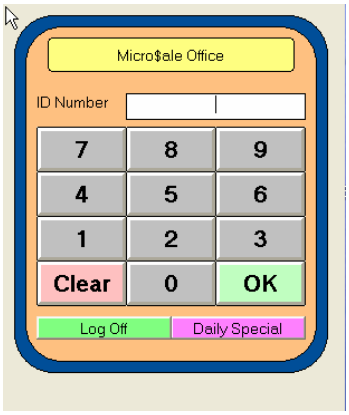
Micro$ale PDA



1.0 Introduction

Micro$ale has an optional PDA, or handheld, configuration available. With this interface, any Windows-based PDA with a wireless network adapter (WLAN) can be used in conjunction with the terminal services client to afford the server much more freedom to stay near assigned tables or areas, without having to keep returning to the nearest workstation to enter his/her orders. This is a guide to what the customer would need to purchase, and how to configure Micro$ale and Windows to get it running.

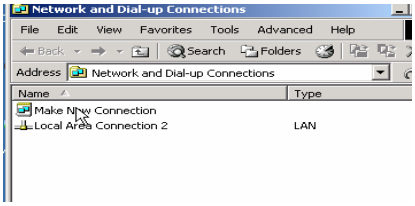
2.0 Prerequisites

In order to use the PDA option, there are a few things that have to be done. First, there is an additional per site licensing fee. Next, and most important, is to have at least one system in the network be running Windows 2000 or 2003 server. This should come with at least 2 terminal services licenses. Additional licenses can be purchased if necessary. When purchasing your PDA(s), you will need to specify 3 things: (1) Must have Windows operating system. (2) Must have wireless network adapter (WLAN). (3) Must have Windows terminal services client installed. After these 3 minimum requirements have been met, another concern is that the unit(s) should be rugged enough for every day use. In other words, an industrial-type model should seriously be considered. It will also be necessary to have a wireless access point connected to the network switch to provide the PDAs a way to communicate with the system running terminal services.

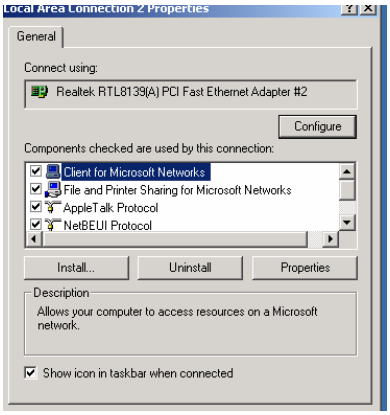
3.0 Configuration

3.1 Windows set-up

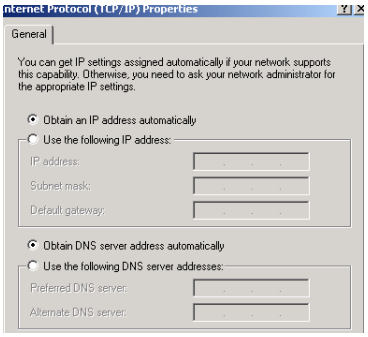
After installing 2000 or 2003 Server, here is a guide on how to setup the system for PDA use. First of all, the server should have a static IP address. This will greatly simplify the handheld's configuration. In order to configure the Server for this, it is necessary to go to the network configuration options. On the desktop, simply right click "My Network Places" and left click on "properties". This will yield a screen similar to the picture on the next page.



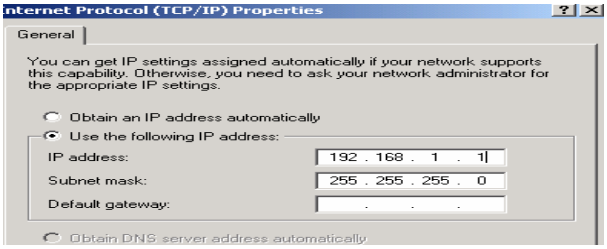
Once this is done, right click on “Local Area Connection” and in the drop-down box, left click on “properties”. This gives the screen in the next example:



This shows the typical network protocols installed with Windows. We will be working with TCP/IP. Just scroll down until “internet protocol” is visible, then highlight it and hit the “properties” button. This yields the screen in the following example:

