nLaunch

Users Guide

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1　Introduction

VIRPO present **nLaunch**, the new standard for professional application launching. In this chapter we will introduce you to **nLaunch**.

1.1　Welcome

Thank you for choosing nLaunch. Please note that some information and diagrams might not apply to previous versions of nLaunch.

For additional nLaunch information, please visit our Web site at www.viproinc.com for the latest news, updates, configuration help, installations and technical support.

We are committed to providing you with the most innovative and scalable software solutions available. As such, we welcome your comments and suggestions about nLaunch and how it has helped you. We consider your feedback highly valuable, please contact us though our support page at: www.viproinc.com

1.2　Legal

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1.3　Overview

nLaunch was created for all Network Video Recorder (NVR) solutions.

Single Computer NVR System
nLaunch can provide you with local machine support to start, stop and monitor your nLaunch applications running on your local machine.

Multiple Computer NVR Systems
nLaunch was designed with the Enterprise in mind. With this powerful tool you can control and monitor all of your nLaunch related machines.

2   Requirements

nLaunch contains all files and DLLs to run and operate and does not require any installation specific procedures. The nLaunch does not make or change any machine or Registry settings. nLaunch can be included in the OEM installation set or copied to a fold and run as is. All nLaunch configuration files are XML based for human readable format.

3   Modes of Operations

nLaunch can operate in following modes:
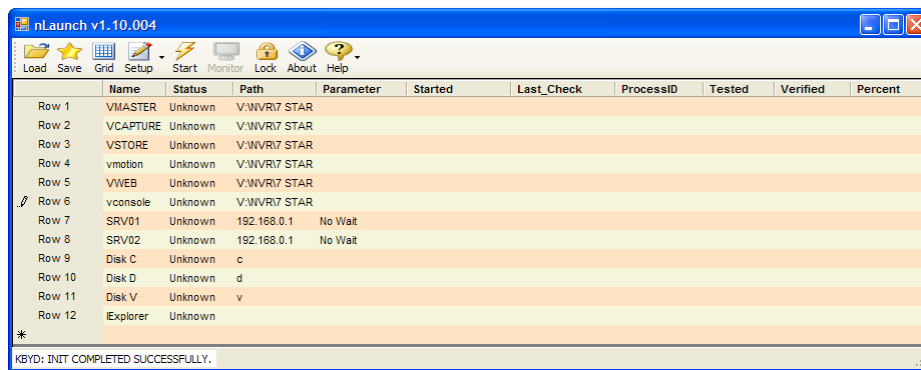
1. Local mode only

4   Installation

To install nLaunch simply copy the nLaunch files to a folder. Optionally you can run the nLaunch Setup.exe program (provided by some OEMs).

5   Operation

This section details all operation aspects of nLaunch.

5.1   Startup

The nLaunch main windows form is provided below.

All attempts have been made to streamline nLaunch in order to provide a rich user experience. A modern tool bar and Datagrid design are the foundation of the necessary components used to interface with the end user.
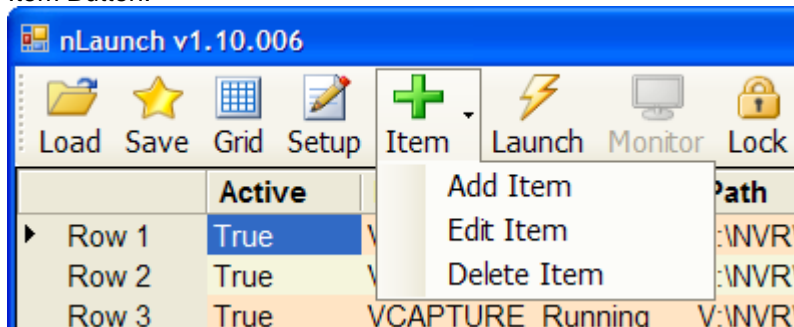
5.2 Toolbar Buttons

Tool bar button descriptions:

