NetShift v2.0

Technical Documentation

6 March 1998

1. Introduction

NetShift is a public proof web browser front end for Internet/Intranet access.

It allows users to easily operate a web browser either in a touch-screen information kiosk or on a corporate Intranet. Sitting on top of and controlling the web browser, it has been designed with a simple and robust user-interface, enabling complete novices to browse in a safe, controlled and intuitive manner.

The software includes a number of functions that enable the system to be efficiently and cost effectively monitored. Consequently, for commercial operators, NetShift can significantly increase the profitability of each installation.

NetShift allows fully secure use in unsupervised access applications due to the extensive built in security features, such as the prevention of unauthorised access to the operating system.

The NetShift system will run with the two most popular browsers on the market today, Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer, running under Windows 95 or NT operating systems and controls the browser dynamically via the Windows API, OLE and DDE, allowing data entry through the integral visual keyboard, or external keyboard or input device.

The self-contained nature of NetShift allows for unconstrained branding or themes, therefore the entire functionality as well as the graphical look of the system can be easily customised to suit the needs of the client. The product has been designed with the premise that the majority of devices deployed around the world will offer free (or very low cost) Internet access, supported or subsidised by advertising. Thus NetShift provides operators with the infrastructure to support various different advertising strategies, from banner ads to full screen carousel video clips. This clearly differentiates NetShift from the competitive alternatives.

Currently the software includes:

- Operates with either Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer.
- Full Email capability including sending and receiving.
- No access to the OS.
- Full event logging.
- Protocol Blocking.
- File Type Blocking.
- Busy bar indicating browser activity.
- Automatic recovery from Netscape or Internet Explorer crashes.
- Monitoring and processing of browser dialog boxes.
- Optional pop-up visual keyboard for touch text entry.
- Support for Foreign Keyboard Layouts
- Optional key/button sounds
- Configurable bitmap border frame
- Large buttons to control browsing via a touch screen.
- Configurable button icons.
- Up to 10 Custom 'Bookmark' Buttons.
- Banner area for static or cycled graphical advertising.
- Built-in real-time clock.
- Will run at any screen resolution.
- Two scroll button modes.
- Idle mode control.
- Active mode for use with 3rd party payment systems
- URL Commands.
- Dynamic Program Execution.
- Password Sequence for controlled exiting.

- Different time-triggered attract modes:

Mode 1: returns to specified home page.
Mode 2: cycles through a web page 'carousel'.
Mode 3: plays full screen motion video clips.

The following features are in development:

- Netscape Navigator 4 compatibility.
- Remote set-up management.
- Remote Log file analysis program.

2. The NetShift Screen

Screen Shots

Full Screen

Clock

Advertising Banner

Logo

Custom Buttons

Direction Buttons

Standard Buttons

Keyboard Visible

Busy Bar

Browser Window

Keyboard
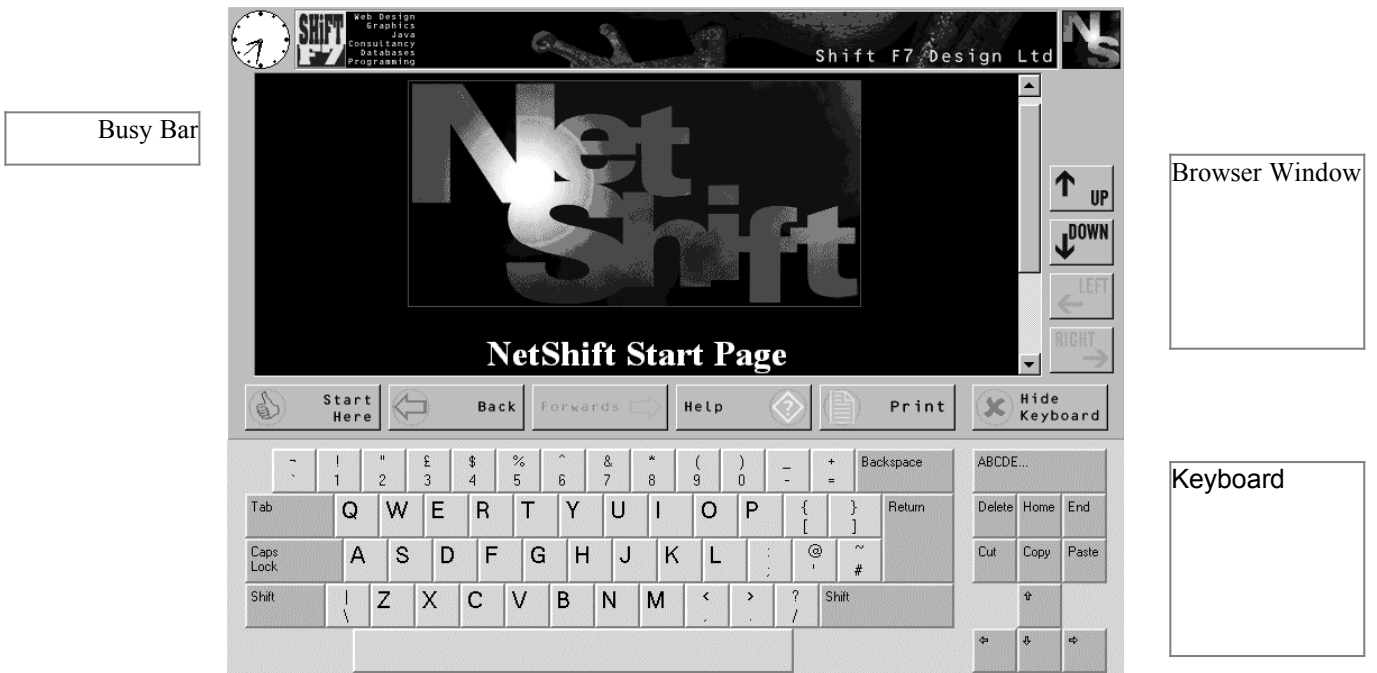
Naming of parts

The Clock

The clock shows the local system time of the kiosk. If the Exit button is enabled then clicking on the clock will also exit NetShift.

The Advertising Banner

This area of the screen can be used to either show a single, static image or to cycle through a series of images or banners. Each of these banners can be 'hot', i.e. linked to a webpage or URL. There can be as many graphical banners as you wish, each of which can be set to display for a specific length of time.

The Logo

The NetShift Logo can be replaced with a static graphic that can be made 'hot' to link to a web page.

The Custom Buttons

These *Custom Buttons* can be assigned graphics of your choice and be made 'hot' to point at a specific web page or URL (similar to a 'Bookmark'). Each of these buttons can also be turned off if required.

The Direction Buttons

The 4 directional *Direction Buttons* are used to move through the webpage currently displayed within the NetShift screen. These buttons will automatically detect when they are not needed and will be shown 'greyed out'.

The Standard Buttons

The *Standard Buttons* can be positioned along the bottom bar using the NetShift Set-up Manager or they can be disabled and not shown on the NetShift screen. Using the NetShift Set-up Manager you can also specify whether you want 5, 6, 7 or 8 buttons to be equally spaced along the bottom panel.

Start

This button returns NetShift to the chosen start page as defined in NetShift Set-up Manager.

Back & Forwards

These buttons can be used to cycle through the browser's history list returning to any web pages previously visited (up to the limit of the browser).

Help

The help button can be set to lead to a help page of your choice, perhaps giving the user instructions or technical support.

Print

This button can be used to print the currently displayed web page to a local or remote printer. In order to use this function your system and Internet Explorer or Netscape must be correctly configured.

Reload

This button will force the browser to reload the currently displayed web page.

