

# **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](mailto: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.

## Managing Sticky Messages

This article discusses some of the NonStop NET/MASTER commands that are available to manage non-roll-delete (NRD) messages as they arrive at a NonStop NET/MASTER system and an Operator Control Services (OCS) window. NRD messages are sometimes called sticky messages because they are designed to "stick around" on an OCS window as long as possible. The article discusses:

- Types of Messages
- Types of NRD Messages
- Specifying the Minimum Size of the Roll-Delete Message Area
- Clearing Roll-Delete Messages From the OCS Window
- Removing NRD Messages From the OCS Window
- Purging Full NRD Messages
- Turning EMS Events Into NRD Messages

### Types of Messages

The OCS window can display two types of messages: roll-delete messages and NRD messages.

- Roll-delete messages display information that is not of critical importance, such as the response to a command or a report that a user has logged on. These messages roll by on the OCS window, newer messages continuously pushing older messages off the window.
- NRD messages display important information. They report significant events, such as a hardware or software error or failure. NRD messages may appear no different to roll-delete messages when they arrive at an OCS window. However, a NRD message is not necessarily pushed off an OCS window when a newer message arrives. If space is available, it remains visible until it is purged, removed from display, or the event that caused the message to be sent is resolved.

### Types of NRD Messages

There are two types of NRD messages: full messages and messages with the OPER attribute.

- A full NRD message has a unique ID associated with it. It is stored in the NRD message central queue on a NonStop NET/MASTER system (the SYSPARMS NRDLIM command sets the size of the queue). It may be simultaneously displayed on many OCS windows.
- A NRD message with the OPER attribute does not have a unique ID and is not stored in a central queue. It is local to an OCS window (to a local operator).

### Specifying the Minimum Size of the Roll-Delete Message Area

By default, roll-delete messages fill the entire OCS window. When NRD messages arrive, they are displayed initially in the same message area as roll-delete messages. As more messages arrive, roll-delete and NRD messages are divided into two separate message areas and displayed simultaneously (you can specify the character used for the separator line by using the PROFILE NRDELCH command).

As more NRD messages arrive, the roll-delete message area contracts to a specified minimum size. You can specify the minimum roll-delete message area size by using the PROFILE RDMIN command (this also effectively specifies the maximum NRD message area size). At least one line must be available to display roll-delete messages.

The maximum number of lines available on an OCS window is 24. If the window includes a title line, status line, command entry line, and two message separator lines, then 19 lines are available for displaying messages. If the minimum roll-delete message area size is 10 lines, then the maximum NRD message area size is 9 lines.

### Clearing Roll-Delete Messages From the OCS Window

If messages fill the roll-delete message area, you can clear the messages from the OCS window by using the CLEAR or K command (these commands are synonymous), or the PAGE command.

The CLEAR and K commands are processed ahead of any other commands that may be queued for execution. The PAGE command is queued and executed after commands ahead of it have been executed.

These commands do not clear NRD messages from the OCS window.

### Removing NRD Messages From the OCS Window

You can remove NRD message from the OCS window by using a technique called cursor deletion; that is, moving the cursor next to the NRD message you want to remove and pressing the Enter key.

Cursor deletion removes a full NRD message from the OCS window but does not delete the message from the NRD message central queue. You can redisplay all NRD messages in the central queue by using the NRDRET command. When you initially enter OCS, it is often useful to immediately execute a NRDRET command to discover the full NRD messages that are currently queued.

Cursor deletion deletes a NRD message with the OPER attribute. You cannot redisplay this type of message by using the NRDRET command.

## **Purging Full NRD Messages**

You can purge (or delete) a full NRD message by using the PURGE NRD command. You must specify the domain from which the message originated (you can use the SHOW NRD command to find out the domain of a NRD message).

There are a number of variations of this command. For example, assuming the originating domain is \SYS1:

- The PURGE NRD=SYS1/\* command purges all NRD messages from SYS1.
- The PURGE NRD=0M command purges all NRD messages older than 0 minutes (that is, all NRD messages in the message queue).

## **Turning EMS Events Into NRD Messages**

You can specify whether to turn EMS events that arrive at a NonStop NET/MASTER system into NRD messages by using the SYSPARMS EMSNRD command. For example:

- The SYSPARMS EMSNRD=ACTION command turns EMS events into NRD messages when the action needed token value is present and true. These NRD messages are automatically purged when the corresponding action complete EMS event is processed.
- The SYSPARMS EMSNRD=CRITICAL command turns EMS events into NRD messages when the emphasis token value is true.
- The SYSPARMS EMSNRD=BOTH command turns EMS events into NRD messages in both cases.
- The SYSPARMS EMSNRD=NONE command turns all EMS events into roll-delete messages.

## **Conclusion**

Understanding how to manage NRD messages is very important because they present information to OCS operators that is of critical importance. This article has discussed some of the common NRD message management techniques that you may find useful.