Inside Microsoft Windows® 95

Tips and techniques for Windows 95 enthusiasts

Taking advantage of Dial-Up Networking: Configuring a Dial-Up Server

Do you often take data from the office home with you and work with it on your personal system? If so, you probably transport your files between home and the office on floppy disks. If you're like most people, you've had days when you've forgotten to bring your most recent copy with you.

What do you do in this situation? Update the file again? Run home and get the disk you forgot?

If both your systems are running Windows 95, both have modems, and at least one of them has Microsoft Plus! installed on it, you can avoid this scenario altogether by using Dial-Up Networking instead of floppy disks to transfer your files. As you may know, along with all the bells and whistles Plus! adds to your system, it also comes with a tool called Dial-Up Server that's very easy to set up and use. With one system set up as a Dial-Up Server and the other set up as a Dial-Up Networking client, you can use your PC at home to download and upload files you keep at work. You'll never have to worry about floppy disks again.

In this article, we'll go over the requirements for connecting two systems with Dial-Up Networking. Then, we'll show you how to configure the Dial-Up Server and share resources. In the accompanying article, on page 5, we'll explain how to configure the Dial-Up Networking client and how to connect to shared resources on the Dial-Up Server.

Prerequisites

Before we show you how to configure the Dial-Up Server, we have to cover a few basics. First off, we'll assume that you've installed the modems on both systems and configured Windows 95 to recognize them. We'll also assume that you've installed Dial-Up Networking and the default network protocols, NetBEUI and IPX/SPX Compatible, on both systems. (If you installed the modems before you installed Dial-Up Networking, all of this information should be in place.) Finally, we'll assume that you installed the Dial-Up Server tool on one of your systems when you installed Microsoft Plus!

Working with Dial-Up Server

Before you can connect to the server from the client PC, the system acting as the server must be turned on. Because the active server will be left unattended, it should

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be connected to a reliable surge protector. In addition, if the server's monitor and video card are Energy Star compliant, you should configure Windows 95 to automatically turn off your monitor after a specified time period. (You set this option from the Display properties sheet.) This will conserve the amount of electricity it takes to run your server.

Another important fact you need to keep in mind is that when you activate the Dial-Up Server software, it will answer the phone immediately after the first ring. If your server is in the office and connected to a dedicated modem line, this shouldn't be a problem. However, if you configure your home system to be the server while using the same line that you receive either phone calls or faxes on, the server will always grab the line before you, your answering machine, or your fax machine can answer the call. Therefore, you'll want to get a telephone line switch, a special device that answers calls and routes them to the appropriate locations. You should be able to find a telephone line switch at your local electronics store for as little as $30.

Setting up the Dial-Up Server

Configuring the Dial-Up Server to receive calls is a snap. For this example, suppose that you're going to set up your office computer as the server. To begin, double-click the My Computer icon on your desktop and then double-click the Dial-Up Networking icon. Once the Dial-Up Networking window appears, as shown in Figure A, pull down the Connections menu and select the Dial-Up Server... command. When you do, you'll see the Dial-Up Server dialog box, shown in Figure B.

As you can see, the No caller access option is selected by default, effectively disabling the Dial-Up Server. Therefore, the first thing you must do is select the Allow caller access radio button, which will activate the Password Protection panel and its Change Password... button. Clicking this button opens the Dial-Up Networking Password dialog box, shown in Figure C. From here, you can assign a password for the modem to prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to your computer and any shared resources. To assign the modem a password, type the one you want to use in the New password text box and once more in the Confirm new password text box. Now, click OK to return to the Dial-Up Server dialog box.

FIGURE A
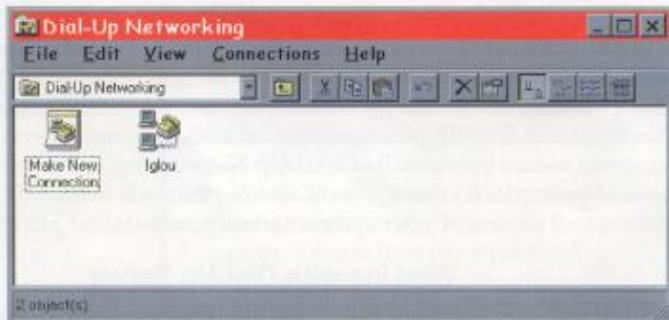
You'll access the Dial-Up Server dialog box from the Dial-Up Networking window.

