User's Guide

Notes Menu Launcher

With NotesPeek Buddy

1.0

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Welcome to Notes Menu Launcher

This is the User's Guide for Notes Menu Launcher and its main purpose is to unveil the possibilities in Notes Menu Launcher and to enable you to make the most out of the product.

In addition software contain a small tool with the name ***NotesPeek Buddy*** (on page 43) to enable you to launch NotesPeek on the currently selected document.

Finally, you will find a Samples-folder containing several configuration examples to get you going!

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

In This Chapter

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What is Notes Menu Launcher ?

The brief description; A tool to make your own applications, formulas or agents show up in the context menus or Action menu of Lotus Notes.

Here is the longer description; If application developers wants to integrate their own applications into the Lotus Notes menus, their options has been very limited. Application developers won't see support for their own context menus until the next major release of Lotus Notes, ND 7.

Traditionally the developer can make a so-called *Notes Addin Menu*, which in essence is a Dynamic Link Library inserting one or more menu lines into the Action menu in Notes. The menu addin is specified by adding the path and DLL name in the *AddinMenus*-keyword in the main configuration file for Notes; Notes.ini.

When installed, a Notes Addin Menu application is sensitive to the user operating *context*, meaning that the addin "knows" when the user is working in a view, a document, and whether the document is in read- or write mode. The addin also knows which field- and field type the user are working in.

Below you see a sample of some Notes Addin Menus, being present in the Actions menu:

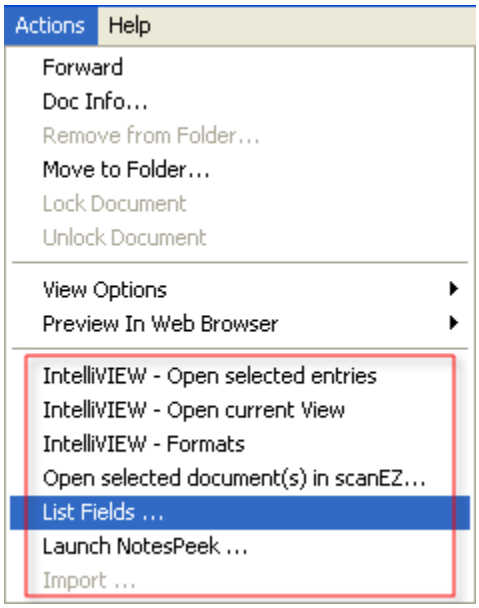

Figure 1: Notes Action menu, with several menu addins

The menus in the red box in the figure above is Notes Addin Menus. Also note that one of the menu items is *grayed out*, indicating that the menu isn't available in the current context.

What about context menus ?

A context menu is a menu that is sensitive to the user operation context, and which often is activated by clicking on the right mouse button. Context menus are therefore often called *right click menus.*

Many users regard context menus as a more speedy way to access relevant features to the current operating context.

If the developer want to integrate their solutions into the context menus of Lotus Notes, there hasn't been any known solution to that - until now!

Notes Menu Launcher will let you do just that; insert your own solutions into the Action menu and/or the context menus in Lotus Notes! Below you see a sample on a view-based context menu:

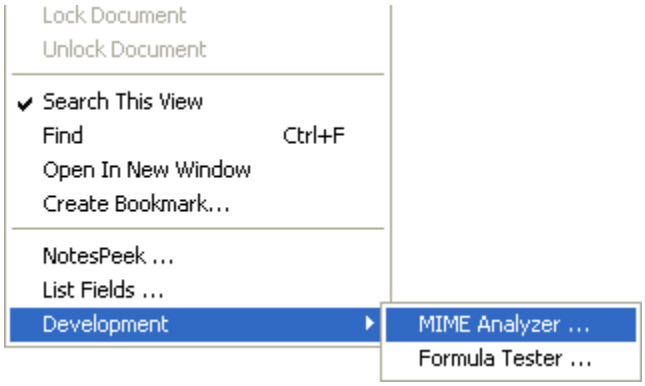

Figure 2: Notes Context Menu - Example 1

In the figure above you see several new menus at the bottom! As you also can see, Notes Menu Launcher even supports cascaded menus!

And What is NotesPeek Buddy ?

In order to show you the immediate power of Notes Menu Launcher, a small handy tool for the poweruser in Notes is bundled with this software; NotesPeek Buddy. This is a small tool that will launch NotesPeek on the currently selected document, and you no longer has to navigate through the tree-structure in NotesPeek!

Read more about NotesPeek Buddy ***here.*** (see "NotesPeek Buddy" on page 43)

What benefits do you get by registering ?

If you configure more than two menus in the ***XML Configuration file*** (see "The XML File" on page 47), you will see this dialog box when Lotus Notes start up;

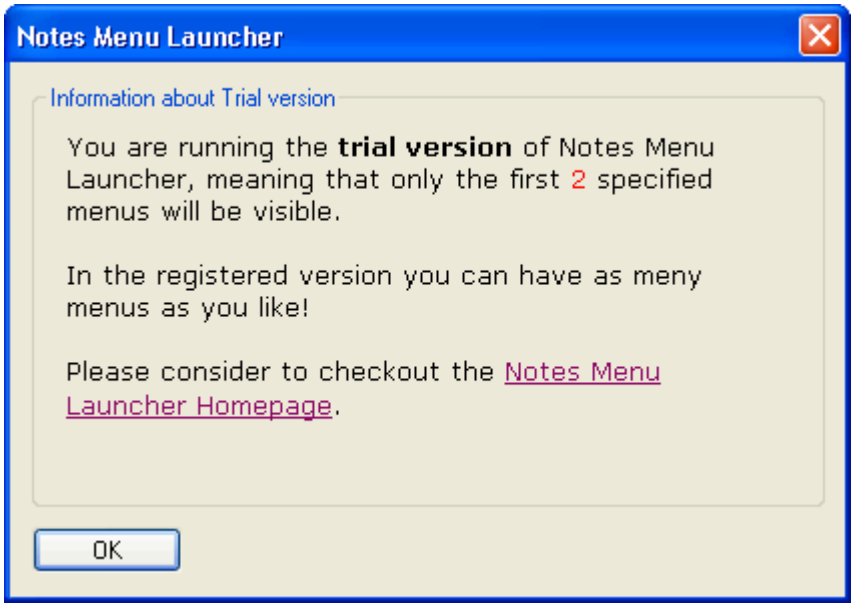

Figure 3: Information About Trial Version

If you register, you won't see this message again!

In addition, you can configure and setup as many menus as you like!!!

Finally, you will of course get prioritized support if you have any questions regarding Notes Menu Launcher or any other Voith's CODE-product.

Typographical Conventions

Before you start using this guide, it is important to understand the terms and typographical conventions used in the documentation.

For more information on specialized terms used in the documentation, see the Glossary at the end of this document.

The following kinds of formatting in the text identify special information.

Formatting convention	Type of Information
Triangular Bullet(➢)	Step-by-step procedures. You can follow these instructions to complete a specific task.

Special Bold	Items you must select, such as menu options, command buttons, or items in a list.
Emphasis	Use to emphasize the importance of a point or for variable expressions such as parameters.
CAPITALS	Names of keys on the keyboard. for example, SHIFT, CTRL, or ALT.
KEY+KEY	Key combinations for which the user must press and hold down one key and then press another, for example, CTRL+P, or ALT+F4.

CHAPTER 2

Installation

This chapter describes how to install Notes Menu Launcher. You will be guided through the automatic installer application, in addition to getting the nitty-gritty details of which files go where. This will help you install Notes Menu Launcher on multiple Notes Menu Launcher installations on one machine.

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Requirements

Notes Menu Launcher is a Lotus Notes based tool. This implies that Notes Menu Launcher won't run as a standalone windows application, but rather as a *plugin* to Lotus Notes.

When installed, Notes Menu Launcher will reveal itself via the context menus and the Actions-menu in the Lotus Notes client, and it will act on the selected documents in both view- and document context.

Notes Menu Launcher has these requirements:

- Lotus Notes Release 5.0.3 or newer
  - A Notes configuration file (Notes.ini) must be available in the first 128 bytes of the system PATH environment variable
- Machine and platform requirements; The same as for the Lotus Notes Release 5 client, which is:
  - Windows 95, 98 or ME - Windows NT 4.x SP3, Windows 2000 or Windows XP
  - Pentium processor
  - RAM: On Windows 9x and Windows NT more than 32 MB. On Windows 2000 more than 64 MB and on Windows XP more than 128 MB.

Diskspace: Notes Menu Launcher occupies approximately 5.5 MB.

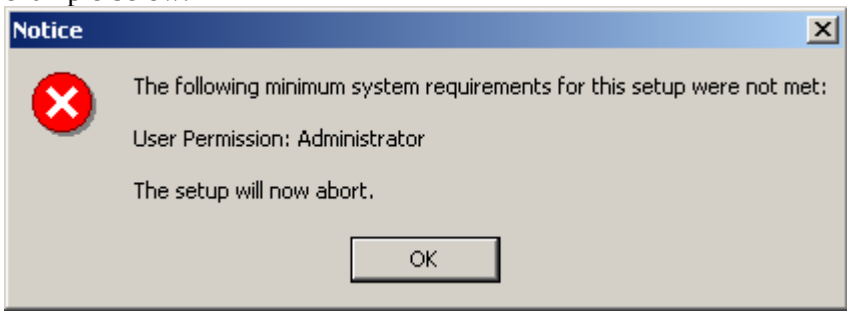
Two install methods, the installer - or - manual

Use the installer to install Notes Menu Launcher quickly on a standard Lotus Notes installation, or use the manual procedure to install Notes Menu Launcher in a more customized environment

The Installer

The Installer is a setup application containing all the necessary files to install Notes Menu Launcher successfully. In addition it will do the necessary modifications to your operating system environment in order to let Notes Menu Launcher run flawlessly.

Note: You operating system must meet the requirements in order to run Notes Menu Launcher. The Installer might report problems such as the example below:



Here the current user doesn't have proper administration rights!

The initial screen

A step-by-step guide through the standard installer. Why use the installer ? The main benefit by using the installer, is that it does the lot for you. It analyses the Lotus Notes installation to figure out where you have the Notes program- and data directories, it places all the files and components of Notes Menu Launcher in the correct directories, register common components and finally update your Registry database with the correct settings. Using the installer, should be easy and straight forward. In addition, by using the installer, you will also get an uninstaller, so you can get rid of Notes Menu Launcher.

When you first start the installer, you'll see this screen:

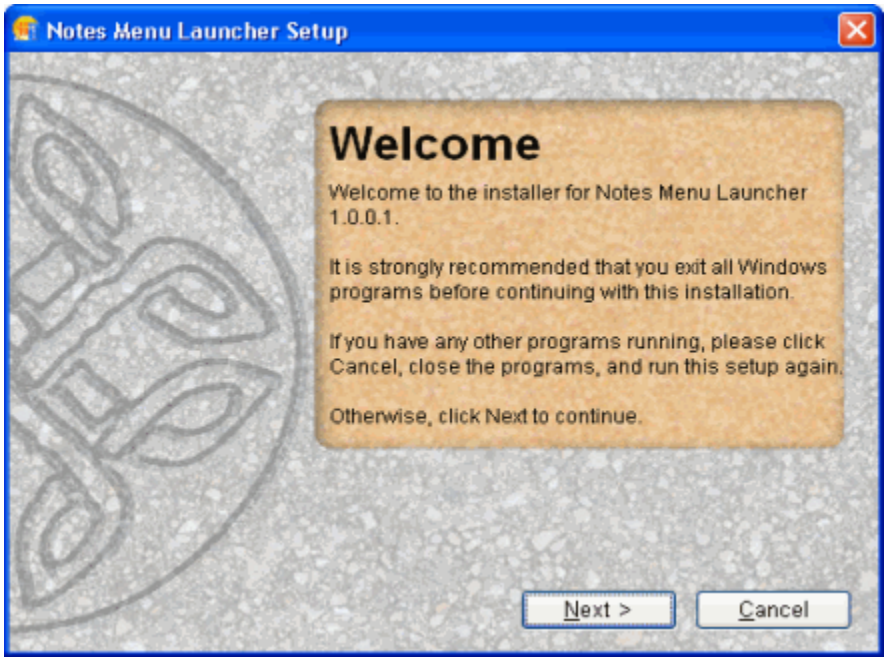


Figure 4: The initial screen in the installer

Note that you will see the current version of Notes Menu Launcher you are about to install.

