

# Specification for the NEV and NSx file formats (FileSpec. 3.0)

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## **File Format Overview**

There are two different file formats to save digitized intracellular electrode spike and continuously sampled data:

- The [\\*.NEV files](#) contain digitized extracellular electrode spike information
- The [\\*.NS1, \\*.NS2, \\*.NS3, \\*.NS4 and \\*.NS5 files](#) contain digitized continuously sampled data (e.g. raw data, local field potentials (LFPs) or electromyograms (EMGs))

## **NEV File Format**

This data format is designed to provide a method for encoding digitized extracellular electrode spike information for up to 10,000 electrodes. The format also includes methods for embedding low bandwidth, time-stamped experiment events. This format represents a balance between format flexibility to encode a variety of different event types, efficiency of encoding, and simplicity of organization for quick analysis.

A \*.NEV file is composed of three sections:

- 1) **Header Basic Information**  
A series of fixed width fields containing the basic timing, creation, and comment information of the file.
- 2) **Header Extended Information**  
A variable number of fixed-width packets which can be used to embed data about the configuration of certain electrode channels and other important experiment information.
- 3) **Data Packets**  
A series of fixed width packets used to encode the electrode data stream.

All data stored in the file is in the form of packets that encapsulate information about certain events. For example, a spike on an electrode is considered to be an event, and the time of the spike, the channel number, and the waveform of the spike are stored in a data packet. Non-neural experiment events can also be embedded as data packets. Electrode channels in the file are numbered from 1 to 10,000. All data is written in a time non-decreasing manner.

## Section 1 - Header Basic Information

This section is placed at the beginning of the file and consists of the following fields in the order listed.

### NEURALEV

| Field                          | Type                          | Length (Bytes) | Description  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| File Type ID                   | Char array                    | 8              | Always set to “BREVENTS” for “neural events”.  |
| File Spec                      | 2 x unsigned char             | 2              | The major and minor revision numbers of the file specification used to create the file e.g. use 0x0201 for Spec. 2.1.  |
| Additional Flags               | Unsigned int-16               | 2              | File format additional flags.<br>Bit 0: Set if all spike waveform values in the file are 16-bit; cleared if a mixture is to be expected. In the cleared case you <b>MUST</b> look at <a href="#">NEUEVWAV</a> to determine the <a href="#">number of bytes per waveform sample</a> . In the set case, <b>NEUEVWAV</b> may still be read, as all <b>NEUEVWAV</b> headers will indicate 16-bit data. All other bits are reserved and should be set to 0. |
| Bytes in Headers               | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | The total number of bytes in both headers (Standard and Extended). This value can also be considered to be a zero-indexed pointer to the first data packet.  |
| Bytes in Data Packets          | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | The length (in bytes) of the fixed width data packets in the data section of the file. The packet sizes must be between 12 and 256 bytes (see Data Section description). Packet sizes are required to be multiples of 4 so that the packets are well aligned for 32-bit file access.   |
| Time Resolution of Time Stamps | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | This value denotes the frequency (counts per second) of the global clock used to index the time samples of the individual data packet entries.   |
| Time Resolution of Samples     | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | This value denotes the sampling frequency (counts per second) used to digitize neural waveforms.   |
| Time Origin                    | Windows SYSTEM TIME structure | 16             | The UTC Time at which the data in the file was collected. This also corresponds to time index saved in the recording event packet listed below for the time stamps in the file. The structure consists of eight 2-byte unsigned int-16 values defining the Year, Month, DayOfWeek, Day, Hour, Minute, Second, and Millisecond.   |
| Application to Create File     | String - Char array           | 32             | A 32 character string labeling the program which created the file. Programs should also include their revision number in this label. The string must be null terminated.   |
| Comment Field                  | String - Char array           | 256            | A 256 character, null-terminated string used for embedding comments into the data field. Multi-line comments should ideally use no more than 80 characters per line and no more than 8 lines. The string must be NULL terminated.  |
| Number of Extended Headers     | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | A long value indicating the number of extended header entries.   |

## Section 2 - Header Extended Information

This section consists of a variable number of 32-byte, fixed length extended information entries. The exact number of entries in this section is specified at the end of the Header Basic Information section. These entries may be used to include additional configuration information and comments into the file.

