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You can read the recommendations in the user guide, the technical guide or the installation guide for NEC VERSA LX. You'll find the answers to all your questions on the NEC VERSA LX in the user manual (information, specifications, safety advice, size, accessories, etc.). Detailed instructions for use are in the User's Guide.

User manual NEC VERSA LX
User guide NEC VERSA LX
Operating instructions NEC VERSA LX
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NEC Versa® LX Computer

VERSA LX



NEC



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Manual abstract:

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In addition, your system provides a high-performance hard disk drive, a diskette drive or SuperDisk™ drive, and PC card support. Most models are equipped with a 24X CD-ROM drive, or a DVD-ROM drive. As a multimedia system, your NEC Versa also provides the tools needed to create and present impressive images using video clips and sound. NEC Versa LX notebook computer To get comfortable with your notebook, read the following sections and take a tour around your system! Introducing the NEC Versa 1-3 Around the Front of the System The NEC Versa is compact with features on every side. First, look at the front of the NEC Versa. The following sections describe front features, beginning with the liquid crystal display (LCD) panel.

LCD Panel Your NEC Versa LX comes with a 1024x768, 64K color LCD panel that you can adjust for a comfortable viewing position. Depending on the model, your system is equipped with a: !! 13.3-inch color Thin Film Transistor (TFT) Extended Graphics Array (XGA) panel. 14.1-inch Thin Film Transistor (TFT) Extended Graphics Array (XGA) panel. To adjust the LCD panel brightness press the Fn-F8 and Fn-F9 functions keys. For more details about using the system's function keys, see Chapter 4, "Using the Hardware." 1-4 Introducing the NEC Versa Status Panel The NEC Versa status panel provides the features shown in the figure. These features are described after the figure. Status panel A Microphone B Operating Status LEDs ! Microphone -- A strategically positioned built-in microphone allows you to record monophonic sound directly into your notebook computer.

See Chapter 6, "Using Multimedia," for details about recording. Operating Status LEDs -- keeps you informed of your NEC Versa's current operating status. See the following figure and list for each icon's meaning. ! Introducing the NEC Versa 1-5 Operating status LEDs A IDE/VBIII Devices B Caps Lock C Num Lock D Scroll Lock E Diskette Drive IDE/VBIII devices -- lights when the NEC Versa writes data to or retrieves data from the internal hard disk drive, a SuperDisk drive in the file bay, or a device in the VersaBay III. Caps Lock -- lights when Caps Lock is in effect. Num Lock -- lights when Num Lock mode is active. Scroll Lock -- lights when Scroll Lock is in effect. Diskette Drive -- lights when the NEC Versa accesses the floppy diskette drive. 1-6 Introducing the NEC Versa Keyboard Panel and Base Unit The NEC Versa keyboard panel and base unit contain the following features which are described after the figure. Keyboard panel and base unit A Stereo Speaker B VersaGlide C Keyboard D System Power Status LEDs E VersaBay III ! Stereo Speakers -- provide stereo sound for your multimedia presentations or listening pleasure.

The built-in sound system also supports 3D sound, which simulates the latest surround-sound technology. NEC VersaGlide -- The NEC VersaGlide works like a standard computer mouse. Simply move your fingertip over the VersaGlide to control the position of the cursor. Use the selection buttons below the VersaGlide to select menu items. VersaGlide settings and features are described in detail in Chapter 4.

Keyboard -- 85 keys with the standard QWERTY-key layout. See Chapter 4 for complete details. (Models purchased outside of the U.S. and Canada ship with country-specific keyboard layouts.

) !! Introducing the NEC Versa 1-7 ! System Power Status LEDs -- keeps you informed of the system's current power status. System power status LEDs A Power Status LED B Battery Charging LED Power Status LED -- lights green when the system is under AC power. When the system is under battery power, this LED lights to indicate the following: Lights green when the system power is on. Blinks green when the system is in Suspend mode. Lights yellow (blinks when in Suspend mode) to indicate that battery power is at 8% capacity or less. Lights amber (blinks when in Suspend mode) to indicate that battery power is at 3% capacity. 1-8 Introducing the NEC Versa Note: When both the primary and a secondary battery are installed, the power status LED indicates the total (primary plus secondary) battery status. Battery Charging LED -- lights to indicate battery charging activity. Lights amber when the primary battery is charging. Blinks amber to indicate an error.

The primary battery is installed in the battery bay. Lights green when the secondary battery is charging. Blinks green to indicate an error. The secondary (optional) battery is installed in the VersaBay III. ! NEC VersaBay IIITM -- A 24X CD-ROM drive, a SuperDisk drive, or a DVD-ROM drive comes installed in the NEC VersaBay III on the front of your system. The VersaBay III lets you add options, including an optional second Li-Ion battery, or an additional hard disk drive. See "Customizing Your System with the VersaBay III" in Chapter 4. Introducing the NEC Versa 1-9 Around the Back of the System You'll find system ports for connecting optional devices (like a printer, a docking station, or an external monitor) on the back of your NEC Versa. These ports are described after the figure. Ports on the back of the system A Port Bar Notch B Serial Port C Expansion Port D AC Power Port E External Monitor Port F Parallel Port G PS/2 Port !!! PortBar Notch -- Use these notches to secure the PortBar to the back of the system.

Serial Port -- Use this port to connect an external modem or other serial device. Expansion Port -- This port (also called the Docking port) provides a connection for NEC Versa LX options including the NEC Versa Dock and the NEC Versa PortBar. Only dock the NEC Versa LX system on the NEC Versa Dock. The cover of the NEC Versa Dock is specially designed to allow for proper system cooling. 1-10 Introducing the NEC Versa ! AC Power Port -- Use the power jack to attach the NEC Versa to a DC power source, such as the AC adapter or the optional DC auto adapter.

External Monitor (Video) Port -- Use this 15-pin port to attach an external monitor to your NEC Versa. You can run the LCD display and the external monitor simultaneously or run either alone. Parallel Port -- Use this port to connect a parallel printer or other parallel device. The port is an Enhanced Capabilities Port (ECP). The ECP standard provides you with a greater processing speed than the conventional parallel port.