If Lotus Notes is still running

If the Installer detect that Lotus Notes is still running at this stage, you will see this dialog box;

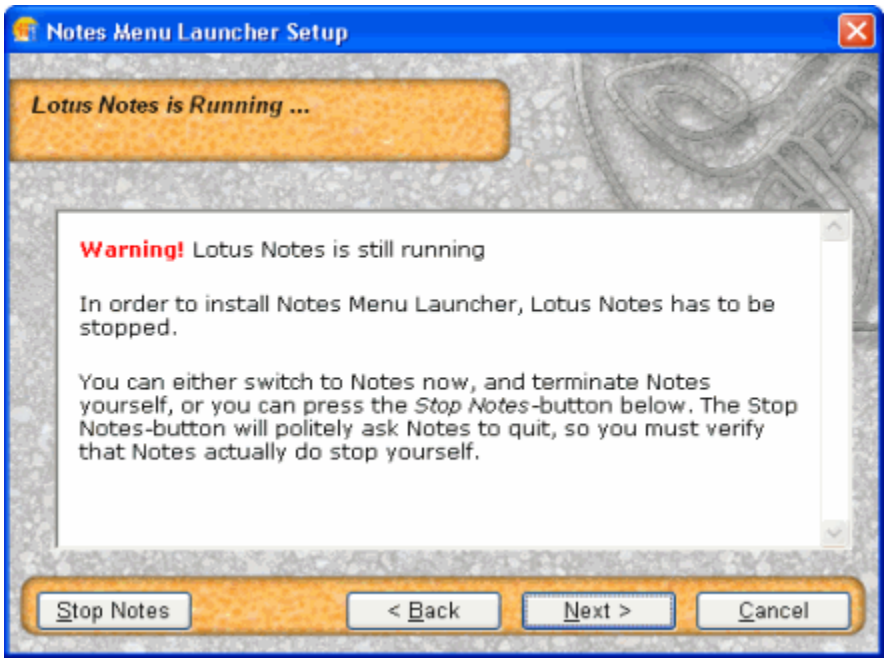


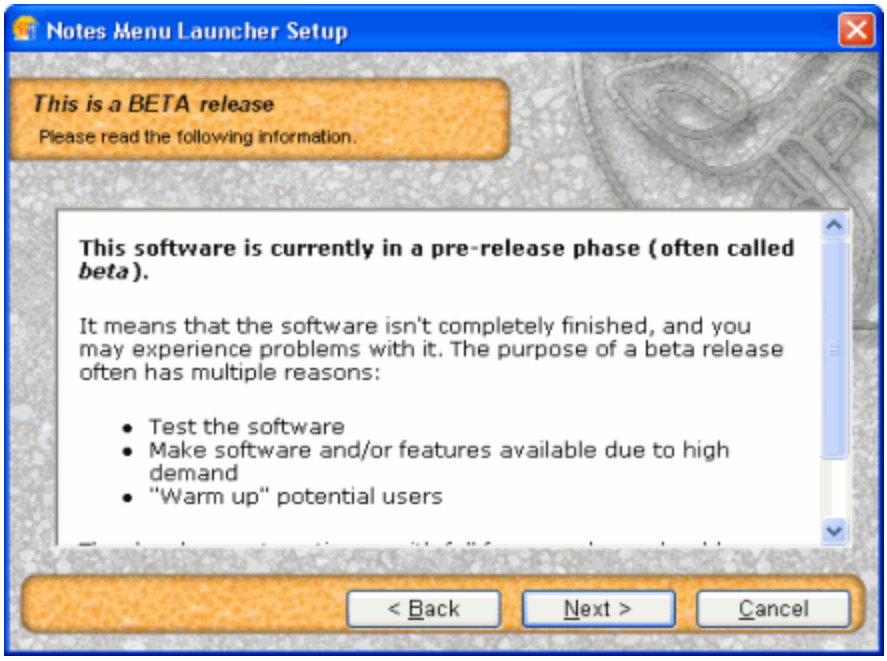
Figure 5: <LN> is still running - warning from the Installer

You should either switch to Lotus Notes yourself and terminate any current work in Lotus Notes, or, you can push the Stop Notes button to let the Installer gently ask Lotus Notes to quit. Note that Lotus Notes may not quit automatically if you have unsaved work, so you still have to check that Lotus Notes actually did stop.

Warning: If you continue without stopping Lotus Notes, you won't see the installed menus before you restart Lotus Notes. In addition, if you have already installed Notes Menu Launcher, and re-install it, several files may be locked by Lotus Notes and Notes Menu Launcher. You might therefore see dialog boxes informing you about locked or held files.

Information about BETA release

Software is developed in stages, and Notes Menu Launcher is no exception. When software is first released, or when new updates are coming, software developers often want to test new or changed functionality. One way to do that is to release BETA releases of the software. The advantage for end-users are the ability to see and use the software before general release. The disadvantage is often that the software isn't actually finished, and might not contain all the promised features, or it might even contain bugs at this stage! Below you see the dialog box for Beta information;



License Agreement

As most software, Notes Menu Launcher also contains a legal license you must agree to in order to use the software. Read the licence and either agree to it - or not. If you don't agree to the licence, the installation will abort. You will also have the possibility to read the licence when the installation has finished, since it is installed together with the other files.

Figure 6: The License Agreement

Note: The license contain important information about how the software communicate over the internet!

Select target Notes clients

Many users have multiple versions of Lotus Notes installed on one machine. Previous versions of Voith's CODE-software installers only supported the most current Lotus Notes-installation, meaning that the software only would install on your last installed Notes client.

Now the Installer will analyze the Registry entries inserted by the different versions of the Lotus Notes-installation program, and the dialog box below will report- and let you select which versions of Lotus Notes you want to install Notes Menu Launcher on.

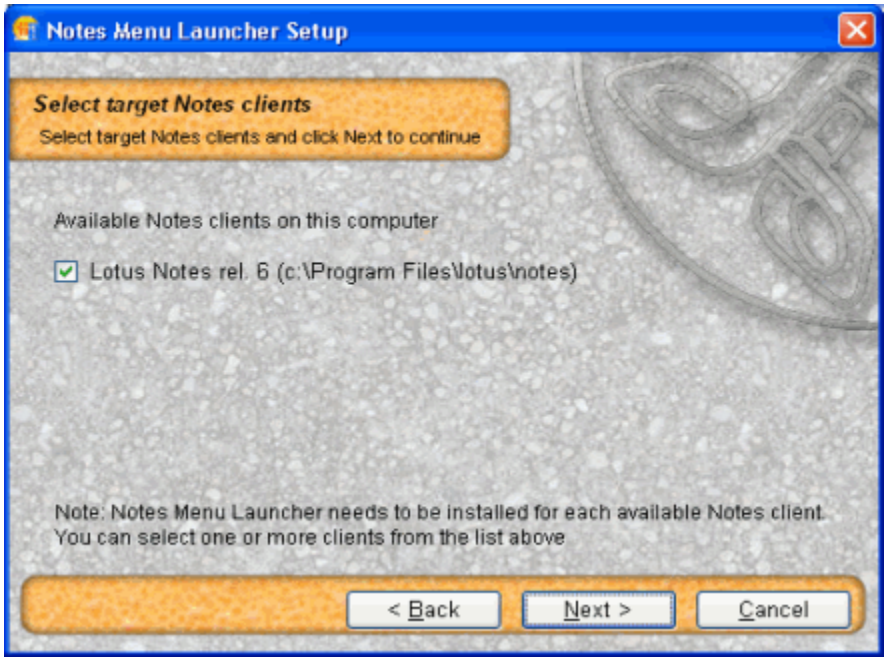


Figure 7: Select target Notes clients

Below is the same dialog box, with multiple Notes clients detected:

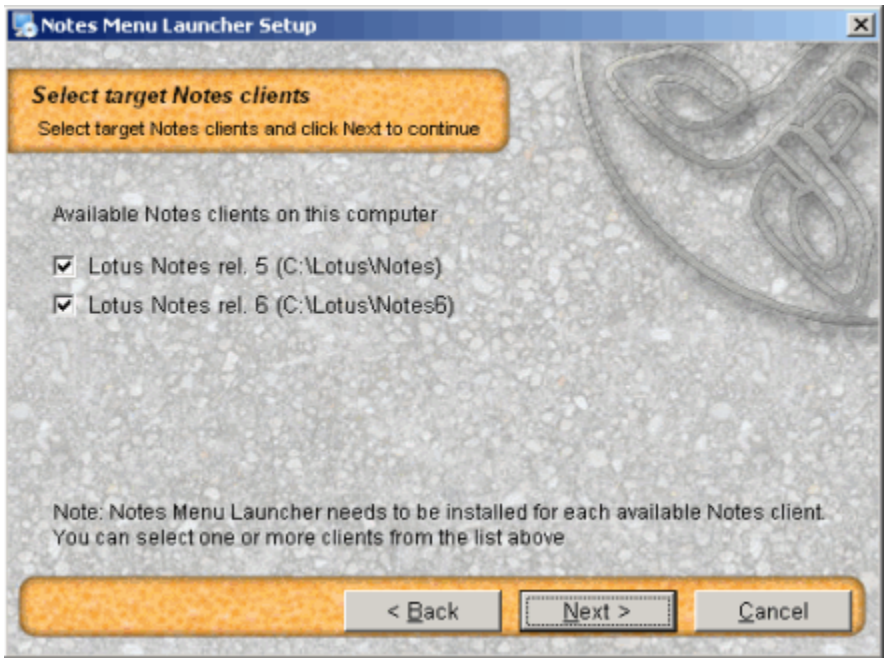


Figure 8: Multiple Notes clients found

Note: If not all your Lotus Notes-client versions show up here, and you want Notes Menu Launcher in one or more of those versions, you must unfortunately resolve to the manual installation procedures later in this chapter.

Problem locating INI files

This dialog box will only show if the Installer can't locate all the Notes.ini files for the selected Notes clients.