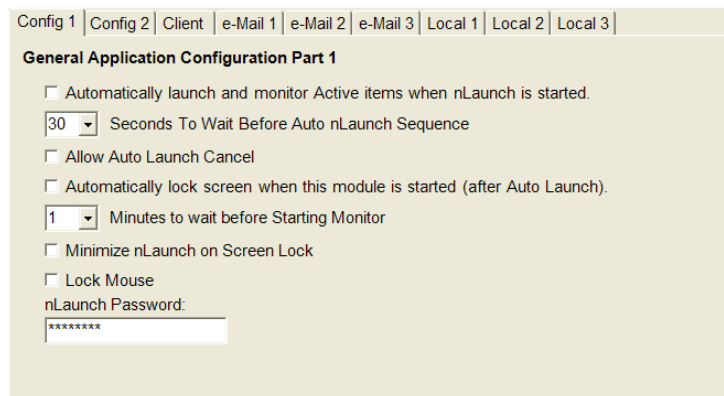| Button Name	Description
Load	Loads the configuration data set.
Save	Saves the configuration data set (must be clicked to save data).
Grid	Displays nLaunch in Datagrid mode.
Setup	Displays nLaunch setup mode.
Item	See Item Button below.
Launch	Starts launching process.
Monitor	nLaunch monitoring mode.
Lock	Sets nLaunch in lock mode.
About	Display About box and version information.
Help	Displays this help system.

Item Button:

Item button drop down list descriptions:

Item Name	Description
Add Item	Used to add a new item to the Grid View.
Edit Item	Used to edit an existing item in the Grid View.
Delete Item	Used to delete an existing item in the Grid View.

5.3 Setup

Clicking on the Setup command button provides a tab view for modifying the nLaunch application configuration settings.
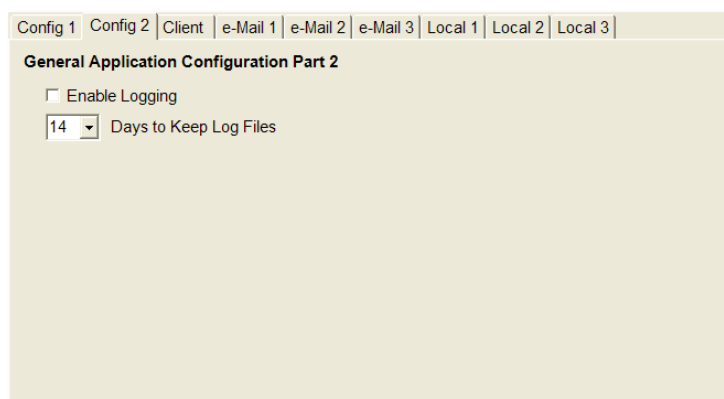
5.3.1   Config 1

General Application Configuration Part 1

Configuration Setting	Description
Automatically launch...	Used to auto launch modules after nLaunch is started.
Seconds To Wait...	Specifies the time to wait before entering the auto launch mode.
Allow Auto Cancel...	When checked will provide a cancel window during the wait time (see previous).
Automatically lock...	After Auto Start, this setting can lock the keyboard.
Minutes to wait...	Used with Auto Start (item 1 above) to specify how many minutes to insert between Auto Launch and Auto Monitor.
Minimize nLaunch...	After Auto Start, this setting causes the nLaunch to minimize.
Lock Mouse	After Auto Start, this setting can lock the mouse.
nLaunch Password	Password to unlock nLaunch's screen lock.

5.3.2   Config 2

General Application Configuration Part 2

5.3.3   Client

Client Information Setup

When using e-mail notification, please make sure you enter the Client's Customer Name and Contact Phone number as this information is e-mailed along with the error information. Once notified, you have the customers name and phone number to call and check out the situation.

5.3.4   e-Mail 1

e-Mail Setup Part 1

The e-Mail tabs allows you to setup all e-mail server related configuration information.

5.3.5   e-Mail 2

e-Mail Setup Part 2

Text messaging is also provided for your convenience. Simply enter your cellular telephone's number and select your Cellular Carrier. If your Cellular Carrier is not displayed in the drop down list box, simply type it in.

5.3.6 e-Mail 3

e-Mail Setup Part 3

e-Mail Setup Part 3 completes e-mail setup and configuration. A test command button is provided to test the e-Mail settings for proper operation.

5.3.7 Local 1

Localization Setup Part 1

The Localization Configuration allows to configure additional components (Grid and Tool bar) not covered in the external localization XML files. Unless you are localizing nLaunch for other languages, it is recommended that you do not change these settings. The Column Display is provided so you can select the columns you want displayed in Grid View.

5.3.8   Local 2

Localization Setup Part 2

5.3.9   Local 3

Localization Setup Part 3

The Tool Strip Button names can optionally be changed here.

5.4 Item

Clicking on the Item command button provides a tab view for adding or editing items placed on the Datagrid.

5.4.1 Applications

The Applications tab view provides the means to add applications to the Grid view for launching and monitoring..

