
NEC Versa® LXi

Release Notes

Congratulations on purchasing an NEC Versa LXi notebook computer! Before using your system read the important information detailed in this document. The topics described in this document apply to NEC Versa LXi systems running the Microsoft® Windows® 2000, Windows 98 Second Edition, Windows 95, or Windows NT operating systems. Topics specific to a particular operating system are noted.

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Notes for All Users

Be sure to read the following notes when using any of the Windows operating systems on your NEC Versa LXi.

Introducing New System Features

Your NEC Versa LXi provides a variety of system features to accommodate your mobile computing needs. In addition to the features described in the *NEC Versa LXi User's Guide*, some systems now offer the following:

- an Intel® Pentium III, 600 MHz, 650 MHz, 700 MHz, or 750 MHz with SpeedStep™ microprocessor
- a CD Read/Write drive with a CD creating application (NEC VersaBay III option)
- a DVD drive with the NEC SoftDVD Player (NEC VersaBay III option)
- 256-MB memory module (optional accessory)

Intel SpeedStep Technology

The Intel Pentium III processors with SpeedStep technology allow you to customize high-performance computing on your notebook system by optimizing performance speed and conserving battery life.

If your system's processor is equipped with SpeedStep technology, an icon, providing access to the SpeedStep applet, appears on the taskbar. The default settings of the SpeedStep applet include the following options:

- Running on Batteries — Battery Optimized Performance (Recommended), only.
- Plugged In - Maximum — Performance (Recommended) or Battery Optimized Performance.

If you want to introduce the Maximum Performance option as a Running on Batteries option, download and execute the SpeedStepHigh.exe file from the NECC web site. SpeedStepHigh.exe file updates your notebook system's registry and adds the Maximum Performance option to the Running on Batteries drop-down list. Follow these steps to download and execute the file.

1. Go to **www.nec-computers.com**, select Downloads, then select Continue to download page.
2. At the FTP Search Form screen, use the drop-down boxes to select 'Versa' as the base model, 'Versa LXi' as the model name, and 'Application' as the Category.
3. Click the Search button to generate a file list.
4. Click the SpeedStepHigh.exe file and follow the on-screen instructions to save it to your hard drive.
5. Once downloaded on your system's hard drive, double click the file to initiate the update. The screen message indicates that the system's registry will be updated.
6. Click Yes. Next, the screen message indicates that the update is successfully completed.
7. Click OK.
8. To verify the update, double click the SpeedStep applet and click the Running on Batteries drop-down list to view the Maximum Performance option.



CAUTION NECC recommends that you do not modify the SpeedStep applet's default settings. If you follow these instructions to introduce and set the Maximum Performance option for Running on Batteries while using a VersaBay III battery in the VersaBay III, your system may experience adverse effects.

CD Read/Write Drive

The NEC VersaBay III CD Read/Write drive with the CD creating application provides the latest in CD-ROM technology and is fully compatible with Kodak Multisession Photo CDs, standard audio CDs, and CD-i movies. In addition, the CD creating application allows you to write information to a CD and backup the contents of your hard disk drive to a CD.

For detailed information about using the CD Read/Write drive and installing the CD creating application from the NEC Versa CD-RW CD, refer to the accessory sheet that ships with your system.

DVD-ROM Drive

The NEC VersaBay III DVD-ROM drive with the NEC SoftDVD Player provides the latest in DVD-ROM technology and is fully compatible with Kodak Multisession Photo CDs, standard audio CDs, and CD-i movies. In addition, the NEC SoftDVD Player allows you to play movies in DVD format.

For detailed information about using the DVD-ROM drive and installing the NEC SoftDVD Player, refer to the accessory sheet that ships with your system. Contact your local NECC support representative for details.

256-MB Memory Module

The 256-MB memory module is an optional accessory that increases the memory expansion capability of your NEC Versa LXi notebook computer to a maximum of 512-MB. Contact your local NECC support representative for details.

Optimizing the LCD Panel Display

To optimize the LCD panel display, be sure to set your system's colors setting to High Color, 16 bit. To modify the Colors setting, right click on the Windows desktop and select Properties. Select the Settings tab, then use the drop-down box in the Colors section of the window to change the setting to High Color (16 bit).

Toggling Between Video Modes

Pressing **Fn-F3** toggles the system between video modes. With a TV and monitor attached, using **Fn-F3** to repeatedly toggle between video modes results in CRT and LCD, only, in simultaneous display mode. To reestablish simultaneous mode for the TV, reenable the TV display settings. Follow these steps to enable the TV display settings for Windows 98 and Windows 95.

