User Manual for NetBack version 3.0

1 Introduction

NetBack is utility that allows you to select an unlimited number of network shares for backup. This program is not meant to replace NTBackup.Exe, it is to be used as a tool to extend the functionality and to make backups easier to schedule and manage.

2 Functions:
>>   - Move a selected share to the target list.
<<   - Remove a selected share from the target list.
Up   - Move a selected share in the target list up one position.
Down   - Move a selected share in the target list down one position.
Modify   - Change a selected shares options, type, and/or temporary drive.
Execute   - Start the backup of the selected shares.
Exit   - Exit this program
Intro. - Print this help message.
Refresh   - Refresh the network share list. Gets the current share list from the network.

3 Global Options:
Initialize Tape - The backup series will initialize the tape during the first backup.
Log NetBack   - Creates a log file of all messages sent to the Status window(s).

4 Backup Options:
Create Log File - Creates a log file of the form __<node name>_<share name>.Log in the current working directory (where the program is run from).
Pause   - Lets the program sleep for 5 seconds per backup to give the tape drive time to reset.
Verify   - Verifys the backup just completed.
Password   - Uses the specified password and username for connection requests.
Debug   - Runs NTBackup in debug mode.

5 Backup Type:
Normal   - All the selected files are backed up and updated on disk.
Copy - All the selected files are backed up.
Incremental   - Only files not previously backed up are selected and updated on disk.
Differential   - Only files not previously backed up are selected.
Daily - Only files modified the same day as the backup are selected.

6 Temporary Drive:
Assigns the temporary drive letter used to connect to the selected share during the backup phase. Normally the same letter is used for all shares. Only available drives are listed.

7 Username and Password
Specifies the username and password combination for connection requests.

8 Status Message:
Displays important information to the user. Read its messages for backup status and error messages.

9 Command line arguements
 The following values may be passed on the command line.

-delay   Used to keep NetBack from scanning the network at startup.
   -execute   Used to initiate a backup once NetBack is started. NetBack will not exit once the backup is complete. This allows the user to check the status messages to confirm the completeness of the backup.
   -exit   Used to exit NetBack after a backup is complete.
   -help Used to display the introduction message at startup.
   -input:<n>   Used for passing the name of the input configuration file. <n> denotes the name of the file.
   -minimum   Used for bug workarounds for the NTBackup.Exe, uses minimum commands for backups. If Service Pack 2 has been applied, pass this parameter on the command line.

9 Mouse Button Menu Functions
   The NetBack menu may be accessed by selecting the RIGHT mouse button anywhere in the NetBack window and not on top of a window control.
   Open- open a saved NetBack configuration file.
   Save - save the current NetBack configuration for use at a later time.
   Exit   - Exits NetBack.

10 Menu Bar
   File   - manipulates NetBack configuration files.
                  Open   - Opens a NetBack configuration file.
                  Save   - Saves a NetBack configuration to a file.
                  Exit   - Exits NetBack.

   Status   - manipulates status windows.
                  Open Status Window   - Opens a Status Message window.
                  Close Status Window   - Closes an open Status Message window.
                  Clear Status Messages - Clears all message from any tatus Message window.

   Shares   - manipulates share names in the source and target list.
                  Clear Selected   - Clears all shares from the target list.
                  Add Administrative   - Trys to find all Administrative shares for nodes in the
source list.
                  Add All   - Adds all shares in the source list to the target list.
                  Add Filtered   - Add only those shares that match a wildcard string
provided by the user.

   Help   - displays help messages and functions.

11 Usage

NetBack presents the user with a dialog box that is centered around two lists, the source list and the target list. The source list shows all network shares found. The target list shows the shares selected from the source list for backup. All other information is centered around either the shares on the network or the items in the target list.

The most important thing to learn about NetBack is the way to Add shares from the source list to the target list. Share may be added in the following way(s):
1) Select a share from the drop-down list and add them to the target list.
2) Open a configuration file that has been created by NetBack or edited by hand. Occasionally, NetBack will not find some network shares that are provided by third-party network providers. If you know the names of the shares, add them to a configuration file and let NetBack try to add them in.

3) Manually enter the share name in the drop-down source list box and add it to the target list. Occasionally, NetBack will not find some network shares that are provided by third-party network providers. If you know the names of the share, add it to the source list and let NetBack try to add it in.
4) Add by Filter. This allows you to specify a wildcard pattern for finding matches from the source list. For example, the filter string "**backup*" will find all nodes that have the string "backup" in their share name. Using a filter can save time if you have a backup scheme in place.

If a share name is not added to the target list, look at the error messages provided in the status windows. They may show problems that are easily correctible, such as changing the username and password combination for network connections.

The options and backup types found on the right hand side of the screen are modifiers for the shares in the target list. A shares items may be modified in two ways. First, select the desired modifiers before adding a share to the target list. Second, select the desired modifiers and press the "Modify" button.

Many of the command line arguements may be combined to automate backups for repeated and unattended use. By mixing pre-configured configuration files with the commands "-delay"   "-execute" and "input", backups can be run automatically through the WindowsNT "AT" command. For example the command, "NetBack.Exe -delay -input:monday.cfg -execute" will have the following effects.
        1) NetBack is started
        2) the network is not scanned for network shares.
        3) the file monday.cfg is scanned for share information.
        4) a backup is started after all input data is checked.

By saving a configuration to a file, you can save yourself time if no new backups will be added during the execution of NetBack. The configuration files may be edited by hand, the format is explained at the top of each file.

11 Backup Schemes

A backup scheme that lets Users and Systems Administrators work together yields the best results. Use the following steps as a template.
1) Create a directory that contains NetBack.Exe and share it on the network under the name Logs.
2) Let the users share an unlimited number of network shares. Tell them that you will backup every share that contains the string "backup" somewhere in it.
3) Select all options for the backups, please include the option "Log File".
4) Start NetBack and add all names that match "**backup*".
5) Execute the backup.
6) Send a mail message upon a successful completion to the Users and let them know that they can check on their backup status by reading the log files created. Use the following DOS command as an example, "notepad \\Dios\Logs__Bunny_Backup.Log". The example command will start the notepad application with the file stored on node "\\Dios" under the share name "Logs" with the log file name of "__Bunny_Backup.Log". This log file was created by backing up node "\\Bunny"'s share name "Backup".

By utilizing the "save" and "open" configuration file features, you can create your own schemes and scheduling of NetBack operations.

12 Downloading NetBack

NetBack is found in the source file NetBack.Ex_. This file may be expanded under NT with the command "expand netback.ex_ NetBack.Exe". This will restore the file to its original size and form. You are now ready to run NetBack!

12 NetBack Upgrades and Updates

NetBack is always under development. If you need a function that is not available or want to suggest an improvement, please send in your suggestions.

If you find a bug, please report it as soon as possible. The sooner it is reported, the sooner it will be fixed.

Thanks for using this program,

-Alan B Clark