It also supports Enhanced Parallel Port (EPP), bi-directional and uni-directional protocols. PS/2 Port -- Use the standard PS/2 port to connect an external PS/2-style mouse or a PS/2-style keyboard to the system. With an optional Y-cable adapter, you can connect both a mouse and a keyboard at the same time. !! ! Around the Left Side of the System The left side of your NEC Versa offers the following features, which are described after the figure.



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Left side features A Fan B IR Port C PC card slots D USB Port E TV Out (RCA) Port F TV Out (S-video) Port Introducing the NEC Versa I-11 ! Fan -- Allows your system to cool properly and maintain a safe operating temperature. Always keep the fan vents unobstructed to allow proper system cooling. ! IR Port -- Use this infrared (IR) port to transfer files between your NEC Versa and an IR-equipped desktop or notebook computer or to print to an IR-capable printer. Note: Your NEC Versa LX ships with the IR port disabled. For detailed instructions on how to enable the IR port, see Chapter 4, "Using the Hardware." !! PC card slots -- Provide two slots for inserting two Type II PC cards or one Type III PC card.

USB Port -- The Universal Serial Bus (USB) port allows you to connect up to 127 USB-equipped peripheral devices (printers, monitors, scanners, etc.) to your NEC Versa. TV Out (RCA) Port -- Lets you use a television set equipped with a standard RCA jack as an external monitor. This port supports both NTSC and PAL signals. TV Out (S-video)Port -- Lets you use a television set equipped with an S-video input jack as an external monitor. This port supports both NTSC and PAL signals. Note: The TV Out ports do not support the SECAM signal used in some countries. !! 1-12 Introducing the NEC Versa Around the Right Side of the System The right side of the NEC Versa offers the features shown in the following figure. Features are described after the figure. Right side features A Headphones B Line In C External Microphone D Kensington Lock E File Bay F Power/Sleep Button G Audio Volume ! Audio ports Headphones -- Lets you connect external headphones or speakers to your NEC Versa.

Plugging in headphones disables the built-in system speakers. Line-In -- Lets you use another audio system, like a home stereo, as an input source. Use a cable to connect to the Line-Out port on the other audio system to record or play in stereo. External Microphone (MIC) -- Allows you to connect an external microphone for monophonic recording or amplification through the unit. Plugging in an external microphone disables the built-in microphone.

! Kensington Lock -- Lets you provide added security by installing an optional Kensington Lock. Introducing the NEC Versa I-13 ! ! File Bay -- Your NEC Versa ships with a 3.5-inch, 1.44-MB diskette drive or the SuperDisk drive installed in the file bay. Power/Sleep Button -- Slide the Power/Sleep button toward the front of the system to power on, power off, and to put the computer into Suspend mode.

Slide the Power/Sleep button toward the front of the system to power on. Hold the Power/Sleep button in place for 4 or fewer seconds to put the system into Suspend mode. (Before using the Power/Sleep button to put the system into Suspend mode, set the System Switch BIOS parameter to Sleep button.) Hold the Power/Sleep button in place for 4 or more seconds to initiate power override (powers off the system). The Power/Sleep button is a "smart" switch, meaning that it recognizes when the system is in Suspend mode. If in Suspend mode, you cannot power off until you slide forward the Power/Sleep button again to bring it out of Suspend mode. In addition, the Smart Power switch invokes an orderly shutdown in the Windows 98 and Windows 95 environments. If you use the Power/Sleep button to turn off your system while applications are running, the Smart Power switch alerts the operating system. The operating system prompts you to save all data and invokes an orderly shutdown procedure. Put the unit in Suspend mode when you need to be away from your system for a short period of time and want to return to where you left off.

Suspend mode shuts down all devices in the system while retaining data and system status. Use the Fn-Power/Sleep key combination to initiate a manual save-to-file. Slide the Smart Power switch (Power/Sleep button) toward the front of the system to resume from a save-to-file. You can find more detailed information on using Suspend mode in Chapter 3, "Using the Software." ! Volume Control -- Allows you to control the speaker and headphone volume. 1-14

Introducing the NEC Versa Around the Bottom of the System The bottom of the NEC Versa offers the features shown next. Features are described after the figure. Bottom features A Height Adjustment Feet B Battery Bay Release Latch C VersaBay Release Latch D VersaBay Release Lock E Battery Bay ! ! ! !

Height Adjustment Feet -- Allow you to modify the angle of the NEC Versa for easier viewing and typing. Battery Bay Release Latch -- Allows you to release and remove the system's main battery. NEC VersaBay III Release Lock and Latch -- Lets you unlock and remove the device currently installed in the bay.

Battery Bay -- Contains the system's main battery. It is a twelve-cell Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) battery. Introducing the NEC Versa I-15 2 Getting Started ! ! ! !

Power Sources for Your NEC Versa System Care Introducing the Software Traveling with your NEC Versa Power Sources for Your NEC Versa The NEC Versa can be powered using three different sources, making it a truly portable system. Operate your NEC Versa just about anywhere using one of the following power sources: ! ! ! the AC adapter connected to an electrical wall outlet (using AC power), the battery pack or an optional second battery pack, the optional DC Auto adapter. Read the following sections for specific steps on powering on the system. Using the AC Adapter Use the AC adapter and power cable that came with your NEC Versa to run your computer on alternating current (AC) power, or to recharge the battery pack. Use the AC adapter whenever a wall outlet is nearby. Keep the adapter connected whenever possible.

The AC adapter charges the battery when it is connected, whether the NEC Versa is powered on or off. Do not attempt to disassemble the AC adapter. The AC adapter has no user-replaceable or serviceable parts inside. Dangerous voltage in the AC adapter can cause serious personal injury or death. The AC adapter is intended for use with a computer and must meet EN609050 standards. 2-2 Getting Started AC Adapter A AC Adapter B AC Power Cable Note: Check that the AC outlet voltage falls in the range of 100-240 volts AC. Verify that the cord and plug are appropriate for your AC source. Connect the AC adapter as follows: 1. Connect the AC adapter cable to the power port on the back of your NEC Versa. 2.