Active
   Check the Active checkbox to activate this entry to be used in the Grid View.

Name
   Simply click on the Find command button and browse to the desired application and select it. Once selected the name and path information will automatically be inserted into their respective text boxes.

Parameters
   Enter any required parameters for the selected application. Parameters are passed to the application at launch time.

Delay (in seconds)
   Used at initial module launching; select from the Delay drop down list box how many seconds you want to wait before going to the next item in the grid view.

Monitor This Item
>   When setup and in monitor mode, nLaunch will verify that the selected application is running. If the application is not found to be running, nLaunch will start another instance of the lost application.

e-Mail Notify On Error
>   Any lost application will be logged as an error and an e-mail will be sent (if e-Mail Notify is checked).

5.4.2   Servers

The Server tab view allows you to add servers you want to monitor over time.

Active
>   Check the Active checkbox to activate this entry to be used in the Grid View.

Name
>   Simply enter a user friendly name for the server to ping.

Wait
>   The "Wait for server..." check box is used to wait for the selected server to be on-line before proceeding. NOTE: Checking this box will cause the nLaunch to wait indefinitely until the server can be contacted (pinged).

Delay (in seconds)
>   Used at initial module launching; select from the Delay drop down list box how many seconds you want to wait before going to the next item in the grid view.

Monitor This Item
>   When setup and in monitor mode, Server Test will attempt to Ping the selected IP or Domain Name. If the ping fails, nLaunch will attempt 3 more ping tests, exiting this test on any successful ping operation. If ALL 4 ping tests fail the operation will be logged as an error and an e-mail will be sent (if e-Mail Notify is checked).

e-Mail Notify On Error
>   If the server can not be pinged successfully, it will be logged as an error and an e-mail will be sent (if e-Mail Notify is checked).

5.4.3   Drive Test

The Drive Test tab view allows you to setup drive folder tests to check while in Monitor mode.

Active
Check the Active checkbox to activate this entry to be used in the Grid View.

Name
Simply enter a user friendly name for the server to ping.

Drive Folder
Simply click the Find command button and select a drive letter or a folder located on the drive you want to test. UNC paths are also supported for maximum flexibility.

Monitor This Item
When setup and in monitor mode, Drive Test will attempt to write and read a small file to the specified drive or folder. If either the write or read file operation fail it will be logged as an error and an e-mail will be sent (if e-Mail Notify is checked).

e-Mail Notify On Error
If the driver or folder can not be accessed successfully, it will be logged as an error and an e-mail will be sent (if e-Mail Notify is checked).

5.4.4 Block Processes

The Block tab view allows you to setup application process names that you do not want run in your controlled system.

Active
Check the Active checkbox to activate this entry to be used in the Grid View.

Name
  If you know the process name to block, simply type it in the Name text box and click the Add command button. Alternately you can browse all running processes by clicking on the Find Running Process command button.
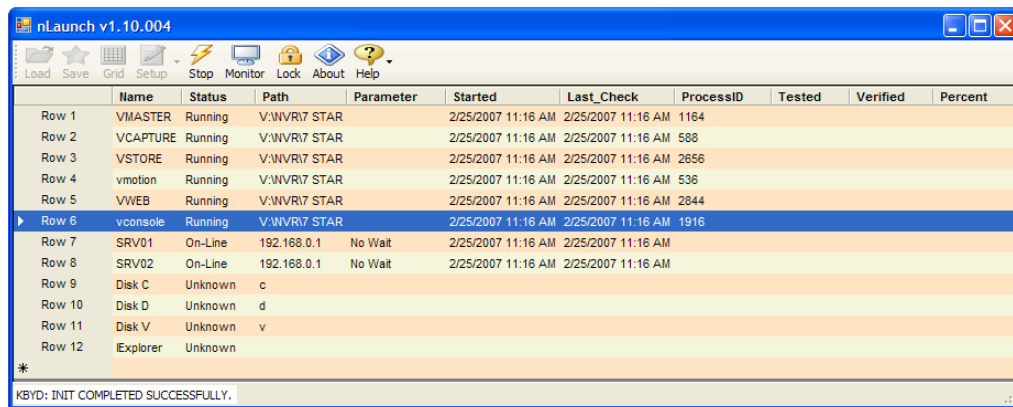
Find Running Process
  Clicking the Find Running Process command button will display all running processes. Double clicking a process name will automatically insert the name for you.

