



# ***MACNET DATABASE UTILITY***

## **USER MANUAL**

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MANUSEDDB-E  
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## 1 INTRODUCTION

**MacNet Database Utility** is a companion Utility (*software*) that can only be used in the context of a **MacNet** installation. **MacNet** is the software sold by **Comlab** as a management tool for multi-site implementation of the **MAC System** and / or **MiniMAC System**.

**MacNet Database Utility** is designed only to perform tasks related to that context. It cannot be used as a generic **BACKUP** and **RESTORE** tool.

The platforms required to run the software are: **Windows 9x** or **NT Technology**.

The only computer setting you should check is the display. Even if all the dialog boxes and displays are relatively small, the display must be configured with a screen of **800 x 600**, like **MacNet**.

Even though you will find in this manual all of **MacNet**'s dialog boxes and displays and related to use of **MacNet Database Utility**, this is not a **MacNet** manual. Throughout the **MacNet** development, those dialog boxes and displays may be updated. This is why you should refer to the manual corresponding to the version of **MacNet** you are currently using for more appropriate information.

## 2 HOW TO START THE PROGRAM

There are two ways to activate the software: as standalone software or from **MacNet**.

The first way is to directly run the **mndbutil.exe** file, either from **Windows Explorer** or using the **Windows Start** button **Run** option.

**IMPORTANT:** If **MacNet** is running while you perform a **Backup** or a **Restore** using **MacNet Database Utility** in standalone mode, certain files that remained open will not be properly handled if they are not closed.

The **Main Screen** is displayed as shown in *Figure 2-1*. A notice, located at the bottom left of the **Main Screen**, prompts you to select the **File** drop-down menu to activate the tools window. Then, the **MacNet Database Utility** dialog box is displayed.



**Figure 2-1: MacNet Database Utility Main Screen.**

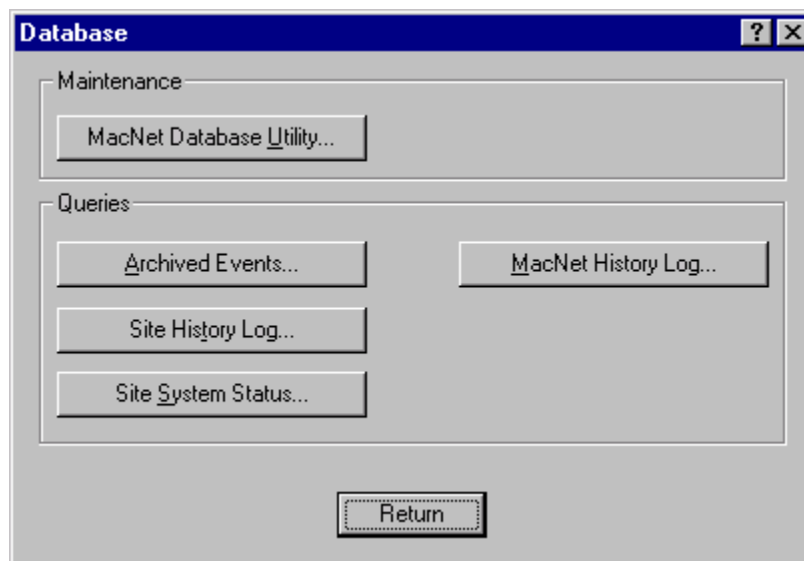
If you run **MacNet Database Utility** as standalone software, none of the previous operations need to be performed. You only need to make sure that **MacNet** **IS NOT RUNNING** before launching **MacNet Database Utility**.

The second way to launch **MacNet Database Utility** is to start it from the **MacNet** (version 3.0 or higher)

**Map Screen Options** drop-down menu.

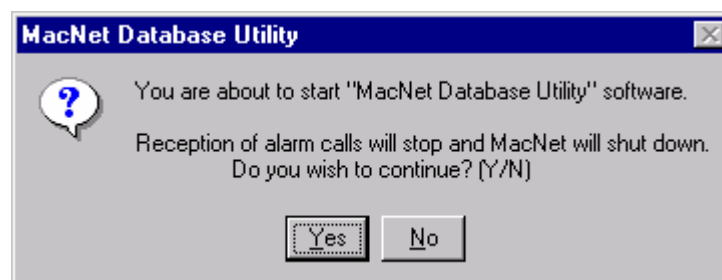
From the **Options** drop-down menu, select **Database** to activate the **Database** dialog box, as shown in *Figure 2-2*. Then, click the **MacNet Database Utility** button to launch the software.