Stop

This button will cancel the download of any web page the browser is currently trying to navigate to.

Email

This activates the email send and receive facility.

Show/Hide Keyboard

The *Show Keyboard* button which in the above screen shot is shown in the bottom right hand corner of the screen activates the built in virtual keyboard. When the keyboard is called up, the browser window will automatically resize itself. To remove the keyboard when it is visible select the *Hide Keyboard* button.

The Keyboard

The on-screen virtual keyboard can be used to type text directly into a form field on a web page or dialog box. A full range of languages and an ability to create custom layouts are included.

QWERTY & ABCDE

These buttons will switch the keyboard between the standard 'Qwerty' and a simplified 'ABCDE' layout.

Exit (not shown in the diagram)

The *Exit Button* terminates NetShift and the web-browser and returns to the Windows operating system desktop. This feature is extremely useful during testing of the set-up, however for public use it should be disabled via the *Options* section of the *Preferences* screen in NetShift Set-up Manager (see page 13). When the Exit button is enabled, clicking the Clock will also terminate NetShift.

The Busy Bar (not shown)

The *Busy Bar* will pulse when the web-browser is busy (i.e. loading a page) in order to show activity.

Note: There is an error in Netscape v3 which means that if a webpage contains an animated graphic the browser reports activity even when it has finished loading the page.

The Browser Window

This is the visible part of the web-browser where webpages are displayed as they are loaded.

3. Additional Features

Operates with either Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer

Important note: Please see the section on system configuration on page 28 for a guide to which version to use.

NetShift functions with the two most popular browsers on the market, Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer. Apart from a few minor differences using NetShift with either of these browser is identical. Before NetShift can be run, one of these browser must be installed on the system. For Navigator you must then specify the path of the executable (netscape.exe) in NSSetup. This is not required if you wish to run NetShift with Internet Explorer.

No access to the OS

None of the web-browser's menu structure, toolbars or system buttons are accessible when NetShift is running, thus allowing users to browse without allowing potentially dangerous access to the operating system.

Full event logging

NetShift will automatically compile a log file of events, including user activity, timed events, web pages loaded and other system information. This log can then be saved to the local hard disk and/or emailed to a central address for remote monitoring of the system.

Email

The emailing facility is designed in appearance to be the same as any industry standard MailTo as found in Internet Explorer and Netscape. It has a simple interface that enables your end users to send mail to any address, cc to self, download mail from their server, delete it from the server if they wish and send hard copy to the local default printer.

You can provide your own help files to accompany this facility (see 25), NetShift is delivered with two sample files for this purpose, please see the files EmailAcc.txt and EmailRea.txt in the Factory\Text folder of your NetShift directory structure.

In addition to this you can also send email as a result of clicking on a Mailto Link.

Security is uppermost with this service with message content, addresses etc being stored in memory and never to disk.

Protocol Blocking

NetShift can be configured to block access to any specific network protocol. This prevents problems arising due to users clicking on mailto addresses, for example, or attempting to download files from ftp sites.

File Type Blocking

Any file type (MIME type) for which the web-browser is configured to request user input will be automatically blocked by NetShift.

In Netscape Navigator this is done by selecting *Options|General Preferences* and then the *Helpers* tab. Highlight the MIME type you wish to block and select 'Unknown: Prompt User'. When a file of this type is downloaded NetShift will automatically detect the dialog box and cancel it.

In IE you should be able to leave the default setup.

This action will be logged.

Automatic recovery from browser crashes

NetShift continually monitors Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator and will restart it if the browser software crashes.

Monitoring of browser dialog boxes

The web-browser will occasionally display message dialog boxes, these messages automatically come up in a number of circumstances such as a warning of a potential security violation or when the browser is unable to locate a server etc.

NetShift is designed to automatically override these messages - the dialog box will be briefly displayed and then disappear, unless you specify otherwise (see page 15 for further details).

If you find a dialog box in either Netscape Navigator or Microsoft Internet Explorer that is not detected by NetShift please send an email giving the details to support@netshift.com

Support for Foreign Keyboard Layouts

NetShift allows you to completely configure the built in virtual keyboard to accommodate any foreign key layout. It even comes complete with 28 ready made foreign keyboard layouts for your convenience. See the page 22 for more details on this subject.

Large buttons to control browsing via a touch screen

All of the user functions are accessible from large graphical buttons allowing for easy use on a touch screen monitor. You can configure NetShift to show either 5, 6, 7 or 8 buttons on the bottom panel and each button can be placed in any of the available slots.

Configurable button icons

Each of the buttons can be configured to display a graphic of your choice allowing you to completely customise the look and feel of the kiosk.

Up to 10 Custom 'Bookmark' Buttons

As well as the standard function buttons you can also define up to 10 Custom 'Bookmark' buttons. These will take the user to a pre-configured URL. As with the other buttons these can also be assigned a graphic to fit the look and feel of the rest of the system.

Note: if you wish to use the direction buttons to scroll then you can only use the first 6 custom buttons.

Will run at any Screen Resolution

NetShift can run at any of the standard screen resolutions: 640x480, 800x600, 1024x768, 1152x864, 1280x1024, 1600x1200 in 16-bit high colour. It can be either set up to automatically detect what resolution the screen is running or it can be set to a specific resolution. The only adjustment necessary is in the size of the graphics used for the buttons and banners.

Two scroll button modes

The four scroll buttons can be configured to either scroll half a page each time a button is pressed or to scroll continuously for the duration the button is held down.

Idle mode control

If you wish to run NetShift alongside another application, e.g. a payment control system or Multimedia presentation, you may need to shut down NetShift for a short period of time. NetShift can be switched into 'idle' mode (and subsequently re-activated) by using the Windows DDE interface or simply by creating a file in the NetShift directory,

While Idle mode is active NetShift will no longer update any graphical banners or instigate any timed events (i.e. return to start page, update carousel or start video). When Idle mode is deactivated NetShift will resume from exactly where it was. NetShift also switches itself from a 'stay-on-top' window into a 'normal' window while in Idle mode. For this reason it is imperative that whatever program you execute while NetShift is in Idle mode is run as a full screen application. Otherwise the user may be able to access the Operating System.

The two DDE commands are as follows:

DDE Command - IdleOn

Type: Poke

Server: NETSHIFT

Topic: NS_IdleOn

Arguments: none

This will switch NetShift into Idle mode.

DDE Command - IdleOff

Type: Poke

Server: NETSHIFT

Topic: NS_IdleOff

Arguments: none

This will switch NetShift out of Idle mode, into normal operation.

Idle.txt file method

If NetShift finds a file called 'idle.txt' in the same directory as it was executed from (if you have used the default installation this directory will be 'c:\netshift') it will switch itself into Idle mode. When this file is removed, or renamed, NetShift will switch itself out of Idle mode, into normal operation.

The two methods for switching into and out of Idle mode are entirely separate, i.e. if you switched into Idle mode with the 'idle.txt' file you cannot switch out of Idle mode using DDE.

Note: We recommend that wherever possible the *ns-execute* method of launching an ancillary application should be used, see page 9. This method will put NetShift in Windows 'stand-by' mode until the calling process is finished and as a result will use fewer system resources while NetShift is idle.

Active mode control (Internet Explorer only)

Active mode control is provided to enable another program to control NetShift remotely. It controls where user input is allowed or not. In Active Mode no User input will be accepted by the NetShift System (i.e. no Mouse clicks, or Touch Screen presses). This enables sophisticated 'pay as you surf' systems to be implemented with NetShift. For example a coin operation application could be employed to launch NetShift. When the users time is up the program could create active.txt to disable NetShift and then delete or rename this file when more money has been deposited. You can remotely switch NetShift into and out of Active Mode either via the Windows DDE or via a simple file.

