

WSetPass — a Netware® Password Changing Utility

A program to help maintain passwords on Netware 2.2 / 3.11 / 3.12 / 4.x file servers

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Introduction

WSETPASS is a Windows program intended for use by network administrators, help desk staff, and ordinary users in maintaining user passwords on Novell file servers. Depending on the way you configure it, you can either:

- display a list box of all the servers on your network, or
- display only attached servers plus those servers which are specified in an INI file.

You can select any number of these servers and change a user password across them all.

With WSETPASS you can:

- easily reset the password for a user on any file server on your network without having to explicitly log in to the server.
- synchronise a password across all file servers on which a userid exists. Because WSETPASS dynamically logs in and out, there is no eight server limit on the number of servers you can synchronise the password across.
- show users a list of all servers on which they have a userid, including servers to which they may not be logged in. This makes it easy for users to keep their passwords synchronised.
- show users or help desk staff a subset of the servers on your network.
- leave it running in the background, instantly ready for use when needed by help desk staff for resetting a password.

System requirements

Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later with support for Netware installed; 100Kb of disk space needed for the program and its help file; NWCALLS.DLL and NWNET.DLL installed in your WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory (WINDOWS directory for a shared network installation).

Installation

This archive contains:

WSETPASS.WRI	this file
WSETPASS.EXE	the program
WSETPASS.HLP	Windows help for the program
CTL3DV2.DLL	Microsoft DLL for 3-D dialog boxes
WHATS.NEW	Version history and description of new features in this release

1. Copy the WSETPASS.EXE and WSETPASS.HLP to any directory you choose. A shared directory on the server disk to which users have read access is the most suitable location.
2. Copy CTL3DV2.DLL to your WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory (WINDOWS directory for a shared network installation). If you already have this file and your existing copy is a later date than the file in this archive, omit this step.
3. Ensure that you have NWCALLS.DLL and NWNET.DLL installed in your WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. The most recent versions of these files are, at time of writing, available in WINUP9.EXE in the NOVFILES forum on Compuserve. The newer version of NWCALLS, in particular, fixes problems with earlier versions of the DLL, such as those released with Netware 4.0 and 4.01.
4. Create an icon for the program:

Description:	Whatever you like
Command Line:	<path>\WSETPASS.EXE
Working Directory:	Can be omitted

Instructions for use

Instructions for use can also be found in the online help file. This is in Windows Help format and can be viewed either by starting WSETPASS and pressing F1, or by selecting Help from the system menu, or by selecting File / Run from the Program Manager menu, and entering WINHELP <dir>\WSETPASS.HLP, where <dir> is the directory where you installed

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WSETPASS.HLP. The help file does not contain the detailed instructions given here for configuring WSetPass for various users.

WSetPass can be run in one of four modes. These are selected from the system menu (the little box with the minus sign in the top left of the program window):

1. **Administrator.** The user is assumed to be a supervisor or workgroup manager, and all servers on the network appear in the WSetPass list box regardless of the INI file settings.
2. **Manager.** The user is assumed to be a supervisor or workgroup manager, but if there are settings in the INI file restricting the servers to be displayed, then only those servers will be shown in the list box.
3. **User.** The user is assumed to be an ordinary user with no supervisor or workgroup manager privileges, and if there are settings in the INI file restricting the servers to be displayed, then only those servers will be shown in the list box.
4. **Admin User.** The user is assumed to be an ordinary user with no supervisor or workgroup manager privileges, but all servers on the network appear in the WSetPass list box regardless of the INI file settings.

You use Administrator or Manager mode to reset passwords for other users, and User or Admin User mode to run as an ordinary user changing your own password.

Depending on what information is stored in the INI file, an ordinary user can be restricted to running in User mode and will not see any of these choices on the system menu.

Resetting a user password

- 1 Select either Administrator or Manager from the WSETPASS system menu. To use the program as an administrator or manager, you must either be a Supervisor or Workgroup Manager for the file server(s) where you want to change the password.

The difference between Administrator and Manager is that if you select Manager, you can limit the servers that WSetPass displays to those servers listed in an INI file. If you select Administrator, you will see all available servers regardless of what servers are in the INI file.
- 2 If changing the password on a single server, double-click on the server name in the list box. If changing a user's password across multiple servers, use the standard multiple-select list box techniques (a combination of the Control and Shift keys and the left mouse button), and then press Enter or click the Change Password button.
- 3 Fill in your manager id and password and the user's id and password in the dialog box that appears, and press Enter or click OK. The first time you change a password in a session, you have to enter the manager's id and password. If you minimize WSetPass and leave it running, the manager id and password are in the dialog box fields ready for your next password change (see also *Convenience versus security* below).
- 4 WSETPASS shows you a progress dialog, indicating the progress in changing the password.

