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Revision History of the NetWare DOS Shell and Windows Device Driver Set

Andy Cox
Product Manager
NetWare Product Marketing

This AppNote contains a summary of the revisions made to the NetWare DOS shell files (NETx.COM, EMSNETx.EXE, and XMSNETx.EXE), starting with v3.01 Rev A. It also lists the revisions to Novell's NetWare Device Driver Set for Windows.

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Revisions of the NetWare DOS Shell v3.01

The following is a history of changes that have occurred in the NetWare DOS shell software, starting with v3.01. Note that not all changes are listed, only the major ones.

This document is based on the shell history file included in the DOSUP*x*.ZIP file on NetWire. This file is in the Novell Download Directory, which you can access by typing "GO NDD" once you're in CompuServe. The DOSUP*x*.ZIP file is updated with each additional release of the NetWare DOS shell (the number for *x* is incremented with each update of the DOS client software).

The three files included as part of the NetWare DOS shell software are:

- NET*x*.COM
- XMSNET*x*.EXE
- EMSNET*x*.EXE

You can use the NetWare VERSION utility to identify which version of these files you currently have. The syntax is:

VERSION [*Path*]*Filename*

Replace *Filename* with the name of the shell file whose version you want to see. Include the *Path* if you're not currently in the directory in which the file resides.

Shell v3.01 Rev A

This was the initial release of the v3.01 shell files, and forms the beginning of the DOS shell history file. The date of this release is 5-8-90.

Shell v3.01 Rev B

This release of the v3.01 shell, dated 6-6-90, corrected a problem with the Rev A shell in which loading SiteLock by Brightworks would fail, thus causing the DOS workstation to hang.

Shell v3.01 Rev C

The NetWare DOS Shell Rev C was made available only to NetWare developers. It corrected a number of problems with the Rev B shell, as detailed below. These changes were all incorporated into the Rev D release dated 9-7-90.

- Using the "Preferred Server" option with the Rev B shell caused the network response time to be functionally slower than if the user did not use this option.
- When using DOS 4.0 with the EMSNET*x* and XMSNET*x* shells, the DOS directories would not display correctly under Windows.
- The enhanced memory shells were not sending header information when using print job configurations that included escape codes. For example, a print job that should

print landscape would print using the default mode (portrait).
● When printing to a captured LPT device, a "Device not ready" error message would appear. A retry would allow the job to continue.
● Fake roots were being deleted on paths with volume names before the path was determined valid; for example, CD PRN: would delete the fake root.
● On 286-based servers, memory in Dynamic Memory Pool 1 (DMP 1) was not being released properly with the XMSNET*x* and EMSNET*x* shells, eventually causing the server to hang. With the v3.01 Rev C shell, the memory is released when the user exits the Windows DOS prompt.

Shell v3.01 Rev D

The NetWare DOS shell v3.01 Rev D, dated 9-7-90, was released to all users and contains all the changes listed above for the v3.01 Rev C shell.

Another release of the Rev D shell occurred on 9-18-90. This release contained the following changes:

● When running the v3.01 Rev D shell on a NetWare v2.15 or previous operating system, external program execution from the login script (using the # command) does not work unless the user has Open privileges at the volume root. This was corrected in the shells dated 9-18-90 and later.
● NVER will return Rev C instead of Rev D. This was corrected in the shells dated 9-18-90 and later.

Shell v3.01 Rev E

This revision of the shell was dated 11-27-90. It corrected the following problems:

● When using the DOS 4.0 "TrueName" (an undocumented DOS command) command, invalid data was returned to the shell. This invalid data causes Emerald's System's backup to not function properly.
● Microsoft Link was reporting a scratched file error when linking a large number of files.
● Added support for the VERSION.EXE utility, which was not present in earlier releases of the shell.
● Corrected a problem with the rename function where the wrong error code would be returned to applications such as Platinum Accounting by Advanced Business Microsystems. This error was also exhibited with the NETGEN message "Cannot find DRVRDATA.DAT."
● Corrected a problem where the shell was not correctly maintaining the default server after logout when an X.25 bridge is used.
● On ELS NetWare servers, you would get one less connection than the maximum when using remote boot. The v3.01 Rev E shell corrected this problem, allowing the user to get all connections to the server.
● Enabled file caching in EMSNET*x* and XMSNET*x* shells. File caching was not enabled in earlier releases of the enhanced memory shells.

● Added the "/?" option to the command line, which displays version and usage information.
● Added a feature that informs the user when a terminate-and-stay-resident (TSR) program is loaded when trying to unload the shell.

Shell v3.02

Version 3.02 of the NetWare DOS shell files was released on 2-06-91. This release contained the following fixes and enhancements:

● Corrected a problem with file caching that was introduced with the NetWare Shell v3.01E. Users were experiencing problems when running Paradox, Quattro, and Lotus 123 with the extended memory shells.
● Enhanced the speed of file caching which improves the speed of file read and writes.
● Some applications (such as DESQview, NetRemote, etc.) that use EMS, or XMS would occasionally hang when using the enhanced memory shells. This was corrected in the 3.02 shells.
● Unloading the shell now relinquishes all connections (previously retained one connection.)
● When setting parameter Cache Buffers = 0 in the NET.CFG the shell caching is turned off.
● Corrected a problem where capturing to a file would result in truncated print files. These files are now created and printed correctly.
● Added two new NET.CFG parameters—DOS NAME and ENVIRONMENT PAD:

DOS NAME=*name*
This option specifies the name of the DOS version used by the workstation. This name could be something like "MSDOS," "PCDOS," "DRDOS," and should correspond to the %OS name in the login script and the name of the DOS directory. The maximum length of the DOS NAME is five characters.

