

Connecting to an IRC channel using Contiki IRC

So you have a 64NIC+ (or other RR-NET NIC) for your Commodore 64, and really want to use it for more than the occasional Telnet BBS call? Why not use your NIC'ed Commodore to connect to an IRC channel? Please read this article in its entirety before attempting to connect to an IRC server.

To start off your IRC quest, go to c64web.com. This is an interesting site in itself because the website is hosted on a Commodore 64 with no mods. This is the home of C64web's Contiki page, an open source operating system originally designed for networked embedded systems. C64web.com has a whole slew of Contiki info as well as a number of other downloads such as the web-server app that is used to run the website, and other interesting apps. The following web link:

<http://cbm8bit.com/contiki/contiki-2.1-unsupported-irc-client-c64.d64>

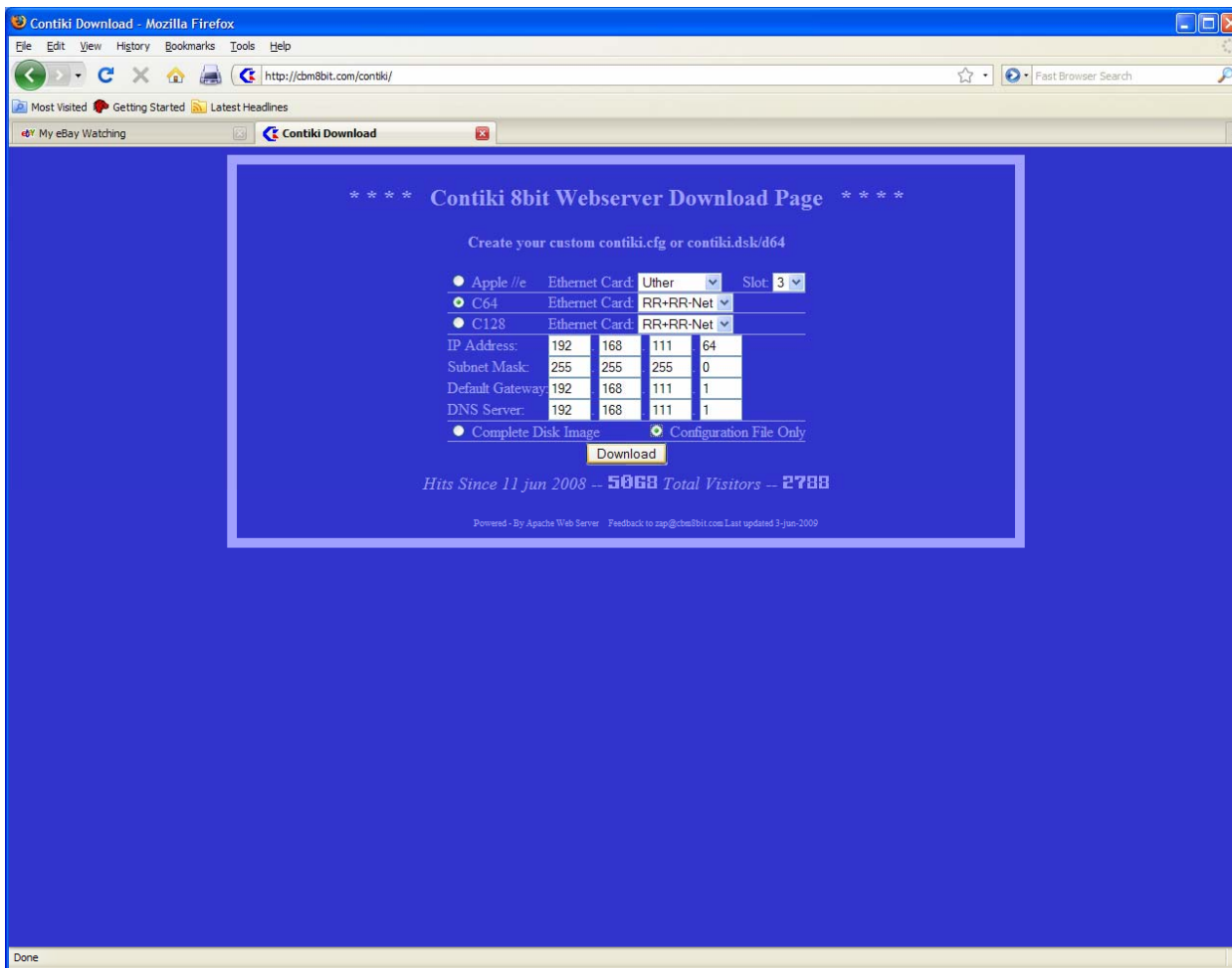
is where you will download a .d64 image of the "Unsupported" Contiki IRC client.

Save this .d64 image to your PC hard drive, as you will have to modify it before writing the image to a diskette/IEC device.

Next, Click on the "Contiki v2 download & contiki.cfg creator" link:

<http://cbm8bit.com/contiki/>

This will take you to the config editor. **This involves knowing the basics of TCP/IP, networking, and your own personal network layout.** Using the config editor page, select your platform, and NIC that you are using (RR-NET). You will then input the IP info you want to assign to the NIC when using the IRC client. Example:



Once you have put that info into the website config editor, click the “Configuration File Only” radio button and click download. This will download a copy of “contiki.cfg” that contains your customized IP info. At this point you are done with the Contiki page.

Next, you need to modify the Contiki IRC .d64 that you downloaded. You can do this by using CBM4WIN, D64 Editor, or any other software that allows you to modify .d64 files.

Open the .d64 file up and delete the Contiki.cfg file that was already in the image. Once that is done, add your custom Contiki.cfg that you created and downloaded to the disk image and save it. You are now ready to either write your image to a diskette, or copy the .d64 file to your other device (Example: uIEC).

Let’s say you have elected to create a Contiki IRC diskette. After writing the diskette, restart your 64, put the diskette in your floppy drive, and type: Load”contiki”,8,1 (or use whatever device # is assigned to your drive” Once loaded you will have to type : RUN.

This will give you an input screen with three lines of text. The first box will be the IRC server you want to connect to. **(Important: You must use the IP address of the server and not the server’s DNS name!!)**. For example: The IP address for IRC.TOBUG.NET is 82.165.139.95. After you put in the IP address, hit RETURN. Next, input your desired IRC screen name, hit Return. That will highlight the last line of text: CONNECT. Once connect is highlighted hit return. If your config file is correct and you input the right IP address, you will slowly be connected to the server. Once connected and the text stops scrolling, use the /join command to join the desired channel. BE PATIENT! It takes a little while to enter the channel.

The Contiki IRC client is very limited. Line wrap leaves a little to be desired. Posts longer than 2 lines will be truncated and you will not see the entire thing. I have heard that you can connect to more than one channel, but the posts will be mixed. The channels are NOT separated in different windows.

The client is also sometimes a bit unstable. When you enter your server info and hit connect, I have had the entire client exit. A computer reset and reloading the client again will usually work.

I hope you find the above text useful in your effort to do more things with your 25+ years old Commodores. ☺

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