Changing a user password across multiple servers

- 1 Select User or Admin User from the WSETPASS system menu. You must know the existing password for the user on all the servers on which you wish to change it (and it must be the same on all the servers).

The difference between User and Admin User is that if you select User, you can limit the servers that WSetPass displays to those servers listed in an INI file. If you select Admin User, you will see all available servers regardless of what servers are in the INI file.
- 2 Perform step 2 as for a password reset.
- 3 Fill in the userid and old and new passwords in the dialog box, and click OK.
- 4 Watch the progress dialog

Restricting the servers shown to a user

There are two ways you can do this, one way for users, the other for help desk staff:

1. If you want WSetPass to be used by ordinary users to maintain their passwords, but you only want them to see servers on which they have an account, then create a single shared WSETPASS.INI file that contains the server information for every user who is to manage their password. The format of this file is as follows:

```
[userid1]
s1=servername1
s2=servername2

[userid2]
s1=servername1
s2=servername2
```

and so on, where the userids are the users on your system who you want to have manage their passwords in this manner. This file should be in either the Windows system directory, (WINDOWS directory for a shared network installation), or in the directory from where WSetPass is executed. As the users do not need to update this file, they only need read and file scan rights in this directory. Any user for whom there is a [userid] section will only be able to run in User mode.

2. If you want your help desk staff see only a subset of the servers on your network (for instance, staff in a region may only manage servers in that region), but still be able to have the choice of seeing all servers, then create a [Servers] section in the WSETPASS.INI file containing the servers that should be shown in the list box.

```
[Servers]
s1=servername1
s2=servername2
```

For either option, the way that WSetPass searches is as follows:

1. When it starts, it looks first for a [userid] section matching the user's login name in the WSETPASS.INI file in the user's Windows directory. If it finds one, the user is restricted to those servers listed in that section, plus any servers to which their workstation has a connection, and they can only run the program in User mode.
2. If no [userid] section is found, WSetPass then looks for a [userid] section matching the user's login name in a WSETPASS.INI file in the Windows system directory, and if it finds one, applies the same restrictions.
3. If no [userid] section or WSETPASS.INI file is found in the Windows system directory, the search is repeated in the directory from where WSETPASS.EXE is executed.
4. If no match was found in steps 1, 2, or 3, the search sequence is repeated, this time looking for a [Servers] section. If one is found, the results depend on whether the user is running the program as a Manager or as an Administrator or Admin User. If running as a Manager, then the servers displayed are restricted to those servers in the INI file plus any servers to which the workstation has a connection. If running as an Administrator or Admin User, all servers are displayed.

Any user who is a Manager can select Administrator or Admin User mode if they want to see all servers in the list box. If they toggle between modes, the servers shown will similarly toggle between selected servers and all servers. A user who has a [userid] section cannot run the program in any other mode than as a user and will not see all servers.

This arrangement gives you flexibility in the way that you can set the program up for different users, by configuring what you put in the INI files and in what location. For example, you could set up your help desk staff to share a common [Servers] section in a shared INI file. Any person on the help desk who need a slightly different list of servers could have this section placed in their own WSETPASS.INI file in their Windows directory. The information will then be read from there rather than from the shared file.

Convenience versus security

By default, when run in Manager or Administrator mode, WSetPass will save the manager's userid in the user's WSETPASS.INI file at the end of each program execution and retrieve it the next time it is started. If you are willing to compromise security for convenience, you can tell WSetPass to also save the manager's password (in encrypted form). To activate this feature, add the following entry to the [WSetPass] section of the user's WSETPASS.INI file.

```
SavePassword=1
```

Each site should evaluate their security requirements to decide if this is acceptable. Even though WSetPass encrypts the saved password in the INI file, you may still feel that the convenience of not having to type in a password is outweighed by the security considerations. Although the password is encrypted, if:

- a) someone gets hold of a copy of the WSETPASS.INI file containing the encrypted password, and
- b) has access to a copy of WSetPass

then although they cannot recover the plaintext password by starting the program (it is still hidden); by starting WSetPass using the INI file, they have the same rights to change passwords as the valid user of the file, and can change the password for another user (possibly SUPERVISOR or equivalent) and thereby be able to log in as that user.

Note that some passwords, when encrypted, may contain binary characters that cannot be written as text to the WSETPASS.INI file, which is only a text file. If this is the case, you will either have to enter you manager's password for each WSetPass session, or change the password to one which can be successfully written to and retrieved from the file.

The password is searched for in the same manner as the restricted server list: first the user's own WSETPASS.INI, then in the Windows system directory, then in the program directory. This means that if you have a number of help desk staff who share the same userid and password, you can disable the password saving option for them and place the encrypted password in the shared INI file. Note that WSetPass will never save a password to anywhere except the WSETPASS.INI file in the user's Windows directory. If you want the password to be held in a shared file, you will have to first enable password saving to create the encrypted password in your local INI file, and then copy the saved password to the shared file.

