

Release notes Netop School version 6.00 (build 2008295)

Netop Solutions A/S is proud to introduce Netop School 6.00. It is also available as a commercial upgrade to our existing customers using version 5.50, 5.00 and 4.00.

Presenting: The new version 6.00

If teachers work in individual ways why shouldn't their favorite classroom management system adapt to that?

Presenting the new Netop School v6 - organize the interface as you like. And more.

For the past few years classroom management systems have competed on growing the number of features, leaving the teacher with a more and more crammed interface. As one of the market leaders we have naturally invented and added more features, but we have always kept our focus on the teacher's daily tasks.

Off course the growing complexity of the computer networks have an impact on the work in the classroom, but should we really try to keep on creating 'monster applications' that pack all features in one and the same interface, including also tools for network administrative tasks?

We believe not.

With Netop School v6 we introduce a new way of working with interface for classroom management systems.

Inspired by Microsoft Office 2007, we have organized the tools in a tabbed interface. But we have taken the idea a step further by enabling the user to personalize the interface and organize favorite features as they wish to simplify the daily tasks.

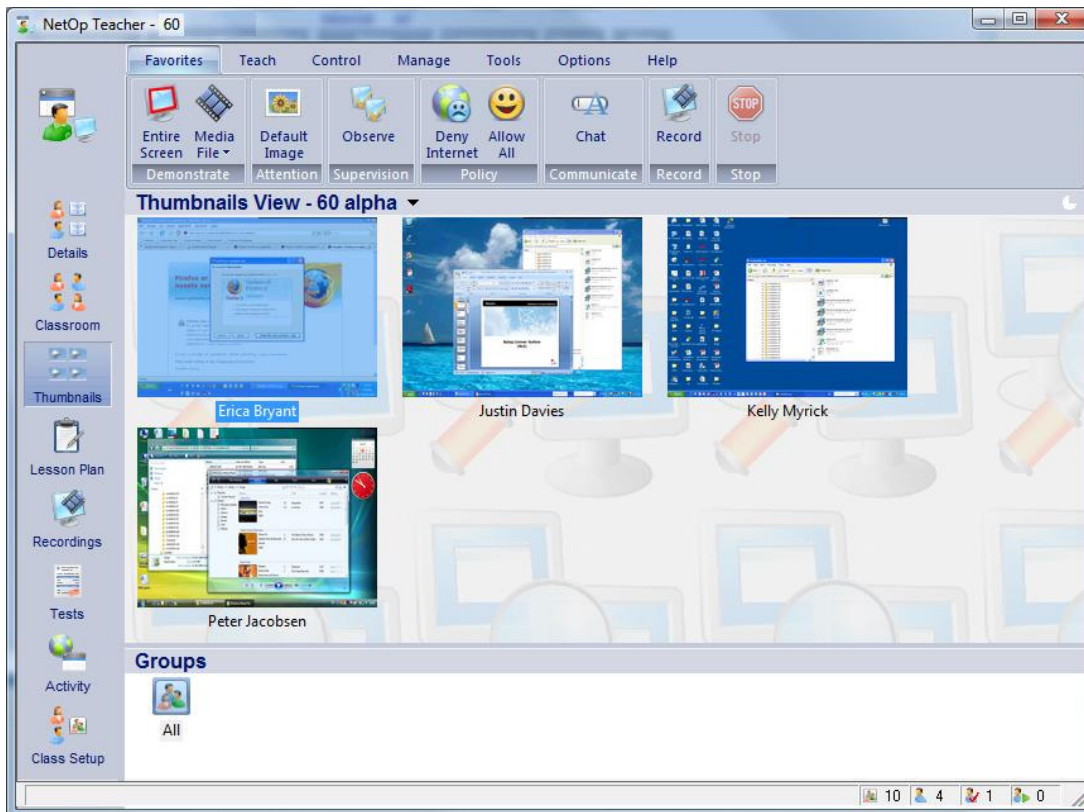
Recent surveys among our users show that most teacher use a limited selection of the available features on a frequent basis. So why not have a 'Favorites Tab' with the most commonly used tools? Well, if you do not like our default selection, make your own as easy as that!

