

NonStop NET/MASTER Tips and Techniques
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Introduction

This is an ongoing column with NonStop NET/MASTER tips and techniques. Each column is also accessible from <http://www.greshamsoftwarelabs.com.au/> (Gresham Software Labs). Please send all comments and suggestions to John New at jnew@greshamsoftwarelabs.com.au.

Biography

John New is a technical writer. He has written and updated various Tandem manuals. He currently writes hard-copy, online, and web documents for a variety of software products.

Q: How can I handle messages that are longer than the current width of an Operator Control Services (OCS) screen?

A: First, you can truncate each message. From OCS, use the PROFILE command with the TRUNC operand to truncate each message at two characters less than the window width or at a word boundary.

Second, you can indent each message. If long messages are not truncated, from OCS use PROFILE command with the INDENT operand to specify an indentation value for each message.

Third, you can shorten each message. Follow these steps to install a MSGPROC NCL procedure that strips the 7-character message number (plus blank) from each message and then displays the shortened message:

(1) Put the following NCL procedure in your user procedure library, calling it SHORTEN:

```
shorten: procedure
do forever
msgread
&$msg.text=substr(&$msg.text,9)
end
end shorten
```

(2) From OCS, type the following command:

```
PROFILE MSGPROC=SHORTEN
```

You can also combine the three techniques described above.

Number 2

Q: When writing NCL procedures, what is the most efficient way to share a subset of variables between procedures and functions?

A: Use a stem variable. Define all variables to be shared under the stem variable and share only the stem. The following NCL procedure shares variables under the stem &b. but does not share