At present this feature is only available with Internet Explorer v3.

The two DDE commands are as follows:

DDE Command - ActiveOn

Type: Poke

Server: NETSHIFT

Topic: NS_ActiveOn

Arguments: none

This will switch NetShift into Active mode.

DDE Command - ActiveOff

Type: Poke

Server: NETSHIFT

Topic: NS_ActiveOff

Arguments: none

This will switch NetShift out of Active mode, into normal operation.

Active.txt file method

If NetShift finds a file called 'active.txt' in the same directory as it was executed from (if you have used the default installation this directory will be 'c:\netshift') it will switch itself into Active mode. That is to say that NetShift will not allow user input until this file is removed, or renamed. Following this NetShift will switch itself out of Active mode and back into normal operation.

The two methods for switching into and out of Active mode are entirely separate, i.e. if you switched into Active mode with the 'active.txt' file you cannot switch out of Active mode using DDE.

URL Commands

NetShift constantly monitors all URLs submitted to the Browser and especially the protocol part of the URL. Some standard protocols (such as http: and file:) are submitted directly back to the Browser, others (such as ftp: and news:, etc.) are usually trapped, see page 6.

In addition to these standard protocols, there is a special, NetShift-only protocol called **ns-command:** which can be used to tell NetShift to execute a specific function.

The NetShift functions which can be triggered via the ns-command protocol are:

start	-	Triggers the Start button.
back	-	Triggers the Back button.
forward	-	Triggers the Forward button.
help	-	Triggers the Help button.
print	-	Triggers the Print button.
show	-	Displays the keyboard if it isn't already shown.
hide	-	Hides the keyboard if it isn't already hidden.
customx	-	Triggers the appropriate custom button, i.e. custom3 triggers custom button number three.
banner	-	Triggers the currently displayed banner.
logo	-	Triggers the logo in the top right corner.
close	-	Causes the current Browser to terminate and restart (very useful if you wish to clear the current History list) – *Netscape only*
execute	-	Executes an external application (see page 9).
feedback	-	Allows user input to be saved to local drive

The syntax of the ns-command protocol for all functions apart from 'execute' is as follows:

<p align="center">ns-command:<i>function</i>?<i>password</i></p>

Where *function* is the name of the function as per the table above and *password* is the command password for the kiosk (see page 20). If the password is incorrect the command will not be carried out and a message will be left in the log file. The *password* parameter must be separated from the function by a question mark.

For the syntax of the ns-command:execute construct see 'Dynamic Program Execution' below.

The ns-command protocol can be used in any URL either embedded in a web page link or assigned to a function in NetShift such as a custom button or banner.

Warning:
Make sure you do not create a self-referencing loop. E.g. do not set the URL of custom button1 to 'ns-command:custom1?password'

Dynamic Program Execution

This function allows you to execute an external program from NetShift or a web page, wait for that program to finish executing and then return to your web browsing.

The syntax of this is as follows:

ns-command:execute?*program# parameters*

Where *program* is the number of the program you wish to execute as defined in NetShift Set-up Manager (see page 20). If *program* is not a valid number or does not correspond to a program that has been set up in NetShift Set-up Manager an error will be logged.

When a program is executed in this manner NetShift first switches itself into Idle mode (see page 7), then puts itself in a windows standby mode which will use up minimal system resources and CPU time. When the program finishes executing, NetShift comes out of standby mode and switches itself out of idle mode as well. Because of the reasons described in the Idle section above any ancillary program which is executed in this manner must be run full screen.

Saving User Input Locally

User input into a form on an HTML page can be saved locally via the ns-command:feedback function. When submitted this information is saved to the feedback directory of your NetShift path, i.e. c:\netshift\feedback on a default installation. The resulting file is named using the following format:

FByymmddhhmmss.txt

where yymmddhhmmss represent the year, month, date, hour, minute and second that the file was created.

This file may then be optionally emailed to a central address for along with the log file.

To have simple, non user, information saved to the Hard Disk simply use the following URL for a button or as a Anchor Tag in HTML.

ns-command:feedback?field1=data1&field2=data2&...fieldx=datax

A better, and probably more useful, way of using the feedback command is in an HTML form. Simply set up a form with the Action set to 'ns-command:feedback' (note no '?') and set the Method to 'Get'. Then any field in you form will be saved of along with the data the user input.

```
<FORM ACTION="ns-command:feedback" METHOD="Get">
Name<INPUT NAME="Name" TYPE="text" SIZE=20,1><BR>
Company<INPUT NAME="Company" TYPE="text" SIZE=20,1><BR>
<INPUT NAME="Submit" TYPE="submit">
</FORM>
```

Password Sequence for controlled exiting.

When you are running NetShift in a live environment you may still need to occasionally close the program down and access the OS for software maintenance. NetShift allows you to set up a Password Sequence which will close NetShift down. This Password Sequence is a sequence of clicks on particular parts of the NetShift system. This sequence can be up to 255 items long for maximum possible security. The various items that can be used in the sequence are:

A - Clock
B - Banner
C - Logo
D - Custom Button 1
E - Custom Button 2
F - Custom Button 3
G - Custom Button 4
H - Custom Button 5
I - Custom Button 6
J - Custom Button 7
K - Custom Button 8
L - Custom Button 9
M - Custom Button 10
N - Up Button
O - Down Button
P - Left Button
Q - Right Button
R - Start Button
S - Back Button
T - Forward Button
U - Help Button
V - Print Button
W - Stop Button
X - Reload Button
Y - Email Button
Z - Keyboard Button

A simple Password may be the sequence **ABACAR**, this would mean that at any time during the systems operation you could click on the Clock, followed by the Banner, the Clock, the Logo, the Clock and finally the Start Button and NetShift would close itself down. Obviously this Password is to short to be used on a live site, the likelihood of someone pressing the sequence by accident is still too high. We would recommend at least 20 items to be in any Password on a live system. It is also possible to disable this functionality if it is deemed to be too much of a security risk.

Note: a disabled or 'greyed out' button cannot be pressed and hence cannot be part of a password sequence.

Different time-triggered attract modes:

There are three different modes that NetShift can enter after a pre-defined period of user inactivity:

Return to specified home page

NetShift can be set to return to the *Start* page.

Cycle through a web page 'carousel'

The system can be configured to cycle through a series of Web pages, either stored on the local hard disc or, as a standard URL, anywhere in the world. Like the graphics banner, each page can be shown for a specified length of time before it moves on to the next one.

The carousel can be set to either continue with the currently displayed page or return to the *Start* page when the screen is touched.

Play full screen motion video clips

An AVI video can be played. This video will automatically shut itself down when the screen is touched, returning the user to the *Start* page.

4. The NetShift Set-up Manager

The NetShift Set-up Manager is used to customise NetShift to your requirements. You can assign your own graphics and/or text to the various buttons, determine which web pages you want the buttons to link to and choose the Attract mode web pages and AVI video that you want.

Note: It is vital that all file names are accurate and you size your graphics correctly. Please refer to page 28 for information on the Graphics files.

The Button Panel

The Button Panel is located on the left hand side of the interface and allows you to open and save configurations, reconfigure the NetShift example set-up and exit the Set-up Manager.

Open

Use the Open button to load a previously saved configuration file from disk. These files are loaded from the Configurations folder of your NetShift directory structure.