Each 32-byte extended information entry consists of an **8 byte identifier** and a **24 byte information field**. These entries are not required to be of any registered type. For example, a program can add extended header entries to the NEV file that only the program or related programs can utilize. However, there are several standard entries and identifiers that are defined in the specification and listed below with the 8 character identifier and 24 byte information field.

### ARRAYNME

| Field                | Type                | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Packet ID            | Char array          | 8              | Always set to "ARRAYNME" for "array name".                        |
| Electrode Array Name | String - char array | 24             | String name of the electrode array used, Must be null-terminated. |

### ECOMMENT

| Field         | Type                | Length (Bytes) | Description  |
|---------------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Packet ID     | Char array          | 8              | Always set to "ECOMMENT" for "extra comment".        |
| Extra Comment | String - Char array | 24             | String name to be included, must be null-terminated. |

### CCOMMENT

| Field             | Type                | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Packet ID         | Char array          | 8              | Always set to "CCOMMENT" for "continued comment".                   |
| Continued Comment | String - Char array | 24             | String to be appended to previous comment, must be null-terminated. |

### MAPFILE

| Field     | Type                | Length (Bytes) | Description  |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Packet ID | Char array          | 8              | Always set to "MAPFILE" + NULL                                     |
| Mapfile   | String - Char array | 24             | Mapfile used in the creation of the data, must be null-terminated. |

## NEUEVWAV

| Field                  | Type            | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Packet ID              | Char array      | 8              | Always set to “NEUEVWAV” for a standard “neural event waveform”.  |
| Electrode ID           | Unsigned int-16 | 2              | Electrode ID number used in the <a href="#">data section</a> of the file (1-10,000). Also used in <a href="#">NEUEVLBL</a> and <a href="#">NEUEVFLT</a> . |
| Physical Connector     | Unsigned char   | 1              | Physical system connector or module connected to the electrode (e.g. Front-End Bank A, B, C, D are 1, 2, 3, 4).   |
| Connector Pin          | Unsigned char   | 1              | Physical system connector pin or channel connected to the electrode (e.g. 1-37 on bank A, B, C, D).   |
| Digitization Factor    | Unsigned int-16 | 2              | Digitization scaling factor (nV per LSB step).  |
| Energy Threshold       | Unsigned int-16 | 2              | Energy threshold, 0 if none used.   |
| High Threshold         | Int-16          | 2              | Amplitude high threshold used (in $\mu\text{V}$ ) 0 to 32767.   |
| Low Threshold          | Int-16          | 2              | Amplitude low threshold used (in $\mu\text{V}$ ) 0 to -32767.   |
| Number of Sorted Units | Unsigned char   | 1              | Number of sorted units in channel, set to 0 for no unit classification.   |
| Bytes per Waveform     | Unsigned char   | 1              | Number of bytes per waveform sample, a value of 0 or 1 indicates 1 byte; 2 indicates 2 bytes; 3 indicates 3 bytes; etc.                                   |
| Spike Width (samples)  | Unsigned Int-16 | 2              | The number of samples for each waveform. (the default for the system is 48 samples which is 1.6ms)  |
|                        |                 | 8              | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.  |

**NEUEVLBL**

| Field        | Type                | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|--------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Packet ID    | Char array          | 8              | Always set to “NEUEVLBL” for a standard “neural event Label”.   |
| Electrode ID | Unsigned int-16     | 2              | Electrode ID number used in the <a href="#">data section</a> of the file (1-10,000). Also used in <a href="#">NEUEVWAV</a> and <a href="#">NEUEVFLT</a> . |
| Label        | String – Char array | 16             | Label of this electrode. Must be NULL terminated  |
|              |                     | 6              | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.  |