Plug one end of the AC power cable into the AC adapter and the other end into a properly grounded 120- or 240-volt wall outlet. Note: The AC power cable type that your system uses depends on the country where you are using it. Contact the local dealer to purchase the correct power cable. Getting Started 2-3 Connecting the AC Adapter A AC Adapter B Power Port Do not cover or place objects on the AC adapter.



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Keeping the adapter clear of objects lets the adapter cool properly during use. Only use the AC adapter that comes with your Versa LX. Although other adapters look similar, using them can damage your system. Powering On Power on the system as follows: 1. Locate the latch on the front of the LCD panel, slide it to the right, and raise the panel. 2.

Locate the Power/Sleep button and slide it toward the front of the system to turn on system power. For additional information about Power control buttons and power LEDs, refer to Chapter 1, "Introducing the NEC Versa." 2-4 Getting Started Using the Main Battery Pack The NEC Versa comes with a rechargeable Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) battery pack. It's easy to install and remove. Your NEC Versa system provides tools to help you keep track of the main (or an optional) battery's power level.

These include the power status LED described in Chapter 1, and SystemSoft's PowerProfiler (for Window NT systems, only) described later in this chapter. Both provide important battery status information. When battery power is very low, the power LED flashes amber. When battery power gets low, do one of the following: ! Slide the Power/Sleep button toward the front of the system and hold it in place for 4 or fewer seconds to put your system in Suspend mode.

(Before using the Power/Sleep button to put the system into Suspend mode, set the System Switch BIOS parameter to Sleep button.

) Remove the battery pack and replace it with a fully charged battery. Leave the battery pack in the system and connect your NEC Versa to the AC adapter and a wall outlet. If you connect the system to AC power and keep the system within standard operating temperatures, the battery recharges in approximately 23 hours whether or not you use your system. ! To prevent accidental battery ignition or explosion, adhere to the following: ! ! ! Keep the battery away from extreme heat. Keep metal objects away from the battery connectors to prevent a short circuit. Make sure the battery is properly installed in the battery bay.

Read the precautions printed on the battery. Getting Started 2-5 Determining Battery Status You can determine battery status via the battery gauge LEDs on the front of the Lithium-Ion battery that ships with your NEC Versa LX computer. Lithium-Ion battery A Battery Gauge LED B Alignment Groove C LED Status Button 2-6 Getting Started To check battery status, press the LED status button to illuminate the LEDs. The battery gauge LEDs indicate the following: Battery gauge LEDs Note: If the battery gauge LEDs display a combination other than those depicted in the illustration, recharge the battery overnight.

If the problem still persists, contact NECC Technical Support. In Windows 98 and 95 environments, you can also use the power meter to determine battery status. Just move the cursor over the power icon on the taskbar to display the remaining battery power. In Windows NT environments, in addition to the battery gauge LEDs, use SystemSoft's PowerProfilerTM to determine battery status. Click on the battery icon located on the taskbar. The PowerProfiler battery page displays the remaining battery power. Getting Started 2-7 To return the battery to its normal state, try the following: ! ! remove and then reinstall the battery reinstall the battery in your NEC Versa and fully recharge the battery (to 100%). When to Change the Battery The following symptoms indicate that battery life is nearing an end. Replace batteries that display these symptoms. ! ! ! Shorter work times.

Discoloration, warping. Hot to the touch. Strange odor. Battery Handling Keep the following in mind when removing or replacing a battery. ! Use only the battery designed for your system in the NEC Versa.

Mixing other manufacturers' batteries, or using a combination of very old and new batteries can deteriorate battery and equipment performance. Turn off power to the system after use. Keeping system power on can degrade battery performance and shorten battery life. Clean the battery connectors with a dry cloth when they get dirty. Keep the battery out of the reach of children.

! ! ! 2-8 Getting Started Replacing the Battery Replace the battery pack installed in your NEC Versa system as follows. Note: Use the batteries in the NEC Versa computer for which they are designed. Also, installing another manufacturer's battery, or using a combination of very old and new batteries can deteriorate battery and equipment performance. 1. Save your files, exit Windows, and put your system into Suspend mode or turn off system power. 2. Close the LCD and turn the system over. 3. Slide the battery release latch toward the back of the system and hold firmly. A Battery Bay Release Latch Getting Started 2-9 4.

Continue to hold the battery release latch as you slide the battery out of the system. Removing the battery 5. Insert the new battery as follows: ! ! ! Locate the alignment groove on the edge of the battery. Locate the alignment groove inside the battery bay. Align the grooves on the battery with the grooves in the bay. Slide the battery into the bay until securely locked into place. Inserting the battery pack 6. Turn the system over. 2-10 Getting Started Battery Precautions To prevent accidental battery ignition, rupture, or explosion, adhere to the following precautions. There is a danger of explosion if the battery is incorrectly replaced.

Replace only with the same or equivalent type recommended by the manufacturer. Discard used batteries according to the manufacturer's instructions. To avoid personal injury and property damage, read these battery precautions on handling, charging, and disposing Li-Ion batteries. ! Keep the battery away from heat sources including direct sunlight, open fires, microwave ovens, and high-voltage containers. Temperatures over 140° F (60°C) may cause damage. Do not drop or impact the battery. Do not disassemble the battery. Do not solder the battery. Do not puncture the battery. Do not use a battery that appears damaged or deformed, has any rust on its casing, is discolored, overheats, or emits a foul odor.

Keep the battery dry and away from water. Keep metal objects away from battery connectors. Metal objects in contact with the connectors can cause a short circuit and damage. ! ! ! ! ! If the battery leaks: ! If the battery leaks onto skin or clothing, wash the area immediately with clean water. Battery fluid can cause a skin rash and damage fabric. If battery fluid gets into eyes, DO NOT rub; rinse with clear water immediately and consult a doctor. Take extra precautions to keep a leaking battery away from fire. There is a danger of ignition or explosion. ! ! Getting Started 2-11 Recharging Battery Precautions Adhere to the following precautions when recharging the primary or secondary battery. ! Use only the NEC battery charger designed for your NEC Versa battery type.