Just below the Password Protection panel, you'll see the Comment text box, where you can type descriptive information about the connection. For example, you might want to type the phone number required to dial into this server.

Beneath the Comment text box, you'll find the Status box. The default status of this box is Idle, which means the Dial-Up Server isn't currently waiting for a phone call. In a moment, we'll see what the Status box displays when the Dial-Up Server *is* waiting for a call.

If you click the Server Type... button, Windows 95 will display the Server Types dialog box, shown in Figure D. As you can see, the default setting in the Type of Dial-Up Server dropdown list is PPP, Windows 95, Windows NT 3.5, Internet. This is the correct setting for the type of connection you're configuring, so you should leave it as is.

Note that the Server Types dialog box also offers two advanced options. By default, the Enable software compression check box is selected. This option configures the server to receive and send compressed data, which increases the data transfer speed between systems. In order for this feature to work, the client system must also be configured to use software compression.

If you're really concerned about security, you can enable the Require encrypted password option. After you do, your server will accept only encrypted passwords. (You can find more detailed information about encrypted passwords on the Online Content page of our Web site.) Again, in order for this feature to work, the client system must be configured to send encrypted passwords. To close the Server Types dialog box, click OK.

When you return to the Dial-Up Server dialog box, click Apply. The Status box setting—now Monitoring—indicates that the Dial-Up Server is waiting for a phone call, as shown is Figure E. At this point, click OK to close the Dial-Up Server dialog box, and then close the Dial-Up Networking window.

FIGURE B

By default, the Dial-Up Server is disabled.

FIGURE C

You can assign your modem a password to prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to your computer.

FIGURE E
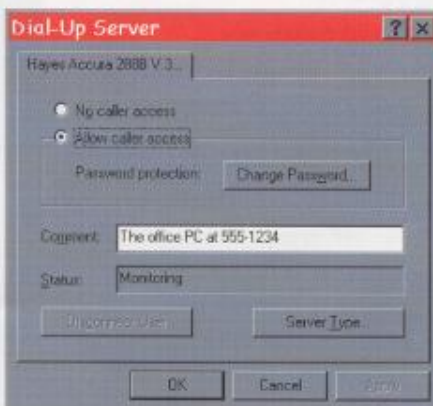
Once you activate it, the Dial-Up Server will monitor the phone line for incoming calls.

FIGURE D

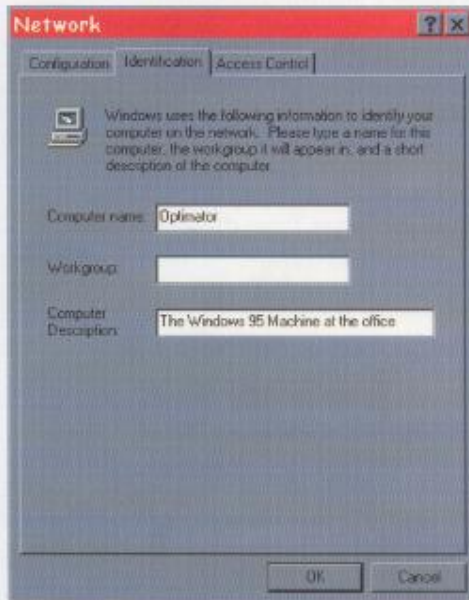The Server Types dialog box provides you with some advanced options.

Naming the server

Before you can make a connection to the Dial-Up Server, you must be able to identify it by name. To assign your server a name, open Control Panel and

FIGURE F

You need to assign your server a name.

FIGURE G

To give the client access to resources, click the File and Print Sharing... *button.*

double-click the Network icon. When the Network properties sheet appears, click the Identification tab. Now, type a name in the Computer name text box, as shown in Figure F.