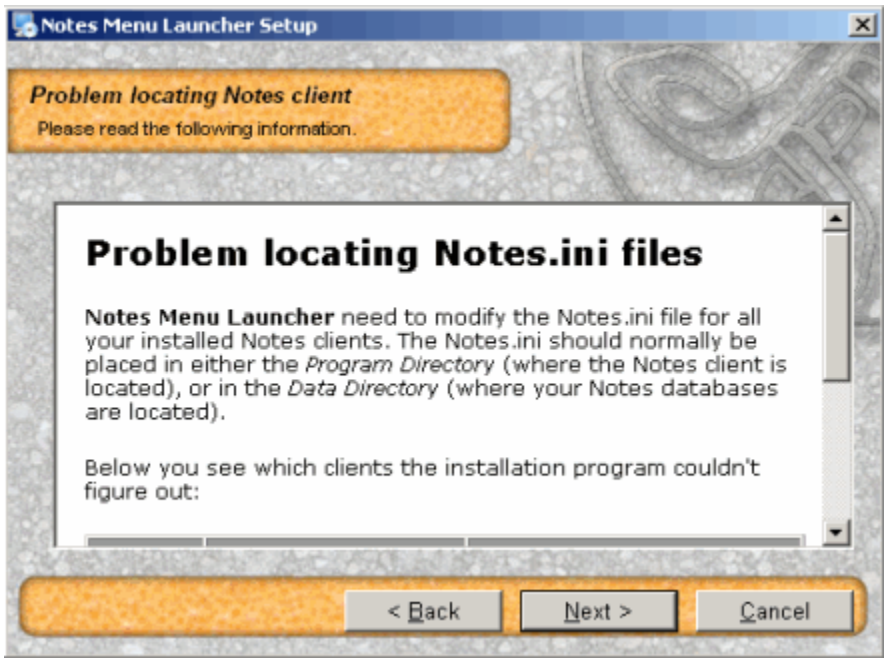


Figure 9: Problem locating INI file

If you scroll down, you will se exactly which Notes.ini files the Installer couldn't locate.

Note: Notes Menu Launcher will not be installed in the Lotus Notes-clients reported in this dialog!

Select Installation folder

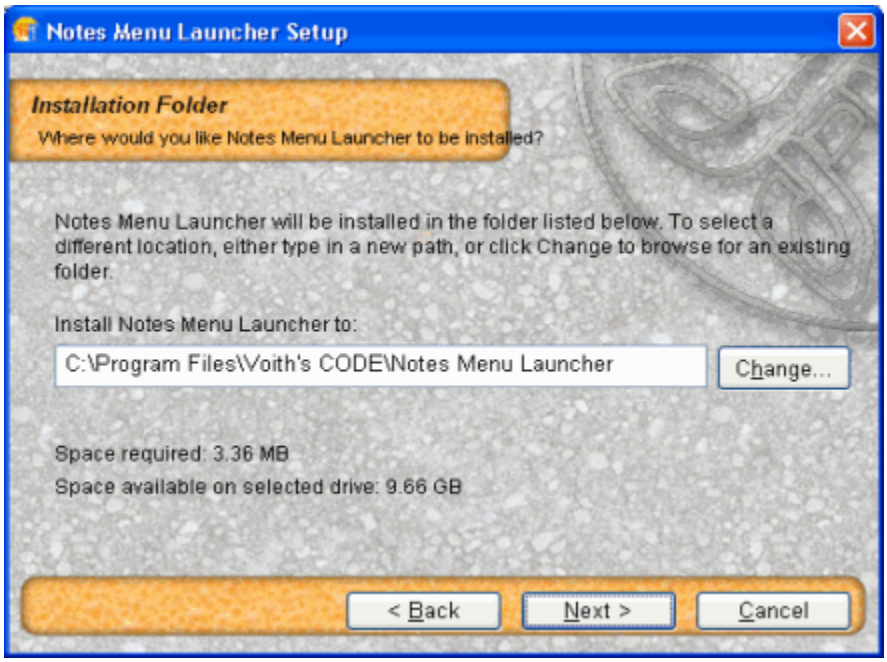


Figure 10: Select Installation Folder

The Notes Menu Launcher-installer suggest a traditional directory located in the Program Files directory on your computer. Change this to your own personal standard if you like - such as omitting the company name if you want a directory sorted on the program name.

You can press the Change button to change the directory.

Also note the size of the installation, and how much available space you have on your selected harddisk.

Ready to Install

You are now ready to install Notes Menu Launcher. Below you see the last confirmation dialog box before the Installer copy the necessary files and modify the selected Notes.ini files.

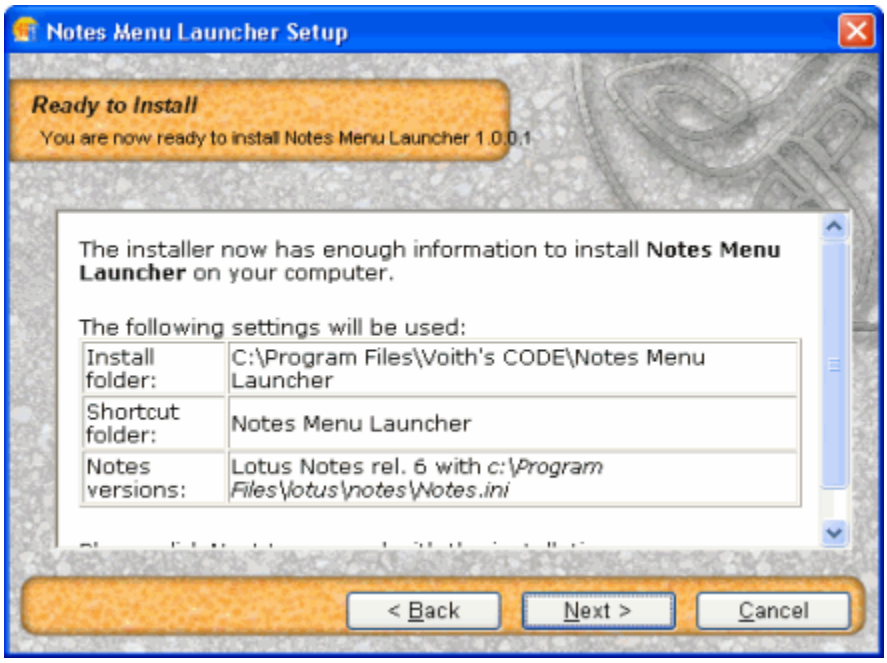


Figure 11: Ready to Install

Note: The Installer will also install an Uninstaller, which will remove all the involved files, and restore your Notes.ini files back to normal.

Installation Progress

The Installer will then install the necessary files and do the Notes.ini modifications

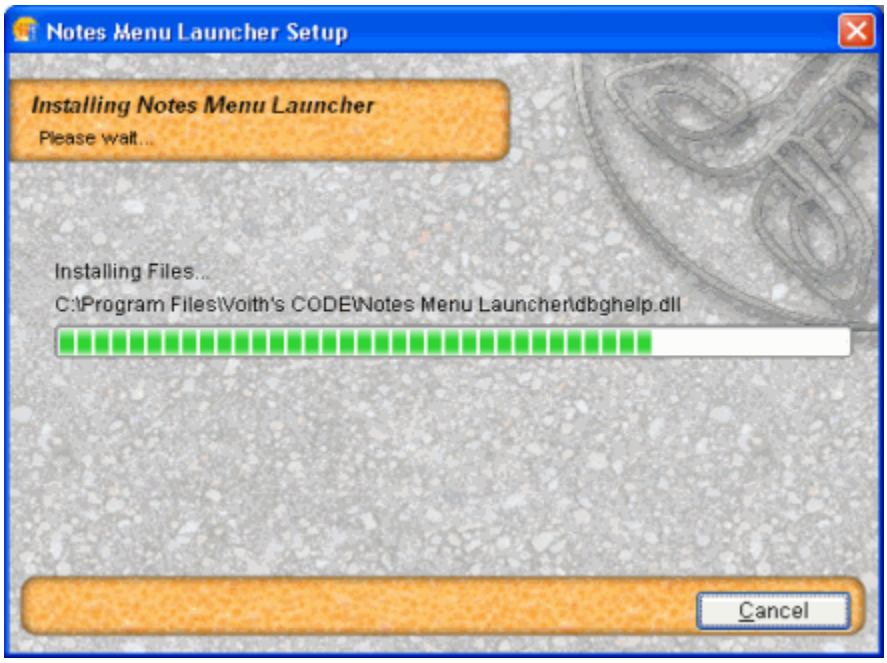
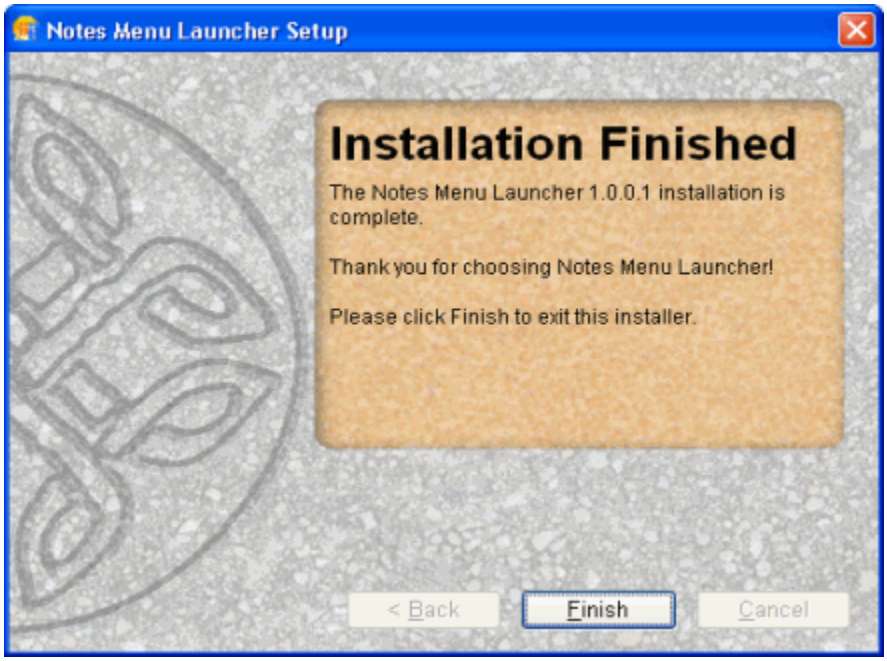


Figure 12: Install Progress

Installation Finished

If the installation goes without problems, you will see this success dialog box!



Thank you for installing Notes Menu Launcher !

Figure 13: Installation Finished

Uninstall Notes Menu Launcher

All good things come to an end, and you might end up saying "No, Notes Menu Launcher was not for me".

As a good citizen of the Windows community, Notes Menu Launcher therefore offers an *uninstaller*. An uninstaller is a little program that removes Notes Menu Launcher gracefully from the machine. Remember, the installer copies several files to different directories, and do numerous changes to the registry database, and even if it is fully possible to remove Notes Menu Launcher manually, it's not recommended. The uninstaller does this job for you!

You can start the uninstaller in one of two ways.

Via the Control Panel's *Add or Remove Programs* applet.