**NEUEVFLT**

| Field            | Type            | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------|---|
| Packet ID        | Char array      | 8              | Always set to “NEUEVFLT” for a standard “Neural Event Filter”.  |
| Electrode ID     | Unsigned int-16 | 2              | Electrode ID number used in the <a href="#">data section</a> of the file (1-10,000). Also used in <a href="#">NEUEVWAV</a> and <a href="#">NEUEVLBL</a> . |
| High Freq Corner | Unsigned int-32 | 4              | High frequency cutoff in mHz of the source signal filtering.  |
| High Freq Order  | Unsigned int-32 | 4              | Order of the filter used for high frequency cutoff. 0 = NONE  |
| High Filter Type | Unsigned int-16 | 2              | Type of filter used for high frequency cutoff: 0 = None, 1 = Butterworth.   |
| Low Freq Corner  | Unsigned int-32 | 4              | Low frequency cutoff in mHz of the source signal filtering.   |
| Low Freq Order   | Unsigned int-32 | 4              | Order of the filter used for low frequency cutoff. 0 = NONE   |
| Low Filter Type  | Unsigned int-16 | 2              | Type of filter used for low frequency cutoff: 0 = None, 1 = Butterworth   |
|                  |                 | 2              | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.  |

**DIGLABEL**

| Field     | Type                | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|-----------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Packet ID | Char array          | 8              | Always set to “DIGLABEL” for a standard “Digital Label” |
| Label     | String – Char array | 16             | Label of the digital channel. Must be NULL terminated   |
| Mode      | Byte                | 1              | 0 = serial, 1 = parallel                                |
|           |                     | 7              | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.                |

**VIDEOSYN**

| Field           | Type                   | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|---|
| Packet ID       | Char array             | 8              | Always set to “VIDEOSYN” for a standard “Video Synchronization Event” |
| Video Source ID | Unsigned int-16        | 2              | Video Source ID (start at 0)  |
| Video Source    | String – Char array    | 16             | Video source name. Must be NULL terminated                            |
| Frame rate      | Single Precision Float | 4              | The nominal recorded fps (must be greater than 0)                     |
|                 |                        | 2              | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.                              |

**TRACKOBJ**

| Field          | Type                | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Packet ID      | Char array          | 8              | Always set to “TRACKOBJ” for a standard “Trackable Object Information”  |
| Trackable type | Unsigned int-16     | 2              | 0 - Undefined<br>1 - 2D Rigid body tracked with marker(s)<br>2 - 2D Rigid body border tracked with blob<br>3 - 3D Rigid body tracked with marker(s)<br>4 - 2D boundary for visual event definition<br>5 – Marker Size             |
| Trackable ID   | Unsigned int-16     | 2              | Trackable ID<br>1 - Object<br>2 - Marker<br>3 - Marker Size<br>4 - Tracking ROI 1<br>5 - Tracking ROI 2<br>6 - Tracking ROI 3<br>7 - Tracking ROI 4<br>8 - Event ROI 1<br>9 - Event ROI 2<br>10 - Event ROI 3<br>11 - Event ROI 4 |
| Point count    | Unsigned int-16     | 2              | The maximum number of points  |
| Video Source   | String – Char array | 16             | Trackable name. Must be NULL terminated   |
|                |                     | 2              | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.  |

### **Section 3 - Data Packets**

This section contains an unspecified number of [fixed length data](#). Extracellular spike events and external experiment channel updates are stored in these packets.

Each packet begins with a **8 byte (UINT64) Time Stamp** and a **2 byte (word) Packet Identifier**. The remaining bytes of the packet are defined according to the packet type.

The 2 byte (word) Packet Identifier determines the information stored in the remainder of the packet. The different IDs correspond to system events or events on certain electrodes. In this revision of the specification, all packet IDs are valid. Packet ID's less than 32768 are used to identify channels. Packet ID's starting with 32768 and above indicate other types of events such as comments, log entries, etc. (see below).

## Packet Identifier 0 (Digital/Serial Inputs)

Represent packets that give the state of non-neural experiment information channels. These packets can be inserted whenever a periodic sampling timer expires, the value of the digital input port changes, or when an analog edge threshold is crossed.

