

MakeNL Revision History

V2.50 -- February 12, 1991 -- New features

By default, the first line of distribution lists from earlier versions contained "FidoNet Nodelist for. . ." FidoNet is a registered trademark of Tom Jennings. While Tom hasn't complained about this behavior, he has every right to, so now the default is " Nodelist for. . ." (no name at all).

Since version 2.00, the /N command line switch would insert a name other than "FidoNet" in the first line, and it still does. A new configuration verb, NAME, has been added to do the same. The difference is that now, if you really want it to say "FidoNet Nodelist for. . ." you have to explicitly tell MakeNL the name is "FidoNet" by one of these methods.

I am told that some mailers require all out-going messages to contain the ^AINTL extended address kludge. With a lot of grimacing and head-shaking, I have added the capability to force MakeNL to do this. See the SUBmit verb in MAKENL.PRN.

V2.41 -- January 25, 1991 -- Code bug, documentation bug

There are only two ways MakeNL can know your zone number. You explicitly tell it in your NETADDR statement, or, if you are making a zone list, MakeNL can guess it. Failing either of these methods, your zone number is set to zero. Usually this doesn't matter, but. . .

If MakeNL generates a message to a zone-qualified address, and he doesn't know your zone (i.e. your address is set to zone 0), MakeNL failed to notice and both the message header and the INTL kludge were generated malformed. This has now been fixed. Under the stated condition, MakeNL will issue a warning and NOT generate the message.

Last time I added the PUBLISH verb to the code. This time I added it to the documentation!

V2.40 -- December 1, 1990 -- New features.

Version 7 of ARC uses considerably more memory than earlier versions. MakeNL now checks free memory, and if there is less than 256K, it swaps itself out of memory before executing ARC. If there is an expanded memory driver loaded, and enough expanded memory available, MakeNL will use it for swap space. Otherwise it swaps to a temporary disk file. When swapped out, only about one kilobyte plus your environ-

ment space remain in memory. This behavior is transparent to users, and requires no action on their part.

A new configuration verb, BAUdrate, was added to permit redefinition of MakeNL's baud rate validity table. This allows for future growth without continual recompilation. See section 6.1.6 on page 24 of the documentation for complete details.

Added a second configuration verb, PUBlish, to define a publication day other than Friday.

V2.31 -- August 8, 1990 -- New feature, bug Corrected.

Added ARC <n> control verb, where <n> may be either 5 or 6. It is used to force ARC version 6 or 7 to create level-5 or level-6 compatible archives. Note that it will cause errors if <n> is greater than or equal to your ARC version number.

MakeNL had another string length error. A 12-character array was having a string of up to 12 characters scanned into it. That doesn't leave much room for the null terminator. The size of the array was increased.

V2.30 -- June 3, 1990 -- New feature, bug Corrected.

Added MINPHONE control verb. If causes MakeNL to reject phone numbers with fewer than a defined minimum number of parts. (See documentation.)

A file entry in the FILES section of a control file may include an alternate notification address. MakeNL was limiting the length of this address to seven characters -- a bit confining. The string has now been extended to 17 characters. This will permit an alternate address with a 5-digit zone, a 5-digit net, and a 5-digit node number.

FTS-0005.TXT was added to the distribution. It is the replacement document for FSC002-3.

The documentation was updated to reflect these changes, however the sample control files were not changed to include any instances of MINPHONE.

Recompiled the entire program using MSC 6.00, which resulted in about 10% reduction in size of .EXE file.

V2.20 -- 10/06/89 -- Significant Bug Corrected.

Why this one wasn't reported before now is beyond me! When MakeNL received more than one new submittal difference file at once, all but the first would fail to apply because the CRC was not being reinitialized. RCs probably don't get

many difference files, but how could DD go a year and a half without noticing this problem?

The program salutation and the documentation title page were changed to reflect the new release level.

The obsolete "FSC002-3" was dropped from the distribution archive.

No other changes were made.

V2.12 -- 05/31/88 -- Bug(?) Corrected.

