

# FAQ – Converting to Network Diary v6.0

[Back to Acute Software Articles](#)

Article ID:  
ND050825

Last Updated:  
30-Aug-2005

This article describes the changes to the structure of Acute Softwares Network Diary, and how to convert existing data to the new version.

<b>Installation Guide to Network Diary Version 6.0 .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Step 1 - Preparation.....	1
Step 2 - Install the Network Diary onto the first PC .....	2
Step 3 - Setup the Server with the netDiaryAdmin tool.....	3
Step 4 - Install the Diary onto the remaining PC's .....	4
Testing that the Installation is working .....	4
How can I convert my data files to the new format? .....	4
<b>Frequently Asked Questions .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Why did the structure of the Program Change? .....	5
How does the new Diary work? .....	5
Do I get an upgrade for free? .....	5
What new features are in version 6.0? .....	5
What features have been taken out of version 6.0? .....	5
Can I still use the old version? .....	5
Is there any privacy in the new version? .....	5

## Installation Guide to Network Diary Version 6.0

### Step 1 - Preparation

The first thing is to **make a shared folder on your LAN** which EVERYONE HAS ACCESS TO. (e.g. N:\shared\diary). You will need to map the server for all users, but this is most likely already done in a typical shared office environment.

Work out a short username for each person who will be using the diary – usernames shouldn't be any longer than 12 letters and they must not contain spaces.

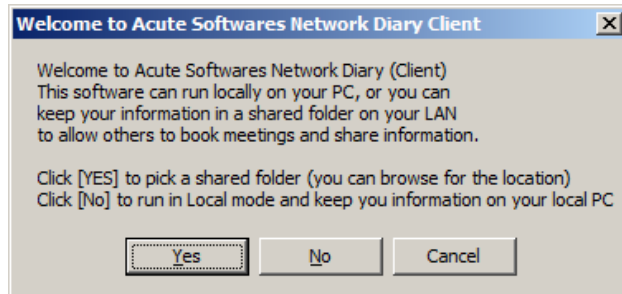
#### If you are upgrading from a previous version:

- you need to shut down the server (if running) and Infolink on each PC and then uninstall both the Server and the Diary (Start Menu -> Acute Software -> Uninstall ... )
- Delete the old netDiary.ini file (C:\Program Files\acute\netdiary\data )

You must now check that each PC which will have the diary installed has a mapped drive to the folder on the server and that they can read and write files to this folder. Try copying a file from each of the PC's to the shared path to make sure.

## Step 2 - Install the Network Diary onto the first PC

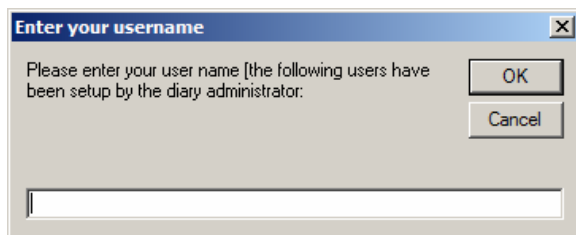
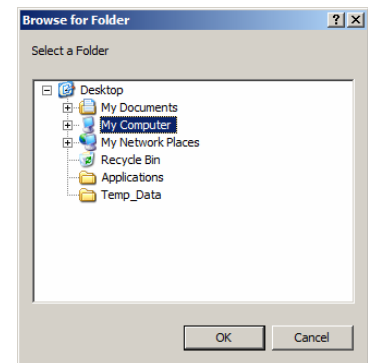
Download the latest version from acute softwares website and run the setup program.  
Install to the default location (C:\Program Files\acute\netdiary)



Start the diary and you will see the following welcome screen

Click 'Yes' and you are then asked for a folder to store the data files.

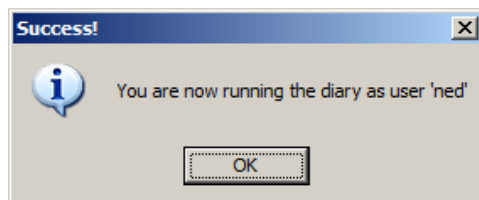
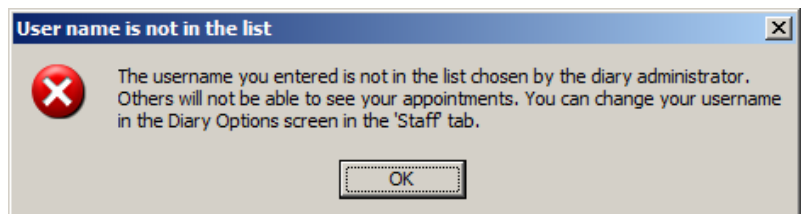
Drill down to the folder which you created in Step 1 ( e.g. N:\shared\diary) and click OK.



You are then asked for a username – Because this is the first time you have setup the diary, there are no user names configured yet. You need to enter the username which will be using this computer.

