NetMinder for Windows
Demonstration Version

This demonstration version of NetMinder has limited functionality. It is limited to 12 entries in a single address database. A fully working version of NetMinder is available for $45.00, shipping included, from:

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NetMinder Overview

Before installing NetMinder, you might find it useful to read a short overview of the program you are about to use and the concepts behind it.

What is NetMinder?

NetMinder is a program that allows the easy use, storage and manipulation of hard to remember Internet or other network addresses. NetMinder lets you enter these addresses into its database either by manually entering them, or by using the Windows cut and paste functions to "cut" them from your Windows compatible terminal screen and "pasting" them right into the NetMinder entry screen.

One way to think of what NetMinder does is to view it as an electronic address book. You could use it to record E-Mail addresses and then use it's search capabilities to find a specific name. Or perhaps for example, you might want to list everyone who has the domain .edu in their address. NetMinder stores more than just E-Mail addresses, it is specifically configured for Telnet, FTP, WAIS or any other conceivable network category.

While the "Address Book" analogy for NetMinder is in some respects true, NetMinder is far from being just another address book program. NetMinder is a powerful database program that can create an unlimited number of different databases, each containing many thousands of entries. NetMinder not only has the capability to record network information for each entry, but external information such as postal addresses and memos as well. NetMinder stores its information in a standardized DBASE IV file format. This makes it easy to take the information you have stored in NetMinder and use it in another program (such as Microsoft Access or Borland Paradox). Using this capability you could for example use Access to print postal mailing labels for the entries in your NetMinder database.

NetMinder is completely compatible with your Windows network. Multiple instances of NetMinder can be run, and databases can be exchanged amongst them or with any other users of NetMinder.

Installing NetMinder on your system

The initial installation and running of NetMinder is a simple two part process.

1. Make sure your machine has SHARE.EXE installed. Check your AUTOEXEC.BAT file and make sure it has the line SHARE.EXE in it. NetMinder needs SHARE installed to run properly. If you are not sure about whether or not SHARE.EXE is installed, or how to install it, consult your MS-DOS manual.

2. Run Setup

a. Place the NetMinder Installation disk in drive A or drive B.

b. If Windows is loaded, choose Run from the Program Manager File menu and type A:\SETUP (or B:\SETUP if the Installation disk is in drive B) in the Command Line box. The NetMinder setup program prompts you with a dialog box that describes the program and lets you continue or exit.

c. After the setup process is finished run NetMinder by clicking on the NetMinder icon in the NetMinder group on the Program Manager. After NetMinder loads, select Open from the File menu. Using the File Open dialog box go to the NetMinder directory and select the file DEMO.DBF. Select OK to load the file.
     DEMO.DBF is a demonstration database designed to show NetMinder's various functions.

Running NetMinder

NetMinder's controls are designed to be simple. The following is a control-by-control rundown of NetMinder's functions. It is advised that you run NetMinder while reading this guide, and try

Opening a Database

NetMinder stores the information you enter in files called Databases. To open an existing Database simply press the Open push-button, or select Open from the File menu. Once you have selected Open you will be presented with a dialog box that will allow you to look for and select existing NetMinder database files. NetMinder database files always have the extension ".dbf". Once you have selected one of the database files listed in the dialog box and have pressed "Ok", the file that you have chosen will become your current open database. NetMinder always remembers which database you were using last, and automatically loads it on start up.

Creating a new Database

NetMinder allows you to create an unlimited number of new database files. You might want to create different files for different purposes, such as separate databases for work and home use. To create a new database press the New push-button, or select New from the File menu. Once you have selected New, you will see the Save As dialog box that will prompt you for the name of your new database. Once you have selected "Ok", the new database will become the current open database and you can begin to add entries to it.