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Different NEC Versa models require different batteries and battery chargers. Charge the battery for the specified charge time only. During charging, keep the environmental temperature between 32°F and 104°F (0°C to 40°C). Read the instructions that came with the battery charger before charging the battery. !!! Extending Battery Life While on the road, it is important to be aware of the simple things you can do to extend the life of the system's main battery. One way is to keep the brightness setting low. Use the Fn+F8 and Fn+F9 function keys to control the brightness. NEC VersaBay III The NEC VersaBay III Battery Pack provides an optional, second Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) battery to use in your NEC Versa LX computer. Inserting a second fully charged battery increases battery life to approximately 4 to 5 hours. Internal Batteries The twelve-cell Lithium-Ion (Li-Ion) battery provides the main power source in your NEC Versa LX computer.

See Appendix B for a list of battery specifications. In addition to this battery, the CMOS battery and bridge battery also provide system power. 2-12 Getting Started CMOS Battery This lithium battery provides battery backup and prevents data loss in the system's complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) RAM. This memory area contains information on the system's configuration, for example date, time, drives, and memory. The CMOS battery charges when your NEC Versa is connected to AC power.

The CMOS battery may discharge completely if the NEC Versa notebook remains unused for approximately two months. Bridge Battery The bridge battery saves your system status in Suspend mode for up to five minutes. This gives you time to install a fully charged battery or plug in AC power when your battery charge becomes low. The bridge battery should be replaced only by an authorized NECC technician. Connect your NEC Versa system to AC power for a full 24 hours before using it on battery power for the first time.

Doing so insures that the bridge battery is fully charged and that no data is lost during a battery change. Getting Started 2-13 System Care The NEC Versa is a durable, dependable system built for extensive use and travel. Follow these guidelines to maintain the condition and performance of your computer.

Immediately turn off and unplug the NEC Versa under the following conditions: !!! The power cord is damaged or frayed. Liquid spills on or into the NEC Versa. Someone drops the system or damages the casing. Precautions Follow these precautions when using your NEC Versa LX computer, AC adapter, and VersaBay III. !!! Avoid dropping or bumping the computer or the AC adapter. Do not stack heavy objects on the computer, the AC adapter, or the battery packs. Avoid moving the NEC Versa during system operation, especially while the hard disk, diskette drive, or VersaBay III device is being accessed.

When using the AC adapter, make sure the power source falls within the system's compatible range of 100-240 volts AC. Never use the AC adapter if the voltage falls outside of this range. (Watch for this when traveling to other countries.) Turn computer power off before attaching or removing non-plug and play devices. Do not push any foreign objects into the NEC Versa bays, connectors, and slots. !!! 2-14 Getting Started ! Do not set the computer on top of a magnetized area. Doing so can destroy the data on your hard disk drive. (Some airline tray tables are magnetic.) Avoid using the computer or AC adapter for extended periods in direct sunlight. Do not use the system in humid or dusty environments.

Turn computer power off before cleaning it. Avoid exposing the NEC Versa or AC adapter to extreme changes in temperature or humidity. If it is unavoidable, allow your NEC Versa to adjust to room temperature before use. When cleaning the system, use a soft, clean, dry cloth. Avoid wiping the display surface with abrasive material, including rough fabric.

Do not use a cleaning solution; this may damage the notebook's plastic. !!! !!! If the AC adapter becomes extremely hot, unplug the adapter and let it cool. !

Keep the AC adapter away from the IR ports. Storage Requirements Store the computer and AC adapter in an environment that meets the following conditions: If the temperature of the NEC Versa suddenly rises or falls (for example, when you move the system from a warm place to a cold place), vapor condenses inside the system. Turning on the system under this condition can damage the internal system components.

Before turning on the system, wait until the system's internal temperature equalizes with the new environment and any internal moisture can evaporate.

Getting Started 2-15 ! !!! Maintain storage temperatures between -4°F and 104°F (-20°C and 40°C). Keep the storage area free from vibration and magnetic fields. Keep the system and its components away from organic solvents or corrosive gases. Avoid leaving the system and its components in direct sunlight or near heat sources. Routine Cleaning Clean or dust your system as follows: Never use harsh solutions, household cleaners, or spray cleaners that contain caustic materials on the NEC Versa computer. These cleaners are usually high in alkalinity which is measured in pH. Using these cleaners can cause the plastic surface to crack or discolor. ! LCD screen -- Carefully wipe the LCD screen with a soft cloth or a screen wipe designed for that purpose. Special screen wipes are available through your local computer dealer.

System case -- NECC recommends that you carefully wipe the case with a slightly damp, almost dry cloth. ! 2-16 Getting Started Introducing the Software Your NEC Versa LX system ships with either the Windows 98, Windows 95, or Windows NT operating system. Follow the quick setup instructions to initialize your operating system and related drivers. Use the Application and Driver CD for the NEC Versa LX that ships with your system to install additional software and online documentation. Refer to Chapter 3, "Using the Software," for details about using the operating system, software applications and online documentation. Traveling with your NEC Versa The NEC Versa LX computer makes a natural traveling companion. Using a battery, you can use the computer anywhere you go. Here is some information you might find helpful when taking the NEC Versa on the road. !!! Carry an extra charged battery pack for additional battery power. Check that you have everything you need before you leave on a trip.

Be sure you have all the necessary cables and accessories. (See the checklist later in this chapter.) If you run your system with battery power, maximize battery life by using power-saving features whenever possible. Take the AC adapter in case you have an electrical outlet handy. This saves battery power for when you really need it.

Take along any application or data files on diskette that you might need.



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!!! Getting Started 2-17 Power Connections With the right accessories, you can run your NEC Versa almost anywhere! Your system self-adjusts to various power sources. The United States, Canada, and most of Central and South America use 120-volt alternating current (AC). Most other countries of the world use 240-volt AC. The NEC Versa adapts to voltages ranging from 100 to 240 volts.