For some reason (as yet unidentified), memory allocation in the difference analyzer (changed in V2.11) behaves badly when MakeNL is executed on an 8088 machine. This release modifies the routine to get around the problem, and should work in the most adverse conditions (I hope).

V2.11 -- 05/15/88 -- New behavior.

The FidoNet nodelist has become larger than earlier versions could produce difference files for. The current version's difference analyzer has been modified to segment long files and analyze the segments. After a segment is analyzed, the differences are output, then processing proceeds to the next segment.

Some time ago, Tom Marshall, IFNA Council, pointed out that any copyright contained in the original document should also be contained in any published difference file. The program at that time was forcing about four lines of the notice into the difference file. Since I was modifying the routine that does it anyway, the difference analyzer was also modified to force any copyright notice in full into the difference file.

The changes made do not affect documentation, and it was not changed.

V2.10 -- 04/12/88 -- New feature, docs updated, minor bug fixed.

A new control file statement, "PRivate," was added to the repertoire to control the processing of private nodes in networks which discourage or do not permit them.

The documentation received many cosmetic changes. Some of the change bars merely reflect the movement of figures to produce better pagination. The substantive changes are documentation of the /NAME command line switch and the PRivate control file statement.

The /NAME command line switch was added in version 2.00, but seems to have been overlooked in the documentation, includ-

ing this file. It provides the capability of changing the network name placed on the first line of a composite list.

One minor bug was discovered which could cause problems only with a rare combination of events. Since I have had no reports on it, I guess no one ever noticed it, but I fixed it anyway!

V2.03 -- 03/12/88 -- Bug fixed

A bug was introduced in 2.02 which caused the PVT and OGATE keywords to be exchanged on output. This, of course, produces a very confused nodelist!

IT IS IMPERATIVE that if you ran V2.02 in process mode, that you upgrade to 2.03 IMMEDIATELY. Errors generated by 2.02 will "stick" until 2.03 corrects them. Note that this correction should be automatic and require no intervention on your part.

No other changes were made in this version. There were no documentation changes.

V2.02 -- 03/05/88 -- Bug fixed, added feature

If the first data file is not processed (happens frequently in test mode) MakeNL returned an erroneous result code. The problem was caused by an uninitialized variable. You would not notice this one until you tried to use MakeNL's result codes to automate weekly processing in a daily event in your batch file.

One minor feature was added. MakeNL will now accept the keyword "OGATE" in a net list. (OGATE is invalid in a Region.) In order to use OGATE, you and all coordinators in the chain above you must be using V2.02! Earlier versions of MakeNL will reject the OGATE keyword. For this reason, the documentation has not been updated to reflect it's support at this time.

No other changes were made in this version. There were no documentation changes.

V2.01 -- 01/16/88 -- Bug fixed

Found a bug that's been there since the beginning of time. Wonder why nobody ever reported it??? In the FILES section of the .CTL and explicit file name might be as many as 12 characters (file name (8) plus "." (1) plus extension (3)), but the field width was set to 11!

The only other changes made in this version is that the entire package has been recompiled with MS C 5.0. Please

advise me immediately of any problems encountered!

Documentation has not changed, however, the order of this file was reversed (newest version first).

V2.00 -- 12/28/87 -- Distribution restrictions removed

Ken Kaplan expressed concern over the logistics of the requirement for IFNA control of the distribution of MakeNL. Therefore, with this release distribution restrictions are removed and MakeNL will be distributed as "shareware" in the future. See section 9 in MAKENL.PRN for details.

New feature:

This release extends the level of NL maintenance all the way to individual nodes. Note that Coordinators may still fully maintain their segments if they wish, but now they may also require each node to maintain its own entry in the list.

If you wish to make use of this feature, I suggest you create a file for each node in your segment and mail it to the applicable node with a message text reading "Enclosed is a file containing your nodelist entry. If there are any changes, edit this file and mail it back to me. DO NOT CHANGE THE FILE NAME." Replace each NL entry with an appropriate NODE entry in the FILES section of your control file, set up an external event to execute MakeNL daily, and forget about 'em.

