

OBLIGATORY DISCLAIMER: READ THIS POST IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE ASKING FOR HELP

This is the first release in the 1.0 train. Yes folks we've finally reached "gold" status! That means this collection of files is heading over to SMS for replication onto your cased Nexts' SD Cards!

We also now have a git repo which means you can always find the latest and greatest changes to the distribution (sometimes things change by the minute too!) and also contribute (but first read the readme.md file in the git regarding that!)

Git repo is located here at gitlab.com :

In the links below you will find TBBLUE v.1.0 SD card distribution containing the following changes over version 0.9:

System Software

New Firmware file 1.10b which fixes the range check errors (options corruption on screen) previously possible when editing by hand config.ini entries, including some code cleanup by Garry Lancaster.

Updated NextZXOS 2.00 as always in two versions: one with Geoff Wearmouth's Looking Glass v. 1.07 48K ROM and one with the standard ZX Spectrum 48K ROM (Default)

This version has over 110 (!!!) changes/fixes over the previous distribution; Garry's been super busy!

NEW c:/dot/ folder replacing the c:/bin/ folder that now holds ALL NEW "dot commands" as to allow esxDOS to co-exist with NextZXOS if a user so wants, since some of the "dot command" replacements our contributors wrote _MAY_ not work with esxDOS as most of them take advantage of the extra Spectrum Next facilities. Special care has been taken however by our contributors to write "dot commands" which are cross-compatible with both systems specifically adding an /extra/ subfolder under c:/dot/ (this folder can be copied to c:/bin/ as well) that hold special esxDOS versions or auto-extensions to the "dot commands" so their esxDOS versions can autoload upon detecting the system. More info on the z88dk repo site and the tbbblue repo (see link above)

Tools

New BMPCONV utility by Jim Bagley, which allows a BMP to be sliced and diced into tiles for usage with the NextBASIC TILE command.

New NEXCREATOR utility by Jim Bagley, which allows you to create .NEX package files in the comfort of your own home! (okay not funny; I'm trying here people!).

New SPED assembler by César Hernández Bañó in two language versions. (Thanks to Tim Gilberts for getting this ready for inclusion)

New PAW +3 A17 by Tim Gilberts. Yes The Professional Adventure Writer system is back

and meaner than ever! It's in .DSK format to demonstrate NextZXOS's ability to also open (unprotected) DSK files

Updated PLUS PACK by Tim Gilberts. UART, Pi0, ESP/WiFi, Mouse drivers/tools/source code by Mr. Gilsoft updated once again! Go on; have a look – YOU WANT TO!

Games

New The Hollow Earth Hypothesis playable demo by Lampros Potamianos / WASP. Super Next-Only Arcade-Adventure.

Updated Nextoid! also by Lampros Potamianos. Now ballsier than before! Go on, bounce the damn paddle!

Updated WARHAWK by Messrs Michael Ware and Jim Bagley of Rusty Pixels; packaged in NEX format this time with a few bug fixes and even more surprises!

New Hibernated1 by Stefan Vogth. A superb text adventure which is also available in physical form from Pondsoft

New xzxvm IF PD games curated by yours truly. Because no system is a system without adventure games. Period.

Installation

Prepare the card as per the instructions here. Firmware file will be replaced.

*******BIG LETTER WARNINGS*******

USERS OF FlashAir CARDS are advised to perform ALL file copy operations locally on their PC/MAC and NOT over the air.

ALSO WE SUGGEST FORMATTING YOUR SD CARD WITH A CLUSTER SIZE OF 16K or 32K TO AVOID A MINOR CORRUPTION THAT MAY APPEAR IN YOUR config.ini WHILE USING THE EDITOR IN CASE YOU'D WANT TO DOWNGRADE CORES (but why would you do that?).

*******IMPORTANT NOTES*******

If your current firmware is older than 1.10.10 you may experience issues with your keyboard and/or display. Please follow the expanded instructions in the previous versions of the TBBLUE distributions and the Quick Start guide here to flash your core or the quick instructions on step #2 below. (Try the instructions below first and if you get stuck check the previous versions)

Default config.ini settings assume an HDMI monitor. If you're using a VGA monitor you should delete your config.ini file located in c:/tbblue/ and replace it with either of the config.ini.VGA.50Hz or config.ini.VGA.60Hz files (also located there) renamed to config.ini. YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT DISPLAY SETTINGS (Display modes 0 to 6 that is) TO ACHIEVE THE BEST RESULTS FOR YOUR DISPLAY AS THE DEFAULT CHOSEN (HDMI) ALTERS THE TIMINGS SLIGHTLY AND CERTAIN – OLDER– PROGRAMS MAY NOT DISPLAY PROPERLY (especially certain Demos). VGA modes (Settings 0...6) ARE timing accurate although the user may experience faster execution as

each setting with the exception of 0 makes things faster (but keeping timings relative)