Adding Entries

Each NetMinder Database file is made up of individual entries which might represent people or network addresses. Adding entries to your current open database is a simple matter. To add a new entry to your current database select either the New Entry push-button, or select New Record from the Edit menu. NetMinder will then be in Add mode, and the data area will go blank to allow you to enter your new information. Once you have finished making the entry press the "Ok" button on the left side of the main screen and the entry will be saved.
Most Internet addresses are not intuitive and it is easy to make a mistake while typing them in. NetMinder allows you to "cut" an address from your terminal screen and insert it into your new entry automatically so as to avoid errors. The process is simple and generally goes something like this; with your Windows compatible terminal highlight and select the address you wish to copy to NetMinder. Select Cut or Copy from the Terminal's menu. Using the Alt-Tab key combination, or the mouse make NetMinder the active application. Press the New Entry push-button (as described above). You will notice that the "Use" button now says "Get".
Just press the "Get" button and the address you had selected on your terminal will appear in the Network address box. Fill in any other information if you wish, and then press "Ok" to save the entry.

Editing Entries

Often it will be necessary to make changes to a particular entry. To make changes to the current entry on the screen press the Edit Entry push-button, or select Edit Record from the Edit menu. While NetMinder is in edit mode you can make what ever changes you wish to the information on the screen. After you have made your changes press "Ok" to save your changes, or Cancel to abort the edit and return to the last saved version of the entry.

Deleting Entries

To completely delete the current on-screen record select either the Delete Entry push button, or select Delete Record from the Edit menu. A confirmation dialog box will appear allowing you to abort the delete process. Deleted entries cannot be retrieved.

Using Memos

Memos are notes that can be attached to each entry. You might want to use a memo to record any important additional information related to an address. Using the Memo push-button will bring up the memo editor. You can create a new memo for an entry, or edit an existing memo. A memo can be completely deleted by using the "clear" button on the memo editor. A memo entry can have a maximum of 255 characters.

 If an entry does have an attached memo, the memo indicator will appear. To view the memo press the Memo push-button.

Online Help

To access NetMinder's online help select either the Help push-button or select Contents from the Help Menu. To search for a specific Help topic select Search from the Help Menu.

The List Menu

The selections available under the List pull-down menu determine how NetMinder presents it's information. The List Menu's selections are divided into two parts.

Data ListBox Controls:
By Address: If "By Address" is checked on the List menu the Data ListBox will list all of the current database's entries by their network address field.
By Name: If "By Name" is checked on the List menu the Data ListBox will list all entries by their name field.

Type Sort Controls:
List All: This selection makes NetMinder show all records in the c3
urrent database regardless of their type. This is the default setting.
List Email: If List Email is selected NetMinder will only show the entries in the current database that are of type Email.
List FTP: If List FTP is selected only entries of type FTP will be shown.
List Telnet: If List Telnet is selected NetMinder will only show entries of type Telnet.
List WAIS: If List WAIS is selected NetMinder will only show entries of type WAIS.

An entry's "type" in this context is determined by whatever the data area Type combo box is set to for that entry.

The Search Menu

One of NetMinder's most powerful features is its ability to search a database for the particular entries that you
want to see. Selecting one of the search options gives you a dialog box that allows you to enter the text you want to look for. For example, say you wanted to list every entry that had the domain .edu in the address. To do this select Search Address from the Search Menu and type "edu" into the dialog box. Select "Ok", and only entries with the characters edu in the address will be listed. NetMinder allows you to perform searches on the Network Address, Name, Site, Company and Country fields. The searches are case sensitive, i.e. JAPAN is not the same as japan.

Use Function

The Use push-button allows you to copy the current entry's Network Address to your Windows compatible terminal screen. To copy the current address to your terminal press "Use", then using ALT-TAB, or the mouse, switch to your terminal and using the Terminals paste function, paste the entry to its screen.

Browse Controls

The Browse Controls are the suite of four push-buttons on the left of the NetMinder screen. The Browse Controls facilitate record-by-record movement through the current open database. The Plus and Minus buttons will move to the next and previous entries respectively, the Up and Down arrow buttons move to the first and last entry in the current database.

The Data ListBox

The Data ListBox is used to display all of the entries in the current database, or to display entries that have been chosen conditionally (see The List Menu, above) such as during a search . Choosing an entry in the Data ListBox by double clicking on it will make that the current entry.