You will get the message – but ignore it for now

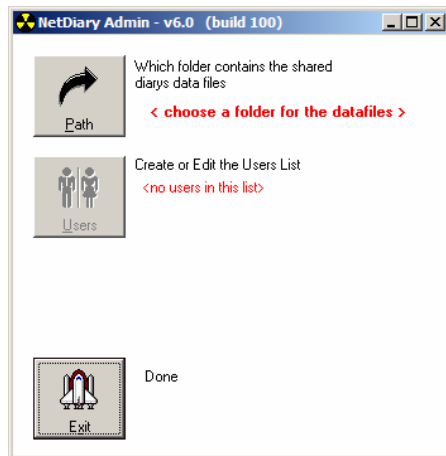
Click OK



The first diary has been installed! Click OK, and the Diary will start normally. Don't bother adding any events, yet.

Exit the Diary and go to Step 3

### Step 3 - Setup the Server with the netDiaryAdmin tool

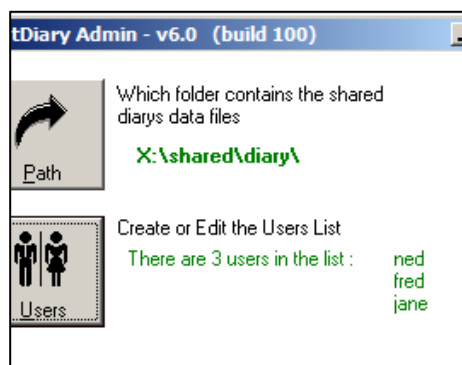
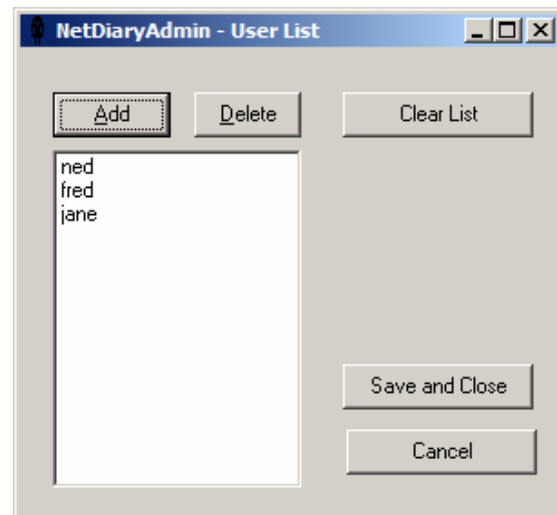


Start the Administration Tool from:

Start Menu > Acute Software > Network Diary Administrator

The following screen starts showing that nothing is configured yet. Click Path, and you are asked for folder where the data files are kept (same as step 2) – browse to N:\shared\diary and click OK.

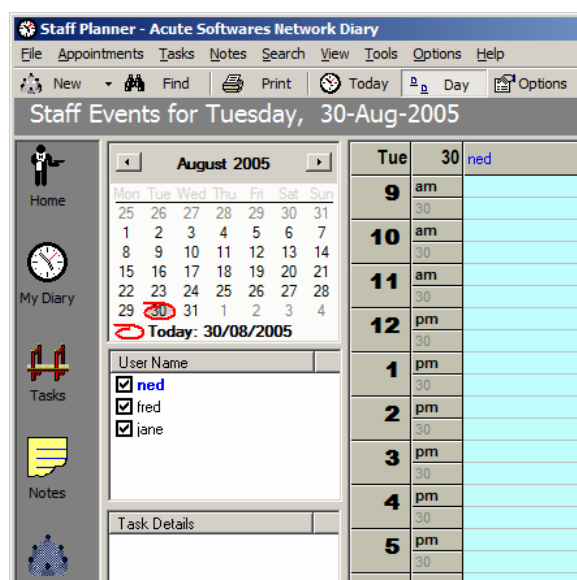
Now click the Users button and add the users.



Click Save and Close and you are returned to the Server admin screen, this time with green text showing a successful installation.

Click Exit.

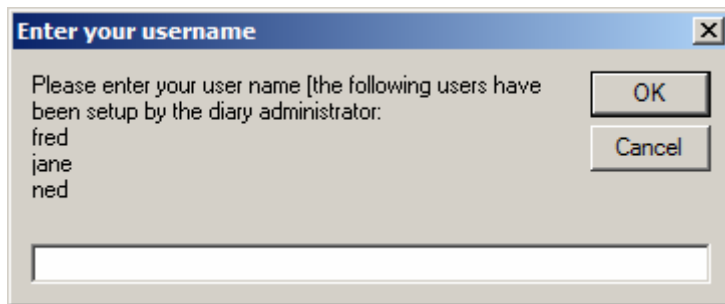
Start the Staff view



Diary on this first PC now, and click on to make sure the list of users is there.

## Step 4 - Install the Diary onto the remaining PC's

Go to each PC and run the diary setup program.



When it starts you are asked for the folder to store the shared files as in step 2, but when it gets to the username it shows you the list of users setup to use that shared path.

Enter the username for this computer and click ok.

