

Important Release Notes

This is the MiscKit version 1.7.0. It is recommended that you place this folder (aMiscKit^o) in /LocalDeveloper/Source so that it is available to everyone who uses your system, though the MiscKit can be built and installed anywhere you like.

If you have a pre-1.5.0 version of the MiscKit installed, it is recommended that you do a ^amake uninstall^o before installing this version. If you don't, you may get several ^aPermission denied^o errors during the installation due to some files in previous releases which had permissions of -r--r--r-- and cannot be overwritten by gnutar. The permissions have been changed in this release so that uninstalls shouldn't be necessary in the future. If you get the errors, they won't hurt anything important in the installation; the only side effect is that some of the examples might not be able to be built under NS Dev 3.3.

DiskSpace;~The installed MiscKit will require approximately 24 megabytes if compiled quad-fat. You will need about ten megabytes in addition to that if you

plan to keep the source code. In order to do a successful quad fat `make install` from the MiscKit distribution, you will need nearly 70 megabytes free on your hard disk. Doing a quad fat `make install` takes well over three hours on 25MHz Motorola hardware. A quad-fat `make all` requires nearly 184 megabytes! It is recommended that you do a `make install` and then build only the examples you are interested in. And then only after having done a `make distclean` to remove extraneous object files.

MiscKit 1.6.0 added a new `libMiscString.a`. This library duplicates the `MiscString` code which is in `libMiscKit.a`. It exists for people who use the `MiscString` object but not the other MiscKit objects. Using the `MiscString` library in these cases will reduce the size of the linked file. If you are linking against `libMiscKit.a`, do **not** also link against `libMiscString.a` or you will get link conflicts! It was chosen to do it this way, rather than removing the `MiscString` code from `libMiscKit.a`, to retain compatability with existing projects.

You should either be running NEXTSTEP 3.[23] or expect to go through hassles. To try and help you out, you can `su` to root and type `make prep` to attempt to install some things the Makefile expects to have that are only available under 3.2. If you can't do this, expect to have to roll up your sleeves and tweak the Makefiles a little bit. (If you can't get the `prep` target to work and have modified the Makefile instead, you can do a `touch .prepped` in the top level to skip prepping on future

builds.) The MiscKit is built quad fat (m68k, i386, hppa, and sparc) by default. Please see the ;Documentation/UsingTheMiscKit.rtf;Fat;-notes on the current wrinkles involved in changing the target architectures, especially if you are running a version of NEXTSTEP before 3.3.

MiscTime has been changed in an incompatible way. The pre 1.5.0 implementation was confused about the yearÐsometimes it thought the year instance variable was the actual year (ie, holding ^a1995^o for the year 1995) and sometimes it used the UNIXy way, ^ayear-1900,^o so that ^a95^o was stored for 1995. To clear it up, the year instance variable now stores the actual year, *not the ^ayear - 1900^o as before*. If you use this object, check to be sure that your code will not be broken by this change.

Some Sparc users have reported ixbuild crashing. If this happens to you, build the documentation indices on other hardware and comment out the ixbuild line in the Makefile so that this step is avoided.

Some of the new classes brought in from the MOKitÐspecifically the flexible document handling architectureÐare not yet 100% ready for use. They are here mostly for comments by MiscKit users. They will be fully integrated and documented, with an example app, in an upcoming MiscKit release. It is currently planned for the rest of the MOKit to be folded into the MiscKit within the next

release or two. (I'm waiting on permission to use some code from other, non-MOKit, objects to enhance the MOKit and MiscKit stuff in the process. Ⓓdon)

There are audio alerts initiated by the Makefile to encourage you to read this file. As shipped, the Makefile is configured to play them. If you haven't started the build yet then you can disable these alerts by simply changing the AUDIOALERTS variable at the start of the Makefile from `^YES^` to `^NO^`. The variable SHOWREADME controls whether or not you are forced to see this file.

The Temp folder contains works in progress which are not yet fully integrated into the kit, but may be useful to you nonetheless. These items are documented at the end of the file `;Authors.rtf;TempFolder;~Authors.rtf`. There are several interesting items in this area, so be sure to check it out! In addition, the MOKit is in the process of merging with the MiscKit. The current MOKit is available from the regular NeXT archives.

There may be a problem with building the main library; at least one user has reported that the first five object files are not added to the MiscKit library. We do not know where the bug lies, but it appears that it could possibly be with NeXT's tools or Makefiles. Since Don cannot repeat this problem on his machines (running 3.2), this problem has not necessarily been fixed. At least one user with a 3.2 machine has had this problem, so if you have it, too, please help us track it

down and fix it! The Makefile combines an **otool -O libMiscKit.a** with a **diff** see if the object files in the library match the list of files that are *supposed* to be there, so if there *is* a problem with your build, it will be flagged.

Submissions.rtf;Submissions.rtf;;¬ provides tips to make your submissions a bit better. There is also a TableOfContents;TableOfContents.rtf;;¬ designed to help you navigate through the information in the MiscKit and answer Frequently Asked Questions;FAQ.rtf;FAQ;¬ (the FAQ). If you have suggestions of things which could be added to these files, please submit them.

If you find any bugs or have any problems, please let us know!

feedback;¬MiscKit

Feedback

(and mailing lists)

To suggest improvements in the kit, direct your comments to the original author of the object(s) in question, as listed in Authors.rtf. Be sure to state the version number of the MiscKit and the resource (object, bundle, etc.).

To suggest ideas for new objects or general comments for the entire development team, or to participate yourself, send mail to the MiscKit mailing list at misckit@listman.thoughtport.com (for list traffic) or, if you're not yet on the list, send mail to misckit-request@listman.thoughtport.com (to either get on or off the list).

Items in the MiscKit will be useful to some, and very lacking for others. The best thing to do is to bug the various authors about features that you need fixed or implemented. Submissions of your own objects are welcome and we also welcome ideas for new objects that you would find useful. The areas most frequently requested will, of course, receive more attention. So if you find any bugs, or have any problems with portions of the MiscKit, please let us know.

Other Notes

In spirit, license and use is utterly free. Commercial, shareware, and freeware apps can all use this stuff as much as they want as long as they comply with the (very few) requirements detailed in the file License.rtf. That also means there's no warranty, no support, and you are on your own. (Of course, there are many helpful folk on the MiscKit mailing list, so support does *exist*, although it is not *promised*.) If you use the MiscKit, you should acknowledge that fact in your app somewhere, but you have no other obligation to meet in order to use the MiscKit.

Despite the lack of official support, your feedback is very important. It would be appreciated if you would send any changes you make in the MiscKit source code to the original author of the modified resource so that others may benefit from your changes.

Share and enjoy!²

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²Douglas Adams, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. :-)