12. THE MENUBOX ICON

The MenuBox Icon is the main interface to NoteCards. Through this icon you access all the system NoteCards menus.

This Chapter explains:

How to create notefiles.

How to perform basic operations on notefiles.

How to recover notefiles when they are damaged.

How to perform structure operations on notefiles.

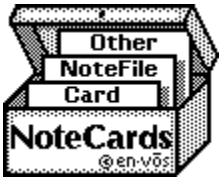

Figure 12-1. The MenuBox Icon.

Notefile Options

It is through the Notefile-Operations menu that you interact with notefiles. The word "Operations" is usually abbreviated as "Ops" and, as a result, this menu is usually refered to as the "Notefile Ops" menu.

You access the "Notefile Ops" menu by holding the left mouse button down in the **Notefile** option of the MenuBox Icon. The menu has three regions, separated by dashed lines. The top region contains operations you can only apply to closed notefiles. The middle region contains commands you can only apply to open notefiles. The bottom item, NC FileBrowser, does not share these limitations. It provides you with a notefile interface.

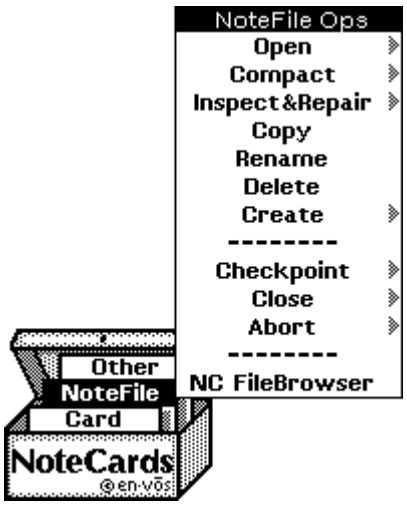

Figure 12-2. The MenuBox Icon's "notefile Ops" menu.

Open

Opens an existing notefile. If you have not previously opened any files, the system prompts you to type in a file name. The file name is not case sensitive. If you provide just a file name with no path, the system looks in the connected directory for the notefile. If NoteCards does not find the file there, it asks you if you want to create the file.

The system maintains a list of all notefiles you open. Subsequently, when you select **Open**, these files will be presented to you in menu format. If the file you want to open is not on the menu, select the **--Other Notefile--** option.

There are two submenu options for Open, **Open Read/Write** and **Open Read-only**.

Figure 12-3. The **Open** submenu.

Open Read/Write

Is the same as selecting **Open** from the top-level menu.

Open Read-only

Opens the file but does not allow you to make any changes to the file. When you open a file read-only, the file name appears in its Banner with a read-only prefix (RO:).

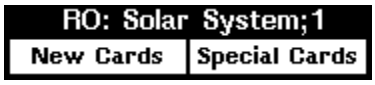

Figure 12-4. A notefile opened read-only with its Banner showing the read-only prefix "RO:"

If the notefile is damaged the following menu appears.

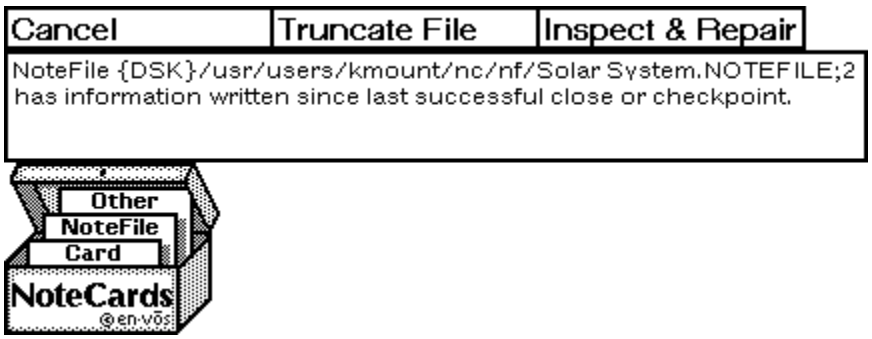

Figure 12-5. The menu which appears when you open a damaged notefile.

Cancel causes the open notefile operation to be aborted.

Truncate File deletes everything after the checkpoint pointer.

