



Predator DNC™ v8.0 – What's New

Latest features and benefits in v8.0

Before Installing v8.0

Predator DNC v8.0 requires Windows 2000, XP, 2003 Server or Vista. Existing customers that have older versions of Windows such as Windows 95, 98, ME or NT v4.0 must upgrade prior to installing v8.0 of Predator DNC.

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

Why v8.0?

By design, this release is intended to support Windows Vista and 64 bit editions of Windows. In addition, new wireless features, support for Motoman CNC robots, new APIs for scheduling and just in time manufacturing have been added. Finally, new DNC improvements (RS232 and Ethernet styles) and data collection methods round out this release. Details of what's new are explained throughout this document and within the online help.

Predator DNC Enterprise and Predator DNC Express

Predator Desktop has been renamed to Predator DNC Enterprise and Predator DNC Xpress has been renamed to Predator DNC Express to more accurately reflect their positions in the marketplace. Existing customers with active software maintenance will receive the new software under the new product names. Product item numbers, bundles and pricing will not change.

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Installing v8.0

Version 8 includes a single combined 32 bit and 64 bit Windows installation and is based on .MSI images. By default installation occurs in the \program files\predator software\dnc 8.0 directory. If you were previously running v7.x we recommend uninstalling v7.x prior to installing v8.0 but it is not required.

PXP files and PSF files created in older versions of Predator DNC are upgradeable to v8.x of Predator DNC. PXP files created in v8 are not compatible with v7.0 or older.

New! Microsoft Office Excel 2007 Support

Support for Excel 2007 has been added with v8.0 of Predator DNC.

New! Microsoft Office Access 2007 Support

Support for Access 2007 has been added with v8.0 of Predator DNC.

New! Oracle Database 11g Support

Support for Oracle Database 11g has been added with v8.0 of Predator MDC.

New! Includes v8 of Predator CNC Editor

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes the latest new v8.0 of Predator CNC Editor. Several new CNC programming wizards have been added and all new backplotting with support for Predator Dynamic Graphics™ has been added. For additional details on the Predator CNC Editor refer to the What's New .PDF or online help.

New! Sending Entire Folders

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes a new option that will send an entire folder of files. Support for wildcards, shortcuts, and several extension options are supported.

New! Custom Toolbar

v8.0 of Predator DNC Enterprise includes a new VB script driven custom toolbar to simplify integrations with other Predator applications and 3rd party applications. Support for custom tool tips, status bar messages and toolbar icons can be defined within the same VB script. Custom toolbars can share global functions and variables since the entire custom toolbar is defined within a single file. Predator APIs, Windows APIs, Office APIs and others can all be leveraged within the custom toolbar script. An example provides a simple integration with Predator MDC and Predator Tracker. To explore start by opening the following file within the DNC 8.0 folder:

```
pdnc.exe.vbs.customize
```

To enable the custom toolbar rename the above to the following file

```
pdnc.exe.vbs
```

Knowledge of vbscript is a pre-requisite to working with custom toolbars.

New! Wireless Group Icons

Wireless access point and hub icons can now be assigned to any group.

New! Wireless Machine Icons

Wireless machine icons can now be assigned to any machine.

New! Application Paths Dialog

v8.0 of Predator DNC makes it significantly easier to modify and customize launching Predator CNC Editor, Predator Virtual CNC, and 3rd party viewer from Predator DNC with a new Applications Paths dialog. This new dialog is available from the Options menu as long as you are running Predator DNC Administrator.

New! Large Toolbar buttons

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes a new option to enable large toolbar support. Large toolbars can improve touch screen operation and new high resolution graphics.

New! Motoman CNC Robot Object

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes a new Motoman CNC Robot object for serial transfer of robot programs and parameters. Support for a wide range of Motoman Robots is included.

NOTE: The new Motoman Robot Object can be combined with the MDC Send and Receive Objects to provide automatic MDC data collection during transfers.

New! Schedule Database

v8.0 of Predator Desktop includes a new SQL based Schedule Database which replaces the old PXP based Schedule with improved shop floor operation, workflow and toolbars. Version 8's new Schedule Database supports an unlimited number of files and a comprehensive Schedule API. With the new Schedule API CNC, CAM, ERP, MES, PLM and other applications can easily integrate with Predator Desktop.

NOTE: With v8 scheduled files get added and deleted without changing the PXP file.

New! Schedule Toolbar buttons

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes a new Schedule Toolbar with several new toolbar buttons for new scheduled file, hold, release, hold all, and release all.

