NetBlazer 1.5 Release Notes

Telebit is pleased to release Version 1.5 of the NetBlazer system software. Before attempting to configure and use the NetBlazer, review the list of precautions provided in this document. An overview of the new features and functions included in Version 1.5 is provided in the Enhancements section. Functional differences between Version 1.4 and 1.5 are described under Compatibility Issues at the end of this document.

Your Comments or Questions

If you have any comments or questions concerning this release, you can send an e-mail message to **support@telebit.com**; or call Technical Support at **1-800-TELEBIT** or **408-734-5200**.

Telebit has also established an electronic mailing list for NetBlazer users to exchange NetBlazer related questions and ideas with other NetBlazer users by sending e-mail to **netblazer-users@telebit.com**. If you want to be added to this list, send your request to **netblazer-users-request@telebit .com**.

NetBlazer Documentation

This release includes an all new modular set of documentation, consisting of the following manuals:

- *NetBlazer ST/40 Installation Guides* – provide instructions for setting up and cabling the NetBlazer hardware.
- *NetBlazer Configuration Guide* – provides guidelines and examples on how to configure the NetBlazer software.
- *NetBlazer User's Guide* – provides user instructions for normal (non-privileged) users.
- *NetBlazer Command Reference Manual* – includes a functional description of each NetBlazer command. This manual is arranged in alphabetical order.
- *NetBlazer Supplements* – contains application notes and articles related to setting up and using the NetBlazer.

Future updates to the NetBlazer documentation will be available by using the FTP facility. New or updated pages to the documentation will be placed on the same server used for downloading software updates over the Internet. Since these pages are postscript files, you need a postscript printer to to take advantage of this facility.

System Updates

If you are currently using an earlier version of the NetBlazer system software, you can use any of the methods described in Appendix B of the *NetBlazer Configuration Guide* to update your NetBlazer system software.

If you have any problems updating your system software, call Telebit's Technical Support at **1-800-TELEBIT** or **408-734-5200**.

Enhancements

This section describes enhancements and/or modifications made in Version 1.5 of the NetBlazer software.

- The NetBlazer now supports up to three Token Ring or Ethernet boards in any combination. Configuring a Token Ring interface is very much like setting up an Ethernet interface. The main difference between these two interfaces is in setting up the hardware.
- The NetBlazer now includes a V.25bis server which allows it to be used with a ISDN terminal adapter.
- A new **session rlogin** command allows you to use rlogin in place of telnet to launch a session with a TCP/IP host.
- The **session telnet** command support a -raw option which provides a raw TCP connection. No telnet processing is done. As much incoming data as possible (usually between 10 and 30 bytes) will be put in one packet. This differs from previous telnet behavior of one byte per packet. Do not use the -raw option to talk to a telnet server.
- The **line reset** command can now be used to reset a line with a dedicated packet mode interface.
- The **line auto** command supports a new -config option which allows the NetBlazer to autoconfigure a modem without going through the modem detection phase. To use this option, you must set the modem type using the **line modem** command.
- COM ports now enable modem status interrupts when **line auto off**.
- The new **security login** command enables or disables the prompt for a password when a user attempts to login with an unauthorized user ID.
- The new **security write** command controls whether or not a group of users is allowed to use the **write** command based on their privilege level.
- Interface list now shows up/down status for all types of interfaces.
- The calculation of a number of SNMP variables has been improved to return more accurate values.
- Setting the time is easier and protected from two people trying to update the time at the same time.
- The **wall** command no longer strips blanks out of the message.
- Domain name cache entries get timed-out properly.
- An unprivileged user can no longer change the binary mode of any telnet session.

- The NetBlazer interroperates with FTP Software's PPP properly without any special configuration requirements.
- The NetBlazer negotiates Van Jacobson's header compression properly on dial up PPP links.
- Telnet CR/LF end-of-line processing works properly.
- PPP commands operate on dynamic PPP connections the same as for synchronous link connections.
- Modems autoconfigure properly when the line speed is set for 57.6KB and the modem is in factory defaults.
- Users that do not have sysconf privileges cannot close other user’s sessions.
- No user can continue another user’s session.

Precautions

When using Version 1.5 of the NetBlazer software, you should be aware of the following known limitations or restrictions.

