Natural Grid Introduction

Thank you for selecting the Natural Grid system for radio broadcasters! Before using Natural Grid, please review the software license agreement included in this manual.

Natural Grid System Description

The Natural Grid system allows you to build complex automation log command templates with user-defined clocks. This is very useful for those automation systems that may not provide a convenient method of building and editing templates of automation commands. Natural Grid does this by allowing you to create clocks and specify which hours those clocks are to be used. Natural Grid then builds templates for specific dates. You may then import a traffic log from the Natural Log system, CBSI "Simian" type Log, or a custom log filter into the template and export the combined log to BSI Simian automation. See Quick Start Guide, Building Clocks, Building Templates

Computer Hardware Required

This is to be considered the **minimum** acceptable system for running Natural Grid for Windows at an acceptable speed. Faster machines will give better performance.

- At least a 233mHz Pentium [or compatible]
- At least 64 megabytes of RAM,
- A hard drive with at least 100 megabytes of free space
- Windows 95/98/NT/2000 or ME operating system,
- CD-ROM for installation of the program,
- Microsoft compatible mouse,
- To print logs, any Windows compatible printer,
- Recommended: Zip-Drive or other device for data backups.

NOTICE: Do NOT install NATURAL GRID on any computer that uses Microsoft Access97! NATURAL GRID installs new Microsoft Access2000 database drivers that overwrite older Access97 drivers and are not 100% compatible with Access97. NATURAL GRID will work fine but some Accesss97 functions may be lost. The only work-around is to upgrade to Microsoft Access2000. For more information on this known incompatibility problem review the following Microsoft document: http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q237/5/75.ASP

Getting Help

Your first source for help with Natural Grid is this on-line help file. This help file may be accessed from any screen in Natural Grid by clicking **[Help]**. You may look up topics in the **[Contents]**, use the key-word **[Index]**, or use the **[Find]** function to search the entire help file for specific words.

For telephone help for to unique or complex questions about Natural Grid for which you cannot find the answer in this help file, call BSIUSA.

Installing Natural Grid

Software License Warning   Your software license for Natural Grid permits you to install the software on **one computer**. Unless you have purchased a multi-user license, installation on additional computers is a violation of your license agreement. If you have purchased the multi-user / multi-station license for Natural Grid, you may install the software on any computers on a single Local-Area-Network. See Page 1-8 for a complete text of the Natural Grid End-User License Agreement. **Do not install Natural Grid unless you agree to the terms contained in that End-User License Agreement.**

Installation

Access 97 Notice:Do not install NATURAL GRID on any computer that uses Microsoft Access97! NATURAL GRID installs new Microsoft Access2000 database drivers that overwrite older Access97 drivers and are not 100% compatible with Access97. NATURAL GRID will work fine but some Accesss97 functions may be lost. The only work-around is to upgrade to Microsoft Access2000. For more information on this known incompatibility problem review the following Microsoft document: http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q237/5/75.ASP

Windows-NT/Windows-2000 Notice: To properly install and register NATURAL GRID under Windows-NT and Windows-2000 machines, the user must be logged on with "Administrator" permission settings.

Natural Grid is packaged in an automatic installer program.

- You must be physically at the computer from which you are going to run Natural Grid. That is, don't try to install across a network.

- If AutoRun is enabled on your computer, installation will automatically begin when you insert the Natural Grid CD. If not, use **[My Computer]** from your Windows desktop to navigate to your CD-ROM. **[Double-Click]** on NATURAL GRIDSETUP.EXE to begin installation.

- Click **[Next]** to proceed through the installation process. **Please do not change any default settings!**

- After installation, to use the Natural Grid system click **[Start] [Programs] [Natural Software] [Natural Grid]** or click on the Natural Grid icon which will be installed on your desktop.

- Visit our website **www.nat-soft.com/NATURAL GRID** for a list of reported problems with Natural Grid and free download of any required software updates to fix these problems.

Also see
Registering Natural Grid
Connecting a multi-user NATURAL GRID to a shared database

Installing Natural Grid

To register NATURAL GRID under Windows-NT and Windows-2000 machines, the user MUST be logged on with "Administrator" permissions.

After Natural Grid is installed, it will start up in **Evaluation Mode**. This will allow all functions of Natural Grid to be used for a period of 10 hours. After this 20 hour evaluation period, Natural Grid will require registration. This evaluation period allows users to evaluate the program before purchasing a license to register it.

If you have purchased a license for Natural Grid, you should register it immediately upon installation to activate your free technical support.

From the main menu, click **[Help] [Register Natural Grid]**. Fill in the required registration information, and then click **[e-mail]** to register by e-mail or **[Fax]** to register by fax.

e-mail Registration This will create a text file containing your registration information which you will need to attach to an e-mail to: register@nat-soft.com.   Natural Broadcast Systems, Inc. will e-mail your registration key.