Save As

The Save As button is provided to save your configurations to disk. NetShift reads its data from a configuration file called NetShift.ini. This file is written to when you exit Setup Manager via the OK button. Use Save As to write backups, multiple client configurations and experimental settings to disk. By default these are saved to the Configurations folder of your NetShift directory structure. The Open facility (see above) will only load from this directory so although you may save your configurations anywhere on your system they should be saved to this folder to enable reloading with Open.

Tip: To ensure that a specific virtual keyboard is associated with the configuration load or reload the keyboard from disk before saving your data.

Set Dir

NetShift ships with an example set-up. All directory paths are set to the default installation path of C:\NetShift. If you have chosen to install NetShift to a different path then the demonstration will not work. For example if you installed to C:\Program Files\NetShift then this would necessitate your changing every reference to C:\NetShift to suit your installation path. Click the Set Dir button to automate this process.

Note: If you have installed NetShift to the default path then this button will not appear on the Button Panel.

Manual

This documentation now ships in both HTML format as well as Word 97 format. You may access it from Setup Manager by pressing this button. Please ensure that .HTM files are associated with your web browser or that .DOC files are associated with your Word or Word Viewing application.

This documentation will soon be available for download in a variety of MS Word formats, including Word 6, from our web site.

Cancel

The Cancel button closes Set-up Manager WITHOUT saving. Your latest changes are therefore NOT implemented within NetShift.

OK

Use the OK button to close Set-up Manager and save the current settings to NetShift.ini.

Netscape users will automatically have their Netscape browser settings checked. For details of these required settings see page 28. If any of your Netscape settings do not comply with these requirements then Set-up Manager will offer to make the changes for you.

Upon exit Set-up Manager will also examine your system display properties. This is to ensure that your font size is set to Small Fonts. If not then again Set-up Manager will offer to make the change and subsequently reboot your computer to instigate the new setting.

Preferences

New Browser Windows Handling

When the user selects a link which opens up a new browser NetShift will detect this and offers a number of ways of dealing with this. These messages can be customised from a drop down list.

Always Transfer

Closes the old browser and transfers control to the new browser.

Always Close

Closes the new browser and control stays with the old browser.

Ask User

Brings up a dialog box which allows the user to decide what to do with the new browser. This option has potential security risks and should only be used in supervised conditions.

Options

Exit Button Visible

Toggles the exit button 'On' or 'Off'. The Exit button shuts down NetShift returning the user to the Windows operating system. Useful during testing of the set-up, this should be disabled for general use to prevent the user shutting down NetShift. When this option is disabled the only way to exit NetShift is to press ctrl+alt+del (if Key Blocking is OFF, see below) and end the NetShift Task.

Cancel Security Violations

Whenever the browser is asked to send information to an unsecure server or download a file into an external app (i.e. sound files) it will display a dialog box asking the user if they want to proceed with this operation. NetShift provides two ways of dealing with this dialog box automatically. If this option is selected NetShift will automatically cancel the dialog box. If this option is not selected the dialog box will be OK'd, this poses obvious security risks and should be avoided.

Key Blocking

This will enable or disable the blocking of various keyboard strokes such as Ctrl+Alt+Del. The default setting is ON which you may wish to turn OFF during testing/evaluation.

Default Keyboard

Sets the Default Keyboard layout. This layout will be used at start-up and whenever the system activates the 'return to start page' attract mode.

full QWERTY

Sets it to the QWERTY layout.

limited ABCDEF

Sets it to the ABCDEF layout.

Screen Mode

Automatic

NetShift will automatically detect the current screen resolution.

Set To

By selecting the desired resolution from the drop down list, NetShift can be configured to run at a particular resolution.

Direction Button Mode

Hold to Scroll

NetShift's four scroll buttons will function like normal Window's scroll buttons. They will scroll the page for as long as the button is depressed. To use this setting have your Touch screen set to 'Draw' mode.

Scroll half page for every page

The four scroll buttons will scroll half a page every time they are pressed, regardless how long the button is depressed. Use this mode if your Touch screen is set to 'Click on Touch'.

Internet Explorer v4.01

Direction buttons are not an option in this version of Internet Explorer and therefore should be disabled via the "Activate Direction Keys" checkbox on the Buttons page.

Standard Buttons

Number of Buttons

This allows you to configure how many buttons will be visible along the bottom panel of NetShift. See page 30 for details of how large the buttons graphics can be for each of the different sizes.

Browser Information

Internet Explorer

Will set NetShift to run with Microsoft Internet Explorer v3.x or v4.01 (we do not recommend use of v4). MSIE must be installed on you machine.

Netscape

Will set NetShift to run with Netscape Navigator v3.01 or higher (NetShift is not compatible at this time with Netscape v4.x or any version of Netscape Gold). Navigator must be installed on your machine and you can specify the location of the netscape.exe file in the file name edit box or Setup Manager will find it for you if left blank.

File Name

The file name and path of the Netscape Navigator executable (netscape.exe). This is generally found in C:\Program Files\Netscape\Navigator\Program\netscape.exe.

Browse [...]

Sets the File Name field.

Protocols to Block

Sets the protocols that you wish blocked. This should normally include mailto, ftp, news and snews. If these protocols are not included it can lead to possible security problems and risks.

List

This contains a list of all protocols which are currently being blocked. If you wish to edit a setting simply click on the entry and edit it in the field below.

Add

Adds a new protocol to be blocked. Simply enter the protocol in the field below once this button has been pressed.

Delete

Will delete the currently selected protocol, asking for verification first.

Protocol

This field lets you edit the currently selected protocol.

Dialogs To Process

Sets the browser generated dialog boxes that you may wish your end-users to process. This will enable user response to specified dialogs such as Java script alert dialogs for example.

List

This contains a list of all dialogs which are currently cleared for processing.

Add

Adds a new dialog to be processed. Simply enter as much or as little of the dialog boxes caption as you wish in the field below once this button has been pressed.

Delete

Will delete the currently selected dialog string, asking for verification first.

Dialog with string ...

This field lets you enter some or all of a specific dialogs text. NetShift looks for a match between your text and the text in the dialog box reading from left to right. Therefore a 20 character string will be far more specific than a 1 character string.

It should be noted that this facility applies only to dialog boxes with "Netscape" or "Internet Explorer" in its dialog box header.

Log File

Log File Activity

Save Log File

Select this option to have the log file saved to the local hard drive. It will be saved in a 'log' directory in the directory in which the NetShift program resides. This directory will be automatically created if it does not exist. The current date and time will be used to give the log file a unique name.

Email Log File

Select this option if you wish the log file to be emailed for remote monitoring of the system. The Email settings below must be configured correctly for the option to work.

Email Feedback

Select this option if you wish the user feedback files, FByymmddhhmmss.txt (see *Saving User Input Locally* page 10), to be emailed with the log.

Hour & Minute

The time that you want the Log File to be saved and Emailed.

What do you want to Log?

Allows you to set which actions you wish to be included in the Log File

User Actions

All user activity, including pressing buttons and activating banners. This will not monitor keyboard actions.

Timed Actions

The initial loading of the Start page and the 'return to start' attract mode.

Carousel Actions

All carousel actions and the automatic return to start (if selected).

Video Actions

Video activities.

Browser Loaded pages

Logs the URLs of pages loaded by the browser.

Blocked Protocols

Incidences of Blocked Protocols.

Email Configuration

From Address

The Email address of the kiosk. This must be set if email is to be used.

From Name

The Email name of the kiosk. This is optional but recommended.

Server

Address of the SMTP server which the kiosk should use. It can have a format 00.00.00.00 or mail.somehost.com. If you want to use the port which is peculiar to your system and differs from the default value of 25, you can specify it separated by a colon from the name of the server (i.e. mail.somedomain.com:2311). This server address is also used by the Email window when a user sends any mail.