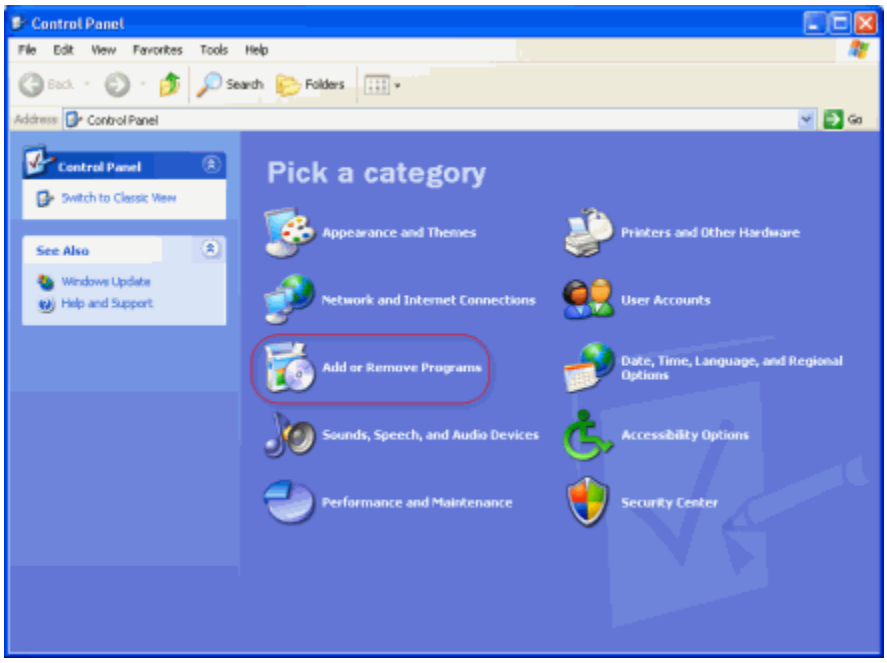


Figure 14: The Control Panel

After the Add or Remove Programs applet has started, locate Notes Menu Launcher and press the Remove button.

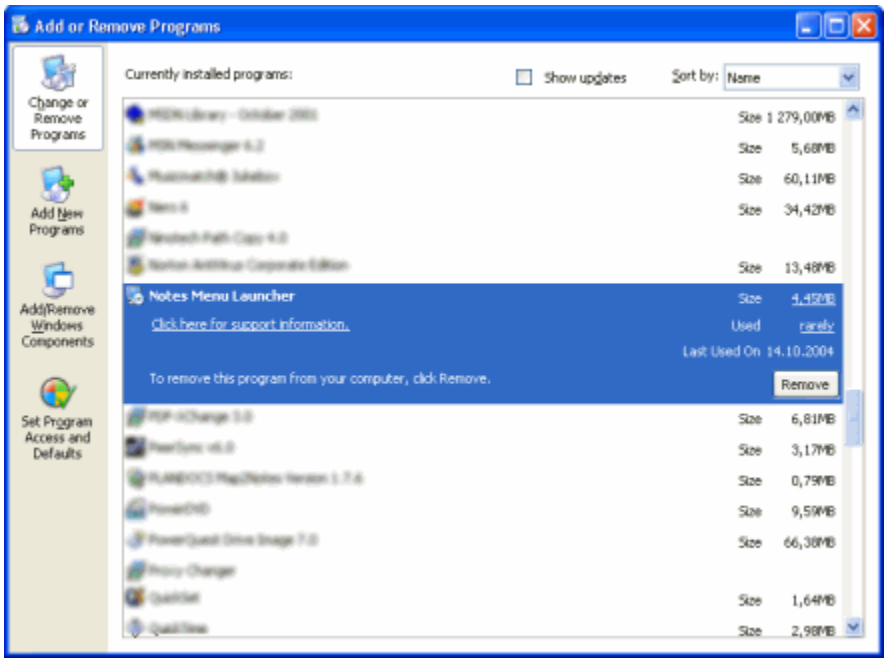


Figure 15: Add or Remove Programs

After this operation, Notes Menu Launcher will be gone. Be sure to restart Lotus Notes to make the menu disappear.

The other way to initialize the uninstaller, is to select the Uninstall Notes Menu Launcher from the Programs->Notes Menu Launcher menu:

Figure 16: Uninstall Notes Menu Launcher from the menus

Manual Installation

This topic guide you through a manual install of Notes Menu Launcher. This is handy if you have multiple Notes clients installed on the same machine, or if you want to automate the installation of Notes Menu Launcher.

Notes Addin Menu Tools

Notes Menu Launcher is a so-called *Notes Addin Menu* tool. This type of application has some general characteristics:

- The application is visible in Lotus Notes's Actions menu. An example is shown below

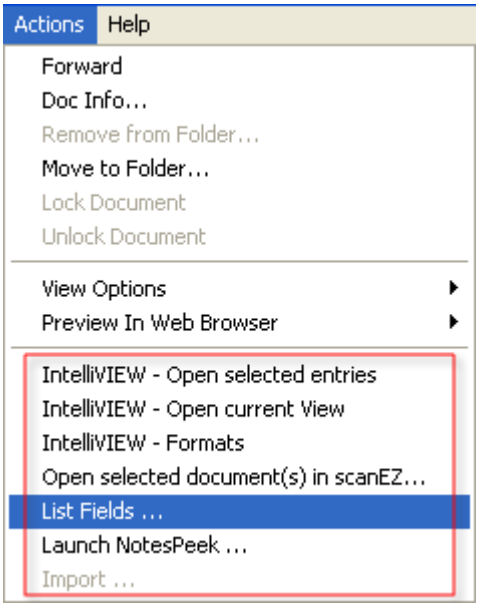


Figure 17: Notes Action menu, with several menu addins

- It can be activated when certain conditions are met, such as; "Only be enabled when document is in edit mode, and that you have placed the cursor in a richtext field", or "Only be enabled when user is in a view". If the conditions aren't met, the menu item is disabled - or *grayed out.*
- The application itself must be a DLL with specific functions. Please see the Notes C API documentation for specific details.
- The DLL must be specified in NOTES.INI. Add the DLL filename to the AddInMenus keyword. If you don't place the DLL directly in the Notes Program Directory, you should specify the full path and filename.

  Note: The Notes.ini must be available in the first 128 bytes of the system environment variable PATH.

The menu addin applications has several limitations, where the lack of document identification mechanism is one of the most severe. To overcome such limitations, Notes menu addin applications uses various techniques.

The Notes Menu Launcher Program Directory

Notes Menu Launcher installs files in several directories, but the so-called Application Directory is regarded as *home*. Typically this directory is placed somewhere along the Program Files directory structure. If you installed Windows with default directory structure, you'll find a C:\Program Files directory. Typically applications create a company subdirectory here, such as Microsoft, Adobe or Macromedia.The installer will try with a default company name of Voith's CODE for Notes Menu Launcher. In the company subdirectory C:\Program Files\<Name of any company> applications typically create an application directory. In our case the full application directory will be C:\Program Files\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher.

The following files are placed here:

Filename	Description	Filesize
VCNMLM10.DLL	The Notes Addin Menu module	~360 kB
VCNMLCT10.DLL	The Context Menu enabler	~300 kB
VCNMLD10.EXE	The Dispatcher	~460 kB
UPDATE.EXE	Notes Menu Launcher contains a feature to download updates via Internet, and this program file does that job.	700 kB
UPDATE.ICO	Icon file for the Updater	29 kB
UPDATE.CLI	Data file for the Updater	23 KB
DBGHELP.DLL	DLL to aid enumeration of windows, classes and modules.	~750 kB
VCNPB100.EXE	The NotesPeek Buddy module	~700 kB
Notes Menu Launcher User's Guide.chm	The HTML Help version of the User's Guide	~1.1 MB
Samples folder	A folder containing several XML configuration samples	

In addition you will also find an Uninstall directory containing the files necessary to ***uninstall*** (see "Uninstall Notes Menu Launcher" on page 23) the application.

The Notes Program Directory

This is the directory where the main Notes files are placed. Search for NLNOTES.EXE and you are on the spot! You can also look in the Registry for the value of following key: HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Lotus\Notes\Path.

Please note that each version of Lotus Notes has it's own subkey in the Registry. The subkey above points to the most recent installation!

If you install Notes R5 in the default directories, the Notes Program Directory will be C:\Lotus\Notes. If you do the same with Notes 6, the default program directory will be C:\Program Files\Lotus\Notes.

The following files are placed here:

Filename	Description	Filesize
NDBVCNML.DLL	A Notes Database Driver used to among other things identify current context. This is called directly by Lotus Notes and Notes won't look in other directories!	57 kB

Very important: In order to have Notes C/C++ API based applications run correctly, these applications must know where to find the core Notes program files. The C and C++ API libraries use functions in all the DLLs! This is done by specifying the Notes Program Directory in the PATH environment variable. In Windows 95, 98 and ME, this is set in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file with the command

```
SET PATH=%PATH%;<full path to the Notes Program Directory>
```

In Windows NT, 2000 and XP the PATH environment variable is set from the System applet in the Control Panel. Be sure to have Administrators Rights in order to change this variable's content.

The Notes Data Directory

The Notes Data Directory the directory where Lotus Notes place it's database files (all the NSF and NTF files among others).

In its current version, Notes Menu Launcher does not install any files in this directory.

The Windows System Directory

The so-called System directory is where applications may place "system components" . In the previous years, this directory was heavily used by many applications, and you typically find thousands of files in this directory. However, in more recent years, Microsoft has recommended application developers not to use this directory, unless the component is meant for sharing between several applications. Typically the exact path to the system directory is C:\Window\System32 or C:\WINNT\System32 if you have installed Windows in it's standard directories. If you are uncertain what your system directory is, take a look at the PATH statement definition. The System directory is very often specified there, since this directory contains many many common and shared component files.

In its current version, Notes Menu Launcher does not install any files in this directory.

The Temporary Directory

Notes Menu Launcher creates several files during operation, and it will remove the files after normal operation. In the unfortunate situation of a application crash, or other malfunction, the temporary files won't be automatically removed. No important information is ever stored here, so you can safely remove all temporary files!

Tip: Look for files with the prefix VC.

Necessary Changes to the Registry

Notes Menu Launcher makes several modifications to the registry.

Note: Some of the settings are obfuscated, to keep your registration information a little bit more secure for prying eyes. This information is at the present time not possible to recreate in a manual matter.

Another thing to note; If you select to install Notes Menu Launcher for all users, the following keys and values below should be placed in the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software hierarchy. If you just want to install for the current user, place keys and values in the HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software hierarchy. Read much more about that here.

Below you see an image of the registry content:

Figure 18: The HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE hive

The Options and Data keys are obfuscated. Below is a table which identifies each key and it's value

Key	Value
Install\Data	Obfuscated
Install\NotesINIFiles	Used by the installer to keep track of which NOTES.INI files it has modified with the necessary NOTES.INI changes. Note that this subkey contains a separate line for each Notes version
Install\NotesProgramPaths	Also used to keep control overwhich versions that have been modified. Note that this subkey contains a separate line for each Notes version

Install\NotesVersions	Which Notes versions has been modified ? The numbers seen here relate directly to the Notes versions that have been modified. You should find a value with this number in both Install\NotesINIFiles and Install\NotesProgramPaths
Install\Options	Obfuscated
Install\Path	The full path to where the main application file specified in the key Settings\Doer\Module, see below
Install\PCode	Product Code. This is used if you want to upgrade the software via Internet. The PCode has the following meaning: VCNML_R<Release number>_L<Language number>. Currently we are on release 1, and the only available language is 9 meaning English. VCNML=Voith's CODE Notes Menu Launcher by the way!
Settings\Doer\Module	The full path and file name of the Dispatcher application file, the so-called "doer". The default value is VCNMLD10.EXE.
Settings\Doer\ContextMenu Module	The fill path and file name of the Context Menu module. The default value is VCNMLCT10.DLL
Settings\Doer\Title	The title of the application
Settings\Doer\Menu\ Messages	Several messages used by the Notes Menu Addin DLL to inform user about potential problems.
Settings\Doer\Menu\Title	The menu item title as it will be shown in the Actions menu in Lotus Notes. If you use an ampersand (&) this will be the keyboard accelerator in the menu.
Settings\Version	The current build-version of Notes Menu Launcher. Note that you might stay on release 1.0 for a long time, but the build numbers increase as bug fixes etc. are implemented.