This revision provides for digital values up to 16 bits, and 5 analog inputs to be logged for each experiment information entry. An event trigger on any one of the experiment information channels is assumed to log the instantaneous state of all of the experiment information channels.

The data fields of packets with Packet ID 0 are (in order):

| Field                   | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description   |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Timestamp               | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | Time at which event occurred. A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The <a href="#">frequency of the time stamp clock</a> and the <a href="#">time of the file creation</a> are stored in the file header.   |
| Packet ID               | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | Equal to zero.  |
| Packet Insertion Reason | Unsigned char   | 1                 | Bit flag field detailing why this packet was inserted:<br>bit 0 set if digital channel changed<br>bit 1 set if event is from strobed input bit 2 reserved (use 0)<br>bit 3 reserved (use 0)<br>bit 4 reserved (use 0)<br>bit 5 reserved (use 0)<br>bit 6 reserved (use 0)<br>bit 7 set if serial channel changed ( <b>bit 0 must be set as well</b> )<br>(multiple bits may be set) |
| Reserved                | Unsigned char   | 1                 | Reserved for future unit information (use 0).   |
| Digital Input           | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | Value of the digital input port.  |
| Reserved                | Char array      | Packet width – 14 | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.  |

### Packet Identifiers to 1 through 10000 (Spike event)

Represent a spike event on the electrode number given by the packet ID number. For example, a data packet with ID 25 indicates that a spike occurred on channel 25 at the time of the time stamp. The data fields of packets with Packet ID 1-25 are (in order):

| Field                      | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description   |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Timestamp                  | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the time of the file creation are stored in the file header. |
| Packet ID                  | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | Electrode ID number (1-10000).<br>Also used in <a href="#">NEUEVWAV</a> , <a href="#">NEUEVLBL</a> and <a href="#">NEUEVFLT</a> .   |
| Unit Classification Number | Unsigned char   | 1                 | Unit classification number for the spike event:<br>0 = unclassified<br>1-16 = units 1 through 16<br>17 - 254 = reserved<br>255 = "noise"  |
| Reserved                   | Unsigned char   | 1                 | Reserved for future unit information (use 0).   |
| Waveform                   | Char array      | Packet width – 12 | The sampled waveform of the spike.  |

### Packet Identifier 65535 (0xFFFF) (Comment event)

Represent a comment:

| Field     | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description   |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Timestamp | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the time of the file creation are stored in the file header. |
| Packet ID | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | 65535   |
| Char Set  | Unsigned Int-8  | 1                 | 0 - ANSI<br>1 - UTF-16<br>255 – NeuroMotive ROI   |
| Flag      | Unsigned int-8  | 1                 | 0 – Data is RGBA color code.<br>1 – Data is the timestamp when the comment was started.   |
| Data      | Unsigned Int-32 | 4                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RGBA color code</li> <li>• Timestamp</li> <li>• ROI – Byte 1 - Event ROI #, Byte 2 – 1=Enter 2=Exit</li> </ul>                                 |
| Comment   | Char array      | Packet width – 16 | Comment (does not need to be null terminated)   |

**Packet Identifier 65534 (0xFFFE) (Video sync event)**

Represent a video synchronization event:

| Field              | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description   |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Timestamp          | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the time of the file creation are stored in the file header. |
| Packet ID          | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | 65534   |
| Video File Number  | Unsigned Int-16 | 2                 | Video file split number (zero based)  |
| Video Frame Number | Unsigned Int-32 | 4                 | Video frame number (zero based)   |
| Video Elapsed Time | Unsigned Int-32 | 4                 | Elapsed time in milliseconds  |
| Video Source ID    | Unsigned int-32 | 4                 | Video source ID (zero based)  |
| Reserved           | Int-8 array     | Packet width – 24 | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.  |