Fax Registration This will print a single registration sheet containing your registration information which you will need to fax to 210.344.7567. Natural Broadcast Systems, Inc. will fax your registration key.

Quick-Start Guide

Windows-NT and Windows-2000 machines MUST be logged in with "Standard Users" or "Power Users" permission levels or better in order to properly run NATURAL GRID.

This describes a **very abbreviated Quick-Startup process** to quickly generate a usable Log and does not even begin to describe the many functions and controls of Natural Grid. Those are described in detail in other parts of this help file and the printable User Manual. (Also see printing the User Manual).

This Quick-Start Guide assumes you have successfully installed the system and have Natural Grid started to its main screen. To quickly get Natural Grid operating, from the Natural Grid main screen click:

❑ **Create a Station Database** When you first start Natural Grid, if you have not created an initial Station Database, you will need to create one using **[File] [New Station]**. Simply assign the database a unique name [usually the station call sign].

❑ **Enter Station Setup Information** Click **[Setup] [Station]** to enter station information and automation setup information, if needed.

❑ **Create and Assign Format Clock** Click **[Setup] [Clocks]** to create at least one clock. Within the clock, put nay automation commands you need included when your traffic logs is merged into the log created by Natural Grid. Then be sure to assign each clock to all hours for which that clock is to be used. See Clocks

❑ **Generate a Log** Click **[Logs] [New]** to generate a new Log for a day. After the Log is generated, it will be loaded into the Log Editor so you can edit, print, or send it to your automation system. See Creating Templates

❑ **Import Traffic Log** **(Optional)** Click **[Import Traffic Log]** from the Log Editor to import and merge a traffic log created by Natural Log, CBSI "Simian" traffic log, or a custom import filter. See Importing Traffic Log

❑ **Edit/Print/ Log** Click **[Logs] [Edit]** to view an existing Log for a day so you can edit, print, or send it to your automation system. See Editing Templates and Sending Templates to Automation.

❑ **Data Backup** Click **[Data] [Backup]** to backup your data often, daily if possible, so if your computer crashes, you will not have to manually reload all your data. **IMPORTANT!** Natural Broadcast Systems, Inc. is not responsible for any data loss no matter the cause. The only protection you have against a catastrophe is to backup your data often!

Common Problems and Solutions

This is a list of the most common problems encountered during initial Natural Grid setup.

PROBLEM Windows-NT, Windows-2000, and users operating across a network may get an error that the database could not be opened because someone else had it open for exclusive use or you need permission to open it.

POSSIBLE CAUSES This indicates that Natural Grid cannot find or open the specified database. This can also be caused if your "user permission" settings in Windows-NT or Windows-2000 are not sufficient to open the file for <u>full read/write access</u> or the server requires a Network Password to access the resource on which the NATURAL GRID database is stored.

SOLUTION Your Network Administrator must correct the issue preventing the database file from being opened. Users of NATURAL GRID on Windows-NT and Windows-2000 machines MUST be logged in with "Standard Users" or "Power Users" permission levels or better in order to properly run NATURAL GRID.
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PROBLEM You get a completely template.

POSSIBLE CAUSES This indicates that Natural Grid cannot find a clock to use during the hour(s) involved, OR the clock that is assigned for the hour(s) is empty.

SOLUTION Check your <u>Clocks</u> for the hours to verify that valid Clock ID's are assigned to each hour for which you need automation commands.
_____

Connecting NATURAL GRID on a workstation to a shared Database across a LAN

This section ONLY applies to users of the multi-user / multi-station version of Natural Grid. These users will likely need to connect to common database(s) on a server.

Natural Grid must be installed on each workstation that will access shared NATURAL GRID database. In a multi-user environment, you will usually have the database on a central server (or one of the workstations) and each workstation will simply access this common database across the LAN.

After Natural Grid is installed on the workstation, the technician installing NATURAL GRID should start Natural Grid and set the default database path as follows.