Log File Recipients

This section lets you set up all the recipients of the log file via email.

List

This contains a list of all the email addresses of the recipients. If you wish to edit a setting simply click on the entry and edit it in the fields below.

Add

Adds a new recipient. Simply enter the name and address in the fields below.

Delete

Will delete the currently selected recipient, asking for verification first.

E-mail address

This field lets you edit the currently selected recipient's e-mail address.

Name

This field lets you edit the currently selected recipients e-mail name.

Buttons

Allows you to set the text, graphics (glyphs) and sounds of the NetShift buttons. The URL of the Start and Help Buttons is set in the Banners & URLs tab (see page 19).

Function Buttons

This section allows you to configure the function buttons at the foot of the NetShift border frame. Choose the buttons you wish to configure from the drop down list, these being the Start, Back, Forward, Help, Print, Stop, Reload and Email buttons .

Pos

This allows you to set the position of the buttons along the bottom panel. Position 1 is the farthest left, with the positions going from left to right. The highest number visible is determined by the 'Number of Buttons' setting on the preferences tab. If this is set to 0 (zero) then the button will not be shown in NetShift.

Text

Allows text to be added next to, or instead of, the button graphic.

Glyph

The file name and path of the button graphic. See the section below for a description of the graphic files which can be used.

Browse [...]

Sets the Glyph field.

State

Enables support for Single state, bi-state or tri-state button graphics. For example a tri-state setting (3) enables a tri-state bitmap to be displayed in one of three states (button up, button down, button inactive).

Audio

Selects an audio setting for the button from the drop down list. These settings are defined thus:

- NONE   No sound (default setting)
- Machine   Sounds the computers "beep" from the internal speaker
- Asterisk   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Asterisk setting
- Exclamation   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Exclamation setting
- Critical   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Critical setting
- Question   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Question setting
- Default   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Default setting
- Custom   Plays the sound currently associated with the NetShift Custom setting (see below)

Unless NONE is selected then the associated sound is played when the button is pressed.

Custom

Allows you to define a custom sound by entering the path and name of an audio (.WAV) file. This information is only applicable when the above Audio property is set to Custom.

Browse [...]

Sets the Custom field.

Keyboard Function Buttons

This section allows you to configure the keyboard function button at the foot of the NetShift border frame. The properties are the same as those in the Function Buttons section above. However the keyboard button has additional Text and Glyph fields to allow for both the Show and Hide conditions.

Direction Buttons

This section allows you to configure the direction buttons located down the right hand side of the NetShift border frame. Again the properties are the same as those for the Function Buttons but without the Pos field. Choose the buttons you wish to configure from the drop down list, these being the Up, Down, Left and Right buttons.

Activate Direction Keys

The four direction buttons double as Custom Buttons (see next section), check this box if you wish to use the direction keys when URL's for Custom Buttons 7 through 10 are not defined.

Custom Buttons

Allows you to set the text, graphics (glyphs), sounds and URLs of the custom buttons. Again you may choose the button you wish to define from the drop down list (Button 1 through Button 10). Again the properties are the same as those for the Function Buttons but minus the Pos field and with the addition of a URL field..

URL

The URL of the web page that you wish the button to point at. If this field is blank, the custom button will not be shown. This is the only way that these buttons can be turned off.

Browse [...]

Sets the URL field, enabling you to enter an address of a web page stored on the local system.

Attract

Allows you to set the attract modes that you wish to be operating and the time period of user inactivity before the attract modes starts.

Times

Sets the length of user inactivity (in seconds) before the attract mode starts. Set the time to 0 (zero) to disable the attract mode.

Return to Start Page

The time delay between user actions after which NetShift will return to the Start Page.

Start Carousel

Sets the time delay between user actions after which the carousel will start.

Start Attract Video

Sets the time delay between user actions after which the attract video will start.

Carousel Options

Load Start Page after Carousel

Allows you to choose the Start Page to come up after the Carousel is interrupted. If this is not chosen then the carousel will stop on the currently displayed page and allow the user to continue browsing from that point.

AVI Video

File Name

The file name and path of your Video file. See the section below for details of the Video files that can be used.

Browse [...]

Sets the File Name field.

Width

Sets the Width of the AVI file so it can be positioned centrally in the screen.

Height

Sets the Height of the AVI file so it can be positioned centrally in the screen.

Carousel

Choose the URLs and times for each of the pages you wish to be in the carousel.

List

This contains a list of all the web pages in the carousel. If you wish to edit a setting simply click on the entry and edit it in the fields below.

Add

Adds a new web page to the carousel. Simply enter the URL and the time in the fields below.

Delete

Will delete the currently selected web page, asking for verification first.

Up/Down

These buttons allow you to change the order of the web pages in the carousel by moving the currently selected web page up or down in the list.

URL

This field lets you edit the currently selected web page's URL

Time

This field lets you edit the currently selected web page's time.

Banners & URLs

Logo Settings

URL

The URL of the web page that which will be visited of the logo is selected.

Graphic File

The graphic file which will replace the NetShift logo. If this file is empty the default logo will be used.

Browse [...]

Sets the Graphic File field.

Button URLs

Start

Specifies the URL which is used for the Start button and for the 'return to start' attract mode.

Help

Specifies the URL which is used for the Help button.

Banner Graphics

Allows you to choose the graphics that will be displayed in the Banner section of the NetShift page, their sequence and the length of time each graphic will be displayed for.

List

This contains a list of all the graphics to be used. If you wish to edit a setting simply click on the entry and edit it in the fields below.

Add

Adds a new graphic to the list. Simply enter the File name, URL and the time in the fields below.

Delete

Will delete the currently selected graphic, asking for verification first.

Up/Down

These buttons allow you to change the order the banner graphics will appear by moving the currently selected graphic up or down in the list.

Graphic File

This field lets you edit the currently selected graphic's file name.

URL

This field lets you edit the currently selected graphic's URL. This is the URL which will be visited if this graphic is selected. If this field is blank or set to 'none' then the graphic will not be hot and pressing the graphic will have no effect.

Time

This field lets you edit the currently selected graphic's time.

Command

URL Commands

Enabled

This Option will enable all URL Commands (see page 8).

Disabled

This Option will prevent all URL Command from being processed.

Dynamic Program Execution

Enabled

This will enable the execute command (see page 9).

Disabled

This will prevent any execute commands from being processed.

Command Password

Password

This is the password that needs to be included in all URL Commands (except the execute command) . It is **not** case sensitive. This is not the same as the password sequence, this is set in the 'Security & Messages' Tab (see page 21).

Program Files

Allows you to enter the programs which an execute command can use.

List

This contains a list of all programs which can be used. If you wish to edit a setting simply click on the entry and edit it in the fields below. The first program in the list will be numbered 1, the next 2 and so on.

Add

Adds a new program to the list. Simply enter the file name and any command line parameters in the fields below.

Delete

Will delete the currently selected program, asking for verification first.

Up/Down

These buttons allow you to change the order of the programs in the list by moving the currently selected program up or down.

Program File

This field lets you edit the currently selected program's file name and any command line parameters you wish to add.

Browse [...]

Sets the Program File field.

Security & Messages

Blocking Right Mouse Button

Enabled

With this option enabled NetShift will block all right Mouse Buttons clicks received. (this is only really useful when using Internet Explorer with NetShift)

Disabled

With this option disabled NetShift will not block all right Mouse Buttons clicks received.

Password Sequence

Enabled

This Option will enable NetShift to be closed using the Password Sequence.

