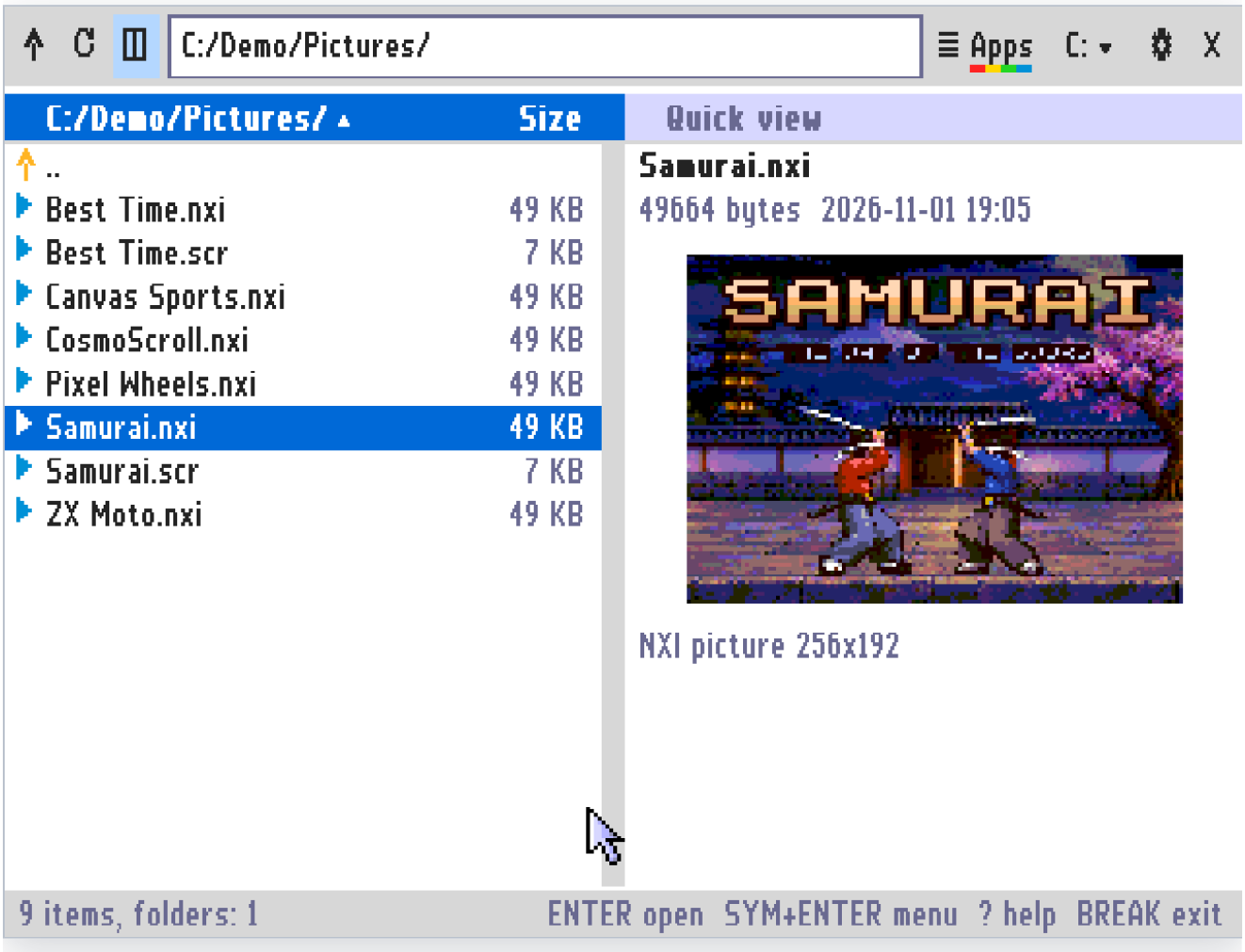
NBrowser

File browser with mouse for the ZX Spectrum Next

USER MANUAL



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1 Introduction

1.1 What NBrowser is

NBrowser is a file browser for the ZX Spectrum Next. It runs as the dot command `.nbrowser` in the 640×256 high resolution mode and works with the mouse or entirely from the keyboard. It does two things:

1. **Browser** – a replacement for the NextZXOS Browser: it opens files with the same `c:/nextzxos/browser.cfg`, so games, pictures, music and programs start as they always did.
2. **Choosing a file into a variable** – `.nbrowser f$` lets the user pick a file with the mouse and returns its full path in a BASIC string variable. Useful for your own menus and game launchers (a replacement for `.browse`).

On top of that it adds things the system Browser does not have:

- two panels; copying, moving and deleting files and whole folders with a progress window,
- marking with the mouse, the space key or by masks, dragging to the other panel,
- a **quick view** of SCR, NXI, SL2 and BMP pictures, SNA and Z80 snapshots, TAP and TZX tapes, BASIC listings, text and hex contents,
- PT3, PT2, MXC (with SID and drums), STC, STP and SQT music playing in the background with a spectrum analyser,
- file search, folder compare, favorite folders and folder history, sorting, three colour themes and help with search.

1.2 What you need

- a ZX Spectrum Next with NextZXOS 2.07 or newer,
- optionally a (Kempston) mouse – without one everything works from the keyboard and the mouse pointer never appears.

2 Installing and starting

2.1 Installing

1. Copy the file `NBROWSER` to the card as `c:/dot/nbrowser`.
2. Copy the plugins `*.nbp` to the folder `c:/sys/nbrowser/`.

The plugins hold the less frequently used parts of the program (file operations, quick view, music, search, help…) and are loaded only when needed. That is why NBrowser starts quickly and uses little memory. NBrowser does not start without the plugin `misc.nbp`; when another plugin is missing, everything else works and the status line shows *Missing* with the plugin name when you use it.

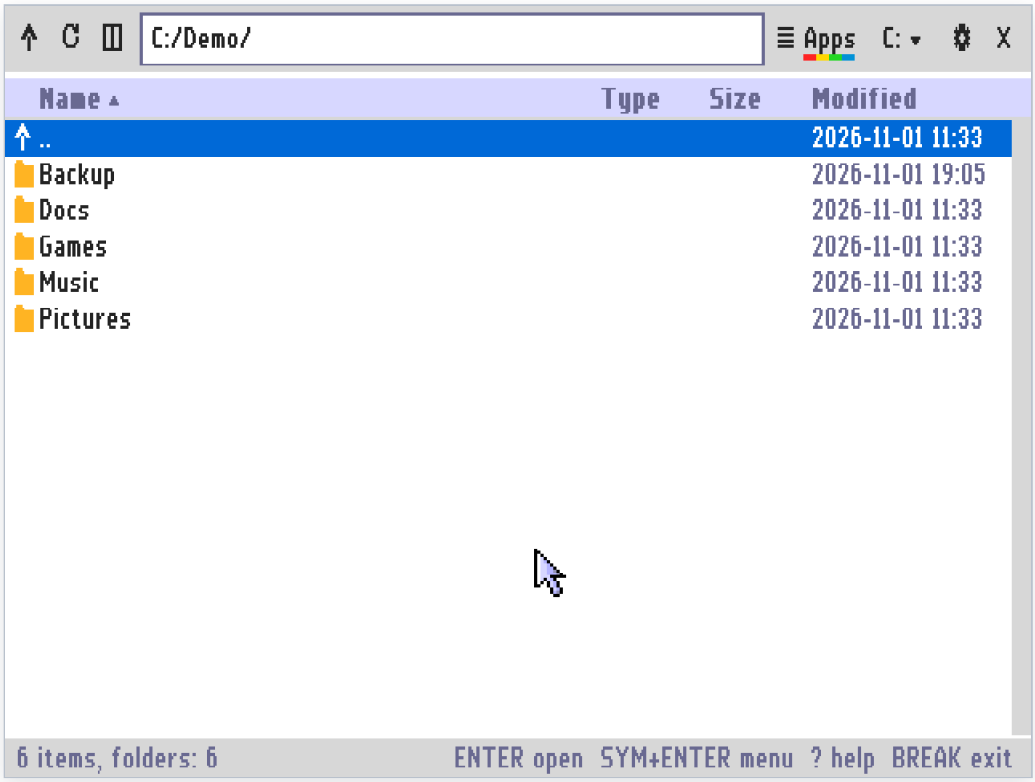
> The program and the plugins must come from the same build. After an update always copy all the files together, otherwise NBrowser reports *Wrong version*.