Also note that NotesPeek Buddy has got its own subkey at HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Voith's CODE\NotesPeek Buddy. The only value present is Install, which holds the full path and filename to the NotesPeek Buddy module. The default value is VCNPB100.EXE.

Necessary Changes to Notes.ini

In order to run Notes Menu Launcher, it must be registered as a ***Notes Addin Menu*** (see "Notes Addin Menu Tools" on page 26) tool. This is primarily done with the AddInMenus keyword in the configuration file NOTES.INI.

Note: Different versions of Lotus Notes have over the time placed NOTES.INI in several directories. The best tip is to use the Windows Search for files tool and locate your NOTES.INI. This will at the same time reveal if you have multiple NOTES.INIs on your machine.If so, it's very important to modify the correct one. If you for example have Notes R5 and Notes 6 installed simultaneously, you must know which version you installed latest, since all Registry modifications done by the Notes installer always point to the latest installation.

If you want to use an earlier Notes version, you must also ensure that the PATH environment variable also point to the *old* installation, and not the current installation.

The trick is to get Notes Menu Launcher to use the Notes DLL files of the version you plan to use Notes Menu Launcher in. Notes Menu Launcher probably can't operate in two different Notes versions simultaneously, .

Below you see a snippet from a NOTES.INI file with only Notes Menu Launcher's Addin menu DLL, and no other previous Notes Menu Addin tools registered:

```
[Notes]
...
AddinMenus=VCNMLM10.DLL
...
```

This could also have been specified like this:

```
[Notes]
...
AddinMenus=C:\Progra~1\Lotus\Notes\VCNMLM10.DLL
...
```

And finally you see how the AddInMenus look like when it has more than one Addin Menu. The comma is used as separator between the DLL's

```
[Notes]
...
AddinMenus=VCNMLM10.DLL,TANSA2.DLL,NSFINFO.DLL
...
```

The sequence of the DLLs determine the order of the menu items in the Actions menu.

Security

Lotus Notes has always been a very secure place to store data. Nothing - repeat - *nothing*, can access Notes data without having a valid user ID file. We say we operate in the context of a specific user ID. This implies that Notes Menu Launcher will have the same rights as the currently used ID file, and you cannot access data you're not authorized to access.

Lotus Notes normally asks for a password during startup (this feature can be turned off, if you have enabled automatic synchronization between your Windows user id and Notes. Refer to the installation of Lotus Notes for further details). When entered and accepted, Lotus Notes let you access all the data that you have access to.

When you run additional so-called *Notes based applications* - such as Notes Menu Launcher, you will also normally be prompted for a password. It may look something similar to this dialog box:

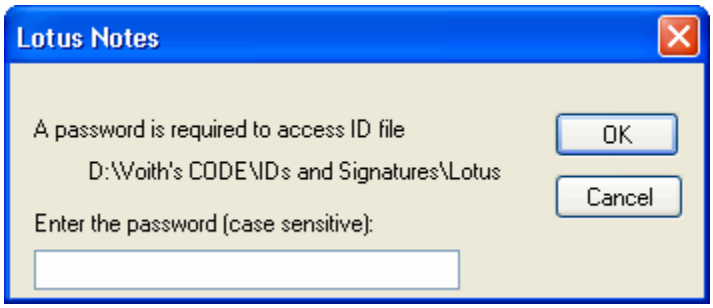


Figure 19: Lotus Notes API Asks for Password

This will happen *every* time you start the Notes based application.

Why is it like this ? It has all to do with security of your data. Nothing that you don't explicitly allow to access your data, should be able to do so behind the scenes. Imagine how trojan- and virus like applications could install silently and access your data without you knowing it - that would be considered a severe security breach!

How to make Lotus Notes stop asking for a password all the time ?

Unfortunately the standard Notes security makes your legal Notes based applications cry for password every time they access Notes data. Lotus has a feature which allows you to *trust* all Notes based applications at large.

This feature is controlled within the dialog box of your Notes user ID file, and is thus protected by the heavy Notes user ID protection logic of Lotus Notes. The procedure to allow Notes based applications access, differs a little bit between Lotus Notes Release 5 and Notes 6.

How to allow Notes based applications access to Notes data in Lotus Notes Release 5

Access your user ID dialog box via the menu File -> Tools -> User ID. You may have to enter your Notes password. In this dialog box you will see the following field on the *Basics* tab.

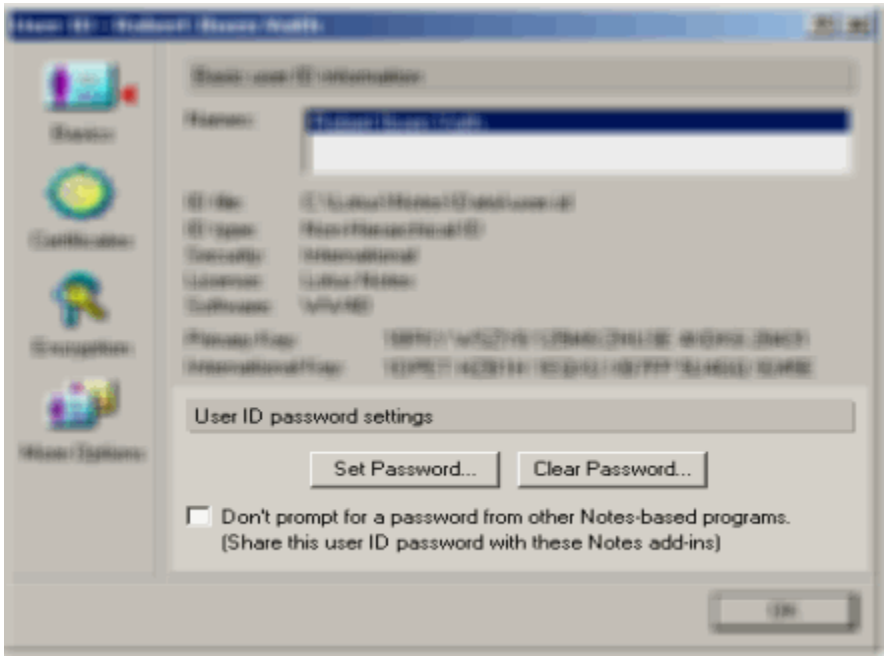


Figure 20: User Security in Notes 5

When you select *Don't prompt for a password from other Notes-based programs*, you will not be asked for a password.

How to allow Notes based applications access to Notes data in Lotus Notes Release 6

Access your user ID dialog box via the menu File -> Security -> User Security. You may have to enter your Notes password. In this dialog box you will see the following field on the *Security Basics* tab.

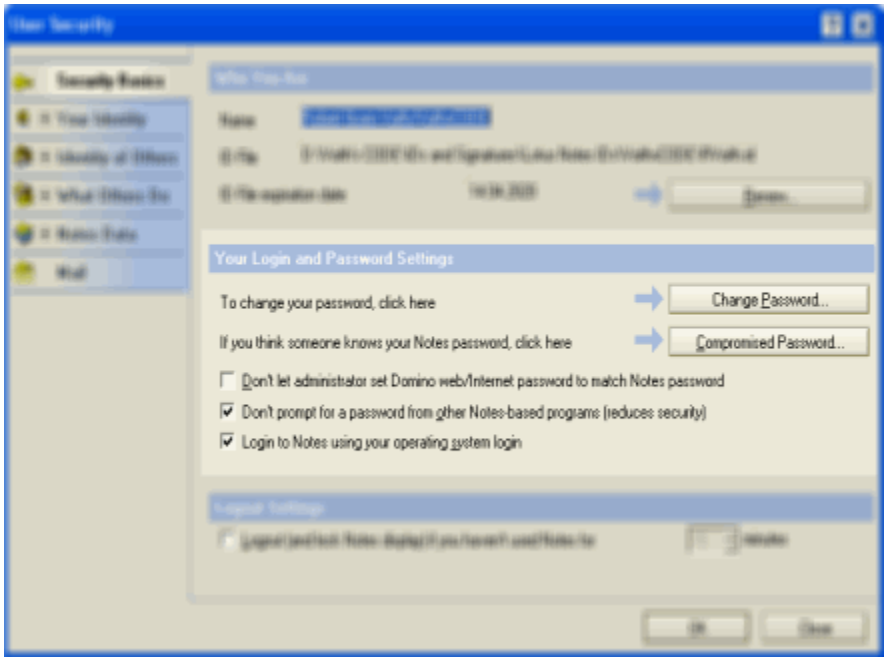


Figure 21: User Security in Notes 6

When you select *Don't prompt for a password from other Notes-based programs (reduces security),* you will not be asked for a password.

Things to think about when you do this

Selecting to trust Notes based applications like shown above will trust all Notes based applications at large. Either you trust none, or you trust all! You cannot select which applications to trust and which you don't trust.

This has some security aspects, since it expose your system for potentially malicious code. After you select this feature, Notes based applications *can* access your Notes data without you knowing it.

So what to do ? A software vendor (like Voith's CODE...) tells you to install a tool (such as Notes Menu Launcher...) and that you must enable the *don't prompt for password*-feature above in order to avoid password popups. Make an assessment of the vendor. Is the vendor trustworthy ? Then make an assessment of the application. Should the application be trusted ? If answers to both questions are yes, then enable *don't prompt for password*, otherwise don't.

But what's more important: You must pay attention to any following Notes based applications you may install later. These applications now have direct access, since the *don't prompt for password*-feature already has been turned on.

CHAPTER 3

Operation

Notes Menu Launcher will typically not make too much noise of itself. It is after all just an enabler to put your own applications, formulas or agents in the menus of Lotus Notes.

This chapter will guide you through normal operation of Lotus Notes with Notes Menu Launcher installed

In This Chapter

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The Context Menus.....42
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NotesPeek itself.....44

Has Notes Menu Launcher been updated ?