Disabled

This Option will disable NetShift to be closed using the Password Sequence.

Password Sequence

Allows you to enter the Password Sequence which will close NetShift.

List

This contains a list of items in the sequence which need to be clicked to close NetShift.

Add

Adds a new item to the list. Simply select the object to add from the drop down list below.

Delete

Will delete the currently selected item, asking for verification first.

Up/Down

These buttons allow you to change the order of the items in the list by moving the currently selected item up or down.

Object

This drop down list contains all the available objects, simply select the object you wish from the list.

End User Messaging

This section allows you to set error strings and messages for when NetShift detects a new browser window or has to handle an email error message. Choose the event or error for which you wish to compose a message from the drop down list and define it in the input box.

New Browser Window Detected Messages

When the user selects a link that opens up a new browser NetShift will detect this and offers a variety of ways to deal with this. When the Ask User option is checked (see Preferences | New Browser Windows Handling) this event brings up a dialog box which allows the user to decide what to do with the new browser.

NOTE: The Ask User option has potential security risks and should only be used in supervised conditions.

Error Messages

By editing the Title, Transfer and Remove fields and the error strings you can customise the messages into, for example, a different language. This information is saved alongside the keyboard layouts in the language files.

The error strings are for use with the Email facility and again can be re-phrased or interpreted into your local language.

Keyboard

Allows you to customise the virtual keyboard for both full QWERTY and limited ABCDEF modes. Both the characters displayed on the key and the character output by the key may be set.

The keyboard is displayed in the main window of this tab page, use it to select the keys you wish to configure, use the scroll bars to scan the whole keyboard.

Note: Please ensure that the operating System is configured to run with the same keyboard layout as you configure in NetShift. Simply specifying a keyboard layout in NetShift is not enough! To set a keyboard layout in Windows 95 select *Keyboard* from the *Control Panel* select the *Language* tab and add a new layout.

Key Values

Top Left
Enter the character or string you wish to place in the top left hand corner of the selected key.

Bottom Left
Enter the character or string you wish to place in the bottom left hand corner of the selected key.

Bottom Right
Enter the character or string you wish to place in the bottom right hand corner of the selected key.

Send String
Enter the character or string you wish the selected key to generate when pressed. It is the character placed in this edit box that dictates how Windows "sees" the key and not the characters displayed on the key. For example on most international layouts the '%' character shares a key with the '5' character. If Send String is set to '5' then it's shifted condition will always output a '%' regardless of the values you have assigned to the key face.

Similarly the same association exists between lower and uppercase letters. Note however that if Send String is set the value 'A' for example, then an uppercase letter will be output in both shifted and non-shifted state. Applying the Caps Lock will generate a lowercase letter.

Besides conventional single characters keys may also output strings, for example, you might assign a key the string 'WWW'.

Layout
Select a layout option from one of the five listed in the drop down input box.

Normal
Places the character in the top left-hand corner of the key with font size set to 8. This is an ideal layout for displaying left-aligned top and bottom values.

Letter

Places the character in the top left-hand corner of the key in bold typeface and with font size set to 16. This is an ideal layout for displaying a single character.

Double

Places the character at the top centre of the key with font size set to 10. This is an ideal layout for displaying centralised top and bottom values.

Quad

Places the character in the top left-hand corner of the key with font size set to 10. This is an ideal layout for displaying characters in the top left, bottom left and bottom right hand corners of the key.

Letter Plus

Places the character in the top left-hand corner of the key in bold typeface and with font size set to 16. This is an ideal layout for displaying characters at the top left and bottom right hand corners of the key.

Key Visible

When unchecked the selected key will not be displayed or available in NetShift.

Font

Set the font for the text displayed on the selected key from the drop down input box.

Size

Set the font size for the text displayed on the selected key from the drop down input box.

Swap

Press the Swap button to toggle between the full QWERTY and limited ABCDEF keyboard modes.

Load Keyboard

Drop down list

Use the drop down list to select a virtual keyboard layout that matches the layout of the currently loaded keyboard language on your system. If you have made any changes to the keyboard currently in memory then you will be asked if you wish to save this new configuration.

Synch

If NetShift recognises your systems keyboard configuration, indicated above the Synch button, then the Synch button becomes available for use. When pressed it will synchronise your virtual keyboard with the current Windows setting. Once again, you will be offered a chance to save any changes you may have made to the current keyboard.

NOTE: The Austrian keyboard is the same as the German, the Swiss [Italian] is the same as the Italian and the Afrikaans, Australian and Indonesian keyboards are identical to the American. Despite this fact they have all been included for your convenience. Consequently the *Synch* operation for these keyboards will actually load from the German.ini, Italian.ini and American.ini files and display these languages below the *System Keyboard* indicator.

Saving Keyboards

When you exit the Setup Manager by way of the OK button, the current configuration is auto-saved for use with NetShift. Additionally, if you make any changes to a keyboard layout you will be prompted to save a library copy which becomes available to your drop down list for future loading.

Creating And Saving An Unsupported Or Custom Keyboard Layout

1. Set up your virtual keyboard to match your system or desired keyboard settings.

2. Click the OK button to exit Set-up Manager (or load a new keyboard).

3.   Setup Manager asks you if you wish to save this configuration. Click Yes.

4.   In the *Save Customised ...* dialog box either accept the suggested filename or enter your own. Click Save. Your saved configuration is now an option in the drop down list.

Audio

Just as the audio properties for the NetShift buttons can be configured so too can the audio field for the virtual keyboard. Please note however that this is a single setting and is applied to all keys.

Source

Selects an audio setting for the keys on the virtual keyboard from the drop down list. These settings are defined thus:

- NONE   No sound (default setting)
- Machine   Sounds the computers "beep" from the internal speaker
- Asterisk   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Asterisk setting
- Exclamation   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Exclamation setting
- Critical   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Critical setting
- Question   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Question setting
- Default   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Default setting
- Custom   Plays the sound currently associated with the NetShift Custom setting (see below)

Unless NONE is selected then the associated sound is played when the button is pressed.

Custom Sound

Allows you to define a custom sound by entering the path and name of an audio (.WAV) file. This information is only applicable when the above Audio property is set to Custom.

Browse [...]

Sets the Custom Sound field.

Busy Bar & Clock

Allows customisation of both the Busy Bar and the Clock.

Busy Bar

Show The Busy Bar

Determines if the Busy Bar is displayed or not, check the box to display it.

Top Colour

Allows you to select a colour for the upper half of the Busy Bar.

Bottom Colour

Allows you to select a colour for the lower half of the Busy Bar.

Graphic File

The bitmap file for use with the Busy Bar.

Browse [...]

Sets the Graphic File field.

Clock

Show The Clock

Determines if the Clock is displayed or not, check the box to display it.

Show Second Hand

Determines if the second hand of the clock is displayed or not, check the box to display it.

Shape

Check the relevant radio button to choose between a circular or square appearance.

Colours

Allows you to select the colours for the clock. The editable properties consist of background, clock face, outline, second hand and tick colours.

Browse [...]

Sets the above colour fields.

Email

Text Files

This facility enables you to provide help for both Email accounts and Email reading in the form of text files.

Email Account Help File

Enter the path and file name of a text file containing helpful information on Email accounts.

Reading Email Help File

Enter the path and file name of a text file containing helpful information on reading Email.

Browse [...]

Sets the Text File fields.

Keyboard Behaviour & Mail To Enable

Show When Entering Email

When this option is checked the virtual keyboard will pop up when the user presses the Email function button.

Hide When Exiting Email

When this option is checked the virtual keyboard will hide itself when the user presses the Email cancel button.