Inspect & Repair causes the notefile inspector to be called on your notefile. This is an easy, but slow, way to incorporate these post-checkpoint changes into the notefile. For more details, see the

Inspect & Repair and Appendix A, Notefile Concepts and Appendix B, The Notefile Inspector.

Compact

Compresses a notefile by deleting old information. NoteCards never actually overwrites any information in the data area of a notefile. When cards are revised, old information remains in the notefile. Compacting creates a new, compressed version of the notefile by copying into the new version only the latest information from the old version. To understand the structure of notefiles and compacting, see Appendix A, Notefile Concepts.

Compacting can take 5 to 20 minutes, depending on the size of the notefile.

There are two submenu options off **Compact**, **Compact To New File** and **Compact in Place**.

Figure 12-6. The **Compact** submenu.

Compact To New File

Is the same as selecting **Compact** from the main menu. NoteCards prompts you to type in a new file name. The default is the same file name with a higher version number.

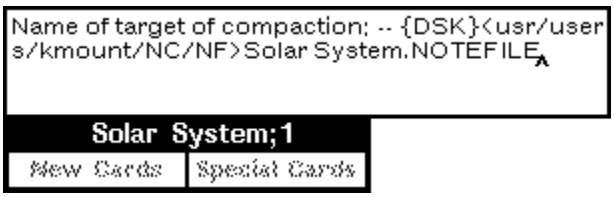

Figure 12-7. NoteCards prompting for the output file name for the compact operation.

Figure 12-8. The notefile Banner after compacting to the same file name. The old version is "Solar System;1." The new version is "Solar System;2."

Compact In Place

Does not build a new copy of your notefile, rather the contents of the old file are rearranged in such a way that old versions of cards are written over. This is useful when your notefile is large and there isn't room to store another version. However, be aware that when you use this option you are not able to back up cards to previous versions by using the **Inspect & Repair** utility. We recommend

compacting to a target file and saving the uncompacted version until you are sure that the older versions of cards are not needed.

Inspect & Repair

Reads the data area of your notefile, looking for good card parts, including outdated and deleted versions. It then allows you to delete or back up card parts to earlier versions through its menu interface. Only when the notefile is considered healthy are you allowed to perform the link rebuilding.

Inspect & Repair has two submenu options, From **Links** and **From Contents**.

Figure 12-9. The **Inspect & Repair** submenu.

From Links

Rebuilds the notefile index using only the links part of the notefile.

From Contents

Rebuilds the notefile index using the links part of the notefile as well as the links stored in the bodies of individual note cards. **From Contents** takes longer to rebuild a notefile index.

For a detailed explanation of the **Inspect & Repair** utility, see Appendix B, The Notefile Inspector.

Copy

Allows you to copy a notefile.

Prompts you for a new name and path for the notefile to be copied and copies it. This is the same as doing a file copy.

Rename

Allows you to rename a notefile.

Prompts you for a new name and path for the notefile to be renamed and renames it. This is the same as executing a file rename.

Delete

Deletes a notefile.

NoteCards asks you to confirm the deletion by typing a carriage return for "No" or a `Y` and a carriage return for "Yes." If your response is "Yes," a second confirmation is required a second time to insure against unintentional deletion.

Create

Creates a new empty notefile. When you use **Create**, it is possible to assign an already existing name to the new notefile, thereby creating more than one version of the notefile.

Create has two submenu options, **Create without Open** and **Create and Open**.

Figure 12-10. The **Create** submenu.

Create without Open

Is the default action. It prompts you for a new notefile name, creates a new notefile, and place the new notefile's Banner on the screen. If you supply only a name and no path, the notefile is created in your connected directory.

Create and Open

Does all of the above, and opens the new notefile.

Checkpoint

Saves the contents of any active cards to the notefile without closing the cards or the notefile. The index array is written out to the file and the checkpoint pointer is reset to the end of the file.