There are a few countries with areas that use direct current (DC) as their main power source. You need a DC-to-AC converter in particular areas of Argentina, Brazil, India, Madeira, and South Africa. To use your system overseas, you need an adapter plug. There are five different plugs available worldwide. You can buy these at an electronics supply store. Checklists The following checklists can help you prepare for your trip with your NEC Versa. Look them over and use what fits your situation. What to Take The following are what you should take with you when you travel with your NEC Versa. ! ! ! ! !
! ! Extra fully charged batteries Single-outlet surge protector Appropriate AC plug adapter Copy of proof of purchase for your computer and other equipment for customs check Customer support phone numbers for your software NEC Versa LX Quick Reference card AC extension cord. 2-18 Getting Started Note:
When using an optional modem outside of the U.

S. and Canada, you might need a modem adapter approved for the local telephone system. Contact the local NECC dealer or representative for information. Preparing your NEC Versa for Travel Here is what you should do before you leave home: Note: Speed the trip through airport security by carrying a charged system. Inspectors want to see the screen display a message. The boot message is usually sufficient. If your system is fully charged, the inspection only takes a minute or so. Otherwise, be prepared to attach the AC adapter and power cable. And if you don't have these, the inspection might include a disassembly of the system. ! ! ! ! Back up your NEC Versa's hard disk.

Insert a fully charged battery to make sure your system is ready to quickly boot up at the airport security check. Fully charge all your batteries. Tape your business card to your NEC Versa, AC adapter, and batteries. Getting Started 2-19 3 Using the Software ! ! ! ! BIOS Setup Windows Introduction NEC Utilities NEC Help Center Software Applications and Drivers BIOS Setup Your NEC Versa LX computer comes with a hardware program called BIOS Setup that allows you to view and set system parameters. BIOS Setup also allows you to set password features that protect your system from unauthorized use.

Use BIOS Setup to: ! ! ! set the current time and date customize your operating system to reflect your computer hardware secure your system with a password balance your performance needs with power conservation. How to Enter the BIOS Setup Access the BIOS utility at power-on. Just press F2 when the following prompt appears. Press <F2> to enter Setup. When you press F2 to enter BIOS Setup, the system interrupts the Power-On Self-Test (POST) and displays the current CMOS RAM settings.

If the system detects an error during POST, it prompts you with a double beep and a message: "Press <F1> to resume." If you press F1, the system enters BIOS Setup automatically. If you want to fix the error, carefully read the error message that appears above the prompt (taking notes if you want), and press F2. You will see this message if your CMOS battery becomes fully discharged. To pause the screen during POST to view the BIOS revision number and other POST messages, press and hold the Insert key while using the power button to power on the system. 3-2 Using the Software BIOS Setup Utility Main Menu After you press F2, the system displays the BIOS Setup Main Menu screen, similar to the following. BIOS Setup Main Menu Use the up and down arrow keys (located on the lower right corner of the keyboard) to toggle through the BIOS Setup menu items. How to Use BIOS Setup The following sections describe how to use BIOS Setup, including these topics: ! ! ! Looking at screens Using keys Checking and setting system parameters Using the Software 3-3 Looking at Screens BIOS setup screens have three areas as shown next. Advanced CMOS Setup Menu ! ! Parameters -- The left side of the screen. This area lists parameters and their current settings.

Available Options and Help -- The right side of the screen. This area lists alternate settings and Help text for each parameter. Key Legend -- The bottom right corner of the screen. These lines display the keys that move the cursor and select parameters. Options that are grayed out are not available for the current selection. 3-4 Using the Software Using Keys The following table lists the BIOS Setup keys and their functions. BIOS Setup Key Functions Key Function Moves the cursor between the displayed parameters. Toggles through the current parameter settings. For some parameter settings, moves the cursor between the subfields. Also moves the cursor to the next line or selection.

For example, for System Time, Tab moves the cursor from hour to minute to second. Exits the current screen and returns to the Main Menu screen. From the Main Menu screen, displays the prompt, "Quit without saving." Changes the screen color. Saves and exits the BIOS setup utility.

PgUp/Pg Dn Tab ESC F3/F4 F10 Checking/Setting System Parameters See the following table for a list of parameters, their factory default settings, and alternate settings. A description of each setting follows the table. To reset all parameters to the default settings, select Auto Configuration with Defaults from the BIOS Setup Main Menu, either press Y and press Enter or use the arrow keys to select Yes and press Enter. Using the Software 3-5 BIOS Setup Parameters Parameter Standard CMOS Setup Date System Memory Time Diskette Drive A Diskette Drive B Internal 32-Bit Mode VersaBay 32-Bit Mode Boot Sector Virus Protection DS VersaBay 1 1 Default Setting Alternate Setting(s) mm/dd/yyyy (automatically detected) hh/mm/ss 1.44 MB, 3.

5 Not installed Auto On Auto CDROM On Disabled Auto 1 Not installed, 1.44 MB 1.2 MB, 5.25; 1.44 MB, 3.5 User Defined, CDROM SuperDsk, Not installed Off User Defined, CDROM SuperDsk, Not installed Off Enabled User defined, CDROM SuperDsk, Not installed User defined, CDROM SuperDsk, Not installed Docking Station IDE Auto Advanced CMOS Setup Video Out Type LCD Panel View Expansion PS/2 Port Warm Swap Internal Mouse Graphics Aperture Size System Security Setup Change Supervisor Password Change User Password 2 3 3 NTSC On Enabled Enabled 256 MB PAL Off Disabled Disabled 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128 MB Press Enter Press Enter No No Yes Yes Boot Password Required Resume Password Required 3-6 Using the Software BIOS Setup Parameters Parameter Power Management Setup System Switch Power Management under AC Power Savings Level CPU Speed Control 4 Hard Disk Timeout Video Timeout 4 Default Setting Alternate Setting(s) Power Button Off Longest Life 100% 2 minutes 2 minutes 4 Sleep Button On High Perform/Custom/Off 12.