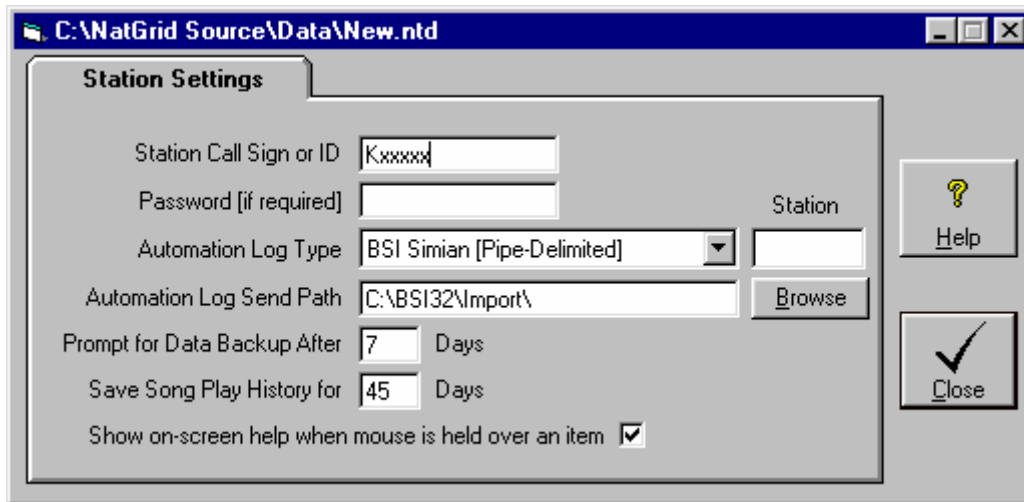- Click **[File][Open]**. The NATURAL GRID Open-Database screen will appear.
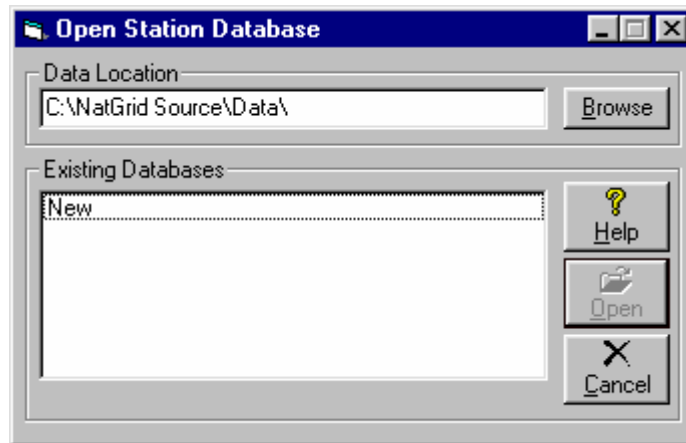
- Click **[Browse]** and navigate to the location of the Natural Grid database to be connected to**.**
- Click **[Open]** to connect to the database.

After you make this initial connection to the database, Natural Grid will remember the database location so the workstation user will not have to go through this process each time they start NATURAL GRID. If the workstation user clicks **[File][Open]** NATURAL GRID will default to that database location and they can select any database at that location.

Natural Grid SetUp

From the Main Grid screen, select **[Setup][Station]**

```
C:\NatGrid Source\Data\New.ntd                    _ □ ×

 Station Settings

        Station Call Sign or ID   Kxxxxx
        Password [if required]                          Station        ?
        Automation Log Type    BSI Simian [Pipe-Delimited] ▼    [        ]   Help
        Automation Log Send Path  C:\BSI32\Import\         Browse
        Prompt for Data Backup After  7     Days                         ✓
        Save Song Play History for    45    Days                       Close
        Show on-screen help when mouse is held over an item  ☑
```

Call Sign You should enter a unique identifier for this station. This may be from1 to 100 characters

Password ONLY if you want to password-protect this station's database, put in a Password of 1 to 100 characters. Note the Password is NOT case sensitive.

Automation Type If you are using Automation, select the appropriate Automation System from the dropdown box on the Station Setup screen. This determines what type of Automation Log [if any] is created by Natural Grid.

Station Number The entry in the field will usually be the "Station Number". This station number helps uniquely name the Automation Log created by Natural Grid.

Example:
For station 1, the Template would be named 112300Tmpl**1**.Log.
For station 2, the Template would be named 112300Tmpl**2**.Log.
If you leave the station # blank, the Template would be named 112300Tmpl.Log

Automation Path If you need to create an Automation Log, you may select the path to which Natural Grid sends the Automation Log.

Prompt for Data Backup After # Days Your data is valuable! Please back it up often . We recommend you do daily Data Backups, but if you want to do them less frequently, you can put any # of days in this box to remind you about doing data backups.

Show on-screen help...
Windows has "Tool Tips" which can pop up on screen to give you context-sensitive help when you rest the mouse over certain on-screen items. This allows you to disable this feature if you want.

Format Clocks

Format Clocks Defined

These Format Clocks are a one-hour list of automation commands to be used as the "template" or skeleton log into which traffic information may be merged. You may access your Format Clocks by clicking **[Setup] Clocks]** from the Natural Grid main screen. To Assign the clock to be used in a particular hour and day, click **[Assign Clock]**.

Assignment Grids

You may create as many Clock Assignment Grids as you like. You MUST have at least one: **Normal**. Most stations will only use this Normal Clock Assignment Grid. Other Clock Assignment Grids may be created for special seasons (like Christmas) or for other purposes. When you create a New Log, you can select which Clock Assignment Grid to use for that day's Log.

Assign Clocks to Days / Hours

Be sure you select the Clock Assignment Grid you desire to change in Clock Assignment Grid dropdown box. You can assign any of your Format Clocks to any hour(s) of any day(s) of the week in that grid.