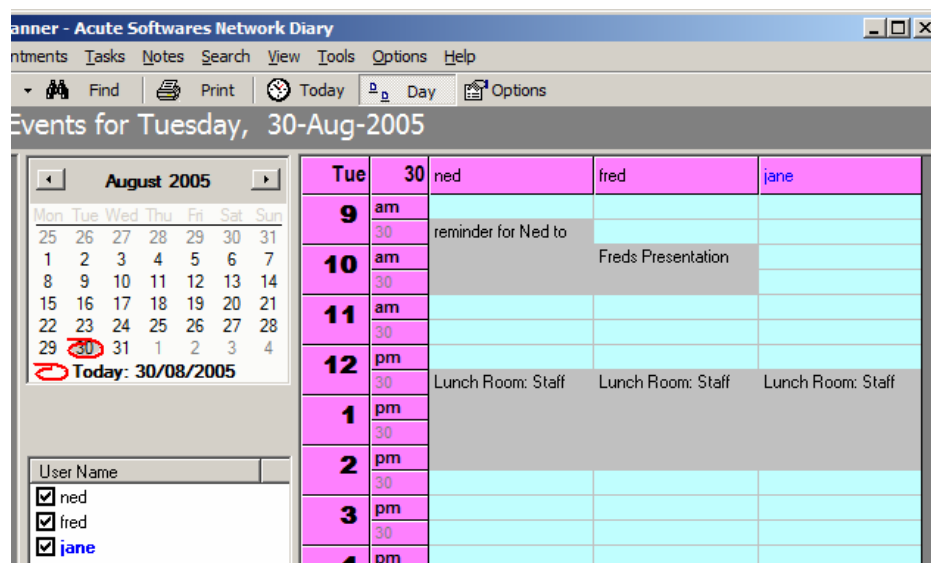
*Note – if you want to add a new user which is not in the list you need to go back to step 3 and add it using the netDiaryAdmin tool*

## Testing that the Installation is working

On one PC add an event called 'test'.

Click the Staff icon and make sure you see the list of users down the Left Hand side. The main grid should show all users.

Book a meeting with all users.



Go to another user's PC and open their diary – you should see the meeting booked by the first PC.

Try out the features in the diary – you can add events for other users and even \*become\* other users (only the administrator should do this), via the Options menu > Staff > Switch user button. Tip – don't forget to switch back to you!

## How can I convert my data files to the new format?

1. check what your username is
2. rename your tasks file from d\_tasks.DAT to d\_tasks.yourname
3. rename your events files from D200508.dat to D200508.yourname
4. rename your notes files from allnotes.DAT to allnotes.yourname
5. copy all files from your local folder (C:\Program Files\acute\netdiary\data into the new shared data folder (e.g. N:\shared\diary )

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Why did the structure of the Program Change?

The Problem was that Network Diary was too difficult to setup for the average user. Large companies with a professional IT person were fine, but most of our customers were small businesses who just wanted an easy way to share appointments and tasks. The old version of the network diary, although scaleable was complicated to setup correctly and did not handle laptops connecting and disconnecting from the network.

Also, for privacy reasons the master versions of each users data files lived on their own PC and only public events and meetings were copied to the central database using a server. This process proved to be troublesome, and many customers complained that this feature was not even required – ‘we just want to share all our information’

## How does the new Diary work?

The solution was a simplified Shared Path for all users. All users save information in the same folder, and the information is uniquely identified by their username. ( e.g. D200508.duncan, D\_Tasks.jane ). A separate server is no longer required as everything is on the one spot, and the new Diary client manages all saving of the files. The result is that it makes appointments loading and saving much quicker and there is the added bonus of a simplified backup (everything is in one spot)

## Do I get an upgrade for free?

Yes, all existing registered customers are entitled to a free upgrade to version 6.0 of the Network Diary.

## What new features are in version 6.0?

**More Reliable** – no more ‘cannot connect to server’ errors... ever

**Much Faster** – working with other users events is much faster

**Simpler to use** – very easy to install

**Better Sharing** – users can open other users diaries and manage events, tasks and notes remotely. This was the number one requested feature.

## What features have been taken out of version 6.0?

Due to the fact that there is no longer a server running on the Network Diary, some features have regrettably been removed:

- Chat:- chat over the LAN is no longer supported
- Message Notification when users add meetings do not occur (although you instantly see the new events on your diary when you go into it)

## Can I still use the old version?

Yes, of course. Existing customers are still supported; it’s just that all new features will be on the new version only. The larger installations which are managed by IT administrators will probably not have a reason to upgrade.

## Is there any privacy in the new version?

Yes. Now that all information is on a shared folder, privacy of events is obtained by ticking the ‘Private’ checkbox and the details for this event will be hidden from other users. Even though others can see an event in your diary they will not be able to read it. Please be aware though, that the information is still stored on a shared folder on your LAN, so a determined administrator could access this information if they really wanted.

[Back to Articles Index](#)

(C) Acute Software 2005 - <http://www.acutesoftware.com.au/>