DASH BOARD USER'S GUIDE

Version 1.5

http://www.fivespeed.com

Five Speed Software, Inc.
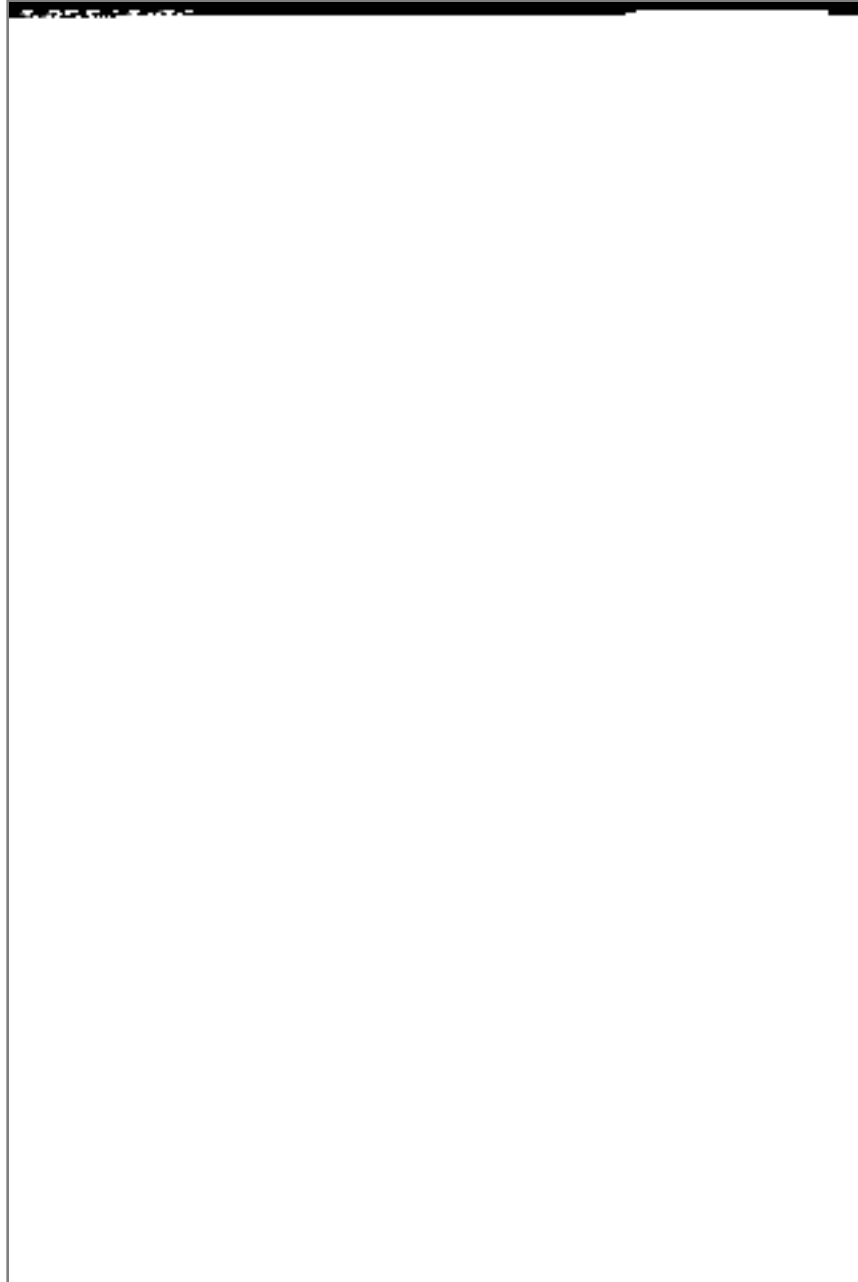
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1. WELCOME TO DASH BOARD

Dash Board - The Ultimate Button Bar

Dash Board is a replacement for the built in MessagePad 2000 and 2100 button bar. It provides a much, much more powerful interface than the standard button bar, for novices and power users alike. It offers complete and instant access to

from the Newton Menu or by setting them to have their own dedicated buttons on the button bar. Dash Board's Letter Launcher box offers access to any installed

Launcher displays the recognized letter and the name of the corresponding action in the box.

Scripts

Advanced users and developers can customize their Newtons even further with Dash Board's scripting capabilities. Dash Board allows you to create and save scripts using NewtonScript, which can then be run via the Newton Menu or the

the Dash Board hrefs app.

