



## Predator DNC™ v3.1 – What's New

*Latest features and benefits in v3.1*

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### Before Installing v3.1

Microsoft Internet Explorer v5.x or later is required to be installed before installing Predator DNC v3.1. To simplify this requirement, we have included IE v5.5 as part of the installation processes.

**NOTE:** Existing customers who have both DNC v3.0 and MDC v1.0 must upgrade both products to DNC v3.1 and MDC v1.1.

Backup everything; especially your PXP or PSF file. Running v3.1 will upgrade the files from v3.0 to v3.1 and it will no longer be compatible with v3.0. Predator DNC will always be forwards compatible.

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### Why v3.1?

By design, this release was intended to be a maintenance release to v3.0. Along the way we ended up adding about 100 new features and improvements. Details of the major new features are explained throughout this document.

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### Installing v3.1

One of the biggest changes is a new installation process based on Microsoft's Install Services. This technology was introduced in Windows 2000. If you are running Windows 95, 98 or NT v4.0, and Microsoft's Install Services has never been installed, v3.1 will do this automatically at the very beginning. This will require a re-boot prior to completing the installation of Predator DNC.

By default installation occurs in the \program files\predator software\dnc 3.1\ directory. If you were running v3.0 simply proceed with the installation normally. If you were running a beta version of 3.1, please un-install it prior to installing v3.1.

With this release we have dropped supporting floppy drive or diskette based installs. All installations must be performed from a CD, CDR, CDRW or DVD drive.

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## Network Installations of v3.1

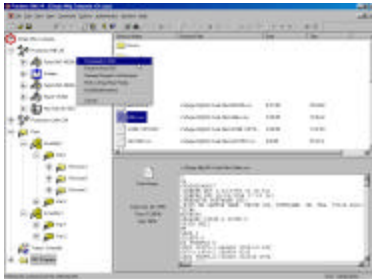
Another major installation improvement has been made with network installations. By committing to store the product installation on a server, users will enjoy automatic healing of all critical files upon running Predator DNC. For example, a user accidentally deletes pdnc.exe. Under normal circumstances he would be down and the software would fail to run. With v3.1 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 \dnc directory on the CD to a \setup\dnc 3.1\ or similar directory.
2. Run the setup.exe from the \setup\dnc 3.1\ 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 \setup\dnc 3.1\ directory. If you install from a CD, Predator DNC will be forced to prompt for the CD.

## Predator DNC



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## What's New in v3.1?

### New! HTML based Online Help

New HTML based, context sensitive, online help is now fully integrated throughout Predator DNC. Pressing F1 at any time can access over 250 pages of online help. Every object also includes online help. Additionally, help buttons are in the lower left hand corner of every dialog box. This new help system provides a complete reference for the entire application and replaces a traditional bound and printed reference manual. Several printing options are included to print individual pages, topics, and sub-topics.

### New! Remote Messages

Over 20 user configurable remote messages have been added to the machine wizard. Remote messages can be configured to be CNC programs and sent to the CNC. An example remote message would be the following:

```
O1 (FILE NOT FOUND)
M30
```

Remote messages can be configured with variables for even better shop floor feedback. Variables include filename, date, size and pathname. An example remote message with variables would be the following:

```
O1 (JOB123.NC SAVED IN 4075 BYTES)
M30
```

In addition error messages can send email messages or be tracked via ASCII, HTML, Excel, Access or Oracle.

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### **New! Predator DNC*Xpress***

A new entry-level DNC solution Predator DNC*Xpress* is now available stand alone or within Predator DNC. When purchased stand alone Predator DNC*Xpress* is bundled with a USB hub and a single grizzly cable. Predator DNC*Xpress* is designed and priced for small shops with RS-232 based Fanuc compatible CNCs and is available in 4 port and 8 port configurations. If additional networking features or more CNC machines per PC are required Predator DNC or Predator Desktop should be purchased. Predator DNC*Xpress* is backwards compatible with Cell or PSF files from previous versions of Predator DNC. Predator DNC*Xpress* has been enhanced with an updated user interface, support for copying and pasting of machine icons, advanced timeouts command and additional constants for Send and Receive timeouts.

