site news, or a Mod release. You can post new news by clicking "New News" at the bottom. However you don't want to actually write your news in this environment because after an allotted time the page will expire and if you click save you will lose all your information. We will get into writing the news in a few moments.

section	web
campaigns	web
editorextra	web
islands	web
missionpacks	web
missions	web
mods_missions/desertstorm	web
mpmissions	web
news	web
patches	web
screenshots	web
skins	web
unofaddons/aircrafts	web
unofaddons/boats	web
unofaddons/misc	web
unofaddons/units	web
unofaddons/vehicles	web
unofaddons/weapons	web
utilities	web
videomissions	web

Index   OFP   addons   comments   banned IPs   logout

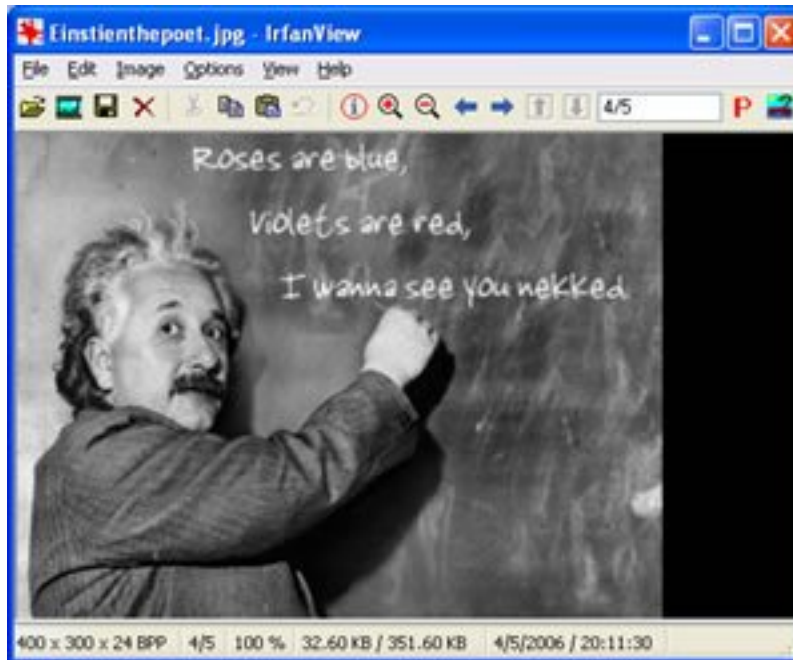## Downloading Files/Videos/Addons and Acquiring Images:

The next step is getting all the materials needed. Weather you got it from email or found it on a forum or site you need to gather all the needed stuff. Save the addon(s) on your Desktop (or a folder where it's convenient to get). Also save the images, which come with the addon (I save it in a "News" folder on my desktop because it's easy to access). Now comes an important part. Rename the image so they have a pattern, what you need is to create a name and number them at the end. So if you want your name to be "mask" call the images mask1.jpg, mask2.jpg, mask3.jpg, mask4.jpg and so forth. After you get all the needed materials we can move on.

Resizing Images:

Resizing the images is a critical part of news posting. This allows the site to load faster and is more convenient for the visitors. DO NOT resize the images using html as that will create a much longer load time, and the image will lose quality.
First thing we must do is getting a program for resizing; **InfranView** is VERY good for this. It opens fast and it's very easy and quick to use. Go to http://www.irfanview.com/ to download it. It's free. After you get it install it and run it. Hit "O" to open a file, and then find your files that you just previously saved. Open one of them, now you need to resize them so hit "Ctrl + R" to resize. Resize images to a width of 200 and a height of 150, if you have more then one. If you only have one image to display, set width as 250 and height as 187. Try to keep preserve aspect ratio, but if it isn't possible, crop the image(s). When you save it save it with an "s" at the end, which will represent the thumbs. So if you're big image is called mask1.jpg save the thumbnail as mask1s.jpg. Do this for all your images and save them all in one place.

After your images and addons are setup, open SmartFTP connect to the corresponding server and upload your files. Pictures go into the Pics3 folder, and addons go into the Unofaddn2 folder.