New! COM Port EVT

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes a new COM Port EVT Terminator. This new serial port terminator includes all of the benefits of the HSM Terminator while adding new low level serial specific events for canceling and Remote Request. For example, hardware handshake lines could cancel dripfeeding or low level parity RS232 errors could trigger specific email messages. The following additional low level options have been exposed: Framing, Break, Overrun, Parity, Clear to Send, Data Set Ready, Ring, and Receive Line Signal.

NOTE: This new EVT terminator opens up a variety of possibilities. Please forward any interesting applications to support@predator-software.com

New! MDC for Haas Object

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes a new MDC for Haas Object. This new object polls Haas CNC controls for machine status including idle, cycle time, single block, feed hold and machine alarm. In addition, automatic machine logon and logoff is also supported. This object requires a Haas CNC control with v11 or newer firmware and provides an alternative method of data collection without requiring CNC Macros or the Predator MDC Adapter.

NOTE: The new MDC Object can be combined with an existing Remote Start command.

New! Cancel All and Startup All Toolbar buttons

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes a new Cancel All and Startup All toolbar buttons.

New! FTP Client Terminator

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes a new FTP Client Terminator Object. This new object connects to CNC machines that support FTP Server operation. A checkbox option support automatic deleting of the CNC program after transfer.

New! International Support

Internationalization of Predator DNC has been re-designed so a single PDNC.exe can support multiple languages. Our initial release includes English and Chinese. Additional languages can be added as they become available. Predator DNC automatically honors that appropriate languages based on Windows. This effort significant simplifies product releases and allows a worldwide customer base to run the same version.

Improved! HTML based Online Help

Updated online help expands several topics with new details.

Improved! Floating Network Licensing Option

v8.0 of Predator DNC supports an improved 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. All minimums have been eliminated and even a single license can be floated.

Improved! Predator DNC Service

v8.0 of Predator DNC includes an improved DNC service with new support for error logs. Error logs can be reviewed while the service is operational to trouble shoot issues.

A new administrator option has been added to “Save PXP for DNC Service” this will add the current PXP file to the registry and eliminates the need to use the command line option.

An additional prompt has been added to optionally automatically start the DNC service after exiting Administrator mode.

Finally, the Predator DNC Service has been improved to support searching folders.

Improved! MDC Objects

Predator DNC v8.0 improves 15 MDC objects to be compatible with v8 of Predator MDC. In addition the MDC for SQL, Access and Oracle objects have been improved with a configurable cycle end timeout. This time out can be used to improve the cycle time accuracy of material handling heavy equipment such as press breaks, sheers, etc. In addition, installation of Predator MDC Adapters to capture cycle time can be made more accurate when monitoring certain machine events such as auto loaders, torch on/off, plasma on/off or laser on/off, etc.

Improved! PPM Objects

Predator DNC v8.0 improves three PPM objects to be compatible with v8 of Predator Travelers.

Improved! COM Port HSM Terminator Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the COM Port HSM terminator to taper off re-connection attempts when 1 port wired or wireless devices are powered at the CNC.

Improved! Search and Replace Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the Search and Replace object with an option to only apply the change to the first instance.

Improved! VB Script Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the VB Script object when accessing the exposed variables. In addition a new predatorscriptor.sleep call has been added.

Improved! Java Script Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the Java Script object when accessing the exposed variables. In addition a new predatorscriptor.sleep call has been added.

Improved! Remote Request Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the Remote Request object to improve multiple file transfers and compatibility with additional CNCs.

Improved! Send Translate Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the Send Translate object with an option for Remove All and Ignore All.

Improved! Receive Translate Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the Receive Translate object with an option for Remove All and Ignore All.

Improved! File and Subprogram Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the file and subprogram object with a dripfeed option. This new option allows dripfeeding of CNC programs when the subs and the main program are contained within the same file. This is the fourth style of automatic subprogram management within Predator DNC.

Improved! HTML Table Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the HTML table object to support multiple HTML objects within a single command.

Improved! FTP Server Terminator Object

Predator DNC v8.0 improves support for large directory listings. Support for Unix style directory navigation has been added.

Improved! File Searching

Predator DNC v8.0 improves the performance when search files and folders. An improved messaging system will report on the number of searched files and folders.

Improved! Cancel All

Predator DNC v8.0 improves Cancel All when used with Remote Start commands.

Bug Fix! Delete Sequence Numbers

Several bugs have been fixed with the Delete Sequence Numbers link.

Bug Fix! Search and Replace

Fixed a bug with repeat strings when using the Search and Replace link.

For the latest on Predator DNC, check our web site at

<http://www.predator-software.com>