Cool Convenience Features

Letter Launcher box, there are several convenience buttons. The idea behind these is to put all of the "environmental" controls of your Newton in a convenient place. Having to open the Extras Drawer or another app just to check you battery or volume level--or rotate the screen, or change the contrast, or check your free storage space, etc.--strikes us as being really inconvenient, as if you had to open your car's glove compartment to check the gas or turn on your headlights. With Dash Board installed on your Newton, you don't have to.

Always There When You Need It

Because Dash Board replaces the system button bar, all of this functionality is always right thereHan the screen when you need it.

To see what Dash Board can do, we recommend that you just go ahead and install it. The rest of this manual covers all of Dash Board's features in detail--you may want to refer to it in order to help you customize Dash Board to suit your own particular needs.

We strongly recommend that you invest a few minutes to customize the Newton Menu and Letter Launcher preferences to suit your particular needs and system configuration.

Thanks for using Dash Board!

2. THE DASH BOARD BUTTON BAR

This section covers the features of the Dash Board button bar in detail. Tapping the icons at the top of the bar launches the corresponding program, much like the

The Battery Status Button

The Battery Status button lets you check the battery charge level at a glance. The icon shows the battery level--as the battery drains, the icon will change to reflect the current charge. A small black electric bolt icon (shown above) will appear in the center of the battery when the Newton device is connected to AC Power.

The Volume Button

The Volume Button allows you to quickly set the system volume. Tapping it displays a popup view that has a volume slider anseta Mute/Unmute button. The
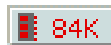
whether the default store is set to Internal (Newton icon) or a storage card (card icon).

The Rotate Button

The Rotate Button is the equivalent of the Rotate button in the Extras Drawer; it allows you to rotate the screen and set the position of the button bar or controls

The Heap Button

The Heap Button shows the current amount of free heap memory (heap memory is roughly analogous to free RAM on a desktop computer, though the Newton system is designed to use much smaller amounts). Tapping the button performs a "garbage collection" (frees up memory that is not reserved by other programs) and updates the display immediately.

The Letter Launcher

The Letter Launcher box allows you to access programs, scripts, or Dash Board special items, simply by writing a letter (or letters) in the box. You should configure the Letter Launcher to meet your needs; see kection 5 - The Letter Launcher Panel for information on how to do this. By default, writing a "?" in the Letter Launcher box will show a list of currently defined Letter Launcher shortcuts.

Note also that in cases where the letter you enter cher bhe Letter Launcher is not recognized as a valid shortcut, Dash Board asks the system for it's list of "best guesses" as to the letter that was written (i.e., the list that appears when you double-tap a misrecognized word cher bhe Notes application). If this list includes a valid Letter Launcher shortcut, Dash Board executes that shortcut automatically. In this case, a "?" will appear in the Letter Launcher box after the recognized letter.

WARNING: If you create scripts that delete data or perform actions which might

and undesirable consequences, we recommend that you do not add shortcuts

for these items to the Letter Launcher, to protect against the system misrecognizing your input and performing these scripts.

The Scrollers

Dash Board's Up, Down, and Overview buttons are shown above. These act identically to the standard button bar buttons.