How do you want to work tomorrow?

At a glance

- New ribbon toolbar for easy access to functions
- Personalize toolbar
- Favorites tab
- Tabs and groups
- Profiles/Colors
- ClearVision thumbnails
- Combine policies
- Blocking of ports
- Export test results
- Toolbar quick access keys
- General workflow improvements
- 64 bit support

The Teacher dashboard



The ribbon toolbar

Introducing the Ribbon toolbar is an attempt to overcome the users' feelings of an overwhelming interface with so much functionality that you do not know what is important and where to start.

In the design of the Netop School 6.0 release, the Netop School team reevaluated the way our users interact with School and in particular with the Teacher module. Our goal was to make working with Netop School easier - for new as well as for existing School users. The result is a completely new user interface designed to help users be more productive and efficient while using Netop School to do their daily tasks.

However, recognizing the fact that we do not necessarily know how each and every user would prefer to organize their work area, we also made the user interface highly customizable.

The ribbon toolbar is organized in tabs, groups and function.

The Favorites Tab is our suggestion for an easy access the most wanted daily functions.



The Favorites tab is a selection of functions from the Teach, Control, and Manage tabs.



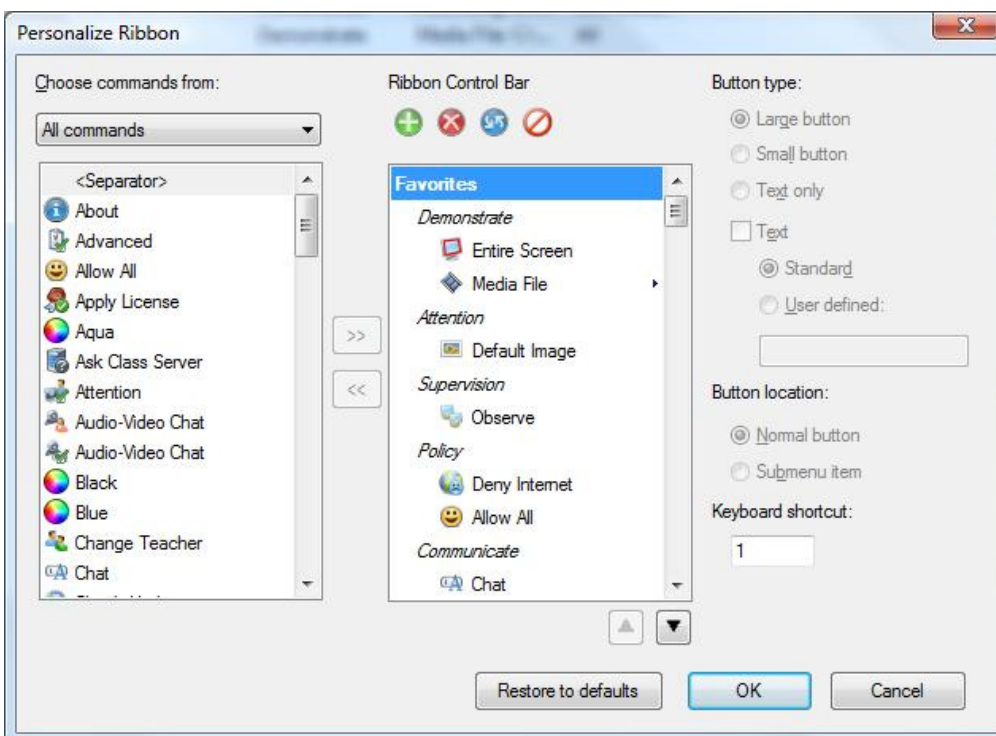
A map of the v5.50 toolbar and the v6 ribbon can be downloaded from the web. This 2-page guide shows where the previous buttons and dropdown menus of v5.50 are now represented in the ribbon.

Personalizing the toolbar

The user can freely decide the contents on the Favorites tab as they can reorganize all functions on all tabs. They can even rename tabs, remove or add new ones to build their own interface from the full set of Netop School functions.

The user may also change the color of the toolbar, either by picking from predefined styles or by picking from the full color palette of the system.