Writing the News:

This is probably the process that brings all the stuff together and produces a product. To start off go to http://ofp.gamepark.cz/rest/news_html_gen and bookmark it, you'll be using it a lot. The News Html Generator is used to create the news. You can write it in html from scratch too but the Gen. Helps a lot when you're doing this and it makes news posting faster. But now you're looking at it and your like WTF is it with all these boxes. Well, let's get started now and you shall know. First thing you want to do is get the images setup, enter in the box "Name of the first .jpg" the name you set for the images. As above that would be just "mask", the generator inputs the .jpg and the numbered digits at the end. Above that form open the dropdown and select how many images you will be posting. Try to have even number of images, 4, 6, 8, 10 etc. Odd number of pictures makes site look worse. Now that the images are set lets continue. The next part you want is the Included Addons. The dropdown menu allows you to set what type of file you're adding; Addons, Videos, MODS, or Islands. The next field over is the part that will show on the link on the site. Whatever you type here will show on the main site as the "Download link". Choose something descriptive. For the Name of file you must enter the exact name of the addon, video or mod you uploaded. Include the name and the extension at the end. (.rar, .zip, .exe, etc) The same thing is present with the Required Addons, however most required addons will already be on the site so search either the site or the ftp for the required addon before uploading it. It will save you time. The main part is pretty self-explanatory, this is where you post news, if you are familiar with html then you should be fine. Use existing news posts as templates for when you write news if you don't know what to write at first. The top forms are also self-explanatory. Just enter site and name or email address and name and click add and it will add the link into the news. Move it around as you please. Click generate and you can see the full code that you're going to use.

Quick links :

| someguy@nospam.com | Someguy | Add | http://site.example.com/ | Site example | Add |

News body text | **B** | *I* | U | •li |
 |

 |

Number of pics
2 ▾
Name of the first .jpg (do not put.jpg extension in it and number at end), just the name, ex: basuh60 for a pic named basuh601.jpg

Included Addons

Addon ▾ #1:		Name of file:		Size		MB ▾
Addon ▾ #2:		Name of file:		Size		MB ▾
Addon ▾ #3:		Name of file:		Size		MB ▾
Addon ▾ #4:		Name of file:		Size		MB ▾
Addon ▾ #5:		Name of file:		Size		MB ▾

Needed Addons

Needed Addon ▾ #1:		Name of file:		Size		MB ▾
Needed Addon ▾ #2:		Name of file:		Size		MB ▾
Needed Addon ▾ #3:		Name of file:		Size		MB ▾

Generate

Finishing up:

Your addons are uploaded, pictures are uploaded, and your text is done. Now all you have to do is post it. Go to the admin console and open it up. Copy and Paste your text into the big form area and set a title for the news post. Call it something descriptive so people know what it's about. If it's a released addons try putting a released at the end or something that people searching will know what it's about before opening it. If it's a released addon check the tick for released addons so the addon posters know it and add it to the addon "bank". Check weather it's important or not, I have discussed that above. That's pretty much all there is to it. Now you just got to repeat and repeat it. After a while you get efficient at it. ☺

author: **SilentnDeadly**

addon request: ☐   **important** no ▾

title:

text:

save

Index   Section   OFP   addons   comments   banned IPs   logout

News Post Requirements/Tips:

- Bold Important Words
- No Third part 3D software's pictures (3DS Max, Maya etc), because it looks always better than in O2 or in game, and some are never imported into O2. Ask them to give us O2 or in game pictures, I think it's more honest for our readers... And of course no photos of the real object.
- Absolutely nothing about Clans etc, we must not be involved in that, if not it'll create us trouble sooner or later. At the moment we're not talking about leagues, maybe we should speak about it.
- No personal jokes or private stuff, never political posts or talking about world actuality. If you're a mod member don't use the news to promote your mod or post useless things.
- When you post use journalistic style, don't put "I Received" but "We received", not "I've seen new screenshots on I44 site" but "I44 posted new screenshots on their site", etc...
- We don't post recruitments posts only, but there is an exception, we post only if they send us some screens of their real work to illustrate the news and show to potential members how motivated they are.
- Do not delete or remove things of someone else's news unless you have a real reason (stolen/leaked version, etc) , and in any case post in the forum to explain why or add something like this in the html code of the news:
  <!-- removed 2 pictures because we had report that textures are stolen -->
  Save the code in a text file before deleting the news, so as news poster don't have to do it again from scratch.
- When you post news that features an addon or an island, you must tick the "addon request" box to make addon admin work easier.
- About lists and such in news posts we use <ul> and <ol> tags for lists (Ordered and Unordered lists) along with <li>, it looks more neat and organized, and also easier to read.
- (From Professor Dusi) Please, write punctuation marks correctly. I mean, you should write ".,!?" etc right after the word. There should be no space behind these marks.
- Use 89 for JPG compression value (to not have 40kb thumbnails and still a good quality)!

Quick HTML Reference Guide

<B>text</B>	Makes Text Bold
<I>text</I>	Italic Text
 	Skip down a line
	Creates a Unordered list
	Creates a List Item
	Link Syle
<img src="link">	Inserts Image