Monitor This Item
  When setup and in monitor mode, Block Process will look for and kill all running processes with the selected name. If the process name is found and killed, it will be logged as an error however no e-mail will be sent for this operation.

5.5   Launch

Once configured or setup, you can start the nLaunch by clicking on the Start command button. The nLaunch will automatically attempt to launch all applications that you setup.

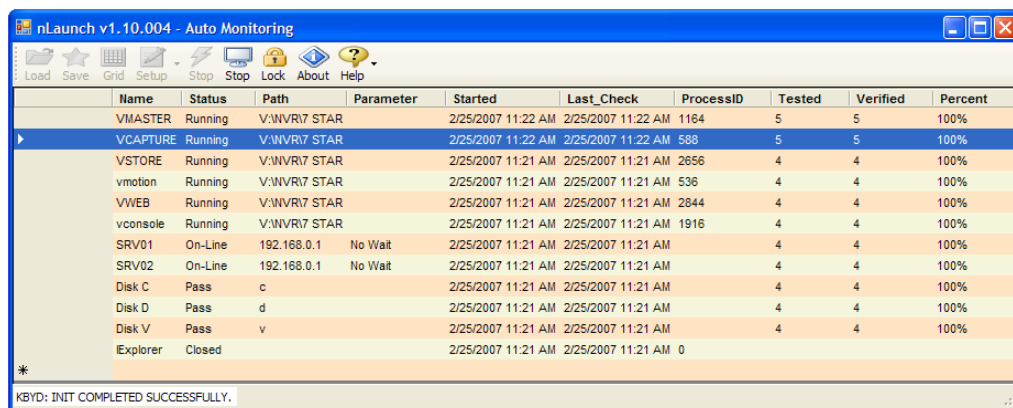|	Name	Status	Path	Parameter	Started	Last_Check	ProcessID	Tested	Verified	Percent
Row 1	VMASTER	Running	V:\NVR\7 STAR		2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2/25/2007 11:16 AM	1164			
Row 2	VCAPTURE	Running	V:\NVR\7 STAR		2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2/25/2007 11:16 AM	588			
Row 3	VSTORE	Running	V:\NVR\7 STAR		2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2656			
Row 4	vmotion	Running	V:\NVR\7 STAR		2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2/25/2007 11:16 AM	536			
Row 5	VWEB	Running	V:\NVR\7 STAR		2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2844			
Row 6	vconsole	Running	V:\NVR\7 STAR		2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2/25/2007 11:16 AM	1916			
Row 7	SRV01	On-Line	192.168.0.1	No Wait	2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2/25/2007 11:16 AM				
Row 8	SRV02	On-Line	192.168.0.1	No Wait	2/25/2007 11:16 AM	2/25/2007 11:16 AM				
Row 9	Disk C	Unknown	c							
Row 10	Disk D	Unknown	d							
Row 11	Disk V	Unknown	v							
Row 12	IExplorer	Unknown								

KBYD: INIT COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY.

While the nLaunch is in launch mode, it displays 'Stop' in the command button. If you want to stop the launching process, simply click the Stop command button. This is particularly useful if the nLaunch has been waiting a long time for a server to come on-line.

Once all modules are started, you can stop them by clicking this same command button. Once the stop operation is initiated all running modules will be closed in reverse order.

5.6   Monitor

Once the launching process is complete, you can start the monitoring mode by clicking on the Monitor command button. The nLaunch will automatically monitor all entries for proper operation.

The monitoring mode tracks all important statistics for all items. Of particular interest is the Tested, Verified and Percent columns. The Tested column displays the total number of tests, the Verified column displays the total number of successful verifications. The Percent column displays the percentage of successful verifications for each item.

Once in monitor mode, you can exit monitor mode by clicking this same command button.

5.7   Screen Lock

After launching and entering monitor mode, you can lock the screen by clicking on the Lock command button. The Windows start bar will be replaced with the following nLaunch start bar.

To unlock the screen and return the Windows start bar you must enter the nLaunch password and click the Enter command button. If typing does not enter text into the password textbox, simply click the Enter command button once and type in the correct password, then tap the Enter key or click the Enter command button.

6   Auto Startup

Listed in this section are the steps necessary to setup nLaunch for automatic startup and monitoring.

1) Create a shortcut for nLaunch and place it in the Start Menu Startup folder as shown below.