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5, 25, 50% 5/30/45 sec; 1/4/6/8/10/15 min. Off 30/45 sec.; 1/4/6/8/10/15 min. Off Off Off Off/1/2/6/8/10/15 min.

Off/5/15/20/25/30 min. Enabled STF Disabled User Defined Disabled Disabled RI Enabled Set time in 5 min. increments when Wake Up Alarm is set. Peripheral Timeout 4 Audio Device Timeout 4 Standby Timeout 4 Auto Suspend Timeout LCD Suspend Suspend Option Auto Save to File Panel Brightness Suspend Warning Tone Remote Power On Resume Signal Wake Up Alarm Resume Alarm Time Boot Device Setup Quick Boot Silent Boot Boot Display Device Docking Station Video BootUp NumLock 1st Boot Device 6 1 5 On On 4 min. 10 minutes Disabled Suspend Enabled Auto Enabled Enabled PME# Disabled Off Enabled Enabled Simul. Mode Dock Stm. Auto SuperDisk Disabled Disabled, Black CRT only, LCD only Portable On, Off Disabled/1 Fnd IDE/Floppy CDROM/SCSI/Network st Using the Software 3-7 BIOS Setup Parameters Parameter 2nd Boot Device 3rd Boot Device 6 Default Setting CDROM Floppy st Alternate Setting(s) Disabled/1 Fnd IDE/Floppy SuperDisk Disabled/1 Fnd IDE/SuperDisk CDROM Disabled/Floppy/SuperDisk CD-ROM No VersaBay/DS Internal DS VersaBay Internal/DS Internal DS VersaBay Internal/VersaBay DS VersaBay Internal/VersaBay/DS Internal st st 6 4th Boot Device 6 1 Fnd IDE Yes Internal VersaBay DS Internal DS VersaBay Try Other Boot Devices 1 IDE Hard Drive 2 IDE Hard Drive 3 IDE Hard Drive 4 IDE Hard Drive Peripheral Setup Internal Hard Drive USB Controller Serial Port th rd nd st Enabled Disabled Auto Disabled Enabled Disabled/(PnP OS Setup) COM1,IRQ4/COM2,IRQ3 COM3,IRQ4/COM4,IRQ3 Disabled/LPT1/LPT2 7 (PnP OS Setup) Uni-Directional/Bi-Directional EPP 7 Auto/(PnP OS Setup) COM2,IRQ3/COM3,IRQ4 COM4,IRQ3 7 Parallel Port Parallel Mode IR Serial Port Auto ECP Disabled 1 2 These setup items are only visible when system is docked. Greyed out until supervisor password is set up. 3 Only active after a password is set up. 4 Available when power savings is set to Custom. 5 Resume alarm time is selectable when wake up from suspend alarm is set. 6 Bootable device when set to IDE hard drive. Only one IDE device is bootable. 7 Appears only when configured by the Windows 98 or Windows 95 device manager. 3-8 Using the Software BIOS Setup Menus Read the following descriptions for explanations of items that appear in the BIOS Setup menus, as listed in the preceding table.

See the itemspecific help that appears on each Setup screen for more details. Standard CMOS Setup When you select the Standard CMOS Setup screen you see System Time and System Date parameters as well as drive parameters. ! Date -- Sets your NEC Versa's calendar month, day and year. The calendar clock is year 2000-compliant. These settings remain in memory even after you turn off system power.

To set the date use the Tab or arrow keys to move from field to field. Use the PgUp or PgDn key to change the numbers within each field. !! System Memory -- Displays the amount of system memory currently installed in your system. Time -- Sets the time, enter the current hour, minute, and second in hr/min/sec, 24-hour format. To set the time use the Tab or arrow keys to move from field to field. Use the PgUp or PgDn key to change the numbers within each field. !! ! Diskette Drives -- Designates the drive type for your diskette drives. Internal Drives -- Assigns devices to the internal drives, file bay and VersaBay, in your system. Boot Sector Virus Protection -- Write protects the boot sector of the hard disk drive to avoid infection by some virus types. Docking Station Drives -- Enables or disables the drives installed in a docking station.

(These options are only available when the NEC Versa is docked.) Using the Software 3-9 Advanced CMOS Setup Advanced CMOS settings let you define the following functions. ! ! ! ! Video Out Type -- Specifies the signal type used by the video device connected to the TV Out Port. LCD Panel View Expansion -- Specifies whether the panel view is reduced/off or expanded/on. PS/2 Port Warm Swap -- Specifies whether or not you can swap a PS/2 device during system operation. Internal Mouse -- Specifies whether or not you can use both the internal and the external mouse. Graphics Aperture Size -- Selects the graphics aperture size used by the AGP video device. System Security Setup ! Change Supervisor Password -- Establishes password protection for entering the BIOS setup utility, booting the system, and resuming from suspend. Change User Password -- Establishes a user password once a Supervisor password is set. Boot Password Required -- Indicates whether or not a password is required during system boot.

Resume Password required -- Indicates whether or not a password is required during system resume. Boot Password must be defined to activate this parameter. ! ! ! Power Management Setup In the Windows 98 environment, your NEC Versa uses the Advanced Power Management (APM) which enables the operating system to manage the power given to each attached device and to turn off a device when not in use. The Power Management Setup menu lets you balance high performance and energy conservation using parameters including the following. 3-10 Using the Software ! ! System Switch -- Sets the Power/Sleep button as a power switch or a sleep button.

Power Management Under AC -- Specifies whether to enable power management features when AC power is in use. When AC power is connected to your NEC Versa system, power management is usually disabled. If you enable this parameter, the system automatically activates the power management profile you set, even when AC power is used. Power Savings Level -- Specifies one of four levels of power management. ! High Performance provides the greatest system performance with only minimal power conservation.

Longest Life provides the maximum amount of power savings. Off disables power management and all device timeouts. Custom lets you define your own power management configuration by selecting values for specific device timeouts. Custom lets you set the following timeouts. CPU Speed Control -- Sets CPU performance at one of four levels. Hard Disk Timeout -- Sets the time delay before your hard disk powers down. Video Timeout -- Sets the time delay before your video powers off. Peripheral Timeout -- Sets the time delay before your peripherals are controlled by power management. Audio Device Timeout -- Sets the time delay before your audio device powers off. Standby Timeout -- Selects the system standby timeout period.

