

NetBurn: Network Disc Publisher

NETBURN provides several enhancements to a Network Connected Primera (PTBurn) Host:

1. NETBURN provides the ability to locally cache Image and Label files which are maintained on network resources: It appears that PTPublisher and PTBurn DO NOT cache image files locally as they likely expect those files to already be stored on the Primera Host machine. While this is not a big deal (performance-wise) for one-off disc publishing, it is NOT optimal for organizations which have large numbers of image sources (and labels) and/or wish to maintain them on a centrally managed (backed up) network resource. For example, creating 50 copies of a disc image stored on a network share (mapped drive) means that image must be read 50 times across the network. NETBURN (when running on the Primera Host) automatically polls a REMOTE job submission folder to obtain job information, copies down (locally) the associated Image and Label files, and then creates an appropriate Job Request File (.JRQ) for PTBurn to process (locally). Additionally, the PTBurn Job Request File is set to automatically delete the disc/label/request files once the job has completed.
2. NETBURN runs as both a Client and a Host Process: The exact same NETBURN executable will run as both a Host (for polling purposes) and as a Client (for local and remote job submission). NETBURN determines if it is running on the Primera Host by determining if the PTBurnJobs submission folder exists. If the folder exists, NETBURN will run in "Host" mode. If the folder DOES NOT exist, NETBURN sets itself to operate as a Client.
3. NETBURN in "Host" mode: If NETBURN is operating in HOST mode, it will not only provide direct job submission (via PTBurn, but it will also poll the network for remotely submitted jobs in the background. If NETBURN finds a job which has been remotely submitted (via a NETBURN Client), it simply builds an appropriate Job Request File and copies down the associated Image and Label files so they can be cached for local access
4. NETBURN in "Client" Mode: If NETBURN is operating in CLIENT mode (not running on the Primera Host), it will provide simple point-and-click submission for pre-defined jobs. Just click on the Job and identify the number of Discs desired. NETBURN does the rest. The Client NETBURN builds a Job Submission file (.INI) in the network submission folder (with the necessary job details) and then the NETBURN Host (running on the Primera Host) will pick up that file, locally cache the Image and Label files, and then submit an appropriate Job Description File to PTBurn.
5. NETBURN provides simple point and click job submission for pre-defined jobs: The NETBURN configuration file allows for popular/common disc publishing jobs to be easily pre-defined. The NETBURN main dialog box will automatically be sized to fit "buttons" for all pre-defined jobs. The number of jobs which can be pre-defined is only limited by the amount of screen real estate available.

6. NETBURN provides Search and Submission for jobs which are NOT pre-defined: A “Search” button is provided so that any jobs which are NOT pre-defined. NETBURN looks for any/all ISO or GI files via a standard user-driven Windows File Selection Dialog Box.
7. NETBURN automatically associates label files by using the same file name and path as the Image file: As long as Label Files are maintained in the same folder, and have the same file Name, as their corresponding Image files, NETBURN simply changes the file extension to identify them (.ISO/.GI -> .STD). This makes label/Image management very easy and straight-forward.
8. NETBURN Supports Global and Image Specific PTBurn Options: While global PTBurn options are stored in the main NETBURN Configuration File (NetBurn.ini), NETBURN also checks for an OPTIONAL configuration file which can be uniquely associated with a particular Image file. Just like the Label File, an optional Image Configuration File should have the exact same path and file name with the file extension being “.INI”. As with the Global Options specified in the NETBURN Configuration File, options specified in the Image Configuration File should be listed under a section named “[PTBurn Options]”. If an Image Specific Options File is found, any parameters found within will append (or override) the Global PTBurn Options specified in the NETBURN Configuration file.
9. NETBURN supports the submission of multiple disc images using a single “Batch Job” definition: By selecting an *.NBB file (NetBurn Batch File), instead of a standard *.ISO or *.GI Image file, NetBurn will process that file in “Batch Mode”. The NBB file uses a standard INI file architecture to define a collection of Image Files (*.ISO or *.GI) to be submitted as a group. Each Image in the group is identified by a unique “[Section Name]” with a corresponding “ImageFile=” key and value (the path to the Image File itself). When the NBB Batch File is selected (via a pre-defined Button or using the “Search” function), NetBurn will ask how many copies of the set should be produced.
10. NETBURN is completely portable and does not require any installation process: The NETBURN executable and its corresponding INI file simply need to be copied to a Network Resource. This very same EXE/INI can be shared by the Primera Host and any Network Client which wishes to use it. Furthermore, NETBURN is built to allow Network Clients and Host to use COMPLETELY DIFFERENT drive mappings for access yet still share the same configuration file. NETBURN simply looks in “its own folder” for its corresponding configuration file (INI) and the Network Job Submission Folder (NetBurnJobs). Network Locations for Image/Label files are recorded in the INI file using UNC file names. Basically it’s just an executable (NetBurn.exe) and a config file (NetBurn.ini). NETBURN will create the network submission sub-folder (NetBurnJobs) the first time it is executed. This is where Network Job Submission files will be dropped (by the Clients) and polled (by the Host). NETBURN also creates/maintains a running log file (NetBurn.log) with detailed info on client host activity (Startups, Submission Details, Shutdowns, Job Summaries)
11. NETBURN is Free and Open-Source: NETBURN is maintained as a project on GitHub. It is written and compiled using only the very simple (yet powerful) AutoIT Language and Development GUI (also Free): <https://www.autoitscript.com/site/autoit/>

