

DefaultMgr

by
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Description

DefaultMgr is an application for managing user's defaults, both in the defaults database or in files. Defaults are the settings that are stored in every NeXT user's account that tell applications information about your preferred working environment. They tell about window locations, default fonts and font sizes, etc.

Running the Program

The windows that DefaultMgr opens are similar to the one pictured:

paste_6.tiff ,

- 1** A list of all owners that are defined in the file.
- 2** A list of all defaults that are set in the currently selected owner.
- 3** Editable text of the selected name. Typing here and hitting return will rename the current selection.
- 4** Value of the selected default.
Caution: This field will accept any characters that a normal text editor would, so be careful not to hit return or tab unless you really mean it!
- 5** Icon representing the current selection that can be dragged between the window and other default windows or to any window that accepts files (such as Mail and Workspace)

6 Information about the current selection. Tells you how many owners and defaults are selected.

These windows can be opened from two locations: files and databases. By default DefaultMgr opens a window onto the current user's database. Other windows can be opened through the **Set** menu:

paste_7.tiff ,

New

Opens a new, untitled file that can accept defaults.

Open...

Brings up a panel that allows you to choose files with a .dset extension (DefaultMgr's file type).

Open Database...

Brings up a list of all users that on the machine or network that you can choose from. Note that you cannot change their databases unless they give you write permission to the database files (located in *~user/.NeXT/.NeXTdefaults.D* and *~user/.NeXT/.NeXTdefaults.L*).

Save

Saves the current file. If the file is an untitled window a panel appears and asks you to name it.

Save As...

Brings up a panel that asks you for a new name under which to save the current defaults.

Save To...

Brings up a panel that asks you for a file name to save the current defaults. The name of the current file is not changed as it is with **Save As...**

Revert to Saved

Reloads the current defaults from the original location after confirming the operation.

Investigate...

See Advanced Operation below.

Once the window is opened, the **Default** menu becomes active:

paste_8.tiff ,

Add Owner

Adds a new owner to the Owners column of the current window. You can rename it by typing in the Name: text field.

Add Default

If there is only one owner selected, this becomes active to allow you to add new defaults to the current owner.

Remove

Removes all of the selected owners and defaults.

Dragging Default Sets Around

The icon well in the lower right corner of a defaults window allows you to selectively choose defaults from the window to be moved somewhere else. Simply click and drag from the icon well to any application that accepts files dragged into a window. The owners and defaults that are currently select in the window will be put into a file that is represented by the icon.

DefaultMgr is set up so that files with the extension ".dset" can be dragged into a

window and have those defaults merged with the existing ones. You can also drag from one DefaultMgr window to another to move defaults between files.

The format of the ".dset" files is *mostly* compatible with the command-line programs `dread` and `dwrite`. If there are defaults whose values contain newlines then `dwrite` will not accept them.

Advanced Operation

One of the advanced features of DefaultMgr is the ability to look at applications and figure out what **all** of the defaults for an application are. The **Investigate** selection under the **Set** menu provides this capability.

To investigate an application, select the **Investigate** item. A panel will open asking for the name of the application you want to investigate. Note that the panel will allow you to select any executable file, not just Applications, so be sure to choose carefully.

After you have selected the app a new window will pop up and periodically fill with values. The program that you selected will begin running and be activated. Due to the nature of the way most NeXTSTEP applications are written, all of the defaults that the app uses are not immediately apparent. To be sure of finding all of the defaults you must run the program and select things that are likely to make the app read its defaults (such as a **Preferences** panel or some such). Some applications, like Mail, only read their defaults when each section of the Preferences panel is viewed, so try to be thorough. After you think you have found all of the defaults, quit the target application. The title of the window will change to that of a new window.

A caution is necessary at this point: Some programs that are interesting to investigate can also have bad consequences, such as loginwindow and Workspace. They make assumptions about the state of the system that can wreak havoc on running programs and the Window Server. I have already crashed by Window Server to bring you the default files for both of these programs and they are located in the app wrapper

(under Workspace.dset and loginwindow.dset).

Please send any comments or suggestions to drew@fnbc.com

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