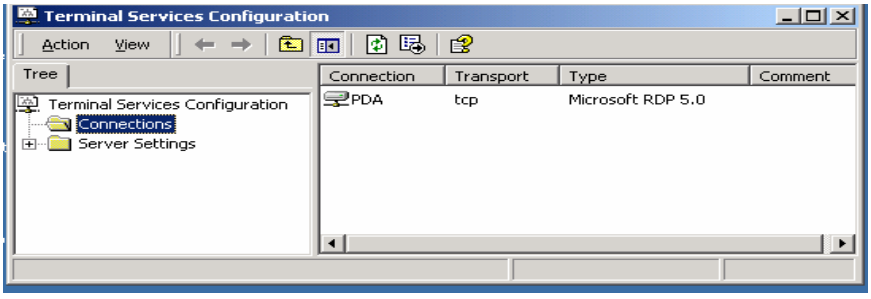


Here, it is clear that this system is currently configured to obtain an address automatically. As previously shown, this is not the recommended way to go. Instead, click on “Use the following IP address:”. This brings up the next screen:



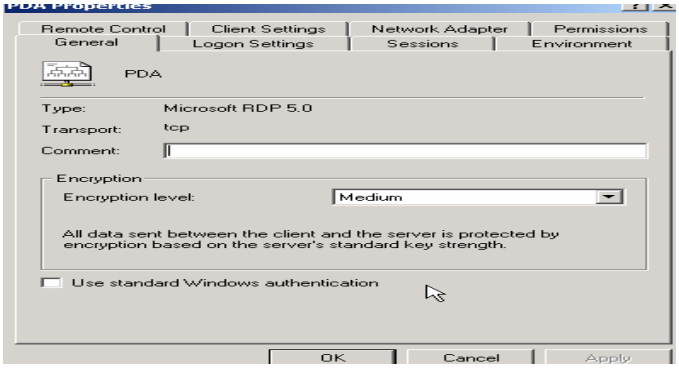
The example shows a commonly used private IP address, but any valid address range could be used. This will be the value entered into the “connect to” area on the PDA.

The next portion of the Windows configuration deals with setting up the connection session. When the PDA connects, we want it to automatically sign on to the server, start the correct program (Micro$ale), and then automatically sign off when the server logs off the terminal. First, open terminal services on the PDA and connect to the server at the address we have configured. At this point, it will still be necessary to put in a user ID and password. Once this is done, run a program on the Windows server called “terminal services configuration”. This is found under Start/Programs/Administrative Tools/terminal services configuration. This is the screen that should come up:

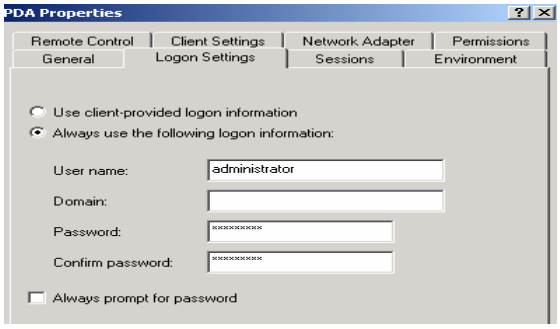


Notice that it shows a current connection called “PDA”. This is our office handheld, and it could be any name the customer chooses.

On the next page, the different options available under the connection properties will be explained. There are, as shown, several different tabs available. The ones that will be used are: “Environment”, “Logon Settings”, and “Client Settings”.

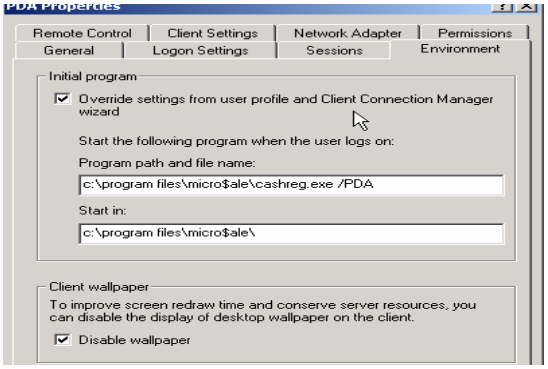


First, let's look at logon settings. The following example shows how to set up a connection to automatically sign on the server with "administrator" as the user ID with its corresponding password:

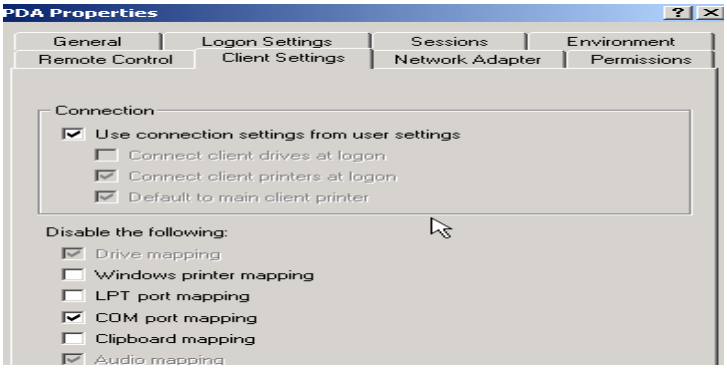


(Also, do not check "always prompt for password", else anytime the PDA is connected the user will have to supply a user ID and password)

Next, take a look at the Environment tab:



This shows the actual application, or program, that this session will automatically start once connected. As can be seen in the example, the checkbox for "Override settings" is checked. This locks the PDA into this startup application. The program path and filename is the same that a normal workstation would use, with the exception of the added "/PDA" extension. And, yes, the "PDA" has to be in caps. Notice also that the "Disable wallpaper" option is checked. This cuts down on the amount of graphics that has to be loaded. Next, we look at "Client Settings":

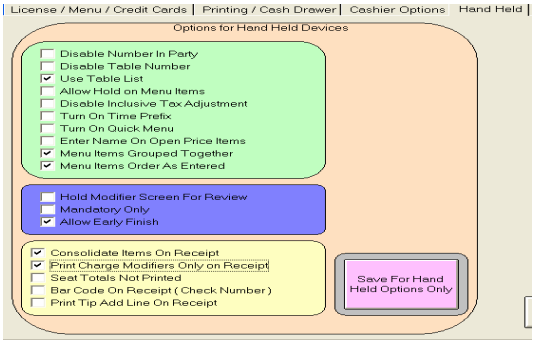


Notice that "Use connection setting from user settings" has been checked. Also, COM port mapping has been checked. This is to allow access to remote printers.

This is the end of the Windows configuration portion. Next will be the settings necessary within Micro$ale.

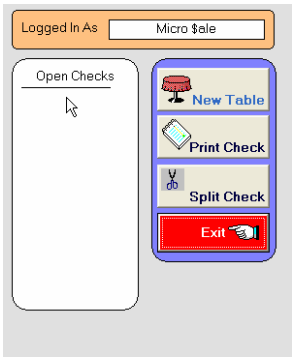
3.2 Micro$ale Set-up

This next section will cover what has to be configured within Micro$ale for handheld operation. Once the decision has been made to go with PDA's, it has to be turned on in the license. Then, there are certain options that have to be set in the Handheld tab within Register Options. This will be illustrated in the example on the next page.

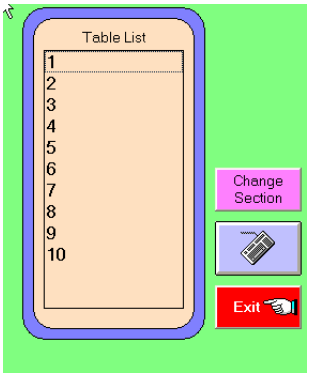


This example shows the “Handheld” tab within Register Options. At least one of these options must be set, or when the PDA connects, the screen will say “No handheld configuration” and log itself off. The next example will show an actual screen after correctly configuring the PDA, terminal services, and Micro$ale:

This is the ID screen. Once the server puts his/her ID, the next screen will come up:



Notice there is no “Close Check” option. This has to be done at a regular workstation, or at a centralized check closing station, if the system is so configured. The table screen is also a little different, as the next illustration shows:



A table can be selected from this list, or, if the system has a table layout configured, that could be used instead. Once a table is selected, the display shown would be as follows:

The menu layout is obviously reformatted to fit this screen configuration and changes the normal button layout into a linear format, left to right, top to bottom. They still operate as usual, menu items pull up attached modifiers, and so on. Once the ticket is completed, just hit done, and the order will be sent to the appropriate printer.