



Predator DNC™ v7.0 – What's New

Latest features and benefits in v7.0

Before Installing v7.0

Predator DNC v7.0 requires Windows 2000, XP or 2003 Server. Existing customers that have older versions of Windows such as Windows 95, 98, ME or NT v4.0 must upgrade prior to installing v7.0 of Predator DNC.

Microsoft Internet Explorer v5.x or later is required to be installed before installing Predator CNC Editor v7.0.

Why v7.0?

By design, this release is intended to introduce new enterprise features such as the Predator DNC Service, Web Service Interface, Java Scripting and Floating Network licensing. Details of what's new are explained throughout this document and within the online help.

Installing v7.0

A new Install Wizard has been developed for v7. It is based on a single .MSI image and .CAB files have been eliminated. If you are running Windows 98, ME or NT v4.0 you must upgrade to Windows 2000, XP or 2003 Server prior to installing v7.0 of Predator CNC Editor.

By default installation occurs in the \program files\predator software\dnc 7.0 directory. If you were previously running v4.x we recommend uninstalling v4.x prior to installing v7.0.

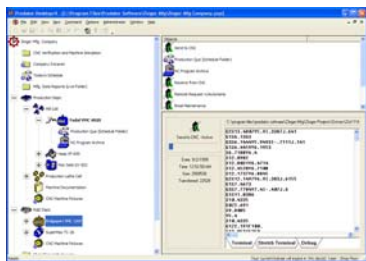
PXP files and PSF files created in older versions of Predator DNC are 100% compatible with v7.x of Predator DNC.

NOTE: Through out this document Predator DNC is referenced and specific references to Predator DNC Xpress and Predator Desktop have been eliminated to simplify the readability of this document. Not all features described within this document apply to all Predator editions.

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Predator DNC



Network Installations of v7.0

By committing to store the product installation on a server, users will enjoy automatic healing of all critical files upon running Predator DNC. For example, suppose a user accidentally deletes pdnc.exe. Under normal circumstances he would be down and the software would fail to run. With v7.0 when the user double clicks the desktop shortcut all critical files are checked and if necessary restored from the network server and the software begins to run automatically.

The easiest way to perform a network installation is to step through the following:

1. Copy the contents of the CD to a \\predator cd images\CD21\ or similar directory.
2. Run the setupdnc.exe from the CD21 directory.

NOTE: Should any automatic healing be necessary, Predator DNC will be able to automatically extract the necessary files from the appropriate cab files stored in the CD21 directory. If you install from a CD, Predator DNC will be forced to prompt for the CD.

What's New in v7.0?

Improved! HTML based Online Help

Updated online help expands several topics with new details.

New! Floating Network Licensing Option

v7.0 of Predator DNC supports a new floating network licensing option. This option eliminates the need to manage a Predator SIM for each PC and to purchase a license for each PC. Only a single SIM is required at the Predator FLM (Floating Network Manager) PC and only the number of simultaneous licenses in use needs to be purchased. There is a minimum of three licenses.

New! Predator DNC Service

v7.0 of Predator DNC includes a new mode of operation, Predator DNC Service. This new mode complements the other two; Administrator and Shop Floor. The advantage of the Predator DNC Service is to allow IT personnel to manage Predator DNC as they do other services. The Predator DNC Service provides operation without a user interface as a true Windows service and requires a solid remote based PXP configuration file. Like all Windows services the Predator DNC Service can run without a logged in window's user. Starting and stopping the Predator DNC Service is similar to the Startup All and Cancel All functions. When a windows user is logged in and the Predator DNC Service is running in the background should the user try to run the Predator DNC application it will prompt the user stop the service before proceeding.

New! Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Support

Support for Microsoft SQL Server 2005 has been added with v7.0 of Predator DNC.

New! Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Support

Support for Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express has been added with v7.0 of Predator DNC. Support for this edition of SQL Server provides a free version of Microsoft SQL Server for small and medium manufacturers. The Express edition can be downloaded from Microsoft's web site.

New! Access 2003 Support

Support for Access 2003 has been added with v7.0 of Predator DNC.

New! Oracle Database 10g Support

Support for Oracle Database 10g has been added with v7.0 of Predator DNC.

New! Oracle Database 10g Express Support

Support for Oracle Database 10g Express has been added with v7.0 of Predator DNC. Support for this edition of Oracle provides a free version of the Oracle Database for small and medium manufacturers. The Express edition can be downloaded from Oracle's web site.

New! Includes v7 of Predator CNC Editor

v7.0 of Predator DNC includes the latest new v7.0 of Predator CNC Editor. For additional details on the Predator CNC Editor refer to the What's New .PDF or online help.

New! User Interface Layer

v7.0 of Predator DNC includes a new user interface layer that provides new menus, toolbars, and status bar.

New! Visiprise MES Interface

v7.0 of Predator DNC includes a new Visiprise MES interface that provides customers an integrated solution.

New! Web Services Interface

v7.0 of Predator DNC includes a new Web Services interface.

NOTE: This option requires Microsoft IIS.

New! MDC Send Objects

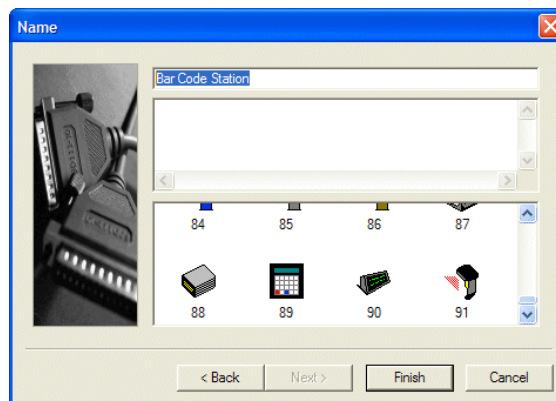
Three new MDC Send objects have been added for Access, Oracle and SQL Server. These new objects simplify and automate the MDC data collection process within Send to CNC commands. These objects allow part number, job numbers, and operation numbers to be included within the CNC program. v7.0 of Predator DNC can then automatically perform a Part Start, Job Start, Operation Start and Setup Start to automatically. The MDC Send Objects can also be combined with the MDC Dripped Objects.

