

Introduction

Welcome to **Desktop Control Language™ (DCL)**, a full-featured, yet easy-to-use scripting language that lets you control your Microsoft® Windows™ network environment. This chapter contains an overview of DCL, system requirements for running DCL, and information about your package.

An Overview of DCL

DCL is built on the easy-to-learn Basic language. It provides all of the features of a major programming language, including subroutines, functions, strings, arrays, numeric support, and advanced flow control.

DCL provides an integrated development environment for editing, testing, and debugging scripts.

A **Macro Recorder** lets you automatically generate scripts to control other Windows applications. You can modify the code of the recorded macro as needed.

A syntax checker looks for entry errors. A **Debugger** lets you set breakpoints and watch variables and trace through scripts for logic errors.

DCL translates any **MultiSet** scripts you run into **DCL** scripts. The conversion is automatic.

A **Dialog Editor** lets you interactively design dialog boxes and define their controls, and then include the dialog box definition in your script. You can also capture dialog boxes from other applications and paste the captured controls in the **Dialog Editor**.

When you have finished writing and testing your script, you can build an executable (.EXE) file for distribution.

System Requirements

The following list contains the minimum system requirements to run this version of **DCL**.

- An 80386/SX or higher based computer.
- 4 megabytes of memory.
- One 1.44 MB (3-1/2") floppy disk drive (for installation).
- MS-DOS Version 5.0 or later.
- Microsoft Windows Version 3.1 or later, or Windows for Workgroups Version 3.1 or later.
- A monitor and VGA graphics card or other high-resolution graphics card compatible with Windows Version 3.1 or later.
- A Microsoft Windows-compatible mouse, recommended but not required.

Using the Release Notes

The release notes for **DCL** are located on Disk 1. The release notes file exists in Windows Write format:

File	How to view
READDCL.WRI	Run the Windows Write program (WRITE.EXE). Choose Open from the File menu. Select README.WRI on Disk 1 and choose OK.

This file is copied to the NETTOOLS directory during installation.