- Format Clocks are assigned to the day(s) and hour(s) for which they are to be used on a grid that shows days as rows and hours as columns.

- To assign a Format Clock for a day/hour, select the desired Clock form the dropdown list at the top of the screen to display that clock. Then **[Left-Click]** in the grid cell for the hour(s) and day(s) for which the displayed Clock is to be active.

- The 2-letter ID of that clock will appear in the cell.

- To clear a cell (to make its clock blank, just **[Right][Click]** in that cell.

- Natural Grid will not create a Log for any day/hour that does not have a valid 2-letter Clock ID in the cell for the affected day/hour for the selected grid.

Creating and Editing Format Clocks

You can cut and paste entire clock lines by holding the right mouse button and dragging it over the line or lines to be cut or copied, then selecting the function from the popup menu that will open. Click **[New]** to create a new format clock. You must give it a unique 2-letter ID and a description.

Create a New Format Clock

- Click the **[New Clock]** button.

- Enter a valid 2-letter ID code for the new Format Clock

- Enter a description of the clock

- You can also specify the time increment for creating events in the clock. This is only a starrting point and can be changed during clock edit.

Copy a Format Clock

- With the Format Clock you'd like to copy _from_ displayed, click on the **[Copy Clock]** button.

- Enter a Valid 2-letter code for the Format Clock you'd like to copy _to_. If the copy-to Clock doesn't exist it will be created.

- If you click **[OK]** the _copy-to_ clock will contain an exact copy of the copy-from clock's data.

Format Clocks [cont]

Entering Automation Commands in Clocks

See your Simian manual for a complete description of these items, but here is a short description of each column item. Some Categories do not require an entry in all fields. **Important**: You <u>must UNcheck</u> the box next to ***Force AutoStep + on all events*** in Simian's Log Import setup. Otherwise all Cue's will remain + regardless of what you enter in NATURAL GRID clocks. See Configuring SimianLog Import Filter.

Cue This tells Simian how to start the event as described below:

   Blank=Wait for "Manual Start" when the Cue column is blank.

+   Segues after prior event or cut ends. This is the default value used by Natural Grid

@   Plays at a specific time without waiting for previous event to end

Plays at a specific time but waits for a playing cut or event to end. This is useful to skip any unplayed items at the end of an hour and reposition the Simianto begin a new hour at the appropriate log position to keep it on schedule.

!   Wait for "BackTimed Start". This causes Simian to change the pitch of the playing audio to backtime to a specific event. See Simian Manual for more information.

N   Used only with Simian version 3 and later for non-sequential timed start of recording, switching, etc.

mm:ss This is the estimated event start time in Minutes:Seconds (not Hours:Minutes!) Seconds are usually :00 unless an event must start at a specific Second.

Simian uses these times to properly merge the logs and sort them by "scheduled times". For this reason all events should have a UNIQUE time in your templates. If you want 2 items to run sequentially using the + Cue, and give them the exact same times, they might be out of order when Simian finishes merging the log! For this reason we recommend you increment the times by at least 1 second on sequential events so Simian keeps them in the proper order when merging with your traffic log.

Also keep this timing idea in mind when trying to place some item immediately before or after an item from your traffic log. Example: Suppose you have a local break on your traffic log to be triggered by a satellite closure at 10:00 after the hour. Be sure to put any events you want executed before the break (such as relay changes or muting) at least 1 second BEFORE the time the break is scheduled for in your traffic log. Be sure to put any events you want executed after the break (such as relay changes or muting) at least 1 second after the time the break is scheduled for in your traffic log.

Name   This is the filename or the audio cut or other item to be played by Simian.

Length   mm:ss length of the item.

Category See Simian manual for a description of category which will usually be AUDIO or MACRO.

Description This contains the description of the event or the command to be executed is the category is MACRO.

Automatic Entry of Date-Sensitive Items on Format Clocks

Date Sensitive Items You may put date specific items into your clocks and the dates are inserted per the date format you use. The following date formats are accepted. Y indicates year. M indicates month, and D indicates day. The brackets are required. You may add other characters before or after the bracketed text which are included when the new text is computed.