Notes Menu Launcher is equipped with an *updater tool*. An Updater is a small application that will check- and potentially retrieve, any new versions of Notes Menu Launcher for you. You launch the Updater by clicking the Check for Update menu:

Figure 22: The Check for updates menu

When you select this menu you will see the Updater application dialog box:

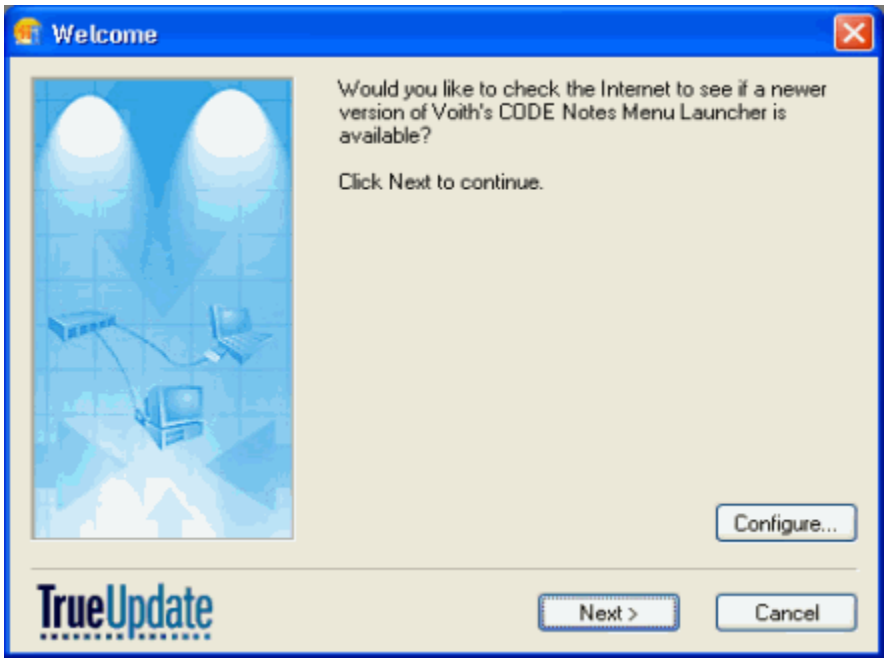

Figure 23: The Updater - Welcome

Press Next to continue or Configure to set information such as network Proxy etc. If you press Next, the Updater will check with the central Voith's CODE-server to see if any updates has been posted. If so, you will be guided through the update process

The Action menu

Notes Menu Launcher can install menus in the Action menu in Lotus Notes. These menus is visible when you select the Action menu. They are always positioned at the bottom of the menu. You will not see cascaded menus here. Below is a sample of an Action menu;

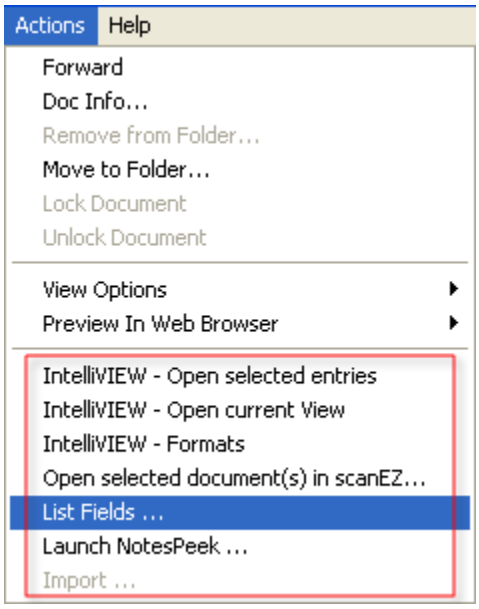

Figure 24: Notes Action menu, with several menu addins

All the menus in the red box are Notes Addin menus.

Addin Menus are Context Sensitive

When you work in Notes, you work with workspace, databases, views, documents and fields. Sometimes the documents are in read mode, and sometimes they are in write-mode.

A Notes Addin Menu knows exactly where you work, and what edit-mode you are in. In addition addin menus knows what field you are in when you are editing a document.

If you are working in a view, a addin menu also knows something about your current document selection. Have you selected multiple documents, or are you just working on one document ?

Note: Notes Addin Menus have always had some problems identifying multiple document selections if you are working in a view through a frameset. In short; frameset-solutions may have problems with Notes Addin Menus!

The Context Menus

Context Menus in Lotus Notes are, just as Notes Addin Menus, context sensitive. If you right click on a view entry, you will see the view context menu, and if you right click on a document in write-mode you will get another context menu.

Notes Menu Launcher has some limitations regarding context menus

- In its current state, Notes Menu Launcher only support two context menus, the view- and the document context menus. Notes Menu Launcher can't determine if the document is in read- or write mode when it displays the menus. As soon as the menu is selected, Notes Menu Launcher *is* able to tell the difference, so your own applications, formulas or agents can act accordingly.
- Notes Menu Launcher can't identify multiple document selections. In other words, Notes Menu Launcher can only work on the currently selected document

NotesPeek Buddy

To demonstrate Notes Menu Launcher, it comes with a built-in support for *NotesPeek Buddy*. This is a small NotesPeek-enabler, which will launch NotesPeek for you and automatically navigate to the currently selected document. In other words, a much quicker way to launch NotesPeek directly on the selected document!

Note: Notes Menu Launcher does not include NotesPeek software itself. NotesPeek can be downloaded from this ***article*** http://www-10.lotus.com/ldd/today.nsf/0db661345413ad1d852567ba006bb090/23d24ec8a4c568e9852566320058521d?OpenDocument at IBM, an in addition you can find the new ND6 version of NotesPeek at ***The NotesPeek ND 6 homepage*** http://www-1.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?rs=474&uid=swg24005686.

When you launch NotesPeek via Notes Menu Launcher for the first time, you will see the following dialog box;

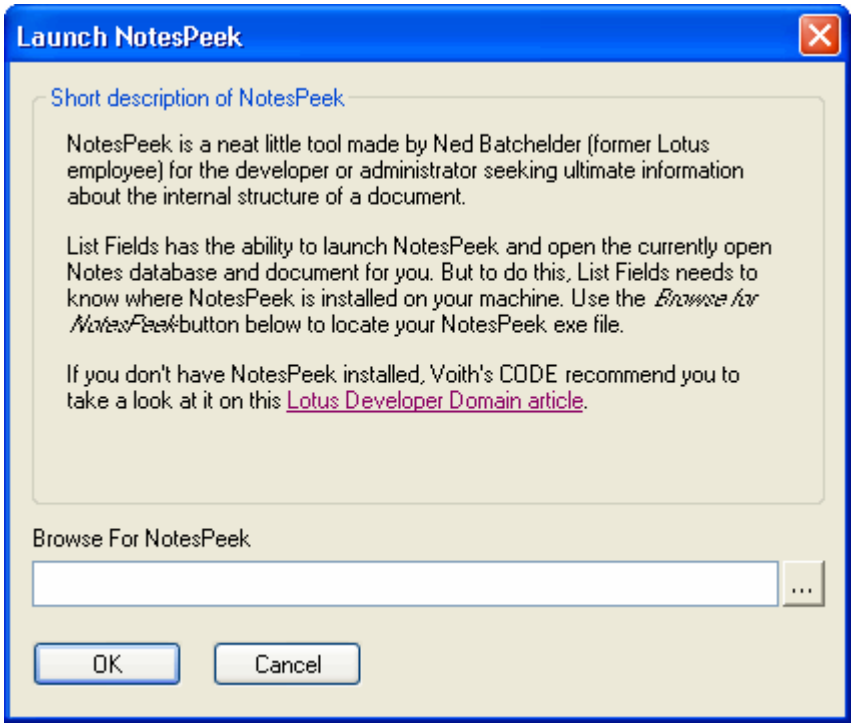

Figure 25: NotesPeek Buddy

From this dialog box you select where you have installed NotesPeek on your machine. Notes Menu Launcher will store your path to NotesPeek in the Registry. If you move or change the path of NotesPeek, Notes Menu Launcher will ask you again.

The path to NotesPeek is stored in the following registry subkey:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Voith's CODE\NotesPeek Buddy and value NotesPeekPath.

NotesPeek itself

For years, NotesPeek has been the de facto standard application to dive into the inner details of Notes databases. The name with the suffix "peek" reminiscence the old days when programmers frequently had to read content at memory locations by "peeking", and writing to memory locations with "poking". In addition the icon x-raying the "Notes-folks" identify the purpose of NotesPeek quite good:

NotesPeek was written by Ned Batchelder, a former Lotus employee. The user interface is clean and intuitive using the treelist to navigate in databases, documents and fields. The content is shown in the main area to the right. Below you see a screenshot of NotesPeek.

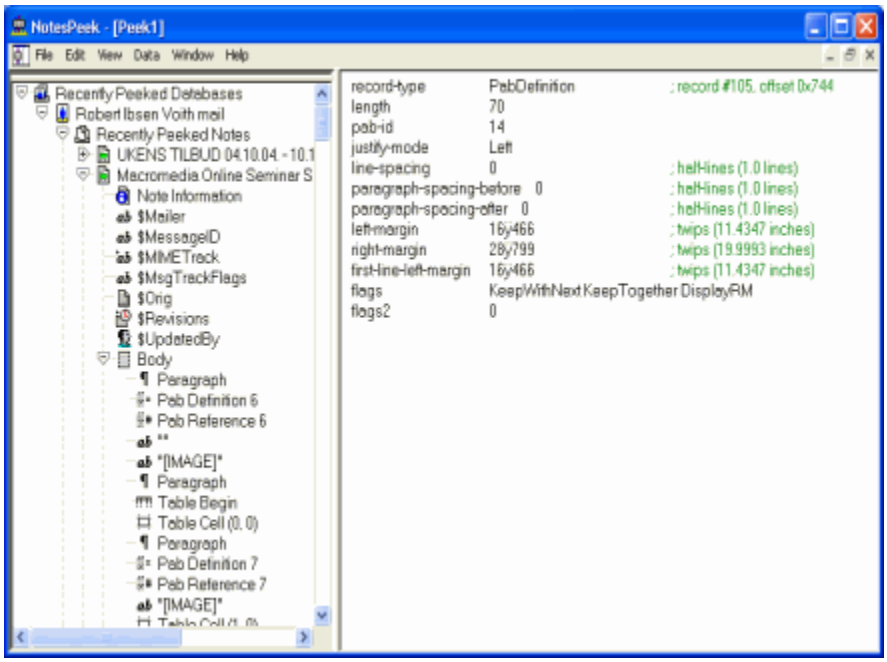

Figure 26: NotesPeek

You will find all sort of information here, and as you see from the screenshot above, you can really dive into richtext to see how the CD records are sequenced and what they contain.

CHAPTER 4

Configuration

In This Chapter

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Overview

Notes Menu Launcher is configured with a XML file. The following steps are performed at startup of Lotus Notes

1. When Lotus Notes starts, Notes Menu Launcher is activated since it contains a Notes Addin Menu DLL.
2. Looks in the Registry to see where the XML file is located.
3. Read and process the XML file
4. Insert any potential Action menus
5. Prepare context menus for display.

   The next steps are performed when the user selects one of "our" menus:

6. Accept menu selections in Lotus Notes
7. Replace any runtime variables
8. Relay menu ID to dispatcher module in Notes Menu Launcher
9. Execute specified actions in the XML file for the selected menu

Since all Notes Menu Launcher-operation is controlled by the XML file, most of this chapter will look into XML details.

The XML File

The configuration of Notes Menu Launcher is based upon a XML file. Notes Menu Launcher can load the XML file from several sources. This is all controlled by a flag in the Registry. The Registry subkey is;

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\Install with the value Config and it's string value (REG_SZ).

If the Config-value doesn't exist (which is the case for a freshly installed version of Notes Menu Launcher), a default XML configuration file will be loaded, enabling ***NotesPeek Buddy*** (on page 43) to launch on the currently selected document.

If the Config-value contains a string of the value "1", the XML configuration file will be loaded from the filesystem. The appurtenant value ConfigFilename specify the full path and filename of the XML file.

Below you see the general structure of the XML file. The subsequent topics will dive into the details:

```
<NotesMenus>
      <NotesMenu>
            <Actions>
                  <Action>...</Action>
                  <Action>...</Action>
                  ...
            </Actions>
            ...
      </NotesMenu>

      <NotesMenu>
            <Actions>
                  <Action>...</Action>
                  <Action>...</Action>
                  ...
            </Actions>
            ...
      </NotesMenu>
</NotesMenus>
```

The main elements in the XML file are:

- NotesMenus - This top element defines the whereabouts for Notes Menu Launcher in the Registry. In addition it holds one or more NotesMenu (note, singular!) elements.
- NotesMenu - The is the element registering one menu item! It contains another collection element, the Actions-element
- Actions - W wrapper element for one or more Action-items.
- Action - The Action element is the beef of the specification, telling Notes Menu Launcher what to do

How Notes Menu Launcher communicates to the outside

One of the key features of Notes Menu Launcher is the ability to launch other applications, agents or formulas. How can those other applications know what database and documents the user just have selected ?

