

NEWS RELEASE



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PREDATOR SOFTWARE RELEASES PREDATOR DNC™ V3.1

Update provides ease of use and automation enhancements

PORTLAND, ORE – June 5, 2001 – Predator Software Inc., a leading provider of shop floor communication and automation software, today announced the release of Predator DNC (direct/distributed numeric control) version 3.1, the latest update to the Company's shop floor networking and communication application, which enables personnel to electronically automate the sharing of CNC program files between PCs and CNCs.

Predator DNC v3.1 provides nearly 100 enhancements, including new features to improve the user experience, as well as numerous performance-based upgrades to existing features. Recognized for its object-oriented flexibility, version 3.1 has added, among other key features, Microsoft-based installation, HTML online help, Remote Messages, Right Mouse Menus, Zip folder support, drag and drop text file icons, and a new sub directory Search function. A number of new objects have also been added, including objects for the Fanuc cassette, Brother conversational, remote-style Fagor 8050 series, Kermit communications, LSV2 for Deckel Dialog 10 and 11 series, simplified Okuma, and the SMT (Swedish Machine Tool) protocols.

"Improved ease of use and performance were our core objectives in releasing Predator DNC v3.1," said Jim Abbassian, Predator Software President. "We received a tremendous amount of customer feedback, which drove many of the improvements in this latest release. The result is an excellent product update with an exceptional value-to-performance ratio."

Key to Predator DNC improvements is a new and easier to use Microsoft®-based installation. This provides users a more secure installation that is entirely compatible with Windows 2000. As a byproduct of the new installation, users can enjoy automatic file healing by storing the product installation on a server. If a file is lost or corrupted, it is automatically restored from the network server eliminating considerable downtime and lost work.

Getting help is also easier in version 3.1. Help is literally one click away via a new HTML-based online help system. Users need only press F1 at any time in the program to access more than 250 content sensitive help topics detailing every aspect of Predator DNC.

More

Improved right mouse menu support also makes version 3.1 easier to use. Individual object properties can be edited via the right mouse menu saving users time by eliminating mouse clicks. Send to CNC and other user-definable commands are supported so users can file objects when they are located under a machine icon. Right mouse menus in shop floor mode have also been enhanced with options for Open, Edit and Virtual CNC, which can be securely administrated.

File management functionality has been added to enable users to access “Zipped,” or compressed, files from within Predator DNC as a live Zip folder. Similar to Predator DNC’s Live Folders™ feature, which allows administrators to create “live folders’ that can be shared across a network, Zipped files can be accessed from the shop floor with updates automatically made available as changes occur. This allows CNC programmers to update Zip files directly and ensures that shop floor personnel are always working from the latest release. Meanwhile, Live Folders are not only faster, but now provide greater security and object permissions support. Users will save time by being able to copy and past Live Folders on the fly.

Predator DNC’s user interface continues to improve. Every menu pick and right mouse menu has been updated to be more consistent. One addition provides that text files, including CNC programs, can be added to machine and group icons for work instructions, tool lists, and setup sheets, among others. These files can be viewed at any time within the preview section. Furthermore, users can save time by eliminating copying and pasting by simply dragging and dropping them onto machine icons to execute commands.

Other time saving additions in Predator DNC, include more than 20 user-configurable remote messages that have been added to the Machine Wizard. Remote messages can be configured as CNC programs and sent to the CNC, and they can also be configured with variables, such as file name, date, size, and path name, for better shop floor feedback. Error messages can even be sent as email messages or tracked via ASCII, HTML, Microsoft Excel®, Access™ or Oracle®. Meanwhile, the Machine Wizard has been improved with a new Message Manager to support editing individual remote messages within the wizard.

A new option to perform directory searches has been added to the Command Wizard. With this new sub directory search option enabled, Predator DNC can search an unlimited number of sub directories until an appropriate CNC program is found. In addition, search priorities can be established with directory shortcuts.

Predator DNC includes a new Object Debugger Object that provides a low level diagnostic tool to trouble shoot new protocols or complicated machine setups. Diagnostic results can then be forwarded to certified Predator Software representatives for comprehensive feedback, which can simplify and speed up technical support problem solving.

More

Version 3.1 provides numerous improvements to already existing objects, including the FTP Object, which has better handling of error messages, improved Unix compatibility, increased CNC control and Window directory management. The HTML Object now outputs HTML tables versus an HTML list. The Clean Code™ Object has been improved with several new options to support a broader range of CNC programs, especially those from European machine tool builders.

Lastly, for prospects shopping for DNC, Predator DNC's new demo license provides the equivalent of a DNC/1 with support for NC programs up to 50 lines. Although the demo will not expire, the save function has been disabled.

Predator DNC system requirements for the Microsoft Windows 95, 98, 2000, and Windows NT operating systems are an Intel Pentium-based processor or equivalent, 64 MB of RAM, and 40 MB of hard disk space.

Current pricing is available through authorized Predator Software resellers.

About Predator Software Inc.

Predator Software develops software to automate the shop floor and improve production efficiencies. Predator products provide the network "backbone" to communicate across any shop floor or production facility, and then add vital productivity components, including network security, document viewing, internet browsing, data collection and analysis, tool and gage management, and electronic work instructions. Other Predator applications focus on CNC programming, such as CNC/Machine verification and simulation, and universal CNC translation. Together, Predator's products make up the Predator MES (manufacturing execution system), an integrated suite of products that gather shop floor data and deliver it to the front office, in sync with existing ERP or MRP systems.

Based in Portland, Oregon USA, with offices in Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina, Cambridgeshire, UK, and Barcelona, Spain, Predator Software products are available through a global network of value-added resellers. For information: www.predator-software.com, email: Info@predator-software.com, telephone: 503-292-7151, fax: 503-292-7671.

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