2.2 Starting

From the NextBASIC command line or from a program:

```
.nbrowser
```

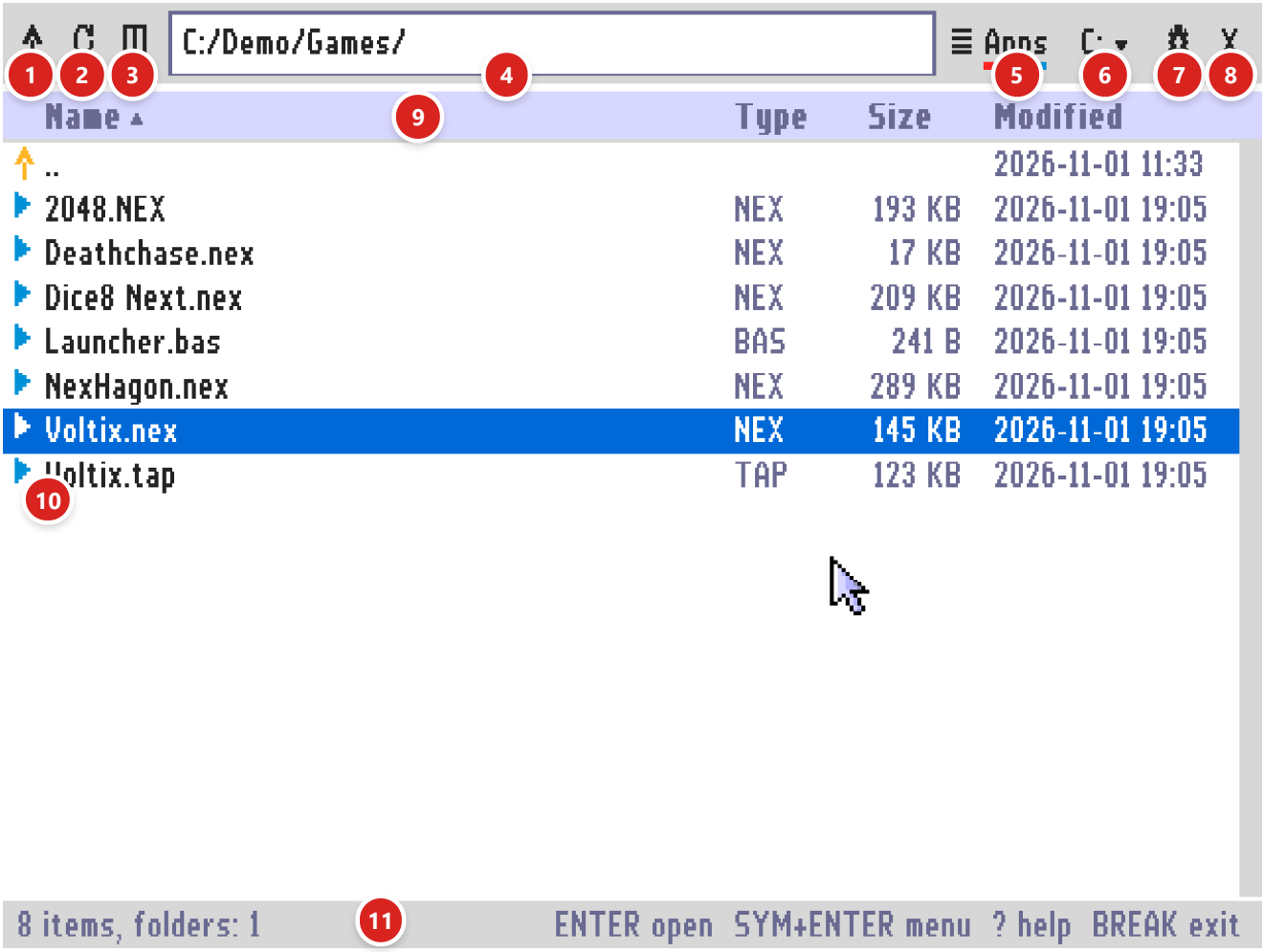
NBrowser starts in the current folder. BREAK or the cross at the top right closes it and returns to BASIC; a running program then continues with the next statement.



After the start. The toolbar, the list and the status line with the most important keys.

3 Screen and controls

3.1 The main window



1. up one folder
2. read the folder again
3. one / two panels
4. path of the current folder (long names)
5. **Apps** menu – applications as in the NextZXOS menu
6. drives and favorite folders
7. options
8. close NBrowser
9. column headers – click to sort
10. item icon – click to mark; the ▶ arrow = the file can be opened
11. status line: number of items, marked items, messages and key hints

3.2 Mouse

The mouse pointer appears only after the first move, click or wheel turn – without a mouse nothing gets in the way. While NBrowser is working (for example reading a large folder) the pointer turns into an hourglass. For a folder with more than 128 items a *Reading folder* window also shows how many items have been read.

Mouse	Action

click	select an item
double click	open a folder, run a file (when choosing into a variable: choose it)
click on the item icon	mark / unmark
SHIFT +click	mark the range from the selected item to the clicked one (other marks disappear)
EXT +click	mark / unmark one item and select it
right button	context menu of the item; below the list only **Paste** and **New folder**
wheel	scroll by 3 rows in the panel under the mouse
scrollbar	drag the thumb; click above or below it = page
column header	sort by that column, a second click reverses
click into the other panel	the panel becomes active
drag an item to the other panel	copy or move (see Dragging with the mouse)

3.3 Keyboard

EXT is the EXTEND MODE key: press CAPS SHIFT and SYMBOL SHIFT together, then the letter. In an emulator it is usually Shift + Ctrl +letter. All keys are listed in the chapter Keyboard shortcuts.

Key	Action
↑ ↓	move the selection
← →	page up / down
EXT + ↑ / ↓	start / end of the list
ENTER	open a folder, run a file
DELETE	up one folder
letters and digits	jump to the item starting with the typed text
SYM + ENTER	context menu
?	help
BREAK	close (when choosing into a variable: cancel)

3.4 Menus

Menus open at the mouse or at the selected item. Choose an item by clicking it, with the arrows and ENTER, or directly with its letter. BREAK, DELETE or a click outside the menu closes it.

4 Browsing folders

4.1 Moving around and finding by name

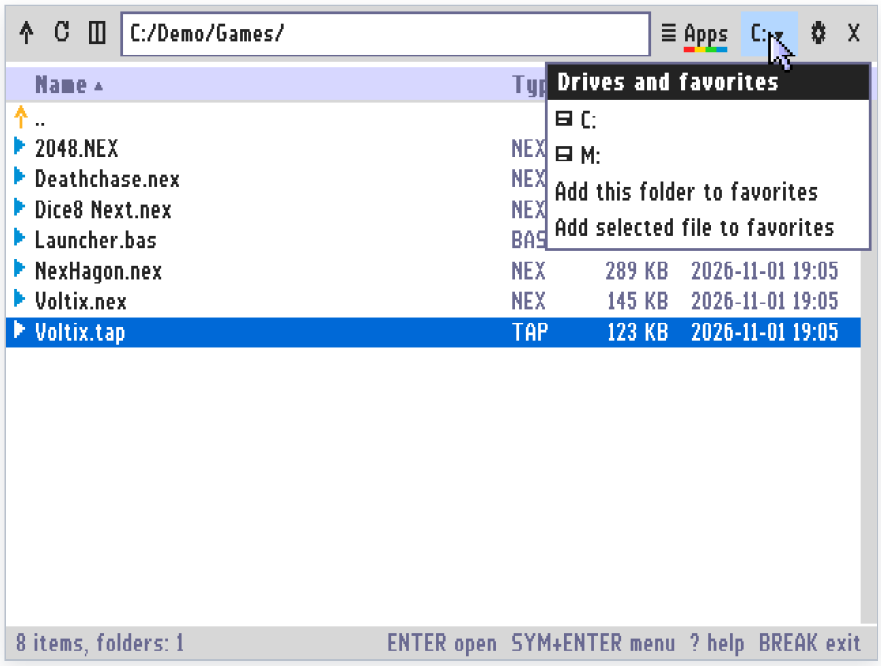
Enter a folder with a double click or ENTER. Go one level up with the `..` item, the ↑ button or DELETE – the folder you came from stays selected. When you start typing a name, the selection jumps to the first item that starts with it (letters typed within one second of each other add up).

4.2 Sorting

A click on a column header sorts by name, type, size or date; another click reverses the order. From the keyboard EXT+S switches to the next sort key and EXT+R reverses the order. By default folders are always at the top.

4.3 Drives and favorite folders

The drive button in the toolbar (EXT+D or EXT+B) opens the **Drives and favorites** menu: the mounted drives, the favorite folders and the items **Add this folder to favorites** and **Add selected file to favorites**. A favorite file opens its folder and gets selected there. The first nine favorites have the keys 1–9; **Remove a favorite…** removes one. Favorites (up to 16) are saved in `c:/sys/nbrowser.fav`.



Drives and favorites. Favorite folders are added right from the menu.

4.4 Folder history

EXT+5 (EXT+←) goes back to the previous folder you visited, EXT+8 (EXT+→) goes forward again – like in a web browser. Each panel has its own history.

Every folder remembers the selected item: when you come back to a folder you visited, the item you had selected when you left is selected again.

4.5 Hidden files and long names

EXT + H also shows hidden and system files. The list, the toolbar and the panel headers show long file and folder names; the short 8.3 name is in the **Info** window.

5 Opening files

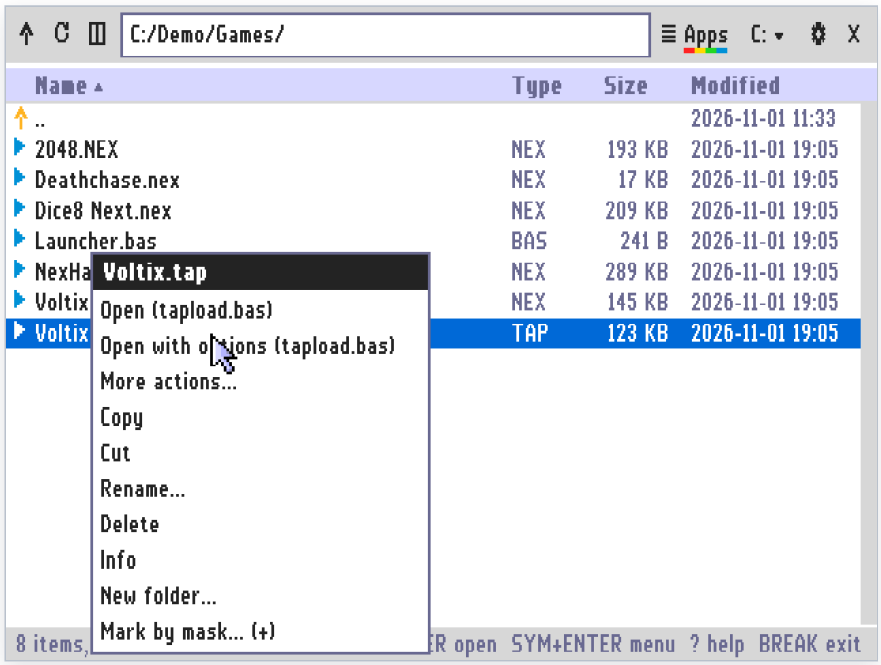
5.1 With browser.cfg

ENTER or a double click opens a file like the NextZXOS Browser: with the first line for its type in `c:/nextzxos/browser.cfg`. Files that can be opened have the ▶ icon. Other lines for the same type are in the context menu as **Open (.command)**, for BASIC actions with the name of the program they load, e.g. **Open (tapload.bas)**. For tapes and snapshots **Open with options** lets you choose the options (48K/128K...) – SYM + ENTER in the NextZXOS Browser.