Old feature:

The "indentation" feature of the files section of the control file was designed as "cut-over" aid, and should no longer be needed. MakeNL still supports it, but all references to it have been removed from the documentation. The next release will remove it from the program.

Several minor bugs were found and fixed.

DOCs with change bars:

MAKENL.PRN received more updates than the program did! Change bars have been added in the right margin to reflect changes since V1.21. Figures 2 through 7 were moved to avoid several nearly blank pages. Since the change bars were added automatically, this action caused several instances of false change bars. Oh well, you can't have everything. Nothing that WAS changed escaped being marked. It's just that some marked passages were not actually changed.

V1.21 -- 11/14/87 -- MERGE clarified

The the requirements for the MERGE option were not clear, and code did not test that necessary network address information was present. So:

- 1) Added ability for MakeNL to select a default network address based on MAKE command if NETaddress data is missing.
- 2) Changed MERGE to use the first zone it finds in the distribution file if no zone address is available.
- 3) Changed MERGE to cancel if no region or net address is available. This only happens when MAKing a HUB, and no NETaddress command is given.

Added "change bars" to right margin of documentation. This edition reflects changes since V1.10.

V1.20 -- 11/08/87 -- Bug fixes, one added feature

Bug fixes:

- 1) This wasn't really a bug. The MS library date/time handling routines seem to make automatic adjustments for DST (at the wrong cross-over points, I might add). According to their docs, setting the environment variable "SET TZ=CST+6" should turn it off, but they lie! They recognize the minus sign, but not the plus sign.

"SET TZ=CST6" will turn it off, but MakeNL can't rely on that being set right.

The problem occurs just after the date MS thinks a change to or from DST should have happened and you run MakeNL within an hour the wrong side of midnight. Day numbers for backward dates get screwed up because the time gets shifted across the midnight boundary, and MakeNL can't find its master files!

Well, it's fixed, and I'm sorry for any inconvenience it may have caused.

- 2) Fixed a problem in renaming master files two weeks old. (They were being deleted.)
- 3) Fixed a similar problem renaming output master files when no changes occur.

- 4) Fixed some minor problems surrounding the creation of archives and difference files. If you specify an OUTDIFF parameter, you should force the creation of archives as well as difference files, EVEN IF NO CHANGES OCCUR AND YOU WOULD OTHERWISE GENERATE NEITHER! Now you do.

New Feature:

If you use a generic OUTFILE name, and if you create difference and/or archive files, they tend to accumulate in your OUTPATH directory over time. By default, MakeNL ignores them completely. This is done so that OUTPATH can point to a "download" directory where several editions might be made available to users.

I had some complaints about this behavior. Some users don't appreciate having to "clean up after MakeNL!" So, I added the CLEANUP command to MakeNL's repertoire in this version.

When MakeNL operates in process mode and CLEANUP (no arguments) appears in the control file, after all other processing is done, it searches the OUTPATH directory for old difference and/or archive files and deletes any it finds.

CLEANUP has no effect on current files or the handling of output master files. It has no effect whatever when MakeNL is operated in test mode.

V1.10 -- 08/19/87 -- Bug fixes

This release is mostly bug fixes, but a new feature has been added, and behavior has been modified in one respect.

Bug fixes:

- 1) A check was added to insure that all defined data directories are distinct. V1.00 loses files if two are defined for the same directory.
- 2) Corrected a bug in the parsing of the /M command line switch.
- 3) Added a check for and removal of IBM extended characters in text fields.
- 4) Corrected file move operation to account for the use of the DOS JOIN command.
- 5) Corrected bugs in directory (path) verification. In fact the function was rewritten, and is (I hope) close to bullet proof.

6) Removed the use of "DOS COPY" to eliminate false warning messages.

Added feature: Added the "NOTIFY SELF" statement to control file.

Modified behavior: ALL output except merge file goes in the defined OUTPath directory, or if not defined, in the MASTER directory. V1.00 places submittal and distribution files in the current directory.

V1.00 -- 08/11/87 -- Initial Release