3. DASH BOARD PREFS

The Dash Board Prefs app is where you configure and customize Dash Board. General features are described below; the individual panels are described in subsequent chapters.
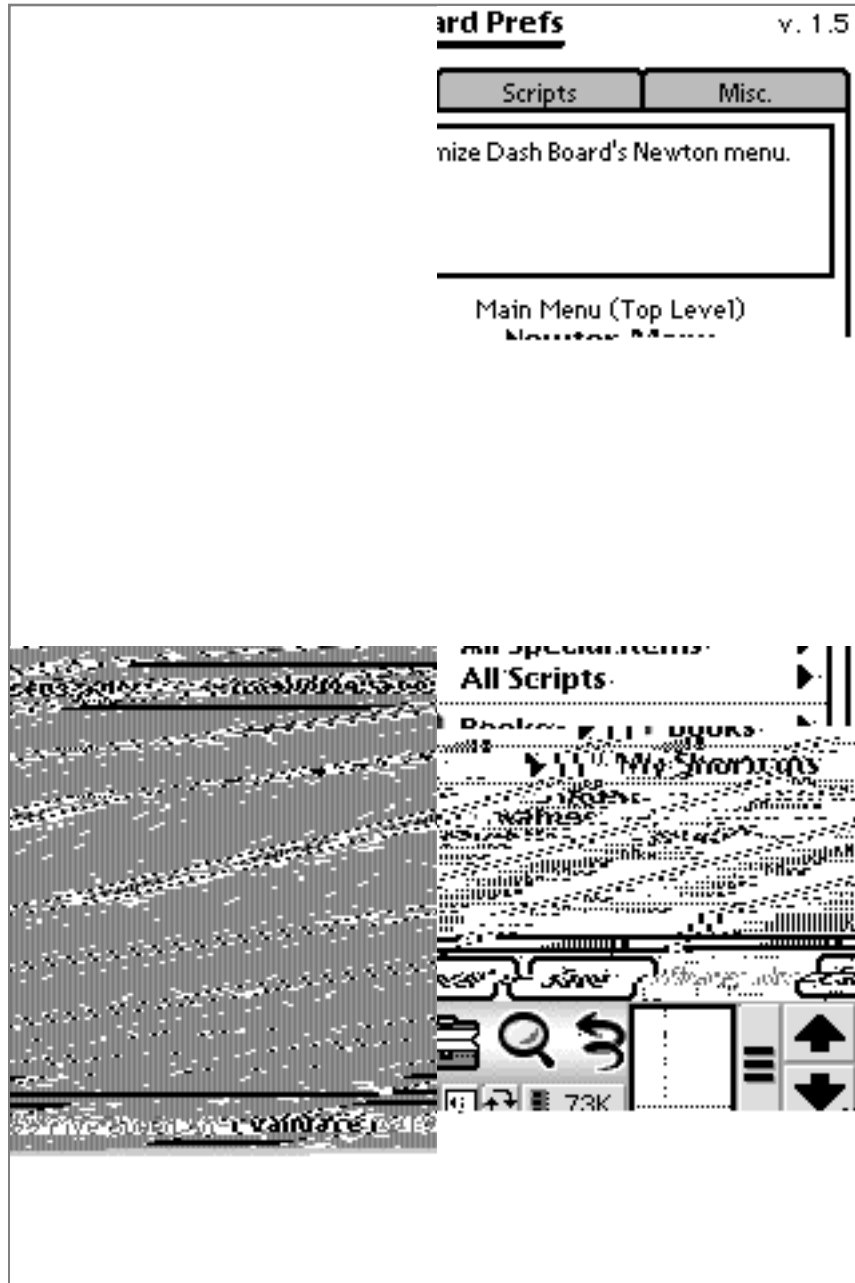
Cancel vs. Save

After modifying Dash Board's preferences, you muss.tap the Save button in order to save the changes and update Dash Board. If you make changes you wish to

undo, you can tap the Cancel button to exit Dash Board Prefs without saving (Dash Board's prefs will not be modified in this case).

WARNING: The only exception to the above is with regards to scripts. If you create or delete scripts in the Scripts panel, they changes will be saved immediately. Therefore, please be careful when deleting scripts--it is not undoable!

Validate
The Validate button at the bottom of the Dash Board Prefs app will automatically scan Dash Board's prefs and find references to missing packages or scripts. It can optionally remove all such references, or prompt you for what to do for each one. Thardsis useful when you have added programs or scripts to your Letter Launcher or Newton Menu configuration, and then delete those programs or scripts. By using the Validate function, you don't have to remove those references by hand.