- [mmddyyyy]
- [mmddyy]
- [mmdd]
- [ddmmyyyy]
- [ddmmyyyy]
- [ddmm]
- [yymmdd]
- [yyddmm]
- [yyyymmdd]
- [yyyyddmm]
- [Day]   Abbreviated day: Mon, Tue, Wed, etc
- [DayNum]   The number of the day of the week.
                                      Monday is day 1, Sunday is 7

Example: Suppose you want to schedule an audio cut on your Automation system which you name 1234 followed by the 3-character day-of-week. The audio cut to be played on Monday would be 1234-MON. You can enter 1234-[DAY] in the NAME column of your format clock.
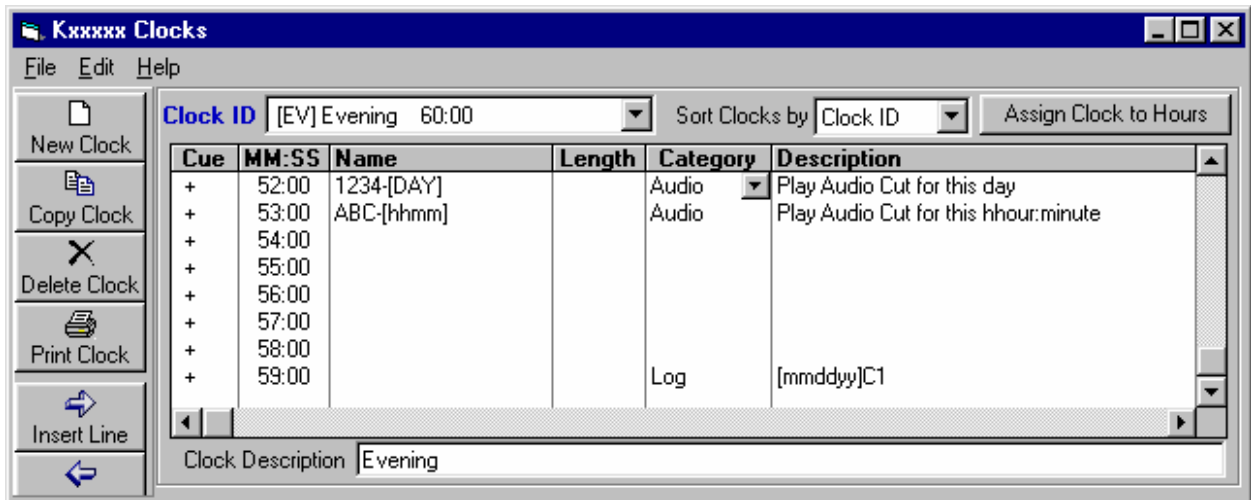
Automatic Entry of Time-Sensitive Items on Format Clocks

You may also place time-specific items into your clocks and the times are automatically inserted per the time format you use.

Example: Suppose you want to schedule an automation Voice Track. You can use any naming convention you want. Suppose you name your Voice Tracks as the day# followed by the hour followed by the minute in the hour. The VoiceTrack for Tuesday at 1:19PM would be converted by Natural Grid to 21319 (Tuesday is day 2, 1PM is hour 13) and can be automatically entered on your clocks as [dhhmm] in the NAME column of your format clock.

The following time formats are accepted. The brackets are required. You may add other characters before or after the bracketed text which are included when the new text is computed.
- [hh]
- [hhmm]
- [hhmmss]
- [dhhmm]
- [dhhmmss]
- [d###]
- [d##]
- [####]
- [###]
- [##]
- [#}

hh indicates hour, mm indicates minutes, ss indicates seconds in the minute, d indicates day # in week (Monday is day 1, Sunday is day 7). [####] to [#] indicates a sequential event counter padded to the requisite number of digits with 0's.This means each time NATURAL GRID sees one of these [#] commands it increases by 1 for each time it is used in that day's log and left pads to at least the requisite number of digits with 0's. If the event counter requires more digits than allowed within the [], all digits are displayed. d### or d## indicates the same counter with a day number preceding it.

More Examples:
&T[hh]1 becomes &T131 if it is the 1PM hour (hour 13)
&A[dhhmm] becomes &A71320 if it occurs at 1:20PM on Sunday
&V[d##] becomes &V701 if it is the first d## in the day on Sunday
&V[d##] becomes &V722 if it is the 22nd d## in the day on Sunday
&[####] becomes &0001 if it is the first d## in the day on any day.
&[###] becomes &001 if it is the first d## in the day on any day.
&[##] becomes &01 if it is the first d## in the day on any day.
&[#] becomes &1 if it is the first d## in the day on any day.

If the event counter requires more digits than allowed within the [], all digits are displayed:
[#] with event counter 99 becomes &99

Simian Automation Commands in Format Clocks

Note Regarding SimianSupport Natural Broadcast Systems and BSI are separate companies. Call BSI (1-500-677-TECH) for problems with Simian operation.

Executing Simian Macros

When using Simian, it is sometimes necessary to execute macro Commands. These are used for relay and network switching among other things. These are "Hard Coded" onto your Natural Grid Format Clocks.

This is done in Natural Grid by entering **MACRO** in the Category column at whatever point you need the command to occur. Then put the command itself in the **Description** column of the clock.