- To enable the TV display settings in Windows 98, right click on the Windows desktop, click Properties, select the Settings tab, and select the Advanced tab. Next, select the S3 DuoVue tab and place a check in the box next to the TV graphic.
- To enable the TV display settings in Windows 95, right click on the Windows desktop, click Properties, select the S3 DuoVue tab and place a check in the box next to the TV graphic.

Restoring the Hard Disk Drive

Your NEC Versa system ships with a single partition on the hard disk drive (not applicable for Windows NT). If you choose to change to multiple partitions and want to use the Product Recovery CD to restore the hard disk drive to its initial shipped configuration, you must format all the partitions before performing the hard disk drive restoration. For details about using the Product Recovery CD, see the *NEC Versa LXi User's Guide*.

Disabling Power Management

NECC recommends that you disable power management on the NEC Versa when using the following hardware devices or software.

- USB devices
- cordless mouse
- SlimSCSI PC cards
- PC storage cards
- Applications requiring a full-screen DOS box
- Optional DVD-ROM drive.

Using a TV as an External Display Device

Follow these guidelines when using a TV as an external display device.

- Always connect your NEC Versa LXi to an AC power source.
- To toggle back to the LCD when in TV out only mode, right click on the Windows desktop, click Properties, select the S3 DuoVue tab, and enable the LCD.
- In Windows 98, you cannot use **Fn-F3** to toggle the display from LCD to TV while playing a DVD movie.
- In Windows 95, when using the LCD and TV in simultaneous display mode, do not close the LCD panel. If you close the LCD panel, the TV display disappears and you must reenabling the TV display settings. To enable the TV display settings in Windows 95, right click on the Windows desktop, click Properties, select the S3 DuoVue tab and place a check in the box next to the TV graphic.

Hot Docking Your System

If your system has an internal mini-PCI or mini-PCI LAN/modem and you hot dock to the NEC Versa Dock, it takes approximately 90 seconds for the system to acknowledge docked status.

Upgrading to a New Versa Dock Monitor Stand

If you purchased an NEC Versa Dock prior to October 29, 1999, the monitor stand that shipped with the docking station cannot accommodate the NEC Versa LXi with 14.5-inch and 15-inch LCD panels. You need to order a new monitor stand. To order a new monitor stand call 1-800-632-4525 to order the part number, 136-245512-001A.

Notes for Using Windows 2000

Be sure to read the following notes when using Windows 2000 on your NEC Versa LXi.

Conserving Battery Power

The power management state referred to as Hibernate or Save-To-File (STF) saves the system's current working environment to the system's hard drive, then powers down the system to conserve battery power. You can configure your power management settings to enter hibernation when your system reaches a critical low battery state.

In the Windows 2000 environment, the default setting for a critical low battery state is Standby. The power management state of Standby does not power down your system to conserve battery power. NEC recommends that you modify this default setting to prevent data loss.

Follow these steps to modify the default setting for a critical low battery state:

1. Go to Start, Settings, Control Panel.
2. Double click Power Options and select the Alarms tab.
3. Click the Alarm Action button in the 'Critical Battery Alarm' section.
4. Use the drop-down box labeled, 'When the alarm goes off, the computer will' to change the default setting to Hibernate.
5. Click OK to exit Alarm Actions.
6. Click OK to exit Power Options.
7. Close the Control Panel.

Resuming From Save-to-Ram/Save-to-File

Standby or Save-to-RAM (STR) manages power by saving your current working environment to memory and shutting down most system devices. Save-to-File (STF), also known as Save-to-Disk, manages system power by saving the current working environment to an area on your hard disk, then powering off your system.

Please note the following when resuming from STF mode:

- When using some of the operating system's wallpaper settings, the wallpaper may be lost after resuming from STF mode. To recover the wallpaper, simply reboot your system. After rebooting your system, modify the wallpaper setting. To modify the wallpaper setting, right click on the Windows desktop, select Properties, and use the Picture Display drop-down box to set the display to Tile.
- When resuming from a Save-to-RAM or Save-to-File while your NEC Versa LXi is docked with an NEC Versa Dock, your system may lose (Versa system) speaker sound. To recover the speaker sound, simply reboot your system.

Upgrading to Windows 2000

After upgrading your NEC Versa system to Windows 2000, it is recommended that you do not use the following software or hardware.

- NEC Customize utility
- Ultimate Human Body version 2.0
- Proxim RangeLan2 PC card

For updated information regarding software and hardware compatible with Windows 2000, periodically check the NECC web site, www.nec-computers.com.