Using the Software 3-11 Auto Suspend Timeout -- Defines how much time elapses from the time the system enters Standby mode to the time the system automatically enters Suspend Mode. ! ! LCD Suspend -- Allows you to suspend/resume when the LCD panel is closed. Suspend Option -- Specifies either Suspend or Save to File (STF) as the default power management mode.



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In Suspend, after a specified amount of inactivity, your NEC Versa shuts down all devices as you specified in Power Management Setup or applies default timeouts. All your data is automatically recovered from where you left off when you Resume. Automatic STF -- After 30 minutes in Suspend mode the current file is automatically saved to a special file on the hard disk and the system shuts down. To resume, you must press the power button. The system reads the saved file and sets up your system accordingly. If Auto Save to File is set to Off and the save-to-file area is present on your hard drive, pressing the Fn-Power/Sleep key combination puts the system into Save to File mode. (Before using the Power/Sleep button to put the system into Suspend mode, set the System Switch BIOS parameter to Sleep button.

) For details about creating the save-to-file area, see the section, "HDPREPEZ Utility," later in this chapter. !!! Panel Brightness -- Selects the LCD screen brightness. Suspend Warning Tone -- Specifies whether the system warning tone sounds when Suspend mode starts. It is best to keep this option enabled.

Remote Power On -- Allows the serial port modem or LAN board to wake the system on a ring signal.

Resume Signal -- Selects the signal which triggers a modem ring resume. Wake Up from Suspend Alarm/Resume Alarm Time -- Allows the alarm to resume the system from suspend. Designates the time parameter in five minutes increments. !!! 3-12 Using the Software Boot Device Setup Boot Device Setup allows you to define the following functions. !!! Quick Boot -- Specifies whether or not the system performs all tests during system boot.

Silent Boot -- Specifies whether or not to display the NEC logo during the system boot. Boot Display Device -- Specifies the display device(s) for system boot messages. Docking Station Video -- Selects whether or not a video card installed in the Docking Station is enabled at system boot. BootUp NumLock --

Specifies whether NumLock is On or Off at system startup. Boot Devices -- Specifies the sequence of boot devices and whether or not the system attempts to boot from a device other than those specified. Other Boot Devices -- Allows you to specify IDE devices as bootable devices. ! Peripheral Setup The Peripheral Setup menu displays the connection locations between the system and the Input/Output (I/O) ports. This menu also lets you specify different port assignments as needed. Note: If you disable a device in Peripheral Setup, you cannot enable or assign it using the Windows 98 or Windows 95 device manager. The device will not be listed in the Windows device list.

To control the device using the Windows device manager, select any setting other than Disabled in Peripheral Setup. !! Internal Hard Drive -- Enables or disables the internal hard drive. USB Controller -- Enables or disables the USB controller. Using the Software 3-13 !!! Serial Port -- Disables the port or changes its address assignment. Parallel Port/Parallel Mode -- Disables or reassigns the parallel port and select a parallel port mode. IR Serial Port -- Enables, disables or reassigns the IR serial port. Other BIOS Setup Options BIOS Setup offers other options, including the following: !! Change Language Setting -- Controls the BIOS setup language display. English and Japanese are the available options. Refresh Battery -- Launches the Refresh Battery utility.

Once launched, the utility fully discharges your battery to eliminate any residual memory effect.

Once refreshed, your battery is conditioned to recharge to its full capacity. To recharge the battery, connect your NEC Versa to AC power. This process may take up to four hours to complete. Auto Configuration with Defaults -- Loads default settings. Save Settings and Exit -- Accepts changes made to current settings, saves to CMOS, and exits BIOS Setup.

Exit Without Saving -- Reverts to previously selected settings and exits Setup. !!! Password Protection Your NEC Versa supports a password for system security on several levels. Once you set a supervisor password, you must enter it before you can enter BIOS Setup, access the system at startup, or resume from Suspend, depending on your configuration selection. Your system is not protected until you set a user password and you are not prompted to enter a user password until you set a supervisor password. 3-14 Using the Software Note: You must set the supervisor password before the BIOS Setup utility allows you to set a user password.

Using BIOS Setup to Set Power Management Power Management Setup allows you to use the factory-defined power savings level (Longest Life), or choose between High Performance, Custom, or Off. Each provides a special value to your current work effort. These power management levels were designed with you in mind. For example, you can use them under the following circumstances: !!! Longest Life -- Provides best battery life and good performance. Use while traveling long distances. High Performance -- Provides best performance and good battery life. Use while on the road or traveling short distances. Custom -- Lets you decide! Set power management levels according to your own needs and present environment. Off -- Works well in an office environment while powering your NEC Versa with AC power. Using the Save to File (STF) Feature STF protects the integrity of your working files.

For example, if you are called away from your NEC Versa and Suspend mode is selected with auto Save to File active, your system automatically goes into Suspend mode. After 30 minutes, if you don't return, your working environment is saved to a special file on your hard disk. Using STF can benefit you in the following ways. !!! When in STF, there is minimum battery drain. Increases the life of your NEC Versa. Saves you time. When you return from that urgent call or meeting, you don't have to reboot, just press the Power/Sleep button to resume system operation. Using the Software 3-15 To configure your NEC

Versa's STF feature: 1. Access the BIOS setup utility. 2.

Select Power Management from the Setup Main Menu. 3. Move the cursor down and highlight Suspend Option. 4. Press the PgUp key and select STF.

5. Save the settings and exit BIOS Setup. There are three ways to invoke the NEC Versa's STF feature, one automatic and two manual. !!! After 30 minutes of inactivity, your NEC Versa automatically invokes STF, provided you have configured STF in the BIOS Setup utility. You can manually invoke STF by:

Pressing Fn Power/Sleep simultaneously, before you leave your NEC Versa.