Put the appropriate Cue in the **Cue** column. See Simian Cue Codes

Loading Next Day's Simian Log

When using Simian, you have to tell it when to load the next day's log. This is usually done in Traffic, but Natural Grid can handle this for you. This is done in Natural Grid by entering a command in the last slot of the clock used for the last hour of the day. The format must be followed exactly:

To Tell Simian to Load Next Day's Log
- **LOG** in the **Category** column
- The log Name to be loaded should, be entered in the **Description** column. You can also let Natural Grid automatically insert the next day's log date in dated log templates as follows:

Example To tell Simian to load the next day's log assuming you use M1 as the extension, enter the following in the last event of the Natural Grid Clock for the last hour of the day:

Cue	Time	Category	Description
+	11:59:59PM	LOG	[MMDDYY]C1 [NEXT]

This MUST have a Cue of +

Natural Grid will automatically insert the next date in place of MMDDYY when it creates the Template Log for each date. Note: If you use different last 2 characters for the filename (C2 or C3) just use those characters in place of C1 in the above example. C1 above indicates a combined log for station 1.

Creating Editing and Exporting Logs

At the Natural Grid main screen, select **[Logs]**.This section of the Natural Grid system allows you to generate and edit Logs. These logs can be printed for a live DJ's use or converted into Automation Logs if you are using an Automation system.

Note: You MUST create one or more clocks and assign them to hours before you can create your first Log. See <u>Creating/Assigning Clocks</u>

Create New Log   Click **[Logs] [New]**. This generates a new Log for a day. Please note the following:

Delete Logs   Click **[Logs]** and select an existing Log. Then click **[Delete]** to unschedule an existing Log.

Log Editor

At the Natural Grid main screen, select **[Logs]**. Select an existing Log and then click **[Open]**.
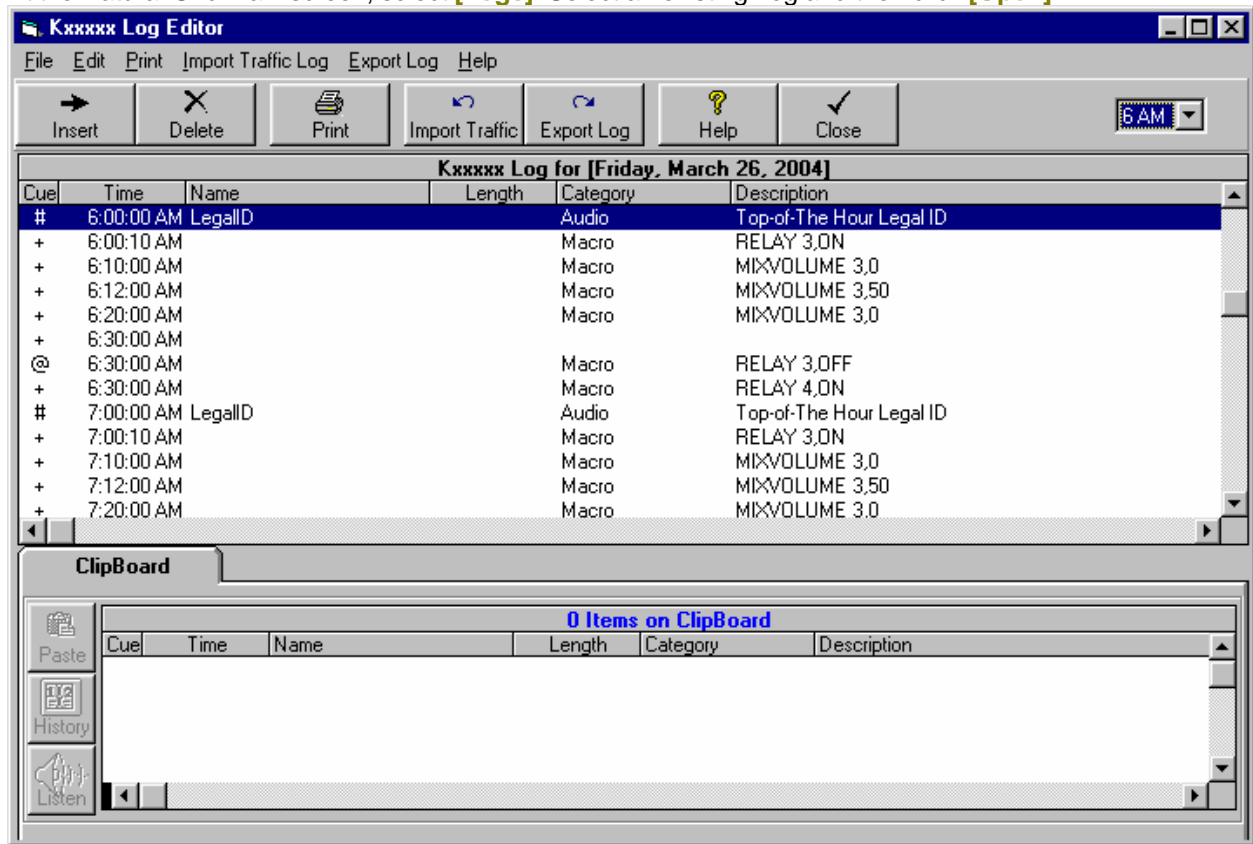
ClipBoard - Cutting and Pasting Log Items