Via the Registry

All information is placed in a volatile key in the Registry, at the so-called LastRun subkey of Notes Menu Launcher. Every time the user select one or more documents in a view or document, and then invoke one of "our" menus, the LastRun-subkey will be updated.

In addition, when the menu execute either a ***NotesAgent*** (on page 59) or ***NotesFormula,*** (see "NotesFormula" on page 59) several entries will be written to the Notes.ini.

The exact placement of the LastRun-subkey is determined by parameter 2 in the XML configuration file. This will be discussed in detailed later in this chapter. For example the complete subkey can be;

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Voith's CODE\Notes
Menu Launcher\LastRun
```

Note that the hive is the CURRENT USER!

The values stored in the LastRun-subkey are as follows (note, all values are of type string REG_SZ);

Value	Description
Config	The full path and filename of the XML configuration file. Note that this value can also be the path and filename to the default, built-in XML configuration file.
SID	The ID of the current menu selection. This is the ID value directly in the ***NotesMenu-element*** (see "NotesMenu element - one for each menu" on page 52). Please ensure that you use only unique IDs when you configure Notes Menu Launcher!
Server	The Domino server name of the selected database. It can also be blank or not specified at all, and then the database in question is located on the local client.
Database	The relative Notes database filename of the selected database. You can also use a replica ID here if you prefer. If you do, be sure to specify the replica id on the format similar to the sample below; `C1256981:0043BC90`

Context	A value indicating the user operating context. The values are: 103 = In a document, in read mode 104 = In a document, in edit mode 200 = At the workplace 201 or 0 = In a Notes view
NoteID	One or more comma separated NoteIDs. Note that all NoteIDs are in the decimal form.

By querying these values in your own applications you can work out what document(s) to work on.

Via Notes.ini

If you have an action type of ***NotesAgent*** (see "SendKeys" on page 57) or ***NotesFormula,*** (see "NotesFormula" on page 59) certain variables are updated in Notes.ini

The list of variables is a bit special due to the length-constraint of values in Notes.ini. The maximum length of any value is 256 character. Therefore Notes Menu Launcher has to keep track of the value-length!

Also remember that the values are valid for the current selection only.

The keywords and their values are;

Keyword	Value
$NMLVAR_NumberOfLists	How many variable name lists do we have ?
$NMLVAR_List_0 ... $NMLVAR_List_n	You find a variable name list starting on 0 and incrementing up to the number in $NMLVAR_NumberOfLists. The values are semi-colon separated, and look like this; `NOTES_SERVER;NOTES_DATABASE_RELATIVEPATH;NOTES_DATABASE_FILENAME` For each value you will find an individual keyword prefixed with "`$NMLVAR_`". For example, you will find a `$NMLVAR_NOTES_SERVER`. If the value isn't present in Notes.ini, the value is empty, and for the example with the Notes server above, it means that the selected database is on the local client.

$NML_Variable_Count	How many variable names has been written to the variable name lists above.

You can easily use these values in your @Formulas or LotusScript agents.

Via parameters

When a menu is selected, certain variables are available at run time. It makes it easy to transfer information to your application as parameters. The list of variables are:

Variable	Description
(NOTES_SERVER)	The Domino server of the selected database
(NOTES_DATABASE_RELATIVEPATH)	The relative path and file name of the selected database
(NOTES_DATABASE_FILENAME)	The filename only of the selected database
(NOTES_USERNAME)	The annotated user name on the form CN=UserName/O=Organisation
(NOTES_NOTEID)	A semi-colon separated list of the selected NoteIDs. The format is decimal number.
(NOTES_HEXNOTEID)	A semi-colon separated list of the selected NoteIDs. The format is a hex number.
(NOTES_DATABASE_REPLICAID)	The replica id of the selected database. The format is like: `C1256981:0043BC90`
(NOTES_DATABASE_ID)	The database id of the selected database. Note, this id is often the same as the replica id, and change only if the database is repaired or compacted. The format of the database id is: `C1256981:0043BC90`
(NOTES_DATABASE_TITLE)	The title of the selected database
(NOTES_CATEGORIES)	The categories of the selected database
(NOTES_TEMPLATE_NAME)	The template name in the selected database.
(NOTES_TEMPLATE_FILENAME)	The template filename of the selected database

NotesMenus - the to element

The top element in the XML configuration file is the NotesMenus element. Below you see a complete specification:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<NotesMenus
    Name="Notes Menu Launcher"
    PollingInterval="250"
    Param1="Reg. path to Dispatcher"
    Param2="Reg. path to LastRun"
    Param3="Reg. to error messages"
    Param4="Reg. path to Install">

      <NotesMenu ID="0LNPK"> .... </NotesMenu>

</NotesMenus>
```

The attributes of the NotesMenus-element are;

Attribute	Description
Name	The name of the menu implementation. The name has no practical use in Notes Menu Launcher
PollingInterval	When Notes Menu Launcher perform actions involving resource enumeration, such as enumerating all the windows or classes running on a system, it uses this interval to look for changes.
Param1	Registry path to the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE hive, specifying where the Dispatcher application is located. When Notes Menu Launcher is about to launch the Dispatcher, it uses this key to locate what application to look for. The default value is: `Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\Settings\Doer`
Param2	Registry path to the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE hive, specifying where Notes Menu Launcher store all information about the last run, identifying server, database and note ids. The default value is: `Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\LastRun`
Param3	Registry path to the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE hive, specifying where the error messages are specified in case of errors. The default value is: `Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\Settings\Menu\Messages`

Param4	Registry path to the HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE hive, specifying where the Notes Menu Launcher store its initial settings The default value is: `Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\Install`

Note that you can only have one NotesMenus element.

NotesMenu element - one for each menu

For each menu you want to specify either in the Actions menu or in the context menus, it must have a NotesMenu element. Note that *one* NotesMenu element can be placed in both Actions- and context menu.

A sample of a NotesMenu element with attributes and sub-elements are;

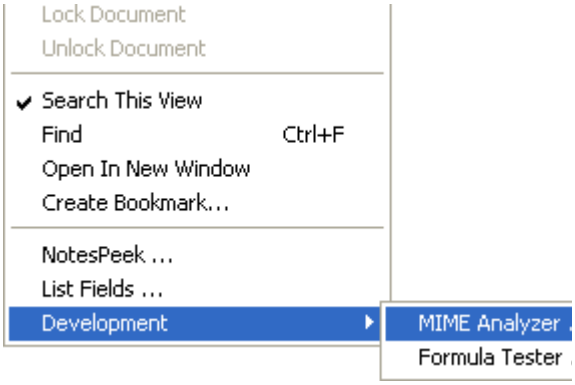
```
<NotesMenu ID="0LNPK">
      Notes Menu LauncherNotesPeek ...</Name>
       <MenuFlags>NCM_IN_VIEW, NCM_IN_DOC</MenuFlags>
      <InitialAction>Start</InitialAction>
      <Timeout>5000</Timeout>

            <Actions>....</Actions>

</NotesMenu>
```

Attribute	Description
ID	The ID is an unique key for each menu. You must ensure yourself that the IDs really are unique. The unique key will be used later to connect the selected menu with the real action to perform. Also note that the ID will sort the sequence of the menus! If you have a NotesMenu-element with ID = "1ABC", and the next NotesMenu-element has ID = "0XYZ", the second NotesMenu-element will show first, due to element sorting in Notes Menu Launcher.

The sub elements of NotesMenu-element are

Element	Description
Name	The name you want to display in the menu. Note that this name can be hierarchical, were each part is separated by a backslash. For example: `Development\Formula Tester ...` If you use that name in a context menu, it will become a cascaded menu like the sample below;  *Figure 27: Notes Context Menu - Example 1* If you use the same name in an Action-menu, Notes Menu Launcher will only use the last part (`Formula Tester ...` in our sample)
MenuFlags	Where should this menu show and when ? See below for valid ***MenuFlags*** (see "Where to use a menu - the MenuFlags" on page 54)-codes. Note that several codes can be combined in order to make the menu show up both in Action- and context menus.
InitialAction	A NotesMenu-element contains one or more Action-sub elements, specifying exactly what to do when this menu is selected. The InitialAction-element contain the name of the initial Action.
Timeout	The timeout for all NotesMenu actions combined to complete successfully. If the NotesMenu as a whole take longer time, it will time out.

Where to use a menu - the MenuFlags

The MenuFlags sub element of the NotesMenu-element determine where a menu should show and when to show it. Notes Menu Launcher is to a certain degree sensible to the user operation context, and allows the menus to show only if certain conditions are met.

For example, it's easy to tell Notes Menu Launcher not to show the menus in anything else but an open document in edit-mode. If the document is in read-mode, or the user is operating in a Notes view, the menu won't be activiated.

Note: The prefixes you see in all the menu flags has this meaning:
NAM - Notes Addin Menu
NCM - Notes Context Menu

The MenuFlags for Notes Addin Menus are:

MenuFlag	Description
NAM_IN_DESK	Activate the menu when the user is at the Workplace or homepage. The user hasn't moved into a specific database right yet. If you have a traditional workplace which show for example your Inbox and Calendar, Notes Menu Launcher is still able to determine the active document beneath the cursor. Document selections are not supported a this level
NAM_IN_VIEW	Activate the menu when the user is in a NotesView
NAM_IN_DOC_READONLY	Activate the menu when the user is in a document, and the document is in read-mode
NAM_IN_DOC_READWRITE	Activate the menu when the user is in a document, and the document is in edit-mode
NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT	Activate the menu when the user is in an edit-mode document, and the cursor is placed in a text-field. Note, you must also specify NAM_IN_DOC_READWRITE in order to get this flag to work
NAM_IN_FIELD_NUMBER	Same as for NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT, but for field type Number
NAM_IN_FIELD_TIMEDATE	Same as for NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT, but for field type Time/date
NAM_IN_FIELD_RICHTEXT	Same as for NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT, but for field type Richtext
NAM_IN_FIELD_READERS	Same as for NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT, but for field type Readers

NAM_IN_FIELD_AUTHORS	Same as for NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT, but for field type Authors
NAM_IN_FIELD_NAMES	Same as for NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT, but for field type Names
NAM_IN_FIELD_KEYWORDS	Same as for NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT, but for field type Dialog List
NAM_IN_FIELD_SECTION	Same as for NAM_IN_FIELD_TEXT, but for sections

The MenuFlags for Notes Context Menus are;

MenuFlag	Description
NCM_IN_VIEW	Show the context menu if the user is in a view
NCM_IN_DOC	Show the context menu if the user is in a document. It can't - at the display moment - tell the difference between read- and edit mode.

As you see, you have considerable better control over Notes Addin Menus than Notes Context Menus!

The Actions element

The Actions element is just a wrapper element, containing one or more Action-elements.

The Action element

Notes Menu Launcher can perform a series of actions when a menu is selected. Each Action element describe an action to perform, and if the action is successful, the next step execute. By having this chain-of-actions style, you can perform any number of actions for a menu.

Often an Action contain a command and several parameters. The command (or Action *types* as they are called later) and their parameters are specified later in this chapter.

Below you see a sample Action

```
<Action ID="Start">
        <Type>LaunchApplication</Type>
        <Parameter1>NOTEPAD.EXE</Parameter1>
        <Parameter2>C:\TEST.TXT</Parameter2>
        <Parameter3>Extra params</Parameter3>
        <ActionSucces>Finish</ActionSucces>
        <ActionFailure>NotFound</ActionFailure>
        <Timeout>5000</Timeout>
</Action>
```

First, each Action within an Actions-wrapper element, must have an unique ID. It's again up to you to ensure that really is the case. Since each action contain a pointer to the next action, the sequence of actions within the Actions-element is not important.