You can use up to 15 characters for the server's name. You don't have to worry about a workgroup name for this type of connection, but you may want to type a note in the Computer Description text box. At this point, leave the Network properties sheet open, since you'll need to use it in the next step.
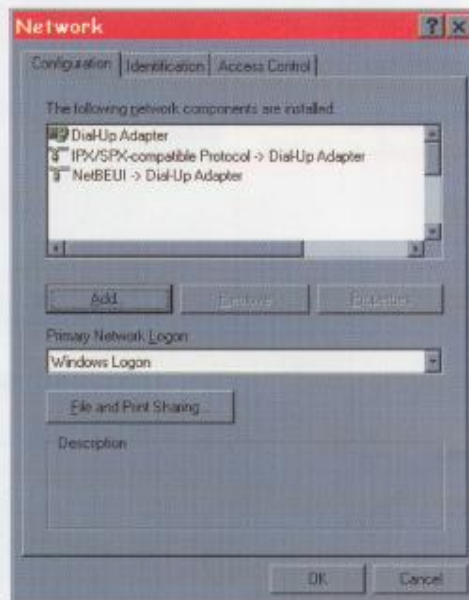
Sharing resources

Now that you've configured your Dial-Up Server to provide access to the client system, you need to make resources available. However, before you can share individual resources, you must activate the File and Printer Sharing feature. To do so, click the Configuration tab in the Network properties sheet. When the Configuration page appears, as shown in Figure G, click the File and Print Sharing... button. Windows 95 will open the File and Print Sharing dialog box, shown in Figure H. Next, select the I want to be able to give others access to my files check box and click OK. Windows 95 will then add File and printer sharing for Microsoft Networks to the list of network components in the Configuration tab. Now, click OK to close the Network properties sheet and then close Control Panel.

Once you've enabled File and Printer Sharing, you're ready to share the folders or drives on your office PC that you want to access from home. To do so, open either My Computer or Windows Explorer and right-click the drive or folder you want to share. When the context menu appears, select the Sharing... command. You'll then see the properties sheet for the resource you selected.

Let's suppose you want to share all of drive D, where the data you want to access from home is stored. When the (D:) Properties sheet appears, click the Shared As radio button to activate all the options in the Shared As panel. At this point, your (D:) Properties sheet will look similar to the one shown in Figure I.

Now you can assign the shared drive a name and description, choose one of the three access types, and password-protect your share. (For more information about the various access types, click the question mark button and click on any type's radio button. When you do, Windows 95 displays a detailed description about the type.)

When you're choosing a password for the shared resource, you can use the same password you assigned to the modem or you can choose a different one. However, keep in mind that this password is limited to eight characters. If you use the same password you assigned to the modem, you'll have full access to the drive as soon as you connect to the modem. If you choose a different password, you'll be prompted for it before you can access the drive.

Once you've configured the shared resource, click OK. You'll then be prompted to confirm the password. After you do, your Dial-Up Server will be completely functional.
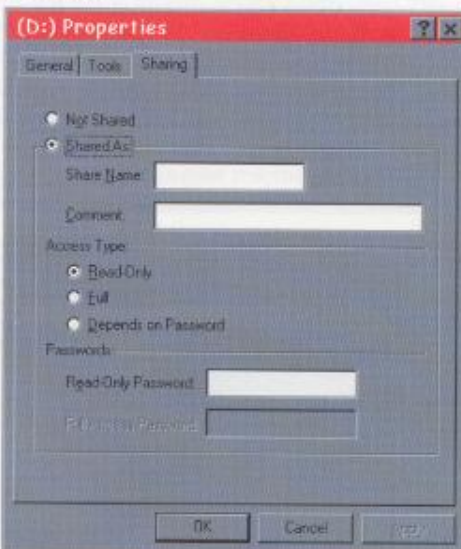
Conclusion

Now that you've configured the Dial-Up Server and shared resources, you're ready to go home and configure the Dial-Up Networking client. In the accompanying article, we'll show you just how easy that procedure is.

FIGURE H

You have two choices in the File and Print Sharing dialog box.

FIGURE I

Once you activate the Shared As panel, you can dictate how you want to share the resource.

Taking advantage of Dial-Up Networking: Configuring a Dial-Up Networking client

Once you've configured one of your systems to act as the Dial-Up Server, you need to configure your other system as the Dial-Up Networking client. In this article, we'll show you how to do so, and then we'll show you how to connect to the server and access your data.

Setting up the client

To begin, double-click My Computer and then double-click the Dial-Up Networking icon. When the Dial-Up Networking window appears, double-click the Make New Connection icon to launch the Make New Connection Wizard. When you see the first page, type in the text box the name that you want to replace the connection's default name, My Connection. For example, you might call the new connection My Office, as shown in Figure A on the next page. Since you've already installed and configured your modem, the correct