

a new Software Release 2.1

In October, NeXT began shipping a new version of Software Release 2.1 with the WriteNow® word processor unbundled. This release contains only a demonstration version of WriteNow, which doesn't save or print. It also includes new keyboard mappings for some European keyboards and improved NeXTdimension software.

The only customers who will want to upgrade to the new Release 2.1 are those with NeXTdimension systems. Registered NeXTdimension owners will receive upgrades in the mail.

WriteNow changes

NeXT has unbundled WriteNow for several reasons. The primary reason is that other comparable programs (such as WordPerfect® and FrameMaker®) are now available for NeXT users, making a bundled word processor unnecessary. By unbundling WriteNow, NeXT is creating a level playing field for software developers. This means that new and improved features of WriteNow will be developed more quickly and that users will have access to dedicated technical support. Appsoft, a new third-party software developer, is now responsible for all development, support, and distribution of WriteNow-including support for versions that were distributed by NeXT. The following article, "what to know

about the new WriteNow," outlines Appsoft's plans for WriteNow.

The new Release 2.1 includes a demonstration copy of WriteNow so that users can read documents written in WriteNow, including on-line documentation. If you have this release and want to print a WriteNow document or work with its rich text in another application, you can use a filter to convert the document to RTF. Contact Appsoft to get a copy of the filter.

Complete copies of WriteNow that were included with previous software releases will work with NeXT Software Releases through 3.0. If you want to use WriteNow with a release subsequent to 3.0, you may have to contact Appsoft.

Appsoft's phone number is 1-800-428-APPS. WordPerfect, Inc., can be reached at 801-225-5000. Frame Technology Corp., which sells FrameMaker, can be reached at 408-433-3311.

NeXTdimension software improvements

The NeXTdimension software incorporated in this release provides the following important improvements:

- Virtual memory performs better and is less susceptible to memory leaks.

- When any video source is in pause or cue mode, both odd and even scan lines are updated. The software now doubles the scan lines to produce entire frames when an attached consumer device emits only even-field synch in these modes.
- PAL versions of NeXTdimension systems show the correct set of scan lines—the lines are no longer slightly vertically adjusted.
- NeXT has increased the time allowed for the NeXTdimension driver to load to ensure that NeXTdimension systems always succeed in booting from an optical disk.
- When you start up a NeXTdimension system, information about the NeXTdimension configuration is logged to `/usr/adm/messages` to the console, if it is visible.
- A new version of ScreenScape allows genlocked operation.

new keyboard mappings

The new release contains corrected keymappings for French, German, Swiss-French, and Swiss-German keyboards. Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Swedish keymappings are also included in anticipation of distributing these

keyboards. Only customers who buy new machines will be affected.

how to tell which software release you're running

There are several ways to verify that your new system is running the latest release, or that your upgrade to an earlier release worked correctly.

- Look at the WriteNow icon in /NextApps. If your system is running the new software, the icon will have the word Demo on it.
- Look at the Console window. The warp number of the latest software is 6.18.
- Double-click the Installer package Update_ND.pkg in /NextLibrary/Packages/Standard. This will start up the Installer application and will display a receipt in the main window. The version number will be 2 if the latest release is running. If an earlier release is running, the version will be 1.