The separator after the type in `browser.cfg` says what happens after the command: `<` returns to NBrowser (with the file selected, in two panels with both folders), `:` and `;` end in BASIC. Starting a file from a running program ends the program – the same as with the NextZXOS Browser.

5.2 Context menu

The right mouse button or SYM + ENTER opens the actions for the selected item: opening with `browser.cfg`, more actions, copy, cut, paste, rename, delete, info, new folder and marking by mask. In two panels there are also copying and moving to the other panel and comparing the folders, for music Play.



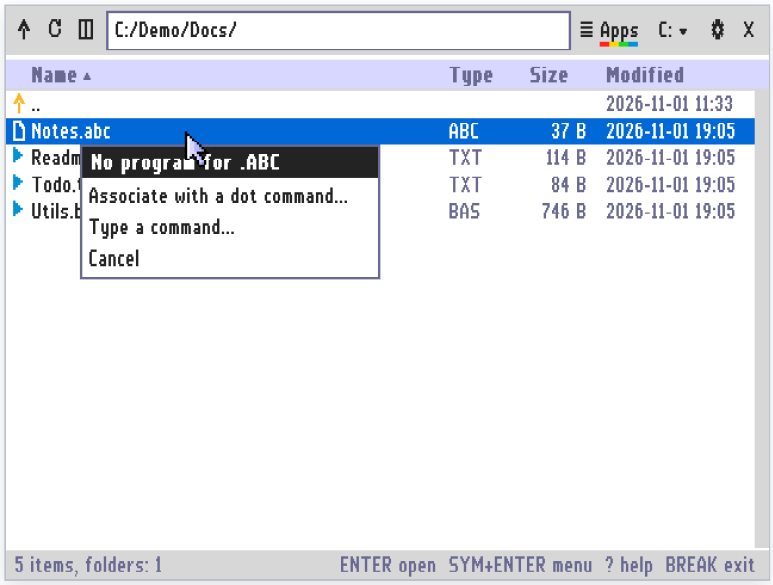
Context menu. It opens below the selected item.

5.3 No program for a file

When `browser.cfg` has nothing for the file type, ENTER offers:

- **Associate with a dot command…** – choose the program by browsing (it starts in `C:/DOT`) and press ENTER,
- **Type a command…** – type a command, e.g. `.shownxi`; the file name is added as `"|"`.

A new line is added to the end of `browser.cfg` (the NextZXOS Browser understands it too) and the file opens at once.



No program for a file. The program is assigned once for good.

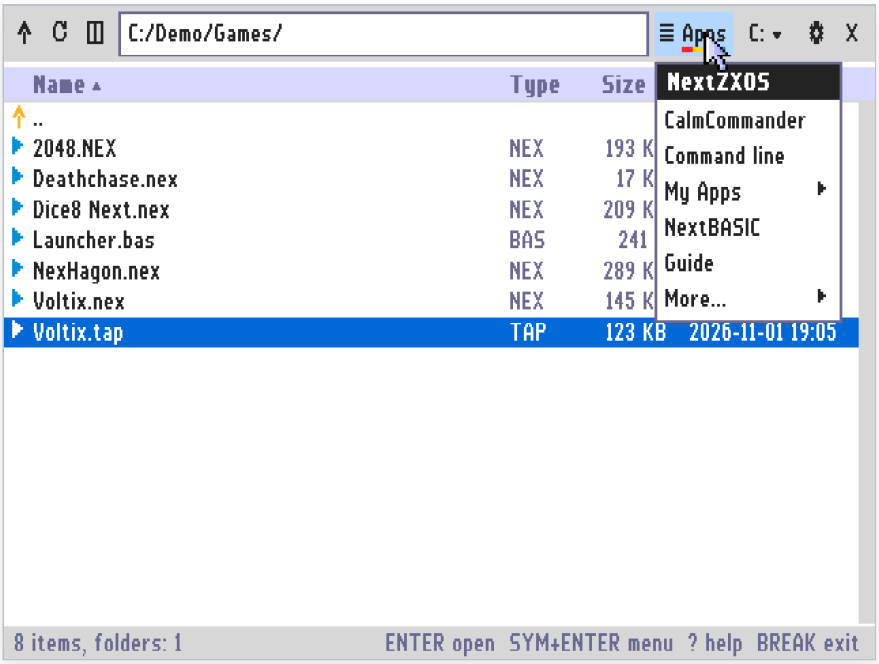
5.4 More actions, links and .RUN folders

More actions… in the context menu (EXT+A) offers the extended actions from `c:/nextzxos/enBrowsext.cfg` – the same as EXTEND in the NextZXOS Browser (Edit, Text2BAS, heXdump, makeRUN, makeLink and others). Actions with a question ask for confirmation first.

Links `.lnk` (made by `.makelnk`): ENTER goes to the folder of the target and opens it, **Show target** only selects it. EXT+L opens the folder `C:/Links`. **.RUN folders** (`.makerun`): ENTER runs their `RUN.BAS`, **Open** in the context menu only enters them.

5.5 Applications

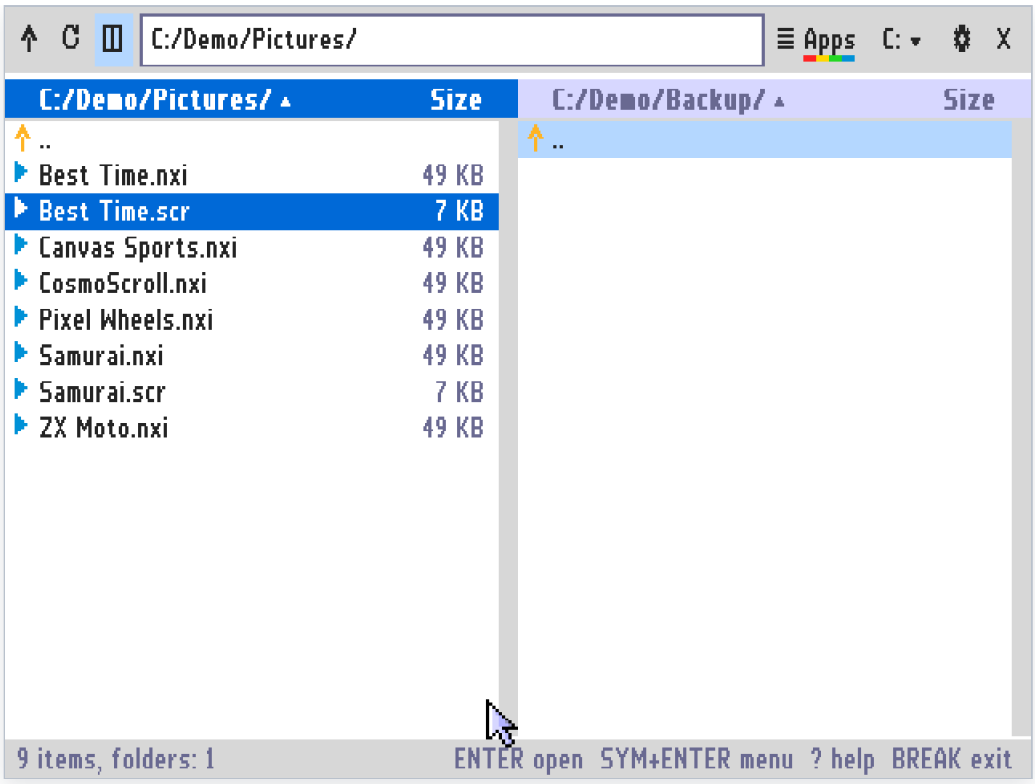
The **Apps** button (EXT+M) shows the menus from `c:/nextzxos/enMenus.cfg` – programs, guides and submenus as in the NextZXOS main menu.



Apps. The same items as in the NextZXOS menu.

6 Two panels

The ◫ button in the toolbar, EXT+W or **Two panels** in the options splits the screen into two panels. Each has its own folder, selection, scrollbar and sorting. The active panel has a highlighted header with its path; a click into a panel, TRUE VIDEO (CAPS+3) or EDIT (CAPS+1) switches the active panel. ENTER, actions and file operations always work in the active panel.