Note that the security risks involved in storing a password in this shared file are greater than if the password is stored in the local INI file. Any user who does not have a [userid] section in the shared file, and who has access to the directory where WSetPass and the INI file are stored, will be able to run WSetPass and switch it into Manager mode, complete with password. If you store the password in this manner, I strongly suggest that you remove the inherited rights mask on the directory where you put WSetPass and the INI file, and only allow those users who should be using the utility the rights to see that directory.

Notes and Restrictions

Running Windows in standard mode

The Netware support for Windows does not appear to correctly support all calls when running Windows in standard mode. If WSetPass is reporting what seem to be invalid errors on Netware calls (i.e. they shouldn't be happening) and you are running Windows in standard mode, try switching to enhanced mode to see if the errors disappear.

If you already have a connection to a server

If you already have a connection to a server for which you wish to change a user's password, WSetPass will query you whether wish to login as the new user. If you do, you will be logged in as the new user and any existing rights and drive mappings will be lost.

Your primary connection

You cannot change a password on your primary server (the server from which your login script was executed when you logged in) unless the userid you select (in User mode) or the manager's id you select (in Manager pr Administrator mode) is the id under which you are already logged in.

Maximum number of connections

WSetPass will fail if you are already attached to the maximum number of servers before you

run it. The Netware shell limits you to eight concurrent connections; the VLM requester is configurable to a maximum of 50 connections.

Netware 4 and NDS connections

WSetPass is not an NDS aware application. However, you, as a manager, can use it to change the NDS password for a user provided that:

- you are logged in as an NDS user
- you are in the context where the user whose password you are changing is defined
- the server is running bindery emulation

If you are trying, as a user, to change your own password, WSetPass will not change the password on a server to which you already have an NDS connection. With Netware Directory Services, each userid only has a single password across all servers to which it has rights, so it does not make sense to talk about synchronizing passwords.

User identification

When you are logged in as an NDS user, this version of WSetPass cannot retrieve the full user identification when using the NDS bindery emulation. It appears that the emulation does not support the conversion of the user's NDS details to the bindery equivalent. If the user also exists in the bindery on the same server, you will get the bindery identification for the user, even though you are logged in to NDS.

Runtime errors

If an error occurs, you will get a message box showing the Netware function that failed and the four digit hex error code. If you want a text explanation of the error code, click on the Help button in the message box.

WSETPASS has quite extensive online help. If you're unsure of what to enter in any of the fields, click the nearest help button.

Registration

This program is marketed as shareware. You are granted a 30 day trial period, after which you are required to register the product. The cost of a single user license is USD \$35. This entitles you to run the program from one workstation and change passwords on any server. If you want to run the program from more than one workstation simultaneously, you can either:

- purchase additional workstation licenses at USD \$35
- purchase a server license for USD \$150, allowing you to run WSetPass on any workstation attached to that server
- Discounts are available for a site licence. If you require a site licence, allowing you to use NWMenu on any workstation in your organisation, please e-mail to Compuserve 100033,432 giving details of the number of servers in your organisation.

To register the program, either:

on CompuServe, GO SWREG at any ! prompt and:

quote number 1870 for a workstation license

quote number 2076 for a server license

or print out the registration form included here and post to:

Nick Payne
P.O. Box 4384
Kingston ACT 2604
Australia

Registered users will be sent a registration number to disable the reminder box, and will be informed of any upgrades that may become available. Purchasers of a site license will be sent a copy of the program that does not require the software key to be entered at each workstation. Registered users can get support through Compuserve mail to 100033,432.

Entering your Registration information

Once you have received your registration information, start WSETPASS and either click on

the Register button in the startup shareware dialog or select Register from the system menu. Enter your name and/or company and the registration key, and click on OK. All details must be entered *exactly* as you received them, including case and punctuation.

I would be pleased to receive any comments, bug reports or suggestions for future releases. I may be contacted by E-Mail at:

CompuServe: 100033,432

or by post at:

PO Box 4384
Kingston ACT 2604
AUSTRALIA

Shareware registration form

Please complete order details (at minimum licensee name, address, and payment details) and either:

submit via the SWREG forum on Compuserve and:

quote number 1870 for a workstation license

quote number 2076 for a server license

or post to: Nick Payne
P.O. Box 4384
Kingston ACT 2604
Australia

Use a separate order form for each licensee.

Please give an e-Mail address if you have one so I can inform you of your registration code as soon as I receive your order, and give timely information on upgrades.

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

CompuServe: _____

___ user licenses at USD \$35 _____

___ server licenses at USD \$150 _____

Do you already have a copy of the program? Y/N _____

If so, what version do you have? _____
(select About from the system menu and click
on Credits to see the version number)

If not, please add shipping and handling

Shipping & handling (international post orders)

_____ USD \$10 _____

Total _____

Enclose check/P.O./money order for total (or converted equivalent):