### **New! X\_Net Technology Integration**

In November of 2000, Predator Software acquired the X\_Net series of shop floor products. Version 3.1 of Predator DNC is the first release to include X\_Net technology. Predator Software is aggressively integrating the entire suite of X\_Net products within the Predator product line.

### **Enhanced! Windows Compatibility**

Although Windows NT v4.0 remains the preferred platform for most of our customers. V3.1 of Predator DNC has been extensively tested with a wide range of hardware under Windows 2000 and Windows ME.

### **New! Search Sub Directories**

A new option to search sub directories has been added to the command wizard. With this option enabled, remote request commands will first start in the default directory and if the file is not found, Predator DNC will then continue on searching through each sub directory in alphabetical order. In addition, directory shortcuts can be placed within the default directory and if the search sub directories option is enabled, Predator DNC will automatically search the directory shortcut as well.

### **Enhanced! Cancel**

Predator DNC's cancel command has been simplified if the machine's multiple commands option is disabled. If the machine's multiple command option has been enabled, multiple Cancel commands will be available to the user. Finally, canceling an active command is now more compatible with greater number of operating systems, device drivers, settings and their combinations.

### **Enhanced! Right Mouse Menus**

Right mouse menus have been enhanced making Predator DNC even easier to use. Individual object properties can be edited via the right mouse menu. Send to CNC and other user definable commands have been added to right mouse menus to file objects when they are located under a machine icon. Right mouse menus in shop floor mode have been enhanced with options for Open, Edit and Virtual CNC and they can be controlled with security.

### **Enhanced! Menus**

Menus within DNC*Xpress* and the Job files have been updated to be more compatible

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with DNC Explorer.

### **Enhanced! CNC Program and Text File Viewing**

CNC program and text file viewing has been improved when scrolling to the bottom of a file and the left hand margin has been increased for better readability. In addition, it is more compatible with the Predator Editor.

### **New! Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Options**

From the Options menu Basic, Intermediate and Advanced options configure the number of objects displayed in the command wizard. As additional objects get added to Predator DNC these options simplify the number of appropriate choices.

### **New! Number of Backups**

The number of backups can now be configured in the command wizard. Predator DNC will automatically maintain 1 – 9999 backups versions of each CNC program.

### **New! Machine Status Icons**

Every command can now toggle persistent machine status icons. Currently green, yellow and red status icons can be configured for each command. Intended for use when Predator DNC is used in conjunction with Predator MDC.

### **New! Zip Folders**

Zip files can now be added to DNC explorer as a live Zip folder. Similar to live folders, Predator DNC will update the listing and the files based on the latest changes made to the ZIP file. This allows CNC programmers or third party applications to update a ZIP file for use on the shop floor. Predator DNC will automatically use the latest instance of the ZIP file and it's zipped files.

### **New! Text File Icons**

Text files including CNC programs can now be added to machine and group icons for work instructions, tool lists, setup sheets, etc. These can be viewed at any time within the preview section. In addition you can drag and drop them onto machine icons to execute any commands.

### **New! Fanuc Cassette Object**

Predator DNC now supports the Fanuc cassette protocol. Users that only need remote upload and download and store their CNC programs by O numbers can simplify the required number of steps for shop floor personnel.

### **New! Brother Conversational Object**

Predator DNC now supports the Brother conversational protocol. Data is stored in a binary format and cannot be edited with the Predator CNC Editor.

### **New! Fagor Object**

Predator DNC now supports a new remote style Fagor protocol for the 8050 series.

### **New! Kermit Object**

Predator DNC now supports the Kermit communications protocol can be used on Tarus and other Kermit compatible CNC controls.

### **New! LSV2 Object**

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Predator DNC now supports the LSV2 protocol for the Deckel Dialog 10 and 11 series control.

**New! SMT Object**

Predator DNC now supports the SMT protocol for Swedish Machine Tools.

**New! Object Debugger Object**

Predator DNC now provides a low level diagnostic tool to trouble shoot new protocols or complicated machine setups. It should only be used by experienced service personnel and the results can be forwarded to Predator personnel as needed.

**New! Okuma Object**

Predator DNC now supports a simplified Okuma protocol.