A notefile consists of two parts, an index area and a data area. For each card, the index contains four pointers into the data area. There are pointers for the notecard's contents, title, property list, and list of links. When, for example, you change a card's title, NoteCards writes the new title at the end of the file, and the card's title pointer is changed to point to the new title. To increase access speed, index modifications are written in memory and are not written to the file till checkpoint, or close time. There is a checkpoint pointer that is updated to point to the end of file at checkpoint or close. New data, such as a new title, is still written to the file, but always at the end of the file. Thus if a crash occurs, due to a power failure or some other mishap, and later you reopen the notefile, NoteCards can notice the extra data beyond the checkpoint pointer. Each time a notefile is opened, the checkpoint pointer is compared with the end of file pointer. If they don't agree, then a message that something is wrong is printed out. At this point, you must choose one of three options from a menu: **Cancel**, **Truncate File,** or **Inspect & Repair**.

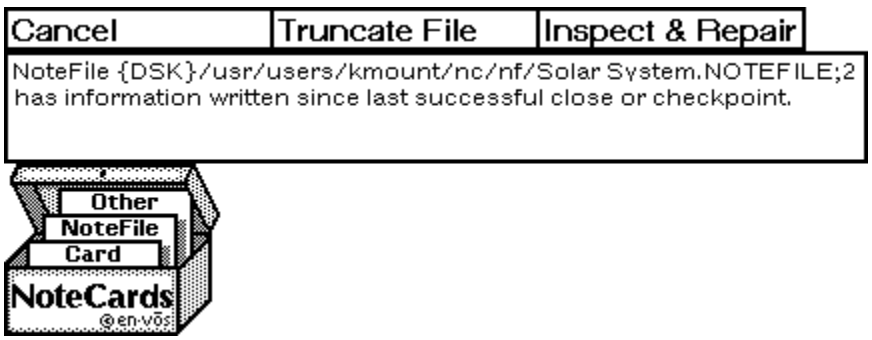

Figure 12-11. The menu which appears when you open a damaged notefile.

Cancel causes the open notefile operation to be aborted.

Truncate File deletes everything after the checkpoint pointer.

Inspect & Repair causes the notefile inspector to be called on your notefile. This is an easy, but slow, way to incorporate these post-checkpoint changes into the notefile. For more details, see Appendix A, Notefile Concepts and Appendix B, The Notefile Inspector.

Figure 12-12. The **Checkpoint** submenu.

Checkpoint and **Checkpoint Notefile** pop up a menu of known notefiles which you can checkpoint.

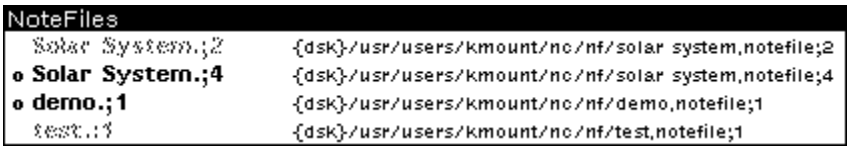

Figure 12-13. A menu of the list on known notefiles.

The grayed over notefiles are closed and cannot be checkpointed. Selecting one of the open notefiles causes that notefile to be checkpointed.

Checkpoint All checkpoints all open notefiles.

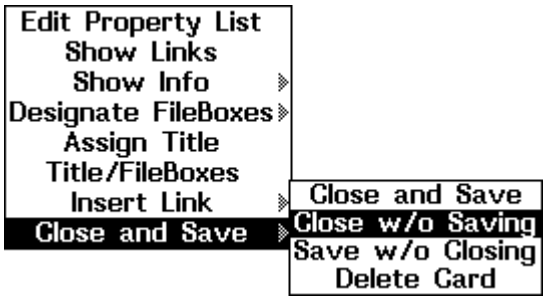

Figure 12-14. The card menu with the Close w/o Saving menu option selected.

In contrast to **Checkpoint**, when you choose **Close and Save** or **Save w/o Closing** from the card menu, the card's contents are written to the notefile but the notefile index is not written to the notefile. If you are anticipating a crash, you should checkpoint you notefile frequently.

Close

Allows you to close a notefile.

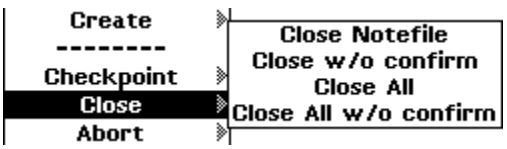

Figure 12-15. The **Close** submenu.

Close and Close Notefile

Pop up a menu of known notefiles like that shown in Figure 12-13. Selecting one of these notefiles closes that notefile. The grayed over notefiles are already closed. Selecting one of these has no effect.