Mail To

Check this option to allow "mail to" support. Permitting this facility enables your end user to send Email by touching on a mail to link on a web page and thus automatically invoke NetShift Email.

Buttons

For configuration of the Email buttons.

Text

Allows text to be added next to, or instead of, the button graphic.

Glyph

The file name and path of the button graphic. See the section below for a description of the graphic files which can be used.

Browse [...]

Sets the Glyph field.

State

Enables support for Single state, bi-state or tri-state button graphics. For example a tri-state setting (3) enables a tri-state bitmap to be displayed in one of three states (button up, button down, button inactive).

Audio Source

Selects an audio setting for the button from the drop down list. These settings are defined thus:

- NONE   No sound (default setting)
- Machine   Sounds the computers "beep" from the internal speaker
- Asterisk   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Asterisk setting
- Exclamation   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Exclamation setting
- Critical   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Critical setting
- Question   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Question setting
- Default   Plays the sound currently associated with the systems Default setting
- Custom   Plays the sound currently associated with the NetShift Custom setting (see below)

Unless NONE is selected then the associated sound is played when the button is pressed.

Custom Sound

Allows you to define a custom sound by entering the path and name of an audio (.WAV) file. This information is only applicable when the above Audio Source property is set to Custom.

Browse [...]

Sets the Custom Sound field.

Graphics

The graphics page is where you can most dramatically customise NetShift by assigning bitmap files to the following properties.

The NetShift Border Frame

Top

The top of the NetShift border frame.

Bottom

The bottom of the NetShift border frame.

Left Full

The left hand side of the NetShift border frame .

Left Panel With Keyboard Showing

The left hand side of the NetShift border frame with keyboard showing.

Right Full

The right hand side of the NetShift border frame.

Right Panel With Keyboard Showing

The right hand side of the NetShift border frame with keyboard showing.

The Email Border Frame

Email #1
Graphic for the main Email background.

Email #2
Graphic for the Get Email background.

Email #3
Graphic for the Send Email background.

The Error Dialog Box

Graphic for the error dialog box

Browse [...]
Sets the bitmap file for graphics, this applies to all the above fields.

Notes

The Notes page is provided so that you may document configuration/project settings within your individual set-ups. This proves useful from the evaluation period through to a live project situation.

5. System Configuration

Below is a list of required and recommended settings to enable optimum performance of NetShift.

Keyboard

Required Options

In order to use a specific country keyboard for the virtual keyboard you must have the correct corresponding keyboard map loaded in Windows 95.

Screen

Required Options

If you wish to use the 'Hold to Scroll' option you must have touch screen set to 'draw' mode, i.e. when the screen is pressed it sends a mouse down command and does not send the mouse up command until the finger is removed. If you do not wish to use this screen mode then make sure that NetShift is not set to 'Hold to Scroll'.

Operating System

Required Options

NetShift must be used with the English/US version of Windows 95 to enable it to respond to Windows messages.

It is vital that your copy of windows includes the Dynamic Link Library (DLL) file olepro32.dll in order to run NetShift. It should be found in your Windows System directory, i.e. C:\Windows\System\olepro32.dll.

The Windows 95 Task bar should be set to 'Autohide', moved to the top of the screen and NOT 'Always on top'.

The Font size must be set to 'small', i.e. 100% scaling.

Recommended Options

Colour depth set to at least 16bit high colour.

All icons should be moved to the edge of the screen (This will prevent them from being selected if the browser crashes!).

Colour scheme set to 'Windows Standard', except background.

Background colour set to black.

Browser (Internet Explorer)

Required Options

NetShift must be used with the English/US version of Internet Explorer to enable it to respond to IE dialog boxes.

Browser (Netscape)

The current version of NetShift only functions with Netscape Navigator v3.x

Required Options

When you exit Setup Manager the program will check your Netscape settings for you. If you do not wish Setup to make these changes for you then the correct settings are as follows:-

Show Toolbar turned On with Text only.

Show Location turned Off.

Show Directory Buttons turned Off.

Show Java Console turned Off.

Recommended Options

Set the width of the Netscape window to nearly full screen.

Reduce the height of the Netscape window to as small as it will go.

Then move the window to the very top of the screen and close it (This should ensure that no part of the Netscape window is visible until it is automatically sized to fit in the Space provided by NetShift).

JPEG, Gif and HTML mime type should be set to load in the Browser. All other mime type should be set to 'Ask User', this will provide the maximum of security and stability. These settings are accessible from the Options|General Preferences menu item, under the helpers tab.

6. Graphic Files

Size and Type

A good starting point for creating your own graphics would be to modify or view the properties of the supplied buttons and banners that ship with NetShift. More graphics are available from support@netshift.com.

Types

Type 1

standard Windows Bitmap

Type 2

Single State Glyph Bitmap (see page 30)

Type 3

Tri-State Glyph Bitmap (see page 30)

Glyph Bitmaps

Using Transparent Colours

The glyphs used in NetShift incorporate transparent colours (e.g. for backgrounds).

The bottom-leftmost pixel in the glyph bitmap defines the transparent colour for the image. Additionally, the image is centred both vertically and horizontally on the button. Thus, if you require the image to have no transparency, you should surround it with a 1 pixel wide border, the colour of which is not used elsewhere in the bitmap. This forces the border colour to be transparent and leaves the rest of the image intact.

Examine the custom button bitmaps supplied with NetShift for examples of this technique.

Tri-State Buttons

In NetShift the buttons can have three states, *up, down* and *inactive*. NetShift allows you to create different images for each state. The bitmaps for these buttons consist of three images placed side by side on a single canvas. The left image is used for the up state, the middle image is inactive state and the right image for the down state.

Note that the transparency colour is defined by the bottom-leftmost pixel of the bitmap. This means that the transparency of the inactive image is actually set by the bottom-leftmost pixel of the active image.

Examine the standard button bitmaps supplied with NetShift for examples of Tri-State glyphs.

Note: Whilst the Start, Help and Keyboard Hide/Show buttons can only ever be active, and therefore do not require an inactive image, for reasons of consistency and simplicity they must be created as Tri-State bitmaps. Obviously, since the inactive image will never be shown the middle area of the bitmap can be blank.

7. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

For a more up-to-date version of the NetShift FAQ please refer to our website at http://www.netshift.com

Layout

How can I change the grey background to another colour or image?

You can change the background colour by changing the Windows 95 desktop colour (3D Objects).

Can I use the space allocated for the start, forward, back, reload, stop, email, keyboard, help and print buttons for custom buttons with unique URLs?

Not in the present version but you can use the Help button to point at any URL you want, this is the only button on the bottom bar, at this moment that can be configured in this way.

I can see the Windows 95 Desktop just above the standard buttons. Although it is possible to resize the buttons it goes back to the original size when NetShift is re-started. How do I overcome this?

When you exit NSSetup the program will check your Netscape settings for you. If you do not wish Setup to make these changes for you then you may manually adjust the following settings in Netscape:-

- Show Toolbar turned On with Text only.

- Show Location turned Off.

- Show Directory Buttons turned Off.

- Show Java Console turned Off.

Can I remove the clock from the display? Checking the *Exit button Visible (Clock)* box in the setup program effects the Exit button only and not the Clock.

Yes.

After disabling the EXIT button each standard button at the bottom of the screen is partly overlapped by the next one to the right of the previous one and there is a big space at the bottom right edge instead of spacing all buttons equally. Re-enabling EXIT does not help, I have had to uninstall and re-install NetShift. What's the solution?

Ensure that you are using the correct size graphics for the resolution you are running.