Usage Notes:

1. NOTE: All Image Files (*.iso/*.gi), their corresponding Label Files (*.std), and optional Image Options file (*.ini) MUST be stored in the same folder as each other. IOW: The only difference in the full path and name of corresponding Image, Label files, and Options File should be the file extension itself. (Multiple Image/Label files can exist in the same folder)
2. Install, Configure, and Test PTBurn on the Primera Host Computer. (NETBURN requires an operational PTBurn environment for local job submission!)
3. Copy (extract) "NETBURN.EXE" and "NETBURN.INI" to a shared network location (Mapped drive). Note that this location DOES NOT need to be the same location where any/all Image/Label files are stored.
4. Ensure the Primera Host and any Network Clients have full read/write access to the NetBurn network location (for remote job creation/submission and log file updates)
5. Edit the NETBURN config file (NETBURN.INI) to configure your environment and specify any/all "common" jobs to be pre-defined:
 - [Config] Section
 - JobRequestFolder: Location where PTBurn was configured to use as a "Hot Folder" for local job submissions. (NETBURN will use the existence of this folder to determine if it should run in HOST or CLIENT mode. NETBURN, in HOST mode, will submit jobs to PTBurn here.)
 - PollTime: Number of seconds between HOST Mode network polling events
 - SearchFolder: Location where the Windows File Finder Dialog Box will first open to begin a search (for non-pre-defined jobs)
 - [PTBurn Options] Section: NETBURN automatically creates the required "JobID", "ImageFile", "PrintLabel", and "Copies" entries in the PTBurn Job Request File. Use this section to add any other global job options which are required. For Example:
 - "BinID = 2" – This option can be used such that any/all jobs without unique options files will pull from a "default" bin. This way, the most common job types (BluRay for example) can pull from a default input bin without requiring a unique image options file. The less common job types (CD for example) can then use an image specific options file (*.ini) to override the default bin selection and pull from the "other" bin
 - "DeleteFiles = YES" - This option should ALWAYS be specified if you wish to have PTBurn automatically clean up (delete) any jobs which have been submitted!
 - "CloseDisc = YES"

- [{Pre-Defined Job}] Sections
 - Each job's "[Section Name]" should be unique. ("[Config]" and "[PTBurn Options]" are reserved.)
 - The "Description" is what appears on each Job's "button"
 - The "ImageFile" is where the jobs image file is located (UNC paths are recommended unless Host and all clients will use the exact same mapped drive letter and path) *.ISO and *.GI will be processed as standard image jobs. If the "ImageFile" ends in ".NBB" then it will be processed as a NetBurn Batch job containing one or more "[Sections]" each with a unique "ImageFile=" Specification.
6. NOTE: NETBURN does NOT require its Network Polling folder to be pre-defined (in the INI). It simply looks for (or creates as needed) a NetBurnJobs subfolder from where it was launched.
 7. Configure NETBURN to Automatically Start when the Primera Host Computer boots up. This can be done by simply adding a NETBURN.EXE Shortcut to the Startup Folder in the Start Menu. This will allow NETBURN to run automatically and unattended on the Primera Host. This provides the ability for the NetBurn "Host" to poll the Network Job Location for jobs submitted by NetBurn Network Clients. (Note that NETBURN startup can only occur AFTER the Network Resource where it is stored has become available).
 8. Create an OPTIONAL {Image}.ini file for any disc images which need a unique set of PTBurn Options. Ideally, most jobs should be able to use the Global Options specified in the master NetBurn.ini file ("[PTBurn Options]" section). However, if certain images require a slightly different set of options (perhaps a different "BinID" to pull discs from), then an Image Specific options file can be created to augment and/or override the global options.