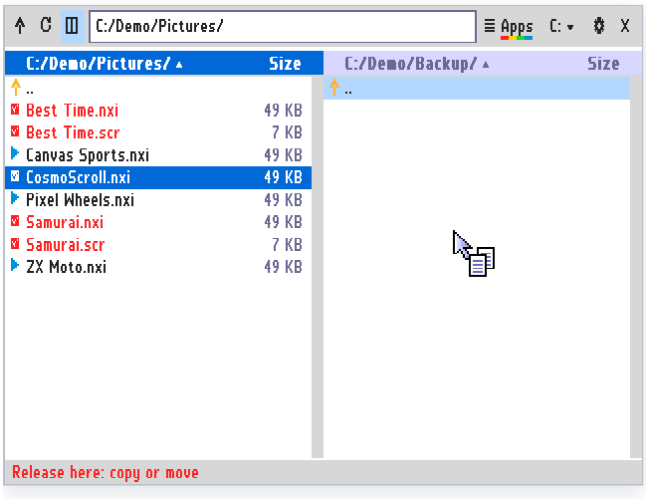


Two panels. Pictures on the left, the target folder on the right.

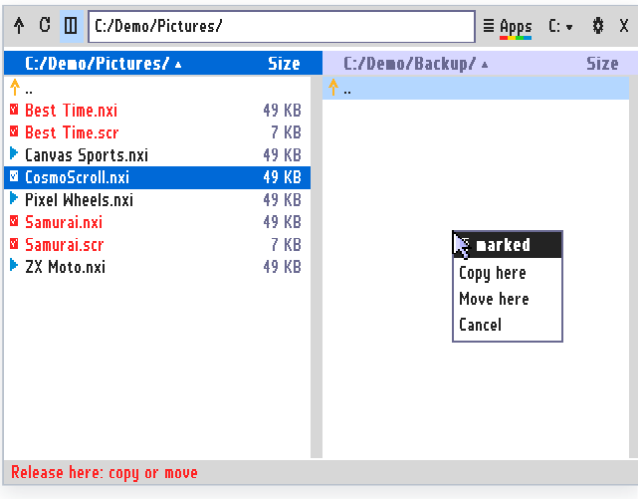
The context menu gets **Copy to other panel** and **Move to other panel**. The mode, the active panel and the folder of the second panel are remembered for the next start.

6.1 Dragging with the mouse

Grab an item (or one of the marked items) and drag it to the other panel. A file icon follows the pointer (a stack for more items) and above the other panel the status line says *Release here: copy or move*. After releasing choose **Copy here** or **Move here**.



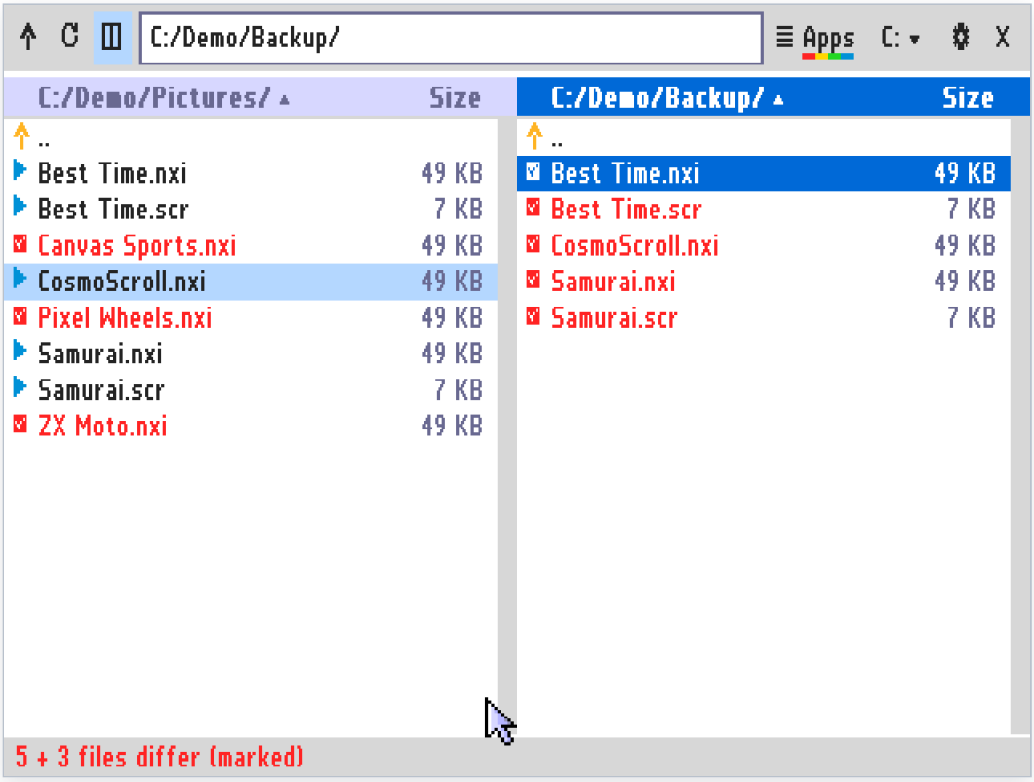
Dragging three marked pictures.



After releasing the menu at the pointer.

6.2 Comparing folders

EXT + G (or **Compare folders** in the context menu) compares the folders of both panels like Total Commander: in both panels it marks the files the other panel does not have, and of pairs with the same name the newer one (both when the time is the same and the size differs). The status line shows how many files differ; then just use **Copy to other panel**.



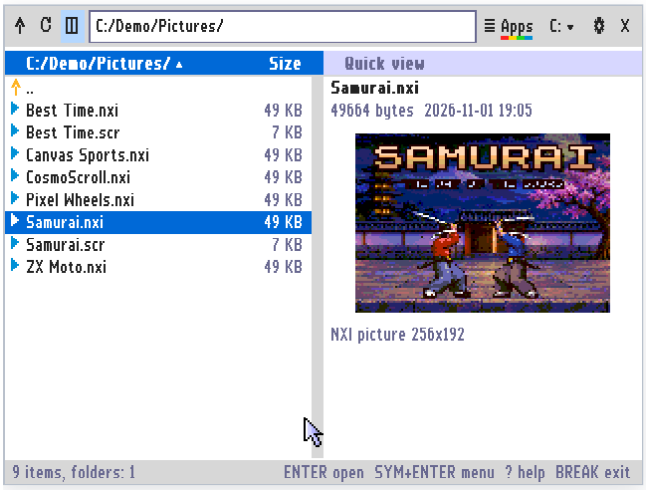
Compare. The marked files are missing in the other panel.

7 Quick view

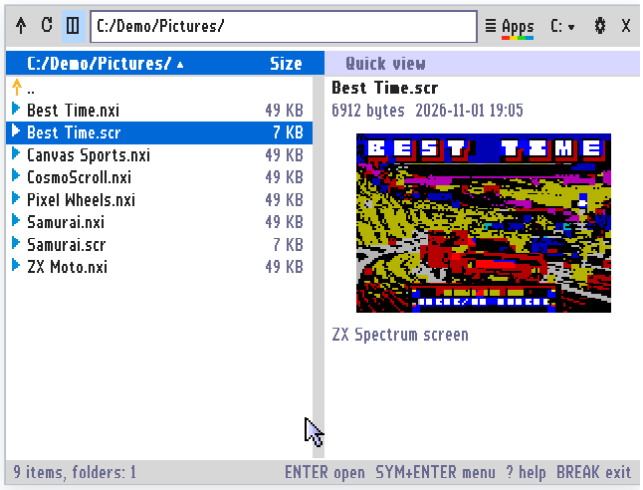
EXT + Q or **Quick view** in the options: the other panel shows the selected item of the active panel – the name, size, date and the contents by type. If you had only one panel, the quick view switches on the second one, and it disappears again with the quick view. After a new start the quick view is always off.

Type	Quick view
SCR (6912 B)	the ZX Spectrum screen in real colours
SNA, Z80	the screen of the snapshot (SNA 48K and 128K, Z80 all versions)
NXI, SL2	the Layer 2 picture, 256×192, 320×256 or 640×256, with or without a palette
BMP	1, 4, 8, 24 or 32 bit picture, scaled down keeping its aspect ratio
TAP, TZX	tape blocks: *Program* with its name and length, *Bytes*, headerless data; for TZX also text, title, author, groups and turbo blocks
BAS	the program listing (ZX BASIC and NextBASIC, coloured REM, long lines wrapped)

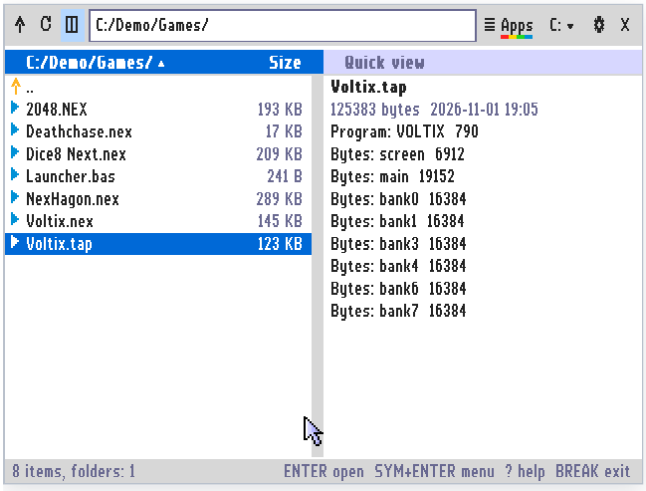
PT3, PT2, MXC, STC, STP, SQT	title and author, the song plays (see Music)
text	the first 8 KB, long lines wrapped
other files	the first 8 KB in hex



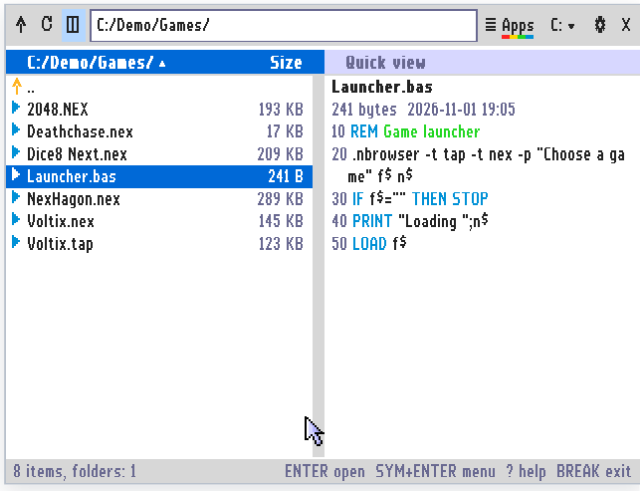
NXI – the loading screen of Samurai.