Versions

How do I determine which version of NetShift I am using?

The version number is displayed when you launch NetShift.

How do I tell the difference between the evaluation and full versions?

All evaluation/demo version numbers end in a 'd'. If this character is not in the version number then you have a full version.

Can I use my NetShift.ini file created with an earlier version or from an evaluation version with the latest full version?

Yes all copies of NetShift.ini are compatible with all versions of NetShift.

If you are carrying out a completely fresh installation of Netshift please note that this configuration file will be overwritten by a default copy of NetShift.ini, therefore be sure to make a backup of your current file first.

Once NetShift is reinstalled you should place this copy into the Configurations directory of NetShift from where it can be reloaded into NSSetup for use with NetShift.

Is it possible to program actions with NetShift buttons and access the Internet through Netscape Navigator with the evaluation version of NetShift?

Yes. The only difference between the full version and the evaluation copy is that the evaluation copy has a "mote" that floats across the banner area of the display stating that this is an unlicensed copy.

When will NetShift be upgraded to support version 4 of both Internet Explorer and Netscape?

NetShift is now fully compatible with version 4.01 of Internet Explorer (we do not recommend use of v4.0), Netscape v4 compatibility is currently under development.

Is there a Windows 3.1 or Mac version of NetShift?

No. The NetShift system runs under the Windows 95 or Windows NT 32-bit operating systems only.

Touchscreen issues

Does NetShift allow the use of normal keyboard and mouse input with or without Touchscreen input?

Yes.

I am using a Microtouch Touchscreen. The up, down, left and right buttons work fine with the mouse but not via the Touchscreen. I hear the beep that acknowledges the touch from the driver but no scrolling occurs. Why?

This is because you have the Touchscreen set up in the *click* mode as opposed to *drag*. This means that whenever you touch the screen a *mouse click* is generated only rather than the desired *mouse down - mouse up* events. If you wish to leave it in *click* mode then set NetShift up to do *half page scrolling* whenever you press a scroll button.

Virtual Keyboard

The '@' character is wrongly printed on the virtual keyboard (full QWERTY mode). When I press the '@' button on the bottom right of the keyboard it generates a double quotation, why?

You have probably got your system set up to use an American keyboard layout but have NetShift set to use a British keyboard layout. Make sure that the layout you have set in NetShift is the same as you have set in the Operating System.

How do I get the keyboard to automatically show up when I go to a page which contains a form.

It is possible to have the keyboard popup on a page, which requires keyboard input.

Simply put a META tag at the top of the page with a refresh statement set to zero seconds and the URL pointing to *ns_command:show?password*. For example:

```
<META HTTP-EQUIV="Refresh" CONTENT="0;URL=ns-command:show?password">
```

How can I automatically set focus on a form field and trigger the NetShift Keyboard?

The following code (HTML and JavaScript) when built into a webpage will set the cursor focus to a specific form field and activate NetShift's keyboard.

Set Focus:-
Firstly, create a JavaScript function in the 'HEAD' section of your webpage to set the focus on a specific field (called 'MyField' in a form called 'MyForm'):

```
<SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript">

<!-- Hide script

function SetFocus()

{

document.MyForm.MyField.focus();

}

// -->

</SCRIPT>
```

Next, call the JavaScript function from the 'BODY' statement in the HTML:

```
<BODY onLoad="SetFocus()" ... >
```

Finally, make sure you name your form correctly:

```
<FORM NAME="MyForm" ACTION="MyScript.cgi" METHOD="Post">

<INPUT NAME="MyField" TYPE="text" SIZE=20,1>

.

.

.

</FORM>
```

Triggering the Keyboard:-
Now, to trigger the keyboard you simply need to attach an NS-Command to an automatic refresh meta-tag in the HEAD section of your HTML:

```
<META HTTP-EQUIV="Refresh"

CONTENT="0;URL=ns-command:show?password">
```

Note that the refresh delay is set to zero so the keyboard appears the moment the page is loaded.

Technical issues

What programs should be in my StartUp folder?

When using NetShift in a live situation ensure that only vitally required programs purely for the optimum kiosk operation (including NetShift.exe) are in this folder.

Which versions of Internet Explorer and Netscape does NetShift support?

NetShift works best with the following versions of IE and Netscape:-

- Internet Explorer 3.x

- Internet Explorer 4.01 (not 4.0)

- Netscape 3.x (not Gold)

If the Kiosk reboots without proper shutdown how can I get ScanDisk to scan the hard drive with no user intervention?

Add the following line to the top of your Autoexec.bat file.

scandisk /autofix /nosave /nosummary

Every time the disk is rebooted, the hard disk will be scanned, fixed and will not require input from a user.

How does NetShift control timed access depending on credit from the user?

Through the 'active' option in NetShift, third party products can be used to interface between NetShift and the payment device. Please refer to "Related Products" on our website.

How does NetShift connect to the provider if the Internet access is via the phone line?

This is all handled by the operating system.

Why does my computer lock up when the line is dropped?

This can happen with early versions of Dial-Up Networking so check that you have the latest "bug fix" version installed, this is available from Microsoft's website.

Does NetShift have an option for reading currency-input devices? If not how could we connect the coin recognisers, bank note acceptors, chip cards etc.?

Through the 'active' option in NetShift, third party products can be used to interface between NetShift and the payment device. Please refer to "Related Products" on our website.

We need to run an AVI animation from an HTML page using *ns-command*, is there any way to run it without calling an external program? For example using the program that NetShift uses to run the AVI defined in the *attract* options.

No it is not possible for NetShift to run an AVI file from an *ns-command*. You should however be able to simply execute the AVI file from NetShift and the operating system will play it.

End-user operation

My end-users do not touch a form field before entering keyboard strokes despite the written instructions on the page. How can I get the cursor to show up in the field by default?

Please refer to the question "How can I automatically set focus on a form field and trigger the NetShift Keyboard?" above.

How do I allow the user to enter a URL and have NetShift browse the desired location.

Create a web page with the following form and JavaScript information:

```
<SCRIPT LANGUAGE="JavaScript">
<!-- hide from old browsers
function Redirect (NewLocation)
{
self.location.href=NewLocation;
return false;
}
// end hide -->
</SCRIPT>

<FORM onSubmit="Redirect(MyForm.MyField.value)" NAME="MyForm">
```

```
<INPUT NAME="MyField" TYPE="text" SIZE=50 VALUE="http://">
<INPUT VALUE=" Go Surfboy! " NAME="PressMe" TYPE="button"
onClick="Redirect(MyForm.MyField.value)" SELECTED>
</FORM>
```

An example of this can be found at http://www.internet-kiosk.com/html/goto.html

Can an end-user download files from the web?

Since this could compromise the security of your operating system any attempt to do this causes NetShift to cancel the download dialog.

Hardware Requirements

What is the recommended hardware requirements for NetShift?

We recommend the following specification although NetShift will run on a lesser system.

CPU 166MHz

32MB RAM(minimum)

2MB Graphics/Video

1.7GB HDD

3.5" FDD

SB16 compatible sound card

33.6K modem

Network card (or optional ISDN, LAN card or other form of connectivity)

Touchscreen or normal CRT monitor

Keyboard and Mouse (for system maintenance)

On-line UPS

Help

How can I get online help for NetShift Setup?

This is not available at the present time but is something, which we will be looking at in the future. As well as studying the help in this document please visit our website for more up to date information.

8. Contact and copyright information

Contacting us

If you need help with the installation and running of this software, have any further questions on the operation of the software or would like to speak to someone about pricing and availability then please contact NetShift Software Ltd.

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