Please note that if you have programs or scripts stored on a's pard that is not

4. THE NEWTON MENU PANEL
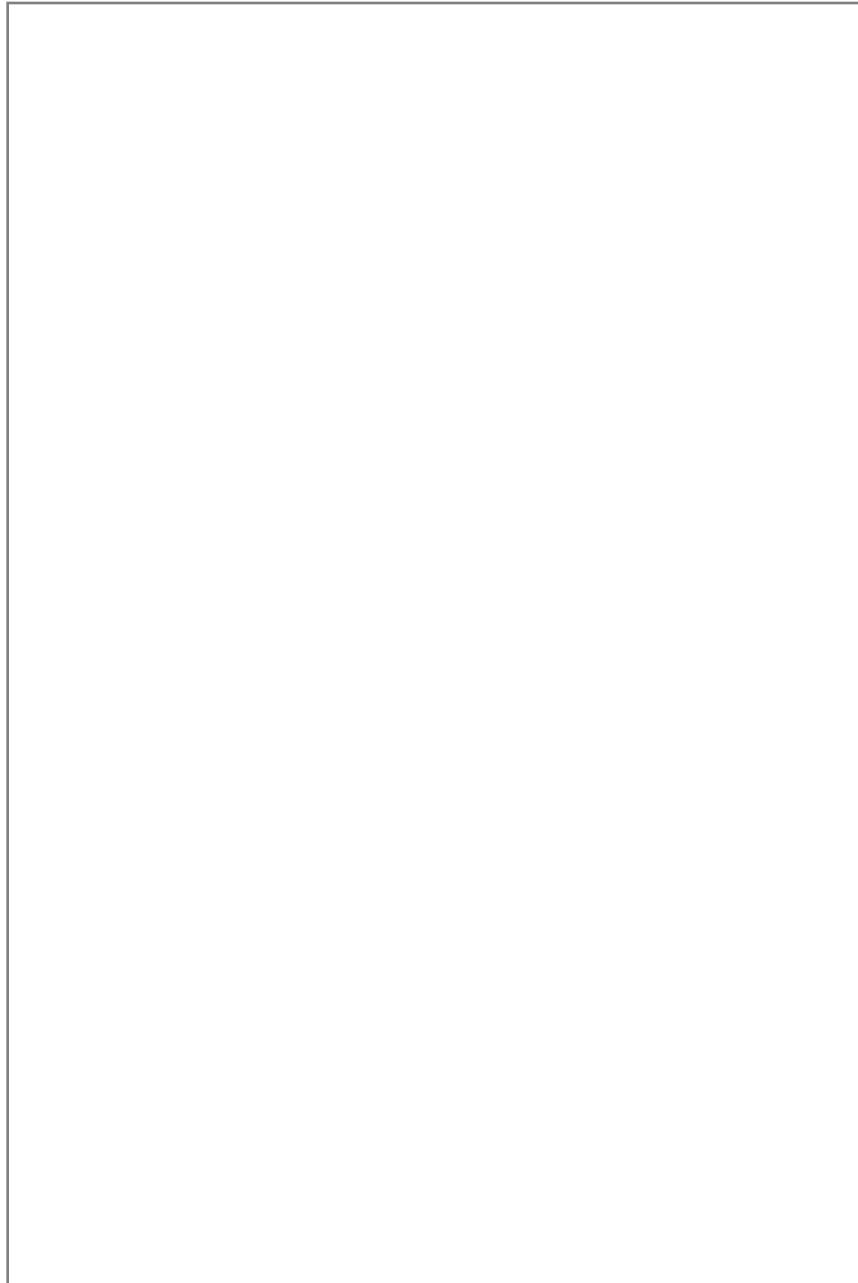
The Newton Menu panel is where you configure Dash Board's Newton Menu. To add an item, use the buttons on the left side of the screen. If an item is currently selected, the item is inserted immediately below the selected item; otherwise it is inserted at the bottom of the menu. You can drag and drop items within the menu

view on the right side, to rearrange them. To delete an item from the menu, tap it in the menu view at the right, then tap the Remove Selected Item button.

Adding A Package

lo add a package to the currently visible menu, tap the Add Package button. Note that the package must not be frozen at the time you add it. After you add it however, the package can be frozen and Dash Board will still be able to find it.

Adding An Extras Drawer Folder Submenu

Extras Drawer Folder Submenus are special submenus that you can put in the Newton menu, which list the packages in the corresponding folder in the Extras Drawer. lo add an Extras Drawer Folder Submenu, tap the Add Folder button.

Adding A Custom Submenu

lo add your own custom submenu, tap the Add Submenu button. You will be prompted for a name for your submenu. lo edit its contents, tap it once in the menu to select it. Above the menu, a right arrow will appear. lap the right arrow to change the menu view to the new submenu. lhen you can add items to it.

lo move back up one level of the menu hierarchy, tap the left arrow.