Close w/o confirm

Closes a notefile without asking you about open cards on the screen. Open cards are closed and saved to either their designated FileBox or the "To Be Filed" FileBox.

Close All

Closes all open notefiles.

Close All w/o confirm

Closes all open notefiles without asking you about open cards on the screen. Open cards are closed and saved to either their designated FileBox or the "To Be Filed" FileBox.

Abort

Truncates and closes a notefile.

If you discover that you have made changes to a notefile that you don't want to keep, choose this option to truncate your file. This should only be done if you feel that the post-checkpoint work is not worth saving.

Figure 12-16. The **Abort** submenu.

Abort and Abort Notefile

Pop up a menu of known notefiles like that shown in Figure 12-13. Selecting one of these notefiles aborts that notefile. The grayed over notefiles are already closed. Selecting one of these has no effect.

Abort All

Aborts all open notefiles.

NC FileBrowser

Opens up a FileBrowser specialized for NoteCards.

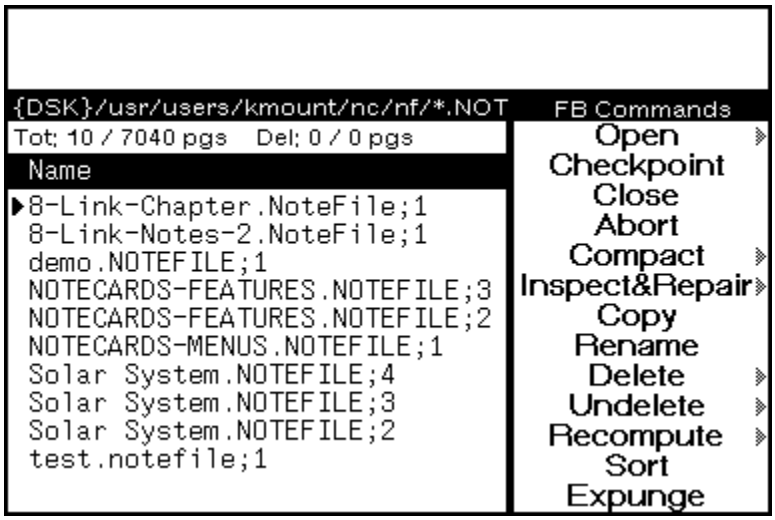

Figure 12-17. The NC FileBrowser.

The commands: **Open**, **Checkpoint**, **Close**, **Abort**, **Compact**, and **Inspect & Repair** can be looked up in this chapter.

The commands: **Copy**, **Rename**, **Delete**, **Undelete**, **Recompute**, **Sort**, and **Expunge** should be looked up in Chapter 14, The FileBrowser.

Card Options

The Card options allow you to perform a **Close**, **Delete**, **Copy**, or **Move**, on a series of cards or a card structure.

Figure 12-18. The "Card Ops" menu.

Close

Enables you to close any number of currently open cards by simply shift-selecting each one's card-ID into the "Selecting Cards" prompt window.

After you have specified your choices, select **Done** from the menu on top of the "Selecting Cards" prompt window, or type a carriage return. **Cancel** aborts this command. **Undo** removes the last selected card from the list.

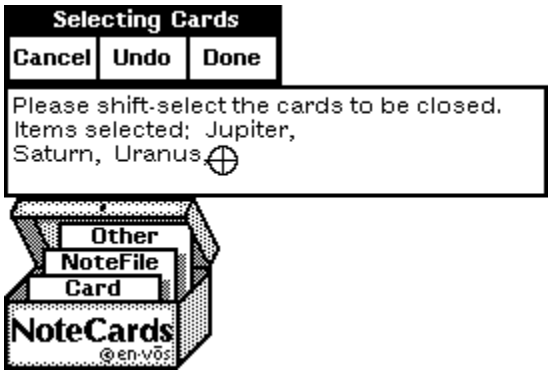

Figure 12-19. The "Selecting Cards" prompt window and menu.

The **Close** option has two submenu options.

Close and Close NoteCards

Perform the same action as **Close**.

Close Structure

Closes a linked list of cards. This operation follows both local and global links.