Notes for Using Windows 98 Second Edition

Be sure to read the following notes when using Windows 98 Second Edition on your NEC Versa LXi.

Installing the NEC VersaGlide Mouse Driver

Your NEC Versa LXi system running the Windows 98 operating system does not ship with the NEC VersaGlide mouse driver installed. The driver is available on the Application and Driver CD that ships with your system. The NEC VersaGlide Mouse driver offers a number of options that allow you to customize functionality including:

- auto scroll
- tap off when typing
- easy capture
- all windows minimize
- favorites
- documents
- browsing.

Use the Application and Driver CD to install the driver and to take advantage of the enhanced functionality. Follow these steps to install the NEC VersaGlide mouse driver from the Application and Driver CD.

1. Insert the Application and Driver CD into the CD-ROM drive. The CD automatically runs and the Application and Driver dialog box appears.
2. Click the Drivers tab.
3. Double click on NEC VersaGlide Mouse Drivers.
4. Highlight Factory Installed NEC VersaGlide Mouse Driver.
5. Click Install and follow the on-screen instructions to install the mouse driver.
6. After the driver is installed, you are prompted to restart the system. Restart the system. Windows acknowledges the new driver and opens to the Windows desktop.



CAUTION Whenever your system enters Standby or Hibernation mode after installing this driver, press any key on the keyboard to wake the system. Do not use the VersaGlide to wake the system.

Docking Your System

The optional NEC Versa Dock lets you turn your NEC Versa LXi with Windows 98 into a desktop or a multimedia workstation. With the optional docking station you can warm dock or cold dock your NEC Versa LXi.

Warm docking occurs when your NEC Versa is in a suspended state and then docked with the NEC Versa Dock. Cold docking occurs when your NEC Versa is powered off and then docked with the NEC Versa Dock.

Currently, your NEC Versa LXi with Windows 98 does not support hot docking with an NEC Versa Dock.

Increasing the System's Memory Capacity

If you increase your NEC Versa LXi system's memory capacity to more than 256MB of RAM, your system may lose its sound capability. To correct the sound loss, NEC recommends that you download the latest sound driver from the NEC web site.

Follow these steps to download the latest sound driver to your NEC Versa LXi.

1. Launch your browser and go to **www.nec-computers.com**.
2. Click downloads and click 'Continue to download page.'
3. Select 'Versa' for the base model and 'Versa LXi' as the model name.
4. Select 'Audio Device' as the category and 'Windows 98' as the operating system.
5. Click Search.
6. Locate the audio driver executable file and click the file to download.
7. Follow the on-screen instructions to download and install the audio driver to your NEC Versa LXi system.
8. Reboot your system to restore the sound capability.

Using the Fn-F3 Function Keys

After changing video resolution or resuming from Suspend, restart the system before using the **Fn-F3** function keys to toggle between video modes.

Updating DuoVue Mode

The DuoVue mode support in Windows 98 allows you to use an external device to expand your desktop area. The video driver that ships with your NEC Versa LXi system currently does not support DuoVue mode. Periodically check our web site at **www.nec-computers.com** for the latest available video drivers.

Updating the IR (infrared) Driver

Before using IR data transfer on your NEC Versa LXi, be sure to install the latest IR driver, v3.08R, from the Application and Driver CD.

Follow these steps to install the latest IR driver.

1. Insert the Application and Driver CD into the CD-ROM drive.
 - If autorun is enabled, the CD automatically runs.
 - If autorun is not enabled, double click the CD-ROM icon in Windows Explorer to launch the CD.
2. Click the Drivers tab.
3. Click on Latest Non-Logo'd IR Drivers.
4. Highlight Installation Instructions.
5. Click View.
6. Print out and follow the on-screen instructions to install the latest IR driver.

Disabling Save-to-Disk

To optimize system performance when using a hard disk drive in the VersaBay III, disable the Save-to-Disk parameter in the Power Management section of the BIOS Setup utility as follows.

1. Press **F2** when booting the system to enter the BIOS Setup utility.
2. Select Power Management Setup from the main menu.
3. At the Power Management Setup menu, select Auto Save-to-File and set it to Disabled.
4. Press **Esc** to return to the main menu.
5. Select Save Settings and Exit.

Using PC Cards

Follow these guidelines when using PC cards on your NEC Versa LXi system.

- After inserting a PC card into the PC card slot with the system powered on, the system recognizes and loads the card driver. If the cursor toggles repeatedly between a pointer and hourglass, click on the PC card icon on the lower right corner of the taskbar. Stop the PC card. Eject and reinsert the PC card. The system loads the card and functions correctly.
- When using PC storage cards with your NEC Versa LXi, do not change the default settings for Power Button and Lid Close functions in Windows.
- When using the Adaptec SlimSCSI PC card in the NEC Versa LXi, always have a device attached to the card.
- Do not swap PC cards between slots when the system is in Suspend mode.