SCR – a ZX Spectrum screen.



TAP – tape blocks.



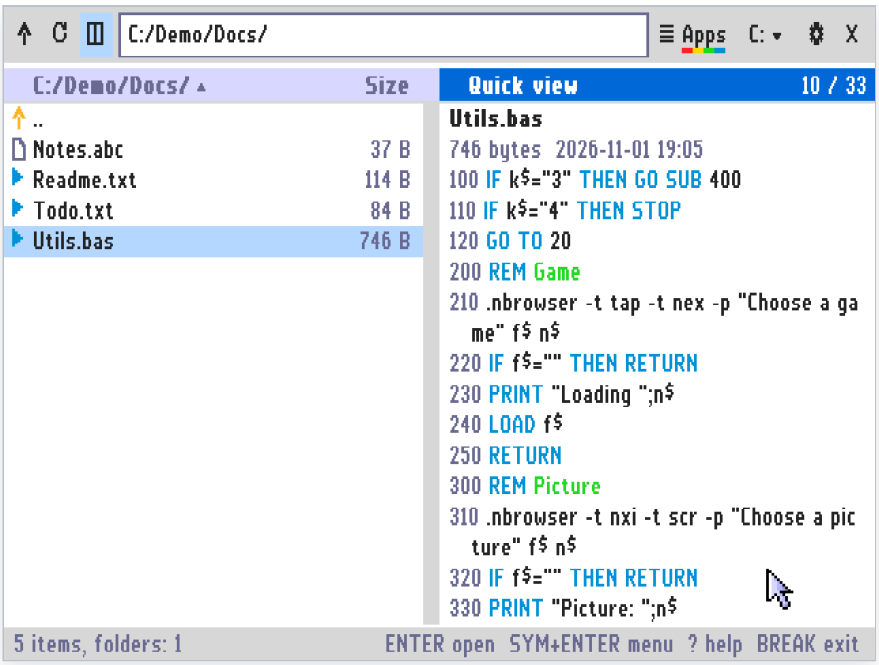
BAS – the program listing.

7.1 Scrolling text, hex and listings

When a text, a hex dump, a BASIC program or the block list of a TAP or TZX tape does not fit into the panel, it can be scrolled:

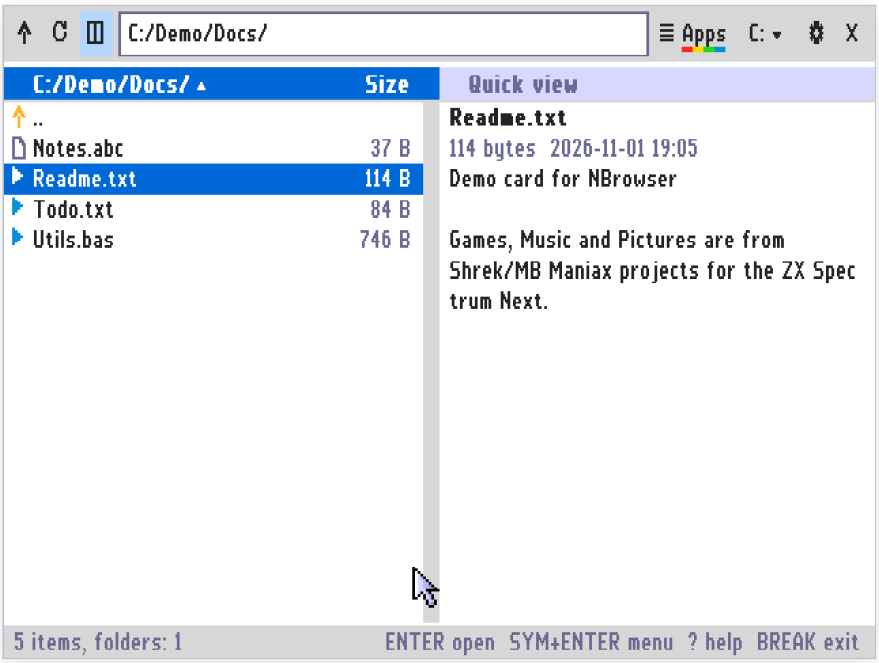
- with the **mouse wheel** over the quick view (3 rows),
- with the **keys**: TRUE VIDEO (or EDIT, or a click into the quick view) gives the keys to the quick view – its header is highlighted and the list turns grey. Then ↑ ↓ scroll by a row, ← → by a page and EXT+↑ / ↓ jump to the start or the end.

TRUE VIDEO, BREAK or a click into the list gives the keys back to the list. The header of the quick view shows the first visible row and the total on the right (e.g. *46 / 60*). After choosing another file the quick view starts from the top again.



A scrolled BASIC listing with the keys in the quick view.

The quick view is redrawn only after a short pause, so browsing quickly with the arrows is not slowed down. Menus and dialogs hide the picture for a moment.



Text – the beginning of the file.

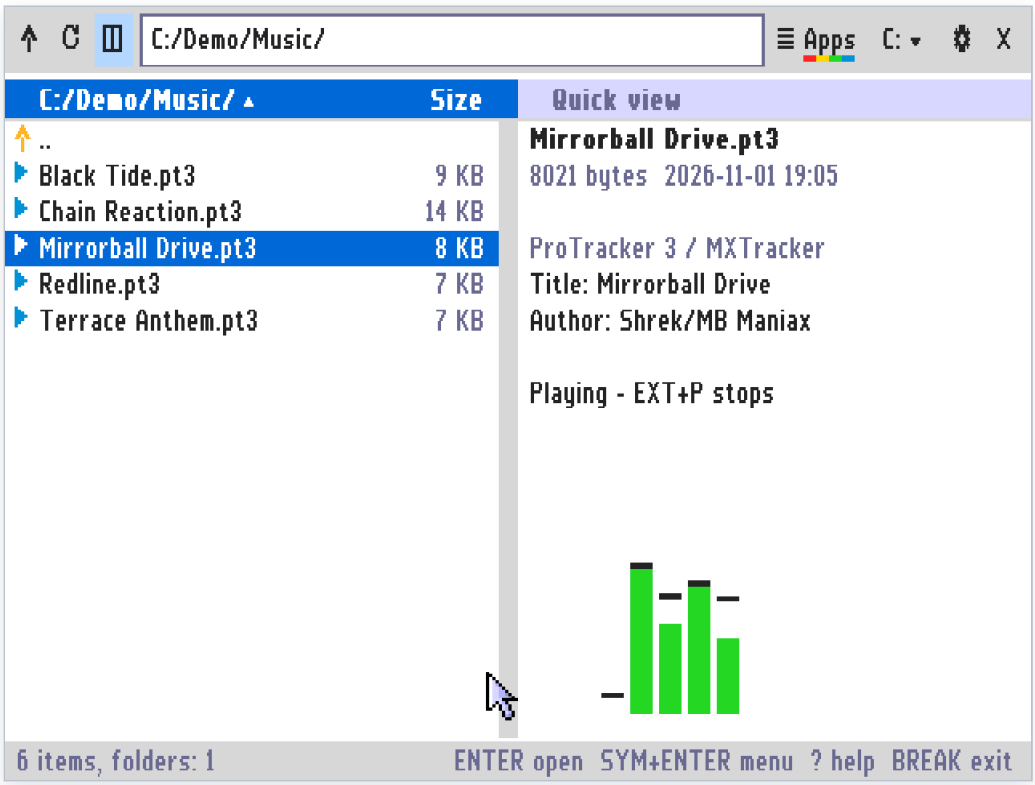
8 Music

PT3, PT2, MXC (also TurboSound), **STC, STP** and **SQT** songs play in the background while you browse. Playing starts with:

- selecting the song in the quick view – with a spectrum analyser,

- **Play** in the context menu,
- EXT+P.

The music plays as long as the song stays selected. Another item, closing the quick view, EXT+P or **Stop music** stops it (after EXT+P the quick view does not start it again, another EXT+P does).



Music in the quick view. Title, author and a spectrum analyser of all three AY sound chips.