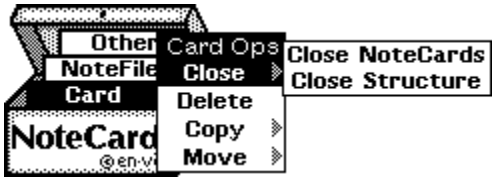

Figure 12-20. The **Close** submenu.

Once you have selected the cards from which to start the **Close Structure** operation, a menu opens asking you what types of links you want to follow. When you are done, select **Done**. **Reset** sets the menu to the values it had when it came up. **Abort**, terminates the operation.

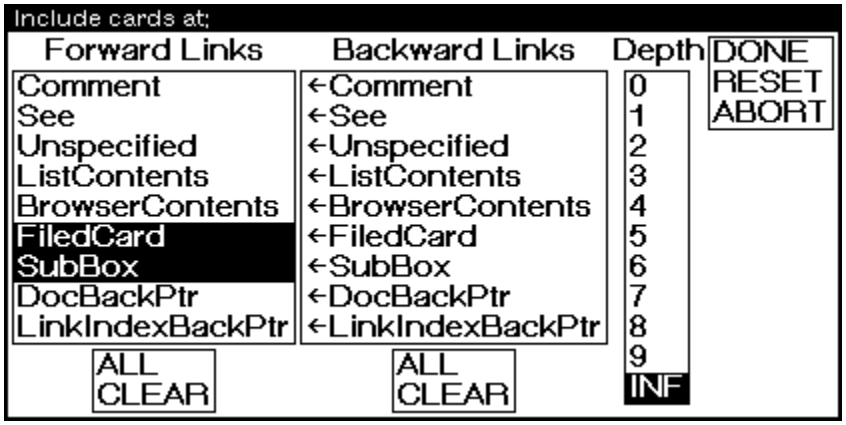

Figure 12-21. The "Include cards at:" menu.

For an explanation of Forward and Backward links see Chapter 8, Links. The **Depth** variable determines how many link levels are traversed in carrying out the operation. If set to a depth of 2, only cards two levels down are closed. For example, if you had cards 1,

2, 3, and 4 on the screen, each forming a sequence (card 1 only pointing to card 2, and card 2 only pointing to card 3, etc.), then if the depth were set to two and you started the close operation from card 1, only cards 1, 2, and 3 would be closed, because only two levels of links would be traversed. Card 4 would remain open on the screen after the **Close Structure** operation.

Delete

Works just like **Close**.

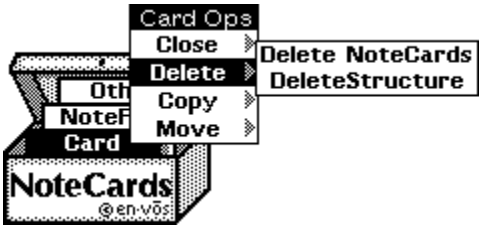

Figure 12-22. The **Delete** submenu.

We caution you to be very careful with the **Delete Structure** command as it is very easy to unintentionally delete large numbers of cards. This command is most useful in conjunction with **Copy Structure** as a way of performing a safe **Move Structure**. First you copy the structure you think you want and then once you have verified that you have gotten the structure you wanted, you use **Delete Structure** to remove it.

Copy

Works just like **Close**. Allows you to copy a group of cards or a card structure to another FileBox which may be in a different notefile.

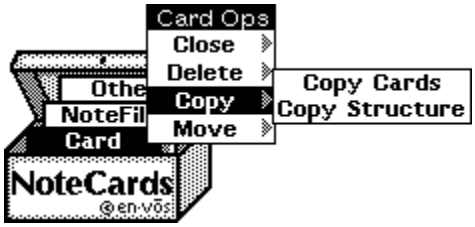

Figure 12-23. The **Copy** submenu.

Move

Works just like **Close**. Allows you to move a group of cards or a card structure to another FileBox which may be in a different notefile.

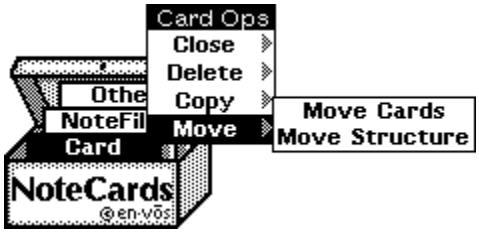

Figure 12-24. The **Move** submenu.