### Packet Identifier 65533 (0xFFFD) (Tracking event)

Represents a tracking event. Any trackable is represented by a tree of trackable nodes that have specified number of tracking points. The parent ID is the trackable ID of the parent node, for the root node this is equal to zero. The node ID is the ID of the current node, for the root node this is set to the trackable ID specified in the header. Node count is the number of child nodes of the current node, zero indicates a leaf in the tree. Point count is the number of points at this node, and must be less than or equal to the maximum number of points defined in the TRACKOBJ header. TRACKOBJ header also specifies the number of coordinates for each point. For example a 2D type is a made of pairs (X,Y), and for 3D it is triples (X,Y,Z). Coordinates are in the all-positive region (have UInt-16 type) and are recorded starting the first point. The packet size is fixed, and the unused bytes are set to zero. X,Y coordinates are relative to the lower left of the video.

| Field           | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description   |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Timestamp       | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the time of the file creation are stored in the file header.   |
| Packet ID       | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | 65533   |
| Parent ID       | UInt-16         | 2                 | The trackable ID of the parent  |
| Node ID         | UInt-16         | 2                 | The ID of this node<br>0 - Object<br>1 - Marker<br>2 - Marker Size<br>3 - Tracking ROI 1<br>4 - Tracking ROI 2<br>5 - Tracking ROI 3<br>6 - Tracking ROI 4<br>7 - Event ROI 1<br>8 - Event ROI 2<br>9 - Event ROI 3<br>10 - Event ROI 4 |
| Node count      | UInt-16         | 2                 | Number of children nodes  |
| Point count     | UInt-16         | 2                 | Number of points at this node (must not exceed the maximum number of points defined in the TRACKOBJ header)   |
| Tracking Points | UInt-16 array   | Packet width - 18 | Tracking points   |

**Packet Identifier 65532 (0xFFFC) (Button trigger event)**

Represent a button trigger event:

| Field        | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description   |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Timestamp    | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the time of the file creation are stored in the file header. |
| Packet ID    | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | 65532   |
| Trigger type | Unsigned Int-16 | 2                 | 0 – undefined<br>1 – button press<br>2 – event reset  |
| Reserved     | Int-8 array     | Packet width – 12 | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.  |

**Packet Identifier 65531 (0xFFFB) (Log event)**

Represent a configuration log event

| Field       | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description  |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Timestamp   | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the time of the file creation are stored in the file header.  |
| Packet ID   | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | 65531  |
| Mode        | Unsigned Int-16 | 2                 | 0-normal, 1-critical, 2-PC->NSP RPC, 3-NSP->PC Plugin info, 4-NSP->PC RPC results, 5-NSP->PC Plugin error, 6-NSP->PC last RPC packet, 7-PC->NSP Terminate last RPC, 8-PC->NSP RPC command input, 9-NSP->PC Upload result, 10-PC->NSP Signal plugin to end, 11-PC->NSP reboot |
| App name    | Char array      | 16                | Name of the application sending the log event. (does not need to be null terminated)   |
| Log Comment | Char array      | Packet width – 28 | Log Comment (does not need to be null terminated)  |

### Packet Identifier 65530 (0xFFFA) (Configuration event)

Represent a configuration configuration event

| Field              | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description   |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---|
| Timestamp          | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the time of the file creation are stored in the file header. |
| Packet ID          | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | 65530   |
| Config change type | Unsigned Int-16 | 2                 | 0 – normal<br>1 – critical  |
| Config changed     | Char array      | Packet width – 12 | Description of the configuration setting changed or commands.   |

### Packet Identifier 65529 (0xFFF9) (Recording event)

Represent the timestamp at a user interaction of recording e.g. start, stop, pause, resume

| Field        | Type            | Length (Bytes)    | Description  |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Timestamp    | Unsigned int-64 | 8                 | The time stamp of the beginning of the file recording. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the UTC date/time of the file creation are stored in the file header. |
| Packet ID    | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | 65529  |
| Event Reason | Unsigned int-16 | 2                 | 0-Start, 1-Stop, 2-Pause, 3-Resume   |
| Reserved     | Int-8 array     | Packet width – 12 | Remaining bytes reserved, write as zero.   |

### Continuation Packets

If the time stamp of the packet is 0xFFFFFFFF, the remaining bytes of the packet are a continuation of the previous packet and should be appended to that packet. This is to provide support for future revisions in which the packet size may be allowed to shrink to 8 characters wide (no event waveform storage). In this case, the continuation packets would be used to squeeze packets (such as external info packets) which would not fit into an 8 character wide format.