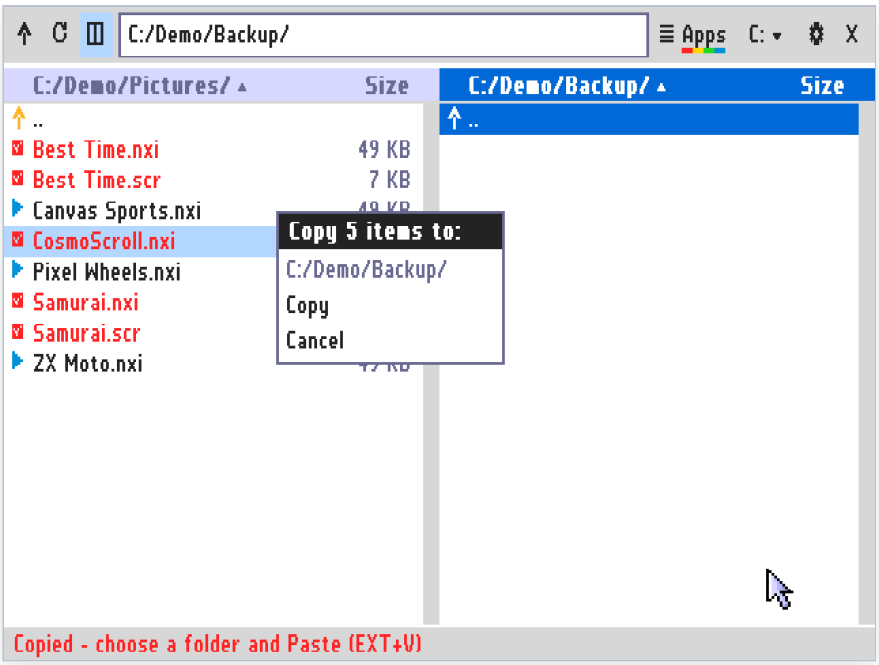
Playing a folder: when a song ends, the next music file in the folder gets selected and plays (other files are skipped). After the last song the music stops.

A song can be up to 24 KB. MXC songs from MXTracker play with **SID** voices and **sampled drums** too (samples up to 64 KB). The players come from MXTracker (PT3, PT2, MXC) and Calm Commander (STC, STP, SQT).

9 File operations

9.1 Copy, move and paste

EXT+C (**Copy**) or EXT+X (**Cut**) puts the marked items into the clipboard, or the selected one when nothing is marked. Then go to the target folder and EXT+V (**Paste**) copies or moves them. NBrowser asks before pasting:

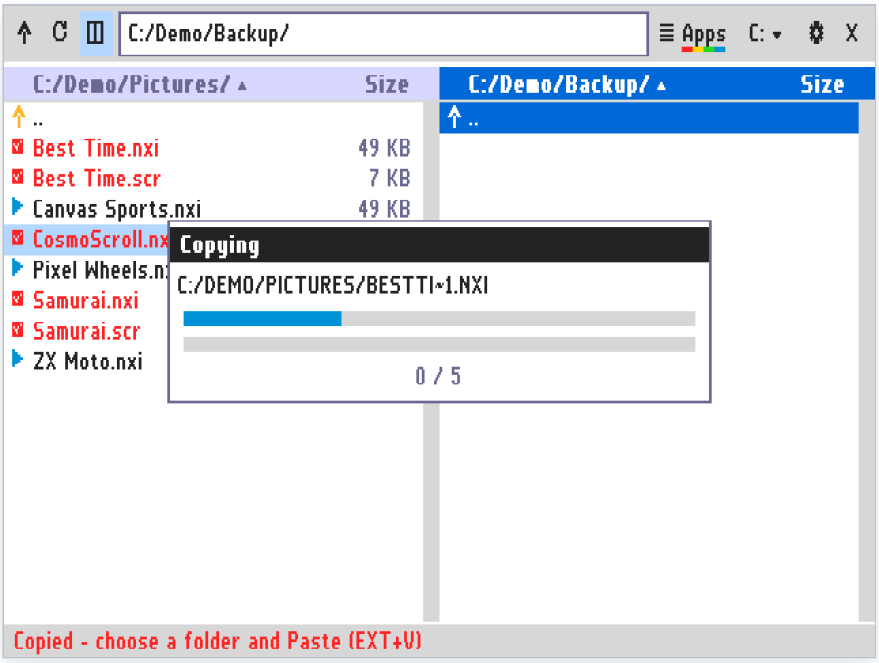


The question before pasting with the number of items and the target folder.

Folders are copied with all their contents. Moving within one drive only renames; to another drive the items are copied and then deleted. A folder cannot be pasted into itself.

9.2 The progress window

While copying, moving and deleting, a window in the middle of the screen shows the file being processed, a bar for the file, a bar for the whole operation and the number of finished items (e.g. *12 / 40*; they are counted beforehand, also inside folders). The mouse pointer is hidden meanwhile. BREAK stops the operation between files.



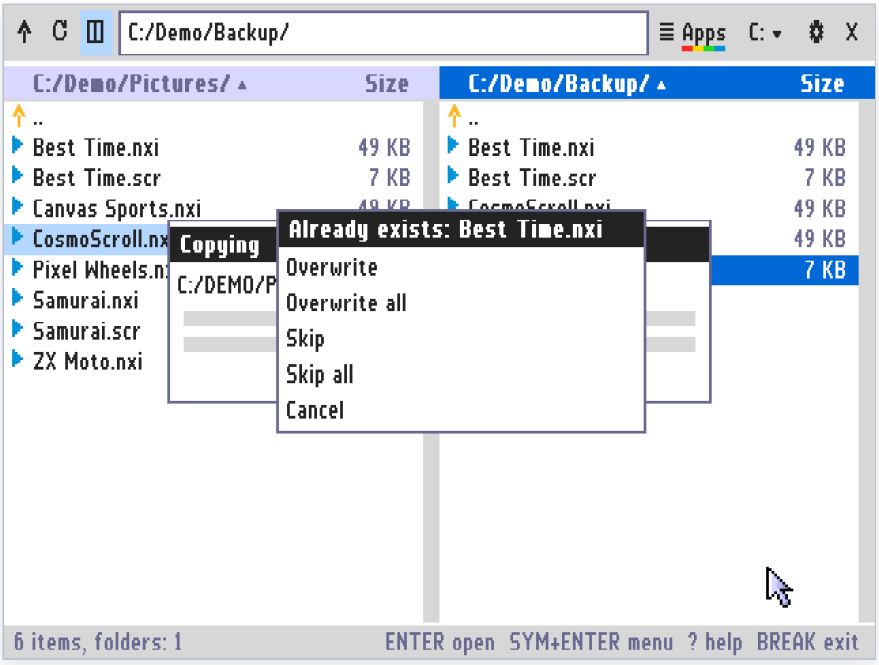
Copying. The bar of the file and of the whole operation.

9.3 When the target already exists

When the target folder already has a file with the same name, NBrowser asks like Total Commander:

Overwrite	overwrite this file
Overwrite all	overwrite all of them until the paste ends
Skip	leave this file out
Skip all	leave out all existing files
Cancel	stop pasting

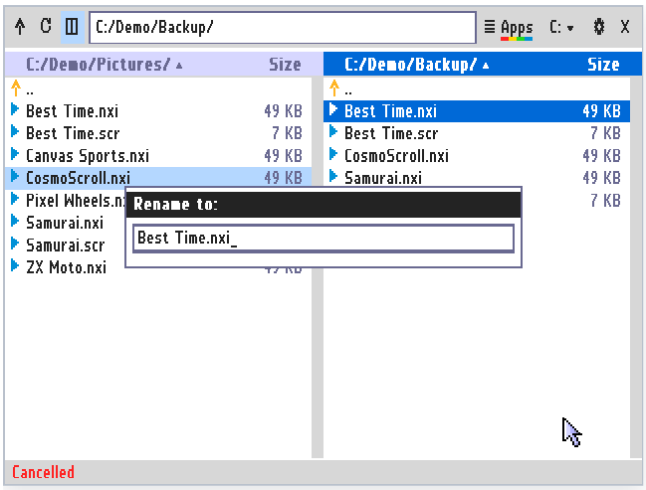
Folders with the same name are merged (the files inside them ask). When moving, skipped files stay where they were.



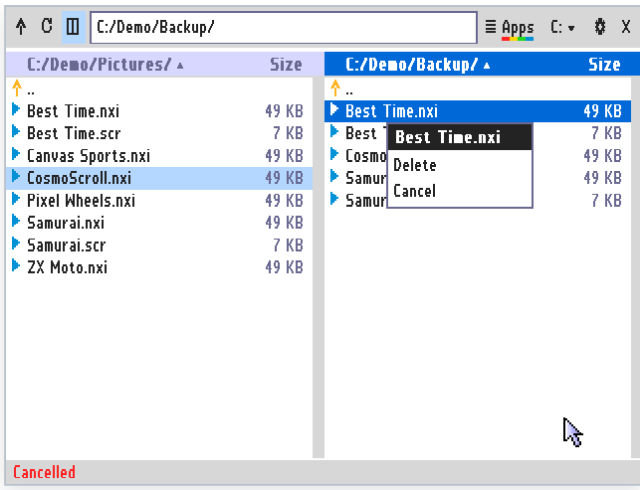
The target exists. An “all” choice holds until the paste ends.

9.4 Rename, delete, new folder, info

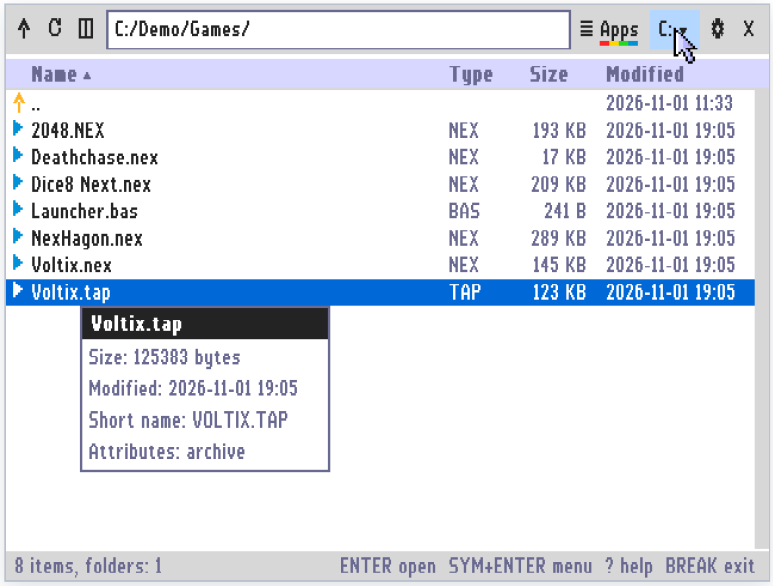
EXT + N	rename the selected item
EXT + E	delete the marked items or the selected one (folders with all contents, after confirming)
EXT + K	new folder
EXT + I	information: size, date, the short 8.3 name, attributes



Rename.