Adding A Special Item

5. THE LETTER LAUNCHER PANEL

```
┌─────────┐   Dash Board Prefs          v.1 5.
│ Register │
└─────────┘
```
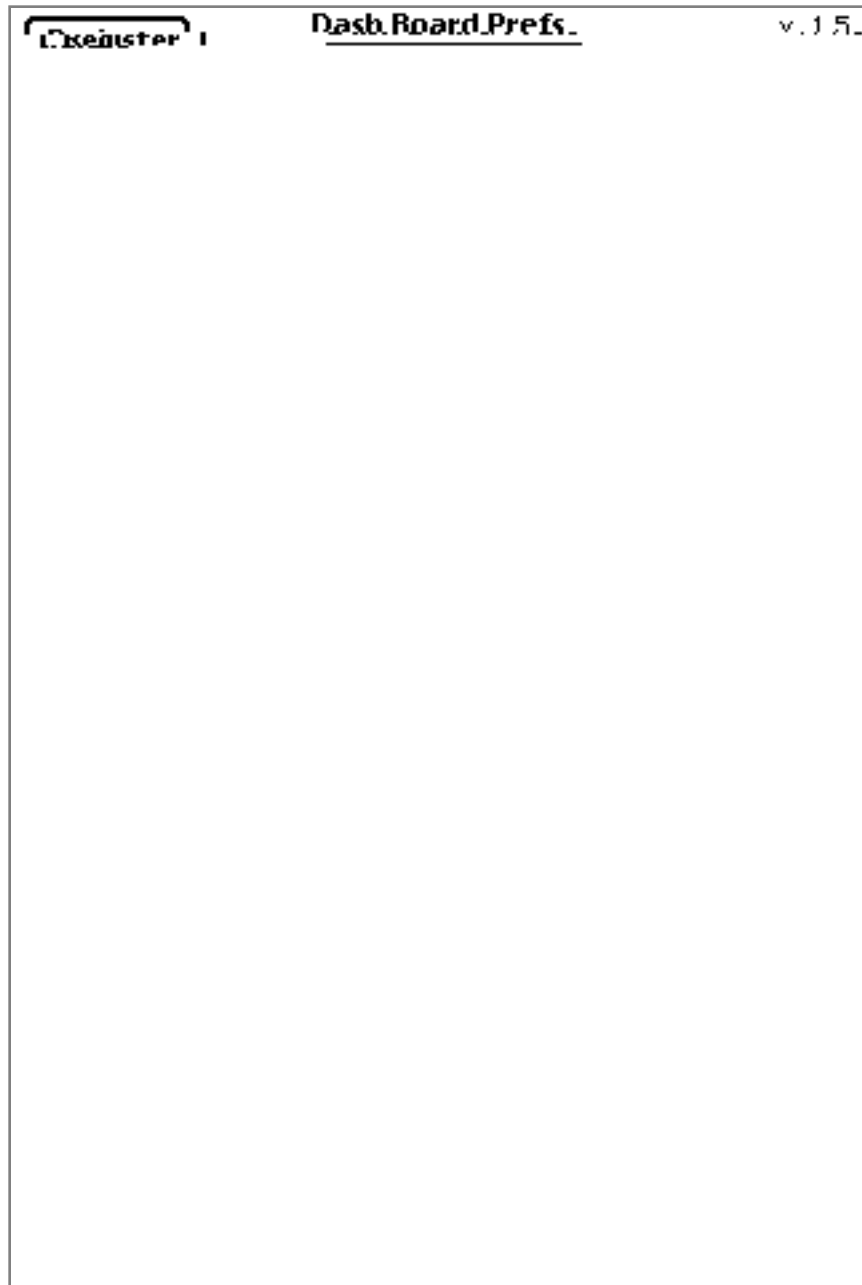
The Letter Launcher panel is where you customize your Letter Launcher shortcuts. You can add a shortcut for any installed program, script, or Dash Board kpecial Item. (Note that packages must not be frozen at the time they are added; after they are added they can be frozen again.)

Then tap the Delete button. You can select multiple shortcuts at once.

will appear (see below).

Shortcut Edit Slip will appear (see below).

Letter Launcher Shortcut

Enter the shortcut text in the Shortcut box. Then use the buttons at the bottom left to choose what that shortcut should do: launch a package, execute a Special Item, or run a script. Tap the Add button to add the shortcut to the list. (If you are editing a previously defined shortcut, the button will read "Save"--tap it to save

6. THE SCRIPTS PANEL

NOTE: This section of the manual concerns how to use the Scripts panel. For more information on how to create scripts with Dash Board, please see the Dash Board Scripting Page at: http://www.fivespeed.com/dashboard/scripting.html