- The NetBlazer's default configuration will send console messages to line00. If you have a NetBlazer ST or NetBlazer 40, set the console port to line02 by issuing a **setconsole line02** command. If you have a standard NetBlazer and you must attach a modem to line00, issue a **setconsole internal** command to the NetBlazer. This prevents console messages from adversely affecting the operation of the modem attached to line00.
- Care should be taken to not set up the dynamic interfaces between two NetBlazers that use SLIP on one end and PPP on the other end. Both interfaces must use the same serial link protocol.
- When setting up a dynamic interface that allows more than one line to be used for transferring IP packets between two NetBlazers, the following limitations must be observed:
  1. Use the SLIP protocol. PPP currently cannot be used for transferring IP packets over multiple telephone connections.
  2. Disable Van Jacobson TCP/IP header compression using the **vj** <interface> **off** command.
  3. Configure the dynamic SLIP interface for an MTU of 1006 bytes or greater, so that it will not need to fragment packets.
  4. Where possible, configure workstation applications to use 512 byte or smaller packets. For example, set NFS read and write size to 512 bytes.
- Do not reset a line while it is being used to transmit or receive data.
- Do not close or kill an FTP session while a file transfer operation is in progress.
- Be careful when entering routes in the **ipdial** command dialog. If you enter an unknown hostname at the "Destination name or address/bits" prompt, the dialog will be aborted, and you will need to enter the routes through the **route add** command.
- Do not enter an **alias add** command with just the <alias-name> parameter as this will create an alias for a carriage return. If you do this inadvertently, delete the alias using an **alias delete ""** command.
- Be careful not to add too many extraneous files to your system diskette because if you enter a **save** command when the diskette is full, the NetBlazer's STARTUP.CNF file will be rendered useless.

- Performing disk write operations (e.g. delete, copy or rename) on a write-protected diskette produces erroneous results.
- If a route advertised by RIP is added to the routing table before a static route to the same destination network/host is entered, the RIP acquired route may take precedence over the static route. Note that you may see the problem following a reboot. Deleting the RIP acquired route allows the NetBlazer to use the static route.
- Using the **finger** command to get information about a NetBlazer user displays the user's encrypted password. If this is security problem for your site, turn off the finger server by issuing an **server stop finger** command to the NetBlazer.
- On a dialout character mode connection, the NetBlazer does not look at incoming traffic to determine if the connection has timed out. For example, if you establish a character mode (dial) session from a NetBlazer, and then start a large file transfer from another host with only incoming traffic, the connection can be dropped before the transfer is completed. Make sure that the dialout record's timeout value allows sufficient time to complete the task.
- The NetBlazer strips the U/L bit from the ARP entry for a token ring destination. This prevents the NetBlazer from sending forwarding packets to such destinations. If you experience problems when using token ring contact Telebit's Technical Support for assistance.
- The NetBlazer inadvertently uses the get-community name instead of the set-community name during SNMP set operations. The get-community name is set to a default value of public. If this causes a security problem for your site, change the get-community name to some other name. However, keep in mind that SNMP management stations must be set to use the same get-community name to work with the NetBlazer.
- You may experience some problems when transferring binary files using ZMODEM with TNGLASS. Contact Telebit's Technical Support for assistance.
- Do not change a dialout's **minwait** and **maxwait** values without first consulting with Telebit's Technical Support department as this may cause problems with using the dialout to establish a connection.
- The Telebit TrailBlazer Plus and T2000 modems are listed as tb+ by the **line list** command.

Compatibility Issues

This section describes functional differences between Version 1.4 and 1.5.

- If you add a route with the same destination address as an existing route, the NetBlazer adds the new route to the routing table below the existing route instead of replacing the route as it did in Version 1.4. Because the NetBlazer uses the first route it finds that meets the destination address routing criteria, the older route takes precedence over the new route, and the new route is never used unless you delete the old route.

- Several commands have been added to the Route command level which are used to change an exiting route. To change the interface, gateway or metric of an existing route, use the **route change** command. To change a public route (one that is advertised by RIP) to a private route, use the **route private** command. To change a private route (one that is not advertised by RIP) to a public route, use the **route public** command.

- The **route delete** command now allows you specify an interface when deleting a route from the routing table.

- The sync watchdog function has been changed to work with any interface that uses the synchronous line. This required changing the syntax for the **sync-watchdog** command. The new syntax is:

  watchdog <interface> on|off|<ip_address> [<seconds>]

  The new <interface> parameter can be syn0 or the name of a v25bis dynamic interface.

  If you have configured the syn0 interface to use the sync watchdog function and saved your configuration to diskette under Version 1.4, the NetBlazer uses the old command to configure the syn0 interface when it is rebooted under Version 1.5. However, the <seconds> parameter is forced to 120 seconds. If you want to use a different timeout value, you must reenter the **watchdog** command using the new syntax.

- The Van Jacobson TCP/IP header compression function has two values, the value that is saved, and the value used for a current connection. Entering a **vj** <interface> command displays the current status of compression for the specified interface.

- If you have been experiencing problems with the line autoconfigure process, you can now set the modem type using the **line modem** <line-name> command and then use the **line auto** <line-name> **config** command to autoconfigure the modem without going through the modem detection process.