FastTracker
Making people your most valuable asset.

FastTracker Fact Sheet:
Using Terminal Server with FastTracker

This Fact Sheet describes how to deploy FastTracker to users in a Terminal Server or Citrix MetaFrame environment.

In a Microsoft Terminal Server or Citrix MetaFrame environment, multiple users may log in to the same server simultaneously. When users are web browsing, it appears as if all the web page requests are coming from one computer.

FastTracker circumvents this problem by uniquely identifying each user, even when they are browsing simultaneously. In this model, each employee must launch a private version of the FastTracker agent, FPP, in his or her own Terminal Server session. Because multiple instances of FPP are running on the same computer, FPP must be run in a special mode, described below, to ensure that conflicts between instances do not occur.

Configuring FastTracker to run on a Terminal Server

1. Create a variation of your existing FPP configuration file (fasttr.dll), which includes the following lines:

```
[Browser Settings]
Use PAC File=no
Use Proxy for Lan=yes
HTTP Proxy=127.0.0.1:82
HTTPS Proxy=127.0.0.1:82
FTP Proxy=127.0.0.1:82

[Misc]
Allow Multiple Instances=no
Try Next Port=yes
```

   Note: You cannot use PAC files to configure browsers when using FastTracker with Terminal Server. See the Technical Details section for details.

2. Place fpp.exe (must be version 2.2.8.1 or above[1]) and the new configuration file in c:\fasttr on the Terminal Server

3. Make sure that all users logging into the Terminal Server execute a login script that launches FPP with the new configuration file[2].

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[1] To check the version number of a file, right-click on it, select Properties, and click on the Version tab.

[2] For more information on login scripts, see the Login Scripts Fact Sheet at http://www.fastdatatech.com/documentation/login-scripts-fact-sheet.pdf.

Technical Details

The FastTracker agent, FPP, acts as a local proxy server running on the employee's computer. It binds to or listens on a specific port (usually 82), and configures the employee's web browsers to use a proxy server located at the IP address 127.0.0.1, port 82, for HTTP, HTTPS, and FTP traffic. This IP address is a special IP address that refers to the employee's own computer.

In a Terminal Server environment, multiple users and therefore multiple instances of FPP are running simultaneously. However, it is impossible for two programs to bind to the same port. Furthermore, each employee's browser can't use 127.0.0.1, port 82, because if they did, all web page requests would appear as if they are were a single user.

To circumvent these issues, running FPP in the mode described above causes FPP to bind to or listen on port 82. However, if this port is already taken (because of an existing instance of FPP using it), it tries 83. If this is taken, it tries 84, and so on, until it finds an available port. Once a port is chosen, FPP configures the browser to use a proxy server located at 127.0.0.1, with the appropriate port number.

Because the port number for every user is different, a PAC file cannot be used to configure employees' web browsers.

If you have additional questions, please contact Fast Data Technology at support@fastdatatech.com.