2) Verify the following auto startup settings are setup properly (recommend checking all check boxes).

a) Check box 'Automatically launch...' must be checked.
b) Select Seconds to wait before nLaunch is automatically started. On most machines this is typically 30 to 60 seconds
   as this allows the machine to settle down after its initial startup. Some servers require 60 to 120 seconds to initialize
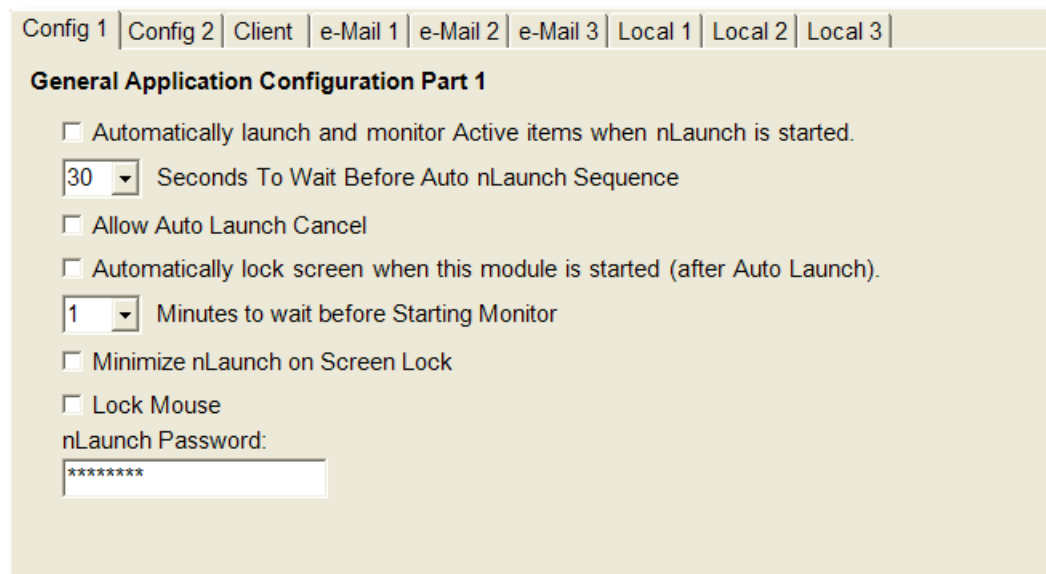   all their hardware properly.
c) Check the 'Allow Auto Launch Cancel' check box if you want to allow the cancellation window of the auto startup
   operation (recommended).
d) Check the Automatically lock screen...' check box if you want the screen lock down feature to activate.
e) Check the 'Minimize nLaunch on Screen Lock' check box if you do not want nLaunch to show on screen.
f) Check the 'Lock Mouse' check box if you want the mouse locked as well.
g) Set the 'Minutes to wait before Starting Monitor' list box to the desired time in minutes to wait

(after auto launch)
    before entering Monitoring mode.

7 Network Video Applications

When using the nLaunch to launch and monitor nLaunch network video solutions, please make sure you have the following module versions or newer.

Module	Minimum Version
vMaster	.016i
vCapture	.025g
vStore	.013
vMotion	.030i
vConsole	.029
video.ini	See notes below.

Application Close Logic:
    Since the nLaunch has the ability to close modules automatically the Application Close logic must be changed to suppress all module's Close Dialog windows. If this is not setup the module close logic will not operate properly. The video.ini file must have the following line added within the Defaults Section. If the Defaults section is not present, simply add it to the end of the video.ini file.

    [Defaults]
    SuppressCloseModuleDlg=1

7 STAR Application Monitor:
    Since the nLaunch has the ability to automatically start a failed module the 7 STAR Appl. Monitor must be disabled in the following modules.

- vCapture
- vStore
- vMotion

8 Localization

The nLaunch is easy to localize to any language you desire. To localize nLaunch, please perform the following steps.

1. Start nLaunch and enter a couple of applications for testing.
2. Click the nLaunch Save command button. This will create the following localization files.
    - nLaunch_Local.xml
    - Startup_Local.xml
    - ScreenLock_Local.xml
3. Copy the localization files to a master location you will use for the localization text replacement process.
4. Update all master XML file entries with the desired text replacements.
5. Replace the nLaunch localization files with the master copies.
6. Run nLaunch and check for errors and proper text replacements.
7. Complete nLaunch Setup Local 1 and 2 tabs for Grid Columns header names.
8. Complete nLaunch Setup Local 3 tab for the Tool Strip command button text replacements.
9. Repeat steps 1 through 8 until all XML text replacements provide the desired localization.