Resuming from Save-to File

When the NEC Versa resumes from Save-to-File, a progress bar displays on the screen. When the progress bar shows 100% and the resume process is complete, the screen goes blank for approximately 15 seconds as the system resumes normal operation.

Using the Internal Microphone

Use the Audio Mixer to mute the internal microphone in Windows 98 as follows.

1. Click Start, Programs, Accessories, Entertainment, and then Volume Control.
2. Select Options, Properties, and Recording , then click OK.
3. Deselect the MIC as a source of input by removing the check from the Select box.

Using Novell Software

When resuming from Standby mode with Novell software installed, do not use the VersaGlide for approximately 10 seconds until the system fully resumes operation.

Notes for Using Windows 95

Be sure to read the following notes when using Windows 95 on your NEC Versa LXi.

Warm Swapping Devices

In Windows 95, warm swapping of devices is only supported when the system enters a Save-to RAM (STR) state. Save-to-RAM is the default setting in Windows 95. NEC does not recommend that you warm swap a device when the system is in a Save-to-File (STF) state.

Using Screen Savers

Some third party screen savers are known to cause a system to hang or to be unresponsive. If your screen saver is running and your NEC Versa displays an error message and/or hangs, reboot your system. The condition is not due to a malfunction of your NEC Versa notebook. If the error recurs, switch to an alternate manufacturer's screen saver that does not cause this condition.

Notes for Using Windows NT

Be sure to read the following notes when using Windows NT on your NEC Versa LXi.

Using the Save-to-File Function

Your NEC Versa LXi ships with BIOS default power management settings that include the Auto Save-to-File (STF) parameter set to disabled. We recommend that you do not enable the Auto Save-to-File parameter when running the Windows NT operating system on your NEC Versa LXi. If the Auto Save-to-File parameter is enabled, severe video corruption may occur when resuming from an auto Save-to-File state.

Video corruption will not occur when:

- resuming from a manually invoked Save-to-File.
- an auto Save-to-File occurs due to a low battery condition.

If video corruption occurs after resuming from an auto Save-to-File (BIOS parameter enabled), perform a manual Save-to-File, then resume from the Save-to-File state to eliminate the video corruption.

To invoke a manual Save-to-File on your NEC Versa LXi running the Windows NT operating system, simply press the **Fn-Power** key combination.

Using the HDPREPEZ Utility

The power management state referred to as Save-to-File (STF) saves the system's current working environment to the system's hard drive, then powers down the system to conserve battery power. The HDPREPEZ function creates a file large enough (256 MB) to accommodate the entire memory contents of your system. The STF file is created the first time that you run your system's setup program.

If you increase the memory capacity of your NEC Versa beyond 256 MB or you install a generic Windows NT operating system on your NEC Versa LXi, use the Application and Driver (A&D) CD to load the HDPREPEZ utility to increase the size of or to create the STF file. Follow the on-screen instructions on the A&D CD to run the HDPREPEZ utility.

Optimizing Sound Quality

Your NEC Versa LXi allows you to record sound using either the built-in microphone or an external microphone connected to the microphone port located on the right side of the system. To optimize the sound quality and reduce background static when recording and playing back, be sure to modify the default audio format setting.

Follow these steps to modify the default audio format.

1. Go to Start, Settings, Control Panel, Multimedia.
2. Click the box labeled 'Customize.'
3. Use the drop-down box labeled 'Attributes' to select '22.050 Hz, 16 Bit, Stereo,' then click OK.
4. Click OK to close the Customize window, then click OK to close the Multimedia window.

Note Although the modified setting may not be reflected on your screen, the recording and playback quality is noticeably improved.

Using PC Cards

Your NEC Versa LXi running the Windows NT operating system supports hot swapping and warm swapping PC cards, using the same PC card slot, only. Do not hot swap (system is powered on) or warm swap (system is in a suspended state) a PC card from one slot to another. For example, do not hot swap or warm swap a PC card from the top slot to the bottom slot or from the bottom slot to the top slot while the system is powered on or in a suspended state.

Running the Internet Connection Wizard

The Internet Connection Wizard, included with the Windows operating system, helps to connect your computer to the Internet. To ensure uninterrupted system operation when using the Internet Connection Wizard to set up an Internet account, select the option to sign up for a new account. Do not select the options to transfer an existing account or to manually set up an Internet account.