New! MDC Receive Objects

Three new MDC Receive objects have been added for Access, Oracle and SQL Server. These new objects simplify and automate the MDC data collection process within Receive from CNC or Remote Start commands. These objects allow part number, job numbers, operation numbers, good parts and scrap parts to be included within the CNC program. v7.0 of Predator DNC can then automatically perform a Part End, Job End, Operation End Good Parts and Scrap Parts automatically. Leveraging the power of the MDC Receive objects allows idle time between jobs, parts and operations to be tracked while minimizing the need for bar code readers or other data collection options.

New! “Machine” Icons

Five new “machine” icons have been added. Some of these new icons are for label printers, bar code readers, LED terminals, Predator DCT and the Predator MDC adapter.



New! Robot Icons

Six new robot icons have been added.

New! End User License Agreement

Predator DNC v7.0 is bound by a new end user license agreement that provides more details, rights and responsibilities of all parties including PSI, Predator VARs and end users.

New! Remote Desktop Support

Predator DNC has been improved to support Remote Desktop within Windows. This allows for the SIM to be plugged into one PC (server) while another PC (client) starts a remote desktop session and runs Predator DNC off the server without having to install Predator DNC on the client PC.

NOTE: This is different than a Floating Network Licensing implementation.

New! Java Scripting Object

A new Java Scripting object has been added to provide an alternative to the VB scripting object.

Improved! MDC Objects

Predator DNC v7.0 improves nine MDC objects to be compatible with v7 of Predator MDC.

Improved! PPM Objects

Predator DNC v7.0 improves three PPM objects to be compatible with v7 of Predator Travelers.

Improved! FTP Terminator Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the FTP terminator object with an option to simplify CNC installations with a filename only style directory.

Improved! COM Port HSM Terminator Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the COM Port HSM terminator to be more forgiving with low cost network devices.

Improved! Virtual COM Port Terminator Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the Virtual COM Port terminator to simplify demoing Predator DNC on PCs without physical COM ports.

Improved! Printer Terminator Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the printer terminator to improve the handling of Tab characters.

NOTE: Text files with tab characters or spaces as separators between multiple columns is very dependant on the printer driver and the selected font.

Improved! Server Terminator Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the server terminator to provide a greater level of compatibility with numerous network devices.

Improved! Client Terminator Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the client terminator to provide a greater level of compatibility with numerous network devices.

Improved! AB SLC/500 PLC Terminator Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the Allen Bradley SLC 500 PLC terminator to provide improved performance and several new options. The most powerful new option is the ability to define the flow of message transfer. The new object allows, Send to PLC only, Receive from PLC only or Other for both sending and receiving. In addition, a new option allows for comprehensive error log files to be created when troubleshooting PLC connections. Another new option allows a maximum number of characters to be sent to the PLC. This option will automatically truncate any long messages sent to the PLC. Finally, a new help file includes troubleshooting tips and lots of details on how to make this object work in the field.

Improved! Okuma B Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves our support for Okuma B with a greater range of hardware platforms and drivers.

Improved! HHT Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves our support for the Predator HHT with a greater range of hardware platforms and drivers.

Improved! HTML Table Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the HTML table object by adding an option for filename only.

Improved! ASCII Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the ASCII object by adding an option for filename only.

Improved! VB Script Object

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the real-time performance of the VB script object. For example with v7 Predator DNC can provide 1 to 2 second turn around time for operator messages after parsing collected data and storing the data in a database server within the VB script. In addition, 14 new variables have been added to allow for more intelligent scripts to be developed and to reduce the number of scripts that have to be deployed.

Improved! Titlebar

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the titlebar by displaying the full pathname.

Improved! Upgrade Dialog

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the upgrading and licensing process by including a SIM ID button that will check to see if a Predator SIM is plugged in locally and also via Remote Desktop. In addition a license type pulldown has been added to improve the startup performance.

Improved! Save Layout

Predator DNC v7.0 automates the save layout process when exiting from Predator DNC.

Improved! File Searching

Predator DNC v7.0 increases the maximum number of supported search files from 35,000 to unlimited. v7.0 of Predator DNC was tested with 150,000 search files. In addition, the speed at which searching occurs has been improved.

Improved! Cancel All

Predator DNC v7.0 improves the performance of Cancel All when ports or paths do not exist.

Improved! Zinger Manufacturing

The sample company Zinger Manufacturing has been updated to take advantage of some of the new v7.0 features.

Bug Fix! Send to CNC Dialog

Fixed a bug when a Send to CNC dialog would pop-up when a remote request object was used within a Send to CNC command and remote messaging was enabled for the same command.

Bug Fix! Cancel All

Fixed a bug when performing a Cancel All with the Error Log option enabled on quad processor servers with Windows 2003 Server.

Bug Fix! File Locking

Fixed a bug when a Send to CNC command has the Wait for CNC option enabled and a file transfer is canceling prior to initiating the transfer. This bug caused the file to be locked until Predator DNC was closed.

Bug Fix! Restart Object

Fixed a bug within the Restart object when the checkbox for pop-up dialog is enabled yet a remote request issued from the CNC and then a manual Send to CNC is performed and the dialog is not displayed.

For the latest on Predator DNC, check our web site at
<http://www.predator-software.com>