**MacNet** automatically provides the proper language parameter (*if **MacNet** is currently displayed in English, so will **MacNet Database Utility***).



**Figure 2-2: Database dialog box.**

When **MacNet** is running, some files related to the **Alarm Reception** process and the refreshing of the **Map Screen**, are opened. Clicking on the **MacNet Database Utility** button closes **MacNet** and stops the **Alarm Reception** process. The following dialog box is displayed on the screen.

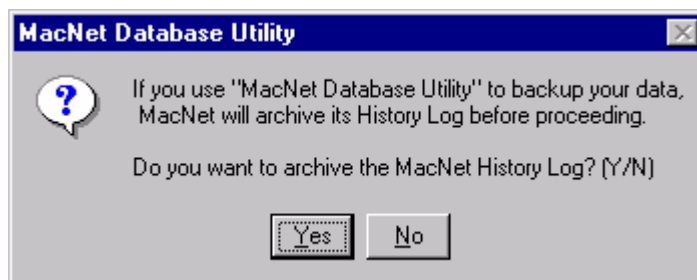


**Figure 2-3: Alarm reception interruption and MacNet shutdown.**

Answering **YES** confirms that you really want to stop the **Alarm Reception** process, close **MacNet** and start **MacNet Database Utility**.

Answering **NO** does not affect the **Alarm Reception** process or **MacNet** Map Screen. The system simply returns to the **Database** dialog box.

Before a **Backup** can be performed, the data in the **MacNetLog** table must be transferred in **Archived MacNetLog**. If you activate the software to perform a **Backup**, you need to transfer this data first. As shown in *Figure 2-4*, **MacNet** asks to confirm if a **Backup** is to be performed.



**Figure 2-4:** Archive **MacNet History Log** confirmation.

Answering **YES** transfers data from **MacNetLog** to **Archived MacNetLog** before launching **Macnet Database Utility**.

Answering **NO** will immediately launch **Macnet Database Utility**.

The MacNet Database Utility is displayed as shown in *Figure 2-5*. **MacNet** is closed. If an **Alarm Call** should occur at this point, nothing would happen since the **Alarm Reception** process as also been terminated.



**Figure 2-5:** MacNet Database Utility dialog box.

You can use **MacNet Database Utility** from a **MacNet** version prior to version 3.0. In this case, **CLOSE MacNet BEFORE** running **MacNet Database Utility**.

**MacNet Database Utility** should be launched in standalone mode only when **MacNet IS NOT RUNNING.**

### 3 HOW TO PERFORM A BACKUP

This operation consists of compressing all files found in the **Database** sub-folder to a compressed file called **MacNet Backup File**. The **MacNet Backup Files** are always stored in the sub-folder **Backup**. The observed compression ratio is about 30% of the file's original size.

When performing a **Backup**, the software will automatically generate a file name using the current date and time, for a UNIQUE identifier, in the format "YYYYMMDD-HHMMSS.MBF". Only **MacNet** related data are saved. The software is not saved.



Figure 3-1: MacNet Database Utility dialog box.

From the **MacNet Database Utility** dialog box shown in *Figure 3-1*, click on the "Backup" button. The message shown in *Figure 3-2* will be displayed to indicate the file name and ask you to confirm the "Backup" operation.

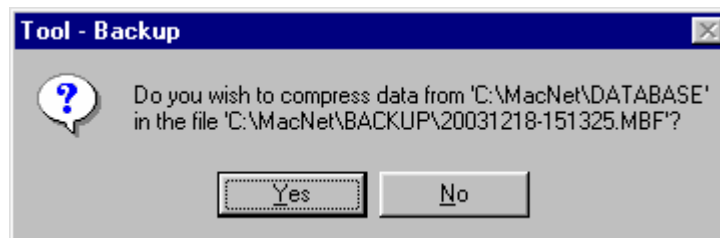
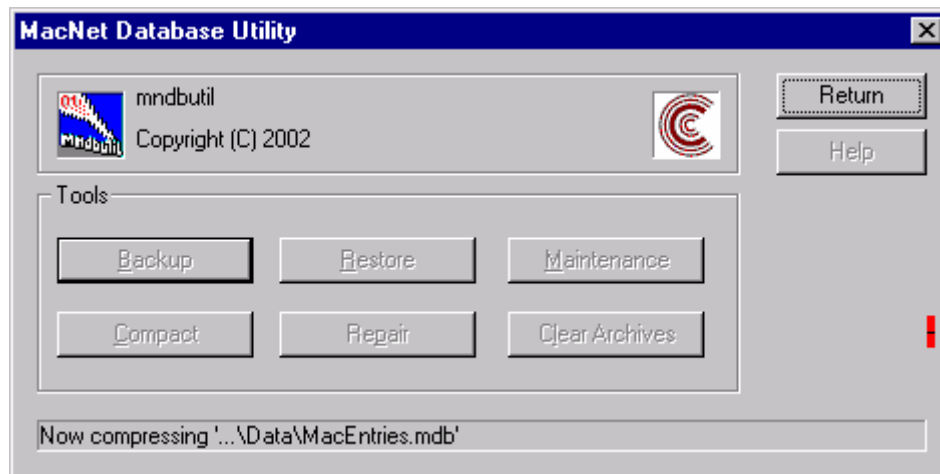