Flashing the new core

1. For people with functioning keyboards after boot and/or membranes (but which also have PS/2 keyboards)

Let the machine boot normally, then press and hold U on your PS/2 keyboard, then tap momentarily on F1 (still holding U) and release U when you see the updater module. Press Y, wait until all flashing is completed, then power down the Next and REMOVE ALL CABLES. Wait a little and then plug everything back up again. If you have a VGA you need to replace your config.ini (see above) or edit it and set the second number after the machine type to 0. If you're in Brazil, Japan, the USA or Canada or any country that uses normally an NTSC TV signal (or a PAL 60 signal), chances are your monitor only supports 60Hz, so go ahead and tap F3 now -or alternatively you can change the [50_60] setting to 1 from config.ini or by editing the settings at boot time with the EDITOR module (Press SPACEBAR when prompted on boot then press E to edit your settings)

2. For people with Perixx PS/2 keyboards and/or keyboards with a similar controller on board AND people with membranes that are not functioning or having trouble entering the UPDATER module.

Enter AntiBrick (AB) mode by removing all cables (including HDMI), pressing and holding M1 and Drive (simultaneously), then reapplying power (no HDMI or VGA yet) waiting a few seconds (2-3) and releasing the keys, then reconnecting the display lead that worked for you previously. Press Y for update. If Y cannot be pressed then the press M1 button for Y or Drive button for N

Follow the instructions in Step 1 to boot the system.

Download the distribution at <https://www.specnext.com/latestdistro/>

TBBLUE distribution v.1.0 WITH source code files

TBBLUE distribution v.1.0 WITHOUT source code files

Credits

Article image: TBBlue Distribution Logo by Victor Trucco and Phoebus Dokos

TBBLUE: Victor Trucco

Contributors: Fabio Belavenuto, Garry Lancaster, Allen Albright, Mark Smith

Dreamworld Pogie: Lyndon J Sharp/Phoebus Dokos (WASP –

<http://www.wearespectrumprogrammers.co.uk/>) / Distributed under License

Orb Run: Matt Davies (<https://github.com/next-dev/nx/>) Distributed under License

Spectron 2084: Robin Verhagen-Guest / Distributed under License

Nxtel2: Robin Verhagen-Guest / Distributed under License

nextDAW: Gari Biasillo (<http://nextdaw.biasillo.com>)

Warhawk: Michael Ware, Jim Bagley, Lobo Trans, Space Fractal / Distributed under License

The Hollow Earth Hypothesis: Lampros Potamianos (WASP – <http://www.wearespectrumprogrammers.co.uk/>) / Distributed under License
Nextoid!: Lampros Potamianos (WASP – <http://www.wearespectrumprogrammers.co.uk/>) / Distributed under License
3D Monster Maze, 3D Defender, Trashman: Malcolm Evans / Distributed under License
Hibernated1: Stefan Vogt (<http://8-bit.info/>) / Distributed under License
cave81: Marco Varesio / Distributed under License
Mouse driver: Tim Gilberts and Chris Cowley
UART driver: Tim Gilberts
RTC driver: Tim Gilberts
PS/2 keymap: Phoebus Dokos (WASP – <http://www.wearespectrumprogrammers.co.uk/>)
NextZXOS: Garry Lancaster (<http://www.worldofspectrum.org/zxplus3e/>)
Looking Glass: Geoff Wearmouth (<https://twitter.com/warmtoffee>)
ZX80/81 Emulators: Paul Farrow (<http://www.fruitcake.plus.com>)
Demos: David Saphier (<http://zxbasic.uk/>), Geoff Wearmouth, Michael Ware, Jim Bagley, Gari Biasillo, Robin Verhagen-Guest
Utilities: Jim Bagley, Geoff Wearmouth, John M Kerr (<http://mycodehere.blogspot.com>), Kev Brady, César Hernández Bañó
Dot Commands: Allen Albright, Tim Gilberts, Jim Bagley, Garry Lancaster, David Saphier, Gari Biasillo, Victor Trucco, Marco Varesio

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (Again, because once is NOT ENOUGH)

The following people made this release possible and I don't have enough words to thank them!

BUG HUNTING: Kev "The Terminator" Brady. He Hastas La Vistas Bugs!, Tim "Prifathro" Gilberts, Geoff "Warm Toffee" Wearmouth, Garry "Relentless" Lancaster, Allen "Professor X" Albright. Marco "SOD" Varesio

BUG FIXING: EVERYONE (Garry, Jim, Allen, Robin "The Unexpected Demon", Tim, Michael, Lampros, Gari, Kev, Geoff, David, Marco)

TESTING: Kev Brady (he doesn't sleep, honest), Tim "Fampir" Gilberts (he neither!), Gari "I eat Verdi For Breakfast" Biasillo, Marco "z88dk and loving it" Varesio and of course Someone Else (not David)™

Thank you guys, I couldn't have done it without you!!!!

And last but not least; ultra kudos go to Mike "Teddy Roosevelt" Cadwallader; who's the reason why we're all getting our cased Nexts!