## **NSx File Format**

In addition to the .NEV file described above, there can also be continuously sampled data files. These files have the extension .NS $x$  where  $x$  is some number between 1 and 9. This file is used to store information for channels which are sampled continuously, e.g. raw data, LFP recordings. All data is written in a time non-decreasing manner.

A file with the extension .NS $x$  most likely is accompanied by a .NEV file with the same base name: for instance, *data.nev* and *data.ns2*. Please note, the existence of a single continuously sampled data file does neither require, nor preclude the existence of other continuously sampled data files. Moreover, the continuously sampled data files will not necessarily start with .ns1; the combination of *data.nev* and *data.ns2* is perfectly valid. The existence of two continuously sampled data files indicates that continuous channel sampling occurred at two data rates; for instance, 500 S/s and 1 kS/s.

## Section 1 – Basic Header

The file begins with a file header. All char arrays are **not** guaranteed to be 0 terminated; they will be **only** if the string is actually shorter than the maximum length allowed. All multi-byte data types will be stored in little-endian format.

### BRSMPGRP

| Field                          | Type                          | Length (Bytes) | Description  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| File Type ID                   | Char array                    | 8              | Always set to “ <b>BRSMPGRP</b> ” for “Neural Continuous Data”. Note: In prior versions of the file, this field was set to “NEURALS <sub>G</sub> ” or “NEURALC <sub>D</sub> ”.   |
| File Spec                      | 2 x unsigned char             | 2              | The major and minor revision numbers of the file specification used to create the file e.g. use 0x0202 for Spec. 2.2.  |
| Bytes in Headers               | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | The total number of bytes in both headers (Standard and Extended). This value can also be considered to be a zero-indexed pointer to the first data packet.  |
| Label                          | Char array                    | 16             | Label of the sampling group e.g. “1 kS/s” or “LFP Low”. <b>Must</b> be ‘0’ terminated.   |
| Comment                        | Char array                    | 256            | Comment about the file. <b>Must</b> be ‘0’ terminated  |
| Period                         | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | Number of 1/30,000 seconds between data points e.g. sampling rate of 30 kS/s = 1; 10 kS/s = 3  |
| Time Resolution of Time Stamps | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | This value denotes the frequency (counts per second) of the global clock used to index the time samples of the individual data packet entries.   |
| Time Origin                    | Windows SYSTEM TIME structure | 16             | The UTC Time at which the data in the file was collected. This also corresponds to time index zero for the time stamps in the file. The structure consists of eight 2-byte unsigned int-16 values defining the Year, Month, DayOfWeek, Day, Hour, Minute, Second, and Millisecond. |
| Channel Count                  | Unsigned int-32               | 4              | Number of channels per data point. This will also match the number of extended headers.  |

## Section 2 - Extended Headers

The exact number of entries in this section is specified by the [Channel Count](#) in the basic file header. These entries are used to include indicate which channels were recorded and what their configuration was. Additional extended headers such as comments might be added in the future.

