

NeAT

Advanced Program Manager

Version number : 1.3.019

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1. Introduction

You have unpacked a copy of: NeAT v1.3

NeAT is freeware. It means that it is free, you may use it, you don't have to pay for it. But I am a human being made of flesh, bones, and feelings, in other words, I expect some counterpart to my work. What I am expecting from you, is your collaboration to make a better product, suiting more closely your needs. I NEED YOUR FEEDBACK, YOU ARE THE PERSON I HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR. If you like this software, or if you don't like it, please, tell me why. You can reach me on CompuServe 100121,2155, (see the About dialog). Thanks a lot in advance.

What is NeAT?

It's a freeware program launcher for Windows. It provides a nice and efficient interface to launching your applications and organizing your day to day work. NeAT is a really powerful tool. it includes many advanced features. My goal was to ship a product that could be used without a manual. I think I reached it, but having a look at the NeAT.HLP file will let you discover more exciting features and time saving shortcuts.

Material requirement:

IBM PC Compatible computer with 80386 processor or higher
Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher

Is it safe to use software?

There is two kinds of releases, beta releases, and non-beta releases. The version number (and beta status) can be seen in the About NeAT dialog, or with the File Manager, using the Properties command.

Non-Beta versions have been seriously tested and were not reported to cause any problem, you can use them safely.

Beta release, is safe enough to be handled to individuals who are willing to help to test it. In other words, the product has been seriously tested "in house", but has not been tested on various configurations. The purpose of a Beta release is to bring the product into "real life" situations, where unexpected configurations may trigger hidden issues.

2. Installation procedure

NeAT comes in one of two packages, the first one known as "Full package" includes a standard Windows Setup program (yes, just like almost every professional software!), the other one known as "Lite Package" is aimed at BBS and thus, needs to be as small as possible to reduce

up/download time. The Lite Package comes as a single big .EXE file. This is a self extracting file, once run, this file expands several files.

* To install the Full Package, open windows and launch the file called Setup. Either with the Windows Program Manager RUN command, or double click it from the Windows File Manager.

* To Install the Lite Package, do the following after expanding the files:

- Move CTL3DV2.DLL to windows SYSTEM directory
- Move NeATHook.DLL to windows SYSTEM directory
- Copy NeAT.EXE to a new directory on your hard disk
- Copy NeATCVRT.EXE to the same directory as NeAT.EXE
- Copy NeAT.HLP to the same directory as NeAT.EXE

Important Notice : **Before starting make a backup copy of the NeAT files.** CTL3DV2.DLL might be already installed on your system, the Full Package checks version numbers to avoid overwriting a newer version of CTL3DV2.DLL. In the Lite Package, you have to check by yourself. In Windows, launch the File Manager, then try to find a file called CTL3DV2.DLL in your Windows SYSTEM directory. If it exists, then, find its version number with the Properties command of the File menu. If the version number is higher than the version number of the CTL3DV2.DLL file that shipped with NeAT , then do nothing, just delete the CTL3DV2.DLL file shipped with NeAT. Else, or if no other version of CTL3DV2.DLL can be found, move the CTL3DV2.DLL file that shipped with NeAT to the Windows SYSTEM directory.

Microsoft says : "An application's installation program must install CTL3DV2.DLL in the Windows SYSTEM directory or, if running on a networked Windows installation, the Windows directory. **CTL3DV2.DLL must not be installed in the application's own directory or any other directory.** CTL3DV2.DLL will not produce 3-D effects unless it is running from either windows/system or the Windows directory. When CTL3DV2.DLL is run from any other directory, it will display the following message box: This application uses CTL3DV2.DLL, which has not been correctly installed."

In this case, please check the installation as described above.

How to use it?

In Microsoft Windows, launch NeAT (either with the Program Manager RUN command or with the File Manager).

Once NeAT is open, choose the Preferences command in the Special menu, and check the 'NeAT is windows shell' box.

Then use the Save As command to write your own desktop to disk, and restart windows.

Have a look at the Help file for additional information.

4. Revisions History

Release 1.0b1 : first release.

Release 1.1b6 : Enhanced memory management, provide advanced interface, several memory management bugs corrected (especially importing Program Manager files), now All occupied GDI memory is released on exit. Dynamic memory management. **I wish to thank for their work and patience the 140+ beta testers of NeAT v1.1b6.**

Release 1.2 : Heavy optimizing, smarter code, support of extensive hotkey features. Attempt to reduce code size while increasing fonctionnalités. Adding one more file called NeATHook.DLL. Implementation of beta testers suggested features. Every toolbar can be shown or hidden, NeAT remembers their positions. Buttons size changed according to toolbar settings. Automatic save of the most recently used items list. Testing (more!) and bugs correction.

Release 1.2.012 : Corrected minor bugs. Added the ability to show/hide item icon. Several

"cosmetics" corrections.

Release 1.2.013 : Corrected minor bugs, especially in help file. Increased quality of C++ code. Added splash window at startup, new design for About and Preferences dialog, new icon. Added the Execute... feature (ability to run any program/file, even though it is not in a button), as a Special menu item and as a button in side toolbar. Rewriting of a new command line handling routine (MUST work now!!!). Fixed the NeATHook.DLL. Improved error handling. Added right mouse drag and drop to reorder buttons in a group. Hot key combination is displayed in status bar when the cursor is above a button (can be enabled/disabled in Preferences). NeAT changes cursor to reflect special features such as CTRL+Click on buttons to edit content. Added a Open Most Recently Used files button in side toolbar. Modified the behaviour of the Most Recently Launched files menu in advanced interface (opens in fixed location). NeAT file format changed, it now remembers the last group used, of course, NeAT can open files created with earlier versions, but **THE FILES OPENED BY THIS VERSION CANNOT BE OPENED BY EARLIER VERSIONS OF NeAT.**

Release 1.2.014 : Corrected minor bugs in help file. Corrected group reorder (used to mess up with hot keys). Compacted and increased the level of code portability. Improved error handling. Added the Browse... button in the item properties dialog. Added a clock. Added an assistant called NeAT File Converter, charged to handle file compatibility with previous NeAT versions. Removed code handling compatibility with previous versions. Import can now convert groups with more than 15 elements. Right/Left arrow handling under standard interface. Modified NeAT button Drag and Drop so that it is now a server that can be used by other applications. Improved the behaviour of dialogs with wrong values entered.

Release 1.3.016 : Improved code consistency, Improved speed. Added Aliases (big work!), modified Preferences dialog to support Aliases related features. New version of NeAT File Converter handling new file format. Improved help topics.

Release 1.3.017 : Maintenance release fixing small cosmetic bug in the startup splash window. Introducing flexible memory size. Changed Alias close box. Fixed a bug in drag and drop mixing NeAT buttons (messed up arrows moves).

Release 1.3.019 : Added a Find... item command, accessed through CTRL + Browse (Give it a try!). Clock supports 12/24 hours format according to Control Panel preferences setting. Fixed small bugs : double clicking the iconized title bar was not restoring NeAT, dropping a file from Windows File Manager was not activating NeAT. Adding an item is now fixed, command line and working directory are what they should be.

Thanks for forwarding your suggestions or problems to my e-mail on CompuServe (*see* About NeAT dialog, and above in this file).

Thanks in advance for your help and support.
Pierre-Eric COLIN.