**Enhanced! Clean Code Object**

The Clean Code object has been enhanced with greater support for European based CNC compatibility and flexibility.

**Enhanced! Command Line Object**

The Command Line object has been enhanced to be compatible with Windows 2000.

**Enhanced! Delete Sequence Numbers Object**

The Delete Sequence Numbers object has been enhanced with an option to ignore comments and the sequence numbers and comment definitions are now done within the machine object.

**Enhanced! FTP Object**

The FTP object has been enhanced with better error messages, increased CNC control compatibility and automatic Windows compatible directory management.

**Enhanced! HHT Object**

The Predator HHT object has been enhanced to work when the multiple tasks per machine option is enabled.

**Enhanced! HTML Table Object**

The HTML Table object has been renamed and enhanced to automatically output HTML tables vs. an HTML list.

**Enhanced! MDC Objects**

The MDC objects have been enhanced to work with Predator MDC v1.1 in addition they have been improved for easier setup and configuration. Extensive online help for MDC objects has also been added.

**NOTE:** Existing customers who have both MDC v1.0 and DNC v3.0 must upgrade both products to MDC v1.1 and DNC v3.1.

**Enhanced! Remote Directory Object**

The Remote Directory object has been enhanced with improved sorting and automatic uppercase conversion for all directory listings.

**Enhanced! Remote Autaname Object**

The Remote Autaname object has been enhanced to optionally ignore comments.

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### **Enhanced! Remote Request Object**

The Remote Request object's remote send delay property is now defined within the machine object and is also used for remote messages.

### **Enhanced! Restart via Remote**

The Restart object has been improved to support remote request. Within the object a checkbox configures whether the restart object will interactively prompt or should execute automatically for remote. An example remote message would be the following:

```
O1 (DNC JOB123.NC T3)
M30
```

Predator DNC will automatically search through the JOB123.NC file for the first T3 and will automatically skip the beginning of the file and begin sending from the T3 block. If additional information needs to be automatically added to the beginning of the file a Send Events object can be added after the Restart object.

### **Enhanced! Command Wizard**

The Command wizard has been enhanced with an updated Paths step and the Object Manager step automatically honors the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced object levels. A bug introduced in v3.0 has been fixed so new objects can be inserted as needed without resetting existing object properties to their default values. Finally, advanced users can skip the Command wizard to edit individual object properties with a single right click.

### **Enhanced! Machine Wizard**

The Machine wizard has been enhanced with more options and a new Message Manager. Finally individual remote messages can also be edited within the Machine wizard.

### **Enhanced! Live Folders**

Live Folders in v3.1 are now exponentially faster than in v3.0. Finally, Security and object permissions have been enhanced to support live folders. In addition, live folders can be copied and pasted.

### **Enhanced! Open and Save Dialogs in Shop Floor Mode**

Open and Save dialogs are re-designed to be easier to use and are also exponentially faster than in v3.0. Finally Open and Save dialogs will automatically sort any sub-directories.

### **Enhanced! Security**

Several security features have been enhanced including an updated login dialog, support for live folders, and improved saving of security options.

### **Enhanced! Demo Mode**

An updated demo mode now equivalent to a DNC/1 with support for CNC program up to 50 lines is included with every demo license.

### **Enhanced! Zinger Example PXP**

Updated Zinger example PXP for v3.1 of Predator DNC.

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### **Enhanced! Machine Error Message Display**

Displaying error messages per machine has been enhanced so they are sorted in descending date and time order. In other words, the most recent error is listed first.

### **Enhanced! Help About**

An updated help about dialog has been added with a new system info button. The system info button will query the PC and Windows for troubleshooting and diagnostic information.

### **Enhanced! Icons**

Updated document, command, machine, file, folder, and live folder icons have been improved or added through out the application.

### **New! Getting Started Manual**

A new getting started manual is now available for new users of Predator DNC.

**NOTE:** Any v3.0 users of Predator DNC or Predator Desktop that upgrade to v3.1 may see 19 dots in the toolbar or see extra large toolbar heights. To fix this problem select *Customize* from the *Options* menu and then click the Reset button. Click the OK button to exit the Customize dialog and then select *Save Layout* from the *File* menu.

For more information

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