### CC

| Field              | Type                | Length (Bytes) | Description   |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Type               | Char array          | 2              | Always set to “CC” for “Continuous Channels”  |
| Electrode ID       | Unsigned int-16     | 2              | Electrode number being sampled and data saved. This number will correspond exactly with the “ <a href="#">electrode number</a> ” of the *.NEV file. |
| Electrode label    | String - Char array | 16             | Label or name of the electrode (e.g. “elec1”). Must be NULL terminated.   |
| Physical Connector | Unsigned int-8      | 1              | Physical system connector or module connected to the electrode (e.g. Front-End Bank A, B, C, D are 1, 2, 3, 4).                                     |
| Connector Pin      | Unsigned int-8      | 1              | Physical system connector pin or channel connected to the electrode (e.g. 1-37 on bank A, B, C, D).   |
| Min Digital Value  | Int-16              | 2              | Minimum digital value of the signal (e.g. -8192).   |
| Max Digital Value  | Int-16              | 2              | Maximum digital value of the signal (e.g. 8192).  |
| Min Analog Value   | Int-16              | 2              | Minimum analog value of the signal (e.g. -5000 mV).   |
| Max Analog Value   | Int-16              | 2              | Maximum analog value of the signal (e.g. 5000 mV).  |
| Units              | String - Char array | 16             | Units of the analog range values (“mV”, “μV”). Must be NULL terminated  |
| High Freq Corner   | Unsigned int-32     | 4              | High frequency cutoff in mHz of the source signal filtering.  |
| High Freq Order    | Unsigned int-32     | 4              | Order of the filter used for high frequency cutoff: 0 = NONE  |
| High Filter Type   | Unsigned int-16     | 2              | Type of filter used for high frequency cutoff: 0 = NONE, 1 = Butterworth  |
| Low Freq Corner    | Unsigned int-32     | 4              | Low frequency cutoff in mHz of the source signal filtering.   |
| Low Freq Order     | Unsigned int-32     | 4              | Order of the filter used for high frequency cutoff: 0 = NONE  |
| Low Filter Type    | Unsigned int-16     | 2              | Type of filter used for high frequency cutoff: 0 = NONE, 1 = Butterworth  |

Immediately following the header will be the “data” section.

### Section 3 – Data Packets

This section contains an sections starting by a header, a timestamp, the number of data points and an unspecified number of data points.

Timestamps indicate the starting time for the data block that follows. Timestamps will be inserted at the beginning of a data file or additionally to indicate a gap, e.g. when a file has been paused. A timestamp is followed by a varying number of data point entries indicated by the [number of data points](#). Data points are corresponding to a single point in time. The entries are in order of increasing time. Each entry consists of the samples from multiple channels.

0x01

| Field                 | Type            | Length (Bytes)                 | Description  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Header                | Byte            | 1                              | Always set to 0x01.  |
| Timestamp             | Unsigned int-64 | 8                              | A time stamp of zero corresponds to the beginning of the data acquisition cycle. The frequency of the time stamp clock and the time of the file creation are stored in the file header.  |
| Number of Data Points | Unsigned int-32 | 4                              | Number of data points following this header.   |
| Data Point            | Array of int-16 | Variable (2 bytes per channel) | This corresponds to a single data collection point. There will be exactly " <a href="#">Channel Count</a> " number of data points. They will be sorted in the same order as they are presented in " <a href="#">Channel ID</a> ". Data will be stored as digital values. |

## **Revision History**

- Version 7.0** Changed timestamps from 32-bits to 64-bits.  
Added new event indicating recording start time
- Version 6.0** Added LOG event packet type
- Version 5.0** Changed time origin of NEV to UTC time.  
Changed comment to be able to save time of start of comment.
- Version 4.0** **Added Comments, Video Synchronization, Tracking, Patient Trigger, and Reconfiguration data packets**  
**Added Video Synchronization and Tracking extended headers.**
- Version 3.0** Combined information for file spec 2.1 and file spec 2.2 into one document.  
Small editorial changes.
- Version 2.2** Changed file format of .NSx data files to allow pausing.  
Added extended header with channel configurations to .NSx files to make them standalone.  
Changed presentation of .NEV data file format.  
Added [NEUEVLBL](#)  
Added [NEUEVFLT](#)
- Version 2.1** Added serial data flag (BIT-7 of Packet ID 0 of Section 3)  
Added description of the .NSx data files
- Version 2.0** First major revision to the file format. The X-Y channel notation system was scrapped in favor of a 1-255 straight linear numbering scheme. It is recommended that newer NEV programs only use this format and older NEV files be converted to NEV version 2.0 files. The types of packets have also been simplified into the 2 most commonly used entries in this format, neural events and external events. NSASEXEV and external events were also change to mV representation.