Figure 3-2: Confirm **Backup** operation.



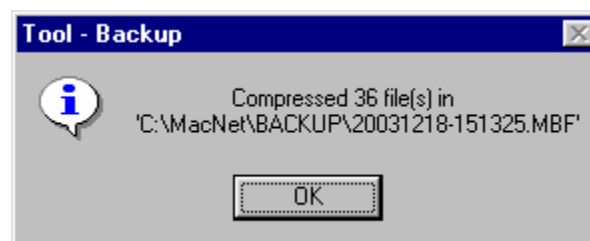
Answering **Yes** initiates the **Backup** operation. The compression process of all data related to **MacNet** begins. During the **Backup** operation, the list of all compressed files is shown at the bottom of the dialog box, as shown in *Figure 3-3*. This may take a few minutes.

Answering **No** cancels the **Backup** operation and only returns you to the **MacNet Database Utility** dialog box without any changes.



**Figure 3-3:** File being compressed.

The duration of the compression process depends on the amount of data requiring compression. A red indicator, at the bottom right of the **MacNet Database Utility** dialog box, rotates to indicate that compression is underway. When the compression process is completed, a status message will be displayed, as shown in *Figure 3-4*.



**Figure 3-4:** "Backup" completed.

The new **MacNet Backup File** created during the **Backup** operation is now located in the **Backup** sub-folder.

When the Backup operation is completed, click **OK** to return to the **MacNet Database Utility** dialog box.

## 4 HOW TO PERFORM A RESTORE

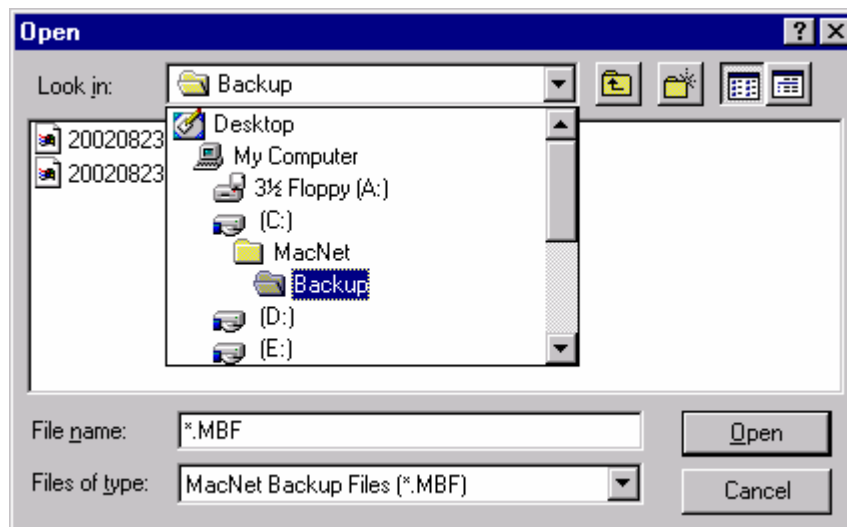
This operation consists of restoring all data found in the **Database** sub-folder at the time of the **Backup** operation. The restore operation replaces the data located in the **Database** sub-folder.

During the **Restore** operation, the software automatically renames the **Database** sub-folder as **Database~TMP**. If the **Database~TMP** sub-folder already exists, make sure to rename it before performing the **Restore** operation otherwise the new sub-folder will replace the old one. You can also choose a different destination folder, but make sure the chosen folder is empty.