The user goes to the Options tab to open the Personalization dialog:

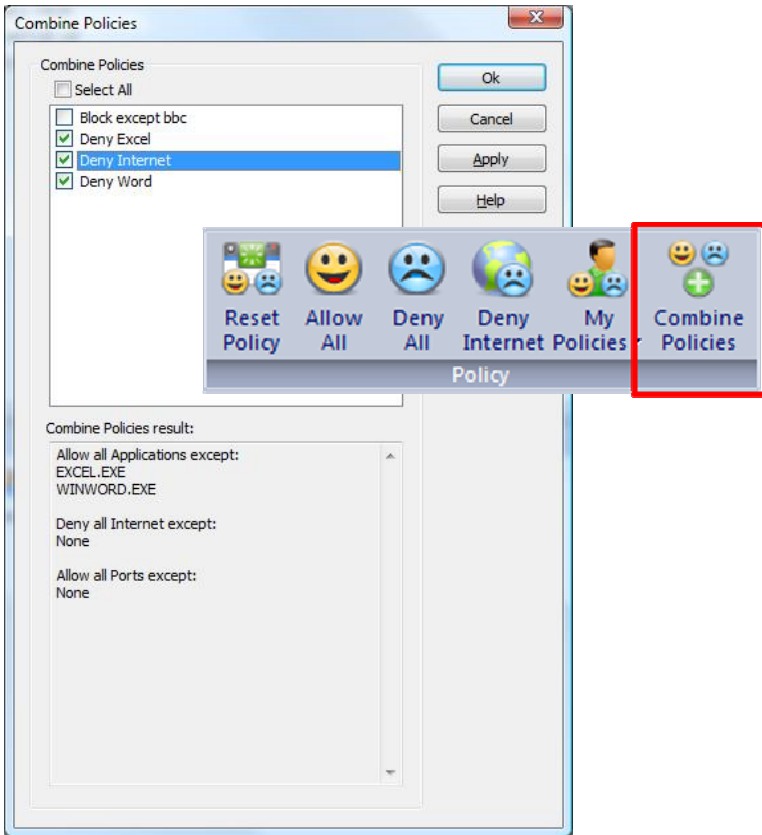


Pick from the left side list of commands (All or filtered to a smaller list) to include them in the present ribbon layout to the right. The update is immediate. You may decide the size of the button and you may change the text to fit own ideas. A keyboard shortcut – a so-called access key – may be assigned for quick access in combination with the ALT-key.

Combine policies on the fly

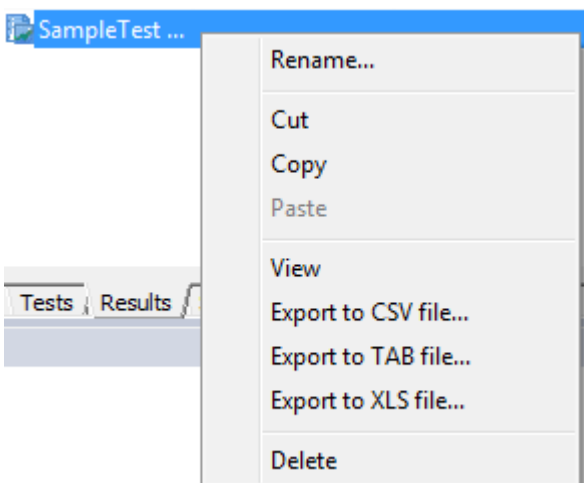
To make better use of already existing policies it is now possible to combine policies on the fly and apply them to selected students right away. The dialog box will immediately show how the combined policy will be

put together. The User's Guide have good examples of the rules for how policies are merged. But as a simple rule the most restrictive element in a combination wins.