The ClipBoard is just a temporary container to allow you to hold items while cutting, copying, or pasting items on the Log. <u>See Log Editor ClipBoard</u>

Log Editor

Inserting/Deleting Lines on Log

To add a blank line into the Log, highlight the spot where you'd like it to appear and click on the menu **[Edit][Insert]** or **[Edit][Delete]**. **T**o highlight (select) more than one line for deletion, **[Right-Click]** and hold the right mouse button down while you move the mouse over the lines to be deleted.

Undo Log Edit

You may click **[Edit][UnDo]** to reverse the most recent Log edit.

Printing a Log

Click **[Print]** to print your Log. You will see a Design Screen which may be used to <u>Select the page settings</u> To set the column widths to be printed and to actually print the Log, click the **[Preview]** button to see the results on your design and to print the final log. On the Preview screen, you may drag the column dividers left and right to set the column widths. Natural Grid remembers the settings the next time you print a log.

Importing a Traffic Log

Click **[Import Traffic Log]** to import and merge a traffic log. Supported formats are CBSI-Simian Log and Natural Log 7. There is also a "Custom Filter" that you can configure for any Pipe-Delimited file by telling the Natural grid program in which column each data element is located. See <u>Importing a Traffic Log</u>

Send Log to Automation

Click **[Export Log]** to create a Log in the appropriate format for the Automation system you selected in Natural Grid **[Setup] [Station]**. See <u>Automation Interfacing</u>

Log Editor ClipBoard

The ClipBoard is a temporary container to hold items while cutting, copying, and pasting on the Log. To begin, select one or more items in the Log by <u>slowly</u> dragging your mouse over them while holding the [Right] mouse button. The selected items will be highlighted.

- You may then click **[Edit][Cut]** to move the items to the ClipBoard.

- Click **[Edit][Copy]** to copy the items to the ClipBoard.

- If you have items on the ClipBoard, you may click **[Edit][Paste]** to insert all items on the ClipBoard onto the Log at the current Log position.

- Any **Cuts** or **Copies** from the Log will clear any existing items from the ClipBoard before the Cut or Copied items are placed on the ClipBoard.

- You may Drag-and-Drop individual items from the ClipBoard onto the Log or you may **Paste** the entire contents of the ClipBoard into current selected Log position.

The ClipBoard has the following buttons:

- ❑ **[Paste]** To Paste all items from the ClipBoard into the current position on the Log.
- ❑ **[History]** To view a History of the song selected on the ClipBoard
- ❑ **[Delete]** Deletes the currently-selected song from the ClipBoard

Importing a Traffic Log

If you want you may import a traffic log (Natural Log is the only traffic system supported). From the log editor screen select **[Import Traffic Log].** You can then export a combined log to Simian in the usual manner.

Natural Log Traffic

Specify the traffic log file to be imported and merged and click **[Import]. (**The import log must have been created by the "Automation Convert" module of Natural Log.)

CBSI-Simian Traffic Log

This file MUST be in the common Simian format produced by CBSI, that is Pipe-Delimited showing Cue, Time, Name, Category, Description, Length (in that order). **[Browse]** to specify the traffic log file to be imported/merged and click **[Import].**

Custom Filtered Traffic Log

This log file MUST be Pipe-Delimited. On the Traffic Log import screen, select "Custom Filter" and click the **[Configure]** button and tell Natural Grid in which column each data element is found. On the Import Filter configuration screen you can select a "Test File" to assist you in configuring the Traffic Import Filter. After you configure and save the import filter, click **[Browse]** to specify the traffic log file to be imported/merged and click **[Import].**

Exporting a Log to Simian

With the Log open in Natural grid, Click **[Export Log]** to create a Log in the appropriate format for the Automation system you selected in Natural Grid **[Setup] [Station]**.

To Import an Automation Log into Simian, first be sure you have <u>Configured Simian's Log Import Filter</u>

Then in Simian:
1.   Click **[File][New Program Log]** to clear the screen/
2.   Click **[File][Import Program Log]**
3.   Select the day's Log and click **[Open]**

You should then see the Natural Grid log on the screen. If not, see <u>TroubleShooting Simian Import Problems</u>

Configuring Simian Log Import Filter

The first time you import a log into Simian, Simian's log import filter must be configured to read our standard text log output file which is "Pipe-Delimited". This consists of telling Simian the location of the log elements. In **Simian**, you need to use the Tools, Program Setup, Log Import section:

- Click **[Music Import]**.
- Click on **[Delimited]** file format.
- Enter **Pipe** as the delimiter
- Click to **UnCheck Force AutoStep +....**
- Click to **Check Automatically Save...**

Then enter the following items:

Item	Position
Cue	1
Time	2
Name	3
Length	4
Category	5
Description	6

When complete click *Done* before closing the screen.