The Scripts panel is where you create, edit, and manage Dash Board scripts. A

it compiles the co o into an executable NewtonScript function and executes it.
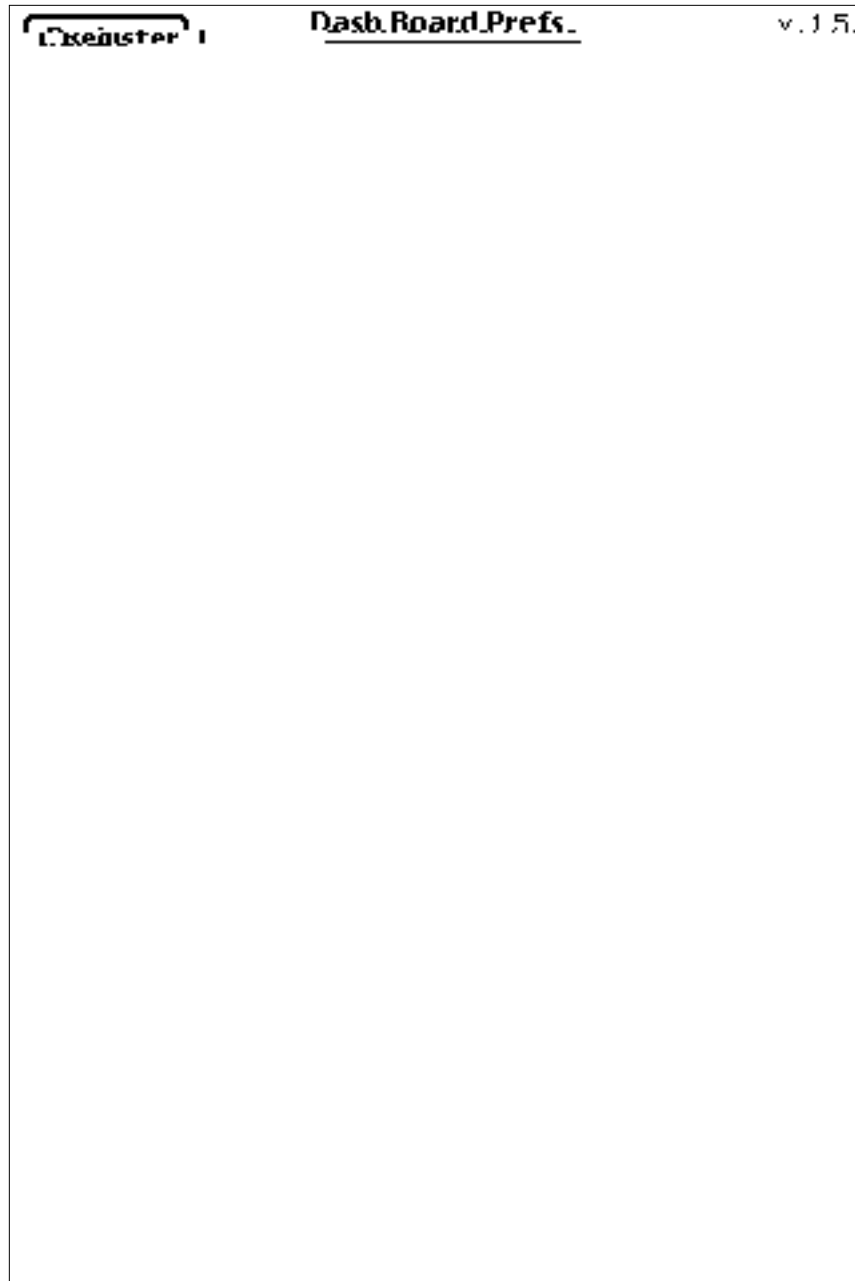
script is stored as plain text NewtonScript code. When Dash Board runs a script,

The list at the right allows you to select scripts by checking the checkboxes next to the script names. You can use the Duplicate, File and Delete buttons after selecting one or more scripts. lapping the name of a script in the list opens that

Editing a kcript in the kcript Editor

The script editor allows you to edit a script's source code and title.

The Save button saves any changes to the script. The Cancel button closes the

the script is compiled successfully, the script editor will ask you if you want to execute the script or not.

text comments

7. THE MISC. PANEL

section controls how Dash Board
uses large custom icons in its menus. You have three choices:

"Running Apps and jecent Apps menus/submenus only" causes Dash Board to
display large icons only in these two menus/submmens.

but not the first level of the

"All mmens & submenus u u cluding the Newton Mmnu" causes Dash Board to

much screen space.)

lhe   section controls whether Dash Board should automatically turn

to its jecent Apps menu even if Dash Board did not launch them (i.e., the

number tic programs displayed inAthe jecent Apps menu.

lhe **"Frozen Apps**"ction controDash Bhow Dash Board should handle frozen

Launcher. By default, Dash Board simply unfreezes them. It can optionally
automatically launch them as well, and refreeze them after they are quit.

packages, and/or refreeze them after they are closed, you should leave these
options disabled in Dash Board, as they can cause compatibility problems.

lhe " **Time Button**" options control what happens when you tap the small clock

and unlike the system
Time Zones application, the Dash Board Time Display updates the time
periodically, not just when you open it). You can change this preference to make

8. REGISTERING AND CONTACTING FIVE SPEED