(Before using the Power/Sleep button to put the system into Suspend mode, set the System Switch BIOS parameter to Sleep button.) Selecting Start, Suspend.

Note: When the status bar indicates that there is only 3% power remaining in the system, the NEC Versa automatically performs a Save to File. 3-16 Using the Software Updating the BIOS Use the BIOS Update Diskette to update your NEC Versa system BIOS.



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Specifically, the BIOS is the code transmitted onto your system's microprocessor, or central processing unit (CPU). Use the BIOS Setup utility to configure your system's hardware features. For details about the BIOS Setup utility, see the section earlier in this chapter, "BIOS Setup." Note: You only need to update the BIOS if NECC makes significant improvements or fixes to the current system BIOS. Your authorized NECC dealer or NECC Support Services representative can help you determine this. If you are informed that the default BIOS needs an update contact the NECC Support Services at (800) 632-4525, Fax (801) 981-3133, or access the web site, www.nec-computers.com.

nec-computers.com to obtain a copy of the BIOS update. Note: If you purchased and are using this computer outside the U.S. or Canada, please contact a local NECC or dealer in your country. Only use the BIOS upgrade diskette for your specific model and be sure to prepare the diskette before updating the BIOS. Preparing the BIOS Update Diskette Before using the BIOS update diskette you must make the diskette BIOS flash ready. Refer to the *readme.txt* file on the diskette before using the diskette. Follow these instructions to prepare the BIOS Update Diskette.

1. Scan your hard drive for any computer viruses. 2. Enable the diskette for write access. Using the Software 3-17 3.

Insert the diskette into the file bay drive. 4. Type a:install or b: install (depending upon your hardware configuration) at the DOS prompt and follow the on-screen instructions. *Install.bat* copies the DOS system files from your hard drive onto the BIOS Update Diskette to make it BIOS flash ready.

The system prompts you when the process is complete. 5. Scan the BIOS Update Diskette for computer viruses. The diskette is ready for use. 6. Follow the instructions in "Performing the BIOS Update." Changing the Switch Settings Before performing the BIOS update, be sure to change the switch settings to enable BIOS flash. Set switch 5 to "ON" before performing the BIOS update. For details about setting the switches, see the section, "Switch Settings," in Chapter 4. Performing the BIOS Update Use the following procedure to perform the actual BIOS update.

1. Make sure that the computer is operating under AC power, is undocked, and that the power is off. Insert the BIOS Update diskette into the file bay drive. 2.

Power on the computer with the diskette in the file bay drive. The computer boots and automatically loads the utility. A message similar to the following appears: The NEC BIOS Update Utility should not be used to modify the BIOS in a Versa system which is docked. If your Versa is docked, please exit the

BIOS Update Utility, power down, and undock your Versa before running the utility. Plug in your AC cable before restarting the flash utility. 3.

Press Enter to continue. 3-18 Using the Software The utility checks the currently installed BIOS version and the diskette's BIOS version. The Main menu appears. 4. Use the arrow keys to highlight the "Display BIOS Version" option on the Main Menu.

Use this option to check the currently installed BIOS version and the version of the new replacement BIOS. Press any key to return to the Main menu. 5.

Highlight the "Install New BIOS" option and press Enter. 6.

Press Y and then press Enter. After a brief pause, a message appears telling you to remove the diskette from the file bay drive. 7. Remove the diskette and press any key to continue. The utility updates the BIOS. Power off your computer. The next time you power on your computer, you will have the latest NEC Versa LX computer BIOS revision level. 8. Enter Setup to restore the default parameter settings. 9.

Be sure to modify any custom settings that you may have configured. 10. Be sure to change switch 5 back to "OFF" after completing the BIOS update. For details about setting the switches, see the section, "Switch Settings," in Chapter 4. Windows Introduction Your NEC Versa comes pre-installed with either the

Windows 98, Windows 95 or Windows NT operating system. These Microsoft® operating systems provide a means of running applications, navigating through your file structure, and using your notebook computer. Each operating system offers its own look and tools through an easy-to-use graphical interface. Using the Software 3-19 Windows 98 Windows 98 gives you the newest features offered by Microsoft, including a Desktop with room to maneuver, a taskbar for quick access to a variety of system functions, state-of-the-art plug and play support, powerful system utilities, enhanced entertainment features, and a fully integrated Internet experience. Desktop Icons With Windows 98, the following icons are installed on your desktop: !! My Computer -- Provides access to drives, printers, the control panel, network features, and scheduled tasks. Recycle Bin -- Gives you a trash container in which to put and discard unwanted files or allows you to restore those same files back to their original location.

Set Up the Microsoft Network -- Provides a setup program that allows you to sign-up for the Microsoft Network. If you already have an account, use this interface to sign-on to the Microsoft Network. Network Neighborhood -- Appears when your computer is connected to a network. Use the network neighborhood to browse through the computers in your workgroup and the computers in the entire network. My Briefcase -- Provides a mechanism for file synchronization between the NEC Versa and another system.

My Documents -- Provides you with a convenient place to store documents, graphics, and other files for quick access. Connect to the Internet -- Runs the Internet Connection wizard that helps you to set up your computer to access the Internet. Note: Before connecting to the Internet, you must either connect an optional modem and a working phone line to your system or install a LAN card for network access. ! ! ! ! 3-20 Using the Software ! Online Services -- Includes setup icons for a variety of online services. Your NEC Versa comes with all the software you need to get started on the most popular services available today.

For a fee, online services give you access to the Internet, email, the world wide web, travel information, news reports, and more. Note: Before choosing and registering for an online service, you must either connect an optional modem and a working phone line to your system or install a LAN card for network access. If you are using this product outside of the United States or Canada, some online services may require a long-distance or international call. ! NEC Customize -- Gives you the option to launch the Application and Driver CD, access the IR setup utility, or install the NEC VersaBay Swapping utility. Taskbar Icons With Windows 98, a number of icons appear on the taskbar. Use the cursor to hover over the icon and display its function, right click the icon to display its menu options, or double click the icon to launch it.



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