

Information Sources

266379_PixelRule.tiff ↵

Some people, when seeing this, have sent me messages saying things like "How did you get access to NeXT's internal source!º". Well, it's simple. I didn't. Here's where I got the information used to write this program.

639016_TaskArrowSm.tiff ↵ In /NextDeveloper/Examples/UNIX there is a very simple command-line program called SCSI_CD. Well, actually, it's just the subroutines. Apparently I had to come up with a main program to drive them, though to be honest I don't remember where I got my initial main program (which was about 100 lines) from. Perhaps it was in NS-3.0 but it's not on NS-3.2? If not, then either I wrote it or someone NeXT-mailed it to me.

420578_TaskArrowSm.tiff ↵ I tried playing with that as a unix command-line program, but decided I might as well have a NeXTSTEP user-interface, so I reworked things a bit to do that. Technically though, this is still just a program I'm using to **test** SCSI commands on CD-ROM drives. It just looks like a music-CD player program...

555641_TaskArrowSm.tiff ⇨ Trying to guess at SCSI commands was beyond my ability. I called up the Sony Corp. and they sent me a document called "CD-ROM Drive, SCSI Interface Manual, Model CDU-541 and CDU-6211". Note that the CD-ROM drive that NeXT used to sell (and which I have) is the SONY CD-ROM CDU-541.

410050_TaskArrowSm.tiff ⇨ Looking for more information on SCSI-2 command formats in particular, I checked out newsgroup alt.cd-rom. That pointed me at anonymous ftp site ncrinfo.ncr.com, which has text versions of scsi-descriptions down in /pub/standards/io. I downloaded the file that described SCSI-2.

552277_TaskArrowSm.tiff ⇨ I then realized this was a 17-megabyte file, for a text-only rendition of the SCSI-2 standard. From either alt.cd-rom or from this text version I got the phone number of Global Engineering Documents, and ordered the official working-document version of the SCSI-2 standard.

108547_TaskArrowSm.tiff ⇨ The name mCD was chosen simply because one of the other NeXTSTEP applications I've worked on is called pCD. Later on someone pointed me to an X-based application called xmcd. I have not looked at this yet, and mCD

is not related to xmcd. I believe xmcd supports quite a few more CD-ROM drives than mCD does though, so perhaps I should look into it.

514003_TaskArrowSm.tiff ↪ The current database in mCD is pretty lame. I am working on implementing something more meaningful using the Indexing kit. For clues on how to use the indexing kit, I've been looking at /NextDeveloper/Examples/IndexingKit/Ledger.

224804_PixelRule.tiff ↪