This sample has set the type to LaunchApplication. This is one of the actions types (or commands) Notes Menu Launcher understands and performs. You also see that this type requires at least one parameter, specified as Parameter1. In this sample we try to launch Notepad.exe with the parameter C:\Test.txt. If that succeeds, Notes Menu Launcher advances to the next Action-element; Finish, and if it fails, the Action element NotFound is executed.

Next you see all the different action types:

LaunchApplication

This action type will try to launch the specified application as Parameter1. Any potential parameters to the application to launch, must be specified as Parameter2.

The Parameter3 can contain special commands for LaunchApplication. They are:

Command	Description
KillExistingModuleFirst	If this command is specified, Notes Menu Launcher will only allow one instance of the application specified in Parameter1 to exist. This can be nice if you don't want to launch multiple instances of an application.

SendKeys

The SendKeys action type is very useful, as it can send keystrokes to another application. It will send any characters located in Parameter1.

First of all, SendKeys can send any normal keystroke to an application. If you want to type text, you can easily do that by just typing characters into Parameter1. In addition it can also send special keystrokes, such as F-keys, ALT, SHIFT and CTRL modified keys.

The table below specify the key codes that can be repeated. When you for example see that the key code is `{LEFT}`, this will move the cursor left once. You can specify how many time each key should be inserted by suffixing a number, like this; `{LEFT 9}`, which move thcursor left 9 times.

Code	Description
{BACKSPACE}, {BKSP} or {BS}	Backspace
{BREAK}	Break or cancel
{CAPS}	Toggle Caps Lock
{DELETE}	Delete
{INSERT}	Insert
{DOWN}	The down arrow button
{UP}	The up arrow button
{HOME}	Home
{END}	End
{ENTER}	Enter
{LEFT}	Left arrow button

{RIGHT}	Right arrow button
{PGUP}	Page up
{PGDN}	Page down
{NUMLOCK}	Toggle numlock key
{HELP}	Help
{PRTSCR}	Print Screen button
{SCROLL}	Toggle Scroll Lock button
{TAB}	Tabulator key
{F1} to {Fnn}	Any Function key

Special key codes

Code	Description
{PAUSE n}	Pause for n seconds. This very useful if you need to give the application you command, some time to perform some action, before issuing another keystroke.

Special shorthand characters that can be used to indicate a key combination:

Character	Description
~	Enter, same as {ENTER}.
+	Shift. For example +a will insert an uppercase A.
^	Control, for example ^A will insert the key combination CTRL+A.
%	Alt, for example the %f will insert the key combination ALT+F.
[	Group start, see Group End
]	Group end. You can group characters together by enclosing them in square brackets.

NotesAgent

The action type NotesAgent will run an agent in an Notes database. The agent must be of type *Run Once*.

In order to run an agent, Notes Menu Launcher need to know where the agent is located. Parameter1 contains the Domino server, or blank if the database containing the agent is on a local client. Parameter2 contains the relative database file name and Parameter3 contains the agent name.

Note that this agent type also ***update variables*** (see "Via Notes.ini" on page 49) in Notes.ini in order to communicate better with the agent.

NotesFormula

The NotesFormula action type execute the @Formula located in Parameter1.

Note that this agent type also ***update variables*** (see "Via Notes.ini" on page 49) in Notes.ini in order to communicate better with the formula.

WaitForWindowTitle

The action type WaitForWindowTitle will instruct the action to wait for a specified window title for a specified time. The window title to look for is specified as Parameter1.

The action type can have special additional commands specified as Parameter2.

Command	Description
ExtactMatch	If this command is specified in Parameter2, the window title in Paramater1 must be exactly equal. For example, your Notepad windows title look like this: Notepad - c:\test.txt If you specify the exact same string in Parameter1 and in addition ExactMatch in Parameter2, the action will succeed if the Notepad session actually exist or start within the timeout value. If you just want to look for "Notepad", then don't specify ExactMatch. Notes Menu Launcher will then accept any windows title containing the word "Notepad".
BringToTop	If the window title in Parameter1 is found within timeout value, the process will be brought to the top, overlaying any potential other windows on your desktop. This is the same as manually setting the focus on a window

If the window exist or start within the timeout value, the action specified in ActionSuccess will be executed, otherwise the event specified in ActionFailure will be executed.

WaitForClass

The action type WaitForClass will wait for a class name, just like ***WaitForWindowTitle*** (on page 59). A class name is best viewed with Process Monitors, such as ***Spy++*** http://msdn.microsoft.com/library/en-us/vcug98/html/_asug_home_page.3a_.spy.2b2b.asp from Microsoft or ***Winspector*** http://www.windows-spy.com/ from Gipsysoft.

Below you see a dialog box from Spy++ showing the class name for Lotus Notes:

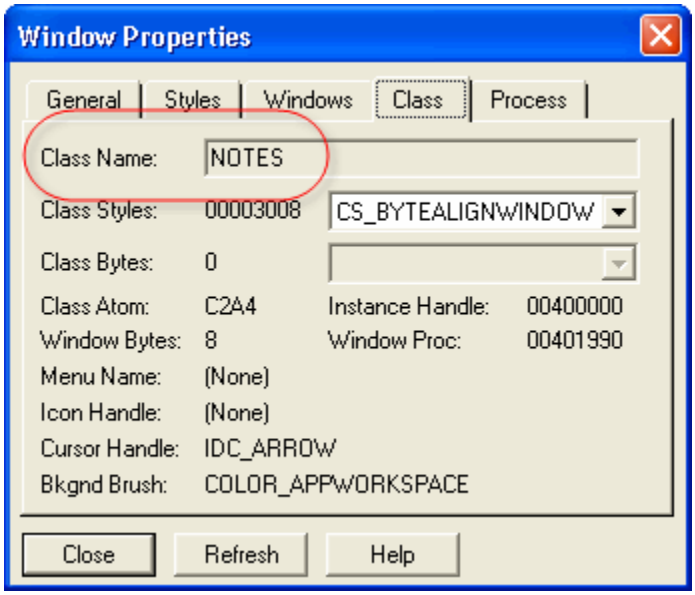


Figure 28: Showing the Class of an application with Spy++

WaitForModule

The action type WaitForModule will wait for a module name, just like ***WaitForWindowTitle*** (on page 59). A module name is best viewed with Windows Task Manager, most so-called *Process Monitors*, such as Spy++ from Microsoft.

Below you see the dialog box from Windows Task Manager, showing the module name:

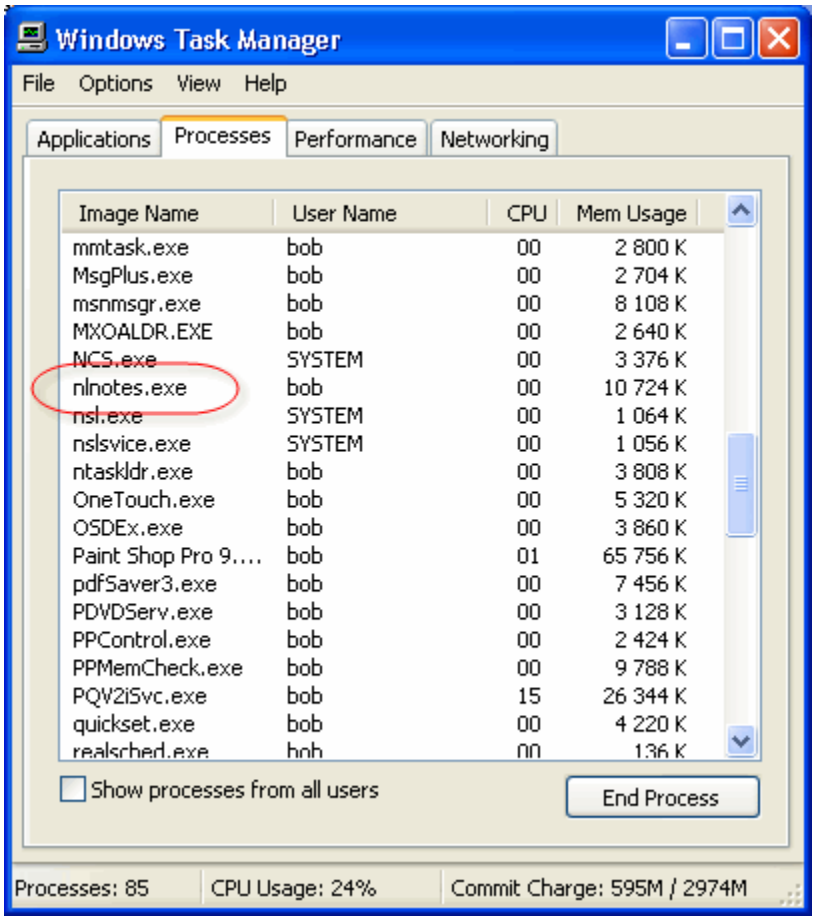


Figure 29: Showing the module name in Windows Task Manager

WaitForWindowDialog

The action type WaitForWindowDialog will wait for a dialog box title, just like ***WaitForWindowTitle*** (on page 59)

The built-in NotesPeek Buddy

If you don't specify any configuration XML file for Notes Menu Launcher, it will use it's own built-in ***NotesPeek Buddy*** (on page 43) XML file. Below you see what that file look like;

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<NotesMenus
    Name="Notes Menu Launcher"
    PollingInterval="250"
    Param1="Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\Settings\Doer"
    Param2="Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\LastRun"
    Param3="Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\Settings\Menu\Messages"
    Param4="Software\Voith's CODE\Notes Menu Launcher\Install">
    <NotesMenu ID="OLNPK">
        <Name>NotesPeek ...</Name>
        <MenuFlags>NAM_IN_DESK, NAM_IN_VIEW, NAM_IN_DOC_READONLY, NAM_IN_DOC_READWRITE, NCM_IN_VIEW,
        NCM_IN_DOC</MenuFlags>
        <InitialAction>Start</InitialAction>
        <Timeout>5000</Timeout>
        <AutoActivate>No</AutoActivate>
        <Actions>
            <Action ID="Start">
                <Type>LaunchApplication</Type>
                <Parameter1>ReadFromRegistry(SMART,SOFTWARE\Voith's CODE\NotesPeek Buddy,Install)</Parameter1>
                <Parameter2>-replicaid "(NOTES_DATABASE_ID)" -title "(NOTES_DATABASE_TITLE)" -server "(NOTES_SERVER)"
                -database "(NOTES_DATABASE_RELATIVEPATH)" -noteid "(NOTES_NEWNOTEID)"</Parameter2>
                <Parameter3>KillExistingModuleFirst</Parameter3>
                <ActionSuccess>Finish</ActionSuccess>
                <ActionFailure>NotFound</ActionFailure>
                <Timeout>5000</Timeout>
            </Action>
            <Action ID="NotFound">
                <Type>Abort</Type>
                <Parameter1>Notes Menu Launcher couldn't start NotesPeek as expected</Parameter1>
            </Action>
            <Action ID="Finish">
                <Type>Finish</Type>
                <Parameter1>Finished without errors!</Parameter1>
                <!-- Everything OK -->
            </Action>
        </Actions>
    </NotesMenu>
</NotesMenus>
```

Figure 30: The NotesPeek Buddy XML File

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