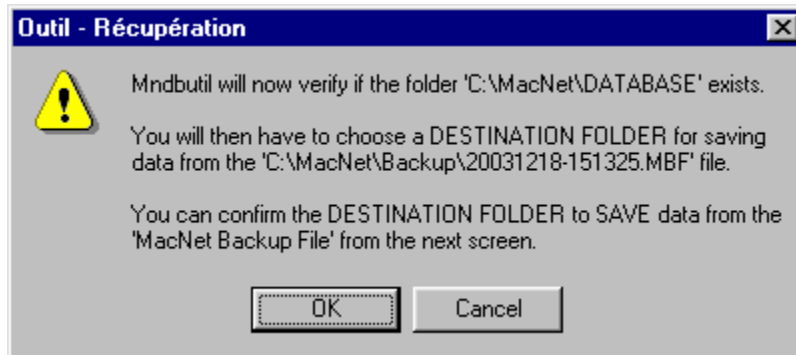
**Figure 4-1: MacNet Database Utility dialog box.**

From the **MacNet Database Utility** dialog box shown in *Figure 4-1*, click on the **Restore** button. The standard **Open** dialog box will appear, as shown in *Figure 4-2*. Select the **". MBF"** file to restore from the sub-folder, and click **OPEN** to continue.



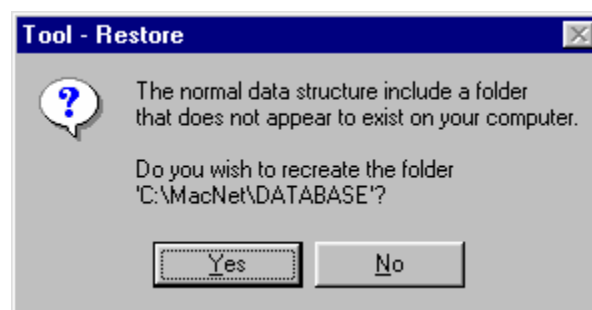
**Figure 4-2: Choose the MacNet Backup File to restore.**

The **Restore** operation is primarily designed to accomodate the standard **MacNet** installation. This is why **MacNet Database Utility** will check your disk for the normal data structure.



**Figure 4-3:** Locating Database sub-folder.

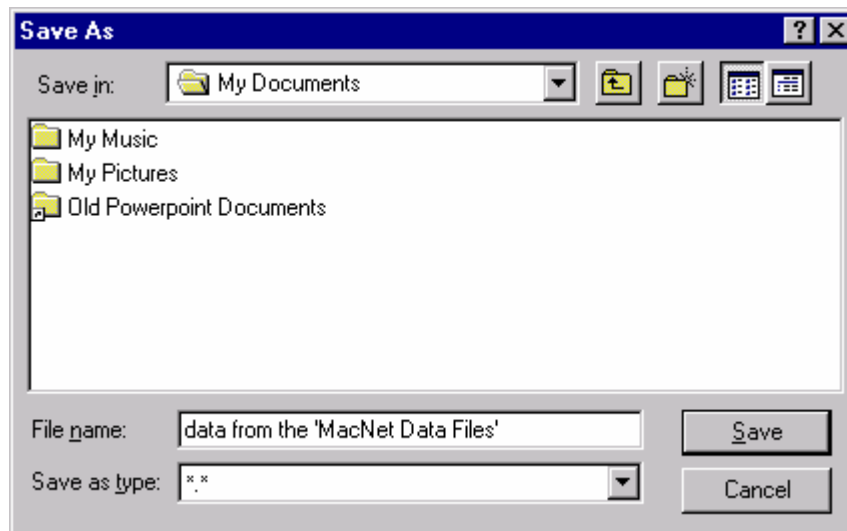
If the **Database** sub-folder is not found, you will be asked to recreate it as shown in *Figure 4-4*.



**Figure 4-4:** Database sub-folder creation confirmation.

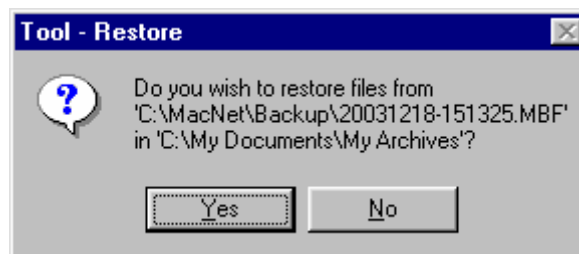
If you do not intend to run **MacNet** on this computer, you can choose to recreate the **Database** sub-folder on a different computer. Answering either **Yes** or **No** will not interrupt the **RESTORE** operation.

The next step is the selection of the destination folder. Once again, the **MacNet** normal data structure is applied. The default folder the software will propose is "C:\MacNet\Database", if it exists. *Figure 4-5* shows the standard **Save as** dialog box from which you need to either confirm the current folder or choose another destination folder".