Export of Test results

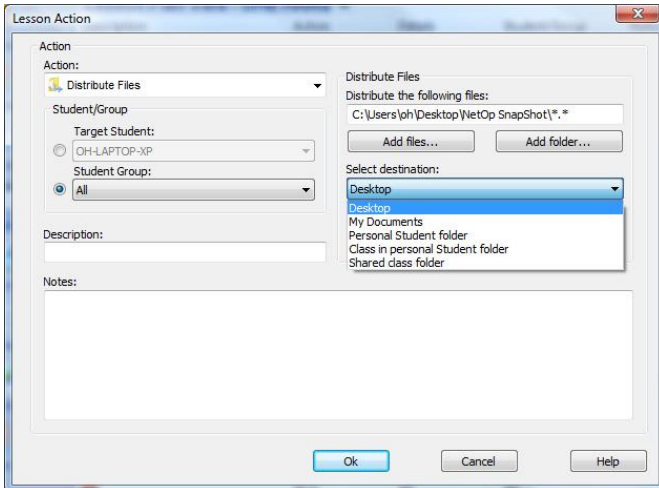
To make the test module even more useful it is now possible to export the results of a test into CSV, TAB, or XLS file types to be used for assessment and reporting through another program or system, e.g. grade books or a central community or district wide system



Miscellaneous improvements and error corrections

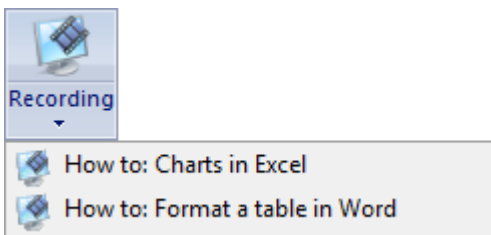
Improvements in workflow when creating Lesson Plans (automated actions)

- New buttons for create and edit
- Easier workflow when defining lesson actions (macro)



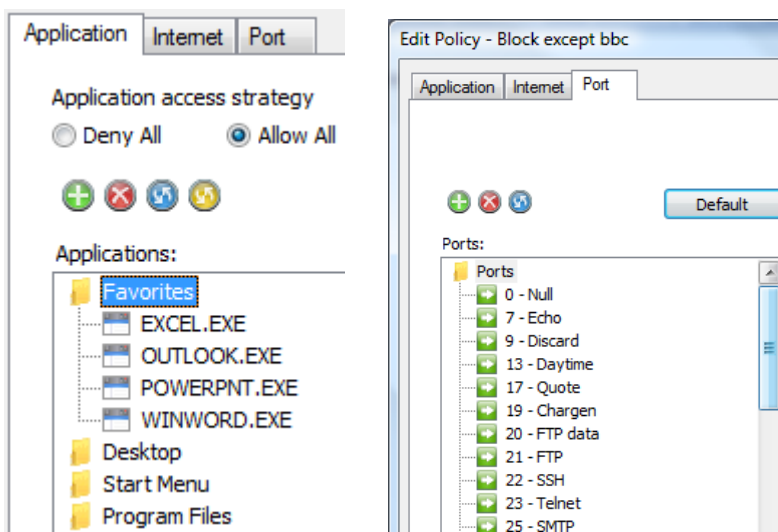
Direct access to existing content from toolbar

- E.g. demonstrate a recording
- Pick from list of pre-recorded instructional screen recordings



Improvements in workflow when creating Policies

- New buttons for create, edit, rename and scan (for programs on pc)
- New Favorites folder
- Blocking of ports



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Copenhagen, October 2008

Miscellaneous improvements and error corrections – more...

- Improved LSP (Layered Service Provider)
 - Check of LSP chain during installation
 - Optional exclusion of installation of LSP
 - Functional on Terminal Server
 - Better co-existence with e.g. Microsoft ISA client
- Support for installation and use on 64 bit systems
- STOP button on toolbar to end all current sessions between Teacher and Students
- Stop Workgroup as button in toolbar
- Student keeps latest Policy when rejoining a class

Known issues

- Activity View cannot show information about running 64-bit programs. But e.g. web content from 64-bit browsers will be blocked, since LSP component supports 64-bit.
- Blocking of https sites: You can only either Deny or Allow https sites. At this moment no exceptions are handled.
- Starting Students via login scripts on terminal server: The erroneous behaviour has been verified, but a solution is not yet available. We expect a correction in a future hotfix in a not so far future.

Note: As of version 6 four languages is no longer part of first wave release: Danish, Spanish, Portuguese, Czech.