Delete asks for confirmation.



Info about a file.

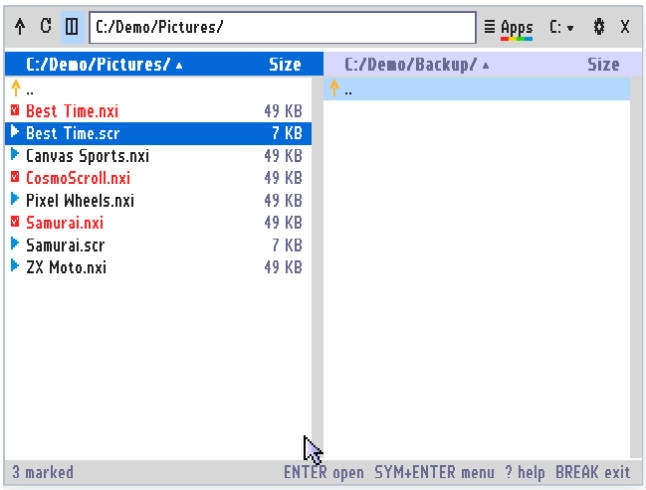
10 Marking

Mark an item with SPACE (the selection moves one row down) or with a click on its icon. Marked items have a ticked icon and a red name; the status line shows how many are marked.

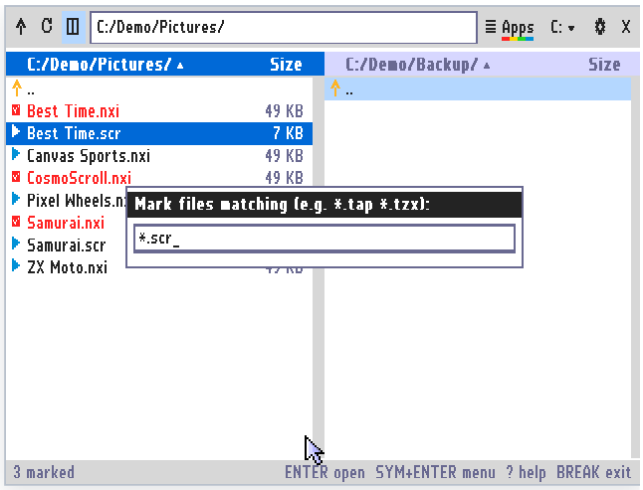
+ (SYM + K)	mark by masks, e.g. `*.tap *.tzx`
- (SYM + J)	unmark by masks
* (SYM + B)	invert the marks

With the mouse: SHIFT +click marks the range from the selected item to the clicked one (other marks disappear), EXT +click marks or unmarks one item.

In masks `?` is one character and `*` anything; upper and lower case do not matter and the mask is remembered. The context menu also has **Mark by mask…** and, with marked items, **Unmark all**.



Marked items.

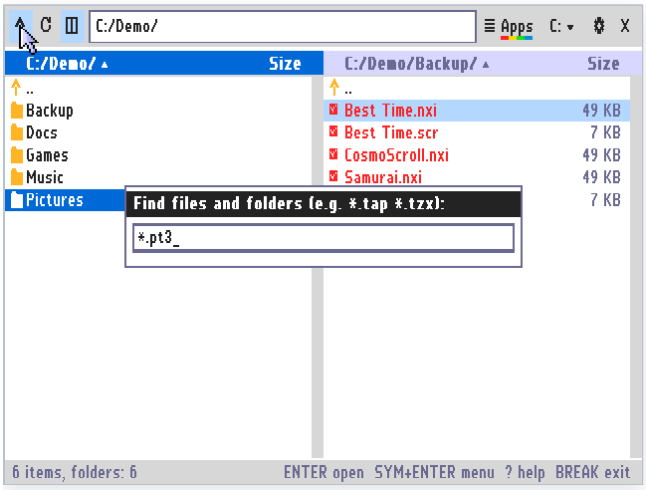


Marking by mask (+).

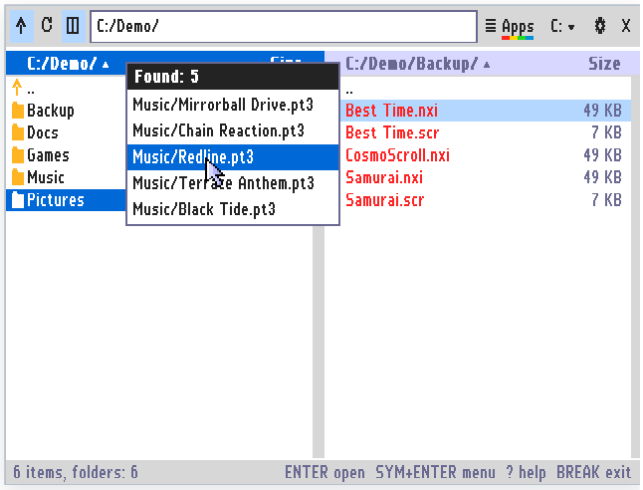
Copy, cut, delete, dragging and copying or moving to the other panel then work with all marked items. The clipboard is a list – it survives going to another folder.

11 Finding files

EXT + F finds files and folders by masks (`*.tap *.tzx`) in the current folder and all its subfolders. BREAK stops the search. A menu shows what was found with the paths; the chosen item opens its folder and gets selected there.



The search mask.



Found items with paths.

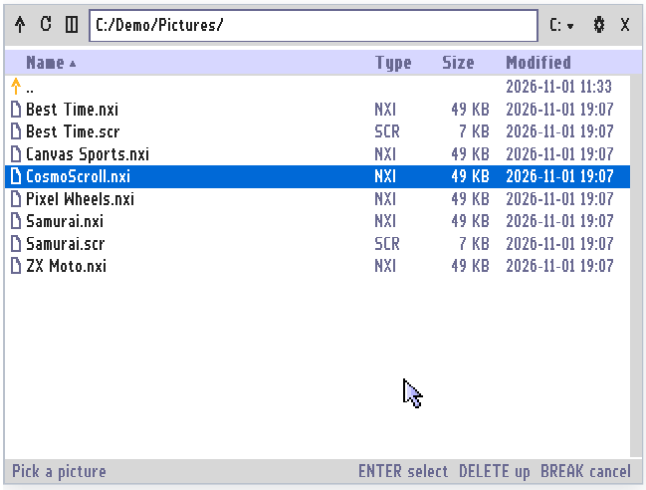
12 Choosing a file from BASIC

With a variable name NBrowser runs nothing: the user chooses a file (ENTER or a double click) and its full path is stored in the variable. Useful for your own menus, game launchers and programs that load files.

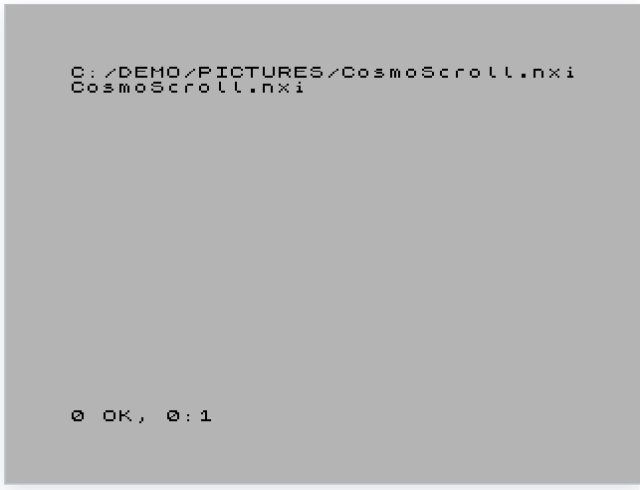
Form	Meaning
`.nbrowser f$`	`f$` = the full path, e.g. `C:/GAMES/VOLTIX.TAP`; cancelled = empty string
`.nbrowser f$ n$`	also `n$` = only the file name
`-t tap -t tzx`	only these types (wildcards `?` and `*` allowed)
`-p "text"`	your own prompt in the status line
`--dir "c:/games"`	the start folder (put a path with a drive in quotes)
`-8`	short 8.3 names
`--cd`	stay in the folder of the file after choosing
`-h`	short help

Example – a game launcher:

```
10 .nbrowser -t tap -t nex -p "Choose a game" f$ n$
20 IF f$="" THEN STOP
30 PRINT "Loading ";n$
40 LOAD f$
```



Choosing a picture with a prompt and a type filter.