**Figure 4-5** : Select a destination folder from the **Save as** dialog box.

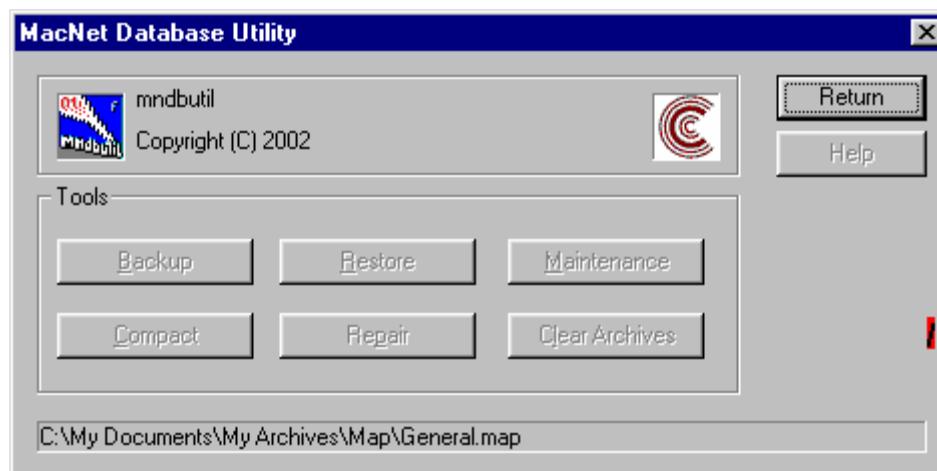
Finally, you will need to confirm the information as shown in *Figure 4-6* to begin the **Restore** operation.



**Figure 4-6**: Confirm the file to be restored and the destination folder.

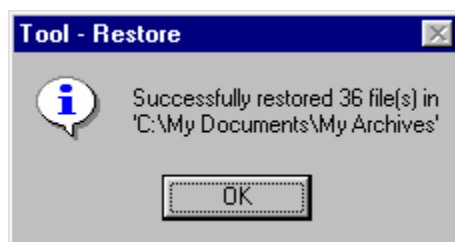
Answering **Yes** initiates restoration.

Answering **No** will only return you to the **MacNet Database Utility** dialog box without any changes.



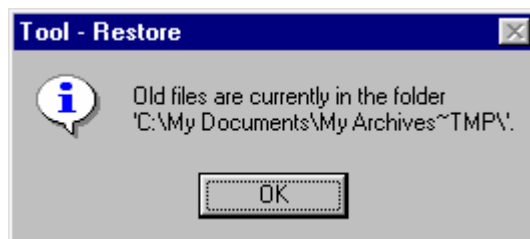
**Figure 4-7**: What file is being restored.

During the **Restore** operation, the name of each compressed file is shown in turn at the bottom of the dialog box, as shown in *Figure 4-7*. A red indicator at the bottom right of the dialog box rotates while decompressing data. The duration of this process depends on the amount of data to be restored. When the **Restore** operation is completed, a status message is displayed, as shown in *Figure 4-8*.



**Figure 4-8:** Restore operation completed.

*Figure 4-9* shows the message displayed before completely ending the **Restore** operation.



**Figure 4-9:** Confirmation of old data location.

In this example, files have been restored in the folder "C:\My Documents\My Archives". Data previously contained in that folder have been moved to the "C:\My Documents\My Archives~TMP" folder. **MacNet Database Utility** confirms the end of the **Restore** operation. If any error occurred during the **Restore** operation, you will find the previous data in the "C:\My Documents\My Archives~TMP" folder.

Once you click on **OK**, you will return to the **MacNet Database Utility** dialog box.

The restored database files can be used with **MacNet** or with other software.

## 5 HOW TO EXIT THE PROGRAM PROPERLY

If **MacNet Database Utility** is used as standalone software, just click **Return** to return to the **Main Screen**. Choose **Quit** from the **File** menu or click on the **X** located in the upper right corner of the **Main Screen**.

If you are running **MacNet Database Utility** from **MacNet**, click **Return** to restart **MacNet** automatically.

## 6 GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to **Restart** the computer periodically to avoid problems. This will free the memory and empty the system's buffers used by **MacNet**, especially if it has been running without interruption for a long period of time.

Before restarting **MacNet**, you could also take the time to do maintenance on your hard drive such as performing a **Scandisk** and **Defragmentation**. Use the **Windows** system tools to do this. Then restart the computer again to let **MacNet** restart a new session in a clean environment.

## 7 OTHER INFORMATION

This version of the **MacNet Database Utility** does not include a **Help** module since its operation is straight forward and this manual answer all related questions.

Remember that the software is to be used primarily with **MacNet**.

Remember that **MacNet Database Utility** is only a tool to assist the normal maintenance of **MacNet**.