Other Options

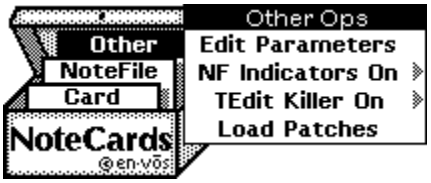

Figure 12-25. The "Other Ops" menu.

Edit Parameters

The **Edit Parameters** option brings up the System Parameters menu. This menu is discussed in detail in Chapter 13, System Parameters.

NF Indicators On

NF Indicators On and the submenu option **Indicators On** turn on notefile indicators for all the cards on the screen.

Indicators Off

Turns off all notefile indicator windows for all the cards on the screen. Note that whether or not cards come up with notefile indicators is determined by the system parameter **Show Notefile On Cards**. To learn more about this parameter and changing system parameters, see Chapter 13, System Parameters.

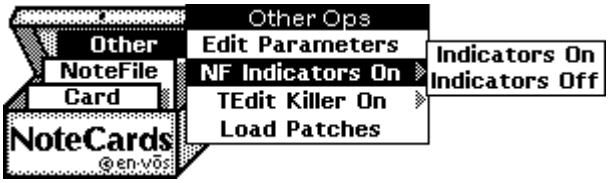

Figure 12-26. The "NF Indicators On" submenu.

Notefile indicators are small windows on the tops of cards which show the name and path of the card's notefile.

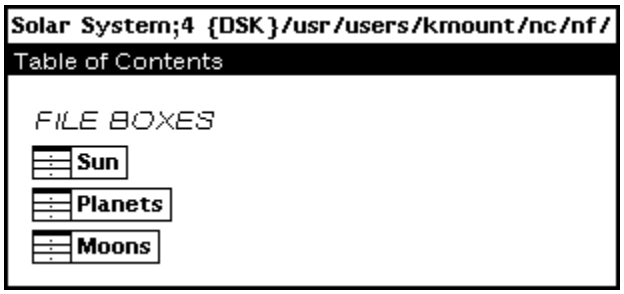

Figure 12-27. A notefile indicator window attached to the "Table of Contents" card from the Solar System notefile.

TEdit Killer On

Kills TEdit processes after they have been around for a specified period of time.

Figure 12-28. The "TEdit Killer On" submenu.

Since every text-based card and every TEdit window, including TEdit command menus, is a separate TEdit process it is very easy to get twenty or thirty TEdit processes all vying for machine time. This can greatly slow down your machine's response time. If you like to work with many cards and windows open on the screen at one time turning the TEdit killer on will help improve your machine's response time. Note that TEdit killer only affects text-based cards. The processes for sketch-based cards are unaffected. To restart a TEdit process that has been killed in this manner, you only have to click in the TEdit window.

TEdit Killer On

Turns on the TEdit killer process.

TEdit Killer Off

Turns off the TEdit killer process.

New Process Limit

Sets the number of TEdit process which are allowed to exist. Selecting this option brings up the following menu.

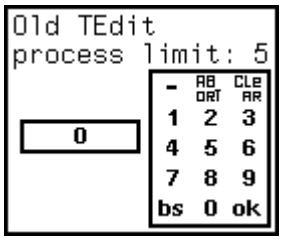

Figure 12-29. The TEdit process limit number pad.

A response of "0" allows you to have one TEdit process running and not none.

The default value is "5."

New Wait Time

Sets the number of second which a TEdit process can be idle before it will be killed. Selecting this option brings up the following menu.

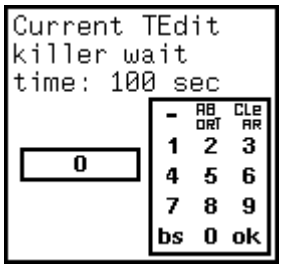

Figure 12-30. The TEdit killer wait time number pad.

Note: If both the TEdit process limit and the TEdit killer wait time are set to "0," it can freeze your system.

The default value is "100."

Load Patches

Forces the loading of any patches which were distributed with the NoteCards sysout.

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