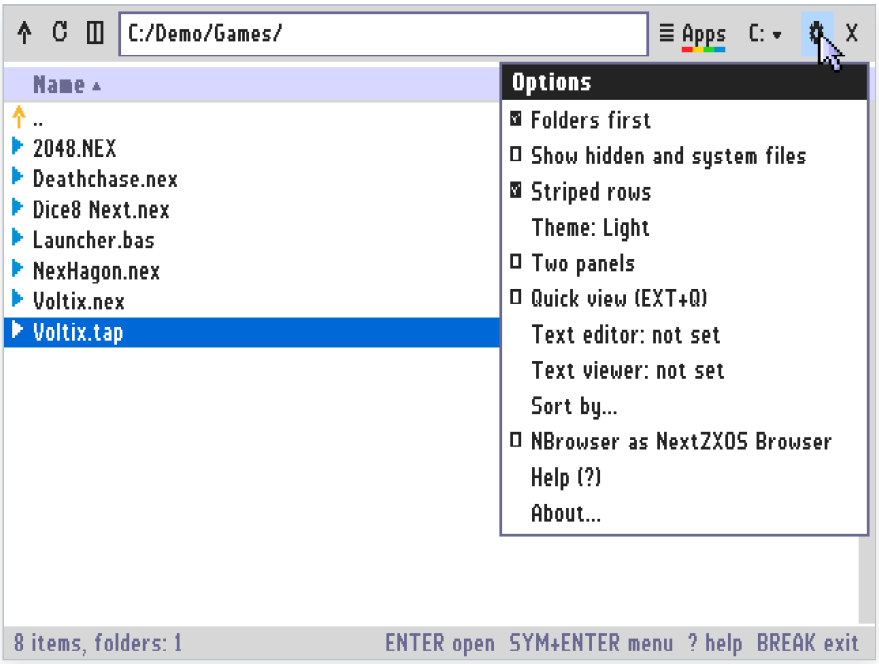


The result in the variables `f$` and `n$`.

After choosing, the current BASIC folder is restored (except with `--cd`). The options of `.browse` (`-f`, `-s`, `-e`, `-r`, `-d`, `-k`, `-m`, `-u`, `-c`) are accepted and do nothing, so in most programs it is enough to rename `.browse` to `.nbrowser`.

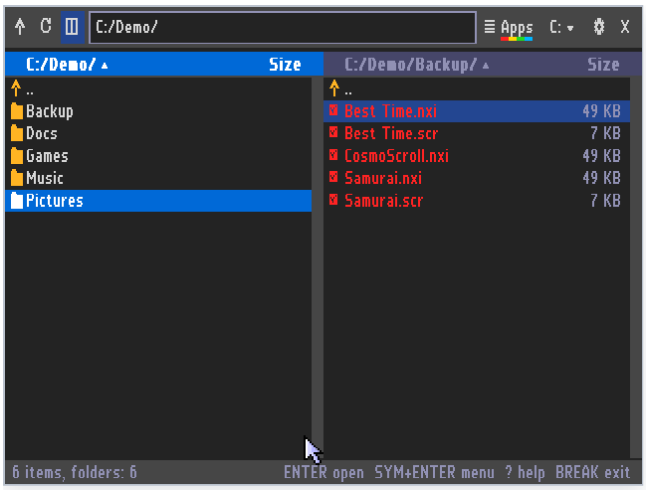
13 Options

The gear button in the toolbar or EXT+O. Options are switched with a click and saved in `c:/sys/nbrowser.cfg` when NBrowser ends.

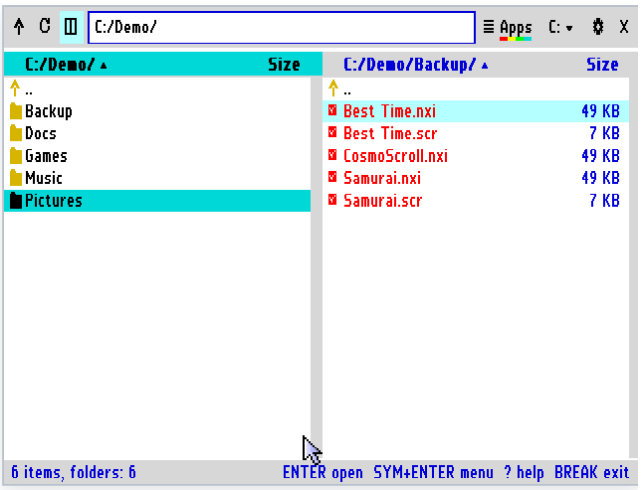


Options.

Option	Meaning
Folders first	folders at the top of the list
Show hidden and system files	also hidden and system files (EXT + H)
Show all file types	when choosing with `-t`, show the other types too
Striped rows	alternately shaded rows
Theme	*Light*, *Dark* or *ZX Spectrum*
Two panels	two panels (EXT + W)
Quick view	quick view (EXT + Q)
Text editor / Text viewer	the program for editing and viewing texts (see below)
Sort by...	submenu: sort by name, type, size or date
NBrowser as NextZXOS Browser	the *Browser* item of the NextZXOS main menu starts NBrowser (see below)
Help	help
About...	about the program: name, version and author



The Dark theme.



The ZX Spectrum theme.

13.1 NBrowser instead of the NextZXOS Browser

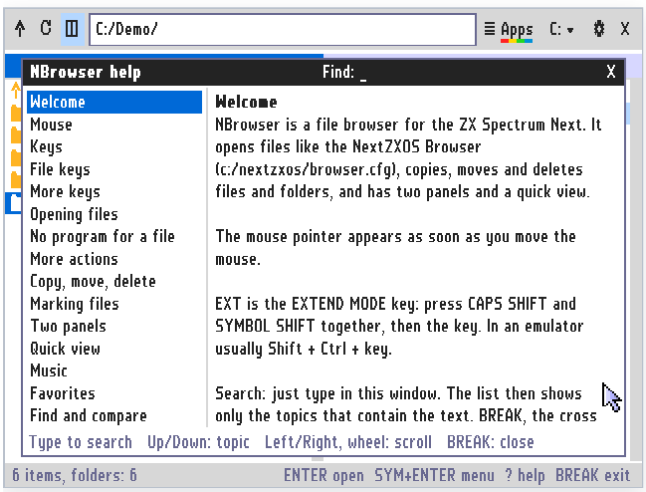
Ticking **NBrowser as NextZXOS Browser** changes the *Browser* item of the NextZXOS main menu (`c:/nextzxos/enMenus.cfg`) from the built-in command `i10` to `b.nbrowser`, so after the Next starts, *Browser* opens NBrowser. The original file is kept as `enMenus.bak`. Clicking again restores the original Browser. The option appears only when the main menu has a Browser item.

13.2 Text editor and viewer

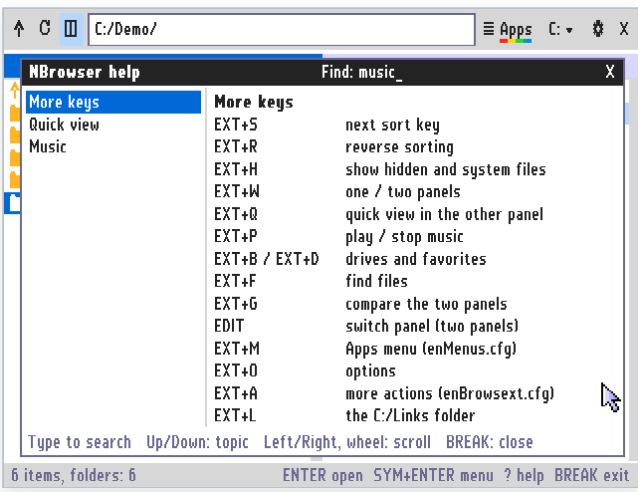
Text editor and **Text viewer**: choose a dot command by browsing (it starts in `C:/DOT`) or type a command, e.g. `.nword`. Files then have **Edit** and **View** in the context menu. With a viewer set, ENTER uses it instead of `.more` for the types that `browser.cfg` opens with `.more`.

14 Help

The ? key or **Help** in the options opens the help: topics on the left, text on the right. Just type – the list then shows only the topics that contain the text. BREAK, the cross or the right mouse button closes the help.



Help.



Searching the help.

15 Troubleshooting

Symptom	Cause and solution
Wrong version + plugin name	The program and the plugins come from different versions. Copy `nbrowser` and all `*.nbp` again.
Missing + plugin name	The plugin is not in `c:/sys/nbrowser/`. Everything else works; add it.
No action for this file type…	`browser.cfg` has no line for this type – assign a program (No program for a file).
Too large to play here (24 KB)	The song is longer than the background player can handle.
Source and target folder are the same	You are pasting into the folder you copied from. Go to another folder.
Cannot copy or move a folder into itself	The target folder is inside the copied folder.
Compare needs two panels (without quick view)	Switch on two panels and switch off the quick view.
(list truncated) in the status line	The folder has more items than fit into memory (up to 8192); only the beginning is shown.

16 Keyboard shortcuts

16.1 Moving and opening

↑ ↓	move the selection
← →, INV VIDEO	page up / down
EXT + ↑ / ↓, EXT + 3 / 4	start / end of the list
ENTER	open, run, choose
SYM + ENTER	context menu
DELETE	up one folder
EXT + 5 / 8	folder history: back / forward
letters and digits	jump by the start of the name
?	help
BREAK	close / cancel choosing

16.2 Files and marking

EXT + C / X / V	copy / cut / paste
EXT + N	rename
EXT + E	delete
EXT + K	new folder
EXT + I	information
SPACE	mark / unmark and move down
+ - *	mark / unmark by mask, invert the marks

16.3 Panels, quick view and more

EXT + W	one / two panels
TRUE VIDEO, EDIT	the other panel; with the quick view: keys to the quick view and back
EXT + Q	quick view
EXT + P	play / stop music
EXT + F	find files
EXT + G	compare folders
EXT + S / R	next sort key / reverse sorting
EXT + H	hidden and system files
EXT + D, EXT + B	drives and favorites
EXT + M	applications (Apps)
EXT + O	options
EXT + A	more actions (enBrowsext.cfg)
EXT + L	the C:/Links folder