Exporting a Log to Simian

TroubleShooting Simian Log Import

Problem The Simian Log *Name* column is blank or there are odd characters on the Simian Log.

Solution SimianLog Import filter has not been configured to read Natural Grid logs. See Configuring Simian's Log Import Filter

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Problem The SimianLog shows Q of + on all events even though you tell Natural Grid to send another Q for some events.

Solution SimianTools, Program Setup, Log Import is set wrong.
❑ **Force AutoStep + on all events...** must not be checked. See Configuring Simian's Log Import Filter

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Problem The Simian doesn't load the next day's log.

Solution Be sure the next day's log is imported and saved before Simiantries to load it. Be sure the Q-Code is not @. Simian's Load Log command should have a Q-Code of **+** per BSI support staff.

Data Backup & Restore

Beware:

- Your data is valuable! Think of how much time it will take you to manually re-enter all your data!

- The only protection you have is to do frequent Data-Backups, daily if possible! We cannot recover lost data for you so please do not ask.

- We recommend that you save Data-Backups to several different discs and locations on a rotating basis. Save these Data-Backup files in separate locations in case a Data-Backup diskette goes bad or there is a fire or natural disaster.

Data Backup

To begin the Data-Backup, from the Main screen:

- Click **[Data][BackUp]**

- Select the Natural Grid Database to be backed up.

- Use the [Browse] button to select the destination for the Data-Backup file. You may select any type of removable media such as floppy disc or Zip-Disc™. You may also select to send the Data-Backup file to another computer across a Local Area Network.

- Click **[Start]** to begin.

Natural Grid will let you know whether it successfully created the Data-Backup file. Natural Grid uses standard pkZip™ data compression to reduce storage requirements for the Data-Backup files.

Special Note for ZipDisc™ Backups Natural Grid sees ZipDiscs as "removable" (like floppy discs) and will enable the "multi-volume" support needed to backup large files onto multiple floppy discs. This causes all existing files in the root directory of the ZipDisc to be deleted each time a new backup is done. If you want to be able to backup several Natural Grid database files to one ZipDisc, simply create a folder on the ZipDisc and do all backups into that folder instead of the root directory of the ZipDisc. This will prevent existing files on the ZipDisc (those in the folder) from being deleted during the backup of additional databases because they are not in the root directory.

Data Restore

- You should ONLY consider a Data-Restore if your database is hopelessly corrupted.

- Data-Restore will return your data to its status as of the last Data-Backup date.

- It will erase any data from the restored database that was entered since the last Data-Backup of that database.

To begin the Data-Restore, from the Main screen:

- Click **[Data][Restore]**

- Use the **[Browse]** button to select the Data-Backup file to be restored.

- Click **[Start]** to be the Data-Restore process.

Data Repair & Compacting

Not all database corruption problems can be repaired so it is still vitally important that you do frequent <u>Data Backups</u>!

Corrupted Database

When you attempt to open or compact a database which has been corrupted, a run-time error usually occurs. In some situations, however, a corrupted database may not be detected, and no error occurs, but the database acts oddly. Database corruption can occur if:

- The Natural Grid program is closed unexpectedly because of a power outage or computer hardware problem,

- Microsoft Windows doesn't have a chance to write data caches to disk because it freezes or is restarted in a hard reboot.

- In MultiUser LAN environments, if the network connection is prematurely terminated.

Avoid DataBase Corruption

To avoid corrupt databases, always do a normal exit from Natural Grid. In some cases, power supplies that can't be interrupted may be necessary to prevent accidental data loss during power fluctuations.

Database Repair

This function attempts to repair a database that was marked as possibly corrupt by an incomplete write operation or other problems with your hardware or operating system.

- The Data Repair function attempts to validate all system tables and all indexes.
- **Any data that can't be repaired is discarded**.
- If the database can't be repaired, a run-time error occurs.
- After repairing a database, it's also a good idea to compact the database using the **[Database Utilities][Compact Database]** function method to defragment the file and to recover disk space.

To begin Data Repair, click **[Data][Database Utilitites][Repair Database]** from the main Natural Grid screen and select the Database to be repaired.

Data Compact

It is vitally important that you do a <u>Data Backup</u> before doing this Compact Database function in case something goes wrong during this process!

After many data operations such as deleting songs and play histories, the Natural Grid database may become rather large and fragmented. This can cause database performance to become markedly slower. You may want to occasionally use the **[Data][Database Utilities][Compact Database]** function from the main Natural Grid screen to defragment the file and to recover disk space.

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