Files Reference:

- NetBurn.exe: The NetBurn Executable
- NetBurn.ini: The NetBurn Global Options File. Must be located in same folder as NetBurn.exe.
- NetBurn.log: Detailed log file created/maintained by NetBurn. Will be created in same folder as NetBurn.exe.
- NetBurnJobs: Folder created immediately under the NetBurn.exe location which is used by network clients for remote job submission.

- {Image}.iso or {Image}.gi: The actual CD/DVD/BluRay Image file used to create a disc
- {Image}.std: The SureThing label file associated with its corresponding Image File. Must be located in same folder as the associated Image file and have the exact same name (other than file extension).
- {Image}.ini: An OPTIONAL file which may be used by individual Images (of the same name) to override or append any of the "[PTBurn Options]" defined in the NetBurn Global Options File (NetBurn.ini). If used, it must be located in same folder as the associated Image file and have the exact same name (other than file extension).

- {BatchJob}.nbb: A special format "image file" (Which can be associated with a "button" or simply searched for using the interactive search dialog). These "NetBurn Batch Files" are simply text files which use an INI format ("[Sections]" and "Keys=") to define a group of multiple images to be processed as a single job.

Example Files:

NetBurn.ini Example:

```
[Config]                                ; General NetBurn Configuration Options (Required)
JobRequestFolder=C:\PTBurnJobs          ; Folder where PTBurn is configured to pick up jobs
PollTime=60                             ; How often to check network for client submissions (secs)
SearchFolder=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages    ; Folder where the Dialog Search Box should begin

[PTBurn Options]                        ; Anything in this section is appended to the PTBurn
BinID = 2                               ; *.JRQ (Job Request Files). "ImageFile =", "Copies =",
DeleteFiles = YES                       ; "PrintLabel =", and "JobID =" are auto generated
CloseDisc = YES

[Disc1]                                ; This is a sample "Pre-defined" job
Description=Disc 1                      ; The text which gets assigned to the "button"
ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\Disc1.iso ; The corresponding image file (from which the
                                           ; label file name (*.std) is calculated)

[Disc2]
Description=Disc 2
ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\Disc2.iso

[These section names dont matter]        ; Section Names aren't really used for anything
Description=Some other Disc Job
ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\subfolder\alpha.iso

[as long as they are NOT named Config or PTBurn Options]
Description=Yet another Disc Job
ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\otherfolder\bravo.iso

[Section Names must be Unique]           ; They just need to be unique
Description=The last Job on the screen
ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\a\couple\folders\deep\charlie.iso

[Sample Batch Job]                      ; Note the Image file extension (*.nbb)
Description=A Sample Batch Job
ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\BatchJobs\Sample.nbb
```

{Image}.ini Example:

[PTBurn Options]

BinID = 1

; NetBurn.ini has set the “default” bin to “2”. Here our image pulls discs
; from a different bin. This allows multiple disc types (CD, DVD, BluRay) to
; be utilized for different job types. Only jobs which need “different” discs
; would require an image specific Options File for this purpose

- Note that this file is optional and only required if a specific image needs to override, append, or change the Global PTDisk Options specified in the master NETBURN.INI file...

{BatchJob}.ini Example:

[Disc1]

ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\Disc1.iso

[Disc2]

ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\Disc2.iso

[Sections Names simply need to be unique]

ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\YetAnotherDisc.iso

[They are not really used for anything]

ImageFile=\\ACMEServer\DisclImages\SubFolder\DiscNumberFour.iso

- Simply a collection of unique section names each of which contains an ImageFile reference. When this particular Batch File is invoked, it will generate four unique jobs (one for each image). At selection time, NetBurn will ask how many copies to make of this SET (the same number of copies will be generated for each ImageFile). All the standard rules for label naming (*.std) and optional Image Options File processing (*.ini) will be applied