ENVIRONMENT PAD=*number*
This option specifies the number of bytes that can be added to the DOS environment space for storing search drive path names. If you are specifying many long path names for search drives with the MAP command, you may need to add extra environment space to hold those names. The number of bytes can be any number from 17 to 512 (17 is the default). We recommend that you leave this option at the default value unless you are encountering environment space problems.

Shell v3.10

Version 3.10 of the NetWare DOS shell, dated 3-07-91, included the new NET5.COM, XMSNET5.EXE, and EMSNET5.EXE files that work with DOS 5.0.

Shell v3.21

This release of the NetWare DOS shell, dated 7-18-91, is called the "generic" shell. The same three files—NETX.COM,

XMSNETX.EXE, and EMSNETX.EXE—work with DOS 3.*x*, 4.*x*, and 5.*x*.

In addition, v3.21 shell contains the following enhancements and corrections:

- The "/c = *filename*" option was added to allow flexible naming of the shell configuration file (for instance, NET.CFG).
- The "/f" option was added to allow the shell to be unloaded after it had been loaded high.
- Added a date code to the shell. When you run "NETX i" the shell will display the shell version, date of creation, and copyright information.
- The shell was enhanced to be able to locate the Master environment regardless of its location.
- Added support for EMS memory handle names.
- Added support for international date and time formats.
- Added a feature to display the version of DOS that is currently running when the shell is loaded.
- Fixed a problem with the "Preferred Server" function that caused some machines to hang randomly.
- Fixed a problem with being denied simultaneous access to a shared file.
- Corrected "call 5" functions for programs ported from CPM to DOS.
- Resolved a problem where Btrieve files were being corrupted when the server was downed improperly.
- Fixed cache problem which was causing a WordPerfect diskfull error.
- Fixed the DOS NAME parameter problem with the EMS and XMS shell. The EMS and XMS shells would hang when loading if the DOS NAME was used.
- Fixed the problem with "P_STATION" returning bad information in the login script. (This problem occurred only with the v3.2 shell.)
- DOS 5.0 "Load High" was not working properly with NET5.COM. NETX.COM v3.21 will work with the DOS 5.0 "Load High" command.
- DOS 5.0 MEM program was not displaying program names properly after the shell was loaded. This functionality works with this release of the shell.
- The DOS ATTRIB command was unable to find hidden directories on network drives. This functionality works with this release of the shell.
- Fixed a problem with remote boot on workstations with hard drives.

Shell v3.22

This release of the NetWare DOS shell, dated 7-31-91, corrected a problem with remote boot and DOS 5.0. Previously, the shell would look to the F: drive rather then the A: (virtual) drive.

Revisions of the

NetWare Device Drivers for Windows

This is the revision history of the major changes that have occurred in the NetWare Device Driver Set for Microsoft Windows. This information is based on the revision history document included in the WINUP*x*.ZIP file on NetWire. This file is updated with each additional release of the NetWare Device Driver Set (the number for *x* is incremented with each update of the driver set).

NetWare Driver Set v1.00 and v1.01

Version 1.00, dated 5-01-90, and Version 1.01, dated 8-22-90, of the NetWare Device Driver Set incorporated the following changes:

- Added the NetWare version information to the NetWare Device Driver Set so that when users run the NetWare VERSION utility, the program will provide the correct version information.
- Updated the NETWARE.HLP file to contain better help information.
- Updated the device mode dialog box to handle messages and repaint the screen properly.
- Some print jobs would not print correctly (only a few characters per page, unrecognizable characters). In the NetWare Device Driver set for Windows v1.02, we added SEND Header and Trailer information to the printer.
- Added a beep to the map path to warn users when they are out of space.
- Corrected a problem with NWPOPUP.EXE in which memory was not being cleared out when NWPOPUP was disabled.
- Fixed auto scroll in NetWare dialog boxes to handle long entries.

NetWare Driver Set v1.02

This release of the NetWare Device Driver Set, dated 4-09-91, contained the following changes:

- Fixed banner name if none was set.
- Changed the NetWare dialog boxes to use Helvetica 8-point font. This change was made to be more consistent with the Windows standard.
- Added code in the LIBMAIN to check for minimum and maximum values for .INI values.
- Fixed a problem where, in standard mode, the print banner was not being called correctly, causing incorrect banner headings.
- Fixed a problem where the machines would hang when clearing broadcast messages.
- Made several cosmetic changes to the NetWare dialog boxes.

NetWare Driver Set v1.03

This release of the NetWare Device Driver Set, dated 6-14-91, contained the following changes:

- Updated the NetWare Device Driver Set for Windows to support NetWare Tools (Windows-based user utilities).
- Redesigned the Network Control Dialog Box to better represent Control Panel functionality.
- Made minor cosmetic changes to the browse, queue, and detach dialog boxes.